

Hey Parrot Head!

Jimmy Buffet fans await the singer's arrival at the new Nashville Arena this Sunday.

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Slow start

MTSU's baseball team dropped its first four games on the road in Alabama. Recap inside.

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Murfreesboro, Tennessee

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Sidelines

Thursday
February 27, 1997
Volume 72, Number 52

Officials seek funds to offset budget cuts

By Chad Gillis/ staff

Like Little Jack Horner sticking his thumb into a pie, officials at MTSU are poking around for a three-million-dollar plum.

The university officials are expecting a \$2.8 million state budget cut in funding at the end of June, and are pursuing two possibilities to offset the shortfall.

President Walker said one possibility is the MTSU Foundation—an organization which raised a record \$4.5 million in the first six months of this fiscal year.

Another possibility—taking money from athletics—was raised at an open forum Wednesday, Feb. 19.

The Foundation, which collects donations from alumni, corporations, and friends of the university, sponsors approximately 481 scholarships.

"We have more than 900 different departments that support the educational effort at MTSU," said Steve Shockley, director of development.

The money raised by the organization represents both restricted and unrestricted funds; the latter of the two could be used towards the budget cut.

Shockley said that using

designated (restricted) funds for other purposes than the donor intended would not only be illegal, but also "immoral."

Inquiring into the availability of athletic funds, Interim Director of the School of Journalism Larry Burris raised a question concerning the expansion of Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium.

Burris rhetorically asked whether the funds would not be better used for academics instead of Division I football?

However, athletic money is restricted and not available for academics.

"Those are designated student fees to pay off the stadium bond," said Shockley. "The same thing that applies to the Rec Center."

Of the \$4.5 million raised by the Foundation, \$2.4 million was interest accumulated from the Miller Trust Fund.

Mary Elizabeth Miller, wife of John C. Tennessee Miller, requested that \$23.5 million of the estate be donated towards a horse coliseum prior to her death in 1994.

The university was shocked when presented with the donation, according to Tom Tozer, head of public relations, because the Miller's have no association with MTSU other than owning horses.

Third time's a charm



Brian G. Miller/ staff

Senior guard Torrey Moore makes his way around Southeast Missouri defenders during Tuesday's 89-74 win over the Indians in the first round of OVC tournament play. The Blue Raiders face off against Murray State in second round play Friday night at 7 p.m. at the new Nashville Arena. Please see story on page 7.

MTSU department space falls short of TBR average

By Jamie Evans/ staff

Recently a draft report on MTSU's departmental space needs was constructed, and it showed that some departments on campus are in serious need of more space.

"Even despite the construction of the business and aerospace building and the new library, we will fall way short of other Tennessee Board of Regent's institutions," says Dr. Duane Stucky, vice president of finance and administration.

According to Stucky, the average TBR institution has 217 square feet per full time student equivalency. Currently, MTSU has 146 square feet per FTE.

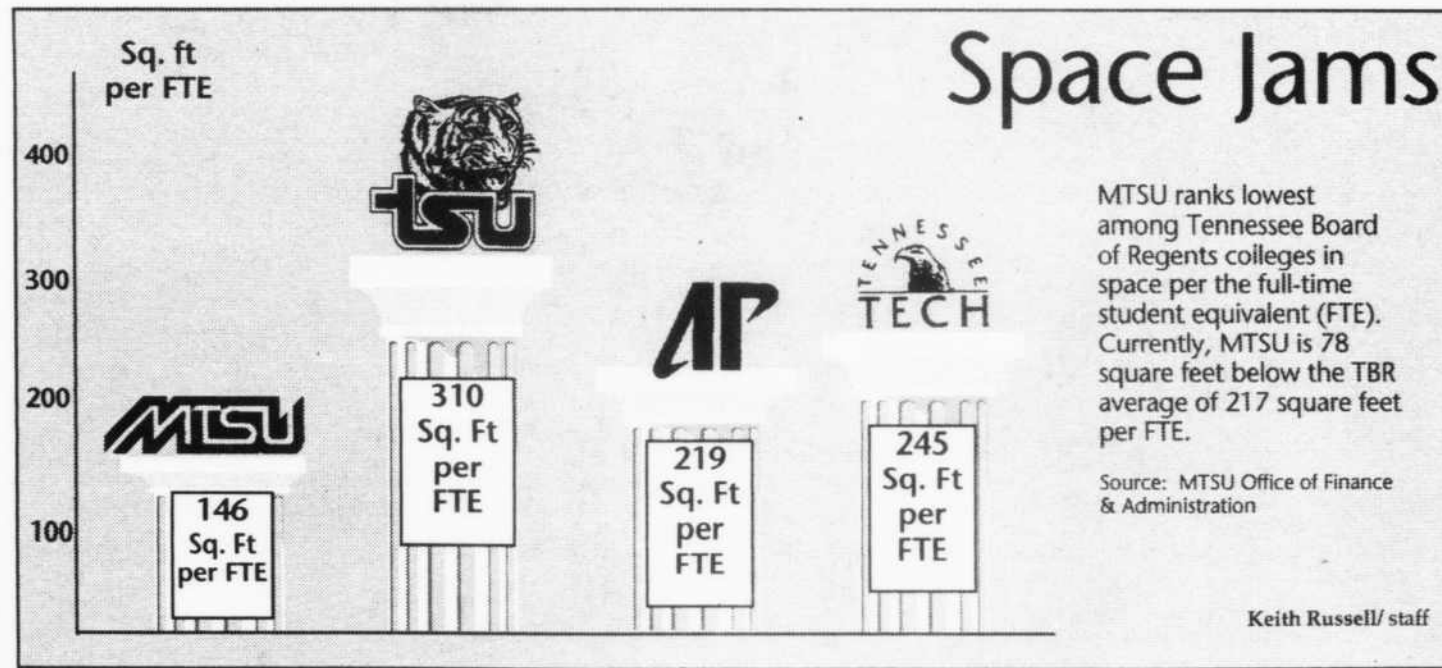
"We need another 500,000 square feet to achieve the average for the TBR institutions," Stucky said.

The focus of the deficit is on two main departments: science and art.

"The need for space in the sciences in some areas are more acute than in others," Stucky said.

Biology is the department with the greatest deficit of assignable square feet. The biology department is facing a shortage of 42,936 asf.

These numbers were figured by Paulien And Associates of Denver,



Colorado.

The methods the company uses to calculate the numbers depend on enrollment size, the number of faculty, and the amount of research being conducted by the university.

The art barn also needs to be replaced, Stucky says. He said he feels that the current facility is unacceptable.

Every year, the state turns in proposals for buildings that show why the need for such buildings are needed. This proposal moves on to the TBR, where it is put on a priority list that represents all of Tennessee's higher education institutions.

Parking lots also take up valuable space for campus development, says

Stucky. He adds that a parking structure would reduce this problem and eventually will be a necessity for the growth of the university.

This first report is only a draft, and the final will be released at a later date.

staff writer Chad Gillis contributed to this story

Housing deposits to rise for fall

By Ladawna Dodd/ staff

It will cost more money to secure residence in university housing next semester, said Deborah Sells, director of housing and residential life.

Housing and residential life held an open forum Monday to offer students living on campus an opportunity to talk about problems or questions they had about issues affecting campus life.

The increase in housing prepayment from \$50 to \$200 was the main concern.

Deborah Sells, director of housing and residential life, told students that the increase was to help insure that only students who are serious about wanting to live on campus will reserve space.

"We were having to turn people away who really wanted and needed to live on campus...because other students had reserved spots while they checked out their other options," Sells said.

Sells said she hopes the increase to \$200 will deter students from using university housing as a fall-back option while inquiring into other options like apartments or condominiums.

Students also questioned progress on the new laundry facilities.

David Gray, director of facility services, said the bid for the new laundry facilities is to go out within the next month.

To curb the cost of updating existing laundry facilities, Sells said students might be asked to pay 75 cents for the washers instead of the current 50 cents, and 50 cents for the dryers as opposed to the current 25 cents.

For the increase in dryer cost, Sells said there are plans to increase drying time so that it only takes one cycle to dry clothes.

According to Gray, there are two new parking lots in progress. One will be located next to the recreation center and the other will be located behind the mass communications building. Gray did not know what color permit would be required to park in those lots.

Wood/Felder Hall is slated to become a leadership/scholarship hall with 70-80 percent freshmen residency, according to Cathy Crooks, assistant director for residence education.

The remainder of the residency will be made up of upper-class students who meet the qualifications and exhibit strong leadership and mentoring skills.

"It will be a living learning center," Crooks said.

Todd Library quizzes students on black history

By Carolyn Anne Copenhaver/ staff

The Todd Library is contributing to the African-American History Month by sponsoring a trivia contest with prizes donated by the U.S. Postal Service.

Contest questions are posted on an easel by the reference desk each weekday during February. Anyone may submit answers, and the first correct answer drawn at random will win lapel pins that are replicas of Black Heritage stamps or other commemorative items.

According to library staff members, all of the answers may be found in books about African-Americans in the reference collection.

"The Todd Library is pleased to once again participate in the celebration of African-American History Month," said Don Craig, dean of the Library. "Our efforts in the past have been in displaying various posters, books and bulletin boards."

The trivia questions challenge students to identify African-American women and men who were involved in civil rights, the Civil War, literature, sports and entertainment.

"The Public Relations Committee for the Library decided to do this in order to raise awareness and to get people using the library," said Kristin Kubly, librarian and chairman of the Public Relations Committee. "It is just our way of contributing to African-American History Month."

The Library is also the site of one of the African-American History Month stamp exhibits depicting famous African-Americans.

"I think this is a most unusual opportunity for the campus community to be exposed to these original works of art," commented Craig.

Books by Cornel West, author and professor of religion and Afro-

Please see LIBRARY page 2

Politics, truth and experience



Steve Purington/ staff

Dr. Kay Cole James speaks to Professor Steve Saunders's Foundation of Government 223 class Tuesday in Peck Hall. Dr. James visited campus as part of African-American History Month.

LIBRARY:

continued from page 1

American studies at Harvard University, and illustrator Tom Feelings's children's books will be on display on the main floor of the Library.

West will appear tonight at 7 p.m. in the Alumni Center to sign copies of his books and to present a lecture titled "Race Matters."

"We've had a really good response to the contest. We

thought that we might not, but we did. People have really gotten excited and involved," said Kubly.

Ginny Vesper, collection development librarian, and Ken Middleton, user-services librarian, have developed world wide web sites in recognition of African-American History Month. Vesper's site is titled "Celebration of African-American Writers," and the address is <http://www.mtsu.edu/~vvesper/afam.html>.

Middleton's site is titled

"African-American History: A Guide to MTSU Library and Internet Sources," and can be accessed at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddle/history/blackhis.html>.

There will also be a link to both sites on the Todd Library Home Page during this month (<http://www.mtsu.edu/~library>).

Any questions, comments or suggestions should be directed to extensions 2772 or 2539. Suggestions of ideas for Women's History Month (March) will be welcomed. •

'Somebody lost their peacock'



A peacock sits in a tree outside of the JUB last week. "A lot of people keep peacocks on their farms," said Tony Johnston, professor of agriscience. "They're good watchdogs."

Messick family donates store records

By Jamie Evans/ staff

Messick Family Pharmacy, which was located on the Murfreesboro square, has closed its doors.

But the Messick family has made a deal with MTSU that will insure that the community will forever benefit from the pharmacy.

MTSU will receive 74 volumes of old business records which will be refurbished and made available for viewing at the Gore Research Center.

Although the pharmacy has been operating continuously for more than 100 years, it has been called by the names of several different

owners, most recently the Messick family. Most of the records date back to the 1920s when the store was called Kerr's Pharmacy.

"That Mrs. Messick presented these materials to the university is very consistent with the late Jesse Messick's commitment to local history and to the preservation of the values and traditions of his community," said Jim Neal, director of the Gore Research Center.

Neal said that although these records have no considerable monetary worth, they have a great social value.

"They help researchers describe the entrepreneurial

activity that was central to the development of community values in Murfreesboro," Neal said.

According to Neal, The Gore Center is additionally interested in obtaining family business records, especially if they illustrate rural trends in business.

"The more documentation we have of local businesses, firms, churches, and other local activities and institutions," Neal said, "the better we know who we are, how we got here, and what it will take for us to get where we want to go."

The records will be available in the Gore Center in six weeks. •

On Campus



THURSDAY, Feb. 27

National Association of Environmental Professionals will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Red Rose Cafe. Call Chris Crowe at 867-4178 for more information.

FRIDAY, Feb. 28

Media and Society Forum featuring Dr. Elyce Helford (English) and Dr. Julie Andsager (Journalism) will be at noon in PH 317. Brown Bag Lunch. Free and open to the public.

February-March 1997

Japanese Doll Exhibit at the Clarksville-Montgomery County Museum, 200 South Second Street, Clarksville, TN. Tues.-Sat. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sun. 1:00-5:00 p.m. Admission: Adults \$3.00, Seniors \$2.00, Children 6-18 \$1.00, Children under 5 free. For more information call the Japan Center of Tennessee 898-2229 or Clarksville-Montgomery County Museum (615) 648-5780.

SATURDAY, March 1

Spring Fashion Show hosted by MTSU Dames Club is at 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Tennessee Room at JUB. Everyone invited to attend. Tickets at door. For more information call Valerie Avent, 896-0323 or Cindy Womack, 898-2622.

SUNDAY, March 2

Model United Nations meets every Sunday night. Anyone who is interested in international relations and current global issues is invited to attend. Check the Model U.N. bulletin board outside PH 211 for meeting times and locations or call William Duston at 904-6068.

Wesley Foundation University Worship meets at

8:00 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation across from Gore and Clement Halls. Call Bill Campbell at 893-0469 for more information.

MONDAY, March 3

Golden Key National Honor Society will hold its induction and reception for new members at 5:30 p.m. in JUB Tennessee Room.

TUESDAY, March 4

"Your Job Search" career placement orientation for seniors and graduate students will be held by the Placement and Student Employment Center at 2 p.m. in KUC 305. For more information contact Martha Turner at 898-2500.

1997 MTSU Quiz Bowl is at 6 p.m. in the LRC TV studio. Open to all clubs and organizations. Teams up to four people. Entrance fee \$15. Interested organizations go to KOM 226A or call 898-2673 or 898-2813 to enter.

Campus Crusade for Christ will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Bragg Mass Comm. 103. Call Janelle Cox 867-3054 for more information.

Wesley Foundation Tuesday Night Supper is a weekly event at 5:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation across from Gore and Clement Halls. Great home cooking. For more information call Bill Campbell at 893-0469.

Lambda Association, an organization for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons, will meet at 7 p.m. in MC 104. For more information call 780-2293, or visit our web page at www.mtsu.edu/~mtlambda/.

WEDNESDAY, March 5 Faculty Clarinet Recital

featuring Daniel Lochrie will be in Wright Music Hall at 8 p.m. Please call 898-2490 or 262-0433 for more information.

Resume Writing and Interview Preparation Seminar for seniors and graduate students at 2 p.m. in KUC 305. Call Martha Turner at 898-2500 for more information.

THURSDAY, March 6

Walt Disney World College Programs Presentation will be held at 6 p.m. in KUC 322. Interviews will take place on Friday, March 7. Students must be present at the presentation in order to interview. Call Temple Bennett at 898-2500 for more information.

GRADUATING SENIORS

All May 1997 Graduating Seniors are required to take the ACT-COMP. The test will be given three times during the fall semester: March 4, 5, and 6. On these dates, students may choose from three different test times: 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m., or 6 p.m. All test administrations will be held in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. No pre-registration is necessary. If there are questions, please contact Ruth Watson at 898-2854.

March-April 1997

Child Abuse Prevention of Tennessee needs volunteers to answer statewide Parent Helpline/Domestic Violence Hotline, to work with parents of newborns in the Parent Pathway Program, to assist with parenting classes, or to assist with child care during the parenting classes. Training will be in March/April. For more information call 227-2273.



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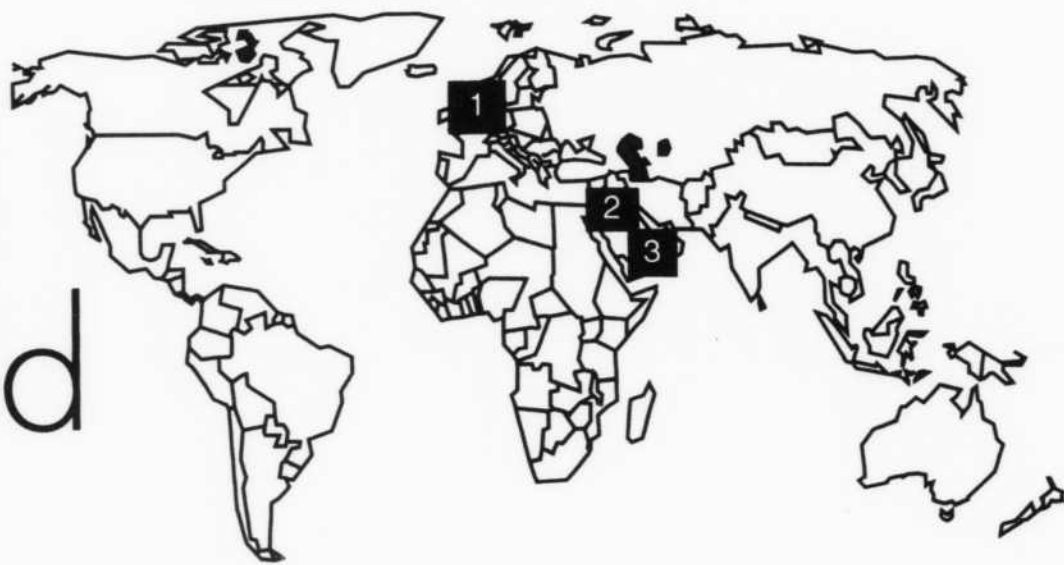
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Around the World



ILO conference hosts 30 leaders

1 AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Ten-year-old farm workers inhaling pesticides. Twelve-year-olds toiling in sweat shops and rickety mine shafts. Pre-teen girls forced to sell their bodies in brothels.

Denouncing child labor as a shameful legacy of the 19th century, leaders from 30 nations opened a two-day conference Wednesday to lay the groundwork for an international convention to outlaw the practice.

As many as 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 work as in jobs that pay little, or nothing, and leave many physically and emotionally scarred for life, the International Labor Organization said.

"At work, we suffer maltreatment, hunger and illness and are in danger of being raped. We do not get any type of protection from society," said Anna Maria Catin Torrentes, a 17-year-old

Nicaraguan who became a street vendor at 8 and was among the former child laborers who testified.

Just as the Geneva Convention outlawed chemical weapons, a global treaty is needed to ban child labor, said Cabinet ministers and children's advocates from Asia, Africa and Latin America who attended the conference.

The United Nations enacted a convention in 1973 calling on nations to set 15 as the basic minimum work age, with 13 the minimum for light work and 18 the minimum for hazardous work.

Most countries have ratified at least some aspects of that agreement. But the reforms haven't taken hold in some developing nations, where low living standards force many children to help their families make ends meet.

"I am from a village, and most of my family are, or have been, working children," said Romaine Dieng, 21, a former child laborer from Senegal who went to work at 11 cleaning houses. "It is unthinkable that one could prohibit child work without abolishing poverty."

The new child labor convention, to be enacted at the

International Labor Conference in 1999 and ratified by individual nations beginning in 2000, would set strict penalties for those who employ the young.

Jewish community in Jerusalem disputed

2 JERUSALEM (AP) — Taking a gamble with Mideast peace, Israel today approved plans to build a Jewish neighborhood in disputed east Jerusalem despite U.S. misgivings and Palestinian warnings of violence.

The unanimous decision was announced following three hours of talks between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and 12 of his 18 Cabinet ministers.

Palestinian officials reacted angrily. "With this decision, Israel put the peace process in danger," said Yasser Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abourdeneh.

"Jerusalem is a ball of fire and if this ball of fire explodes it will burn all other things," Ahmed Abdel Rahman, the secretary-general of the Palestinian Cabinet, told The

Associated Press.

Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh did not set a starting date for construction but said preparations could be completed within days. Israeli peace activists said they would appeal to the Supreme Court to block construction.

Hussein denounces U.S. as 'dictatorship'

3 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Slogans of human rights and democracy are meant to hide the ugliest dictatorship ever known to humanity," Iraqi President Saddam Hussein says.

In a speech Tuesday filled with anti-American invective, Saddam promised never to bend to international pressure on his government.

The United States wants "to impose a system of greed and ambition ... on the world," Saddam said in remarks broadcast by state television.

"They are using slogans of democracy and human rights ... but the fact is they are the ugliest dictatorship ever known to humanity."

Bullen's lecture questions political morals

By Randy Ford/ staff

With allegations of corruption in national politics, one local politician says he wants students to understand political morals.

Bob Bullen, professor of educational leadership and a Rutherford County Commissioner, will present "Elected Office: Can You Save Your Soul and Keep Your Seat?" on Monday, March 3.

The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be in Peck Hall, room 107, from 3:30 to 4:20 p.m.

Bullen said his discussion will "center around elected

officials being confronted with tough decisions and eventually being confronted with the offer to make money."

Bullen said that to stay in office, politicians must remember to keep their integrity, philosophy, and values. He thinks it's important for politicians to learn how to control what he calls the "Four Horsemen of Destruction for Politicians: position, power, prominence, and publicity."



Bob Bullen

"We live in a democracy and need to realize that someday the present generation will hand the torch to them," he said.

Whether students enter office themselves or not, he explained, they should understand the ethical issues confronting politicians.

"We need to completely evaluate the type of people we encourage to hold office and what to watch for with people already in office," he said.

Bullen—who has been in office since 1986—said he will use his firsthand experiences to illustrate the points of his lecture, which will not be "the usual lecture."

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Opinions

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Sidelines

Thursday, February 27, 1997

In our view

Support Blue Raider basketball

MTSU's men's and women's basketball teams showed this campus Tuesday night that they are worthy of our admiration. Now it is time for Blue Raiders fans to generate the same level of effort and excitement that they have seen on the court all season long.

At home in the friendly confines of Murphy Center, the Blue Raiders men's team advanced to the second round of the OVC tournament, defeating a Southeast Missouri State team that had beaten them twice earlier in the season. The team now squares off against Murray State at the new Nashville Arena Friday night at 7 p.m., with a chance to play in the OVC championship Saturday afternoon—and the automatic bid in the NCAA tournament that goes with it—up for grabs.

In Clarksville, meanwhile, the Lady Raiders took a positive first step on the road to salvaging a disappointing regular season with a 60-59 upset win over Austin Peay. Coach Lewis Bivens's team now moves on to play Tennessee Tech in the second round. Game time is 9 p.m.

Both teams deserve nothing less than this university's enthusiastic support. In his first year as head coach here, Randy Wiel has molded his team into an exciting group that manages to overcome its lack of size with hard work and determination. And while the Lady Raiders may have not lived up to the lofty standards they established after last season's success, they proved Tuesday night that they still haven't lost their desire to win.

The Blue Raiders' basketball teams have represented this university well, and have brought much-needed excitement at a time of pending state budget cuts and construction nightmares. Now, the teams hope to extend their respective seasons 45 minutes up the road in Nashville. When they take the court, they should hear this university's appreciation in the applause of their fellow students and supporters of MTSU.



Jump on the Blue Raiders' bandwagon



Ramblings

Warren Wakeland

It's come to my favorite time of the year again (other than summer), and I'm ready.

It's time to be a basketball jones. March Madness. The Big Dance. The Rock. Dipsy-doo-dunkeroo. Windex Man. PTPer. OD on Dickie V, baby.

Heaven on earth.

I love college basketball for one reason — unlike the pros, the regular season isn't much different from the playoffs.

In the pros, you see guys who know they're going to make their millions whether or not they play hard on the court, field or diamond. So you see lots of loafing and little excitement.

Not college basketball. If a team wins their first game of the season against Dump On Me State on a layup at the buzzer, you'd think they just won the NCAA championship. They're all over the place. They all need Valium.

Come March Madness, the level of emotion and excitement quintuples, from high to stratospheric. Ask any of the MTSU players what it would mean to win the OVC tournament and make it to The Big Dance (the NCAA tournament), and to a man I guarantee they'll tell you it would be the greatest moment of their lives.

That time may be coming. With their 89-74 first-round OVC tournament win Tuesday night against Southeast Missouri State, the Blue Raiders play Friday night against Murray State at 7 p.m. in the OVC semifinals at Nashville Arena. Win

that and the final Saturday at 1 p.m., and they go to The Big Dance.

It's VERY possible.

And this team deserves to have every one of you show up in Nashville this weekend to cheer them on.

One year ago, the men's basketball program was in shambles. Five years of losing, caused by NCAA sanctions for paying players, were topped off with a 12-15 record, a 20-point first-round tournament beating, and calls for the coach's head. The calls were heeded.

Enter Randy Wiel.

At first, some of the alumni frowned a little. They wanted a big name coach to draw big name recruits who could bring MTSU back to the glory days of the late 80s and early 90s, which were highlighted by a 21-9 record in 1991.

Without buying the recruits, of course.

But Athletic Director Lee Fowler recognized that Wiel had some good breeding. He is a disciple of North Carolina head coach Dean Smith — better known as The Lord God of College Basketball. To Fowler, this fact alone meant Wiel knew his stuff. When the Almighty Father of the Hardwood personally called Fowler to tell him Wiel knew his stuff, that was good enough. Fowler ain't dumb, you know.

Nobody's frowning now. The Blue Raiders finished the regular season 18-11, their best record since the best-players-money-can-buy days. Wiel most certainly will be named OVC Coach of the Year, and if it isn't unanimous somebody needs to be shot.

What Wiel has done is simple. He's let the players play a style of game they can have fun playing, that is fun to watch, and produces results.

He's made a concerted effort to go

into the community and get people excited about MTSU basketball again, which is something the previous head coach refused to do.

He's also reportedly gotten some top-notch talent to commit to MTSU for next year, including a 6-10 center, so the glory days may be on the way back.

And, like a champion thoroughbred, he's got that good breeding.

You know, if you check the long distance phone records from Wiel's office phone, I'll bet you'll find at least a couple of calls a week from student mentor for brief refresher courses on game strategy and other basketball stuff.

That means this program will be influenced by The Legend for some time to come.

Wiel has started building a foundation that will lead to something great in the future. Mark my words.

And, since Wiel is a Smith protege (and since UNC has never been close to probation), I think it's safe to say Wiel will do things the proper way.

What all this means is we got us a jim dandy rock coach here. And a pretty good rock team, too.

So, if you're going to Nashville to party Friday night, leave a little early and take in some MTSU hoop at the Arena. You can hit Mere Bulles and The Wildhorse later to celebrate a victory. If you're not going to Nashville — well, you better just change your plans, pilgrim.

A lot of hard work has gone into this program in a short period of time, and the results can easily be seen. The players and coaches deserve to know their work is appreciated. They deserve your support.

And Mr. Fowler, please don't lose this guy to the SEC in four years, OK?

Sidelines

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Sidelines is the non-profit editorially independent student newspaper of MTSU and is published every Monday and Thursday. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily those of *Sidelines* or the university.

Letters Policy

Sidelines encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Authors who want more than 300 words to express themselves should contact the editor. *Sidelines* keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, classification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) *Sidelines* reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel.

E-Mail letters to stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu. Send letters to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the *Sidelines* office in JUB Room 310.

Got a gripe? Let us hear about it.



E-mail your letters to the editor to *Sidelines* at:
stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu

Administration should reconsider budget cuts

To the Editor:

MTSU is exploring various ways to cut back in order to meet budget limitations. President Walker said that one place he wants to avoid making cutbacks is to not cap enrollment. MTSU has stalled repeatedly in making up salary deficiencies for its faculty. Now Walker proposes capping faculty hiring but not student enrollment. Who is going to teach in these bulging classrooms? Does MTSU's administration propose to value quantity over quality education?

This university is blessed with a multitude of extremely fine educators who already have full workloads and are working with limited educational resources. (For example: our poor selection in the periodical section of the library, and our limited access to a library which operates on a schedule that rivals a small rural community facility.) Professors' loyalty to MTSU and loyalty to an educational standard of excellence will falter in the face of neglect, and our most excellent teachers will be driven out MTSU's door when neglect persists in slipping to the status of use and abuse of our finest faculty.

It used to be that corruption in football and other sports programs made a mockery of higher education by graduating players who were illiterate. Now statistics show that

many of the finest athletes who bring recognition to the universities they represent are also incredibly talented scholars. But we will have driven these people away also. When they are approached for recruitment they will respond: "MTSU has great playing fields and audience facilities, but its a poor place to get an education. When I hang up my gear at 25 or 30 years old, I need to be able to get a good job."

Right now a comprehensive look at this campus is like looking at a youngster at a feast trying to indiscriminately gorge on everything at the table. When you go too far too fast, you don't get nourishment or healthy growth, you get obesity or vomit. If it is necessary that MTSU go on a diet, then let's be selective, and let's cut the excess fat, not the nutrients. Perhaps administration is where budget cuts should begin.

Sue/Jake Mullin
Senior: English and Journalism

Asst. prof questions columnist's intentions

To the Editor:

Scott Link apparently wants religion to play a larger role in American society. At least he has advocated the primacy of Christian beliefs in his series of columns about homosexuality. I suspect that he admires Puritan New England, where sodomy and adultery were subject to

severe punishments, including death. If in fact he does wish to return America to the good old days of Puritanism, then he should know that the Puritans considered marriage strictly a civil ceremony to be performed by magistrates, not ministers. (They also banned celebration of Christmas as a pagan ritual.)

Mr. Link also perpetuates the myth that lesbians and gays are beating on the doors of mainstream Christian churches, demanding that their clergy perform same-sex marriages. This view, if it applies at all, does not represent the majority of gay and lesbian couples who are primarily interested in receiving the benefits that society bestows upon married people. This is a public policy issue, not a religious one. I do not need the Baptists' stamp of approval on my relationships, just as they don't need my signature on their marriage licenses.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Williams
Assistant Professor of History

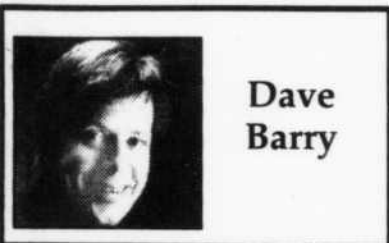
Marriage definition depends on dictionary

To the Editor:

Once again Mr. Link has decided to improve our grasp of the language as he knows it—by defining words such

please see LETTERS page 5

Enter the exciting world of a vegetable



Dave Barry

Two dramatic recent developments have demonstrated, once again, why these are such exciting times in which to be a vegetable.

For openers, scientists have finally realized one of humanity's oldest dreams—the dream of creating, in the laboratory, a potato that commits suicide.

If you don't believe me you should dig out your Oct. 24, 1996, issue of Machine Design magazine and check out the article on page 139, sent to me by alert reader Mark Mielke, concerning work being done by leading potato scientists in Cologne, which as you know is a city in France or Germany or possibly Belgium.

Wherever it is, Cologne contains the Max Planck Plant Breeding Institute, where scientists have been messing around with potato genes. Genes are little items that are found in every living thing except Sen. Alfonse D'Amato.

As most of us recall from biology class, a gene can be either "dominant" or "recessive," depending on which type of gene it is. With this knowledge and a pair of very tiny pliers, scientists can alter the genetic structure of a living thing, and the Cologne scientists have modified a potato so that, if it catches a fungus disease, it will cause itself to die. (I did not follow the technical details of how the potato does this, although we can probably rule out firearms, because many states, despite the clear intent of the U.S. Constitution, no longer allow vegetables to obtain handguns without a "cooling-off" period.)

The question is: Is it morally right to make potatoes commit suicide? Potatoes are, after all, living organisms that perform the same basic life functions as humans—growing, reproducing and purchasing state-lottery tickets. Can we look a potato square in its eyes and say that we have the right to "play God" this way? And once we do this to potatoes, what is to stop us from doing it to other species? Every day, in TV commercials and magazine advertisements, we see close-up color pictures of the feet of human beings who are suffering from the heartbreak of toe fungus. Are we going to start

putting suicidal potato genes into these people? I hope so, because those pictures are disgusting.

We also need to give serious thought to the issue of radicchio. I don't know about you, but I hate it when I order a salad, and instead of some nice, green lettuce, I get these scrawny sprigs of radicchio, which is Italian for "tastes so bad that even a starving goat spits it out." If we're going to make ANY vegetable suicidal, this is where we should start.

But enough about killing vegetables. What about the other side? What about the issue of HEALING vegetables, specifically tomatoes, through prayer? This issue recently was the subject of an experiment, which I absolutely swear I am not making up, conducted by Jay Ingram, who does a science show on the Discovery Channel on Canadian TV. According to newspaper articles sent in by several alert Canadian readers, the experiment involved six tubs of tomatoes, some of which had been punctured and infected with tomato blight. Some of the tomatoes were visited by healers, who, according to Ingram, directed "healing thoughts" toward them. The public was also invited to "think powerful healing thoughts when the tomatoes are periodically

shown on your TV screens."

The results, according to the show's Web site: [http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/\(tilde\)yliu/tomato.html](http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/(tilde)yliu/tomato.html)—were as follows:

"In the three tubs that had good thoughts sent to them, the average size of the wound was virtually the same as the wounds on the tomatoes in the control group. However, of the three tubs of tomatoes prayed for, one tub was interesting in that the size of the wounds was the smallest of the six tubs. What is the explanation for this? Is it simply biological variation? Or, is there something else at work here? More tightly controlled experiments would need to be conducted to explore this outcome."

So there you have it: A definite "We don't know" from the groundbreaking Canadian tomato-prayer experiment. The Web site does not say what happened to the tomatoes but it would not surprise me in the least to see them on TV advertising their new psychic hot line.

Meanwhile, all this research has aroused my scientific curiosity. I'm going to do conduct a tightly controlled experiment to see what happens when you put ketchup on fries. Pray for me. •

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Corrections

In last Monday's issue of "Sidelines," the headline in the OVC track championship article incorrectly recorded the finishes of MTSU's men's and women's track teams. The men's team finished in second place, while the women's team took third place in the meet. Sidelines regrets the error.

"Sidelines" incorrectly reported that Cornet West is a former Black Panther. Dr. West is not, nor was he ever a Black Panther. However, Dr. West said he is influenced by his experiences with the Black Panthers during his childhood. "Sidelines" regrets the error.

"Sidelines" incorrectly reported that Barbara Haskew was the head of the Equity Pay Commission. Duane Stucky is the head of the EPC. "Sidelines" regrets the error.

"Sidelines" incorrectly reported that the Faculty Senate invited lawyer Jonathan Alger to its last meeting. The American Association of University Professors invited Alger. "Sidelines" regrets the error.

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LETTERS:
continued from page 4

marriage. He hasn't told us what dictionary he has chosen as his infallible reference however. Mine (The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, The Unabridged 1967 Edition) has as an acceptable definition for marriage: "any close or intimate association or union." Perhaps "my" dictionary is out of date. We all know that language changes over time—just think of all that wonderful stuff by Chaucer from pre-1400. Then of course there was the time when faggot clearly meant a bundle of twigs. Mr. Link surely knows what that word

has come to mean. I guess one could say that language evolves. Excuse me Mr. Link for using such an undoubtedly offensive word.

Semantics aside, it is not the blessing of "the" (one and only one?) "church" which is being sought but rather legal benefits from the state. It is abundantly clear where Mr. Link stands regarding who should and should not have acceptance from "the church." I wonder what he thinks about legal benefits (from the state) for ALL of the many groups he assures us "God doesn't like."

Wayne C. Rosing, Professor
Faculty Advisor, MTSU
Lambda

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Interviewing For: SUMMER & FALL 1997 INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS
Presentation Date: THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1997
Time: 1:00 P.M. Location: KEATLEY UNIVERSITY CTR. #322
For more information, contact: MTSU PLACEMENT & STUDENT EMPLOYMENT CENTER, KUC #328 OR CALL 898-2500

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On Saturday, thousands of self-proclaimed Parrot Heads will find happiness

Wastin' Away in Margaritaville

By Jennie Treadway/ staff

He has been at the microphone in his patagonia cut-offs and flip-flops since 1970, comfortably catering to an animated flock of fans. Since then, the careful conga-line mixture of guitar, steel drums and maracas, along with his beach-bum lyrics and goofy grins, lured in the kind of fans only Jimmy Buffett could: Parrot Heads.

As a play on the Grateful Dead's "Dead Heads," Jimmy Buffett fans are avid listeners of the tranquil tunes and the messages the lyrics send. At concerts, they tend to dress up in feathered hats, Hawaiian shirts, and hula skirts, adhering to the relaxed philosophies of a Caribbean lifestyle.

"I play to a variety of bird people, shark people and lizard people," wrote Buffett in a letter to his fans printed in the cover of *Feeding Frenzy*. "Parents bring their children. Children bring their parents. I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be considered family entertainment."

Buffett will be performing for a sold-out crowd on March 2 in the Nashville Arena. His 27th album, *Banana Wind*, recorded in Key West, sparked another tour, and many MTSU students have their tickets in hand.

"I've been a fan for about 10 years," said Parrot Head Amanda Plageman. "Mom was a fan long before I was."

Plageman, who will be at Sunday's show with a group

of friends, heard Buffett for the first time when she lived in Key West for two years.

"I love the sound of his voice, the life he's lived and the instruments he uses," she said.

After graduating from Southern Mississippi University in 1967, Jimmy Buffett traveled everywhere from Nashville to Key West playing his music in coffee houses and college campuses, creating his unique lyrics from personal experiences drawn from living in the Caribbean and all over the South.

Since his first album, *Down to Earth*, debuted in 1970, Buffett has acquired millions of fans, giving rise to over 40 Parrot Head clubs across the United States. In order to keep in touch with his fans, he put his journalism degree to use and began a newspaper called the *Coconut Telegraph*, which is sold in the Margaritaville Store in Key West and is available for subscription.

Freshman Chris Roarke grew up listening to "Margaritaville" and "Come Monday" thanks to the influence of his parents. Having been to a Buffett performance before, he said having the concert at the arena "takes away some of the flavor."

"It should be outside, at Starwood," he said.

The appeal of Jimmy Buffett seems to be his way of living. He enjoys the simple pleasures of life, but also makes an effort to support environmental issues, such as the protection and salvation of the manatees.

"The concert itself is a lot different than hearing him on CD," said Angie Barmer, who saw Buffett in Memphis two years ago. "He talks to the audience and puts you in a realm of Caribbean rhythm, margaritas and happiness."



Photo by John Haynsworth, courtesy of Margaritaville Records

Jimmy Buffett, the guru of the Parrot Heads, will play a sold-out show at the Nashville Arena on March 2. The concert is part of the tour for Buffett's latest album, *Banana Wind*.

While some fans easily characterize themselves as Parrot Heads by their scrapbooks of concert stubs and closets full of flowered shirts, others just recognize the catchy lyrics and tunes over the radio.

"The only songs I know are 'Margaritaville,' 'Let's Get Drunk and Screw,' and 'Cheeseburger in Paradise,'" said freshman Katrina Wize. "But when I hear them come on, it's like — 'yeah, Jimmy Buffett!'"

Having proven himself to be a musician for every

generation, Jimmy Buffett continues to lure in millions of fans to his concerts each year. The Margaritaville Cafe restaurant in Key West is a magnet for Parrot Heads and vacationers alike, and is also the place to find a "Cheeseburger in Paradise."

"Basic thing is that I'm an entertainer. I always have been," Buffett said in an interview for *The Caduceus of Kappa Sigma*. "I'm just there to give people a couple of hours of relief from world problems." •

Renowned poet shares her feelings at book signing



Steve Purinton/ staff

Celebrated poet Nikki Giovanni signs books at Davis-Kidd Booksellers. Giovanni visited Nashville last Friday to sign her new collection, *Love Poems*.

By Lisa Meyer/ staff

Nikki Giovanni opened her book and prepared to read. "I want to try to read these poems without crying," said the poet and author of *Love Poems*, a collection of over 50 poems.

Giovanni read selections of her poetry in Nashville at Davis-Kidd Booksellers last Friday, Feb. 21. Giovanni, 53, is a professor of English at Virginia Tech and author of 14 volumes of poetry.

A diverse crowd of men and women of all ages and races gathered in the middle of the bookstore as Giovanni read her first selection, "And Yeah...This Is A Love Poem." "I'm definitely going to need a tissue for this," she said, and a gentleman from the audience handed her a tissue. "I'm going to have to quit being touched by my words."

She reads quickly and naturally, as though speaking her mind, not reading: "...he said I will stand because today it doesn't matter if I am alone/ I need to stand and testify / and yeah this is a love poem for that brother who decided for this point in time/ I will be my better self... And we all are very proud of him."

Robert Branch, a member of the audience new to Giovanni's work, said that she was encouraging and entertaining. "I was moved by what she had to say and captivated by the way she presented it."

Giovanni's second selection, "Telephone Poem," captures the simplicity and beauty of female relationships.

"Girlfriends are so important," she said. "Nothing is as important as girlfriends."

Giovanni giggled as she finished reading the poem, which is a reflection of a blossoming friendship between two girls: "Hang Up No You Hang Up First."

Staci Shands, associate publicist for

William Morrow & Company, said that Giovanni's writing inspires courage and power. Giovanni's popularity soared during the civil rights movement, as she became known as a "poet of the people," Shands said.

"Giovanni's gift transcends racial barriers, and her fresh and topical approach to writing has made her a universal favorite," she said.

Giovanni was named "Woman of the Year" by *Mademoiselle*, *Ladies' Home Journal* and *Essence* magazines. Several of her volumes have sold more than 100,000 copies.

Gloria Naylor, a novelist known for her strong depictions of black women and author of *The Women of Brewster Place*, referred to Giovanni as "one of our national treasures."

"For decades she has offered her wit and wisdom, her bruising honesty, and, above all, her unbounded love through these poems unlike any volume of her poetry previously published," Naylor said.

Alisa Brown, a member of the audience and a fan of Giovanni's work, found her poems inspirational. "Giovanni motivates us to look at the truth in life and the truth inside of ourselves, truth we tend to hide or deny," said Brown, a graphic artist at Berry Company. "She inspires us not to be afraid to show ourselves what we really feel."

Giovanni's third and final selection from her poetry reading was, "What It Is."

"If it is chocolate we can dip it/ if it's a golf ball we can chip it/ if it's gum we can chew it/ I hope it's love so we can do it."

Before Giovanni went to her table to sign copies of her book for a plethora of fans, she offered advice to the aspiring writers in the audience. She said that to be an effective writer, the subject matter must emotionally stimulate the writer.

"If you are a writer, and you don't laugh at it, it's not funny," she said. "And if you do not cry, it's not sad." •

Legendary blues performer comes to Murphy Center

By: Rachel Parrish /staff

To the delight of jazz and blues fans, blues legend Bobby "Blue" Bland will be performing this Friday night in Murphy Center at 7:30 p.m.

Born Robert Calvin Bland in Rosemont, Tn., Bland began his career in the late 1940s. At 17, he joined a small gospel group called the Miniatures.

"I don't even remember who was in that group," he says. "Back then, I kicked around some spirituals out in the country and sang a few songs in church."

"I'm a country boy," he continues. "I grew up in the rural and I wouldn't take anything for it. Growing up in Tennessee was a real country-type environment."

Back in those days, Bland grew up listening to Blind Lemon Jefferson. Jefferson, in his own right, was responsible for the style of most modern blues singers of that day. Along with jazz, Bland enjoys country and gospel music. From his favorite gospel singer/preacher, the late C.L. Franklin, the father of Aretha Franklin, he learned his trade mark "Bland Growl."

He finally began to blossom in 1949 when he joined the Beal Streeters, who at the time consisted of Earl Foree, Willie Nix, Billy Duncans, Roscoe Gordon and Johnny Ace.

"All the blues we did in Beal Streeters had a gospel flavor," Bland recalls. "We played in juice joints in West Memphis and parts of Arkansas."

Though things were going pretty smoothly with the Beal Streeters, Bland longed for a voice of his own. His friend and employer, B.B. King,

realized Bland's potential from early on.

"I would drive 'B' to and from his shows," Bland says. "From time to time, during the intermissions, he would let me get up and do a song. He was a always good that way — looking to give other artists a break."

"I first met B when he was working at a radio station, WDIA, in Memphis," he recalls. "He had a show on Saturday mornings, and sometimes he would let me perform a song."

Bobby "Blue" Bland soon began performing on amateur nights at the Palace Theater in Memphis.

"Every Wednesday night there was an amateur show, and I could sing a little bit of everything, you know like Joe Turner or B.B. King. One night they had some scouts out of Texas, and that's where I got discovered," he says of the 1952 Duke records signing.

That same year, Bland entered the military and moved to Houston, where, in 1956, he released his first of 63 solo hits, "Further on up the Road."

Still not entirely satisfied with his results, Bland went in search of his own distinct sound and hooked up with Benton and Otis.

"Brooke Burton and Clyde Otis wrote the tune 'I'll Take Care of You' around 1959. It had a good story and helped me cross over to a softer side of singing that I hadn't done before. I started doing more ballads after that."

Under the Duke label, Bland began belting out many more classic tunes, such as "I Pity the Fool," "Turn on Your Love Light" and "That's the Way Love Is." He now feels that was

his best musical period.

Beginning to be inspired by jazz singers, Bland took his Blues to another level by adding brass and reeds to his ballads.

"Jazz is my favorite music," says the 1992 Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame inductee. "After the service, I got a chance to listen to Stanley Turrentine, David 'Fathead' Newman, Hank Crawford and Gene Simmons. I do a lot of jazz type arrangements in my songs."

Recordings such as "Stormy Monday" and the ever-popular "St. James Infirmary" are reminders that Bland, much like the classic artists he chooses to listen to, can also put out some classics of his own.

Since pop-radio audiences are now divided out into adult contemporary, country, hard rock and rap, Bland feels that the blues have taken a back seat.

"(The blues) could use a little shot in the arm," he says. "They should be played all week. It's not really getting the attention it should, like it did in the '60s and '70s."

"What's kept me here so long," he continues, "is the fact that my songs have staying power. In the music business, you have to rely on what you've done in the past."

Bland feels that most audiences do love his earlier music, but in concerts they don't really respond to the more updated, contemporary sounds.

"It takes its toll at times because you've been doing them [the concerts] for so long. But some nights are good — you feel better about it when you have a good audience," he relates.

"And then, there are some nights that are real downers, but that's life." •

Around Town

328 Performance Hall 259-3288

Saturday, March 1, 8 p.m. — Presidents of the United States of America with special guests Crumbox. Tickets \$15.

527 Main Street 890-8692

Thursday, Feb. 27 — Mel and the Party Hats
Friday, Feb. 28 — Dance Party with Troy Janes with the Gold's Gym Bikini Hardbodies Contest
Saturday, March 1 — Crosstown Traffic

The Boro 895-4800

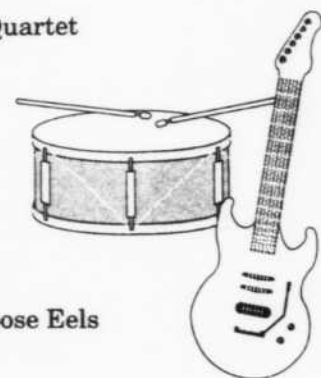
All shows begin at 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted
Thursday, Feb. 27 — Jack Johnson and Laughing Storm Dogs
Friday, Feb. 28 — Bloody Lovelies
Saturday, March 1 — Janie Grey
Sunday, March 2 — Roland Gresham Jazz Quartet

The Bunganut Pig 893-7860

Thursday, Feb. 27 — Crosstown Traffic
Friday, Feb. 28 — Steve Holt
Saturday, March 1 — Blue Like Me

Jonathan's on the Square 895-1133

Thursday, Feb. 27 — Dean Hall and The Loose Eels
Friday, Feb. 28 — Party Krewe Shindig '97
Saturday, March 1 — 40 East



Sports & Recreation

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Sidelines

Page 7

GET READY FOR THE MADNESS

Raiders advance to OVC semifinals, 89-74

By Lesli Bales/ Staff

Despite seeing a 21-point half-time lead being whittled down to just a five-point spread with just over seven minutes left, MTSU battled back to beat Southeast Missouri 89-74 in Tuesday night's first round OVC Tournament game.

The win marked the first against the Indians all season and the last home game for seniors Roni Bailey, Nod Carter, Torrey Moore and Chad Wampler.

"I think we played a wonderful first half," MTSU Coach Randy Wiel said. "This team attacks and speeds, and we had to respect their speed."

Luck of the draw placed the Indians against the Blue Raiders in first-round OVC tourney play. Although MTSU was seeded third and SEMO sixth, the pairing was ironic in that Southeast was the only team to sweep Middle twice this season, and the only team to beat MTSU at home.

The game looked like it might be a struggle for the Blue Raiders from the start as the Indians jumped out to a 6-2 lead in the first two minutes. However, back-to-back 3-point field goals by Torrey Moore and Richard Duncan gave MTSU its first lead at 17:47. After an Indian jumper to tie it at 8-all, a lay-up and free throw by Moore would give the Blue Raiders an 11-8 lead at 15:08. The lead would not be relinquished.

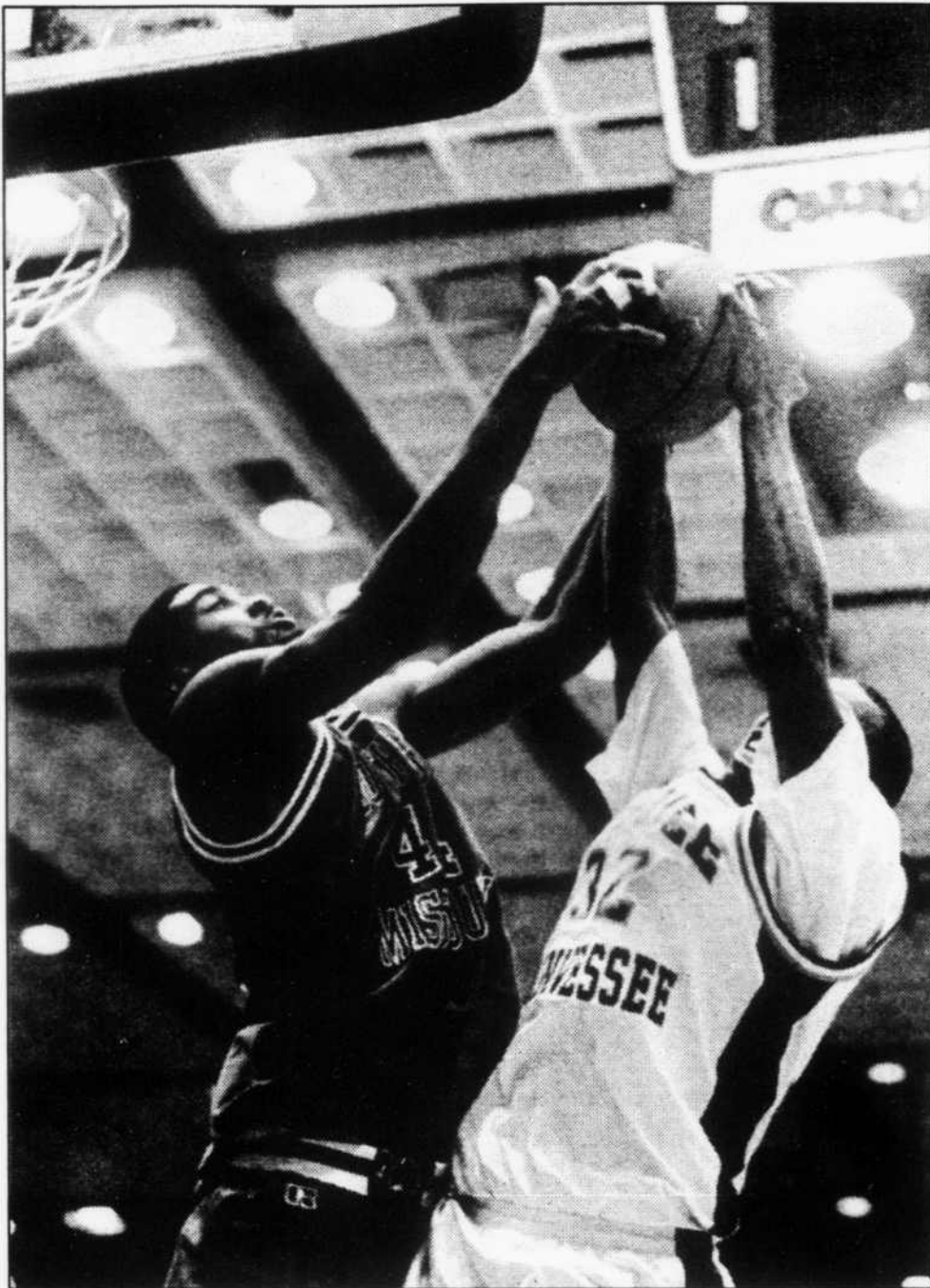
After SEMO hit a basket to narrow the lead to just one, a driving lay-up by Duncan sparked a 10-0 run by MTSU, ending with a climactic slam dunk by Malachi Allen that brought the home crowd of 2500 screaming fans to its feet. With ten minutes left to play in the first half, the Blue Raiders led 21-10.

A 7-0 run by the Blue Raiders culminated with a 3-pointer by Nod Carter at the 2:23 mark and extended the MTSU lead to 39-21. Another Carter long-range and free throws by Mantia Callender, Freddie Martinez, and K.J. Harden continued to increase the MTSU points to a 21-point deficit. The Blue Raiders left for the lockerroom with a half-time lead of 46-25.

SEMO started the second half with an Allen Hatchett 3-pointer and began to chip away at the Blue Raider lead. With only twelve minutes remaining in the game, the Indians had narrowed the margin, which had been at its largest at 22, to single digits.

A 20-second timeout by Southeast at the 10:48 mark was followed by a nail-biting 6-0 run by the Indians. Starting with a MTSU turnover, the Blue Raiders followed a SEMO lay-up by missing two chances in a row to score. An Indians jumper by Reginald Crisp was then followed immediately by an offensive foul against the Blue Raiders, allowing the Southeast team to cut the margin to a slim five on a basket by Bud Eley. MTSU again turned-over the ball twice in a row before calling a timeout at the 7:32 mark.

A jumper by Duncan and a lay-up by Chad Wampler extended the lead to nine again after the break. After Hatchett hit a SEMO basket to cut the margin back to seven, a 3-



Brian G. Miller/ Staff

Senior Roni Bailey draws a foul on his way to the goal Tuesday against SEMO.

pointer by Carter at the 6:06 mark finally returned the Blue Raider lead to double digits by increasing the score to 68-58.

The long-range shot was followed by a steal by Carter that led to a jumper by Allen. With 5:38 left to play, the crowd was on its feet.

A double-foul against SEMO's Eley and MTSU's Wampler, the third double-foul against both team's centers, put both men in foul trouble with four each and 5:18 still left to play. Just seven seconds later, Wampler, the only senior to be a member of the MTSU squad for five years, fouled out of his last home game at Murphy Center.

Having had priority-cushion threatened earlier in the half, MTSU did not let up and instead used the last five minutes to build the lead back up to numbers in the teens. A slam dunk by MTSU's Allen with only 38 seconds left put the finishing touches on the game and extended the Blue Raider lead to 17. A SEMO basket by Eley with five seconds left would not be enough, and the Blue Raiders left the court with an 89-74 win and the assurance of a spot in the OVC semi-finals.

The win was a big one for the whole team, but especially for the senior members. Carter led the Blue Raiders with 25 points, three assists, and six rebounds. Moore added 17 points and five rebounds. Duncan led in assists with 10 and tossed in 13

while Allen came off the bench to add 10. Meanwhile, Bailey grabbed six boards and scored 12 to put him over the 1,000-point mark, making him only the 25th Blue Raider in school history to achieve this goal. His current point total is 1,009.

SEMO's Hatchett came off the bench to lead the Indians with 22 points. Eley racked up 18 points and 15 rebounds while Dante Bryant tossed in 10.

"It feels really good [to win our last game here]," said Wampler. "I've been here for five years, and we've had some tough times and some tough years, but I'm glad that in my senior year things are actually starting to go right. I'm really enjoying it a lot."

Nod Carter agrees. "It feels really good for me and the other seniors especially. We've put in a lot of hours and early mornings, and it's good to see that it is really starting to pay off."

"I've developed a good relationship both on and off the court with these guys," Carter continued. "It's good to know that we have a shot to win the Championship if we win our next two games."

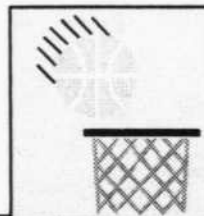
Wiel is excited about the upcoming championship. "This, to us, is like the NCAA's already," he said. "Every game is a game that is the last team standing. There are no weak teams left. The conference is balanced. Only one game separates number one from number five."

The Raiders now have to put this win behind them and focus on Friday night's semi-final game against Murray State (18-9).

"We have to try to play our best and make a name for ourselves," Wiel said. "Both of our teams [MTSU and Murray State] are even, and it's a neutral court. We're going to have to play our best to win."

Carter agrees. "It doesn't matter who we play, we just need to go in and take care of our turnovers, keep our heads together, and play the best game we can."

The Blue Raiders will play Murray State at 7 p.m. at the new Nashville Arena. If they win, they will advance to the final round, where they will play the winner of Friday night's Austin Peay/Tennessee Tech game Saturday at 1 p.m. Saturday's championship game will also be held at the Nashville Arena and will be televised live on ESPN. The winner will be both the OVC Champion and the NCAA Automatic Qualifier. •



THE ROAD TO THE BIG DANCE

OVC Men's Championship

Tuesday	Friday	Saturday	
At campus sites of highest seed	At Nashville Arena	At Nashville Arena	
(1) Austin Peay			
7:30 p.m.	Austin Peay (16-13)		
(8) Morehead St.			
	SEMIFINAL		
(4) Tenn. Tech	3 p.m.		
7:30 p.m.	Tenn. Tech (15-12)		
(5) Eastern Illinois			
		CHAMPIONSHIP	
(2) Murray St.		1 p.m. (ESPN)	
7 p.m.	Murray St. (18-9)		
(7) Tennessee St.			
	SEMIFINAL		
(3) MTSU	7 p.m.		
7 p.m.	MTSU (19-11)		
(6) SE Missouri St.			
			OVC CHAMPS NCAA Automatic Qualifier

OVC Women's Championship

Tuesday	Friday	Saturday	
At campus sites of highest seed	At Nashville Arena	At Nashville Arena	
(1) Eastern Ky.			
6 p.m.	Eastern Ky. (22-5)		
(8) Tennessee St.			
	SEMIFINAL		
(4) Morehead St.	1 p.m.		
6 p.m.	MSU (11-15)		
(5) Eastern Illinois			
		CHAMPIONSHIP	
(2) Austin Peay		3 p.m.	
5:30 p.m.	MTSU (10-19)		
(7) MTSU			
	SEMIFINAL		
(3) Tenn. Tech	9 p.m.		
5:30 p.m.	Tenn. Tech (17-10)		
(6) Murray St.			
			OVC CHAMPS NCAA Automatic Qualifier

Keith Russell/ staff

Clutch free throws catapult Lady Raiders past Austin Peay

Staff Reports

It was close, but it was enough when MTSU sophomore guard Cortney Neeley hit two free throws in the last nine seconds of Tuesday's first-round OVC

Tournament game against Austin Peay to give the Lady Raiders a slim 60-59 win in a breathtaking game in Clarksville. The game was also a notable upset due to MTSU being seeded seventh to the Lady Gov's third.

It was a hard-won upset by the Middle women as they trailed by as many as nine in the second half before coming back to haunt the team that swept MTSU twice this season, 70-66 in Clarksville on Jan. 23 and 66-62 in Murfreesboro on Feb. 5.

"It was the first time all season that we have put ourselves in the position to win," Coach Lewis Bivens

told "The Tennessean" after the game.

Down by nine and the clock ticking away, MTSU sophomore forward Carlita Elder caught fire, cutting into the Lady Gov's lead with a killer combo of layups, jump shots, and free throws.

Even after Neeley's free throws put Middle ahead by one, Austin Peay still had a chance to win right down to the wire. With one crucial second remaining, Simone Caldwell, last year's OVC Tournament MVP, went to the free throw line with a chance to shoot a one-and-one. As the crowd of 1500 looked on, Caldwell's first shot went down into the basket...and rolled out.

"I thought it was down in the hole," Lady Govs Coach Susie Gardner told "The Tennessean" after the game. "It looked good. We had our chance. We had the ball and the lead with 14 seconds to go and we travel."

Please see LADY RAIDERS page 8



Brian G. Miller/ Staff

Coach Randy Wiel gives his Blue Raider squad pointers during a second half timeout. Wiel will take the Raiders to Nashville Friday with a 19-11 record.

Auburn sweeps Blue Raiders in team's first road trip of season

By Doug Malan / staff

Middle Tennessee's season-opening road trip to Auburn ended inauspiciously as the Blue Raiders were swept in the three-game series, 4-1, 11-7 and 9-3.

The 15th-ranked Tigers (10-0) have not lost to Middle in 20 years, when the Blue Raiders won at Auburn in 1977.

After Friday's game was rained out, the teams played a doubleheader Saturday afternoon in beautifully sunny conditions at Plainsman Park.

In the first game, Middle Tennessee (0-3) struck the first blow in the first inning with an RBI double from rightfielder Ryan Dillard that drove in Chris Snyder, who had doubled with one out. However, Tiger starter Tim Hudson put the clamps on the Raider offense, allowing only two hits the rest of the game as he picked up his first complete game of the season.

"We got out to a lead and then our bats weren't able to keep putting runs on," said shortstop Clay Snellgrove, who went 2-3 with the only hits after the first inning. "Auburn probably always felt that they were in the game."

The Tigers, who hit .369 as a team and average ten runs a game, tied the game, 1-1, in the fourth inning from an RBI single

by first baseman Jamie Kersh. MTSU starter Jamie Hill left after four innings of work, replaced by Chad Kirby.

Auburn took control in the fifth on a Casey Dunn RBI double and a two-run double from centerfielder Adam Sullivan for the 4-1 victory. Kirby was pinned with his first loss after giving up three runs in two innings.

The Blue Raiders scored early in the second game when designated hitter Jordan Beddies followed singles from Dillard and Andrew Thompson with a three-run homer to right-center field in the second inning.

The lead held up until the fourth when Auburn scored six runs on five hits, chasing starter Jamie Powers. The big blow came when Tiger catcher David Ross smashed a two-out pitch to centerfield that Jeremy Owens had in his glove before dropping.

Five runs, all unearned, scored after the error.

After the Tigers scored three runs in the fifth, Middle rallied in the sixth inning with four runs on three hits and one Auburn error as second baseman Jon

Case hit a two-run single. Freshman Josh Pride added a blast to left-center that bounced out of the centerfielder's glove to score the Raiders' last two runs.

Auburn added two more runs in the bottom of the sixth for the final 11-7 margin. Freshman Brent Schoening, part of a valuable collection of

young arms, got the win with six strikeouts in 4.2 innings. Powers was saddled with the loss and the Raider defense committed an uncharacteristic four errors.

"I guess (my homerun) could have been the deciding factor if we could have made the routine plays and played solid defense," said Beddies. "The second game we definitely made errors that cost us and we really couldn't win that game."

Middle Tennessee could not avoid the sweep in the final game after Auburn scored six runs in the third inning off Raider starter Steven Lay. Hudson had a two-run homerun and Josh Etheredge added a two-run double in the inning.

Trailing 7-0 in the seventh inning, Middle rallied with three runs on a Snyder RBI single and a two-run Dillard triple. But the Tigers answered with two runs in the bottom half of the inning to seal the 9-3 win. Freshman Kevin Knorst got the win while Lay lost his first game of the season.

"We got out to a lead and then our bats weren't able to keep runs on."

Clay Snellgrove, Shortstop

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Alabama trounces MTSU, 12-5

By Doug Malan / staff

Middle Tennessee continued to struggle against SEC opponents, dropping a 12-5 decision to number-8 Alabama in Tuscaloosa Tuesday night.

The Blue Raiders took a 5-3 lead in the top of the seventh before the Crimson Tide (9-0) blasted MTSU pitchers for nine runs in the home half of the same inning.

Alabama, which is hitting over .400 as a team and averaging better than 15 runs per contest, got a grand slam from left fielder Robert Vaz in the decisive seventh inning, and a two-run round-tripper in the fourth from right fielder Dustin Mohr.

Middle Tennessee's Clay Snellgrove hit a two-run homer in the seventh, his first of the season, and Clint Johnson and Lee Marbet each had RBI triples in the inning. All three Blue Raiders ended the

evening 2-4 at the plate.

Middle Tennessee (0-4) also turned a triple play in the second inning when Bama shortstop Joe Caruso hit a flyball to centerfielder Jeremy Owens with runners on first and third. Owens made the catch and threw home to nail Matt Frick, who was tagging up on the play. Catcher Andrew Thompson completed the rare sweep when he threw to Snellgrove at second to nab Mohr, who was also attempting to advance.

Starter Chad Kirby (0-2) got the loss after yielding eight runs, six earned, on eleven hits in 6.2 innings. Alabama's Doug Hurst (1-0) got the win after pitching three innings in relief of starter Andy Bernard.

Mohr's early homer and an RBI single from Andy Phillips staked the Tide to a 3-0 lead in the fourth inning.

MTSU took its first lead of the game in the seventh inning by scoring five runs on five hits

with the help of Snellgrove, Johnson, Marbet and a sacrifice fly from Jon Case.

Alabama, which has scored no less than eight runs in any game this season, answered with nine runs on four hits including six walks, four of which scored runs.

Kirby was charged with five runs in the inning and Bama chased him with two outs. Craig Jones relieved and walked four batters and surrendered the grand slam to Vaz as the Tide scored four runs, none of which were earned due to a Marbet error with the bases loaded. Jones has given up seven unearned runs in 1.2 innings this season.

Dan Elling made his first appearance of the season and pitched a scoreless eighth for Middle.

The Blue Raiders seek their first victory of the season today at Louisville. The first pitch of the doubleheader is scheduled for 2 p.m. *

LADY RAIDERS:

Continued from page 7

Each lady on the 10-person MTSU squad saw playing time in the important game. Tanika Smith and Amanda Bevis came off the bench to lead the Lady Raiders with 14 and 13 points respectively along with four and seven rebounds. Elder finished with a total of 11 in addition to seven boards.

Natalie Sneed racked up 10 points and five assists. Kay Francis and Neeley each had five points for Middle. The

usually-dynamic duo of Jessica Beatty and Jonelda Buck combined for only two points, two rebounds, and one assist.

Caldwell led the Lady Gobs with 20 points and seven rebounds. Amanda Behrenbrinker racked up 17 points and a whopping total of 15 boards. Colleen Polzin tossed in seven and grabbed six rebounds, while Andrea Miller tossed in five.

The win advances the Lady Raiders to Friday night's semifinals at the new Nashville

Arena where they will face off against arch-rivals Tennessee Tech at 9 p.m., immediately after the MTSU men's game against Murray State. Tech is seeded second in the OVC and beat Murray State's women 72-61 in Tuesday night's first-round action. Their current record is 17-10.

MTSU goes into Saturday's semifinal game with a record of 10-19 while Austin Peay finished their season Tuesday night with a final record of 17-11. *

Kentucky's Mercer headed to NBA

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky) — Intent on removing all distractions as Kentucky pursues a second straight NCAA title, Ron Mercer is giving up his last two years of eligibility to enter the NBA draft.

The 6-foot-7 sophomore forward, the leading scorer in the Southeastern Conference, is expected to be one of the top selections in the June draft.

"I have a team to take care of and I want that to be my main focus," Mercer said Wednesday in making his widely anticipated announcement. "That's why I'm doing this now so I can put it behind me and focus on winning another championship."

Kentucky coach Rick Pitino said Mercer was

swayed by the NBA's high regard for him.

"If him NBA thinks he's top three in the draft, then he's ready," Pitino said. "They like the fact that he flies through the air with the greatest of ease."

Pitino likened Mercer's game to that of Detroit Pistons star Grant Hill.

"He's an extraordinary player and person," Pitino said of Mercer. "They (NBA teams) don't always get players like that."

Mercer, a finalist for player of the year awards, is averaging 18.1 points and 5.3 rebounds a game.

"Certainly Ron Mercer has been someone special for us the past two years," Pitino said. "He helped us win a championship last year. He's been a humble, hard-working player since the day I met

him."

Mercer is the third player under Pitino to turn pro before completing his eligibility, joining Jamal Mashburn in 1993 and Antoine Walker in 1996.

"He's as good as Mashburn and Antoine," Pitino said. "Who's going to be the best? The NBA will find out. Not me. I'll never find out."

Mercer, of Nashville, Tenn., recently took out an insurance policy that would pay him \$500,000 in case of a career-ending injury this season.

Mercer's teammate, Derek Anderson, sustained a season-ending knee injury Jan. 18, and that influenced his decision.

"I looked into it after he went down and knew it could happen to anybody," Mercer said. "I took it from here."

He said he and his parents met with Pitino met Friday to discuss his options.

"It was going to be a family decision," Mercer said.

He said his mother, Birdie, wanted him to get his education.

"She told me to take some time out and think about it," Mercer said.

Mercer started in 12 of 36 games on Kentucky's national championship team last season, averaging eight points and 2.9 rebounds. He scored a season-high 20 points in the title game against Syracuse. This has been another good season for him.

"I'm going to miss out on a lot," Mercer said. "But I've got to pursue my dream." *

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AT THEATRES FEBRUARY 26

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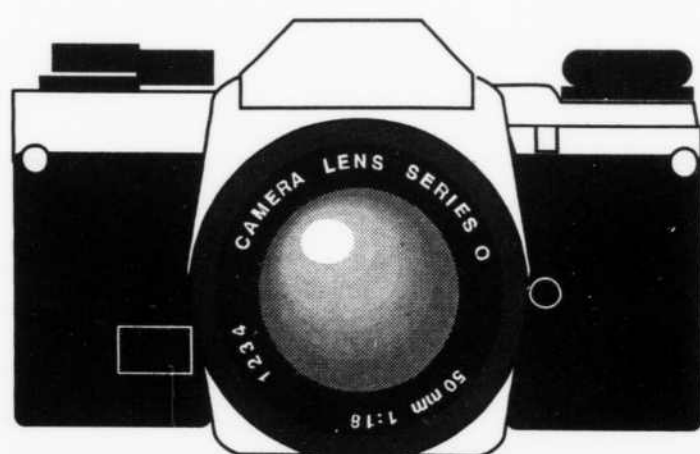


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