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MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INSIDE: More high-quality programming, please

Middle Tennessee State University

An editorially independent newspaper

SIDELINES

Volume 77 No. 12

MT poll shortened, set to begin Feb. 18

50 questions on new poll

By Lindsey Turner
Managing Editor

A current lack of must ask questions has allowed coordinators of the semesterly MT Poll to cut the survey length in half.

According to Ken Blake, assistant journalism professor and operations manager for the student-conducted poll, there are many questions in this series

that could be asked, but don't have to be asked. Last semester's poll's main must-ask questions, mainly concerning the Sept. 11 attacks, he said.

Blake said he proposed the survey length be cut from 100 to 50 questions, "just to see what kind of impact it has on the interview length. I assume people will be finishing interviews twice as fast."

The shorter survey is an effect of an experiment, Blake said. He said the shorter survey won't necessarily be a major

change.

"I don't know if it's going to get us any quicker to the total number of interviews we try to get for the poll," he said.

Although the questionnaire length has been shortened, participants will be expected to poll for four hours the same amount of time previously required when the survey length was longer. Blake said the average multi-visit interview used to last about 15 minutes, but should be reduced by half.

Blake said students often turn up for the poll, but that the

people on the other end of the phone lines will be rude, Blake said.

"Students typically come into the poll terrified," he said. Surprisingly, less than 10 percent were classified as rude by former participants asked to rate those they called.

People turn quite friendly after they realize the callers aren't selling anything, Blake said.

This semester's poll, he said, will contain just three questions concerning the Sept. 11 attacks as opposed to last semester's

poll, conducted Oct. 22 through Nov. 2, that contained 20 questions regarding the attacks. The three questions will pertain to public support for the current military operations in Afghanistan and feelings toward expanding the military effort into other countries, as well as whether respondents would consider the efforts in Afghanistan a failure if Osama bin Laden is not captured.

Also on the list of topics is the economy, free expression, the rights of journalists, a state income tax, the meaning of the

phrase "God bless America," media credibility and politics in church.

The questions for the poll are written and selected by a group of journalism faculty members involved in communication research. Blake said some of the questions are derived from national surveys, so public opinions of Tennesseans can be gauged in relation to national opinion.

Blake encourages students of all majors to get involved in the

See Poll, 2

Campus struck by 'Hurricane'

Carter tells his story in campus speech

By Laren Anderson
Contributor

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter was the African American History Month keynote speaker at Tucker Theatre Tuesday night.

Carter, a boxer-turned-human-rights activist, was portrayed by Denzel Washington in the film *The Hurricane*.

Black athletes, including Carter, were "catalysts" and represent the "dangerous negro," according to Ray Winbush of the Race Relations Institute at Fisk University in Nashville.

On June 17, 1966, Carter was a challenger for the world middleweight title and was awaiting a boxing match with Dick Tiger. But at approximately 2:30 a.m., James Oliver, a white bartender at the Lafayette Bar and Grill, was murdered, along with two other white men in the Paterson, N.J., bar.

Carter and an acquaintance, John Artis, were convicted of allegedly committing the crime on Oct. 14, 1966.

"I went to jail because I talked too much," Carter said in his speech.

"I preached protection from harm," he said. "Harm came from police agencies."

Adonijah L. Bakari, director of MTSU's African American studies program, said the case was constructed around "race and (social) class."

Fundamental to police suspicion of Carter, Bakari said, was "institutional racism."

Institutional racism exists when "white cops are looking for a profile and pick up someone on a broad description," according to Randy Tatel, the state executive director, for Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing, based in Nashville.

"There are no issues of his guilt or innocence," Tatel said in a telephone interview Tuesday. "He was innocent."

But a jury convicted Carter and Artis for committing the Lafayette Bar and Grill murders. Both men were to serve triple-life sentences.

"Just because a misinformed jury found me guilty, doesn't make me guilty," Carter said.

A racist police officer and a murder conviction from an exclusively white trial, Carter said, made him "angrier than a black bear during mating season."

And it was his anger and



Photos by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter came to campus Tuesday and told his story to a packed house at Tucker Theatre. Carter was a middleweight boxing title contender who was convicted of a triple murder he did not commit. New Jersey threw the case out in 1976, but he was reconvicted. He finally was exonerated in 1985.

insubordination he said, which resulted in solitary confinement terms.

"Anger," Carter said, "consumes the vessel that contains it."

After several years in prison, Carter said, he began searching for "peace."

"Hate put me in prison," he said. "Love busted me out of there."

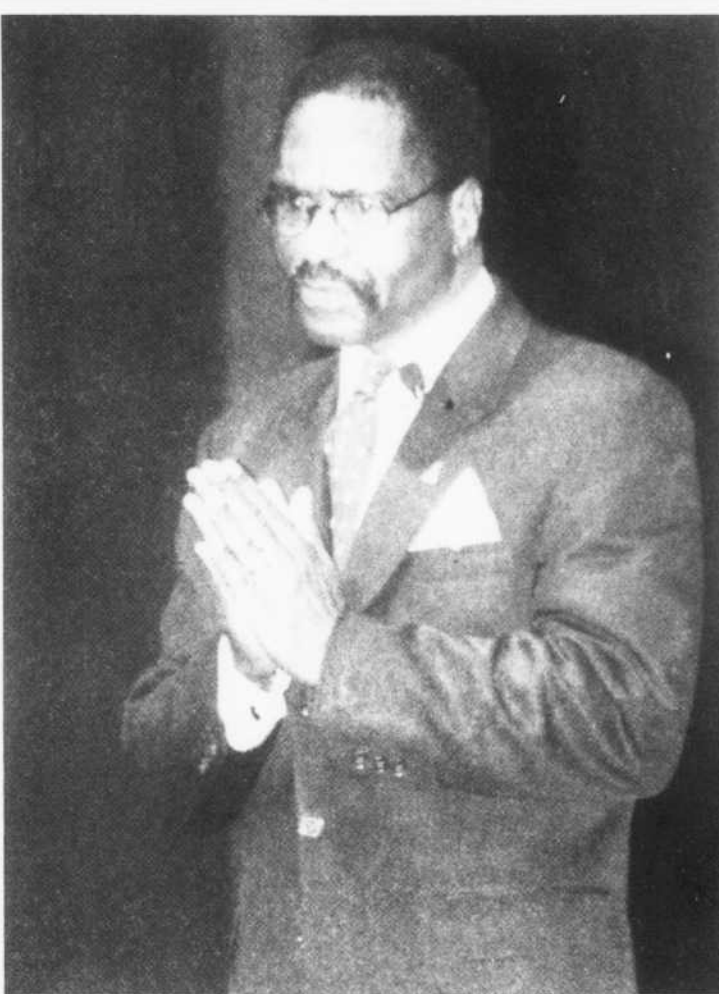
And the change, according to Carter, was startling.

"I simply disappeared from prison before anyone knew I was gone."

His case gained international attention when two state witnesses perjured themselves, and *The 16th Round: From number 1 Contender to Number 45472*, Carter's autobiography, was published in 1974.

In 1976, the state dismissed Carter's previous convictions. In the same year, in a second trial, he was again sentenced to prison for allegedly committing the crimes.

After 19 years of incarceration,



tion, Carter was released from prison Nov. 8, 1985, upon a writ of habeas corpus, an order of release from unlawful imprisonment.

In 1988, the indictment against him was dropped by a U.S. District Court.

Black boxers, Winbush said, were visible athletes and visibly critical of racism. He said, while Muhammad Ali was political in his protest, Carter was more assertive.

Today, Winbush added,

black athletes "bite people."

Winbush said athletes need to continue to "speak out against human injustices."

"A lot of African-Americans are caught up in a problem due to poverty and racial profiling," Joe Roy, director of the Intelligence Project for the Southern Poverty Law Center, said.

"People are supposed to work the system," Carter said. "But the system works the people." ♦

Candidate deadline soon

Staff reports

The Student Government Association currently is accepting applications for elected positions for the 2002-2003 school year.

Packets for the positions of president, vice president/speaker of the Senate, vice president for Administration and Public Affairs, election commissioner and Senate positions for the individual colleges are available in the SGA office, which is in the Keathley University Center, Room 208.

The deadline for applications is Monday at noon. Elections will be held Feb. 25-27.

For more information, go to the SGA office or call 898-2464. ♦

New minor offered

By Bracken Mayo
Contributor

MTSU now offers a minor in Environment and Human Society, an interdisciplinary program.

An increasing number of students are choosing interdisciplinary minors over highly specialized programs, according to the MTSU environment and human sciences Web page. These interdisciplinary programs are comprised of classes from multiple schools and departments within the university.

"The minor in environment and human sciences hopes to give students a chance to explore environmental issues through the perspective of disciplines beyond the lab sciences," said minor adviser Lynn

Nelson.

In contrast to specialized environmental programs that typically provide students some type of technical skill, this interdisciplinary program provides a broad foundation of knowledge of the interaction between humans and nature.

Participants in the minor must complete 18 hours in subjects such as history, geography, biology, philosophy, geology, anthropology and English. At least one of these courses must be in environmental/ecological science.

James Tardy, an outdoor recreation and recreation therapy major, will be the first MTSU student to complete the environment and human sciences minor. He lists environmental

See Minor, 2

EYESORE OF THE WEEK

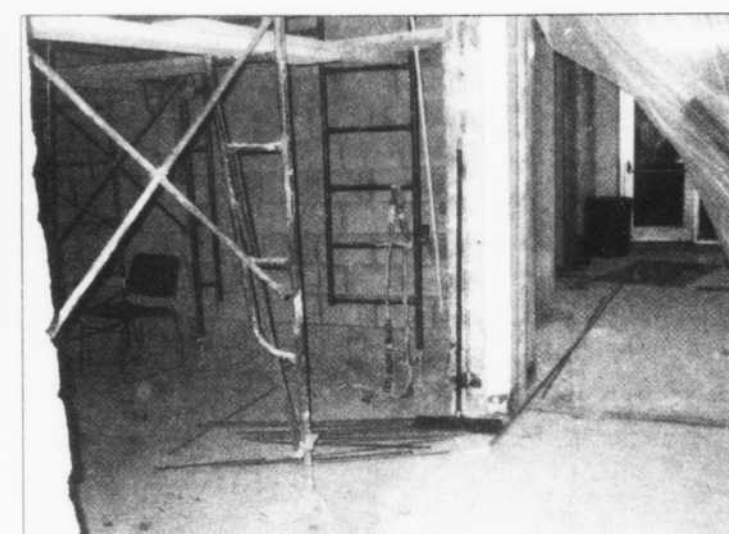


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Construction continues on a new elevator in the James Union Building. The project was initially scheduled for completion in August of 2001.

"Eyesore of the Week" examines the inadequacies of our campus in hopes of drawing attention to flaws that need to be addressed. If you have seen any "eyesores" around campus, please let us know by calling 904-8357 or e-mailing slmedit@mtsu.edu.

POLITICAL BRIEFS

Compiled By Jeremy Davis — Staff Writer

To read
Jeremy Davis
and Shasta
Fite's debate
on President
Bush's anti-
terrorism
policies, please
see page 3.

Daschle to shelve economic stimulus bill

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said Tuesday the stimulus package passed multiple times by the House and supported by President Bush will be shelved on Wednesday. Daschle blames Republicans for trying to "score political points" with additional tax cuts, and Republicans say Daschle is unwilling to compromise. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said the recession is showing signs of recovery and

needs the stimulus bill to bring back the robust 3.5 percent growth rate in the nation's economy. O'Neill and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said the tax cuts prevented a deeper recession, but Greenspan also said a stimulus package was less urgent now that the economy is showing signs of recovery.

Democrats criticize president's budget

Congressional Democrats have already begun an election

year attack on the president's budget. They blame Bush's tax cut for putting the budget back in deficits and using Social Security surpluses for other programs. White House Budget Director Mitch Daniels said deficits were the short-term price that must be paid to protect American lives. New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici, ranking Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, challenged anyone to build a budget based on priorities any better than the President did. Committee Chairman Kent

Conrad, D-N.D., said Bush's budget risks long term financial damage just to give tax cuts to the rich even though the recession and the war make up the majority of revenue shortfalls.

Special prosecutor requested for Enron case

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., called for a special prosecutor to investigate the collapse of the Enron Corporation and their relationship to the White House.

Hollings is the first legislator to break the bipartisan tone of the Enron investigation, which is currently being done by various congressional committees and the Justice Department. So far there is no evidence of any wrongdoing by any public official of either party, but Vice President Cheney's reluctance to disclose documents concerning communications with Enron while he crafted the President's energy policy has raised some eyebrows across the aisle. President Bush said it is a business problem and new laws

Poll: All majors encouraged

Continued from 1

poll. "It's interesting to call random people in Tennessee and find out how different they are from you," he said.

Blake encourages students of all majors to get involved in the poll.

"It's interesting to call random people in Tennessee and find out how different they are from you," he said.

The poll, sponsored by MTSU's Office of Communication Research in conjunction with the John Seigenthaler Hall of Excellence

in First Amendment Studies, the College of Mass Communication and the School of Journalism, is conducted each fall and spring semester.

Students interested in being interviewers can pick up a user name and password at the college of Mass Communication office in the Bragg Mass Communication Building, Room 234. For the online registration at www.mtsu.edu/journalpoll, students can track their registration online. The poll starts Feb. 18, and students can reserve seats as long as they are available. ♦

Minor: Program focuses on environmental issues

Continued from 1

philosophy and ecological anthropology as his favorite classes in the minor.

Tardy plans to lead wilderness adventure programs after he graduates this semester. He hopes to help the participants in these excursions grow as a group by taking them to different environments and teaching them the effects they have on one another and the environment. He said the new program of study will help him immensely.

"It gives you a broader picture of what's going on with human societies and how they have affected the environment," Tardy said.

The environment and human society minor will certainly enhance recreation

majors. Nelson said he suggested that those studying careers in natural resource management, particularly those with a good knowledge of the environment.

"The growth of heavy industry and urban sprawl here in Tennessee is going to force people working in all aspects of the economy to better understand the complex issues involved in protecting the natural environment," Nelson said.

Tennessee's educational system has previously not dealt with environmental issues sufficiently, according to Nelson.

"We're not going to be able to remain so far behind in this area," Nelson said.

For more information, contact Nelson at 904-8174 Front.html. ♦

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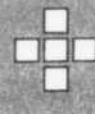


online this week

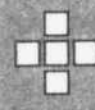
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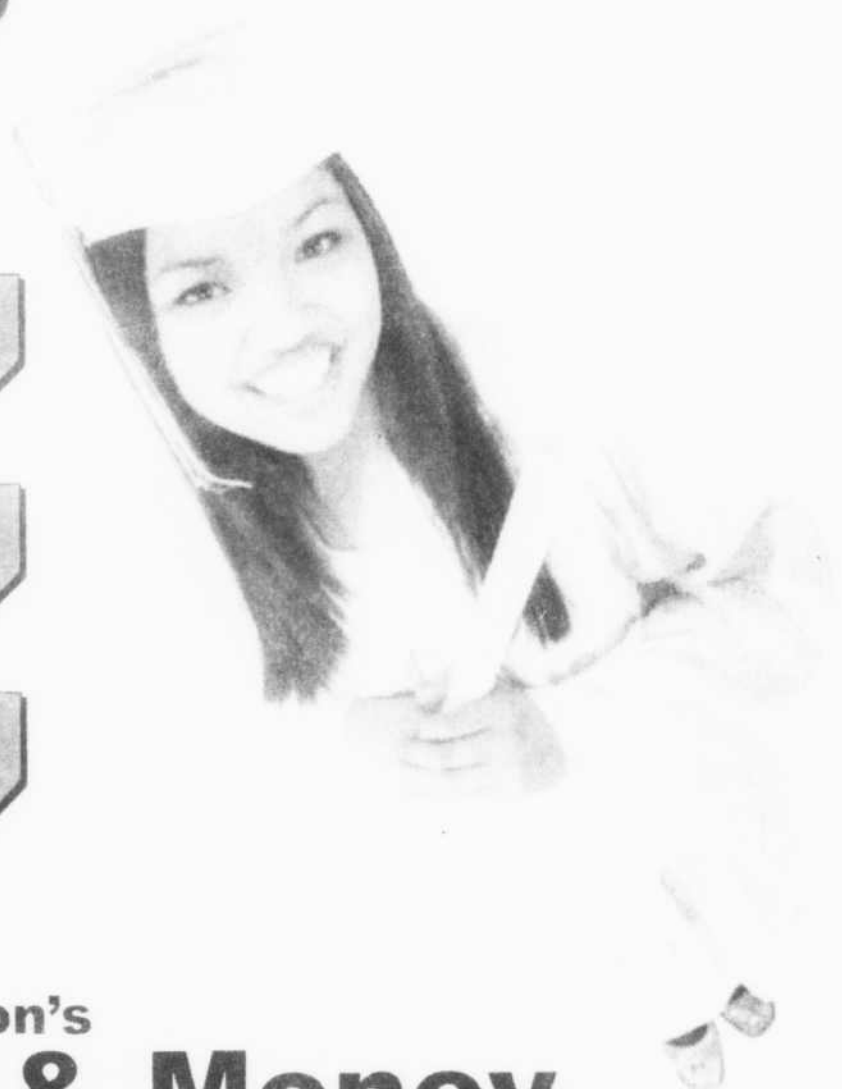


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Editorial

More higher-quality programming, please

On Tuesday, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter delivered a speech as part of African American History Month.

Most of the staff was surprised to hear that someone as prominent as Carter would get anywhere near our campus.

There was a day when this wasn't the case. Student Programming's Web site provides a link to performers that have come to MTSU's campus over the years. Some you might have heard of were Elvis Presley, Elton John, John Mellencamp, AC-DC and the World Wrestling Federation.

While there are other factors that partially explain the dearth of events at the Murphy Center, such as the construction of the Gaylord Entertainment Center and AmSouth Amphitheatre in Nashville, it seems that more effort could be put toward attracting bigger names to our campus.

This shouldn't be limited to entertainment. Speakers such as Carter are often captivating and almost always interesting. The university is to be applauded for managing to get him here.

Perhaps MTSU could try to get prominent political figures as well. For instance, the prime minister of Jordan spoke at the University of Tennessee's graduation last spring.

We realize that money influences what the university can do with programming as much as it influences everything else here.

These would not necessarily have to be free events. A nominal fee would be acceptable for events of larger magnitude. In any case, paying a little bit for something entertaining is much better than booking a free event that no one cares about.

After all, at a university with nearly 20,000 students, we should be able to do better than the Baha Men. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

School board must keep church and state separate



In a move that should upset every able-minded citizen in this area, the Williamson County School Board voted last week to rename winter and spring breaks to Christmas and Easter breaks, respectively.

As reported in the Jan. 31 issue of *The Nashville Scene*, the school board member who introduced the legislation, Leslie Pippin, wanted to change so that other religions would be more tolerant of her Christian religion.

"Quite simply, this nation was founded upon Christian principles," she told *Scene* reporter Matt Pulle, adding, "Christians were always called upon to be tolerant of others. Now, I'm just asking for that same consideration."

No, she's not. She's asking for parents and students of all other faiths to submit to her

idealized version of the world, where Christians are the reason for the season and nothing else matters.

Obviously, this is an exorbitant overstepping of the church and state boundary.

While it is obvious that Christmas occurs during winter breaks, so does part of Chanukah and Kwanzaa. What about the atheists and agnostics, who don't recognize any of those holidays?

Pippin claims to be wistful for tolerance and good feelings; why, then, wouldn't she support the all-inclusive terms winter and spring break? There are no such things as contradictions; if you believe you see one, check the precepts.

One of them must be wrong.

In this case, the incorrect axiom is Pippin as a voice of tolerance. Either she is too ignorant to understand the adverse reaction her proposal will create, or she is a bigoted blowhard bent on running off all the "impure" folk from her home. ♦

From the left

U.S. policy hypocritical

By Shasta Fite
Staff Columnist

Spanish missionaries had noble intentions when they sailed to the New World to spread the gospel of Roman Catholicism to the heathens. Consequently, the natives of the New World fell to their knees in suffering rather than gratitude before this new god. This once powerful society was forced into slavery and then exterminated by Spanish-spread syphilis and influenza. Irony, isn't it, that those who intended to promote eternal life instead brought disease and downfall.

Likewise, the Bush administration's crusade against terrorism is lined with good intentions. The events that occurred Sept. 11 certainly called for action. However, the end result may not be the salvation that the people have been promised. The Book of Bush promise to "free the earth from the scourge of terrorists" is the Republican big-stick approach: threats and attacks that quickly erupt. Stomping the kid with the box cutter is no problem until his brother crawls out of a cave and settles the score with a nuclear warhead. But never fear, we have a three-twelfths chance that our multi-billion dollar anti-ballistic missile device will save us.

The United States is widely perceived not to be the golden child we were raised to believe in, but rather a hypocritical bully with a bad record. When a country such as the United States threatens to attack other nations, violates the rights of captured fighters and of immigrants and attempts to undermine international treaties, they rightfully should be scrutinized by the international community. We as Americans should be the first to notice these problems and raise our voices in protest. Even our strongest allies, whose cooperation we need in tracking down and breaking up terrorist cells in their countries, have raised strong objections over U.S. actions.

The trial of those accused of terrorism has branded the United States a hypocrite. Due process, a basic element of the Bill of Rights, has been denied to those targeted in the war. Police can search without warrant. Home taps are now legal. It is only appropriate that the Bush administration strongly opposes the creation of an international legal system, including a criminal court, which could be a useful as a powerful tool against terrorists.

Under new U.S. anti-terrorism laws, individuals can be held without proper criminal proceedings, as in the case of John Phillip Walker Lindh, an alleged American Taliban fighter who is currently standing trial. I've heard that after being held without food and water for seven days in a basement, his naked body was bound and taped in freezing temperatures to a stretcher in a metal shipping box for two to three days without medical attention. Had this been under reverse circumstances, the American public would have roared because his civil rights had been violated.

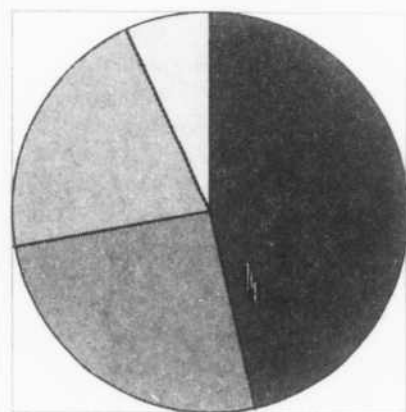
Many questions remain as to whether these box-cutter extremists even would have survived much longer under heavy internal pressures, or whether they could have been disposed of more efficiently than through 10 weeks of heavy bombing. Uncertainty also lurks as to whether the new regime, with the support of the United States, some notorious warlords and militia leaders, will not engage in atrocities of their own. Even the Taliban was coddled by the United States initially.

Problems are brewing now that Bush has isolated the United States even more through his "axis of evil" concept that he presented in the State of the Union address in January. Led by Germany and the European Union, many countries have separated themselves from this doctrine. According to Jack Straw, the European Union's foreign secretary, they share and will continue to support the United States' stance on human rights, terrorism and weapons proliferation. However, he continued to say that "what we (Germany and the European Union with the United States) do not share is the policy desired to achieve these objectives. We believe that engagement and rapprochement ... should be used to achieve these aims."

The Spaniards brought on the end of a civilization through disease; the United States' demise hinges on whether we recognize that one day people will get tired of being pushed around. The nation's only road to salvation is to change the approach. Stop chasing ghosts in white robes and turbans and focus on the real problem: the political, social and economic conditions which breed terrorists. Only then will we find true salvation. ♦

What do you think of President McPhee's reorganization plan?

Unscientific results from last week's poll at
www.mtsusidelines.com



- ☒ It'll help the university become more efficient.
- ☒ So what? Like it's really going to affect my life.
- ☒ What are you talking about?
- ☐ Too much burden is being placed on Student Affairs.

This week's poll question is:
What will you be doing on Valentine's Day?

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Managing Editor
News Editor
Asst. News Editor
Opinions Editor/Designer
Features Editor
Flash! Editor/Designer
Sports Editor
Asst. Sports Editor/Designer
Online Editor
Photo Editor
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Patrick W. Chinnery
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Matthew Starling
Jamil Moore
Erin Pauls
Wendell Rawls

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

From the right

Axis of power? Definitely

By Jeremy Davis
Staff Columnist

Since the State of the Union address last week, almost every pundit in the world has asked what President Bush meant by "axis of evil." Bush called Iran, Iraq and North Korea an axis of evil that threatened the peace of the entire world.

The comment was more of a warning shot than anything else. I seriously doubt Bush is threatening to revisit the Korean War or invade Tehran, but military action against Iraq is inevitable.

I think the "axis of evil" comment was crafted in a way to not only warn the enemies of our might but also to scare the American public. The American public has a very short attention span, and we often need to be reminded of the threats that exist.

The word "axis" reminds everyone of the Axis powers of World War II. Germany, Italy and Japan tortured and killed millions of people inside and outside their borders in an effort to impose totalitarianism on the rest of the world. America rose to the challenge and led the world to victory.

After World War II, the Soviet Union began to expand its power and influence throughout the world. President Truman set America on a course to stand in the way of communist expansion. In the 1980s, Gorbachev could no longer take the pressure Reagan was dishing out so the walls came tumbling down and the Soviet Union took its place in history as a failed experiment. America stood strong and won the Cold War.

Today America has once again been forced to step up to the plate and fight for freedom. The war on terrorism is not about past foreign policies, securing oil reserves or just seeking revenge for Sept. 11. It is about securing the 21st century for freedom and democracy.

Last week President Bush told the world we are watching them and we are not afraid. Iran, Iraq and North Korea were singled out because they are the closest to developing nuclear weapons that would be used against our military, our allies or our civilians.

Iraq has been aggressively seeking nuclear capability for two decades. For the past three years, Iraq has been researching atomic warfare since U.N. inspectors left.

The Iraqi military has still not recovered from the Persian Gulf War and would be even easier to defeat this time around.

Iran has already been caught supplying the Palestinians with weapons and sending troops into Afghanistan to challenge the authority of the new government in Kabul. The government in Tehran also has been aggressively researching nuclear weapons that they would naturally sell to the Palestinians. Al-Qaida, Hezbollah, Hamas, various third world countries or all of the above.

North Korea starves more than a quarter of its population in order to build ballistic missiles and develop nuclear weapons. North Korea can already fire on South Korea, Japan and Alaska, and they are only steps away from having ICBMs that could deliver a nuclear weapon to the west coast.

If any one of these three nations doubt our seriousness, they need to look at who was sitting with Laura Bush last week. Hamid Karzai, the new leader of Afghanistan, attended the State of the Union address. Maybe next year there might be a new leader of Iraq sitting with Mrs. Bush.

President Bush used such strong language because the American public and the world cannot get lazy and forget why we fight. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the American public thought we were invincible. Military budgets were slashed, and the economic boom caused the public and the government to ignore what we now know were warnings of what was to come.

As we rack up military victories and time passes without further attacks on us at home, we cannot ignore what is to come. Bush, Cheney, Powell and Rumsfeld have all said that if a nuclear weapon falls into the wrong hands, the Sept. 11 attacks would look downright weak in comparison.

Right now we are in a race to remove threatening regimes before they get nuclear weapons or at least stop their weapons of mass destruction programs. The American people have taken up the cause the president has laid before us, and, as always, we shall prevail. ♦

Letter to the Editor

'Sidelines' should have had Carter coverage

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my disgust with *Sidelines* and MTSU for not advertising Rubin "Hurricane" Carter coming to speak Tuesday night at Tucker Theatre. Sure, it was advertised in the African American Student Association paper, but I didn't see it anywhere else. I know that the *Sidelines* has a campus events section — was "The Hurricane" not worthy of being mentioned? You mentioned the movie, but not the man. Rubin Carter is a wonderful speaker with an inspiring story dealing with racism and forgiveness to share with us, and no one at MTSU seemed to care. Carter eloquently stated, "There are not different races, there is only one race — the human race." It's a shame that part of this human race seemed to be ignored last night. Shame on you *Sidelines*, and shame on you MTSU.

Thanks,
Sue Chiappone

Editor's Note: An article on Rubin "The Hurricane" Carter ran in the African American History Month special section at the beginning of this week.

SIDELINES

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FEATURES

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Jackson calls for focus on human rights

By India Stone
Staff Writer

In the light of African American History Month, some MTSU students disagree with Jesse Jackson Jr.'s call for less emphasis on black rights and more on human rights.

"If the civil rights movement doesn't become the human rights movement, it becomes the civil rights industry," said Congressman Jackson at a

forum Jan. 13 at Missionary Baptist Church in Nashville to discuss his new book, *A More Perfect Union: Advancing New American Rights*.

In his book, Jackson aims to spread the message that Americans have the power to overcome racial barriers and focus more on the welfare of the entire population, not just one specific group. But some MTSU students think otherwise.

"Before you can get equal rights, blacks must have our rights," said business major Ryan Porter. "A month isn't enough."

Professor Adonijah Bakari, director of African American studies, takes a more worldly view.

"Different governments determine what rights humans have," Bakari said. "Before we start to look at other

countries and their human rights, we have to pay attention to what's in our own back yards."

"Every American deserves the constitutional right to health care, quality education and employment," Jackson says in his book. "After all, America is the role model for the rest of the world."

"The U.N. charter said that there are particular rights, such as clean water, that everyone should have," Bakari said. "But who are we to decide what rights people should have?"

Jackson, the 91st African American to serve in Congress, urges individuals to action by either voting or running for office. This, he said, would be the best way to speed up the human rights progression.

"America gives us the ability to demand the right to health-care and education in the constitution," Jackson added. "Without it, it's not a perfect union. It is unequal."

At the forum, Jackson compared America's way of handling race relations to "an arthritic snail's pace" and pointed out the closely tied relationship between race and local government.

"Dr. King saw 150 years of history and its incapability in

capacity and willingness to advance race issues," Jackson said. "I'm not anti either (Democrat or Republican); the structure is wrong."

"I don't think we've overcome as much as we could have," said Mose Mathis, a music business major. "But still, blacks do have a lot more freedoms than we used to even 50 years ago."

Born to civil rights leader and politician Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. in 1965, Jackson said his birth couldn't have come in a more important context.

"Bread had been cast upon the water and came back 31 years later as a congressman," said Jackson, whose father marched with Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

"It's good to have at least one month where people who wouldn't normally learn about black history get to learn about it," said Quintas Hannah, a pre-architecture major. "All spectrums of people, including Indians, Chinese, whatever, aren't really taught about in schools."

"With localism, we can never emerge as one country," Jackson said, referring to his father's vision of the future. "This is what Dr. King saw and why he

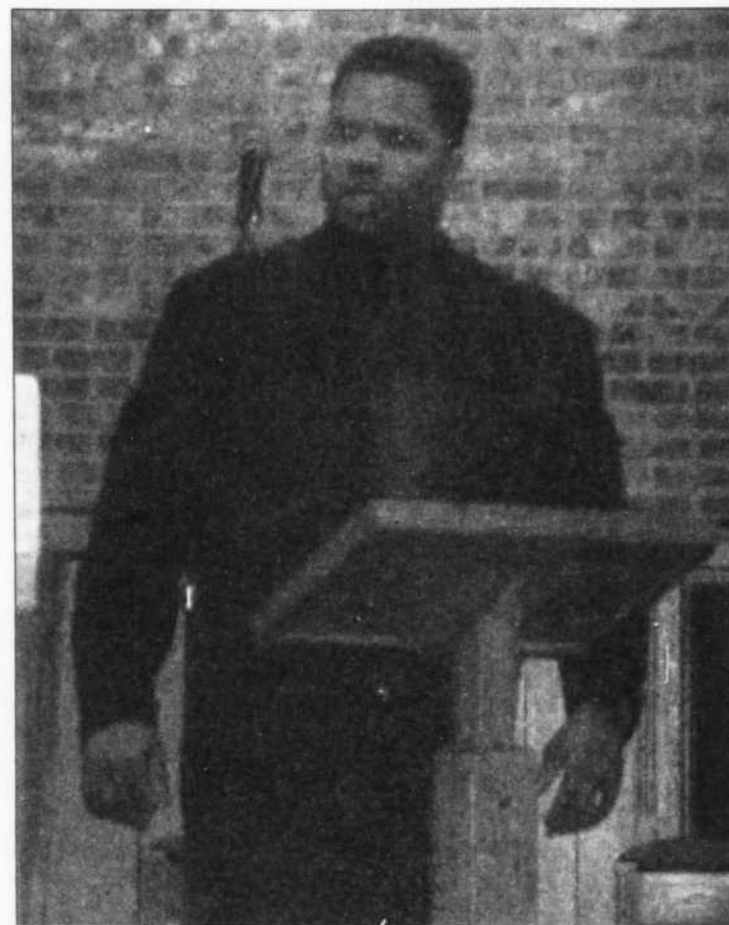


Photo provided

Jesse Jackson Jr. reflects on his father's civil rights visions.

worked the poor people's campaign."

Other MTSU students try and remember the hardships of all ethnic groups in America.

"Let's not forget about the Arabians," said Elizabeth Vernon, a pre-law major.

See Jackson, 5

'Hurricane' stays true to the heart

By Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

The Hurricane stars Denzel Washington as Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and is based on the true story of the aforementioned and his friend John Artis being wrongly accused of murder.

The story was originally a book written by Carter himself called *The Sixteenth Round*, which was then adapted (with the approval of Carter) into a movie. He wrote the book and had it published during his prison sentence.

Years later, a young African-American male found Carter's book and took a personal interest in his novel, in large part

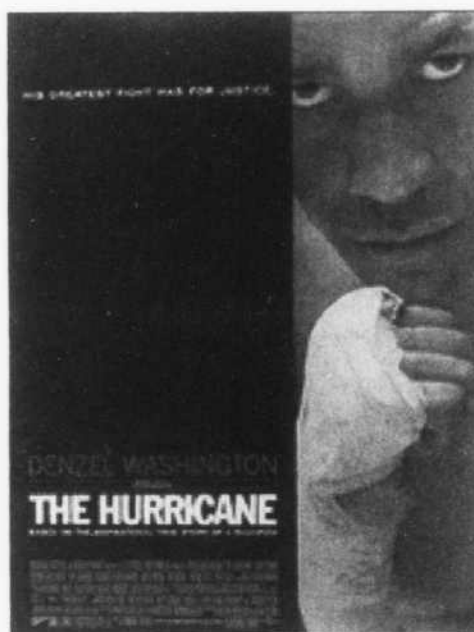
because of the similarities that he feels exist between them.

Not having read the book myself, I unfortunately cannot distinguish between what was a true representation of the facts and what may have been an exaggeration on Hollywood's part in order to make a more appealing story. There are a couple instances in the movie that seem questionable, though.

For example, early in the movie, there is a scene where 11-year-old Carter jumps to defend a young male friend of his from being molested by a white businessman. In my opinion, this scene is possibly trying to push several "politically correct" agendas at once. But viewers can be the judge of that for themselves. Another curious point noticed is that we're never really told what becomes of Carter's friend, John Artis. He seems to just disappear somewhere along the way.

Besides Washington, the audience may recognize several of the other actors in the film. Allow me to help answer any "Where have I seen that person before?" questions that may arise.

Liev Schreiber, who played Sam Chaiton, has appeared in several movies, including the *Scream* trilogies, *Ransom* and *Sphere*. Vicellous Reon Shannon (Lesra Martin) has had roles in *Mighty Ducks 2*, *Touched By An Angel* and more. He can next be seen in the TNT film *Freedom Song*, opposite Danny Glover. Dan Hedaya, who plays Carter's enemy, the detective, is one of those actors you see everywhere but never know his name. His credits include *Clueless*, *A Civil Action* and *Ransom*. Interestingly, most of his roles seem to revolve around a police setting, a courtroom or both. Lastly is Clancy Brown, cast as the lieutenant who somewhat befriends Carter. His most



important previous character to note is that of Captain Bryon Hadley in *The Shawshank Redemption*, where he also worked in a prison.

For the most part, this film is quite enjoyable, even if it does leave one or two questions unanswered. It seems to give an accurate representation of the mistreatment of African Americans by whites, especially those in positions of great power, while being careful not to insinuate that all white people are evil. In addition, humor is nicely interwoven just where it seems to be needed the most. Overall, the film is emotionally moving in many ways.

The Hurricane is being shown in the Keathley University Center Theater at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and at 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday. The film is rated R, and admission is \$2. Call 898-2551 for more information. ♦

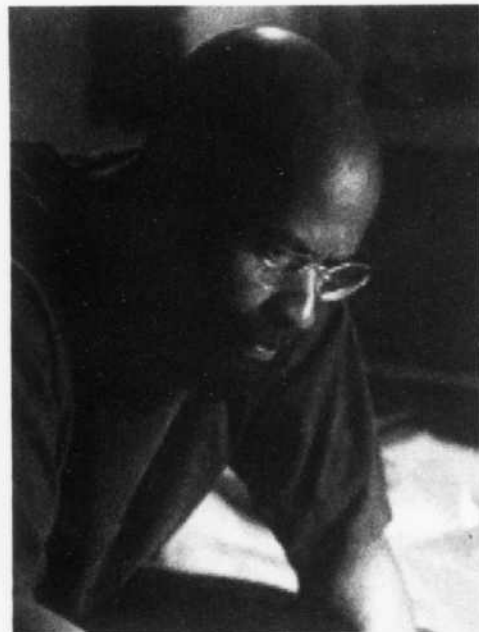


Photo provided

Denzel Washington brings historical prejudice to light in *The Hurricane*.



CAMPUS EVENTS

Compiled by Leslie Fike | Features Editor

Thursday, Feb. 7

MTSU Fine Arts presents Nigerian guitarist/multi instrumentalist Toby Foyeh and Orchestra Africa in honor of African American History Month at 7 p.m. in Tucker Theatre. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call 898-2551.

The Barn Gallery presents "El Groups Tejano," paintings by young artists from San Antonio, Texas. The exhibit will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 898-5653.

The Martial Arts Club hosts classes that teach various martial arts forms every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 until 10:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center's aerobics room.

MTSU Films presents *The Hurricane* in the KUC Theater at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and at 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$2.

The June Anderson Women's Center has autographed books by African American women authors on display. Other books of interest are available at the free lending library in Room 206 of the James Union Building. For more information, call 898-2193.

Monday, Feb. 11

The Survival Honors Lecture Series will feature Padgett Kelly discussing "Surviving Extinction?" in Peck Hall, Room 109A, from 3 to 3:50 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 898-2152.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

The Center for Popular Music and the Middle Tennessee Popular Music Studies Group invite the university community to "Music at Mid-Week," a lecture series on popular music topics. This week's guest speaker is recording industry professor Paul Fischer, who will discuss popular music and public policy. Each lecture will be in the Dean's Conference Room (241) of the John Bragg Mass Communication Building from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m.

See Campus Events, 5

Conference provides diverse opportunities

Staff Reports

The Education Equal Opportunity Group, Inc. will host Project Save-A-Student Leadership and Training Conference at the Nashville Convention Center today through Saturday.

EEOG is a nonprofit organization designed to help at-risk college students through college and provide opportunities for senior citizens, disabled and low-income populations.

The conference will allow 500 college students to participate in various workshops on stress management, improving

study skills, financial empowerment and health education.

Following the workshops, there will be a luncheon and comedy show with music artist and political activist Chuck D.

For additional information regarding this event, call 837-2426 or go to www.eeogusa.com. The first 100 students to register will get free admission. ♦



Chuck D

Campus Events continued from 4

Wednesday, Feb. 13

The Golden Key International Honor Society will have a meeting in Dining Room C of the James Union Building from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Interim Greek Life Director Maggie Prugh will speak on the topic of "Get Over the Fear of Public Speaking," and a brief meeting will follow the discussion. Anyone interested is invited. For more information, call 898-2815.

The Victory Campus Ministries will host a Bible study session every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in Room 104 of the John Bragg Mass Communication Building. For more information, contact Kevin Searcy at 898-4281.

International Programs and Services will be co-hosting the International Student Coffee Hour with the Christian Student Center from 4 to 5 p.m. in the JUB Hazelwood Dining Room.

The Survival Honors Lecture Series presents "Economic Predators" with guest speaker Richard Hannah from 3 to 3:50 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 109A. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 898-2152.

The Barn Gallery presents "El Groups Tejano," paintings by young artists from San Antonio, Texas. The exhibit will be open today through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 898-5653.

MTSU's Circle K is holding an informational meeting at 6 p.m. in the Keathley University Center, Room 318. Circle K is the largest collegiate service organization in the world. Free food will be provided, and everyone is welcome. For more information, attend the meeting.

The Martial Arts Club hosts classes that teach various martial arts forms every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center's aerobics room.

MTSU Films presents *The Hurricane* in the KUC Theater at 6 and 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and at 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$2.

The Tennessee Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra performs "Music for the Romantic" tonight at 7:30 in Tucker Theatre. For ticket information, call the symphony office at 898-1862.

Wanted! Features writers

Students interested in writing articles on unique MT individuals and campus events, such as concerts, movie reviews and international events, can apply in person at the James Union Building, Room 310.

Jackson: One month isn't enough to learn about heritage

Continued from 4

"They've been getting the short end of the stick lately."

Although efforts are being made, some students still don't think African American History Month is enough to truly bring all in society together.

"There needs to be more activities and more exposure," Mathis said.

"As an African American myself, I really don't know that much about my heritage because it hasn't been taught that much in school."

To learn more about African American heritage and history, Bakari said students should travel abroad.

"Every summer we take students to Africa," he said. "This summer, we are going to Gambia

and Ghana from May 28 through July 5 and [are] offering six credit hours for students to learn about other cultures."

The African American studies program at MTSU began approximately 10 years ago, Bakari said, and it places emphasis on understanding African American culture and history.

"We're hoping to be able to make sure these courses are brought more into the mainstream of the university," he said.

Bakari said the program is also hoping to get more professors from other departments to integrate African American studies throughout MTSU.

Jackson said that because the South is the toughest place concerning race relations, he is tar-

geting that region first to spread his message of human rights.

"The South should not only serve as the cradle of the civil

rights movement," Jackson said, "but also as the birthplace for the human rights movement." ♦

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Blue Raiders stay perfect

By Angelica Journagin
Staff Writer

After an important win over No. 20 Indiana State University Saturday, the No. 38 Middle Tennessee men's tennis team (4-0) came home Tuesday and continued its streak, beating the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga 6-1.

The opening doubles matches set the pace for the MT victory with all three doubles teams beating their opponents. The 34th-ranked doubles team of Daniel Klemetz and Kirk Jackson soundly defeated Thomas Knizat and John John Hangstefer 8-0.

Oliver Foreman and Robert Gustafsson beat Jason Ontog and Tim Katscher 8-3. The freshman duo of Greg Pollack and Rishan Kuruppu also triumphed over the older UTC team of Kyle True and James Dickerson 8-3 in their first MT competitive match together. This was the first match this season that Kuruppu has played in for MT.

"I was extremely pleased with the play of Greg and Rishan," head coach Dale Short said.

In singles action, the top MT player, Daniel Klemetz, sat out at the request of Short because of a cold, moving all of the players up one position in the matches.

"I think the team responded well to the opportunity," Short said. "We didn't really have a lot of time to prepare and some of the matches were a little closer than I would have like. Overall, I was happy with the victory."

MT's only loss last Saturday was Foreman, who lost 1-6, 6-7 to Katscher. While this was the only loss for MT that night, it did prove to be a motivating match with several break points and emotional play from both players.

See Tennis, 8

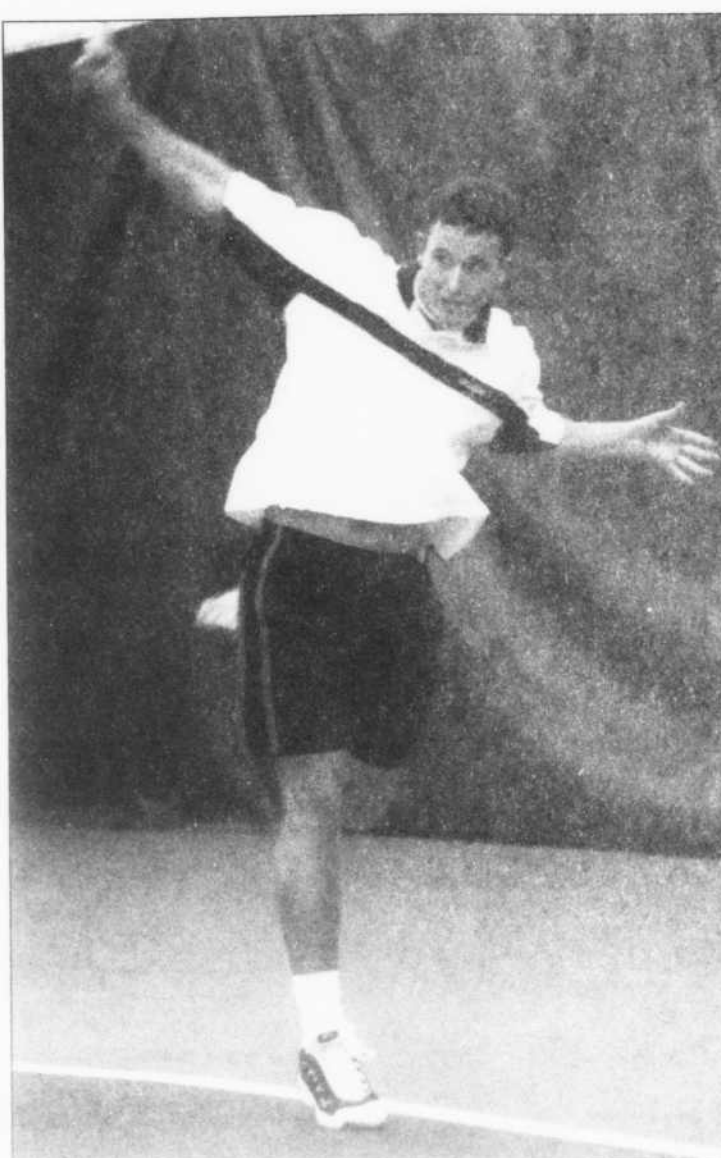


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer
Oliver Foreman returns a ball across court against UTC.

Lady Raiders vies for SBC position

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team (12-10, 4-5) looks to improve their Sun Belt Conference ranking with home games against Arkansas State University Thursday and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock Saturday.

In closing stages of the season, the Lady Raiders will try to bounce back from a 71-55 loss to Florida International University Saturday.

There are only five games left this season before the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. The SBC Tournament in New Orleans begins Feb. 28.

Right now, MT is in third place in the eastern division. ASU (8-13, 3-6) and UALR (6-15, 0-9) are right behind them in fourth and fifth place in the division.

In the first meeting between the Lady Raiders and Lady Indians Jan. 24, Jamie Thomatis scored 21 points and Patrice

Holmes added 19 in the 80-64 victory. ASU's Rae-Anne Smith had 18 points in that meeting. Jolie McKeirnan had her eighth double-double with 13 points and 11 rebounds. The game started a three-game winning streak for the Lady Raiders.

The Lady Indians ended a three-game losing streak with a 59-53 victory over UALR Saturday. McKeirnan had another double-double with 22 points and 12 rebounds in the win.

McKeirnan averages 13.5 points and 9.8 rebounds per game for ASU. Keshia Adams leads the Lady Indians in scoring, averaging 15.7 per game.

MT defeated UALR 79-60 Jan. 26. Holmes scored 23 points and Thomatis added 20, including 16 in the second half, in the win.

Darci Cassidy's 17 points led UALR with Alicia Cash adding 13 points. The turning point in that game came with 1:18 left in

See Women, 8

MT looks to move up to second place

Blue Raiders head to Arkansas for SBC games

By Justin Ward
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team (12-11) travels to Arkansas in hopes of building on its five-game winning streak while facing Arkansas State University (12-12) Thursday and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock (15-6) Saturday.

In the last meeting with Arkansas State, the Blue Raiders pulled out a win 83-64. Lee Nosse led MT in scoring with 15 points and 8 rebounds. Tommy Gunn backed him up with 13 points. The Blue Raiders also had 41 rebounds to Arkansas State's 33. MT connected on 11 three-pointers in the win.

Seven-foot Jason Jennings led ASU with 16 points in their 64-point effort. The Blue Raiders held him to 6 rebounds.

Jennings is the man to watch Thursday. He has a .584 field goal percentage this season. He has scored 343 points and averages 14.9 points per game. Nick Rivers is also a strong player, averaging 18.4 points per game and scoring 221 points on the season.

The Blue Raiders barely pulled out the win in the last meeting with UALR, taking a 68-65 win. John Humphrey led the way with a career-high 17 points against UALR. Gunn backed him up with 13 points.

UALR guard Nick Zachary led the way with 22 points. Six of those points were three-pointers from well beyond the arc.

"I was worried to death about Zachary," Blue Raider head coach Randy Wiel said. "This guy has range. I've seen him shoot the ball like you wouldn't believe. Tommy and Steven did a great job on him, especially in the first half when they didn't allow him to get the ball, but late in the game he had the ball from the outset."

Zachary will be a strong player in Saturday's game against UALR. He has a .428 shooting percentage from behind the three-point line.

The Blue Raiders have continued to win since their victory against ASU. They have moved up from last place in the Sun Belt Conference eastern division into third place with their win over Florida International University Saturday. If they triumph at ASU and UALR, the Blue Raiders could be vying for

second place.

Nosse will play a strong role in the two upcoming conference games, passing the 1,000-point mark Monday night against Texas Pan-Am. Nosse leads the team with 291 points this season and an average of 13.2 points per game. He also leads the team with 166 rebounds.

Gunn also will be a strong player, averaging 13.4 points per game and 268 points for the season.

Humphrey and William Pippen also have been performing strongly in the past five games. Humphrey averaged 10.8 points over the past five games and has 141 points for the season to go along with 44 rebounds. Pippen scored just less than 10 points

a game in his past five games. He has 211 points for the season, averaging 9.6 points per game and has 105 rebounds.

"We have all the confidence," Pippen said about the two upcoming games. "We beat them here, so we just have to go down there and take care of business."

The Blue Raiders finish out the season with two conference games. One is against Denver Feb. 16, and the final game is against Western Kentucky Feb. 23 before the Sun Belt Tournament. ♦

"We just have to go down there and take care of business."

—William Pippen, MT forward

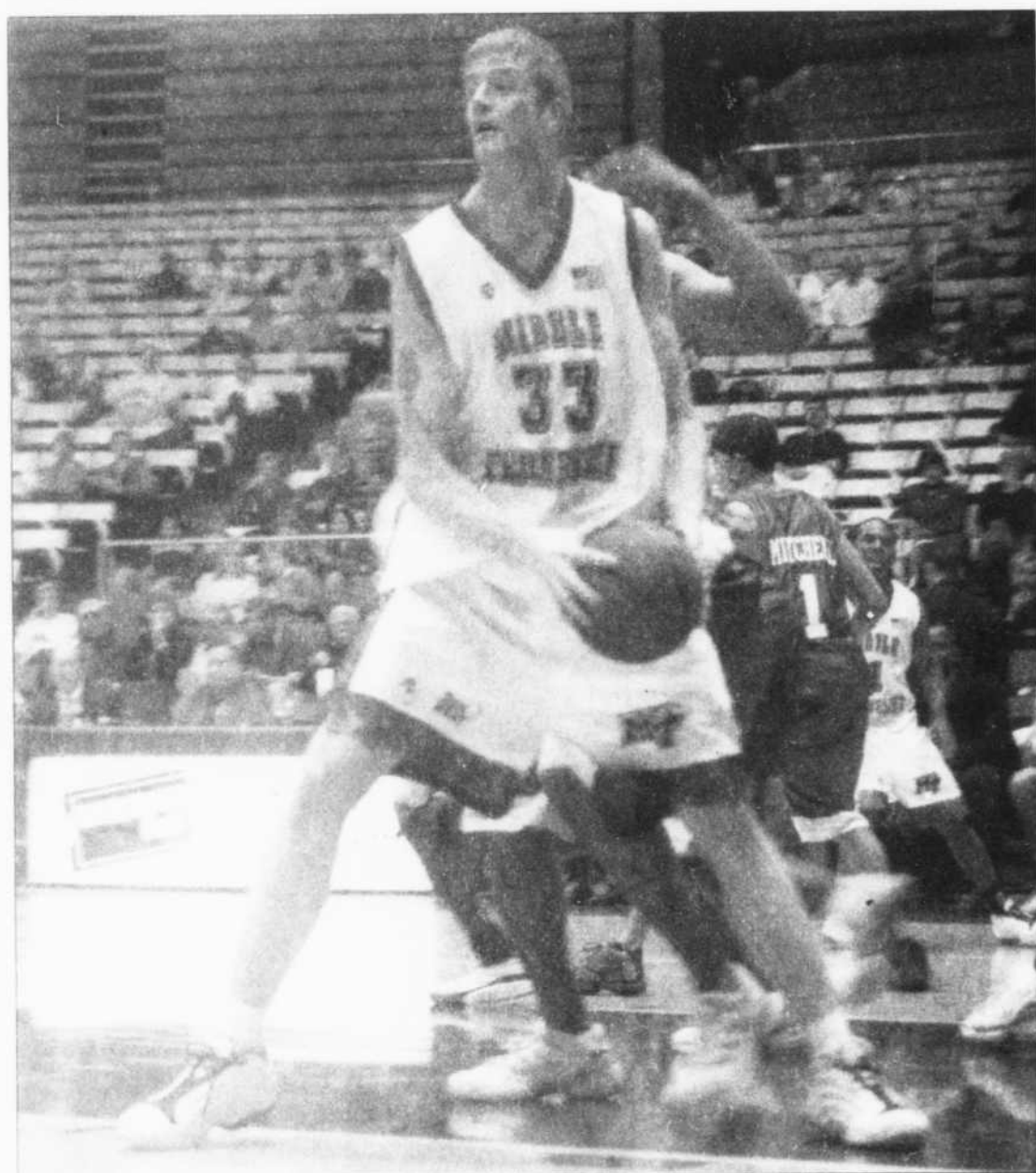


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer
Lee Nosse pivots in the lane in a recent home game. Nosse scored 15 points and had 8 rebounds in MT's last meeting with Arkansas State University in mid-January.

Blue Raiders sign many top recruits

By Angelica Journagin
Staff Writer

It was a big day for the Middle Tennessee football team as head coach Andy McCollum revealed the new season recruits at the 2002 Signing Day press conference Wednesday afternoon.

One surprise in the 2002 signing class was the appearance of Hillsboro High School senior John Henry on the list after he had verbally committed to the University of Tennessee. Rumors had been circulating about the offensive lineman's change of heart, but he did not establish a commitment to MT until the night before the Signing Day press conference.

"John Henry made the decision that this was the best place for him," McCollum said. "Regardless of what everybody thought."

The 6-foot-6-inch, 305-pound Henry was rated the No.

64 for offensive lineman in the nation by Rivals100.com. He also was selected for four first team All-State teams in 2001 for Tennessee.

Another big catch for MT was the 6-foot-3-inch, 180-pound quarterback Josh Harris from Santuck, S.C. Harris was rated the No. 32 dual-threat quarterback by Rivals100.com and featured on several other national lists after throwing for 3,013 yards on 207-for-369 passing and 32 touchdowns his senior year.

The other quarterback listed in the 2002 signing class was Clint Marks from Fort Myers, Fla. Marks was called an accurate passer who possesses size and strength by Rivals100.com. A third quarterback, J.P. Shelly from Nashville, did not officially sign with MT Wednesday, instead choosing to accept an MTSU Presidential Scholarship. Shelly has verbally committed to play for MT in the fall.



Photo by Angelica Journagin | Staff
MT head coach Andy McCollum announces his signees.

Ranked as the No. 10 dual-threat quarterback by Rivals100.com Sam Williams from Spartanburg, S.C. will be playing for MT as a receiver. Leading the new offensive players will be recently hired Steve Campbell. Campbell was the head coach at Delta State and won a national championship during his two years there.

"To get someone the caliber

of Steve Campbell is amazing," McCollum said. "He gives up the head coaching job at Delta State to come and be part of the Middle Tennessee family. That makes a great statement, not only for Steve but for where this program is and what Middle Tennessee stands for."

"To join a program with a

See Signees, 8

Women's golf places best ever third at tournament

By Angelica Journagin
Staff Writer

Under the new leadership of head coach Rachael Moore, the Middle Tennessee women's golf team finished in third place at the cold and windy Lady Eagle Invitational in Hattiesburg, Miss. Monday and Tuesday. The third place finish is the highest showing in the history of the program.

The Lady Raiders fell to third Tuesday after leading the pack Monday shooting a 315 on the par 72 Timberton Golf Course.

Helping establish the lead on the first day of the tournament was the individual performances by junior Kandace Burnett, sophomore Tamara Munsch and freshman Amanda Harter.

Burnett swung a career-best 75 to tie for first place in the individual rankings. Munsch shot 77 to come in sixth, while Harter hit 80 to come in ninth. Rounding out the team scoring was Kristin Lynch with 83 strokes and Kemmerlee Pennington with 90. The combined score after the first day put MT on top with 315, closely followed by second place Austin Peay State University with 316 and third place University of North Texas at 317.

"I was so proud of the team today," Moore said. "The course was playing long and we attacked it the smart way. We made good club selections all day and managed the course well. That is the reason we are in first place."

The Lady Raiders slipped the second day of the tournament and fell two spots to No. 3. Jacksonville State University came back from being in fourth place after the first round to take the tournament with a two-round 628. Directly after them was fellow Sun Belt team UNT with a 631. MT finished the day with a 636.

See Golf, 8

Moosemen off to good start

Men's rugby team won first match, plays Tennessee next

By Maura Satchell
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's rugby team kicked off the spring season with a powerful 38-17 win over Huntsville Rugby Football Club last Saturday at MT's pitch.

The Moosemen took control of the match with the B-side all-stars pulling ahead 14-10 after the 30-minute period. Tries for the B-side came from Orin Mainda and Dusty Brown. Newcomer Colby Wright made both two-point conversion kicks.

Mike Renda scored 2 tries to lead the A-side Moosemen's rout of Huntsville's A-side rug- gers. Mark Kane and 2001 South Conference All-star Derek Wolfe both made tries for 5 each, and Moosemen All American Cayo Nicolau converted 2 tries for an additional 4

points.

The match was MT's ninth consecutive win since September when Huntsville beat the Moosemen 17-15.

"We were out there trying to knock the rust off from the off-season," Moosemen head coach Tony Neely said of Saturday's performance.

"I would say that overall, we were pleased with the outcome. Anytime a college team can beat a quality men's club team, it has to be viewed as positive," Neely said.

The Huntsville Rugby Football Club is not a collegiate team, but competes in the same Regional Union as MT, USA Rugby South.

Rugby is not an NCAA governed sport. Rather, USA Rugby, the national governing body for the sport of rugby in the United States, which serves as the sport's official representative to the U.S. Olympic Committee, sanctions and governs the sport. The Moosemen compete in the USA Rugby South Collegiate Division I.

Without NCAA backing, the sport is not as visible or as marketable, but as Neely says "it is, however, far and away the most

popular club sport on America's campuses."

The Moosemen play against the University of Tennessee Rugby Football Club Saturday at 3 p.m. at UNC Chapel Hill.

"As far as UT goes, they beat us in a league game last year," Neely said. "That was the first time in 10 years. We have a great overall record versus UT. I don't know who is favored, but I know we owe them one for last year."

MT is No. 3 in the Northern Conference of Rugby South, pitted against the University of Tennessee, University of North Carolina and Appalachian State. The Southern Conference of Rugby South includes the University of Florida, University of Georgia, Clemson and Florida Atlantic.

"We are going to take these games one at a time, but I like our chances this season of winning the south," Neely said.

Winners of both the Northern and Southern Conferences compete March 23-24 in Myrtle Beach, S.C., with the winner advancing to the USA Rugby Collegiate National quarterfinals as the south Division I representative.

Two years ago, the Moosemen made it into the National quarterfinals before losing to 16-time national champion University of California-Berkeley. Cal-Berkeley went on to take its 10th consecutive title.

The 2002 Moosemen lost team captain Jason Pollard, who graduated, and Adam Kibler, named to the 2001 Mid-South All-Star team, as well as other seasoned players. The team has gained eight new players although players can join the ranks throughout the season.

"We are always looking for new student athletes to play rugby. The club is open to all," Neely said. Interested student athletes can call 812-1754 for more information. ♦

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Women: Playing at home

Continued from 6

the second half. MT was ahead 70-56 when Patrice Holmes was fouled by Shemeka Strong. Then UALR was called for three consecutive technical fouls on Eplunus Brooks, Alicia Cash and head coach Tracy Stewart-Lange. MT hit 7-of-8 free throws to pull away for the victory.

UALR is coming off a 59-53 loss to ASU Saturday. The loss is UALR's 38th straight against opponents in the Sun Belt. UALR travels to Western Kentucky to take on the Lady Toppers Thursday. Alicia Cash leads the Lady Trojans in scoring with 13.4 points per game. Tip-off for both games is 7 p.m. ♦

Tennis: Blue Raider tennis dominates UT-Chattanooga

Continued from 6

The only other close match of the evening came in the No. 3 spot between MT's Michael Staniak and Knizat. Knizat dominated the points in the first set. However, Staniak came back to win with the final score being 2-6, 6-3, and 6-4. "[Staniak] pulled out another

tough match," Short said. "You can always count on him in the clutch." MT dominated the rest of the night, with the players sweeping the competition in straight sets. This includes the 6-4, 6-4 win made by Pollack in his first singles match of the season. Short said that he is going to

give the team the next couple of days off for them to rest up and recuperate before their games next week against North Carolina State University and Indiana University. "We've just come back from a long road trip Sunday and I think that the team is emotionally burnt out," Short responded about the break. "Next week we are going to have to play our best. Hopefully we will be up for the challenge." The Blue Raiders play North Carolina State University Jan. 16

at 1 p.m. at the Racquet Club and IU the next day at 10 a.m. ♦

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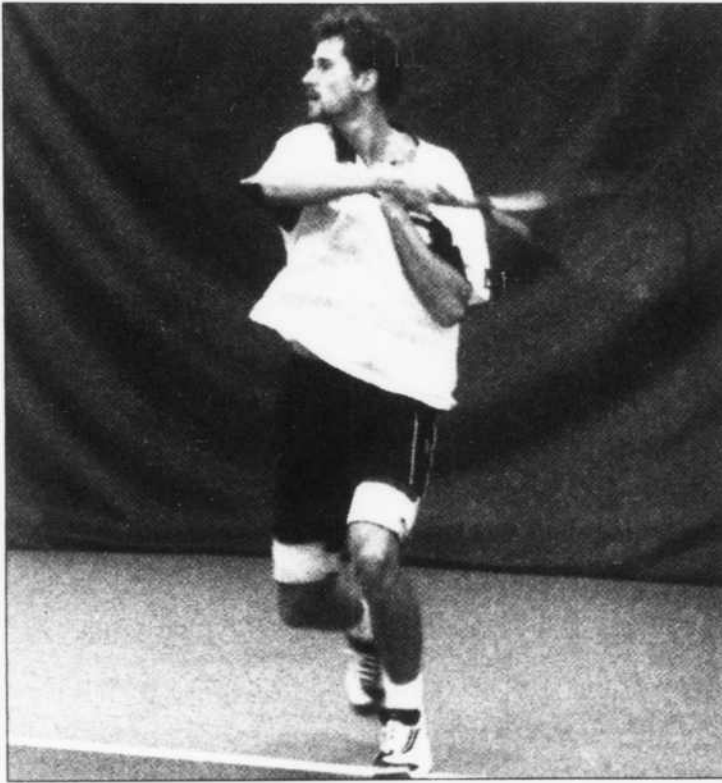



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Gustafsson returns a serve at the Racquet Club Tuesday.

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Golf: Wins

Continued from 6

Munsch ended the tournament with a 154 to share the third place spot. Burnett had a 156, dropping her to sixth place and Harter had a 159 to finish 10th. Lynch finished 31st in the tournament with a 167 and Pennington shot 4 strokes better Tuesday to bring her final score to 176. "Overall, I am happy with the tournament because we reached our goal of finishing in the top five," Moore said. "They took one shot at a time and managed the course extremely well for all 36 holes. This gives us a lot of confidence." The Lady Raiders travel to play in the Southern Shootout in Birmingham, Ala. Feb. 18 and 19. ♦

Signees:

Continued from 6

great national reputation is an opportunity that I didn't feel I could afford to pass up," Campbell said. Defensively Super Prep All-American and Rivals100.com 43rd ranked recruit Bobby Payne was an important last minute addition to the roster. Payne held a press conference at his high school this morning to announce MT as his choice despite verbally committing to the University of Arkansas. After failing to meet NCAA academic guidelines last year, Jeff Littlejohn attended MTSU for a year and will join the team next season as a defensive lineman. Littlejohn was the number 6 lineman in the country in a poll conducted by ESPN. "We said from the start that we are going to have the best players that fit what we do and we were not going to back out until they [the recruits] let us know that we are out of it," McCollum said about the recruiting process. "We want the same recognition that everybody else gets. We want to be on the same pages. We want to be talked about. That's what is all about and we are still striving to make that happen." Practice will start next week for last years returning players and the seven players in the new class that are already enrolled at MT. ♦