



**Musician turned poet,  
bad poet, that is.**  
In flash\*, inside



Middle Tennessee State University

# SIDELINES

An editorially  
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newspaper

Volume 78 No. 55

## Pipeline upgrade problematic

Students find trouble when getting e-mail

By Leah Massey  
Staff Writer

Students returning for the spring semester are logging in to a new version of PipelineMT, but not without experiencing occasional glitches.

pany that supplies the PipelineMT software to the university, recently came out with a new version of the software that was loaded onto the servers over the break.

Access to WebMT was moved solely to Pipeline in November. Students have had a

choice since February of last year whether to log into WebMT directly or go through Pipeline to access the WebMT services.

The changes made over the break include a tab at the top of Pipeline's homepage to allow students to have easier access to

WebMT service. Another tab labeled "My Courses" allows students to view their schedules and access WebCT for any courses they are enrolled in.

Although the change may seem beneficial, it has not been without error. Recently students have been experiencing trouble getting through to their e-mail and class schedule.

"There's a bit of a glitch in

the new version [of Pipeline]," said Lisa Rogers, director of the Division of Information Technology.

Some students who check their school e-mail through Pipeline have received an error message reading: "Your e-mail folders cannot be displayed for the following reason: Error

See Pipeline, 2

## UT/MT project takes flight

Schools try joint approach to program

Staff Reports

MTSU's collaboration with the University of Tennessee's Space Institute recently kicked off when Ralph Kimberlin, UT space institute instructor, brought the institute's "flying classroom" to campus.

In an agreement with UT last summer, officials from UT and MTSU agreed to work together on the program to benefit both universities. MTSU also collaborates with Tennessee Tech in offering computer science courses to be offered at the Institute in January. Other programs may be jointly offered in the future.

Instructors report that the venture will benefit both schools greatly, strengthening each and offering new and unique experiences to participating students. The agreement was made in June between President Sidney McPhee and John Caruthers, chief operating officer at UTSI to work together in the interest of mutual higher education goals.

"The enthusiastic response from Murfreesboro students to Dr. Kimberlin's lectures confirms our belief that we can better serve the cause of education by linking hands with our neighboring institutions of learning," Caruthers said in a press release. "You might say that the sky's no longer the limit to what we can achieve by working together."

Management and pilots are the focus of the master's aviation program. UTSI is also involved with Motlow State Community College, which will increase involvement in the program.

The UTSI is currently using some MTSU student pilots for research projects, and they are looking for others in the future.

MTSU will also be adding 25 new planes to its Aerospace department in order to upgrade the current 20-year-old fleet. The new fleet will include five different types of aircraft to meet various training needs for future pilots.

UT already has a number of research aircraft, including a T-39A Sabreliner, Piper Navajo, Piper Saratoga, two variable stability Navions (in-flight simulators), Piper Super Cub, Cessna 150 and upper surface blowing research jet aircraft and two sailplanes.

For more information about the UT/MT aerospace collaboration, contact the aerospace department at 898-5515. ♦

## Enrollment steadily growing



Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Due to the 4.9 percent enrollment increase for the spring semester, students were crowded in Phillips Bookstore yesterday around 1 p.m.

## Spring numbers show increase over 2002

By Jason Cox  
and Patrick Chinnery  
News Editor  
and Senior Staff Reporter

Preliminary totals for the Spring 2003 semester show a nearly 5 percent increase in enrollment from the previous spring term.

As of Wednesday morning, the number of students enrolled for the spring semester was at 19,278, repre-

senting a 4.9 percent increase. According to MTSU President Sidney McPhee, this is not a final number, and the university is seeing changes in the number on a day-to-day basis. The final numbers will be released later this month.

The number represents a decrease in the enrollment increase percentage from last year, when there was a 6 percent increase. Both McPhee and Vice President for Student Affairs and

Enrollment Management Bob Glenn credit registration deadlines for the slight but significant decrease in the percentage.

"We have made a concerted effort to manage our enrollment this past year," McPhee said. "We put together a plan last summer that points to the 4 to 5 percent growth ... and I'm pleased to say that we're hitting the targets. The most recent numbers show 4.9 percent growth, as opposed to a 9 or 10 percent

growth."

"Well, we knew there was going to be an increase, and we're dealing with it the best and only way we know how - one day at a time," Glenn said. "We tried to anticipate [and] put in place an enrollment deadline in order to limit the number of students that could get in."

He added that an additional

See Enrollment, 2



Photo courtesy of Thomas E. Hemmerly

The *Echinacea tennesseensis*, or the Tennessee Coneflower, is a herbaceous perennial that has recently popped up on the Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro.

## Endangered species resurfaces within city

Coneflower makes its debut on area battlefield

By Sarah Saussy  
Staff Writer

One of the nation's first plants on the endangered species list has now resurfaced in Middle Tennessee on the grounds of the Stones River National Battlefield.

The daisy-like flower is held together by its dark red center cone. Its hairy petals are fuchsia, and it usually grows 12-18 inches but can reach up to 30 inches.

The leaves alternate up and down the fuzzy stalk attached to its long taproot. The root grows between large amounts of bedrock in search of soil and

moisture below its home in the Tennessee cedar glades.

"The intense pink of the petals is just beautiful," said Terri Hogan, the ecologist at the Stones River National Battlefield.

The federally endangered Tennessee Coneflower has unexpectedly resurfaced, eliminating the false notion of the flower being extinct.

According to MTSU biology professor Tom Hemmerly, in the 1950s and 1960s, the Coneflower was declared extinct because it hadn't been seen in 30-40 years.

The recovery began in 1969 after Vanderbilt University botany professor Elsie Quarterman noticed the Coneflower on the side of a

See Coneflower, 3

## Pipeline: 'Deleted Messages' folder causing problems

Continued from I

getting subfolder, INBOX Deleted."

The message does not mean that the student's inbox has been deleted. The system cannot find the "Deleted Messages" folder for the student's account, and therefore cannot open the e-mail account. The student most likely deleted the folder at an earlier date.

"We expressed our concern to the vendor [Campus Pipeline] when we reported the problem a few days ago," Rogers explained.

A solution has yet to be supplied by Campus Pipeline.

Until a solution is provided, students with this problem can call the OIT help desk at 898-5345 and provide the office with his or her username. The "deleted messages" folder will then be added back to the account, and the student should have access to his or her account.

The fix is only a temporary patch, and Rogers advised students to not delete the "Deleted Messages" folder from their accounts.

Many students use the Pipeline e-mail because it is set up much the same way as Outlook Express. Students can

still access their e-mail accounts through WebMail if they are having problems with the Pipeline e-mail service.

There was also a recent e-mail sent out to all students detailing which Web browsers will support the new version of PipelineMT. Earlier versions of some Web browsers, like Internet Explorer and Netscape, will not support the new version of Pipeline.

Web browsers that will support the new version of Pipeline include Netscape for Windows 4.79 or 6.2.x, Netscape for Macintosh 4.79, Internet Explorer for Windows 5.5 Service Pack 2 and 6.0 plus the latest security patch, Internet Explorer for Macintosh 5.1 and AOL Windows and Macintosh version 5.

The mass e-mail states that other Web browsers may work, but any that do not will not be made to work by the vendor.

OIT is working to change the parameter of Pipeline to cope with the higher traffic that was experienced over the weekend as students returned from the holiday break.

The office hopes the servers will be able to handle the high levels of traffic in the near future. ♦

## Faux fire fakes out firefighters

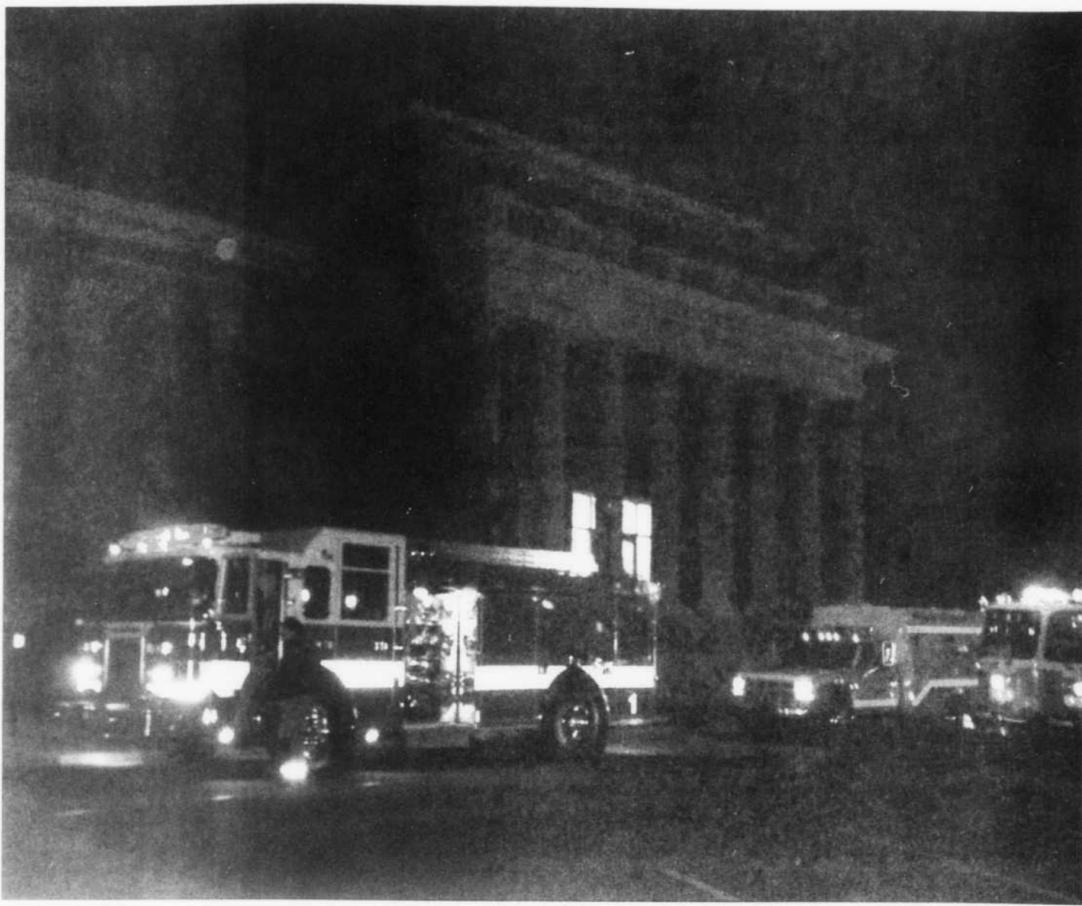


Photo by Nick Fowler | Staff Photographer

The Murfreesboro Fire Department was called to Kirksey Old Main on campus after the fire alarm went off late Tuesday night. A fireman reported a slight smell of smoke but found no fire in the building.

## CRIME LOG

Wednesday, Dec. 18 - 5:36 a.m.

Theft of Motor Vehicle

Horace Jones Field Football Stadium  
An MTSU golf cart was stolen.

Thursday, Dec. 19 - 1:36 p.m.

Drug Paraphernalia found  
Smith Hall

University police met with housing. Housing officials found drug paraphernalia and wished to make a complaint.

Friday, Dec. 20 - 1:48 p.m.

Theft under \$500

Judd/Simms Parking Lot  
A parking meter was stolen.

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - 6:15 a.m.

Vandalism

Family Housing Office

The big screen television in the office was vandalized. ♦

These accounts were compiled from Public Safety's media log.

## Enrollment: Faster graduation a goal

Continued from I

requirement in the future will be that all students new to MTSU, including transfer students, must attend a CUSTOMS session.

"We've done a good job in terms of using enrollment management techniques we have, so far, to limit enrollment impact," Glenn said.

McPhee added that the enrollment percentage for the spring of 2002 was higher than the increase in the fall of 2001 and that he considers the relatively light increase this semester as an improvement.

Glenn pointed out that the actual number of students

enrolled for the spring term is nearly 900 more than were enrolled in the spring of 2002.

"We believe that we can grow roughly 4 percent a year, and that's what we're working very hard to try to fix," Glenn said. "We want to be sure that we don't exceed the ability of the campus to absorb growth."

Both McPhee and Glenn discussed ways to put additional controls on enrollment.

"Increasingly you'll see some discussion this semester about admission standards overall, and particularly of certain programs," McPhee said, citing the recording industry program as an example.

Glenn added that, as the application deadline begins to reduce the numbers of new enrollees, the focus may shift to returning students and how they can graduate more quickly.

"One of the things that we're doing is trying to make an impact with the 120 hours (reduced from the 132-hour graduation requirement)," Glenn said.

"We believe that we can get some students through more quickly and efficiently, and that will have a positive impact on the retention rates, as well as what happens to our students." ♦

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# Coneflower: Plant found only in cedar glades area

Continued from 1

road in Middle Tennessee. The Coneflower has been protected by state and federal law since this discovery.

"Today, we announce a tremendous progress toward its recovery," Jason Wilson, deputy to the Governor for Policy, said in a Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation press release.

The Coneflower exists only in Davidson, Rutherford and Wilson Counties.

"One important aspect is its habitat. It's found only in cedar glades but doesn't grow in the shade of cedar trees," Hemmerly said.

According to Hemmerly, cedar glades are rocky areas with thin soil. Tim Merritt, the recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, also noted that cedar glades are a globally rare habitat.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation recently asked the federal USFWS to consider upgrading the Coneflower to the threatened species list or removing the flower from the endangered list completely.

"We think we have most of the data in hand," said Lee Barclay, supervisor of the USFWS.

The service still has to check with other organizations' studies to be sure that all the data matches and then ask the public for any outside information that might have been missed, Barclay said.

"The recovery criteria requires that so many populations be held on state or national protected land," Barclay said.

According to Merritt, in order for a species to be removed from the list, there must be five secure populations, each having three separate colonies with two juvenile plants for every flowering plant. For a species to be upgraded to a threatened species, it must still have five secure populations but have two colonies instead of three.

There are currently five secure Coneflower populations in Middle Tennessee.

"The number of individual [plants] within a population is increasing," Hogan said.

The original part of the Stones River National Battlefield accommodates four subpopulations, three planted by Hemmerly and one planted by visitors.

When the seasons permit, a Coneflower population is viewable at the battlefield when rounding the end of the car-ride tour on the right side of the

road. The cedar glades of the battlefield were recently designated as natural areas, Hogan said. "As a federal agency we're obligated to protect federally-listed and some state-listed species," Hogan said.

The work done at the Stones River National Battlefield is monitored closely to be certain that no harmful acts are being done to the endangered and threatened plants.

The threat facing the Tennessee Coneflower is primarily habitat destruction. According to the USFWS, residential development has reduced already small populations.

"The new [highway] 840 loop [built near cedar glade habitats] allows for more development for that area," Merritt said. "With the 'secure' populations, we're able to keep these plants away from development."

Historically, it was thought that cedar glades are naturally maintained by fire.

"The fires stopped other plants from taking over," Hogan said. Now, the lack of natural fires allows the chance for other species, especially foreign species, to receive land purely designated for the Coneflower.

Overuse of the flower for its aesthetic and medicinal values



File Photo

The flowers in the Stones River National Battlefield have been protected since 1969.

also poses a threat.

The Tennessee Coneflower is one of nine Echinacea species, most popular for stimulating the immune system. According to USFWS, Echinacea is found in over 200 pharmaceutical products.

According to the Steven Foster Group Web site, "Understanding Echinacea," some Echinacea components

have shown a mild antibacterial and fungicidal activity and have been shown to help stimulate new tissue development.

The Web site also stated that Echinacea products are now the best selling Native American plants in North America.

According to Barclay, it should take about five to six months to decide if and where the Tennessee Coneflower

stands on the endangered list.

"We have worked with TDEC for over two decades to conserve and recover this beautiful, rare plant," Barclay said in a TDEC press release. "I agree that it is time to evaluate its current status and if the recovery criteria has been met, either upgrade its status to 'threatened' or de-list it entirely." ♦

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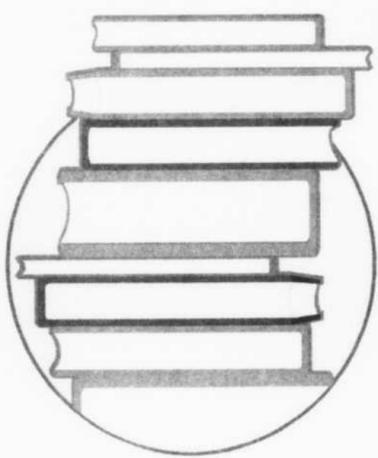
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# OPINIONS

4 ◆ SIDELINES

Thursday, January 9, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## From the Editorial Board

### Trigger-happy cops make costly mistake

If you're assaulted, the police will probably say there's nothing they can do, but accidentally leave your wallet on top of your car and they'll shoot your dog.

North Carolina resident James Smoak, his family and their two dogs were traveling home from Nashville on New Year's Day when they stopped for gas. Smoak, distracted by an admiring animal lover, laid his wallet on top of the car. On Interstate 40, the wallet fell off, spilling its contents and prompting an unknown motorist to call the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

Less than an hour later, more than three police cars began trailing Smoak, intent on making a felony stop, a serious traffic stop in which the driver and passengers are considered to be armed and dangerous. After handcuffing Smoak, his wife and their son and ignoring their pleas to shut the car doors so the dogs couldn't get out, Officer Eric Hall shot and killed the dog, Patton, as he exited the car and ran toward him. According to *The Tennessean*, the officer reported that "the animal was advancing on him at a fast rate and acting in a menacing manner."

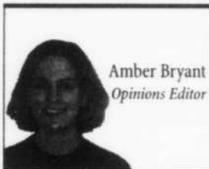
After watching the police footage provided on the newspaper's Web site, we disagree. The dog appears to be trotting up to the officer in a friendly manner typical of sweet pups. The trigger-happy officer clearly overreacted.

To make matters worse, the officers involved don't have the guts to own up to their obvious mistake. Cookeville Police Chief Bob Terry claimed, "One misconception is that we were close enough to close the car doors or keep the dog from getting in and out, when, in fact, that was not (the Cookeville officers') role at that point in time." How many officers does it take to secure an unsuspecting and innocent family? Perhaps if one of the moronic super troopers would have taken 20 seconds or so to secure the animals, Patton would still be alive and Tennessee wouldn't have a new reputation for housing shady cops.

We really hope the officers are severely reprimanded for their costly lack of judgment. It's too bad their mistake cost the Smoaks a member of their family. ◆

## From the Opinions Editor

### High school Bible study could further education



Amber Bryant  
Opinions Editor

Administrative officials at Monarch High School in Colorado are facing a lawsuit following their forbidding the formation of a student Bible study organization but allowing the establishment of a Gay/Straight Alliance Club, a Multicultural Club and Amnesty International.

According to the story as reported by WorldNetDaily.com, "In its suit, filed [Jan. 6] in U.S. District Court in Denver, the [American Center for Law and Justice] said the school is limiting the recognition of student organizations to those that 'directly relate to the regular curriculum and the educational goals of the school district.'" Stuart J. Roth, ACLJ senior counsel, claimed, "If a school district permits other student organizations on campus, it cannot legally deny students the opportunity to meet because their message is religious."

Religion and the Bible are a relevant subject to both history and sociology, two subjects I'm

sure are addressed daily, if not hourly, in every high school in America. If the students involved wish to form a Bible study organization that will welcome all students and their questions and observations and focus on objectively studying the Bible as a historical and spiritual document (as opposed to holding a miniature version of Sunday morning church), there's no logical reason to forbid it.

The separation of church and state is too often used to purge religion completely out of education, which is impossible and only serves to hinder free thought. Religion, primarily Christianity and the Bible, is commonly encountered in our culture. Everyone should learn about dominant sects of religion, whether or not they are religious.

Without the ability to hear educated ideas and opinions before making personal decisions, an education becomes a mere regurgitation of facts.

Unfortunately, that alone can get you a corner office on Wall Street these days. We should encourage students of all ages to study and think about everything they can get their hands on, not just what educators tell them to. ◆

## Aguilera has natural right to be 'dirrty'



Wit and Wonder

Callie Elizabeth Butler  
Staff Columnist

Over the past few months, a great deal of raving and ranting has exploded within the music world as well as from music enthusiasts concerning a certain video that appeared on MTV.

And it's time to leave Christina Aguilera alone.

When Aguilera's video, "Dirrty," erupted on television screens, criticism immediately followed. Explaining that this album, "Stripped," was a project that she had large creative control of, Aguilera said that this album was an expression of who she is and had a deeply personal

edge. Critics say that this song and its music video are too risqué, too hot, too sexual, but sexuality is who we are.

In exhibiting ourselves and trying to communicate a personal identity, why shouldn't an expression of sexuality be included?

The critical response to "Dirrty," as well as the song's music video, is yet another example of the popular attitude that sex should be silenced.

But our sexuality is and should always be regarded as an intricate and highly important part of who we are as people — such an important portion of our identity should not be silenced within music or any other medium of communication.

While Aguilera's expression of her sexuality is

deemed by many as not tame enough for public consumption — which makes one wonder what really is — her point of view is a valid one.

Unlike other pop icons, such as Britney Spears, she chooses to express and expose her sexuality verses parading it around a bit to tease viewers and increase revenues while claiming virginity.

Another point about Aguilera that must be mentioned is the fact that she is an adult, and the music on her most recent album is obviously geared toward an adult audience. Yet, critics seem to be unable to allow her to transition from the teen pop star of old to the woman she has become. This is not a little girl singing lines about having sex with a boy — this is a woman expressing her sex-

ual side. Madonna met same criticism when she began expressing her sexuality publicly within her music and other mediums. But, like Aguilera, she created an expression of an element of herself to display to others. Yet, due to our society's undervaluing of sex and sexuality, she was shunned.

A musical artist can write a book to display poetic talents — or lack thereof — and express various feelings, but beware if persons within the community of the musically elite dare to create something that might address your sexual tastes.

The criticism directed toward the "Dirrty" music video lies in its provocative lyrics and a bit of butt bearing. Such rear-gear images can be found throughout our society,

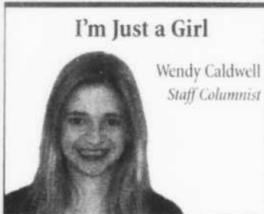
but combine some lyrics that allude to sex and you're doomed. These acts of musical bashing can be found throughout our musical history, one of the most notable being the response of some to the lyrics and lower body movements of Elvis Presley that ultimately defined a genre.

There is a necessity to artists who push boundaries and seek to express themselves in ways that they find fulfilling and valuable.

An expression of one's sexuality is a highly valuable one and should never be censored within a society that claims to hold freedom of expression so dear. ◆

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at [ceb2k@mtsu.edu](mailto:ceb2k@mtsu.edu).

## Watching television proves pop perilous



I'm Just a Girl

Wendy Caldwell  
Staff Columnist

Being on break for the past few weeks has really spoiled me — I've been able to relax when not at work, instead of worrying about assignments, classes and the like.

It was really great — for about a day and a half.

I soon found myself chronically bored whenever I wasn't either asleep or at work. Luckily for me, most of my time was spent engaging in one of these two activities.

However, for the rare off day that was not a holiday and thus devoted to family and friends, I had nothing to do.

As a last resort, I found myself watching a top 10 version of *Pop-Up Video*.

Because I don't usually watch music videos, I was shocked to see what some of the top 10 were.

One video included The White Stripes made out of Legos. I was immediately weirded out by the whole thing, but luckily it was only two minutes long, because I suppose the whole Lego thing took a while.

However, the most disturbing video of all involved ex-boy band member Justin Timberlake.

The video was Elton John's "This Train Don't Stop There Anymore."

Being a fan of Elton John, I

immediately liked the song. Being not so fond of Justin Timberlake, the video bothered me greatly.

The video focuses on a younger Elton John, played by none other than a lip-syncing Justin Timberlake with fake rose-colored glasses and, according to *Pop-Up Video*, a fake chin as well.

It is needless to say that Justin Timberlake is no Elton John, though today's culture would probably argue the opposite.

The concept of the video was good: Elton John reliving the 1970s, walking through various events in his personal and professional lives.

The decision to cast Justin Timberlake as Elton John was not so good. I do not wish to associate these people with one another.

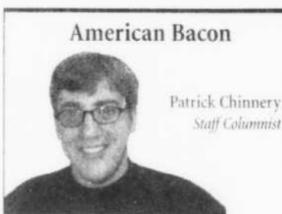
Perhaps it's some bizarre attempt to appeal to a new audience, but the last time I checked, Elton John wasn't having any trouble finding audiences. Neither was Justin Timberlake, for that matter.

There are some realities that everyone must face. Justin Timberlake will never be a gay '70s rock icon. Ever. Stop trying.

As for myself, I have done all that I can to avoid situations like this. I have made plans to be either asleep, at work or involved in some sort of activity at least until I'm 30. And just to be safe, I will not be watching television. ◆

Wendy Caldwell is a sophomore math major and can be reached via e-mail at [VISA717@aol.com](mailto:VISA717@aol.com).

## Congressional misbehavior



American Bacon

Patrick Chinnery  
Staff Columnist

In his campaign for the White House three years ago, George W. Bush promised to restore dignity and ethics to Washington. Members of his party, with the foam of mid-term election victories frothing on their mouths, on Tuesday took a giant leap away from Bush's moral goal.

One of the very first pieces of legislation passed on the first day of the Republican-led 108th Congress was an amendment to ethics committee guidelines that — surprise, surprise — relaxed gift giving guidelines. The changes are a direct contradiction of the House Committee's Standards of Official Conduct guidelines.

The rules, which the Republicans themselves passed when they took control of the House in 1995, were meant to end what many people considered rampant corruption of the Democratic Party.

The new changes allow lobbyists to purchase meals almost without limit for legislators and their staff when working late in a committee office. Previously, the total cost of such a meal could not cost more than \$49.99 and would count against the yearly limit of \$99.99 in contributions to an individual worker. Now, the cost is divided by the number of people dining, and the quotient is counted against the personal limits of all the staffers working. Thus, instead of a lobbyist purchasing maybe two meals a year, they may buy 40 or more.

This flies in the face of the November ethics committee

report which stated that the \$49.99 limit "cannot be evaded by ... averaging the expense of gifts given to more than one staff member or person."

Perhaps even more damaging to whatever sense of idealism Americans have left is the change that now allows House members to accept lodging and transportation reservations from IRS-recognized charities. This, more easily than all other rules, can be broken. All it takes is a charity to have political leanings and a little cash, and it can have an entire weekend to influence their very own representative.

The spirit of the rules passed in 1995 was to prevent both Democrats and Republicans from accepting such bribes. Now the Republicans, still drunk from their successful campaigns which ended little more than two months ago, believe themselves to be above such rules and regulations.

It would be wonderful if President Bush were to step into this debate and admonish the 220 Republicans in the House who voted to adopt these new rules. After the questionable rules and regulations that he has insisted upon since Sept. 11, 2001, it would be a positive sign if Bush were to stand up and be seen protecting Americans from those elected to positions of power.

Is this likely to happen? No.

Bush could potentially lose allies in the House if he condemns his own party. Therefore, it is up to the American people to let their Republican representatives know that this sort of behavior will not stand. If they are allowed to get away with this transgression, they will only continue to push things further. ◆

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## Letters Policy

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

\*denotes member of editorial board

## Blue Raiders head to Jonesboro to face Arkansas State

By Brandon Morrison  
Sports Editor

The MT men's basketball game against Arkansas State (6-6, 0-0 Sun Belt Conference) tomorrow holds a special significance for Indians head coach Dickey Nutt.

Nutt holds a tie for fourth place in career victories for coaches in the SBC with a 60-54 record. Former Western Kentucky and Jacksonville head coach Matt Kilcullen also has 60 wins. The third winningest coach in the SBC is Louisiana-Lafayette coach Marty Fletcher with 66 wins. After Fletcher, former South Alabama coach Ronnie Arrow had 69 victories to his credit and the honor of having the second-best career league record in the SBC.

However, with the Blue Raiders (5-8, 1-0 SBC) fresh off of an upset victory over Western Kentucky on Monday, Nutt may have to wait another game to move up in the ranks. MT head coach Kermit Davis knows his team has the confidence to win.

"This means a lot," Davis said. "They [Western Kentucky]

have had some tough luck with injuries, but still they have some quality wins against good teams. For our team, it just gives you so much confidence. There is nothing like just winning, and finishing it."

The victory meant a new beginning for the team. The last time MT beat WKU was on Dec. 8, 1982, the same day that the Monte Hale Arena was dedicated. The game broke an eight-game losing streak against the Hilltoppers. Also, Middle Tennessee scored a season-high 58.7 shooting percentage during Monday's game. The last time MT shot so well was the 2001-2002 season opener against Byran College.

Undoubtedly, the player Arkansas State will be looking out for is MT forward William Pippen, who scored a game-high 21 points in the WKU game. Pippen also set a new personal high with 10 rebounds in one game.

"We just wanted to get everybody involved into the game, fans and all," Pippen said. "I think the games we lost earlier in the season prepared us for the victory tonight. It is conference time, so we have to step it up. We have to be ready to play every single night."

Arkansas State will put up a fight for the Blue Raiders. ASU guards Tevoris Thompson and Jon Beck lead the Indians' three-point attack. The team

See Blue Raiders, 8

## Sun Belt to add two teams by mid-January

By Erich Heinlein  
Senior Staff Reporter

The Sun Belt Conference will be adding new teams by mid-January. Although SBC Commissioner Wright Waters would not speculate, he gave three clues.

Hint No. 1: "We will not doubt add another school in the Western region and perhaps another in the East."

Hint No. 2: "Rick Chrsyt, the MAC (Mid Atlantic Conference) commissioner, and I agree completely [about promoting competition between the two leagues], and we have great respect for the MAC and have been proud of what has been accomplished with the football and basketball programs in the past several years."

Hint No. 3: In the e-chat, in response to the fact that the University of Idaho will be joining the Sun Belt Conference as a full member, he congratulated the reader and said he should be expecting an announcement in December.

"It [the decisions] is usually very quiet conversations between interested parties to determine if interest exists by both parties, if there is mutual benefit," Waters explained. "If that is determined, it quietly escalates to the point of discussions by the decision makers of both groups and finally there is a public announcement. You try not to allow the debate to become emotional, but made in an environment that allows all parties to do what is best for the institution that they represent."

One new team has joined already. Utah State was added to the SBC in October. The Aggies will join as a football only member in 2003 and must become a full member by 2005-2006.

"Our schools simply cannot afford to play these teams for a guarantee anymore, without a return game, especially not for

\$400,000 or \$1 million," Waters said. "Further, these schools cannot afford to play an I-AA since it would negatively impact their BCS rankings and bowl prospects. So there are some interesting times ahead, and it is why we will get to nine institutions, play four home and four away, schedule one game up and two games home and away."

For a while, there has also been some speculation that the Sun Belt Conference and the Western Athletic Conference may be "trading" teams, but according to both Waters and WAC Commissioner Keith Benson, this is not true.

"We are doing this in order to stay within Division I-A requirements," Waters explained on the SBC Web site. "We must have three new football programs and one school with an additional three women's sports."

In order to be a member of the Sun Belt Conference, the member also must meet requirements to stay in I-A.

"We are going to change to three divisions at 4-6-4," said Waters in the e-chat on the team Web site.

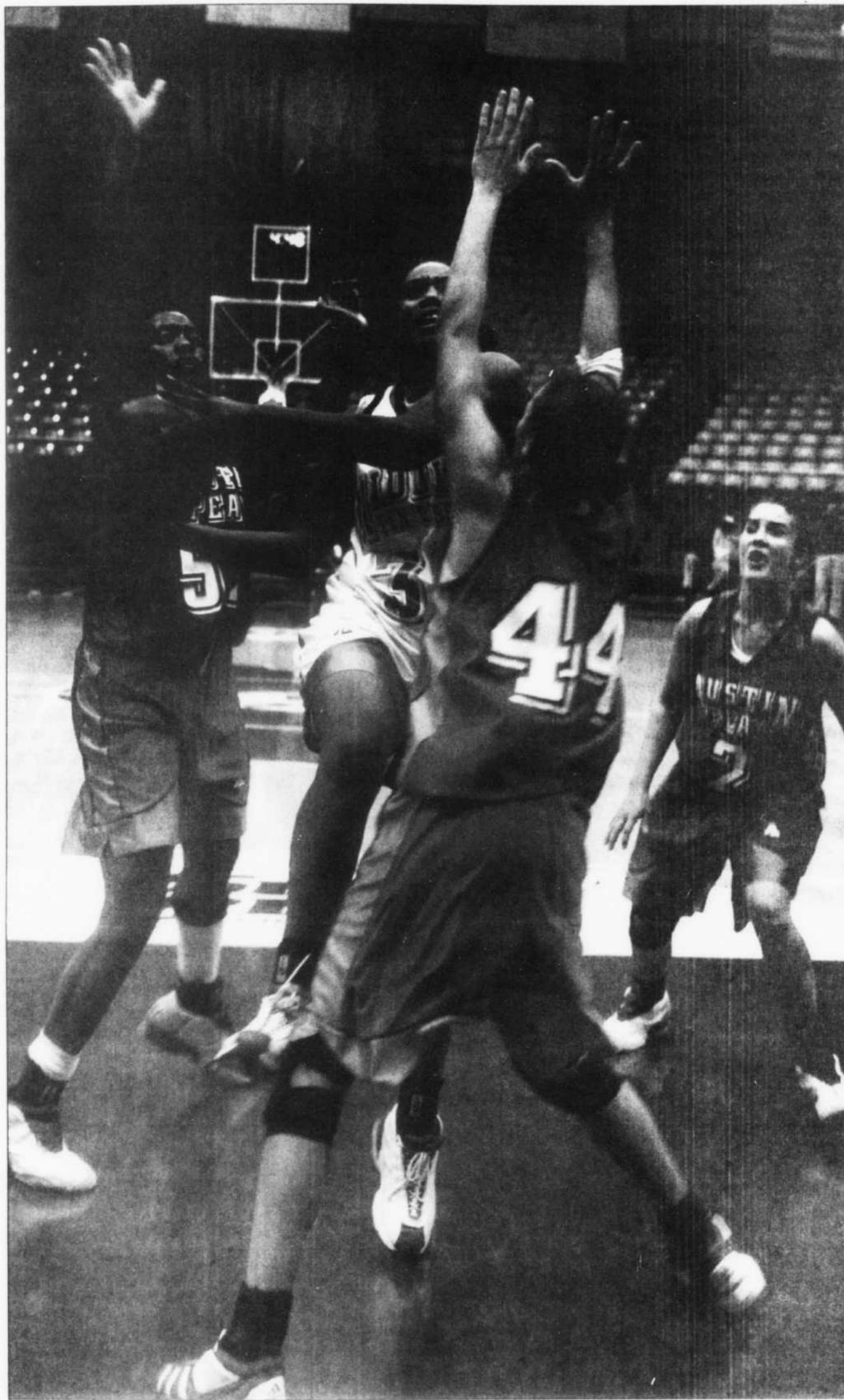
"We will also play an NCAA requirement of 14 games and significantly reduce travel cost by taking advantage of the geographic diversity of the league."

These requirements include an average attendance of 15,000 people per game, 16 sports, 200 grants, including an average of 76 over two years, along with five Division I-A home games every year.

"Right now we are only a [Division] 2-A school," explained a Florida International media relations director, who answers calls to the media and represents the athletic director and coaches. "We will eventually join the Sun Belt conference but it will be

See Sun Belt, 8

## MT women to square off against Arkansas State's three-point offense



MT forward Eboni Kirby (32, center) drives to the lane for a shot during Monday's 78-68 loss to Austin Peay State University at the Murphy Center. The Lady Raiders face Arkansas State tonight at 7.

By Brandon Morrison  
Sports Editor

While the men are away, the ladies stay home as the Arkansas State Lady Indians (5-8, 1-0 Sun Belt) come to town to face the Lady Raiders (7-6, 1-0 Sun Belt) tonight.

The Lady Indians come off of a close 63-62 overtime win against Belmont University on Monday night. ASU guard Casie Lowman led her team's offense, scoring a career-high 19 points, including the game winning three-point shot with less than two minutes remaining.

"We really stepped up when we needed to," ASU head coach Brian Boyer said. "I thought in the last three minutes of overtime our team really

responded."

ASU forward Z Humphries also had a productive game with 11 points and nine rebounds.

MT head coach Stephany Smith has prepared her team for Lowman and the rest of the ASU offense.

"Lowman runs a point position for them," Smith said. "Her greatest strength is her ability as a playmaker. They have some veteran players who are all averaging around 30 minutes in per game."

The Lady Raiders come from a heartbreaking 78-68 loss to Austin Peay University. MT spent most of the second half trying to make up a 19 point deficit. With 3:17 left in the game, sophomore Eboni Kirby nailed a layup to give the Lady Raiders the lead, but

Austin Peay ended the game with eight unanswered points.

"In the last five minutes, we fought so hard," Smith said. "We had to fight from behind for 35 minutes."

"It is disappointing because we didn't show up to play in the first half," MT guard Patrice Holmes said.

Despite the loss, Holmes scored an impressive 28 points during the game. Holmes seemed to be all over the court, as she nailed a personal best of 10 field goals.

The Lady Raiders also did well on the foul line, hitting all 11 attempts.

The Lady Raiders play tonight at 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center. Next up for MT is a visit from Arkansas-Little Rock on Saturday at 2 p.m. ◆

## Baseball team hosts camp for kids

MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee head baseball coach Steve Peterson and the Blue Raider baseball team will hold the annual Show-Me Baseball camp on Feb. 2, at Reese Smith Field.

Also scheduled to appear at the camp will be former Blue Raiders and current professional baseball players Jason Maxwell, Bryan Peck, Josh Renick, Jason Moates, Justin Sims, Marshall Nisbett, Jason Howarth, Adam Larson and Dewon

Brazelton. All of these players will be available if schedules permit.

The camp will run from 1-5 p.m. and will include instructional sessions on hitting, pitching, infield play, outfield play and baserunning.

Campers between the ages of seven and 13 are invited to attend.

Campers should bring their own gloves and be ready to participate in drills and instruction, as well as be prepared to listen and learn.

The cost to attend the camp is \$65 for pre-registered participants and \$70 for campers signing up on the day of the camp. The camp registration includes insurance and a camp T-shirt. Parents may attend free with a paid camper.

Camp registration will be held between noon and 1 p.m. in the lower level of Murphy Center. Pre-registration materials may be obtained by contacting Peterson at MTSU Box 90, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, or by calling (615) 898-2450. ◆

## 2003 Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball Overview

### 2003 Sun Belt Men's Basketball Standings

#### East Division

	W	L	Pct.	Stk.
Middle Tennessee	5	8	.385	W1
Arkansas-Little Rock	9	5	.643	W2
Arkansas State	6	6	.500	W1
Florida International	6	8	.429	L1
Western Kentucky	7	6	.538	L1

#### West Division

	W	L	Pct.	Stk.
Louisiana-Lafayette	9	4	.692	W4
New Orleans	8	4	.667	W1
North Texas	6	7	.462	W1
Denver	8	6	.571	L1
New Mexico State	8	3	.727	L1
South Alabama	6	6	.500	L2

#### Arkansas Little Rock Trojans

Nick Zachery shot 7-of-11 from three-point range and scored 25 points in UALR's 82-80 win over Harding on Saturday. Zachery also went 4-for-6 from the line, grabbed six rebounds and handed out four assists. With the Trojans' win over Harding, UALR is now 12-0 versus in-state opponents under third-year coach Porter Moser.

The Comcast-Lobo Invitational was the second tournament this season in which the Trojans dropped their first contest and then rebounded for a win. UALR fell to eventual tournament champion Pepperdine, 116-110, in double overtime, but then bounced back to beat Portland State, 48-41. At the Hawaiian Airlines Tip-

Off Tournament, UALR fell to host Hawaii, 81-65, and then beat Cal State-Fullerton, 56-43. The Trojans' 48-point performance against Portland State was the lowest since a 64-47 loss at Louisiana Tech on Jan. 27, 2001.

UALR's 110 points against Pepperdine was the most for a Trojan team since a 112-77 win over William Carey on Dec. 22, 1995. Pepperdine's 116 points was the most UALR has given up since a 117-88 loss to Western Illinois during the 1978-79 season.

#### Denver Pioneers

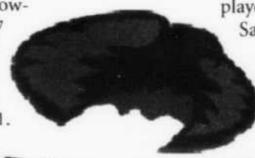
Senior Guard B.J. Pratt put forth a 29 point effort in Denver's 62-54 victory over Montana on Jan. 2, 21 of which were represented by Pratt's

seven three-pointers, which tied him for third in Denver all-time history in made long-balls.

The Pioneers had five different players in double figures in Saturday's 79-75 overtime loss at Nebraska on Jan. 4, paced by senior captain B. J. Pratt (San Antonio, Texas) with 17 points.

Pratt was 9-of-18 from the floor and 7-of-14 from downtown on Jan. 2 - scoring 29 points in 29 minutes. The senior played a key role late in the game on Jan. 4, taking the ball to the hole and drawing fouls - he was 10-of-12 from the free throw line. Pratt has scored 1,394 points in his four-year career at Denver.

He is ranked fourth all-time. Pratt is 24 points short of moving into the third spot (Peter Faller, '84-'88). The senior began the year 13th and has already moved up nine places. ♦



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# Sports Briefs

From Associated Press Reports

## Baseball writers group select next inductees

NEW YORK (AP) — Eddie Murray silently led with his bat. Gary Carter spurred teams with his enthusiasm.

Murray, the only switch-hitter with 500 home runs and 3,000 hits, was elected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, and Carter finally made it on his sixth try.

No one else came close in voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Carry-over candidates Bruce Sutter, Jim Rice and Andre Dawson were around 50 percent, and first-timers Ryne Sandberg and Lee Smith didn't even reach that mark.

Darryl Kile, the St. Louis pitcher who died last season, got token support.

## Finley not likely to join Cardinals again next season

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Chuck Finley almost certainly won't be part of the St. Louis Cardinals' rotation next season.

Wednesday is the last day for free agents offered arbitration to re-sign with their former teams, and general manager Walt Jocketty said there's been no movement mainly because Finley has been involved in a child custody dispute with his former wife.

## Bryant breaks Scott's 3-point record with 12

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant made an NBA-record 12 shots from 3-point range, including nine straight, in scoring 45 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Seattle SuperSonics 119-98.

Bryant, who had never made more than five 3-pointers in an NBA game, broke Dennis Scott's 1996 record of 11.

## Former Knicks official executive in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Former Knicks player personnel head Ed Tapscoff is being asked to build a winner in the NBA's return to Charlotte.

Tapscoff's title will be executive vice president, and he will report directly to team owner Robert Johnson. Tapscoff expects to hire a general manager by early summer.

## Portis beats teammate for NFL rookie of year

Denver Broncos running back Clinton Portis beat college teammate Jeremy Shockey for The Associated Press NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year award.

Portis ran for 1,508 yards, fourth overall in the NFL.

## New Orleans quarterback anticipates tendon surgery

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — New Orleans quarterback Aaron Brooks, whose passing numbers dropped during the Saints' season-ending, three-game losing streak, will have arthroscopic surgery on Jan. 17 to reattach a tendon in his right shoulder.

## McNabb back from injury, will start playoff game

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Donovan McNabb won't be afraid to scramble in his first game back from a broken ankle.

McNabb will start the Philadelphia Eagles' playoff game against the Atlanta Falcons on Saturday night, his first action in nearly two months.

He hasn't played since hurting his right ankle against the Arizona Cardinals on Nov. 17.

## Pittsburgh's safety out for major knee surgery

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Steelers safety Mike Logan will miss the rest of the season after major knee surgery.

He was hurt in Sunday's 36-33 playoff victory over Cleveland.

## Blue Jackets fire King in last year of contract

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Columbus Blue Jackets fired Dave King, severing ties with the only coach the team has had since entering the league in 2000.

At 14-20-4-2, the Blue Jackets have the second-worst record in the Western Conference.

King was in the final year of a three-year contract.

President and general manager Doug MacLean will be the team's interim coach.

## Senators unable to pay, could end up bankrupt

OTTAWA (AP) — The Ottawa Senators, unable to pay their players last week, may end up filing for bankruptcy.

TSN in Canada reported that an official announcement could come as early as Wednesday. The Ottawa Sun reported the Senators would file for protection from their creditors in Canada and the United States and receive a short-term cash infusion from the NHL.

## Russian linked to last year's skating scandal extradited

VENICE, Italy (AP) — The reputed Russian mobster accused of fixing Olympic figure skating was ordered to be extradited to the United States.

The court did not give any deadline for extradition, the lawyer for Alimzhan Tokhtakhounov said.

## New England's Twellman close to career decision

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — MVP runner-up Taylor Twellman of the New England Revolution is close to an agreement to stay in Major League Soccer.

Twellman had three years left on a deal that would pay him \$24,000 a year.

The league, which negotiates all player contracts, has said he will be given a raise only if he agrees to remain under the league's control.

## Wolff traded from Fire, Wizards trade No. 3 pick

CHICAGO (AP) — Josh Wolff, a key member of the U.S. World Cup team, was traded from the Chicago Fire to the Kansas City Wizards because of budget restrictions.

In exchange for Wolff, the Fire received the Wizards' first-round pick in the Jan. 17 draft, the No. 3 selection overall.

## Grimandi expected to join Rapids for two years

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Arsenal defender Gilles Grimandi will join the Colorado Rapids of Major League Soccer, a club source told The Associated Press.

Grimandi, cut by the English

Premier League champion last year, has been training on his own in France. He is expected to join the Rapids on a two-year contract with an option for another year.

## Freeman, Wagner collect second gold medals

RUMFORD, Maine (AP) — Olympians Kris Freeman and Wendy Wagner collected their second gold medals of the U.S. cross country championships.

Freeman finished the two-lap, 10-kilometer classical technique race in 25 minutes, 6.6 seconds to top his older brother, Justin.

Wagner won in 14:28.9.

## Ohio coach selected as Division I-A coach of year

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Ohio State coach Jim Tressel was chosen Division I-A coach of the year by the American Football Coaches Association.

## Former Rose Bowl MVP, California player dies at 86

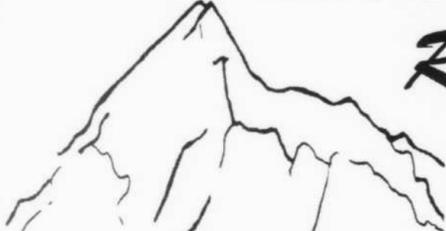
WALNUT CREEK, Calif. (AP) — Vic Bottari, a former University of California football star and Most Valuable Player in the 1938 Rose Bowl, has died. He was 86.

## Double hull yacht cleared to play after no complaints

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — The double hull yacht revealed by America's Cup defender Team New Zealand didn't attract any official protests from rivals before yesterday's complaint deadline.

## Armstrong seeks fifth Tour de France title

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Lance Armstrong will be surrounded by familiar faces in his bid for a fifth Tour de France title. The U.S. Postal Service squad includes all eight support riders who helped him win his fourth Tour victory. ♦



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OR Thurs. Jan. 23 6:30-7:30 p.m.



### Using your Whole Brain

Wed. Jan. 29 12:25-1:25 p.m.

OR Thurs. Jan. 30 6:30-7:30 p.m.

OR Wed. April 2 12:25-1:25 p.m.

OR Thurs. April 3 6:30-7:30 p.m.



### Improving your Memory

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OR Thurs. March 6 6:30-7:30 p.m.

OR Wed. April 9 12:25-1:25 p.m.

OR Thurs. April 10 6:30-7:30 p.m.



### Five Steps to a College Paper

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OR Thurs. Feb. 6 6:30-7:30 p.m.

OR Wed. March 19 12:25-1:25 p.m.

OR Thurs. March 20 6:30-7:30 p.m.



### Five-Day Study Plan

Wed. Feb. 12 12:25-1:25 p.m.

OR Thurs. Feb. 13 6:30-7:30 p.m.

OR Wed. April 23 12:25-1:25 p.m.

OR Thurs. April 24 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Call 898-5989 to sign up for any of these Pinnacle workshops to be held at the Adult Services Center, KUC 320.

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Thurs. - Lady Raiders vs. Arkansas State - 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday - Lady Raiders vs. UALR - 2:00 p.m.

Names drawn last week: Michael Reid Gross, Shannon Michelle Forner  
They weren't at the game and missed out on winning over \$1,000.

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## 100 Sales

Many items for sale: Brown recliner in good condition \$65 OBO. Large rap around sectional, multiple light colors, has a recliner on both ends, seats 6 people, great condition \$680 new will sell for \$250, OBO. Two nice end tables \$50 OBO. Brand new kitchen table, four chairs, Oak top not laminated, green base on table and chairs, looks great \$120 OBO. Large computer/school desk with book rack on top, must see \$45 OBO. 8232. Very large entertainment center, excellent condition cherry finish, great for getting all of your organization needs organized \$235 OBO. 26" mountain bike with 21 speeds, bike lock and bike rack for car, all for \$150. Full range kicker subwoofer system, hardly used will sell for \$225 OBO. 1995 Mercury Tracer.

73,000 Miles. \$2,800. Call 501-8785. Keyboard case: Anvil ATA Flight Case. Fits KORG T-1, 01/W, Triton Pro-X or similar 88-Key keyboard \$325, obo. Call 898-2635 or see Dr. Piekarski in Mass Comm, Room 207. Keep the holiday weight off with Total Control! Burn fat, block cravings and boost energy! All natural, ephedra free, 6-week supply \$38.00 with a 30-day MBG. We do accept Visa, MC and Discover. Place your order today, 615-874-8232. '88 Volvo 740 Turbo. Black, lots of options, newer engine and turbo. Less than 70K miles. Must see! Sharp, sport ride! cheap! \$2,900, obo. Call 615-217-8599. STEEL BUILDINGS Fall Clearing. Huge Savings. 25X34, 35X56. Repo's, Cancellations, Lowest

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## 110 Help Wanted

Looking for babysitter to come to our home on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30-4:00 to care for 3 year old girl. Call 898-8288 for more information. Get paid to go to Church. Nursery Attendants needed for Sunday Mornings and Occasional evening Meetings. Experience necessary. Apply in person: Central Christian Church, 404 East Main Street, 893-2764.

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deposit. Call 793-7023 for more info.

## 165 Roommates

Room for rent. Male preferred. 1 bedroom with private bathroom in a 2 bedroom apartment. Move in anytime after exams. \$425 includes, furniture, appliances, shuttle service to school. Ground floor at Sterling Apartments. Call Nick at 423-503-6187 with any questions.

## 170 Subleasing

Female wanted to sub lease 1 bedroom in 4 bed/2 bath apt. one mile from campus. Fully furnished. \$325 a month/utlities included. call Amber at 615-758-3333 or 615-430-7333. Hurry! Hurry! One bedroom for rent in a two bedroom apt. rent before Dec. and pay only \$385, includes everything: water, phone, cable, and bedroom items. Lease

ends July 31st. Call 308-9700. Roommate needed for 3 bedroom apt. at 5UH. Available at the end of fall semester. \$420/month includes washer/dryer, all bills (including cable.) I will pay you \$100 on move-in. Call 898-3588 or email jwh2q@mtsu.edu. Roommate wanted: \$100 deposit, \$385 includes all utilities, washer & dryer, fully furnished. Call 615-907-3962 or 931-278-0043. Female needed to take over lease @ Univ. Courtyard. Private bed/bath. \$365 a month, reg. \$385. 5 minutes from campus. Call Leigh (615) 482-3090. Looking for a sub-leaser. \$280 per month plus utilities. Available now through May 1. No Deposit. Call 481-6005 for more information. Male sub-leaser needed at Sterling University Gables starting in January. Rent is

\$330 a month and I will pay you \$100 to move in! Apartment is fully furnished with W/D and has a view of the pool. Call 893-3118. Apt. for sublease at Sterling Univ. Gables on S. Rutherford Blvd. 1 bedroom available out of 4. W/D included, \$300 month. Move in after finals. Call Jacob at 931-286-0207. I need a sub-leaser! \$485 per month includes everything, phone cable - full-size W/D, smoking is fine. Large 2b/2b apt. Male or Female is fine. Call 218-7447. 4 BR / 2 BA (male) \$370 a month all utilities included. Sterling Gables. "I will pay you \$100 to move in!" Call 289-0720. University Courtyard Apartments. Looking for a female to sub-lease 1 bedroom and private bath in a 4 bedroom unit that is fully furnished. Move in as soon as possible. Rent is \$354, everything included. I will

pay deposit and pay you \$100 cash! Call Rachel @ 400-2275. Sublease apartment. Notttingham Apt. Across from campus 2 bedroom 2 bath. email chrispytaul@yahoo.com.

## 205 Other

Fraternities/Sororities Clubs/Student Groups Earn \$1,000-\$2,000 this semester with a proven Campus-Fundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. Our programs make fundraising easy with no risks. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works. Contact CampusFundraiser at 888-923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com. Professional couple wishes to adopt your newborn-Offers loving, secure home. Legal fees paid. Please help us live our dream of having a family. 931-648-9400.



## 2003 Sun Belt Conference Women's Basketball Overview

### 2003 Sun Belt Women's Basketball Standings

#### East Division

	W	L	Pct.	Stk.
Middle Tennessee	7	5	.583	W1
Arkansas State	4	8	.333	W1
Florida International	9	5	.643	L2
Western Kentucky	5	7	.417	L4
Arkansas-Little Rock	3	8	.273	L3

#### West Division

	W	L	Pct.	Stk.
New Mexico State	6	6	.500	W1
North Texas	5	6	.455	W1
New Orleans	3	7	.300	W2
Denver	6	8	.429	L1
South Alabama	8	5	.615	L1
Louisiana-Lafayette	3	7	.300	L2

### Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans

Eplunus Brooks has moved into eighth place on the Lady Trojans all-time scoring list with 614 points. She is also third on the all-time rebounding list with 520 and is 56 rebounds away from second place. Darci Cassidy scored a game-high 19 points against Arkansas State, snapping a three-game streak of not scoring in double figures. Cassidy also matched her career-high with seven rebounds against the Indians. She also had seven rebounds against New Orleans on Jan. 12, 2002.

Samantha Watt extended her streak to seven consecutive games with a three-pointer after hitting one of her three attempts against Arkansas State. During the streak Watt shot 11-of-25 from behind the three-point line.

### Arkansas State Lady Indians

The Arkansas State University women's basketball team will host Belmont University in a non-conference game on Monday at 7:05 p.m. in

the Convocation Center. ASU comes into the game with a 4-8 overall record and a 1-0 mark in the Sun Belt Conference.

The Lady Indians snapped a six-game losing streak with a 74-56 victory over Arkansas-Little Rock this past Saturday. The win kept ASU from tying a school record for consecutive losses. In the 1982-83 season, the Lady Indians lost seven straight, finishing that year with a 6-17 record. All-America candidate Jolie McKeirnan leads the Tribe with an average of 12.7 points and 9.7 rebounds per game, while Casie Lowman is averaging 11.3 points and a team-best 4.2 assists per outing.

### Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns

Louisiana-Lafayette dropped their first Sun Belt game of the season and 12th consecutive conference game overall. Anna Petrakova led the Cajuns in scoring for the first time in her career. Petrakova was one rebound shy of her third straight double-dou-

ble. Sarah Richey added six points, eight rebounds and four blocks, playing in her first game since Dec. 18. Petrakova made 14 consecutive free throws over a span of seven games, but after missing one from the stripe, Petrakova started a new streak, which currently sits at five straight. She leads the Cajuns with an 88 percent mark from the line.



### New Mexico State Aggies

New Mexico State played a non-conference game Monday, Dec. 30 vs. in-state rival New Mexico. The Aggies stayed close to the Lobos in the first few minutes but ended up falling behind early in the first half and losing to UNM 58-76. Only two Aggies managed to score in double figures against the Lobos. Junior Sinnamonn Garrett led the team with 17 total points and senior Mari Sanchez had 11. ♦



## Blue Raiders: Team faces UALR on Sat.

Continued from 5

averages 9.43 three-point field goals made per game, which ranks 12th nationally.

On average, Thompson shoots 4.33 three point shots per game.

Not only is the team earning a lot of points off of their three pointers, but are also hitting 40.6 percent of all three pointers shot.

However, the Blue Raiders

have a potent defense in guards Keith Conner and Marcus Robinson.

Connor has an interesting but effective philosophy about playing defense.

"I just kept thinking only if I hit them, only if I hit them, we win," Connor said.

Robinson plays a bit more conservatively on the court.

"The only thing I could hope playing defense on a team that shoots threes is just play good

defense," Robinson said. "If they hit the shot, they hit it. If I come out there and play hard defense on them and make sure they get bad looks at the goal, hopefully they will miss it. That is the only thing I can hope for."

The men's team plays tonight at 7:05 in Jonesboro, Ark.

After that, they head to Little Rock to face Arkansas-Little Rock Saturday. ♦

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## Sun Belt: WKU, South Ala. are potentials

Continued from 5

sometime down the road."

This means the school does not currently meet I-A requirements.

The University of Western Kentucky is also in the same predicament.

However, the University of South Alabama has a different problem with joining the SBC.

"As of right now, we don't have a football team," explained an assistant Media Relations

director from the University of South Alabama.

"Next year we are going to try having a football team and see how things go with the students, and then we are going to go from there."

After the three teams have been added, the divisions will be realigned. Right now, the Sun Belt conference has two divisions, the East and the West. However, this is about to change.

According to Waters, the

divisions will be split up into East, Central and West, but that may also change.

He also said the next teams chosen will be based on geographic and travel cost considerations. However, Waters warns that distance does not necessarily equal cost.

"I can fly from Miami to New Orleans for \$125," Waters explains in the e-chat of the Sun Belt conference Web site. "But if I fly from Miami to Arkansas, it will be twice that much." ♦

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