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'Choose Life' plates closer to production

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The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

Volume 79 No. 51

Campus briefs

Alumnus's paintings on display in Art Barn

The paintings of Wayne White, an MTSU alumnus, will be on display in the Art Barn Gallery through Jan. 30. White graduated from MTSU in 1975 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

The exhibition, titled "Wayne White: Twenty Years in the Jungle," is free and open to the public, and is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. A closing reception will be held in the gallery Jan. 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and an artist presentation and walk-through will be held Jan. 30 at 1 p.m. Beginning Feb. 1, White's paintings can be seen at Cheekwood Fine Arts Center in Nashville.

Tomorrow deadline for adding classes

Tomorrow is the final day students can add classes to their schedules. WebMT and TRAM will be unavailable after 4:30 p.m. today. Financial aid checks will be available Friday in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Jan. 25 marks the final day to drop classes from schedules for a 75 percent refund. For a full listing of drop/add dates and guidelines, visit www.mtsu.edu/~records and click the "Calendars" link.

Fall 2003 Collage now available

The fall 2003 edition of MTSU's creative magazine, *Collage*, is now on stands. Copies are free, and can be picked up outside the *Collage* office in the JUB, Room 308. *Collage* is accepting submissions for the spring semester edition. The work of students, faculty members and alumni is eligible for publication. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 27. A complete set of submission guidelines is available at the *Collage* office.

King Day celebrations to be held on campus

In honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, classes will be canceled Monday.

Various campus offices and organizations will be sponsoring events in honor of King. An event schedule was not available before press time. Contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at 898-2987 for more information.

First 2004 [flash] show Saturday at Red Rose

The [flash] showcase presents Across the Fields, the Velcro Stars and more Saturday at 9 p.m. at the Red Rose Coffee House and Bistro. Cover is \$5.

Miss MTSU pageant opens Friday at 7 p.m.

The Miss MTSU pageant will be held Friday in Tucker Theatre at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door.

The pageant is sponsored by Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Busybodies



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Busy students whiz through Keathley University Center on Monday, the first day of classes. University officials estimate that this semester's enrollment will surpass last spring's figures by 2.5 percent.

Enrollment up again

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

MTSU will remain the largest undergraduate institution in Tennessee for the second straight semester.

Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment Management, said that enrollment figures for this semester now stand at 21,112 – a 2.5 percent increase over last spring.

The final spring 2003 headcount stands at 19,615.

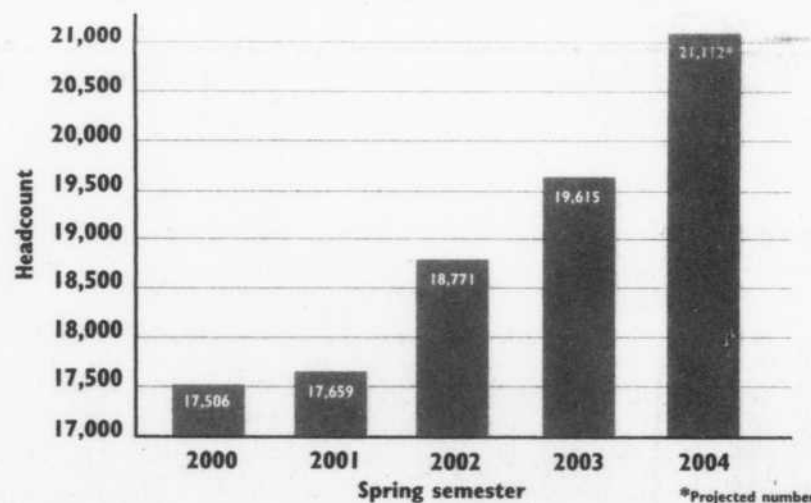
For several semesters, university officials have been implementing a plan to regulate enrollment growth, allowing for 3 to 5 percent growth each year.

As part of an ongoing effort to control enrollment, admissions standards will be raised beginning this fall for incoming freshmen.

The new grade point average requirement will be raised from 2.8 to 3.0, and the new ACT requirement will be raised from 20 to 22.

Glenn said the new standards could

Spring enrollment figures



affect enrollment, but it is hard to tell exactly how.

"On the one hand, I would expect raising our admissions standards to reduce the number of students who can be admitted," he said. "At the same time,

we expect a significant increase in the number of students who will be vying for admission."

A final headcount for this semester will be conducted in about two weeks. ♦

Honors lectures set for semester

By Justin Wax
Staff Writer

Confronting and resolving tough choices is the theme for the spring semester's University Honors Lecture Series to be held in the new Honors College Building.

"Tough Choices" follows the topic of last semester's lecture series, "An American Checkup."

"We know America has some problems," said John Paul Montgomery, dean of the University Honors College. "Now we have to make some tough choices."

► See full schedule on page two.

Montgomery said American involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq, the economy and budget cuts for higher education are difficult decisions to address. Because 2004 is an election year, determining the best course of action regarding these issues couldn't have come at a better time, he said.

University President Sidney McPhee will present the first lecture, "Tough Choices in Higher Education," Jan. 26.

"Tough Choices in Student Life" will be presented by Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment Management, on Feb. 9. Glenn plans to tackle social decisions confronting students such as dating, alcohol and drugs, and balancing academic and social life.

Gloria Bonner, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, will focus her lecture on "Public Education: No Child Left Behind" on Feb. 16.

On March 8, Robert Rucker, a social work professor, will address the potentially

See Lectures, 2

SGA plans more parking, dead week

By Meagan Kirby
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association has been busy this past year as the voice for more than 21,000 students.

SGA implemented several changes last semester and have plans for this upcoming semester as well.

"We have a lot of plans for this semester to improve things here at MTSU," said Michele Butler, SGA president.

One proposed change is a new sidewalk that will be con-

structed to connect the Keathley University Center to the James E. Walker library.

Students often cut across the lawn behind the photography building, which has created a muddy path.

Some other changes SGA is considering include a coffee shop in the library, automatic doors installed at the southern entrance to McCallie Dining Hall, the addition of a bus shelter at the bus stop at the intersection of Normal Way and MTSU Boulevard, and the requirement that teachers must

e-mail students two hours in advance if class is canceled.

Another proposal is the addition of an extra day to the Thanksgiving holiday. Butler said this would be beneficial to students who have to travel.

"Most schools here in Murfreesboro already have that day off," Butler said. "The campus should as well."

"I would love it if they added an extra day to the Thanksgiving holiday," freshman Cody Kile said. "Some

See SGA, 2

Regents making revisions to tenure

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

The Tennessee Board of Regents will be making policy changes regarding tenure and promotion, as well as issues of academic freedom for faculty.

TBR is in the final stages of policy revision, according to Catherine Willis, executive assistant to Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Paula Short.

"We'll probably be finalizing them after our meetings with the universities and colleges at the end of this month," Willis said.

TBR sent the current policies out to each of its six universities and 13 community colleges for each institution's faculty to review and offer revisions.

However, the timing of the revision deadline offended MTSU faculty because it gave them almost no time to come together and discuss revisions.

According to Larry Burriss, MTSU Faculty Senate president-elect, TBR sent revised final documents to campus after December finals and required a response before the new semester started.

A response sent to TBR by MTSU Jan. 5 stated, "Faculty feel the board staff deliberately requested this critical review at a time when most of the faculty, chairs, deans, and even the president, are known to be unavailable to comment."

"This blatant political ploy is very disturbing and casts a cloud over the TBR's motives regarding this entire policy revision," the response stated.

However, Kaylene Gebert, MTSU executive vice president and provost, said that her office is going to continue to take comments from faculty until Jan. 20.

MTSU faculty have reason to be concerned about the policy revisions because of the changes that TBR is recommending.

"One of the changes that is being discussed is where we currently at MTSU allow for faculty to apply for tenure at their fifth and sixth year," Gebert said. "One of the proposals is that they can only apply for tenure one time."

Willis said that over the years TBR institutions adopted individual policies that differed from one another and the purpose of



Burriss



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Student Government Association President Michele Butler, right, speaks with Attorney General Jenny Rowan, middle, and Assistant Attorney General Ashley Graham.

HONORS LECTURE SERIES

Spring 2004 schedule

JANUARY	26	Tough Choices in Higher Education Sidney A. McPhee, university president
FEBRUARY	2	Consumer-driven Health Care Kenneth Hollman, Martin Chair of Insurance
	9	Tough Choices in Student Life Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs
	16	Public Education: No Child Left Behind Gloria Bonner, dean, College of Education and Behavioral Science
	23	Tough Choices in Rewriting History: Finding Common Ground or Segregating the Past? Kevin Smith, Sociology and Anthropology
MARCH	1	Elected Office: Can You Save Your Soul and Keep Your Seat? Bob Bullen, Educational Leadership
	8	Non-treatment Orders: Do Not Resuscitate Robert Rucker, Social Work
	15	The Human Spirit, Aesthetics, and the Machine Tom Strawman, English
	29	More Than Ethical Jim Burton, dean, Jennings A. Jones College of Business
APRIL	5	Genetic Technologies: Tough Choices for Our Society and for YOU Matt Elrod-Erickson, Biology
	12	Tough Choices in Hard Places: Reporting on Conflict Jan Quarles, Electronic Media Communication
	19	The Ethics of Decision-making Under Unresolved Conflict Robert Hood, Philosophy

Lectures: Presentations free, open to community

Continued from 1

volatile topic of "Non-treatment Orders - Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)" as it relates to infants and the elderly.

Jan Quarles, an electronic media communication professor, will lecture on "Tough Choices in Hard Places: Reporting on Conflict" on April 12.

Montgomery requested that each speaker allow adequate time for questions and answers after his or her lecture.

Because the subject matter presented is so significant, the lectures sometimes grow into intense discussions involving passionate persons on both sides of an issue.

"There isn't that much controversy, but every now and then, you are going to run into it - and I think that's healthy," Montgomery said.

"The older you get, the easier the choices should be, but that's not always the case," he said.

The first lecture began Monday with orientation by Montgomery. Honors students conclude the lecture series with their thesis presentations on April 26.

By attending at least nine lectures and writing an essay about the topics, students enrolled in the class will earn one credit hour toward the interdisciplinary requirement.

The Honors College chooses the guest speakers and topics. According to Montgomery, a department chair refers most of the speakers to him.

Montgomery, who has been at MTSU for more than 30 years, occasionally makes the decision himself because he knows the expertise of so many faculty members.

Sometimes the Honors College will receive suggestions from students to determine lecture speakers.

"It's just a rich experience having people address topics that are foreign to you," Montgomery said. "I've learned things that I never would have encountered, had I not had the privilege to listen to these speakers."

Montgomery acknowledges the seriousness of the series topics. "In the future, we're going to lighten up," he said.

All lectures are free and open to the Middle Tennessee community. Lectures are held Mondays from 3 to 3:50 p.m. in the 60-seat amphitheater, Room 106, of the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, across from the Recreation Center. ♦



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

John Paul Montgomery, dean of the University Honors College, said that future lecture series might not center around such serious topics.

Tenure: Faculty concerned about lack of self-governance

Continued from 1

this revision is to iron out the differences.

On the other hand, MTSU faculty stated in the Jan. 5 response that they are concerned about the apparent shift toward uniformity of TBR schools.

"There are concerns that these revisions will lead to further erosion of institutional autonomy and identity," the response stated.

"These changes continue to suggest that TBR institutions need to be more closely monitored and regulated and are not capable of substantial self-governance."

Gebert said that one of the things that MTSU faculty would like is more broad TBR policies so that institutions can make their own specific policies.

"The more general the language would allow us to be more precise," Gebert said.

Despite the faculty's response to the revisions, Gebert maintained that the give-and-take of these policy revisions is pretty fair.

"The relationship between a governing board and an institution is really more dynamic than a lot of people might think," Gebert explained. "It is in these various policies that you see some cases of the desire of the governing board to have more control or in some other areas the institution to have more latitude."

Other policies that are up for TBR review include the number of years a teacher would spend at each professorial rank, the requirement for full professors to have "national recognition," the determination of a terminal degree and academic freedom and responsibilities.

The requirement for full professors to have "national recognition" is an example of an overall problem of imprecise language, according to the faculty response.

TBR specifies no manner with which to determine the national recognition of a professor and it becomes especially complicated when evaluating certain types of teaching specialties.

"The national reputation requirement could potentially threaten the currently high level of service provided to students by MTSU faculty, who would have to redirect their energies significantly from teaching to scholarship," the response stated.

MTSU faculty recommended that terminal degrees should be determined at the university level because, as in the case of MTSU's recording industry and concrete management degrees, there might not be national standards.

Regarding the issue of academic freedom, the board's policy states, "A faculty member should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others and should make every effort to indicate that he/she does not speak for the institution."

MTSU faculty suggested that the phrase "exercise appropriate restraint" should be clearly defined due to its potential to limit speech. ♦

SGA: Butler working on textbook exchange proposal

Continued from 1

people have to travel for several hours to get home, and they are doing a lot of their driving on Thanksgiving Day. This would be fairer for them."

Another proposal that could receive a lot of support from the student body is that all white parking spaces be open to students after 5:30 p.m.

Butler said she would be working with the new attorney general, Jenny Rowan, to get

that resolution passed.

Butler said that she also hopes to make more parking available on Greek Row.

She proposed adding parking at the southernmost end of Greek Row, next to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house.

Last semester, SGA passed a proposal that increased security at the Recreation Center and pushed through the installation of infant changing tables in the bathrooms in the Rec Center.

In May 2003, the SGA pro-

posed that a link be provided at the MTSU Web site (www.mtsu.edu) that informs students of campus closings due to inclement weather.

Butler said she is working on a new textbook exchange that will hopefully be in place by next year.

Under this program, students could use the SGA Web site to exchange textbooks with other students for a cheaper price, or an even exchange.

Butler also has plans for a

"dead week" for the week before finals, where professors can't make assignments that count more than 10 percent of a student's course grade.

Examples of how this works are available in the SGA office.

The group's first meeting of the semester will be at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 22 in the Keathley University Center, Room 322. The meetings are open to all students. ♦

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or attend our weekly staff meetings each Monday at 5 p.m.

[except for next week; there's no school and no meeting]

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Steve Watterson

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THURSDAY, JAN 15TH

7:00PM

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Court to rule on protections for disabled

By Anne Gearan
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A paraplegic from Tennessee who crawled up two flights of stairs to reach a public courtroom should have expected better under the law mandating that disabled people will not be locked out of buildings and opportunities that are open to others, his lawyer argued Tuesday at the Supreme Court.

"An elevator to a person with disabilities is like the stairs to me," lawyer William J. Brown told the justices. "It's

the way I get there."

Brown's client, George Lane, wants to sue the state of Tennessee for up to \$100,000 for what he contends was humiliating treatment. His case is the high court's latest look at the breadth of civil rights and other protections guaranteed by the 1990 Americans With Disabilities Act.

The case also is the latest in a series that tests the balance of power between Congress and the federal government on one hand, and state governments on the other. In what may be the hallmark of the court led by Chief Justice

William H. Rehnquist, that balance has slowly shifted to the states.

Tennessee contends that Congress went too far in writing the ADA, and that Lane has no right to sue. Lack of an elevator in a small-town courthouse may be unfortunate, but Lane had other options, Tennessee Solicitor General Michael E. Moore argued.

Lane could have consented to be carried up the steps, or courthouses without elevators could hold hearings on the first floor when needed, Moore said.

"There is no evidence before the

court, and there was no evidence before Congress, that anyone's constitutional rights were being violated," by the absence of elevators or other accommodations, Moore argued.

Tennessee does not dispute that the Polk County courthouse lacked an elevator at the time of Lane's hearing in 1996, or that the state has a duty to make its services available to all.

The issue for the high court, however, is not whether Tennessee complied with the ADA but what Lane, as a private citizen, can do if the state was remiss.

States are ordinarily immune from lawsuits like Lane's, where a private citizen seeks money from the state for violation of a federal law. Congress can override that sovereign immunity in certain extraordinary circumstances, but it must demonstrate why that step is necessary.

In a major ruling three years ago, the court's five-member conservative majority ruled that states cannot be sued by their own employees for failing to comply with the ADA's guarantee

See ADA, 4

TennCare, lottery looming on horizon for current session

By Patrick Chinnery
Editor in Chief

With prayers and pledges, the state House and Senate opened their respective sessions yesterday at the capital in Nashville.

The second session of the 103rd General Assembly will be forced to tackle several issues that previous sessions had successfully avoided addressing, such as TennCare, the court-mandated teacher equity pay issue and public education, both K-12 and post-secondary.

House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh, D-Tipton, spoke of the urgency of the issues and the need to complete the house's calendar quickly.

"We have to balance the budget with no new taxes, conduct our business in an orderly fashion and go home," he told the 97 house members present for his opening remarks. "That's what the people of Tennessee want."

The recently-renovated House chamber was minus its yellowed velvet

curtains for the first time in several decades, revealing limestone walls behind the speaker's well. Touted as the first thorough cleaning of the chamber since the first session was held there in 1853, the representatives christened the renovation by passing a resolution to ban smoking from the chamber and visitor's gallery.

Naifeh reminded the crowd of legislators and those in the gallery that despite appearances that the economy was improving, there would be no excess revenue to be spent. More bad news came when he announced that funding must be increased for TennCare, teacher pay and the state retirement system to keep those programs fiscally sound and that funding for mental health and children's services could not be cut.

Legislative leaders expect Gov. Phil Bredesen to make his budget address to the state and announce his final budget recommendations Feb. 2, with committee hearings to address the budget

See Legislative, 4

Sticker shock



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Beef prices recently took a sharp turn upward.

Beef prices see upward spike

By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

Those shocked by the recent high cost of beef — despite the mad cow scare — need look no further than their low-carb dieting friends for one of the reasons, so say members of the beef industry.

According to Kevin Ferguson of Rutherford County's extension office, Melissa Eads, a spokesperson from the Kroger Company and Daniel Boyer, manager of MTSU's farm laboratory, this year's increased demand for beef and subsequent high prices are being attributed, in large part, to the popularity of the Atkins and South Beach diets.

They say this demand, coupled with low supply due to years of drought and the U.S. Department of Agriculture ban on Canadian beef imports, have brought into play the basic economic theory of supply and demand.

"Farmers couldn't get beef to the market fast enough," Eads says.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index, in March of 2003 a USDA Choice, boneless, sirloin steak was selling for a national average of \$5.54 per pound. By November, that same steak cost \$7.08.

In the Southern regions, the prices were higher at \$5.64 and \$8.51, respectively.

While consumers may think the recent mad cow madness will bring some much needed relief, Emmitt Rawls, professor of agriculture and economics at the University of Tennessee, tells a different story.

"Retail prices tend to be sticky," Rawls says.

Eads shares Rawls' prognosis.

"It's too early to tell," Eads says. "But no sign of [price] changes yet."

Eads says that in response to the short supply and higher prices, her firm has begun to offer USDA Select grade beef and featuring it in their sale flyers. Previously, Kroger sold nearly all Choice graded beef.

Mike Edens, a market manager for Food Lion, says his firm is also starting to sell Select grade beef. He notes this is a change from their former policy of selling only Choice cuts of meat.

Edens cautions the consumer that the state of Tennessee does not require retailers to label their meat packages Choice or Select.

He says the best way to determine a steak or roast's USDA grade is to ask the meat department manager or compare prices; the Choice grade will always cost more.

He also says that while packages in the meat display case may not have a sticker, the bulk carton the meat comes in is labeled.

The USD has offered the beef industry a grading system since 1946. While the system is voluntary, most retail outlets refuse to purchase ungraded beef.

Two factors — marbling and age — determine the USDA grade given to a particular carcass. They also play a big role in the tenderness, juiciness and flavor of the beef product.

The terms Prime, Choice, Select, Standard, Commercial, Utility, Cutter and Canner identify the amount of marbling. Marbling refers

to the flecks of fat within the lean. The more marbling, the better the flavor.

The letters A, B, C, D, E and F refer to the maturity of the carcass. The older the animal, the tougher the meat.

Therefore, Grade A Prime beef is the absolute best. However, it's usually only available in upscale restaurants. Grocers generally sell Choice and Select grades of beef.

According to the USDA, meat graded below the Commercial level is rarely, if ever, sold in stores.

With prices and available quality seemingly teetering more on dieters than one infected cow, the question for consumers is, will the popularity and high price of beef continue?

Lisa Sheehan-Smith, assistant professor of human sciences at MTSU, believes the demand for meat products will continue. She points to retail outlets such as groceries, specialty shops and restaurants that are now offering specific food items for low-carb dieters.

"They must have conducted some market research," Sheehan-Smith says.

Whether or not demand continues, Rawls expects the wholesale price of beef to come down. He says producers are currently increasing their cattle production for the spring market and greater supply will translate into lower prices.

He warns, however, that lower wholesale prices may take awhile to trickle down to the consumer and that beef prices can be volatile. ♦



Photo provided

Pending road testing and legal challenges, Tennesseans will have the option of purchasing the above plate for an additional fee.

'Choose Life' plates closer to production

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

Anti-abortion activists have come one step closer to being able to purchase 'Choose Life' specialty license plates.

The *Tennessean* reported yesterday that 1,265 applications were turned in for the new plates, more than the 1,000 needed to proceed with the production and ultimately distribution of the new plates. The proposal for a 'Choose Life' plate was passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in its 2003 session. Tennessee Right to Life Director of Development Myra Simons called it "a great victory for pro-life Tennesseans."

However, a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union against Gov. Phil Bredesen and Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips seeks to block the plates because the General Assembly has discriminated among political messages, according to Hedy Weinberg, director of the Tennessee ACLU.

"[The Assembly] cannot pick and choose what message is appropriate," Weinberg said. "When they pick and choose, they engage in viewpoint discrimination."

Weinberg notes that an attempt made to amend the Bill in the State Senate to allow for a Right to Choose plate was defeated in session.

"When the pro-choice folks tried to attach an amendment," she said. "That amendment failed."

However, Simons said that those

wishing to have a Right to Choose plate did not put in the hours and effort to accomplish the task.

"If someone totally in opposition to what you stood for (tried to tag on an amendment), would you (want it to pass)?" Simons asked. "(Pro-choice supporters) have not even attempted to write a bill and get sponsors and pass it on the floor."

"We did all of that, we went and got the sponsors, the co-sponsors. We did all the work."

Weinberg maintains that the ACLU does not have a political dog in the fight other than trying to protect viewpoint neutrality within the Tennessee legislature.

"The legislature can clearly choose to create a public forum using license plates," Weinberg said. "(But) they can't say, 'this message is acceptable, this message is not.'"

"This issue has to do with freedom of speech," she continued. "Even our detractors have to concede that our client is the bill of rights."

Simons notes that the 1,265 applications turned in — more than the 1,000 required — included applications from all 95 Tennessee counties.

"Tennessee is a pro-life state," Simons said.

The state has until Feb. 1 to respond to the suit. Barring delays caused by the lawsuit, Simons said the Department of Safety told her organization that it would take three to six months for the Choose Life plates to be available to the public. ♦

When is a wall not just a wall?

Ordinance may force Bumpus owner to rethink store design

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

After exhausting all appeals with the Murfreesboro City Council and the Board of Zoning Appeals, the local Bumpus Harley Davidson dealership may be facing some tough decisions to come into compliance with the city's sign ordinance.

The controversy began last fall when, against the advice of city officials, the dealership proceeded to include the Harley Davidson logo in the architecture of their new showroom, located at 2250 N.W. Broad Street. The raised logo is part of the façade of the building that faces Broad Street.

"They built without a sign permit," planning director

Joseph Aydelott said, "after the architect and the business owner were advised that they must apply for a sign permit to include the logo on the building."

The motorcycle showroom has been cited as being in violation of the city's sign ordinance by the city's building codes department. The ordinance limits the total square footage of signs that a business can display. A variance can be granted to include a company's logo on an attached sign, but at 352-square-feet, the logo far exceeds the amount allowed for a variance.

The dealership has been represented in several City Council, Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and Planning Commission meetings over the last three months by the owner, Tom Bumpus, and Ron Scobey, a spokesman for Professional Design Resources, a Memphis-based architecture firm.

See Harley, 4

Everybody in



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

John Frech jumps off the high dive at SportsCom's Polar Bear Plunge Jan. 3.

ADA: Suit decides viability of future cases

Continued from 3

against discrimination in the workplace.

In the 2001 ruling, the court said a nurse at a state-funded hospital could not sue for discrimination when she was allegedly demoted following treatment for breast cancer.

The ADA separately requires that states make their services available to all, a mandate that has led to installation of wheelchair ramps and other accommodations.

Tennessee wants the high court to apply its earlier reason-

ing and rule that Congress overstepped its bounds in writing that portion of the ADA, too.

A ruling for Tennessee in this case would not scrap the ADA itself. However, it would mean that private individuals have no individual recourse in the courts. Enforcement would have to come from the federal government.

Advocates for the disabled maintain that lawsuits like Lane's are an important way to force state governments to follow the requirements of the ADA.

"In many cases, damages are

the only means to remedy the very real injuries caused by the state's unlawful and willful neglect," former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh and a coalition of disability rights organizations told the justices in a friend-of-the-court filing.

Without the opportunity to collect money, disabled people who may also be poor and unemployed have little incentive to bear the costs of bringing a court challenge, the brief argued.

A ruling in the case is expected by summer. ♦

Harley: Design violates city sign rules

Continued from 3

Scobey and Bumpus have argued at each meeting that the relief logo is an architectural feature of the building and not a sign at all. The logo is cast in a darker shade of gray on the pale stone building. The last appeal for that argument was finally denied at the Nov. 12, 2003 meeting of the BZA.

The dealership is now pursuing a revision to the sign ordinance that will allow it to keep the raised logo on the side of the building, as well as the illuminated signs above the entrance and the ground sign along Broad Street. Revisions to the sign ordinance will probably be considered at the February meeting of the Planning Commission.

"We can consider a menu of possibilities, including amending the sign ordinance," Aydelott said, "or they (the dealership) could remove the logo or some of their other signs to come into compliance."

According to Aydelott, the legislation of non-compliance was



issued during a routine inspection of the building and was not caused by any complaints about the appearance of the building.

"We do not need a citizen's complaint to enforce the codes of the city of Murfreesboro," Aydelott said.

According to Aydelott, the dealership will not be issued a permanent certificate of occupancy until the issue is resolved.

"It takes intensive staff work to revise a city ordinance. We cannot amend it casually without having some idea of the

effects and the ramifications on the city."

Any amendments to a city ordinance must be approved by the City Council.

The city's sign ordinance currently stipulates that fines could be assessed of up to \$50 a day for every day the business is not in compliance.

"No one is disputing that the logo looks good," city planner Doug Demosi said, "we just have to go through the process of getting it into compliance." ♦

Legislature: Lottery side issues still unsettled

Continued from 3

beginning the next day.

Legislation to watch:

The budget

Last year's state budget totaled more than \$21.46 billion dollars, including more than \$9 billion from state tax revenues, more than \$8 billion from the federal government and almost \$3.5 billion from other revenue sources, like student's tuition.

It included increases in spending for TennCare, K-12 education and homeland security, while cutting shared revenue for local governments, the highway fund and other "key reductions."

This year's budget looks to be more of the same. Bredesen has asked the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to investigate ways to cut 5 percent from their operating budget (9 percent was cut last year).

With pledges from all the

major figures on Capital Hill not to raise taxes and the mandates to increase spending in several expensive areas, the state will demand increased revenue from non-tax sources - like university tuition.

TennCare

A study committee announced last year, and Naifeh reiterated, that TennCare, without major policy revisions, would need 91 percent of new state government revenue by 2008, representing more than 36 percent of the state's budget. It's currently 24 percent.

"A substantial infusion of additional dollars is needed if [TennCare's] kept in its current form," the speaker said yesterday.

Bredesen, who made his fortune in the health-care industry, commissioned McKinsey & Co. to recommend reforms to the state's Medicare alternative. The committee will issue their final

report later this month, and Bredesen is expected to announce his proposals in February.

The Lottery

Although scratch-off games will be available for purchase Tuesday, there are several issues to be addressed concerning other aspects of the lottery.

Last year's sessions closed without a law allowing non-profit organizations to hold fund-raising raffles. A form of legislation permitting such drawings is expected to pass sometime this session.

Also to be decided is the scholarship amount last and this year's high school class will receive from the scholarship fund. The state law passed last year allows for up to \$3,000, but the revenue may not be there this year to support that figure, leaving students with a reduced amount. ♦



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.

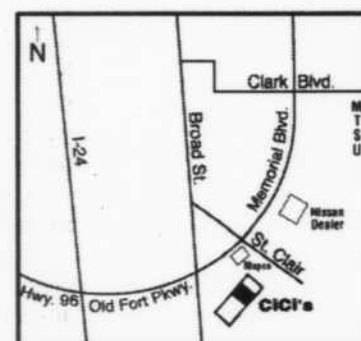
For additional information or questions, please contact Housing and Residential Life during office hours at 898-2971

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From the Editorial Board Give faculty a voice in policy revisions

Later this month the Tennessee Board of Regents will make revisions that will affect tenure, promotion and academic freedom for professors across the state.

After reviewing the proposed revisions, the Sidelines Editorial Board believes that TBR should be careful to avoid standardization of institutions through these policy revisions.

Comparing MTSU to another TBR school, like for instance University of Memphis, is like comparing apples and oranges. Each school has its own individual identity and needs specific policies that will best benefit their faculty and students.

However, under the proposed revisions all schools would follow a single policy determined by the TBR, which could have an effect on the number of times faculty can go up for tenure and what qualifications a faculty member needs to become a full professor.

This type of micromanagement by the TBR implies a lack of confidence in the ability of the schools to self-govern.

Furthermore TBR gave MTSU faculty a deadline that allowed practically no time to come up with a response to the proposed revisions.

While this might have been a terrible blunder on the part of TBR, the reality is that the faculty at MTSU feel left out and ignored in the process of these revisions.

When the revisions regard tenure and employment practices, faculty input is essential to creating good policy.

TBR should not rush into a quick decision on these policy changes because not only will it affect faculty and staff, it most certainly will influence the quality of education at TBR schools.

As one of the state's fastest growing universities, TBR needs to ensure our faculty will be given a voice.

TBR needs to make the best decisions that will attract quality professors to our institutions, so that we can continue to grow and prosper. ♦

From the Opinions Editor Draft OK if unused

Germany is currently in the primary stages of what may turn out to be an abolition of the draft.

As yet, plans are undecided, but Germany intends to shorten the alternative – community service – from 10 months to nine months, the current service requirement, according to a report by www.dw-world.de.

This raises an interesting point, especially with the United States in its current position: Should the United States have a draft, or more specifically, should the United States use the draft?

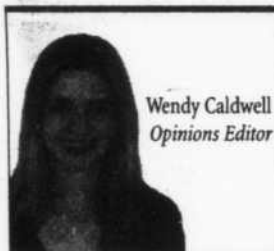
Every 18-year-old male must register for the draft. Females, however, are exempt from this civic duty.

Whether or not exempting women is fair is a moot point. The draft itself is an unfair practice.

Requiring the young men of our country to register for a military draft is essentially forcing them to lay down their lives if the current administration so chooses to pursue a war.

And, as history shows, our country has been involved in a war approximately every 20 years or so (about a generation) since its beginning.

A military draft itself



Wendy Caldwell
Opinions Editor

is not necessarily wrong, so long as it's not used or is only reserved for extenuating circumstances.

The United States has long been a country dedicated to leading others, but perhaps it's time we follow someone else's example.

We can't afford another Vietnam, and while we don't appear to be on that track right now, four years ago we weren't on track to a war on terrorism, either.

Are we ready to abolish the draft completely?

Probably not, especially with a Republican administration, but perhaps we can continue to avoid using it despite whatever military action our leaders deem necessary.

If we were to ever go to war and not have enough troops to continue fighting that war, odds are it isn't a war the people want to fight.

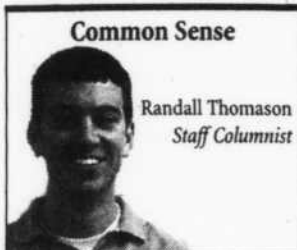
If we don't have enough volunteers to fight for our country, we should re-evaluate what we consider worth fighting for. ♦

Dean needs Southern votes

Although Howard Dean's hold on the Democratic nomination for president appears to be slipping slightly, he remains the frontrunner to challenge George W. Bush in the general election. With that in mind, it's time to take a closer look at the man who has rallied the kook left like few people in recent history.

The Democrats seem to be realizing that in order to win back the White House, they're going to have to make some headway in the South, where Republicans have won clean sweeps in four presidential elections since 1972. Al Gore's dreadful performance in the South in 2000 cost him the presidency. For all the liberals whining over Florida in 2000 (which objective studies still say Bush was the undisputed winner of), all the fuss could have been avoided for Gore if he had only won his home state of Tennessee, in which he even lost his own county.

So logic would seem to dictate that Dean would



Common Sense
Randall Thomason
Staff Columnist

appeal to Southerners in some form or fashion in his campaign, right? Hardly. Dean has continued to advocate a complete repeal of tax cuts passed during the Bush administration, and he uses every opportunity available to rail at Bush over Operation: Iraqi Freedom. Bush's actions on these two issues are supported by the nation at large and, overwhelmingly so, by Southern states.

In a nutshell, Dean has aligned himself with 1984 Democrat presidential candidate Walter Mondale on taxes and closely resembles 1972 Democrat candidate George McGovern with his radical anti-war message. So how did Mondale and McGovern perform in the South in those two elections? Awful

would be a kind adjective; neither won a single state in the mid to deep South, as they were both defeated in landslides.

The former Vermont governor has eloquently stated his opinion on Southern politics. He has said, "We have got to stop having our elections in the South based on race, guns, God and gays."

Dean, along with many others of the far left wing, has nothing but disdain for the South.

This group that preaches their tolerance and acceptance of all cultures simply can't understand a culture that actually places religious convictions, morality and economic liberty at the top of its priority list.

They will tell you how understanding and sympathetic they are toward members of various cultures throughout the world, but they just can't comprehend life in Smalltownville, Tenn.

Dean has openly stated that he talks more about his religious beliefs as he

campaigns in the South, but even in this endeavor he is clueless. Answering a reporter's question recently, Dean said, "If you know much about the Bible, which I do," and then followed by saying his favorite New Testament book was Job (for my liberal readers, Job is in the Old Testament).

Dean is one of the most secular candidates to ever seek the presidency, yet somehow he thinks he can dupe southern voters into believing that he is a man of deep faith.

What Dean needs to understand is that even more than a politician with no religious beliefs, southerners despise a politician who puts on a religious act in an effort to pander to their convictions. The fact that he openly talks of the differences in his campaign message in one part of the country compared to another shows his incredible arrogance. He thinks we rednecks in the south are too stupid to see through his charade. After all, to Dean, we are nothing

more than Confederate flag waving, gun totin', church going folk who need some enlightened northerner to tell us how to live our lives.

Dean actually yelled at one voter who criticized him at the Democratic debate in Iowa Sunday night. Dean essentially told the man to sit down and shut up so he could continue venting hate speech at the president. What adviser is telling Dean this is the way to win a campaign?

Try as he might, Dean just doesn't understand how to win on a national level.

His message panders to the far left and gets their juices flowing but has very little far-reaching appeal. I hope the Democrats nominate this guy, though. Watching Bush whitewash him in November would be quite entertaining. ♦

Randall Thomason is a sophomore mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at rkt2c@mtsu.edu.

'Survivor' in workplace; phone calls not forgotten

Last week was a bit of a weird one for me. I had just returned from Chicago, where I spent a week during New Years.

It was nice to have a change of location because the fall semester was full of turmoil. A week away from everything familiar was exactly what I needed.

Before leaving for Chicago, I found out a couple of bartenders at my work might be quitting. One was going to be shipped off to Iraq; the other was returning to school.

In almost every restaurant, the bartenders make more than the servers, and that is where I planned on being.

My plan was to start campaigning for one of the jobs when I returned to Nashville.

I felt I had a good chance of getting one of the bartender positions since I had worked there longer than some and already had experience behind the bar.

However, unbeknownst to me, by the time I returned to work, my restaurant would be under new management.

Anyone who has ever worked for a company where new leadership has been brought in, for whatever reason, knows the first couple weeks can be difficult.

The new manager didn't bother me, although the 15 servers he brought with him did make me nervous.

I learned very quickly that my aspirations of becoming a bartender were not going to come to fruition. There were even questions as to whether I would keep my job.

Another prominent Nashville restaurant had just closed. Hence the new management and his



Yesterday's Tomorrow
John Miller
Staff Columnist

armada of servers.

Somehow, my restaurant that before had normally about 15 servers now has more than 30. Simple math shows us that not everyone would have a job after the merger.

For the next few days, everyone at work was walking on egg shells, including myself.

I hadn't done anything to bring negative attention to myself until Friday.

About 20 minutes before I had to be at work, my brother called and told me he'd lost his keys.

This meant I could either leave him stranded or be late to work and take him a spare set of keys.

Being a good older brother, I took him the keys.

When I arrived at work, late, I slipped in the back door so I wouldn't draw attention to the fact that I wasn't on time.

The next hour I joked with my coworkers about how we were now playing *Survivor*, and how I didn't plan on getting voted off the island.

Then, out of the blue, one of the hostesses informed me I had a phone call. This was a bit strange, because no one ever calls me at work.

I thought it was my mom, but I was wrong. The phone conversation that ensued was one of the most difficult I've ever had.

The voice on the other end of the phone asked if this was "Mr. Miller."

This struck me as odd as I replied, "Yes."

"I'm sorry to inform you that your brother Nathan has been in a car wreck and is in the ER here at Summit Hospital."

I can't explain the terrifying panic that ran over me in what seemed like a black eternity until the voice on the other line informed me he was OK. I was relieved, but I still wanted to see him. I told the new management what happened and that I would be leaving shortly.

My brother later recounted to me that a tire from a semi truck had been in the middle of the road as he was driving to work in 5 p.m. traffic.

He hit the tire, lost control of the car and hit the dividing wall on I-40 at 70 miles per hour.

As if this weren't enough, he then spun three times across four lanes of traffic without hitting another car.

All things considered, he was very lucky and escaped with minor injuries.

That phone call, however, I won't soon forget. It has been one of the few times in my adult life when I've been terrified. It also made me realize some of my problems are not as bad as they seem.

Even though sometimes we get caught up in our own lives, it's important to remember what's truly important because things can change in the blink of an eye.

We just never know when we're going to have to answer the phone and not know the voice on the other end. ♦

John Miller is a senior political science and French double major and can be reached via e-mail at jcm2r@mtsu.edu.

Good things come to those who wait

Here I am, realizing that it's time to pay bills again. And I thought I had already paid this one; oh, wait – that was last month. It's funny how time flies when you're a struggling student.

I could always move back in with my parents. Wait, my parents turned my room into an office as soon as I left. And as much as I love my parents, I think we would end up killing each other. Plus, I have too much pride to give up that easy.

As many college students know, working on an undergraduate's generous salary is an insecure lifestyle, not knowing exactly if there will be enough money to make it through the next month.

Though I pretty much dove into the real world head first, I've been able to somehow stay afloat.

Of course, every now and then I turn a pale shade of green when I see someone my age driving a car with a price tag slightly above 30 grand, but in a way, I'm glad I don't have a luxurious car with leather interior, automatic everything, tinted windows and other stuff a person really doesn't need but gets because it's cool.

OK, so it would be nice, but who cares if (the common phrase I think is) "the rich park's parents might have paid for it." They're not going to buy me anything, so why should I moan and complain?

In fact, for all I know, that kid could be in debt so much they won't have the car paid off when they're 30. So, I must resist the urge to shout obscenities out the window of my gently used car that needs everything fixed.

Granted, I live in a good part of town, but I lack the luxuries of a washer, dryer, dishwasher, central heat and air, a decent sized kitchen and any additional amount of



On the Rocks
Klara Nizki
Staff Columnist

square footage.

On the other hand, I have great neighbors and a great landlord. My boyfriend and I have had dishes over who washed in a row – to think that it's gotten so bad we actually started counting how many pieces were washed by whom and what size they were.

So maybe I exaggerated a little, but sometimes it does seem that way.

Would life be so much easier if everything were handed to us on a silver platter? I don't really think so, because of all the troubles I've gone through, I have a better sense of what everything's worth.

I know what I want out of life; it's during this transitional student phase I have to figure out how I'm going to get it. I could just give in to the temptations of a full time job with no college education, but I want more out of life.

All of us are in college for different reasons, be it to satisfy parents, satisfy ourselves or figure out what we want to do with our lives.

College is not just about learning a subject or making a grade; it's learning about who you are, where you want to go and how you're going to get there.

I've figured out I'm not going to move up until I appreciate what I have now.

I've been appreciating while washing dishes, so hopefully there will be a dishwasher in my near future. ♦

Klara Nizki is a junior business major and can be reached via e-mail at KNizki@aol.com.

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We weren't kidding about the
plasma thing.

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Addiction to painkillers



By Justin Wax
Staff Writer

Ann was a normal American woman simply abiding by traffic laws when her world suddenly turned upside down. One moment she was waiting at a traffic light – the next a driver speeding at 55 mile per hour slammed into her vehicle.

Ann, whose letter and account of her accident was published on www.opiates.com, vividly remembers the aftermath.

"Two surgeries later and three years of taking opiates to kill the chronic pain, I realized that taking 10 to 15 tablets of 80 mg. OxyContin daily or popping 40 plus Norco tablets daily was consuming my life, more so than the pain," she writes. "I was desperate to quit. Five days of cold turkey ended in failure."

Painkiller addiction is a menace to many Americans.

Addiction to painkillers usually begins when patients do not follow the directions, John Winborn, MTSU Heath associate professor and expert on prescription drugs says.

"You know someone has a problem when after the prescription runs out, they seek to get [an additional] prescription," he adds. "Some drugs, available by prescription, can be purchased on the street."

Determining the number of Americans struggling with painkiller addiction is difficult. Many Americans do not report their addiction, so there is really no responsible way to ascertain the figures.

"There's this notion that [since it is a prescription] the drug is clean or pure, and so they fall into this addiction," Winborn says.

Addiction depends on a wide variety of factors includ-

ing genetic makeup, emotional issues and individual circumstances.

Individual difference nullifies the notion that one prescription drug is easier than another to become addicted to, Winborn says.

Those addicted to painkillers do not face jail time, unless they distribute the drugs themselves.

"In some instances there is a simple possession [charge]," Winborn warns, [but the] "illegality is in the sales and distribution."

When a person reaches a point where he or she decides to fight an addiction, Winborn says the person has "bottomed out."

"Some people 'bottom out' when they wake up in a jail cell," Winborn says. "For others, it takes losing a family. And sadly, for some, the addiction does not end until death."

Ways to avoid becoming addicted to painkillers include completely following the directions and maintaining a good, honest relationship with a physician.

For those addicted to painkillers, there is help. Ann struggled with OxyContin and Norco tablets – but she found help at the Waisman Institute treatment center.

"I am still tired, not sleeping very well and my stamina is reduced but improving daily," Ann writes in the letter to the center. "Pain? Still have a lot – the accident left permanent damage."

"I am working on new ways to deal with it and am confident I will find a solution, and not one that relies on narcotics," she writes.

For more information contact the MTSU Counseling Center at 898-2870. ♦

Four million Americans are addicted to painkillers, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

Book buying Web sites aid students

By Laura Taylor
Staff Writer

With the beginning of a new semester here at MTSU, many things will change.

We'll take new classes, meet new people and learn new things. But the one thing that stays the same is that we must buy new textbooks.

Every semester we line up like cattle and herd ourselves through the chaotic campus bookstores in order to blow our hard-earned cash on books.

To make matters worse, when we sell back our books from previous classes, we only get a small fraction of what they are worth. Wouldn't it be nice if we could sell our old books for a decent price and get our new ones for a deal too? Well, now we can.

In recent years, the Internet has become a valuable resource for buying discount textbooks. Web sites like amazon.com and half.com often sell the same books at lower prices. But now there is an even better way to find textbooks online while selling your old ones at the same time.

Bookswap.com is an

example of a Web site that allows you to search for books being sold by other MTSU students. Participating on bookswap.com is free. All you have to do is provide your name, school and email address and you are free to peruse through a list of available books. You can also post your old books and sell them at your own prices.

Even if you cannot find the book that you need, you can widen your search to cover other colleges in the area.

Also, you can list the books that you are looking for and you will be notified by email if those books are posted.

Upon finding your required textbooks, you are directed to a Web page that allows you to e-mail the owner to set up a time and place to meet.

Remember to be cautious when meeting people you don't know. Make arrangements to meet on campus during the day, and bring a friend if possible.

At the moment, pickings are slim on bookswap.com. There are only about 15 books for sale here at MTSU. ♦

Design contest to encourage wellness

By Erica Rodefer
Features Editor

When most women think of the important gowns they will wear during their lives, they think of ones they'll wear on special occasions.

They might consider the accomplished cap and gowns that they will wear when they receive their college diplomas or the sparkling white gowns as they cautiously approach the first day of the rest of their lives in. They may even think of the dazzling evening gown they wore to their senior proms as one of the most significant garments they'll ever wear.

Few women consider that the most important gown they will ever put on may be an awkward paper examination gown that makes them feel cold, nervous and uncomfortable.

But that's exactly the idea physician's assistant Ellen Goodner had in mind when she came up with an examination gown design contest to raise awareness about the importance of annual pap tests for females.

"We invite anybody that wants to, to pick up an examination gown and use it as a pattern to design a gown that they would most like to wear during their annual pap test," Goodner says.

Gowns will be judged on creativity, comfort originality and use of materials, and practicality is not an issue, according to the contest flyer.

In other words, anything goes.

Winners will receive up to \$150 for group entries and up to \$100 for individuals.

Ideally, the contest will be a fun, non-threatening way to involve students and emphasize the importance of annual pelvic examinations, says Goodner, who recently realized that only 3 percent of MTSU students have annual pap tests at Health Services on campus.

"I know some students are going other places – to their own doctors – but it is still a low number," she says. "I thought, let's let ladies have a little fun with it so we could de-mystify the whole thing."

Though cervical cancer is not a common occurrence among college students, physicians also use pap tests to check for STDs, vaginitis, and as a time to talk about various birth control methods, Goodner points out.

"Even though cervical cancer is not a big risk for college age students," Goodner says, "[pap tests] are a safeguard against reproductive health problems and they promote overall wellness."

Jamilia Brack, a senior fashion merchandising major, plans on designing a gown.

"I think that it's very important for women to have their annual pap exams, and anything I can help to raise awareness I would love to be a part of," Brack says.

Brack, who learned about the contest from a display in the Ellington Human Sciences building, will think about the patient's comfort while having

an exam for her gown design.

"I think as far as us constructing the garment I'm looking at aesthetics that would be pleasing to a lady when she gets her examination [considering] how it feels, and make sure that its warm," she says. "Even though practicality is not an issue, I think I'm going to try to do something that is practical."

Gowns for the contest, which is sponsored by Heath Services, Greek Life, the June

Anderson Women's Center and student organization Women for Women, are available at Health Services or the June Anderson Women's Center, and must be turned in for judging by Jan. 23.

Finished gowns will be put out on display at Cummings Hall and the Recreation Center Jan. 27 and 28. ♦

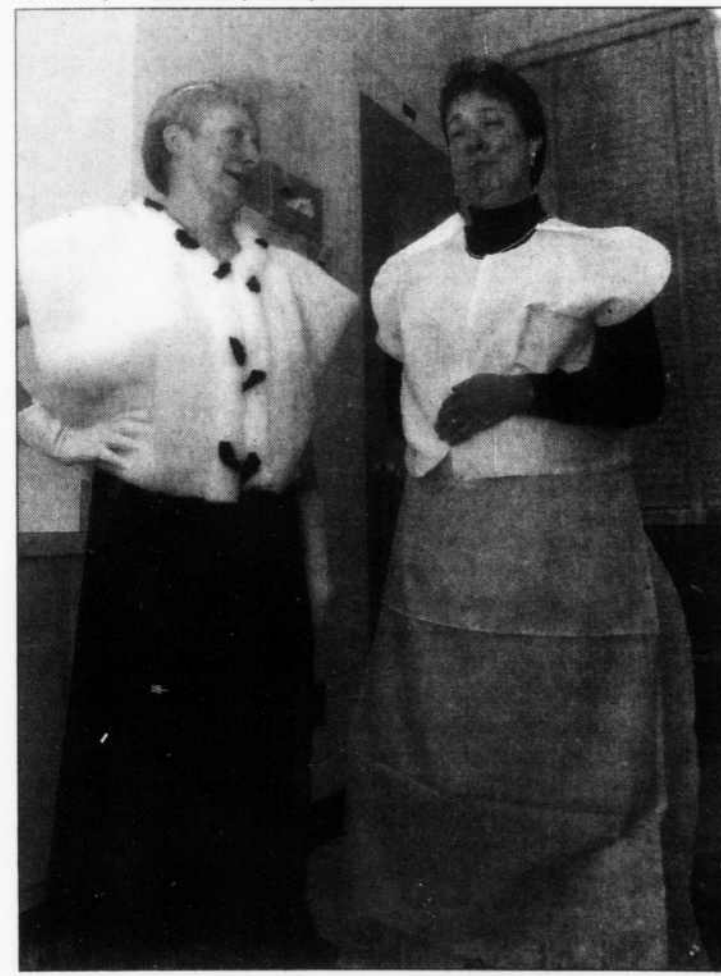


Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor
Sally Kimbrell and Ellen Goodner try on gowns.

International students find love in American schools

Marriage process difficult for nationally diverse couples

By DeAnna Withrow
Staff Writer

Finding the right someone to commit to till death do you part can be tricky. But for international college students, the real trickiness begins when the right someone, who happen to be American, find them.

When Lides Valerez, from Venezuela, and Kaori Minami, from Japan, left their homes to get a college education American style, they had very little in common. Their common ground was that neither foresaw their itinerary would include falling in love with an American, marrying him and sacrificing the sights, sounds, smells, and comforts of home in order to be with him.

Initially, Lides was here studying English.

She never imagined that she would meet her future husband while she was here.

"I'd never really thought about it," Lides says.

Besides the fact that her primary goal was to get an education, she admits, "I wasn't very good at dating back home, so I didn't think it would be an issue."

Like Lides, Kaori is surprised to find herself faced with the

same situation.

"I never let anything get in the way of my education," she insists. "I finished community college with a 3.8 GPA. I graduated with highest honors. I never stopped to look for boys."

She didn't have to. Steven, her fiancé, was looking for her.

They now live together in Murfreesboro and attend MTSU.

Kaori and Steven make an unlikely pair.

Unlikely, but not impossible, Kaori assures me.

In Steven's hometown and site for the wedding, Copperhill, Tenn., Kaori and Steven's cultural differences are most evident.

Kaori sticks out like a sore thumb in this all-white town.

But Kaori's parents have taught her not to be afraid to go out into the world and be independent. Though they know they will rarely get to see their daughter, they are proud of what she is doing, and they know that if she is ever needed at home, she will return.

"Steven would be happy to go to Japan if I asked him to," Kaori says proudly. She is comforted by his willingness to embrace her culture and to live in Japan.

Dressed in a traditional white wedding gown, Kaori makes her way down the aisle. Her mother, dressed in a festive silk kimono, is her escort.

The preacher begins the ceremony with a Christian prayer. He then asks, "...and who shall

give this bride away?" Kaori nudges her mother, who speaks little English, to let her know that it is time for her to say "I do," just as they have been practicing all morning.

At the reception, Kaori's aunt plays a traditional Japanese guitar. It only has three strings and the sound is unlike any the people in Copperhill have ever heard.

Despite the awkwardness, Steven's family and friends seem to be welcoming Kaori and her mother and aunt to the family.

This wedding is the only the beginning of the marriage process for Steven and Kaori.

Angie Melton, assistant director of International Student Services and Programs at MTSU, explains that the U.S. government has a complicated and lengthy application process for foreigners wishing to marry U.S. citizens. None of this process can begin until the applicants have a marriage certificate.

The application consists of a mountain of paper work and Melton recommends that anyone seeking to file should consult an immigration attorney.

Not only is the process complicated, but it can get expensive, reaching into the thousands.

Melton says she has known it to take a couple of years before a marriage becomes legal, but on average it takes six months to a year.

Lides and her husband Joseph recently began the filing



Photo by DeAnna Withrow | Staff Photographer

Steven and Kaori Gaddis and Joseph and Lides Withrow begin new lives together.

process. They were married in the Rutherford County Clerk's office and have consulted an immigration attorney. They are hoping their marriage will become legal before they leave for Venezuela in a few months.

In Venezuela, Lides' mother is planning a real wedding for the couple.

Unlike Kaori's parents, Lides says that her family isn't so will-

ing to let her go. They will because they know that Lides is happy with Joseph, but it is their culture to keep the family together. Lides, too, seems reluctant.

"I want my children to go to school where I went to school," she says. "I like the way I grew up, and I want them to have that."

She speaks as if that is the

way it will be, but then admits that she knows that will not be the case.

"I love Joseph," she says, "and I want to be with him."

She and Kaori, though worlds apart, agree that what they have with their husbands is worth it all.

"You can't help who and where you fall in love," Kaori says. ♦

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For more information, please call 898-5032 or visit our website at www.mtsu.edu/~devofc/found/specproj.html

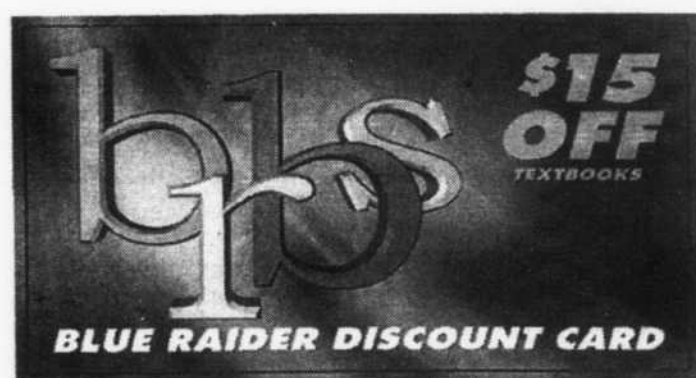
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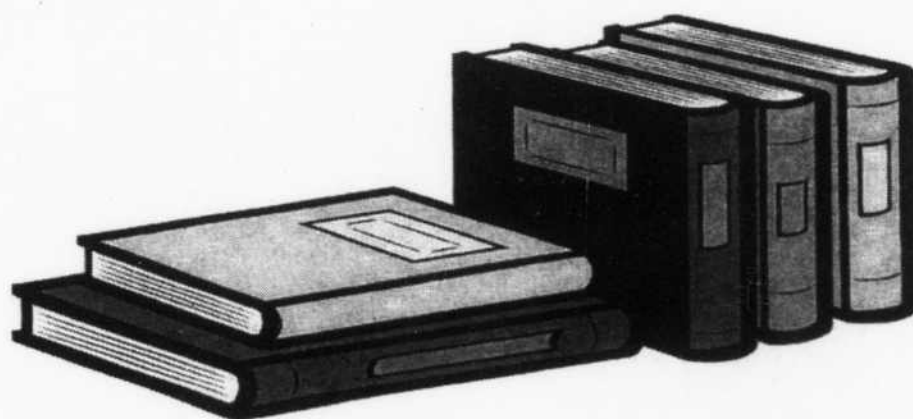
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MT men begin conference play this week

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee (8-5) men's basketball team will defend their home court as they begin Sun Belt Conference action against Arkansas State University (11-3, 2-1 SBC) Thursday night.

The Blue Raiders are coming off a 76-63 victory over the University of Wyoming last Thursday. The win increased their home record to an undefeated 6-0 on the season. The Blue Raiders will look for another large and loud crowd to fill the Murphy Center.

"It would be great if we could really get the student involvement back," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "I know that students have been gone for quite a while. I think our local community is starting to come out in better numbers, so I think that, along with a really good student turnout for Thursday night, will really, really help our team."

The home court advantage will be key as the

Blue Raiders will be the final team to play their first game inside the SBC. This year the competition within the conference will be even tougher, with only the top eight teams making the Aeropostale SBC Tournament at the end of the season.

MT will start their conference schedule against an ASU team that already has wins over the University of Mississippi, the University of Southern Mississippi and Texas Christian University. The Indians are 2-1 in the SBC with wins over Florida International University and defending SBC champions Western Kentucky University, but they lost their last SBC game Saturday to the University of Arkansas-Little Rock 75-65.

Dewarick Spencer and J.J. Montgomery, the top two scorers in the SBC, lead Dickey Nutt's ASU squad. Spencer averages 19 points per game, while Montgomery adds 18.7 points per game.

MT will counter the Indians' offense with Tommy Gunn, who is fourth in the SBC in scor-

ing with 17.1 points per game. Bryan Smithson has also provided an offensive boost and had a career-high 22 points in the win over the Cowboys last Thursday night.

The Indians also have one of the top rebounders in Kim Adams. Adams brings down 9.7 rebounds per game, second in the SBC, and leads in defensive rebounds with 6.57.

Last season, the Blue Raiders swept ASU 2-0. On Jan. 8, 2003, MT won at ASU 65-58 and then defeated the Indians 79-55 at the Murphy Center Feb. 13.

Saturday night, MT will host UALR. The Trojans (8-6, 2-0) will play at WKU Thursday night. As of Jan. 13, UALR was in first place in the SBC Eastern Division.

On Dec. 23, 2003, UALR lost one of their top players, Nick Zachery, who left the team because of deaths in the family.

However, Brandon Freeman has picked up the slack by earning SBC Player of the Week honors with 30 points in the win over ASU Saturday.

Zach Graber has an assist/turnover ratio of 2.40, tops in the SBC.

Steve Shields' squad has the best scoring defense in the SBC, holding teams to 64.5 points per game. UALR's opponents average 40 percent shooting from the field.

MT had their best defensive showing of the season last Thursday, holding UW to 29.5 percent shooting in the second half and 32.9 percent for the game.

Coach Davis feels his team is beginning to bond at the right time.

"I like the way our team is coming together," Davis said. "We have a lot of hard work ahead of us, and we still can improve a great deal."

Last season, UALR defeated the Blue Raiders twice, 71-62 at UALR and 74-58 at the Murphy Center.

Both games will tip off at 7 p.m. in Murphy Center. ♦

University kisses Kissee goodbye



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Former MT volleyball coach Lisa Kissee talks to the team during the Florida International game Oct. 12.

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee athletic department interviewed three candidates for the vacant volleyball head coaching position Tuesday.

Mark Owens, MT assistant athletic director and MT Media Relations director, said the department is currently interviewing candidates and will continue to do so through next week. The athletic department intends to hire a head coach by Feb. 1.

Although MT Media Relations would not release the names of any coaches who had been interviewed, all the candidates are current college coaches, according to Denise Gideon, MT Media Relations coordinator for women's athletics.

Gideon added that coaches from Division I, Division II and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics are under consideration.

Repeated attempts to reach Diane

Turnham, associate athletic director and senior women's administrator for MT athletics, were unsuccessful. MT athletic director Boots Donnelly was also unavailable for comment.

The position is vacant due to the department's decision "not to continue head volleyball coach Lisa Kissee's contract," according to MT Media Relations. The decision was released Dec. 4, 2003.

In a statement released to the media, Turnham wished Kissee well while looking to the future.

"We wish Lisa the best in her future endeavors," Turnham said Dec. 4 in a statement on www.goblueraiders.com. "But after extended review of the program and extensive discussions with Athletic Director Boots Donnelly, we concluded that at this time in our history it is best to take the volleyball program in a new direction."

Kissee had an immediate effect on the program when she arrived in 1995, leading the Lady Raiders to a 28-6 regular season

record after the team finished the previous season 7-23 under Turnham, who coached the team from 1982-1987 and 1992-1994.

The Lady Raiders then won the Ohio Valley Conference title and secured an NCAA Tournament berth with a 3-1 victory over Princeton University in a play-in game.

MT would go on to lose 0-3 against George Washington University in the NCAA East Regional, finishing the season with a school-record 32 wins.

Kissee recorded just one winning season afterward, however, when the team went 17-15 in 2002. Kissee finished with a 136-160 record in nine seasons at MT, including 23-35 in SBC play. Her 136 victories were the most by any volleyball coach in school history.

Last season, the Lady Raiders went 14-18 and finished tied for seventh in the SBC with a 5-9 conference record. MT then lost in the first round of the SBC tournament to eventual runner-up Western Kentucky University. ♦

Lady Raiders open Sun Belt schedule on road Thursday

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

When the Lady Raiders travel to Arkansas to begin their Sun Belt Conference schedule, history will be on their side.

Middle Tennessee has won the last six games against Arkansas State University and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

MT head coach Stephany Smith wants her team to know, however, that this year's versions of ASU and UALR are much improved.

"Nobody on the team other than Keisha McClinic...has lost to either of these teams," Smith said. "We sat them down on Sunday and wanted them to be aware of how well they [ASU and UALR] are playing."

Thursday's matchup at Alltel Arena features two teams going in opposite directions. The Lady Raiders (10-3) have won five of their last six games, including a 65-61 overtime victory against the University of Alabama last Thursday. ASU (9-4), meanwhile, has dropped four of its last six games since starting the season 7-0. The Lady Indians lost at Tulane University 59-56 last Thursday.

Smith refuses to believe the Lady Indians are in any kind of slump.

"They have the ability to score a lot of points," she said. "They're a very aggressive defensive team, and that gives

them easy baskets in transition."

Both squads know how to get to the basket early and often. Despite their recent skid, the Lady Indians lead the SBC in scoring offense, averaging almost 72 points per game. MT ranks second with just under 69.

The Lady Raiders then leave Jonesboro and travel 130 miles southwest to Little Rock, where they will face the Trojans (7-7) Saturday afternoon at Trojan Fieldhouse.

Alicia Cash leads UALR with 16.6 points per game and 8.4 rebounds per game. The Trojans have won four of their last five and are much better than their record indicates, according to Smith.

"You can say they're .500 and think that's sub-par or average, but 7-7 is a lot better than the 2-12 they usually are at this point in the season," she said.

The Lady Raiders have never lost to the Trojans.

Although Smith has some reservations heading into the conference schedule, she appears to be fairly encouraged by the Lady Raiders' quick start.

"[This year's team] is by far the best team we've ever had before, just as last year's team was the best team we've ever had before, and the year before that was the best team we've ever had," she said. "We're very confident going into conference season play." ♦

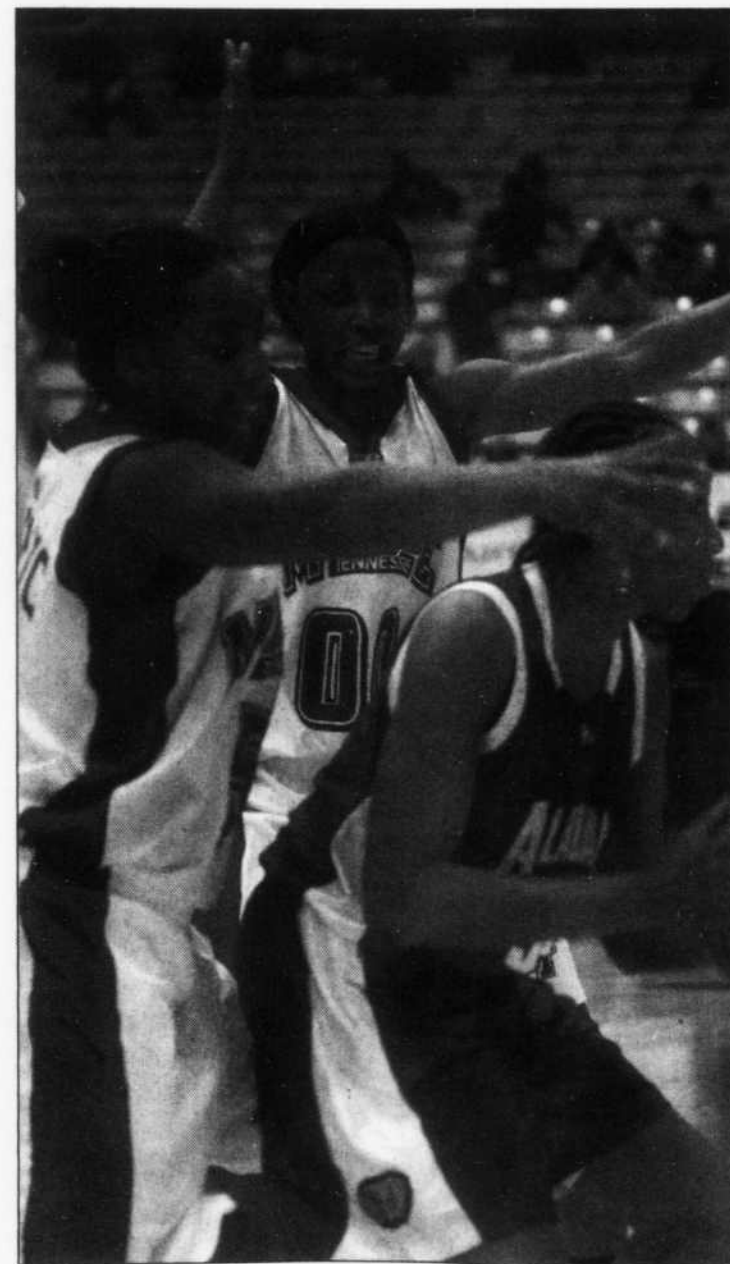


Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

MT guards Ciara Gray and Keisha McClinic guard an Alabama player Jan. 8. The Lady Raiders will travel to Arkansas State Thursday and Little Rock Saturday.

BCS not what it's all cracked up to be

Sports commentary

Colby Sledge
Asst. Sports Editor



Despite the proclamations that the Bowl Championship Series was the worst thing to happen to the civilized world since Germany invaded Poland, this year's bowl season was actually worth watching.

Consider this: 13 of the 28 bowls just less than half-were decided by eight points or less. Two went into overtime, with the University of Hawaii and the University of Houston going three extra periods in the Hawaii Bowl. After Hawaii's 54-48 victory, the teams incited a

massive brawl to let the fans know exactly how much the players appreciated their support.

Isn't college football grand? The usual suspects became the unlikely losers throughout the bowl season. The Big 12, often touted as the strongest football conference in the nation, had as many wins (two) in eight bowl games as the Midwestern Athletic Conference did in two.

Plenty of games provided high drama. The University of Georgia escaped with a 34-27 overtime win after leading Purdue University 24-0 in the first half of the Capital One Bowl. Both Virginia Tech and the University of California came back from 14-point deficits in the Insight Bowl, with Cal winning 52-49 on a

last-second field goal.

Sure, there were blowouts. Anyone who sat through Oregon State University's 55-14 pounding of the University of New Mexico in the Las Vegas Bowl or the University of Maryland's 41-7 romp over the University of West Virginia in the Gator Bowl seriously needed to reconsider his life's direction.

But for those who think the 24 non-BCS bowls are simply about money and frivolous pageantry, I suggest you call up any University of Auburn fans and ask how they feel about the bowl system.

Ask if they enjoyed watching their beloved Tigers, a preseason Top 10 team that stumbled its way through the season, defeat the University of Wisconsin 28-14 in the Music

City Bowl in Nashville, Tenn. Heck, ask the Badgers' fans if they had a good time, too.

I was at the game, tagging along with a couple of friends who scored free tickets through a dad's business connections. I didn't expect to be entertained by the actual game. I figured I might have a chance to win free tires or a hotel stay.

Instead, I watched two 7-5 teams battle for an entire contest, despite having nothing more to play for than bragging rights and a \$950,000 appearance fee, which most likely covered the traveling expenses for each team.

I stood among fans completely dressed in red who had driven more than 600 miles to see their beloved Badgers play. I

See Bowls, 9

Bowls: Smaller bowls better

Continued from 8

talked to Auburn fans who wanted their Tigers to become the first Southeastern Conference team to win the bowl in its six-year existence.

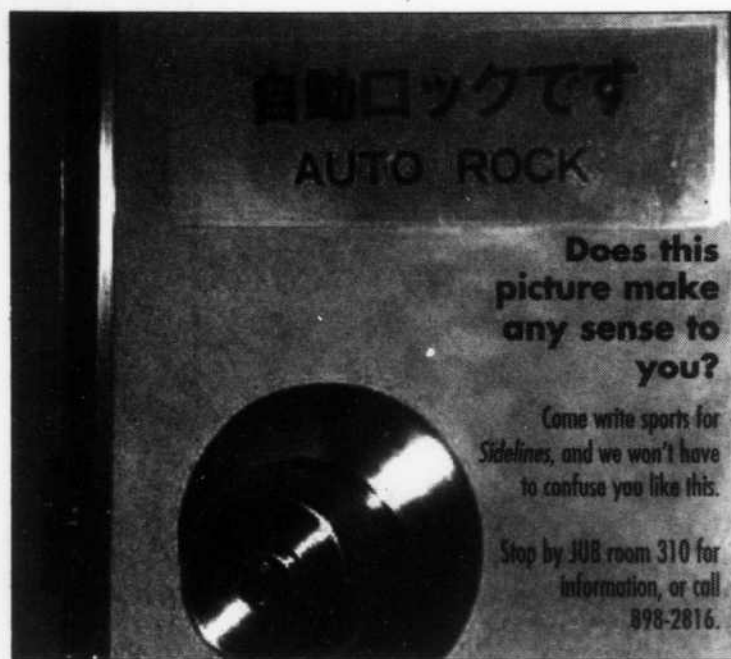
I will be honest: I think a college football playoff is on the horizon, whether it consists of the four BCS bowls or a 16-team tournament.

But as I walked out of the Coliseum among the 55,000-plus fans who had attended a

"meaningless" college football game, I couldn't willingly say the bowl system was the complete waste I have considered it to be in the past.

Considering the mess the BCS produced this year, perhaps the smaller bowls were the real winners this season. ♦

Colby Sledge is a sophomore mass communication major and can be reached via email at psc2a@mtsu.edu.



LSU, USC split national championship

By Matthew Adair
Staff Writer

The year 2004 opened with what may become known as a turning point in college sports as Louisiana State University and the University of Southern California split the National Championship Title after this year's bowl series.

LSU (13-1) took the victory in the Nokia Sugar Bowl, defeating Oklahoma University (12-2) 21-14 despite the Sooners' statistical advantage. The win gives the LSU Tigers their first national title since 1958.

Going into the game, Oklahoma averaged 461.4 yards per game. LSU's defense, however, held the Sooners to 154 yards. A 20-yard interception return by Marcus Spears at the beginning of the second half cemented their lead, allowing LSU to hold their lead despite a fourth-quarter touchdown by Sooner Kejuan Jones.

LSU shares their victory with Rose Bowl victor Southern California (12-1), who defeated Michigan State (10-3) 28-14 in Pasadena. Despite the split, the win gives the Trojans their first title in 25 years.

After a blocked 47-yard field goal attempt by Michigan's Garrett Rivas at the start of the game, Trojan quarterback Matt Leinart threw three touchdown passes to give USC a 21-0 advantage by the third quarter.

Each of USC's four touchdown drives took less than five minutes to complete, breaking past a Wolverine defense that allowed only five touchdown passes all year.

"I feel like we could have put more points on the board," wide receiver Keary Colbert told ESPN.com. "But the main thing is that we won the game. We are the national champions."

Elsewhere in college football, the University of Miami (11-2) defeated Florida State (10-3) 16-14 in the FedEx Orange

Bowl. For the fifth consecutive time in the history of the in-state rivalry, the Seminoles missed victory by a single failed field goal attempt from 39 yards with 5:30 remaining.

"I missed it," Xavier Beitia told ESPN.com. "There's nothing else to say."

The Seminoles did, however, hold Miami 14-10 through much of the first half, forcing the Hurricanes to kick for a field goal and enter the third quarter trailing by one point.

Miami settled for a final field goal five minutes into the third quarter to take a two-point lead over the Seminoles. Despite the narrow point victory, Miami held a 169-yard lead over Florida State, picking up 218 rushing yards.

The two teams will play again in Miami to open their 2004 season. This will be the Hurricanes' first season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Ohio State (11-2) narrowly

prevented an overtime matchup between themselves and Kansas State (11-4) by beating the Wildcats 35-28, giving the Buckeyes their second consecutive Fiesta Bowl victory.

"I think his head wasn't in the game," defensive end Will Smith told ESPN.com of Kansas State quarterback Ell Roberson, who had faced sexual assault accusations the day before. Facing a poor start, Roberson came back in the second half to complete 20 of 51 passes for a total of 294 yards.

Despite two attempts to catch up to the Buckeyes from a 21-point deficit, Kansas State failed to overcome Ohio's lead.

After a 74-yard touchdown drive by the Wildcats, the Buckeyes blocked a pass by Roberson from mid-field, halting an attempt to force the game into overtime and holding Ohio State's lead to seven points for the remainder of the game. ♦

Sports e-mail slsports@mtsu.edu

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Sun Belt women in full swing

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

Sun Belt Conference women's basketball is in full swing as all 11 teams play conference games this week.

The University of Louisiana-Lafayette (7-5, 1-0 SBC) has won four straight games, including a victory over the University of Denver (7-6, 0-1) Saturday in the conference opener for both teams.

Anna Petrakova led ULL with 28 points in the victory. Petrakova was named SBC Player of the Week after averaging 26.3 points, 12.7 rebounds, 2.7 blocks, 1.7 steals and 1.7 assists per game in three games last week.

Petrakova, a junior, has had four consecutive double-doubles and seven in her last eight games.

The Ragin' Cajuns will host the University of South Alabama in the Cajundome this Thursday.

The USA Jaguars (11-1) feature three players averaging double digits in scoring. Whitney Woodard leads the team with 14.3 points per game, Donyel Wheelere 13.2 and Qiana Mitchell helps out with 10.0.

Florida International University (7-8, 1-1) had its three-game win streak snapped with a 62-60 loss to Arkansas State University (9-4, 1-0). ASU won its SBC opener for the second straight season.

The Lady Indians host Middle Tennessee on Thursday, while FIU takes on the University of Denver Friday. The Pioneers lost 80-57 to ULL last Saturday in their conference opener.

The University of Arkansas-Little Rock (7-7, 0-1) picked up its first road win of the season in a 56-43 victory over the University of Arkansas-Pine

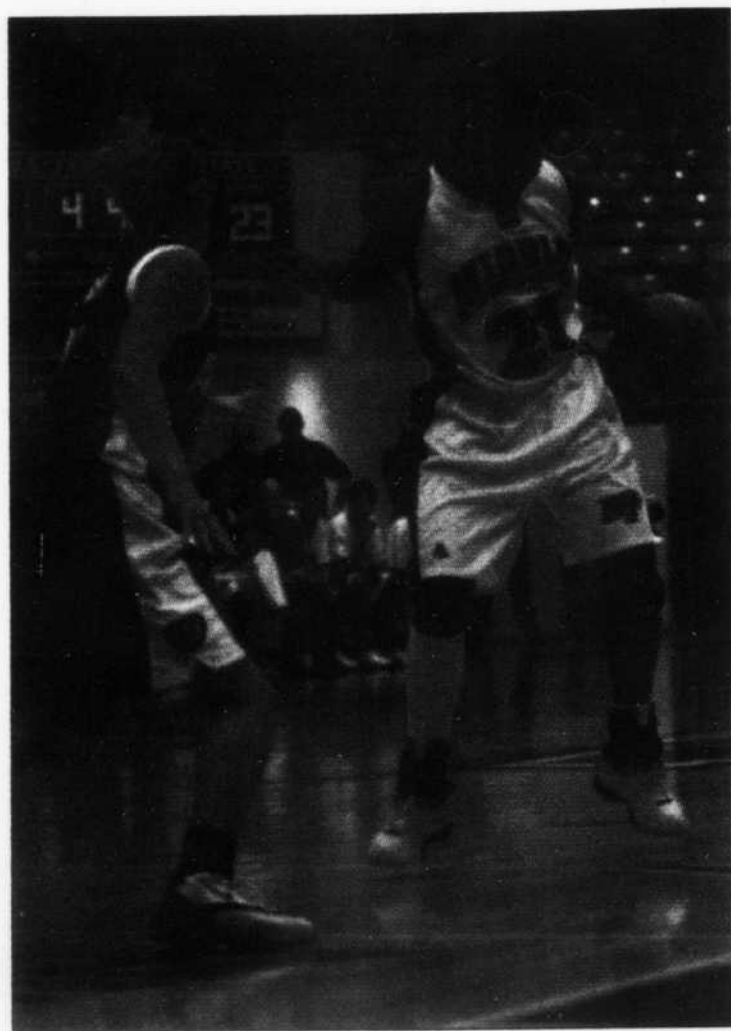


Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor
Lady Raider Kia Stovall drives the ball down court against an Alabama defender. MT beat Alabama 65-61.

Bluff. Alicia Cash from UALR is averaging 18.4 points per game and eight rebounds.

Cash has moved into the UALR career scoring and rebounding top 10. She has 638 career points, ninth all-time at UALR.

The Trojans will host defending SBC champion Western Kentucky University (6-8, 0-0) Thursday at the Convocation Center.

WKU broke a two-game losing skid with a 62-54 win over the University of Illinois-Chicago. WKU's Leslie Logsdon finished the game with a career-best eight steals.

The University of North Texas (4-9, 0-1) had a season-high 10 three-point baskets against New Mexico State University (7-6, 1-0) on Saturday, but the Lady Eagles still lost 83-72.

The Lady Eagles take on Denver Thursday night.

NMSU went 1-1 last week, falling 96-63 to No. 19 Texas Christian University. The Aggies will prepare for the University of New Orleans Thursday. UNO (5-6) lost to the University of Southern Mississippi 73-64 last Wednesday night. ♦

SBC men kick into high gear

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

After a busy non-conference schedule, the teams of the Sun Belt Conference will begin conference play this week.

Several conference games will be held on Thursday.

Arkansas State University will travel to Murfreesboro, Tenn., to kick-off MT's conference schedule.

The Indians (11-3, 2-1 SBC) are led in scoring by Dewarick Spencer and J.J. Montgomery, who average 19 and 18.7 points per game, respectively.

The Blue Raiders (8-5) are led in scoring by Tommy Gunn, who averages 17.1 points per game.

The University of Arkansas-Little Rock will also be in action on Thursday, as the Trojans travel to Bowling Green, Ky., to take on the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers.

The Trojans (8-6, 2-0) hold conference wins over ASU and Florida International University and currently lead the SBC East Division.

The Trojans have three players who average in double figures, led by SBC Player of the Week Brandon Freeman, who scored 30 and 21 points in the team's two conference wins.

WKU (5-8, 0-2) is led by four players who average double figures, and the Hilltoppers are looking to rebound from two early conference losses.

The University of Denver will travel to the University of North Texas on Thursday.

The Pioneers (8-5, 0-1) are led by Eric Benzal, who averages 16 points per game.

Shawson Johnson leads the Mean Green (5-8, 0-1) in scoring, also with 16 points per game.

The University of Louisiana-



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor
MT guard Keith Connor drives the ball against Covenant College. MT will host Arkansas State Thursday at 7 p.m.

Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns will host the University of South Alabama Jaguars.

The Cajuns (6-4, 1-0) currently lead the SBC West Division and have lost to two top 25 teams by a total of 12 points.

The Jaguars (6-7, 1-1) lost to UNO last week and look to win their two road games this week.

The final SBC matchup on Thursday will be between the New Mexico State University Aggies (7-5, 1-0) and the University of New Orleans Privateers.

The Aggies are led by Duane John and James Moore, who average 18.3 and 15.8 points per game, respectively.

The Privateers (7-7, 1-0)

gained their conference win in a 64-58 road victory at South Alabama last week. UNO lost Monday to Louisiana State University 68-60.

Several teams will also be in action on Saturday.

ASU will travel to WKU for a 7 p.m. matchup, while UALR will be in Murfreesboro.

The FIU Golden Panthers (3-11, 0-2) will pick up conference play on Saturday after losing two Sun Belt games last week.

The Panthers will be in Denver for Saturday's game.

ULL will host the Privateers Saturday, while USA will travel to New Mexico to take on the Aggies. ♦

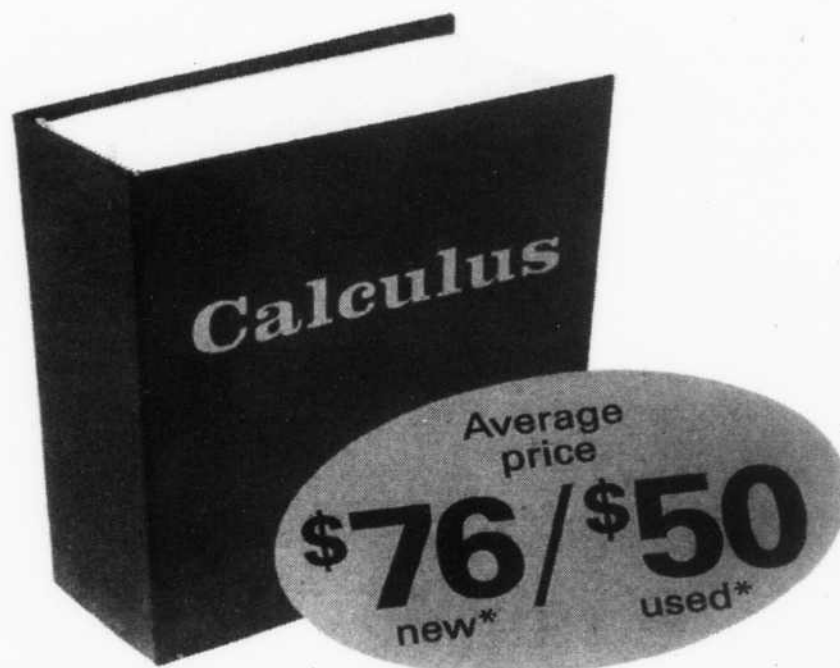
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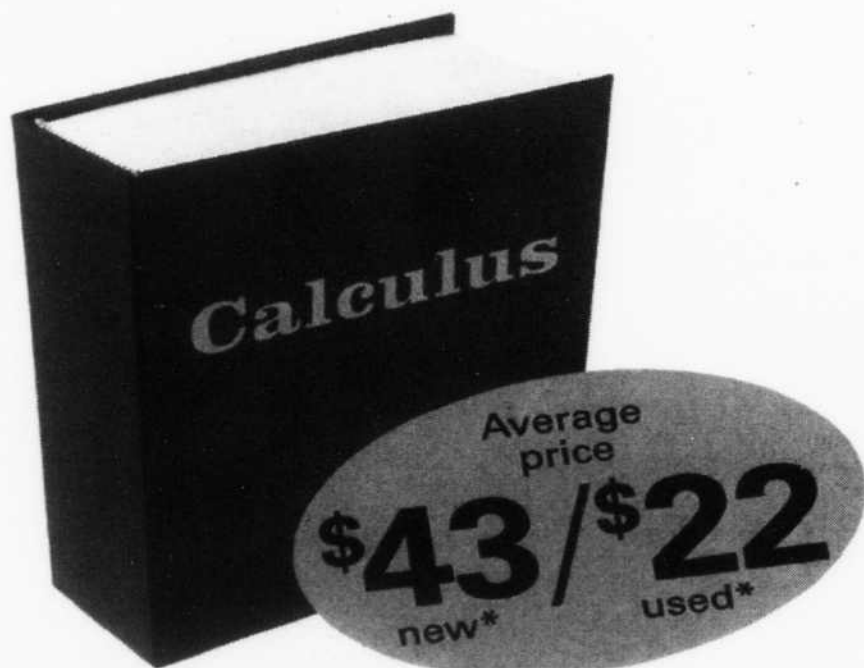
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