



Would you like
some music
with that?

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to take on the
Lipscomb Bisons

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second election if less than
10 percent of students vote?

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TENNESSEE

INSIDE: Office-less professors, GTAs deserve space to do work

Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

An editorially
independent
newspaper

Volume 77 No. 23

Campus Briefs

Project to be honored

The Tennessee Board of Regents will honor an MTSU music project that was produced and recorded by recording industry students and faculty over a 20-year period.

The project, called "Retrospective," consists of an entire package: compact disc, booklet and printed works of art.

The project also highlights the interdisciplinary work between the departments of art and recording industry.

The focus of the project was an 18-song CD highlighting 20 years of music produced and recorded by recording industry students and faculty at MTSU.

For more information about project "Retrospective," contact Angela Cannon Hayes at 898-2919.

Media relations to speak

Tom Tozer, director of media relations for MTSU News and Public Affairs, will speak to members of MTSU's Public Relations Student Society of America Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building, Room 150.

Tozer will discuss why MTSU students are the university's best PR tools, why PR gets a bad name and the skills PR students need to learn in order to succeed.

Tozer has served as director of media relations at MTSU since 1993.

He is responsible for publicizing MTSU in the local, regional and national markets.

For more information, contact Joey Fortner at 494-0687.

UMS to show 'Summit'

The Urban Music Society will show a video tape of Russell Simmons' 2001 *Hip Hop Summit*, featuring a keynote address by Minister Louis Farrakhan, today at 6 p.m. in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building. There will be a brief discussion period afterward.

UMS also will host the "Battle of the Lyricists," a freestyle rap competition, tomorrow at the Cyber Cafe at 7 p.m.

For more information on UMS events, log on to www.mtsu.edu/~ums or call UMS President Shawn Whitsell at 898-4121.

Speech to discuss gender

Jennifer Swann, associate professor of biological sciences at Lehigh University, will speak tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building.

Swann will discuss sex differences in the brain and how a variety of social behaviors are sexually distinct.

Swann serves as reviewer for the National Science Foundation and is a member of the Association for Ethnic Diversity.

For more information, contact Amy Jetton at 898-5952. ♦

SGA president shares future goals

By Nick Fowler
Staff Writer

Getting students involved is key to the success of the Student Government Association, said Brandon Robbins, president-elect of the SGA.

One of Robbins' goals is "getting the student government where its student-oriented and where students feel comfortable coming to talk to you. I think



Robbins

that last year they got away from that," Robbins said. Robbins is aware of the image of ineffectiveness of the SGA.

"The image that we do have is not good," he said. He intends to change that by telling the stu-

dents what they can do and what they have done.

"We just have to continue telling people what we are most for," Robbins said. He said most people do not realize what the SGA has done to better student life.

"[Students] don't feel comfortable, and they don't feel their voice counts," Robbins said. The SGA Senate will soon have suggestion boxes placed

around campus to encourage students to communicate with the SGA about their concerns, he said.

"We've got to come up with some type of system that will involve everyone," Robbins said.

He said they have already passed a bill that would open up all parking lots after 5:30 p.m. The Faculty Senate must now review the bill.

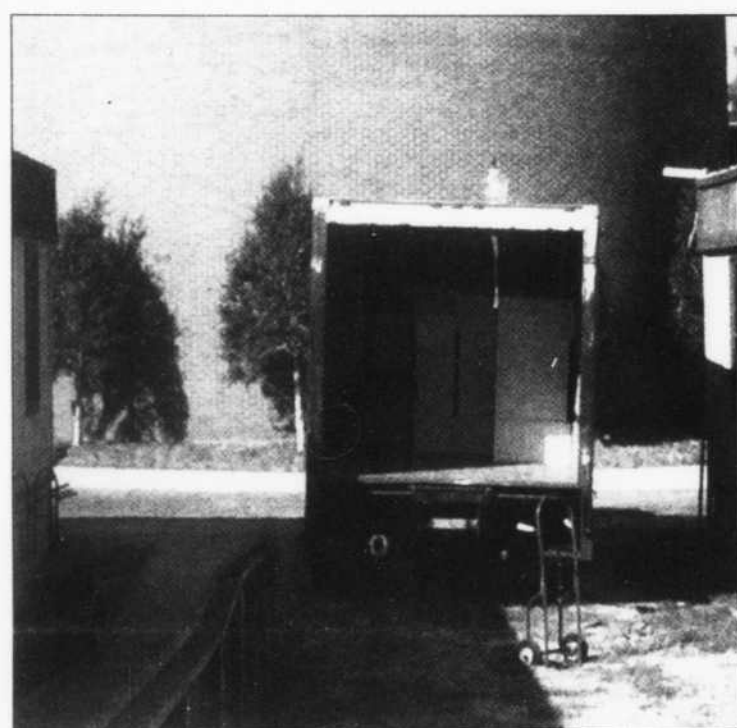
"You can't address every

issue, but you can address the ones that are going to affect the most students," he said. Robbins said the issues he supports are issues students are concerned about and are within the power of the SGA to change. These issues include parking, recreation center hours, library hours and technology.

Robbins sees student

See Robbins, 2

Faculty relocating for modular removal



Photos by Angelica Journagin | Staff

Professors and graduate teaching assistants with offices in the modulars in front of the Learning Resources Center found out Monday that they were going to have to find new offices. Faculty have already started to move out their belongings to meet their Friday deadline.

GTAs have been given limited options for new offices

By Jason Cox
Staff Writer

The modular buildings currently located between Wood and Felder Halls and the Learning Resource Center will soon be removed.

The eight buildings, which house offices primarily for part-time professors and graduate teaching assistants, are supposed to be vacated by March 15; however, those in the buildings are being encouraged to leave their offices as soon as tomorrow.

President Sidney McPhee said the removal of the modular buildings was an issue long before he came to campus. He said he recently received an e-mail from a faculty member who described the buildings as "inhuman."

"It's been an issue for years," McPhee said. "I've been chided by the administration for not acting quickly."

While the colleges affected, Basic and Applied Sciences, Education and Behavioral Science and Business, have found office space for their faculty, many graduate teaching assistants are clueless as to where their office space will be.

"We're totally up in the air with no place to go," said Adam Petree, a GTA in biology, "and I [have] no prospects whatsoever."

The only option they've been offered is to move into corrals in the James Walker Library, which are study spaces used primarily for graduate student research.

However, Petree said, there is no food or drink allowed and the walls, which stop approximately one foot short of the ceiling, offer little privacy to speak with students.

"I'd rather have my office in my car," Petree said.

Petree added that he did not blame the individual departments for the problem, but the "bureaucratic red tape above them."

Petree said space in the Todd Building that previously housed GTAs is now unavailable for usage due to the university's plan to renovate the building and move the art department

there.

Tom Cheatham, dean of the college of Basic and Applied Sciences, said his staff has yet to find a location for the 39 GTAs in biology and chemistry.

"We have known for quite some time that the modulars would be moved," said Earl Pearson, chair of the chemistry department. "We looked around and saw there was no place for people to go."

"When they decided to make this move, frankly ... I had no idea it was going to be this soon," Pearson said. "It came as a bit of a surprise that it would be that soon."

"[However] it wouldn't matter if it was a week or a year," Pearson said. "I have no place in my control I can move my graduate students to."

"Our big problem," said

George Murphy, chair of the biology department, "is all our space is utilized for classes."

"I'm glad to see [the modulars] go," Murphy said, "but I hope we can find suitable space for everybody that's in there now."

McPhee denied that the decision to remove the modulars is designed to coincide with his inauguration ceremony in April, calling the rumors "disingenuous."

"Any time change occurs, people get anxious, they get concerned and I just don't get in the business of chasing down rumors," McPhee said.

"If we find out that we have difficulty placing faculty," McPhee said, "we will not move them out until we do."

"If it's after the inauguration, then that's what will happen." ♦

Former death-row inmates speak against death penalty

By Lindsey Turner
Managing Editor

Two former death-row inmates and three attorneys shared their experiences and stated their cases against the death penalty Monday afternoon at a panel discussion in the Keathley University Center Theater.

Delbert Tibbs, of Florida, and Ronald Jones, of Illinois, both exonerated for murders for which they were sentenced to die, discussed questionable aspects of the criminal justice system with attorneys Rob Warden, John Oliva and David Keefe.

Tibbs, Jones, Oliva, Warden and Keefe are opposed to the death penalty in part because of the high rate of wrongfully convicted persons placed on death row and the frequency of exon-

erations of death-row inmates proven to be innocent after their convictions.

Warden, executive director for the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University in Chicago, said the criminal justice system in place in the United States isn't broken, but that it never worked.

"We have a truly pathetic system in place in this country," he said, citing a consistent error rate of around 4.7 percent, or 1-in-20 death-row inmates proven innocent.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (www.aclu.org), there are more than 3,500 inmates on death row in America. Almost all are poor, and a disproportionate number are people of color. Also, most had legal representation that ranged from inadequate to grossly incompetent.

Warden said fairness doesn't prevail in capital cases, thanks to four major reasons: incompetent counsel, eyewitness error or perjury, false confession and junk science.

"We know that eyewitnesses are notoriously unreliable," he said.

In Tibbs' case, in which he was accused of the rape of a 16-year-old girl and the murder of her companion, the victim's testimony was uncorroborated and inconsistent with her first description of the assailant.

Tibbs agrees that the penal system is ineffective but said that fixing it is difficult because it would take justice officials admitting they are doing something wrong.

"We don't like to see ourselves as the bad guy," he said.

In the case of Jones, a false confession was what got him



Photo by Lindsey Turner | Staff

Delbert Tibbs (left) and Ron Jones watch as members of the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing display a banner of wrongfully accused inmates who have been exonerated.

convicted of the rape and murder of a Chicago woman. Jones said the state of Illinois wrote a confession for him and claimed

it was his. It took four years to convict him, and he never

See Conviction, 2

SGA reviews use of plus/minus system

By Stephanie Hughes
Contributor

The overwhelming response from students and professors is that there are more minuses than pluses in the plus/minus grading system.

In a referendum conducted by the Student Government Association in the fall of 2001, students were asked whether they thought MTSU should eliminate the plus/minus grading scale. The poll found that 1,216 students were "for" the elimination of the grading scale and 668 students were "against" the elimination of the grading scale.

Students dislike the fact that their grade point average could be affected by receiving more minuses than pluses. This is especially true for students in the graduate program. Although the graduate program has implemented the plus/minus system for longer than the undergraduate program, graduate students do not seem to favor this system over the old one.

Sydney Bowman, a graduate assistant in the biology department, said the system does more harm than good.

"A consistent number of B minuses would drop you below a 3.0," she said.

Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in order to graduate, so there is more pressure on them to get a B-plus or a B.

According to students, another negative side of the plus/minus system is the fact that some departments require students to make a C- or better in order to pass each class in that department. Therefore, a C-minus would cause a student to fail a class.

Deb Rainey, a nursing student, said she has encountered this problem.

When Rainey entered the nursing program in the fall of 2000, the grade of a 74, a low C-, was a passing grade for nursing students. However, when the plus/minus system went into effect the spring of 2001, a C-minus was no longer a passing grade for nursing students.

Professors have mixed feel-

ings on the plus/minus grading system, according to Faculty Senate President Dennis O'Neal.

"Some faculty members think they can give a student a more appropriate grade," O'Neal said, "while others believe that since the Honors College lobbied to remove the A from the plus/minus system, the whole system is unfair."

Other universities or colleges that implement the system include the A, which means that students can receive an A-plus or an A-minus.

"MTSU is the only university that I know of that only takes the B, C and D into account when placing pluses and minuses on grades," O'Neal said.

The Faculty Senate did a survey to see how many faculty members at MTSU, out of approximately 800, actually use the system. Approximately 300 faculty members responded to the poll.

The survey showed that about 50 percent of the faculty members, out of the 300, used the system all the time, and about 40 percent did not use it at all.

Another survey was performed in which professors were asked whether they think the system should remain.

Forty percent of faculty members who responded said the system should be used on a voluntary basis. Another 40 percent said that it is used, it should be mandatory for every one, and the remaining 20 percent said it should be done away with altogether.

According to O'Neal, the plus/minus system was only supposed to be a two-year trial to see how effective it would be.

However, the decision of whether the system will remain will ultimately be decided in March.

A committee is meeting the second Monday of March to evaluate whether the system should be compulsory, voluntary or done away with.

The committee will then report to the Senate, which will then make the recommendation to President Sidney McPhee or Robert Eaker, interim executive vice president and provost. ♦

Honors seminar hosts very first visiting artist

By Charlene Callier
Flash! Editor

Deb Margolin was MTSU's first performance artist and playwright in a new course offered by the Honors College called Visiting Artist Seminar (UH 3200).

This one-week intensive course required students to attend class from Feb. 25 to March 1 from 3-5:30 p.m. With only 12 hours together, the students wrote, directed and rehearsed their creation, which they performed Friday in the Keathley University Center.

"Art is created by reaching down deep in your spirit and smearing it across whatever fictional landscape for your project," said Margolin, guest performance artist and playwright.

Margolin said that at the beginning of the class, the students did a personal inventory that required them to look at

images of what they hold of themselves.

"I used what I called the Theatre of Desire," Margolin said. "The desire to speak is the only thing you are responsible for at the beginning of a creative process."

"I believe a performance is a theatre of desire," Margolin said. "The class discovered the source from which rich, personal, resonate imagery for creative work comes from."

She said that once you discover that source, it is possible to achieve anything, regardless if it is theater-related or not.

"It is a deep inner source that everyone has. We just have to reach deep within," Margolin said.

Margolin has been a performance artist and playwright for the past 20 years.

She received a bachelor's of art degree in English from New York University.

Conviction: DNA testing too expensive for most inmates

Continued from 1

actually confessed, he said.

With the help of DNA testing, Jones was found to be innocent, but the county jail kept him for an additional 21 months before admitting his innocence, he said. Jones said DNA testing, though helpful in most cases, is a luxury most defendants can't afford. He was able to afford one when he was granted a DNA test probe.

"I was fortunate that I had DNA to clear me," he said, adding that he knows at least 10 more people on Illinois' death row that shouldn't be there.

Robbins: Wants involvement

Continued from 1

organizations as key to increasing student involvement on campus and with the SGA. Increasing the membership of student organizations will increase student involvement, he said.

"Every organization has a key to it and when we turn that key we'll get more student involvement," Robbins said.

Robbins wants to get more people to participate in events like Up 'Til Dawn, the largest fund-raising event on campus.

He wants to see more events that are for good causes and not for specific organizations.

"I encourage everyone to go to some type of organization where you feel comfortable," he said.

Robbins has been an SGA senator, a member of the student activity fee committee, information technology fee committee and the library committee. He has been involved in the plus/minus grading system, changing attendance policy, and grades appeal. ♦

"I have always been in love with writing throughout high school," Margolin said.

She said a friend introduced her to scriptwriting after she asked her to write a script for the company she worked for.

"The original scriptwriter for the play ran away to Europe and so the company asked me to write the script because they knew I loved to write," Margolin said.

Margolin said she attended one of the workshops that the company conducted and agreed to help them with the script. She admits that once she left that weekend, she thought nothing more about the script until she was inspired to write in the middle of the night.

"I woke up in the middle of the night and wrote the entire script," Margolin said.

She said that this is when she understood that her experiences were enough to write for the

theater.

In 1981, Margolin co-founded the critically acclaimed performance troupe Split Britches. The name Split Britches came from the name of the play written and performed by her other founders, Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw, about the lives of three women living in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

Since then, she has written and performed in *Split Mass*, *O Wholly Night* and *Other Jewish Solecisms* and *Of Mice, Bugs, and Women*.

Her plays have been seen throughout New York and the United States.

Margolin teaches performance composition at Yale and NYU.

The Visiting Artist's Seminar will be offered every spring and is open to juniors and seniors with a 3.0 GPA or higher. ♦

Jones is one of the 13 Wrongfully Accused, a group of 13 men wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death in Illinois and later exonerated. Since 1976, Illinois has exonerated more death-row inmates than it has executed.

"With all the time I spent on death row, I could pass a bar exam," Jones said of his 15 years in prison.

The panel members called for support for a moratorium on state-sponsored killing based on the unreliable nature of the criminal justice system. Illinois is now the only state with an official moratorium on the

death penalty, and Michigan is the only state with a constitutional provision banning capital punishment.

Jones currently has a \$50 million civil suit pending against the state of Illinois.

"Whatever they give me, it can't repay me for what they did to me," he said.

The panel discussion was sponsored by MTSU's criminal justice department, the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing, the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Tennessee Innocence Project. ♦

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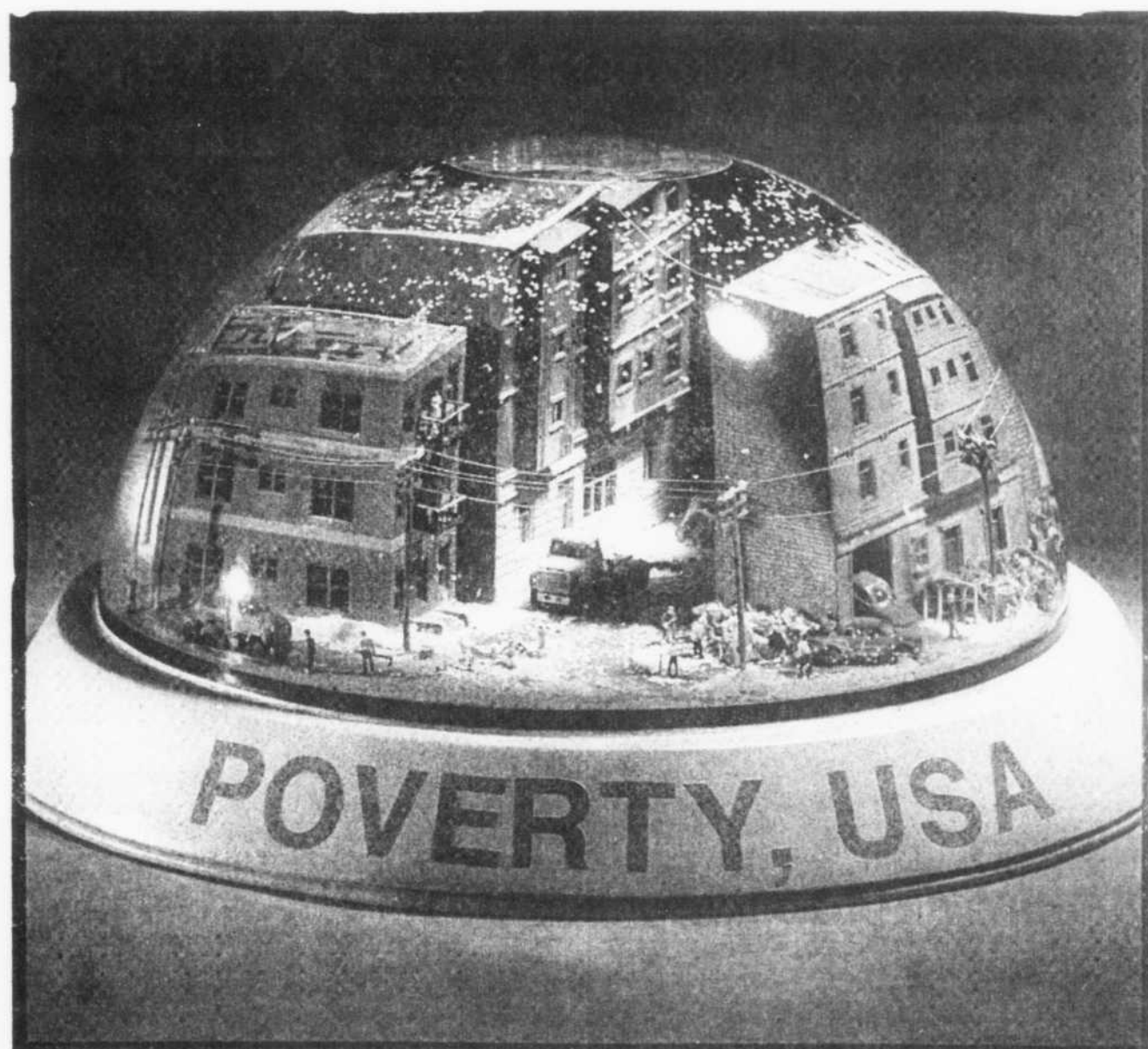
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MORNING BEAT (6-9AM)

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

SIDELINES ♦ 3

Editorial

Office-less professors, GTAs deserve space to do work

The trailer park in front of the James Walker Library soon will be just a fond memory, thanks to a mandate issued by President Sidney McPhee that they disappear within the coming month.

The modulars house both faculty and graduate teaching assistants, all of whom must pack up their belongings and move out by next week.

The university community has complained about the presence of the mods since their installation in the 1970s. They are a true eyesore on this campus.

However, the manner in which the office holders of the mods were booted out seems a little abrupt and not very well thought out. *Sidelines* has been told by multiple sources, who wish to remain anonymous, that the faculty members losing their offices have a place to go within their academic departments, though it may not be the epitome of comfortable. Unfortunately for the graduate teaching assistants who have offices in the mods, they're being treated like stray cats no one wants to give a home to.

For the second time in one year, the biology GTAs have been kicked out of their office spaces. Last year, they were ushered out of the Todd Library, which they were told was going to be turned into a facility for the art department. Todd still sits empty, and the art department still sits in the Art Barn.

Now the GTAs will have to pack up their office supplies and leave again. Many of them might take their stuff home and not have offices. Of course, they could always take advantage of those luxurious cubbyholes in the library's study rooms.

Rumors have flown that the mods are disappearing to coincide with McPhee's inauguration. McPhee denies this, but he should at least admit that his actions have bizarre timing, considering the university's lack of money and office space.

We hope that the faculty affected by this move can get settled in soon enough with as little trouble as possible.

And as for the administration, we hope this decision wasn't based solely on vanity. We also hope they will work swiftly to find these people office space so they can do their jobs. ♦

Correction

In the Feb. 28 issue of *Sidelines*, in the article titled "Porter Hall sticks to roots with new country album," the hometown of the Porter Hall, TN band members is incorrectly referred to as Porter Hall, Md. The band is actually from Frederick, Md. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

From the Opinions Editor

U.S. steel tariff a bad idea for everyone involved



President Bush has announced he will impose a tariff on 30 percent of many steel imports, a move that keeps steel companies, many of which are in the bankruptcy process, and steel worker unions happy, but upsets everyone else connected in anyway to the American steel industry.

In addition to the implementation of tariffs, Bush refused to provide a \$10 billion bailout for the steel companies, money that would have gone to provide health-care and life insurance retired steel workers and their families.

The current administration's protectionist attitude will not help our nation's economy improve. Any ECON 2420 student can tell you that tariffs help domestic producers while hurting consumers and foreign producers. A tariff as large as 30 percent will greatly hamper our country's ability to pro-

duce goods like cars, which require millions of tons of steel every year to be manufactured.

There is an argument that the tariff will not affect prices much, because it exempts Canada, Mexico, Turkey, Argentina and Thailand. Even if this were the case, it was still a foolhardy move for the Bush administration to enact the tariff, because it needlessly upset the European Union, a trading partner with an economy larger than Turkey, Argentina and Thailand combined.

On Monday, British Trade Secretary Patricia Hewitt said Britain would support retaliatory trade measures conducted by the European Union against the United States, and European Commission President Romano Prodi has informed Bush of serious concerns he has about the tariff.

With no one able to accurately predict where the U.S. economy is headed, we cannot afford to alienate a trading partner as large as the European Commission. This tariff should never have happened. ♦

Immigrants come to America for love, too

Panic Office

Alan Slone
Staff Columnist



I don't think I need to tell anyone that relationships can be a handful.

Between balancing your work, school and social calendars, trying to find time for the special someone in your life is almost impossible.

If you are one of the not-so-fortunate few who fall into the long-distance relationship category, you inherit a whole new set of problems. While the day-to-day activities with your significant other isn't as much of a stress, driving to see them every other weekend and long nights on the phone whispering to your snuggle buddy hits you in other ways — usually in heart-stopping phone bills and jaw-dropping gas bills.

But what if you added another level? What if you met someone who was in the area on an extended

vacation and fell head over heels for them?

Welcome to the world of international relationships: a world full of airfare, expensive late night phone calls, months apart, time zone differences and, most importantly, love.

Long distance relationships take on a whole new meaning when you have to go through customs. From logistics problems to small cultural differences, a foreign girlfriend/boyfriend might seem exotic and cool, but it isn't for the faint of heart.

I am a member of this group — a poor soul who found his true love in a Canadian (yes, stop snickering) who's almost 2,000 miles away.

I'm sure when I mentioned the word "international" that a most of you forgot about our great neighbor to the north and thought of more common locations such as France, Germany and England. That's fine. I used to do the same thing. That is, until I had to deal with the great group that is the

Immigration and Naturalization Service.

If you've ever wanted to really have a good time, go to the INS Web site and try to decipher all the forms, bulletins, schedules and authorizations you need to get a person in the country. It's a barrel of laughs, let me tell you. If you want an extra chuckle, just look at how much the application fees are.

What really makes this all a trip is the arrogance the INS has about people trying to immigrate. While we consider ourselves the best country in the world with regards to everything, it's just not so. Unless you're from a country where you're being shot at or in extreme poverty, life in your country probably isn't that bad.

The mass droves of immigrants from the early 1900s have slowed. America is no longer the land of milk and honey. Chances are, if you live in any industrialized nation and aren't wanted on embezzlement charges, you don't hate the United

States, but you're also not breaking down our door to get in, either.

The INS, as a whole, seems to think that everyone who comes to this country has an ulterior motive. All marriages are arranged, people are just trying to get in and destroy our way of life by overloading our jobs or freeloading off our welfare system.

For example, should my girlfriend and I marry and have to live in the States, she'll be prohibited from traveling to see her parents, friends and family for up to three years while her application and approvals are processed.

We'll have to meet with countless INS agents, talk about our personal lives and answer questions ranging from what each other's mother's maiden names are to what type of toothpaste we purchase. We'll constantly be at the government's mercy on what we can do and where we can go, all in the name of trying to be together because we are in love.

The worst thing about

this is that I'm not even trying to import her from somewhere on the other side of the world.

People who have fiancées in territories that might be perceived as security risks (Iraq, Iran and North Korea, according to the president) should be subject to these tests. People who are trying to emigrate from a place that enjoys the same way of life that we do should not.

We, as American citizens, need to get off our high horses and realize that we are not the be-all and end-all in places to live. With the rise of democracy in other industrialized nations, there are more good places to live than we give credit to. The influx of people trying to marry U.S. citizens should be treated with the dignity it deserves and not be treated like a common scam. ♦

Alan Slone is a junior recording industry major and can be reached via e-mail at plaidrabbit@forp.net.

Letters to the Editor

Reader stands by previous column

To the Editor:

Race. Racism. Racist. What are you doing? Do you know what you are talking about? I can't believe that you want to discuss such an issue.

The problem is that we are afraid to talk about it, and when race is brought up, everyone wants you to be quiet.

I must clear up a few things which surround my last column. First, I must say that I found out the real reason for Channel 19's absence, which was due to a rainstorm Murfreesboro experienced, not race at all. However, the point of my piece was to paint a picture that racism still exists. The story of Channel 19 was a feeling of an individual person.

Secondly, I have discovered that the only type of freedom of speech we really have is that which does not offend anyone, that can be censored and does not cause you to think.

I received some negative responses surrounding my comment concerning Channel 10. I must say that I re-read the column many times, and I have decided that if any reader feels what I wrote made Channel 10 seem racist, then I apologize. However, I wrote what I feel, and the conclusions readers come to are their own opinions.

A fellow classmate called me and told me what I wrote was wrong, and that he would write a column to clear up any misconceptions about Channel 10. He then went on to tell me that I should not write about things that are told to me, but things I experience personally.

I ask this question, "Did your grandmother stop riding the bus because she was arrested or because Rosa Parks was arrested?"

I am not trying to start a revolution, but I do want blacks and whites to think about the society we live in. If you do not stand for something, you will fall for anything!

Jeanette Owusu
Junior

Channel 10 not a racist organization

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to an article published in the Opinions column of *Sidelines* on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2002. The column, titled "Discovering racism on campus," by guest columnist Jeanette Owusu had a false statement concerning MTTV Channel 10. The article stated, "Channel 10 Web site was reconstructed so that black student anchors would not be featured in the homepage."

I felt the need to address this statement as soon as possible, not only as news director, but as an African American. The Web site did, in fact, feature several anchors at the top of the home page, and there

were no African Americans featured on this particular page. However, there was minority representation. When it was brought to the webmaster's attention, by a former African-American anchor and myself, that there were no African Americans featured on the page, it was a management decision to take everyone off of the Web page until equal representation of all individuals at the station could be achieved.

In order to be fair to everyone, the decision was made to take digital photographs of all current spring 2002 anchors employed at the station. In no way, shape or form has Channel 10 ever "reconstructed" a Web page to exclude African Americans.

I agree with Owusu that racism still lives in all facets of our society. I, too, have experienced all forms of racism on this campus. I feel there should have been a conscious decision to include at least one African American anchor on the Web page to show exactly how diverse we are as a station.

Channel 10 has been, and continues to be, a very exciting and informative resource to me. Being an African American, I assure you, I would not affiliate myself with any group or organization that condones any form of racism. With several African Americans involved in Channel 10 news, production, shows and programming, it is obvious to anyone that Channel 10 continues to be a learning resource to students of all races and ethnicities.

Luther Burke
MTTV Channel 10 news director

Channel 19 was disabled, not racist

To the Editor:

In reading the letter about "Discovering racism on campus," I noticed several topics that bothered me. The main topic was concerning ResLife Cinema or Channel 19. I would just like to make a point to correct it.

As some people may know, ResLife Cinema is based in the Wood/Felder Honors Living and Learning Center. All the video equipment is stored in an office in Felder, and the equipment that connects the dorms to it is in the Wood basement.

If everyone remembers, there was a great flood on that side of campus. For about two days, the parking lot in front of Wood/Felder was blocked off because of high water. Now, thanks to the pull of gravity and a stopped-up drain, Wood's basement flooded waist deep. As most people know, electronics and water do mix. The end result was an extremely fried Channel 19.

I have nothing against black people, and I am not a racist. My point is simple: It's not cool to jump to conclusions about things, and it is certainly not professional to print it in the campuswide newspaper.

Lougan Bishop
Junior

**Concerned about a campus issue?
Let everyone know with a letter to the
editor. E-mail slopinio@mtsu.edu.**

SIDELINES

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Editorial: 898-2337

Advertising: 898-2533

Fax: 904-8487

www.mtsusidelines.com

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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.

Would you like some music with that?

Red Rose Cafe brings bands to coffeehouse

By Stephanie Hall
Staff Writer

The next time you decide to stop by the Red Rose Coffeehouse and Bistro for a quick cup of Joe, make it on a weekend night and stay a while.

Under the guidance of new owners Bingham Barnes and Mike Mullins, this little coffeehouse now caters to the music-loving crowd. Through the week, songwriters and jazz musicians provide the main source of entertainment, but the weekends are really rockin' with local and national bands performing on stage.

As a small venue, the Red Rose has no problem booking every Friday and Saturday night. Luckily, it's not the size that's

the main attraction for the bands, but the management and crowd.

"The Red Rose has been great to us every time," said Chris Driver, guitar player and vocalist for the band Kill Devil Hills. "Everyone who works there appreciates the bands, what they work for and why they do it."

The building the Red Rose occupies has been in the community for about 70 years. It was built in the 1930s as a dairy, but that went out of business in 1975. Patti Hoffman reopened the facility eight years later as the Red Rose Coffeehouse and Bistro.

As owner, Hoffman was leary about letting music into her coffee shop. She wanted to keep the atmosphere calm and quiet

so people could sit and talk over coffee. The only band she ever allowed to play was the Kissing Book, and that was only because she knew one of the band members.

Being the only band to play at the Red Rose during that time, they were without the luxury of the stage that is used by the bands now, so they played on a couch normally occupied by customers sipping coffee.

Aside from Kissing Book's appearance, Hoffman occasionally allowed people to read their poetry or sing their songs.

After five years of ownership, Hoffman moved to Seattle and sold the Red Rose to William Turner and partner in 1988. Turner installed a stage and PA system for the purpose, as Barnes described it, of "coffee-house music." They eventually offered the business to Bingham and Mullins.

Barnes decided to use the stage for all its worth and began to attract bands.

"It's not like Mike and I have money. We work here, and a lot of the time the people who work for us make more money than we do," said Barnes, who credits the progress he and Mullins are making to their being present almost daily at the coffeehouse.

Bingham books most of the bands. He graduated from MTSU with a major in recording industry and has had a lot of experience with putting shows together for other venues. He admits a band might have difficulty getting a show at the Red Rose. He doesn't allow just anyone to play there because he's trying to offer a wide range of music.

After sorting through e-mails and phone calls daily, Barnes selectively chooses the

bands he wants to play because, he says, "I know what kind of music I'm bringing in."

Rock, blue grass, jazz and others can be experienced. The type of music, however, that can be expected most of the time is a heavier genre because, according to Barnes, "there tends to be a lot more rock music here in town."

The small lobby and crowded tables create a friendly atmosphere for sitting and enjoying coffee or listening to your favorite independent band play. When it's time for a band to take the stage, the tables and chairs are pushed aside to accommodate the crowd that wants to stand and move with the music. Bingham says the small area makes the Red Rose "an intimate type of venue." He takes great pride in this.

Along with the intimacy of the Red Rose, Bingham says they're "accommodating" to the bands.

"Joining bands are given a free meal and most of the money from the door," Driver added. "The Red Rose understands what it means to be a DIY (do it yourself band) and they cater to that."

The crowd at the Red Rose can be expected to be different from that of any other venue in Murfreesboro.

Ross Monteleone, guitar player and vocalist from Flesh Machine, describes the crowd as being "small and very subdued" in comparison to the other venues he's played.

"Here you get a smaller audience, but you get the ones who you really wanna play for," Barnes said. "People who come to see music here really appreciate it."

Susan Ghorbani, a regular customer at the Red Rose since



Photo by Allison Grammer | Staff

Eduardo Arino De la Rubia, a senior majoring in computer science, enjoys a relaxing meal at the cafe.

1995, enjoys the patio when she can. Bands play on the deck in front of the building during the spring and summer.

"In the summer, I love the fact that they have such a large outdoor patio," Ghorbani said. "There's nothing like sitting outside when it's warm and listening to great music."

Barnes is in tune with his customers' desire to be outside in the summer and plans to expand the patio and improve the tables and chairs.

With bands playing almost every Friday and Saturday night, the Red Rose should be considered when you're searching for a place to hear some music.

And those of you who enjoy the Red Rose for its quiet atmosphere and good coffee and food don't need to worry because bands are primarily saved for the weekends.



Photo by Allison Grammer | Staff

Chuck Bruner, an MTSU graduate student, works at the Red Rose Cafe.

Barnes wants to keep the weeknights open for "good conversation." ♦



Photo by Allison Grammer | Staff

The Red Rose Cafe, located at 528 W. College St., brings in a wide range of bands during the weekends.

Rosewater Foundation hits center stage in the 'Boro



Photo by Rebecca Pickering | Staff

Russ Hanberry (left) and Justin Ward jam at Red Rose.

By Shane Gallo
Staff Writer

Considering all the time, effort, practice and commitment that go into keeping a band together, the Rosewater Foundation has definitely proven that they have what it takes to last.

Russ Hanberry, Jason Connelly and Justin Ward, all from the Nashville area, have been friends since the third grade and even now share living quarters.

"People are always freaked out because we've known each other for so long," Hanberry said.

Hanberry (lead vocals and guitar), Connelly (drums) and Ward (bass), still say that, "If everybody can make a living doing this, if that just means touring around and getting by, that's all we want," and, of course, it's every rock 'n' roller's dream.

In high school, the group called themselves the One-eyed

Jacks.

After convincing their high school faculty to let them take the stage during a homecoming pep rally, they were given an excellent opportunity to show their talent.

"They always did the lip-sync thing, and we were like, 'we can actually play instruments,' so we got up and played an Iggy Pop song," Hanberry said.

Their first official show, in 1998, was at a church talent show, but now they have managed to move away from that scene, pulling a unique sound together, influenced by bands such as The Pixies and Sonic Youth.

"We kind of got inspired by them, but we're trying to do something a little different," Hanberry explained.

"I don't know how different the sound is. It's kind of up to everyone else, not up to us."

Though the three have been a group for several years, Rosewater Foundation has offi-

cially been around for a little more than a year.

The name, Connelly's idea, was borrowed from a Kurt Vonnegut book.

"I'm a huge fan of Kurt Vonnegut. One of my favorites is *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*," Connelly explained.

"It's about this eccentric billionaire who runs an organization called the Rosewater Foundation, which he just gives money to anyone who asks for it," Connelly said.

Unfortunately, this Rosewater Foundation does not work that way, but they definitely have something else to offer — their sound.

Hanberry writes most of the lyrics, but not without help from the rest of the band.

Their songs primarily originate during practices.

"When we're just jamming, that's when it usually happens," Connelly said.

And their sets are almost certain to include a Pixies cover and, sometimes, the occasional Weezer cover.

Even though they seem to have something going for themselves and their band, they still claim to be just a normal band.

"We're like a typical band," Ward said.

"We sit around all day going, 'we got to practice every day for three hours ... and then we go to sleep instead.'"

Their next gig is tonight at Sebastian's with NEO and comedian/ventriloquist Carla Rhodes.

Visit the Rosewater Foundation online at www.geocities.com/therosewaterfoundation. ♦

The Normals come home

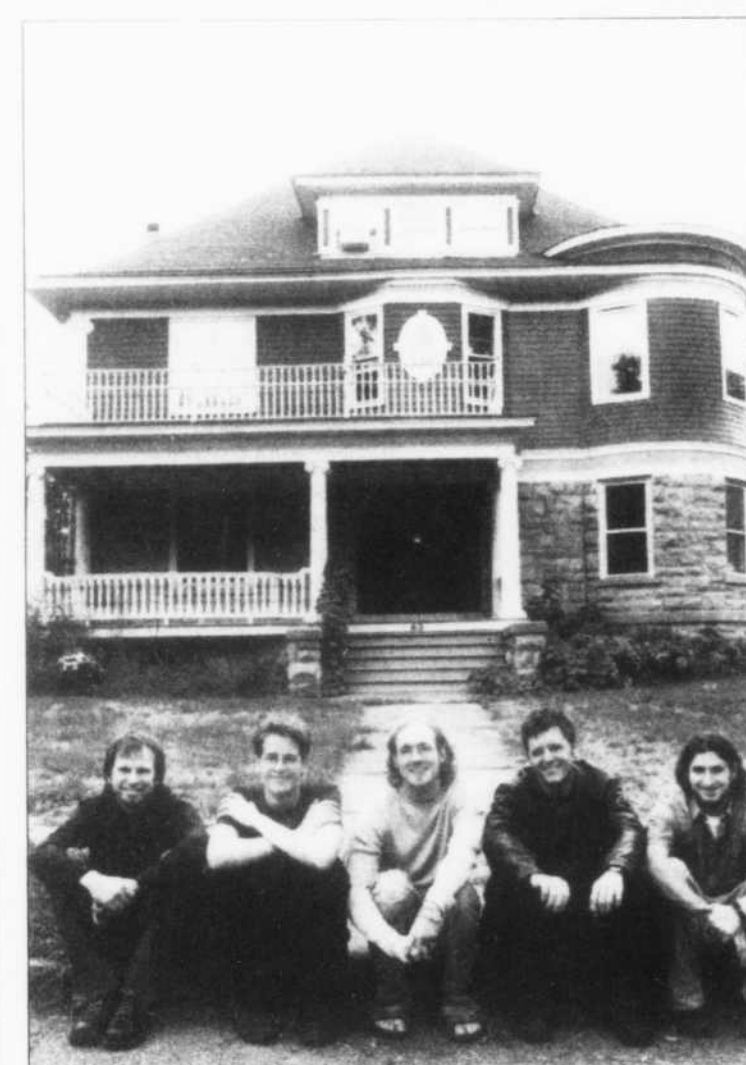


Photo provided

The Normals performed songs from their third hit CD, *A place where you belong*, last Wednesday in Nashville.

By Eric Allen
Staff Writer

The feeling of longing for home has been set to music on The Normals' third and latest *ForeFront* Records release, *A Place Where You Belong*.

A return home was exactly the mood of the evening during the CD release party last Wednesday at Nashville's 12th & Porter. The venue was packed with fans as the band treated them to a live performance of the songs from their just-released album.

The set began with the opening track, "I'll Be Home Soon," which is a somber, heart-wrenching ballad about the

desire to return home after many days and nights on the road.

The performance continued in front of a most enthusiastic crowd who received the new material with open arms and ears as the band performed the new material, which included the highlights "Radio" and "King."

In a riveting and emotional version of "Innocence," the song concluded with the chorus of U2's "Wake Up Dead Man," which drove the audience to deafening applause.

During a phone interview Wednesday morning with lead singer Andrew Osenga, I had the opportunity to discuss the

band and the process of recording their latest offering.

Originally from Normal, Ill., (hence the name) the band is now based out of Nashville. Osenga said he moved here to attend Belmont University, and it wasn't long before he was signed to a record deal.

When asked how recording sessions differed this time from previous albums, he said the process was very different this time around.

"This time we wrote all of the songs in the studio, which is completely different for us. It really encouraged everyone in the band to contribute," Osenga said.

Osenga said they wanted the album to have the feeling of a real band playing together. To achieve this goal, they recorded the songs live in the studio.

They also wanted every song to have a different sound and feel from each other. He explained that songs were scrapped if they sounded anything remotely like something they had already recorded.

I then asked about playing live and if he wanted to share any fond memories or experiences with me.

"We've had awesome shows in Europe. But the best shows are when the pressure is on, usually in Nashville because label executives and friends are in the audience," he said.

Osenga said he and the band were more than ready to perform the new songs live.

He said the album had been ready for a while, and the excitement to perform has been building.

The enthusiasm definitely showed as the band tore through the set with emotional highs and lows.

If the response of Wednesday night's crowd was any indication, the anticipation was well-rewarded, and the new album should be a great success. ♦



MT to take on Bisons

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider baseball team heads home for an afternoon game against Lipscomb University today.

Middle Tennessee (6-2) comes into the game on a four-game winning streak. The Blue Raiders swept a double-header with Eastern Michigan University Thursday and then won two games at the Austin Peay Governors Classic.

Bret Carroll goes into the game with the hot bat. He went 6-for-10 in the tournament this weekend and hit a game-winning home run Friday against Illinois State. Carroll leads the team with a .478 batting average and .870 slugging percentage. He ranks second on the team with 7 RBIs.

Chuck Akers also is enjoying success at the plate right now. Since moving into the leadoff spot six games ago, Akers has batted .400 with 5 runs scored and a .423 on base percentage. He has reached base safely in each of those six games and is 5-for-5 in stolen bases. The Blue Raiders have won five of those six games.

Justin Sims leads MT in three offensive categories. He has 15 hits, 24 total bases and a .514 on base percentage. He

also posts a .455 batting average and .727 slugging percentage. Nathan Jagers is yet another Blue Raider batting more than .400. He has a .412 batting average to go along with a .500 on base percentage.

Lipscomb (2-10) lost its last game 7-3 to the University of Connecticut Saturday. As a team, the Bisons are hitting .208 with a .278 on base percentage. Lipscomb has scored only 45 runs this season and has only 87 hits. Jeremy George leads the team with a .326 batting average and a .457 slugging percentage.

Opponents hit .311 against Lipscomb pitchers with a .417 on-base percentage. Lipscomb pitchers post a .728 ERA. The pitchers have walked 66 batters and struck out 62. Seth Kuwik leads the staff with a 3.38 ERA, a 1-1 record and a .158 opponent batting average.

Travis Horschel takes the mound for the Blue Raiders. He has a 1-1 record with a 9.82 ERA. Opponents are batting .333 against him. In his last start, Horschel went 5 1/3 innings, giving up 6 hits and 2 runs in the victory. MT played Lipscomb twice last season, sweeping the Bisons in a home-at-home series. The game is scheduled to start at 3 p.m. ◆

3 p.m.

Reese Smith Field

Wednesday

LIPSCOMB

@



Lady Raiders bow out

By Justin Ward
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders (16-13) lost their chance to advance in the Sun Belt Tournament Sunday with a loss to the No. 2 seed from the West, Denver (16-12), 78-63.

Denver opened up the game with a 23-8 run in the first seven minutes of the game. The Lady Raiders stepped up with their defense to slow the Pioneers down, but they still were losing by 21 points at half-time with a score of 44-23. Denver had a 61.3 shooting percentage in the first half compared to the 29.4 shooting percentage of the Lady Raiders.

MT came out in the second half making a run of their own, trying to come back within striking distance. They went on a 16-2 run at the six minute mark. The Lady Raiders could not get closer than 8 points to the Pioneers, though. They came back to make the score 69-61 with three min-



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

MT starters huddled for the last time Saturday.

utes left in the game, but they could not continue the push. The Pioneers finished the game out with a score of 78-63.

Jamie Thomatis led the Lady Raiders in scoring for the night with 28 points and 8 rebounds. She is also now second in career scoring

with 1,971 points, which puts her ahead of Priscilla Robinson, who had 1,969. Jennifer Justice added 18 points to the team's effort, and she was 4-4 from the free-throw line. Freshman of the Year Patrice Holmes

See Women, 7

Season closes for men's basketball

By Justin Ward
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider basketball team ended its season Sunday with a 63-48 loss to New Mexico State (20-11). Middle Tennessee finished with a record of 14-15, a nine game improvement over last season.

The game was very close in the first half with the largest lead being only 4 points. NMSU took that lead 23-19 with 3:12 remaining in the half. The first half ended with NMSU up 27-25 over the Blue Raiders. MT was 10-for-27 shooting 37 percent from the field in the first half. The Aggies were 8-for-30 with a 26.7 shooting percentage.

The Aggies kicked their shooting percentage up to 50 percent in the second half. NMSU went on a 13-2 run in four minutes to push them ahead of the Blue Raiders. MT couldn't keep up with NMSU, and they lost the game 63-48 to end their season in New Orleans at the Sun Belt Tournament.

"We came out, and they knew what they wanted to do on defense," said senior center Lee Nosse. "I take my hat off to them because they were the better team out there today."

Charles Anderson finished the tournament with a season-high and a team-high 15 points. He also had 9 points against South Alabama to give him 24 total for the tournament. This is the first time that Anderson has led the team in points. The next closest

Blue Raiders was John Humphrey with 8 points. Nosse had 7 points to finish his career with the Blue Raiders. Tommy Gunn added 6 points. Nosse led the team in rebounds with 6.

Eric Channing led the Aggies in scoring with 18 points. He had 4 threes in the game. James Moore added 14 points to the NMSU effort, and Kelsey Crooks had 10 points for the night. Jason Fontenet led the team

See Men, 7



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Tommy Gunn makes a pass.

Coaching positions now filled

Staff Reports

The final coach for the Blue Raider football team was hired yesterday.

Todd Bradford, who will serve as secondary coach, comes from the University of Wisconsin. The hiring of Bradford allows defensive coordinator Steve Davis to also coach outside linebackers.



Bradford

"I kept my eye on Todd when he was the defensive coordinator at Louisiana Tech and was very impressed with him," said head football coach Andy McCollum. "He really strengthens our defensive staff and provides us with a lot of energy and knowledge. We're excited about having him in the Blue Raider family."

Bradford graduated from Southern Utah in 1986. He coached defensive backs for Wisconsin the past two seasons. Wisconsin boasts one of the top secondaries in the Big Ten. In 2000, Bradford's secondary intercepted 21 passes and had one of the top efficiency ratings in the country.

Bradford coached two Big Ten All-Conference players and another who made the Indianapolis Colts roster in 2001. Before his time at Wisconsin, Bradford worked three seasons at Louisiana Tech. He served as defensive coordinator two of those seasons.

Louisiana Tech won 24 games in Bradford's three seasons, including a school record nine in 1997. The defense improved its yards-allowed average by 65 yards per game from the previous season.

Bradford served as an assistant coach at Eastern Michigan from 1995-96, defensive coordinator at Lehigh in 1994, assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at New Hampshire from 1988-93 and assistant coach at Southern Utah in 1987.

Eastern Michigan set 43 school records while Bradford was on staff. Bradford's Lehigh defense was the second best in the Patriot League. Both the 1990 New Hampshire and the 1987 Southern Utah squads set school interception records.

In 1984, Bradford attended Ricks Junior College, where the team played for the junior college national championship in the Valley of the Sun Bowl.

"Andy and his staff have done a remarkable job moving from I-AA and winning a conference championship in such a short time," Bradford said. "I am just happy to be a part of the process."

Spring practice begins March 12. MT opens the 2002 season at the University of Alabama Aug. 31. ◆

Basketball Notebook

By Shane Marquardt
Staff Writer

The season came to a close for the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team Sunday night as they fell to New Mexico State in the second round of the Sun Belt Conference tourney. But as Lucas said for the Bad News Bears, "Just wait 'till next year."

Nosse's Posse:

Unfortunately, Lee Nosse is one of the few seniors who won't get another shot at New Mexico State, which also put it to the Blue Raiders at the Murphy Center in January. Nosse had a total stat sheet in the tournament of 19 points and 9 rebounds that he can take with him to the professional level. It was also Nosse's three-pointer that sealed the coffin of South Alabama, propelling the Blue Raiders past the first round.

The Freshman:

There is hope for the Blue Raiders next year. One of their freshmen did his best to carry the load during the tourney and give MT something

to build on for the future. Charles Anderson led all scorers in the loss to New Mexico State with 15 points – his season high – and led the team in scoring through their short stint in the tourney with 24 points. Anderson had a season in which he took on the role of BFI, cleaning up after others with rebounds and put-backs for scores. But it wasn't enough against New Mexico State, though Anderson's efforts were valiant.

Next Year:

The 2001-2002 Blue Raiders finished the season with a 14-15 record. Not exactly what the team had aspired for, but it was a dramatic improvement from last year. The Blue Raiders had nine more wins this season than last and held their best record since 1999, where they reeled in 15 wins.

Sunday was a day of rest and the day marking the end of the Middle Tennessee Lady Raiders basketball season. The Lady Raiders fell to Denver for the second time this season 78-63, finishing the season with a 16-13 record as well as a winning record in conference play.

Thomatis:

Senior Jamie Thomatis played her last game for the Lady Raiders, but she went out shooting. Thomatis collected 28 points and 8 rebounds against a Denver squad that wouldn't relinquish a sizeable lead. Thomatis will leave Middle Tennessee as the second all-time leading scorer with 1,971 points.

Young Guns:

MT has plenty to smile about in the future. The Lady Raiders have a young squad returning next season, highlighted by Jennifer Justice (18 points against Denver) and Freshman of the Year Patrice Holmes, who collected a double-double, 11 points and 10 boards. Also keep an eye on 6-foot-2-inch freshman center Renee Hall. Hall may be able to fill those big shoes left by Jamie Thomatis.

Don't Say it's Over:

The Lady Raiders still have an opportunity of making the WNIT. MT's winning record (16-13) fits the necessary requirement to play in the tournament. Now they play the waiting game of the selection committee. ◆

Women's golf team finishes 12th in tourney

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders golf team improved three spots in the final round to finish No. 12 Sunday at the Lady Mac Invitational in Lakeland, Fla.

Middle Tennessee shot a final round 332 to give the team a three round 1004.

North Carolina State won

the tournament with a total score of 927. The Wolfpack had a tournament best round of 300, giving them a one-stroke victory.

Miami finished second with a final score of 928, including a final round of 302.

Tamara Munsch finished in a tie for No. 20, shooting a final round 78 for a 241 total. Kandace Burnett tied for No. 37

with a total of 246, and freshman Kristin Lynch tied for 58th with a final score of 255.

Amanda Harter and Kemmerlee Pennington shared the No. 82 spot with a score of 268.

The Lady Raiders' next tournament will be the Gamecock Classic at Jacksonville, Ala., March 18-19. ♦

Intramural basketball rankings

IFC and Men's League

Team	W	L
The Rebels	5	0
6 Planes and A Tank	5	0
Driveway Legends	5	0
Alpha Phi Alpha	9	0
The Realist	4	1
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	8	1
Last Run	4	1
Tennacious Threaz	5	0
B Doggs	4	1
Kappa Sigma 2	4	0

Sorority and Women's League

Team	W	L
MT Soccer	5	0
Alpha Delta Pi	4	0
Chi Omega	4	0
D.C.E. 2	3	2
D.C.E.	3	2
Dynasty	3	2
BBGs	3	2
Kappa Delta	3	2
Delta Zeta	2	3
Free Agents	2	3



SCORES

T 20 Tamara Munsch
78-85-78=241
T 37 Kandace Burnett
82-83-81=246
T 58 Kristin Lynch
87-86-82=255
T 82 Amanda Harter
86-91-91=268
T 82 Kemmerlee Pennington
90-85-93=268

Team standings

1 North Carolina St.	310-317-300=927
2 Miami	310-316-302=928
3 Wisconsin	311-318-309=938
4 James Madison	314-310-315=939
5 Florida Southern	311-320-316=947
6 Stetson University	323-317-321=961
7 Fla. International	320-319-324=963
8 Bradley University	327-326-314=967
9 Rollins College	317-329-326=972
10 Lynn University	327-335-329=991
11 Illinois State	330-339-333=1002
12 Middle Tennessee	333-339-332=1004
13 Eastern Michigan	335-334-337=1006
14 Eastern Kentucky	325-345-337=1007

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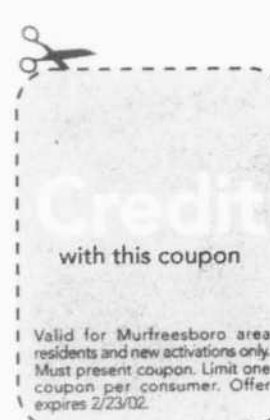
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