

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 24, 2005

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Lady Raiders prepare
for WKU

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on the best flick
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Murfreesboro, Tenn.

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SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

2003 National Finalist
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Volume 80 No. 60

Greek Row fracas leads to one arrest, two injuries, Sunday

By Matt Anderson
Campus News Editor

One student was arrested and two were treated for injuries after a brawl on Greek Row Sunday morning.

Jesse Newsom of Bradyville, Tenn., was arrested for public intoxication and simple assault, according to the arrest report. Newsom is a member of Beta Theta Pi and a senior in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

Patrick Mix and Steven Bishop went to Middle Tennessee Medical Center for treatment, according to the university police daily media log.

Bishop is a member of Sigma Nu and a senior in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. Mix is a freshman in the same college, and his fraternity affiliation is not known.

Several Greek students said the fight involved between 30 and 40 people.

Interfraternity Council President Patrick Beeler said that disciplinary action had been taken, but he could not release specifics.

"For Greeks, we take respon-



Newsom

sibility for our actions, and we have taken steps to rectify the situation," Beeler said.

Several officers arrived at Greek Row around 3 a.m. Sunday morning on a fight call in progress between the Beta Theta Pi and Sigma Nu houses.

Mix told the officers that after he had pulled into a parking space, Newsom reached into his vehicle, shut it off and pulled him out. Newsom then struck him in the face.

Mix had a laceration to his upper lip and hand marks around his neck area, according to the arrest report. Bishop had a laceration to his left eye and bruises on the right side of his face.

Two cars were reported damaged after the fight. A headlight and fender were damaged on a Jeep Wrangler and a rearview mirror and antenna were torn off a Ford Taurus.

Newsom's court date is March 28. He did not return calls for comment. ♦

Drug-related arrests increased last year

By David S.T. Driver
Staff Writer

Drug-related crimes are up in Murfreesboro, probably due to the population increases, said Mary Schneider, director of the Murfreesboro Drug Court.

Drug arrests have increased not only in the city of Murfreesboro but in the county schools and on Interstate 24.

"We are still seeing alcohol, marijuana and crack cocaine on the streets," Schneider said. "Prescription pill abuse is increasing as well.

"We have very little meth right now, but that is coming into the county."

The drug court works with non-violent offenders giving them a second chance through shortened incarcerations and more treatment.

"Marijuana use is mostly with younger participants," Schneider said. "Crack is a poor person's drug. Prescription fraud tends to be in a higher economic class. Alcohol doesn't

seem to have any preference with socioeconomic standing."

The drug court allows those arrested for drug-related crimes to apply for the program. Of the 473 people that have applied, 121 have been accepted since the court was established in 1998.

So far 44 people have graduated from the drug court program and only three have been arrested again for their crimes. The program can treat up to 50 people per year.

"We are involved in these people's lives," Schneider said. "We see them almost daily. We know their kids and family. We ask them to reach farther than they have ever reached before and this gives them a great feeling of accomplishment and self-esteem."

Applicants must be non-violent offenders with no record of drug trafficking or no more than two DUIs. They also must

See Drugs, 2

Campus bulge weighs heavily

New publication, "Outsmart the freshman fifteen," combats student weight gain



Illustration by Alan Laidlaw | Staff Illustrator

A recent study shows that MTSU students tend to gain weight as they progress. Campus dining offers healthy choices, but some students "lack the knowledge to make good choices," according to the study.

By Katie Garland
Staff Writer

Upon entering college, many freshmen are warned of the infamous "Freshman 15."

In 2003, the Human Sciences Department at MTSU received a grant to put this myth to test under the guidance of Janet McNaughton.

According to the results, the average senior at MTSU weighs 14 pounds more than the average freshman.

The study suggested that, among other things, the weight gain could be attributed to students who "lack the knowledge to make good choices."

So, how does campus dining stack up in helping students make good choices?

The campus dining facilities do provide the necessary ingredients for a healthy diet, said Janet Colson, a professor in the nutrition and food science program.

A healthy diet consists of three balanced meals a day combined with regular

exercise, Colson said.

"It would be nice if students would get up and have a wholesome breakfast ... a whole grain product like cereal or toast with maybe fruit and some type of protein," Colson said.

"Then for lunch ... go to one of the campus cafeterias and get a lunch that has two vegetables and a meat and some wholegrain bread ... and it would be nice to have a glass of milk with that," she said.

See Food, 2

Pearson emphasizes contact between student, senators

By Courtney Gundry
Staff Writer

Blake "Project Pat" Pearson is a candidate for president of Student Government Association. Don't look for the name "Blake Pearson" on the ballot though; you won't find it. Pearson is running under his nickname "Project Pat."

Pearson is a 22-year-old senior majoring in political science with an emphasis on public administration. His minors are psychology and English.

Pearson is an SGA senator and is a desk assistant at Corlew Hall. He has a history in management and supervising positions from previous job experi-



Pearson

ences.

His major and experience as a senator have given him a familiarity with administration that he said he feels with help in

making SGA more successful.

"You learn through experience. You're using proper procedure, not just reading it," Pearson said.

As an SGA senator, Pearson opposed raising the academic standard for SGA candidates. Currently, the SGA has a 2.5 grade point average standard, which he said is barely the student average. He said he feels

that it doesn't create a fair representation of the student body and calls the proposal "exclusionary."

"I'm on the same level as everybody else," Pearson said. "You don't have to feel intimidated. You can be real with me."

The role of the president is to be a liaison between the senate and the student body and various organizations.

Pearson emphasized the importance of communication. He said he wants direct contact between the students and senators.

"Even if we can't do anything directly, maybe we can find a way around the problem," he said.

He said he feels he is a good listener, easy to talk to, understanding and funny.

"Everything doesn't have to be so serious," Pearson said. "Humor relieves the stress of the situation."

He called the lack of participation in this semester's election "rather interesting." He said without opposition to a position, it's partisan politics and "that should be kept out of SGA."

Pearson's Web site, www.projectsga.org, is currently up and running. He encouraged everyone to take an in-depth look at who he is and what he stands for. ♦

Fulcher focuses on past accomplishments

By Courtney Gundry
Staff Writer

Paul Fulcher is a candidate for Student Government Association president. He is a 19-year-old sophomore majoring in business administration. His minors are economics, finance and political science.

Fulcher is a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Raider Republicans, secretary of the Interfraternity Council, a Student Ambassador and has been an SGA senator for the past two years.

As an SGA senator, Fulcher has written many bills in hopes of improving student life. He is responsible for writing the bill that paved the walkway between



Fulcher

the McWherter Learning Resources Center and the James E. Walker Library, and has proposed plans to put a Starbucks in the Keathley

University Center and raise the academic standards for SGA candidates.

"Being an SGA senator has broadened my horizons about what's going on on campus," Fulcher said. "I know what's going on and what students really want and need. Being president would give me a chance to address it."

The job of the president is to appoint all committee heads

and plan budgets for many of those committees.

Last summer, Fulcher worked as an intern for Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn's campaign.

He said he feels that this opportunity was "a great growing experience" that gave him an insight into the discipline of financial budgeting.

Fulcher said he is trying to motivate students to get more involved.

"I want more people to vote, not based on what they [the candidates] promise to do in the future but what they've done in the past. It's not necessarily their positions, but what

See Fulcher, 2

Sunshine on their shoulders



Photograph by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Interior design majors (left to right) Tish Overall, Melinda Conley, Erin Henderson and Jessica Spires enjoy the weather while practicing their drawing.



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com

Do you think Student Government
Association elections are fair?

Opinions 4 • Sports 5 • Classifieds 7 • Flash, Inside

Eating disorder support group to aid students with nutrition, self-validation

By **Esparronda Waller**
Staff Writer

The June Anderson Women's Center and two MTSU students are starting an Eating Disorders and Body Image Group on campus to aid students with eating disorders.

The group will meet every other Tuesday from 5:30-7 p.m. in the June Anderson Women's Center in the James Union Building. The group will meet for 12 weeks.

The next meeting will be March 1.

During each meeting, members will discuss issues such as body image, nutrition and self-validation.

Crystal Moon, a licensed counselor, and Mary Belle Hunter, a registered dietician, will host the first six weeks. Amanda Travers and Sarah Neal will then support the group.

Travers is a social work major who said she is recovering from anorexia. She said she has suffered with the disorder for six years.

"There's a lot of need for the group at MTSU. There's no organization on campus for women who have eating disorders," she said.

Neal is a women's studies major who also said she suffered with an eating disorder.

"I'm helping to start this group because I have struggled with an eating disorder for many years," Neal said. "Because this is a college campus, there are a lot of women who suffer with eating disorders, so there is a need for this group."

"I could benefit from this group as well as other women on campus. There hasn't been an organization for people with eating disorders on campus," Neal said.

Travers said the group is relaxed, and the women don't have to talk if they don't want to. They may express their feelings when they feel comfortable.

"People who suffer from eating disorders must use a multi-disciplinary approach. At

Health Services, we check for metabolic bodily function problems such as heart, kidney, liver and electrolyte problems," said Dr. Pat Spangler, university physician and medical director at Health Services.

"They must use a multidisciplinary approach treatment and diagnosis plan. This includes medical personnel, but, more importantly, counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists and nutritionists," Spangler said.

People with anorexia avoid eating because they fear gaining weight, while those with bulimia eat large amounts of food, binge and/or purge by vomiting and using laxatives. The binge eating disorder is similar to bulimia, in which uncontrollable eating occurs.

According to the Micromedex Web Site, eight million people in the United States have been diagnosed with an eating disorder, 90 percent of whom are women. Of college freshmen, 4.5 percent to 18 percent of women and 0.4 percent of men have a history of bulimia.

"They have this mental block; therefore, it's a psychological problem," Spangler said.

Travers said the group will give women someone to talk to who understands what they're going through.

"We have the resources of where to send women. We can tell them what to do," Travers said. "They will have people who will listen. A lot of people don't know they have a problem, so they don't know what to do."

"This group will establish a network where women can support each other, help each other's bodies to heal so they can become strong, succulent women, and they won't feel alone," Neal said.

The most common symptoms of eating disorders are denial that there is a problem and preoccupation with food and weight. These can lead to strange eating habits.

"Some people are in denial. If someone comes into the office and says they've lost 20 pounds in the last six months without trying to, we have to make sure they don't have a tumor, metabolic problem, or absorption problem," Spangler said.

According to Jennifer Woodard, assistant professor of journalism, advertising plays a role in why some women develop eating disorders. She said a fantasy is created about how the ideal woman would look according to the people who put ads together. However, it doesn't necessarily have a reality.

"What happens is real women see the ads and keep seeing them over time, and they keep being told that if they use these particular products, they can look beautiful," Woodard said.

"They start to feel a lack and low self-esteem over time, and this can affect their body images. They try to control their image by not eating, vomiting, over-exercising, light eating and using laxatives."

"You really can't determine the causes of eating disorders. There are a lot of different factors such as low self-esteem and poor body image," Travers said.

Woodard said in the past advertisers had to make a woman or a man feel a sense of lacking so they would buy the product that would fill in the gap.

"They're selling images and fantasies, and this can affect people in a negative way, especially if this is all they can see," she said.

According to Spangler, anorexics who lose a certain percentage of body weight can develop major medical problems, including kidney, liver, heart and electrolyte problems.

Travers said she has an inherent heart condition due to anorexia.

According to the Micromedex Web site, as many

as 1 percent of females between the ages of 12 and 18 have anorexia. The binge eating disorder is present in about 2 percent of the general population, mostly women.

"One thousand people die every year from anorexia. It takes a lot of counseling, reassurance and proper nutrition. Nutritionists have to make sure [patients] understand how many calories a day they need to maintain their weight," Spangler said.

Health Services works closely with Vanderbilt in treating students with eating disorders. Travers said she was treated at Vanderbilt for six years.

"I received outpatient therapy at Vanderbilt, I'm involved in the 12-step program for Alcoholics Anonymous and I received inpatient therapy in Memphis as well as a nutritionist in Nashville," Travers said.

Travers said her most recent treatment was at Shades of Hope in Buffalo Gap, Texas, for 10 weeks last summer.

"I was 13 when my guidance counselor noticed that I was losing a lot of weight. There was limited information back then, so it was a while before I received proper treatment," she said.

Spangler said the amount of time it takes to cure the disorder depends on how long the person has suffered with it.

"I think this support group is excellent because people can sit in a room with each other and share their similarities. I think it's excellent that we recognize we have this problem on campus ... it's everywhere," he said.

"I'm glad that students are stepping up to the plate and admitting they have a problem and sharing that with other students. It's good for them to talk to students who have experienced the problem," Spangler said.

"I hope this group will help women who have eating disorders. I know they can be helped and treated," Travers said. ♦

Food: Health food not marketable, Colson says

Continued from 1

Colson recommends a similar dinner with fruit for dessert. "You can get that in the cafeterias if you want," she said.

Regarding the selection of eateries found on campus, Colson said it is normal for food service establishments to provide less-healthy food because it is what people tend to buy.

"They will go broke and will have to close if they don't sell what people buy," Colson said. "The cafeterias have found that the students don't want the vegetables, and they don't want that oatmeal or whole grain cereal. They want ... a pastry for breakfast ... then for lunch they want a quick pizza and a Coke ... and for supper they want just something easy that tastes good."

But if the majority of campus food is not healthy, how can students find out the facts about what they are eating?

By law, Aramark is not required to provide any nutritional information on the food provided in Aramark facilities.

According to the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act requirements, Aramark is exempt from nutrition labeling under the following circumstances:

- "Foods served or sold in restaurants are exempt unless a claim is made on a label available to the consumer (e.g. fat free salad dressing)."

- "Foods served and sold for immediate consumption. (e.g. schools, cafeterias, trains, airplanes, etc.)."

Also, the nutritional information requirements only apply to foods sold between states, according to Colson.

Despite the fact that Aramark doesn't have to provide nutritional information, it is available for students who want to know.

In the Aramark office, located in the Keathley University Center, Room 204, students can find the 2003-2004 edition of a book titled *Aramark Standard Recipes & As Purchased Items*. This book is called a "menu-

builder" and consists of 323 pages of nutritional information for the food served in Aramark facilities.

However, for some of the school's food, the book is not necessary.

In the Cyber Café, nutritional information for both Subway and Burger King is readily available for viewing.

At the Home Zone in the KUC, there are new cards every day that list the pertinent nutritional information for the home-cooked food being served.

Also, Chic-fil-A, Subway and Burger King all provide nutritional information on their Web sites. Quizno's provides a form to request information.

While a well-balanced diet is an important factor for college students to have a healthy lifestyle, diet alone isn't enough.

"We need to use the Rec Center," Colson said. "Students think, 'Well, it's free; I'm not gonna use it; but ya'll do pay for it.'"

In order to maintain a good weight, it takes an hour a day of regular exercise.

"Every day would be better, but you might want to rest one day," she said.

However to lose weight, it takes an hour and a half per day.

"Thirty minutes three times a week is for cardiovascular health, but if you want to lose weight, the type of exercise you need ... is an hour and a half," Colson said. "That's what the new dietary guidelines came out with."

The results from McNaughton's study on nutrition have been published in a brochure called "Outsmart the Freshman 15." It is filled with "related opinions, habits, knowledge and attitudes about weight and nutrition."

The brochures will be placed in CUSTOMS packets for incoming freshmen and have been sent to universities across the state.

Copies of the brochure can also be found in Ellington Human Services Building. ♦

Fulcher: Parties should be open later

Continued from 1

they strive toward."

Not only does he ask that the individual students get involved, but he hopes to unite the various organizations on campus. He said he feels that more input and organization will lead to "more and better results."

He also hopes to extend fraternity parties on campus until

3 a.m.

"Bars are open until three. I don't understand why we can't be," he said.

Fulcher said he realizes that he is jumping into the presidential race a year earlier than most candidates do.

"I'm ready," he said. "Overall, I've got a great personality that can do a lot for the student body." ♦

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consisting of 170 p...
Psalter (sôl'têr), n. [AS. psalter, solter < L. psalterium, stringed instrument < psalm, to sing; replacing ME. psalter, solter < Anglo-saxon (OFR. psalter) < L.], 1. The Book of Psalms. 2. [also p-], a version of the Psalms for use in religious services.
psal-ter-y (sôl'têr-î, sôl'trî), n. [pl. PSALTERIES (-trîz)]. (ME. psalterie; OFr. sautere, psalterie; L. psalterium; see PSALTER). 1. An ancient stringed instrument with a shallow sound box, played by plucking the strings with the fingers or a plectrum. 2. [P-], the Psalter.
psalm-mite (sam'it), n. [Fr. < Gr. psalmos, -and], sandstone.
psalm-mite (-s-mit'ik), adj. [c. psammite + -ic] of or consisting of sandstone.
psae-phite (sô'fit), n. [c. Gr. psphos, a pebble; + -ite], conglomerate or fragmental rock.
psaud-, pseudo-, pseudonym.
psau-das-is (sô-dak'sis), n. [psend- + asis], in botany, a sympodium.
psau-de-pig-ra-pha (sô'da-pig'râ-fâ, sô'da-pig'râ-fâ), n. [Mod. L.; Gr. pseudepigrapha, deut. pl. of pseudepigrapha, having a false title < pseud-, to write], writings falsely ascribed to Biblical characters.
psau-de-pig-ra-phous (sô'da-pig'râ-fâ, sô'da-pig'râ-fâ), adj. [Gr. pseudepigrapha, of, or having the name of, pseudepigrapha; spurious].
psau-do (sô'dô, sô'dô), adj. [ME.; see PSEUDO], false; spurious; pretended; counterfeit.
psau-do- (sô'dô, sô'dô), (Gr. pseudo- < pseudo, to < pseudin, to deceive), a combining form meaning false, pretended, sham, as in pseudonym. 2. m. rious, as in pseudepigrapha. 3. doubly

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Drugs: Program assists users through support group

Continued from 1

be chemically dependent and a citizen of Rutherford or Canon County.

Participants are drug tested weekly, meet with a case manager and judge while receiving

treatment for dependency and receive help through support groups.

The drug court also arranges speakers for organizations and schools including having participants give their testimony to kids. ♦

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Richard Catlow, TIME

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PG

FEBRUARY 21 - 26
MONDAY - THURSDAY AT 7:00 PM AND 9:30 PM
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 6:00 PM

Sporting event security addressed in terrorism lecture

By Kim Peer
Staff Writer

Colby Jubenville, assistant professor in the department of health physical education recreation and safety, presented his view of terrorism's effects on college and national level sporting events on Monday, Feb. 21.

His lecture, "The Effect of Terrorism and Its Impact on Sport Stadium Security," was part of the Honors Lecture Series. Jubenville presented his ideas in a slideshow and then took questions from the audience.

The lecture included a general definition of terrorism, the background of increased security measures due to Sept. 11, the idea of sporting events as serious terrorism targets and the Homeland Security Advisory System.

Jubenville introduced himself to the audience by explaining his interest in the lecture topic.

"I wanted to stay involved in the sports industry as much as possible," he said.

This goal led him to the field of research facility management, and he is now coordinator of sport management at MTSU.

Jubenville addressed the question, "Why [is terrorism] so difficult to study?"

Several students responded with answers like the constant change associated with terrorism and the unknown factor also surrounding it.

"Terrorism," Jubenville said, "is also emotional and preys on fears." He explained that fear can be averted with the old saying, "Comfort is in the knowing."

He continued with a series of facts that demonstrated how sports events could be considered high-risk areas for terrorism.

"Terrorism is often aimed towards highly visible targets," Jubenville said. When he con-

tinued by asking what the Super Bowl symbolizes in America, a student replied, "capitalism."

Jubenville explained that beyond capitalism, the Super Bowl and large sporting events like it are places where Americans hold tradition in high standing.

This fact and the vast number of people who attend sporting events creates "a plum target for terrorists," he said with a quote from Bruce Hoffman, a vice president Rand Cop of Global Security Experts.

"I didn't realize that there was so much involved with sporting event security, especially the Super Bowl," Ty Fox, a senior criminal justice major, said. "I related to the lecture because my finance plays baseball, and I like sports as well," she added.

According to Jubenville, since the outbreak of hooliganism, a form of organized crime, took place at a British soccer game where spectators broke railing apart to use as weapons against rival spectators, Britain has lead the way with sports management and security.

He said that "awareness and adequate response," such as surveillance, advanced technology, crowd control and alcohol control, were the number one keys to improving security at sporting events.

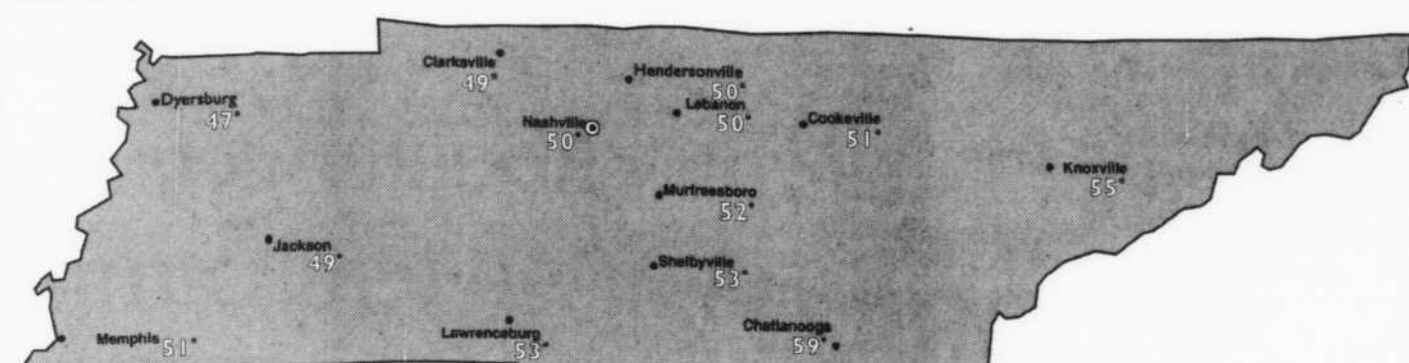
"Some of the most important precautions are minimal in cost," he said. Having a plan for the event of a terrorist attack is also a less costly alternative to chaos.

Jubenville also emphasized the importance of Americans feeling comfortable at the games they enjoy, while being surrounded by well-planned safety measures.

Being prepared allows American culture to return to normal and have peace of mind, even though terrorism is still a real danger he concluded. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
52° ▲ 31° ▼	57° ▲ 32° ▼	59° ▲ 38° ▼	58° ▲ 34° ▼	51° ▲ 34° ▼

CRIME LOG

Compiled By
Michaela Jackson – Associate News Editor

Thursday, Feb. 17 - 9:14 a.m.
Davis Science Building
Vandalism Under \$500

Subject called police to report that his Ford van had been vandalized.

Thursday, Feb. 17 - 10:32 a.m.
Greenland Drive Lot B
Leaving the Scene of an Accident

Subject called to advise that someone hit his car, a silver Nissan, and left the scene of the accident.

Thursday, Feb. 17 - 6:26 p.m.
Student Recreation Center
Theft Under \$500

Thursday, Feb. 17 - 10:44 p.m.
Scarlett Commons
Suicide Threat

Police advised that subject's

friend called and stated the subject had taken a bottle of pills.

Friday, Feb. 18 - 1:16 a.m.
Greek Row
Leaving the Scene of an Accident

Subject called in to report that she saw a silver Chevrolet S10 hit a black maxima and green Jeep Cherokee and then drove off.

Friday, Feb. 18 - 1:35 a.m.
Blue Raider Boulevard at MTSU Boulevard West
Driving Under Influence

Scott Stevens, 19, was arrested and Bryan Ellis, 19, was given a citation for underage consumption of alcohol when their vehicle was stopped for speeding.

Friday, Feb. 18 - 8:56 a.m.
Greek Row
Vandalism under \$500

Subject reported vandalism to building seven.

Saturday, Feb. 19 - 1:29 a.m.
Greenland Drive
Underage Consumption of Alcohol

Keenan J. Reaves and Andre M. Jones were charged with underage consumption of alcohol.

Saturday, Feb. 19 - 2 a.m.
Gentleman Jim's
Assault

Subject hit a bartender with a stool at Gentleman Jim's on Greenland Drive. He tried to flee the scene, but was chased on foot by an officer and arrested.

Saturday, Feb. 19 - 5:01 p.m.
Outstanding Warrant
Student Recreation Center

Eric Latrell Mitchell was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Sunday, Feb. 20 - 3:05 a.m.
Greek Row
Public Intoxication

Jesse Newsom was arrested for public intoxication when he was discovered participating in a fight between the Sigma Nu house and the Beta house.

Newsom and two others were taken to Middle Tennessee Medical Center for treatment. ♦

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OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 24, 2005

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board Starved for acceptance, gorged on fast food

The fact that both obesity and eating disorders are big problems in our nation may lead some to think Americans are lazy or lack willpower.

But we think it points to a bigger social problem. As U.S. citizens we are constantly bombarded with commercials that tell us we need to eat junk food to be whole.

Many get accustomed to the fast food lifestyle at such young ages overeating has become a way of life – part of their everyday ritual.

These people eat when they get sad, lonely and stressed. Even when they're feeling bad about being overweight.

On top of that, we see a plethora of images in the media that tells us that if we are the slightest bit overweight we are somehow less human than the slim models we see on television.

If that's the case, there are a billion businesses that will be happy to take our money to "help" us realize a level of perfection that is probably unobtainable for most.

These businesses cash in on making us feeling even worse about ourselves. No doubt, this is a contributing factor to the thousands of Americans who think being thin is more important than their own healthiness, and in many cases their lives.

The result of all this consumerism is a nation that is starved for acceptance and understanding, yet gorged on french fries and low-carbohydrate ice cream. After all that eating, we're still empty – maybe even emptier than we were when we started.

It's a dangerous dilemma.

It doesn't help that we spend the majority of our days positioned in front of the television when maybe we should be getting some exercise or appreciating the world around us.

But our culture revolves around TV. If it didn't how would we see the commercials?

Capitalism has helped us dig ourselves into a hole of bad health habits. The harder we struggle to get out of it, the bigger the hole gets. ♦

Blockbuster gets busted over 'no fees' campaign

Let this be the final lesson: if it sounds too good to be true, it is.

Blockbuster's "No More Late Fees," is no exception to the rule.

This weekend, New Jersey Attorney General Peter Harvey announced his intent to sue Blockbuster.

"There is no question about it – there is a violation of New Jersey's consumer fraud act," Harvey stated.

Now, I'm no legal expert, but this guy has a point.

Start with the commercials on television. It is easy to be fooled. Couples are embracing in celebration, while others dance to the gleeful music, "It's over." It is a scene straight out of Pleasantville.

However, if you read the fine print, you will find out there is indeed a late fee, but by another name.

"If you still have a movie or game seven days after the due date shown on your receipt," the card reads, "we will convert your rental to a sale."

Yes, you heard right. Instead of paying the daily late charge, you get to pay the full price of the movie or game.

Yet, it doesn't stop there. If you decide to return the rental within 30 days of the sale (this is where they automatically charge your credit card) they will credit some of your money back if you instruct them to do so, in person.

Surely that is the end of the fees, right? Guess again. "In both instances you will be charged a restocking fee, plus applicable taxes," states Blockbuster in their frequently asked questions section.

Which raises the question: shouldn't consumers be responsible for reading the

(This Title For Rent)



Gretchen Jenkins
Staff Columnist

fine print and finding out all the details? Absolutely, but businesses have a certain moral obligation as well.

By using deceptive advertising, Blockbuster does not fulfill its end of the bargain.

If the United States court system panders to consumers who fail to realize coffee is a hot beverage, then certainly something here is amiss.

Renting a movie does not require a high IQ, nor should it require the ability to read and sort through misleading advertising. Companies and corporations who serve the common people should appeal to that same common denominator. Blockbuster's use of bogus advertising goes beyond legal statutes, by overstepping moral limits.

I don't know all the clauses that constitute "false advertising." I do, however, know that Blockbuster's conduct has been blatantly unethical.

Then again, maybe an honest business is an oxymoron after all. ♦

Gretchen Jenkins is a freshman political science major and can be reached at gmj2d@mtsu.edu.

Stop regulating choice, leave individuals alone

With all the wars being waged, and potential wars on the rise, Americans sometimes lose sight of the wars that are taking place here in their own country. And like the war in Iraq, the wars against personal freedom are just as much a waste of time and money.

Is there any irony in using morality as a tool to fight personal freedoms? The debate over gay marriage proves that, as a country, we don't feel comfortable with homosexuality. But nobody should have the right to tell another person how to live, especially if they aren't personally involved in the situation. If this other person's lifestyle bothers you so much that you can't stand it, then just turn your head and imagine that it doesn't exist. Either that, or get a life and stop focusing on other people's business.

The same can be said for the money war on drugs that we sink so much money into.

What might be a good way to help support the supposedly doomed Social Security is to stop spending \$19 billion a year on trying to regulate a person's personal choice. Stop sending drug addicts to jail, because an addiction is a sickness, not a crime.

Yes, drugs kill people. And yes, using certain drugs retard your daily activities. But the same can be said for alcohol, cough syrup, spray paint, glue and an array of over the counter medications. I mean if there were an actual concern for people's safety, why are cigarettes still legal.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, cigarettes kill about 400,000 people a year. You won't get a number that high if you add up all illegal drug-related deaths and multiply it by 10.

"Here's a solution for the drug war. For all those people who want drugs to be legal, legalize them. For all those people who don't want them legal, don't worry, they aren't, never were and never will be," said comedian and philosopher Bill Hicks.

At no point in time will the Drug Enforcement Agency declare that the war on drugs has been won. Right now in the United States, you can currently purchase

Gagflex



Jason Johnson
Staff Columnist

drugs in all 50 states. This year will remain for the rest of this year, next year and every year until mankind no longer exists.

The next person nominated for a Nobel Prize should be Jack Gevorkian. Death is natural. It's always going to happen, no matter how many scared scientist and fundamental Christians want to keep us alive forever. The idea of going out with dignity should be cherished.

Should a person's miserable life be prolonged because of some other unrelated person is on a moral quest to save humanity from itself?

Three cheers to Ernest Hemingway and Hunter Thompson for living and dying on their own terms.

This Jehovah's Witness mentality within our government and society needs to be put to rest. This idea that all people are supposed to carry the same ideals and morals is ridiculous and communistic.

We've done enough to partition what is appropriate for children and suburbanites. So they can go watch *Full House* and *Everybody Loves Raymond*, and the adults who want it should be able to watch adult entertainment without complaint.

So, what our personal freedoms boil down to are a few good sayings. Live and let live, live and let die and above all, mind your own business. Live by those few mottoes and you might evolve. ♦

Jason Johnson is a senior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at jcj2n@mtsu.edu.

Correction:

In the story "More competition needed, Kennedy says" (Feb. 23, p. 1), Clay Kennedy's photo did not carry his name underneath it. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

'Harry Potter' offers lesson in philosophy

Over this past Christmas break I caught up on all my Harry Potter reading. I'm now waiting eagerly for July 16,

Thursdays



Wesley Jackson
Staff Columnist

when the sixth J.K. Rowling novel will appear.

Among the many benefits of these books, the primary value for me was that they clicked the refresh button on the Internet browser of my mind. As J.R.R. Tolkien said, all good fairytales cause us to see things the way we were meant to see them. They give us a fresh and renewed perspective so often denied to us in our trials and stresses of ordinary life.

We can get so bogged down in the day-to-day activities that the way we think about the world becomes distorted.

One of the distortions that the *Harry Potter* novels fight against is the increasingly prevalent belief that there is no such thing as an absolute good and an absolute evil.

Just after the tragedy of Sept. 11, the media began featuring stories and opinions pieces regarding the nature of evil. Stanley Fish, one of the popular gurus of post-modern thinking, wrote an article for *The New York Times* on Oct. 15, 2001, in which he clarified the post-modernist view of the terrorist attacks.

For Fish, and other post-modernists, the nature of evil is an issue of perspective. Different people have different ideas of right and wrong. If you happened to be one of the people caught in the collapsing World Trade Center, Sept. 11 was probably a bad thing. If you were the guy flying the plane that crashed into one of the towers, Sept. 11 was a good thing.

It all depends on your perspective.

When Fish has been asked whether he thought the terrorists should be stopped, he has responded with a resounding, "yes." Why? Because he belongs to the American tribe, and anything threatening his interests, or the interests of his social group, must be considered a "bad" thing.

This is another way of saying that "might makes right." There is no objective standard of right and wrong other than the whim and will of the one who has the power.

This sort of idea is the hinge that Lord Voldemort and his minions hang upon. Voldemort is the evil-incarnate, satanic, Hitler character in the *Harry Potter* series. His philosophy springs out of a materialistic, self-seeking desire where only the here and now matter. Voldemort's creed is that, "There is no good and evil, there is only power, and those too weak to seek it."

J.K. Rowling counters this relativistic thinking in her books with a more platonic philosophy, where an objective standard of right and wrong does exist.

As the series has progressed it seems clear that the paradigm of Rowling's objective standard is the medieval concept of love. Within this worldview, self-sacrifice and working for the interests of others is the primary concern, with an understanding of God and the afterlife to look forward to.

It's a simple thing to be reminded that there is an ultimate standard of right and wrong that transcends temporal power and cultural perspectives, but this is one of the great things that Rowling does, and we obviously need it.

In our modern world it is easy to get bogged down in the day-to-day, to believe that there is no significance of our actions apart from the self-interested goals those actions achieve. It gets difficult to see past a mere temporal, materialistic value system to something more permanent.

This is where the *Harry Potter* books help us stand back and clear away the distortions from our views of the world. They refresh us, and help us see things the way we were meant to see them. ♦

Wesley Jackson is a senior English major and can be reached at wj2b@mtsu.edu.

From the Opinions Editor D'oh! Gay marriage episode inflames conservative viewers

It might be illegal in the United States, but that's never stopped the country's favorite animated dad before.

Last Sunday saw *The Simpsons* outing one of its characters as a homosexual. Much to viewers' surprise, the character in question wasn't the effeminate and loyal Waylon Smithers, but chain-smoking Patti Bouvier, sister to Marge Simpson. The episode featured Patti falling in love with a women's golf player, who decide to be wed by professional nuclear power plant operator (and, after being ordained over the Internet, amateur minister), Homer Simpson.

True to the style of the show, the wedding goes awry when Homer and Marge discover Patti's bride-to-be is a man dressed in drag in order to compete in the LPGA golf tour, but that turns out to be beside the point.

Some have raised a stink that the episode, which was preceded with a parental advisory, went too far and thrust the issue of gay marriage into viewers' faces.

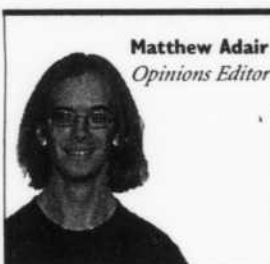
The Simpsons, however, have had a history of skewering social controversies and criticism, from mocking the ineptitude of the public school system to cartoon violence, even taking a stab at the brouhaha surrounding Super Bowl XXXVIII's halftime show "wardrobe malfunction."

Thrusting controversial issues into the public's face has been a staple of the show for years, and gay and lesbian issues have come up in the show before. To complain that the show should "just entertain" viewers, in the words of L. Brentt Bozell, president of the Parents Television Council, silences the creative voice of Matt Groening and shuts out a way of approaching a major issue in a way that most Americans can relate to.

If Homer, the American every-man, can learn to be more accepting of homosexuality, then it begs one to wonder if even the staunchest critics of gay marriage can change their mind and realize that love knows no boundaries, not even boundaries of gender.

After all, as Marge proclaims of her sister, being gay "doesn't mean you're less of a being." Hopefully, people like Bozell will stop trying to shut out messages like these because they might be too controversial, and will start trying to listen instead. ♦

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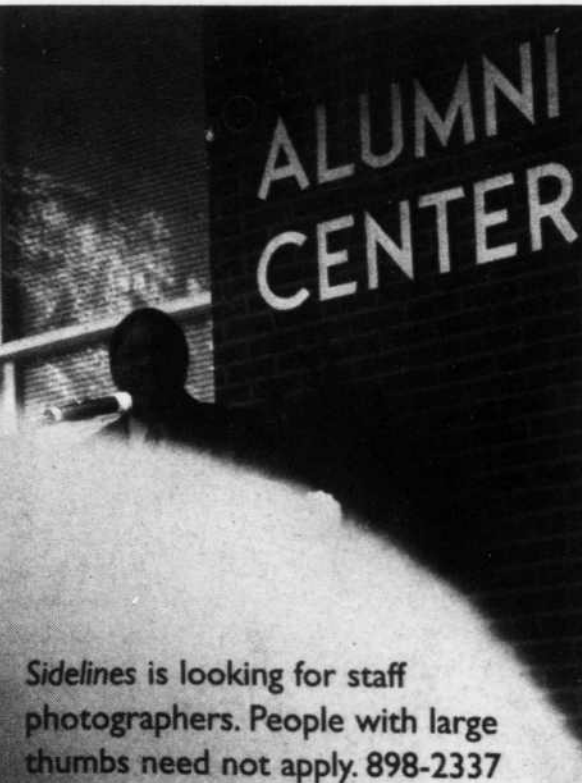
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Sidelines is looking for staff photographers. People with large thumbs need not apply. 898-2337

Blue Raiders travel to Alabama for three-game tournament

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider baseball team travels to Dothan, Ala., this week-end to participate in the Screen Tech Wiregrass Classic. The Wiregrass Classic is a round-robin tournament that lasts three days at Northcutt Field.

Along with Middle Tennessee (1-1), three other teams will participate, including Ohio State, which the Blue Raiders will face on Friday.

The Buckeyes have finished second in the Big Ten conference each of the last three seasons and have established a tradition during the past few years. OSU returns five position players from last season, including a senior-led outfield.

The Buckeyes also return seven pitchers who led the Big Ten last season in earned run average, including starter Trent Luster, who decided to return for another season even though the Chicago Cubs drafted him.

Another starter, Mike Madsen, returns as well and is coming off of back-to-back 17-win seasons.

On Saturday, MT will face the Iowa Hawkeyes. The Hawkeyes return two All-Big Ten performers in starting pitcher Nathan Johnson and right fielder Nate Yoho.

Johnson was named to the All-Big Ten First Team after pitching 93 innings with 73 strikeouts and a 3.36 ERA. Yoho made the Second Team after finishing second in the Big Ten in runs batted in with 31.

The Blue Raiders finish their trip on Sunday with a game versus host TSU. The Trojans defeated MT last season in both games played. The Trojans come into the weekend with a 4-2 record after sweeping Samford last week.

TSU is led by preseason All-Atlantic Sun Conference outfielder Adam Goodwin, who stole 28 bases and had a team-high .384 batting average last season. Goodwin already has eight stolen bases this year.

TSU's best pitcher is Landon Brazell, who struck out eight batters last Friday in a 9-5 win. Last year, Brazell went 3-1 with a 3.65 ERA.

After splitting the season opening weekend, the Blue Raiders will look to build upon a 1-1 record and will try to establish a solid pitching rotation. The same rotation will start this weekend, with Eric Blevins starting Friday against Ohio State, Matt Scott going against Iowa, and Tyler Copeland facing Troy.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

MT's Chase Eakes tries to beat the tag against Ball State.

With a weekend sweep, MT head coach Steve Peterson would be only one win away from his 700th career victory (696-523-2). The Blue Raiders' next home game will be March 4 against Southeastern Louisiana. ♦

Lady Raiders prepare for WKU

MT tries to keep pace in pursuit of No. 1 seed

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders will look to gain an upper hand in their rivalry with Western Kentucky on Thursday.

The Lady Raiders lost 71-67 to WKU in overtime on Feb. 3 in Bowling Green, Ky. That loss snapped Middle Tennessee's six-game conference winning streak.

WKU (18-7, 11-1 SBC) is currently in first place in the SBC's East Division, while MT (17-8, 9-3 SBC) is currently in third.

"We fought very hard in a tough environment against WKU," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "In the first half we played well, but in the second we struggled. Therefore, we want to play good for 40 minutes on Thursday against WKU."

Crystal Kelly, a freshman forward for the Lady Hilltoppers, is averaging 19.4 points per game. Kelly also leads the WKU in rebounding with 10.5 per game.

"WKU is a tough team, which means we have to come ready to play basketball for the entire game," Smith said.

Junior guard Tiffany Porter-Talbert averages 18 ppg and is also second on the team in rebounding with 7.3 per game.

Talbert and Kelly are not the only weapons WKU has. Senior point guard Leslie Logsdon also averages in double figures with 16.3 points per game.

"Our full intention is on WKU, and we will be preparing on staying focused for Thursday night," Smith said.

But the Lady Raiders will still have one more conference contest on Saturday when Florida International visits Murphy Center. FIU (16-8, 6-5 SBC) features senior Milena Tomova and freshman Eva Makela, who both average in double figures.

Tomova averages 19.7 ppg and eight rebounds per game, making her the leader in both categories for the Lady Panthers.

Makela, the team's point guard, averages 10.6 points and 2.3 assists a game.

The first time the Lady Raiders played FIU this season, MT struggled in a 66-55 loss that came two days after the loss to WKU.

"We did not play well in the whole entire game against FIU," Smith said.

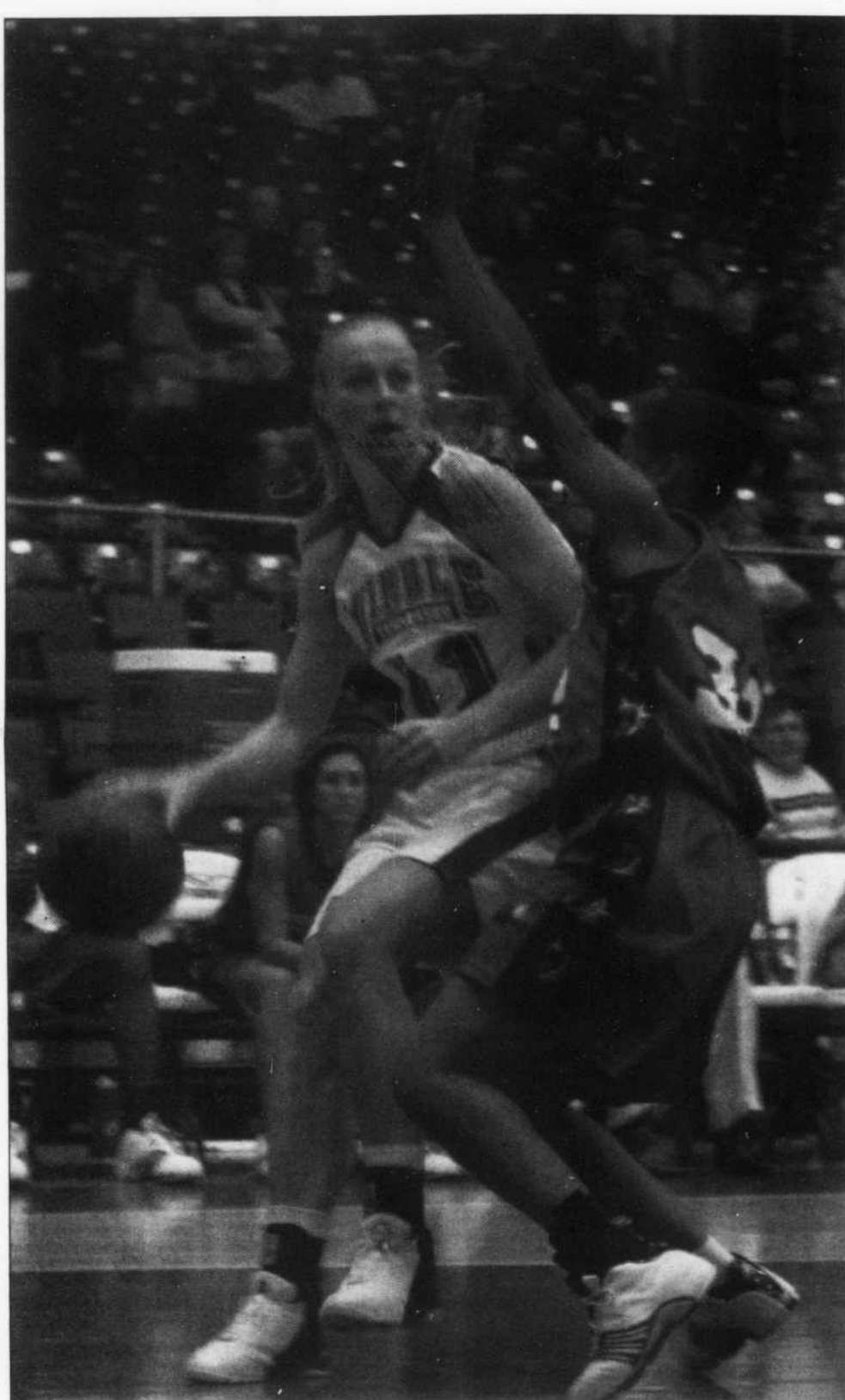


Photo by Brady Purnell | Staff Photographer

MT senior Ditte Jakobsen will play in her final home games this weekend.

FIU was led by freshman Laquetta Ferguson in the teams' first contest. Ferguson came off the bench and led FIU with a career-high 19 points.

Saturday will also mark the final home game for seniors Ditte Jakobsen and Patrice Holmes. Holmes leads the offense, averaging 14.2 ppg. Tia Stovall averages 13.3 ppg,

and Krystle Horton has an average of 11.2.

Chrissy Givens rounds out the Lady Raiders averaging double figures with 10.6 ppg.

"Hopefully, we will show up ready to play and use our homecourt advantages," Smith said.

Both games tip off at 6 p.m. ♦

MT, Lady Toppers have long history

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

Thursday night at Murphy Center the Lady Raiders will host Western Kentucky for the final regular season installment of this heated Sun Belt rivalry. MT is currently 1-5 with WKU since the 2003 SBC Tournament, although two of the losses were in overtime and double-overtime.

"Overall, MTSU/WKU is a huge rivalry, probably the largest rivalry in the SBC," MT head coach Stephany Smith explained. "Geography, along with success, is what makes it such a strong rivalry."

Here's a look back at some of the close contests the teams have shared:

2003 SBC Championship: WKU 86, MT 83 – After falling behind by as much as 13 points early in the game, MT made a 21-8 run, tying WKU at 58 with 10:57 left to play. But MT wasn't able to gain the lead, and WKU's three-point shots, along with senior Eboni Kirby's 19 points, helped them squeak out the tournament title.

Smith Says: "That game was very significant to our success the following year. That was [the] first time since joining the Sun Belt that we knew we had the ability to compete in the conference."

2004 Regular Season: WKU 79, MT 71 at WKU; WKU 70, MT 68 (2OT) at MT – Foul trouble at Bowling Green crippled the Lady Raiders in the first WKU game of the season and MT's first-half performance at Murphy Center wasn't looking too promising.

MT trailed most of the game, and the team was down by 10 points with 2:21 on the clock. The Lady Raiders then went on a 10-0 run, sending the game into overtime and double-overtime.

But foul trouble in the last

few minutes of the contest was enough to bring MT down by two to lose the game.

Smith Says: "Three leading rebounders and scorers, Holmes, Horton and Stovall were all sitting on the bench in the first half with two fouls. This had us very frustrated. We had an opportunity to win, but we had a mountain to climb."

2004 SBC Championship: MT 79, WKU 57 – After two close regular season games, MT was finally able to decisively conquer the Toppers. The Lady Raiders opened the championship game with a 9-0 run and shot 17-of-18 from the free-throw line. The victory sent the Lady Raiders to their first NCAA appearance as an SBC team.

Smith Says: "We felt we had an awful lot to prove. We were very focused and mentally ready to play and put it away quickly. We lost it by one possession the year before and didn't even go to the NIT. All of those things were added fuel to the fire."

Feb. 3, 2005: WKU 71, MT 67 (OT) – The teams traded baskets throughout most of the first half. WKU took a one-possession lead with four minutes to play, but with 40 seconds on the clock, Holmes tied the score at 59, sending the game into overtime.

WKU's Leslie Logsdon's 10 points in the extra period put the Toppers over the top.

Smith Says: "It was an intense game, not unfriendly, but very exciting, very hard fought. We had very crucial turnovers in a late-game situation."

But despite all the close games the teams have played, Smith insisted the teams are still on good terms – sort of.

"It's really a large rivalry but very friendly," Smith "There's a lot of respect between the two coaching staffs and two teams, but it is war between those lines." ♦

MT seeks revenge at Western

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

Tonight, the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team begins the road to revenge against local and Sun Belt Conference rival Western Kentucky.

As the season is ending with one more game after tonight, the Blue Raiders are also fighting for position in the upcoming SBC tournament.

"The only thing we said is that we still got an outside chance of being a No. 2 seed, and getting a bye, which is important," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "Now we've got to win on Thursday night."

The last time these two teams met on Feb. 3 at the Murphy Center, MT fell behind by 16 with 10:05 to go in the game.

However, the Blue Raiders were able to cut it to two at 55-53 with a minute remaining. WKU put the game away with six consecutive free throws to make the final 61-56. That loss dropped MT to 13-9, 3-5, the fifth loss in the last six games.

"The last time we played Western, we didn't guard dribble penetration very well," Davis said. "I think we are definitely a better offensive team than we were at that time. We have gotten more balanced scoring."

In that win, Courtney Lee scored 17 to lead WKU, while Anthony Winchester added 15. Winchester is fifth in the SBC in scoring, averaging 18 a game.

WKU leads the league in scoring with 76.4 points a game, while MT gives up the least amount of points in the SBC, 64 per game.

Since that game, MT has turned it around by winning four of the last five games. MT is now 17-10 (6-6) and third in the Eastern Division. At the same time, WKU has won seven of eight to improve their record to 19-6, (8-4) second in the East.

"I think [this game] is important to both of us for seeding in the tournament," MT guard Brian Smithson said. "It is definitely important for what we are trying to do at the end of the season."

Part of the reason for the Blue Raiders' recent success has been the play of Marcus Morrison and Fats Cuyler. Morrison has been the leading scorer in three of those wins, including a career-high 26 against Florida International on Feb. 5. Cuyler has scored a career-high 17 in

two straight games.

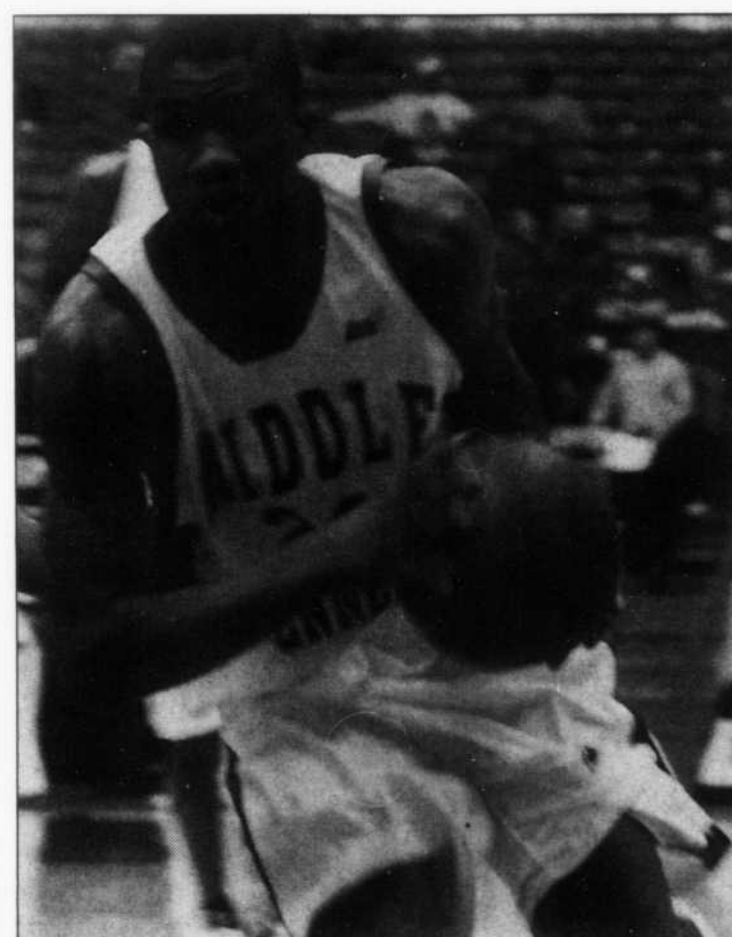
Mike Dean keeps getting better after the toe injury that held him out of a couple of contests.

"We went through a rough time. We just really tried to stay focused," MT guard/forward Marcus Morrison said. "It was easy to get down on yourself as a team, but we just wanted to stay focused, keep grinding the rest of the season out. Whatever it takes us, that's where we are going to go."

In the last trip to E.A. Diddle Arena, MT knocked the Hilltoppers out of the SBC tournament in the quarterfinals, 76-62 on March 7, 2004.

Tipoff is set for 8 p.m. tonight. ♦

Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor
Michael Cuffee leads the Blue Raiders in rebounds.



Lady Raiders feature new coach, philosophy

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee softball will take on a new meaning and a new season this spring. New head coach Leigh Podlesny has many objectives for the 2005 season. One steady goal she has for the team is aggressiveness.

A disciplined and dedicated team will take the field under new co-captain senior Liz Davis. Aside from the coaches' aspirations, Davis has some of her own for the team as well.

"We have made individual goals as well as team goals. I would like to see us accomplish many of these goals throughout the season," Davis commented. A hard worker and a valuable asset to the team, Davis often says what needs to be said.

Some of the changes that have affected the team's play are mental training and self-control. Throughout the fall and continuing into spring training, the team has worked vigorously on fundamentals, according to Podlesny. Podlesny and Davis said they want to see this hard work put into action and make things happen in their favor.

"Every day is a challenge," Podlesny said.

One major challenge the team will face this season is having a smaller roster than usual. Keeping these 17 young women healthy and injury-free are key elements to having a successful season.

Staying positive is at the top of both the coach's and the players' lists. Davis carries this posi-



File Photo

MT's Crystal Bobo will lead the team's pitching staff.

tive attitude with her.

"I want to see this team play to its full potential each game. If we do this, the outcome does not matter. If we give our full potential then we will win the majority of our games. We are focusing on our play and not the opponent. If we stick to our plan then we will come out successful this season."

The Lady Raiders will be playing out much of the season. MT will face perennial power Louisiana-Lafayette in a conference match, No. 13 Alabama, and No. 15 Auburn in regular season play.

Last season, the Lady Raiders dropped the Sun Belt Championship game 19-0 to then No. 9 Louisiana-Lafayette.

The season starts later than usual, and Podlesny sees this as a benefit for the team. The Lady

Raiders have the advantage of getting more practice in before heading into the games.

MT opens its season in the Georgia Southern Tournament beginning tomorrow afternoon.

"They are a hard-working team on the field," Podlesny said about first round opponent Morehead State. "They play with no fear."

MT also has a few of the top returnees taking the field once again. Center fielder Leah Grothouse ended the 2004 season with .312 batting average, 58 runs and 26 runs batted in.

Pitcher Crystal Bobo had a 2.20 ERA and 197.2 innings pitched while teammate infielder Melissa Weiland averaged .246, 29 runs and 21 RBIs.

The Lady Raiders launch their 2005 season tomorrow at 3 p.m. in Statesboro, Ga. ♦



Leffew's Losers!

By Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

While I sat recently skimming my sources, searching fervently for this week's loser, I couldn't help but come back to baseball's biggest moron.

No matter which sport I investigated, which Web site I searched, this guy's name kept coming up.

However, I refuse to formally recognize "the godfather of steroids," because attention is all this bash brother wants.

Instead, I've decided to go a different direction this week and find the negative in the National Basketball Association's All-Star weekend.

Amidst all the glitz, glamour, dazzle and dunks, the NBA issued guidelines that could possibly infringe on every fan's rights.

These new guidelines will apply to all NBA games and will cover security officers and fan behavior.

Perhaps even more disturbing than the rules themselves is the simple fact that these are necessary.

Therefore, this week's award goes to one of the NBA's greatest defenders and my favorite player, Mr. Ron Artest.

Despite the fact that a full beer was thrown on him to provoke the volatile star, the blame for November's brawl falls squarely on Artest's shoulders.

His decision to climb into the stands sparked the brawl that will forever stain the game, and these new guidelines are only a small example of the fallout from the event.

However, these just happen to be the worst.

For example, all NBA arenas are now required to post a "Fan Code of Conduct" that

all fans will be required to follow.

Also, "players will respect and appreciate every fan," and indecent signs or clothing are no longer acceptable for fans.

While the ideals of sportsmanship are wonderful to preach to youngsters in little leagues, and I believe in the idea of civility on and off the court, I don't appreciate this infringement on my rights.

As a fan who sometimes pays (if I'm not reaping the benefits of being a member of the media), I feel as if it's my inalienable right to yell, bitch and complain when these overpaid superstars fail to satisfy.

In addition to this bogus ruling, alcohol sales are now prohibited from the beginning of the fourth quarter, the maximum size of drinks is now 24 ounces, and buyers are limited to two drinks per purchase.

There goes half the fun of the game.

Fans will no longer be able to enjoy the entertainment of the guy who got blitzed in the first quarter, and this fan, if he doesn't get thrown out, can't yell obscenities at Kobe and company.

While these rulings seem a little absurd to me after growing up watching the infectious smiles and hard work of John Stockton, Isaiah Thomas and Michael Jordan, my appreciation of the NBA won't change.

I'll still watch the games and keep up with my favorite players, but I just won't bother attending games anytime soon.

Think I'll spend my hard-earned money on Artest's next album.

Congratulations, Ron! ♦

Track squad ready despite multiple last-minute changes

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

This weekend, the Middle Tennessee indoor track squad will be defending their Sun Belt Conference champion title at the SBC tournament.

MT has swept the tournament the past four years, but there are a few controversies that set this event apart from prior tournaments.

Instead of a usual Saturday-Sunday meet, the preliminaries will be held on Sunday, followed by finals on Monday.

The date change was a result of a scheduling conflict.

"There was a new person doing the schedule," MT head track coach Dean Hayes explained. "She didn't realize it and allowed a basketball game to be scheduled Saturday night and then didn't want to change it. It's a very interesting date."

While the date change may only affect the amount of spectators who turn out to see the tournament, there is a vital event ruling still pending.

The SBC has not held the multi-event, a pentathlon combination of competitions, in the past.

Over the summer, however, the instatement of the competition was brought before the SBC athletic board, but coaches never heard a verdict one way or another.

"They didn't get back to us, so we didn't think they were going in this year. But two weeks ago, the issue came back up again, so right now everything is just up in the air," Hayes said.

Since few SBC teams have been able to practice the event in regular season meets, if scheduled, the multi-event could be the deciding factor in the SBC championship.

While the fate of the multi-event is still being negotiated, for now all the teams can do is focus on the known events.

"On the women's side, our events will be our springs and field events," Hayes said. "The biggest thing for us is the long jump and triple jump. They come at the beginning of the meet and set the stage for us."

Freshmen Sierra Douglas and Stephanie Tamgho and senior KeKe Deckard will be MT's leading jumpers in the tourney.

"They can hit them early in the day and get us off to a good start," Hayes said.

The competition will most likely boil down to MT and their multi-sport foe, Western Kentucky, in the finals for the women's championship.

"[Projections] show us at the top with WKU," Hayes said. "Western has strength in the distance races, and they have a little bit everywhere else."

If the men continue to perform similar to regular season play, the championship will most likely come down to four schools.

"It will be a battle between Arkansas State University, South Alabama University, WKU and MT. If we have the multi-events, ASU would be favored," Hayes explained.

MT has two NCAA qualifiers participating in the tourney this year, junior hurdler Linnie Yarbrough and freshman high jumper Alex Pruitt.

Yarbrough was named Sun Belt Track Performer of the Week for the second straight week on Feb. 15.

VanTonio Fraley, who has been consistently placing in the 55 and 200-meter events, along with James Thomas, who created a new school record in the weight throw during the MT Open, will be other key competitors on MT's side.

Though distance races for MT haven't been successful in previous years, the men's cross country team's second-place finish in the SBC championship in October gives MT hope for this weekend's events.

"Distance runs are much improved this year," Hayes explained. "Derek Dell and Jonathon Guillou are capable of placing in the 3000 [meter run] and the 5000."

While the date change and issue of the multi-events is still rattling coaches around the SBC, the indoor track tourney will kick off as scheduled, Saturday at ASU in Jonesboro, Ark. ♦



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Monday, March 14, 2005

Lady Raiders start season in Florida

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

As the spring season approaches, the women's golf team looks to build upon their strong finishes in the fall.

The Lady Raiders led by freshman Taryn Durham, who averaged a 75.6 during the fall season, and was the top performer in three of the team's four tournament appearances.

Durham goes into the season with a high finish of third in the John Kirk/Lady Panther Intercollegiate, where she shot a career-best 148.

The second-leading scorer for the Lady Raiders is senior Kristin Lynch, who averaged a 76.7 over the fall season. Her highest finish of last season is eighth in the FIU/Pat Bradley Invitational. She shot a three-day total of 229.

Jamey Dillard and Maggie McGill, who both competed in four tournaments in the fall, are also looking for strong starts.

Dillard's best finish was a tie for 26th at the UA/Ann Rhoads Intercollegiate tournament. McGill's high finish came at FIU, where she shot a 232 to tie for 10th.

Kemmerlee Pennington, Jenny Kim and Taylor Cooper hope to contribute in the spring as well. They competed in a limited number of tournaments but still placed high.

Head coach Rachael Short also made big news during the off-season by signing two golfers, Leigh Wilkins and Mallory Bishop.

Wilkins is a local product

from Oakland High School and was a four-year participant in the state tournament, and is also a two-time *Daily News Journal* Player of the Year.

Bishop hails from East Tennessee and attended Bearden High School. She was the Class AAA state champion in 2004 and finished third in the 2003 competition.

Both are excited about joining the Lady Raiders and are ready to make an impact this fall. Short is optimistic about her two signees.

"I am very pleased to bring in two quality players like Leigh [Wilkins] and Mallory [Bishop]," Short told MT Media Relations when Wilkins and Bishop signed. "Both are highly regarded and come from excellent backgrounds. We are excited about having them represent our university."

The schedule for the 2005 season kicks off Feb. 27 at the Lady Moc Invitational, hosted by Florida Southern at the Cleveland Heights Golf Course.

Then, the Lady Raiders travel to South Alabama to play in the USA Lady Jaguar Classic March 7-8. The following week the team travels to Hawaii to play in the Dr. Donnis Thompson Invitational.

On March 21-22, the Samford Invitational welcomes the Lady Raiders to Birmingham, Ala.

The final tune-up before the Sun Belt Tournament is the Southern Miss Invitational April 4-5. The Sun Belt Tournament takes place in Florida April 18-20. ♦

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Employment

RESTAURANT WORKERS CHILI'S BAR & GRILL, 610 Sam Ridley Pkwy, Smyrna, TN has openings for wait staff, host/hostess, and cooks. Part time and full time available. Experience is helpful but not necessary. Start date is immediately. If interested, please come in and fill out an application. 615-220-4545. Always accepting applications.

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The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is seeking student tutors for the following ETIS courses: Statics, Instruments and Controls, Technical Drawing, Industrial Electricity. Please contact Barbara Knox at 898-5311 for more information, Jones Hall Room 333.

Need Money? Student advisors are needed for 120 unit off-campus MTSU apartment community. On-site training, cash referrals and generous hourly salaries are included. Call toll free, 1-866-594-5470 to make an appointment with Kimberly Sanders.

Now hiring full-part time for front desk help. All shifts open. Please apply in person, prefer experience. I-24 - exit 64 Waldron Road. Super 8 LaVergne. 615-793-9999.

Five Senses Restaurant & Bar is now hiring cooks, requirements - good listener, hard working and quick learner. Apply in person between 2-4 pm Tu. - Fr. 1602 W. Northfield Blvd. Suite 515 (Georgetown Park)

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College Suites is hiring 9 Community Assistants; 16-20 hours per week (more summer hours available). Apply at our leasing trailer at 1155 E. Northfield Blvd.

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New Community Assistants Positions Available. University Courtyard is hiring for new community assistant position with-in office. If you or someone you know would be interested in a position as a community assistant, please apply in the leasing office in person. Qualifications are individuals that are highly motivated and driven. Also, they must be capable of working well in a high pace office atmosphere to support the success and personal growth of our residents and community. The community assistant is a part time position requiring a commitment of approx 20 hours per week. The right individual for the position must possess great people relations.

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Female roommates to occupy new 2BR 1BA cottage, private entrance, 2 blocks from MTSU. \$365 each per month includes heat and air, water, electricity, cable and internet. \$500 deposit, 1 year lease, no pets. 615-364-1004.

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Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girl's Rock Flash" band in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. Undergraduate research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair for qualifying criteria.

The Anointed Ladies of Alpha Theta Omega Christian Sorority will be hosting an informational for undergraduate and graduate students. The informational will be Sat. Feb. 19, 2005 at the KUC. Call Alisha Vaughn at 615-893-1012 for info.

Pets

Free kittens, 6 weeks. Litter box trained, friendly, will make great pets! 615-995-9907 or 615-585-9909.

Free hemingway kittens. One black, one white, one mixed. 931-505-5002.

Roommates

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Female roommate needed ASAP to share 3 BR, @ BA house in stone gate subdivision, located off S. Rutherford 5 minutes from MTSU campus. Washer/Dryer included, with high speed internet & 2 car garage. Very nice, brand new house with vaulted ceilings. Rent \$325/mo plus 1/3 utilities. Call 615-585-4802 or 731-693-9595 for more info.

Female looking for female roommate. 10 min from MTSU in a town house. Private bath, and walk in closet. \$350 including utilities. Needs to be neat. 584-0797, ask

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Roommates needed to share 3bd/2ba home in M'boro. Incl. all utilities \$450/mo (furn.rm. & \$400/mo (unfurn.) 615-867-7689.

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Roommate needed ASAP to share 3bd/2bath apt. 5 minutes from campus. Rent \$265 plus 1/3 utilities. Will pay first months rent. 931-581-6623.

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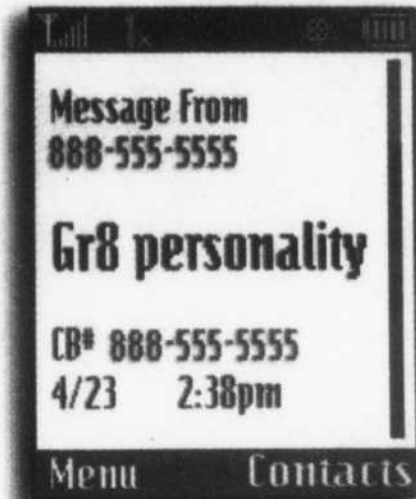
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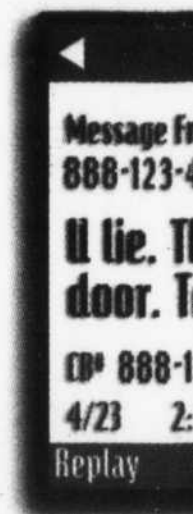
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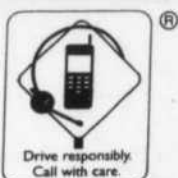
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