



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

Was Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* worthy of all the hype?

Cellphones part of life

In Living, 6



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Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 67

'Operation: Success'



Photo by Josh Jordan | Staff Photographer

Junior Michael Shirley, left, cheers Thursday night at the Middle Tennessee-Western Kentucky University basketball game. Operation: Full House drew a record crowd of 11,807, pushed by former MTSU professor Aaron Todd, who was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer three months ago. Todd said his big wish was to see Murphy Center packed for a Blue Raider game. The largest crowd prior to Thursday's game, which MT won 73-59, was in 1974 against Austin Peay State University. See the full story in sports, page 8.

'Sidelines' survey shows students aren't SGA-savvy

By Austin Starchman
Staff Writer

A non-scientific survey of 100 students who live on campus indicates that a large number are somewhat unsure of the role the Student Government Association plays on campus.

Students who took the survey, which consisted of 12 questions, such as naming a college senator or at-large senator, or whether or not they had ever voted in an SGA election, recorded some surprising answers.

For example, out of 100 students polled, only 69 knew what the acronym "SGA" stands for.

The survey also showed that only a small percentage, 29, have voted in an SGA election.

Furthermore, only three students could name any of the senators and two students could name at-large senators.

Also, only 13 students could name any of the SGA officers, and only 15 students actually knew any of the responsibilities of the SGA, with the most common answer being parking appeals.

Michele Butler, SGA president, wasn't surprised at the general lack of knowledge the survey showed.

"There's always room for the students being given more information," she said



Butler

"but you have to want to know."

The survey also tried to find a correlation between previous voting and political experiences in general, and the likelihood of a student to vote in an SGA election, but there seemed to be no connection.

"Student apathy plays a big part in the results of this survey," Butler said. "This type of apathy isn't something you see on other college campuses, either."

"We basically have to beg or bribe the average student to attend sporting events or school events, even though we do distribute brochures and flyers at events like this year's Customs," Butler said.

The exception to this problem, according to Butler, is Greek organizations.

"I bet most of the people who could answer the survey questions were Greek," she said. "I bet 75 percent of our voters this election will be from Greek societies."

All of the current SGA officers, as well as many senators, are members of Greek organizations.

Butler is a member of Alpha Omicron Pi; Amanda Newman, executive vice president, and Brittany Rogers, election commissioner, are both members of Alpha Delta Pi; and Jon Stewart, vice president of administration and public affairs, is a member of Sigma Nu.

But Butler said she doesn't think Greek society involvement in the SGA stems from the fact that many SGA members are Greeks.

"The Greek societies seem to see more of an opportunity for involvement, regardless of whether or not a brother or sister is running," Butler said.

"I don't worry myself about it," Butler said when asked whether or not she was concerned with the lack of participation by non-Greek students. "After all, how can you complain when you don't vote?"

For more information about SGA, visit their Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~sga.

The survey was conducted by the author of this article, who walked around campus, interviewing students at random.



Stewart



Newman

TSU, state officials drop public scholarship dispute

By Matt Gouras
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The brakes have been put on a dispute between state regulators and Tennessee State University officials, in hopes an independent audit will settle what had become a very public argument.

Last month, the chancellor of the board that oversees Tennessee State University blasted the school president for awarding students millions of dollars in scholarships without

making sure there was enough money to cover them. He said the TSU Foundation's scholarship accounts were \$2.6 million in the red.

The letter capped a series of meetings and correspondence on the topic, and led to public criticism of the regents from supporters of TSU President James Hefner.

At that time, the regents said they were hoping to get more response from Hefner, and Hefner had said he would satisfy the complaint by the end of

the month.

But after all the uproar, and a threat to involve the governor's office, officials said they have decided to wait on taking any action until state auditors finish looking at the TSU Foundation's finances.

"We canceled that request and suspended all correspondence," said Bob Adams, the Board of Regents' vice chancellor for business and finance. "We felt like it was not productive until all the facts were laid out in the audit."

He said the state audit, originally expected to be finished by now, will probably be done by the middle of March.

"We will get back together once we get that," Adams said.

Nashville attorney Robert Smith, former head of TSU's national alumni organization and one of those who came out to support Hefner, said he's pleased to see that the regents have decided to wait for the audit.

See TSU, 2

Monthlong celebration to honor women

LaDuke to give keynote address

Staff Reports

National Women's History Month kicks off today, and will bring renowned speakers and personalities to campus.

Winona LaDuke, an internationally renowned Native American activist, will present the month's keynote address March 9 from 3 until 4:30 p.m. in the Keathley University Center Theater.

LaDuke is an advocate for environmental, women's and children's rights, and was the Green Party's vice presidential nominee in 2000. LaDuke is the founder and co-chair of the Indigenous Women's Network. She is also founder and campaign director of the White Earth Land Recovery Project, a reservation-based land acquisition/environmental advocacy.

A Women's Appreciation Ceremony will honor Olivia Woods, the first black undergraduate of MTSU tomorrow. See, "First black graduate to be

recognized at ceremony," below.

Friday, Margaret Burroughs will be the featured guest at the International Women's Day Breakfast in the James Union Building's Hazlewood Dining Room.

Burroughs is an artist and educator. She and her husband founded Chicago's DuSable Museum of African-American History. Burroughs is a poet and book illustrator, and in 1986, the late Chicago mayor Harold Washington named Feb. 1 as "Dr. Burroughs Day."

The breakfast will celebrate women's leadership at MTSU, and is sponsored by the Association of Faculty and Administrative Women and co-sponsored by African-American History Month committee. The breakfast will be held from 7 a.m. until 8:30 a.m.

March 11, Alanna Nash,

See Month, 2

First black graduate to be recognized at ceremony tomorrow

Woods studied elementary education; earned Master's

By Leah Massey
Staff Writer

The first black student to complete an undergraduate degree at MTSU will be honored at a ceremony on Tuesday.

Olivia Woods, who attended MTSU from 1962 to 1965, will be honored for her accomplishment at the Women's Appreciation Ceremony. The African American Student Association will sponsor the ceremony.

Raashad Mills, political affairs chairperson of the African American Student Association, said that the ceremony is meant to honor and award women in minority groups who have helped the community.

"We're celebrating the inner beauty of women," Mills said.

Mills said the Women's History Committee is also sponsoring the ceremony.

A plaque and flowers will be presented to Woods at the ceremony.

After graduating with a degree in elementary education, Woods spent her first year teaching at Bradley Elementary. After that she moved to

Crichlow, which was located where the health department now stands, according to Woods.

She was an older student when she attended the university. She had three children, all of which were attending school. Her eldest was in high school.

"[MTSU] was much smaller than it is now," Woods said. "It has grown tremendously."

Although the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 desegregated public schools, underlying racial tensions were still evident when Woods attended MTSU.

When Woods first came to MTSU, she reported to Todd Library for convocation. She said that when she walked into the library, she heard a man say, "Hmm, it's getting dark in here."

She only came to campus for classes. She said she didn't really hang around or stay longer than was necessary.

Woods said she decided to go to MTSU because her family needed another source of income. Her husband, Collier Woods, was already teaching.

"We had three children, and we could not educate them on a one teacher salary," she explained.

Woods would later return to MTSU, attaining her master's degree in 1974.

Her oldest son, George Woods, also graduated from

See Graduate, 2

ROTC RECRUITMENT



Photo by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer
Lt. Seth Olmstead, right, and Lt. Bill Raeth look over ROTC literature Wednesday in Keathley University Center. Both are MTSU ROTC graduates.

TSU: State auditors have been reviewing TSU Foundation's records since August

Continued from 1

"I think what everybody wanted was for the process to work out and I think that's taking place," he said.

Smith said it's important that any mistakes that might have been made are fully explored before a popular and respected school president is

publicly criticized.

"If there have been errors, we need to look at them in the context of overall leadership," he said. "If (the regents) are correct, it will at least force the university to make corrections."

State auditors have been reviewing the TSU Foundation's financial records since August. Board of Regents Chancellor

Charles Manning said Hefner was shifting money from other accounts to cover the costs of scholarships paid for by the foundation.

But after the flurry of letters and meetings, both sides have decided to wait.

"No one felt comfortable addressing anything until all the facts were out," Adams said. ♦

Graduate: Woods said she is flattered by honor; encourages students to work hard

Continued from 1

MTSU.

In August, Woods found out she had breast cancer. She had a mastectomy in September to remove the tumor.

Woods does not plan to deliver a speech to those assem-

bled at the ceremony. She did say that she was flattered that the students thought enough of her to honor her at the ceremony.

Even though things have changed since she was a student at MTSU, Woods said she would offer the same advice to stu-

dents that she would have offered then.

"Work hard, do your very best, and keep God in your life."

The ceremony is free, and all students and faculty are invited to attend to honor Woods' achievement. ♦

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2004 SCHEDULE

MARCH 1-APRIL 15

"Expanded Realities"
Photographs by Susan Bowen
Baldwin Photographic Gallery
McWhorter Learning Resources Center

MARCH 1-31

National Women's History Month Exhibit
James Union Building Lobby

MARCH 2

A Women's Appreciation Ceremony
JUB, Tennessee Room, 6:30 p.m.
Honoring Mrs. Olivia Woods, the first African American undergraduate of MTSU

MARCH 4

Open House at June Anderson Women's Center
JUB, Room 206, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

"Better Living Through Chemistry" Women in Science Lecture
Davis Science Building, Room 100, 11 a.m.-11:50 p.m.
Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, manager, DuPont Crop Protection Division, and a member of the American Chemical Society's Women Chemists Committee, will speak on recent advances in environmental and agricultural chemistry research by DuPont.

"Women's Stories of Battering and Violence: An Ethnographic Journey"
JUB, Room 100, 5:30 p.m.
Speaker: Elaine Lawless, Curators' Distinguished Chair of English, University of Missouri-Columbia, Folklore, Women's Studies, and Religious Studies. Reception to follow.

MARCH 5

International Women's Day Breakfast with Margaret Burroughs
JUB, Hazlewood Dining Room, 7 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

MARCH 8

Vickie Riggan, Speaker on Military Women in World War II with Panel Discussions on World War II.
JUB, Hazlewood Dining Room, 4-6 p.m.
Ms. Riggan is a public school teacher in Nashville who has donated collections of books and videotapes on women in WWII to the Women's Studies program and has donated her research collection to the Gore Center. She was recently featured on Tennessee Crossroads.

MARCH 9

Keynote Speaker: Winona LaDuke
KUC Theater, 3:00-4:30 p.m.
An internationally renowned Native American

activist and advocate for environmental, women's and children's rights, LaDuke is founder and co-chair of the Indigenous Women's Network and founder and campaign director of the White Earth Land Recovery Project, a reservation-based land acquisition/environmental advocacy. Reception following.

MARCH 10

"The U.S. Military and Asian Women"
JUB, Room 100, 3:00 p.m.
Dr. Jid Lee, professor of English, MTSU, lecturing on a global community issue in this talk on the problems Asian women have encountered with military personnel from the United States. Reception to follow.

MARCH 11

Breakfast of Champions
JUB, Hazlewood Dining Room, 7:30-9:30 a.m. (reservation required)
Awarding high school women for accomplishments in science and math. To encourage undergraduate women to major in science and math, MTSU is sponsoring this recognition event for high school teachers and their outstanding students. For reservations, mail \$10.00 to MTSU PO Box X161. Contact: Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross, jiriarte@mtsu.edu, 898-8253.

"Life of a Female Journalist"
BAS, State Farm Room 102, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Panelists Alanna Nash, Holly George Warren, and Jan Uhelzki tell of their lives as journalists in the music business.

"Diverse Dialog on Gender: Perspectives from Influential Women in the Social Sciences"
Cason-Kennedy Nursing Bldg., Room 107, 3-4:30 p.m.
Presenters: Jackie Eller, Ida Fadzhil, Heidi Altman, Vicky Maclean, and Ed Kick, all of Sociology and Anthropology, MTSU.

MARCH 12

"Perspectives of Women in Pharmacy"
BAS, State Farm Room 102, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
MTSU Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) will lead a panel of women professionals in the pharmaceutical field. They will present their perspectives on being a woman in this growing area and about the challenges women face when moving from the academic world into the work force. After brief initial statements, the panel will invite questions and discussion from the audience about careers in the pharmaceutical field. Reception to follow.

MARCH 12

"Deconstructing Culture Shock: Examining Fieldwork from a Gendered Perspective"
JUB, Room 100, 2-4 p.m.
A panel consisting of Ida Fadzhil, MTSU; Heidi Altman, MTSU; Donna Murdock, Sewanee; and William Leggett. Co-sponsored by Sociology and Anthropology Dept. and NWHM.

MARCH 17

"Advancing Women in Science" WMST Research Series, JUB, Room 100, 3:30 p.m.
Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross and Dr. Nicole Turrill Welch, speakers.

"Nice Girls Don't Sweat" Performance
Tucker Theatre, 7 p.m.
Jane Curry presents an entertaining look at the history of women in sports. A slide show of MTSU athletes will also be presented. Reception to follow.

MARCH 18

"From Combat Boots to Beauty Queen to Bounty Huntress" KUC Theater, 11 a.m.-noon
MTSU alumna Leah Hulan discusses her efforts as a U.S. army officer in military intelligence, a Miss America and Miss USA beauty pageant contestant, and business owner in bail enforcement alongside tales of her successful struggle to overcome a serious eating disorder.

"Women in Pain: Where It Hurts and What You Can Do"
CKNB 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Dr. Suzanne S. Prevost, RN, PhD., speaker. Dr. Prevost holds the National HealthCare Chair of Excellence in Nursing at MTSU, where she was recognized as one of the Outstanding Faculty Researchers for 2003. She also serves as a visiting professor in nursing doctoral program at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Prevost has worked as an ICU staff nurse, clinical nurse specialist, nursing administrator, and consultant.

MARCH 31

Women's International Poetry Reading
Alumni Center, 4 p.m.
People of different nationalities read poems in their native languages and provide English translations.

Detailed schedules are available in the JAWC, located on the second floor of the JUB, as well as the Women's Studies office, located in Peck Hall, Room 109B.

Month: Renowned speakers, academics to present research on status of women

Continued from 1

Holly George Warren and Jan Uhelzki will participate in a panel discussion called "Life of a Female Journalist" from 3:30 until 5 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room 102. The women will discuss their experiences as journalists in the music business.

A performance March 17 in

Tucker Theatre will look at the history of women in sports. The "Nice Girls Don't Sweat" performance will be followed by a slideshow of MTSU athletes and a reception. The performance begins at 7 p.m.

All month, photographs by Susan Bowen, a digital photo artist in New York, will be on display at the Baldwin Photographic Gallery in the

Learning Resources Center.

The exhibit is called "Expanded Realities," and it consists of color and black-and-white murals of urban life in widths up to 8 feet. Bowen will speak about her photos April 5 in the LRC, Room 221, at 7:30 p.m.

Also throughout the month, a NWHM exhibit will be on display in the JUB lobby. ♦

will be the one?

Who

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TV network would show Legislature at work

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A bill pending in the state Legislature would create a statewide TV station similar to C-SPAN for broadcasting live legislative sessions, committee meetings and other state government news.

But some lawmakers and the cable industry oppose the idea of a T-SPAN station.

"There are certain legislators, senators in particular, once they know they are on television will not shut up," Memphis Sen. Steve Cohen told *The Tennessean* newspaper. "It will extend the session time consid-

erably. It will make the tedium quotient go up tremendously. It will just be show business, people playing to the cameras and acting."

The bill is pending in Senate State and Local Government Committee, of which Cohen is chairman.

The legislation is sponsored by state Sen. Joe Haynes of Goodlettsville, chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus, and House Majority Leader Kim



Haynes

McMillan of Clarksville, at the request of Karlen Evins, co-host of Teddy Bart's *Roundtable*, a political and government-oriented radio show.

"We believe the public has the right to see what we are doing here in Nashville," said McMillan, D-Clarksville.

She acknowledged that the legislation lacks many specifics, including how much such a network would cost.

Haynes said it would be very difficult to accomplish the desired result without support from the cable industry.

Under the bill, each cable company with at least 13 channels would have to give up one

of its channels to have a T-SPAN station.

"I had a brief meeting with some folks who represent the cable folks, and I don't think they are particularly warm to the idea unless we are willing to pay for it," Haynes said.

Stacey Briggs, president and CEO of the Tennessee Cable Association, said the proposal would violate the Federal Cable Act.

"The bill would mandate programming content, and that is strictly prohibited," Briggs said.

Networks in other states are put together on a volunteer basis and that is legal, she said.

John Farris, lobbyist for the association, said the association will continue to work with the legislative leadership on the issue.

"We think working with the leadership of the House and Senate on a voluntary basis to broadcast what they want to have broadcast and how they want to have it broadcast is the best way to do it," Farris said.

Despite Cohen's concerns about the proposed station, McMillan said Tennesseans should have an unedited look at state government.

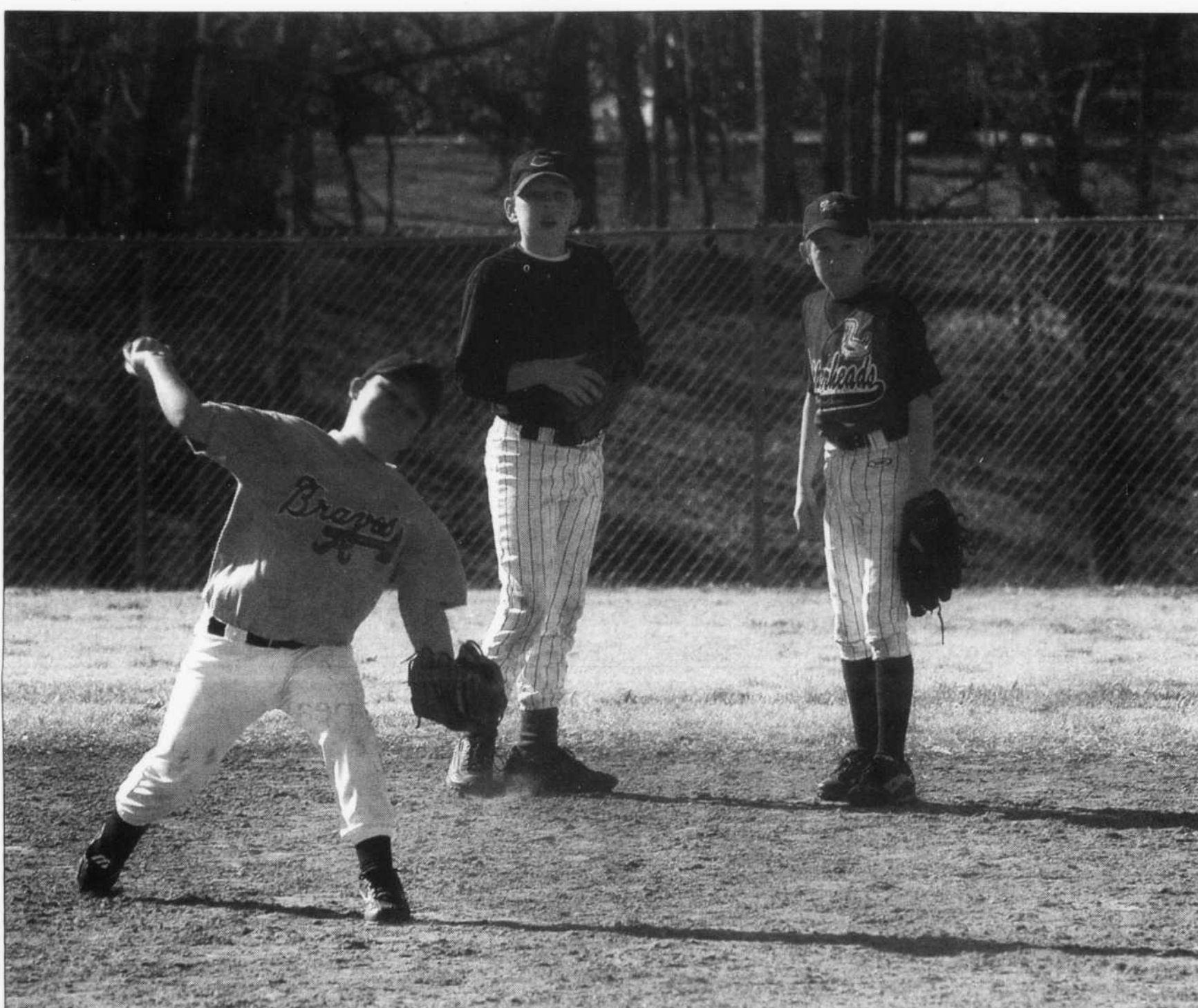
The House has already started live-streaming its sessions and committee meetings on the

Internet, but that only provides access to people with computers and Internet service. Television by far is the better way to do it, she said.

The legislation states that all citizens "would benefit immensely from expanded, unedited broadcast of the public proceedings and deliberations of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of state government in Tennessee."

It also says the public, in this era of increasing threats to national security, needs reliable, immediate access to announcements by the Tennessee Office of Homeland Security and other emergency agencies. ♦

Play ball!



Jacob Herring pitches as Zach Ginn and Zack May look on at their Murfreesboro Copperheads Little League practice yesterday. Copperheads head coach Jarrett England, a 2003 graduate of MTSU, is a former MTSU baseball player.

Photo by Julie Mabewell | Staff Photographer

Maney Avenue study unveiled

By Simon Lynn
Staff Writer

Recently unveiled, the Maney Avenue Comprehensive Plan is among the most recent proposals aimed at revitalizing the residential district near the city Square.

The Murfreesboro City Council recently approved funding for the hire of Doug Tennant, along with the firm Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon, to aid in the preparation of the Maney Avenue Comprehensive Plan. The plan includes a study of Maney Avenue and the surrounding neighborhood to assess current conditions and recommend strategies for overall community improvement.

The focus of the plan includes all of the older residential area north and east of the Murfreesboro Public Square, not just Maney Avenue. The plan's first phase involves improvements in the area's infrastructure.

If approved, new construction on the roads and surrounding streetscape will be among the first changes made. A new police substation would also be added at the Patterson Park Community Center.

When asked about the need for the new substation, Doug Demassy of the city's Planning and Engineering Department said that although there are already substations nearby, a new one would increase the visibility of police presence in the area.

Though the plan does not make any changes to the current zoning of the area, it does call for the creation of a Maney Avenue Urban Design Overlay district.

This district would overlay the current zoning districts allowing for "special uses" of some property involved. The intention behind the overlay district is primarily to insure standards for the integrity and compatibility of new or redeveloped structures in the area.

Along with this compatibility, "a more stringent maintenance and codes enforcement program" would be put into effect.

This program would also add to the overall redevelopment and visual revitalization of the properties involved.

Finally, the Maney Avenue Comprehensive Plan is intended to bring the money and financing necessary to make these changes.

"The plan calls for the creation of several programs which would provide funding sources that would be available to assist the community with the development in this area," Demassy said.

Such programs as the Community Development Corporation and the South Maney Redevelopment District would be organized locally

See Maney, 4

Blaze boys take district

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

Blackman High won one 7-AAA district title and finished runner up in the other one on Friday night.

In the boys' final, the Blaze defeated Lebanon 57-42 to clinch their second consecutive 7-AAA title Friday night at White County High.

Blackman, who beat Oakland 63-60 in the semifinals on Thursday, took control of the game in the 4th quarter expanding the close seven-point advantage to 20. The Blaze converted on their first seven shots to put the game away.

Isaiah Phillips had 19 points to top the Blaze, while Kris Lee added 15.

Lebanon, who defeated Riverdale 46-43 in the other semifinal on Thursday, was led by Andrew Donald and Arkee Grooms with 10 points apiece in the loss.

The Blue Devils end their season at 19-13, while Blackman improves to 21-9.

Oakland took 3rd place with a dominating victory over Riverdale 75-40. Ro Murray had 19 points for the Patriots.

Next week is the Region 4-AAA tournament with the first round at the higher-seeded court on Tuesday night. The top four teams from both

Districts 7 and 8 will face each other.

The semifinals and finals will take place on Wednesday and Thursday at the Murphy Center.

On the girls' side, Cookeville prevented a Blackman sweep with a 55-47 win on Friday night. The Lady Cavs also became back-to-back District champions with Cara Reed scoring 28 points.

Reed, who was named 7-AAA District Player of the Year, had 11 points in the opening quarter. Cookeville jumped out to a 14-2 lead and held on to it. The Blaze decreased the advantage to one (46-45) with 1:29 to go in the game. However, the Lady Cavs sealed the title with a 9-2 run.

Cookeville got to the finals with a 45-42 win over Oakland on Thursday night, while Blackman defeated White County 64-48.

Jennifer Gregory led the Blaze with 11 points.

The Lady Cavs improve to 23-10, while Blackman drops to 18-12.

Earlier that night, Oakland defeated White County in overtime 71-61 in the 3rd place game. Taran Hayes had 25 points for the Lady Patriots, and Tara Davis added 22.

Tonight, first round action takes place in the Girls' Region 4-AAA tournament at the

Regional Match-ups

- Dist. 8 No. 4 Franklin County (13-11) at Dist. 7 No. 1 Blackman (21-9)
- Dist. 7 No. 3 Oakland (20-7) at Dist. 8 No. 2 Lawrence County (22-9)
- Dist. 7 No. 4 Riverdale (24-8) at Dist. 8 No. 1 Shelbyville (24-5)
- Dist. 8 No. 3 Columbia (16-14) at Dist. 7 No. 2 Lebanon (19-13)

First Round Games

- Dist. 8 No. 4 Columbia (15-14) at Dist. 7 No. 1 Cookeville (23-10)
- Dist. 7 No. 3 Oakland (21-6) at Dist. 8 No. 2 Coffee County (15-14)
- Dist. 7 No. 4 White Co. (22-9) at Dist. 8 No. 1 Shelbyville (24-5)
- Dist. 8 No. 3 Lawrence Co. (20-11) at Dist. 7 No. 2 Blackman (18-12)

higher seed. The semi-finals and finals will be held at the Murphy Center.

Shelbyville has won nine Class AAA state titles, including last year's. ♦

Men arrested with two 9mms

By David Paulson
Staff Writer

Two men were arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a weapon after police searched their car at a traffic stop Friday.

Police pulled the vehicle over on Church Street after it failed to come to a complete stop at a stop sign. After speaking with the driver and obtaining consent to search the vehicle, officers found two loaded 9mm pistols. Two of the car's passengers claimed ownership of the weapons. The second suspect was also charged with criminal impersonation after admitting that he gave police a fake name.

Three Dell laptop computers valued at \$5,000 each were stolen from a Hyde Park office building Wednesday.

John Hudson, regional supervisor of the business, told police that all laptops were accounted for when securing the office at 6:30 p.m. the previous evening. Upon returning to the office Wednesday morning, all doors were locked and dead-bolted. The office doesn't have a video camera or security system.

Hudson also told police that a cleaning service came to

the office every evening. Police obtained contact information for the cleaning service. No suspects have been named and no arrests have been made.

An attempted theft was reported at Hollywood Video on Old Fort Parkway Wednesday evening. Store manager Jeremy Bryant observed the suspect, a young white male, attempting to peel the plastic covers off of three games.

Bryant told the suspect, "You're going to have to come with me."

The suspect shoved the games into Bryant's hands and ran for the door. Bryant called 911 while employee Beth Farley followed the suspect to the parking lot.

The suspect reportedly stated, "You're not taking my (expletive) license. I'm not going to (expletive) jail."

The suspect then ripped the license plate off of his car, telling the employees, "I won't do it again. I'll stop doing it now," and drove away.

Bryant told Murfreesboro police that the store had been having similar thefts for the past three or four months. He also stated that the store would prosecute the suspect if he was located. ♦

Vought to close Nashville plant

By James Nix
Staff Writer

Vought Aircraft Industries announced Thursday morning it will close its Nashville plant, which employs about 1,000 workers, to consolidate its operations.

Vought, the largest privately owned airplane parts manufacturer in the United States, will also close its Stuart, Fla., plant, which employs roughly 375 workers and move operations from both sites to the company's Dallas, Texas, location. The move will take place over the next 18 to 36 months, and all employees will be offered the chance to relocate to Dallas with benefits. Those who choose not to move will be given completion bonuses and a severance package.

"Today, our company takes a new direction ... to modernize our facilities and position ourselves for the future," said Vought's President and Chief Executive Officer Tom Risley in a press release.

The decision is based largely on the acquisition of a \$35 million grant from the Texas Enterprise Fund, administered by the office of Texas Gov. Rick Perry. The fund is expected to aid Vought in its consolidation and create roughly 3,000 jobs in Texas by 2009. Another incentive for the move to Dallas is the planned reopening of a nearby runway that will be privately used by Vought to facilitate the

delivery of large airplane parts.

In Nashville, local authorities tried to respond to the company's needs with training incentives and capital investments, according to Nancy Eisenbrandt, senior vice president of business services for the Nashville area chamber of commerce. In the end, the company decided the \$35 million grant and the Dallas facility were better for its future.

"We're obviously disappointed," Eisenbrandt said. "It's a big loss."

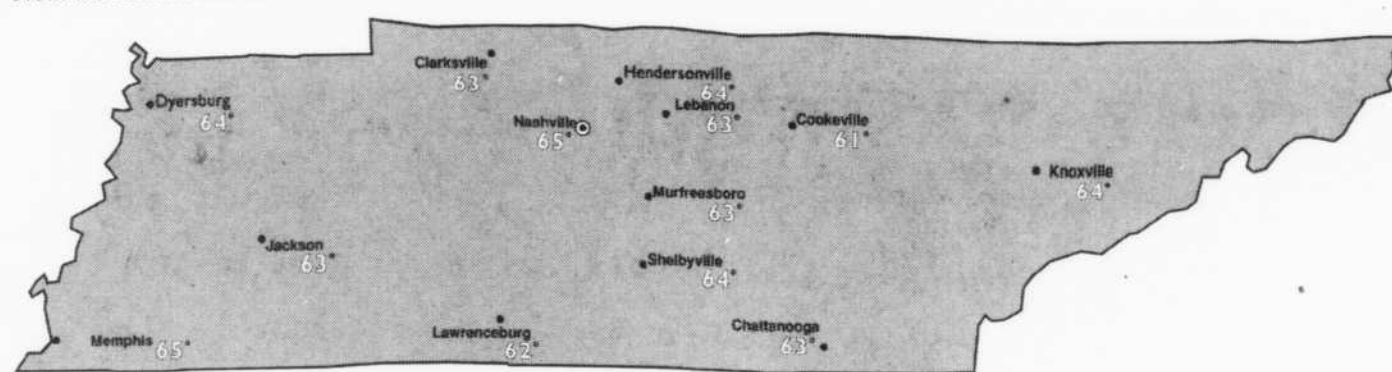
Both Eisenbrandt and Risley agreed the ongoing downturn in the airline industry is a major factor in Vought's move to cut excess facility costs and consolidate its resources.

At one time, the Nashville plant, which makes wing components and tail sections, employed as many as 5,000 workers, according to Eisenbrandt. But the lack of new contracts from companies such as Airbus and Gulfstream has caused a large portion of the 2 million square-foot plant to go unused. Also, the Stuart plant has suffered due to recent cutbacks in the Boeing 767 Tanker program.

Vought's headquarters are in Dallas. The company makes wings, fuselage subassemblies and other components for major aircraft manufacturers. Vought employs about 6,000 people in its seven U.S. plants, and its annual sales reach approximately \$1.2 billion. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Maney: Input desired from citizens

Continued from 3

while Community Development Block Grant housing rehab would be obtained federally and Tennessee Housing Development Agency funds would come from the State.

Throughout the organization of the Maney Avenue Comprehensive Plan, public input has been of chief concern. Input was gathered early in the organizing process during sessions at Bradley Elementary

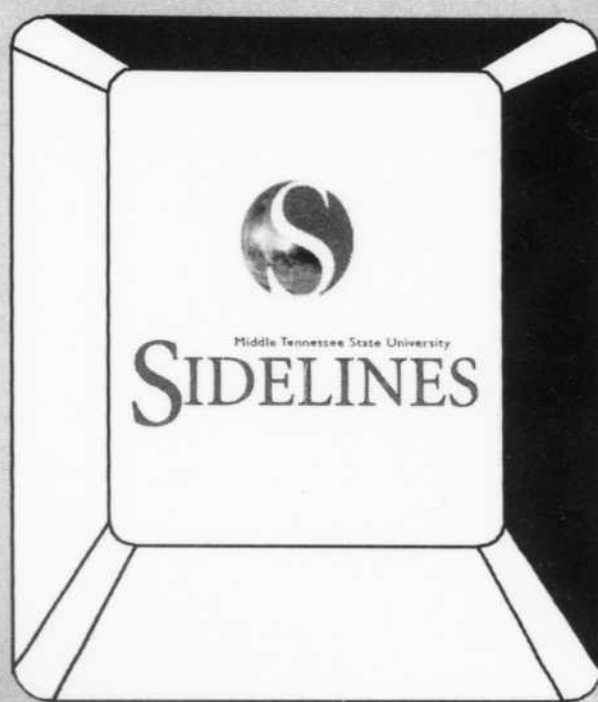
School, the First Presbyterian Church and AME Allen Chapel.

Additional input has been encouraged by the city. Public meetings have been scheduled for March 10 in the Rotunda at City Hall at 111 West Vine St. and March 24 with the Planning Commission in the Council Chambers also at City Hall.

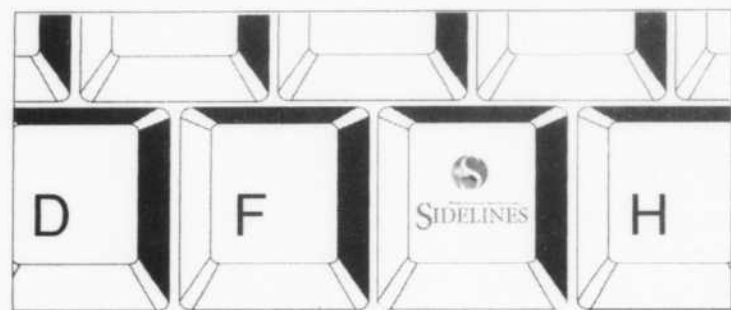
Both meetings are at 7 p.m. A copy of the plan can be examined through the City's Web site at murfreesborotn.gov. ♦

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Alice Ruth Wisecarver
Tammy Lynn Womack
Sean Allen Zemek

From the Editorial Board

Operation: Full House a resounding success

Despite an early-morning snowfall, Murphy Center was filled with screaming fans in blue for the men's basketball game against in-conference rival Western Kentucky University Thursday.

The Blue Raiders defeated the Hilltoppers in front of a record-breaking crowd of 11,807. The game was known as Operation: Full House, an effort driven by retired professor Aaron Todd, who wanted to see Murphy Center full.

It was a sight to behold — people of all ages cheering on the Blue Raiders and our peers searching for a place to sit in the rapidly-filling student section.

The kind of support the MTSU and Murfreesboro communities exhibited is exactly what this school needs.

Sure, people have been shouting "Support the Blue Raiders" in a "Be True to Your School" fashion, but seeing it in action really demonstrated what this school and this city are capable of.

Now that Operation: Full House has ended on a successful note, we hope this wasn't in vain. If 11,807 people were willing to come out on Thursday, surely we can amass at least half that number at future games.

Tonight, the Blue Raiders take on Florida International. Regardless of whether or not you were one of the 11,807, take some time to see the men in action at 7 p.m.

Teams may not expect Murphy Center to be a hard place to play, but perhaps we can change that. Seeing more than 11,000 people screaming, cheering and on their feet was truly amazing — not to mention an unwelcoming atmosphere for the Hilltoppers.

Thursday, the Blue Raiders proved they have what it takes to play in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, and the fans proved they have what it takes to be along for the ride.

It's almost time for March Madness, and who better to bring the madness to Kentucky than a following of Blue Raider fans. ♦

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines' occasional watch for mutton-heads.

If you're ever in New Hampshire, don't worry about those first couple driving while intoxicated offenses. It appears Johnny Law only gets serious after three DWIs in three weeks.

Take Barbara Murray of Gilmanton Iron Works, N.H. First convicted of DWI in 2002, she continued to drive legally. Her terror streak really started on Feb. 4 of this year, however.

The road wasn't wide enough for Murray that night. Like a Silverado commercial gone horribly awry, she took off road, almost hit a barn and escaped just before her truck burst into flames (all that being proof, of course, that you really can't hit the broad side of a barn while drunk). She was charged with a DWI that evening, but because of an interesting New Hampshire law, she got to keep her license for 30 days, pending her hearing.

Less than a week later, Murray performed her encore. She, in a new truck, was found stuck in a ditch, and she was arrested on a DWI charge. But guess what? She got to keep driving.

On Wednesday, now in truck number three, she was charged once again with DWI after she was spotted swerving on



a state highway at 10 p.m.

That would be her last chance, at least for a while, to endanger the lives of everyone in town. At a hearing on Thursday, she was arraigned and sent to the New Hampshire State Prison for Women for the Feb. 4 and Feb. 10 charges after the judge set bail at \$30,000.

Now, we could focus on the woman and wonder why on earth anyone would be so inconsiderate as to operate a vehicle while intoxicated every week. But there's a bigger question here.

What can be done if a person's committing crimes too fast for the legal system to keep up?

If a person has an arrest and is waiting on that hearing, why not throw her in the tank overnight and have a hearing the next day?

She'd do a lot less harm in a holding cell than she would racking up her fourth, fifth or sixth DWI. ♦

Original story from citizen.com, posted Saturday.

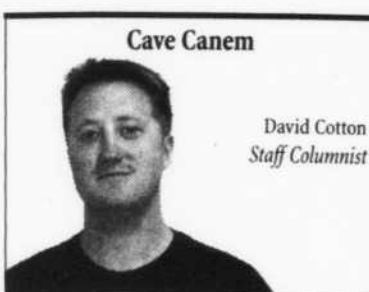
With film or faith, keep open mind

Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* has arrived in theaters, and despite rumors of anti-Semitism and intense gore, audiences are flocking to see it. Reviews are mixed, though the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as the film company Dreamworks, have retracted previous criticisms about its anti-Semitism.

Of course, that may have less to do with the movie's content and more to do with its public popularity. Setting a \$26.6 million record for a non-summer or winter holiday release, the film has taken on the aspect of a cinematic evangelist revival, with churches renting out entire theaters for group viewings.

And that's what scares some people. Jewish advocacy groups such as the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee feel the film carries a hostile message toward Jews and could encourage hate crimes. Abraham Foxman, the Anti-Defamation League's national director, believes the film returns to a prejudiced view of Jews as those responsible for killing Christ.

There is certainly historical precedence for the ADL's fear. Passion plays and depictions of Jesus' suffering, death and resur-



Cave Canem

David Cotton
Staff Columnist

rection, in the past, sometimes led to violence against local Jewish communities. Hitler praised a passion play in Bavaria for portraying the "menace of Jewry."

In the Middle Ages, fervent Crusaders heading to war with the Muslims did a little crusading on the side on the way, either forcibly converting or massacring any nearby Jews. It's easy to see why Christian zeal holds little favor in Jewish history.

Assuming this film, a cinematic version of a passion play, will have similar malevolent results prematurely accuses Christians today of the sins of their ancestors.

It's unfair to portray moviegoers with faith as potentially dangerous Christian mobs. Accusations of hate should be based upon clearly overt statements or actions, not religious or artistic interpretations.

After Denver, Colo., pastor Maurice Gordon placed the message "Jews Killed The Lord Jesus"

on his church sign this week, I realize fairness goes out the window the minute the first mob appears.

Perhaps it's the politicization of the film, more than the message, that raises concerns. The movie has been marketed to, and marketed by, the religious right. While Christian representatives were given early screenings, Jewish ones weren't. In fairness, I'm not sure how many Jewish professions of faith invite early Christian access and critique, but movies aren't exactly church rituals, either. Gibson's prerelease actions assured controversy.

And maybe that's the point. Gibson's new persecuted Christian persona hides an amazing marketing genius. Having invested \$25 million of his own funds in this project, he's already recouped his investment before the film's first weekend showing, proving the old adage that no publicity is bad publicity.

Whether suspecting the worst or the best from the film, potential viewers are very curious about it.

Roger Ebert wrote an insightful and positive review of the film for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. While calling it "the most violent film I have ever seen," he applauds its artistic vision and judges it on "what it intends to do, not on what I think

it should have done." He also refers to another cinematic depiction of Jesus he is fond of, Martin Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

This points to some hypocrisy on the part of the religious right. When Scorsese's film was released, the religious right, often without viewing the film, effectively stopped its release in many parts of the country.

Ironically, both films took similar approaches. They both chose a realistic approach to the Christian who Christ, while on Earth, was indeed human. While the religious right seems to relish in depictions of Jesus' very human suffering of physical pain in *The Passion of the Christ*, they were offended by a Jesus facing any other forms of human tribulations. Maybe now that a religious interpretation they find appealing has been trashed prematurely, they won't be so ready to do the same to the interpretations of others.

Maybe it's time to set aside political-correct avoidance and confront issues of faith, both critically and with understanding. Let's just try to be more open-minded than easily offended. ♦

David Cotton is a graduate student and is reached via e-mail at dpc2b@mtsu.edu.

Liberals too intolerant

Tolerance: a word that sounds so soothing to the ear, yet recently has left many of our ears burning. To some Americans, tolerance has become a code word for promoting liberal ideology while stifling Christian values or the free practice thereof.

In a public school in Wisconsin, children were allowed to exchange Valentines of all varieties, including boy band *NSYNC and Britney Spears. That is, all varieties except those that said "Fully Rely on God" or "Jesus Loves You."

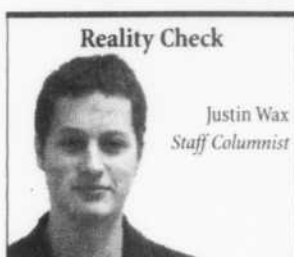
Eight-year-old Morgan Nyman was told she couldn't pass out Valentines with this message because the school's district attorney concluded it "violates the separation of church and state and would be unconstitutional ... for us to do so."

Unconstitutional? Liberals enjoy spouting the "separation of church" line, but I've got news for them. "Separation of church and state" doesn't exist in the Constitution. Most Americans would agree we're governed by the Constitution and its amendments. So why must we strictly adhere to a phrase that doesn't even appear in either one?

The First Amendment actually states "that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

This amendment, known as the establishment clause, means we're guaranteed the freedom of religion. Those on the left seem to believe they're guaranteed freedom from religion, especially when it applies to Christianity.

I recommend reading the Constitution and its



Reality Check

Justin Wax
Staff Columnist

amendments. I'm afraid to know how many of my colleagues have used the "separation of church and state" line yet have never read the Constitution.

Do you think forbidding an eight-year-old to pass out Christian Valentines is in accordance with the First Amendment? Clearly this school was prohibiting a child from freely exercising her religion.

Ah yes, there are many "Christophobes" on the left. The people who preach tolerance are the same folks who are so intolerant of Christianity.

Christophobes are in attack mode over *The Passion of the Christ*. They've screamed Jewish intolerance. But the left-wingers just aren't getting away with that one. *The Passion* is already a colossal success.

Another reality check for liberals: if you want to see a real case of Jewish intolerance, go to Lebanon (the country) and tell everyone you're a Jew. If you survive Beirut, you'll have a taste of anti-Semitism.

The same liberals who accuse Mel Gibson of intolerance are the same people who say nothing about the savagery of homicide bombers in Jerusalem.

According to The American Heritage dictionary, tolerance is "the capacity for or the practice of recognizing and respecting the beliefs or practices of others." However, many public

school officials believe they're exempt from this definition when it applies to Christianity.

In his book *Persecution: How Liberals are Waging War Against Christianity*, New York Times best-selling author David Limbaugh documents definitive evidence of the left's assault on Christian America.

Limbaugh, who is also a lawyer, conveys the story of six high school students who were suspended from school for passing out candy canes with a Christian message. I can accept suspension for drugs, guns and violence, but candy canes?

A Zogby poll released late last year found that most Americans believed a more religious society would help their country. However, some intolerant Christophobes on the left are obstructing the will of most Americans.

Liberals can get away with a lot of this intolerance because many of them occupy the courts. These liberal judges, who could never win an election or answer to the people, push their left-wing agenda through the court system.

An example is the 9th "Circuit" Court of Appeals that ruled the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional for including the words "under God." To counter these far left rulings, we must re-elect a president who will continue to install reasonable Americans into the judiciary and stop Christophobia and real intolerance dead in its tracks. ♦

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

Serotonin proves integral chemical

Serotonin is a remarkable transmitter, but why do people call it the "Neurotransmitter of the 90s?"

Did they just figure out what serotonin can do? I don't think so. This is very interesting because the chemical affects so much of our mental life, which some people are not aware of. It has been proven that most suicide victims have low serotonin levels. Scientists studied brain tissue from the frontal cortex and have found people are born with what they call a "suicidal brain." Serotonin imbalance can also lead to obsessive-compulsive disorder.

It's amazing they can fix these serotonin problems with drugs called anti-depressants. Something so complex as the brain can have such a simple solution.

That pops in my mind is how many people have had mental problems because of the serotonin nerve fibers they've destroyed by using street drugs. I would think the number is high, and more than likely some may have only tried them once.

Some people self-medicate because they have chemical imbalances. In any case, street drugs don't help but harm your mental functioning.

Serotonin not only affects your emotions and mental processes, but it also affects your sex hormones and aids in learning as well. These two things are important



Kacey's Corner

Kacey Hercules
Staff Columnist

in human survival.

If we look at serotonin in this way, we can see it has a very important part in how and if we live. It affects mood, sleep and appetite, according to a report on biopsychiatry.com.

Too much serotonin in the brain can disturb rapid eye movement sleep, when we dream.

There are other chemicals in the brain that play a part in explaining the different areas and problems I've discussed, but serotonin plays so many roles, which is why I consider it the most interesting.

It's always good to understand more about the issues and treatments surrounding this chemical. Millions of people have an imbalance of chemicals, and it affects each person in different ways.

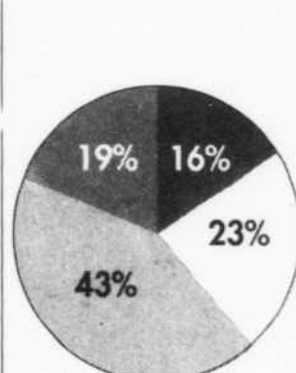
I wish more people would take the time to understand the problem rather than being ashamed of it.

If you think you may have a chemical imbalance, visit your doctor or stop by health services. They will be glad to help you. ♦

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

Sidelines online poll results

Last week we asked readers, "Should Ralph Nader actively pursue the presidency?" Here's what you had to say:



- ☒ Yes, Run, Nader, Run
- ☐ Yes, Win, Bush, Win
- ☐ No, Screw, Bush, Screw
- ☐ No, (What's wrong with a plain "No?")

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FAKE IDs

Fake identification owners risk jail time

By Adam Parker
Staff Writer

Fake IDs give people under 21 the opportunity to drink whatever they want — right now.

In the shadows and corners of our society, fake IDs are passed under the table to these thirsty youngsters, usually from their older friends.

"Most of the fake IDs around here are where people borrow their friends' IDs," Officer David L. Harrison of the Murfreesboro Police Department says.

But this is just one of many methods.

The most crucial element of a fake ID is the birthday, which tells the cashier or bartender whether or not the owner of the ID is of the legal age of 21 or older.

Other elements of the ID, such as the picture, expiration date and hologram (on the newest cards) are all deciding factors in whether or not the IDs are accepted or rejected at local bars and convenience stores.

"There are good fake ones and there are bad fake ones," Harrison says. "By all means, the good fake ones are a little harder to come across."

Hard — but not impossible. A 19-year-old freshman recounts the complicated process that took place in the "employees only" part of a New York smokeshop where she got her ID made.

"You walk in and they pull a blue sheet behind you, take your picture and put it back up," she says. "Then they go to a back room, which is locked, they scan the picture, get your information and crop your picture. They print any birthday you want onto the card."

She claims that she has the best fake ID money can buy because it has the hologram that indicates that the ID is, in fact, not a fake. The hologram is the one detail missing from most fake IDs. Of course exclusive features like this don't come cheap.

To her, the freedom she gets from using the card is well worth its \$100 price tag.

"I drink a lot. If I didn't drink there would be a problem," she says, adding that she uses the card on a daily basis.

So does her younger sister. "My sister is 16. She's been 21 since age 13," she says.

There are also many ingenious low-tech methods of creating a fake ID.

"What I did when I was younger was cut out the really fine numbers from a phone-book and glue them on my card, and stick it in my wallet through the see-thru plastic," Turner, a pre-engineering sophomore says.

With a scanner, your picture, the right computer program and a printer, you can make your own fake ID.

Blue Schall, the cashier at the Shell on North Tennessee and Greenland already knows that trick, so she checks to see if the card is printed on paper, as opposed to the plastic used in official IDs.

"I tell them to take it [the card] out. If they refuse to take it out, it's a dead giveaway," Schall says. If that happens, she refuses to sell alcohol to the customer.

Rusty Stephens, the doorman at The Boro Bar and Grill, who has checked IDs for the past two years, confiscates the fakes when he finds them.

"Everybody told me that fake IDs were really bad around



Illustration By Brandon Morrison | Staff illustrator

Those caught with fake identification can be written a citation or taken to jail.

here," Stephen says. "So, during my first six months at the Boro; I saved them up. The stack I gave to the cop was about nine inches thick." He estimates that there were about 90 cards in the stack.

What happens if you get caught by a police officer?

"If you're caught drinking underage, don't lie about it," Harrison says.

"We can do one of two things — write somebody a ticket or take him to jail."

"If they're honest about [underage consumption] we're gonna go as easy on them as we

can; we just try to write them a ticket, get them a sober ride home and call it a night. If they try to make things difficult, then more than likely we're gonna take them to jail, and charge them with more than underage drinking," Harrison says.

Another important factor in how the officer treats you depends on what kind of fake ID is in your possession.

If you are caught with an ID that has your picture with bogus data, you will be charged with criminal impersonation, a misdemeanor that's similar to a citation.

If you are caught trying to pass off another person's (even a friend's) ID as your own, you are guilty of identity theft.

Because identity theft has ruined a lot of people's credit recently, it carries a heavier penalty than before, even if used only to purchase alcohol.

"A lot of people are [stealing IDs] for a lot worse reasons than drinking underage, so people drinking underage just get caught in with it," Harrison says.

"If you're caught, we know you're caught. Just admit to it. Take your underage consump-

tion [citation] and we'll confiscate your ID and send it back to the state."

Or, you can argue with the officer.

But just remember that identity theft entails a maximum penalty of 11 months and 29 days in jail.

This leaves you with three choices: don't get a fake ID, don't get caught if you already have one or admit it is fake if you are caught. ♦

Cell phones part of life



Photo Illustration by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

Popular phone features include cameras, expandable keyboards and full-color screens.

By Meg Akers
Staff Writer

Dennis has one with a built in camera. Bobby has one that converts into a full-blown keyboard. Andrea has one with an antenna that lights up like a Christmas tree.

Cell phones come in all shapes and forms.

Everyone has one and they are each dramatically different. But which cell phone, and company, is right for you?

Four of the largest carriers can be found right here in Murfreesboro, on a half-mile strip of Old Fort Parkway.

First is Verizon Wireless, located just in front of Target. Customers observe happy,

busy staff members immediately upon entering the brand new store.

Near the back, a smiling woman at the customer service desk directs questions to the assistant manager, Greg Douglas.

"We are the largest, most advanced wireless network in the country," Douglas says.

With the In-Network, any Verizon user can call another user and not be charged air-time.

"Also, we have unlimited nights and weekends with nights starting at 9 p.m.," Douglas says.

Sounds enticing. "The coolest phone we have is the LG 6000," Douglas con-

tinues. "It's got a built in camera. You can take pictures, e-mail them or save them as wall paper on your phone."

Marco Carvalho, another staff member and an MTSU student, has a few words of his own.

"I like the bartender feature that I have on my phone," Carvalho explains.

"Tinybartender.com," found on any Verizon phone, lists any alcoholic drink and just exactly how to make it. Perfect for any college student bartender.

Across the street and down the road a bit lies T-Mobile and AT&T Wireless.

While T-Mobile would not

See Phones, 7

Student thrives on music, religion

By Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

Poised yet carefree, 19-year-old Alison Parson is on par as she prepares to step out and sing in style tomorrow night at Tucker Theatre.

She'll most assuredly be in the minority gender appearing in the Mr. MTSU Pageant, which is sponsored by Parson's sorority (Chi Omega).

A former beauty queen, the blonde-haired, brown-eyed MTSU sophomore has (sort of) been there before.

No stranger to the pageant stage, she's competed for the title of Miss Tennessee as Miss Bethel Springs. And, she reigned as Miss MTSU for 2003, recently returning her crown this January.

Vocal about her beliefs, she's quick to point out that contestants aren't the dim-witted giggly girls they are often portrayed to be.

"It's not what the stereotypes say it is," she maintains. "All of the girls were really fun, nice and smart. We had a great time."

Music is Parson's primary love, though. The stage is set for that career to take off.

As an artist in that arena, she has performed in a number of settings: at the Liberty Bowl with B.B. King, Talent America in New York and Mass at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France.

In mid-January, she appeared in front of a packed

house at the Wildhorse Saloon in downtown Nashville, where more than \$30,000 was raised for the charity Terra's Angels.

A position for Parson to open for Merle Haggard in Mississippi is also in the works.

"I have known Alison for a long time and she never ceases in impressing me," MTSU senior Andrea Greenway says. "She has a tremendous ability to show her strengths through music. I can't wait to see what she'll do next."

With two albums under her belt, *The Meaning of Life* (a gospel collection) and a self-titled album, Parson perfected playing fiddle and singing songs at an early age.

She began voice lessons when she was only about 11 years old, although she admits she's not so sure of her current fiddle-playing skills.

However, the guitar her dad gave her strikes just the right chord. She plays on occasion, whether it's sitting around strumming or composing lyrics.

"It's hard for me to imagine myself doing anything else," Parson ponders.

"If I can't make a living by singing, I'd like to work helping another artist through marketing or management," Parson says. "And I love kids, so maybe I could work in child care."

Native to the small town of Corinth, Miss., she relates a small town story of how she was discovered: a waitress at a local restaurant overheard a cus-



Parson

tomater talking about the music business.

She told him about Parson, Corinth's very own special star, and slipped the man her gospel album. Manager Larry Roser has had her singing a happy tune ever since.

Her voice is strong and honest, and her music is most often described as a soulful mix, somewhere between the styles of Norah Jones and Faith Hill.

Her many influences include Norah Jones, Cyndi Thomson, Etta James, Eva Cassidy and Sheryl Crow.

The last three albums she bought were titles by Keith Urban, Norah Jones and Eva Cassidy.

And her wide range of musical tastes circles the table. From Nat King Cole and Etta James, some Faith Hill and Tim McGraw, to Metallica and Aerosmith, she absorbs it all.

"I like to make other people happy," she smiles. "Being able to touch people with music is such a special gift. It heals you."

She confesses to having horrible stage fright, but adds that it all disappears when she sees the audience having fun.

She may get stressed out — but she loves it.

See Parson 7

Word Search

P F C I S U M Y W L U D E K
R O A T V T K E J Z M X N L
F T H R S Y A L P B J A T G
S G H I E M O G X B N O E C
I E C N A M R O F R E P R N
N F S R N L A C T O R S T A
G R D D O S J O Q Z A C A D
G D O O W Y L L O H K M I Y
Q C N P T M D S T A G E N V
W E I N T E R M I S S I O N

Word Bank:

Actors	Drama	Lights	Sing
Art	Entertain	Music	Stage
Camera	Hollywood	Performance	
Dance	Intermission	Plays	

Phones: Companies offer various perks

Continued from 6

answer any in-store questions, I did manage to sneak a peek at some of their phones.

The Nokia 3650 is quite a looker. Its circular dial pad, video camera and international capabilities make it the must-have phone for anyone who travels.

AT&T Wireless, right next door, also would not answer questions, but a sales associate gladly took me on a wonderful little tour of all of their phones. Ever wish you could send text messages faster?

Voila – the Nokia 6800 is what you need. It actually turns into a keyboard, home-row keys and all. And, with their large selection of Personal Digital

Assistants, AT&T seems to be the place to be if you are a savvy go-getter.

At Sprint PCS, two sales associates gladly answered questions right there on the sales floor, pulling out their personal cell phones to show me their "cool factors."

"The VM4500 is awesome," Danielle Wolff, also an MTSU student, says. "It's a camera phone and a walkie-talkie all in one."

For those who like a little bit of creativity, the Nokia 3588i has interchangeable covers. When "size matters," try the Samsung VI660 – it only weighs 3.54 ounces.

As a tip, for anyone who

holds a two-year plan with Sprint, if you go in right now, they will give you two months of unlimited service, Wolff says.

There are so many choices of phone and carriers out there. Just be sure you look at their coverage areas in regards to where you do most of your traveling.

Also, be sure to look at their overage charges. Do they charge \$1.50 for each minute over? Do they include roll-over minutes? And most importantly, pick out a phone that suits your lifestyle.

So whether you want a camera, a keyboard, a light-up antenna or just a phone, the stores along Old Fort Parkway are there to meet your needs. ♦

Parson: Gospel singer performs at pageant

Continued from 6

Parson will perform "The First Cut is the Deepest," a current hit by Sheryl Crow, and possibly an original piece as well after the talent portion of tomorrow night's Mr. MTSU event.

And she's quick to give credit where it's due.

"God has really blessed me with the people he puts in my life... I never could have made it this far by myself," Parson says.

To find out more about

Parson, visit her Web site at AlisonParson.com. It contains photos, free downloads, a store and more.

The Mr. MTSU Pageant struts its stuff tomorrow night at 7 p.m. in Tucker Theatre.

For more information call 867-2486. ♦

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Campus Calendar

Monday, March 1

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

Lady Raiders Softball Game
Lady Raider Field
2 p.m.

Honors Lecture Series

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

Friday, March 5

Star Party
"The Vernal Equinox"
Wiser-Patten Science Building
Room 102, 6:30 p.m.
For information, contact
494-8639

Saturday, March 6

American Indian Festival
Through March 7
Livestock Center, 9 a.m.
For information, contact
898-5759

Clavierfest

WMB Music Hall
For information, contact
898-2493

"The Legacy of Stones River"

Alumni Center, 8 a.m.
For information, contact
898-2637

Youth Evangelism Conference

Tucker Theatre, 9:30 a.m.
For information, contact
371-2077

Sunday, March 7

University Orchestra
WMB Music Hall, 3 p.m.
For information, contact
898-2493

Send your campus events to slfeatur@mtsu.edu. ♦

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Softball team travels to Knoxville tomorrow

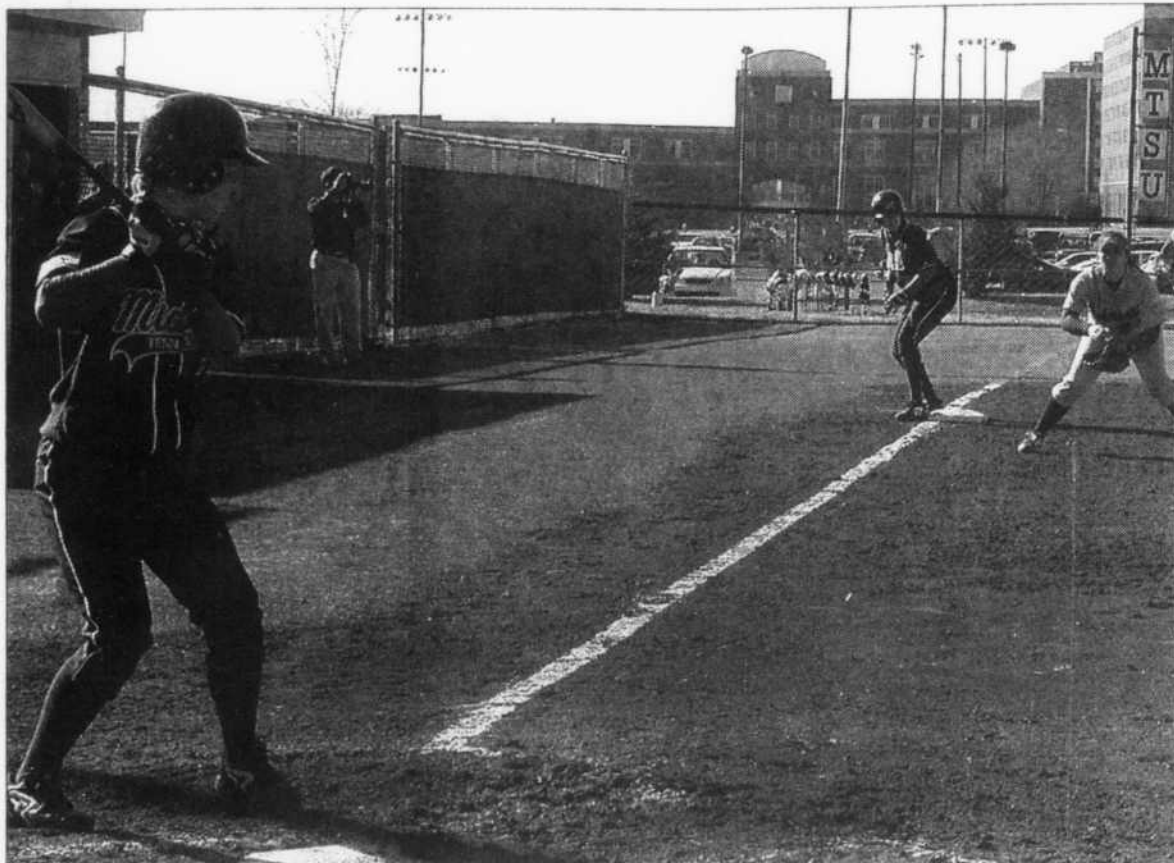


Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

MT sophomore Jennifer Dorais waits on a pitch against Belmont on Feb. 18. MT won 10-0.

By Michael Bailey
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee softball squad travels to Knoxville, Tenn., tomorrow to take on the No. 11 University of Tennessee Lady Vols for the first time since the Lady Vols defeated MT 4-1 in 2000.

"UT is a great local rivalry. In a way, it is a brand new rivalry," Lady Raider head coach Cindy Connelley said. "In fact, the last time I took a team up there, I was coaching basketball."

Despite their lack of recent on-field encounters, Connelley's squad has done their homework on the opponent.

"We respect them," Connelley said. "They have very good speed on offense. They are capable of putting a lot of runs on the board. At the same time, they are backed by an awesome left-handed freshman, Monica Abbott. She has a rise ball and a curve that are second to none."

To date, Abbott has won twice as many games (16) as the Blue Raiders have played (8) going into the doubleheader.

The Lady Raiders plan to counter the freshman phenom, who has tossed seven shutouts in the premature stages of this season, by sending their number one starter, junior UT transfer Crystal Bobo, to the hill.

Like Abbott, Bobo has been tough on opposing offenses' output as well, averaging more than one strikeout per inning. Aside from the two ace pitchers' individual successes, there are some striking differences between the two squads.

The Lady Vols have traveled to Texas, Hawaii and California so far and have taken advantage of the warmer climates to get more than 20 games under their belt, while MT is using the games as a measuring stick for both its individual components and the group as a whole.

"They opened the season in Hawaii, when we were snowed out at home," Connelley said.

"Half of our team is new faces, and we are still trying to put people in positions," Connelley added.

"We are looking to lock into a rhythm for our conference schedule where we will have to play Louisiana-Lafayette."

ULL, No. 8, is currently ranked ahead of UT nationally.

The Lady Raiders hope this game rekindles a promising in-state rival between the two schools due to good competition and a unique opportunity. The Lady Raiders have signed a pact to bring UT to Murfreesboro in 2005.

"Playing UT begins a big week for us," Connelley said. "We want to go up there and take two games." ♦

Operation: Full House brings fans together

By Jared Hastings
Staff Columnist

A little more than a year ago, in these hallowed pages, I wrote an article about the importance of sports. Well, forget what I said, but not what I meant.

Thursday night, those of us who were at the game were reminded that sports are important. Sports can unite.

Sports can feed the spirit. Aaron Todd is proof of that. Operation Full House was a success.

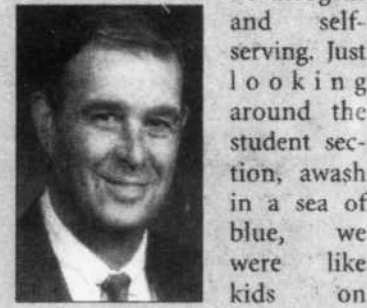
"You know I thought the student section at LSU, when it was right, was about as rowdy as it gets," Blue Raider head coach Kermit Davis said. "But that was unbelievable. They didn't sit down the entire night. They were organized and intimidating. It was great."

In a way, I suppose it could be said that we helped fulfill Todd's wish of seeing the Murphy Center filled to capacity.

It could be said, but it would be arrogant and self-serving. Just looking around the student section, awash in a sea of blue, we were like kids on



Davis



Todd Christmas.

In providing the student body, and those around Murfreesboro, Tenn., with the motivation for attending Thursday's game, Todd is the one who should be thanked.

If only for a night, we found out what the students at schools like Kentucky, Duke, Arizona and many other "major" schools already know: what big time basketball is all about.

Is Middle Tennessee in the Top 25? Not yet. Neither is Western Kentucky.

Only one of those schools could possibly make the NCAA tournament in March. But that's not important.

That was a big time atmosphere. That was a rowdy gym. That would be intimidating to anyone. That was how it should be.

Thank you Aaron Todd. See you at the game on Monday. ♦

Blue Raiders defeat WKU amidst crowd of 11,807

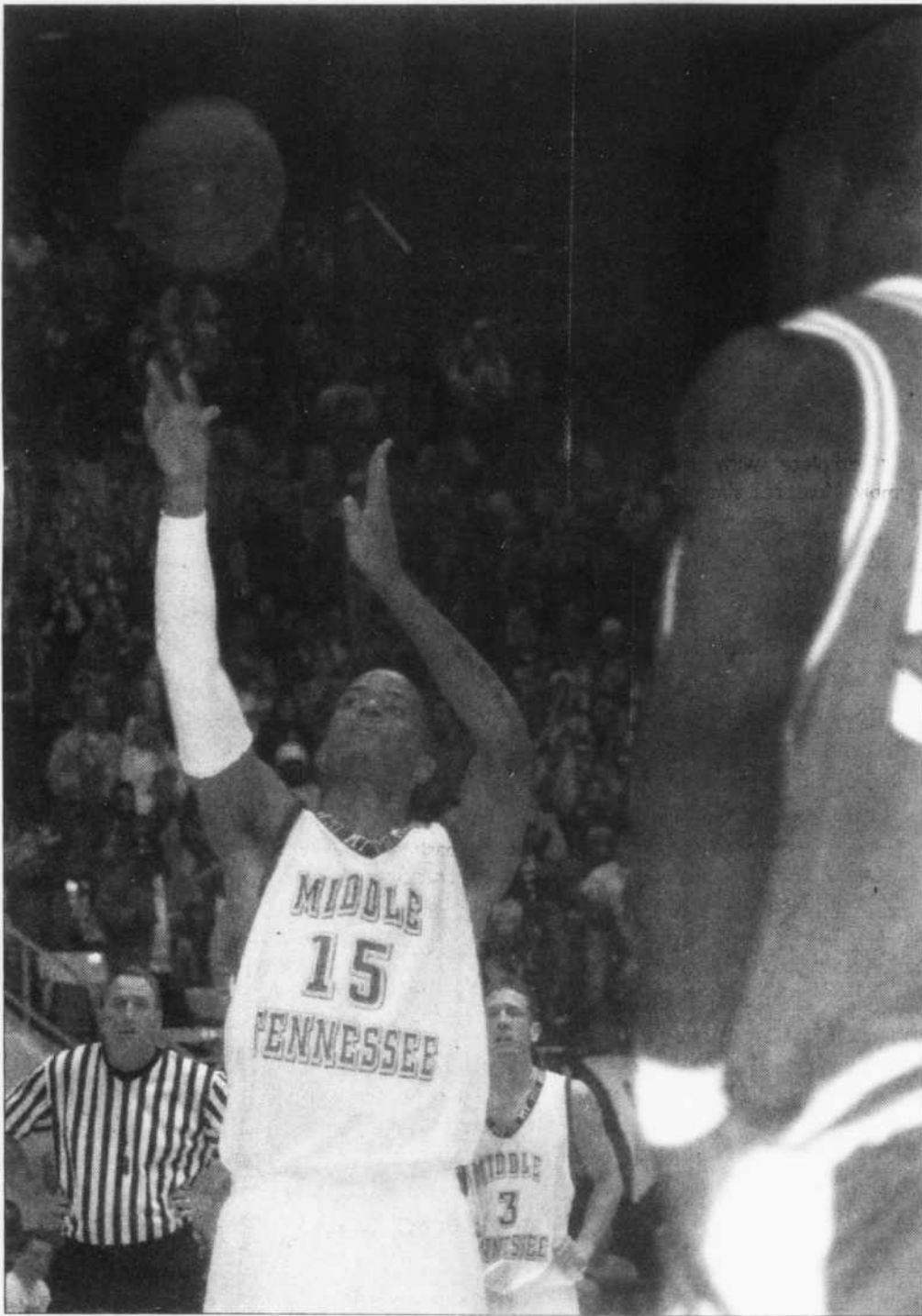


Photo by Josh Jordan | Staff Photographer

MT guard Mike Dean shoots the ball against WKU on Thursday night. MT beat the Hilltoppers in front of a record breaking crowd of 11,807 at Murphy Center.

MT to attend conference tourney

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

'Murphy Magic' returned for the Blue Raider men's basketball team Thursday night, and more importantly, Aaron Todd's wish came true.

Middle Tennessee earned a berth in the upcoming Aeropostale Sun Belt Conference Tournament with a 73-59 victory over archrival Western Kentucky University.

"I told them for the first time, 'Guys, we're in the Sun Belt Tournament' after the game," MT head coach Kermit Davis said.

Todd's Operation: Full House was a success, with a Murphy Center record 11,807 people in attendance. The previous record was 11,600 against Austin Peay State University in 1974. It is the second largest crowd in SBC history involving cur-

rent members of the conference.

"The crowd was great," MT guard Bryan Smithson said. "It is good that I get to come in to this atmosphere. The seniors and past players have waited a long time for this."

The MT defense was the story of the game as it held the Hilltoppers to 30.3 percent shooting for the game, their worst performance of the season. WKU came into the game leading the SBC in field goal percentage at 48 percent.

The Blue Raiders held the Hilltoppers to 26.8 percent shooting in the second half.

WKU center Nigel Dixon, the country's leader in individual field goal percentage with 69 percent, shot just 2 of 12 from the field.

MT forward Alex Weekes had a school-record eight blocks in the win.

"We were a little intimi-

dated [against Dixon]," Davis said. "We kept him off the sweet spot. We tried to collapse on the zone. When he gets the ball, he is a very good player, but he seldom gives it up."

WKU head coach Darrin Horn, however, thought Dixon was not quite ready to play.

"Nigel did not compete tonight," Horn said. "That is the most important thing. He allowed himself to get frustrated."

The Blue Raiders came out of the gates to an early 18-6 lead in the opening half that included two three-pointers by MT guard Mike Dean in the first six minutes of the game.

"We talk about the first five minutes of the game," Dean said. "Every game we want to come out and get a jump."

See Magic, 9

The Greatest Victory

A month-long tribute

Success came after career for Owens

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

In the 1930s, with segregation in the United States and the rise of Hitler in Germany, one man overcame both of these obstacles to become one of the greatest track and field stars ever.

James Cleveland Owens was born in a small town in Alabama in 1913. When he was eight years old, his parents moved to Cleveland, Ohio. There he lived most of his time in poverty and had to work various jobs.

Jesse Owens' athletic gift was discovered one day in gym class, when coach Charlie Riley timed the students in the 60-yard dash and saw the raw, natural talent Jesse had.

He went to Cleveland East Technical High School and instantly became a star. In the 100-yard dash, he tied the world record with a time of 9.4 seconds. He would later tie it again in the Interscholastic Championships in Chicago.

Although many colleges recruited Owens, he decided to attend Ohio State University. While there, he had to deal with many racial issues and discriminatory policies. He was required to live off-campus with other black students. When the team went on road trips, he had to stay in "blacks-only" hotels and eat in "blacks-only" restaurants.

Despite this, Owens set three world records and tied a fourth in the Big Ten Meet in 1935. He did all this in a time span of about 70 minutes with

an ailing back, which he got after falling down a flight of stairs. Even up until race time, Owens could not bend down, but that did not stop him from setting records in the broad jump, the 220-yard dash and the 220-yard low hurdles. He also tied his old record of 9.4 seconds in the 100-yard dash.

The next step for Owens was to take on Hitler in the 1936 Olympics.

Hitler believed blacks were inferior to whites and could not understand why the United States could let a black man compete.

Owens showed just how "inferior" he was as he won four gold medals. He won individual medals in the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and the broad jump. He was also a key member in the 400-meter relay team that set an Olympic record. By the end of the competition, even the German fans were cheering him on.

Unfortunately, his success in the Olympics did not mean success back home. He still ran, but not until the 1950s did he become successful as a public speaker and start his own public relations firm. In 1976, he received the Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a U.S. citizen can receive. On March 31, 1980, he died due to cancer.

Jesse Owens overcame segregation and disproved Hitler's prejudice to become one of the world's greatest track and field stars. As people look back on his life and accomplishments, his legacy will likely only continue to grow. ♦

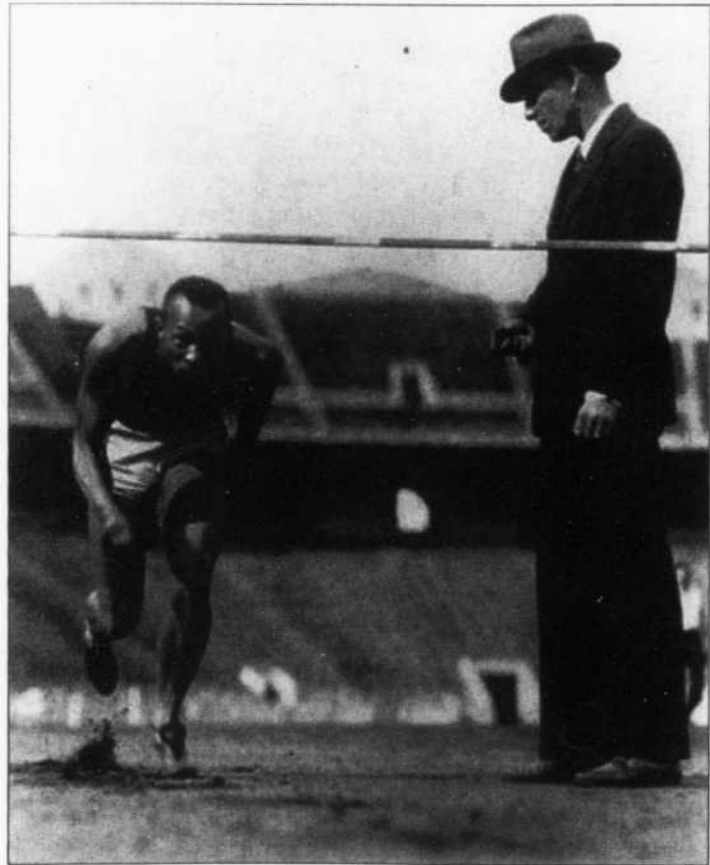


Photo courtesy jesseowens.com

Baseball splits two against JSU

By Michael Bailey
Staff Writer

After stifling the Blue Raiders Friday, Jacksonville State University could not keep a good offense down for long.

JSU senior Bobby Wynns held a Middle Tennessee offense that had been averaging more than 10 runs per game to a mere two hits on his way to picking up his first win on the season with a 2-1 victory Friday.

The Gamecocks went ahead on senior infielder Bobby Hicks' two-out, two-run home run in the bottom of the second and never relinquished the advantage.

"[JSU] just shut our offense down," Blue Raider head coach Steve Peterson told MT Media Relations. "We were just dominated by their pitchers."

MT junior trio Chris Mobley, Danny Boerne and Travis Horschel notched an impressive pitching performance as well, making Hicks' home run the first



Mobley

out. The Blue Raiders' offense stalled afterward, however, and MT went down for the first time this year.

The Blue Raiders' late offensive output from Friday carried over into Saturday's game, with the Blue Raiders jumping on top of the Gamecocks 3-0 by the close of the first inning. McNamee initiated the action, reaching first base on a walk.

Designated hitter Nate Jagers then moved McNamee to second on his single to right field. The Blue Raiders continued to move from

station to station on a single by Brett Carroll, a balk, and a sacrifice fly by Archer.

Sophomore outfielder Marcus Taylor got in on the action by driving in Carroll on his double down the right field line.

The Blue Raiders' offense put five more runs on the board throughout the remainder of the contest, adding to the lead in the third, fourth and ninth innings while reigning Sun Belt Conference Pitcher of the Week John Williams cruised through 7 1/3 innings of shutout baseball before giving way to Matt Scott.

Like Friday night's matchup, the scoring was sporadic. MT scored early, and the Gamecocks put the final marks on the board only to come up short in the end 8-2.

The win improved the Blue Raiders' record to 4-1, with the final match of the series on Sunday afternoon.

MT will have all week to rest before they embark on another trip, this time to Hammond, La., for a three-game set against the Lions of Southeastern Louisiana University. ♦



Horschel



Boerne

Magic: Men clinch tourney berth

Continued from 8

The Blue Raiders led at halftime 37-27. In the second half, MT twice extended the lead to 14 points. However, the Hilltoppers cut it to five at 60-55 with 1:40 to go in the game after a steal by WKU guard Mike Wells. Wells missed the layup, but teammate Anthony Winchester was there to put it back in.

However, MT forward Michael Cuffee scored seven of his 16 points in the final 1:32 to seal the victory. That included a dunk and going 5 of 6 from the foul line.

Dean led all scorers with 19 points, while Cuffee had 16 points and 12 rebounds for his first career

double-double. Tommy Gunn and Smithson added 15 and 12 points respectively.

Gunn is now two points away from passing Randy Henry (1,483 points) for fourth in career scoring in Blue Raider history.

The Blue Raiders (15-11, 7-6 SBC) moved up to second place in the SBC Eastern Division, while the Hilltoppers (14-12, 7-6) fell to third.

MT completes the regular season tonight at home against Florida International University at 6 p.m.

The contest will be the final regular season game for Gunn, Steven Jackson, Marcus Robinson and Keith Connor. ♦

Got something to say?
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Women finish regular season at FIU

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

After Thursday's loss at Western Kentucky University, the Lady Raider basketball team heads south tonight to conclude the regular season in Miami against Florida International University.

With an Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division championship out of reach, the game will have no bearing on the Lady Raiders, who will be the No. 4 seed in next weekend's SBC tournament regardless, but FIU is playing for their postseason lives. Win and they're in. Lose and they receive an eight-month vacation from basketball.

"We're going to regroup and get it back," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "We have no control over what other teams are doing, just what we're doing. We're going to get back on track so we can be playing well going into the Sun Belt tournament."

The Lady Raiders (19-7, 9-4 SBC) had little trouble with FIU in their earlier meeting this year, a 73-46 victory in the Murphy Center. The Lady Raiders forced 24 turnovers and Krystle Horton scored 25 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

Middle Tennessee will need a similar effort from the 6-foot-2-inch post from Murfreesboro, Tenn., as well as a better effort from veterans Patrice Holmes and Tia Stovall. The two combined for 16 points in Thursday's loss to WKU.

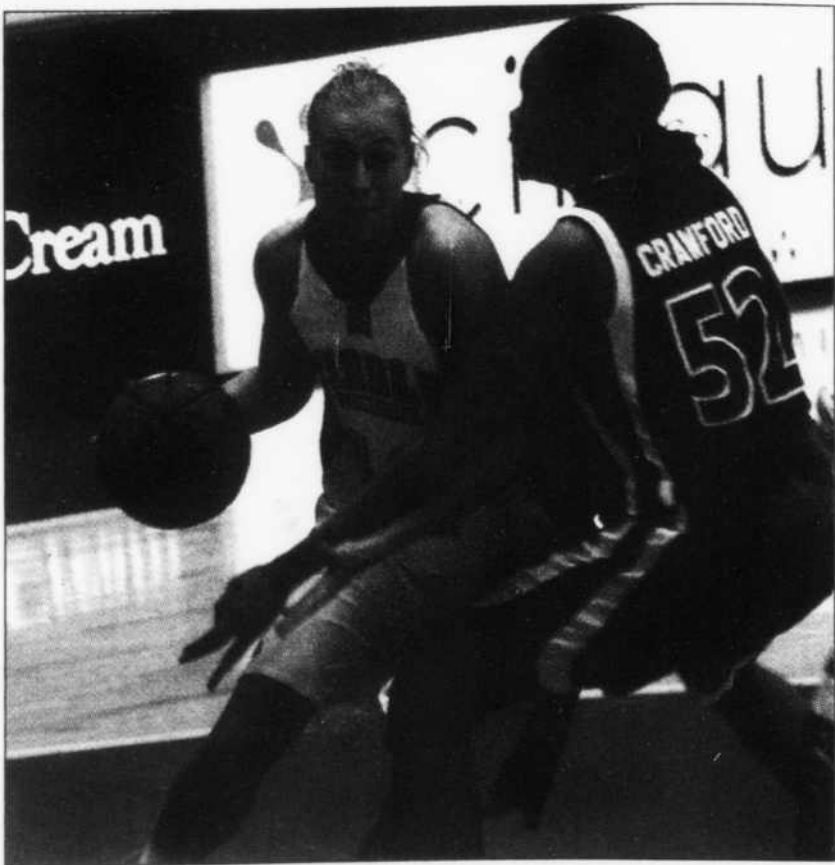


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT forward Ditte Jacobsen drives to the lane against a Hilltopper defender Thursday night. The Lady Raiders lost to WKU 79-71.

The Lady Panthers are led by Milena Tomova's 17 points per game. In the previous game, the Lady Raiders held Tomova to just one point in 31 minutes on the floor. Stopping her again will be key for a Middle Tennessee victory.

If she grabs one steal tonight, senior Keisha McClinic will set the single season steals record at 93. The senior from Stockbridge, Ga., is currently tied for first on the all-time list with teammate Holmes, who set the record last season. ♦

Blue Raiders host FIU tonight in home finale

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

Fresh off last week's record-setting Murphy Center crowd as well as the biggest win of the year over the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers, the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team will finish regular season play tonight.

MT will host the Florida International Golden Panthers, who picked up their first Sun Belt Conference win last Saturday over New Orleans.

After the win over WKU, MT climbed above .500 in league play and clinched a spot in the SBC tournament, but a win tonight could improve the Blue Raiders' seed in the tournament.

WKU head coach Darrin Horn gave a lot of praise to MT after last week's win, during which the Blue Raiders held the Hilltoppers to 30.3 percent shooting from the field.

"You have to give credit to Middle Tennessee," Horn said. "They played like a team whose life was on the line, and it was."

Several Blue Raider seniors performed well against the Hilltoppers and will look to cap off their careers with one final home win.

Tommy Gunn, Keith Connor, Stephen Jackson and Marcus Robinson have all made contributions throughout their careers.

Connor, a junior college transfer, has played key minutes at guard and an assists-to-turnovers ratio greater

than 2-to-1.

Jackson has started five games this season and is second on the team in offensive rebounds. He also recently hit two free throws to give the Blue Raiders a victory at Arkansas State University.

Robinson, a junior college transfer, has started three games this season and has played valuable minutes at the guard position as well.

Gunn, another guard, is still climbing the lists for career points and steals at MT and is currently second on the team with an average of 16.1 points per game.

Tonight, Gunn and company will have to stop two players who average double figures in points per game.

FIU's Carlos Morban (12.2) and Marcus Robinson (10.5) have tried to pick up the slack after losing leading scorer Junior Matias (14.6) early in the season.

Byron Burnett, a 6-foot-9-inch junior center, leads the team in rebounds with 4.7 per game.

Taurance Johnson is third on the team in scoring (9.5 points per game) and second in steals per game (1.5) and blocks per game (1.1).

The Golden Panthers will look to spoil tonight's finale in front of what could be another big crowd at Murphy Center.

"The crowd [against WKU] was great," MT guard Bryan Smithson said. "The seniors and past players have waited a long time for this. I hope it is like this for years to come." ♦

Lady Raiders fall after blowing early lead

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University defeated the Lady Raiders 79-71 Thursday night in Bowling Green, Ky., at E.A. Diddle Arena.

The Lady Raiders jumped out to an early 15-2 lead, but Middle Tennessee began to falter as key starters Tia Stovall, Krystle Horton and Patrice Holmes ran into early foul trouble.

As a result, Kesisha McClinic and Chrissy

Givens both had to play point guard at times.



Givens

with Chrissy not having a particularly good game," MT head coach Stephany

Smith told goblueraiders.com.

Foul trouble was not MT's only problem, however. The Lady Toppers outrebounded MT 40-32 behind Tiffany Porter-Talbert's game-high 15 rebounds.

WKU shot 19 of 25 from the free-throw line, which helped the Lady Toppers come back in the first half. WKU (15-12, 9-4) led 42-36 at the half after going on an 18-4 run with 5:30 to go in the half.

Horton scored 25 points to lead all scorers. She shot

11 of 15 from the field and 3 of 5 at the free throw line. Jennifer Justice and Holmes scored 10 points each for MT.

Camryn Whitaker led the Lady Toppers with 21 points. Porter-Talbert had 16 points and three assists, while Leslie Logsdon had 15 points, seven assists and seven rebounds.

MT (19-7, 9-4) travels to Miami, Fla., Monday for the final game of the regular season to play Florida International University. Tipoff is 6 p.m. ♦

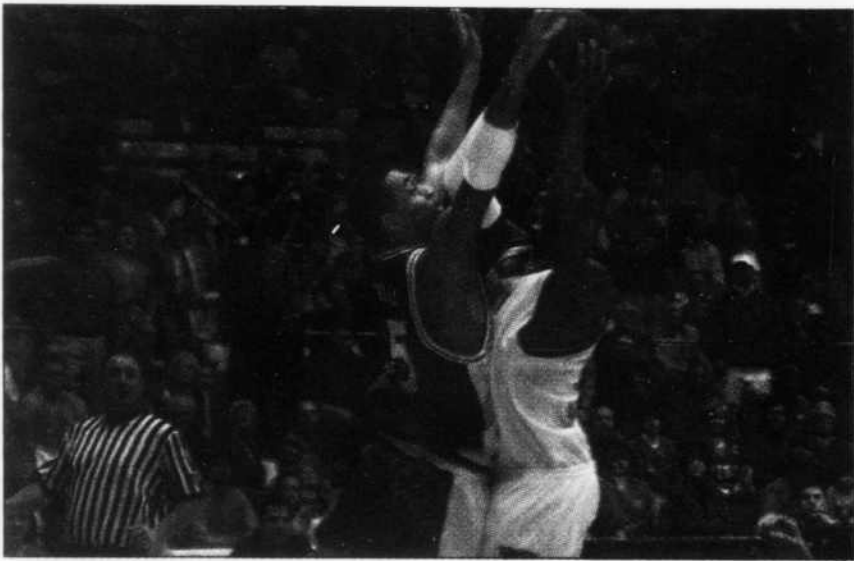


Photo by Josh Jordan | Staff Photographer

MT guard Mike Dean puts up the jumper against a Hilltopper Thursday night. The Blue Raiders beat Western Kentucky 73-59.

Sidelines is now accepting application for...

Editor in chief

[1855-60, Amer.] ... the person who is in charge of editing a newspaper, magazine, or other publication.

editorial work ... the work of editing.

editor in chief ... the person in charge of the policy-making executive or principal editor of a publishing house, publication, or group of publications. (1870-75)

editorship (ed/for ship) ... 1. the office or function of an editor. 2.

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Deadline for
Applications:

Friday
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Editors receive a full tuition scholarship and a salary tenure. Applications may be picked up from the MTSU Sidelines office, JUB 310, 9 am - 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Return the applications to Jeri Lamb, Sidelines Business Manager, in the Sidelines office, JUB 308B

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