



This week's poll question at
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THEATER

Are you afraid of Virginia Woolf?

In [flash], inside



MURFREESBORO,
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The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

Volume 79 No. 55

First half of fiscal year proves profitable

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

The amount of private contributions the university received this fiscal year is already up to \$4.5 million, according to Joe Bales, vice president for Development and University Relations.

"We're up significantly, not only in dollars, but also total number of donors," Bales explained.

Bales said that for the past three or four years, MTSU received around \$3-4 million total each year, not counting the one-time gift for the Tennessee

Miller Coliseum.

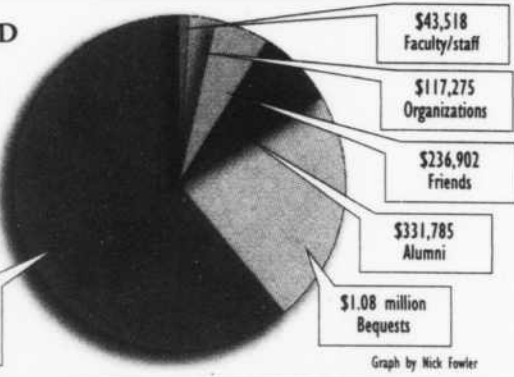
However, MTSU has already reached \$4.5 million in only the first half of the fiscal year.

"If you take all of the categories and all of the gifts, we are well ahead of where we have been in recent times," Bales said.

The most important major gift so far has been the \$1.74 million grant from the Christy-Houston Foundation, which will go toward the expansion of the School of Nursing.

FUNDS RAISED

The first half of this fiscal year was a good one for MTSU fund-raisers. Here's how the funds break down.



Graph by Nick Fowler

of the Christy-Houston Foundation) is a local foundation that's sole purpose is to promote the health and well-

being of citizens of Rutherford County," Bales said. "They have supported in the past our Dyslexia Center."

While the bigger gifts to the

university are important, Bales is also focused on the smaller contributions.

"We're proud of the fact that we're already up over 300 donors ahead in terms of total number of contributors," he said. "They make the ongoing gifts that sustain our programs."

This year the development office has seen an increase in contributions to scholarships, which will be important starting next semester when the HOPE scholarship begins.

"Even with the lottery coming online in the fall, that's not going to reduce the need for financial aid," Bales explained.

More scholarship funds will help current students finish school with less debt and will support outstanding academic performance.

"Some of the things that we have priorities on are trying to find additional support for outstanding faculty, provide some discretionary monies that the deans can use to help faculty travel to conferences, start up new projects and things like that," Bales said.

Bales came to MTSU from the University of Tennessee in September 2002 and spent last

See Funding, 2

Helping hands



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Heather Hamrick, left, works on an art project with Kennedy, right, at Project HELP. The center not only provides a place for young children to learn and play, but it also acts as a working laboratory for MTSU students.

Center answers children's needs

By Meagan Kirby
Staff Writer

MTSU's Project HELP has been an asset to the community and the campus since 1983 and is currently expanding.

Project HELP, which stands for Help Educate Little People, is an early intervention center on campus that works with children up to three years old who have a diagnosed disability such as Down syndrome or cerebral palsy.

Dr. Anne Campbell started Project HELP in 1983. All by herself, she would help devel-

opmentally challenged children by going to their homes. From there she got a classroom in the basement of Jones Hall and started a small preschool that served four to five children and had two employees.

In 1997 she organized a fund-raising capital campaign to get a new building, which is currently located on North Baird Lane.

The new center is now under the direction of Debbie Bauder and has come a long way since its beginning.

It now has six classrooms in the center and has just opened a new classroom in the Fairview Center, which

used to be Belle Aire Church, on campus.

Bauder wanted a new classroom for the children to go to after they left the center that would help them have an easy progression into county and city schools.

"Our children were leaving the center at age three and going into more restrictive settings," Bauder said. "We wanted to collaborate with Murfreesboro city schools to provide a smooth transition for the kids."

The center was able to do that through an early childhood education grant. The grants were set up to fund preschools for children of

lower income families.

"We thought this would be an unique opportunity to put together this classroom as a collaborative effort," Bauder said.

Bauder said that Project HELP worked with Murfreesboro city schools, the human sciences department on campus and the College of Education and Behavioral Science to set up the new classroom.

"It has turned out to be an awesome experience," she said.

The new class has four children who are English

See Project, 2



Photo by Megan Vaughan | Staff Photographer

Susan Trentham, director of the June Anderson Women's Center, speaks yesterday on young women and their involvement – and lack thereof – in feminism.

Young women's involvement hard to measure

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

Young women's involvement in the women's movement is hard to gauge, the June Anderson Women's Center director said yesterday.

Susan Trentham, who took the center's helm in September, said there are mixed viewpoints on the status of the women's movement, and especially the climate and effectiveness of Third Wave – or more modern – feminism. She said today's young women and feminists come from a completely different perspective than their predecessors.

"First of all, they do not have experience with the consciousness-raising efforts that took place in the 1960s and '70s," Trentham said. "Nor do they have any kind of experience when the Equal Rights Amendment was trying to be ratified in the early '80s."

Young women typically learn

about the women's movement from women's studies classes, history classes, the media, parents and older individuals, Trentham said.

"The problem with this is that they may see the women's movement as historically distant, or something that's not relevant to them," she said.

The seemingly lackluster involvement of women in a movement today could stem from a number of reasons, Trentham said, many of which are ironically a result of the women's movements of the past.

For one, she said, most women today are born and raised with a feminism consciousness, which helps provide them with a sense of entitlement to equality and freedom. This could lead young women to take their rights and freedoms for granted, she said.

Trentham said the sexism

See Women, 2

English professor examines the world's attraction to Elvis

Concert footage could provide insight

By Tim Hill
Staff Writer

The European Elvis Presley Fan Club is trying to get more of Elvis, and so is MTSU English professor Charles Wolfe.

While delivering the first lecture for the university's weekly "Perspective on Popular Music" series Tuesday, Wolfe insisted that Elvis fans wanted to know what made the King able to connect with his audiences so well.

"RCA's vaults have hundreds and hundreds of never-before-released concert footage from Elvis' career," Wolfe said.

He argued that the footage could give Elvis

fans more insight into the artist's core repertoire or the songs he regularly played during concerts.

By looking at Elvis' concert line-ups in Memphis in 1974 and Omaha in 1977, fans can see that his concerts always began with songs from when he became famous in the 1950s.

"C.C. Rider" and "That's All Right, Mama" were sure to be on the play list.

Wolfe said Elvis would always include two or three gospel songs, such as "How Great Thou Art." Elvis' core repertoire even included country songs like "Release Me" and "Always On My Mind."

To finish the night, Presley would choose popular folk songs such as "American Trilogy" and "Love Me Tender." During the 1970s, Elvis recorded more than 17 new LPs.

"Elvis did not do what most artists did, which was [to] announce during a concert, 'Here's some

of my new material,'" Wolfe said. "Sometimes Elvis was just better live than on a record."

At one of the concerts Elvis performed in Murfreesboro at Murphy Center in 1977, Elvis invited a woman on stage to dance, and after the song, he asked her about her life.

"It meant a lot for Elvis to see his audience engaged in the show," Wolfe said.

Elvis rarely gave his personal opinions about his music. One of the records that the European Elvis Fan Club was able to get RCA to release, however, has Elvis talking about his playing.

The lecture series is held every Tuesday from 12:30-1:15 p.m. in the Dean's Conference Room on the second floor of the Bragg Mass Communication Building.

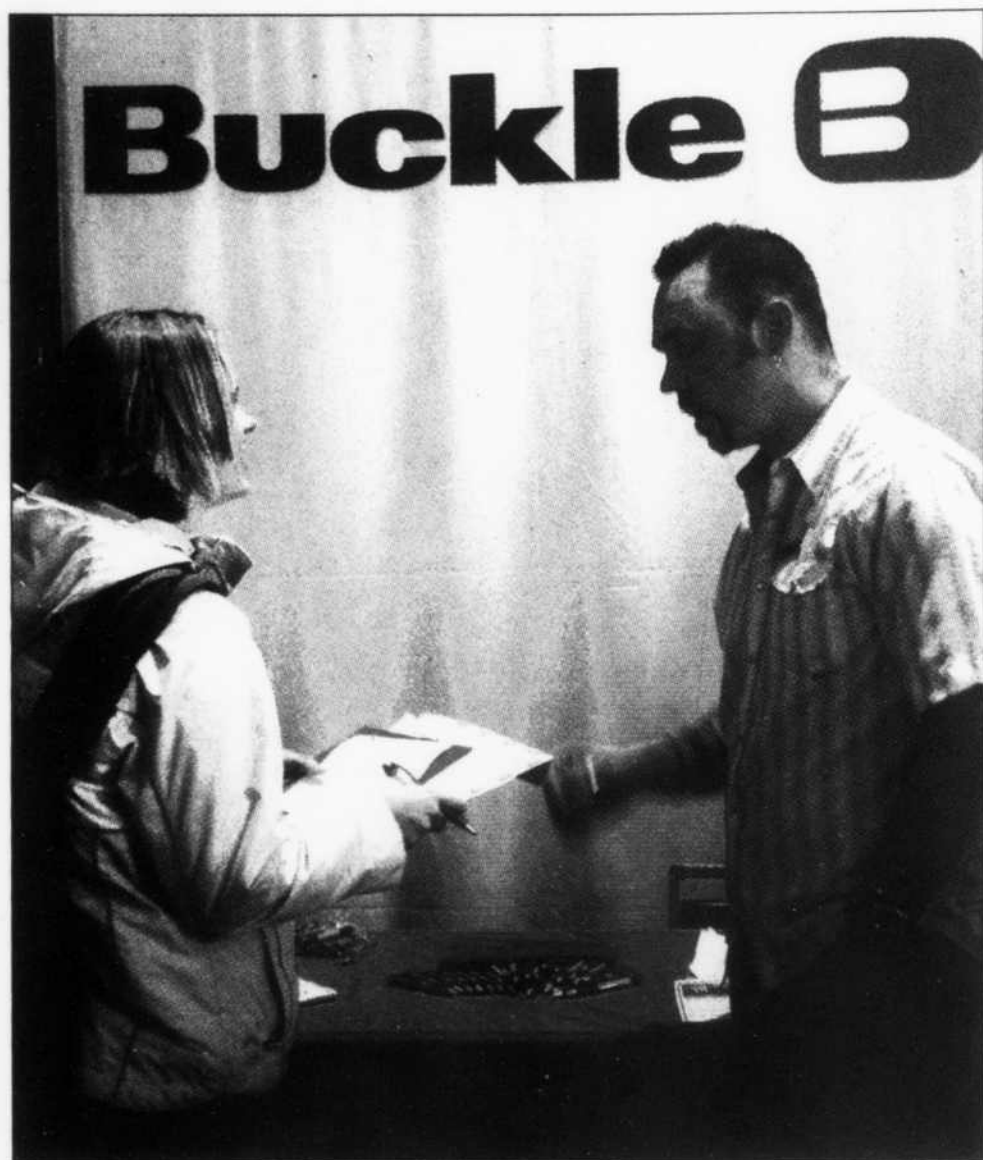
For more information about an upcoming lecture, contact Paul Wells of the college's Center for Popular Music at 898-2449. ♦

PERSPECTIVES ON POPULAR MUSIC LECTURE SERIES*

- | | |
|---------|--|
| FEB. 3 | Can Real Songwriters Get Their Rights Back?
Geoff Hull |
| FEB. 10 | Disc Men: Researching the Origins of the Record Business
Paul Fischer |
| FEB. 17 | Who is Qualified to Speak for Jazz?
Bill Levine |

*This is not a complete semester schedule

Inquiring minds



Sophomore journalism major Roxie Caldwell, left, gets information from Bryan Dismore about his company yesterday at the Summer Jobs and Internships fair, held in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

Photo by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer

Project: Center needs held during breaks

Continued from 1

language learners, four children with special needs and eight lower income children. It has the capacity to hold 20 children, but only has 16 now.

The class has one teacher and a full-time assistant and a mid-day assistant who comes in four days a week and speaks Spanish.

The center on Baird can hold 30 special needs students and 15 non-developmentally challenged students. Now, there are 43 students in the center. Bauder said she will be adding one more student on Monday and will have one opening left after that.

The center is mandated by the state to bring in non-devel-

opmentally challenged students to act as role models for the special needs students.

The program is free to children who have developmental delays and is a regular daycare for the other students.

Project HELP also accepts volunteers from the campus. The center is a laboratory for students in elementary education, special education programs, psychology, social work, nursing, early childhood development and physical education.

About 200 MTSU students get involved with the center each semester.

"Many professors require volunteer hours that can be served here," Bauder said. "We take volunteers at any time. The

only requirement is to be cleared of tuberculosis."

Bauder explained that despite all the assistance the center gets from the campus, the staff needs more help certain times of the year.

"We are desperate for help during semester breaks," Bauder said. "We only close when the university does and we could use help then as well."

There are about 10 MTSU student volunteers there now.

Students interested in getting involved with the center can call Tricia Yeagan at 898-2458. The center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the new pre-kindergarten classroom is open from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ♦

Funding: Four new staffers raise dollars

Continued from 1

year determining university priorities for funding and figuring out ways to improve contributions.

One of the changes that has been made was moving the phone-a-thon back to campus and improving the software that keeps track of alumni.

"That started last fall and that's had a big impact because it's helping re-establish relationships between some of our graduates and the university," Bales said.

Furthermore the office recently hired four new staff members to stimulate fund raising for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, the College of Business and the College of Mass Communication as well as the university's annual fund.

"I think having additional staff to meet with people and spread the word about what is happening at the university is certainly helping," Bales said.

More targeted mailings toward alumni and providing more information about the role of private support has helped the development office reach a peak this year.

Bales also said that university President Sidney McPhee has led the way for providing incentive to alumni to support the university.

"The president having a real clear sense of what he wants the university to become and articulating that to the public has been very important because I think people appreciate his desire to see the university move forward," Bales said.

During Monday's Honors Lecture, "Tough Choices in Higher Education," McPhee spoke about goals he had for fund-raising.

"When I go out to California to companies to try to get support, one of the first things they ask is 'What percent of your alums give to your university?'" he said.

Currently only 6-8 percent of alumni give to the university, while the national average is around 18 percent.

"My goal is to get from 8 percent to 12 percent and we're in that direction," McPhee said.

McPhee encouraged current students to do their part right now by motivating local graduates to contribute to MTSU.

"If you know friends that have graduated from this university that are not doing anything to support this university, talk to them, get on them," he said.

Already Bales is optimistic about the total donated so far and sees this as an indication of the university's upward movement.

"I think it's a tribute to the fact that the university has the outstanding programs and that the alumni and people in the community really see the value that this university has in this region," Bales said. ♦

Women: Director sees progress, has hope

Continued from 1

and discrimination facing young women is, for the most part, different than the sort that faced their mothers and grandmothers.

"Now, things are more subtle," she said. "They're more covert."

Anti-feminist groups and organizations pushing "traditional" values have helped quell the women's movement by making it seem radical and irrelevant, Trentham said.

Even some young Third Wave feminists are at odds with their history, Trentham said. A

generation gap can form between older and younger women in the movement.

"In some ways, [some Third Wave feminist groups] are seeing the women's movement as historically distant as well," Trentham said. She said the new groups sometimes develop new ideas and focuses that "not all participants of the women's movement agree with, especially older participants."

Trentham said the potential rifts in the movement have always existed between generations. Even the younger women suffragists of the 1920s felt that their older counterparts in the

movement were sometimes too conservative, she said.

Though Trentham said it's difficult to determine how young women as a whole are involved in today's movement, she is confident that there is a vibrant community of people who still strive for change and equality.

She said MTSU's own Women for Women, a feminist student organization, is an active group on campus that pushes for social change.

Trentham's lecture was sponsored by the JAWC and the women's studies department. ♦

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Pump up the jam



Photo by Megan Allender | Photo Editor

The Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra performs at Wright Music Hall Tuesday evening under the direction of Susan Mullen. Founded in 1997, the orchestra has grown from a strings-only ensemble to include concert band instrumentalists. Ten percent of the orchestra's members were selected for the Governor's School for the Arts last year.

Bragg resting in hospital

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

Former state Rep. John Bragg is recuperating in the Coronary Care Unit at Middle Tennessee Medical Center. He said his father had a heart attack at some point during the weekend and was admitted to the hospital Sunday morning after he experienced restlessness and shortness of breath.

Tommy Bragg, his son and mayor of Murfreesboro, said his father is continuing his recovery in the Coronary Care Unit at Middle Tennessee Medical Center. He said his father had a heart attack at some point during the weekend and was admitted to the hospital Sunday morning after he experienced restlessness and shortness of breath.

John Bragg was a state representative for a total of 35 years, retiring in 1996, and is 85 years old. He was the chair of the House Finance Committee for the second half of his career in the General Assembly. His district once included all of Rutherford County and Murfreesboro, but as the area population grew, his district shrank to include parts of the county and the city.

"He is very weak," Tommy said. "He suffered a mild heart attack over the weekend and

they're trying to treat his condition with medication.

"Since that time, he has been under strict supervision and medication, and (Middle Tennessee Medical Center) has provided good care."

Tommy said his father is in good spirits despite the experience.

"His spirits are very good," Tommy said. "He's a little talkative, but resting quite a bit during the day, but when he does wake up he's very conversant and still has his usual sense of humor."

"We're trying to encourage him to rest as much as he can," he continued.

Tommy said the family hopes his father will be able to leave the intensive care unit as soon as today to a private room for rehabilitation. He said the family has received cards, flowers and get-well wishes from Rep. John Hood, former state Sen. Andy Womack, former Gov. Ned McWherter, university President and First Lady Sidney and Liz McPhee and the MTSU College of Mass Communications, to name a

See Bragg, 4

Flu cases down, but still an issue

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

Health officials are still encouraging people, especially those at the highest risk for severe complications from influenza, to get vaccinated even though the worst of the flu season appears to be over. "We are clearly on the downward slope of reported cases," said Tom Skinner, a spokesperson for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. "On the whole, across the nation the numbers are declining, but it wouldn't surprise us to see more activity before the season is over."

The CDC identifies the flu season as October through March. The agency defines high-risk influenza groups as children from ages six months to six years, adults over 55, those with compromised immune systems, students who live in dormitories, health care workers, teachers and volunteer workers. Skinner said that high-risk groups should suffer the most severe complications from the flu, potentially resulting in hospitalization and even death.

Cases of influenza around the country reached a three-year record high in December, according to the CDC Web site. Skinner said that the peak of the season arrived earlier than usual nationwide and at an increased intensity in some areas of the country.

Skinner said that consumer demand exceeded the supply of vaccines in many areas, including Middle Tennessee. Many health care facilities, including the MTSU Student Health Services office, are still out of the vaccine. However, anyone who still wants to be immunized can get a shot at county health facilities, including the Rutherford County Health Department and at some doctor's offices. Middle Tennessee Medical Center does not have any vaccines available.

"There aren't any restrictions on who can get the vaccine now," said Dana Garrett, director of nursing at the Rutherford County Health Department. "Anyone who wants the vaccine can get it." Garrett said that the Health Department has approximately 100 adult and 100 pediatric doses left.

"The worst of the season is over — it spiked around Christmas — but there is still some flu going around, and a lot of cases are not reported," Garrett said. She said that often doctors treat patients for the flu and do not report it to the Health Department. She said that Rutherford County has 400 confirmed influenza cases reported so far this season, and the department estimates that really represents only one third of the amount of cases that have been treated.

"We haven't seen any cases (here at MTSU) since before the Christmas break," said Shandora Dorsey, a physician's assistant at Student Health Services. "But we saw quiet a few cases just before Christmas. The biggest surge was just before the (holiday) break. The season peaked early this year."

Dorsey also said that of the patients who were treated for the flu this year, few had been vaccinated and those who had been vaccinated may have gotten the shot too late.

"It takes at least two weeks after getting a shot to become immune," Dorsey said.

This year's vaccine included three strains of influenza, including the type A strain that has been found in most of the confirmed cases so far in the US, according to information published on the CDC Web site. However, the CDC Web site indicated that the agency has identified a "drifted strain" of type A influenza that seems to be resistant to this season's vaccine.

"We really won't know how for sure effective this year's vaccine is until spring when the season is over," Skinner said. "We are already testing and working on strains now for next year's vaccine."

"The vaccine is never 100 percent protection from the flu," Garrett said, "but even if you are exposed to another strain, the vaccine provides good coverage and should offer protection."

Dorsey said that there is hope for those who can get to a doctor in the first 24 hours of the onset of flu symptoms.

"We can write a prescription for Tamiflu, and we have Amantadine, which covers both type A and B influenza," Dorsey said. These drugs could shorten the time the patient will suffer from the flu symptoms, including fever, aches and a dry cough. She said sudden high fever, weakness and all-over body pain is the easiest way to tell the difference between the flu and a common cold.

"The flu broadsides you," Dorsey said. "You don't think you will live through the night." ♦

Benzene cause for concern

By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

The new landfill water monitoring reports are in. While the BFI landfill near Walter Hill passes with flying colors, the old Rutherford County landfill is still raising concerns.

Alan Spear, a geologist for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, said while the report shows most of the chemical contamination levels fall below the acceptable maximums set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the continuing release of toxins such as benzene and trichloroethylene into the groundwater is troublesome.

According to Spear, groundwater monitoring is done bi-yearly at all landfills across the state.

The tests are conducted by obtaining samples from on-site wells.

Every landfill is required to have one clean-water well and at least two down-gradient wells.

The clean-water well acts as the standard against which other wells are compared. Spear said all groundwater, even that in barren areas, contains naturally occurring chemicals. Therefore, it's important to differentiate between what is normally there and what isn't.

Tests conducted on Dec. 11, 2003, indi-



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

The Old Rutherford County landfill, located next to the new BFI facility, tested slightly above normal levels of benzene in nearby well water.

cate the current level of benzene at the old Rutherford County landfill is .0012 parts per million. The maximum contamination level — the level at which the infiltration becomes a health threat — is .005 ppm.

Tests at the BFI landfill indicated no levels of benzene contamination.

Traces of benzene raise concerns because it is known to cause leukemia, nerve, lung and kidney damage, and can affect the human reproductive system.

While Spear notes that a finding of .0012

See Landfill, 4

Crisis Center to hold fund-raiser

Center to assist adult rape victims county-wide

By Linda G. Selby
Staff Writer

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, somewhere in America a woman is raped every two minutes. In 1996, 307,000 women were the victims of sexual assault, attempted rape or rape. Two thirds of rape victims are under the age of 18 and 29 percent of female victims reported that the offender was a stranger.

Ruth Howard, executive director of the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center, is looking forward to opening the beginning phase of the center. Howard worked with the Domestic Violence Center and realized that a big need in the community was not being met when finding that sexual assault victims had no where to turn following an assault.

The Rape Recovery and Prevention Center will open March 1 at the Murfreesboro Medical Clinic. The center will begin the first phase with a crisis hotline and hospital accompaniment for women who report a rape incident and need support.

A fundraiser is being held at the Coconut Bay Café Feb. 1 at 5 p.m. to support the center and raise awareness. There will be free food and drinks. The center is hoping to raise about \$80,000 for their first year of

operation with various fund-raisers, including a 5K race that the center is hosting later this year.

They have had a lot of positive feedback from the community and several donations from local businesses and corporations. They are looking for a good turnout at the event this Sunday.

"We have a wonderful group of people working with the center," Howard said. "Billy Jo Josovitz is our legal advocate in domestic violence, and we have several members of the MTSU faculty which include Dr. Susan Trentham, director of the June Anderson Women's Center, Dr. Larry Howard, Business Management, Dr. Richard Chapman, director of Student Health Services and Dr. Carol Ann Bailey, Director of Adult Student Services are some of those working to make the center a success."

When a plea went out to *The Daily News Journal* last March, 16 people came to the first meeting. One enthusiastic volunteer for the center is student William Fields. He is working towards a major in marketing and would like to use his talents in non-profit organizations.

"College students are at high risk for a sexual assault," Howard said. "One in four young women is sexually assaulted each year. What the public may not realize is that one in six young men are assaulted as well."

Date rape drugs are soaring in use and are a particular threat to both young women and men. The center is aware of

See Fundraiser, 4

What to WATCH for

These are signals to a potential victim that indicate danger:

- * Intoxication
- * Isolation
- * Sexual coercion
- * Power differential
- * Social indebtedness

Howard recommends that students and faculty take the following steps to help prevent rape or assault:

- * Use the buddy system; one is never too old to have a buddy.
- * Set up a buddy policy. Make sure your buddy knows where you are going, names, addresses and when you will return.
- * Give phone numbers of where you'll be and make sure friends know about it if you leave a club with someone you just met. Introduce the person and give names and phone numbers.
- * Remember that a police escort service is available on campus.
- * Never go to isolated events alone.

Conferences pick sides on gay debate

By Maura Satchell
Staff Writer

A controversy-packed subject will be explored from both angles on Feb. 7 when Nashville plays host to two different conferences on the subject of reparative therapy as a way of treating homosexuality in different locations around the city.

Focus on the Family is a faith-based group whose mission is to spread the word of Jesus by helping to preserve traditional values and the institution of the family. It will be promoting reparative therapy as a form of treating and overcoming homosexual tendencies in a seminar entitled "Love Won Out," to be held at Two Rivers Baptist Church. It will feature Mike Haley, a former homosexual, as conference host.

"Love Won Out exists for those seeking truth about homosexuality, who are troubled by the one-sided message presented in our culture," said Haley. The conference will address what Haley sees as misconceptions about homosexuality and offer guidelines to churches to aid the homosexual community. Presenters at that conference will include experts in the field of homosexuality and gender identity.

According to a press release, since its first program in 1998, the Love Won Out conference has shared its message with more than 20,000 people in 24 cities and its popularity has increased by 25 percent in the past year alone.

"Gay activists continue to force-feed our culture with misconceptions and half-truths regarding the issue of homosexuality," the host said. "People continue to hunger for the truth, and our hope is that Feb. 7 will be a day of hope and healing for them."

On the other side of the spectrum is a conference to be held at Vanderbilt University and co-sponsored by Vanderbilt's Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, the Carpenter Program on Religion, Gender and Sexuality and the Human Rights Campaign. That program will critically explore and refute the theory and practice of reparative therapy, the religious context of the controversial treatment and strategic activism in addressing the concept of reparative therapy.

According to *Out and About Nashville*, a publication for the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transvestite community of Nashville, the Vanderbilt forum was set up on the same day in order to debunk the theory of reparative therapy.

"Their teachings on reparative therapy are based on a misinterpretation of the gospel and bad science," Christopher Sanders, a Vanderbilt University spokesperson and organizer of the program, said. "I think Focus on the Family has a great mission of helping families," Sanders said of the non-parti-

san, non-denominational organization, "but when unemployment and poverty are the greatest threats to American families today, I'd like to see them turn their focus to those issues."

Sanders is not an expert in psychology, but he explained that the Vanderbilt forum was set up to provide an alternative point of view. More importantly, he said, the Vanderbilt forum will appeal to college students.

"It will be especially relevant to college students because the conference is taking an interdisciplinary approach," Sanders said.

"Reparative therapy is dangerous and does not work," Sanders said in *Out and About Nashville* recently. The Vanderbilt program will address reparative treatment from three vantage points, the psychological, the religious and the activist.

"Our one-day seminar will bring in professionals from across the country to show why it doesn't work, and provide participants with a critical understanding of why Focus on the Family is putting its resources into this issue," Sanders said.

The American Psychiatric Association has publicly denounced reparative therapy or any form of treatment of homosexuality which is based on the assumption that homosexuality is a mental disorder, according to its 1998 "Position Statement on Psychiatric Treatment and Sexual Orientation."

The Vanderbilt forum will play host to a number of speakers from the religious, medical and higher education professions including Carlton Cornett, a local social worker who has been counseling the Nashville community for over ten years and penned three publications on positive therapeutic approaches and homosexuality.

"It is critical that we answer the lies about 'reparative therapy' and 'ex-gays' in our local community, whether in the media or in conversation," Cornett told *Out and About Nashville*. He said that reparative therapy is damaging and can lead to self-destructive behavior.

"It is important that we provide the truth about gay, lesbian and bi-sexual people and the positive contributions that they make to our communities, the country and the world," Cornett said.

The Vanderbilt program is free and open to the public and will be held at Wilson Hall starting at 10 a.m. Attendees to the Focus on the Family Conference must register in advance and can do so at the Web site at www.family.org. There is a cost for registering for that program, according to a spokesperson for that organization. ♦

Bragg: Former letterman, editor in chief of *Sidelines*

Continued from 3

few. The John Bragg Mass Communications Building is named in his honor.

Bragg was born in Woodbury, Tenn., and ran the family newspaper and printing business until 1981. He was first elected to the state House in 1964 as a protégé of James "Mr. Jim" Cummings, and served until 1996 with a two-year break in which he made an unsuccessful bid for Congress.

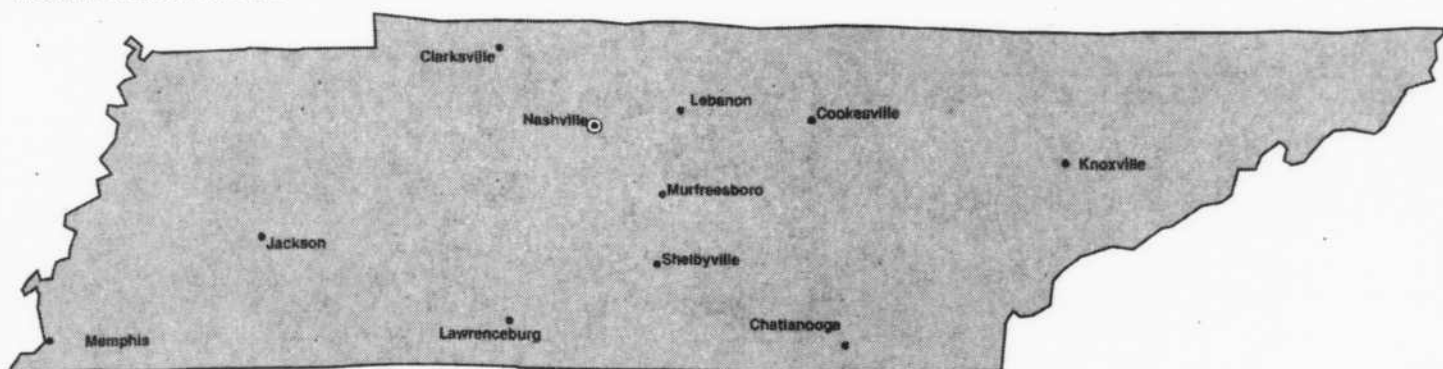
In addition to his work benefiting MTSU as a legislator, Bragg was a standout student as well — he was the editor in chief of *Sidelines*, was president of the Student Government Association and lettered in baseball, basketball and golf. ♦

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Fund-raiser: Center opens March 1

Continued from 3

how society has ended up tolerating some of these abuses and wants to make the community more aware of what is happening in their midst.

"We want to change the attitudes that society has apathetically allowed," Howard said. "We would like to eliminate some of the locker room jokes that seem to hold women in contempt and the smug comments such as, 'Women really don't mean "No" when they say it.' We are hoping to make this a part of the campaign against violence. It is our desire to encourage a group of young men, such as the athletes at MTSU, to begin a Men Against Violence campaign to help change attitudes."

Howard is making the faculty aware of the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center and encourages anyone interested in crisis hotline training or becoming a hospital accompanist to call 400-0485 for the training class held February 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ♦



Photo by David McCombs | Staff Photographer

Ruth Howard takes a call at the June Anderson Women's Center. The JAWC has served as quarters for those providing abuse and rape counseling.

Landfill: BFI facility built to prevent leaks

Continued from 3

ppm can't begin to compare with the findings at the Dickson County landfill — which are at 5.0 ppm — it's still worth keeping an eye on.

"We're only doing representative monitoring," Spear said. "We don't want to take a chance on having a bigger problem than we think."

Nancy Allen, Rutherford County Mayor, said even though the levels remain below MCL, her administration will do whatever is in the best interest of the county.

Allen said that so far, TDEC has not notified her of any additional requirements or necessary precautions.

"I budget every year for additional monitoring wells," Allen said.

Spear said that although the Rutherford County landfill groundwater test results have been of concern for some time, he still doesn't know when other action might be required and what that action might be.

According to Spear, there must be at least four consistent

sampling events to obtain good statistics.

He said that until Nancy Allen took office, Rutherford County often provided insufficient data. Thus his agency was unable to make any final determinations when spikes began to occur.

Spear pointed out that sometimes data appears troubling at first glance, but winds up being benign.

This is because increased contaminant levels can result from false positive tests or a naturally occurring chemical rising out of the decomposition of landfill material.

This does not mean that the levels are ignored, Spear said. Instead, the landfill in question goes into a period of assessment, where monitoring is done quarterly rather than bi-yearly.

The old Rutherford County landfill has been under a period of assessment since 1995.

Rutherford County engineer Del Corbitt said the assessment period began when the landfill was capped and closed. The law requires closed landfills to be monitored for 30 years.

He also said that test results from other old landfills would probably produce the same levels of toxins as the one at Walter Hill.

The reason, Corbitt said, is older landfills were not regulated the way new ones are.

The BFI landfill was built with a plastic liner, thus preventing the release of toxic chemicals into the soil or groundwater.

"They've never had a positive detection in their groundwater," Spear said of BFI.

While some rest easy regarding BFI's test results, others, such as Will Callaway, from the Tennessee Environmental Council, look at them with raised eyebrows.

Callaway said TDEC does not actually test the groundwater at landfill sites. Instead, it relies upon reports provided to it by the landfill itself.

These reports come from third party environmental test facilities — hired by the landfill owner — such as First Environmental Lab out of Naperville, Illinois, who currently serves as BFI's testing

agency, and Test America, Inc. from Asheville, N.C., who currently tests for Rutherford County.

Spear said while the perfect scenario would be for the state to conduct its own analysis of water samples, it just isn't possible given its limited resources.

He said all reports are audited and discrepancies can be detected. He admitted that it often takes several years for the discrepancies to come into the limelight.

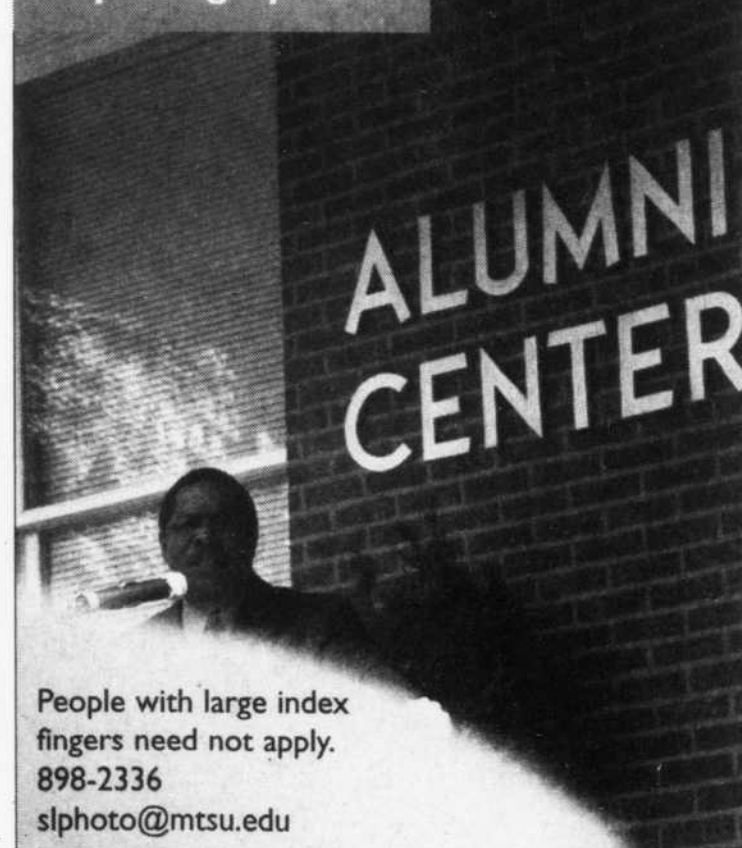
Lennie Forttrell, an environmental specialist from TDEC, said the system does have its checks and balances.

He said the agency spot checks for the way samples are drawn and carefully scrutinizes the reports sent to them.

Forttrell also said the hired testing firms would not want to offer inferior or tampered data because the repercussions would be financially devastating.

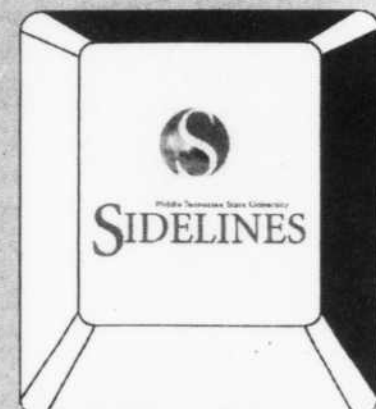
"We do watch them," Forttrell said. "And it [the report] better make sense." ♦

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From the Editorial Board

Contribute to MTSU for future students

With tuition increases looming in the forecast, a bright ray of sunlight has come in the form of more private money donated to MTSU.

According to Joe Bales, vice president of development and university relations, MTSU has already raised \$4.5 million in contributions in only the first half of the fiscal year.

While *Sidelines* can be critical at times of the university, it's important to give credit where's credit due. And believe us, there's a lot to be proud of this university. We've been here long enough to know.

Part of the \$4.5 million is a substantial gift from the Christy-Houston Foundation, which will go to expand our Department of Nursing.

That means more opportunities for students to enroll in this school and more qualified nurses that will help to reduce the nationwide shortage. Contributions like this one not only improve the university, but also give back to the community.

Some of the contributions will fund scholarships at MTSU, which helps those current students who will not qualify for the lottery scholarship.

There are plenty of exemplary programs at MTSU that are under-funded, but don't have to be.

Only 6 to 8 percent of MTSU's alumni give back to the university – ridiculous when there are 50,000 alumni living right here in Middle Tennessee.

For current students and recent graduates, you may be feeling bogged down by tuition and student loans, but don't forget your university 10 years from now.

No one is asking for all your life savings or your nest egg. Bales stressed the importance of the small, annual giving as much as the one-time major gifts.

So area alumni, pick through your pockets and collect those pennies stuck in your couch.

One day that money may pay for a new parking place. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Breast implants may hide cancer

As if there weren't enough reasons not to get breast implants, a new study revealed that those lovely little silicone and saline falsies can make breast cancer harder to detect.

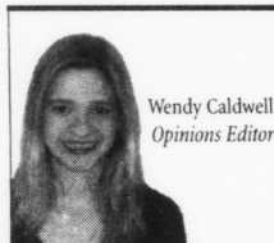
The implants can obstruct the view of some breast tissue during mammograms.

In a test conducted with results from seven mammography centers from 1995 to 2000, 55 percent of tumors in women with implants weren't seen on the mammogram. In women without implants, 33 percent of tumors were missed.

Though the percentage is still high, it's much higher in women with implants.

For women who still insist on increasing their breast size, be sure to conduct monthly breast self-examinations and have regular mammograms, and have the sense to go somewhere capable of doing a displacement view. In a displacement view, the breast tissue is manipulated in order to better distinguish it from the implant and thus get more accurate results.

I can't say I'm too broken up by this. Maybe I'm just morbid, but it seems like a fair



Wendy Caldwell
Opinions Editor

trade-off.

You can have larger, fuller breasts when you're younger, but about that time when gravity catches up to the rest of you, you might get a little breast cancer to go with it. Who knows – you may even have to have one or both of your breasts removed. It's the circle of life.

Not only is breast augmentation a degrading practice that belittles the female body, it now carries with it more health risks than were previously known.

I'm sure women with implants feel really great about themselves, but the health risks are too great.

A little self-confidence isn't worth doctors being not worth doctors likely to detect malignant growths in breast tissue.

So before you go under the knife in the name of being more like Britney Spears, take a good look at what's really important. ♦

Darwin headed for extinction

With the semester in full swing, I've begun hearing stories from friends about how classes are going. And these tales are interesting, especially for the science departments.

Where better to begin a semester of scientific study than with Darwin's dream of evolution?

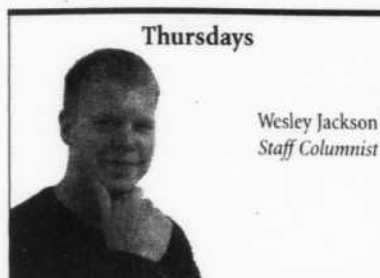
This may be where our modern school systems think it's best to begin scientific studies, but there are many indications within the scientific community itself that show science ending up in a different place than where it started.

Though tremors of doubt have been felt since the 1960s, the earthquake breakdown of evolutionary ideas is finally beginning to shake the surface of things.

Some of the initial hard hits of skepticism were struck in the early 1990s when academics such as Phillip Johnson, a Berkeley law professor, decided to research the claims of Darwin for himself.

Johnson made no pretensions to being a scientist, but as a law professor he did claim to know what a logical argument based on sound evidence looks like.

He published his book, *Darwin on Trial*, in 1991. It roasted the evolutionary theory alive. The book argues Darwin and his followers operate largely on sloppily



Thursdays

Wesley Jackson
Staff Columnist

constructed logic, lack of evidence and, above all, blind faith.

Johnson has continued to write several other books on the subject to the infuriation of the Darwinian leaders within the scientific community.

Mathematician David Berlinski and biochemist Michael Behe have likewise joined Johnson in his skepticism of evolutionary ideas.

Behe published his book, *Darwin's Black Box*, in 1993, in which he introduced the idea of irreducible complexity. The idea is any organism has a certain number of chemical functions that all have to be working simultaneously for the organism to stay alive. If any one of these many chemical functions is lacking, the organism dies.

Behe's point is that no creature could survive long enough, much less perpetuate itself, waiting for its vital functions to evolve.

The mathematician William

Dembski concurs with the idea that a highly complex world indicates something more than chance or natural forces as responsible for it all.

In his book, *The Design Inference*, Dembski argues that because our universe is both "unpredictable yet highly specified," it indicates a design, a plan constructed by some intelligent designer.

You can't explain the complex nature of the world through either chance or natural processes. Logically, there must be something more.

The linguistic philosopher Noam Chomsky has introduced a further jab to the Darwinian disciples with his research into human speech. The ability for humans to talk, articulate ideas, memorize data and build upon concepts is unknown in the animal realm. There is nothing in the brains of even the most intelligent apes that resembles this unique capacity for humans.

Chomsky demonstrated this speech characteristic in humans alone introduced such a biological chasm between them and apes that a missing link wouldn't exist. It would be virtually impossible to demonstrate that humans had evolved from monkeys.

Despite the confidence of public broadcasting networks and their television specials in evolution, Darwin's dream is being held suspect more and more.

The number of skeptics are increasing, and not necessarily from religious circles. These are scientists, highly qualified in their field, who seriously doubt the claims of Darwinian ideas.

In his book, *Hooking Up*, Tom Wolfe records part of a conversation he had with a notable California geologist. She told him, "We now realize that the very first layers [of geological theory] aren't even resting on solid ground. They are balancing on bubbles. On concepts that are full of air, and those bubbles are being burst today, one after the other."

Evolution may be the first thing science students learn in their classes this semester, but I can almost guarantee their scientific studies won't end where they began.

This "scientific" notion itself is evolving its way into extinction. ♦

Wesley Jackson is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail wtj2b@mtsu.edu.

Zen for college students

In the Western world we've got it all, don't we?

We've got skyscrapers cluttering every major horizon, the cling of cash registers setting the soundtrack for Hollywood and Music Row and "artists" with dollar signs blazing in their eyes, while mediocrity drips out of their voices and onto their expensive fur coats.

We've got the up-and-coming, the newest findings, the nicest cars angrily honking and skidding around each other down interstates that stretch from sea to shining sea, the most cash and the loudest voices. The only thing we don't seem to have is peace of mind.

Dindt get me wrong. I, like most of us, am a full-blown American: always in a hurry with 50 things to do each day and if they're not done correctly – and ahead of schedule.

I hate slow drivers, and while I have a distinct suspicion of capitalism, I would never want any government official, Republican or Democrat, to suddenly be given the jurisdiction to take away my money for the good of any collective whole. I support free trade wholeheartedly. My boyfriend does as well, especially where he and I are both from – the heart of Miami, the home of fast cars and busy schedules.

Call it what you want – progress, rugged individualism or simply being anal – no matter what our religious affiliations, our party loyalties or our basic ideas about the world around us, we're all products of a culture that rushes through each day trying to get as much done as possible and trying to make as much money as possible. And it starts early, as early as college. We may be expanding our brains; we are developing an apprecia-



Think About It

Lindsay Palmer
Staff Columnist

tion for art or literature; we may be learning how to interact with other people in a healthy, mature way. But we're doing it too quickly. The majority of us probably couldn't remember one vivid, colorful detail from the day before.

I've got to be careful here, because I've recently reconciled myself to the fact that I'm in the Bible Belt. There's no escaping stepping on a few toes with what I want to suggest, but hear me out.

There's a way of living that once was prominent in eastern cultures – it was associated with Buddhism, which always seems to freak Tennesseans out. But it can be taken out of a religious context and applied to the daily life of the college student. It's called Zen.

All it really means is focus. The word that most Zen books emphasize is "mindfulness" – the art of being aware of each moment and each detail and of focusing on each aspect of whatever it is you're doing.

If you're walking to class and you're feeling your muscles move while noticing the crunch of leaves under your feet and the way the air smells smoky and crisp while not worrying about the future, but instead are utilizing the "now," this moment – that's Zen.

If you're writing a paper on something you've researched extensively and you're fully stretching your talent but you're still not stressed about your grade, and you aren't attached to any certain outcome –

that's Zen.

The no-attachment thing is important. We as Americans are used to desire. We are used to getting what we want, and most of us unfortunately have been dependent on something or someone at least once or twice in our lives.

The more dependent we are, the more we lose when our expectations fail us. What we don't understand is in ourselves we have the power to make each moment into a beautiful creation. We don't have to be attached to anything: We can fully enjoy each person and each moment without trying to own it.

It's something to think about, even though this kind of mindset doesn't wedge itself into the skull overnight. College students can at least use bits and pieces of a Zen attitude in our everyday lives.

It means actually focusing on what I'm studying instead of worrying about whether or not I'm going to get a 4.0 again this semester.

It's noticing the green in my boyfriend's eyes while I'm actually listening to what he's saying and learning from him while still always being a whole person on my own. It's going to Infernobar with my girlfriends and not worrying about the money it's costing – just having a good time with them.

We should and will continue to do our own thing, to go for our all-American goals. But we just shouldn't miss out on our lives while we're in the process of living them. ♦

Lindsay Palmer is a senior mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at lnp2f@mtsu.edu.

Getting to class proves hard task

It's always a tremendous rush during the first couple weeks of a semester. The madness doesn't lie with the classes themselves but with the superhuman task of getting to them.

There's very little more frustrating than having to get all the way across campus in a short span of time, at least aside from financial aid delays, hellish roommates and team volleyball being played outside your door at 3 a.m.

All of those things, though, are somewhat beyond your control. Class locations, on the other hand, inspire that gnawing feeling that you should have been able to do more, or that if you'd done the right dance under the right phase of the moon, the scheduling gods would have smiled upon you.

Problem is, you didn't, they didn't, and now you're stuck. You have options: You can drop the class, you can bring sacrificial gifts to the professor involved, you can squeeze your eyes shut very tightly and hope it all just goes away.

If none of that works, though, you're faced with a one-won final solution: run. It's the only thing to do.

When you're just starting out, it seems like there are other avenues for traversing campus. You quickly find out how wrong you are.

Unless you can get bus schedules down to a fine science – not to mention the traffic of others getting on and off – there's little help to be found there.

Your car may be your best friend, but short of parking in the grass by the library (and pretending it's legal), you're unlikely to find a spot near where you need to be. Bikes can seem like a good plan, too, until you get winged by the Aramark van.

The new Honors College Building is a particularly good example of this phenomenon, because not only is it far, far away, Honors classes were changed during Christmas break from their original locations in buildings such as Peck Hall. This personally



And So It Goes

Sarah Crotzer
Staff Columnist

happened to me – I had my schedule worked out so I could go from the Boutwell Dramatic Arts building to Peck Hall during the fifteen minutes between classes (hardly an arduous task), when suddenly, right around Christmas, all of the Honors classes were moved to the new Honors College Building.

I can't get from one place to the other in that span of time, especially since my professor in the BDA sometimes ends a little late.

How many students were displaced because of this decision? And how useful is it to notify us so late, when most other classes are already filled? I thought taking an Honors class would be a challenge, but not that kind.

Some of our professors are learning about displacement. Over in Ezell (or "Siberia," as we should rename it), there are offices that lie untouched because people have to walk from there to Peck Hall or the Business and Aerospace Building. Even if the professors have nice, open schedules, will students really go out of their way to drop by? I rather doubt it. It's inconvenient for professors and students alike. Why can't this be managed better?

Each year, we pay thousands of dollars to attend MTSU. We pay our fees early so we can have our schedules confirmed early – and by confirmed, we are led to believe they won't change. In all this money, can't something be done to alleviate the simple problem of getting across campus?

I'd stick around to listen for the answer, but I think it might be a while in coming. I've got to get to class in 15. ♦

Sarah Crotzer is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at saroz@aol.com.

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Men's tennis anticipates UALR matchup

By Mark Emery and Colby Sledge
Staff Writer and Assistant Sports Editor

After a tough 5-4 loss to No. 51 Indiana University last weekend, the Middle Tennessee men's tennis team heads out on the road to face the University of Arkansas-Little Rock this Saturday.

Having played UALR the last two years, including in the MT Invitational last fall, MT head men's tennis coach Dale Short feels more comfortable going into Saturday's match.

"They are a team we are somewhat familiar with, and we know most of their players," Short said. "Unlike Indiana, we know a little more of what to expect and can match up our players easier."

Because of that familiarity, however, Short also knows how dangerous the Trojans are.

"On paper this team is every bit as good as Indiana, and they are a deep solid team," Short said. "Our guys are pretty interchangeable, and when the match starts, we can decide who we want to match up with."

UALR (1-1) opened the season at home with a 7-0 win against Grambling University. In

their second match of the season, the Trojans lost to No. 24 Rice University 4-0.

UALR is led by four seniors this season: Jarrad Bunt of East Blaxland, Australia; Mark Edney of Melbourne, Australia; Mithun Murali of Coimbatore, India; and Alexei Poutchinets of Minsk, Belarus.

In the Flight One Singles in the MT Fall Invitational last September, Blue Raider Kirk Jackson defeated Poutchinets 6-3, 6-0 in the quarterfinals before falling to UALR's Sebastian Falk 6-1, 3-6, 5-7 in the semifinals.

In the Flight Two Singles, Trojan David Baxendine defeated Blue Raider Brandon Allan 6-3, 6-4 in the quarterfinals, but eventual

champion Kai Schlendorn of MT defeated Baxendine in the semifinals 6-1, 6-3.

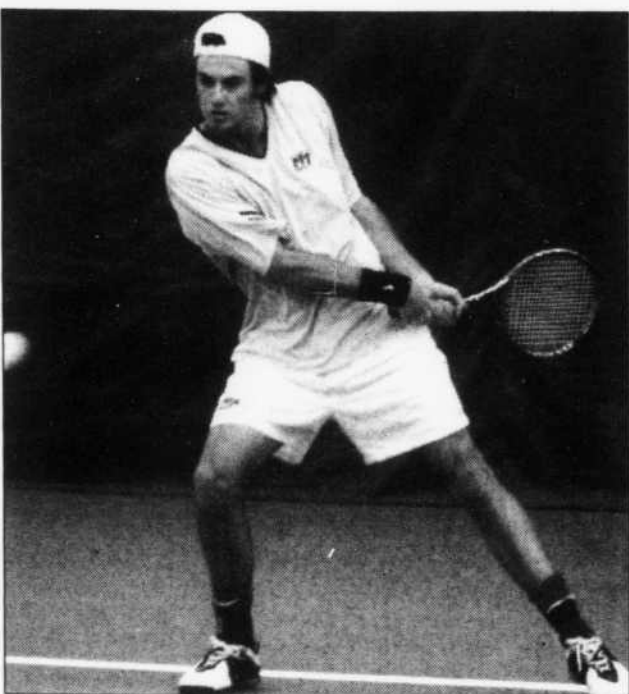
MT seniors Jackson and Trevor Short will be trying to get the team their first win of the season and will also be looking for their first personal wins after going 0-3 last week.

The Blue Raiders started the week with an "inspirational and great" practice, according to Dale, but he added that the following practice was not as good and hopes the team can work on a few things before their match.

Saturday's match begins at 7 p.m. The Blue Raiders return to the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro Feb. 7 to face the University of Louisville. ♦

Middle Tennessee Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team will play their next match at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock Jan. 31 at 7 p.m.



MT senior Kirk Jackson returns a volley against Indiana University on Jan. 24. MT lost to IU 5-4.

Philly native finds new home



MT junior Michael Cuffee is a presence on the court averaging 10.6 points and 5.1 rebounds per game.

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

It was a long road that brought Michael Cuffee to Middle Tennessee. Since joining the Blue Raiders, however, he's been making it a long night for opposing players. In doing so, the 6-foot-5-inch swingman has become the perfect complement to energetic point guard Bryan Smithson and the high scoring duo of wing guards Tommy Gunn and Mike Dean.

Cuffee is averaging 14.0 points and 5.5 rebounds per game through four Sun Belt Conference games this season. He has led the Blue Raiders in scoring twice this year, despite missing three games early in the season due to injury.

"Michael Cuffee has really started opening up our offense," Blue Raider head coach Kermit Davis said. "You're already starting to see it, and I think in the future you're going to see it more. He's finally healthy and getting up and down the floor better. He's dunking balls like he used to and is really coming on."

Cuffee, a junior from Philadelphia, Penn., joined the Blue Raiders after a two-year career at Neosho County Junior College in Kansas. While at Neosho, Cuffee scored 1,140 points, good for fourth all-time on the school's scoring list, and as a sophomore averaged 18.3 points and 9.0 rebounds per game (good for fourth and sixth respectively in the conference ranks.)

"I had a great two years in Kansas, and Coach [Jeff] Walker and Coach Davis came to see me play," Cuffee said. "I really didn't know a lot about the school, but once I met the guys and saw how everyone got along, I just really wanted to come play here."

Although not a prototypical power forward, Cuffee sees a great deal of time in the low post because of guard Mike Dean regaining eligibility after having to sit out a season due to transfer. Mixing it up with players sometimes five or six inches taller doesn't

MT women begin cross-country trip

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

After this weekend, the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team might want to count up their frequent flier miles. With the amount of traveling they'll be undertaking, they could probably go to Fiji for spring break – for free.

The Lady Raiders left yesterday for a 1,300-mile trip to El Paso, N.M., to take on New Mexico State University in Las Cruces tonight. They then fly another 1,000 miles to New Orleans, La., for a Saturday afternoon contest against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

"This is by far the worst road trip in the conference, and there's no easy way to get anywhere, but it's a fact of life," MT head coach Stephany Smith said from the airport. "You have to play the hand you're dealt."

NMSU (8-9, 2-3 Sun Belt Conference) is 6-1 at home this season. The Aggies' only home loss came against the University of New Mexico on Dec. 14.

The Aggies suffered a 60-51 defeat Monday night at Florida International University despite 18 points, nine rebounds and four steals from senior Sinnamon Garrett. Garrett, the preseason SBC Player of the Year, is currently eighth in the conference in scoring with 14.7 points per game.

Senior guard Princess Moore has become the surprise player of the conference, averaging 16.6 points per game. Combined, Morris and Garrett could cause problems for the MT defense.

"They shoot the three extremely well and have great range on their three-point shots to boot," Smith said. The Lady Raiders rank last in the

conference in three-point field goal percentage defense.

For ULL, Anna Petrakova has quickly become one of the most dominant players in the conference, averaging 19.4 points and 10.8 rebounds per game. She leads the conference in scoring per game, rebounds, field goal percentage and blocked shots per game.

"With the coaching change they had last year, he [ULL head coach J. Kelley Hall] changed the style of play, and they're sending a lot of their offense through her [Petrakova], and she has been very productive for them," Smith said.

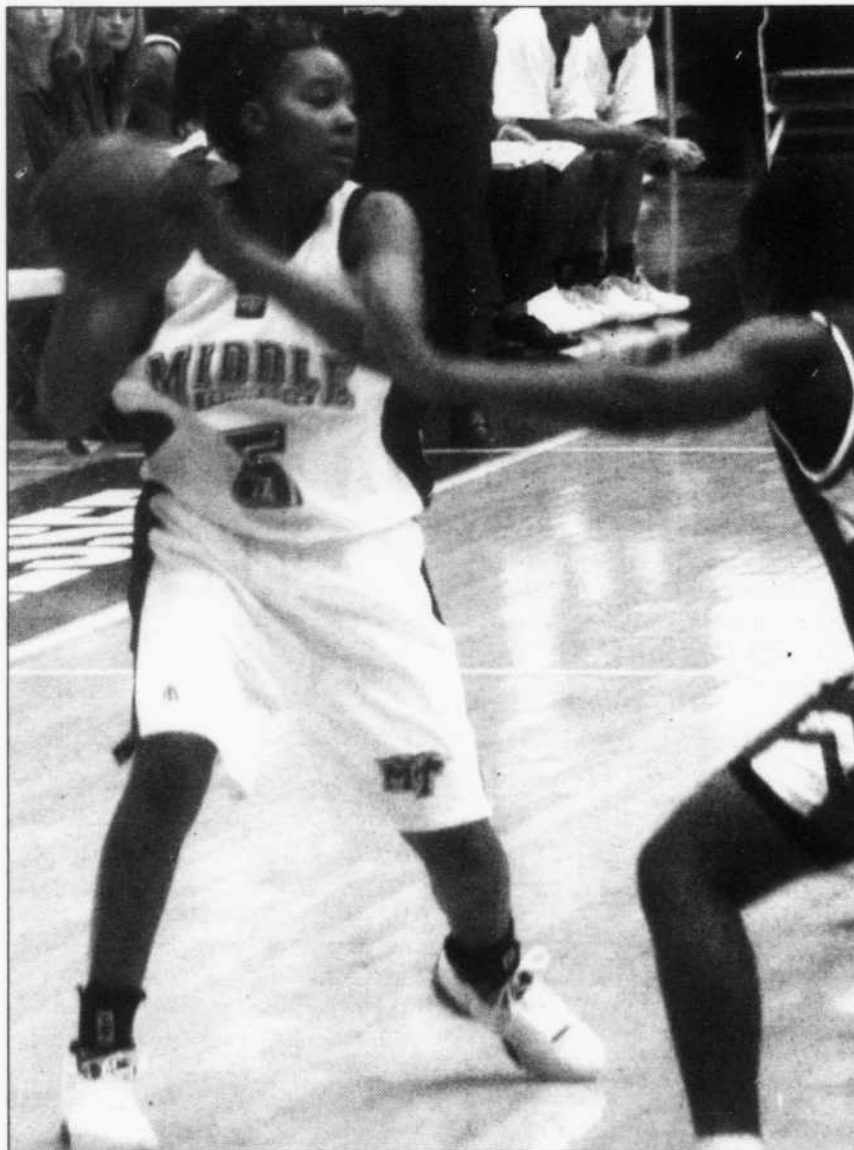
The Ragin' Cajuns (9-7, 3-2) boast the toughest defense in the Sun Belt Conference, allowing just more than 55 points per game. ULL's opponents are shooting an average of 34 percent from the field.

"Ironically, what they're doing is essentially playing a zone defense for 40 minutes for the most part," Smith said. "You have to make sure you execute your zone offense and that you're patient with the basketball. We can't get impatient against a zone and jack up the first open shot."

ULL also leads the conference in blocked shots, averaging over four blocks a game.

The Lady Raiders' defense is also one of the best in the SBC, ranking third in scoring defense and tops in the conference in rebounding defense with opponents grabbing 33.1 rebounds per game.

Tonight's game against NMSU tips off at 8:05 p.m., and Saturday's contest versus ULL begins at 2 p.m. The Lady Raiders will then return home Feb. 5 to take on Western Kentucky University. ♦



MT senior guard Keisha McClinic keeps the ball away from a University of South Alabama defender on Jan. 22. MT won 56-55.

The logo for the Sun Belt Conference. It features the words "SUN" and "BELT" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "CONFERENCE" in a smaller font below "BELT". To the right of the text is a circular emblem containing a basketball with a curved line passing through it, surrounded by radiating lines representing sun rays.

Current Basketball Conference Standings

Men

Wins

Losses

East Division

Middle Tennessee	3	1
Arkansas-Little Rock	4	2
Western Kentucky	3	3
Arkansas State	2	5
Florida International	0	6

West Division

Louisiana-Lafayette	4	1
North Texas	4	1
New Orleans	3	2
South Alabama	3	2
Denver	2	3
New Mexico State	2	4

Women

Wins

Losses

East Division

Arkansas State	4	1
Western Kentucky	3	1
Middle Tennessee	2	2
Florida International	3	3
Arkansas-Little Rock	1	4

West Division

South Alabama	3	2
Louisiana-Lafayette	3	2
North Texas	3	2
Denver	2	3
New Mexico State	2	3
New Orleans	1	4

Super Bowl XXXVIII

Defense key for both teams

Sports commentary



David Hunter
Staff Columnist

Super Bowl XXXVIII might go down as one of the best ones ever played or just another dud in the Super Bowl history books.

The National Football Conference champion Carolina Panthers (14-5) come in looking to complete their turnaround from a 1-15 season just two seasons ago. Meanwhile, the American Football Conference champion New England Patriots (16-2) are gunning for their 15th consecutive win. Another victory will give the Patriots the Vince Lombardi trophy for the second time in three years.

Both quarterbacks for Sunday's game just want to win. Tom Brady of the Patriots and Jake Delhomme of the Panthers may not have the statistics of NFL Co-MVPs Peyton Manning and Steve McNair, but they make big plays in key situations.

The defenses, however, are the driving forces for both teams. The Patriots are led by linemen Ted Washington and Richard Seymour, while Carolina coun-

ters with Julius Peppers and Mike Rucker, who finished with a combined 19 sacks. The linebacking core for New England includes Willie McGinest and Tedy Bruschi, who was eighth among linebackers in total tackles but is fighting a leg injury. Dan Morgan and former Tennessee Titan Greg Favors lead Carolina's linebacking crew.

Both quarterbacks will have a tough time completing passes against the secondaries of both squads. In their respective conference championship games, one defensive back from each team had three interceptions. New England Pro Bowl cornerback Ty Law pulled the hat trick against Manning in the Patriots' 24-14 victory over the Indianapolis Colts. The Panthers' Ricky Manning Jr. turned the triple against the Philadelphia Eagles in Carolina's 14-3 win.

As with every Super Bowl, there is the story of the underdog. Carolina fits it, like the Patriots did a couple of years ago. The last loss in that 1-15 season was to New England 38-6 on Jan. 6, 2002. Carolina then fired head coach George Seifert and hired New York Giants defensive coordinator John Fox in the offseason. Last year, the Panthers finished 7-9 and missed the playoffs, but the team showed definite signs of improvement in Fox's first season.

This season, Rodney Peete started the season as the starting quarterback, but

See Super Bowl, 8

MT alumnus championship bound

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

This year's Super Bowl has a Middle Tennessee connection in Carolina Panthers linebacker Mike Caldwell.

The 6-foot-2-inch linebacker hails from Oak Ridge, Tenn., and played defensive end for the Blue Raiders from 1989 to 1992, where he was named Ohio Valley Conference defensive player of the year and third team Associated Press in his senior season.

Caldwell signed with the Panthers after former Carolina linebacker

Mark Fields was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease before the start of the 2003 NFL season.

Caldwell, who was among the last players to be cut from the Chicago Bears, injured his left knee in the first quarter of Carolina's 24-23 comeback victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars in the first game of the season and was out for four weeks.

Caldwell is currently on injured reserve and will not see time in Sunday's game.

Caldwell finished his collegiate career with 10 interceptions, five fumble recoveries and three touchdowns.

Caldwell also played on the MT basketball team in 1990 and played right field on the MT baseball team in 1991.

An 11-year NFL veteran, Caldwell was drafted in the third round by the Cleveland Browns in 1993. He

played for the Browns from 1993-1995 and stayed with the team when they became the Baltimore Ravens in 1996. Caldwell then played with the Arizona Cardinals for the 1997 season and with the Philadelphia Eagles from 1998-2001.

Last season, Caldwell had 58 tackles for the Bears, including three sacks. Caldwell's best season came in 2001, when he recorded 95 total tackles, including three sacks, and forced two fumbles.

For his career, Caldwell has 512 total tackles, 15 sacks, six forced fumbles and eight interceptions, including three returned for touchdowns.

Caldwell was active for nine games this season and saw action in three games. He finished the regular season with two tackles.

All statistics according to STATS, Inc. ♦



Caldwell

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Do you need to prepare for graduate school? To qualify, student has to be a low-income/first generation or underrepresented student with a desire to achieve earning a PhD. Have a 2.8 GPA and 60 earned credit hours by May 2004. For more information, contact the **MTSU McNair Scholars Program** located in Midgett 103 or call 904-8462 for more information.

Employment

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Positions available for energetic people who want to be part of something big and have money

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Looking for Full-part time night job. Super 8 in La Vergne. I-24 Exit 64 25 mins. from MTSU is now hiring for front desk associate. Hours are 11pm - 7 am. Great pay and excellent benefits. Please apply in person!! Now hiring immediately!!

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LOCAL BANDS Murfreesboro Official Music Website is seeking jazz bands. All other bands are welcome to post their calendars for free advertisement of shows. Contact: Shane Leach. Email boronightlife@bellsouth.net Http://clik.to/bnl

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Need Roommate. \$325/month plus 1/4 utilities. Big house w/ washer & dryer, 2 living rooms, and yard. Please call Zack 907-0767.

Roommate needed. Condo next to campus. \$250/month, plus 1/3 utilities and cable. Call John 542-3295.

Female looking for mature female roommate. No pets, smoking, children. Rent \$350 + 1/2 utilities. Carrington Hills in Franklin off I-65. Have own Bedroom, bath, and walk-in closet. Gated facility/ security alarm, pool, gym, tennis court. Please email Srigsby@Jnlcom.com. Write apartment as the subject line.

Need 2 female roommates to share 4 bedroom home 5 miles from Sam's. Non-smokers \$350/mo., call 849-8277.

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24-hour computer lab, game room, shuttle to school. Great roommates. Willing to pay 1st months rent. Call Melanie at 931-267-6951.

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Super Bowl: League's best face odds

Continued from 7

free-agent acquisition Delhomme tookover after the Panthers were down 17-0 in the third quarter against the Jacksonville Jaguars. After Delhomme led the Panthers to a 24-23 comeback victory, Peete was relegated to second-string, but has been an understanding mentor to Delhomme. Peete put the team first, just like Drew Bledsoe did in 2001 for Brady.

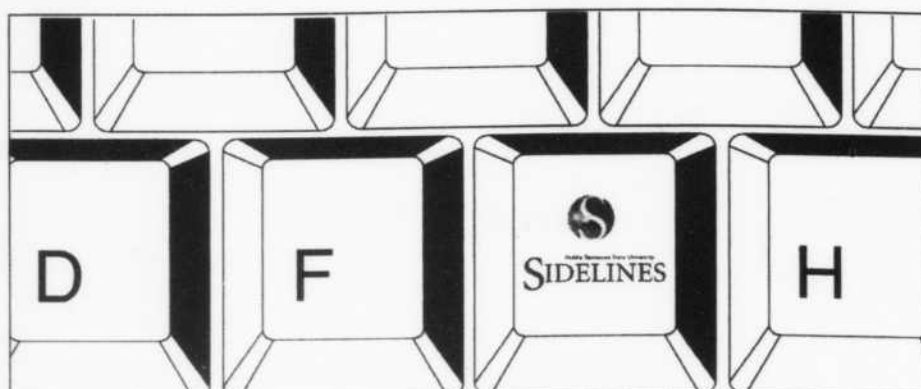
Remember, in Super Bowl XXXVI, the Patriots were huge underdogs against the St. Louis Rams. However, the

New England defense punished the high-powered Rams offense. Adam Vinatieri kicked the game-winning field goal as time ran out for the 20-17 championship victory.

The same thing could happen this year, and Carolina could pull off the upset, but Patriots head coach Bill Belichick has had two weeks to prepare one of his trademark unpredictable defenses to stop the Panthers.

Final score prediction: Pats 16, Panthers 13

Kickoff is set for 5:25 p.m. at Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas, on CBS. ♦



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Blue Raiders host West Division foes

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

After picking up two key wins in Sun Belt Conference play last week, the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team returns to the Murphy Center this week for a two-game home stand against the Ragin' Cajuns of University of Louisiana-Lafayette and the Aggies of New Mexico State University.

The team will look to extend its winning streak to four games before traveling to Bowling Green, Ky., for a rematch of last year's Sun Belt Conference tournament title.

Both teams will come into the matchup fresh off conference victories. Key victories between these two teams over the weekend moved the Blue Raiders to first place in the Eastern Division of the SBC.

"Right now we have the best record in the conference," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "I think that's a direct reflection of how receptive these guys are of our coaching."

MT is led by three players who are averaging double figures in points per game. Tommy Gunn (17.4), Mike Dean (15.8) and Michael Cuffee (10.6) will look to improve the Blue Raiders' conference record to 5-1 after the two games this weekend.

NMSU comes into today's matchup in fourth place in the SBC Western Division with a 2-4 conference record.

After losing four straight conference games, the Aggies defeated the Florida International Panthers 73-42 on Monday.

NMSU is led by two players, Duane John and James Moore, who average double figures in points. John comes into Thursday's game averaging a team leading 15.2 points per game, while Moore is averaging 14.6.

"New Mexico State is a big, physical team," Davis said. "They're good in transition, just like we are, and they're excellent at rebounding. We have to rebound and then try to get out and run if we have the chance."

Two days later, the team will host the ULL Ragin' Cajuns (9-5 overall, 4-1 SBC).

ULL defeated FIU on Saturday 78-58 and have won their four SBC games by an average of 16 points.

The Cajuns have had balanced scoring all season, as five different players are averaging double figures in points.

Antoine Landry leads the team with 14.1 points per game, followed by Brad Boyd (13.3), Brian Hamilton (11.4), Laurie Bridges (11.3) and Cedric Williams (10.4).

Davis expects another exciting game against the Cajuns, as ULL leads the SBC in several statistical categories, including assists per game and assists-to-turnover ratio.

ULL should look to get into transition, an area that Davis feels his team excels in as well.

"I really think our team will come out and play with a lot of energy [in both games]," Davis said. "Our guys are excited to be back at home, and it's all very exciting."

The Blue Raiders will host NMSU today. Tip off is at 7 p.m. at Murphy Center. ♦

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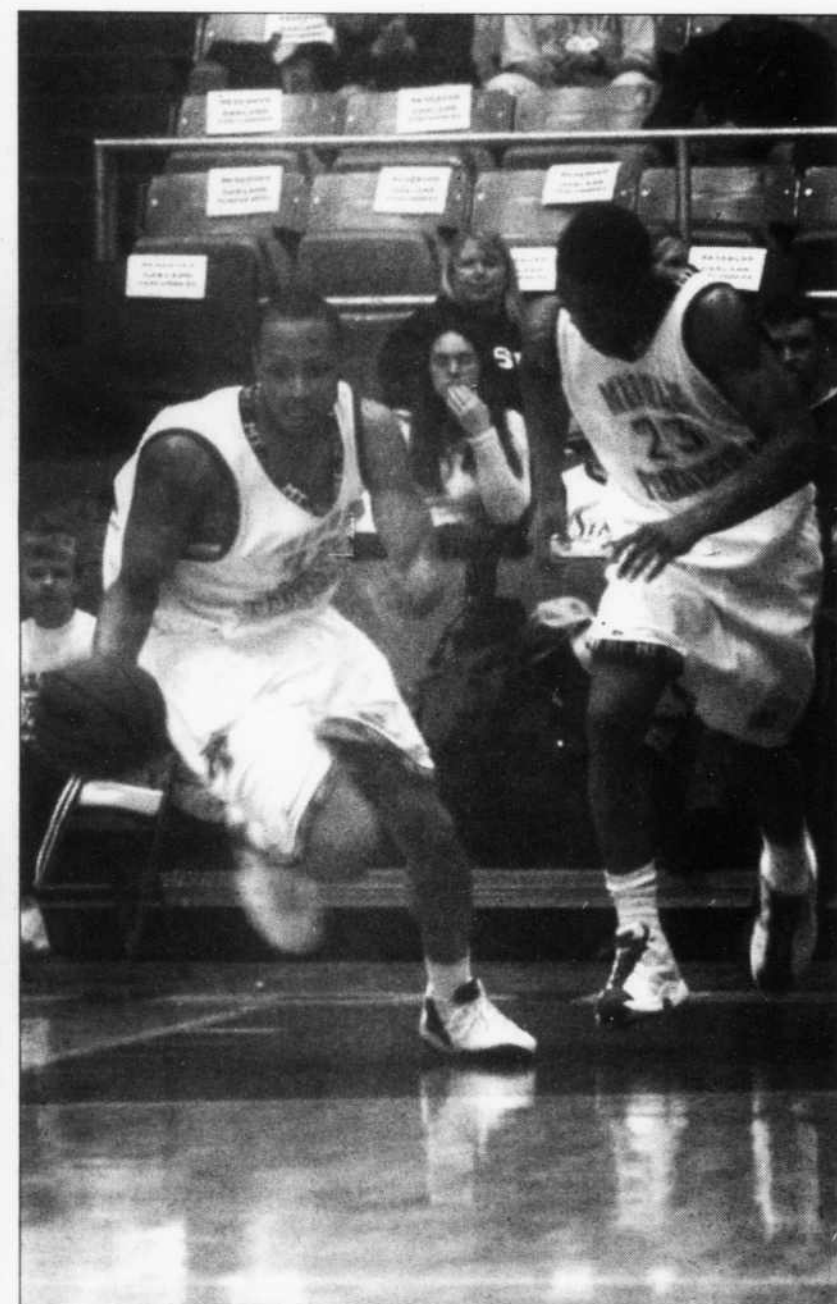
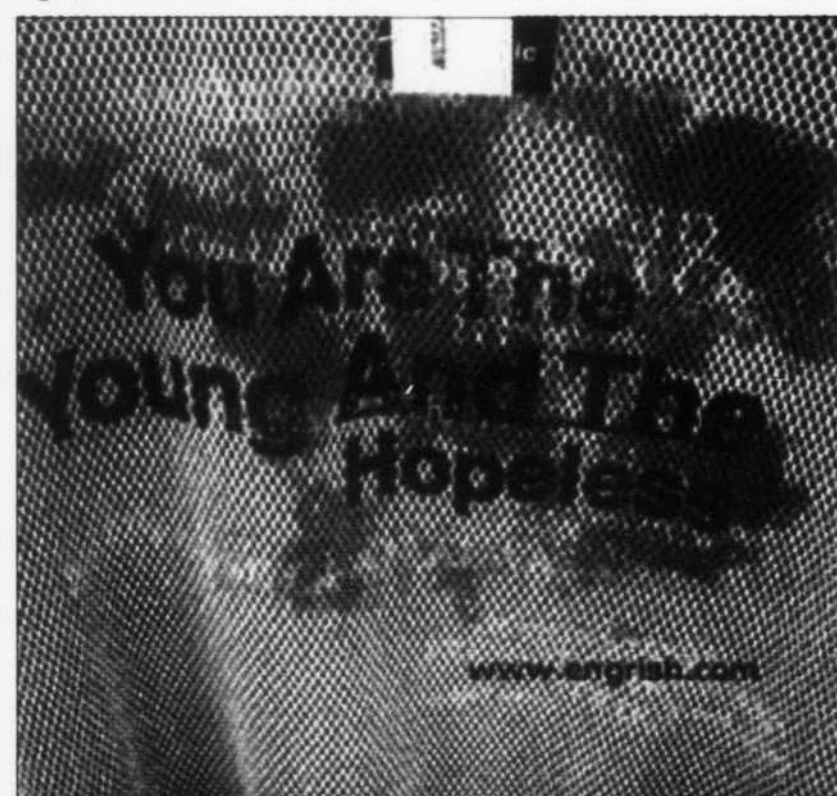


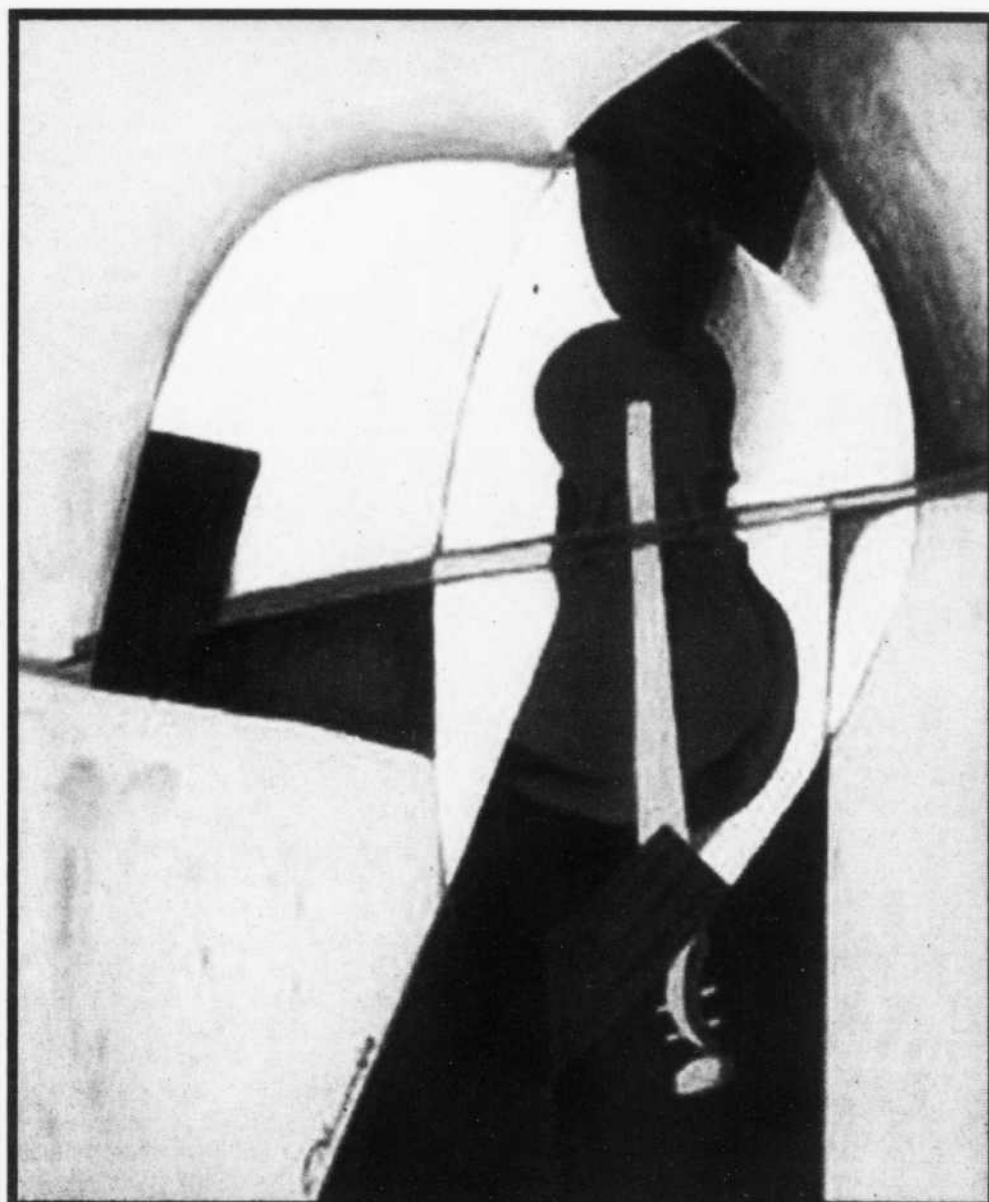
Photo by David McCombs | Staff photographer

Blue Raiders Tommy Gunn and Michael Cuffee start a fast break against Arkansas-Little Rock on Jan. 17. UALR beat MT 68-66.



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