





Evening Showers

An editorially independent newspaper



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Have you secured a job after graduation?

Robby Takac and the Tina Peel

In flash*, inside

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University



Volume 78 No. 70

'CloseUp' goes live



Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Producer Terra Grant warms up the audience of CloseUp with MTSU President Sidney McPhee before last night's show. This was the first show to air live on Channel 22 in Cookeville, Tenn., and be broadcast over the Internet.

Conference focuses on women

More than 200 to attend

By Linda G. Selby Staff Writer

This month MTSU will host the fifth biennial Women and Power Conference Feb. 27 through March 1.

The theme of this year's interdisciplinary conference in women's studies is "Reclaiming Faith – Socially, Spiritually, Artistically." Coordinators are expecting approximately 200-300 people from all over the United States and internationally, seeking empowerment from talented and powerful speakers as well as scholarly panels, workshops and a film series.

"We are so pleased to have MTSU to sponsor this event every other year," said Elyce Rae Helford, conference co-chair for the event and director of the Women's Studies program.

MTSU faculty, administration, staff and students can be part of this event by completing a registration form prior to the

ent. Most of the weekend's events

will take place in the James Union Building. To register, complete the registration form available on the conference Web site at http://www.mtsu.edu/~womenstu/wp2003.html, where conference highlights and the full program schedule

are also available.

The conference begins with registration at 8 a.m. Feb. 27 and includes panel sessions and the first of three film series in the Tennessee Room. The first of two workshops will begin at 3 p.m. in a Faith Painting experience led by Victoria Jackson.

The second workshop, Spiritual Counseling, led by Crystal Moon, is on Saturday at 1 p.m. There is no charge, but pre-registration is required for

these workshops.

Featured speaker Cherrie
Moraga's play, Heroes and
Saints, directed by Claudia
Barnett and Ayne Cantrell of
MTSU's English and Women's
Studies departments, will show
at 7 p.m. in the Tennessee
Room. Admission is free.

The featured speakers at this year's conference are:

• Cherrie Moraga, a Chicana feminist poet, playwright, essayist and teacher whose book, This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color, written in collaboration with Gloria Anzaldúa, won the 1986 Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award. She will speak on Feb. 28 at 3 p.m., with a reception at the Garden Plaza Hotel following at 5 p.m.

• Reverend Becca Stevens, an Episcopal priest at St. Augustine's Chapel on the Vanderbilt campus, received a Masters of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School and the Anglican Studies Certificate from St. Lukes Seminary at the University of the South. Rev. Stevens formed Magdalene House, a recovery program supplying housing and complete care for Nashville women with a criminal history of prostitution and drug abuse. The Magdalene project includes Thistle Farms, a business that manufactures bath and body products made by Magdalene women. She will speak on March 1 at 10 a.m. in the Tennessee Room located in the James Union Building.

• Linda Badley, Clare Bratten and Charisse Gendron are coordinators of the Conference Feminist Film Series. Badley is a professor of English and teaches literature, film and women's studies courses at MTSU. Clare Bratten is an instructor of electronic media communications at MTSU, and Charisse Gendron, a former professor of English, is Grants Manager for the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. They will lead a film series and panel sessions on Feb. 27 and 28 at 1:15 p.m. and March 1 at 1 p.m.

"We want those attending the conference to be aware of research and women's issues in presentations by scholars, students, artists, and activists," said conference co-chair Elyce Rae Helford. "Everyone of every gender is heartily welcomed."

uncertainty in job market

War creates

Impending war causes stress for future graduates By Kristin Hall

Staff Writer

To the dismay of upcoming and recent college graduates, the economy and possibility of war have dimmed the opportunities in the job market.

For these reasons, experts are urging students to start analyzing where employers are looking for new employees, the types of skills that employers value and what to do if there are no jobs available.

"The market is kind of tough for a lot of occupations," said David Penn, the director of MTSU's Business and Economic Research Center.

"In general, I think a war would cause a negative impact on the economy," Penn said.

Penn also said many businesses are unsure of the economic consequences of a war and are resistant to investing

money into building new plants, buying new technology or hiring more workers.

"Furthermore, the U.S. economy slowed down quite a lot in the fourth quarter of last year," Penn explained.

"Even though Tennessee has been on a path of growth," Penn said, "the state's economy was affected by the downturn in the national economy."

Last year, the unemployment

rate in Tennessee fell from a

peak in March at 5.7 percent to
4.3 percent in November,
according to Penn. But it picked
back up to 4.7 percent in
December.
Penn predicted that the
national unemployment rate

would decrease over the next six months if a definitive answer about the war is decided. Despite the overall gloomy forecast for the job market,

are currently in demand, adding a bit of sunshine to the future. "This year, the opportunities

for teachers, nurses and

there are some occupations that

See Jobs, 2



Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Professor Robert Price talks to students about creationism as part of Darwin Day celebrations Feb. 12.

Darwin Day celebrates theorist

By Jenn Howerton Staff Writer

Students wearing "I Love Darwin" T-shirts gathered in the Learning Resources Center Feb. 12 to listen to Robert Price, professor of biblical criticism at the Center for Inquiry Institute, speak on the issue of evolutionary biologist Charles Darwin and his theories.

The lecture, which celebrates Darwin's birth and his evolutionary theory, was sponsored by MTSU's Campus Freethought Alliance.

Some expected the lecture to be on evolution, but instead he addressed the plausibility of

creationism.

"I was really surprised," said Estelle Mitchell, freshman in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. "I was expecting this one-sided lecture, but he listed all sorts of reasons on how creation could have happened."

The evolution vs. creationism debate has been a topic of controversy since Darwin first brought evolution into the scientific arena. Even today, it is debated in all sorts of circles, from the scientific to the religious.

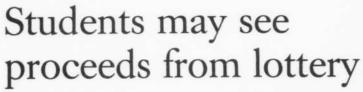
"Apparently, we are still evolving and will always evolve, so evolution has a place," said Sheryl Mabry, senior in the College of Business. "Still, I don't think it answers all our questions, because it still doesn't explain how we got here, which is where creation comes in. It's almost like evolution sort of picks up where creation left

Some students question certain aspects of evolution and its relationship with religion and creationism.

"I think to a certain degree evolution is right, but I think what people are trying to do is take God completely out of the picture, which is where I have a problem with it," said Regina Money, junior in the College of Mass Communication.

Although some students were passionate about the topic of evolution, others found it to be slightly trivial, in contrast to

See Darwin, 2



Proposal set to dedicate money for scholarships By Adam Parker Contributor

William Ford, economics professor and Weatherford Chair of Finance, explained to MTSU's economics club last week how the lottery would financially affect Tennesseans,

especially college students.

"If my calculations are right, starting next year our students will receive about a million dollars a year in scholarships from the lottery," Ford said. "This will help to reduce the burden of

debt on our students significantly."

Last November, Tennesseans voted overwhelmingly in favor of a lottery by a margin of more than 200,000 votes. The chief proponent of the lottery, Senator Steve Cohen, actively lobbied for the Tennessee lottery since 1984.

It is also unanimously agreed upon that the majority of the proceeds will go toward college scholarships.

As MTSU's official representative on the education task force involved in designing the lottery, Ford supported Cohen's proposal to dedicate proceeds to scholarships but noted two discontinuities.

Under Cohen's tentative



Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Professor William Ford addresses MTSU's economics club last week on the financial benefits of a state lottery.

scholarship proposal, families with incomes of up to \$36,000 receive a \$6,000 scholarship per student and those who make between \$36,000 and \$100,000 get \$4,000.

"I'm trying to get it modified to keep the same idea (as Cohen) – give more to the poor, less to the wealthy families but

See Lottery, 2

lobs:

Continued from I

accountants are very strong, said Martha Turner, director of the Career Placement Center at MTSU.

'The increased need for teachers results from growth in school age child population, reduced class sizes and retirements and replacements," Turner said.

Penn suggested that the health care industry is seeking registered nurses due to a current shortage.

While these jobs seem to be the only assured positions, Turner and Penn don't recommend giving up on that diploma for other majors.

"In the long run, there's no doubt about the fact that a college degree helps to get and retain a job and earn more money," Penn said.

"The lifetime difference between having a degree and not having a degree is hundreds of thousands of dollars on aver-

According to the annual Job Outlook survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, strong communication skills could help graduates land that coveted position.

Employers rated verbal and written communication skills as the most important of 20 qualities or skills a candidate should

Honesty and integrity ranked second, and teamwork skills and interpersonal skills, which encompass working and relating well to others, ranked third and fourth respectively.

Many students might be surprised that a GPA of 3.0 or better was placed at the end of the scale, in the 17th slot.

Turner said high grades are important for specialized or technical fields.

Another chance to secure a good job after college is getting. related work experience, and the best opportunity is through internships.

Employers that participated in the NACE survey named internships as the No. 1 place they found new employees.

The Career Placement Center has lists of internships for students to get a first-hand experience of how businesses or industries work and set them above the rest of the candidates.

And when all else fails, Turner recommends that graduates who haven't found a job in their field yet should assess their career interests and abilities.

"I would look at other career opportunities that are related, and try to broaden the search both for career field and location," Turner said. •

Darwin:

Continued from 1

the more recent occurrences, such as the possible war with

"It's a bit silly to concentrate all this energy towards the origins of man," said Mark Bentley, junior in the College of Education and Behavioral Science. "There are so many more problems in the world that is seems almost a moot point to worry about what happened billions of years ago." •

> Got a news tip? slnews@mtsu.edu

CRIME LOG

Deere Hall

Report of harassing phone calls, and an unknown black male coming to the door at 2 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 11 - 6:08 a.m. Aggravated burglary **Cummings Hall**

Victims stated that unknown females entered their room and removed money from their wallets.

Tuesday, Feb. 11 - 4:15 p.m. Theft Greek Row

Wallet reported stolen.

Thursday, Feb. 13 - 6:20 a.m. Underage consumption Beasley Hall

Sarah D. Whitworth of Hendersonville, Tenn., was arrested early Thursday morning for underage consumption of alcohol.

Thursday, Feb. 13 - 11:34 p.m. Possible drug use Gracy Hall

The smell of marijuana was reported by residents

of Gracy Hall.

Thursday, Feb. 13 - 11:51 p.m.

Underage consumption Womack Family Housing office complex

Alex W. Hennessey of Louisville, Ky., was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol.

Friday, Feb. 14 - 11:48 p.m. Drug possession Corlew Hall

Administration/Housing will handle a case of drug use in the freshman dorm.

Saturday, Feb. 15 - 12:41 a.m. Driving on suspended license East Main Street

A person from Corlew Hall reported seeing a reckless driver in a black Chevrolet sports car with temporary tags. A car matching this description was pulled over, and the driver was cited for driving on a suspended license. •

These accounts were compiled from Public Safety's media log. To report a crime, call 898-2424.

Lottery: Extra hours create extra debt

Continued from 1

get those unusual chunks and corners out of this thing," Ford

Sunday, Feb. 9 - 12:10 a.m.

covered to be a false alarm.

Sunday, Feb. 9 - 2:32 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 10 - 4:29 p.m.

that his roommate harassed him.

Monday, Feb. 10 - 7:07 p.m.

skateboards and rollerblades.

Monday, Feb. 10 - 10:49 p.m.

Underage consumption

A fire alarm sounding at Cummings Hall was dis-

A person was cited for underage consumption.

A male subject in Cummings Hall filed a report

Several juvenile subjects were asked to leave cam-

pus after leaping off the steps of the Todd Building on

False fire alarm

Cummings Hall

Greek Row

Harassment

Cummings Hall

Trespass warning

Todd Library

Harassment

Ford pointed out the awkward scenarios that Cohen's cut-off points for the scholarraise would mean \$2,000 less in scholarship money, which would create a net loss of \$1,800.

bined income of \$99,900. A raise for either parent would put them above the \$100,000 limit result, this family would receive

"Make it continuous, or at least make more notches in it that aren't so huge so it's not like falling off a cliff. It's just like taking a step," Ford said of his plan for the scholarships.

To that end, Ford's plan would give a \$7,000 scholarship to families with incomes below \$20,000 and families earning above \$100,000 would receive

In addition to lottery-funded scholarships, Ford proposed another solution to college student debt. He says 120 hours should be required for graduation as opposed to the current requirement of 132 hours.

"I think it is absolutely disfor the \$4,000 scholarship. As a graceful that you students have

to go to school for 132 hours, which is four-and-a-half years if you take 15 hours a semester and 12 in your last semester, when I only had to go 120," Ford

Ford is especially critical of the fact that the extra semester is due to 15 hours of required elec-

"In our program, we have 15 hours of required electives," Ford said. "We shouldn't cram them down your throat and keep you here for more than 120

Ford said that with the money provided through scholarships from the state lottery, students could work less and study more, in turn getting out of college sooner with less

New York protests attract hundreds

By Hilary Lustick Tufts Daily (Tufts U.)

(U-WIRE) MEDFORD, Mass. - "Earth to Bush, no war!" read one of the many posters that hundreds of thousands of protesters carried around New York on Saturday as part of an unprecedented worldwide protest against war in Iraq.

The protest had only been granted a rally permit at the corner of First Avenue and 51st Street, where the United Nations headquarters is located.

protesters gathered as far back as 72nd St. to march toward the rally, unfazed by the fact that without portable radios tuned to a designated FM radio station, they would not be able to hear the speakers, which included Desmond Tutu and Eve Ensler.

The worldwide protest, entitled "The World Says No," is the first globally organized demonstration in history. Thousands of people filled the streets of Athens, London, Rome, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Melbourne, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Auckland, Seoul, Tokyo and Manila in peaceful opposition.

In New York, organizers estimated attendance at 500,000, although the police reported 100,000. Some obstacles stood in the way of the protesters: no marching permit accompanied

the rallying permit to protest at the UN.

Organizers were told to inform protesters that restaurants and facility-providing shops in the area would be closed for the day for reasons of

Many college students were among the protesters including several from Tufts University. Senior Carl Jackson, was at the protest with the International ANSWER Coalition (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism).

Jackson said he thinks the impending war goes against the words of King, who preached against the United States' military involvement in Vietnam and other wars, as well as against Malcolm X's condemnation of American imperialism and colonialism.

"Martin Luther King had many different political venues, one of which was questioning American foreign policy, especially going to war with developing nations," Jackson said. "Here we are completely disobeying international law and our own principles against colonialism and military occupation, all the stuff that belongs in the old world."

Though the sheer number of protesters effectively stopped traffic, the police force made its presence known by blocking off cross streets and directing protesters to side streets.

The police, despite their

strict enforcement of the rules, were respectful of the marchers and their cause.

Despite the title of the protest, the anti-pathetic fervor seemed more directed at President Bush than at the war itself.

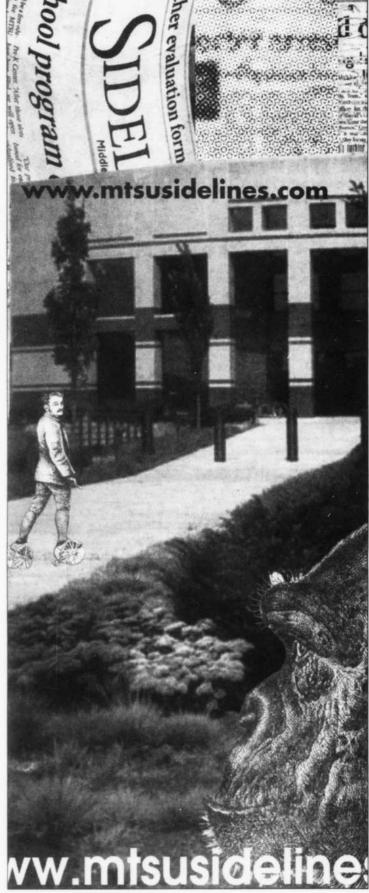
One group of protesters made paper mache heads to look like President Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Dick Cheney.

Diverse passions brought protesters together; while most signs protested both Bush and the war, others protested war in general. One group constructed a giant dove with a long white sheet flapping in the wind behind it, held up by passing demonstrators who offered a hand.

Signs bore slogans in Hebrew, Spanish Portuguese, as well as English. A group of Muslim women, donning burquas and long robes, were among the protesters.

Another group of about 20 young men and women carried an oversized Palestinian flag and yelled "Free Palestine free!" repeatedly. People protested on behalf of Iraq with signs reading, "How did our oil get under Iraqi soil?"

One woman, wearing neon clothing and a smile, stood on the side of the marching protesters with a sign that read: "Smoke pot, not Iraq." •

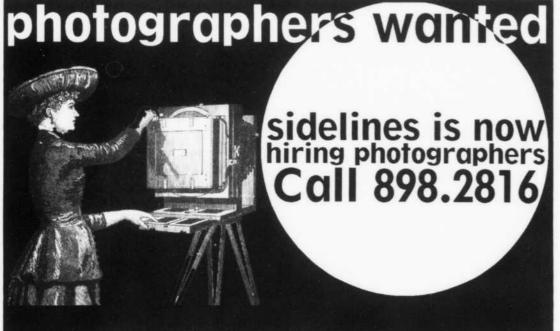




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World Briefs



Compiled By Callie Elizabeth Butler - Assistant News Editor

Protesters don't persuade Bush to back down

WASHINGTON (AP) Declaring that America's security should not be dictated by protesters, President Bush said Tuesday he would not be swaved from compelling Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to disarm.

"We will deal with him," Bush said as U.S. and British diplomats weighed another bid for U.N. backing.

"War is my last choice," Bush said at the White House as echoes of anti-war protests circled the globe. "But the risk of doing nothing is even a worse option as far as I am concerned."

Standing firmly against skeptical allies as well as the demonstrators, Bush said: I owe it to the American people to secure this country. I will do so."

Administration officials in Washington and at the United Nations in New York were discussing the possible gains as well as the risk of a diplomatic defeat if the United States proposed a new resolution to the Security Council to endorse force as an option to disarm

Attack in South Korean subway kills 120 people

DAEGU, South Korea (AP) -Kim Ho-keun, a 68-year-old grandfather, was about to get off the crowded subway when an explosion knocked him to the floor. He awoke in darkness minutes later, gasping for breath and desperate to escape a fiery attack that killed 120 people on

Struggling to call for help, Kim feared the worst until he heard a rescue worker's voice.

"I couldn't see him, but I saw his flashlight, so I grabbed his hand," Kim said from his hospital bed, tubes supplying him with oxygen. "It was then that I thought to myself: I'm going to

Kim was one of the fortunate in Daegu, South Korea's thirdlargest city.

The fire started about 10 a.m. when a man lit a container of flammable liquid and tossed

The blaze incinerated two six-car subway trains, killed 120 people and injured 138, many of them seriously.

Rescue workers gave up the search for survivors by the after-

Board says shuttle started shedding over California

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) - Space shuttle Columbia began losing pieces over the California coast well before it disintegrated over Texas, the accident investigation board reported Tuesday, finally confirming what astronomers and amateur skywatchers have been saying from day one.

But board member James Hallock, a physicist and chief of Transportation Department's aviation safety division, said the fragments were probably so small they burned up before reaching the ground.

He said the conclusion that the space shuttle was shedding pieces a full six minutes before it came apart over Texas was based on images of the doomed

Astronomers and amateurs on the West Coast photographed and videotaped the shuttle's final minutes.

"Obviously, it would be very important to understand what those pieces are, particularly the ones that started falling off at the very beginning," because they would shed light on the earliest stages of the breakup, he

However, Hallock said that the pieces that came off early did not seem to be very big, judging from the light reflected off them.

U.N. inspectors visit sites in search of missiles

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) -U.N. weapons inspectors visited five sites involved in the production of a banned missile Tuesday as rockets became a new flashpoint in the Iraq crisis.

The United Nations is deciding whether to insist that Iraq modify the missiles or destroy them - a demand Saddam Hussein would likely find hard

Iraq's foreign minister, Naii Sabri, was asked Tuesday night what Iraq would do if told to destroy the missiles.

He refused to answer, saying the question was too hypotheti-

The U.N. inspectors said Tuesday they have put identification tags on components of dozens of Al Samoud 2 missiles, but wouldn't say how many more remain to be inventoried. It remained unclear what they will do with the missiles they

U.N. officials have banned the missiles because they have been tested at ranges greater than the 94-mile limit imposed on Iraq by U.N. resolutions adopted at the end of the 1991

Chicago officials ask judge to jail owner of club

CHICAGO (AP) - City officials demanded that a judge jail the owner of the E2 nightclub for at least a year Tuesday, saying he was illegally operating the place when 21 people were killed in a stampede.

The city said Dwain Kyles had ignored a court order from last July to shut the place down because of building code violations that included failure to provide enough exits.

City officials asked Circuit

Judge Daniel Lynch to find Kyles in criminal contempt of court and put him behind bars.

"You don't have a right to disobey a court order until someone catches you or until a disaster happens," Richard M. Daley said.

Andre Grant, an attorney for the owners of the E2 nightclub, contended that a deal had been reached in October to keep the place open.

City officials disputed that. "There is absolutely no such

agreement, either written or oral," said Mara Georges, the city's chief lawyer. "Obviously, these people were intent on breaking the law, and they broke

Snow storm takes parting shot at Northeast states

BOSTON (AP) - The Northeast struggled to dig out Tuesday from a paralyzing storm that unloaded up to 4 feet of snow, busted city snowremoval budgets and stranded thousands of people at airports up and down the East Coast.

The storm, blamed for 37 deaths, finally headed out to sea after taking a parting shot at Boston, which got an all-time record of 27.5 inches by the time the snow stopped falling Tuesday morning.

Homeowners and motorists dug out their cars and doorways and toiled to reopen driveways that had been sealed shut by passing snowplows.

Major airports labored to resume service after the biggest snowstorm to hit the Northeast in seven years.

Turner Broadcasting, Kellner stepping down

ATLANTA (AP) - Turner Broadcasting head Jamie Kellner said Tuesday he is stepping down after two years on the job, the latest in a series of high-level management depar-

Warner.

Kellner follows Turner Broadcasting founder Ted Turner, who last month announced he was resigning as vice chairman of AOL Time Warner. AOL chairman Steve Case also plans to step down, and Walter Isaacson recently resigned after two years as head of CNN.

Kellner will continue as chairman and chief executive of the WB Network through the end of his contract in the summer of 2004.

In a conference call with reporters Tuesday, Kellner acknowledged the upheaval at AOL Time Warner but said his main reason for leaving was to spend more time with his family in California.

"The people that are running the company are people that have been there all along. I have respect for the leadership," Kellner said. "There has been a lot of turmoil, but I have never felt that has inhibited what I have been trying to do here."

Philip Kent, who was president of the CNN News Group until he resigned in 2001, will rejoin Turner Broadcasting as its chairman and chief executive, AOL Time Warner said.

Radiologists best at detecting breast cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) Practice may not make perfect when it comes to spotting cancer on mammograms.

A new study casts doubt on the belief that doctors who read the most mammograms each year are the most proficient. Instead, the research found the most recently trained radiologists did best in a test of cancerdetection accuracy.

Other factors that may give a more reliable mammogram: using a center that requires two radiologists to read each X-ray and that performs more sophis-

tures from parent AOL Time ticated breast-imaging procedures as well as routine mammograms, concludes the study published in the Journal of the

National Cancer Institute. Study author Craig Beam of the University of South Florida stressed that his findings don't mean a doctor fresh out of school does a better job than a

seasoned veteran.

But they do raise questions about how some veterans keep up as the years pass.

Union leaders seeking to close deep rift over Iraq

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) -European Union leaders seeking to close a deep rift over Iraq agreed that force should only be used as a last resort, but could not completely resolve their differences on the prospect of war.

Painfully aware that their prolonged and acrimonious split is crippling the drive to give Europe a strong, united voice in world affairs, EU leaders held an emergency summit Monday and passed a joint declaration that was a balancing act between the two sides.

France and Germany continued to oppose any imminent military action against Baghdad.

French President Jacques Chirac signaled he would use his veto on the U.N. Security Council to block a resolution authorizing war.

Britain, the chief U.S. ally in Europe, stood by its call for a resolute threat of military action if Saddam Hussein fails to cooperate fully with U.N. weapons inspections.

In a new bid to avert a U.S.led attack, Iraq has finally allowed an American U-2 plane to fly over its territory in support of U.N. inspectors hunting for evidence of banned weapons of mass destruction. The Iraqis agreed to the overflights last



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The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2003/Spring 2004 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are request-

ing to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date. Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$200 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The deadline for students living in on-campus housing to reapply for housing with priority for the 2003/2004 academic year is Monday, March 3, 2003 at 4:00 PM. Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$200 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at www.mtsu.edu. Housing is found under STUDENT AFFAIRS. The \$200 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, Mastercard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$10 nonrefundable service fee charged for processing the payment online.

To obtain a HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM, please come by the Housing and Residential Life office during office hours, 8 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center, Room 300.

For additional information or questions, please contact Housing and Residential Life during office hours at 898-2971

From the Editorial Board

Festivities to further campus tolerance

It's OK to be gay.

That's the message that the MTSU Lambda Association will convey to students March 31 through April 4.

As Sidelines reported yesterday, Lambda will be hosting SpringOut, the university's first gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender awareness event. According to Lambda, the campaign is an experiment to see how well such an event would be received.

We can't blame Lambda for trying. If we ever want to see a world in which people can be accepted, then they've got to start somewhere. A college campus is probably the best place for an acceptance movement to start. The combination of liberal-minded professors and open-minded students leaves the door wide open for groups like Lambda to preach their gospel of acceptance.

The event will touch on many different topics, including a film night, a charity drag and many gay-rights activists, including the mother of Matthew Shepard, who will speak on tolerance.

On the fourth day of SpringOut, the main focus will be on religion and homosexuality. With so much recent press focused on traditional Christian values and their generally anti-gay stance, it should be interesting to see what Lambda has to say on the subject.

Undoubtedly, there will be some opposition to the event. While everyone is entitled to their own opinion, students shouldn't break out their lynching nooses for the weeklong event - or ever.

Lambda is aware that not everyone agrees with their stance. Hopefully, the event will spark interest and an open dialogue between those with opposing ideas - instead of causing a messy riot.

Whether or not you agree with their views, it should be worth going to at least some of the events to add to the discussion.

After all, in order to have an argument, you've got to have different viewpoints.

From the Opinions Editor

'Pants on Fire' likely to

end healthy parenting

Amber Bryant

Opinions Editor

when

thought board games

were getting a little too

creepy (I'm no zoologist,

but I'm pretty sure hip-

pos don't eat marbles),

the New York Toy Fair

recently revealed the

newest venture in family

Fire" is a game in which

a parent straps a small lie

detecting gadget to a

child's hand and asks

him or her questions.

Every time the tot tells

the truth, as is gauged by

reading the device, he or

she gains points. Every

time the kid lies, the

machine lights up and

News columnist Buck

Wolf, "When strapped to

your fingertips, elec-

trodes measure blood

flow and skin respons-

es," adding, "Officer

Tibbs says Liar Liar

Pants on Fire is not only

fun, it's a great way to

bring parent and child

ed questions are, "Have

you ever secretly stayed

up past your bedtime to

watch TV?" and "Have

you ever accidentally

Some of the suggest-

closer together."

According to ABC

beeps.

"Liar Liar Pants on

game night fun.

walked into the wrong

interestingly enough,

the game was created by

Dan Tibbs, a Canadian

police officer and former

polygraph examiner.

This should serve as the

first of many red flags

for marketers - how kid-

friendly can a Canadian

polygraph examiner be?

time since some greedy

idiot told us that tech-

nology is the answer to

life's problems, corpo-

rate America is attempt-

ing to sell a quick-fix

gadget and market it as a

device to aid in better

parenting. Instead, such

an attempt would make

a mockery of a child's

rights (yes, they have

them, too) and eliminate

any hope for a comfort-

able, trusting relation-

ship between a parent

and child. Natural moral

sculpting, which comes

with healthy mental

development, should

never be replaced by a

machine, let alone one

that blares sirens when a

child makes a normal

Pants on Fire" never

makes it to the shelves.

Strapping a kid up to a

lie detector, asking him

or her personal but triv-

ial questions and calling

it a game would proba-

bly breed more serial

killers than I'd like to

think about.

Let's hope "Liar Liar

mistake.

For the millionth

washroom?"

Add yours. •

Bush's aggression disturbing

Wit and Wonder



Staff Columnist

Callie

Butler

President George W. Bush announced Tuesday that cries of protest would not hinder his resolve.

"War is my last choice," Bush stated in a press conference with anti-war continuing throughout the world.

nothing is even a worse option as far as I am concerned," he continued. Many countries are

"But the risk of doing

standing against the war initiative, including France, China, Russia and

varying opinions in a U.N. gathering on the matter, Bush remained devoted to his position.

"Some in the world view Saddam Hussein as a risk to peace," he said in his White House speech, adding, "I respectfully disagree.'

Bush has continually called his push toward war work for the sake of peace," but is it really?

Is sending troops to a country that has yet to show concrete aggressive tendencies toward our country to pose any legitimate, proven threat working toward peace?

War can only produce a forced peace through devastation.

How is forcing a coun-With more than 50 try filled with innocent,

submission through the use of aggression working for peace?

Unfortunately, we won't see this terrible side of war. Camera crews won't pour into the areas of Iraq destroyed and devastated from our attack, or report on bone fragments of incinerated bodies of the children our "work for peace" will leave behind.

Aggression does not about peace. Punishing the many for the wrongdoings of the few is not in any way fair. It's madness. Why isn't Bush listening

to the millions of people taking to the streets across the world in protest of this war he feels so incredibly drawn toward? How many more millions of people

representing non-violent citizens into have to speak up before national and international Bush begins to question the plan he's driving toward?

> In the grandest con of all, Tom Ridge, the Secretary of Homeland Security, advised the nation to stockpile food, plastic sheeting and duct tape to prepare for a scenario not unlike the brewing suspicions in Russia during the 1950s.

> It seems that Bush simply aims to conjure fear within Americans, feeding off of a still shaky country - his constant references to Sept. 11, 2001, demonstrate this – while pushing his own twisted agenda that will only lead to suffering and a furthering of anti-American sentiments throughout the world.

Bush should exhaust all

resources in effectively neutralizing Hussein and his supporters before destroying the lives of countless thousands with only a mere chance that, within these casualties, would be the true villain who many are destined to suffer for. There are more effective tactics to be explored, yet Bush still remains locked on a theory of aggression, which seems to be his first resort, not his

With the stance Bush is taking as he speaks to the world for all Americans, maybe we should grab a roll of duct tape. •

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a junior journalism major and can be reached via email at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

Ministers of death



Lately, there have been several words in the paper about the anti-life opinion, also known as abortion.

I don't blame the small percentage of young women and their supporters who chose an abortion because of rape, incest or the mother's life. Neither do I blame the majority of young women who have made an uninformed decision to abort in the midst of confusion.

However, I do blame those who advised these confused young mothers to have abortions. I blame those who knew of better pregnancy options, yet counseled women to have an abortion and presented it as their only recourse.

These counselors are the religious elite, the Pharisees of post-modern culture. They are the ministers and preachers for a religion of death. None else look so desperately for excuses to call another human being a blob of tissue, to call another human being an inconvenient "medical condition" or to treat a child as a disease. None look so hard for opportunities for profitable murder.

Hypocrites!

They wear masks of compassion while simultaneously championing the death and suffering of America's children. They know post-abortion mothers suffer a 154 percent higher risk of suicide. They know they suffer an 82 percent higher risk of dying from procedural accidents, and a 44 percent higher risk of death from natural causes (Southern Medical Journal).

Yet, they continue to hiss whispers of "comfort" and "compassion."

Brood of vipers!

As for those who profit from the murder of unborn children; they know that, by the time most abortions can be performed, the baby's heartbeat and brain waves are already detectable (www.nrlc.org). Those heartbeats pumped

the blood of a person - a

human being. They know that fetuses are no "masses of tissue."

Yet, for their own profit, they choose to ignore the suffering of those unborn human beings. Dogs and whitewashed sep-

ulchers! They urge the increase of second- and third-trimester abortions - processes performed by the piece-by-piece ripping, tearing and crushing of an unborn child's fully formed

body parts. They also rejoiced in the past decade's \$150 million spoil from that partial-birth abortion slaughter (World magazine).

They feign loyalty to the law, to the rights of women, but know that Roe v. Wade is a fabricated law and isn't based on the Constitution or popular demand. Roe v. Wade is based purely on the judicial whim of an elite few. There's nothing democratic or American about it (Grand Illusions, George

They piously parade "a woman's right to choose" as the virtue of a progressive society. They call the senseless massacre of innocents the righteousness of woman's independence. They deceive women to despise their own children.

They harbor a religion of hate. Under the pretext of piety, they make their followers twice as much the children of hell as themselves.

Shame on them, because they know that better, healthier alternatives for unplanned and crisis pregnancies exist (such as adoption), and yet say nothing. They know that abortion deprives hundreds of loving families who would love to adopt a child.

They know that thousands of crisis pregnancy centers exist to provide expecting mothers with childcare, medical care, financial, housing, schooling legal and assistance (www.nrlc.org).

Shame on those Pharisees, hypocrites and brood of vipers for preaching a law of death.

Shame on them for standing idly by while the innocent are slaughtered.

Wesley Jackson is a sophomore English major and can be reached via e-mail at wtj2b@

Get rid of shuttle, build new program

Finding Trouble



A glorified outer space work truck

What a waste.

Now that the Columbia pieces are all picked up, it's time to talk a little about our intent in space.

Right now, the only viable transportation anyone on earth has for getting into space is our space shuttle, which is specifically designed to orbit - and only orbit for days.

This type of mission and focus can inspire no one. Try walking around in a circle, and see how bored you are in 22 years.

Columbia was the first space shuttle to make the passage into space in 1981, and we have the audacity to think it's safe after all that time?

We wouldn't keep a car that long, and we would never even think of keeping a computer that

Both space shuttle disasters initiated space naysayers who bemoan the money wasted on space travel and exploration, but these people miss the point.

The frontier tests our mettle. It is essential to real progress.

Innovation comes from hardship, and space presents the most hostile environment human beings have access to. Space is the only frontier we have left.

The American frontier brought out of society the strongest, smartest and most innovative people, like Lewis and Clark, and these people pushed their limits for the same reason as people climb Mt. Everest - because it's there.

This country still has people like these frontier chasers, but they have no frontier.

So they fester.

We also have intellectual giants who can overcome technological limitations with relative ease if they have the resources.

When the space program fell out of favor, which was inevitable under a space shuttle program, this country began to waste both its brawn and brains. Human beings reached the

moon, and then we gave up. There is more out there.

People who think the moon, Mars and the asteroid belt aren't worth the effort are just wrong. Saying that is like saying going to the top of Mt. Everest is a waste of

Testing human ingenuity and endurance is never a waste of

Thus, getting farther into space will never be a waste of time. The payoff is not in any mater-

ial profit that can be found in the end. Instead, the payoff consists of intangibles that are even more important.

It consists of the overcoming

However, there are even material profits to be had for those who think of nothing else. They are the technology that comes from necessity in space. Not to mention the things we can learn from a zero gravity environment that just cannot be duplicated on Earth.

The Columbia's mission was purely experimental, and the experiments were worth the trip. The experiments ranged from testing building materials for earthquakes to cancer research and fire prevention. Most of the time, the orbiter merely hooks up to commercial satellites, like those of Wal-Mart and AT&T, and fixes problems or upgrades obsolete systems.

It isn't at all amusing, but it is ironic that this work is done by a vehicle so old and obsolete itself.

Our astronauts deserve more than the space equivalent of a Ford Pinto.

Most people nowadays would not even recognize the computers on the shuttles as computers. And surely the age of computer modeling brought with it significant advances in chemical and materials engineering that would be put to advantageous use in the space

Over the past 20 years, the face of this country dramatically changed with the advent of new technologies. It's time to allow that change to move into the space program.

We need to scrap the space shuttle and move on - keep people in space, but move on.

The space shuttle represented an attempt to remove the risk from an inherently risky enterprise, and that is a fool's game.

Embracing the risk is more likely to minimize the casualty

Work trucks have their use, but we need to focus our real efforts on moving farther out into space. Not for profit or maintenance, but because it's there.

Audie Sheridan is a senior philosophy major and can be reached via e-mail at als3g@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University 1301 East Main Street **P.O. Box 8** Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 898-2337 Advertising: 898-2533 Fax: 904-8193 www.mtsusidelines.com Editor in Chief Managing Editor News Editor

Assistant News Editor/Copy Editor News and Features Design/Production Manager Opinions and Online Editor/Design

Features Editor Sports Editor/Design Assistant Sports Editor flash* Editor flash* Design

Photo Editor Copy Editors

Lindsey Turner* Jason Cox* Amanda Maynord* Callie Elizabeth Butler

Nick Fowler Amber Bryant* Stephanie Hughes Brandon Morrison* Michael Rutledge Clay Ayers Lindsey Turner and Nick Fowler Chris Nichols

www.mtsusidelines.com

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phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

Jacksonville State invades Blue Raider country

Gamecocks, Blue Raiders to tangle in three-game series this weekend

By Josh Beasley

Staff Writer

The men's baseball team opens its 2003 season tomorrow with a three-game series against the Gamecocks of Jacksonville State University.

The home stand will continue through the weekend and conclude with a final game Sunday afternoon.

The Blue Raiders' first series looks to be a big one but will not be crucial to the success of the season. After winning eight of their first 11 games last season, MT hopes to have a similar start to the 2003 season. Despite being fast out of the gates last season, the Blue Raiders sputtered at times, finishing 8-16 in Sun Belt Conference play.

"Last year, even though we got off to a good start, from a baseball standpoint we weren't playing good baseball," head coach Steve Peterson said. "We got into the conference and all of that showed up. With this team now a year older, you're not going to see them get sky high if they get off to a good start. Baseball is a marathon."

Peterson

Upon arriving to Middle Tennessee, JSU will be four games deep into their season, and this may play to their advantage. The Gamecocks dropped their first three games of the season before heading to the Volunteer State to rebound with their first win at the expense of former Ohio Valley Conference rival Tennessee Tech. The Gamecocks sealed the deal after Clint Carroll singled home B.I. Burns in the bottom of the 13th inning to record the Gamecocks first win of the season.

"I think it's an advantage for teams to have played games versus a team who has not yet played because we have not had opening day," Peterson said. "So, I think JSU has worked out some kinks, and they have answered some questions to where their successes and failures are.

The Blue Raiders may find that the Gamecocks have to dip deep into their rotation for a starter. Jacksonville State, traveling north early in the season, may not be accustomed to the colder weather resulting in them throwing different looks on the mound against the MT sluggers throughout the series.

Junior lefty John Williams will get the nod Friday to start on the heel for the Blue Raiders. Although the southpaw gets the start, Peterson will not allow him or any of his starters to throw many pitches. "I'm not going to allow them to throw many pitches this early in

the season, but they will have enough pitches that if they're throwing the ball well and we're playing good defense then they should get through the fifth inning," Peterson said. But someone could have a real low pitch count and get into late

The Blue Raiders will take to the diamond tomorrow afternoon at 1 p.m. to open up the weekend series. •



The Blue Raiders kick off their season tomorrow.

Lady Raiders take final home stand Saturday

By Angela Hall Staff Writer

This Saturday marks the final home game of the season for the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team (15-10, 8-4 Sun Belt Conference) as they face Florida International (16-7, 7-3 SBC) Saturday afternoon in the Murphy Center.

FIU will be ranked second in the SBC East Division standings coming into Saturday's matchup, while MT will follow close behind in the

"There is a lot at stake for us this weekend," head coach Stephany Smith said. "You have two teams who are fighting for the champi-

The Lady Raiders fell to Florida International 65-63 in their first meeting of the season on Feb. 1. However, freshman sensation Tia Stovall, who was out for their last meeting, will be back this weekend.

"Florida International has really great size," Smith said. "[Ivelina] Vrancheva and Cormisha Cotton are probably their two most experi enced, key players in offensive point production."

Vrancheva, who averages 10.2 points per game coming into Saturday's competition, scored 20 points against MT at their last meeting. Cotton is a 6-foot-3-inch forward averaging 11.5 points per game and 8.7 rebounds.

Their point guard, Mandy Schafer, also averages in double digits with 15.3 points per game. She scored 10 against the Lady Raiders in their last

Patrice Holmes was the high scorer and rebounder in their last meeting with Florida International, tallying 13 and 12, respectively.

"As far as game preparation, we are practicing for us right now," Smith said. "Specific game preparation for Florida International will begin Thursday and Friday.

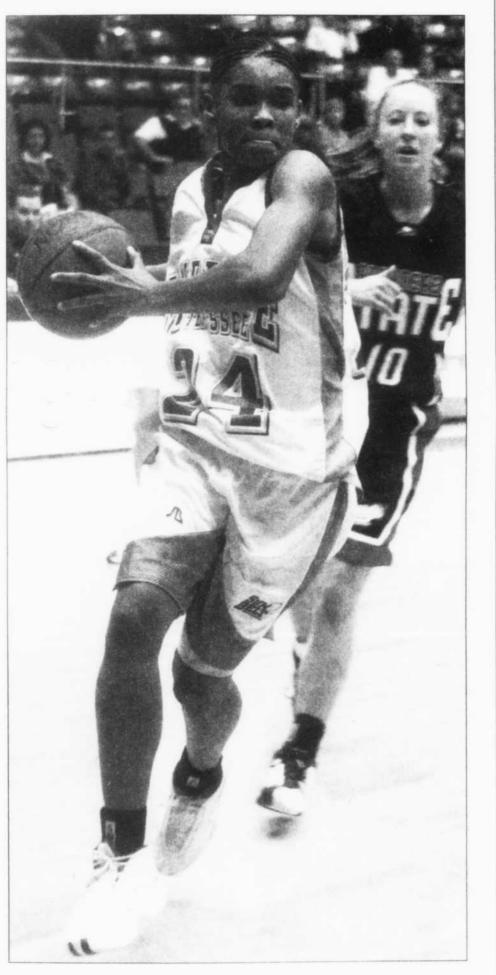
The Lady Raiders will have two seniors to be honored Saturday afternoon. Mia Parviainen and Paula Penttila have played for MT all four years of their college careers.

Parviainen has led MT in rebounding in two games this season and one in scoring. She has had seven double figure scoring games this season and 14 for her career. She tied the season-high made field goals with six against New Mexico State and accomplished the same feat in points with 13 against Louisiana-Lafayette.

Penttila has had double figure scoring games six times this season and 18 as a career. She scored 20 points off the bench this season. Pentilla led the Lady Raiders in assists two games this season.

Tip-off is at 2 p.m. on Saturday.◆

Red-shirt freshman Cartia Bailey drives down the lane for the Lady Raiders. Bailey and MT will take on Florida International on Saturday. The Lady Panthers are currently one game ahead of MT in the Sun Belt East Division.



Blue Raiders heading to the city where the heat is on to play Panthers

Davis

By David Hunter

Senior Staff Reporter

MT started the week off on the right foot by defeating Arkansas State 79-55 last Thursday night. However, in the final home game of the season on Saturday, the Blue Raiders dropped a 74-58 loss to Arkansas-Little Rock.

The defeat ended a five-game winning streak for the Blue Raiders.

Currently, the Blue Raiders are second in the SBC East Division standings with a (13-12, 8-4) record. Western Kentucky is still in first with a (17-8, 9-2) record. FIU is in last place in the SBC East with a (7-16,1-9) record.

"Now we have to depend on somebody else to win the division," head coach Kermit Davis said. "We have to take care of our team."

On the other hand, the Golden Panthers had been looking to strike gold

with their first victory in Sun Belt Conference action. FIU finally got it with a 56-46 victory over South Alabama last

Thursday. FIU narrowly escaped defeat by New Orleans 49-48. In the last four defeats, the Golden Panthers have lost by combined six points.

"It's the team that is playing well right now," Davis said.

One of those close losses came

against the Blue Raiders on Feb. 1. In that contest, FIU was able to make several comebacks to stay in the game, including the final free throw made by Junior Matias with 55 seconds left in the game

to make the score 59-58. MT's Marcus Robinson could not

connect on a three-point attempt with 18 seconds left. FIU's Eulias Baez drove the ball down the lane, but missed the shot with 1.8 seconds left. The Blue Raiders' Napoleon Rhodes got the rebound and connected on one of two foul shots to seal the 60-58 victory for

That night, the Blue Raiders only shot the ball 38.3 percent in the contest. However, MT was able to take care of the ball, won the battle on the boards and converted more free throws to pull out the victory.

"We've got to be a really good rebounding team," Davis said.

This week the battle for the SBC East Division title runs through Miami. Also, the 1,000-point watch continues for MT's Tommy Gunn as he is 18 points shy

Tip-off is at 6 p.m. at Florida International on Saturday. •



Senior forward William Pippen scored 22 points last Saturday.

It's just not **Nashville** without the Kats in town

Sports commentary David Hunter Senior Staff Reporter

It's time to wake the Kats up from their nap.

After being one of the most successful teams in Arena Football history, the Nashville Kats moved to Atlanta in 2002 to become the Georgia Force. However, the Kats might get another life thanks to Titans owner Bud Adams. This time it would be an expansion team with the same name.

It was a disappointing moment for the city of Nashville to watch the Kats move after watching them play for the Arena Football championship in the last two years of their stay in the Music City. In 2001, the Orlando Predators ended the dream with a lastsecond field goal to win 41-38. The Grand Rapids Rampage defeated the Kats the following year in the title game.

It was disappointing that the previous ownership and the Gaylord Entertainment Center could not work out an agreement to keep the Kats in town.

However, there might be a light at the end of the tunnel for the return of the Kats as an expansion team. Adams has the rights to the franchise as of April 30, but the problem is there is still no agreement between him and the arena.

"We certainly want to be in there. It's a fine arena, and we'd love to play there," Adams told The Tennessean in a Jan. 31 article. "We're looking forward to it. We're just looking for something we can live with."

The two sides need to come to an agreement because it could help the city of Nashville in the long run. When the Kats played here. It created excitement in the city for football before the Titans came to town. With the new Arena season starting up, fans will be able to watch football year round.

The entertainment value of Arena Football is unbelievable. The games are so fast-paced that anything can happen at anytime inside the arena field. This especially visible when scores run up into the '70s

A new Arena football team in Nashville would only help add to the visibility of the Music City. With NBC showing games on national television, the Kats could help bring an extra sports fan base to Tennessee.

The time is now for the city of Nashville to bring back the Kats, and hopefully bring home the first major professional sports championship in the city's history. •

Enhancement Center keeps athletes on the field



Photo by Kevin Jones | Staff Photographer

The Student-Athlete Enhancement Center typically caters to more than 400 athletes involved in the Blue Raider sports program. MT started the SAEC on campus in 1990.

By Michael Rutledge Assistant Sports Editor

Do you still perceive your average student athlete as the jock who sleeps in the back of class with an IQ slightly above a 7-year-old?

Then get out of the dark ages and fast forward to our millennium, where making it in this world means performance and money equals everything. No more are the days where athletes waste their scholarships by taking schedules that primarily consist of underwater basket-weaving and advanced aerobic walking.

Today, the NCAA has set rules governing the performance of the student them by holding their eligibility on the late this, the NCAA provided funds for

athlete enrichment centers on college campuses such as the Student-Athlete Enhancement Center at MTSU.

"We are the academic support system for more than 400 athletes, managers and trainers for 17 teams at this school," said Jeanne Massaquoi, director of MTSU's SAEC. "We help students meet the rules the NCAA enforces, and we keep them progressing toward a degree.

MTSU's student athlete enhancement program had humble beginnings, with their office originally housed in a converted mobile home and their study facilities in a borrowed Woodmore Cafeteria. Now, thanks to a donation from the Blue Raider Athletic athlete in the classroom, and enforces Association, the school's SAEC program and center is considered one of

athlete's eligibility state: "To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student athlete shall be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies, be in good academic standing and maintain satisfactory progress toward a baccalaureate or equivalent degree." The NCAA has also laid out more detailed regulations for the athlete concerning what type of classes they can take and when they can take them.

"It used to be that you could goof off in the fall, mess around in the spring and take all your classes in the summer," Massaquoi said. "But, not anymore. They can only take up to 25 percent of their classes in summer terms now.

Today on this campus, there are

people just because they are athletes," Massaquoi said. "Our student athletes are in demanding classes and are spread out all over the different

According to Massaquoi, the SAEC handles all student athletes' academic progress from the day they enter as freshmen until the day they walk out of the Murphy Center with degree in hand. "We are not part of the athletic

department," Massaquoi said. "We are under the Student Affairs Division, so we don't just abandon students once they quit playing sports. Even if their eligibility is up, we stay with them.'

Massaquoi says that the university, the coaches and the NCAA are dedicated to monitoring and making sure that ble hours for athletes and offers tutorfield in jeopardy. To monitor and regu- the top among schools of MTSU's size. very few course that are real easy, and the scholarship students, along with ing assistance along with its library-The NCAA bylaws concerning an there are no professors here that pass other athletes, get the best education like atmosphere.

that the university is paying for them

In fact, MTSU's SAEC has a time clock-type check-in for students to make sure they attend mandatory study hours. Massaquoi, along with assistant director Wynnifred Counts, also monitor the student athletes' classroom progression and attendance through periodical reports from pro-

Taking a glance at the SAEC's 2002 fall report card you can easily see the success of the program since its installment in 1990. Out of more than 400 students, 156 made the honor roll, 43 grabbed a place on the dean's list and nine achieved perfect 4.0 averages.

The enhancement center has flexi-

Moosemen host Rugby South Playoff

By David Hunter

Senior Staff Reporter

The Middle Tennessee rugby team will compete in back-toback contests with divisional opponents this weekend in Murfreesboro.

The Moosemen began the 2003 spring season two weeks ago with an 81-6 blowout of Western Kentucky. This weekend, MT competes in two matches as all four members of the Division I Northern Conference will converge at the MT pitch, the Moosemen's home field.

The USA Rugby South Playoff action kicks off at 12 p.m. Saturday with the Moosemen taking Appalachian State University. The second part of the doubleheader will be a showdown between the University of Tennessee and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

The following day, all four teams will be in action again.

ASU takes on UT at noon, while Neeley said. the Moosemen face UNC at 3 p.m. on the MT pitch. The game against UNC is a payback match from the defeat the Moosemen suffered at last year's Division 1 playoffs at Myrtle Beach, S.C. to

the same UNC team. "I look to the game against UNC on Sunday to be very fast and very physical," MT head rugby coach Tony Neely said.

During this weekend, the Moosemen will not play UT. However, MT goes to Knoxville

to play UT on March 8. All the teams come to the match-ups with undefeated records. UT began the season with a 40-0 victory over Vanderbilt University on Feb. 1. UNC started their season with a 3-0 record, including a 16-0 victory over Virginia Tech.

With the back-to-back matches this weekend, conditioning could play a big factor in the performance of the team.

"It's very important with the wear and tear on ones body,"

The Moosemen are led by Cayo Nicolau, who scored 19 points in the victory over WKU.

Other players to watch this weekend include Brown, Renda and Scurlock, each scoring two tries in the win over WKU.

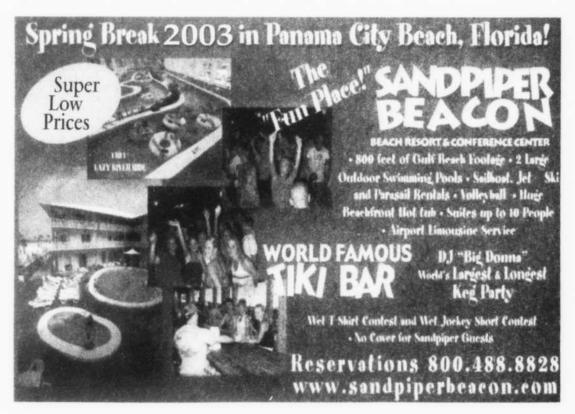
The defense could also be a key for the Mooseman, as they only allowed six points in the win. Those points came on penalty kicks, which are three points apiece.

"We are very confident, and we feel like we're coming together at the right time," Neely said.

There will be other Division II makeup matches from last week taking place on the second

These games were postponed after a snowstorm hit the East Coast last weekend.

Action begins at 12 p.m. at the MT pitch across from Circle K on Main Street. Admission is





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From Associated Press Reports

MLB considering ephedrine ban after player's death

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. -The heatstroke death of Baltimore Orioles pitching prospect Steve Bechler renewed calls for a baseball ban of the amphetamine-like stimulant tied to the case.

Bechler took a weight-loss drug that contained ephedrine, which has been linked to heatstroke and heart trouble, Broward County medical examiner Dr. Joshua Perper said.

The NCAA, NFL and Olympic International Committee already banned ephedrine, but the MLB has not. Perper urged baseball to ban the stimulant, and its risks along with warnings about hot weather - were a topic of grim clubhouse conversation in big league training camps.

SF's Bonds out of training; in surgery for elbow

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. - Barry Bonds will undergo minor surgery on his left elbow Wednesday, but the San Francisco slugger is expected to miss only a few days of spring

training workouts.

Toronto Blue Jays ink **Shannon Stewart**

DUNEDIN, Fla. - The Toronto Blue Jays reached an agreement with outfielder Shannon Stewart on a one-year contract worth \$6.2 million.

Stewart avoided an arbitration hearing scheduled for Thursday in St. Petersburg. He asked for \$7.5 million,

and the Blue Jays offered \$5.5 million.

All-Star outfielder Canseco still in jail; judge denies bail

MIAMI - Former All-Star outfielder Jose Canseco could remain in jail until a March 17 sentencing hearing, after a judge ordered him held without bond for violating the terms of his probation for a 2001 fight at a Miami Beach nightclub.

O'Neal sits out in Rockets game; cites sore knee

LOS ANGELES - Lakers star Shaquille O'Neal sat out the game against Yao Ming and the Houston Rockets because of a sore left knee. He will also miss Wednesday night's game in Utah.

Bibby, Malone filling Olympic roster void

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -Sacramento Kings guard Mike Bibby said he will accept an invitation to play for the U.S. Olympic basketball team, with Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz also expected to join the roster.

USOC slow in reorganization after president's presentation

GENEVA - The IOC wants quick action but intends to stay clear of the U.S. Olympic Committee while it sorts out the turmoil that has shaken the organization.

IOC president Jacques Rogge called the trouble at the USOC an "unhappy situation" and said he hoped beleaguered chief executive Lloyd Ward still has a future with the organization.

San Diego police cleared of wrongdoing in shooting

SAN DIEGO - A federal jury ruled two San Diego police officers acted reasonably when they shot and killed former NFL player Demetrius DuBose during a July 1999 confrontation.

DuBose, 28, was shot 12 times, including five shots to his back, during the struggle with police outside an apartment in San Diego's Mission Beach neighborhood.

Police said he lunged at them after taking an officer's nunchakus.

MSL champs Galaxies are doing well in La Manga

CARTAGENA, Spain Gavin Glinton had two goals and an assist as the Major League Soccer champion Los Angeles Galaxy defeated Lyn Oslo F.C. of Norway's First Division 5-0 in a La Manga Cup 2003 game.

Tennis star Roddick feeling fine; playing even better

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Topseeded Andy Roddick played without pain at the Kroger St. Jude Tournament, and won his first match since reaching the semifinals of last month's Australian Open.

Roddick, the world's sixthranked player, beat qualifier Cecil Mamiit 6-4, 6-4 to begin a defense of his Memphis title. The victory came four weeks after he injured his right wrist in Australia, where he later lost in the semifinals.

Second-seeded Paradorn Srichaphan beat Michael Chang 6-4, 6-2.

Skari keeps title winning Nortic Championship

VAL DI FIEMME, Italy -Norway's Bente Skari retained her title in the 15-kilometer classical cross-country race, the opening event of the Nordic World Championships.

Skari, the defending World Cup champion and current leader, was followed by Kristina Smigun of Estonia, who finished 12.8 seconds behind. Olga Savialova of Russia won her first medal, a bronze, crossing the line 55.8 seconds back.

NCAA rules committee abandons halo rule

INDIANAPOLIS - The NCAA Football Rules Committee eliminated the two

vard "halo" rule on kick returns.

Also, backs positioned outside the normal tackle position are now prohibited from blocking below the waist near the line of scrimmage. The committee also voted to start the game clock on kickoffs when the ball is touched instead of when it is kicked.

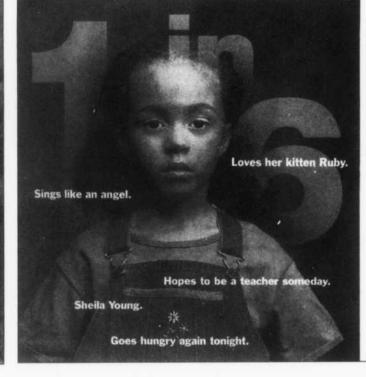
Nebraska football players one step closer to pay day

LINCOLN, Neb. - A proposal to pay University of Nebraska football players cleared a legislative hurdle. The Business and Labor Committee voted unanimously to advance the measure for debate before the full Legislature.

Kobe torches Rockets, scores 52 points in game

LOS ANGELES - Kobe Bryant scored a season-high 52 points to make it 10 consecutive games with 35 or more points and a franchise-record six straight with at least 40 - as the Los Angeles Lakers outlasted the Houston Rockets in double overtime.





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nishings, private bed-room, share bath. Call Small pets allowed 896-3226. Looking for 2 female Kelly @ 893-6354 ates for a nice Female needed to take 3 bed/2 bath house over lease @ Univ. near campus. \$360 a Courtyard. Private month per person, all bed/bath \$365 a month, reg. \$3851.5 util cable and internet included. Call Ashley minutes from campus at 474-0002. Call Leigh (615) 482-Roommate needed for

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Classifieds

Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball News and Notes

2003 SBC Men's Basketball Records

East Division

	Sun Belt Games				All Games		
	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	W	L	
Western Kentucky	9	2	.818	W5	17	8	
Middle Tennessee	8	4	.667	L1	13	12	
Arkansas-Little Rock	6	5	.545	W1	15	10	
Arkansas State	4	7	.364	L2	11	13	
Florida International	1	9	.100	Ll	7	16	

West Division

	Sun Belt Games				All Games	
	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	W	L
^Louisiana-Lafayette	10	1	.909	W9	18	6
New Mexico State	6	5	.545	Ll	16	7
New Orleans	6	6	.500	W1	13	10
South Alabama	5	7	.417	L3	11	12
Denver	5	7	.417	WI	13	13
North Texas	2	9	.182	L3	7	16

^ - Clinched at least a share of Sun Belt Conference West Division and will be No. 1 West Seed in 2003 Aeropostale Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Denver Pioneers

Several records fell in Denver's 90-84 victory over SBC foe and Division rival North Texas on Feb. 13. The win snapped the Pioneers seven-game losing streak thier longest since the 1999-00 season when they dropped eight consecu-

tive games. The 4,799 fans who attended the game were the most to see a basketball game in Magness Arena. Brett Starkey's 17 made free throws set a Magness Arena record for charity tosses made in a game and ranks third on the all-time single-game list. The Pioneers 38

free throws made and 46 attempted home victories this season make the most a Jan. 9 loss to South Alabama.

games the Pioneers have won at home since the 1996-97 season, when they won nine.

Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns

Louisiana-Lafayette clinched at least a share of the 2002-03 Sun Belt Conference West Division title with a 69-58 win over New Mexico State on Saturday in Las Cruces. The Cajuns can win the SBC West crown outright with just one more win in their last four

With Saturday's win at New Mexico State, the Cajuns won their M eighth straight overall and 13th in the last 15 games since a 5-4 start to the season.

> utive wins is 10, set first in the 1953-54 season and equaled in Jessie Evans' third season (1999-00) when the Cajuns won 10 straight from Dec. 28, 1999, to Jan. 29, 2000. Louisiana-

The school record for consec-

Lafayette increased its school-record Sun are both arena records. Denver's eight Conference win streak to nine games since

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Spring 2004 jan. - may appointment

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