

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 30, 2002

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Light Rain



'Scooby Doo' rocks TPAC

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Blue Raiders moving up in the SBC

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ONLINE

What do you think about President McPhee's reorganization?

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Middle Tennessee State University

An editorially independent newspaper

SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

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Campus Briefs

Music talks start today

The Center for Popular Music, in conjunction with the Middle Tennessee Popular Music Studies group, will be sponsoring a series of brown-bag informal lectures starting today and running through April 17.

All talks will be held in the Dean's Conference Room of the John Bragg Mass Communication building, with the exception of April 3, which will be held in Peck Hall, Room 222.

For more information, contact the Center for Popular Music at 898-2449.

NASA official to speak

Carol Jo Crannel, an astrophysicist in the solar physics branch at NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenland, Md., will speak at MTSU this week.

Crannel will discuss Project HESSI, the High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager, Friday at 1:30 p.m. in the Wiser-Patten Science Building, Room 220. The department of physics and astronomy colloquium will be open to the public.

The HESSI's main objective is to explore the explosive energy of charged particles.

Crannel, who has earned numerous honors in her career, has been at NASA-Goddard since 1974.

For more information, contact Martha Weller at 898-2792.

Stay Up 'Til Dawn

The deadline for Up 'Til Dawn is Friday. Teams will consist of six to eight people who want to work hard to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis.

This year's goal is \$40,000, and teams will attend a huge final event March 1 at the Rec Center as a celebration.

The event will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with prizes, food, bands, patients and games. For more information, go to the Up 'Til Dawn office in Keathley University Center, Room 306 or call 904-8270.

Experience African jazz

Toby Foyeh is a new talent and one of Nigeria's truly gifted multi-instrumentalists. His modern African music, inspired by the traditional music of Yorubaland, will be presented Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in Tucker Theatre.

The concert is sponsored by the MTSU Fine Arts department in conjunction with African-American History Month and will be free to the public.

For more information, call 898-2551.

Job workshop coming

The Career Employment Center is conducting the "Your Job Search" workshop for junior, seniors and graduate students of MTSU.

The workshop will cover resumes, cover letters, interviewing and dining etiquette. The workshop is Feb. 6 and 7 at 3 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room S208. For more information, call Karen Austin at 494-8911 or 898-2500. ♦

State budget under scrutiny

By Jessica Shelby
Contributor

After long, detailed talks with Gov. Don Sundquist last week, Tennessee House and Senate leaders from both parties said they agree on state finances — there is a revenue problem.

They also agree on the size of the problem: \$1.25 billion.

They even agree on the next step, they say — convincing other legislators that there is a problem and then presenting them information on how various plans to raise taxes would solve it.

"Everything's on the table," said Matt Kisber, chairman of the House Finance, Ways and Means

Committee, noting that nine or 10 proposals have been made, and none are being excluded from consideration.

Democratic and Republican legislative leaders met Wednesday and Thursday at the governor's mansion to hear the latest information on the state's fiscal crisis. They also discussed a number of tax proposals, from raising the sales tax or extending it to services not currently taxed, to instituting an income tax or reinstituting a statewide property tax.

Details of the meeting were shared Thursday afternoon at a Legislative Plaza press briefing. "We need to do a good job of

selling the need for revenue to our membership," said Rep. Stencil Ford, R-Talbott.

Resistance to raising taxes has blocked tax reform for the past three years.

Sundquist has proposed creating a flat-rate income tax. Various legislators have offered other revenue-raising measures, but none has attracted enough votes to pass.

Instead, the governor's proposals to increase state spending — and taxes — have been turned down, cut partially and funded with one-time,

See Budget, 2

Analysts propose solutions

State Comptroller John Morgan and Finance Commissioner Warren Neel presented several solutions to the state's revenue crisis to the House and Senate finance committees Tuesday. Included were:

• Two sales tax proposals, both of which would raise approximately \$1.3 billion. Both would broaden the tax to include services, not just retail goods. One plan would lower the rate to 5 percent, the other would lower it to 4.2 percent but also would lift exemptions on items not currently taxed.

• Two income tax ideas were proposed. A graduated tax rate (3.5 to 6 percent) would generate more than \$2 billion. A flat tax rate of 3.75 percent would generate slightly less. Both would eliminate the Hall tax on investment income.

• Increasing the sales tax to 10 percent would raise an additional \$1.4 billion.

See Proposals, 2

♦ A statewide property tax

McPhee earns faculty, staff approval



President Sidney McPhee crowns Willie Nelson III as homecoming king 2001 at the homecoming football game against Arkansas State Nov. 3.

By Maura Satchell
Staff Writer

Sidney McPhee has been president of the university for only a short time, but he is already garnering accolades from his colleagues here at MTSU.

The Bahamas-born educator took the helm in late August amidst the state's budget crisis and immediately took action.

"He hit the ground running," said Duane Stucky, vice president for Finance and Administration. Stucky said McPhee studied the budget with an eye toward using the university's investments to reap the greatest benefits. In addition to adding much needed faculty, he chose to update the furnishings in older classrooms, starting with the antiquated desks in Peck Hall.

In effect, Stucky said, "he got double use out of the money."

John P. Montgomery, dean of the honors college, appreciates McPhee's fund-raising capabili-

ties, pointing out that McPhee was quickly able to help the honors college reach its goal for securing matching funds needed to construct its new building.

Newly appointed Athletics Director James "Boots" Donnelly is impressed with McPhee as well.

"He seems to be extremely conscientious and has a tremendous awareness of his goals and vision of where he wants the university to go in the future," Donnelly finds McPhee supportive of the role that competitive sports play at the university as well.

Another upbeat take on the president's first semester performance came from Robert Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs.

"I'm very encouraged and certainly very pleased," Glenn said. "He takes the best folks, empowers them and gets out of their way." Glenn said micro-

managing is not McPhee's style. McPhee considers himself as a people person.

"People are my passion," McPhee said. "I enjoy working with people and students. It's our business. We're an academic institution, and we exist for the sole purpose of having an impact on our students."

"I've always felt we should never be too busy to deal with our students," McPhee

said, explaining his open door policy on campus.

He said he has made it a priority in the past six months to meet students and the faculty.

"I've completed visits to all the colleges and had an open forum with students during the first semester," McPhee said.

McPhee's workday is long. He's in the office typically from 6 or 7 a.m. to well after 6 each night. The demands on the administrative side could make him, as he said, "a prisoner behind a desk."

McPhee admits that the budget has been the most challenging and frustrating area so far.

"There is so much that needs to be done on campus," he said.

He explained that state funding is more in line with a student population of 15,000, whereas enrollment is at about 20,000 at this time.

While stretching dollars is important, his

focus is on academics. "We're an academic institution," he said, accenting the word academic. Regarding athletics, McPhee sees the role of sports at the university as secondary to academics but feels that they are vital to the connection between the community and the university.

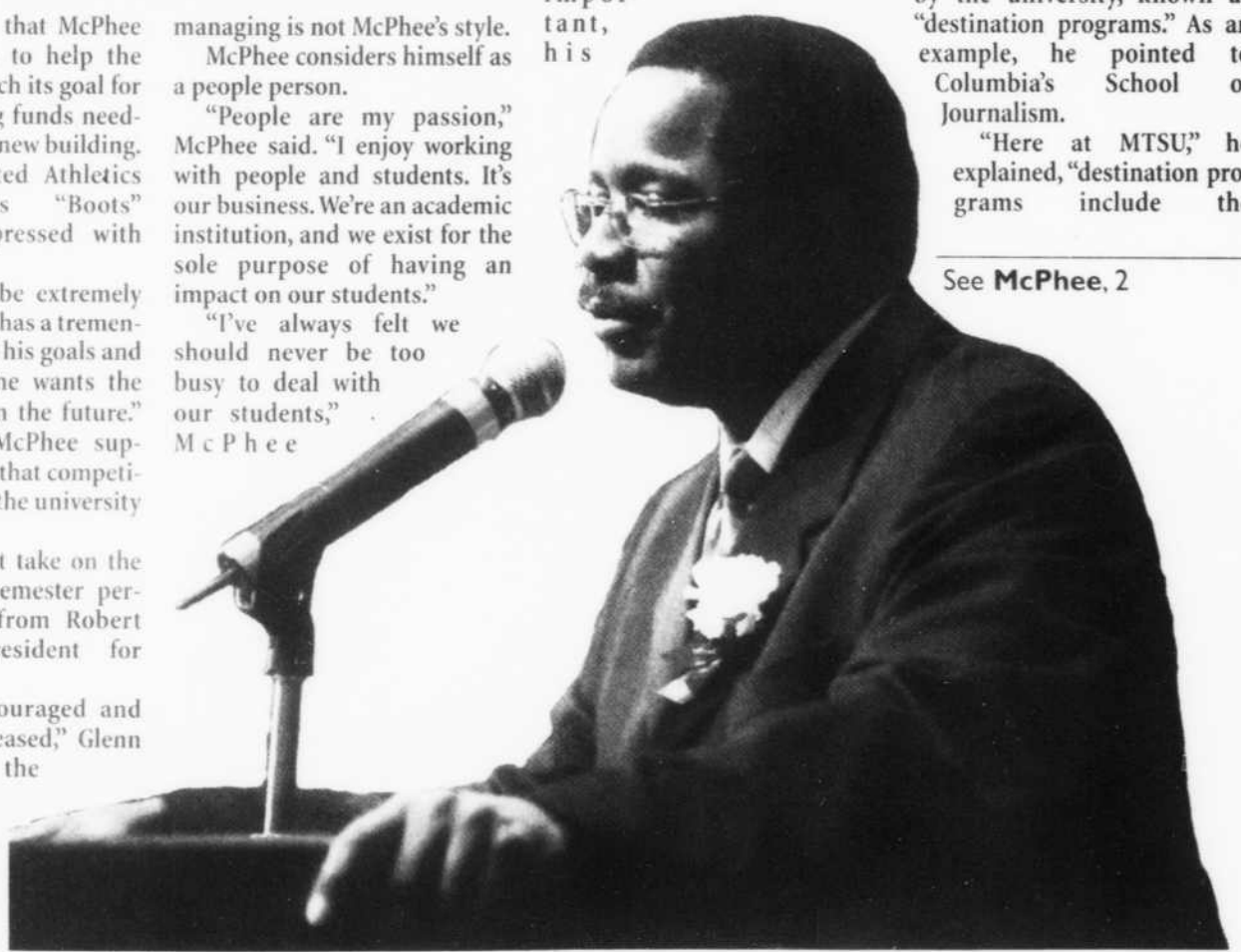
"Athletics provides us an opportunity for the community to see the university and get excited about it," he said. His goal, however, is "not to allow athletics to define who we are but be a part of who we are."

McPhee comes across as a perfectionist. He accepts this fact.

"Part of who I am is that I want us to be the best at everything we do," he said. His goal ultimately is to raise the bar in terms of academic quality at MTSU. He is already very proud of various areas of study offered by the university, known as "destination programs." As an example, he pointed to Columbia's School of Journalism.

"Here at MTSU," he explained, "destination programs include the

See McPhee, 2



University works to secure HUD grant

By Victoria Cumbow
Staff Writer

MTSU is trying to tie the university to the community through a Housing and Urban Development grant.

Students and faculty at MTSU are working together to receive a HUD grant.

"Right now, the students are laying the groundwork before writing the grant," said Stacy Beraski, professor and director

of field education. "This particular grant is to help tie the Patterson Park community in with the university."

The grant will assist with the community outreach partnership center in the Patterson Park community within the area of Mercury, Broad and Main streets.

Senior and Murfreesboro native Eileen Sims admits that while growing up, the university seemed to be separate from the

city of Murfreesboro.

"The goal of the grant is for there to be no more separation between the community and the university," Sims said. "We want to coexist with the community and earn mutual respect both ways."

In order to receive the HUD grant, the area must have a neighborhood association. At this stage, the Patterson Park community does not, but is starting one.

"The students go into the neighborhood and ask questions about what they would like to add to their neighborhood," Beraski said.

"We ask the people of the community what they would like to have, such as nursing or financial help," Sims added.

The legwork is being done by Kenneth Lancaster's social work class, in which Sims is enrolled.

This particular grant is intended for an impoverished

part of the community where help is needed.

Beraski said the grant will simply assist in the economic development of the neighborhood.

Sims adds that, with university support along with faculty and students volunteering, the grant should pass and will better link MTSU to the surrounding community and neighborhoods. ♦

Sidelines is seeking reporters, columnists and photographers.

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CRIME LOG

Compiled By Scott Laming — Staff Writer

The following is a partial list of incidents responded to by the MTSU Police Department between Jan. 14 and Jan. 29. This log was compiled from actual police reports.

Monday, Jan. 14, 11:49 p.m.

Gerald L. Hill Jr. of Murfreesboro was pulled over Monday night and charged with driving on a suspended license.

Saturday, Jan. 26, 7:34 a.m.

At the B street parking lot next to the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building, a green Chevy Blazer was discovered with its back window broken out. The officer who responded to the call said it may have been weather related since possessions were still in the vehicle.

Saturday, Jan. 26, 9:10 p.m.

Police dispatch received a call from a female resident of Gore Hall who said a male student kept coming by her room and harassing her for a calculator.

Police are speaking with the housing officials at Gore Hall.

Sunday, Jan. 27, 11:09 p.m.

Kaushikkumar Patell of Murfreesboro was charged with driving on a suspended license after police pulled him over on Founders Lane.

Monday, Jan. 28, 1:53 a.m.

Shelia Crawford of Murfreesboro was pulled over at the intersection of Tennessee Boulevard and East Main. She was charged with driving on a

suspended license.

Monday, Jan. 28, 3:58 p.m.

Parking and Transportation Services reported to MTSU police that a parking boot had been stolen. There are no witnesses or suspects at this time.

Monday, Jan. 28, 6:39 p.m.

Police received a call from a professor at Peck Hall Monday night. The professor proclaimed that a computer was missing from the professor's office. Police are investigating the theft.

Monday, Jan. 28, 8:23 p.m.

Police responded to a robbery in progress at Greenland Drive Lot B. The suspects were a female wearing a gray sweatshirt with a

black jacket and a black male wearing blue jeans, a puffy blue jacket and a long gold chain. Police are investigating the robbery.

Monday, Jan. 28, 8:50 p.m.

Kevin Heeney of Murfreesboro was charged with driving on a suspended license after being pulled over at Scarlett Commons.

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 3:45 a.m.

Thomas Reed of Murfreesboro was arrested at Horace Jones Field football stadium for public intoxication. He was also charged with criminal trespass.

Budget: \$1.25 billion deficit expected for next fiscal year

Continued from I

non-recurring revenue and inflated revenue estimates.

The \$1.25 billion deficit figure for next year, explained Comptroller John Morgan, is what needs to be raised in revenue next year beyond current expectations for current taxes. It includes:

- \$350 million to cover the difference between last year's tax revenue projections and what the state is actually collecting.

- \$230 million to replace the non-recurring funds legislators used to help balance the budget last year.

- \$300 million to cover budget increases the state is required to make because of court mandates and previously passed laws, such as improving TennCare and K-12 education.

- \$125 million to begin rebuilding the state's "rainy day fund," depleted to balance previous budgets.

- \$105 million for a long-promised 3 percent pay raise for state employees and teachers.

- \$90 million to improve higher education funding, mostly for

salaries on top of the 3 percent raise.

- \$50 million to improve state infrastructure.

- \$175 million for other spending plans, such as the governor's reading initiative proposal the legislature rejected last year.

These needs, less \$175 million extra revenue that analysts expect next year without raising taxes thanks to an improving economy, add up to a deficit of \$1.25 billion.

Even without state pay raises and additional spending, Morgan said, there's a \$705 million "have-to-have" gap in the first three items listed less the anticipated revenue improvements.

Kisber said this is the first time legislative leaders have agreed that there is a problem, much less agreed on its magnitude. He added that the leaders also all agreed to trying to convince enough other legislators to pass some form of tax reform.

Lt. Gov. John Wilder, speaker of the Senate, said he hadn't realized the magnitude of the problem earlier in the debate, but the

effect of Internet commerce on sales tax revenues and the economic downturn after Sept. 11 had turned him into a believer over the last year and a half.

"This is really for real," said Rep. Gene Davidson, House Democratic leader. "It's like when you cut your finger and you put salt on it. You feel it."

"There's been a coming together, both in the House and the Senate and among Republicans and Democrats, not just a crying of 'Wolf!' The wolf is inside."

Republican legislators, who have been some of the staunchest opponents of the Republican governor's tax reform proposal, "need to look in detail at where we are and where we'll be in a few months," Rep. Steve McDaniel said.

Kisber added that a more open public discussion and more detailed news coverage also should help convince the public of the need for tax reform. He said the problem of non-recurring funds had become especially troubling since growing from \$20 million a few years ago to as much as an estimated \$700 mil-

lion soon if some form of tax reform isn't adopted to increase revenues.

Morgan and Finance Commissioner Warren Neal are scheduled to testify about the numbers before the House Finance Committee Tuesday. Wilder said the Senate Finance Committee would be hearing similar testimony, and all 33 senators would be invited.

Kisber said state fiscal analysts have been asked to prepare information on how various tax reform plans would affect state revenues.

He said the leaders meeting with the governor agreed the attributes of a long-term solution should consider the adequacy of revenue, its elasticity in a changing economy, the federal deductibility of state taxes, fairness in distributing the tax load and the effect on current "tax exportation," such as when Tennesseans in border counties shop in neighboring states to avoid high sales taxes at home. ♦

Proposals:

Continued from I

- A statewide property tax of \$1 per \$100 of assessed value would raise \$1.2 billion.

- Another plan would create a flat income tax of 2 percent, reduce the sales tax to 4.25 percent and add services to taxable items. This would raise \$1.3 billion in additional revenues.

Other options, including the creation of an automobile property tax, an excise tax on compensation paid to business owners and raising the cigarette tax, were discussed.

Gov. Don Sundquist's budget proposal is expected sometime soon after Feb. 4. ♦

McPhee:

Continued from I

recording industry program which is one of the top in the country ... the whole College of Mass Communication, the aerospace engineering program and concrete industry program." McPhee said all are ranked among the top in the nation.

"My goal is to expand that list and to be thought of as one of the top in core curriculum and life education with a great general undergraduate study program," he said.

The class taught by former Vice President Al Gore, Family-Centered Community Building, is in keeping with McPhee's vision.

"Al Gore's class is excellent. He's doing an incredible job teaching and taking the job very seriously. We are very fortunate to have him," McPhee said.

Gore's class adds one other thing to the university that McPhee would like to see more of: a world-class profile.

"We need to really do a better job of attracting world class people," McPhee said.

For an educator who came to Murfreesboro by way of Nassau, McPhee can't help but have a worldly vision. He's lectured in various countries around the globe and wants to foster that broader perspective here at the university. ♦

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Editorial

Haskew's demotion calls for explanation

In studying President Sidney McPhee's reorganization plan, one of the biggest questions that arises involves the reassignment of Barbara Haskew from provost and vice president for Academic Affairs to "distinguished professor."

The reasons for this move are vague and unclear, and McPhee hasn't been willing to give a straight answer. In fact, McPhee seems quite defensive when asked for his reasoning behind what can only be called a demotion.

Why get rid of someone who has been here so long and is so dedicated to this university that she drives to and from Chattanooga every day? She has been at MTSU since the '70s, except for the eight years she spent with the Tennessee Valley Authority. She has served as consultant to the Tennessee State Government and was elected to a national board of business colleges. Yet, she's not good enough for the McPhee administration?

Haskew was recognized as McPhee's chief competition in the search for a university president last year, and many have wondered what her fate would be once McPhee took office. Now we know.

McPhee has stressed that Haskew is being reassigned because her position no longer exists. The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs is being restructured as the executive vice president and provost, a role that will come with additional responsibilities and fund-raising. Wouldn't someone who understands the university's operations be well-suited for such an expanded role?

While we are not questioning McPhee's authority or right to choose who he wants on his staff, we are questioning whose interests he has in mind. We don't want a politician as the president of this university. We want someone who has the best interests of the students in mind.

The fact that McPhee refuses to "defend" his decisions makes us even more skeptical. We certainly hope petty personal differences weren't involved, but McPhee's silence makes us seriously doubt the legitimacy of his actions. ♦

Correction

In Monday's issue of *Sidelines*, we incorrectly identified the fraternity hosting a step show to raise money for Up 'Til Dawn. Zeta Phi Beta and Phi Beta Sigma are the Greek organizations that hosted the event.

Sidelines regrets the error.

From the Opinions Editor

Note to South Carolina: Only racists sue NAACP



Here we go again - it's time for the annual battle in South Carolina over the Confederate flag.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has decreed it will stage protests at the state's rest stops along interstate highways to ensure that tourists are aware that the economic sanctions imposed against South Carolina in January 2001 are still in effect.

The state attorney general, Charlie Condon, is upset because he believes the protests will discourage tourists from spending money.

In a press conference, he declared he was drawing a "line in the sand," and he would sue the NAACP if they

went ahead with their protest.

Holy civil liberties infringement, Batman! The NAACP has every right to protest the state-sponsored racism that the Confederate flag at the state capital represents.

If the lawsuit goes through, it will only prove the racist tendencies of South Carolina's state government.

While the protest might impact the state's economy, I doubt it will cause great suffering and anguish to every merchant in the state.

And if it does, perhaps the voters of South Carolina will become outraged enough to encourage the state lawmakers to put an end to all this tomfoolery regarding one of the most racist remnants of the Civil War. ♦

My dislike of like

By Ashly Callaway
Staff Columnist

Like, what's the deal? I mean, like, where have our vocabularies disappeared to?

That's all I hear these days - the word "like." It's used to describe feelings, it begins sentences - as an English major, I am concerned! This word has infiltrated our conversation to a frightening degree.

Instead of, "I was considerably angry with my teacher," we hear, "I was, like, so mad at him." Like is also used in place of "about," as in, "I think the movie starts at, like, 7:30. And then there's the ubiquitous, I was like, uh, yeah, OK in lieu of ... I don't know, what? These moronic-sounding phrases are only getting worse, and they're becoming more prevalent. Not only are younger people using "like," but I hear professors and parents saying it, too! That's, like, scary.

So how did this word creep into our speech? We certainly don't write this way - at least I hope not - and it hasn't always been part of customary English speech. Can you imagine the colonists talking this way? I suppose it would be a viable speculation that "like" is one of the few egregious remains carried over from the '80s, sort of like Cyndi Lauper.

Maybe it's a derivative of Ye Olde Language of Valley Girl-ese, paying homage to Nicholas Cage and those tight-fitting

jeans. ...

Sorry, I was getting off track there.

I don't dislike the word like entirely. It's good for some things, like smiles and expressing affinity, but think about this: what if the president's speeches were riddled with likes? "The Taliban is, like, a very dangerous organization. We are going to like fight these people with, like, everything we've got." It would almost make you wish you'd voted for Gore.

Well, OK, let's not get crazy. You do have to admit, though, we sound more confident and assertive when we leave out the likes.

And what about job interviews? All of us have had or will have, at some point, a job interview to endure. So who would you be more likely to hire? Applicant A who states: "I would like to work for your company because I believe I could be a strong and valuable asset, and I am a hard worker." Or Applicant B who declares: "Um, like, it would be great to work here. Do you all, like, offer health benefits?" I'll let you sit on that one for a moment.

All I'm saying is, try not using the word "like" superfluously for a whole day and see what happens. You may end up deleting it from your whole vocabulary and become a more confident, eloquent speaker of the English language. Like, try it. ♦

WHAT A SCHMUCK !!

Sidelines'
occasional watch
for
mutton-heads.



Dumb. The crew of the USS *Greenville* is very, very dumb.

You will recall that in February 2001, the *Greenville* hit a Japanese fishing trawler while surfacing, killing nine Japanese citizens, including four students.

In August 2001, the *Greenville* scraped the bottom of the harbor of Saipan, a city in the Northern Mariana Islands, while trying to practice maneuvers.

Now for the icing on the cake. On Monday, the submarine tried to surface while underneath the USS *Ogden*, rupturing the *Ogden's* fuel tank. Several thousand gallons of fuel spilt into the North Arabian Sea. No one was hurt.

What in the world were they thinking? Cmdr. Scott Waddle resigned after the

first incident, but who did the Navy find to replace him? Someone from McHale's navy?

If the sub was going to surface anyway, why not send an active SONAR ping right above the sub to see if anything was blocking its rise from the depths?

Criticism of the military isn't popular when our country's at war, but dumb is still dumb. And when one ship is responsible for three accidents, they qualify as schmucks. ♦

Letters to the Editor

Have a comment about a *Sidelines* story or column?

Have a concern about a campus goings-on?

Let us know via e-mail:

slopinio@mtsu.edu

All letters may be edited for space and clarification.

Testing provides national benchmark for students

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to Erich Heinlein's opinion column "The standardized test: our school's worst enemy."

I would just like to explain why standardized testing is, at this point, the only choice to accurately rate schools, teachers and students without bias.

Notice that I said "at this point" because there is always room for improvement in any education system, but I think Heinlein hasn't looked at all the information about standardized testing, especially here in Tennessee.

In 1992, the Tennessee Educational Improvement Act included a value-added assessment system that accounts for the problems Heinlein identified in his article.

Developed by William Sanders from the University of Tennessee, this system works to eliminate teacher accountability placed solely on test scores because these do not always reflect the real situation.

It works like this: students are tested at each grade level (8-12) and, based on their individual academic history, a prediction that measures how much better they should perform at the end of the year is calculated.

If the student performs worse, then it is obvious that the student's teacher has not been adequately teaching the student.

If the student performs beyond the expected performance, then the teacher can be sure the methods used in class are effective.

By focusing on the individual, performance for those who have educational handicaps is not compared to those without.

Furthermore, the tests help teachers to identify their problem areas and not make excuses about poor funding, an idea some teachers are opposed to.

It seems to me that Heinlein just researched one viewpoint about standardized testing: the teachers'.

Without a nationally recognized standard to grade students, no school could judge students' performance to allow for admission qualifications, grade level and teacher ability.

Kristin Hall

RAs deserve 24-hour reserved parking spots

To the Editor:

I am responding to the editorial article written by the *Sidelines* staff. While I understand your concern for the lack of clarity in the new rules being advertised by Parking and Transportation Services, I want to get my opinion out there.

I am a resident assistant here at MTSU in my second semester of service. I, along with all my fellow RAs, have a very hard job. We are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are very busy. We cannot always choose when to go to Wal-Mart or to a movie; we go when we have a chance. Before this semester every student knew that after about 5 or 6 in the afternoon you could park in a housing spot and not be ticketed.

Now that these policies are being enforced, I don't have to worry about finding a spot in front of my dorm when I get back from Wal-Mart on a Friday night. I know the enforcement of these rules doesn't make most people very happy, but please let us have our spots without too much resentment. We work very hard at our job and being able to park in housing spots is one of our few perks. Please respect that. Thank you.

Clint Dowda

Well-written books key to providing proper education

To the Editor:

I'm sure most everybody has heard that American math students are falling behind in their quest to be the world's best. What would make one student, or nation of students, learn more than another, assuming the students all work hard and try to learn? What is used to teach students? Books, technology and teachers are all I can think of. I don't want to talk about teachers, but I do want to talk about books and technology.

What makes a good math book? How about being able to find examples of problems you want to learn how to do for starters. Maybe even a solution manual with every problem worked in full (what a concept!) with explanations of how to get from step one to step two.

Some pictures with words and arrows pointing to important things might be nice. Little things like notation are important, too. For example, not using the letter 'p' and the Greek letter rho in the same problem to separate the good from the bad. So does remembering who the audience is and not writing over their heads or assuming they are experts on the subject after reading chapter one. At the risk of sounding stupid, I want to suggest that one reason our rank is falling is because we too often use

inadequate books.

Now for technology. In our technology-filled schools there is still a degree of calculator phobia. It is true that some students will use a calculator as a crutch, but others will expand their mathematical horizon beyond where books alone can take them given the technology and the wisdom to use it. Should a good student be held back because a lazy one often not memorize his/her derivatives? It is often the case that the only way to know if an answer to a problem is right is to check it with a calculator because the book doesn't have answers. And lately, I don't spend much time on a problem if I'll never know if I got it right or not.

Don Kimble

Send student opinions to people in authority

To the Editor:

I first want to comment on Patrick Chinnery's columns, "Students speak out about detainees" and "Don't waste my time." First of all, I just want to express my own conservative agenda by saying that conservatives and liberals alike should not be categorized as either "bleeding-hearteds" nor "cowardly," simply because those bleeding-hearted liberals are cowardly by their very nature in lashing out at a military whose only fault is following orders, knowing that the majority of military members are conservative and are not interested in fighting against the freedoms expressed by the Constitution, but who are willing to lay down their very lives in service to our country.

Secondly, opinions of this nature need to be directed toward people in authority, not your everyday Joe and Jane. Simply because those in authority do not follow the everyday whims of an excited mob, but rather following the tried and true laws that are in place by proper reasoning. In this manner, I think your consensus rather absurd. We all have certain ideas of a utopian society, but it's always anti-democratic.

As far as my own ideas concerning the detainees, I think they need a good jolt away from their brainwashing days of the Taliban and Al-Qaida with a little bit of mercy and control. They should be placed into concentration camps where they can create their own food, learn a trade and, like most normal decent people, pull their own weight for paying their own sorry-ass lives. I don't think they should be punished for circumstances beyond their own birth; but for those who had authority and abused it to support terrorism, they need to be sent to China for someone to bust a cap in their pea-sized brains and foot the 5-cent-bill back to their parents.

Stephen D. Brace

SIDELINES

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FLASH

Wednesday, January 30, 2002

sidelines

A groovy performance

'Scooby Doo' rocks TPAC theater



Photo Provided

The gang is at again as Velma, Shaggy, Fred, Daphne and Scooby take the stage to uncover another classic mystery.

By Charlene Callier
Flash! Editor

The lights dimmed and the sound of chattering voices began to rise with anticipation as the master of ceremonies walked upon the stage.

"Hey, who all knows the

words to Scooby Doo?" he yelled into the ears of the children sitting in the audience. The adults responded in unison with the children, "We do!"

This was the icing on the cake as the old gang rode on the stage in the Mystery Machine. Daphne, Velma, Fred, Shaggy and Scooby

all hopped onto the stage and began to dance their ways into the hearts of the audience.

"Scooby Doo" was presented at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville Jan. 23-27. The show resembled the original cartoon so much that the entire audience was yelling "Zoinks!"

with Shaggy each time he confronted a spooky situation.

From the moment the curtains opened until the grand finale, Scooby and the gang delivered a great performance.

When you closed your eyes, the sound of the actor playing Shaggy made you wonder if he

was the real thing. No one was left wanting any Scooby snacks because the characters fulfilled the craving of seeing "Scooby Doo" performed live on stage. The show not only incorporated the stage fright mystery, but it also added the delightful treat of Shaggy falling for a girl during

their mystery hunt.

So the next time the words to the "Scooby Doo" song pop into your mind, remember that it's still not too late to get a glimpse of him because he will be out on the big screen this summer. ♦



Photo by Leslie Carol Boehms | Staff

The baggage center sells unclaimed items for a bargain.

Unclaimed Baggage Center unpacks lost items for bargains

By Leslie Carol Boehms
Staff Writer

Saturdays in Murfreesboro can be far from exciting. So next weekend, pack up a picnic lunch and head down to Alabama.

Why, you may ask? Because Scottsboro, Ala., is the home of the Unclaimed Baggage Center.

If you have ever wondered where the unclaimed and lost luggage from airlines ends up, ponder no more. From electronics to jewelry, lingerie to baby strollers, this store is a bargain hunter's secret fantasy.

Now hop on in and follow my trip to the center from breakfast to the drive home. Buckle up.

7:01 a.m. - I wake up and look out the window for snow and ice. Turn on weather channel. Eat Smacks cereal.

8:18 a.m. - Get gas at Tigermarket. Buy Jungle Juice. Reach first major snag in journey: Jungle Juice already opened.

8:19 a.m. - Take back Jungle Juice.

8:20 a.m. - Leave Murfreesboro.

9:38 a.m. - See Alabama state sign.

9:58 a.m. - See cooling towers for nuclear power plant. Excitement!

10:01 a.m. - We get off at South Scottsboro instead of North. However, do not see sign pointing us in correct direction until going wrong direction for at least three miles.

10:11 a.m. - Back on Highway 72. Headed right direction.

10:17 a.m. - We pass our exit.

10:22 a.m. - Get off at correct exit.

10:25 a.m. - We arrive at the Unclaimed Baggage Center! (Total travel time from Murfreesboro: two hours, five minutes.)

10:33 a.m. - I go first to the sunglasses. I find an awesome pair of turtleshell glasses for \$5.

10:45 a.m. - If you've ever left a CD on an airplane, it's probably ended up here. There are oodles of bins chock full of CDs without their cases. Prices range from 50 cents to around \$5.

10:47 a.m. - I find Long Pigs CD (\$5) from 1995 still in its original wrapping. Kind of makes you wonder, doesn't it?

11:14 a.m. - Moving on to women's accessories. Find brand new, red Express belt for \$3. Also, find velvet-like black scarf for \$5.

See Baggage, 5

'Black Hawk,' 'Gosford Park' create diverse movie scene

By Zachary Hansen
Staff Writer

If you're in the mood for a movie this weekend, check out the following films to awaken your spirits.

'Black Hawk Down'

Hardened veterans, two hours of nonstop combat, cheesy farewell lines and glorious patriotism. It sounds like your typical war film, which is exactly what *Black Hawk Down* is. While it is skillfully directed and has some good moments, the new film from Ridley Scott is an epic lesson in excess and cliché.

The movie tells the true story of a 1993 American mission to overthrow the Somali government and save its innocent civilians from a lifetime of suffering. But the rescue goes horribly wrong and a single day of death graphically ensues. The events had the potential to make an interesting story, but instead drag on and on without variety.

While many war movies will at least make some effort to connect the audience to the soldiers and allow us to sympathize with them, *Black Hawk Down* never slows down enough for this to happen.

A few years ago, *Saving Private Ryan* captivated audiences by beginning with an intense half-hour battle sequence. But for the remainder of the film, it paced itself enough to have time-outs in which the soldiers talk, share emotions and are shown to be complex characters. *Black Hawk Down* takes that first 30 minutes and repeats it for almost two and a half hours. Watching soldiers run frantically about shooting machine guns grows rather tiring, and I found myself bored less than halfway into the film.

However, the movie surely will be nominated for and win many Oscars, especially due in part to the state of the country right now.

Americans in the film are very heroic, and the 19 who died in the

mission are honored in the credits. By the way, there is not much sympathy shown for the more than 1,000 Somalis who were killed. Sure, it's patriotic. But as far as filmmaking goes, it is unoriginal and disposable.

'Fat Girl'

Much more effective is the French film *Fat Girl*. It tells the story of two sisters, one 15 years old and goddess-like, the other a plump 12-year-old. Both are maturing and talk together about losing their virginity.

The younger one, Anais, says she would like her first time to be with a complete stranger so that it wouldn't mean anything. Elena, the attractive sister, can have any man she wants and doesn't need to worry about making such excuses for not being choosy.

Their relationship is complex. One moment, Elena will rather bluntly make fun of Anais about her physical appearance, but at other times will rescue her from their uncaring mother. Elena acts as a companion to Anais, but is not so willing when it involves taking her younger sibling along on dates with her new boyfriend.

Though she claims that her virginity is not such a precious thing, it is an altogether different situation when her boyfriend confronts her with a desire to have sex.

In a particularly difficult scene, the college-age man spends 20 minutes in Elena's bed, trying to convince her to give herself to him. Finally, she agrees. The catch is that she shares a bedroom with Anais, who pretends to sleep while the deflowering occurs. As it happens, the camera focuses on Anais lying in her bed, capturing a wide range of emotions from anger to jealousy to apparent amusement the following morning.

After a confrontation involving a family heirloom the boy has given to Elena, the girls' mother takes the



Photo provided

Black Hawk Down is a fast-paced typical war film.

girls away from the situation. Their voyage results in a short, devastating sequence that by itself is more shocking than *Black Hawk Down* as a whole.

By focusing more on the characters than action, *Fat Girl* is a tremendous success. Great performances from the leads and a compelling tale result in a haunting coming-of-age film. Along with another of the year's best films, *Ghost World*, it is a fascinating and tragic study of the dark side of growing up. It is uncompromising and unforgettable.

'Gosford Park'

All this talk of war and painful adolescence can get quite depressing after a while. In that case, I highly recommend the new Robert Altman film, *Gosford Park*. Using his patented large cast of characters, Altman creates a hilarious movie that is not only a classic murder mystery, but also a strong comment on the class system of early 20th century England.

Sir William is hosting a weekend gathering at his mansion at which he brings together all of his upper-class friends. In tow are the servants

who gather in their basement quarters while the elite discuss their money on the main floor. The rich folk compete with each other over who can wear the most expensive furs, and their comments to each other are derogatory ones, disguised as compliments.

Meanwhile the servants live their simple lives below ground, and similar tensions arise. After a day of partying, Sir William is killed twice and everyone in the house becomes a suspect.

There is not much more to the plot than that, but Altman has never needed a complex story line to make an interesting film. Instead, what makes his movies unique is the focus on the way people behave in a situation rather than the situation itself. The interaction of the characters is wonderful.

One example is the Hollywood producer, who is immediately out of place and, as the only American, becomes the target of everyone's jokes. Also classic is the mini-concert the movie star gives in the parlor. The servants hide transfixed

See Movies, 5

What's happening in the 'Boro

Compiled by Justin Ward
Staff Writer

Wednesday, Jan. 30

*Ladies Night at Bongo Johnny's. Ladies free before 11 p.m. \$7 admission.

*Karaoke at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub at 7 p.m. Hip Hop Night starts at 10 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 31

*De Novo Dahl, Ivan Klipstein and Slack at the Red Rose Café.

*College Night at Bongo Johnny's - \$3 with college ID, \$2 pitcher of beers.

*Super Fire Convoy at Faces.
*Guest Bartenders for Charity at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub 6-8 p.m. Sponsored by the Nashville Scene. Cliff and the Cliff Notes at 8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 1

*27 B Stroke 6 at the Red Rose

Cafe.

*Fiesta Friday at Bongo Johnny's.
*Spooky Johnson's at Sebastian's at 9 p.m.
*Johnny Jackson's "All Good" with O.J. Terry Grant at 9 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 2

*Icon Tattoos show at the Red Rose Café. Admission free.
*Something Wicked at Bongo Johnny's.

*Owen and the Rayon City Quartet at Sebastian's at 9 p.m.
*Johnny Jackson's "Soul Satisfaction" at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub at 9 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 3

*Louis Brown's Firehouse Jazz Band at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub at 8 p.m. DJ Viper at 10 p.m.

Baggage: Bargains await patient shoppers willing to rummage

Continued from 4

range from 50 cents to around \$5.

10:47 a.m. - I find Long Pigs CD (\$5) from 1995 still in its original wrapping. Kind of makes you wonder, doesn't it?

11:14 a.m. - Moving on to women's accessories. Find brand new, red Express belt for \$3. Also, find velvet-like black scarf for \$5.

11:40 a.m. - Cute denim jacket - \$6.

12:15 p.m. - Rummaging through book selection. They have everything from inspirational to computer manuals to a slew of romance novels. It's like being in a miniature used bookstore.

12:33 p.m. - Check-out appears much like the line at the airport. However, I come home clean only spending about \$20.

Of course, you don't have to be a huge bargain fan to enjoy this place.

They have everything from designer Gucci sunglasses to Kmart brand tennis shoes.

Which brings up my first word of caution: Know your designer labels.

Even if you despise name brands, one must have a little common sense about which label belongs to which company.

If you don't know Wal-Mart brand from Versace, you might just get ripped off.

Case in point: While pilfering through the women's coats, I found a Mossimo brand jacket for \$25. If you didn't know that Mossimo was a Target clothing brand, you wouldn't know that

this jacket only retailed \$24.99. You would have paid the same price for a used jacket that you could have bought new.

Overall, my impression of the Unclaimed Baggage Center was good.

Though the building looks nice outside, the inside is in need of serious repair. But don't let that hinder your shopping experience.

Be prepared to sort through a lot of junk. It's kind of like going to a garage sale or Goodwill. There's a ton of cool stuff, you just have to look for it.

However, I wouldn't recommend going to find a specific item. It's pretty much hit or miss.

There's also a cafe inside in case you get famished while digging (remember, this is Alabama; you might not find fast food for miles).

Don't forget to visit the special part of the store set aside for cargo.

This is where you can find an array of chemicals and household products, bed linens, shovels and even personal hygiene products.

The Unclaimed Baggage Center is an awesome day trip for any avid shopper. It's also a great place for the poor college student to find some incredible deals.

For directions to the Unclaimed Baggage Center or to browse their online collection of lost goodies, click on over to www.unclaimedbaggage.com. ♦

Movies: 'Park' combines Hitchcockian wit, social commentary

Continued from 4

compliments.

Meanwhile, the servants live their simple lives below ground and similar tensions arise. After a day of partying, Sir William is killed twice and everyone in the house becomes a suspect.

There isn't much more to the

plot than that, but Altman never needs a complex story line to make an interesting film. What makes his movies unique is the focus on the way people behave in a situation rather than the situation itself.

One example is the Hollywood producer, who is immediately out of place and, as the only

American, becomes the target of everyone's jokes. Also classic is the mini-concert the movie star gives in the parlor. The servants hide transfixed behind closed doors listening to him sing, while one guest in particular makes snide comments throughout. This scene is one of many examples in which the difference between

class values is shown.

Gosford Park is one of the most beautifully shot and funny films of the year. It takes the surreal social commentary of Bunuel's films and combines it with Hitchcockian wit to create an original comedy. ♦

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Call from
the
Pressbox
Colleen Cox



Drew Bledsoe should start Super Bowl for Patriots

The stage is set for the 2002 Super Bowl in New Orleans.

The teams are in place and ready to go, but the New England Patriots have one small problem. Who's going to start their biggest game of the season at quarterback?

Head coach Bill Belichick makes his decision today. The choice is not easy.

Drew Bledsoe has been with the Patriots since they drafted him with the sixth overall pick in 1993. He came in last week and guided the Patriots to the win in the American Football Conference Championship game. This was after he was forced to sit behind Tom Brady most of the season.

Bledsoe is the proven choice. He led New England to the Super Bowl in 1996, getting them there in much the same way Brady did this season. He has nine years of NFL experience compared to two for Brady.

Plus, there is his loyalty to the organization. In March 2001, Bledsoe signed a 10-year contract extension. He wanted to finish his career as a Patriot. He wanted to be like a Dan Marino or John Elway and play his entire career with one team.

Unfortunately, loyalty doesn't mean much in sports these days. Colleges have trouble getting athletes to stay four years. Some kids leave for greener pastures after one season. Pro sports like baseball, basketball and football, with their free agency, have players hopping teams like hot potatoes.

The Patriots have yet to reward Bledsoe for his loyalty this season. After he went down in week two, the Patriots placed him on the inactive list. That wasn't unfair. He was hurt, after all. What was shady was when Bledsoe was healthy again and there was no sort of quarterback controversy. What a way to treat a guy who's played nine seasons for you.

Sure, there is a good case for Tom Brady. He has had an awesome season, but he should have fought for his job long before now.

Brady supposedly is still nursing a sprained ankle from last week's championship game.

It was my understanding that he could have come back in the game last week, but he received the same treatment Bledsoe had earlier in the season. He had to watch on the sidelines as Bledsoe led the Patriots to the win.

So just who will Belichick choose?

I think it will be Brady unless he is truly hurt. This is becoming a normal occurrence in sports today. The older player goes down with an injury, the young guy comes in and does well and the older player is sent packing.

There is a reasonable chance that Bledsoe could get the start and lead the Patriots to a championship, or at least a respectable loss.

It seems more likely that Brady will get the start and New England will become yet another team to follow the trend of getting rid of the older guy for the younger.

Ultimately, Bledsoe and his multi-million dollar contract most likely will be sent somewhere else or possibly even be unprotected for the expansion draft while Brady will be rewarded for one good season. ♦

Call from the Press Box appears every Wednesday. You can contact Colleen Cox at 898-2816 or slsports@mtsu.edu.

Blue Raiders moving up in the SBC

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team looks to continue a two-game winning streak this week with games at Indiana

University Purdue University-Fort Wayne Thursday and at home against Florida International University Saturday.

MT is on a roll, winning both games last week at home. They

are looking for their second three-game winning streak this season. The Blue Raiders started the season with three straight victories. They beat Arkansas State University 83-64 Thursday night and followed up with a 68-65 victory over Arkansas-Little Rock Saturday. UALR was the leader in the eastern division at that time.

The victories moved MT into fourth place in the eastern division with a 4-5 conference record and 9-11 overall. These were MT's first ever wins over teams in the eastern division.

John Humphrey had a big week with 10 points against ASU and a career-high 17 points against UALR. Tommy Gunn also had 13 points in both wins.

This week the Blue Raiders travel to IUPUI-Fort Wayne to take on the Mastodons, an independent team. This is the Blue Raiders' final non-conference game on the road. The Mastodons have a 1-15 record so far this season.

"They play a control type offense and have very good shooters," said Blue Raider head coach Randy Wiel.

The Saturday night game at home against FIU is one that could change the standings in the eastern division of the Sun Belt. The Panthers are third in the Eastern Division with a 4-4 conference record, 10-12 overall. On Thursday night, FIU will play at Western Kentucky before coming to play MT on Saturday.

This also will be the second meeting between the two teams this season. The first game was a 67-60 victory Jan. 5 by FIU on their home floor. The Panthers come in the contest with a two-game winning streak of their own in the Sun Belt.

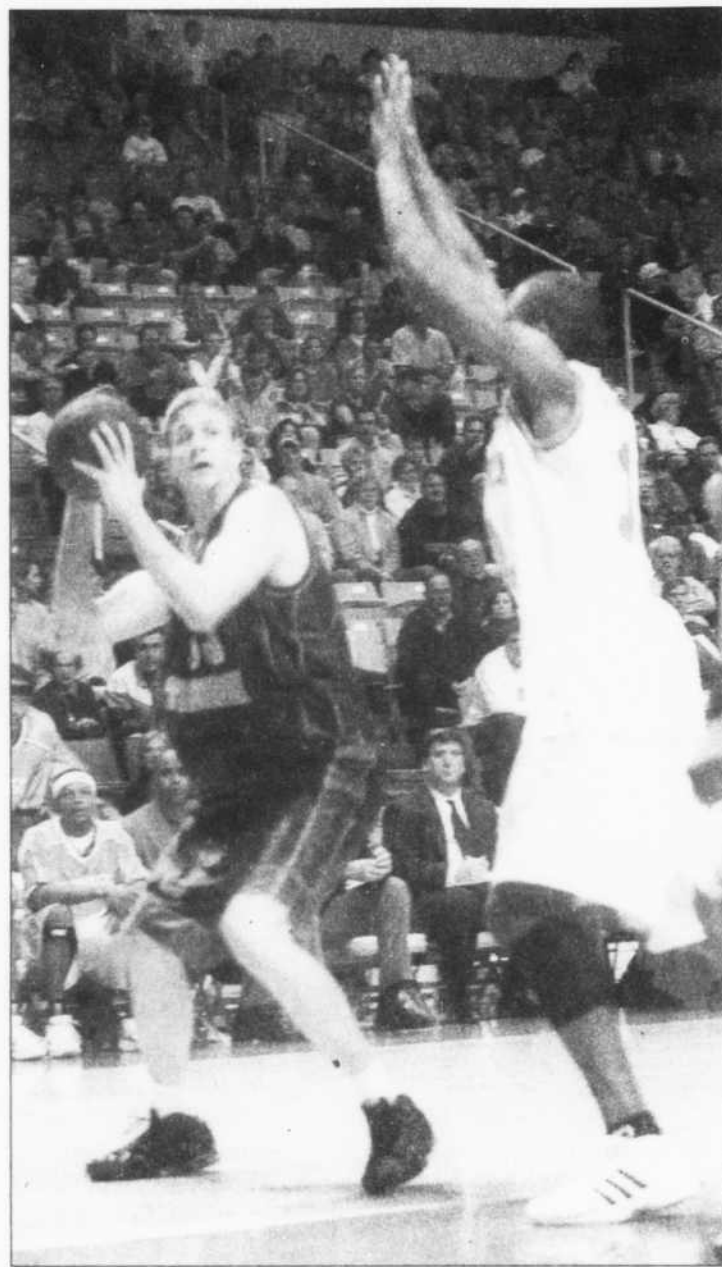


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Nosse makes his move to the basket past the defender.

Ladies travel to FIU

By Erich Heinlein
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team (11-9, 5-4) will definitely have to go one direction to beat Florida International University (16-5, 7-1) Saturday.

They'll need to go up because they will be dealing with 6-foot-8-inch Silvia Mesa along with several other match-ups that could cause problems.

Last year Mesa led the team in blocks with 34. Besides dealing with her, the Lady Raiders will have to contend with several other players considered dangerous. These players include Anita Heller, who got 11 points, 9 rebounds and 7 assists in her last contest against the Lady Raiders, and Mandy Shafer, who is considered a very dangerous three-point shooter.

FIU is also in the top two in the following categories: scoring margin, field goal percentage, rebound-

ing, rebounding margin, blocked shots per game, average assists and assist/turnover ratio.

"It's hard to shut down their rebounding when they are 6-feet-8-inches and we are 5-feet-11-inches," said Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith. "On three-point shooting, we are going to do our best to limit their touches, but you are talking about two players that are going to be playing in the WNBA. We are going to do the best we can and just give them the most limited number of options possible."

However, considering the match-up problems presented by FIU, this is not compatible with the team's confidence in winning Saturday.

"If and when we win the game this Saturday, it would give us a lot (of confidence)," said junior guard Paula Pentilla.

Being in the middle of the pack, the Lady Raiders are certainly anxious to get some wins.

"If we beat them, we would be

sitting pretty, because right now they are the top seed," said senior guard Jessica McClure. "We have a couple of more games after that to finish out the conference, and we have to do well so we don't have to play the top teams in the tournament."

FIU is currently tied for first with Western Kentucky, while the Lady Raiders are in third place. However, Smith said, their record does not even come close to their ability on the floor.

"Florida International, Western Kentucky and North Texas all beat us on our home floor but in my opinion those are all games that we gave away," Smith said.

The Lady Raiders last played FIU Jan. 5, losing 82-72.

Another necessity which is going to be key for the Lady Raiders Saturday is going to be veteran leadership from McClure and Pentilla.

See Lady Raiders, 8



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Eric Parham searches the floor for someone to pass to. Parham has 26 steals this season and averages 7 points.

Last week they defeated South Alabama 66-56, then followed it up with a 69-55 victory over New Orleans.

Taurance Johnson led the way for the Panthers with 17 points and 9 rebounds against USA. The following game he had 11 points and 10 rebounds against UNO. Johnson is fourth in the Sun Belt in rebounds with 9.5 per game. He's one of the top scorers in the conference with 15.8 points per game, and is second in the Sun Belt with 2.25 steals per conference game.

The Panthers' scoring defense is first in the Sun Belt, giving up

only 64.2 points per game.

"They are a difficult team to play, and they have really improved their basketball team," Wiel said.

Freshman Carlos Morlan leads the Sun Belt in steals with 3.38 per game in conference games. Including the rest of their games, he's 17th in the nation in steals with 2.95 per game. In last week's game against USA, he had 8 steals in the victory over the Jaguars.

Both games this week start at 7 p.m. ♦

Georgia's No. 2 wide receiver chooses MT

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee football team will sign a wide receiver to fill the spot vacated by Kendall Newson, who played his final game in November.

Michael Watkins, the No. 2 receiver in Georgia and one of the best pass catchers in the South, according to Max Emfinger recruiting, verbally committed to MT yesterday.

Watkins said he can learn from veteran receivers Tyrone Calico, Kerry Wright, Hashem Joyner and David Youell, but wants to fill Newson's spot. Bowling Green, Louisville, Marshall and South Carolina were other schools Watkins considered. He committed to MT after his official visit last weekend.

The coaches, players, facilities and a high-rated offense attracted Watkins to MT. However, the deciding factor in his decision was the people.

Watkins was named a preseason All-American before his senior season. He also earned Super Prep All-American honors, catching 30 passes for more than 700 yards and 8 touchdowns at Banneker High School in College Park, Ga. He tallied more than 60 catches, 1,600 yards and 18 touchdowns the past two seasons. He led Banneker to the state playoffs both seasons.

The Blue Raiders also signed defensive/offensive lineman Doug Waller. He examined Southern Miss, Memphis and Troy State before

See Signee, 7



Basketball Notebook

By Shane Marquardt
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team made a statement at home this week by winning two conference games in a row. Now the Blue Raiders must break into Fort Wayne for a win before returning home for important conference battles.

No Place Like Home:

The Blue Raiders basketball team will never be called dominating, but their home record could be considered intimidating. MT has an 8-2 record at home and is 3-2 against conference opponents. This home court supremacy is a helpful aid for the Blue Raiders, who have three of their last seven games at home. Following the winning trend could help turn around a 9-11 record. Home court action starts Feb. 2 against Florida International.

Sixth Man:

Guard John Humphrey stepped into the spotlight in the Blue Raiders' showdown against the teams from Arkansas. Humphrey scored 10 points in the game against Arkansas State and followed that performance with a

career-high 17 points against Arkansas-Little Rock.

Plays Well With Others:

The Blue Raiders played like a cohesive unit throughout their two-game winning streak, with every member of the team adding his own ingredient to the dish. Center Lee Nosse scored 15 points and cleared 8 rebounds against Arkansas State with 6 swats against Little Rock. Though the Blue Raiders won both games, it was ASU that suffered the blunt of the MT unit. Forward Stephen Jackson had a career best 10 points, while forward Charlie Anderson cleaned the boards for 8 rebounds. Point guard Eric Parham had seven assists as the team found their range from three-point land with 11 three pointers. The Tommy Gunn came out shooting with 13 points in each game.

Lady Raiders:

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team told the men, "Anything you can do, we can do better." And the Lady Raiders went about proving it as they won two in a row on the road in the state of Arkansas. They will bring their winning record (11-9) home Tuesday to build on their success with a game

against Morris Brown.

Extra Thomatis, Please:

Jamie Thomatis continues to lead the Lady Raiders in the quest for Sun Belt success. She scored 21 points in the victory over Arkansas State and piled on 20 more points in the victory over Arkansas-Little Rock. Thomatis also backed up her scoring performance with 7 and 8 rebounds respectively.

Holmes Girl Got Game:

The week in Arkansas must have been good for the Lady Raiders' scorers. Not only did Thomatis score big, but freshman Patrice Holmes also took some target practice. Holmes netted 19 points in the game against Arkansas State and led all scorers against Little Rock when she put in 23 points.

Conference Action is Fantastic:

Morris Brown will mark the last non-conference game the Lady Raiders will face this year. The following six games are all conference, with three of the games being played in the Murphy Center. The Lady Raiders have a 4-4 record in Sun Belt play, with three of those losses at home. ♦

Signees: Lineman finishes eligibility at MT

Continued from 6

The Blue Raiders also signed defensive/offensive lineman Doug Waller. He examined Southern Mississippi, Memphis and Troy State

before deciding on MT.

Waller played one year as a starter at Southern Mississippi after high school. He then transferred to South West Mississippi. He has two years of eligibility left.

National Signing Day is Feb. 6.

Andy McCollum will announce his signees at a press conference tomorrow. ♦



Signing Day is
Feb. 6.

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Roommate needed asap, to share 3br/2ba house. 7 min from campus. \$395 a month all utilities, phones, cable w/HBO, and internet access included. Must be a non-smoker. 896-9705 ask for Anji or Wil.

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Lady Raiders: Thomatis, Holmes lead MT scoring effort

Continued from 6

floor, but in my opinion, those are all games that we gave away," Smith said.

The Lady Raiders last played FIU Jan. 5, losing 82-72.

Another necessity which is going to be key for the Lady

Raiders Saturday is veteran leadership from McClure and Pentilla.

"Well, they are point guards," Smith said. "They have to man the ship and run the team. I thought we did a really good job of it this past weekend, but I don't think we have done that good of a job with the team."

Top scorers for the Lady Raiders are Jamie Thomatis, who has scored 18.7 points per game. Thomatis also has shot 52.6 percent and averaged 6.5 rebounds per game.

The only other Lady Raider averaging double-digits in points is Patrice Holmes, averaging 12.5

points per game along with 5.5 rebounds. As a team, the Lady Raiders have averaged 71.6 points per game, while shooting 44 percent from the floor.

Game time is 1 p.m. ♦



Tiffany Fisher drives the ball up the court and tries to score against Western Kentucky Jan. 17.

Photo by Amy Jones
Chief Photographer

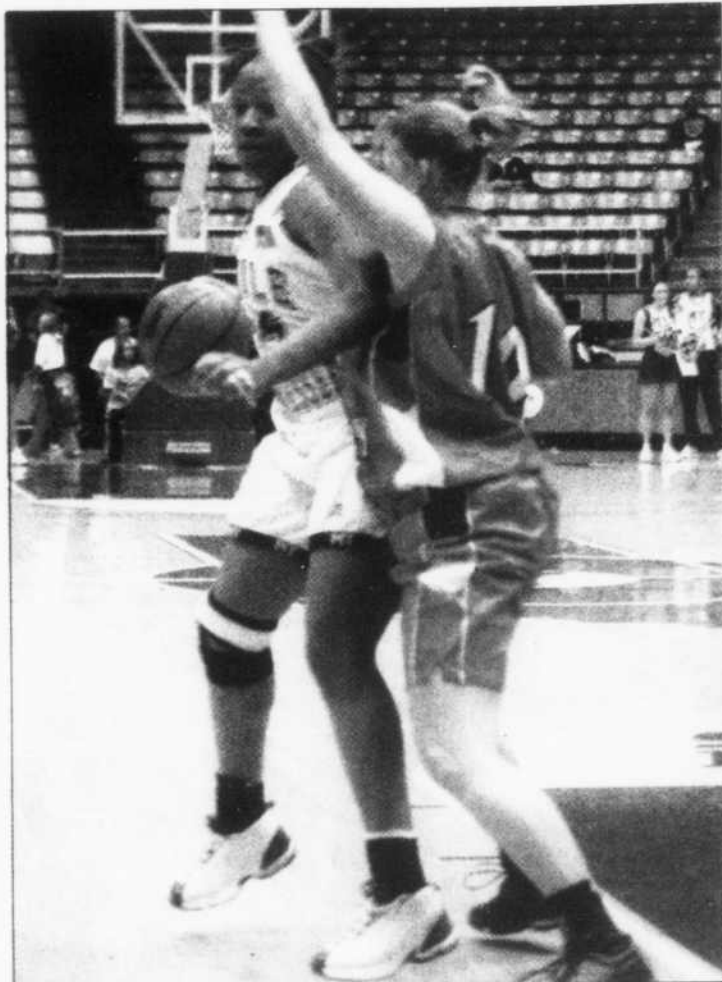



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Thomatis works the block and tries to score in the paint.



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