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SIDELINES

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Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Budget revealed at state of state

Science building not in new budget

By Matt Anderson
and Jason Cox
News Editor
and Capitol Bureau Chief

Gov. Bredesen's proposed budget does not include planning money for a new science building, as university officials expected.

The Tennessee Board of Regents' 2005 - 2006 budget request asked for \$13.8 million in planning money. MTSU President Sidney McPhee and Vice President of Business and Finance John Cothern expected planning money either this year or next.

Bredesen said he would place special emphasis on the development of the

University of Tennessee. MTSU is part of the Tennessee Board of Regents system.

Bredesen funded the top six capital projects for higher education, according to biology department chair George Murphy. This would put a new science facility at No. 2 on the Board of Regents capital improvement list.

Cothern said that MTSU did receive some money for capital projects, including replacement of steam lines and underground electric lines.

"We did not get the funding we were hoping to get for planning," Cothern said.

"We're still doing our

own pre-planning work that we do before you get state dollars."

Biology department chair George Murphy said he was disappointed and frustrated. "We had hoped to be in the building by now ... for the students for our faculty and students to do things we can't," Murphy said.

Murphy called TennCare "a big gorilla over us all."

"If [Bredesen] can get it under control, I think we can all move forward," Murphy said.

"I hope we can keep the momentum up for the building going and that constituents will let their legislators know how bad we need it." ♦

Bredesen says he's 'tired of being 48th in anything'

By Jason Cox
Capitol Bureau Chief

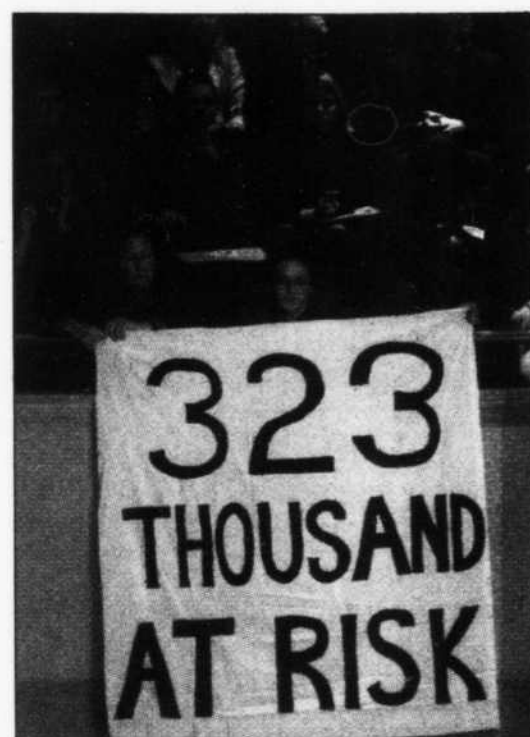
STATE CAPITOL BUREAU - Education was the emphasis of Gov. Phil Bredesen's State of the State address, delivered Monday evening to the General Assembly.

At the top of the list was what Bredesen described as a three-pronged approach to improving education in Tennessee, saying that he is "tired of being 48th in anything." His plans will consist of new money for pre-kindergarten educational programs, more career development programs and

training for Tennessee teachers and more money for capital expenditures throughout Tennessee's campuses, paying special attention to the University of Tennessee.

In his proposed budget, Bredesen is requesting 25 million new dollars for pre-K education, primarily from lottery funds. In addition to this amount, \$11 million will be targeted especially at areas with a large number of students from low-income areas that are considered "high-risk."

See Bredesen, 3



Photos by Mark Humphrey | AP Photographer

People hold a banner in the gallery of the House of Representatives as they protest the governor's proposed TennCare cuts on Monday evening.

Commencement divided in two

Ceremonies
will be held
in morning,
afternoon

By Esperanda Waller
Staff Writer

MTSU will host two commencement ceremonies to eliminate the ticket system and accommodate the growing number of MTSU graduates expected May 2005.

Jack Thomas, vice provost for academic affairs, said there will be enough seating capacity for all family members who will attend.

"We are a student-centered campus, and we want to provide students with the best experience, and that also includes graduation," Thomas said.

MTSU President Sidney McPhee requested that the university present ways to enhance graduation.

"We requested and received

input from individuals on campus, and the commencement committee met and discussed several options to perhaps better accommodate our graduates and their families," he said in a press release.

The final solution was recommended by the commencement committee and approved by McPhee.

The first ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m. and include the Colleges of Graduate Studies, Business and Education and Behavioral Sciences. The second ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. and include the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, Liberal Arts and Mass Communication.

"We tried to make sure we had an equal number of graduates in each school. There are more grad students in Education and Business, so we combined the College of Graduate Studies with the College of Education and Business," Thomas said.

See Graduation, 2

Satchmo meets the Man in Black



Photo provided by News and Public Affairs

English professor Charles Wolfe will present a long-lost video clip of Louis Armstrong and Johnny Cash in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building today at 11:30 a.m. The presentation kicks off the university's spring "Perspectives on Popular Music" series. The lecture is free and open to the community.

Broken elevator forces classes to relocate classes

By Michaela Jackson
Assistant News Editor

Elevator maintenance problems have forced many classes to relocate from Peck Hall in order to accommodate students with disabilities.

According to John Harris, the director of Disabled Student Services, 39 classes were moved to alternate classrooms around campus.

"This is a rare incident where this many [classes] were involved," Harris said.

The elevator began breaking

down sporadically near the end of last November, according to Harris, but "the university does not have an elevator repair person on campus," so repairs can be slow.

The elevator broke down again on the first day of classes, prompting the scheduling center to undertake the "monumental task" of moving the classes, according to Harris.

"The Scheduling Center should be lauded for their efforts," said Harris. "It was a remarkable task to be done. There was a negative side, but

the Scheduling Center handled the situation [well]."

Harris also commended students for their efforts to make the transition smooth.

"A tremendous amount of students were very, very helpful and very, very patient," Harris said.

Harris said he believes that many universities could not have made a change of this magnitude mid-semester.

"That kind of says how accessible our campus really is [to disabled students]," Harris said.

As an ironic twist, the elevator is now working again.

"It will probably continue to work until the end of the semester because I moved all of the classes," Harris said.

The university plans to buy a new elevator for Peck Hall, but an effort to defer the \$130,000 bill caused facilities and disability staff to put faith in the elevator for one more semester, Harris said.

The university has already installed three new elevators in the Murphy Center, the James Union Building and the Cope

Administration Building in the last three years.

Additionally, the eight- to 12-week time frame necessary for installing an elevator did not allow for a replacement during the holiday break.

Harris expressed concern that the incident will put Disabled Student Services in a negative light.

"We have worked for the last 15 years to make this campus handicap-accessible," Harris said. "We shouldn't undo what

See Peck, 2



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer
Missy Colon fears faulty elevators could leave her stranded.

Black history month celebrations will conclude with Bill Cosby speech

By Stephanie Hill
Staff Writer

Beginning in February and continuing throughout the semester, MTSU will celebrate black history month with concerts, fund-raisers and an appearance by Bill Cosby.

The theme for this year's celebration is "The African

Diaspora," honoring the thousands of Africans who have, over time, been displaced to strange lands around the world.

"Diaspora is a Greek word that means 'to disperse or scatter' so literally we are talking about the African people who have been scattered around the world over time," associate professor of history Adonijah

Bakari said. "There is a national committee that decides on the theme each year."

The black history month committee has planned many events to appeal to a broad range of people.

Currently, the Baldwin Photographic Gallery in the Learning Resources Center has on display a series of photo-

graphs by Joe La Russa, "Feel the Music," which features many famous black musicians and runs until March 3.

On Feb. 5 at 6 p.m., Tucker Theatre is hosting the Gospel Music Extravaganza, giving the MTSU community a glimpse at black culture through gospel music. The various performers include many MTSU alumni

such as Ron Malone, Todd Suttles, Loretta Brown and William Richardson. Recording artist Craig Watkins will also perform. Darren Rankins, a graduate of MTSU, will also read excerpts of his poetry. Other performers include Marcus Lucas II, who will perform a spiritual mime, The Marble Twins and Company,

Carolyn Howse, the MTSU Gospel Choir and the Praise Dancers. Guests will also be treated to a fashion show of African fashions.

Tickets are \$5 and are available at the door. The concert's proceeds benefit the Black History Month Study Abroad

See Month, 2



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

How do you feel about
TennCare reform?

Opinions 4 • Living 5 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7

Harvard hires 'fun czar' to boost student morale

By Katie Garland
Staff Writer

Due to recent complaints that students at Harvard study too much and party too little, Harvard has officially hired its first official Fun Czar.

Zac Corker, a recent Harvard graduate, has been selected for the task of helping the Ivy League undergraduates make more of their college days at Harvard by helping them have more fun.

The task Corker has ahead of him is a difficult one: convincing some of the country's best

and brightest students to take some time off from studying, kick back and have a good time.

However, it seems that Corker has some experience in this area.

During Corker's college days at Harvard, he put together a Web site that was meant to protect students' "right to party."

The purpose of the Web site was to keep students up-to-date on all the social events occurring on and around campus.

What started as a college hobby for Corker has now turned into a job that provides him with room and board, as

well as a small stipend in exchange for knowing which students like to party and helping them plan their events.

However, Corker has another job lined up, and Harvard will soon be looking for someone to replace him.

Maybe Harvard isn't the only university that needs a Fun Czar to help spice up student life.

Does MTSU need a Fun Czar to help its students let loose and have a good time?

Freshman computer information systems major Nathan Lowry is open to the idea but thinks a Fun Czar isn't necessary

for MTSU.

"I think I have enough fun without hiring some guy," Lowry said. "But I'm open to ideas about what to do."

Sobomore theater major Toby Brown pretty much agrees.

"I'm always having a blast. I manage to have a pretty good time around here," Brown said. "But I think better parking would be a better use of funds."

However, some might say Harvard doesn't really need a Fun Czar either.

In November 2004, more than 20 fans were taken to the hospital to be treated for alco-

hol-related ailments after a celebration of the Harvard-Yale football game.

In a Yahoo news article, Boston Police Cpt. William Evans said many students were seen drinking hard liquor, playing drinking games and participating in other inappropriate public acts.

Zac Corker, the new Fun Czar, played a large role in coordinating the festivities for the Harvard-Yale game.

Despite the negative publicity it received, both Corker and Harvard officials call the event a success.

In the Yahoo article, Judith Kidd, the associate dean at Harvard, claims that alcohol-related tragedies are common among all college campuses, not just the campus of Harvard.

Junior electronic media communication major Shay Taylor is skeptical as to whether or not hiring a Fun Czar would be worthwhile for students at Harvard or MTSU.

"I think [college students] have enough fun on their own," Taylor said. "If not, it's their own fault, and a Fun Czar won't change that." ♦

Graduation: Tickets no longer necessary

Continued from 1

Some students support the new ceremony system and hope that it will be successful.

Robert Adkisson received his bachelor's degree in business management in August 2004. He was only given six tickets for his family.

"I think having two ceremonies is a great idea because now everyone will be able to invite all of their family members," he said. "If there were more than six family members during the summer, the other family members had to go to the Alumni Memorial Gym and watch the ceremony on a screen."

Cassie Robinson, a public relations major, said she likes the idea because it eliminates the ticket system.

"They are fulfilling the needs of students and families. Issuing eight tickets for graduation was not enough for students' family members," she said. "The results will vary after we try the new system."

Jamie Whalen, an organiza-

tional communication major, said she is excited about the two ceremonies because she has lots of family members who want to attend.

"My last name is at the back of the alphabet, so I would rather have my family sit for two hours than five. The attendance will include twice as many people," Whalen said.

The fall 2004 commencement marked the largest December graduation in MTSU's history with 1,321 undergraduate and 208 graduate degree candidates, Sherian Huddleston, assistant vice provost for Enrollment Management, said in a press release.

Thomas expects this semester to include more than 1,300 graduates.

The summer commencement will remain a single ceremony because there are not as many graduates. However, the fall 2005 commencement will have two ceremonies.

The speaker for the commencements is not known at this time. ♦

Peck: Concerns voiced over handicap-accessibility

Continued from 1

we've done [to make people see the difference] over the past 15 years because of one snafu with an elevator ... We really do have a plan."

Despite Disability Student Services' efforts to make accommodations for disabled students, some still have reservations about the safety and convenience of campus for disabled students.

Missy Colon is a junior English major who attends classes in her 400-pound wheelchair. Her caregiver, Stephanie Bickford, who attends classes with her, expressed a concern for the safety of students in wheelchairs.

"What if Missy got stuck on the third floor of a building because the elevator stopped working? Or what if there was a fire?" she asked.

Bickford says she does not believe relocating the classes with disabled students was an effective way to deal with the problem.

"Moving a class doesn't solve the issue," she said. "I think the building should be closed until it can be renovated ... Would you have classes in a building without steps?"

Bickford also said the complications have caused Colon to

miss two weeks of class already this semester.

According to Bickford, when Colon and her roommate tried to address these concerns with Disability Student Services, they "got a negative response from John Harris, and were basically told to get over it ... It has been blown off quite a bit."

Students are not the only people who have been affected by these events. Michelle Boyer-Pennington, a professor of psychology, recently had her class moved from Peck Hall to the Murphy Center.

"It's been a little crazy," Boyer-Pennington said. "It's been inconvenient, especially for the students. The student who is in a wheelchair has even farther to go."

This isn't the first time Boyer-Pennington has had a class moved. In the past, she had a class moved out of Alumni Memorial Gym.

"It's unfortunate that the Peck Hall elevator didn't get fixed [in time for the start of classes]," Boyer-Pennington said.

Plans to install a new elevator are in the works, according to Harris, but there is no definite time frame.

"We're gonna get a new elevator," Harris said. "We do have a plan for how we're going there." ♦

Month: Students urged to donate, volunteer

Continued from 1

Scholarship Fund.

Event organizers also want to encourage attendees to make a donation to one of the following causes: Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, Asia Earthquake Victims or an additional monetary gift to the Study Abroad scholarship.

The African-American Student Association is also holding a fashion show on Feb. 7 at the Wright Music Hall. The show is at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$5 at the door.

Additionally, Up 'Til Dawn and a number of the black fraternities and sororities are participating in the events.

"Other interested students can still get involved in volun-

teering at the events by contacting either the person in charge of the event or contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs," Bakari said.

One keynote event held on Feb. 10 is the Unity Luncheon at the James Union Building Tennessee Room.

The theme for the luncheon is "Honoring Unsung Community Heroes."

The Unity Luncheon is really all about the honorees. The honorees are chosen by people sending in nominations.

"They could be a faculty or staff member or a community member," Bakari said. "We usually choose three to five people, and our selection is based on a number of things, including community service and spiritual service to their church. The committee also looks at

their life in service and tries to decide who best exemplifies being an unsung hero."

This year's honorees are Lillian Howse, Delphia McKnight, Beadie Keith and Jesse Lee James.

Mary Scales, a businesswoman, adjunct professor and former Murfreesboro school board member, is the keynote speaker.

Other events include a lecture on "Mysticism and Neuroscience" by E. Bruce Bynum, author of *African Unconscious* and director of the Behavioral Medicine Clinic at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst at the T.M.B. at 7 p.m.; a lecture by George C. Wolfe titled "Colored Museum" held on Feb. 28, 7 p.m. at the Learning Resource

Center; a "Night of Smooth Jazz" in the Tennessee Room of the JUB on March 22 at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the "Night of Smooth Jazz" are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

Black History Month has been observed for more than 15 years; planning for the celebration goes on year round.

"Events started in October and will go until April," Bakari said.

Famed comedian Cosby will appear Friday, April 8 in the Murphy Center at 8 p.m. Tickets for this show are \$15 for students, faculty and staff, while general public admission is \$35.

Events conclude on April 19 with the Ebony Achievement Awards Banquet held in the Tennessee Room of the JUB at 7 p.m. ♦



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Bredesen: Governor introduces pre-K program

Continued from 1

Bredesen said that, in his conversations with teachers, the educators overwhelmingly cite pre-K programs as the most effective way of helping students learn, making them more successful as older students and members of the workforce.

The governor said his goal is to ensure that any parent who wants to send his or her child to a pre-K program is able to do so.

"[Students] get a head start, and it helps them to develop their thinking processes and develop their brains when they're in the stage that they're most developable," said Gary Nixon, executive director of the state board of education. "It compares the dollars spent versus the time when it can have the largest impact ... From ages 0 to 5 is when the brain is the most malleable, when you can help to shape the thinking processes and increase their intelligence and IQ."

"And during that time frame, that's usually when we spend the least dollars," Nixon added.

Nixon said that the state board had started pilot pre-K programs in at-risk areas in 1995 – long enough for data regarding the program's effectiveness – and that students who had participated "typically outscored" the entire grade level.

In addition, continued teacher training is part of Bredesen's plan to bring Tennessee out of the doldrums in educational rankings with a \$5 million proposal to build and maintain continued educational programs.

"If we have great, motivated, supported teachers, we'll do fine by our students," Bredesen said. "Great organizations realize that

their greatest assets are their people."

"I'm 34 years into my career, and I haven't been back to a classroom in 1987," Nixon said. "I attend workshops, I stay current on the current methods and pedagogies... An educator needs also to stay updated with the ... current trends [regarding instruction]."

Capital expenditures – maintenance for existing buildings and money to build new structures on Tennessee campuses – are the third part of the plan, in which Bredesen will place special emphasis on the development of the University of Tennessee.

"I want Tennessee to grow in stature as a first-rate teaching and research institution," Bredesen said.

Besides education, Bredesen proposed \$20 million for job training and incentives for employers to provide jobs in the state and a \$10 million one-time appropriation to start a program that would improve environmental areas of Tennessee using both public and private funds, starting this year with the Cumberland Plateau.

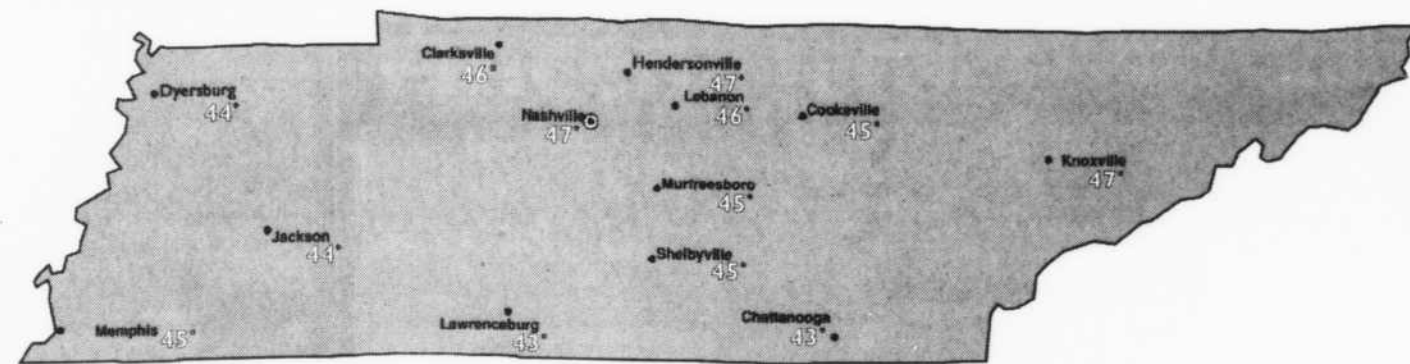
And as the governor addressed TennCare, two banners were held by enrollee advocates, one reading "Death Every 20 Hours" and the other reading "323,000 at Risk" in a silent protest.

Meanwhile, Bredesen said his goal with TennCare was primarily to return control to the legislative and executive branches and out of the court system.

"Let me be clear: I do not like one bit where we are today, especially because it was so unnecessary to hurt people in this way," Bredesen said. "[The plan] was thwarted by a few individuals who claim to represent the public interest." ♦

Tennessee Weather – Wednesday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Peace groups, high school at odds over materials

By Chris Jones
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) – A Cookeville High School administrator said Veterans for Peace and a Quaker group can't come back into his school with materials considered "anti-American" and "antimilitary."

Now the groups plan to go before the Putnam County School Board on Thursday with claims they're being denied privileges afforded to other organizations, including military recruiters.

The war veterans, some who also belong to the Quaker group, were allowed into the school during a September fair for organizations.

They set up a table with books about U.S. wars and offered photocopies of fliers and pamphlets from both organizations about the war in Iraq and military careers and alternatives.

Quaker and veteran Hector Black said several students

stopped by the table asking questions, and a couple of teachers even thanked them for coming.

He said there wasn't any indication of a problem until later that evening when he got a phone call from Principal Wayne Shank.

Shank told Black that some of the groups' materials may be proper for adults, but he thought they were inappropriate for the students.

"The information was brought to the attention of administrators because of the influence it may have had," said Shank, who restricted future visits by the groups. "I felt from a principal's viewpoint that the students were being put into a position that they shouldn't."

Black said Shank specified some quotes in the literature that he objected to, including one from a 1953 speech by President Eisenhower that said, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense,

a theft from those who hunger and are not fed. Those who are cold and are not clothed ..."

Another quote from an unknown author said, "The Army that can defeat terrorism doesn't drive Humvees, or call in airstrikes ... It undermines military dictatorship and military lobbyists. It subverts sweatshops and special interests."

County School Director Michael Martin said, "Parents found the materials to be anti-American, antimilitary. That didn't come from us. That came from the parents who saw the materials when their kids brought it home."

Shank said in a phone interview from Cookeville that he couldn't recall everything he found offensive. He said he received a complaint call from a parent a day after the event and made an administrative decision to ban their "offensive materials."

Shank said he didn't tell the groups that they couldn't come back into the school. He

required that all their materials get advance approval, a rule he said also applies to military recruiters.

The principal also said their literature could only be shown in a classroom setting that would allow an opportunity for a "balanced" presentation. Military recruiters and other groups don't face that restriction, the peace activists said.

Veteran Charlie Osborne said his group doesn't understand why military recruiters and others like the Association of Christian Athletes are allowed into Cookeville High School without the same restrictions. His group aims to inform students, he said.

"We don't have a problem with them joining the military, but we feel they should be informed," Osborne said. "As veterans, we have an inside track of what it is like in the military and it is not like the glossy look that's advertised. The kids need to have a good understanding on what they are getting into." ♦

Flu reported across state, worst in East Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) – A state health official said Tuesday that influenza has spread statewide, with cases more prevalent in East Tennessee.

"We've had cases throughout the state, but it does appear to be concentrated in the east," state epidemiologist Allen Craig said. "We expect it to move west."

Craig said 767 cases of flu were reported in Tennessee last week, up about 200 from the week before. Most of the cases have been confirmed as influenza-A.

That's the same strain as last year, which Craig said means

there's some residual immunity among people who got flu shots or the disease in 2004.

Knox County education officials said Monday they were worried the flu outbreak would prevent some students in the fifth, eighth and 11th grades from taking mandated writing tests Tuesday and put schools at risk of not meeting 95 percent attendance requirements.

About 12 percent of the school system's 53,000 students missed classes on Monday. The makeup day is Wednesday, but school officials do not believe sick students will be back in class by then.

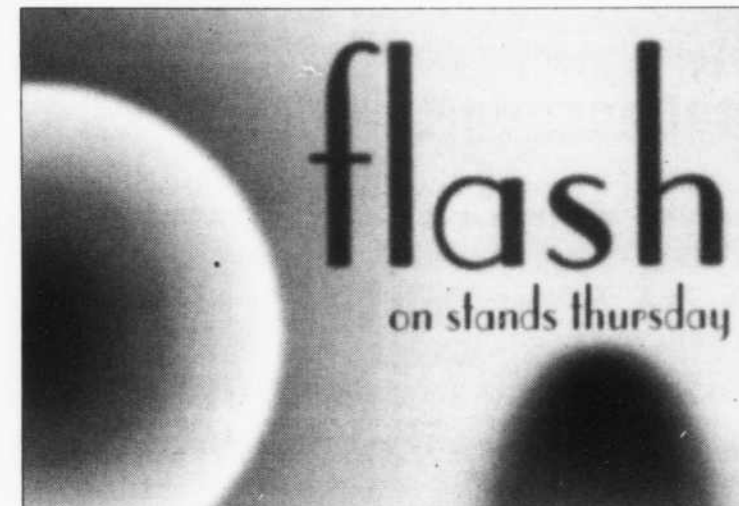
Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, schools and districts could face penalties for failing to meet any requirements of the law, including having enough students take tests.

"It's not a good situation any way you look at it," Assistant Superintendent Donna Wright said at the Knox County Board

of Education meeting Monday.

Craig said Tennesseans still can benefit from flu shots because the season can last into April and it takes only about two weeks for immunity to build.

Despite a vaccine shortage last fall, supplies are adequate now, officials said. ♦



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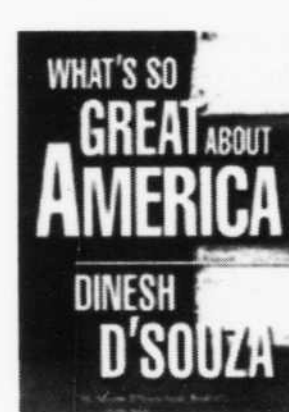
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Dinesh D'Souza



Mr. D'Souza was senior domestic policy analyst at the White House during the Reagan administration from 1987 to 1988. His books include many New York Times best sellers including "Letters to a Young Conservative" and "What's so Great About America"

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From the Editorial Board

Stage not set for students at Tennessee universities

Monday's State of the State address didn't help anyone's spirits. Mostly it just reminded citizens, and particularly MTSU students, that Tennessee has a lot of strides to make.

With a dismal economy bolstered only by lottery dollars, Gov. Phil Bredesen's plans to lift our state's rank in education seem half-hearted and poorly funded.

The \$25 million for pre-K programs is great for those kids, but how does Bredesen expect to keep them around by the time they are entering college?

Are we preparing the students for universities that aren't prepared for the students? They might just go out of state for college, contributing to the 'brain drain' of Tennessee.

Furthermore, continued teacher training seems worthless when teachers are leaving the state because surrounding states offer better salaries. A measly 1 percent raise for state employees will barely cover inflation.

Bredesen is "tired of being 48." Well, we're tired of being overlooked.

Decay and death is all around us here at Middle. Disabled students can't even take classes in Peck Hall because there is no money in the budget to replace the shoddy elevator.

Most disappointing of all was the news that the new science building bubble has been popped. Funding for plans was not in the budget, which means students and teachers will have to wait another year, or more likely, several more years.

Apparently "middle" isn't also a geographical location for MTSU; it's a goal.

We're starting to feel like Tennessee's red headed stepchild compared to the gem that is the University of Tennessee.

Perhaps if former President John Shumaker hadn't squandered state money away on personal plane trips, MTSU's capital projects would have been higher up on the capital expenditures list. Shumaker was one of the highest paid university presidents in the country and still UT fails to make a national impact.

Clearly, we're bitter about the budget and all our leader is proposing is vague ideals. Things are looking grim in the state of Ten-I-See. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

'Born to shop' bumper sticker makes sad comment on culture

I was walking out of the Rutherford Blvd. Wal-Mart last Sunday when I noticed a sticker in the window of a van parked a dozen or so cars down from my own vehicle.

The decal announced, in bold letters with a glittering silver background, that the owner of that vehicle was "Born to Shop!"

Born to shop?

I've heard of being "born to win." I've heard of people who were "born to be rich." A person can be born to riches and fame, or they can be born to a far simpler life. But born to shop?

It strikes me as a little silly – and perhaps a bit sad – that a person would imagine that his or her life revolves around doing commerce at the marketplace.

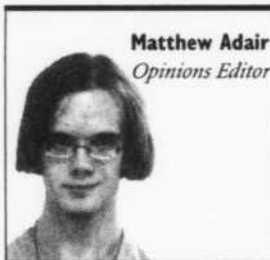
Shopping is part of our world. My friends and I will sometimes browse through a bookstore as a way to fill time while we try to figure out what to do that evening. My younger sister, a junior in high school, will meet up with her friends at the mall sometimes. Places of business are where people gather and, sometimes, socialize.

But to think that the driving force of your life is the buying and selling that goes on in the marketplace, the act of purchasing things to be consumed and eventually disposed of, is rather depressing.

In good health, we each get about three-quarters of a century to make the most of our lives. There are a great many things a person can do in that time: writing a novel, designing a new building, raising a loving family, becoming a respected leader and other such accomplishments that one might take pride in. Pushing one's way through a department store hardly seems worthy of sitting next to those other goals, and yet some would elevate it to something to boast about loudly.

Maybe I'm putting too much thought into a bumper sticker, but I can't help but wonder what sort of people we are that, when we think of all the things we are born ready to do with passion and a sense of adventure, the first thing on the minds of some is going shopping. ♦

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Isolationism no choice for nation

On Jan. 20, 2005, President George W. Bush re-defined the United States' role in the world, and incinerated a generation-spanning American tradition:

"It is the policy of the United States," declared Bush in his second inaugural speech, "to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world."

This bold statement of purpose has been treated with shock, scorn, ridicule and disdain from both sides of the political spectrum. The extreme right and extreme left do seem to have one thing in common: they're both horrified at the prospect of the United States taking on an even greater role in global affairs.

There's a very basic reason for this, one that goes back almost as far as the founding of our country: at their cores, most Americans, at all points on the political spectrum, are isolationists.

For conservatives, it stems from a sort of concealed hubris: the far right views freedom as a gift that God gave to America alone, and to them, the idea of having American blood shed to secure the freedom of people in other countries is unthinkable.

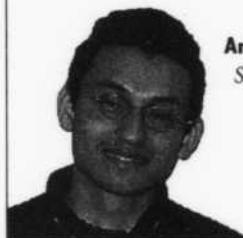
For liberals, isolationism often stems from an intense hatred of America: the far left views the United States as malevolent and evil, and thus, they are inclined to treat the notion of the United States acting as a harbinger of liberty to oppressed people around the world with intense cynicism.

In both cases, we see that isolationism is a fundamental value, although each side has radically different reasons for revering it the way it does.

Shockingly enough, it may actually be the left this time that has the point more worth listening to.

Isolationist sentiment has often caused American foreign policy to

Beyond Your Expectations



Anthony Davis
Staff Columnist

suffer from a blinding case of tunnel vision.

The United States sometimes becomes so focused on defeating a particular enemy that we carelessly simplify the world into a binary political system, one in which there is one group that is our enemy and another group that is our friend, the character of those "friends" completely notwithstanding.

Throughout the last century, the United States has often allied itself with colonial empires, repressive monarchs, brutal dictators, terrorists, religious fundamentalists, guerrilla insurgents and drug-trafficking fascists, acting upon the Machiavellian axiom that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend."

During the Cold War, replacing communist governments with no-communist governments was considered vital to America's national security ... making sure those governments were also democratic was not.

We called this strategy 'containment,' because our primary goal was to stop the spread of communism, not to further the spread of democracy.

Containment did work, to some degree; the Soviet Union did eventually collapse, along with the Berlin Wall, the Eastern Bloc and most of our fears about global annihilation in a nuclear war. Nevertheless, containment also certainly left an awful mess behind.

The United States' support of first, the French Colonial Forces, and later, the capitalist, but unde-

mocratic, Saigon regime in South Vietnam helped the Viet Cong win the people's favor, and contributed largely to the United States' eventual defeat in the Vietnam War.

Our defeat in Vietnam emboldened the Soviets, who invaded Afghanistan in 1980, which we eventually turned into their own Vietnam by supporting the anti-Communist, Islamic fundamentalist group, the Mujahadeen, led and funded by a little-known Saudi billionaire by the name of Osama bin Ladin.

Next door in Iran, our support of the repressive Shah led to a revolution in 1979 that brought the even more repressive Allatoyah Khomeini in power, and beginning on the day when a group of radical Islamic students took our embassy in Tehran hostage, Iran has been one of the world's largest sponsors of terrorism.

Yet, even Iran proved to be a secondary concern when compared to stopping the leftist Sandinistas from taking over Nicaragua, so we traded weapons to our enemy in exchange for money that we gave to the Contras, whose civil war with the Sandinistas left an entire nation devastated, and even more hateful and resentful towards us.

To contain the Allatoyahs in Iran, we supported Saddam Hussein in Iraq, who later used the weapons we gave him in 1991, during his invasion of Kuwait, and again in 2003, during our war to

America's narrow-minded support of terrorists and dictators in our rabid zeal to defeat communism may have succeeded in its immediate goal, but at the same time it also resulted in the creation of many of the same enemies we are fighting in the War on Terror today.

Because of our history of supporting dictatorships, we have lost the trust and the support of much of the third world. The United States can only restore its reputa-

tion among the people of the Third World by working to actively alleviate their suffering and oppression, much of which we are directly responsible for.

Thus Bush has laid down as his doctrine that the United States should fix the mistakes it has made in the past, abandoning both containment and our traditional, destructive isolationism, and instead taking an active role in bringing freedom to all those to whom it has been denied.

Every once in a while, presidents in their second terms, freed from the shackles of politics or public opinion, manage to avoid becoming lame ducks and instead change the world. Bush clearly seeks to be one. He understands that freedom is the antidote to tyranny, and that without tyranny, terrorism cannot survive.

Fighting for the rights of oppressed people around the world is America's duty; it's our job, and it's not just an option that we can take or leave, depending on whether or not we feel like doing it.

It's something we must do, because it's part of who we are, because it's something we should have been doing for the last 50 years and most importantly, because at this point there's not really anyone else who will do it. Therefore, we must resist the temptation to sink back into isolationism, and instead declare it dead, once and for all, while we start using our superpower status responsibly, and for the betterment of mankind.

As Bush said, "The great objective of ending tyranny is the concentrated work of generations. The difficulty of the task is no excuse for avoiding it." ♦

Anthony Davis is a junior electronic media communications major and can be reached at ald3d@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Truth, liberalism go hand-in-hand

To the Editor:

Randall Thomason asks a good question ("Left fixates on debates inside their ivory towers," Jan. 31), why college professors are so liberal, but goofs the answer and the point. Perhaps the reason so many college professors are liberal is as follows: professors seek the truth; truth is always liberal; therefore, many professors are liberal. He then fails to ask a correlative question, why so many business leaders and owners are illiberal, which, of course, leads to all sorts of inhumane practices, such as uncompensated overtime, the gundocking of time sheets to cheat employees, Enron, etc.

In addition his editorial is as full of errors of fact as a Humvee is of shrapnel. Professors do not "indoctrinate students with liberal drivel." They teach truth and provide opposing viewpoints. That is our job; they are supposed to think otherwise.

Multiculturalism is not "America-hatred." It is simple politeness and equitable inclusiveness. Others have viewpoints and we must recognize them. Professors do not impugn and ridicule America. They hold it up to the light of reason and criticism. Sadly, America and Americans have caused problems in the past, supporting slavery, ignoring lynching, tolerating racism, for instance, all of which are violations of the high ideals of what America aspires to.

Does a "60s relic professor ... [seethe] in rage?" Or does she just disagree strongly and intelligently? "Government employees tend to be more liberal." Yeah, most generals and admirals, who are government employees, are flaming liberals.

Those drawing "government paychecks ... [are] against conservatives." Yeah, most Republican legislators and governors, who do draw government checks, are flaming liberals. Bush is protecting our country. Yeah, from what, fictitious weapons of mass destruction and toothless tyrants? How many Americans have needlessly died or been wounded while under his watch? How many old men, women, and children have we collaterally damaged in his spurious war on terror? (Oops, I may be seething here, my apologies.) "Reagan ... won the Cold War." On this assertion Randall is only partly wrong, for college professors are still debating that proposition – that is our job – and the jury is still out. Audemus dissentire!

Louis Haas
Associate Professor of History

Did we give you something to talk about?
Share it with us.

slopinio@mtsu.edu

Small contributions add up for victims of tsunami disaster

Unless you have been living under a rock for the past month, you know of the incredible tsunami that struck countries in Asia and East Africa. We have all seen the images of

destruction for weeks on end. In the aftermath of the tragedy, thousands upon thousands of people, many of them children, were left dead or homeless. People's entire lives were destroyed in a matter of minutes.

Last week, a radio station in New York, "Hot 97," played a song about the tragedy. The station's morning crew played the song for almost a week before public outrage forced them to stop. The song contained numerous racial slurs and untactful comments. Many people who heard the song called for the termination of the morning disc jockies. Others even wanted the Federal Communications Commission to fine the radio station and those DJs.

The FCC should not start handing out fines, as they have in the past. However, no one has been should lose his or her job. Thus far, no one has been fined or terminated. Although, the Hot 97 morning crew have each decided to generously donate a week's salary to the tsunami relief fund. What these DJs did was deplorable, but overall the response to the tsunami disaster has been greatly positive. People from around the world have reacted very quickly to help those in need.

After the disaster, the U.S. government should have responded faster and donated more money towards the relief fund. They should have at least matched the sums donated by the European Union. Being that many of these countries are Muslim, it would give the United States a chance to show the world that our government is willing to aid other nations besides Iraq.

On the other hand, the American public has responded overwhelmingly. Millions of Americans have donated money to help the victims of the disaster. However, more help is still needed. In a brief event, over a 150,000 people lost their lives. To put that into perspective, it is over 50 times the number of people who died on Sept. 11, 2001. The tsunami victims are still in desperate need of food and medical attention. There are many reputable charities, such as the U.N. World Food Programme and the Red Cross, that are accepting donations for the victims.

In comparison to these disaster-stricken countries, the United States is very wealthy. We, as Americans, should do our part to help those in need. Something as small as \$5 or \$10 can make a tremendous difference in the life of someone on the other side of the world. ♦

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Yesterday's Tomorrow



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Staff Columnist

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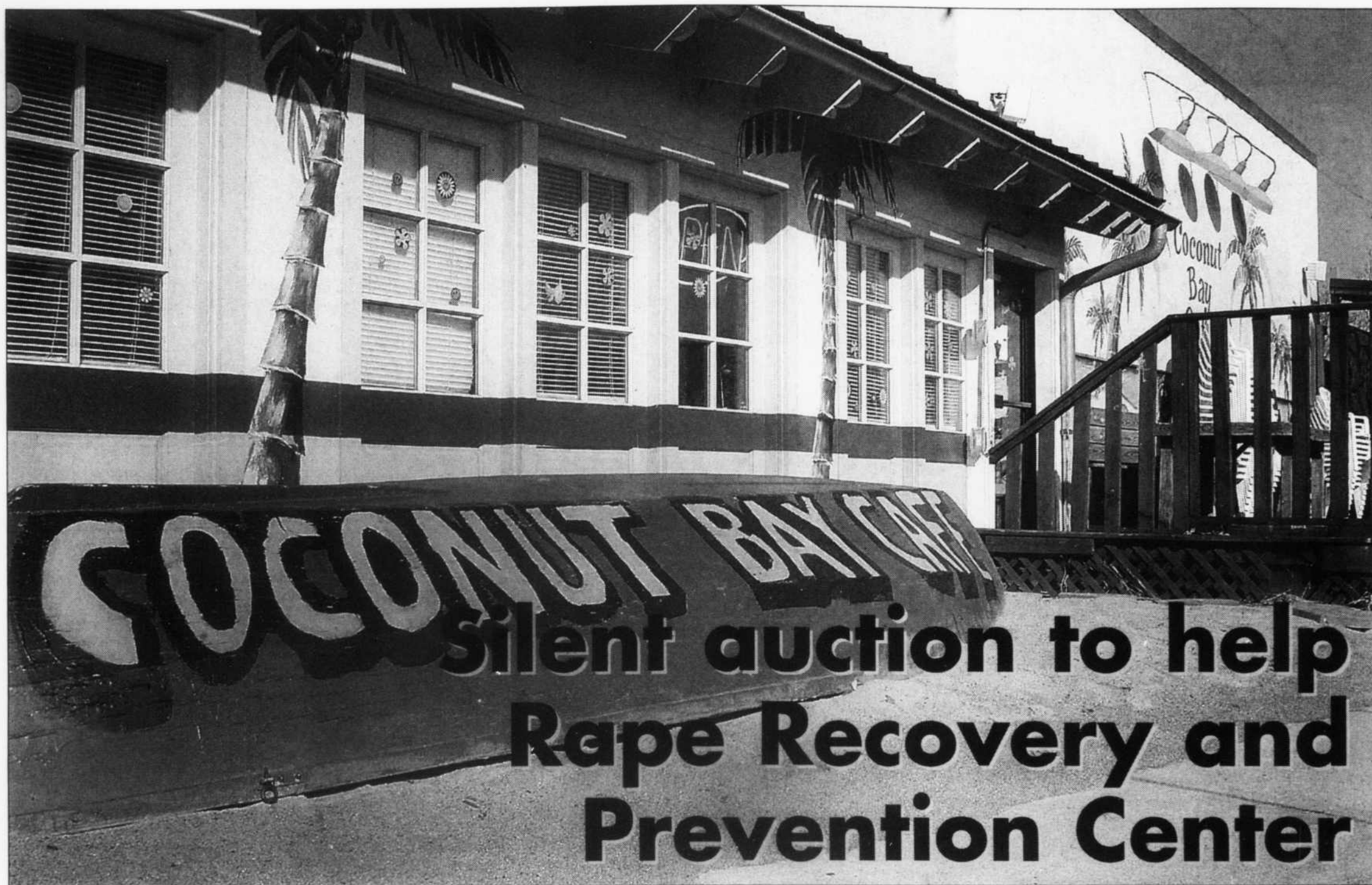
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Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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The Coconut Bay Cafe will host the event on Super Bowl Sunday. Other businesses in the community have donated thousands of dollars to the benefit.

Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Local businesses have donated more than \$5,000 in prizes

By Mary Anne Dunavent
Staff Writer

The Rutherford County Rape Recovery and Prevention Center has teamed up with Coconut Bay Cafe to hold a silent auction Feb. 6, Super Bowl Sunday.

The money that is raised during the silent auction will directly benefit the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center, a nonprofit organization designed to help women recover from sexual assault.

The auction is open to all ages and will take place at Coconut Bay Cafe.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. and will be closed at the third quarter of the Super Bowl game so that people can purchase and retrieve the items they win.

The restaurant will remain open during the auction and,

according to Ruth Howard, an employee of the center, "the entire restaurant will be involved."

Missy McGrew, manager of Coconut Bay Cafe, says the restaurant has been involved in helping the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center for about a year and a half.

"This is the third time we have helped with a program," McGrew says.

Through the auction, the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center hopes to raise approximately \$1,500, which seems feasible, because more than \$5,000 worth of prizes will be available, including tanning packages, manicures, massages and gift certificates.

"A live radio station [WBUF-FM 102.9 The Buzz] will be there, and lots of surprises [will occur]," Howard says.

"Right now, our main effort is to print out fliers and brochures for [school campuses] to help make students aware of their options," Howard says.

The money will also be used toward rape education and prevention.

"We'll be the hosts [at] Coconut Bay Cafe. Doogie, the same guy who does Monday Night Football, will actually be the [disc jockey]," says Russell, a DJ at The Buzz.

"We'll be giving away stuff when The Buzz shows up, but obviously the important thing will be the silent auction," says Russell.

"Businesses have been very willing to [donate items], and it has been a lot of fun. One [out] of three women are victimized by sexual assault, so it is wonderful when people are understanding of their positions [following assault]," Howard says.

"Budweiser, our beer and liquor companies, Milano's, Don Pablo's, Mary Kay and Hot Spot are expected to contribute

"I always love helping out the community in any way that I possibly can."

— David Sheaffer
Manager, Don Pablo's

to the program. Budweiser and the other companies will be donating items to give away during the game, and we will also be hosting specials on food," McGrew says.

"I always love helping out the community in any way that I possibly can, but it is tough, being in the restaurant business, to get out much myself. I'd love to get out a lot more and reach out to the community, but it is mainly a time issue for me," says David Sheaffer, a manager at Don Pablo's.

"I'd also love to see some more college students in the restaurant to serve," he adds.

the center will be provided for the victim to speak with her about what she can expect medically and legally.

Legal advocates are also available to discuss orders of protection and to pursue the criminal legally.

The Rape Recovery and Prevention Center is operated by three employees and a board committee.

Though it has no direct affiliation with it, the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center sometimes works closely with MTSU's June Anderson Women's Center, "especially in April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month," Howard says.

To donate to this cause, send checks to the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center, P.O. Box 11791, Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

In case of emergency, call the 24-hour crisis hotline at 494-9262. ♦

'Simpsons' neighbor Ned Flanders highly-valued character on show

By Frazier Moore
The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Good heavens! Ned Flanders has come into his own.

A zealous instrument of God, Ned has long been instrumental to *The Simpsons* as it lampoons organized religion (that is, when not mocking virtually every other human institution, from business to democracy to its own TV network).

But lately the ground has shifted beneath the Simpsons' hometown of Springfield, U.S.A., along with the rest of the nation. The new term has begun for a president whose re-election was clinched by the "moral values" ballyhoo. The current climate finds faith synonymous with patriotism, while "secular" is code for un-American.

Before on *The Simpsons*, Ned was a secondary figure — Homer's cloyingly pious next-door neighbor. But the values he embodies in exaggerated form now monopolize the political scene. In fact, one might say that Homer is Ned's next-door neighbor, not the other way around, so clearly does Ned bask in the mainstream.

"The values he represents have become more visible in American life," agrees *Simpsons* executive producer Al Jean, "as people who maybe are outward advocates of Ned's values have

come into positions of power. We always satirize who's in power and what the cultural zeitgeist is, so currently the point of view Ned has is a little more ripe for satire."

Ned stands front and center in Sunday's edition of *The Simpsons* when, in an unlikely collaboration with Homer, he co-produces the Super Bowl halftime show (what else?) a biblical pageant. Homer portrays Noah. The stadium is flooded from a Duff's Beer blimp. Ned preaches the Word. Take that, Janet Jackson.

(The episode follows Fox's real-life Super Bowl telecast, except in the Pacific time zone, where it airs at 7 p.m.)

Ned answers the call of show biz after seeing a sex-aid commercial for seniors and declaring, "There's nothing but filth on TV." He seizes his camcorder and films a backyard biblical drama: a bloody re-creation of the story of Cain and Abel, with his two young sons in the starring roles.

Homer's wife, Marge, is troubled by Ned's *Passion of the Christ*-inspired antics.

"There's more to the Bible than blood and gore," she says.

But Ned (voiced by Harry Shearer) sneers in response, "I guess you'd rather see a film about a liberal European wizard school. Or the latest sexcapade of Miss Ashley Judd."

Ned's cinematic crusade fiz-

zles when money man Mr. Burns withdraws his backing. But a panic-stricken Homer — who was hired to create the Super Bowl show, then can't think of anything to do — desperately needs Ned to help him.

"Maybe," says Ned, thrilled to get this globe-spanning pulpit, "God brought us together for a reason."

Whatever the reason, Ned has been a hero since thou first in Homer's side since the very first episode of *The Simpsons* in 1989, when Ned decorated his house with a dazzling array of Christmas lights.

"Too bright," pouted Homer, embarrassed by his own house's shabby display.

Homer still feels bedeviled by Ned's goody-two-shoes style, his glossy cheer, his habit of injecting "diddly" into things he says, like his chipper greeting, "Hi-diddly-do!"

In a startling admission, Ned once disclosed that he was 60 years old, then attributed his youthful look to "the three C's: clean living, chewing thoroughly and a daily dose of 'vitamin church.'"

Mighty easy to see why Homer would say, "I don't care if Ned Flanders is the nicest guy in the world — he's a jerk!"

Of course, Homer knows jerks from the inside out. For 16 seasons of *The Simpsons*, he has been a champion jerk — lazy,

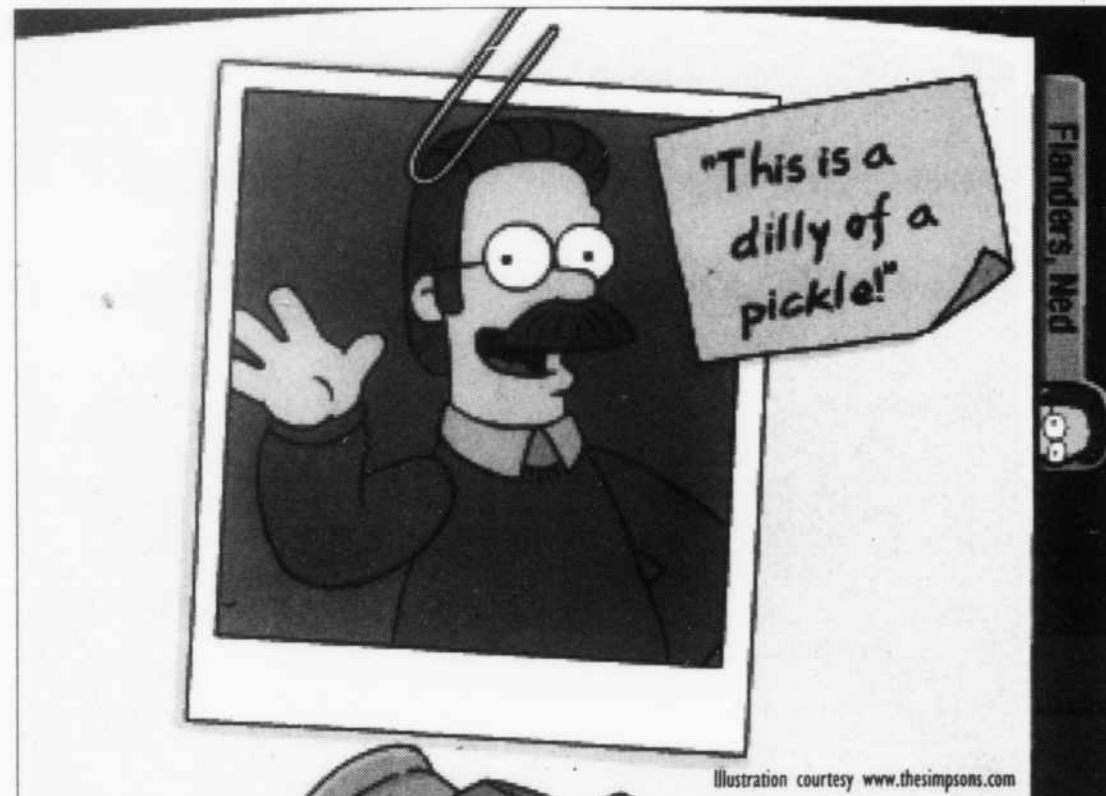


Illustration courtesy www.thesimpsons.com

dimwitted and irresponsible. His chief pleasures are beer, snacks and endless hours of TV while planted on the couch. He reigns as the flawed secular Everyman.

"I think Homer is a pretty bad guy in a lot of ways," says Jean, who helps shape his personality, and adds, "The writers like Ned as a person better than Homer."

But Ned's faith-based deficiencies serve *The Simpsons* well as a Homer counterbalance. Spiritually in bondage, Ned is a

model of righteousness gone wrong.

He must surely have been shocked to behold (or, more likely, learn about second-hand) Janet Jackson's flash dance during Super Bowl XXXVIII, and definitely would have supported the anti-media backlash. Like he says, "There's nothing but filth on TV."

But how to explain why his squeaky-clean extravaganza flops with the public?

"All over America today,"

reports newsman Kent Brockman, "viewers were outraged by the Super Bowl halftime show's blatant display of religion and decency."

This can only be a temporary setback. These days, Ned represents the nation's ruling point of view. And what of citizens who beg to differ with it? Thank heaven *The Simpsons*, at least, still guarantees them a laugh.

On the Net: <http://www.thesimpsons.com>. ♦

Holden resigns less than week before season opener

By Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee women's tennis head coach Randy Holden resigned from his post Monday, telling the athletic department that he was leaving to "pursue other interests" a week before the season begins.

"We appreciate all the hard work and dedication Randy put into the women's tennis program," interim athletic director Diane Turnham told MT Media Relations. "I wish him the best in his future endeavors."

Holden led the Lady Raiders to a 46-42 record over the last four seasons, including a fifth-place

finish in the Sun Belt Conference tournament last season. Holden also oversaw the career of Manon Kruse, an All-American player who owns the school records for career singles and doubles wins.

Holden did not respond to repeated phone calls and messages left by *Sidelines*.

Neal Stapp, the owner of the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro, will take over the team as an associate coach. Stapp was added to the staff in December in order to assist Holden in the



Holden

day-to-day administration of the program but did not begin work in earnest with the team until Jan. 20.

"To be honest with you, I don't know what to expect," Stapp told *Sidelines* last night. "We've got three seniors, so hopefully we can count on them to lead the way."

Stapp said men's head coach Dale Short notified him of the possibility that Holden would not be at MTSU during the spring semester.

"We were looking for someone to come in, because we didn't know the future of [Holden]," Short said. "We approached [Stapp] when we were sure we needed him, and he decided to do it."

Short did not wish to comment on Holden's reason for leaving. Stapp, who was a top-50 singles

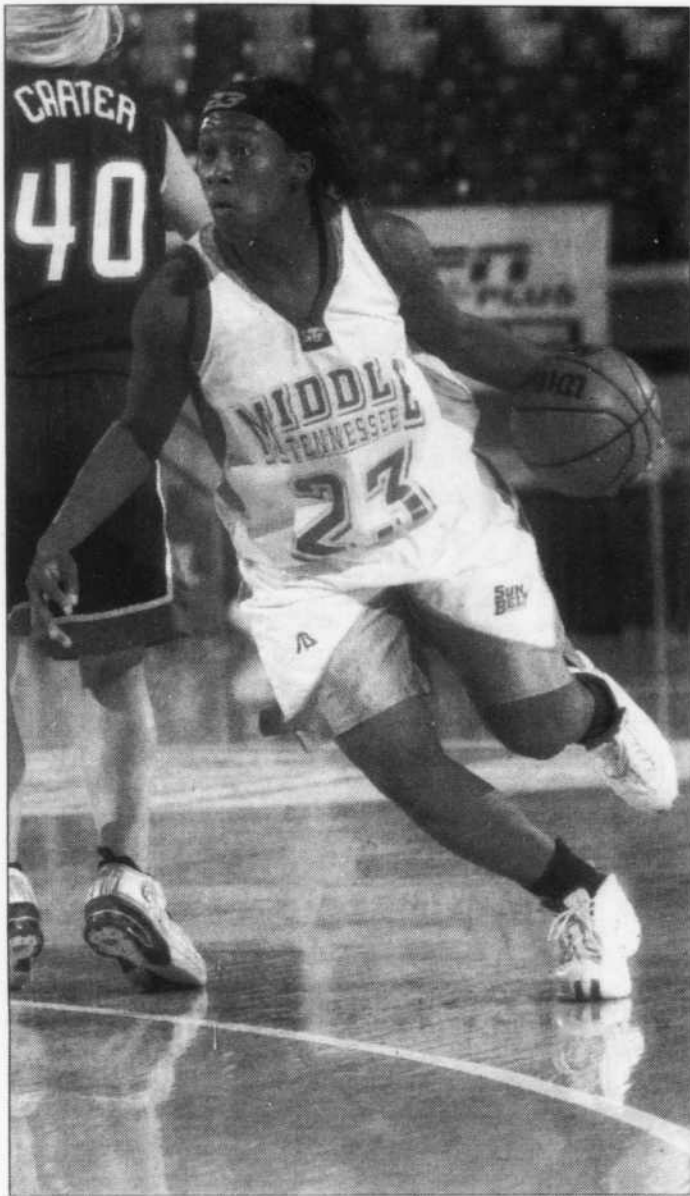
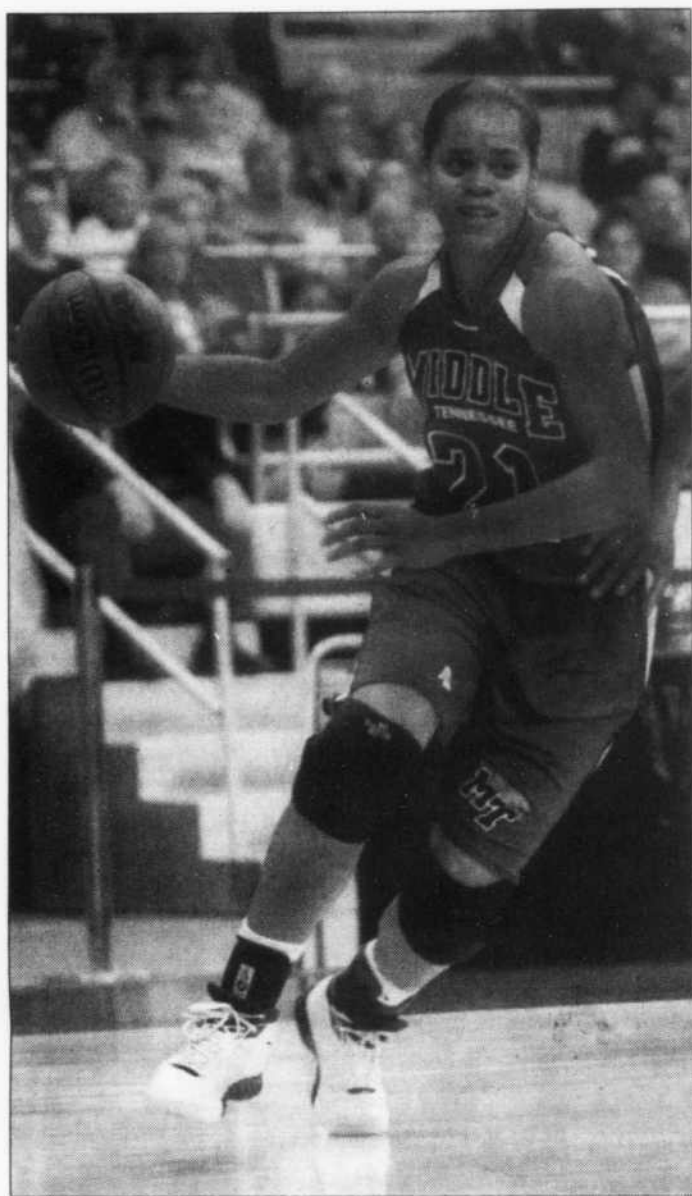
player at Ole Miss and also achieved a world ranking on the Association of Tennis Professionals satellite tour after college, said he was taking a wait-and-see approach with the coaching position.

"I would have to say I'm on an interim basis right now," Stapp said. "I think MTSU will evaluate [me] after the season, and I'll do the same thing, and if it works out I'll go forward with it."

"I feel like he's well-suited to work with the girls' team," Short said. "What he brings to the table is something the girls aren't used to, which is a lot of interaction and on-court coaching."

The Lady Raiders open their season on Saturday at 5 p.m. when they host Belmont at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro. ◆

Two leaders share spotlight



Photos courtesy of MT Media Relations

MT's Tia Stovall (left) and Patrice Holmes lead the Lady Raiders in nearly every statistical category this year.

Holmes, Stovall pack 1-2 punch for Lady Raiders

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

With a nod to Batman and Robin, Middle Tennessee boasts an impressive dynamic duo of its own this season.

The Lady Raider basketball team, fresh off last year's Sun Belt Championship and NCAA berth, are off to another fast start. Leading the way for MT has been senior Patrice Holmes and junior Tia Stovall.

Both players are familiar with the hardwood, having picked up the ball at an early age. For the Lady Raiders' two leading scorers, it was all about family.

"My father played basketball when I was younger, so I kind of wanted to follow in his footsteps. I started playing when I was about 3," Holmes

said. "I never really wanted to play, but my street was full of boys and all my cousins were boys, and I wanted to play with them," Stovall said.

When Holmes and Stovall arrived on campus for the first time, the two could instantly tell that Murfreesboro was the right destination.

"It's like having a team full of sisters and a team full of mothers that will watch out for you," Stovall said.

"It's kind of like home away from home. The coaches really care about us and want us to get better, not just as athletes but as people," Holmes said.

If MT's leading ladies needed any confirmation of the decision, last March definitely fit the bill. The Lady Raiders captured the Sun Belt Tournament title to earn a

berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Receiving a seed of 13 and a first-round matchup with North Carolina, MT shocked the college basketball world by upending the Tar Heels, providing MT with one of its most historically significant achievements to date.

"We knew they were tough and athletic. We just knew we had to go out there and play for 40 minutes," Holmes said.

As satisfying as last season was for fans of the Lady Raiders, this year has the potential to bring an even sweeter reward.

If that happens, it will be due, at least in part, to the on-court chemistry shared by MT's twin terrors.

"She [Tia] goes out there and plays hard every night. I can always count on her hav-

ing my back, so whenever she goes out there and gives her best, it makes me want to go out there and give mine," Holmes said.

"Whenever she [Patrice] is on the floor, I know we've got a shot to win," Stovall said. "I feel comfortable with her leadership."

"If she tells me I need to do this or I should have done that, right away I'm OK with that, because I know she's looking out for the best interests of the team. She makes me a better player on offense and defense."

With trust comes confidence, and as veterans, Holmes and Stovall need that confidence to guide MT on the right track. Holmes understands this responsibility.

See Duo, 8

Hockey team best represents MTSU

After the men's basketball team flopped at home last week before a steady, yet unimpressive, average of 4,000 fans, I began looking for a team with some fight and a fan base with the same intensity.

After a long, exhaustive search, I found a team the university truly can be proud of, a team that makes its opponents look silly and its wins look easy. It's the Middle Tennessee hockey team.

The Blue Raider hockey squad began play last season in the American Collegiate Hockey Association, which currently boasts more than 300 teams in three men's divisions and a women's division. MT's program is currently in Division III, which includes schools such as Tennessee, Georgia, Texas and Texas Tech.

But the big-name schools often aren't the best. In fact, the Blue Raiders are in the Central Region, which features more difficult teams from the North, like Calvin College (Grand Rapids, Mich.) and Hope College (Holland, Mich.).

And that's what makes the Blue Raiders' accomplishments this season even more impressive. MT has the best record in the country at 32-1-1, and the team will likely be No. 1 in the region when the new rankings come out this Sunday.

The top three teams in each region compete for the national championship.

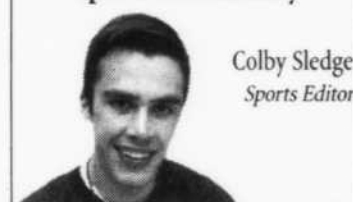
"We're really representing the college great," head coach Rick Sanzi said. "We're playing major universities that have been in the league for 10, 12 years, and it looks like we're going to nationals."

But all is not well in the world of MT hockey. The Blue Raiders' operating expenses for this season are hovering right around \$48,000, all of which goes to help the team pay for jerseys, ice time and travel expenses.

Currently, Campus Recreation pays 20 percent of the Blue Raiders' budget, which means the rest must come from private donors.

"We desperately need [donations]," Sanzi said. "With the ice time, the conference playoffs and the regional playoffs, it's

Sports commentary



Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

tough to get the boys to pull out the money all the time because they're paying for school and everything else."

And for those of you who weren't aware we have an ice rink on campus ... well, we don't. The Blue Raiders play their home games at Southern Ice Arena in Franklin, where the team has to pay for ice time.

"They wait for the bills to get paid, but we have to pay our bills," Sanzi said. "They give us a little break on ice time, but it's still pretty high."

To help offset costs, the team charges \$3 for general admission, but only \$1 for students who have a valid ID. Think about it: Wouldn't you be willing to pay one measly dollar to practically guarantee a Blue Raider victory?

Many fans are. Saturday night's contest versus Vanderbilt drew bleachers full of boisterous MT fans, including a student section dressed in blazers and holding hilarious (albeit profane) signs. Even Lightning showed up to watch the Blue Raiders pound the Commodores 9-2.

The Blue Raiders' final regular season home games are next weekend, Feb. 11 and 12, at Southern Ice. Although I've repeatedly written that *Sidelines* is not a cheerleader for the university, it's about time for this school to rally behind a team that dominates its competition and fires up the home crowd.

"It's like football on ice," Sanzi said when asked to promote his team to MTSU students.

"We can beat the UTs, we can beat the Georgias, we can beat the Louisvilles, and we've already beaten Florida Atlantic twice," he added.

Come to think of it, that's even better than football.

A lot better. ◆

Colby Sledge is a junior mass communication major. He can be reached at slsports@mtsu.edu.

AD committee stalled while search firm works

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

The search committee in charge of finding the next athletic director will have to wait until an outside search firm narrows the candidates down to four to six applicants.

Baker Parker and Associates, Inc., an executive search firm in Atlanta, has been hired by Middle Tennessee to find qualified candidates for the next athletic director. No one could be contacted at the firm to discuss the matter.

John Cothorn, vice president of business and finance at MTSU, said the university will also be taking applications through Human Resources. Human Resources officials said they have not received any applications because they just posted the notice on their Web site yesterday.

As for the search committee, Michael

Shirley, a senior and also one of the Lightning mascots, will be the only student on the committee.

"I read in the *Daily News Journal* that there was going to be a student on the committee," Shirley said. "When I found this out, I e-mailed President [Sidney] McPhee and told him that I was interested in being on the committee."

Shirley and the rest of the committee will have to wait before meeting with McPhee. McPhee's secretary said he will not be meeting with the committee until the firm has finished its job.

"My understanding is that we will not meet until the firm has narrowed the list to four to six names," Shirley said. "Then we will meet with all the applicants and get a chance to ask them questions as a group."

Shirley also said each person will send in his or her own recommendation to McPhee.

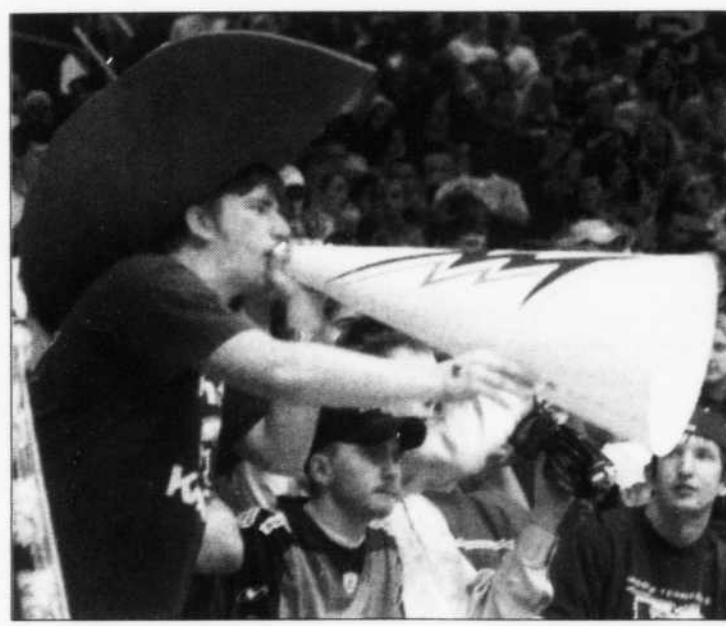
He said their job is not to rank the candidates, but to give McPhee the positives and the negatives of each candidate, and then McPhee will decide based on their input.

"I'm really excited they chose a student," Shirley said. "I am going to be part of the alumni soon, and I hope the university sees that what I can't donate in money, I can donate in school spirit."

"I believe I was chosen for some reason," added Shirley, who can often be seen at Middle Tennessee sporting events wearing a large foam cowboy hat. "I don't think they would have put me on the search committee if my opinion wasn't going to be heard."

Shirley said he feels he represents the student body as a whole and wants input from students. He added that he is more than happy to take suggestions or questions that

See Search, 8



File Photo

Student Michael Shirley is on the AD search committee.

Rhythm owner hospitalized after overdose

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

Nashville Rhythm co-owner Sally Anthony was hospitalized due to a possible drug overdose following her public dismissal of Rhythm coach Ashley McElhiney Saturday night, according to *The Tennessean* in the Feb. 1 issue.

Following her release from Vanderbilt Medical Center on Sunday, Anthony told *The Tennessean*, "She fell down stairs, hit her head and woke up in 'the psych ward.'"

Anthony, however, told *The City Paper* a different reason for checking into Vanderbilt, saying, "a dog bit me, and my back is really hurting."

The conflicting stories led to a deeper investigation by *The Tennessean*, which yesterday reported a 911 call was placed by Anthony's sister-in-law early Sunday morning.

The caller told the operator that McElhiney had taken the lethal combination of Xanax pills and alcohol. The caller also said her sister-in-law had cut herself multiple times on the arm.

Anthony's mother, Kathy Schroeder, denied the allegations of her daughter's condition.

"That is such a total lie," Schroeder told *The Tennessean* when questioned about her daughter's 911 call. "She's fine; she did not take any pills, she did not overdose on anything, she has a very bad back, and that's completely misrepresented. She's fine."

Saturday night during the third period of the Nashville Rhythm v. Kansas City game, Anthony publicly confronted McElhiney about



Sally Anthony, left, was hospitalized Sunday morning.

her decision to play former Vanderbilt star Matt Freije.

Anthony told *The City Paper* she didn't know her co-owners had signed Freije for a two-game contract. "I had no idea [they] signed him. That was totally beyond my knowledge," Anthony said. "I

called Ashley [Saturday morning] and told her I didn't want him on the court."

In another twist to the bizarre saga, one of the co-owners Anthony is referring to is her husband, Tony Bucher.

Caught between two conflicting owner instructions, McElhiney decided to play Freije.

As the second half of the Rhythm game began, Anthony shouted obscenities at McElhiney and demanded she leave the gym. Following the game, Anthony had a confrontation with Rhythm fan Jason Sonn, who told *Sidelines*, "She cursed and she asked me to go in the back, like she wanted to fight."

Despite assistant coach Scott Flatt's earlier statements that Rhythm practice would resume on Monday, practice was cancelled for two days, and the Rhythm business and media office has shut down temporarily.

Saturday night's events have made local news headlines and have been reported on nationally by ESPN.

The Rhythm organization released a statement yesterday regarding the weekend incidents.

"The ownership of the Nashville Rhythm would like to apologize to Ashley McElhiney, our fans, the Lipscomb University, the city of Nashville and our sponsors, for the incident that occurred during the Nashville Rhythm game on Jan. 29, 2005. The organization is reviewing the sequence of events and will have a decision on a course of action as soon as possible."

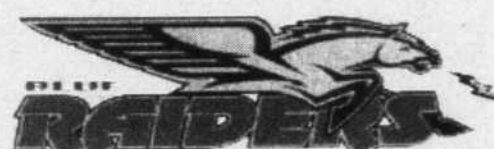
McElhiney and Rhythm co-owners Bucher and Justin Christian have not publicly commented on the situation. ♦



Compiled by Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee



Pruitt named SBC Field Performer of the Week

Middle Tennessee's Alex Pruitt was named Sun Belt Men's Field Performer of the Week.

The freshman from Memphis, Tenn., had the meet of his young career, posting an NCAA provisional qualifying mark in the high jump with a leap of 7-1 1/2 at the Hoosier Relays.

Pruitt's jump broke a 20-year Blue Raider record, which was set by Skipper Willbanks in 1985 with a jump of 7-1/2.

Pruitt bested his earlier personal best, which was 6-8, by 3.5 inches, a mark he had set a week earlier at the Blue Raider Invitational.

Middle Tennessee and Pruitt return to action on Saturday when the Blue Raiders and Lady Raiders host the Middle Tennessee Open.

MT to play Portland State on Feb. 19

Middle Tennessee will play host to Portland State in a non-conference game selected from the at-large pool of ESPN Bracket Buster teams on Saturday, Feb. 19, as announced Monday afternoon by league officials and ESPN. Game time will be set at a later date.

Portland State is currently 14-6 overall and leads the Big Sky Conference with a 5-2 league mark. The game will not be televised.

"Again, we are excited to be in Bracket Busters. We are playing a quality team in Portland State, which is leading the Big Sky Conference and has several quality conference wins," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "It's a quality non-conference opponent coming into Murfreesboro."

This will mark the first meeting between MT and Portland State and, per ESPN Bracket Buster policy, the Blue Raiders will return the game to the Vikings in Portland, Ore., during the 2005-06 season.

Football Recruiting Review at Bunganut Pig

The "2005 Recruiting Review" will be held at the Bunganut Pig Restaurant in Murfreesboro today, beginning at 4 p.m. The annual event will introduce and celebrate Middle Tennessee's 2005 football signing class.

The "2005 Recruiting Review" will give fans all the insight and viewpoints about each signee. A video highlight tape of each recruit will be shown, while head Coach Andy McCollum provides comments and in-depth analysis on the 2005 class. The entire Blue Raider staff is expected to be on hand to answer questions and share all the interesting recruiting stories.

Middle Tennessee's official media press conference to announce the 2005 class will be held today at 3 p.m. in the Rose and Emmett Kennon Sports Hall of Fame on campus. ♦

Sports Line 898-2816

Classifieds

Employment

You determine your own hours, your own pace and your own compensation. Great way to work around your current schedule, earn extra money and try a new financial services career. For more information...Valerie 904-1817 or 943-8274.

The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is seeking student tutors for the following ETIS courses: Statics, Instruments and Controls, Technical Drawing, Industrial Electricity. Please contact Barbara Knox at 898-5311 for more information, Jones Hall Room 333.

Need Money? Student advisors are needed for 120 unit off-campus MTSU apartment community. On-site training, cash referrals and generous hourly salaries are included. Call toll free, 1-866-594-5470 to make an appointment with Kimberly Sanders.

Now hiring full-part time for front desk help. All shifts open. Please apply in person, prefer experience. 1-24 - exit 64 Waldron Road. Super 8 - LaVergne. 615-793-9999.

Five Senses Restaurant & Bar is now hiring cooks, requirements - good listener, hard working and quick learner. Apply in person between 2-4 pm Tu. - Fr. 1602 W. Northfield Blvd. Suite 515 (Georgetown Park)

Veterinary Assistant, part-time: Grassmere Animal hospital in Nashville has an opening for an assistant from 3pm to 7pm weekdays and 8am to 5pm every other Saturday. Apply in person @ 3926 Nolensville Road. Need more info? Call 832-6535.

Stones River Country Club has positions available for experienced servers. Must have a mature attitude, conservative appearance, high work ethic and standards and well spoken. Great benefits include \$8/hr plus tips, meal included, flexible scheduling. Applications are available at the receptionist desk, please include availability.

Stones River Country Club has openings for part-time prep cooks, day and night shift. Must have kitchen experience and knowledge of food. Apply in person to receptionist, include availability on application.

Opportunities

VINYL SOUP is looking for very serious Drummer and Keyboardist to Tour. Must be able to rehearse once a week. We are based in Franklin. www.vinylsoup.com. Call 615-397-9634 or 931-682-3878.

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girl's Rock Flash show in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Models Needed! 3-4 female models needed for exciting new web project. No experience necessary. Applicants must be between 18-23, and should be between 100-130 lbs, be in good physical shape, and have an outgoing personality. No nudity involved, and there's no cost to the model at all. Project has long-term potential, with average model earning \$750 per week for more. For more information, send an email to models37@southernangelz.com indicating interest. Serious inquiries only, please.

Movie Extras and Models Needed! Movie Production Co. Needs Candidates to Work For Various Productions. Musicians and Dancers Also Needed! No Speaking/Experience Required! Have Fun While Being a Movie Extra! Local/State/Nationwide Work! Variety of Looks Needed! Earn Up To \$300 A Day! Call 1-877-CAST-DIRECT

Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. Undergraduate research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair for qualifying criteria.

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girls Rock" Flash show in March. If interested, contact Brandon 615-898-2917.

Services

STEEL BUILDINGS Prepare for Almanac's Harsh Winter Forecast! Garages and Equipment Storage 20x30, 20x26, and 30x52. Quick Assembly! CALL for Details 1-800-405-7501

ATTORNEY Christine Barrett 890-1300 320 West Main St. Suite 121 Murfreesboro, TN 37130 Visa/MasterCard Accepted.

Travel

Condo in Myrtle Beach for Spring Break! Sheraton Broadway Plantation Resort. March 5-12, 2005, 7 nights. 1 BR (sleeps 4) \$90/night with minimum of 4 nights. 615-975-4792.

Spring Break Bahamas Celebrity Party

Cruise! 5 days \$299! Includes Meals, Parties! Cancun, Acapulco, Nassau, Jamaica From \$459! Panama City & Daytona \$159! www.springbreaktravel.com 1-800-678-6386.

Sales

Microwaves and dorm refrigerator for sale in great condition. \$50 each obo. Call Julian 907-1807.

1988 Chevy Blazer for sale. Great condition. 4x4, 4 dr. \$5,500 obo. Need to Sell!! 931-592-2494.

Steel Buildings Be prepared for Almanac's Harsh Winter Forecast! Garages and Equipment Storage 20x30, 20x26, and 30x52. Fast and Easy Assembly! CALL for Details 800-405-7501

Two Cheap Computer desks. One desk type with cabinets overhead. One is a stand type with 1 drawer, no cabinets. \$30 for both. Email: deb_530@yahoo.com. Call 615-563-4488 after 5:30.

New Toshiba Laptop computer w/ Intel Celeron Processor, DVD/CD-RW, 256-MB Ram, 40 GB Hard Drive with Windows XP, 56K Modem. Call 615-491-4656.

For Sale. 8 ft. pool table descent condition and accessories. One set of normal balls, one set of clear balls. Eight sticks including a short stick. Love the table but moving. \$350 or best offer. Call and leave a message. Joe @ 904-2035

CB Maxx SP series 5 piece drum set, 14 inch Wuhan hi-hat, one ride, crash, throne. Barely used, great beginner set. \$350 or best offer. Love the set but not enough room. Call and leave a message Joe @ 904-2035

Roommates

Female roommate needed now!! Very nice sub about 2 miles from MTSU, corner lot, fenced back and, vaulted ceilings, central heat and air, super clean. Please call 653-8003 or 217-7737 ecj2g@mtsu.edu. Rent \$315 + utilities.

Female non-smoker roommate needed for 3 BR, 2 BA flat. 1 block from campus. \$300 per month including utilities. Call Toni @ 615-476-5916.

Responsible female roommate needed to share new house, room has never been lived in! 3 BR, 2 BA w/ garage not far from MTSU campus. For more information, please contact Elyn at 615-419-6696.

Need a house for the coming semester? Wanna be a neighbor of the President? Live at 1212 East Main Street! Near Davis Market and the President's House! Covered garage included with room. Must be able to live with 5 other guys in a 6 bedroom, 3,000 sq. ft. house. 2 baths, basement, covered garage, kitchen, dining room, living room, and reading room. Rent is 280/month plus utilities. Contact Thomas Hilton @ 615-294-1053. Move in asap. House is non-smoking inside.

Roommates needed ASAP. 3 bed house, 2 bath, beds included, Furnished, Hardwood floors, Gas fireplace, H/A, washer/dryer, cable, internet, 2 car garage, 1 mile from campus, large backyard. \$400/month + utilities. Call Lorelei @ 309-261-4842.

Female roommate wanted. Fully furnished, fitness room, computer lab, pool, internet, washer/dryer, cable. No deposit. \$375/month. Call Evelyn @ 631-6220 or 542-9948.

Sublease

Three guys looking for another guy to sublease in townhome. \$400 per month for lease, water, electricity, cable, internet and some food. Available immediately. Contact Brandon at 615 310-6822.

Sub-leaser needed to share 4 bd apt. at University Courtyard with two guys. Move in TODAY! Lease thru June 2005 for \$365/month. Fully furnished, includes utilities, cable (HBO), fitness room, pool, spa, computer lab, high speed internet in each room. No security deposit required! Call Adam @ 615-319-7054 or email Talanguy17@aol.

CONDO NEAR MTSU FOR LEASE 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath condo for lease. 3,000 sq. ft. Washer and dryer in unit. \$1,200 a month + small deposit. Avail. immed. call Valerie for details. 943-82-74 or 893-0809.

University Courtyard Sub-lease One bedroom-one private bath in four bed room-Coed-Jan through Aug-Available Now-Furnished-Utilities included-\$375/month or best offer-Kevin at 615-429-7929.

Subleaser needed ASAP for a 4/4 bath apt. in University Courtyard. Fully furnished. Washer/dryer furnished. Will pay half of first month's rent!! Rent is only \$395 (first month only \$200)! Lease ends Aug 1st, 2005. Please call Chyla @ 907-7276 or 414-2836.

For Rent

Apartment for rent, private entrance, 2 miles from campus in quiet neighborhood. No smoking, no drugs, no pets. \$300/month, \$100 deposit. 907-9914.

4 BD, 3.5 BA condo for lease. 3,000 sq. feet. Washer and dryer in unit. \$1,200 a month + small deposit. Available ASAP. Call Valerie for details. 943-8274 or 893-0809.

4 BD 2.5 BA condo for lease. 3,000 sq. feet. Washer and dryer in unit. \$1,200 a month + small deposit. Available immediately. Call Valerie for details. 943-8274 or 893-0809.

Very Nice 3BD, 2BA House for rent. Perfect for 2 or 3 people. 10 minutes from MTSU campus. Convenient location. \$975/month. Call 473-7127

New 3 BR, 2BA House, CH/A, stove, refig, D/W, washer/dryer,, screened back porch, 1mile from campus. \$975/mo. \$500 deposit, 1 yr. lease, no pets. 895-0075, 417-4009.

Got friends? Looking for an apartment? 4 BR/2 BA, remodeled apartment; very close to campus; \$295 per month / per bedroom. 615-758-9298.

Room for rent, plenty of utilities, dishwasher, washer/dryer. All utilities included plus cable. Very close to MTSU. \$100 deposit, \$300 monthly. Contact 615-904-2035, leave message.

Walk to MTSU from this beautiful house on Greenland Drive. This house is ready for your new and exciting 2005 Academic Year. Available 2/1/05. Fantastic Location, Quiet environment, Spacious rooms for 4 students as a group. \$300 x 4 + 1/4 utilities. \$350/person security deposit + lease. Circle drive, patio, 2-car carport, hardwood floors, new carpets, new roof, refrigerator, built-in oven, washer n' dryer, dishwasher, central H/A, fireplace, gas logs. Call 898-2005.

Pets

Beautiful white kitten with bright blue eyes needs a loving home. He is neutered and will give paperwork. Please call 516-457-0904.

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Freshman Pruitt hits NCAA qualifying mark

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

MT's track teams participated in their largest invitational thus far in the 2005 season at Indiana University in Bloomington, where the Blue Raiders earned one first place finish.

Despite grabbing only one first place in the events, the Blue Raiders had several promising performances, including freshman Alex Pruitt's NCAA qualifying marks in the high jump.

Pruitt placed second in the event overall with a personal best of 7-1 1/2.

"That's a big improvement for him," MT head coach Dean Hayes commented. "We've really changed him around, his approach and stuff like that to show that he can get to higher heights."

James Thomas also beat his previous personal-best throw with a 48-11 3/4 mark in shot put.

MT's only first place on Saturday went to junior VanTonio Fraley, who clocked 6.81 seconds in the 60-meter dash. Fraley also took second place in the 200-meter dash, clocking 22.24 seconds, followed by teammate Wesley Dupar-Scott, who placed third with 22.27 seconds.

Friday at the preliminaries, Lady Raider Kerry Barrow logged a personal best of 24.99 seconds in the 200-meter dash but fell short during the finals, clocking a time of 25.46.

Barrow was up against former MT runner Rosemary Okafor, who finished her four years of NCAA eligibility with MT last season.

"The pressure was on [Barrow] to try and win, and that's all that was on her brain I think," Hayes explained. "So she didn't play as good as she should have."

One of the Blue Raiders' most recent imports, Stephanie Tamgho, who recently transferred to MT

from France in December, logged a 19-1 1/2 in the long jump and took second place in the event.

Tamgho also logged a 36-11 mark in her inaugural attempt in the triple jump event.

"[Tamgho] did a pretty good job with the triple jump. Her first jump ever was right there at the meet," Hayes said.

"She can handle the step phase of the triple jump real well, but then her jump becomes nothing. It's funny because her thing [jumping] is the one thing that doesn't work," Hayes added.

The MT women also took third place in the 1600-meter relay, clocking 3:46.

"It was the first time the four girls [Barrow, Tiffany Owens, Antranette Stringer, Candice Robertson] had run together," Hayes said. "They did a good job, and I was real happy with them."

Overall, Indiana University dominated the events, racking up seven first-place finishes, help-

ing the Hoosiers hold their third-place ranking in the most recent NCAA track and field poll.

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale had four first-place finishes, including Amarachi Ukabam's 20.27 meter throw which beat out the second place finisher by a full 1.5 meters in the women's weight throw. SIUC also took second through sixth place in the event.

MT also got a chance to face Sun Belt Conference rivals Western Kentucky and Arkansas State University.

"It's a good meet for us to compete in," Hayes said. "It was a good combination and fairly good competition for us, so it worked out pretty well."

After recovering from their adventures in Hoosierville, the Blue Raider track teams will lace up for two home events in a row, the Middle Tennessee Open scheduled for this weekend followed by the Valentine's Invitational on Feb. 12. ♦

NFL's waistline dangerously wide

By Tim Dahlberg
AP Sports Columnist

Brad Culpepper particularly remembers the Thanksgiving dinners, when he would stuff himself silly with food and then two hours later try to find a way to cram some more down his throat.

He was a defensive tackle in the NFL, undersized at 280 pounds in a supersized league. That left Culpepper two choices – eat or find another line of work.

"I had to eat all the time," Culpepper said. "Some of it was just so miserable, but it was all just so I could keep the weight on."

The NFL has always been about size, of course. The more physical a team is, the better chance it has of controlling the line of scrimmage and winning a game.

But players are growing into uncharted territory now, getting so large that some are beginning to question the future of the 330-pound linemen with huge bellies that take up so much of your television screen every Sunday.

These guys aren't just big, they're fat.

From just a handful of 300-pounders only 15 years ago, nearly one of every four players in Sunday's Super Bowl will weigh 300 pounds or more. The Patriots have 12, and the Eagles 11, including 349-pound tackle Tra Thomas.

An unofficial check of expanded NFL rosters at the end of the season turned up 455 players listed at 300 pounds or more, almost all of them linemen.

Fitness guru Mackie Shilstone says some have come to him with high blood pressure, bad cholesterol and weight-related problems like insulin resistance syndrome that can threaten their lives.

"In three to five years you're going to see a player have a stroke on national television," Shilstone warns. "Hypertension is alive and well in the NFL."

For now, age protects most of them. But Culpepper watches the game from afar and wonders: What's going to become of the 330-pound behemoths in the NFL once their playing days are over, their training regiment ends, and their weights keep going up?

What is going to happen when these players reach their 40s or 50s?

Culpepper is now a lawyer, not a doctor. But he doesn't need a medical degree to figure this one out.

"You're going to see them drop like flies," Culpepper said.

A few have dropped already. Corey Stringer was 335 pounds when he died from heatstroke at a Minnesota Vikings practice in 2001. A year later, former New Orleans Saints defensive lineman Frank Warren died of a heart attack at 43 years old, just five days after taping an HBO interview talking about the dangers of playing football at 300 pounds.

And an autopsy revealed Reggie White's sleep

apnea – a condition that primarily affects obese people – may have been a factor in his death in December, also at the age of 43.

The bigger the player, the bigger the health risk. Culpepper was smart enough to figure that out during a nine-year career that included six years playing alongside Warren Sapp in Tampa Bay. Culpepper came out of the University in Florida in 1992 weighing 275 pounds at a time when that was a normal weight among defensive linemen.

By the time he retired, though, there were players his size playing linebacker. And Culpepper knew he didn't want to risk the rest of his life living at 280 pounds.

"My first goal was to get down to human weight," he said. "I lost 10 pounds a month for eight months until I got down to 200 pounds."

Culpepper, who could barely run around the block when he left the NFL, ran a marathon a year later and has little trouble maintaining a weight he hadn't seen since he was a sophomore in high school.

But most of the players he played with and against won't have that discipline once they leave the league. Already blubbery, they'll go into retirement or seek new careers without any idea how to undo the fat that got them into the league in the first place.

Shilstone, who has a contract with Major League Baseball to help umpires lose weight and a new book called "The Fat Burning Bible," said the linemen who have sought his help all came in with conditions that were already threatening their health.

He said by computing their blood chemistries, blood pressure and waist measurement and plugging it into a model developed by the National Institute of Health, most had a 20 to 30 percent chance of having a stroke or heart attack by the age of 50.

"I tell these linemen that the physical you get to play in the NFL is not a physical to live," Shilstone said. "What is really amazing is the abnormal blood pressures you see in these guys. I have one who is still in the NFL who came in two years ago with blood pressure of 190 over 110."

Most of the linemen, of course, don't bother to see Shilstone or any other fitness expert. They're paid to be big and fill up lanes – and to some, 350 pounds looks good on a resume.

A dozen 300-pounders will be wearing new Super Bowl rings after Sunday, something Culpepper never got during his time in the league.

He has something else, something he thinks is more important.

"I'm so happy with my life now compared to when I was playing in the NFL," Culpepper said. "I'm healthy now." ♦

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at tdahlberg@ap.org.

Search: Committee waits

Continued from 6

he can ask each applicant.

Larry Burriss, another member of the committee, has been a professor at MTSU for 26 years and is currently the Faculty Senate President. He said he also hasn't heard anything about how the process is going to take place, but he expects something to happen soon.

"I know the president is anxious to get someone on

board as the full-time athletic director; it's a very important job, obviously," Burriss said. "I would expect we'll be meeting fairly soon."

McPhee told *The Tennessean* that he wants to have the new athletic director hired by May. *Sidelines* will continually update the search for the athletic director, but as of now, the committee and McPhee are waiting on the search firm. ♦

Duo: Wants another ring

Continued from 6

"I have to step up when needed. I have to lead by example and be a role model for the younger players," Holmes said.

Meanwhile, Stovall attributed her rising confidence to Lady Raiders head coach Stephany Smith.

"She's given me more credit than I give myself," Stovall said. "Throughout the year,

she's taught me I can do better than my best, and that I can't ever stop improving."

They may not sport odd masks or brightly colored capes, but Holmes and Stovall are Middle Tennessee's terrific tandem.

Instead of putting criminals behind bars, however, these two are only intent on capturing one thing: another ring. ♦



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