

WEDNESDAY
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STUDENT SURVEY

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Student Government
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An editorially
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SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

Volume 76 No. 41

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Courtyard work cramps students



The area between the Business and Aerospace Building and University Library will remain off limits while construction crews work to complete a \$1.4 million courtyard. (Upper right) The model of the completed courtyard shows various trees centering the seal.

Photo by Wesley A. Bush | Staff

Construction slated to last through December

By Jason Cox
Staff Writer

Many students and faculty began the semester with the surprise of a new campus construction project.

Little publicity or notice precipitated the beginning of work on a new courtyard between the University Library, Business and the Bragg Mass Communication Building.

Over the next year, construction crews will be working to complete an area that is intended to "become the new heart of the campus," according to Jay Wallace of construction administration.

The \$1.4 million project will feature many types of trees, including sugar maples and magnolias, which will center the university seal. The area will be well-lit, with enough power to host events like receptions and concerts.

While students and faculty alike were pleased with the idea both for its aesthetic quality and its usefulness, reactions were mixed as to the inconvenience that the construction is causing. Several students were bothered by noise during their classes and by hav-

ing to walk around the fencing.

Junior Tammy Simmons said, "I think they should have done it before school started. I have a class at eight in the morning downstairs [in Mass Comm], and it's just constant noise and vibrating and it's hard to pay attention. It's really loud, and the people working outside are a constant distraction."

Simmons did not find the cost of the project to be unreasonable, saying that the project is worth the cost "if it's going to be something that students can use."

Commenting on the inconvenience, Wallace said that "there is some inconvenience and we're aware of it and tried to minimize it as much as we could, but when you're doing a project that's in between three of the most used buildings on campus, there is some inconvenience involved." He added that the construction administration office had not received any complaints about noise during classes.

Matthew O'Brien, associate dean of the College of Mass Communication, said that the project will give MTSU "more of a college campus type of atmosphere, which I think is critically important to people's education. When I

first got here, I noticed some discrepancies between how this place looked cosmetically versus the places that I attended school, and I felt that students were missing something in not having more of that campus feel and I think that's what this project is designed to do."

Richard Campbell, director of the School of Journalism, cited concerns about the modular buildings that are next to the construction area.

"It's not going to work at all if they don't get those portables out of there," Campbell said. "It would be a shame if they get that space done and the portables are still there."

Another pressing concern is the issue of drainage in the area. The area was often muddy and had standing water after moderate rains.

"Part of the project is to install some storm drainage and some underground French drains to get that drainage out of there so that there won't be any standing water," Wallace said.

Dow Smith Contracting Company of Smyrna is performing the work and state funds are being used for the project. It is expected to be completed near the end of the year. ♦

"... there is some inconvenience and we're aware of it and tried to minimize it as much as we could, but when you're doing a project that's in between three of the most used buildings on campus, there is some inconvenience involved."

Jay Wallace

- Construction Administration

Delta Zeta rocks for charity

By Amanda Maynard
Staff Writer

Instead of singing and dancing for their national philanthropy this year, the Delta Zeta sorority will be rocking the knoll in rocking chairs.

Members of the sorority will be rocking on the knoll this Thursday from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., come rain or shine.

The Rock-A-Thon proceeds will benefit the MTSU Speech/Language and Hearing Clinic.

"It's great to keep the proceeds within MTSU," Ann Ariens, Delta Zeta's chapter president, said. "Speech and hearing is our national philanthropy and it's great to benefit the campus as well."

When a donation is made, the individual's or organization's name who made the contribution will be written on a cut-out paper turtle, the sorority's mascot. The turtles will be hung up for all of MTSU's student body to view.

"We are excited to host this first annual event and would like to gain the support of other campus organizations," Ariens said.

The Delta Zetas are also in the process of planning new events for the coming year. The sorority will be holding an open house in their chapter room for women interested in learning more about Delta Zeta and Greek Life.

The open house will be held Jan. 22 and 23 at 6:30 p.m. in Cummings Hall. For more information contact Tiffany at 867-6914.

For any questions concerning the Rock-A-Thon this Thursday, contact Ann Ariens by e-mail at annarians@hotmail.com. ♦

Campus copes with asbestos

By Lisa Thomason
Staff Writer

The discovery of asbestos in the Cope Administration Building led to more renovation efforts on campus over the winter break.

According to Jay Wallace of the MTSU Construction Company, the presence of asbestos prompted repair to the ceiling of the Cope Administration Building.

"It was a roof project, and the ceiling needed to be abated," Wallace explained. He went on to say that the asbestos was limited to an area over the ceiling in the main lobby.

Material published by the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics stated that asbestos was used commonly until the 1970s in many types of building products, particularly insulating materials, because it was inexpensive, strong and durable.

Three decades later, scientific studies link asbestos to two types of lung cancer, and it is no longer used in construction. The EPA says that asbestos is usually not a problem unless it is disturbed, as through sawing, drilling or cutting. It poses no danger unless the fibers are released and inhaled into the lungs.

Because of its strength and durability, asbestos can still be found in buildings erected before its link to cancer was discovered. Asbestos abatement is now a routine procedure in the renovation of older buildings.

Wallace stated that the asbestos problem in Cope has been completely alleviated. He added that construction workers are "continuously testing" other buildings on campus for asbestos. ♦



Martin Luther King Jr.

Living 'The Dream'

By Charlene Callier
Staff Writer

"Look beyond the dream and focus on the legacy that Dr. King has left behind," said Ernie Suggs, journalist for the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

Suggs was a guest speaker for the Candlelight Vigil and Memorial Service held Monday to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. He is a graduate from North Carolina Central University and won the Public Service Award for Journalism in 1996, the same year he was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his research of histor-

ically black colleges.

The service was sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and the Office of Multicultural Affairs and has been a four-year tradition to honor King who became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity around 1952.

Suggs told the audience if they wanted to fully understand King's contribution they would have to look beyond his famous "I have a Dream" speech and learn more about his life.

Suggs said he became intrigued with King as a child and began to venture out and educate himself on the life of King. He was fascinated with the

idea that a black man was trying to make a difference by believing the fact that blacks were equal to whites.

King's path to achieve this vision was based on a nonviolent approach into a violent system that discriminated against minorities.

"We should not forget about tomorrow," Suggs said. He believes in order to make a difference and preserve the legacy of King we must respond with actions and not reflect upon words.

Suggs told the audience to become more active in the community by contributing their time in the effort to uplift individuals in need. ♦

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

Compiled By Pam Hudgens - Assistant News Editor

Crime Stoppers solve burglary

An MTSU student was arrested Dec. 6 on burglary charges after a tip was called in to Rutherford County Crime Stoppers. They have recovered around \$3000 of the \$3600 worth of property stolen from a room in Nicks Hall. MTSU Crime Stoppers Coordinator Sgt. Tom Wright thinks these arrests will lead to arrests in an unrelated burglary case. The Crime Stoppers believe the arrests send a clear message that burglaries are taken very seriously on campus and hope these arrests will prompt more people to call in with information about burglary cases within the county. For more information about MTSU's program, contact Sgt. Tom Wright at 898-2424 or David Gray at 898-2414. ♦

TBR rep on NTC board

Richard Redditt, an engineering technology and industrial studies professor at MTSU, was approved by the Nashville Technology Council to serve as the statewide Tennessee Board of Regents representative on the NTC board of directors. He has also been selected to serve as program chair for the NTC Human Resources subcommittee. This partnership enables educators to ensure that their graduates are suitable for today's tech business needs and enables business people to better understand the programs and resources available at the state's education institutions. ♦

New ROTC Scholarships

The MTSU military science department is accepting applications for its two- and three-year ROTC program. The scholarship pays tuition and fees, \$600 a year for books and \$2500 a year in spending money. Students must be considered a sophomore by fall 2001 to apply for the three-year scholarship and a junior with at least 60 credit hours toward graduation requirements to compete for the two-year scholarship. Students must have at least a 2.5 GPA, pass a medical exam, be of good moral character and be younger than 27-years-old on June 30 of their graduation year. The deadline for applications is Feb. 15. To pick up an application, call Major Chuck Tilton at 898-2470 or stop by Forrest Hall. ♦

Mediator selected for desegregation plan

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Atlanta attorney who mediated the settlement of Tennessee's higher-education desegregation lawsuit has been hired by the state to make sure the agreement is implemented properly.

He will be paid more than \$230,000 for the work.

Attorneys representing each party in the case unanimously recommended Carlos A. Gonzalez, a 1989 graduate of Vanderbilt Law School, to be a court-appointed monitor in the 32-year-old case, which U.S. District Judge Thomas A.

Wiseman settled last week.

They said Gonzalez, 40, makes an effective diplomat and is familiar with the concerns of each side — the result of his yearlong mediation efforts in the case.

"He has a unique ability to empathize with each of the parties," said Jim Weatherly, attorney for the plaintiffs who intervened once the case was filed.

Gonzalez will be paid \$230,000 plus expenses and will renegotiate his fee with the state each year — raising or reducing it according to the time required to fulfill his duties.

Gonzalez, who will report to Wiseman, has been a special master in Alabama's higher-education desegregation case since 1993. He attended Florida State University and holds a divinity degree from Yale University.

"It's a very important agreement, and it will take a lot of concerted effort and work to bring it to life," Gonzalez said.

Last Thursday, the court settled the 1968 lawsuit filed by Rita Sanders Geier, then a 23-year-old instructor at the predominantly black Tennessee State University. In the suit,

Geier asked the state to end the "dual system of higher education" and achieve more equitable funding for her college.

The ensuing legal fight kept the state's colleges and universities under federal court supervision and set quotas for minority admissions.

The agreement, reached after a year of mediation, calls for the state to invest several million dollars in state colleges to make the schools more attractive to students, faculty and administrators of all races. ♦

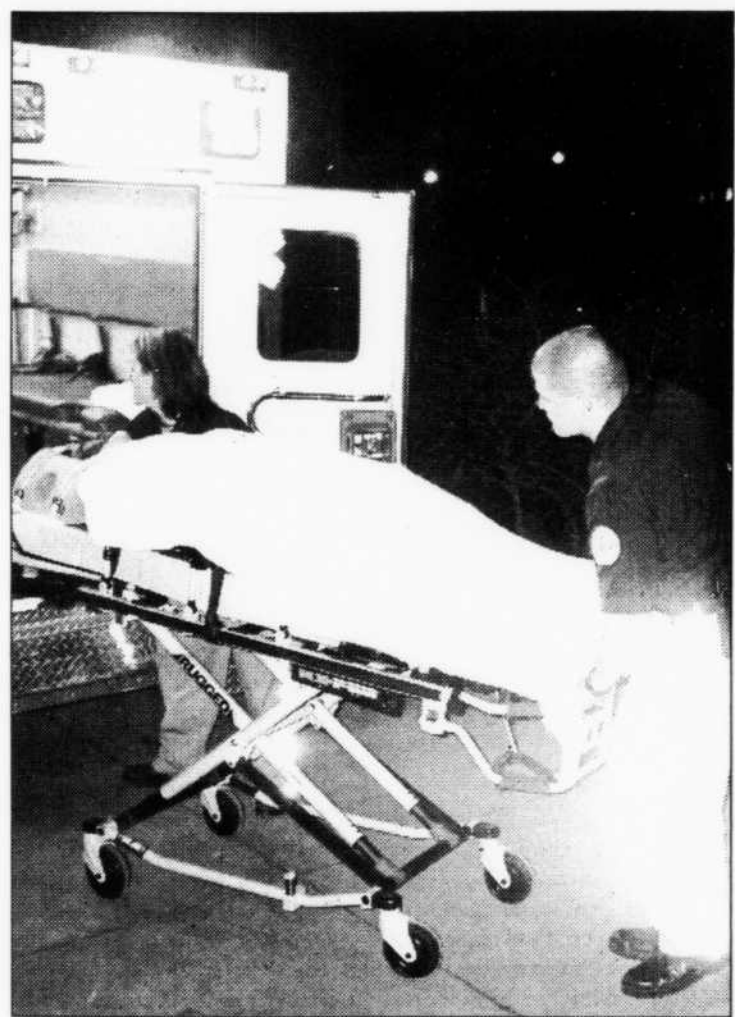


Photo by Pam Hudgens | Staff

Two Emergency Medical Technicians load a student into an ambulance after she fell down a flight of stairs in Peck Hall last night. The student was declared to be in stable condition upon arrival to Middle Tennessee Medical Center and was expected to be released last night.

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CRIME LOG

Compiled By Jason Cox - Crime Reporter

01-02-01 8:14 a.m.
Nicks Hall
Snack machine burglarized

01-04-01 1:10 a.m.
Off campus
Mitchell Hardy - driving on revoked license

01-06-01 2:56 a.m.
Davis' Market
Frankie Thompson - Driving on suspended license

01-07-01 2:56 a.m.
Greenhouse Lot
DUI 1st offense

01-07-01 8:24 p.m.
Womack Lane Apartments Building B
Theft under \$500 - stolen bike

01-07-01 8:57 p.m.
Peck Hall
Burglary from snack vending machines

01-09-01 7:37 p.m.
Crestland Ave. at Bell St.
Driving on suspended license

01-10-01 2:33 a.m.
Old Lascassas Pike
Underage consumption, implied consent

01-10-01 9:18 p.m.
Corlew Hall
Joseph A. Stratton - possession of marijuana, less than one ounce

01-10-01 10:43 p.m.
Scarlett Commons
Candle started small fire, citation issued

01-10-01 11:42 p.m.
Clement Hall
Indecent exposure - nude female running and screaming

01-13-01 12:02 a.m.
Greenland Drive
Robert F. Turley - outstanding warrant

01-13-01 12:32 a.m.
Scarlett Commons
Vandalism under \$500 - glass broken on bulletin board

01-14-01 3:36 a.m.
Deere Hall
Stalking complaint by female student
Suspect is a 40ish white male

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SIDELINES ONLINE
Middle Tennessee State University

Police on lookout for stalking suspect

By Jason Cox
Crime Reporter

The MTSU police are looking for the suspect in a harassment case.

Sunday, Jan. 4, a male approached a female student in the laundry room in Deere Hall and tried to make conversation. When she left the laundry room, the man followed her to her room. After the suspect left, the victim found that some of her clothes were

missing from the laundry room.

The suspect is a white male, approximately 40-years-old, of average height and weight. He has red curly hair and was wearing a brown coat and plaid pajama pants at the time of the incident.

The Department of Public Safety advises that students not walk alone at night, stay away from dimly lit areas, walk confidently and be aware of their surroundings. Students should never accept rides from

strangers and should keep another person informed about their whereabouts.

If you have any information, please call MTSU Department of Public Safety at 898-2424. You can reach Crime Stoppers at 893-STOP between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Should your call to Crime Stoppers lead to an arrest, you may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000. All calls are anonymous and confidential. ♦

Tennesseans support equitable pay for teachers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Eighty-five percent of Tennesseans in a statewide survey support paying teachers in rural areas the same higher salaries as those in cities.

The result came in a poll by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc. conducted for *The Tennessean* and the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*.

The telephone survey last week questioned 630 Tennesseans on a variety of state issues that are likely to confront state lawmakers this year or later. The 102nd General Assembly convened Tuesday.

Ten percent in the poll opposed salary equity and 5 percent said they were not sure. The survey has a margin for error of

plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The matter is already in the courts. Trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 19 in Davidson County. Chancery Court on whether the state is violating a 5-year-old court order that sought to equalize teacher salaries.

Attorneys for a group of smaller school districts in tax-poor counties contend that children in those areas are being denied a constitutionally guaranteed quality education because teachers are unable to be paid as much as those in tax-rich districts.

A state review committee meets Thursday to vote on a \$406 million salary equity plan, which ultimately would need

approval from the legislature.

State Sen. David Fowler, R-Signal Mountain, said he was very surprised the support for salary equity is strong.

"I don't know what it is about teachers that they think teachers should be paid the same across the state," Fowler said. "Even cashiers at convenience stores don't get paid the same throughout the state. That is not the way the market works."

Fowler said citizens may believe teachers are not being paid adequately, which is a different issue.

On another issue, 87 percent said they think all elections should be conducted uniformly with the same equipment and procedures in each county. Eight

percent disagreed and 5 percent said they were not sure. On the question of recounts for slim margins, 64 percent said they support the recounts, 28 percent did not and 8 percent were undecided.

That survey was done as a result of last year's close presidential race in Florida.

Those surveyed also were asked if they thought TennCare should be broken into three separate parts: Medicaid recipients, children and adults who are uninsured or unable to get insurance through an employer. Twenty percent opposed carving up TennCare, 42 percent supported splitting up enrollees into different programs and 38 percent were undecided. ♦

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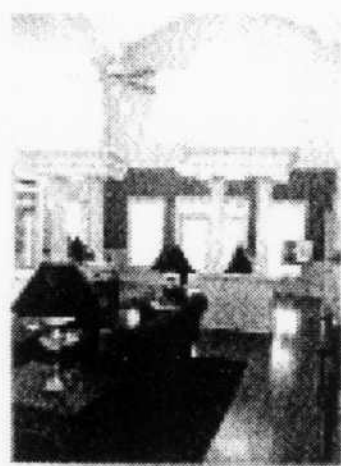
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From the staff Students need to support SGA, new constitution efforts

Last night, Matt Walker — speaker of the House for the Student Government Association — introduced a proposal to adopt a new constitution, and the House representatives approved it, 23-2.

But the new constitution still has a long way to go before it will be completely approved and enacted. Mainly all it needs is student support and lots of it.

Last fall, the SGA tried to change to a unicameral system by completely eliminating the House of Representatives, but barely lost when it was put to a vote with the student body.

The House was (and still is) plagued by low attendance and chronic apathy by most of its members, and the senior SGA officers wanted to put the assembly out of its misery. This semester, they are going to try it again.

The new constitution outlines a unicameral system consisting of only a larger Senate. But the new system doesn't take away any student voice. Under the new system, any person or group that submits the appropriate petition can have a piece of legislation presented before the Senate.

If the new constitution is approved, all legislation passed under the current constitution will become null and void. Both Walker and SGA President John Marshall said this is necessary because past administrations were not always good with record keeping, and it has become almost impossible to consult laws from over the years.

Marshall said laws that are still "good" will be resubmitted to the Senate.

Still, overall the new constitution is better than the current one. It's more efficient and gets rid of those parts of the SGA which have become stale.

As the proposal stands now, this newspaper staff is supportive of the SGA's efforts. Hopefully the rest of the student body will agree and vote in support of the new constitution.

Remembering the King in me

When I was about eight or nine years old, my mother bought me a book. All my life I've been a big reader so I was excited to get a new book. I was even more excited once I saw that the book was about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I was so excited that I read it all in one day. Then I read it again. While my brother, cousins and friends played football outside, I was in my room reading about one of my heroes. Up to that particular point, I had seen Dr. King on television and learned about him in school but to have my very own book (with pictures) just made my day.

In the book I read about how as a young man, Martin would read everything he could get his hands on, books, newspapers, etc. I wanted to be just like him so at eight years old, I started reading the newspaper.

I read about how Martin graduated high school at 15 and I wanted to do the same thing. You should've seen the smile on my teacher's face when I asked her how I could go about skipping a few grades. She chuckled a little bit but I was stone-

On the Real

Shawn
Whitsell



Opinions
Editor

faced serious. What can I say, a brotha had goals, ha ha.

I read about how Martin went to Morehouse College and of course I instantly wanted to go there, although I didn't know a thing about it. I guess I figured if it was good enough for Dr. King, it was good enough for me.

I read about how Dr. King marched, protested, went to jail, made speeches and like everything else he did, I wanted to do it too. I was definitely thankful I didn't live in those times but at the same time I wished I could have been a part of the struggle. I turned into a little activist right

after that. It's kind of funny when I think about it. I was this nine-year-old kid with skinny legs and a big heart (characteristics I still have at age 21), writing and reciting speeches. I was so dramatic, but I was serious and even though it's kind of funny now, it wows me that at that age, I'd already realized my life had purpose. I owe that to the people who have been an example in my life: my family, my pastor, my teachers and the late great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

There are two main reasons for my choosing to tell this story. First and foremost is to give honor to Dr. King who dedicated his life to bringing together all God's people and for the impact he's had in my young life. Secondly, I want to point out that just as I held on to Dr. King's every word as a kid, some kids in my community actually hold on to my every word. You don't have to be Michael Jordan, Bill Clinton, Bill Gates or Oprah Winfrey to make a difference, just be yourself and be an example to the world as Dr. King was to so many people in the world, including yours truly. ♦

Allow me to introduce myself

Wes Cobb
Staff Columnist



Cranial Smorgasbord

Howdy all. Since this is my first in what will hopefully be a long (and popular) series of opinions columns in *Sidelines*, please allow me to introduce myself. I am Wes Cobb, and I possess enough of an ego to believe that all you people out there give a damn about what I have to say.

It seems appropriate to give you some

insight into my character and beliefs before I begin espousing my opinions as if they were divinely inspired edicts spewing forth from my soul like I was some sort of pipeline to the Cosmos or Eternal Truth.

Although I'm not an official member of any political party, I find that I am mostly Libertarian in nature. I agree strongly with the concept of live and let live; the concept of forcing someone to conform to "acceptable" practices and beliefs when said person isn't hurting anybody else just rubs me the wrong way. Republicans do it by pushing religion and Democrats do it by enforcing "political correctness". Now that I've made all you Republicans and Democrats mad with my sweeping generalizations, I'll move on.

I'm for one's right to be openly proud of one's gender, race, sexual orientation

and religion, and I'm against laws that force private businesses and institutions to conform to "government-approved" standards and quotas regarding these issues. I feel these laws only increase the level of dissent among all those involved.

I am an agnostic who looks to science for answers, but I'm not presumptuous enough to try to say whether some universal being exists, and whether this being is God.

And of all the Constitutional Amendments, the first two are my favorite. I'm not too keen on the 16th.

Now that you are somewhat acquainted with me, I'll begin dealing with various topics more specifically in my next column in hopes of blasting the barnacles off your brains. Thank you and goodnight. ♦

Support an income tax and you won't have to pay

God bless Gov. Sundquist. The Sundquist from last year, anyway. Here is a man with the political balls to propose a controversial measure, a new income tax, and stand by it even when his own party disavows him.

The politicians in the state legislature didn't comprehend the dire straits that this state is going through. They proposed the state should cut spending, not create a new tax. However, they couldn't come up with any examples of wasteful spending.

I think we here at MTSU can all attest they aren't wasting any money in the education system.

If I hear one more professor in Peck complain about the lack of chalk, I think I'm going to scream, or buy a case of chalk and donate it to the school.

Now, that would be a human-interest story.

If every student donated a penny to the chalk fund, we'd have enough cash for a year's supply. Hell, I'll throw in a nickel, and cover four other people.

Students buying their teacher's chalk? That could outrage the public enough to support an income tax. But I digress.

Gov. Sundquist recently announced that he would not pressure this session of legislature to create an income tax, and instead force them to create a solution of their own.

I suppose one man can only take so much political flak before he too caves in. But we, as intelligent, worldly students, cannot let this idea die.

Call it idealism, call it naiveté, but I know the power to get the tax mess straightened out lies with students and the



Staff
Columnist

Canadian Bacon

Patrick
Chinnery

young voter.

Think about it...the Democrats who preside in the state legislature pride themselves on drawing on the younger crowd for many of their votes.

If the 18-30 year old voting block got organized, and showed united support for an income tax, that would scare any rational political party into action. It would drive the Republicans in the Legislature to court the young voter as well.

Alienate the youth, and who knows who might get elected next? Sundquist will rush to re-propose his plan, so he can claim the credit. That's right, boys and girls; we do have the power to change this system.

The problem, of course, is getting everyone to stand together. But it can be done. It doesn't matter what political party you align yourself with, or even if you align yourself at all.

We all want to save money.

And that is exactly what Sundquist's plan would do for us. I know no one in college or high school who has to pay Federal Income Tax; everyone always gets theirs refunded. Except for my friend Kelsey, but he owns his own web-hosting company and can afford to get milked by

the government.

We, as students, could look forward to a pleasant surprise every April, when the tax-man cometh, and we get to say, "Get bent."

We also get to benefit from a lowered sales tax.

I don't know about you, but I'll celebrate the day when there is no more tax on necessities, like food and clothing, and everything else is taxed at a rate of 6.5 percent.

The current tax system punishes those of us in the middle and lower classes, which have better things to do than put \$8.25 into the state's coffers for every \$100 we spend. Think of what \$8.25 could do for you.

It could be almost three hours of long distance using 10-10-220 or eight Jumbo Dog/Large Drink Combos from Tiger Mart or six loads of laundry here on campus. We could use it to invest — Ameritrade only charges \$8.00 for commission.

Instead, the state uses it to not give its universities chalk. But hey, we do have some of the best interstates in the country.

So, I make my appeal to our campus: Support the income tax! Write, call and e-mail your home representative, and tell him/her to get it in gear.

Let's plan a rally on the Capitol!

Someone has to start this movement, and there's no reason why it shouldn't be us. We're poor, young, mobile, and have enough free time.

We are the powder keg of the Income Tax and I'm waving the torch. Let's make ourselves heard!

Defender of Truth, Justice, and the American Way. ♦

Look back in humor, irony

By Jonathan Burkhardt
The Badger Herald

Two years ago, I had the fortune of witnessing and experiencing the first of two sweatshop sit-ins — the last loud crusade UW activists waged against the ethereal evil empire of corporate exploitation.

For those who don't know, the sit-in revolved around UW apparel, which is produced in sweatshops.

I went to the sit-in because I agreed with the cause, and because I had a close friend who

was involved in planning it. I arrived at Bascom Hall relatively late and found the lobby looking like a scene from "Animal House."

There were open pizza boxes, crusts, bottles and cans strewn about the room, and several people were passed out in corners. As I later found out, most of this food and drink had been donated by local businesses who supported the activists' cause.

In addition to the food, various magazines, books and board games had also been

donated to occupy the activists' time. Two International Socialist Organization members had passed out around an open "Monopoly" box. They slept like babies, blissfully unaware of the irony.

Those people who had not fallen asleep were outside smoking cigarettes and arguing about various issues. A few of them mentioned the sweatshops, but most conversation revolved around their contempt for the UW campus: How the student body "needed to be more active" and how "they did-

n't understand how everyone could be so f—ing stupid and apathetic."

The most entertaining part of this gathering was a schoolyard squabble about whose parents had been more active during the '60s and '70s. It sounded an awful lot like a kindergarten squib about whose daddy was bigger and stronger.

Several had mommies and daddies who had taken over government buildings, others had parents who had organized

See Humor, 5

SIDELINES

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Sidelines is the non-profit, editorially-independent 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.

Humor: Jump Head

Continued from 4

sit-ins. Apparently, the target of these protests was unimportant, as it never was mentioned. In proving one's radical pedigree, it seems the means justified the ends.

Midway through a heated argument about whether Vinzetti (of Sacco and Vinzetti fame) or Mother Jones said "Don't mourn, unite," a smiley-faced police officer strolled in. Most glared at him, except for one person who asked how he was doing, and what he thought of the sit-in. He told everyone that they shouldn't worry about the police bothering them, because Chancellor Ward had told him that the protesters were "a great bunch of kids."

For reasons they never discussed, there was a general consensus that the officer's remark was "pretty messed up." Perhaps they felt the remark was patronizing, or perhaps he had thrown them a curveball by not acting like their evil adversary. Most of them did not seem to have a well-organized sense of their complaint. The police officer's smile and a few kind words from their foe had blown a mystical dog whistle that only the most radical of ears could hear.

Conversation soon died down and everyone went to sleep. Several hours later, everyone awoke to find coffee, bagels and various condiments in the corner of the room for breakfast.

Munching on their hearty breakfast, the group then formed a circle and began their democratic meeting. Had various people not been wearing Che Guevara, "McCorporation"

and "Reagan Sucks" T-shirts, I could have mistaken the opening proceedings for a summer campfire or a group therapy session.

It began when we went around the circle and told our names, the reason we had come and what we hoped for the future. After these AA-esque introductions, we discussed our sit-in strategy.

An older man was the first to raise his hand. With thick skin, a flannel shirt and faded jeans, he looked like a character from a Steinbeck novel, the prototypical New Deal union organizer - which, in a sense, he was. Prior to the introductions, he told me that he had been involved with auto unions and that he had traveled to Madison to "observe and lend a hand."

With a didactic tone the older man explained to everyone that it was standard sit-in procedure for the protestors to vote on several representatives who would go to negotiate terms with management - in this case the UW administration.

These representatives would then discuss further action with the rest of the protesters. After that discussion, representatives would go back in.

Strangely, this man's comments seemed to blow the dog whistle again - many scowled as if he had offended their family heritage.

One person angrily professed that there should be no negotiators and that they should run through Chancellor Ward's office, knock books and plants and other things over, and then stand with their arms crossed, gritting their teeth

above him until he agreed to their terms.

Some even had philosophical justifications for this approach. Pulling phrases from their bag of Marx and Chomsky, they displayed their utter contempt for all authority. "We live in a patriarchal society," said one person, "and are used to being patronized. If we are going to get anywhere, we can't speak or act on their terms."

For these people, ideology had virtually replaced the causes, and causes were as far from their experience as ideologies - halfway around the world in fact.

After about 20 minutes, the old man got up and left. He didn't seem angry. But as he passed me on his way out, I heard him whisper: "We're just going to get arrested if we act like we're in damn paramilitary group."

I never stayed to see whether the aggressive tactics prevailed. After being bored by the discussion and not feeling I could offer any help or insight, I left for class.

Periodically I would look in to see if anything had changed. It appeared to me that nothing had. The same people were there, and the same discussions were going on.

After four days, Chancellor Ward agreed to their terms. Perhaps if he had seen what I saw, he would have held out for a little longer.

Jonathan Burkhardt is a prolific senior majoring in history. He asks that you send him no death threats, as he is quite fond of being alive. ♦

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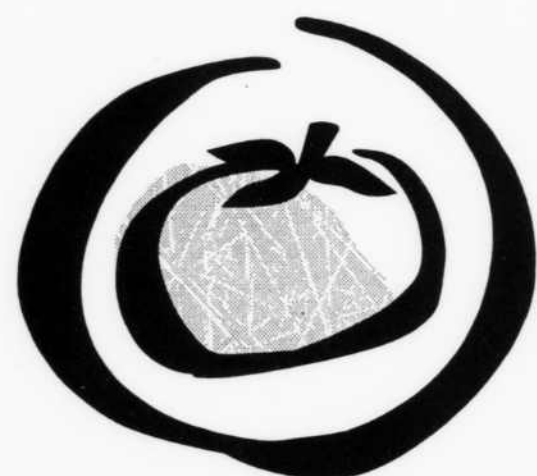
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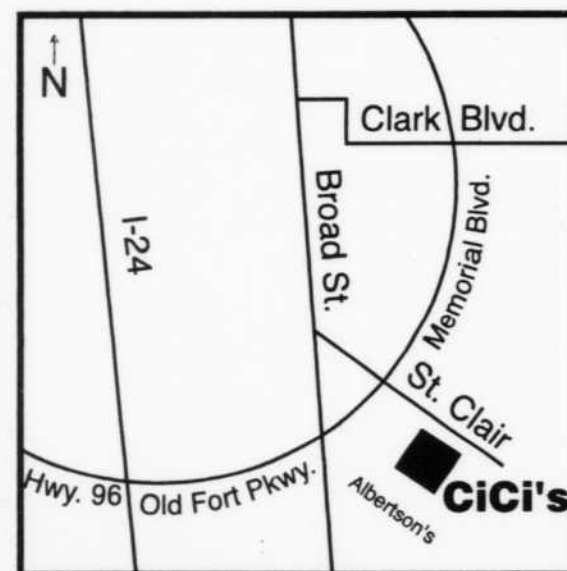
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The Two Minute Drill

R. Colin Fly



Sports Editor

Jump Shots

Freshman guard Tommy Gunn equaled his career scoring high and set a new career rebounding mark against Florida International. The Syracuse, N.Y., native drained 15 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Fernando Ortiz scored more than 20 points for the second straight game against FIU. He also grabbed a season best six rebounds.

Last season Ortiz had nine 20 plus point games. This performance marked just his second 20-point game of the season.

Puerto Rico was well represented in Thursday's game, as seniors Freddie Martinez and Fernando Ortiz for MT squared off against Carlos Arroyo, a friend to both Martinez and Ortiz who plays for the Golden Panthers. Arroyo came into the contest leading the Sun Belt in scoring, averaging 22.6 points per game.

Statistically speaking, the FIU game was as close as it could be. Middle made more field goals than FIU 24-23, but lost the rebounding battle 40-39. MT dished out one more assist, 13-12, but turned the ball over one more time 12-11. Oh, and both teams stole the ball 5 times each.

Coach Randy Wiel was disappointed with the team's rebounding effort.

"The main thing I saw was that (FIU) got 18 offensive rebounds and converted," Coach Wiel said. "We got shots and we just couldn't make anything. We just didn't do what we needed to."

Tommy Gunn also noted the team's rebounding performance.

"During the first half we got up with good intensity. In the second half it died down," Gunn said. "Going to the glass is part of our game."

However, MT didn't get the key rebounds soon enough.

"We knew they were a scrappy bunch," Ortiz said. "They came out and pressed us and it was hard to get back in it."

"We just weren't as hungry."

Coach Wiel also stressed the importance of possession.

"They knocked the ball away from us," Wiel said. "We just have to protect the ball more."

The Blue Raiders play the Denver Pioneers at home on Thursday.

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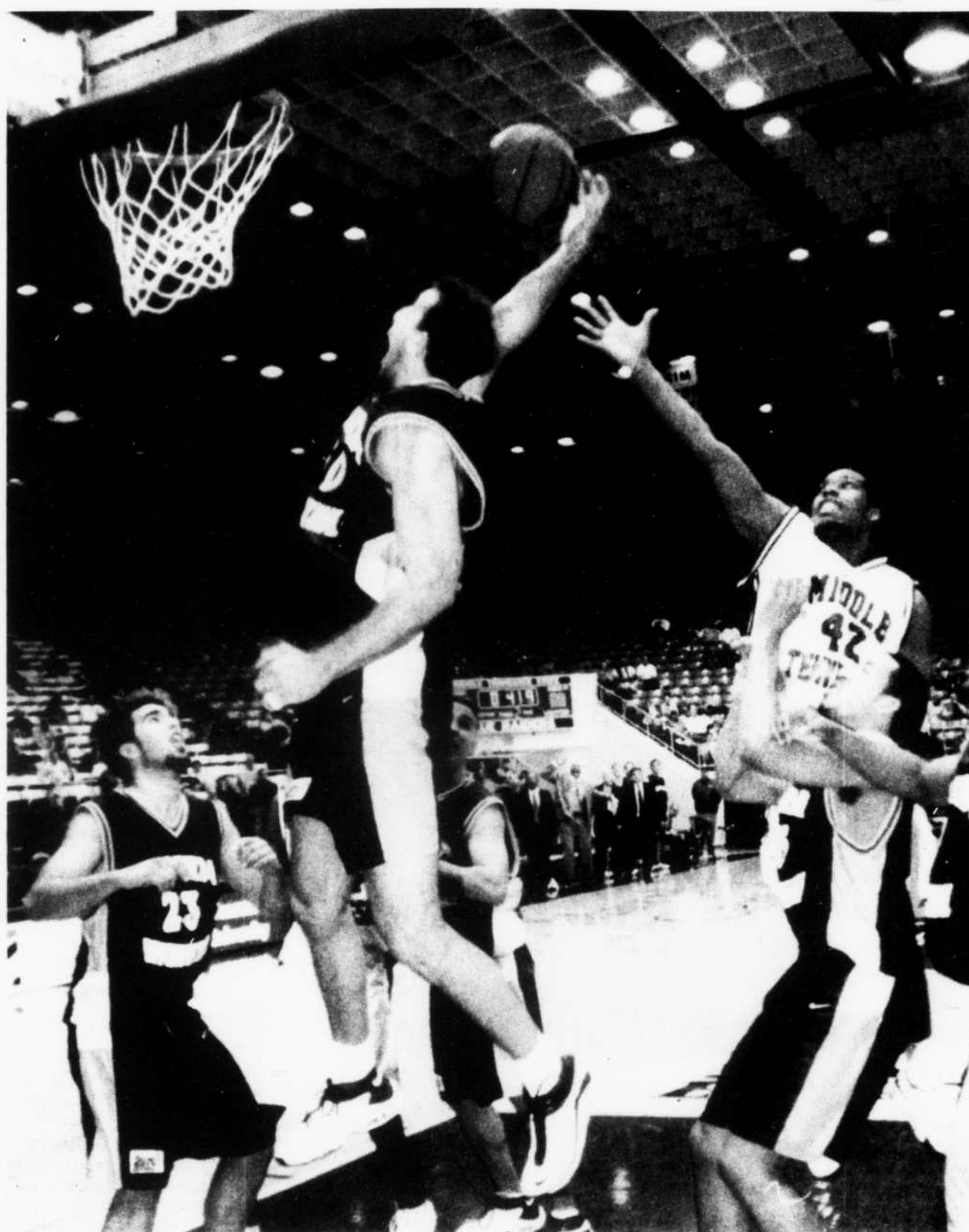
Radio and TV

Middle Tennessee fans can tune into WBOX FM 104.9 to catch all the Blue Raider basketball action.

The Lady Raiders will play Louisiana Tech on College Sports Southeast on Jan. 25 at 9:30 p.m. To get College Sports Southeast call or contact your local satellite television provider.

Catch the Blue and Lady Raiders' coaches shows live from Toot's Restaurant in Murfreesboro every Monday night. The show, which fields questions from the audience and discusses upcoming Sun Belt Conference opponents, is hosted by veteran commentator Chip Walters and can be heard locally on WBOX FM 104.9. ♦

Blue Raiders slip, 61-59



(50) Karel Rosario outreaches Dale Thomas (42) for a rebound to help FIU overcome a 15-point deficit.

Photo by Matthew Starling | Chief Photographer

Panthers sneak past in final seconds

By Nick Hefley
Staff Writer

Carlos Arroyo's game high 24 points combined with Karel Rosario's double-double of 19 points and 14 rebounds, helped Florida International slip past Middle Tennessee 61-59 Thursday night.

Middle Tennessee, with two 3-pointers by senior Fernando Ortiz, jumped out to a 24-9 lead at 9:14. However, a 14-2 Golden Panther run cut the lead to three.

At the half, the Blue Raiders managed to string together some baskets and hold a 36-33 lead going into the dressing room. Middle Tennessee shot 46.9 percent from the field.

The bench combo of freshman Tommy Gunn and sophomore Bryant Mitchell added 9 and 6 respectively. Fernando Ortiz was 3 of 5 from behind the arc with 13 points at the break.

A Gunn jumper went down to increase the Raider lead to 59-56 at the 2:33 mark in the second half, but that was the last points that MT would score.

Florida International took the lead with two Haven Jackson free throws making it 61-59 with only 11 seconds left.

Junior D'Marius Wilkes pushed the ball up the floor and fed it to senior Dale Thomas whose jumper fell short and gave the Golden Panthers their first Sun Belt Conference win of the year.

MT's poor shooting (9-28, 32 percent) and 0 of 7 effort from 3-point land, earned them only 21 points in the second half.

The Blue Raiders were led by Ortiz's 21 points and Gunn's 15. Middle's leading scorer, senior Freddie Martinez, was held scoreless for the contest.

Middle Tennessee (5-9) will play

FIU tightens grip on Sun Belt

MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee's women's basketball team played its fourth game in eight days Thursday night against a hot Florida International squad that dealt the Lady Raiders their third conference loss of the season.

FIU (11-2, 3-0) won its sixth straight game despite a resilient effort by the Blue Raiders 74-63.

After trailing by as many as 10 points in the first half, the Lady Raiders quickly overcame FIU's 36-30 halftime advantage to take their first lead since midway through the first half when senior Chrissy Davenport sank two free throws to make it 43-42.

The second half was one of missed opportunities for Middle Tennessee. Although FIU stretched their lead to nine points with only 3:27 left in the

game, the Lady Raiders were still determined to make something happen.

The Lady Raiders sawed the lead to just four with 1:53 at 65-61, but with less than one minute remaining, FIU was able to grab offensive rebounds after missing the second end of a one-and-one on four consecutive occasions as the lead ballooned to 12 points.

FIU outrebounded the Lady Raiders 47 to 31 with 17 coming on the

offensive glass for the Golden Panthers.

The minus 16 rebounding margin is the largest discrepancy of the season.

However, the Lady Raiders committed a season low 11 turnovers in the tilt.

Middle Tennessee received another solid performance from junior Jamie Thomatis, who recorded her ninth 20 plus performance with 25. ♦

Blue Raiders playing down to talent

By Michael Edwards
Staff Writer

Commentary

Since head men's basketball coach Randy Wiel has become a Blue Raider, the Middle Tennessee basketball program has been consistently inconsistent.

Last season, Middle Tennessee started the season with a pair of games against top ranked talent. They managed to hang around, nearly beating the University of Tennessee in Thompson-Boling Arena.

The Jayhawks of Kansas visited the Murphy Center and managed to escape with a tough victory.

It's not these games that concern those students and alumni who bleed blue and white.

Problems began last season with an

early loss to Campbell, and this season with a loss on Thursday to Florida International, who entered the game with a 3-12 record, and 0-3 in the Sun Belt.

It's not time to hit the panic button yet, but Middle Tennessee has dropped three of their first four conference games.

It's tough to believe they have a shot at winning the Sun Belt tournament.

Perhaps, it's not the fact that the Blue Raiders have lost nine of 14 games this season, but maybe because they have had comfortable leads in many of the games they have lost.

An example can be found in the most recent debacle against FIU.

Middle led by 15 early in the first half. Senior Fernando Ortiz led the attack, while freshman Tommy Gunn battled for a career high 15 points.

Losing the game is not the issue, but the means by which the Blue Raiders lost the game comes to the point.

As was mentioned earlier, this was not the first time Middle blew a big lead.

The average onlooker would be vehemently concerned with the poor record. But of course, those who follow basketball know that there is going to be no team from the Sun Belt Conference getting an at large bid to the NCAA tournament.

As a matter of fact, the only way for the Blue Raiders to be dancing in March is to win the tournament.

In actuality, it is more crucial for Middle Tennessee to gel and play as a team heading into the postseason than to play well now and fizzle down the stretch.

A season ago, the Raiders began a

similar stretch in which they struggled early in the year. That team had no heart. They had no fight in them.

Could it be this team is being eerily similar to the last season's team?

Not only is it possible, but it's true. The 2000-2001 version of the Middle Tennessee basketball team is gutless.

If Wiel has a sense of urgency he sure hasn't shown it. He summed up his comments after the FIU game with, "I'm disappointed."

No he didn't miss the short jump shots, but he is responsible for motivating his team to play, which is something that is not getting done.

The Blue Raider team needs to answer a question for the fans, should we continue coming to games, or just count down the days to football signing day? ♦



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■ **Men's Basketball**
Blue Raiders vs. Denver
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 7 p.m.

■ **Women's Tennis**
Lady Raiders at Vanderbilt
Nashville, Tenn., 2:30 p.m.

■ **Women's Basketball**
Lady Raiders at Denver
Denver, Co., 8 p.m.

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■ **Men's Tennis**
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Invitational
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■ **Men's Basketball**
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Murfreesboro, Tenn., 2 p.m.

■ **Men's Tennis**
Middle Tennessee Winter
Invitational
Murfreesboro, Tenn., TBA

■ **Women's Tennis**
Lady Raiders vs.
South Alabama
Nashville, Tenn., TBA

■ **Women's Basketball**
Lady Raiders at UALR
Little Rock, Ark., TBA



FLASH

sidelines

Literary Liaison . . .

The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner

Randall Jarrell

From my mother's sleep I fell into the State,
And I hunched in its belly till my wet fur froze.
Six miles from earth, loosed from its dream of life,
I woke to black flak and the nightmare fighters.
When I died they washed me out of the turret with a hose.

Like what you're seeing in Flash? If you would like to be a part of the madness, send any story ideas, submissions, event listings, poetry or prose to:

Flash editor
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Don't forget, Sidelines retains the right to print all submissions sent.

SLACK



sorry to drop this on you

By Leslie Carol Boehms
Flash Editor

MTSU's own rock-n-roll kings Slack released their sophomore effort *Sorry to Drop This on You* in mid-September 2000. The disc almost instantly became the number one request on WMTS.

The not-so-poppy but oh so rock trio has always been a favorite of the local rock scene. This album only further proves their duration as a true rock counterpart.

Slack formed in 1994 with brothers Nick and Chris Spoltore and Ben Wilkinson. All attend MTSU, but only Ben and Chris are acclaimed Recording Industry majors.

Out of the eight tracks on *Sorry to Drop this on You* my personal favorite is track four "Blow Me Away." The song brings back all that was grand about nineties rock in such precise fashion, one might expect the death of boy bands for good.

Slack's Weezer-esque vocals and die hard rock roots make them the perfect choice for all of your head banging blues. However, *Sorry to Drop This on You* gives the Slack soldier only a fraction of what this band is capable of doing.

A Slack live performance is a definite for all and will not leave you looking for a refund on your ear-plugs. High kicking energy and Slack's almost legendary sense of humor definitely peak in their live performance.

Slack plans to perform February 7th with Superdrag in the James Union Building on campus. The show is free and is sure to be the rock event of the season. ♦

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FLASH

sidelines

by Morgan Marlin
staff writer

Holiday season 2000 was filled with blockbuster hits. But with rising ticket prices and huge holiday meals, many may have missed some of the Hollywood excitement.

Just in case that excess eggnog made you miss out, here are the top three movies from holiday break. Don't fret, even if you can't find them in a theater near you, these films are sure to be out for rental soon.

The Family Man

Directed by Bret Ratner
Starring Nicholas Cage and Te'a Leoni

A warm-hearted film for the holidays about a selfish banker who wakes up one day to find himself in a completely different life. He is suddenly the father of two children, a dog, and the husband of his college love whom he left thirteen years earlier. This movie shows a man's struggle to become someone he does not know, only to find out he is that man. He learns to enjoy his new life and all the simple pleasures only to realize he will not be there forever. It is a modern day Scrooge story with a happy ending. ♦



Photo Provided

What women want

Directed by Nancy Myers
Starring Helen Hunt, Mel Gibson

This movie gives good reason not to play with electrical equipment by a bathtub. What Women Want is the story of a man, a businesswoman, and how they climb the corporate ladder. The only thing is that this man can read women's minds, just an added bonus of electrocution. This movie has a few funny scenes including an appearance from Ana Gasteyer from Saturday Night Live, and Mel Gibson putting on panty hose. A good movie to see with the girls, but don't bend over backwards to see it. ♦

Cast Away

Directed by Robert Zemeckis
Starring Tom Hanks and Helen Hunt

The sole survivor of an ocean crash is stranded on a deserted island. His beeper watch and concept of time become obsolete. He must learn how to provide for himself using only what is in a few washed up packages from the crash and the supplies on the island. This movie does a good job of covering what it needs to develop the story with no frills or exaggerated situations. The plot is simple, the script is well written, and the cinematography is awesome, but what island in Fiji would not look great? A great film with an ending that will surprise viewers. ♦

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