

MONDAY

February 23, 2004

41 57

Cloudy



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com:
Should Ralph Nader actively
pursue the presidency?



**BASEBALL OFF TO
EXCITING START**

Fireworks one day, no hitter the next

In Sports, 8



The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 64

Student allegedly raped en route to car

**No police report for incident;
assailant described as white
male with medium build**

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

A female student was allegedly raped after leaving the James E. Walker Library Feb. 12, Public Safety reported.

The woman was walking to her car on Blue Raider Drive when the assailant grabbed her.

According to the crime alert posted around campus and e-

mailed to the student body on Friday, the assailant left going north toward the Business and Aerospace Building.

"We have no police report of the incident," said Lt. Jim Fanguy, but the victim provided a description of the assailant.

He was described as a 6-foot-2-inch, white male of medium build. He was wearing a black ski mask, a black sweatshirt and

YEARLY FORCIBLE RAPE STATISTICS

	MTSU	VANDERBILT	APSU	UTK	UM
1999	2	6	*	0	*
2000	2	11	1	0	0
2001	4	3	3	2	1
2002	1	4	1	1	2

Statistics from each university's Web site

* Information unavailable

black windbreaker pants.

This will be the first report of a forcible rape on campus in 2004 at MTSU. In 2002, one forcible rape in a student residence was reported.

Crime statistics for 2003

were not available at press time.

Forcible rapes on Tennessee campuses have declined from 27 reports in 2001 to 18 reported in 2002, according to the

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Since 1990, campus police departments are required to submit crime statistics to the TBI each month, which are then compiled into yearly reports.

However, across the nation, forcible rapes on college campuses have risen, according to statistics compiled by the U.S. Department of Education.

In 2000, 1,680 total cases of forcible rape at public, four-year institutions were reported.

In 2001, the number of cases rose to 1,965.

The number of forcible rape cases increased slightly in 2002

to 1,986. Public Safety is encouraging students to not walk alone, and to utilize the escort service offered by the university.

To report information about this crime or any other crime, contact Public Safety at 898-2424, or call Crime Stoppers at 893-STOP between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

All calls are anonymous and confidential.

If your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for an award of up to \$1,000. ♦



Photo by Josh Jordan | Staff Photographer

University President Sidney McPhee welcomes Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) to MTSU Friday.

Frist encourages public, private cooperation

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) encouraged a crowd of MTSU donors Friday to find ways to combine the public and private sector to improve the community at large.

A variety of Tennessee governmental representatives, education officials and MTSU professors and administration attended the luncheon, sponsored by the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning.

Frist cited the \$1 million federal appropriation to MTSU's School of Nursing, which was matched by the Christy-Houston Foundation, as an example of this type of cooperation.

"By investing here, that's

good," Frist said. "It makes the institution more powerful in the region, but what it does is it trains more nurses."

"That translates into helping individuals on an individual basis," Frist explained.

A fourth-grade class from Reeves-Rogers Elementary School also attended the luncheon. Kindergarten through 12th-grade education and the No Child Left Behind Act were issues Frist spoke passionately about.

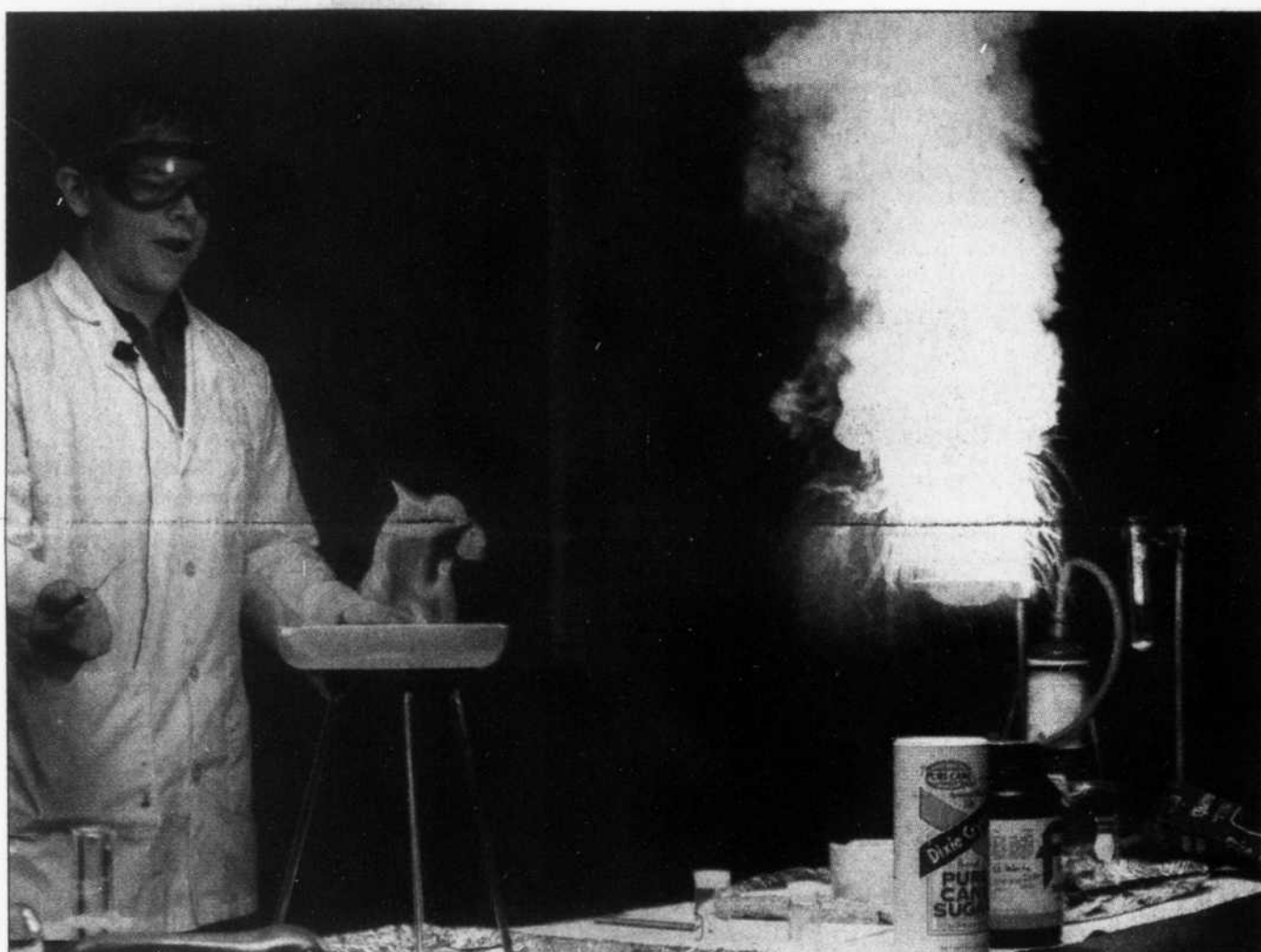
"We're failing as a nation," Frist said. "We're 18th in math and science in both 12th grade and eighth grade in the world."

While Frist acknowledged that NCLB still needed more revisions and faced sharp criticism, he championed the goals behind the act.

"Overall federal funding for

See Frist, 2

A WEEKEND OF SCIENCE



Photos by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

(Above) Lee Hagan, an MTSU senior, performs the "My Sweet Thing is Just Too Hot" demonstration Thursday during Demomania. The annual event brings more than 300 local high school students to campus to witness scientific demonstrations performed by members of MTSU's Chemistry Club.

(Right) Montgomery-Bell Academy students Don Orr, left, and Greg Taylor, right, compete in the "Naked Egg Drop" during Saturday's Regional Science Olympiad. The olympiad showcased the skills of middle and high school students from across the state. The event was co-sponsored by State Farm Insurance.



Local personalities Gill, Woods debate partisan issues

By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

Democratic strategist Larry Woods and conservative talk show host Steve Gill faced off in a debate on campus Friday, sponsored by the College Republicans.

In addition to poking fun at each other, the two articulated their positions on various political issues.

The debate was moderated by Raider Republican Paul Marker, who opened with a question regarding gay marriages.

Gill responded by saying that a gay lifestyle is motivated by behavior rather than an immutable characteristic and is therefore not equal to the civil rights issue of the '60s.

"Your skin color, your eth-

nicity is not something you have any control over," Gill said.

He went on to say that, although there is a scientific debate as to whether or not people who are gay have any choice, there is no debate about the fact that many simply choose the lifestyle.

"There are clearly a lot of folks who choose a gay behavioral lifestyle, a bisexual lifestyle, who choose to come in and out, in and out of that lifestyle," Gill said. "For instance, Anne Heche. She was, then she wasn't, then she was. I think it's hard to argue that that's an immutable characteristic like race when people can't choose to be black, then not be black, then black."

Gill compared homosexuality to alcoholism, saying that not everyone who has a genetic ten-



dency toward alcoholism engages in that behavior.

Woods said the gay marriage issue is really an issue of values. He questioned if our society wants to promote the values of monogamy - which is what marriage is all about.

"What gay marriage is to me is an attempt to foster monogamy on the gay and lesbian community as opposed to ... you know, sex anywhere and everywhere," Woods said. "I think marriage is a value that should be upheld for every-

body." Woods said the issue should be divorced from religion, because the government doesn't get involved in religion.

Gill countered that the word "marriage" has, through the ages, been equated with religious characteristics or religious institutions.

He said civil unions could accomplish the same things the gay and lesbian community say they want - the ability to pass property law and the ability to adopt children.

"What they've made clear, as

a lobby and as an agenda, is they want that term 'married' because it's more in-your-face than civil union," Gill said.

The debate then moved to the issue of jobs and the economy.

Woods said it is the responsibility of presidents to create jobs through fiscal and monetary policy.

He claimed Bush has the worst record of job creation since President Herbert Hoover.

"Last week he said we are going to create 2.6 million new jobs this year," Woods said. "This week they're already backing off of that. That doesn't give you a lot of confidence."

He said the unemployment rate for people age 18 to 24 is at 13 percent - up from 8.9

See Debate, 2

Debate: Taxes, presidency heated issues between speakers

Continued from 1

percent when President Bill Clinton left the office.

Gill countered that the Democratic candidates are driving the economy, the economy toward a socialist economy, such as those in France and Germany, which he said have much higher rates of unemployment. He said the unemployment rate in Germany right now is at 11.4 percent.

He said even Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan has acknowledged there are two different standards by which job growth is judged. One is gross job loss and the other is net job loss.

Democrats, he said, always point to the job loss of 2.4 million but that the net job loss is actually only 300,000.

Gill said much of this job loss occurred because of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He said it had a trillion dollar impact on our economy and affected world economies as well.

He complained that if a state has a Republican governor at the same time the nation has a Democratic president, it will always be the Republican who gets blamed for the loss of jobs.

He insisted that presidents do not create jobs. Business, a business environment and a sound economic environment create jobs, Gill said.

Most Democrats prefer to create jobs by putting as many people as possible on the government payroll, Gill said.

"They require taxpayers to work more to pay for people doing less on the government payroll," Gill said.

Woods said the problem is poor leadership.

"I want leaders who will provide leadership and not act like a deer caught in the

headlights all the time," Woods said.

He said the White House should confront China about its currency manipulation. He said by manipulating their currency, they make it possible to seize jobs from us and then send inexpensive products back to America to sell at Wal-Mart.

"I like to get a bargain at Wal-Mart," Woods said. "But the devil's bargain here is real clear - we are exporting our jobs overseas in return for cheap prices."

"We're selling our future to get cheap compact disc players and cheap radios at Wal-Mart," he added. "It's not worth it. We need someone with the courage in Washington to stand up and say we can't always have the cheap prices at Wal-Mart."

Gill said that as long as technology and productivity increase, jobs are always going to be lost. They can either be lost to cheap labor overseas or to innovative equipment at home.

He said new machinery and faster means of manufacturing will lower prices but also require fewer employees.

"I just want to know if the Democrats are anti-technology," Gill asked Woods. "And I just want to know if those jobs that moved to South Carolina and Tennessee and Georgia - if you want to move them back to places like Detroit and New York and Michigan. Are you going to require companies to go back to where they were a hundred years ago using the same technology?"

When the debate moved to the issue of tax cuts, the audience became involved.

Gill said anyone making more than \$26,000 a year is in the top half of wage-earners in the United States. He also said when the Democrats are talking to the rich, that's who they are referring to.

He said it's disingenuous to tell

Americans that the top half of wage earners are getting most of the tax cuts when in fact, those who make less than \$26,000 only contribute 2 percent of the federal tax revenue.

Woods countered that the government needs revenue and there are different theories on the best way to acquire that money.

He said the Republican claim that taxing the rich is a disincentive to hard work is simply not true.

Gill said that if the government taxes the rich they will then just take their money and put it in a tax-free municipal bond rather than risking it to create jobs.

Woods said the government was happy to receive the money for the municipal bond because they would then go out and build schools and create jobs in the process.

Gill dismissed that as a short-term solution to the problem. He also stated that taxing a product would generate less government revenue than subsidizing and then taxing a product.

According to Gill, for this reason, the United States has a tax system that is anti-work and anti-success.

"We can't have a society where half of the folks are riding in the wagon and getting pulled along and complaining about the folks who are pulling it," Gill said.

Woods said like it or not, taxes, either directly or indirectly, affect jobs, health care and many other important issues.

"The revenue stream affects and determines a lot of this," Woods said. "I like deficit spending. I think it's good for the economy and ... it works."

"Having said that, I think George Bush has gone too far with deficit spending and ... he's now created a situation where my grandchildren are going to suffer grievously because of the budget deficit he's created," Woods said. ♦

Frist: Growth hasn't translated into jobs, senator says

Continued from 1

K-12 education has increased by 40 percent since President Bush came in," Frist said.

Increased funding for education is difficult for Tennessee, Frist said, but it's essential to the community.

"Our revenue base here makes it hard to fund things like education," Frist said.

Frist said he wants to create a new appropriation for community colleges to help combat the job shortage in America.

The senator spoke recently with employees from the Carrier Corporation manufacturing facility closing in Warren County.

"Our manufacturing base all across the country is going down and it probably will keep

going down for a while," Frist said. "What is our obligation in terms of looking at that 40-year-old working there who has three children, or that 55-year-old who is all of the sudden without an income, has children, has grandchildren, and is obviously left with nothing?"

Frist said the proposed program would provide \$250 million to ease the transition from unemployment to adult education.

The U.S. recession, coupled with falling stock prices, the Enron scandal and the war on terrorism, called for major changes in economy, Frist said.

"It transformed us as individuals," Frist said. "It transformed our government."

"We are able today to go back

to our work and go back to our families for the most part, I believe, because we have a president who has bold leadership, decisive leadership, who understands we have to fight the terrorists," Frist said.

The Senate's \$350 billion jobs and growth package passed in 2003 has improved the economy, Frist said.

"Right now, over the past six months, the economy is growing faster than any time since Ronald Reagan's presidency," Frist said. "But it hasn't yet translated into jobs."

To improve business growth in the U.S., Frist wants to propose legislation to reduce excessive regulations on American companies.

"The overall cost of doing business in this country is so

high, that it is inevitable that more and more jobs have to move overseas," Frist said.

"I'm honored to be back at MTSU in celebration of efforts that center on urban and regional planning," Frist said in closing.

After the luncheon, Frist denied the rumor that he is a possible vice-presidential candidate in 2004.

"Vice President [Dick] Cheney will be on the ticket," Frist said with a smile. "I'm the majority leader of the United States Senate and that's where my focus will be over the next three years." ♦

CRIME LOG

Monday, Feb. 2 - 1:02 p.m.
Cummings Annex Lot
Subject reported a hit and run.

Monday, Feb. 2 - 1:27 p.m.
Smith Hall
Subject's debit card was taken and used.

Tuesday, Feb. 3 - 2:05 p.m.
Corlew Hall Cafeteria
Theft of backpack.

Tuesday, Feb. 3 - 2:47 p.m.
Bell Street
Report of a white male individual who exposed himself to a female student.

Tuesday, Feb. 3 - 5:43 p.m.
Scarlett Commons
Report of a theft of a license plate from a motorcycle two weeks ago.

Wednesday, Feb. 4 - 2:14 p.m.
MTSU campus
Subject called and wanted an officer to help stop an individual from harassing one of his employees.

Wednesday, Feb. 4 - 5:18 p.m.
Mass Comm parking lot
Someone called about wanting to report a hit and run with a white Toyota Celica.

Wednesday, Feb. 4 - 5:53 p.m.
Keathley University Center
Location manager called about a shoplifter at the Grill.

Wednesday, Feb. 4 - 7:19 p.m.
Cummings Hall
Cell phone missing.

Wednesday, Feb. 4 - 10:54 p.m.
Off campus
Jesus A. Hernandez of Manchester, Tenn., was arrested for driving under the influence, first offense.

Thursday, Feb. 5 - 11:02 p.m.
Sims Hall
Area coordinator found a large knife on the second floor of Sims Hall. Dean citation issued.

Contact Public Safety at 898-2424.

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STATE AND LOCAL

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Monday, February 23, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 3

Local option tax revenue hits new high

By B.J. Chaplin
Staff Writer

Murfreesboro and Smyrna generated local option sales taxes in record-breaking numbers during December of last year, officials from the two cities reported.

Smyrna brought in more than \$1.2 million, while Murfreesboro brought in more than \$2 million.

"The economy is doing fairly well here in Murfreesboro at this time," said Jim Penner, city recorder of Murfreesboro. Penner said that population increases and holiday sales are among the reasons for the increase.

"MTSU contributes a lot," he said. "The student population over there is growing a lot."

Any county or incorporated city may levy a local option sales

tax at its discretion. The tax is added to the state sales tax, which is currently at 7 percent.

Both Murfreesboro and Smyrna – since July of 2000 – have opted to levy the local option sales tax at 2.75 percent, which is the maximum amount allowed.

Some restrictions on local option sales tax rates exist. No taxes may be placed on electric power or energy, natural or arti-

ficial gas, fuel or oil, for example.

Also, interstate telecommunication services that are subject to the state rate are always taxed at a rate of 1.5 percent.

John Lanza, media coordinator of Smyrna, said that the new tax record was a result of retail health and growth of business along Sam Ridley Parkway.

Lanza also said that the new record coincided with the open-

ing of the new StoneCrest Medical Center.

"They opened up in November 2003, right on the heels of that," he said. Compared to the previous record, Lanza said that the new one is "about \$50,000 higher than the previous high."

Lanza said that Smyrna is in talks to bring more restaurants and other businesses to the area and that he believes the trend

will continue. Penner seemed optimistic as well.

"Barring a major downturn in the local economy, I believe it will continue to rise," he said.

Penner said he was not sure what effect the new lottery will have.

"I'm sure it will have some effect," he said. "I wouldn't speculate on it just yet." ♦

Cameras not causing intrusion

By Linda G. Selby
Staff Writer

While cell phones featuring cameras have become increasingly popular, fears have grown that the cameras could be used for seedy purposes.

National reports have centered around incidents of people using the phones to take pictures in gym locker rooms and at other private areas, but at least one local gym hasn't had the problem.

"I guess it could be a problem," said Heather Weller of Gold's Gym in Murfreesboro. "But we haven't had any problems here."

Men and women must be over 18 to be a member of Gold's Gym.

"Most of our members are in their 30s," said Weller. "They don't want to hear their cell phones while working out. They leave their cell phones where they won't be bothered."

Invasion of privacy has been a potential hazard with the development of the cell phone. People in bars drinking and having fun worry that with one click of the cell phone camera it could be on the Internet within minutes.

For most people they are simply having fun and reminding their friends of some of the craziness from the evening before; however there are those few that can ruin it for everyone.

Nokia company officials released information that most cell phones will come equipped with cameras this year.

Manners with Monthly.com has its own opinion about the phone and invasion of privacy.

"Just like your image may



Photo illustration by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

While cell phones featuring cameras have become increasingly popular, they have posed a problem with voyeurists, particularly in workout facilities. They have not, however, caused a problem in local gyms.

be unintentionally caught in the viewfinder of a tourist's camera, when you are not the subject of the picture – but rather part of the scenery – the taker does not need your permission.

"Of course, a serious issue

concerning a covertly taken picture is one of intent. There is quite a difference between finding your way into a tourist's photo album and having your image used for commercial gain or used in a scandalous way. If you

are the victim of such guerilla photography, contact your attorney. While the technology is new, laws for slander, libel, defamation and protection of privacy have been on the books for years." ♦

Sign of struggle in murder case

By David Paulson
Staff Writer

Murfreesboro police are currently investigating the murder of Horace Allen, 43, of Murfreesboro. Allen's body was found Wednesday afternoon in his home on Creekwalk Drive.

Police arrived on the scene at approximately 3:10 p.m. Paramedics said that Allen had a severe injury to the rear of his head.

"I observed a white male lying face up on the stairs," Officer Tom Sissom reported. "There was a quantity of blood by the right front of the house by the window."

Police questioned Jay Arnold, who had discovered Allen's body and called for an ambulance. Arnold told police he had received a call from Allen's girlfriend, known to him

only as "Terry." She told Arnold that two men had been at Allen's home earlier, and that Allen was "acting weird" and had a black eye. Arnold was asked to go check on him.

Arnold entered the home through the garage and found the victim on the stairs. He said that he checked Allen's pulse and noticed that he was cold. He then called for an ambulance.

According to police reports, there were "signs of a struggle" in the living room, where a table had been turned on its side. The upstairs area appeared to be undisturbed.

"The carpet on the stairs did not show signs of extensive foot traffic," Sissom said.

Allen's neighbors told police they saw nothing out of the ordinary that day. ♦

Court hears case for incompetency

Staff Reports

Expert testimony given Friday raises the possibility that the suspect in the Smyrna Captain D's triple-murder is mentally retarded.

Neuropsychologist Pam Auble told Rutherford County Circuit Court Judge Don Ash Friday that LaTonya Taylor, 26, scored below Tennessee's standard for mental retardation on an IQ test. Taylor's attorneys have filed a motion seeking the removal of the possibility of the death penalty in the case due to Taylor's mental condition.

Taylor, along with Percy Lee Palmer, 24, are charged with the first-degree murder of three Captain D's employees on July

12, 2000. District Attorney Bill Whitesell has pledged to seek the death penalty against the two.

Auble told the court that Taylor had never scored higher than 69 on an IQ test as an adult, which she said qualifies as significantly below the average IQ rating of 100 and meets the state's standards for mental retardation.

She also testified that Taylor exhibited other behavior traits consistent with Subpar intelligence and that Metro Nashville Schools had tested Taylor and diagnosed her as mentally retarded.

Auble's testimony will continue March 15. ♦

Historical sites have new window to the Internet



The Sam Davis Home (top), the Bradley Museum (above) and the Oaklands Museum (right) all recently unveiled new Web sites to exhibit features of the individual attractions.

By Simon Lynn
Staff Writer

Rutherford County made its historic presence known on the World Wide Web as three new Web sites debuted recently for Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center, Oaklands Historic House and Museum and Sam Davis Home and Museum.

The Web sites, organized by the Rutherford County Convention and Visitors Bureau, are aimed at increasing awareness of the historic locations among tourists, local residents and those interested in Tennessee history.

All three sites feature information about hours of operation, directions,

and admission in addition to specific details regarding exhibits, upcoming events, educational programs, rental facilities and the historical background of each location.

The Bradley Academy building, though built in 1917, occupies the location of the original Bradley Academy built in 1806 as one of Rutherford County's first public schools. The building on Academy Street was constructed on land donated from the Murfree family. And if that's not historic enough, President James K. Polk, Sen. John Bell and other free, white citizens were educated there until the opening of a new school in the 1850s. The building was used as a hospital during the battle of Stones River.

This battle, one of the bloodiest of the Civil War, claimed 23,000 casualties. The building was repaired in 1884 and served as the county's only black school, initially teaching 150 students with only three teachers.

After the construction of the current building in 1917, Bradley Academy remained the cultural base for the black community hosting plays, recitals and community fairs until closing in 1955. During the 1990s, restoration began with assistance from the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and the building now serves as the Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center.

Further information may be found at www.bradleymuseum.org.

Oaklands Historic House Museum on North Maney Avenue began as

Oaklands plantation in the 1810s when Sallie Murfree Maney and husband James Maney inherited land in the town named after Sallie's father. Originally a two-room house, Oaklands was first extended in the 1830s by skilled family slaves.

At Sallie's death in 1857, the property passed to her son Lewis. Lewis and his wife had the Italianate-style, front addition built to make the house more suitable for entertaining guests. The Civil War began not long after and Oaklands sat in the crossfire. Nathan Bedford Forrest led Confederate forces to victory at Oaklands plantation and accepted the Union's surrender of Murfreesboro inside the mansion.

After the Union retook Murfreesboro and went on to win the Civil War, the Maney family fell on hard times. With property damages, the deaths of two children, and the loss of slave sales as a principal source of income, the Maney family was forced to sell the land that became Maney Avenue and Evergreen Cemetery.

After the sale of Oaklands plantation in 1884, the land passed out of family hands and was eventually bought by the City of Murfreesboro in 1958. The city intended to put low income housing on the property and would have if not for a group of concerned women. The group organized Oaklands Association and after restoration opened Oaklands Historic House Museum.

See Museums, 4



Photo courtesy: www.oaklandsmuseum.org

High School Basketball Playoffs

All games will be played at White Co.

Boys District 7-AAA

Tuesday 4 p.m.	Riverdale (23-6)		
	Warren Co. (7-18)	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	
Tuesday 8:30 p.m.	Lebanon (17-11)		
	Siegel (15-12)		
Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	Oakland (18-6)		Friday 8:30 p.m.
	White Co. (12-16)		
Tuesday 7 p.m.	Blackman (18-9)	Thursday 7 p.m.	
	Cookeville (15-13)		

Girls District 7-AAA

Monday 4 p.m.	White Co. (21-7)		
	Siegel (6-21)	Thursday 4 p.m.	
Monday 8:30 p.m.	Riverdale (22-7)		
	Blackman (16-11)		
Monday 5:30 p.m.	Oakland (19-5)		Friday 7 p.m.
	Lebanon (4-24)		
Monday 7 p.m.	Cookeville (19-10)	Thursday 7 p.m.	
	Warren Co. (15-9)		

Museums: Davis hanged in 1863, was Confederate hero

Continued from 3

More information is available at www.oaklandsmuseum.org.

Built around 1820, the Sam Davis Home was originally the creation of Moses Ridley. The Davis family renovated the house in 1850 and the house is in large part the same now as it was then. Sam Davis spent his younger years there attending local schools in Smyrna before leaving in 1860 to study at Nashville's Western Military Academy.

The outbreak of the Civil War not long after provided Davis with the opportunity to become a hero. Enlisting in the 1st Tennessee Infantry Regiment, Davis fought many battles over the next two years, including at Stones River. After becoming a scout for the Confederate Army in 1863, Sam Davis was caught behind enemy lines and tried as a courier and a spy.

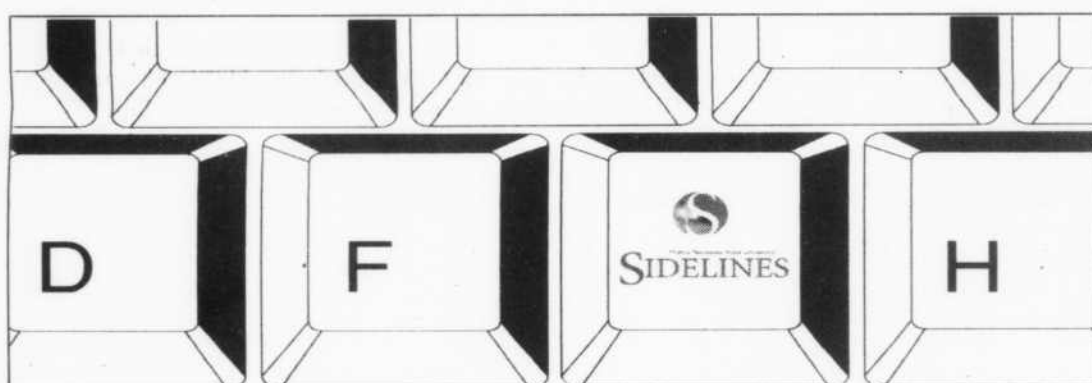
Upon a sentence of hanging, Davis was again given the chance to reveal the source of the papers he'd been caught carrying.

Choosing death, Davis declined and became a Confederate Civil War hero.

The Davis property was purchased by the State of Tennessee in 1927 and has since remained a memorial.

Additional information about the Sam Davis Home is available at www.sam-davishome.org.

Information was culled from the respective Web sites of each attraction, the Giles County Genealogy site and the National Park Service.



Your key to campus news and events.

www.mtsusidelines.com

Five Day Forecast

From the Associated Press

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
54° ▲ 42° ▼	45° ▲ 35° ▼	41° ▲ 28° ▼	49° ▲ 31° ▼	59° ▲ 40° ▼

HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2004 AND SPRING 2005



The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2004/Spring 2005 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority as long as their reapplication and \$200 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The deadline for students living in on-campus housing to reapply for housing with priority for the 2004/2005 academic year is Friday, February 27, 2004 at 4:30 PM. Students need to complete a reapplication form which is available in the Housing and Residential Life Office.

Students will need to pay the \$200 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor; returning the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, whose hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at www.mtsu.edu. Housing is found under STUDENT AFFAIRS. The \$200 prepaid rent can only be paid by using Mastercard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There will be an additional \$10 nonrefundable service fee charged for any processed payments online.

To obtain a **HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM**, please come by the Housing and Residential Life office during office hours, 8 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center, Room 300.

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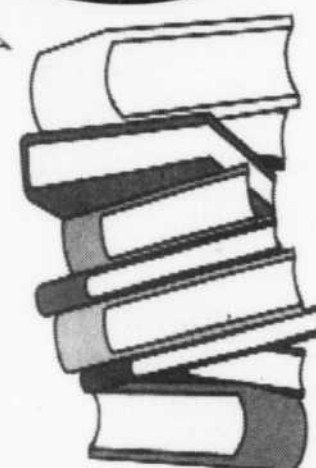
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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Monday, February 23, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 5

From the Editorial Board Nader shouldn't run

Perennial presidential candidate Ralph Nader has always been an advocate of the consumer, the everyday American.

Indeed, Americans owe a great deal to Nader. He has contributed greatly to consumer protection law, the Safe Water Drinking Act, ensured the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency.

And in 2004, Americans need Nader again. However, the urgent need now is for a lack of Nader, a.k.a. the king siphon of the most leftist voters.

It's not just conservative rhetoric — times have indeed changed since 2000. President George W. Bush and former Vice President Al Gore both ran centrist campaigns. Nader brought a viable alternative to the table, and the United States had yet to see both the horrific impact of terrorism at home and the manipulation of said event by the Bush administration to exact a far-right regime on this nation.

And if Nader hadn't run in 2000, winning nearly 100,000 votes in Florida, Gore would almost certainly have won the 2000 election, and we wouldn't have seen the extreme right-wing posturing Bush has been part of.

We have seen that Bush is not a "compassionate conservative." He has proven to be neither. At the expense of lower-income taxpayers (through the catastrophic loss of federal money for state programs that impact the poor the most), he has given away the store to the most fortunate of American citizens, put U.S. soldiers in danger to essentially avenge the attempt on his daddy's life and threatened civil liberties in a way that hasn't been seen since the Vietnam era.

Nader has asserted that both parties are owned by special interests and that neither truly serve the American people — and he has a point. Third party and independent candidates contribute greatly to the political dialogue and may ultimately grease the wheels that will create great social change.

Both Sens. John Kerry and John Edwards have picked some of Nader's talking points.

However, America is at a major crossroads, and this election is arguably the most important in any traditional student's lifetime. We can't agree on whether Nader should be running, but we can agree that Bush needs a one-way ticket to Texas.

If Nader truly wants to help America, he must realize that we will ultimately be better served by his absence than his presidential campaign. ♦

The Board's Counterpoint Candidacy not a threat

"Run, Ralph, Run"

Those words, and many like them, have been displayed on placards, Web sites and T-shirts ever since Ralph Nader spoke of his possible candidacy late last year.

When he confirmed it yesterday, voices became stronger, and while he still enjoys the support of thousands of Americans, there are those who would rather he disappear, for fear that he could derail a Democrat's chances of taking back the White House.

Democratic Party Chairman put it bluntly in an article at myway.com.

"It's very unfortunate that Ralph decided to run," he said. "There are people all over the country wishing he hadn't done it."

Frowning, yelling, grumpy Democrats (and gleeful, giddy Republicans) need to remember there's little indication that Nader's 2004 candidacy will have anywhere near the level of support his 2000 bid had.

While it's true President Bush and former Vice President Gore were running on an eerily similar, centrist platform that year, Nader's worn-out message of "America has a one-party system" sounds down-right foolish after three-plus years of war-hawking, deficit-spending, neo-con radicalism.

The economy? Democrats and the millions of newly-jobless Americans can claim it was better under Clinton. The same goes for civil liberties and rights — just ask any critically-thinking innocent citizen who got rudely shoved into the bin Laden line at an airport, or a Middle Eastern politics professor who had his library account analyzed by the FBI.

Forgetting about Sen. Zell Miller of Georgia, name us one national Democrat Nader can justifiably accuse of milking Bush's teat on those and every other issue of the day. Time's up.

With all the damage the president has done to our nation's reputation abroad and the aforementioned topics at home, only a leftist fanatic, a person unlikely to vote for a Democrat anyway, would throw his or her support behind Nader this time around.

Think back to Ross Perot's runs of 1992 and 1996. Nader, his first run perot was cost a candidate the presidency, but people were voting for a message of denying the political duopoly. Four years later, however, Perot's message had grown stale, and he garnered less than 50 percent of his earlier vote total — 8 million compared to 19.7 million.

Let Nader run for president without threatening doom and despair. With Bush as he is, the Democrats should have nothing to fear. ♦

Race relations: Heritage of hate

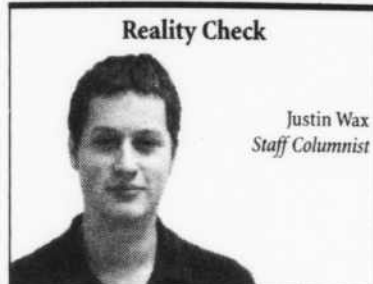
The year was 1944. Lts. Gwynne Pierson and Wendell Pruitt had just spotted a German destroyer off the coast of Italy.

Within moments, the two pilots were prepared for an attack. The odds of a P-47 fighter armed solely with .50-caliber machine guns sinking the destroyer were slim to none. In fact, odds favored that the two men would be killed rather than inflict serious damage to the destroyer.

Think odds mattered to these guys? Think again. Duty came first. Pierson and Pruitt relentlessly strafed the destroyer with machine gun fire.

Due to the marksmanship and bravery of the pilots, the destroyer soon disappeared into the sea. Sinking a destroyer with machine gun fire was just another unprecedented feat accomplished by the 332nd Fighter group, the Tuskegee Army.

Named after the Tuskegee Institute, where they trained, this squadron protected American bombers from the deadly German Luftwaffe. During a daring raid on Berlin, the 332nd destroyed three German ME-262 jet fighters, the most lethal Nazi aircraft in World War II. The Tuskegee squadron also held the exemplary record of never losing any bombers to enemy aircraft.



Reality Check

Justin Wax
Staff Columnist

What kind of reward did these men receive when they returned to America? Rallies? Respect? No. Racism. The Tuskegee Airmen were an entirely segregated black unit.

But America would soon begin to change as a result of the leadership and determination performed by these courageous pilots.

In 1948, President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981, which spelled the beginning of the end of segregation in the military.

America has traveled a long way on the road toward racial equality, but racism still survives.

In 1968, Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) referred to Martin Luther King Jr. as a man who got "other people into trouble, then takes off like a scared rabbit."

Byrd, a former Ku Klux Klan member, made more disparaging remarks in 2001. When Tony Snow

of the FOX News Channel asked the ex-Klansman about race relations in America, Byrd responded by saying, "There are white niggers in my time ... and I'd just as soon quit talking about it so much."

Byrd's comments were ignored or shrugged off by the media and Democrats because of his party affiliation and liberal beliefs.

Byrd called African Americans "race mongrels" and wasted 14 hours filibustering against the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He also cast his vote against Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, the only two blacks ever nominated for the U.S. Supreme Court.

If this heritage of hate belonged to a Republican, trust me — you'd hear it all day long: "Republican Sen. Joe Schmo, a former KKK leader who opposed black justices and racial equality ..." every time his name was said.

The hypocrisy is the difference between belonging to the "good" party (Democrat) or the "bad" party (Republican), according to the liberal media guidebook.

Regrettably, black conservatives are the present-day target of racism. In 2001, the Hawaii American Civil Liberties Union compared Justice Thomas to

Hitler and called him an "Uncle Tom" for his opposition to affirmative action. The rule: If you're a black conservative, then you're a sellout.

The party that created Jim Crow, supported slavery, fought civil rights and opposes school choice still receives the majority of black votes. Why?

"Years of damage caused by liberal ideology and misinformation pumped into the black community for the past 25 years," according to La Shawn Barber, a black conservative. "Blacks have been lied to about the history of the Republican Party and civil rights."

Thanks to Barber and other fearless conservatives, blacks are hearing the truth about politics and racial equality. No longer will Democratic politicians and liberal organizations be exempt from racial accountability.

We must remember the black heroes of the past like the Tuskegee Airmen and resolve to aid black heroes in the present — men and women who courageously stand by their convictions. ♦

Justin Wax is a freshman history major and can be reached via e-mail at jtw2n@mtsu.edu.

Operation Full House to fill Murphy Center

Opportunity is knocking.

Thursday, the Blue Raiders are taking on the Hilltoppers of Western Kentucky, and we students need to go out and show some support.

Hopefully, you haven't thrown down the newspaper yet.

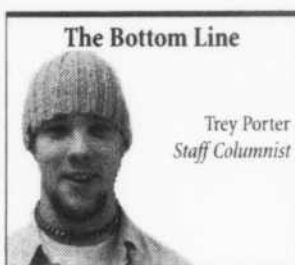
No, this isn't a sports column. I'm not going to talk about our awesome players like Mike Dean and Tommy Gunn or our great coach Kermit Davis. This is a participation column. This is a school spirit column.

I know you think I'm crazy. School spirit at MTSU, how could it be? Why should you come out to Murphy Center and support the Blue Raiders next Thursday?

Before we move any further, let me tell everybody exactly where the Murphy Center is.

The Murphy Center is actually the gymnasium here on campus where our NCAA Division I basketball teams compete. It's located at the corner of Greenland Drive and Tennessee Boulevard.

Now that the location issue is cleared up,



The Bottom Line

Trey Porter
Staff Columnist

let's move on with why you should come out to this game.

This whole event is called Operation Full House.

A former MT professor has organized this call for school spirit so that he can see the Glass House (that's what the few radicals that support university athletics call the Murphy Center) full again.

The current attendance record is 11,600 people, a record from a game against Austin Peay in 1974.

Our school once had some spirit. We used to pack the house any time our team was on the field, in the gym or on the mound. That has all faded now. We can bring it back.

I'm so tired of seeing hats for other schools or license plates for other teams. I'm not against rooting for another school or supporting a family favorite, but take some pride in your institution. Give your time, heart and soul to the Blue Raiders.

What will it give to you?

Memories, long-lasting stories and, more than anything else, something to do. You can only play so much Playstation, and those specials at Gentlemen Jim's aren't going anywhere. Go out to the game.

I know it's not the cool thing to do, but what's everybody's deal with that? Make it cool.

Make it fun. Start some traditions that students 20 years behind us can follow and enjoy.

Leave your marks on MTSU.

If your class gets out on Thursday, and you're heading home for the weekend like you always do, then do the future of this university a favor and stay home.

MTSU is not going to become the powerhouse school I know it can become until people stop going home on the weekends and start staying in town and on campus.

I'm specifically talking about all of campus. I know there's one side of campus that's always full on the weekends, but MTSU, like anything else, is only as strong as its weakest link.

MTSU is the largest undergraduate institution in the state of Tennessee, and it's about damn time we started acting like it.

I'm calling to the children of Cummings and Corlew. I'm calling to the people who hang out at the Cyber Café. I'm calling to the grandsons and granddaughters of Murfreesboro.

Let's unite under a flag of blue and white next week at Murphy Center and show the world how loud we can be. ♦

Trey Porter is a sophomore journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at yellowcardsweep@yahoo.com.

Music integral part of life

Music is the spice of life. We all have different tastes in what we consider good music.

Music is a friend to the friendless, and understanding emotion to the misunderstood and a voice for the voiceless.

Music has helped me through some hard times in my life.

Without it, the loneliness I felt would've destroyed me. Music has never let me down. I don't play an instrument or even sing in tune, but I know music is part of life.

You don't have to listen to the radio to hear it. You hear it on television, in elevators, doctors' offices and when birds sing. Music is everywhere.

Even though you may not be talented in the art of music, that doesn't mean you're not important to it.

Without fans, music is meaningless and can or should be labeled as noise.



Kacey's Corner

Kacey Hercules
Staff Columnist

Fans give music the humanity it needs to be treasured and accepted.

Music is the result of all of life on earth being lived. In a sense, music keeps the world living.

Music is great, but real power comes when we can put thoughts and ideas behind the sound.

Words are our way of relating to the music that living brings. If you put people together with pure music, you can't help but understand life in its full mystery and revelation.

If a dog is man's best friend, then music should be man's soul mate.

Music reads the soul it's speaking to and gives it what

it needs at that moment. A doctor can't fix a broken soul, but music can mend it for a while.

Life brings joy and sorrow, but the power upstairs gave us something even better. Music is our little piece of the sky before we die. I'm not afraid of death because death is nothing but a new song from my creator.

What impact has music made upon you? Are you so used to the sounds throughout the day that you're unaware of them? It's easy to do, because we're among music every waking hour.

We should be grateful for music. It's not just around us, it is us. We all make some kind of music.

You could say that life is a never-ending stage. Let's all pick up our instruments and jam. ♦

Kacey Hercules is a sophomore social work major and can be reached via e-mail at kah2x@mtsu.edu.

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines' occasional watch for mutton-heads.



A special Web site made picking out this week's schmuck difficult — they generously provided three worthy candidates, all people who filed lawsuits alleging grave injuries. Noting that justice must be served, here they are.

In Illinois, a family sued a Chinese restaurant over injuries suffered from hot tea burns. What's most interesting is who caused the scarring — the family's four-year-old child.

The inquisitive little tyke apparently needed to see what happens to boiling hot liquid when placed on a lazy susan and spun around as fast as possible. Where were the parents? Watching it happen.

The lawsuit was originally thrown out of court, but an appeals judge reinstated it, claiming a jury was needed to decide who was responsible for the burn.

Our second schmuck is Blaire Hornstine, a tutored-at-home student from New Jersey who filed suit and won an injunction stopping the school from naming a co-valedictorian.

Hornstine's GPA was 0.1 higher than a traditional student's in her district, who received no one-on-one tutoring at home.

The school wanted to name both as top in their class, but ol' BH didn't like that.

She got her just desserts, though: When it came out that she plagiarized while writing a local newspaper article, Harvard rescinded its admissions offer. Let's see her overturn that one in court.

No. 4 is also from Illinois. After a big snow, Ellen Hall asked her neighbor if she and her daughter could play on his newly-constructed snow luge.

The kind-hearted man agreed, and Hall repaid him with a nasty lawsuit when she broke her arm.

With friends like these, who needs ... you know the rest. ♦

Synopses posted at <http://cgood.org/news-all/item?id=43579>.

SIDELINES

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Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of Sidelines or MTSU.

Dealing with Writer's BLOCK

Professors give tips on how to keep the words flowing

By DeAnna Withrow
Staff Writer

Sometimes, sitting down to write can be a wonderfully exhilarating experience. Thoughts gush from the brain like wild, rapid waters, flooding the page with brilliant ideas. The fingers may even fail to keep up because there's so much information.

How wonderful it is to have something to say, and to know how to say it.

Then there are the other times when the gushing rapids of thought cease to flow and begin to trickle more like a leaky faucet. Frustration builds as fingers begin to atrophy, lifelessly hanging over the keyboard.

How depressing it is to need something to say, but know hours have gone by with no hint of intelligent thought to speak of.

At the moment when the blinking of an idle cursor begins to resemble a countdown and comforting distractions can no longer be found, it becomes obvious.

The writer is experiencing the always dreaded writer's block.

Although the situation may be desperate, there are ways of understanding writer's block and methods for combating it.

Professor Ken Blake of MTSU's journalism department describes writer's block as "a pause in one's ability to write."

"Reasons for the pause can be mystifying to the writer," he says, "triggering all sorts of emotions like frustration, panic,

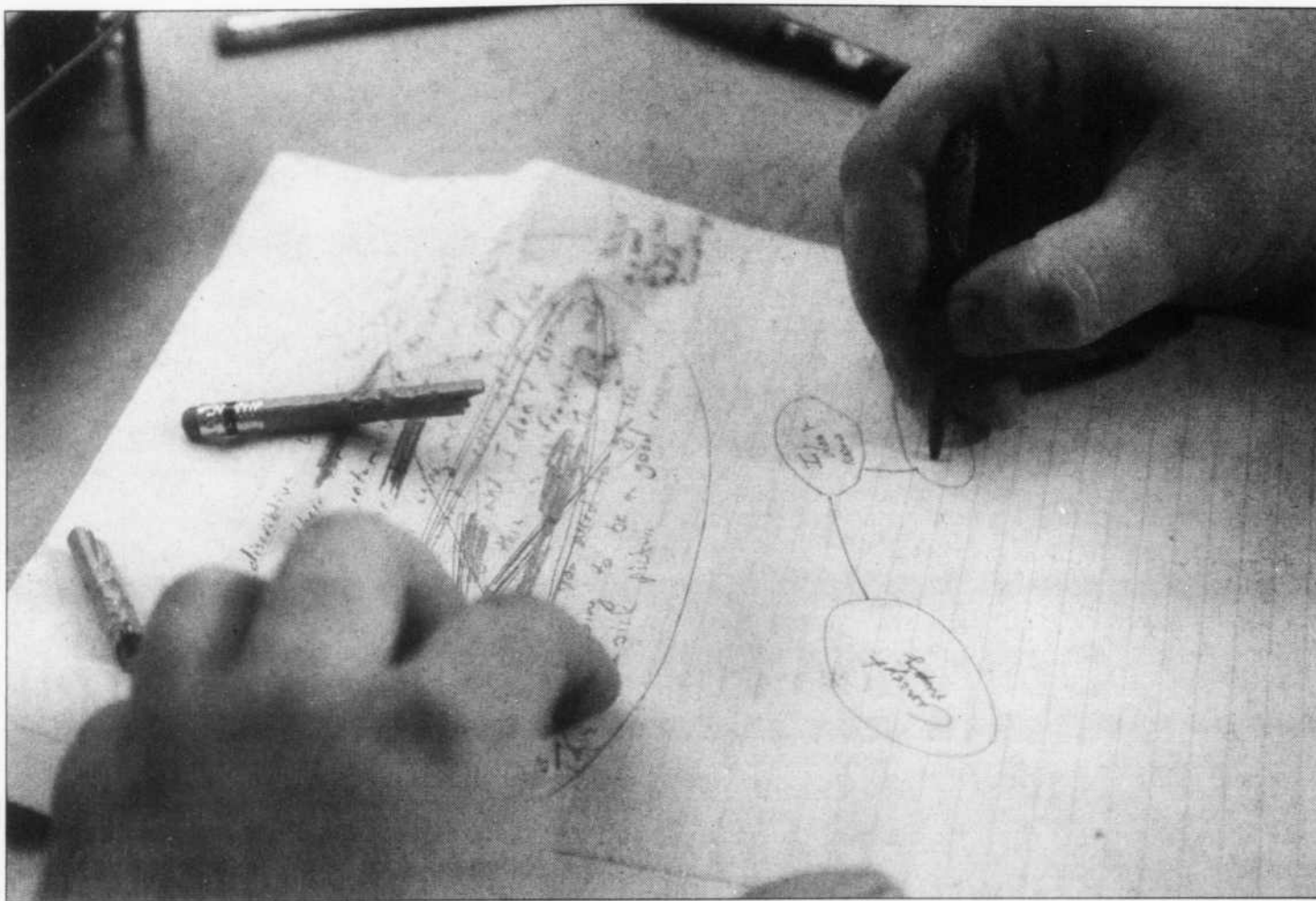


Photo Illustration by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer

English and journalism professors suggest writing letters to friends about a paper topic to combat writer's block.

anger and even self-loathing."

Writer's block is often an indication that the writer has neglected some important aspect of the writing process, he explains.

"Perhaps the writer needs to choose a better environment in which to try to write," he says.

"Or maybe do a little more research ... or maybe create an outline, either mentally or on

paper of how he or she wants the project to flow."

"Writer's block is a way that people explain to themselves as to why they can't get it done," David Lavery, an English professor, says.

"It's the all-purpose excuse," he says.

Though he doesn't deny that there may be some extreme cases, most of the time it's an

indicator of other problems.

"Writing doesn't take place at the computer," says Lavery, who admits to doing his best work while taking a long walk or hot bath.

If students insist on waiting until the night before a paper is due to write it, they should at least start thinking about it as soon as possible, he says.

"Einstein discovered the the-

ory of relativity on a trolley," he says.

He also uses Wallace Stevens, one of the greatest American poets of the 20th century, as an example.

"Stevens walked four miles to work every day," Lavery says, "and when he got there, he would have someone transcribe everything he had thought of on the way."

Jane Marcellus, a journalism professor, recommends that a writer jot down a few unorganized thoughts if he or she is having a difficult time writing.

"First, you have to get the editor off your back," she says.

Whether it's imaginary or real, she explains that if there's a feeling that someone is correcting you or pointing out your mistakes while you write, you won't do well.

For journalists, that person is most likely the editor. For students, it's the teacher who will grade their work.

"Imagine your audience as receptive," Marcellus says.

She recommends, if you are having a difficult time getting your thoughts on paper, begin by writing a letter to someone you are comfortable with - a friend.

Start with what you would normally write about to that person, including the weather or current gossip.

Then begin to tell the person about your topic.

"Every writer encounters writer's block at one time or another," Blake says. "The most important thing is not to panic."

"Different things cause it for different kinds of writers," he says.

"You manage it by figuring out its causes and taking steps to address them."

"It's really important not to give too much power to the label," Marcellus says. "You shouldn't think of it as a disease, but rather a temporary headache, and you have to think about moving past it." ♦

Student realizes importance of education, community service

By Laura Taylor
Staff Writer

A sea of miles face the table. One of them belongs to education student Luci Taylor. The rest belong to her family, whose photographs are spread out in front of her.

"This is my daughter Shannon ... these are my grandsons Joe-Allen and A.J. ... this is Allison ... this is my son Shawn and my daughter-in-law," she explains as she shuffles through the mound of photos.

Taylor has three children and five grandchildren, who she dedicates her life to. She put off her own education to make sure her children would have the chance to go to college.

Her daughter Shannon and son Shawn are the first members of the family to graduate from college. Her youngest son, Lloyd, is currently in school.

Now, Taylor is a senior at MTSU and is very close to fulfilling her dream of becoming a teacher.

Taylor's difficult childhood taught her the value of education.

She was born Lucille Martinez in 1950 to a large Mexican-American family in Kansas. At the age of eight, her mother died during childbirth, leaving 14 children behind.

Social Services took them from their father because he could not afford to care for them alone.

Taylor and her siblings grew up in orphanages all over Kansas.

By the age of 16, Taylor was working in restaurants in order to pay for her private school tuition.

"Education cannot be taken away from you - it's the only



Photo by Laura Taylor | Staff Photographer

Lucille Taylor is an example for younger students.

"She also wanted to make sure that we were educated and lived up to our potential. She used to buy us workbooks that we would have to do in the summer; she was very concerned about our schooling."

- Shannon Taylor

thing I had," she says.

At the age of 17, Taylor met her current husband, Thomas Taylor, and they were married a year later. They moved to Tennessee shortly after.

She decided to stay home to raise their children while Thomas worked.

Taylor's daughter, Shannon, remembers how supportive her mother was while she was growing up.

"She wanted to provide us with what she didn't have,"

Shannon says. "I remember our birthday parties were always spectacular. She'd set up games and crafts for us and there were always a lot of decorations; all the kids loved to come to our parties."

"She also wanted to make sure that we were educated and lived up to our potential," she says.

"She used to buy us workbooks that we would have to do in the summer. She was very concerned about our schooling."

Once her children were grown, Taylor began to follow her lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. She started attending MTSU in 1999.

Although she was finally in school, her family was still her first priority.

Three years ago, she took time off from school to help take care of her grandchildren.

"I wouldn't trade it for the world," Taylor says.

She doesn't juggle just family and school, she also works full-time and still manages to help others in need.

In 2003, she received the Community Volunteer award from the Tennessee Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for the many services that she provides the Hispanic community.

For example, she helps women involved in domestic violence, assists Hispanics in getting their driver's licenses, teaches Sunday school and delivers food to those in need.

Taylor also volunteers at a play group designed to help young children and their mothers learn English.

"We play games with the kids and teach them things like shapes and colors; we're teaching them anything that they are going to need to be successful in kindergarten," she says.

Shannon has a lot of respect for the way that her mother has gravitated to help others.

"She has really touched lives and made the community a better place," she says. "I wish I could be more like her."

As Taylor gathers her things to move on to her next selfless act, those around her can't help but smile - she seems to have that effect on people. ♦

Group's food drive surpasses goals



Photo provided by M.A. Higgs

Order of Omega displays prizes for Golden Can Awards.

By Michaela Jackson
Staff Writer

Last semester, Xi Beta, MTSU's chapter of the national honors fraternity Order of Omega, held a food drive to benefit the Rutherford County Emergency Food Bank, a division of the Second Harvest Food Bank.

According to M.A. Higgs, faculty advisor for Order of Omega, the food drive gathered an unbelievable amount of participation from various organizations.

The group raised 1,400 cans of food, exceeding their goal by 400.

Higgs attributes the success to "the caring nature of the MTSU community."

The food drive was sponsored by Xi Beta as one of two semester service projects, with a goal to give back to the immediate Murfreesboro area.

"We can do something to

help right here in our community," Higgs says about why they chose this particular project.

Additionally, she hopes to make the food drive an annual event.

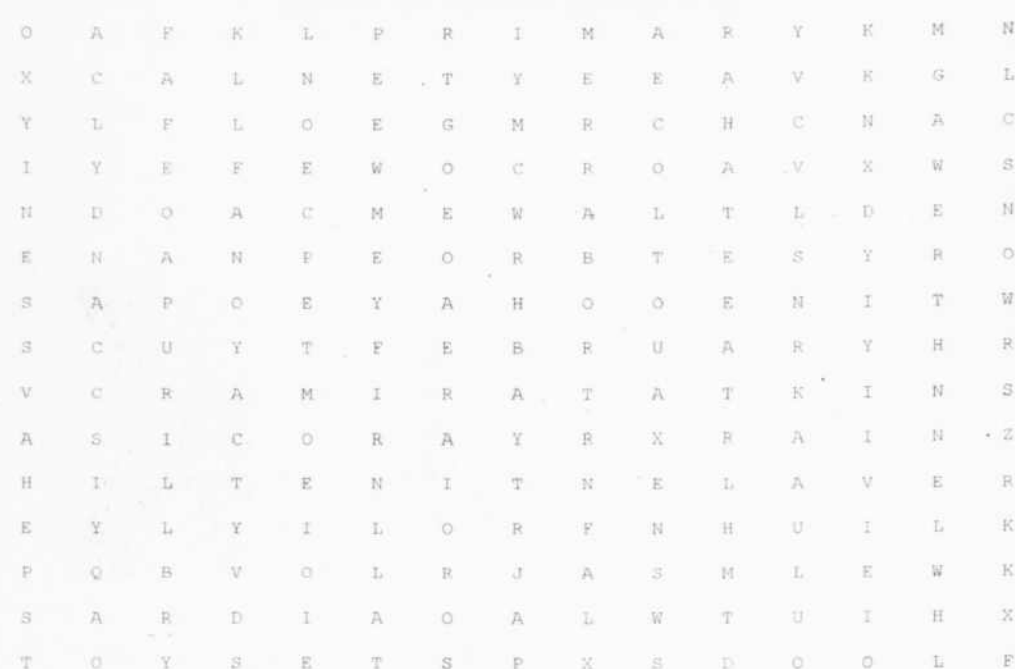
Higgs says that she has been "very, very excited to see MTSU pull together to help the broader community," and "excited with the outpouring of love" that students of the university have displayed.

Many different groups worked cooperatively to raise over 100 cans of food. According to Higgs, several groups were particularly active in the drive.

The organizations that collected the most canned goods included: Higgs' Raider Learning Community; Sharon Thomas' Raider Learning Community; several intermediate algebra classes; the developmental studies department; mathematics and learning

See Food drive, 7

Word Search



Word Bank

Atkins

Black

Candy

February

Floods

Flower

History

Leap Year

Pet

Politics

Primary

Rain

Snow

Valentine

Food drive: Groups help

Continued from 6

strategies areas; reading, writing, testing and main office areas; the Shelby Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Alpha Omicron Pi; Delta Zeta and Pi Kappa Phi.

These groups will receive a

"Golden Can Award" as an expression of the gratitude of Xi Beta, according to Higgs.

The Order of Omega is a national honor society for Greek-letter academy members with outstanding academic and leadership abilities. Xi Beta holds projects like this twice each semester. ♦

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Paul Martin Honors Building
Room 106, 3 p.m.

"Tough Choices in Rewriting History"

Speaker: Kevin Smith,
sociology and anthropology
For information, contact
898-2152

Guitar Festival

Through Feb. 25
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For information, contact
898-2493

"Expressions"

James Union Building
7:30 p.m.
For information, contact
898-2193

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Fire Drill
Kirksey Old Main-Midgett Complex,
10 a.m.

Perspectives on Popular Music
Bragg Mass Communications Building
Room 241, 12:30 p.m.

"Hindi Film Songs, Globalization of
Popular Music"

Speaker: Anantha Babbili, dean,
mass communication;
For information, contact
898-2449

African American History-

"50 Years After Brown"
Business and Aerospace Building
S128, 3 p.m.
For information, contact
898-5905

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Sales, Marketing Career Fair
BAS, South Lobby,
8:30 a.m.
For information, contact
898-2346

Women's Studies Series

JUB Room 100, 3:30 p.m.
"Deviant Emotion: Is This a Women's
Issue?"
Speaker: Jackie Eller,
sociology and anthropology
For information, contact
898-5910

Thursday, Feb. 26

"Operation: Full House"
Blue Raiders basketball game

vs. Western Kentucky
Murphy Center, 7 p.m.
For information, contact
898-2103

Pleas Award Reception
Anantha S. Babbili
Alumni Center, 4 p.m.
For information, contact
898-2661

Friday, Feb. 27

"American Tall Tales"
Through Feb. 28
Tucker Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
For more information, contact
898-5916

Saturday, Feb. 28

MTSU Scrapbook Day
Keathley University Center
Room 322, 9 a.m.
For information, contact
898-5781

Blue Raiders track meet
Sun Belt Championships
Murphy Center

Sunday, Feb. 29

Lady Raiders softball game
v. Cumberland University
Lady Raider Field, 1 p.m.

Blue Raiders track meet
Sun Belt Championships
Murphy Center

Monday, March 1

Murfreesboro Philharmonic Symphony
Orchestra
Tucker Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
For information, contact
898-1862

Honors Lecture Series

Honors Bldg. Room 106, 3 p.m.
"Elected Office: Can You Save Your
Soul and Keep Your Seat?"
Speaker: Dr. Bob Bullen,
educational leadership
For information, contact
898-2152

Photo Exhibit by Susan Bowen
Through April 15
Baldwin Photographic Gallery
For information, contact
898-2085

Blue Raiders basketball game
v. Florida International
Murphy Center, 7 p.m.

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MT Men's Basketball

Next Game Feb. 26
Western Kentucky
at Murphy Center
Tipoff at 7 p.m.

SPORTS

MT Women's Basketball

Next Game Feb. 26
Lady Raiders
at Western Kentucky
Tipoff at 7 p.m.

8 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, February 23, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Jackson, Short lead men's tennis to victory

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

Kirk Jackson and Trevor Short won their first doubles match of the season as the Blue Raiders defeated the University of Memphis 6-1 Friday at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro.

Jackson and Short, who began the season as the No. 30 doubles team in the nation, played together for the first time since Feb. 7 against the University of Louisville. Short has battled a knee injury for the past two weeks, while Jackson has recently suffered from lower back pain and pain in his shins.

Neither senior's ailments kept the duo from defeating Memphis' Lee Taylor Walker and James Spence 8-6 in the No. 1 doubles match.

The No. 63 Blue Raiders (3-4) swept the dou-

bles matches to win the doubles point for the fifth time this season. No. 46 Brandon Tamla and Kai Schledorn defeated Marten Tamla and Alex Bucewicz 8-3 in the No. 2 match, while Middle Tennessee's Rishan Kuruppu and Andreas Siljestrom defeated Alex Jago and Luke Campbell 8-5 at No. 3.

In singles play, Walker recorded the only point of the match for the No. 72 Tigers (3-2) when he defeated Siljestrom 6-4, 6-2 in the No. 1 match. Walker is currently ranked No. 48 in singles play.

The closest match of the day went to Jackson, who rallied to defeat Bucewicz 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4 in the No. 4 match. The victory was Jackson's first singles win since a 6-1, 7-5 defeat of Belmont University's Felipe Abreu Feb. 7.

In other action, Short defeated Spence 6-2, 7-6 (3) at No. 2, which also marked Short's first singles victory since the Blue Raiders' 7-0 shutout against Belmont. Schledorn defeated Tamla 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 at No. 3 in the only other match to go to three sets.

Former Sun Belt Conference Player of the

Week (Feb. 11) Kuruppu defeated Sam Withell 7-6 (4), 6-4 in the No. 5 match to improve to 4-2 in singles play this season. Anant Sitaram won over Campbell 6-3, 6-3 at No. 6.

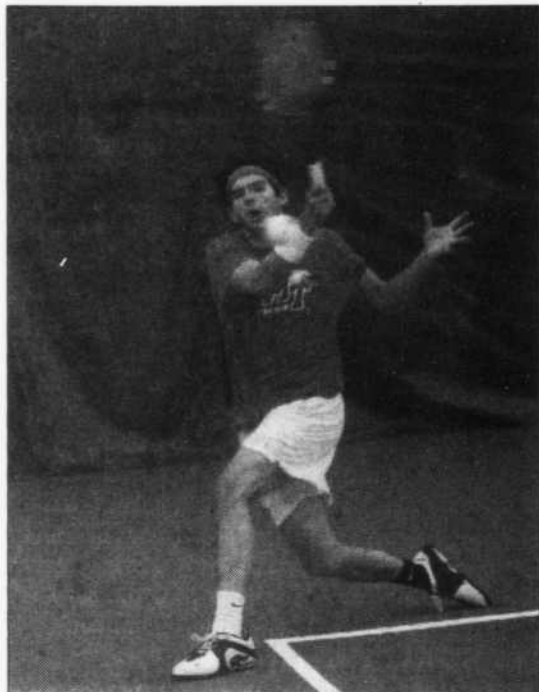
The loss ended Memphis' three-match winning streak, while the Blue Raiders snapped a two-match losing skid.

"I thought we were a little more seasoned than Memphis, and it was finally nice to win some close matches," MT head coach Dale Short told MT Media Relations. "We've had some guys struggling with their confidence, and it was good to see them battle and win, especially the seniors. I'm very happy with the victory over a solid Memphis team."

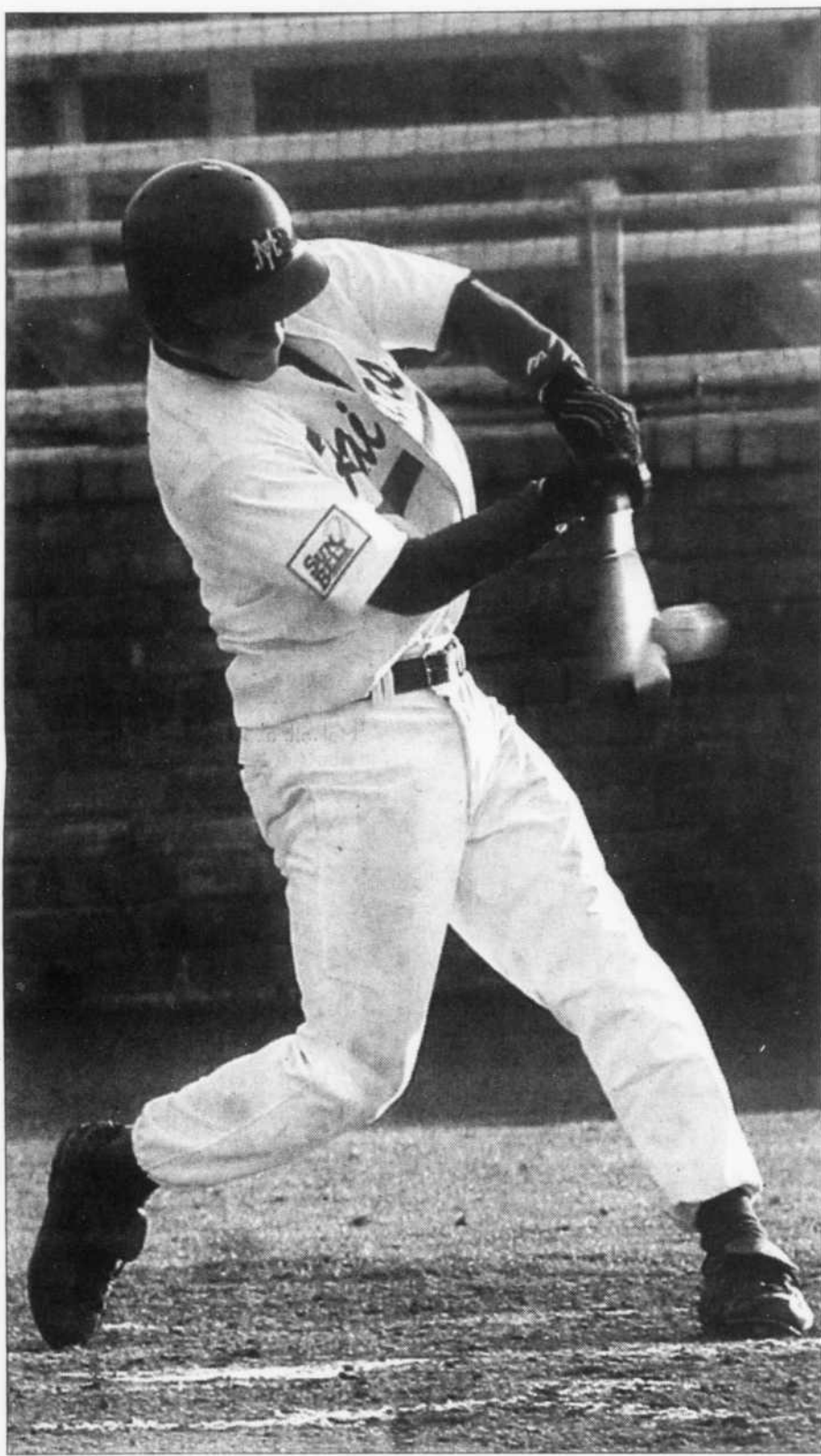
The Blue Raiders travel to Tuscaloosa, Ala., Wednesday to take on the University of Alabama. Match time is 3 p.m. ♦

Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Right: MT sophomore Brandon Allan returns a volley against Memphis Friday. MT won 6-1 to improve to 3-4 this season.



Baseball off to exciting start



MT junior Eric McNamee makes contact against IPFW on Friday.

Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Fireworks one day, no-hitter the next vs. IPFW

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee baseball team exploded into the 2004 season, defeating Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne 24-2 at Reese Smith Field Friday afternoon.

"You don't want to peak too soon," senior left fielder Shane Kemp said. "But I don't think we've peaked yet just because we scored 24 runs today. Last year we really came together as a team and figured out how to win at the end of the season. I think that's happening a little earlier this year."

Sophomore right fielder Marcus Taylor led the Blue Raider attack going three for three at the plate with two home runs, six runs batted in and three walks as well as four runs scored.

"Earlier in the spring, I'd been struggling seeing pitches," Taylor said. "But I changed my swing a little bit, and it really helped today."

The Blue Raiders (2-0) totaled six homers on the day, including Kemp's grand slam, which extended the MT lead to 13-1 in the bottom of the third inning.

Chuck Akers and Brett Carroll had two-run blasts to go with Taylor's pair, and catcher Troy Harp added a three-run shot in the eight-run Blue Raider sixth.

Junior transfer Eric McNamee, starting at second base in place of the suspended Nate Jagers, went two for three, drew four walks, scored five runs, and provided a spark at the top of the lineup in his Blue Raider debut.

"What Eric McNamee did today, you've got to have that at the top of the order," Blue Raider head coach Steve Peterson said. "He's come in, he's got a bounce in his step, and he's playing the way you expect a good, experienced junior college player to play."

See No-hitter, 9

Women sweep final homestand

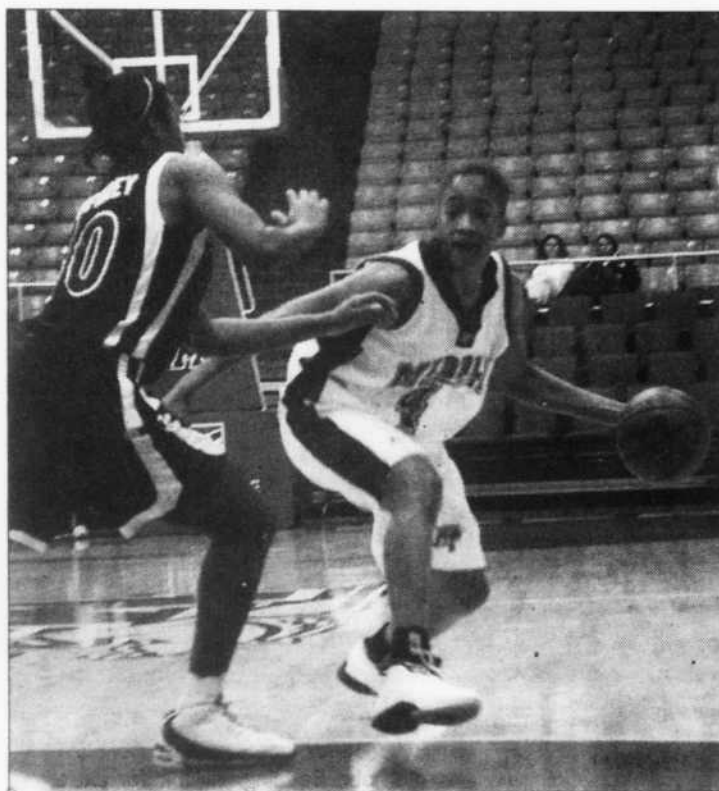


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT freshman Krystle Horton drives against Arkansas-Little Rock defender. MT won 71-54 Saturday.

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider basketball team doesn't get mad. They get even — and boy, do they.

After blowing first-place Arkansas State University out of the gym Thursday night, they completed the Arkansas sweep on Saturday, defeating the University of Arkansas-Little Rock 71-54 on Senior Day at the Murphy Center.

"I think us being in first place was the sweetest of all things today," head coach Stephany Smith said. "It was nice that our seniors got the opportunity of getting some playing time today, including Yamil Cordero."

Krystle Horton led four Middle Tennessee players in double figures, scoring 18

points while grabbing four rebounds and three steals.

Tia Stovall, Patrice Homes and Chrissy Givens each scored 10 points.

The Lady Raiders started fast as Tia Stovall scored the first six points of the game, leading to a Lady Raider run that put them ahead 15-2. UALR battled back, gradually cutting that lead back to one, as close as they would get. MT closed the half on a 15-3 run to extend their lead back to 13 at the half (30-17).

The second half was all MT as the Lady Raiders shot 68 percent from the field and gradually extended their lead to as many as 27 on Horton's layup with 4:30 remaining.

Every Lady Raider that played scored, including reserve

See UALR, 10

Lady Raiders avenge conference loss with Arkansas State victory

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team defeated Arkansas State University 70-47 Thursday night at Murphy Center.

The Lady Raiders got a second chance at ASU after losing to the Lady Indians 69-62 Jan. 15 in Jonesboro, Ark.

"We had been looking forward to this basketball game for a long time," MT head coach Stephany Smith said.

Both teams suffered from turnovers in the first half. MT turned the ball over 13 times, and the Lady Indians had 16 turnovers.

"I was worried we would be a little anxious and turn the ball over," Smith said. "Whenever we turn the ball over, we know we have to make up on offense and defense."

"It is the month of February, and we are playing better as time goes on," Smith said. "People have to step up."

One player who has showed improvement is Tia Stovall. Earlier in the season, she used to struggle with keeping her starting position.

"Tia worked hard to have a starting posi-

tion back," Smith said. Stovall grabbed 13 points and five rebounds. She also had 10 points before the half.

"I just knew I had to get more focus," Stovall said.

Keisha McClinic had 13 points as well.

"We just wanted to be aggressive," McClinic said. "One of our important things is playing defensive and getting transitive points."

Krystle Horton led all scorers with 14 points along with six rebounds.

"This game shows how hard the ladies work in practice everyday," Smith said.

Although the Lady Raiders won by 23 points, they got out-rebounded 33-32.

"We would have out-rebounded them if the ladies had not done such a poor job at the end when it came to boxing out," Smith said.

The Lady Raiders benefited from a sub-par game from Rudy Sims, one of ASU's top players. Sims finished with zero points and was in foul trouble most of the game.

"I thought we did a great job on Sims defensively," Smith said. "We are fortunate to have a good defensive team."

Adrienne Davie and Katie Caraway led

the Lady Indians with 10 points each.

With the win, the Lady Raiders (18-6, 8-3 Sun Belt Conference) tied for first in the SBC Eastern Division with ASU (17-7, 8-3) and Western Kentucky University. WKU lost to the Lady Indians 70-60 Saturday, dropping the Lady Toppers one game behind MT and ASU.

The Lady Raiders face WKU Thursday in Bowling Green, Ky., before facing Florida International University on Mar. 1 to end the regular season. ♦



Lady Raiders Basketball

Lady Raiders vs. Arkansas State University
MT wins - 69-62



Photo by Julie Madewell | Staff Photographer

MT junior Patrice Holmes looks to pass to teammate Krystle Horton as ASU's Catriece Webster defends.

No-hitter: First for Blue Raiders since Mar. 16, 1997

Continued from 8

Junior right-hander Chris Mobley pitched five innings, allowing two runs on four hits to earn the win, while Adam Ferris pitched just 1 2/3 innings, giving up eight runs to take the loss for the Mastodons (0-2).

"The offense came through today, and some days are going to be like that, but Mobley gave us five solid innings, and the defense played behind him," Peterson said.

On Saturday, the Blue Raiders scored once in the bottom of the first, and it would be all they'd need as senior lefty John Williams and junior reliever Chase Williams combined for the first nine inning no-hitter in MT history in a 4-0 victory over IPFW.

"I didn't even realize till the eighth [inning], until I looked at the scoreboard, that there was a no-hitter going on," Swing said. "But I just wanted to go out and throw good pitches, and I

knew the defense would make plays behind me."

Williams struck out the first two batters he faced before walking Mastodon right fielder Zack Walton on a full count, but that would be the only IPFW base-runner to reach the rest of the afternoon.

On the day, Williams pitched six innings giving up no hits, one walk and striking out 12.

"I started getting behind early in the count a little," the MT senior from Oakland High School said. "But once I settled down, I was able to hit my spots and throw good pitches."

Left fielder Shane Kemp had another solid day at the plate, going 3-for-4, while Brett Carroll, Chase Eakes, Josh Archer and Eric McNamee all drove in runs for the Blue Raiders.

McNamee continued to play well at second base, going two for three with an RBI and one run scored. He also made two key plays in the top of the

ninth to seal the no-hitter.

"There's a lot more pressure defensively," McNamee said of the play in the field. "Chase [Eakes] and John [Williams] were doing everything right, so you want to go out there and do everything right to help them finish it off."

True freshman Michael McKenry, calling his first career at-bat, called every pitch from behind the plate. He also showed great patience on offense, drawing three walks in his first three at-bats.

"For Michael McKenry to catch a no-hitter in his first start ever was magical and mystical," Peterson said. "He called a great game and showed me that when our two senior catchers [Troy Harp and Derek Phillips] graduate, we're going to be OK."

David Zachary took the loss for IPFW (0-2). Williams picked up the win for the Blue Raiders, while Swing was credited with the save. ♦



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT senior outfielder Shane Kemp crosses home plate after a grand slam in MT's 24-2 win Friday.

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Men split final road games

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team continued Sun Belt Conference play during the weekend, traveling to Arkansas to take on the Arkansas State University Indians and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans.

The Blue Raiders defeated the Indians in Jonesboro, Ark., in a dramatic fashion.

A free throw by Stephen Jackson with less than one second remaining clinched the 70-69 victory after Jackson was fouled following the offensive rebound of a Mike Dean jumper.

"There was no question I was fouled," Jackson said. "That was the biggest offensive rebound of my [Middle Tennessee] career."

After the foul on Jackson, the referees met to discuss whether or not the foul occurred during regulation. Eventually, they ruled that Jackson was fouled with .08 of a second on the clock, and he calmly sank the first free throw to break the 69-69 tie.

Several Blue Raiders played well in the conference win.

Mike Dean led MT in scoring with 19, while Tommy Gunn added 14.

Freshman point guard Bryan Smithson scored 13, establishing a career-high in three pointers with four and adding six assists.

The Blue Raiders led by 11 at the half (38-27), but the Indians used the sharp shooting of J.J. Montgomery (24 points) and Antonio Rambo (19 second-half points) to tie the game four different times with less than 5:46 remaining.

"We played about as well as we could play for 30 minutes, and then they made a run," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "You've got to give our guys credit for coming in here and winning in a great environment."

Two days later, the Blue Raiders traveled to another hos-



Photo by David Maxwell | Staff Photographer

MT guard Mike Dean pulls up against Arkansas-Little Rock's Richard Hardman in MT's 68-66 loss Jan. 17.

tile environment to take on UALR.

Cold shooting led to just two field goals in the game's final 6:55, as the Blue Raiders dropped another close one by the score of 59-54.

Despite the loss, the Blue Raiders can still clinch the division by winning out and if the Trojans lose their final two conference games.

Dean led all scorers with 18 points in the game, while Michael Cuffee added 14, and Gunn scored 10.

With 8:25 remaining, the Trojans went on a 7-0 run and then hit seven of eight free throws to clinch the victory.

Richard Hardman led the Trojans in scoring on the evening with 12 points, while Brandon Freeman added 11.

Senior Trojan Jamal Holden impressed on senior night, grabbing 10 rebounds, scoring six points and blocking two shots in the game.

"It really came down to them making shots and us missing shots," Cuffee said. "They got the loose ball and took advantage of our mistakes."

The Blue Raiders will return to action on Thursday, hosting Western Kentucky University in a key SBC matchup that will tip off at 7 p.m.♦

UALR: Seniors honored as Lady Raiders win

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guard Cordero, who finished with one point. Cordero was honored along with Keisha McClinic and Jennifer Justice on Senior Day.

"We came out there and gave it our all," McClinic said. "It was just a fun game to go out and play."

McClinic currently has 91 steals, good for third

nationally and a new school record. Justice scored five points and grabbed five rebounds in the victory.

The win keeps the Lady Raiders in first place in the Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division and in position to be the No. 1 seed in two weeks for the conference tournament March 6-9 in Bowling Green, Ky.♦

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