

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Volume 71, Number 40

Walker fields questions from residents

By Mark T. Gibson / staff

President Walker met with the residents of Beasley, Gracy, Judd, Sims and Smith Hall last night to address questions and concerns of students in the second meeting this semester of the "Talk with the President" series.

Walker was not at the first meeting this semester due to illness, so Tuesday's appearance marked his debut in this annual series. The crowd of about 30 gathered at the Smith Hall Lobby to complain, suggest and sometimes praise the president.

Dean of Student Life Tom Burke and Vice President for Student Affairs Robert LaLance were among those support staff who were present to answer detailed questions which Walker could not. Walker also took the opportunity to welcome Debra Sells, the new Housing director, to the university.

"We started these meetings in the fall of '91," Walker said. "The first one was held in [Smith Hall] in the spring of 1991, and we've held them every spring since then. I want you to know that we've listened to a lot of the things you've said."

"We've changed dorms and visitation policies. We instituted the shuttle system. We drastically improved lighting on campus. We renovated the University Center and brought in the private food vendors because of suggestions made at these meetings," Walker said.

Many of the questions reflected immediate concerns about Smith and Sims Halls, and those questions were directed to administration officials who could solve the problem. The complaints ranged from a poorly situated pool table to roaches in the building.

Bathrooms

Students complained that the bathrooms at Smith Hall were cleaned infrequently during the week and not at all during the weekend. Several suggestions were made by Walker to Smith Hall Director Scott Hobbes who promised to speak with the custodian involved. Richard Smith, associate director of Facilities and Maintenance, also said that he would look into the situation.

LaLance asked the students if they would be willing to pay an extra \$10 per semester to fund another custodian. Many students responded "Yes!" simultaneously.

Rec Center

While many students praised the new Rec Center, a concern raised was the lack of sufficient locker space.

Walker called this issue a

Please see WALKER on page 2

SGA passes conservation bill

SGA should do more to improve student welfare: McFarland

By Heather Hybarger / staff

The Student Government Association (SGA) held its first meetings of the semester this week with the Senate meeting on Monday followed by a joint House/Senate session on Wednesday.

Major business of the SGA, including the passing of a bill concerning participation in the Green Lights program and a bill regarding the use of revenue gained from the annual Chili Cook-off, was accomplished during the Wednesday joint session meeting.

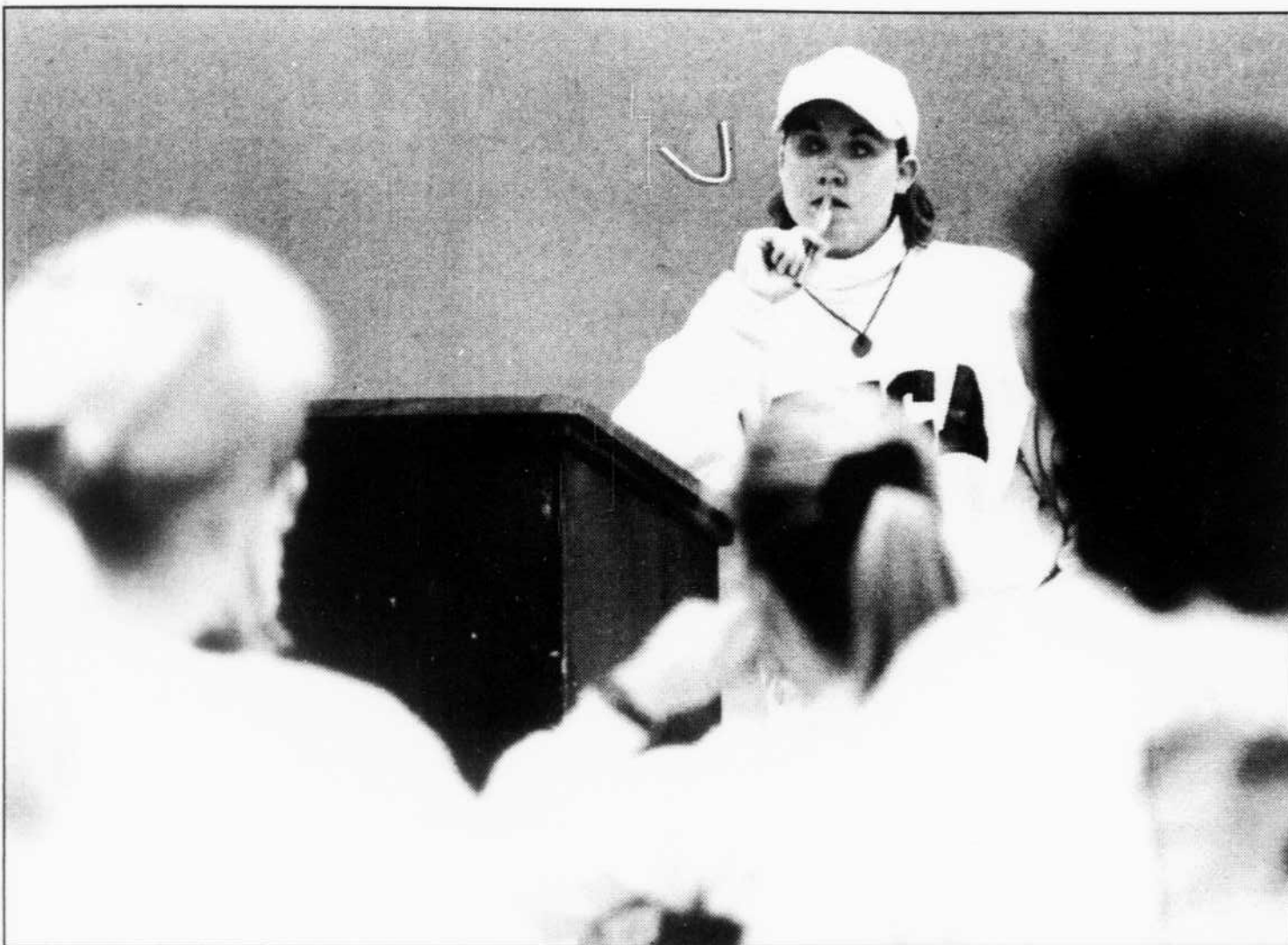
McFarland started Wednesday's joint session by challenging its members to improve the appearance of the SGA.

"I make a challenge to each of you that we start putting away politics and start doing what's right," McFarland said. "We should start doing what we are here to do, and that's to represent the students and be here for their best welfare." He also commented on an increase in joint SGA meetings this semester in hopes of increasing communication between the two houses.

"Having joint sessions keeps the Senate and [the House] in check," McFarland said.

Robert Chavez, SGA Representative and a member of the National Association of Environmental Professionals, proposed a bill that will enable MTSU to become a partner in the Green Lights program. The bill was passed by both the House and Senate.

The bill can now be approved or vetoed by McFarland. If it is approved, it must then go through



Brian G. Miller/staff

Speaker of the Senate Christin Baker leads Monday's SGA Senate meeting in the Keathley University Center.

university officials to become university policy.

The Green Lights program is sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency. It requires that its partners survey its buildings and renovate them by installing lighting systems with greater cost efficiency, less pollution and better light quality.

The bill brought before the SGA states that:

- MTSU sign a Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) to become a partner in the EPA's Green Lights program;

- MTSU begin a survey of all the buildings currently owned by the university detailing existing lighting fixtures, controls and spaces illuminated;

- MTSU incorporate into all new construction the recommendations of the Green Lights program.

Chavez estimated the cost of the

survey alone to be close to \$60,000, but it is undecided from where this money would come. However, the MOU is not a binding contract. It states that MTSU can quit, or be dropped from, the program at any time.

"I hope that you can appreciate the opportunity we have here at helping

Please see SGA on page 2

Demand for more housing exists: research

By Todd R. Cruse / staff

The marketing study for the proposed new dorm is now in its final stage.

Since September of 1995 the Biddison Hier, LTD. Consulting Firm has been surveying and researching MTSU's growing needs. The group has conducted economic trends and housing development research in Murfreesboro and MTSU, according to David Hays, assistant vice president for Student Affairs.

Based on the preliminary results of their research there is a great demand for continual growth in campus housing.

"We don't want to build a building that expensive with out extensive researching [of current and future trends]," Hays said.

The consulting firm had also issued surveys to students on and off-campus. A total of 5,500 surveys were distributed, 3,500 to on-campus residents and 2,000 to those living off-campus.

"We don't want to build a building that expensive with out extensive researching [of current and future trends]."

John Hays
Assistant Vice
President for
Student Affairs

"The surveys showed that students had participated in overwhelming numbers with the consulting group," said Deborah Sells, the new director of Housing,

According to Hays, more than 60 percent of the students said they would like to see more of a mix of single and double occupancy rooms. Nearly 76 percent of the students indicated a preference for a full food preparation centers in the new building.

More parking and private bathrooms were among other points of great interest to students. Survey results showed that reasons for moving from campus ranged from the parking limitations to the alcohol and visitation rules in the housing facilities.

Students who participated in the survey also suggested that grouping residents together by interests would be good. Such interests could be academic preferences, Greek affiliation and graduate classification.

The survey not only asked questions about a new facility but inquired about reasons for choosing MTSU and the campus culture. Deciding factors for choosing MTSU were its low cost, academic programs,

location and size according to the survey. The lack of retail and social needs were some of the drawbacks to student life here in Murfreesboro.

Funds for constructing new facilities will come from the State Bond Authority, and the repayment of the debt comes directly out of the revenue from the new facilities. Currently the debt service is 10 percent or less in the whole housing system.

Although the Housing Department has been devoting time to new facility research, it has not forgotten about the current housing here on campus, Hays said.

The repairs to roofs, electrical systems and windows in Beazly and Sims halls have been just a few of the improvements made to the housing complexes.

According to Hays, Student Affairs and the Housing Department are looking at the current housing conditions and considering ways to improve upon them. ●

Plans approved for establishment of new chair of excellence

By Charles A. Harrington Jr. / staff

The Tennessee Board of Regents has given MTSU approval for the establishment of a new Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning.

Chairs of excellence are funded with matching private and state funds. MTSU will receive \$625,000 from the state which they will have to match to get the project off the ground.

The board, which oversees 46 state campuses and approximately 170,000 students, met earlier this year to approve for state funding.

Jennings A. Jones, former mayor of Murfreesboro, businessman and entrepreneur, has already committed up to half a million dollars for the chair. The MTSU Foundation's goal is to raise an additional \$125,000 by October.

"The chair is viewed as a

interdisciplinary chair, one that will involve departments across campus," said Jim Burton, assistant dean of Conferences and External Affairs. "Certainly, we will be looking at political science, history, sociology and others."

Jones is the namesake of the already established Jennings A. Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise in MTSU's College of Business. It sponsors major conferences and special

events throughout the academic year.

"Mr. Jones wanted to establish another chair to provide the opportunity for forums of dialogue in the planning of opportunities in the Middle Tennessee region," said Barbara Haskew, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

The mission of the chair, which will be administered through the College of Business, will be to make the most of tax dollars for the future

planning of roads and schools in relation to the region as a whole.

"Good planning will save a city millions and millions of dollars," Jones said.

Jones served as chair of the Murfreesboro Planning Commission from 1946-50 after working as an electrical engineer for Jones Locker and Cold Storage System.

Please see CHAIR on page 2

Features

Author Giovanni speaks her mind

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Weather

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Most sun

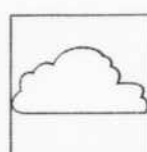
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rain

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High: 43
Low: 25



Sports

Men's b-ball takes Southern, ends 3-game skid

Page 9

WALKER: president opens dialogue with residents

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legitimate concern, but Dr. Lalance provided details.

"When we planned this area we sought out feedback from 7 or 8 different institutions, and thier feedback was that students today don't usually use lockers. They said that students are more likely to change in dorms and wear thier workout clothes to the gym, so we thought that the lockers would be sufficient."

Walker said that suggestions made by staff members to remedy the situation included adding temporary buildings full of lockers, more rental lockers,

and even building an addition to the building which would include a meeting room.

Students at the meeting suggested that the school stop renting the lockers by semester and just leave them open. Walker noted that the school would lose money if it stopped renting, but that open lockers might be the best solution.

Roaches

Students complained about roaches in Smith Hall, and that the people who spray dorm rooms have a habit of just walking into rooms while students are asleep in the mornings.

Walker said that he was

certain that the pesticide workers did not intentionally "invade students privacy," but that the issue could be looked at.

"Unfortunately, as we all know, students sleep at all hours of the day, so it's impossible to predict if someone is asleep or the room is empty. The workers want to get in and spray and get out, and they're pressed for time."

Richard Smith said that housing is addressing the cockroach problem aggressively, going so far as to change chemicals from time to time to prevent roaches from getting used to one or the other.

"Historically" he said,

"Smith Hall has had a problem. The print shop [in the basement] is a perfect breeding and feeding ground for roaches because of the high moisture."

He noted that sprayers must allow 14 days between each treatment, but if individual infestations were identified, then they could treated specifically. He urged students to speak to thier hall staff or to call Tom Hawk at 5456, the director of Custodial Services.

Scholarships

In response to several complaints about not recieving scholarships for which they were ostensibly qualified,

Walker said that students need to plan in advance if they wish to be considered for a President's Scholarship.

"If you apply for the scholarship the day you apply for admission, you've probably waited too long. . . I think they begin considering those things on April 1, so you need to have your application is as early as possible."

Lalance added that the priority for those funds "starts with first year students and with continuing support for those who already have the scholarships, so if you're not in that category you're probably already at a disadvantage."

Not all comments were

negative. One music major thanked Walker for the support he'd given the music department, but this generated multiple complaints about the music department librarian, who was mostly kindly described as having "a nasty attitude."

Walker ended the meeting on an upbeat note, saying that he expected the governors budget (scheduled for a Jan. 29 release) to include money for our new library and several other expansions.

"We expect to have 8 or 9 new buildings going up by next fall, including our new library."●

SGA: scholarship realigned

continued from page 1

MTSU, our university, in achieving it's goal, becoming a leader in environmental issues and an example for others to emulate," Chavez said.

The second bill, which was also passed by both House and Senate on Wednesday, resolved that all proceeds from the annual Chili Cook-off be put into a MTSU foundation account specifically for SGA book scholarships. These scholarships would be awarded from the interest on this account, except for the first

semester the scholarships are awarded. For this first semester SGA will set aside \$500.

The scholarships will be awarded on the criteria of need, achievement and merit. Elected SGA members will not be eligible. The selection committee to distribute the scholarship money will be comprised of the SGA president, speaker of the Senate, speaker of the House and three faculty members appointed by the Dean of Student Life, who will chair the committee and only vote in the case of a tie.

This bill also repeated another House bill, which states that revenue from the Chili Cook-off be donated to the MTSU Foundation Scholarship Fund on a continuing basis. SGA has no further control concerning the recipients of the money once it enters this fund. The new bill gives SGA direct control over the distribution of the money.

In some final announcements, McFarland announced the next joint meeting of the SGA to be on Feb. 7 for the presentment of an electoral bill. ●

CHAIR: MTSU holds eight specialty chairs

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Jones served as mayor from 1950-1954, working towards the roadway additions of Mercury Boulevard, Rutherford Boulevard, Northfield Boulevard and other roadway links.

The university currently has eight chairs: Jennings A. Jones Chair in Free Enterprise, Katherine Davis Murfreesboro Chair in

Dyslexic Studies, Mary E. Miller Chair in Equine Health, John C. Miller Chair in Equine Reproductive Physiology, John Seigenthaler Chair in First Amendment Studies, Dr. Carl Adams Chair in HealthCare Service, Robert E. and Georgianna West Russell Chair in Manufacturing Excellence, and the National Health Corporation Chair in Nursing.●

Read
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for campus
information

Attention African-American Students!

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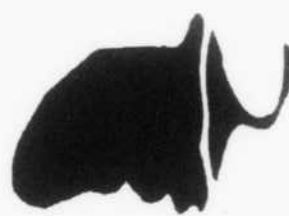
Law
Dentistry
Medicine
Pharmacy
Veterinary Medicine?

Funds are available through the Tennessee Pre-Law and Pre-Health Fellowship Program to provide support for eligible African-American students who are Tennessee residents and who plan to pursue careers in law or health-related professions.

Eligible freshmen and sophomores may qualify for six hours of free tuition in the summer. Juniors and seniors are eligible for special all-expense paid eight-week seminars. The application deadline is February 28.

For Applications and Further Information, Contact:

Dr. John Vile, Chair
Department of Political Science
Peck Hall 209
898-2596



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MTSU CAMPUS RECREATION



Prof testifies for plane safety

By Amy Sentelle / staff

MTSU Aerospace Professor Michael Schukert is a man of his word.

When Schukert's friend John Duncan was appointed as Chairman of the House Aviation Subcommittee, Schukert "wrote a letter to congratulate him and let him know that if I could help in any way to let him know."

So when the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the U.S. House of Representatives began contemplating the issue of whether airlines should be allowed to share pilot records, Duncan called Schukert to make good on his promise.

Schukert was called to testify before the Subcommittee of Aviation on Dec. 14 to "express [his] views concerning the opening and sharing of pilots private records."

Schukert's testimony stressed to the committee one over-riding theme—pilot pre-employment screening would be a crucial part of insuring the safety of both pilots and their passengers.

Schukert theorized that had pilot pre-employment screening been in effect, the Dec. 13, 1994 crash of American Eagle Flight 3379 in North Carolina might have been avoided. Instead, American Eagle hired the pilot, unaware that he had been fired from his previous job for incompetence. Had his records been made available, lives might have been saved.

According to Schukert, we're in a serious situation where, "since November 1987, there have been seven airline crashes claiming over 100 lives which have reportedly been caused, in part, by cockpit crew members with documented histories of poor performance."

One problem that arose in the hearings was the question of whether the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) would be able to insure that the required pilot information gathering instruments are standardized and validated, and that the required reporting and retrieval procedures are objectively implemented.

The problem with making

"The relationship of pilots and management is the nexus of the problem in question."

Michael Schukert
Professor of
Aerospace

pilot records open is that it runs afoul of privacy laws, Schukert said. Considerations must be made concerning what protections will be afforded pilots with substandard /unsatisfactory evaluations to guard against access by persons, organizations or agencies lacking an employment-related need to know.

The one viable solution would be to entrust the records solely to the FAA, allowing access of pilots personal information to only be disseminated to airlines considering hiring a pilot. However, great measures must be taken to insure that the records are truthful and accurate.

"A competent pilot who didn't get along with other pilots and tries to get a new job may not be hired by another airline because of the blemish on their record," Schukert said. "Vindictiveness is often a problem with flight records and that would not be just cause for a pilot to not be considered for job placement."

To insure the accuracy of pilot's records special evaluation processes would have to be developed that would rate the pilot on either a scalar or pass-fail standard. Appropriate measures would still have to be taken by the FAA to identify pilots whose performance is just minimally acceptable, according to Schukert said.

Upon trying to determine the

competence or incompetence of pilots in regards to hiring, another issue was born concerning whether pilots should be required to hold four-year degrees before being hired by an airline.

Among the evidence put before the subcommittee were the Sept. 26-28 issues of USA Today which carried a special report devoted to the unsafe pilot problem.

Included in the Sept. 28 edition were 12 solutions suggested by selected pilots, airline executives, union leaders and air safety experts. Among these recommendations was a proposed requirement that airline cockpit crew members hold a four-year degree in order to "help insure that pilots have the ability to understand today's sophisticated planes."

If this suggestion was supported by high-level government and industry officials, an option would be a baccalaureate professional pilot degree.

Schukert represented MTSU as one of over 50 colleges and universities currently offering such a program and he predicts that "many if not most of tomorrow's cockpit professionals will be graduates of these programs."

America's college campuses were once the birthplace of one of the most ambitious and successful pilot training initiatives that the country had ever seen, the World War II-era Civilian Pilot Training Program, Schukert said.

Although Schukert believes that you don't have to be a college graduate to be a good pilot, he does believe that a college degree is crucial considering that "the relationship of pilots and management is the nexus of the problem in question."

Schukert views the college experience as a learning field where college faculty "prepare persons aspiring to a career as pilots and aviation enterprise managers to be conversant with the issues and concerns governing or impeding these professional groups' decision making and conflict resolution processes." ●



Joseph Neal / staff

Little drummer girl

Jillian Abraham, freshman music performance major, practices before her Tuesday lesson in Wright Music Hall. She is a member of the jazz, wind & percussion ensemble.

Peck Hall received renovations

By Todd R. Cruse / staff

Peck Hall might have seemed different to students, faculty and staff after their return from the holidays.

Known as the Peck Hall Blitz, Operational Services made minor renovations in Peck Hall during Christmas Break.

The Blitz was an effort to repair and replace the everyday items that are used in Peck Hall. Routine maintenance items were addressed such as necessary painting and replacing pencil sharpeners and projection screens.

According to Debbie Westerfield, coordinator of Operational Services, there was a considerable effort made to upgrade some of the classroom areas. These upgrades included the addition of carpet, new overhead projectors and the installation of new TV/VCR units in 38 classrooms.

"A lot was accomplished in a short period of time through consolidated efforts of both in-house crews and outside contractors," Westerfield said.

Though these renovations are through and the rewards are already being put to use, the planning and projects are

not over yet. Some future projects in the works for Peck Hall range from general office renovations to putting a master classroom in the hall for the Honor's Program.

The Blitz was initiated and directed by Duane Stucky, vice president for Finance and Administration; Barbara Haskew, provost/vice president of Academic Affairs; John McDaniel, dean of Liberal Arts; Rebecca Raines, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs; and Lin Kemp, assistant to the dean of Liberal Arts. ●

Admission information posted on Web

By Martha Stroud / staff

Last fall MTSU began posting admission information on the World Wide Web.

Web users can now access MTSU's admission standards and requirements for new, re-enrolling and transfer students. Visitors can also obtain information on academic

scholarships, residency life and university facilities.

In a couple of months, Admissions hopes to have admission and re-enrollment applications and information request forms available on the Web.

"I think it is an appropriate use of our time and energy. The World Wide Web is the hot

place where people seek information," said George Gillespie, dean of Admissions and Records. "I think it is very important that MTSU is represented there. It puts us ahead of our competition."

Students may access the Web by typing <http://www.mtsu.edu> at the Frank prompt. ●

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

PRESENTS

THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL

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CAMPUS CAPSULE

Thursday, Jan. 25-
The King-Hampton Award Luncheon, honoring Mrs. Faye R. Hubbard will be held from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Tennessee Room. Tickets are \$10. Please reserve by Tuesday, Jan. 23, with CFAW, Box 601.

The National Association of Black Journalists will meet at 4:30 p.m. in Mass Comm Room 151. We will be planning spring activities such as guest speakers, seminars, volunteer programs and fund-raisers.

The College Democrats will hold their spring organizational meeting at 5 p.m. in KUC 314. We will have T-shirts for sale and be planning upcoming events.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon will be selling tickets for the Miss MTSU Scholarship Pageant from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the bottom of the KUC, on Jan. 25 and 26. Tickets in advance cost \$6, \$7 at the door.

The Church of God in Christ Campus Ministries will meet for bible study at 7 p.m. in the KUC.

Friday, Jan. 26-
The Middle Tennessee Symphony will present Cabaret Pops "Romance and Lace," featuring Julie Wolf, soprano. The concert will be held in the Tennessee Room of the JUB at 8 p.m. preceded by a dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person, reservations close Jan. 19.

Monday, Jan. 29-
WMTS is holding a new members meeting at 8 p.m. in Mass Comm 104. Anyone interested in being an intern for this semester must attend this meeting.

Student Life is sponsoring a series of leadership development sessions. The first is Communication Styles. Participants will be tested to

determine their particular style of communicating with others and effective ways of using their style. The session will be held in room 314 of the KUC at 3 p.m. Any student may attend, but participation is limited.

NAACP (Educational Committee) will sponsor a study and time management skills program from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in KUC 305. Luther Buie from the developmental studies program will be speaking.

Tuesday, Jan. 30-
College Republicans will hold an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in KUC 305.

Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity will hold interest meetings on Jan. 30 and 31. Anyone interested in the College of Business is encouraged to come. Both meetings will be held in KUC 322 and both begin at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 31-
You are invited to become a member of **Phi Beta Lambda**! Meet the members of Phi Beta Lambda in the KUC Room 305 on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Phi Beta Lambda is open to all College of Business Majors/Minors and has no GPA restrictions. Come join us in a relaxed atmosphere and casual attire to discover what Phi Beta Lambda can do for you. For more information contact: Penny Hunter-Davis at 895-0072, Taylor Thompson at 898-3709, or Dr. Robert B. Blair at 898-2036.

Placement and Student Employment Office will hold a summer jobs fair from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. KUC Rooms 322 and 324.

Upcoming Events-
Honors Student Association will hold its first monthly meeting of the spring semester on Feb. 5. All HSA members

and any honors students interested in joining HSA are welcome. The meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. in Peck Hall 108.

Gamma Beta Phi will be meeting Feb. 5 and 6, at 5 p.m. in LRC 221.

Career Placement Orientation for Seniors and Graduate Students Tuesday, Feb. 6, 11 a.m., KUC 318. Learn about placement services, resume expert, campus interviews, and employment opportunities. Presented by the MTSU Placement Center KUC 328, 898-2500.

Resume Writing Workshop, Wednesday Feb. 7, 2 p.m., KUC 318. Presented by the MTSU Placement Center KUC 328, 898-2500. Resume critiques available anytime.

Interview Preparation Workshops, Thursday, Feb. 8, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., KUC 318. Presented by the MTSU Placement Center KUC 328, 898-2500.

Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society is meeting at 7 p.m. on Feb. 15 at the Red Rose Cafe. In addition to a social time we will be discussing the short story "Cathedral" by Ray Carver. Any interested students are welcome. For more information call Candace Moonshower at 646-4527.

Women's Leadership Conference will be held at MTSU on March 8. Featuring Harriett Woods as keynote speaker, the conference will also include workshops, a luncheon and the 1996 Tennessee Women of Achievement Awards. Registration deadline is Feb. 15 with a conference fee of \$15; late registration is due on March 1 with a late fee of \$18. Registration forms and additional information is available at the June Anderson

Women's Center, JUB 206, call 898-2193.

The Gamma Iota Sigma Insurance and Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Fraternities will sponsor the 1996 MTSU Quiz Bowl on Thursday, Feb. 29. The contest will be held at 6 p.m. in the TV studio of the LRC and is open to all clubs and organizations. Teams, up to four people, must pay an entrance fee of \$15. Interested organizations should either stop by KOM 226A or call 898-2673 or 898-2534 to enter.

The Japan Center of Tennessee is sponsoring a "Japanese Netsuke Exhibit." Developed during the 17th and 18th centuries, netsuke were created in Japan to prevent a man's medicine box or tobacco pouch from slipping through his kimono's belt. These miniature sculptures were originally made of ivory or wood. They are less than 2 inches high and portray in detail the religion, legends and culture of Japan. The exhibit is on display in the lobby of the Cope Administration Building through March. The exhibit is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Application deadline for the **Alpha Delta Mu Social Work Honorary Scholarship** is April 12. Applications can be obtained in the social work office. Criteria are posted with the applications.

1995-95 **MTSU Student Handbooks** are available in KUC 122 and KUC 128.

Ongoing events-
Codopendents Anonymous (Coda) will meet Thursday's from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Marks United Methodist Church, Room 109 under the red handrail. Coda is a fellowship of men and women whose common problem is an

inability to maintain functional relationships. The only requirement for membership is a desire for healthy and fulfilling relationships with others and ourselves.

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) will meet Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at St. Marks Methodist Church, 1403 E. Main St., Room 109. ACOA is a 12-step support group for people raised in an alcoholic or other dysfunctional family.

Lambda, an organization for gay, lesbian and bisexual students, faculty, non-students, and their supporters, will meet every Tuesday in the Mass Comm building, room 103, at 6:30 p.m. For further information write to MTSU Box 624 or call 780-2293.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship will hold its weekly meetings on Tuesday at 8 p.m. and Campus Prayer meetings on Wednesday at 9 p.m., in KUC room 312. All campus ministries and all individuals are invited to attend.

Sure I Can Cope! is a support group for adult women students sponsored by the JAWC. Issues such as balancing family, finances, school, and other topics will be discussed. The group will meet Thursdays at 12:05 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. starting Jan. 25. Bring your lunch! Facilitated by Lydia Sun, a Psychology Graduate student. Space limited, call Mary Glantz at 898-5725 to register. Confidentiality in groups is encouraged.

Looking Forward is a group for female survivors of rape and sexual abuse. Topics such as safety, boundaries in relationships, effectiveness of coping skills, and ending isolation will be covered. Meets Wednesday from 2 to 3 p.m. Space limited, call Mary Glantz at 898-5725 to register.

All inquiries are confidential and confidentiality in groups is encouraged. Sponsored by the JAWC.

Seniors and Graduate Students: create your resume with Resume Expert Plus Software and register with the Placement Center in one easy step! Contact Placement and Student Employment Center KUC 328, 898-2500.

Wesley Foundation will be hosting an hour-long ongoing study group on Human Sexuality in the Christian Faith, Mondays at 5:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation.

Wesley Singers rehearsals will be held Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation.

MTSU students who need speech testing or speech therapy services should call the **MTSU Speech Clinic**, 898-2661, for an appointment.

Anyone interested in being a tutor or getting tutored, please contact Tanisha Harris of the **NAACP (Educational Committee)** at 898-4056.

MTSU Equestrian Team will hold regular meetings every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. in the TLC Sales Arena. Everyone is welcome!

Inroads Nashville, Inc. plans to recruit Nashville and Junior Minority Students in marketing, computer information systems and business administration. With a GPA of 2.9 or better, successful recruits will have the opportunity to do internships with such firms as IBM, Price-Waterhouse and Northern Telecom. Those interested should immediately call Prof. B. Fayissa at 898-2385 or see him in KOM 322G.



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OPINIONS

Thursday, January 25, 1996

SIDELINES

Page 5



In our view

SGA joint sessions allow more students to take part

As members of the Student Government Association (SGA) begin another semester, they should keep in mind the principal reason they are there. Namely, to empower the student body.

And that job requires some special considerations for a campus population that often works as much as it attends class.

Joint House and Senate meetings are a simple way to provide proactive students with a complete audience of SGA members.

Busy students with good ideas for the student body could find both the necessary audience and debate in one place, at one time if the two bodies met together.

The move toward more collective sessions can empower the average student and get more students involved in student government. And as members of the SGA often say themselves, student government could use more student involvement.

Joint sessions could also speed up the entire process of debate, decision and action so that the SGA can do more for the student body. If more productive, proactive measures came out of the SGA process, more students might respect the process; therefore, more students might get involved, spurring on the student government process.

SGA President Shane McFarland suggested that the SGA have more joint sessions in Wednesday's meeting—which was a joint House and Senate session itself. Hopefully, all other SGA members will support this action.

It is a positive move for the student body.

The centralization of debate can provide more accessibility for busy students while spurring on the process that empowers students and unifies our efforts.

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. Send letter to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the *Sidelines* office in JUB Room 310. Letters can also be sent via e-mail to the editor at: m_c_008c@frank.mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

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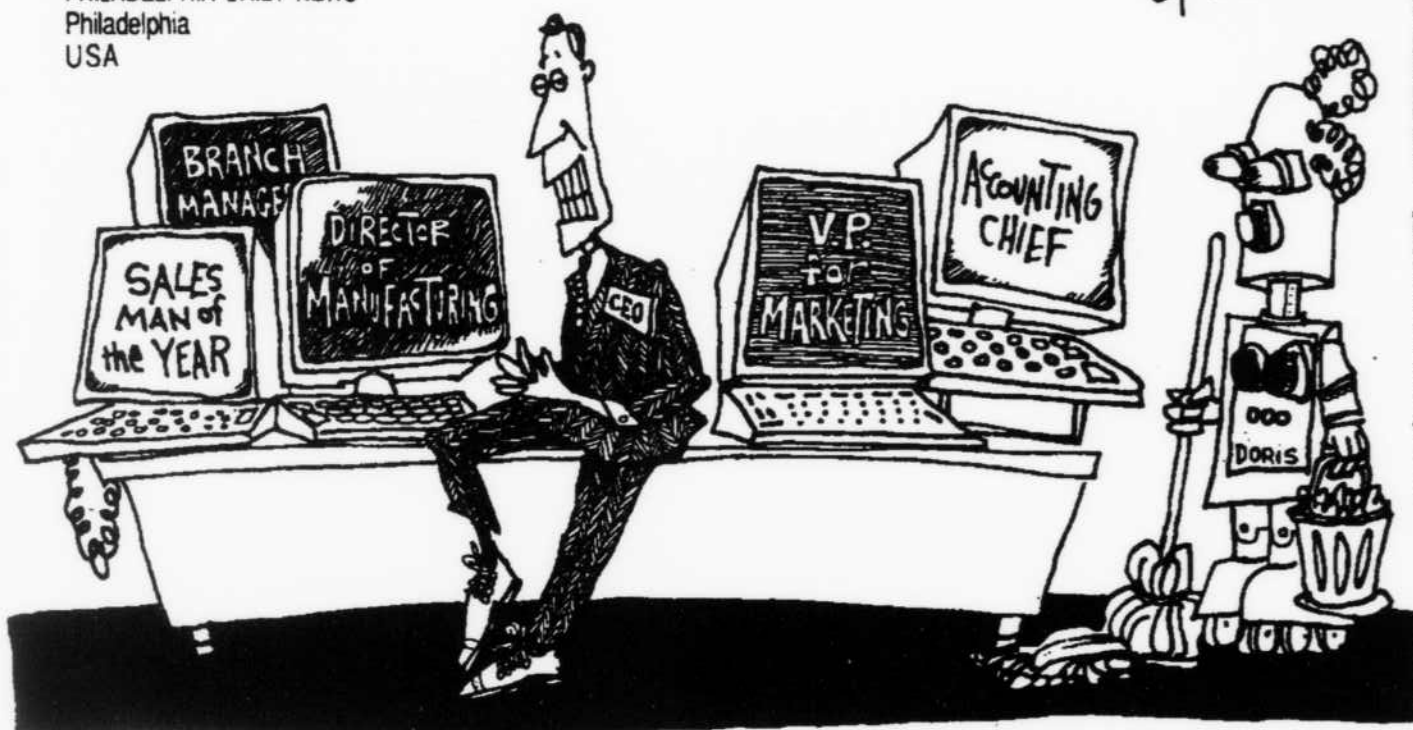
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CORPORATE FAMILY PORTRAIT, 1996

Letters to the Editor

'Showgirls' has no place at this university

To the Editor,

I was very disappointed this past week on the poor taste and lack of good judgment of those responsible for showing the controversial movie, *SHOWGIRLS*. I strongly feel this movie has no place at any Institution of Higher Education and therefore certainly not at MTSU.

First of all, Carmike Cinema refused to show the film due to its bad taste and NC-17 rating. Now by no means am I suggesting that we follow Carmike's movie showing policy when it comes to deciding what to show in the KUC theater. However, if this movie was not fit for Carmike then how can it be in MTSU's best interest to show it. Not to mention, critics considered this film a bomb at the box office, so I ask you: What was the point in showing it?

Second, this film is without a doubt degrading to women. In a University and Society where women can't walk outside at night without the fear of being raped, is the showing of "SHOWGIRLS" a good idea? Do we need a movie that depicts women as men's sex toys shown on campus? Everyone is responsible for his own actions, but this kind of negativity is not what MTSU needs and this school certainly does not need to be endorsing it.

Third, this film is simply soft core pornography and that in itself is a reason to not show it. Pornography is a violent, progressive addiction that certainly does not need to be endorsed on this campus. By progressive I mean that what starts out satisfying one at first soon becomes unarousing. In other words, soft core pornography such as this film can lead to Hard core pornography.

So, what is wrong with pornography? Well to put it briefly, pornography is very destructive and deadly. For example, in 1985, the FBI interviewed 36 serial sex murders and found that 81 percent were users of pornography. During the

time period of 1974-1979, Cincinnati shut down sex shops in a particular area and found an 83 percent decrease in major crimes. Sure, these are extremes, and I am not implying that everyone who sees "SHOWGIRLS" will become murderers and rapists. But, why play with fire?

A popular argument here would be that if you don't like it don't see it. Sure, however as previously stated, this is something that is extremely degrading to women and obviously a form of soft core porn, which can lead to hard core porn, which has been proven to lead to rapes and child molestation. So, this is a far greater issue than just don't go see it. This film has no place at MTSU and neither does future films like it. In addition, it might also be said that I am trying to push my morality standards on everyone else. Well maybe so, after all I do feel our country and society as a whole have lost the moral, Christian standards our founding forefathers formed this country on. (Which, I think is another issue.) In short, I itself sometimes we just need to take a stand and say this is not right.

Don't get me wrong, I do believe there is freedom of expression in the United States and "SHOWGIRLS" is far from being considered illegal. However, that freedom of expression depends upon how much we students allow here at MTSU. Somewhere the line has to be drawn where we say this is indecent and inappropriate at our school, and I am strongly suggesting and encouraging that this is where it is done!

Sincerely,

Philip Ott
Junior, Business Management

UEC only seeks equality for one demographic

To the Editor,

In defense of my Jan. 18 letter to the editor I'd like to respond to Mr. Wlodyga's letter [*Sidelines*, Jan. 22].

First of all, I respect Mr. Wlodyga's opinions and I applaud his willingness to stand up for what he believes in. However I disagree with some of his statements.

I would like to state that I was not suggesting that the lack of a federal precedent means that states can not decide on their own about issues such as these. My point is that there is not a CLEAR example for which individual states can look to when making decisions about unclear issues.

Another point I'd like to make is that I don't feel the UEC is truly fighting for equal rights for all demographic groups. Instead of asking MTSU to include one more specific groups, why are they not pushing MTSU to broaden its discrimination statement. An example of this would read: "We as a University will not discriminate against anyone for any reason except those of an academic nature." The "academic" to be defined as the minimum test score for acceptance rules already in place at every university in the nation.

As for my statement about the Dallas Cowboys, I have but one word: SARCASM. Look it up.

The Uniform Equality Committee has still not convinced me that their goal is to end all discrimination. They have only addressed one demographic, the gay, lesbian and bisexual community. This leads me to reiterate that the UEC is a political puppet of the Lambda association and nothing more.

Brandon F. Nichols
Senior, Recording Industry

Reader responds to downed clock-system story

To the Editor,

Since when have the clocks on campus ever been correct?

Lawson Bordley
Senior, Geography

Sidelines is hiring copy editors.
Work/classroom experience or show of competence a must.
Call the editor at 898-2337 if interested.

Homosexuality – genetically based or not – is not good for society



Scott Link

What's on my mind? Sexual orientation, discrimination, non-discrimination clauses, morality, toleration, and love vs. approval.

Whether sparked by a story in the paper, a previous conversation, or just a random thought, at least one person in my circle of acquaintances will bring up one of these issues on any given day. To be honest, more often than not, I start the discussion. Why? Because I care about society, I want to see it improved.

In the defense of the righteousness of homosexuality, I have heard that some studies indicate some are born with a

genetic tendency to be homosexual. There is much debate over this. Either way it doesn't matter, whether homosexuality is right or wrong must be determined in the moral arena.

"But it's genetic, it's natural, it must be OK."

Doctors are trying diligently to find cures for all the sickness in the world. Cures for cancer, AIDS, even the common cold are sought. Why? Aren't they are natural? Some diseases are genetic. Should we stop treatment of them? They are genetic, they are natural, they must be OK. Tell that to family with a child that suffers from cerebral palsy.

In recent years we learned that there is a gene that causes individuals to have a greater propensity to become alcoholics. Utilizing the same argument put forth about homosexuality, since it is genetic it is good and

OPINION

"In the defense of the righteousness of homosexuality, I have heard that some studies indicate some are born with a genetic tendency to be homosexual. There is much debate over this. Either way it doesn't matter, whether homosexuality is right or wrong must be determined in the moral arena."

all those with this gene should feel free to drink themselves into oblivion. Yet, society does not say that. Society calls it a disease and recommends treatment. We consistently ask alcoholics not to succumb to their genetic tendencies.

If a genetic cause is the only determining factor for what is

good and what is bad, how can we try to cure one and claim the other is right? Genetic causes are simply not a factor in whether homosexuality is wrong or right. It is a moral issue that must be debated in society.

Why would someone choose a lifestyle that may bring pain? I don't know. Why do people take drugs? Why do they rob banks? Why do they murder innocent people? I don't know. These are all harmful. These all bring negative labels: Junkie! Thief! Murderer! People make these choices anyway, and we hold them accountable.

To be included in the non-discrimination clause is to have a sense of societal approval. A feeling of social approval for non-heterosexuals is hard to come by. If sexual orientation is added to the clause every homosexual at MTSU would be able to point to it and say,

"Look, social approval of my lifestyle. This part of society says that, just like every race, every sexual orientation is OK." Many are not ready to say that every sexual orientation is OK.

The state of society reflects those who make it up. Our decisions have effects on our world, our community. We have a long list of activities that are considered crime, and not tolerated, because we think they are harmful to society. Yet we tolerate the people, and try to help them. In my opinion, homosexuality, even though it occurs in nature, is not good for society. Therefore, as a member of society, I cannot give this behavior credence, or lend it credibility.

But I can love the individual.

Scott Link is senior Radio/TF major.

Got an opinion you want to express? *Sidelines* can help. Call the editor, 898-2337.

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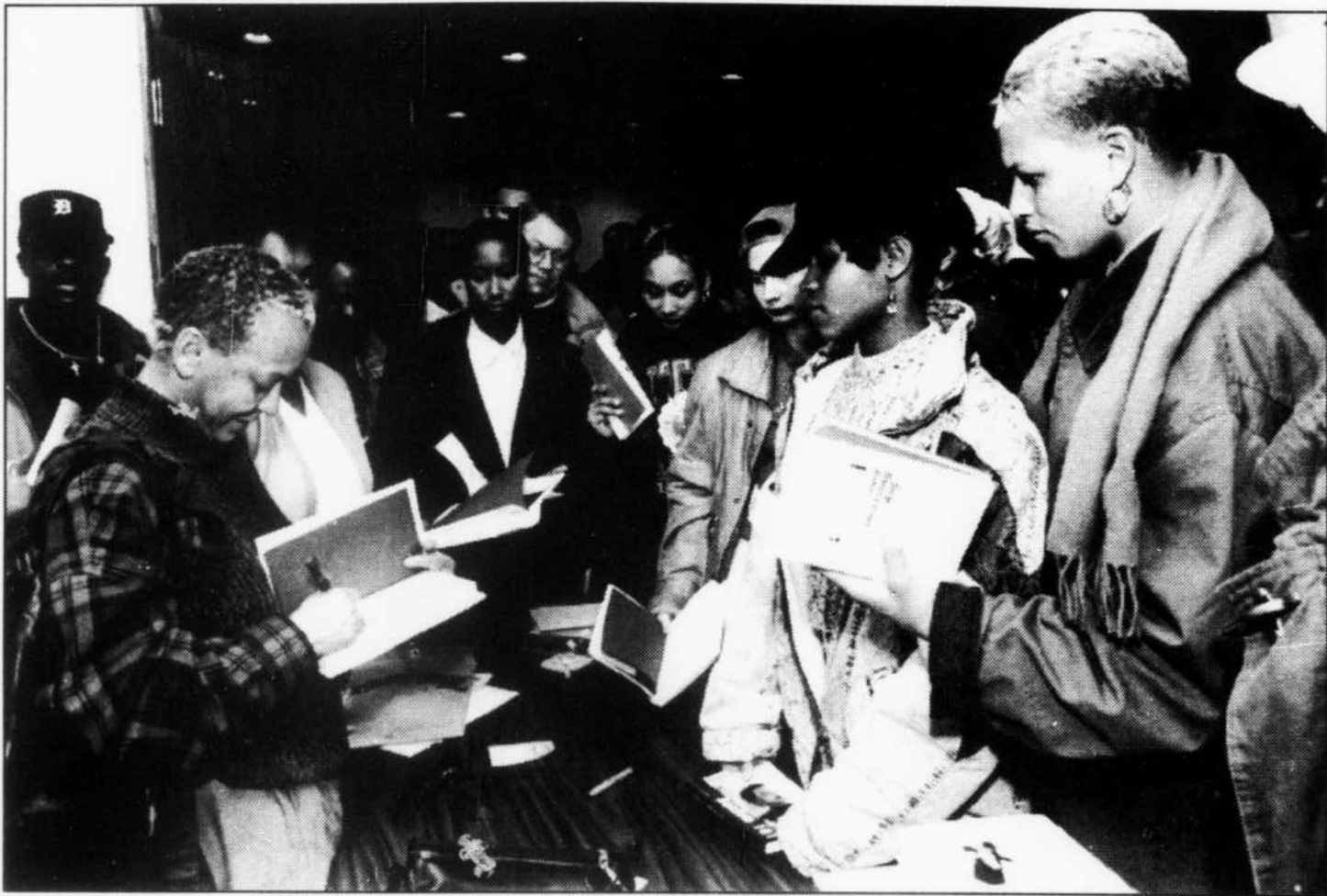
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Poet Giovanni pulls no punches

Author talks candidly about her life and the world

By Corrie Cron / staff



Nikki Giovanni signs books after speaking at Wright Music Hall. The poet's appearance kicked off Black History Month which officially begins in February.

as slaves, yet found away to survive and leave a legacy of music, poetry and literature.

"I like black people because of that," she says.

If there is one thing close to her heart, it is the education of all children in the arts. This is a scientific world, she says, but it is the exposure to the arts which sparks the imagination and begins the process of asking "why."

She chats openly about having cancer and almost sounds amazed when she speaks of how a tumor in her lung could be "snatched out" by removing a couple of ribs. She speaks almost affectionately of her last cigarette, even recalling the date, knowing it would be her last.

"Because either I was going to die, and it would be my last or, I would live, and I wouldn't be able to smoke again," she says, telling the story with a specific purpose in mind. However she says, "I would never

tell anyone not to smoke."

Author of seven books, including a recent one titled "Racism 101," prejudice and hate are topics never far from her lips.

"Nothing benefits from hate," she said in a press conference yesterday afternoon. "Hate is salt sewn on the earth. And you can't get grass to grow, let alone flowers, [where there is salt]."

She admires the uniqueness of this nation, recognizing a citizen's right to pursue happiness.

"Happiness is the opposite of hate," she says.

Last night, she called upon whites to help stop racism and leave it behind in this century, citing that African-Americans have accepted it and risen to the challenge.

"We didn't start it by ourselves," she says. "We can't end it by ourselves."

She gives the example of an entire nation supporting a black athlete in the summer Olympic games and chanting "U-S-A! U-S-A!"

"If he can be U-S-A on the track, he should be U-S-A on the street," she declares.

Giovanni also has a talent for embracing topics and people others admonish or avoid. For example, she projected what Susan Smith, the South Carolina woman convicted of drowning her two sons, must have

been going through in order to do what she did. She sees Smith as a woman who's husband left her "to go live with his mama," a woman who was in a job that didn't pay the bills, a woman with children she couldn't provide for.

"She saw no other choice," she says.

To wrap up, she read a few of her favorite selected writings to a captivated audience. Concluding the last poem with the lines "This is a rocket. Let's ride," Giovanni praised the triumphant spirit of black women.

"It was about how people get from one point to another; how people fight for what they believe in," said Senior Andrea Murray in response to Giovanni's final reading.

Hearing Giovanni's works read aloud by the author was a special highlight for Tracey Holt, an Area Coordinator with Housing.

"It is much better to hear her read than to sit down and read them by myself," says Holt, who attended with her daughter. "I knew she was coming, and I had to be here."

Giovanni is an alumnus of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. Last night she was presented with gifts of appreciation by Vice President of the MTSU chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Kipp Seward and Barbara Alexander of the Rutherford County Alumni Chapter. ●



Poet Nikki Giovanni speaks without apology at Wright Music Hall.

'Mr. Holland's Opus' makes beautiful music

A review by Daniel Creech

Last week I sat in a crowded theater in Cool Springs to see the sneak preview of "Mr. Holland's Opus." I wasn't too enthusiastic at first about watching this movie. It sounded to me like another tedious, melodramatic life story meant only for the purpose of grabbing a tear from the eye of every person who paid six hard-earned dollars to see it.

The story line: an aspiring composer, played by Richard Dreyfuss, reluctantly takes a job as a music teacher in a local high school to make ends meet. His moodiness and impatience are counterbalanced by his wife, Iris (Glenne Headly), who is peaceful and comforting and very much pregnant with their son, Cole, who, ironically, is deaf. Cole's deafness becomes a source of pain and miscommunication between Holland and his son, as the boy cannot understand or appreciate the thing his father loves more than anything: music.

The story progresses over the lifetime of this family, from the time Holland begins teaching to the time he and his wife are in their 60s. Sounds like quite a chunk to bite off for one movie, huh? It is a lengthy and weighty plot, but worth every minute.

There is nothing too original about the movie from the start. It won't spark your imagination with any special effects or excitement. The biggest grabber was the part before the movie then they demonstrate the

THX sound system. After that, I was wondering why they bothered to record this movie in such incredible digital quality.

The answer to that question is saved for the end of the movie. I won't give anything away, but you will appreciate it. I promise.

The most outstanding thing about this movie is the writing, which is incredible. There is not one line of wasted dialogue anywhere. Every word is full of meaning and purpose to give rise to the series of changes that Mr. Holland goes through.

It is all about character development, a favorite of you English teachers out there. I am a sucker for good character development and "Opus" is full of it. Not only does the main character learn to see himself in a totally different light by the end, but every person he comes in contact with does the same.

Through his music, Mr. Holland finds a way to reach people who are

struggling with all kinds of personal ordeals. He touches so many people, and most of them without realizing what a difference he has made. "Mr. Holland's Opus" is about becoming aware of just how important every human life is. There is no one on

Earth who isn't important and hasn't blessed someone somewhere along the way, whether they feel like the most forgotten person alive or the most popular.

It's an appropriate topic, self-worth. It's one we all can use a good dose of now and then. Watching all the pain and joy that Mr. Holland experiences in his lifetime helped me bring into focus some truths about my own self-worth.

It's hard to see the big picture when we look at our own lives. This movie lets us step back from an objective position and look at a fictional life of someone just as simple and everyday as you or me.



We can see what Mr. Holland does to the people who come and go from his life. Sometimes it isn't always good. He hurts some people and helps others.

He spends most of his life doubting himself. He seems to be living life one day at a time, doing the very best he knows how, all the while wondering where he is going with it.

Mr. Holland's dream is to be a great composer. Through the time period of the movie, we see him gradually composing a piece of music that obviously means a great deal to him and represents all the things he dreams about, but never has. This is his opus, his work. His life's work.

But as it turns out, his real accomplishment in life is not his symphony. It is the tapestry of interconnected lives that he has woven around himself and both affected and been affected by.

In the end, he finally realizes that he has never known a wasted day in his life. Even his worst days were in some way a gift for someone else. He never becomes the great composer, as far as we see, that he wants to be, but he does become a huge success in the eyes of his friends.

If you haven't seen it yet, do so. But take a few tissues in your pocket. Heck — bring the whole pack. And take someone along who really means something special to you. When it's over, I guarantee you'll want to let them know that. ●

Vegetarians beware!!

Dr. Judson is on to you.



Dr. Judson solves your problems

Dear Dr. Father Judson

Hey! What-z-up!? Okay, my roommate is really getting on my nerves. We live in a small dorm room and whenever I want to go to bed, she wants to listen to music. She smokes in the room and knows that I can't stand the smell of smoke. She drinks all of my Pepsi and eats all of my Ramen Noodles.

All I want is a little peace and quiet when I am trying to go to sleep and a roommate that shows concern for my peace of mind!

Ticked in the Dorms

Dear Ticked

I would drop out of school.

Love

Dr. Father Judson

Dr. Father Judson

Hey! I was going through my roommate's desk recently and found a letter written to you about what a crappy roommate I am! Well, I just want you to know that my freaky roommate complains about my noise at four o'clock in the afternoon when she is trying to get her beauty sleep (not that it helps her any!).

This is college and she needs to live a little. If she wasn't such a wall flower maybe she wouldn't always be stuck in the dorm room.

Ticked in the Dorms (with my idiot roommate)

Dear Ticked (idiot roommate)

You have a good point about your roommate needing to get out a little bit more. But why were you going through her desk? Either way, I think dropping out of school would be the best advice for both of you.

Love

Dr. Father Judson

Dr. Father Judson

You ran a poem about making a difference in your community. It was touching. I kept it posted on my refrigerator, but lost it when I moved. Could you please reprint it for me. Thanks for making a difference.

Terry in Oklahoma.

Dear Terry

I don't remember the poem you were writing about. When I asked my editor about it, she said she didn't remember any poems ever running in this column. Try Ann Landers.

Dr. Father Judson

Dr. Father Judson

I drive a 1983 Dodge Aries and seem to be having some trouble. The generator light has been coming on, yet the car is still driving fine. What could be causing the trouble? Will it be expensive to get it repaired? Why do some people refuse to eat red meat, but still feel that it is okay to eat chickens and fish? I mean, come on people, meat is murder!

Trouble in Texas

Dear Trouble

You could be having trouble with your alternator. I would take it to a mechanic that you trust. If

Please see FATHER on page 8

ENTERTAINMENT EXTRA!

TODAY	SUNDAY
THE BORO (895-4800) gets funky with Johnny Jackson's Soul Satisfaction. Cover is \$3 before 10 p.m., \$4 after.	THE BORO is throwing the Boro Super Bowl Keg Party to end all Super Bowl Keg Parties at 5 p.m. w/ a \$5 cover (bring your own Terror Towels).
BUNGANUT PIG (893-7860) presents Lindy live at 8 p.m.	KUC THEATER says, "Heeeeee's The Shining!" 4p/ \$2
KUC THEATER (Student Programming 2551) spoils our appetite w/ "Seven." 6:30 & 9p/ \$2	SQUEEZER'S welcomes Rub.
MAINSTREET (890-7820) welcomes the music of Jupiter Coyote and Janie Grey. 9:30 p/ \$5	MONDAY
SQUEEZER'S (896-8175) hosts The Plane (Ze plane! Ze plane!).	THE BORO features A Million Worlds. 9:30p/ \$3
FRIDAY	BUNGANUT PIG welcomes the Warren Brothers at 8 p.m.
THE BORO (895-4800) presents Junkbox. 9:30p/ \$3	KUC THEATER continues its run of "The Shining." 6:30 & 9p/ \$2
BUNGANUT PIG welcomes Ricky Ray & Friends at 9 p.m.	TUESDAY
JONATHAN'S gets dirty w/ the Mud Brothers	BUNGANUT PIG features Lisa at 8 p.m.
MAINSTREET hosts Spongebath Records Night w/ Fluid Ounces, The Features and Jenny Hall. 9:30p/ \$4	KUC THEATER is showing "Strange Days." 6:30 & 9 p/ \$2
SQUEEZER'S gets shaken to the foundation by Soulskin.	MAINSTREET welcomes Blu Green. 9:30 p/ \$4
SATURDAY	WEDNESDAY
THE BORO welcomes Uncle Daddy and AKA Rudy. 9:30p/ \$3	BUNGANUT PIG welcomes the Columbia Highway Bluegrass Band at 8 p.m.
BUNGANUT PIG presents The Sidewinders at 9 p.m.	KUC THEATER continues its run of "Strange Days." 6:30 & 9 p/ \$2
MAINSTREET hosts Butterscotch Bicycle. 9:30p/ \$4	MAINSTREET hosts The Honeyrods and Obscene Jesters. 9:30p/ \$4
SQUEEZER'S is TBA.	SQUEEZER'S presents Aggy Colored Karma.

With 'Friends' like these, who needs flacks?

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) -- Who's gonna drink the Diet Coke?

That's the question on everybody's lips, at least the lips whose owners Coke is courting with its latest ad campaign. The solution to the riddle Coke poses is one of your friends from the NBC sitcom "Friends."

Here's a better riddle: Who's had it up to here? Answer: I, for one.

Mine is a feeble outcry against the thunder of product tie-ins that will rise to a deafening roar this weekend with Super Bowl XXX.

A notable part of Sunday's football game will be "Friends" and its tie-in with Diet Coke.

A special hour-long episode will air right after the game. If the "Friends" character on your bottle cap turns out to be the one who drank the Diet Coke on one of the neighboring commercials, you win a big prize.

Is the episode good? Will Ross kvetch endearingly? Will Monica flash her navel?

All that is beside the point. This is not a program; it's a sales event. Who's gonna get

pitched? It's gonna be you.

So make sure you're tuned in and have plenty of Diet Coke on hand. A merging of amusement with consumption: life's perfect state.

The show serves as a draw that delivers you to the commercials. Your hope of winning something draws you to the commercials that accompany the show. A six-pack of soda. A six-pack of characters. Back and forth, yin and yang. It's all merchandising.

Coca-Cola and the program's other advertisers demand a vast audience to see their commercials. NBC wants to guarantee sufficient vastness to justify the huge price it's charging them for advertising time (reportedly 50 percent above "Friends" usual rate of \$400,000 per 30-second unit).

Therefore, Sunday's episode will take no chances. As an added audience draw, it is pitching extra-special guest stars.

You'll see Brooke Shields, Jean-Claude Van Damme and Julia Roberts.

These guest stars are performing as their own commercials. For themselves.

For their importance. For the other things they're doing.

Sunday's star-stunting is hardly unique. Scan the television schedule and you find celebrities big and small stepping into the picture to play themselves, or some self-serving spoof of themselves, in a nudge-nudge-wink-wink cameo.

You need only recall John F. Kennedy Jr. selling hunksmanship and his new magazine with a much-publicized "Murphy Brown" walk-on last fall.

How many more times must you see "Entertainment Tonight" veteran Leeza Gibbons with a cameo as an "ET" correspondent -- as she did most recently last Sunday on "Cybill?"

How many more things can the cast of "Friends" sell? They have hawked milk, long-distance phone companies and Windows '95.

And now Diet Coke.

So don't just sit there and watch Sunday night. Watch with Diet Coke in hand. Guzzle lots. Then stop and listen to yourself when you give out a belch. Maybe it's your way of saying "enough!"

FATHER: more bad advice

continued from page 7

but do eat chicken and fish. My friends told me that they do not believe that fish and chicken are animals.

Why?

Well, chickens are birds that do not fly and fish don't fly either. So, to make a long story short, if an animal can't fly or is not made of red meat, it is not an animal.

Dr. Father Judson

* Dr. Judson is not a licensed therapist, a certified mechanic or an aspiring zoologist. Sidelines assumes no responsibility for anyone following his advice, but will run his column on Thursdays for lack of any other newsworthy items.

Letters to Dr. Judson may be sent to: Advice for the Hopeless, P.O. Box 42.

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Raiders end slump with Southern win

By Rob Nunley / staff

As the old cliché goes, it wasn't pretty, but it was a win. And a much-needed win.

The Blue Raiders stopped a two-game losing streak last night in their 88-73 over the visiting Jaguars from New Orleans's Southern University.

MTSU entered last night's game after dropping two consecutive conference games on the road, most recently a 70-64 defeat at Eastern Kentucky on Monday, during which the Raiders committed 19 turnovers.

Southern came into Hale Arena with four starters averaging over ten points per game, led by junior forward Vandale Thomas (22.7 ppg, 6.6 rpg) and senior guard Tim Roberts (16.9 ppg, 3 rpg).

Several NBA scouts were on hand at the game to see what Roberts and Thomas could do against the Blue Raiders, and were disappointed to see the Jaguars' star players watch most of the game from the bench. Thomas played 27 minutes in the contest, while Roberts' four minutes in the first half were all the action he saw.

Middle jumped out to an early lead in the first half, going on a 13-2 run capped off by a stolen inbound pass and 3-pointer from Tim Gaither. But the Jaguars went on a run of their own, connecting on three straight treys to cut into the Raider lead. Southern closed the gap steadily as the first half went on, and with the final seconds winding down guard Maurice Fuller went coast-to-coast and laid in a bucket to send the teams into halftime with the Raiders holding onto a slim 40-37 lead.

In the second half Southern quickly tied the score at 40 apiece on a conventional 3-point play by Corey Davis with 13 minutes remaining.

But the Raiders hung tough, and exchanged baskets until the halfway point of the second, when Nod Carter buried one of his five 3-pointers of the game to tie the score at 55-55. Gaither

scored on a lay-up on the ensuing Southern possession after an Aylton Tesch steal, giving the Raiders a lead they would never again surrender.

Both teams battled furiously for every basket as the game wound down, and despite intense double-team pressure from the Jaguars and calls by the officiating crew that to Middle's coaching staff and fans seemed to border on the ridiculous, the Raiders slowly began to pull away.

During the final few minutes of the game, Middle built a ten-point lead and forced the Jaguars to foul. Carter and Gaither connected on seven consecutive free-throws to maintain the lead and seal the win.

After the game, Raider head coach David Farrar admitted he was happy with the win, but also said his team could have played with more intensity.

"I think unfortunately our team wants to win so badly, and they feel a lot of pressure to win that we almost play tentative at times, and I think that's one of the biggest problems," Farrar said. "That was our biggest enemy in this game, not being able to relax and be aggressive and not make some somewhat foolish mistakes."

Carter led the Raiders with 27 points, including 5-of-7 from 3-point range. Gaither added 21 points, while Tesch and Roni Bailey contributed 16 and 13, respectively. Tesch led the battle on the boards, bringing down 12 rebounds, while Gaither and Bailey collected eight each.

As a team, the Raiders outrebounded the Jaguars 46-31, and shot 54 percent from the field. But once again the Middle committed a great deal of turnovers, giving up the ball 22 times, including 11 steals.

Gaither expressed the team's satisfaction with the hard-fought win, especially coming off last weekend's losses.

"We kind of got down on ourselves, and we wanted to come out tonight and get and play hard, and get a win to get everything on track," Gaither said. "I think this win, especially



Brian G. Miller/staff

Junior forward Aylton Tesch drives the baseline during last night's 88-73 win over Southern University. The Raiders face UT-Martin Saturday.

against a very good team like Southern, gives us a lot more confidence and we think we've got everything together and play hard from here on out."

The Raiders return to action Saturday night when they will host the Skyhawks from UT-Martin. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30. ●

Dallas: the team people love to hate



Robservations/
Rob Nunley

Well, it's Super Bowl time again, and in the midst of the week-long hype-fest leading up to Sunday's game, I keep hearing the same dialogue over and over when NFL fans get together to discuss the Dallas-Pittsburgh matchup.

"So, who are you rooting for in the Super Bowl?"

"Pittsburgh."

"Oh really? Me too. Who do you think is going to win?"

"Dallas."

That attitude is all over the place. From dorm room conversations to the wrap-up banter between local news anchors and sportscasters. Everybody seems to be sure that the Cowboys are going to win, but no one seems to want them to.

Now I know there are a lot of true-blue, dyed-in-the-wool 'Boys fans out there, and there are just as many front-runner bandwagon jumpers who decided after Dallas won its last championship that they loved the team. You know the type:

"Oh yeah, they've ALWAYS been my favorite team. Yeah, that's it. Why do you think I have this brand-new hat (jacket, jersey, poster, et cetera). There still going to be good next year, aren't they?"

The point is, it seems you either hate Dallas or you love them. And for those people who aren't particularly fond of them, once they win the NFC, a lot of people's favorite team becomes whoever lines up against the Cowboys.

I wonder what causes that. What do you think the reasoning is behind people's hatred of the self-named "America's Team?"

After thinking long and hard on the matter, I was able to come up with several different types of Cowboy haters:

- First, there are the people who base their feelings on tradition. This group consists of football fans who can remember despising the Cowboys way back in the late 70's, when they were consistently among the top teams in the league.

- The only team better than Dallas in that era was Chuck Noll's Pittsburgh Steelers, who beat the Cowboys in Super Bowls X and XIII. Between 1974 and 1979, Dallas and Pittsburgh won five Super Bowls between them. This kind of rivalry forced a lot of people to take sides, and many of those people chose Pittsburgh. Now that Dallas is once again on top, they recall that old rivalry.

- Then there are those folks who base their anti-Cowboy sentiments on a much more personal level, meaning they hate someone associated with the organization with the white-hot intensity of a thousand suns.

In the past, these people chose to hate Jerry Jones, the overbearing owner of the team. They hated him because he fired Tom Landry. They hated him because he fired Jimmy Johnson. They hated him because he stands on the sidelines. In short, they just hated him.

But now, there's a new guy to hate in town - Deion. Some folks just don't seem to like "Prime Time" and I really can't figure that one out. I guess people don't like the way he's always being flashy and outspoken, or maybe they're jealous because he's so rich I hear God just called him up for a loan. Who knows why, but he's become yet another reason to hate the Raiders.

- Finally, there's the "underdog" factor. For some reason, people just love to root for the team that is picked to lose. That could very well be the most logical argument for rooting for Pittsburgh this year, since the Steelers are picked to lose by 13 1/2 points. You have to respect people for cheering against the team picked as the favorite, in any game. If it wasn't for people supporting the underdog, there wouldn't have been ten thousand people raising the roof of Monte Hale Arena last February when the Raiders beat the Commodores.

Regardless of who you're rooting for, or who you think will win, enjoy the game. But don't lose your voice yelling at the television. We're going to need all the cheering we can get Monday night when the Raiders take on Murray State. ●

Men's tennis ready for spring season

By Joel Frey / staff

6, 3, 25, 16.

While these numbers may not mean much to the average student, as MTSU's men's tennis team embarks on their spring season this set of digits will be critical in attempting to achieve the lofty goals they have set for themselves.

First of all, the Blue Raiders seek to defend their OVC championship for the sixth consecutive year.

Three centers around the minimum number of Blue Raiders Coach Dale Short wants to take to the NCAA singles tournament in May.

With Anthony DeLuise, Julius Robberts and Fred Niemeyer ending the fall season nationally ranked 21st, 57th and 69th, respectively, Short said he feels this goal is realistic.

"I think if Anthony can keep winning, regardless of his competition, over the spring he will be in good shape for the NCAA's," Short said. "Julius and Freddy will need some big wins over higher ranked opponents in pressure situations for them to reach the tournament."

Besides their accomplishments in singles, DeLuise, Robberts and Niemeyer, along with teammate Mark Follett, achieved a national doubles ranking.

DeLuise and Niemeyer teamed in

"...the talent of this team could warrant big results, not only for us, but the entire university."

Dale Short
Tennis coach

the fall to reach the finals of the All-American tournament in Austin, Texas along their way to a pre-season ranking of sixth.

This has earned the duo a berth into the National Indoor Championships to be played Feb. 8-11 in Dallas. Only 16 teams receive bids into the Indoor, one of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Grand Slam events.

Robberts and Follett played impressively as well, in earning a ranking of 29th heading into spring play.

As a team, the Blue Raiders ended

the fall season ranked 35th in the country moving up from 55th in an initial ITA poll.

Their current ranking puts them in striking distance of goal number three: ending the season ranked in the top 25.

Short said a certain amount of politicking prevented his team from being in this position in the pre-season.

"We are ranked ninth in the region, yet the teams that finished 10th, 11th and 12th in the region somehow finished ahead of us in the national poll," Short said. "I guess we are going to have to prove ourselves on court, as a team, in order to move up."

If MTSU can accomplish the aforementioned team goals as the season progresses, 16 may come into focus for the first time in Blue Raider tennis history.

16 is the number of teams which will be left standing in May to vie for the NCAA championship.

Short said he admits this will be very difficult to attain. However, he also refuses to underestimate his Blue Raider squad.

"If we can stay healthy, develop better attitudes on court and win some big matches as the season progresses, the talent of this team could warrant big results, not only for us, but the entire university," Short said. ●

Raiders open with Louisville Saturday

MTSU's men's tennis team opens their spring campaign Saturday traveling to the University of Louisville.

Coach Dale Short said he expects a hard fought match from the Cardinals.

"Although they are not ranked in top 50, this match worries me," Short said. They are very consistent throughout their line-up and if we go up there not firing on all cylinders we could very well come home with a loss."

Team members Fred Niemeyer and Mark Follett agreed with Short's assessment of the upcoming match.

"Louisville is very tough and we can't underestimate them a bit," Niemeyer said. "We played some of their guys in the fall tournaments and we realize they are quite talented."

Follett, too, said the Blue Raiders cannot let overconfidence become a team weakness before the first match is even played.

"Of course we need everyone to step up for this match," Follett said. "They are going to be fired up and we will have to answer the challenge." ●

Lady Raider tennis team faces nationally-ranked UT Saturday

By Joel Frey / staff

After opening the season with a road loss versus Vanderbilt, the women's tennis team travels to Knoxville Saturday for an evening match with the nationally ranked Volunteers.

Since the Vandy match two weeks ago, Coach David Thornton said he has been emphasizing doubles play in practice as well as establishing more inner-confidence on court.

"UT is ranked 9th or 10th in the nation so obviously this is going to be another tough match for us," Thornton said. "However, we have had some excellent practices since our first match and I feel if we play confidently at certain positions we can remain competitive."

Thornton also said despite the

early season setback he was encouraged with the play of certain team members particularly newcomer Alexandria Toelle and team veteran Michelle Wilson.

Debuting at number three singles in the MTSU lineup against the Lady Commodores, Toelle played impressively in a 7-6, 6-3 loss.

"We are very excited about Alex's capabilities," Thornton said. "She has a complete game and as she becomes less intimidated on court, I think she will really be helping us out a lot."

Wilson, who was plagued by injuries throughout last season, has slowly begun to see her game rebound.

"Michelle has definitely been playing better and hopefully as the season progresses she will begin to hit the ball more and more to her potential," Thornton said. ●

Freshman phenom has impact on Lady Raiders' successes

By Sean P. O'Toole / staff

Walking through the hallowed halls of the MTSU athletic department, one can not help but notice the great Lady Raider names of the past. Kim Webb. Kristi Brown. Someday, Heather Prater's name will be there.



Buck

They will have to make more space for the spark behind MTSU's powder-keg offense, Jonelda Buck.

At 6'2", she stands like a totem pole in the low post at Lady Raider games.

She scores so often, the ball might as well have her name on it in every game. Her modesty and subtle charm seem to overshadow her play on the hardwood, but she is the most

complete player to perhaps ever wear a Lady Raider uniform.

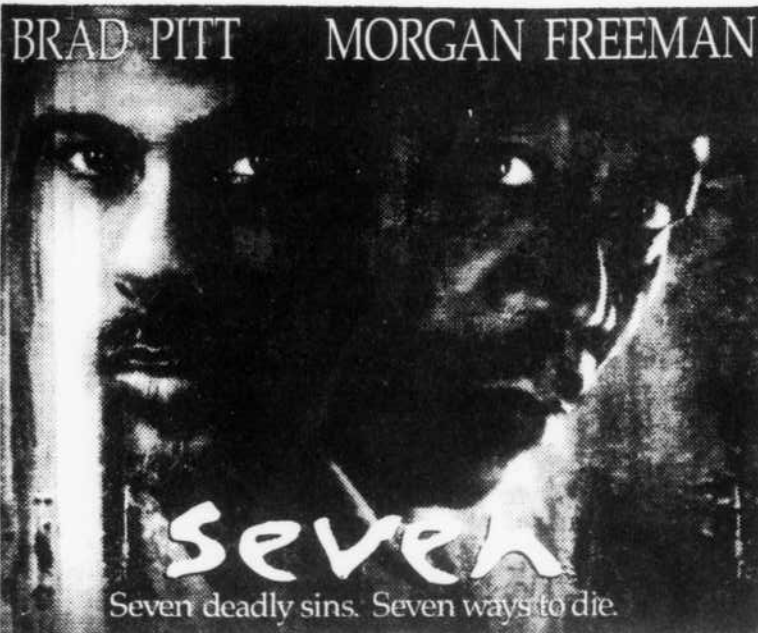
"It feels pretty good to be playing so well," Buck says. "It does not get me all wound up in myself, though. If the team was not winning, the personal achievements would not mean anything."

Try to forget that she became the first Lady Raider to score 30 points in any game since 1992 against TSU. Try to forget that she is tied for third in the OVC in scoring at nearly 17 points a game. Forget that she leads the OVC in field goal percentage at 67% a game, and that she in the top ten in free throws (6th), and blocks (2nd), and that she is 13th in the OVC in rebounding. Add that to the fact that she is a freshman, and you see why her name is already striking fear in the hearts of opposing teams.

But nobody is as surprised as

Please see BUCK on page 10

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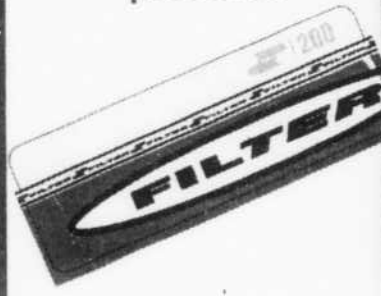
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Brian G. Miller/staff

Freshman center **Jonelda Buck** puts up a shot during a recent Lady Raider game against Tennessee State.

**Buck: credits coaches,
 teammates for success**

Continued from page 9

Buck, and nobody is as happy as head coach Lewis Bivens.

"I knew when we recruited her that she had the potential," Bivens said. "She had great hands, a great jumpshot, and a good high school coach, so she was prepared for the college game."

Buck replied, "I had no idea that I would be a starter so soon. I have worked hard for what I have, and I have tried to reach all my goals."

She has succeeded. Coming off a high school career that featured a 40 point outburst in the region tournament, and a 23 point per game scoring average last year, Buck has certainly proved that she is a force to be reckoned with in the OVC.

However, after coming off two consecutive double-doubles and the aforementioned 30-point barrage against TSU, she was brought back down on Sunday against Eastern Kentucky, when she was held to just 8 points and 5 rebounds on 2-of-7 shooting. "My shots were not falling in warmups, and I knew it was just going to be one of those nights. I do not think I have ever shot that bad," Buck said. Coach Bivens added, "She just made some uncharacteristic mental errors that night."

Now the question has been asked around the midstate as to how she will react to the sub-par performance. "She is very physical, and I think she will bounce right back," Bivens added.

But Buck will not allow herself to take all the credit for her success. After every game, she emphasizes that she would not get the ball without her teammates, and she could not be happier about her coach.

"He (Bivens) is very understanding. He has not got the acclaim he deserves in the past, but since we are doing well this year, he is getting the recognition, and is finally being recognized as a great coach," Buck said.

Bivens said that she is the most "coachable" player he has ever encountered, to which Buck replied, "Growing up, I was always taught to listen to authority, and in high school I learned that coaches always know best."

There is no doubt in anyone's mind that Jonelda Buck has the potential to become one of the greatest Lady Raider players in history. She will not admit it, but she has it. Around the beginning of next year's season, there may be two new things about MTSU women's basketball, another OVC title and a new superstar. ●

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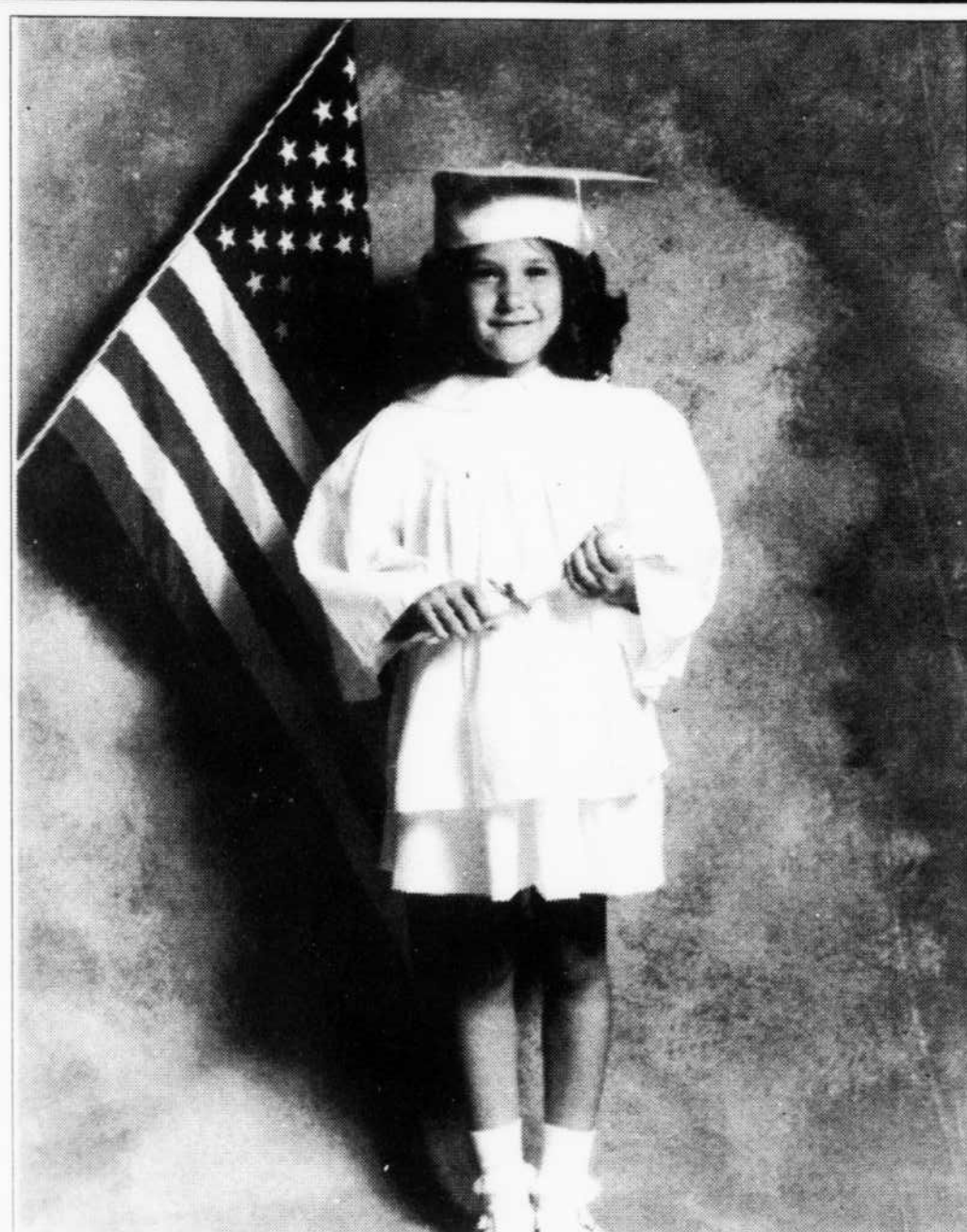
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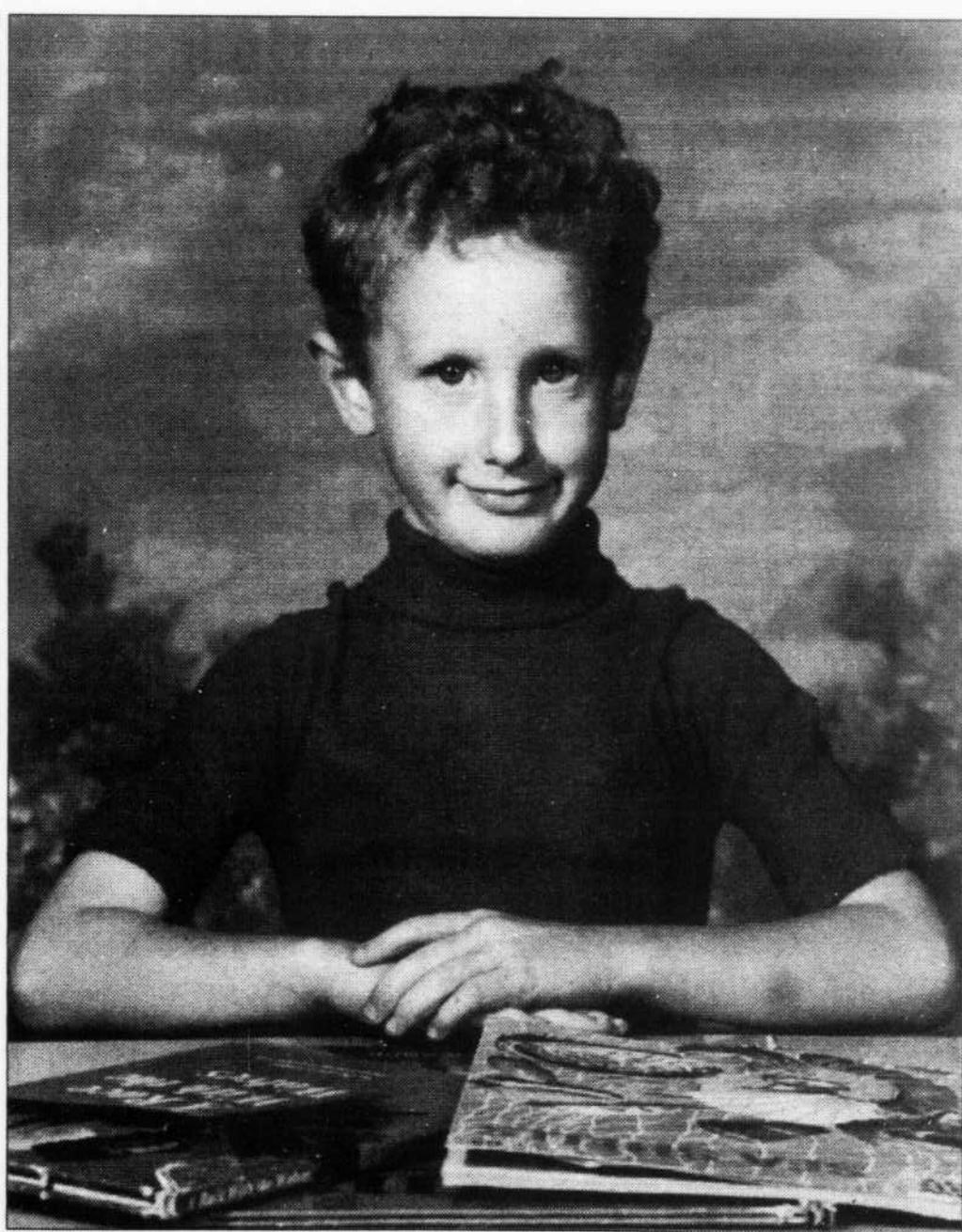


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CHAUDOIN



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