



Scattered Showers

Anyone can be a pilot

In Living, page 5

Lady Raiders win
second straight title

In Sports, page 6

An editorially
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newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

2003 National Finalist
Best non-daily
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-Society of Professional Journalists

Volume 80 No. 63

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Fulcher elected SGA president for fall

Paul Bryant Fulcher was announced the next Student Government Association president, beating Blake "Project Pat" Pearson by over 500 votes.

Turnout was down substantially from last year. Approximately 2,58 students voted in the 2004 race, while only 1,287 voted this year.

Clyde Kennedy was elected executive vice president; Meagan Flippin was elected vice president for administration and public affairs; Apryl Clark was elected election commissioner.

All three of those races were uncontested.

See page 2 for the complete results.

'Collage' now accepting applications for new year

Collage, the literary and arts magazine of the University Honors College, is now accepting applications for editor in chief for the academic year of June 2005 through May 2006.

Applicants must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and be a full time student during the appointment, but they do not have to be an Honors College student. Interviews will be March 29.

Applications are available in Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, Room 224. The deadline is March 21 at 4:30 p.m.

Volunteers sought for Rites of Passage

The Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley is seeking college-age volunteers to work with its Rites of Passage program, which is designed specifically for girls who live in public housing communities and surrounding areas.

Girls from 5 to 17 years old participate in arts-based activities and workshops that promote healthy life choices.

Volunteers are needed throughout the summer months, and time commitments vary.

Prospective volunteers can contact Karen Claud at 890-2451 for more information.

Music journalist to speak on Music City

Craig Havighurst, a music journalist, will be speaking today at 11:30 a.m. in the Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors Building, Room 116.

His presentation is titled, "Leaders, Mentors, Patrons and Entrepreneurs: How WSM's Corporate Culture Shaped Music City, USA."

Professor to speak on tropical diseases

Richard Seino, a professor of biology at the University of Dching in Cameroon, West Africa, will be speaking on the causes and cures of tropical diseases tomorrow at 4 p.m.

The lecture will take place in the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building, Room 106. ♦

SGA passes student bill of rights

By Matt Anderson
Campus News Editor

The Student Government Association passed a resolution March 3 recommending the university adopt a policy protecting student's academic freedom.

Similarly worded legislation was proposed in the General Assembly last month. Both are based on the Student Bill of Rights, which was written by David Horowitz, a conservative activist.

The vote was nearly unani-

mous, with three Senators voting nay.

Sens. Justin Owen, Lizzie Miller and Tyler Smith sponsored the resolution. Miller is the current Raider Republican president, and Owen is a former president.

Miller said that issues pertaining to academic freedom had been discussed at Raider Republican meetings, but she said SGA and Raider Republican business are kept separate.

"We do have similar beliefs so obviously we'd have similar

interests in promoting this," Miller said. "That's why we got together, but by no means was it introduced at a Raider Republican meeting."

The SGA resolution recommends three rights for students.

First, it says instructors shall not create a hostile environment toward a student's political or religious beliefs and may not introduce controversial matter into course work that is substantially unrelated to a subject.

See Rights, 2

State legislation on hold for now

By Jason Cox
Capitol Bureau Chief

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU — Now or later? That is the question for freshman state Rep. Stacey Campfield, R-Knoxville.

Campfield, sponsor of House Bill 0432, which has come to be known as the Students' Bill of Rights, said he is gauging Senate support before he decides how to proceed with his bill, but empha-

sized he plans to continue to push the bill and its importance.

"I've gotten tons of e-mails saying that this has been a problem," Campfield said.

Campfield also said he talked to students at the University of Tennessee at a "Bush Bash" party who were afraid of being spotted by professors siding with the current

See Legislature, 3

Popping up everywhere

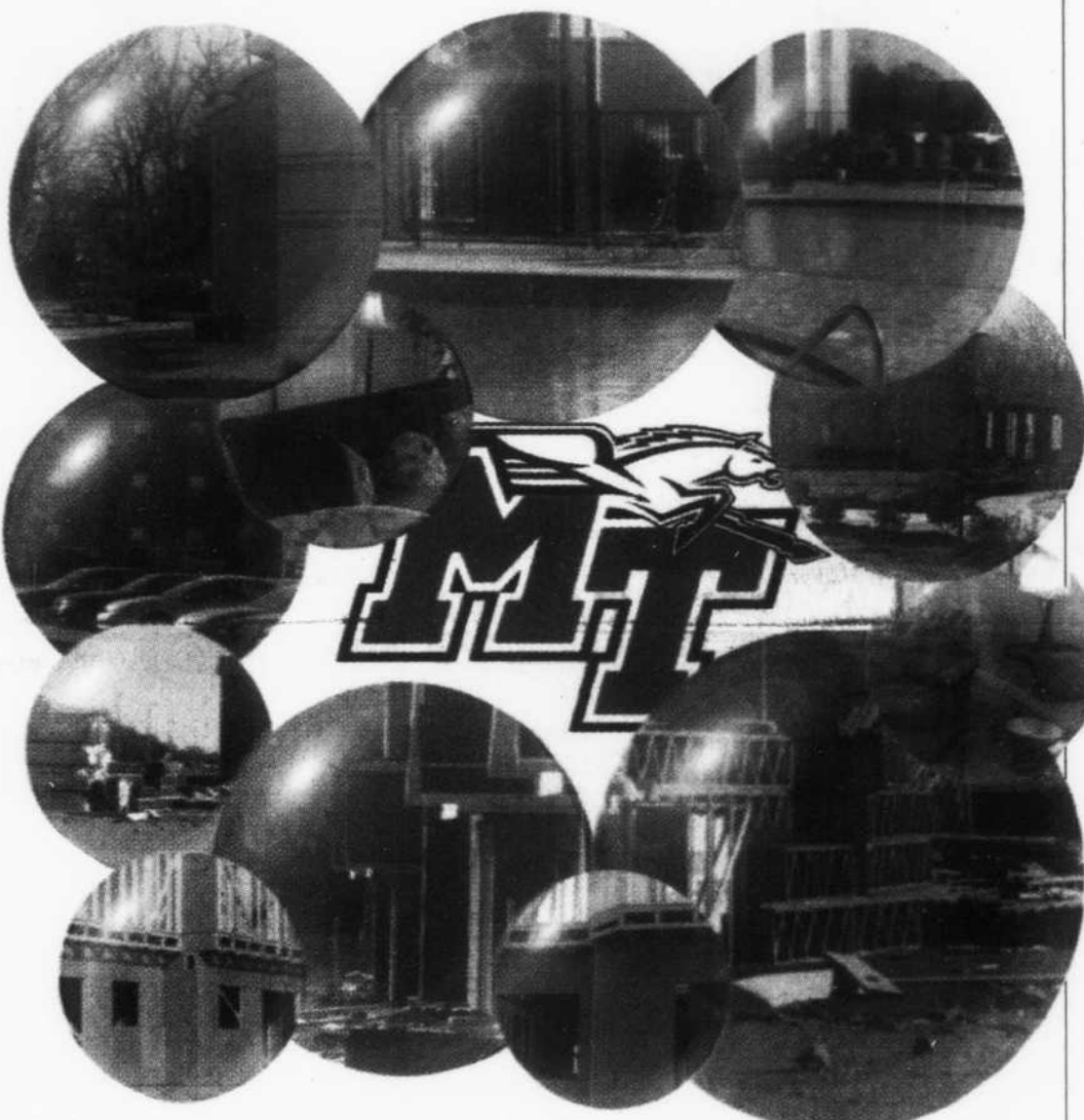


Photo Illustration by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

New apartments are springing up all over the MTSU area, including Campus Crossing, Campus Pointe, Raiders Ridge and College Suites.

Apartments flood local market

By Erica Rodefer
Managing Editor

In the last couple of years student housing has become big business in Murfreesboro.

Last fall, two new apartment complexes geared toward students were built. This year, two more will be added to the mix.

They're offering everything from larger living spaces to movie theaters and video game rooms to potential

renters.

In fact, according to the calculations of several area apartment managers, the market may be growing much faster than MTSU.

"It has affected [the market] because people are waiting to renew to see what [the new complexes] are going to look like," said Tara Middleton, property manager at The Woods at Greenland and Raiders Crossing. "They're kind of waiting

around. Students are always interested in the new people. Everybody likes a new house or a new car or a new apartment."

The Woods at Greenland was built in 2001, while Raiders Crossing came onto the scene in August of 2002.

"The first year [The Woods opened] we were all [at] full occupancy," Middleton said. "Everybody was full. Even the

See Apartments, 3

Bill proposed to protect pharmacists

By Jason Cox
Capitol Bureau Chief

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU — A bill set to face committees in both chambers today would protect pharmacists from discipline or retribution for refusing to fill certain prescriptions.

Called the Pharmacist Freedom of Conscience Act, the bill reads, in part, that pharmacists who "objects to filling a particular type of prescription on the grounds that it violates his or her ethical or religious principles ... may not be disciplined by any administrative authority" for declining to fill it.



Casada

As a whole, the bill would prevent termination of these pharmacists as well as any other sort of employer discipline, protect the pharmacist from any civil liability or loss of any government funding, and requires the pharmacy to post a sign stating that the business does not dispense the particular drug in question.

All pharmacists — even state employees such as those at MTSU Health Services — would be covered.

House sponsor Rep. Glen

Casada, R — Franklin, said it grants the same rights to pharmacists that doctors currently have not to perform a procedure — or in this case, dispense a drug — that they do not feel comfortable administering.

Casada said drugs such as birth control pills have not been targeted by any advocacy group. The most likely drug pharmacists would refuse to prescribe is RU486, also known as the abortion pill, Casada said, because some people feel as though the drug takes away human life.

"Thirty-seven other states

See Pharmacists, 3

Student groups violated labor law

By Katie Garland
Staff Writer

The recent discovery of violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act means changes for several students who have jobs on campus.

The FLSA provides minimum standards for wages, overtime hours and administrative procedures.

In August, a "minimum standard" provision was added to the Act, according to Kathy Musselman from MTSU's Human Resource Services.

"The law said we could no longer pay a flat rate," she said. "If you're not making more than \$455 per week, then you have to be paid [at least] minimum wage."

After learning of this provision, HRS began checking full-time staff and faculty for compliance with this law.

However, it has recently been brought to the office's attention that there were two specific groups on campus not complying with the law: graduate assistants and *Sidelines*.

While graduate assistants who are teaching and doing

research are exempt from the new provision, administrative graduate assistants are not, according to Musselman.

"GAs already have 20 hours of work required per week," she says. "Anything over 20 hours will have to be dealt with."

For GAs this simply means keeping a record of the hours they work.

The changes for the staff of *Sidelines* are a little more complicated. Because of the nature of journalism, it is difficult to document the hours *Sidelines* writers spend on stories because most of the work is done outside of the office. Therefore, it is difficult to insure the staff is being paid minimum wage.

Thus, staff writers and photographers will no longer photo. The only compensation for writing for *Sidelines* is experience and an opportunity to build a portfolio. The only paid positions will be for editors, assistant editors, graphic designers and the chief photographer.

Students interested in *Sidelines* can still apply for a practicum and receive class credit for the work. ♦

Native American cultures celebrated at festival



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Daniel Homan, representing the Echota tribe of Cherokee, competes in the men's dance competition at the American Indian Festival March 5-6.



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com

Have you been treated unfairly by a professor for political or religious reasons?

Opinions 4 • Living 5 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7

Rights: Some parts of Student Bill of Rights redundant, professor says

Continued from 1

Second, it says a student's grades shall be based solely on reasoned knowledge and appropriate knowledge and that students shall not be discriminated against on the basis of political or religious beliefs.

Finally, it says the university shall distribute student activity fee funds on a viewpoint neutral basis, without regard to political or religious beliefs.

The resolution also recommends a grievance procedure by which students can seek redress for violations.

The main difference between the SGA resolution and the state legislation is that the state version creates a grade appeal process at the state level, while the SGA version keeps grade appeals at the university level.

Owen wrote the resolution after researching Horowitz's writings and various bills in state legislatures around the country. He also discussed it with Rep. Stacey Campfield, R-Knoxville, who introduced the state legislation.

"It's not partisan," Owen said. "It protects liberals from being attacked by a right-wing nutcase."

Owen doesn't think the resolution would limit free speech in the classroom.

"The student's voice in the classroom is just as important in the classroom as the teacher's," Owen said. "We need dialogue and not just a teacher pushing their views on students."

Miller said professors sometimes introduce political opinions in class when it is irrelevant to the subject.

"Not only do you feel that you're wasting your time and money, but you're feeling discriminated against or uncomfortable," Miller said. "When you're in math class, you don't need to hear about Democrats and Republicans. You simply need to learn math and numbers and equations."

Currently, students can make grade appeals in the office for Academic Affairs. No incident has been reported where a student's grade being lowered

because of his political or religious beliefs, according to Jack Thomas, vice provost for academic affairs.

"Most of the time, it's because a student didn't come to class, missed a test or something of that nature," Thomas said.

Owen acknowledged that students can already appeal grades, but he said students may not know the procedure and that another procedure is necessary.

"It's ambiguous as to what constitutes grounds as to what they can seek redress for," Owen said.

Student activity fees are currently distributed on the basis of requests and the type of activity, according to Jackie Victory, director of student organizations and community service. Only activities with an educational purpose are funded.

If one group received \$150 per student toward plane tickets, then every group would get that amount per student for plane tickets, Victory said.

The College Democrats

requested \$4,710 and received \$820 in spring 2005. The Raider Republicans requested \$6,175 and received \$2,696 in the same period.

It's difficult to make a direct comparison between the two groups, because the requests were so different, Victory said.

"For instance, the Raider Republicans requested money to attend the inauguration, and the College Democrats requested money to hold an AIDS forum."

Last month, the Faculty Senate Steering Committee dis-

cussed the state version, per a request from Tennessee Board of Regents Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Paula Short. The committee advocated the deletion of the first clause.

Dan Pfeifer, a recording industry professor and TBR faculty sub council representative, said the state legislation was overly restrictive and could impugn instruction.

Pfeifer indicated that some parts of both the state legislation and the SGA resolution could be redundant with existing policies.

"[Grade appeals] are already in place," Pfeifer said. "You can always go to your dean or the provost."

Pfeifer also noted that the university's academic freedom policy for faculty discourages persistent, irrelevant material.

"If we don't talk about things that are controversial, we glaze over things," Pfeifer said.

"I teach music production," he said. "Look at the music lyrics these days. Taking out controversial material lops off half of pop culture." ♦

Spring 2005 SGA election results announced

The following students were elected to the SGA 68th Congress:

At-Large Senators

Kelly Higdon
Justin Vance
Samantha Linton
Lauren Ruth
Dustin Hailand

College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Kelly Wilder
Josh Dowdy
Matt Demonbreun
Matthew Bullington
Bess Rickman
Ian Campbell

College of Business

Chasson Haynes
Michael Wheeler
Ashley Tyler
Trish Mathias
Aaron Gaston

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Courtney Ledford
Lizzie Miller
Lindsey Grace
Myranda Howland
Kim Concialdi

College of Liberal Arts

Michael Jackson
Carry Smith
Katie Crytzer
Autumn Moore

College of Mass Communication

Spencer Wood
Jessica Reeves
Kyla Johnson
Megan Stacy

Undeclared

Kaila Packett
Josh McKenzie
Marie Rodriguez



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Applications SGA: 2005

Homecoming & AIDS Quilt Director

If you are a leader, enjoy MTSU's traditional Homecoming, enjoy large Philanthropy projects and are looking for a way to get involved in a big way on our campus, the Student Government Association is now accepting applications for committee positions as well. If you are interested in any of these positions please fill out an application in the SGA office located in KUC 208 or for information call 898-2464.

Applications due Wed 23 March 2005



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CAMPUS RECREATION Spring 2005 Intramural Sports Schedule		
EVENT	ENTRIES DUE	PLAY BEGINS
* Blue Raider "Tip Off"	March 17	March 20-21
* Softball Mandatory Captains' Meeting: Thursday, March 17 @ 5:00pm -Pre-Season games will be played Mar. 16-17	March 15	March 21
* Arena Football Mandatory Captains' Meeting: Thursday, March 24 @ 5:00pm -Pre-Season games will be played Mar. 23-24	March 22	March 28
* Flag Football Tournament Mandatory Captains' Meeting: Thursday, March 31 @ 5:00pm	March 30	April 1-3
* Ultimate Frisbee Tournament Mandatory Captains' Meeting: Thursday, March 31 @ 6:00pm	March 29	April 4
* Kickball Tournament Mandatory Captains' Meeting: Thursday, April 14 @ 5:00pm	April 12	April 18
* Softball "Under the Stars" (One pitch softball tournament) Mandatory Captains' Meeting: Thursday, April 21 @ 5:00pm	April 20	April 22 (only)
ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. ADDITIONAL SPORTS HAVE BEEN ADDED SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE CAMPUS RECREATION 2004-2005 CALENDAR.		
In the event of inclement weather, players may call the IM Hotline at 898-4FUN (4386) or the team captain may call Recreational Sports at 898-2104 after 4:00pm daily (or one hour prior to the first game time). We cannot guarantee that cancelled games will be rescheduled. For more information and weekly game schedules, stop by the Campus Recreation office. Schedules will not be given out over the phone.		
Entries WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED unless they are filled out completely. All team entries require a specified entry fee. All entries are due by 5:00pm on the day of the deadline. LATE ENTRIES MIGHT BE ACCEPTED WITH AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY FEE!!! All teams are required to have a representative at the Captains' Meeting.		

Legislature: Law won't limit what professors can say, legislator says

Continued from 1

president because it could negatively affect their grades.

"Don't give someone an F or a bad grade because they have a different point of view," Campfield said.

He said the issue of campus speakers – specifically, how they are selected – grates on conservatives because of a perceived imbalance in liberal and conservative guests chosen.

"[The bill] doesn't say you can't have your Al Gores, your Ted Kennedys," Campfield said. "What I'd like to see ... is a few conservatives as well."

Campfield said he doesn't seek to limit what professors can say at all, particularly in fields such as political science.

"I hope it would open [dialogue] more so," he said. "Hopefully, students won't be afraid to bring up these controversial issues." ♦

Pharmacists: Shepard calls bill wording too broad

Continued from 1

have this, and as of today no pharmacist has ever not prescribed birth control pills," Casada said.

David Shepard, D – Dickson, owns several retail pharmacies. He said many large chains – such as CVS and Walgreens – already have policies allowing for pharmacists to opt out of dispensing a drug that violates their conscience and that the bill "is trying to do something by law that is already pretty much done in the stores."

Shepard said he supports the bill as a concept, but said the language is overly broad.

"They could be morally against birth control pills,"

Shepard said. "They could be against pain medication."

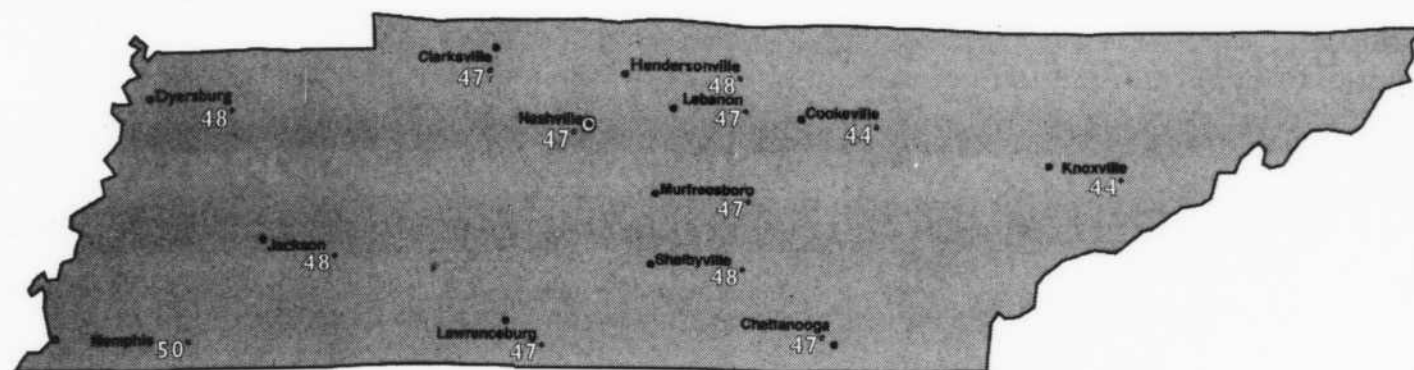
He also disagreed with the idea of putting up signs, saying that the matter could be handled in a more discreet manner, adding that the National Pharmacists Association is also against the signs but is supportive of the principle.

Senator and hospital pharmacist Randy McNally, R – Oak Ridge, said pharmacists "have an obligation to help people and you also have a duty not to hurt people."

Both Shepard and McNally said pharmacists everywhere are currently denying prescriptions to people showing signs of drug abuse. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Wednesday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Conference examines women's issues

By Sandi Van Orden
Staff Writer

Empowering women on campus was the focus of the Women and Power conference held March 3-5. The conference featured speakers from MTSU and other universities and included a keynote lecture by author Irshad Manji.

Manji discussed her book *The Trouble with Islam Today*.

"I realize that challenging anyone's religious beliefs is an emotional risk," Manji said.

She explained that her book is an open letter to her readers that was written to deal with concerns surrounding Islam.

Manji said the best way to change Islam would be to help the women of the faith. She said she believes there would be a great reform of the faith by empowering and educating Muslim women.

Manji also said that reforming Islam would begin by looking to the past and the accomplishments of Islam, and needs to begin in the West and move to the East.

"The way the Koran is translated or prevented from being translated affects everyone," Manji said.

The panel on undergraduate sexuality presented by three women from Vanderbilt University discussed the need for comprehensive sex education.

Jennifer Hackett began putting a continuous lecture series together at Vanderbilt after discovering that many students would begin college as virgins, but by the end of the first semester would have had multiple partners.

The panel including two others from Vanderbilt, Melinda Brown and Carrie

Plummer, discussed that when students had sex education that was not abstinence only the students know the precautions to take to prevent pregnancy and the spread of disease, but did not know how to communicate with their partners to have a pleasurable experience.

The panel discussed ways to create similar lecture series on other campuses, and what information would need to be included.

There was another discussion on organizing women on campus. A group from Tennessee Technological University discussed the process they went through to organize women on their campus.

Those involved said they felt a need to empower women on a campus that had a historical climate that contained open sexism. This climate was reflected not only in members of the stu-

dent population, but also members of the faculty as well.

Melissa Lamb, a PhD student at MTSU, discussed using fairy tales to show the underlying sexism taught to many children. By using comparisons of the traditional fairy tales with modern fairy tales she hopes to create discussion and thought among students to change the traditional ideas of women's roles.

"This conference will be a turning point in my life," Sarah Neal, an undeclared sophomore, said.

Neal said the experience of the conference allowed her to be empowered by women at the conference.

"The energy here has been overwhelming in a good way," Neal said.

"It had made me focus on what I want me to be." ♦

Want to write news?

Come by the Sidelines office
in Mass Comm 269 and apply today.

NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH presents

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Apartments: Newer complexes heighten competition

Continued from 1

next year when we built Raiders everybody was full. [University] Courtyard was full, Raiders [Crossing] was full, Sterling [University Gables] was full, the market survey that we did said.

"Last year we didn't get full, with Campus Crossings and part of Campus Pointe opening," she said.

Campus Crossing and Campus Pointe both opened

their doors last August.

The Woods and Raiders Crossing are still doing well. Currently they have around 10 bedrooms open, Middleton said.

"But that's not normal," she said. "Normally we might have one or two bedrooms [open]."

Middleton attributed her complexes' success to the "small, hometown feel" they offer students. She said that while The Woods would be adding a coffee

bar and dartboard to its clubhouse for the fall, they are not trying to compete with the new complexes, which might be offering more glamorous amenities.

"We're not trying to compete with them," Middleton said. "We're trying to please our residents."

Leah Love, property manager for College Park The Gables (formerly Sterling University Gables), said that in the wake of competition the complex's reputation would sustain them.

"We feel like we sell ourselves with great customer service and our location is excellent. We have a great standing in the community," Love said. "We value our residents' opinions. We think that alone will make us stand out against the competition who is price driven."

College Park came onto the market in 2001. It is currently at 97 percent occupancy, Love said.

Love also pointed out the benefit of having a property that is completed, as opposed to the new properties that are currently still under construction.

"We have a complete property to show our residents and prospects," she said. "We know we're going to be here for fall 2005."

College Park is also planning

to make whole buildings available to sororities, and extend their shuttle service to transport sororities to meetings or after-hours events.

College Suites is one of those properties that are scheduled to open this fall. It boasts living areas that are larger than the competition's by 200-300 square feet, an Xbox room, and a 24-seat movie theater. There will be 216 apartments available there when construction is completed.

"We've had a really good response," Campus Suites property manager Stephanie McClamahan said although she would not release how many renters have already signed leases with the new complex. She said she doesn't think there will be any problem filling all of the rooms by fall.

But as other property managers are quick to point out, new properties rarely have trouble filling their rooms.

"If you're the new guy why would you be concerned?" Middleton asked. "They'll check everybody out, and they'll get something bigger and better. It's the older properties that are going to have the hardest time, like [University] Courtyard, us, [College Park The Gables]." ♦

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Information table on KUB 2nd floor today from 10:00 to 2:00. It's not too late to register, but space is limited.

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From the Editorial Board Politically motivated bill does little to help students

The quiet passing of the Student Bill of Rights in the senate of the Student Government Association is no surprise. It is, however, laughable to think that the bill will actually change the established university policies.

The reason is because students are already afforded the same rights as the supposed non-partisan bill asks for. Students who can prove they were unfairly graded need only to look to the Student Handbook on page 44.

Although the Editorial Board has already editorialized on the same bill that is currently proposed at the state level ("Bill restricts professors, bolsters political division," Feb. 17), we're making it an issue again because it's important for students to know what their SGA senate is letting slip by unnoticed.

The SGA sponsors of the resolution, all prominent Raider Republicans, acknowledged that the university already has a system set up to handle grade appeals, but still won't admit that this is a politically charged attack against professors who discuss politics or religion in class. What kind of academic state of affairs does this bill encourage when students are telling the professors what they can and can't teach in the classroom and exactly how they can teach?

The SGA resolution states that a professor may not introduce controversial matter into course work that is substantially unrelated to a subject. How is a professor of English or history supposed to work under this resolution? There are many areas of course work where all kinds of controversial topics could arise — everything from abortion in William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* to discussions of the rise of secularism in Europe.

Students at public universities do not have a right not to be offended by ideas or issues raised in class. We're all here to learn and that includes learning that is (gasp!) unpopular or different from what you already know.

If the point of proposing such legislation was to bring attention to the fact that students who feel unfairly treated have the opportunity to appeal grades, then the bill is not entirely in vain. But if the sponsors really believe that this bill will pass through the administration intact, then they are as disillusioned as the bill is about university classrooms. ◆

From the Opinions Editor Araujo, though murdered, doesn't deserve martyrdom

When naming your martyrs, it pays to read into the people you're upholding in front of others.

Rolling Stone brought that conversation to the forefront when, on Feb. 10, they ran a feature on the murder of Gwen Araujo and subsequent trial of her killers. In the days that followed the article being published, Internet message boards and communities were active with people arguing whether Araujo brought her own death upon herself.

In Oct. 2002, three young men murdered Araujo, who was then legally named Edward, after discovering she was a transsexual. The jury hung after a long and heated trial, setting the young men free, at least until their retrial comes in May.

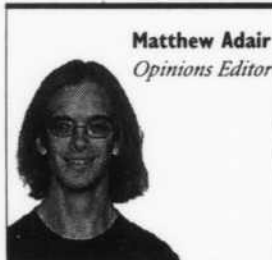
Some have argued that the tragedy of Araujo's death should rally men and women like her to promote dignity and respect towards all people, regardless of who they are. I'd be inclined to agree; people shouldn't have to live in fear of death for who they are, nor should they be only begrudgingly seen as human beings.

However, it should be understood that Araujo made poor choices in the company she chose to keep: an atmosphere of liquor and drugs, dead-end lives and criminal behavior. Surely, she must have known that sleeping with men who did not know of or understand her situation put her at considerable risk. Putting a young man in a position where he is forced to question his sexuality in front of his peers is one that is fraught with danger.

Araujo had faced discrimination and abuse in the past; she had even been attacked after a party when a group of drunken men outnumbered her and cut her with a broken beer bottle. She knew the danger she faced in hiding her condition while living the social life she did, and chose to ignore the potential consequences in pursuit of being feeling validated as a young woman. Putting one's self-interest over one's safety is foolish, and hardly makes a martyr.

As tragic as Araujo's death was, the lesson to be learned from it is that of self-restraint, as well as one of the effects of intolerance. ◆

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Paperwork process too complex

There is no problem so simple that someone, somewhere cannot find an extremely complicated, frustrating and inefficient solution to it.

I enrolled in a computer art class, only to find that my years of tinkering with Photoshop had moved me beyond the scope of what the introductory class had to offer. So, after conferring with the department head and the instructor of the class, I decided to upgrade myself to the intermediate class.

Easy enough, yes?

After acquiring the necessary form, I went to my teacher to get his signature to drop the intro class and add the intermediate. Before going back to the new Art offices, I realized that the scheduling center was the place that I needed to be. After parking in a questionable spot (one of the six spots that the housing staff needs, for some reason), I ran inside, expecting to simply drop the form off and be on my way.

Sadly, this was not the case. For some reason, I needed to present the rather helpful clerk with my

You Should Know This Already



Carter Fort
Staff Columnist

ID, as if someone else might be trying to sign me up for a class. Since the section was closed, I was informed that I was out of luck unless they could get the department head on the phone.

Fair enough.

Unfortunately, the usual secretary for the art department was out that day. I told them, as patiently as I could, that I had already secured the OK from the department head and I had, in my possession, a piece of paper with the instructor's signature. Equally patiently, they explained to me that while the professor was fine with the change, I needed the department head's signature, and no, they would not take my word for it.

At this point I was a little bit

irked. But, as with most things that drive me absolutely bonkers, the really bad news was in the small print. The signatures both had to be obtained on the same drop/add sheet and turned into the Scheduling Center within 24 hours.

My jaw dropped.

Maybe there was a period of time in MTSU history when students ran about, recklessly getting the permission to drop and add classes from professors and not turning in the form for weeks on end. Maybe there was a scam wherein professor's signatures were being misused for some unimaginable purpose that could be prevented by making sure that the forms were turned in within a solar day. Maybe it's an essential part of the way our scheduling system works.

But, wait a minute. Aren't we in the 21st century? Don't we have ways of electronically sending authorization, cutting out the entire running-across-campus and making of day-long dead-lines? Why is this so complicated?

Why do we feel the need to make things difficult for each

other? When was it decided that anything worth doing would be hair-pulling frustrating? Just because something is easy doesn't mean that it has to be terrible, sinful and worthless.

We need to take a more Macintosh approach to life.

For some reason, 90 percent of the personal computing world has decided that it is willing to put up with the freezes, crashes, .DAT and .INF files associated with Microsoft Windows. Meanwhile, there is a much better alternative that a rough 5 percent has taken. Apple Computers has given us a simple, fun and productive operating system with simple, fun and productive applications.

It's not even a question. Let's dump the Windows machines and get Macs. Let's dump the "form" system and actually use the billions of dollars of technology that we have.

Whaddya say? ◆

Carter Fort is a senior digital animation major and can be reached at cf2b@mtsu.edu.

Set foot in your local Wal-Mart at own peril

An unstoppable merchandising mogul, the store with everything; but does Wal-Mart have too much? Everyone's been there, but how many have truly seen Wal-Mart for the devil place that it is? So many aspects of this store seem horribly off; are condoms, gardening tools and George Foreman grills meant to be purchased under one roof?

Commercials for Wal-Mart flood the media, and, apparently, while shopping you're forced to associate with a floating smiley face and his fetish for destroying signs. He's even been known to dress up as a cowboy or a pirate while "rolling back" his aggression for those dastardly high prices.

As if a flying smiley face isn't bad enough, let's give him a cowboy-gun or a sword to hover around with.

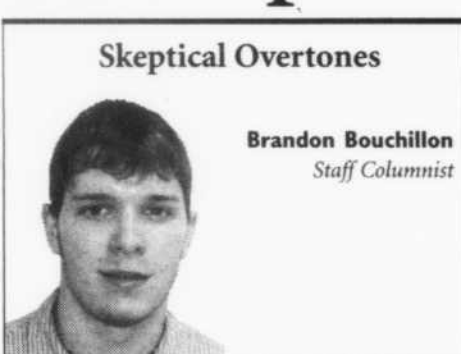
This yellow terror bearing a grin is only the beginning; in fact, smiles are rampant at Wal-Mart. Ever walked in the door, only to be greeted by an escaped mental patient? They're trying to get you to purchase something on a guilt trip. I can hear the slogan now, "Buy something; support the penal work-release program." The greeters even try to give you that diabolical smiley-face on a sticker; the mark of the Pac-Man, signaling the end of the world.

There are also crafty employees fond of stalking customers around the store. If help is nowhere to be found, simply knock something over and a furious assistant manager will pop out of the ball bin to scold you.

Some of these sadists even wear roller skates. Add a disco ball and we'd have an embarrassing '80s pop culture reference. Honestly, whose genius idea was it to involve wheel-wielding employees with the sales industry?

All right, so the help isn't that great, but at least you can grab a cart and shop for yourself, right? This would be possible, if all the carts weren't plagued with crippling birth defects. Can these three-wheeled gimps not be taken out back and shot? Even worse are the bloodcurdling screams they emit as you turn onto aisle four.

Next time, give me some of those roller skates and a basket, because these shop-



Skeptical Overtones

Brandon Bouchillon
Staff Columnist

ping carts are heinously possessed.

If you're in a hurry to pay, take heed; you may become victim of the Soviet breadline-style methods of their checkout regime. How is it that, with 30 lanes, there always seems to be a total of four open? At least, while waiting in line you can read about zombie congressmen and the plot to kill Oprah.

As if the in-store experience wasn't horrifying enough, your car is subjected to waves of shopping cart-missiles gone mad in your absence. Somehow, the carts' fourth wheels don't work in the store, but when aimed at your Honda's side panel they possess deadly accuracy. There are even employees working the parking lot, their only task the gathering of carts; yet, these renegade torpedoes still cannot be stopped.

So, what can be learned from the whole Wal-Mart experience? Well, the beast of biblical lore is a gravity-defying smiley face, and his mark is being handed out to your kids at the door.

Remember Richard Ramirez, the night stalker? He works at the front door, so watch yourself after dark. The employees will haunt you; don't bother trying to run because they're on wheels. In fact, they probably get these wheels off the carts you're supposed to shop with. The still-capable shopping carts are left to battle one another, the demise of your car's fender hanging in the balance.

But, hey, keep going to Wal-Mart. The place with an unrelenting monopoly over everything awful about today's America must be worth visiting, right? ◆

Brandon Bouchillon is a sophomore journalism student and can be reached at bab21@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor Outcry greater offense than use of 'lady' title

To the Editor:

If the term "lady" is considered offensive, then the parallel term "gentlemen" should by nature be equally offensive ("Lady" athletic label challenged at Solidarity teach-in" Feb. 28).

But men are not offended by being called gentlemen, because they are not neurotic about their gender. The real problem here is women who are already offended (presumably at God) over being female.

If you don't mind being a woman, then you shouldn't mind the even greater honor of being that highest quality of woman: a lady. The term refers not to gender, but to stature. All women are female, but only those of intellect, poise, grace and integrity could be referred to as "ladies." Apparently, you have none of these at Middle Tennessee, and have found it proper to retire the term.

Excellent. The rest of us in the United States would not want to mistakenly call some lowbrow, beer sucking, hairy armpit, Neanderthal females "ladies" by mistake. But heck, with a basketball team like that, you don't even need a gentlemen's team!

Rick Dupea, alumnus
The Evergreen State College,
Olympia, Washington

Political correctness heart of name debate

To the Editor:

You people demonstrate the liberal, politically correct insanity which is bringing down our culture. Finding offense in the term "lady" is a great example of groping for anything which can be used against the "establishment."

I'm not surprised to view the picture of the panel and see a bunch of crunchy granola, hippie wannabe professors who don't seem to have any work to do, other than make trouble over an honorable word.

The '60s are over. Get over it.

Ron D'Angelo
Rochester, NY

Let the people decide gay marriage issue

To the Editor:

I am responding to the letter to *Sidelines* on March 2 ("Tennessee senate moving backwards"). The Tennessee Senate had passed a bill to place the issue of gay marriage on the ballot for voters to decide. David Caudill's letter to the editor voiced his displeasure about this development.

The people of Tennessee will make this choice of either having or banning gay marriage. On Nov. 3, 2004, 11 states voted, banning gay marriage. The people decided on how they wanted to live. We live in a country of laws that govern how we live. There are laws that people do not agree with.

However, in this case we are going to be able to directly decide what we want. I am tired of having judges making laws instead of interpreting laws. When the issue comes to the ballot, go vote. Decide what you want — you're either for or against. It cannot be a step backwards when "We the People" decide how we want to live.

The opposite of letting the people decide is having a government that just imposes its will on the people. To me, that would be the step backwards.

Christopher Stultz
Freshman, Undeclared

Talk back to your newspaper. We're listening to you.
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**Got opinions? Can't write?
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Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@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.

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Anyone can BE A PILOT

National aviation program offers students opportunity to explore the skies

By Audrey Scruton
Staff Writer

More and more people are soaring ahead and learning to fly thanks to a recent aviation program that allows individuals to test-drive being pilots.

Be A Pilot is an aviation-community program designed to educate the public about the benefits, fun and adventure of flying while offering them a low-cost opportunity to see if flying is right for them.

Be A Pilot allows interested people to take an actual flying lesson for only \$49, about half the regular price of a lesson, and this introductory flight lesson is offered at over 2,100 independently owned and operated flight schools across the nation.

According to Gary Frisch, account executive of Be A Pilot, the program was launched in 1997, a year after the number of registered pilots in the United States hit a 30-year low.

The program's mission is to encourage more people to become pilots by raising public awareness about the personal

and career opportunities of learning to fly.

"There are so many benefits to being a pilot," says Be A Pilot president and CEO Drew Steketee. "Mobility, freedom, self-confidence, personal development in task management and prioritization, new skills and resume advantages, just to name a few."

"Many people have learned that learning to fly is easier than they imagined, thanks to technological advances in flight training and computerization. It's also more affordable than they thought," Frisch says. "Many people qualify to fly solo with just 12 to 14 hours of training for just over \$1,000, and you can earn a private pilot license with as few as 40 hours of training and practice flying."

Since 1997, more than 250,000 people have signed up

for the lesson, and about two-thirds have continued on to take serious flight instruction, according to Steketee.

The number of student pilot registrations has increased by about 15 percent since the program's launch.

"There is no other program like this," Steketee said. "It's totally unique. One short flight is worth 10,000 words."

The number of people registered for the Be A Pilot program in 2003 reached a record 34,069, and the number of student pilot certificates issued through May 2004 rose by nearly 3 percent, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Senior aerospace major Ryan Moore believes that Be A Pilot is beneficial to people interested in flying and looking for a way to start.

"I feel that introductory and training programs are positive aspects for those interested in flying," Moore says. "I'm already past the point that the program would do me any good, but I would be willing to try such a program to start out with."

MTSU aerospace alumna Jason Gilliam highly recommends the program.

"Flying can be a significant

monetary and time investment, and it is essential to know if flying is for you before getting locked in to a training program," Gilliam says. "Be A Pilot explains every facet of flying, whether you're doing it for fun or as a career, and they can help you make decisions."

For some people, the Be A Pilot flight lesson could be the first step toward a long and successful aviation career.

"I've been flying now for over 40 years – since I was 15 – and it has meant wider horizons and a fuller life," Steketee says.

Be A Pilot is a nonprofit organization supported by more than 45 aviation companies, organizations and businesses dedicated to educating the public about the benefits of general aviation flying.

Interested participants can register online at www.beapilot.com or call 1-888-BE-A-PILOT to receive an Introductory Flight Certificate, which can be presented at a local participating flight school to receive the introductory flight.

The participating Murfreesboro school is MaxAir Inc., located at 1930 Memorial Blvd. ♦

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"I've been flying now for over 40 years – since I was 15 – and it has meant wider horizons and a fuller life."

Drew Steketee
President and CEO, Be a Pilot program



Dear Emily,

A good friend of mine has recently begun having a close, personal friendship with a guy from school. They spend loads of time together and are constantly going out to dinner, studying together or talking late at night.

Now, there's nothing wrong with that, except that my friend is already in a committed, long-distance relationship with a guy who loves her. They are all about each other and are talking of getting married.

But when the boyfriend is not in town, she's constantly out with the other guy. She often jokes that what her boyfriend doesn't know won't hurt him.

I know she is an adult, and I want to trust her judgment, but I think what she's doing is inappropriate and hurtful to her relationship with her boyfriend. As her friend, I feel some sense of obligation to point this out to her, but I don't want to overstep my bounds.

I dearly value her friendship and I'm hesitant to call her out and make her mad at me. But what kind of friend am I if I can't tell her the truth? I'm afraid she's hurting herself in the long run (maybe without even knowing it) by being dishonest in her relationship.

When does a friend need to confront harmful behavior, and when should she just keep her mouth shut?

To Tell or Not to Tell

Dear To Tell,

Confrontations are never easy, no matter which side you're on, but they're especially scary when you risk losing a good friendship.

You're right; close friends are honest with each other at any cost. And when all is said and done, I would much rather have a close, respected friend point out my questionable or inappropriate behavior because I would understand that they weren't doing so to hurt my feelings.

I know the turmoil that comes with running through different scenarios in your head. You think to yourself, "Maybe if I tell her, she'll be glad that I cared enough to stand up and tell her what I think." On the other hand, maybe she'll be ticked that I told her off and judged her behavior as wrong.

There's no way to know how she'll take the news. That is, if you decide to share your revelation with her. And how do you decide whether or not to do that?

Simple.

Anything that has you this upset must have some truth behind it. Make sure the issue is significant enough to take a risk. Then make sure you're not seeking your own interests – casting a stone at her in order to make you feel like a better person.

Speak the truth in love, as my mom would say.

Be completely honest with her about what you think, but let her know that you're looking out for her best interests and trying to prevent her from making a bigger mistake than she may realize. Tell her you're concerned about her choices and, as her friend, you hate to stand by and watch her do something she'll regret.

Remind her that you're on her side. Think about a time when you've made a mistake in judgment – because we all have – and determine how you would have wanted a friend to approach you with a reality check. Then approach your friend in the same way. Be calm, but genuinely express your concern.

Initially, she will probably be angry with you, there's no getting around that.

Being called out on any level has the effect of making us feel defensive, because nobody wants to admit to being in the wrong. Even the most humble of feathers will be ruffled from time to time.

Sometimes the duty of a good friend is to provide a wake-up call for us when our judgment may have taken a slight turn for the worse. Friends are there to remind us of who we are and what we stand for, and to keep us from committing big mistakes we can't undo.

Accept her frustration, and allow her to work through her feelings – realize that she's probably embarrassed, too. But above all, remember that true friendships can and will withstand almost anything.

After all, there are some people with whom you will stay friends through joy and pain, simply because you see something in each other that is worth holding on to tightly. I once heard that dear friends can only stay such as long as they recognize each other's value.

Give it some time, and everything will be okay. Trust your friendship! ♦

Copeland narrowly misses shutout in Blue Raider win



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Eric McNamee stole two bases in a 6-1 win over SIU.

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders gave Southern Illinois a rude welcome with a 6-1 win over the Salukis yesterday at Reese Smith Field.

The Salukis were making their first visit to Middle Tennessee since 1993.

Tyler Copeland got the start for the Blue Raiders yesterday afternoon, his third appearance of the season. The redshirt sophomore brought a 3.86 earned run average in nine innings pitched.

MT leadoff hitter Eric McNamee got on base to begin the bottom of the first, stole second and reached third on a passed ball. He would be stranded there, however, as Saluki starting pitcher Bryan

Rueger bounced back and earned three strikeouts to end the inning.

Copeland also worked out of a jam in the third with a double-play ground ball to end the inning. MT couldn't get anything going in the bottom of the inning, and the game went into the fourth still scoreless.

Rueger had five strikeouts through three innings pitched until the bottom of the fourth, when MT's Michael McHenry scored after getting a hit to give the Blue Raiders a 1-0 lead after four.

Mike McCulloch got the Salukis started in the top of the fifth with a base hit through the right side of the infield, which gave SIU runners on first and third with one out. Copeland recovered, however, and forced two consecutive pop flies to

keep the Salukis off the board.

"I felt like with the weather, we could let them put the ball in play, and the defense made good plays," Copeland said.

Jeff Beachum singled up the middle in the bottom of the sixth, which was followed by a Chase Eakes home run over the left-field fence to extend the lead to 3-0. Josh Archer followed by ripping a base hit and then stealing second.

Nathan Hines moved Archer to third on a ground ball to second and an error from third baseman Matt Brewer allowed Archer to cross home. The Blue Raiders led 4-0 after six.

MT hit back-to-back home runs with two outs in the seventh inning to force SIU Head Coach Dan Callahan to go to the bullpen. McHenry blasted a homer into Floyd Stadium,

	
MT	6
SIU	1
Next Game: Today v. Southern Illinois, 3 pm.	

which was followed by another left-field home run from Beachum.

Rueger went 6 2/3 innings, allowing six runs on nine hits and seven strikeouts.

The Blue Raider shutout was ruined in the eighth inning, however, when SIU scored an unearned run on a sacrifice fly to left.

"Obviously I wanted to get the shutout, but as long as the

See Copeland, 8

Lady Raiders show grit, determination

By Clarence Plank
Staff Columnist

Being the Lady Raiders of Middle Tennessee means learning how to overcome adversity while bringing your A-game to the opponent for 40 minutes of basketball.

At the end of last season, the Lady Raiders lost to Notre Dame 59-46 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, only two days after MT pulled off an upset of No. 4 seed North Carolina 67-62. That victory marked the first time in 21 years the Lady Raiders had reached the next level of the dance and the third time in school history.

Despite their success and the preseason predictions handing them the Sun Belt Conference East Division title, however, the Lady Raiders realized early on that this year's team was different.

With six new players, the chemistry just wasn't there.

That team cohesiveness was helped when senior Ciara Gray came back to the Lady Raiders after previously deciding to forego her final year of eligibility due to multiple injuries.

Gray instantly gave the team more support on defense, and she proved her grittiness with her 17-point performance against Louisiana-Lafayette in the conference tournament final — one game after doctors had considered her season finished due to another injury.

But there were other problems. Monique Martin was suspended before the season began, and Auburn transfer Amber Benjamin sat out because of family problems. That left MT with 10 players after sophomore Jenne Webb decided to leave three games into the season.

Despite their dwindling roster, the team persevered. The Lady Raiders started this season with a 70-62 loss to South Florida in the Preseason Women's National Invitational Tournament, but turned things around in the next game against Florida Atlantic

with an 85-63 win.

Halfway through the season, MT was 11-5 and on the third game of a seven-game winning streak.

Players like seniors Gray, Ditte Jakobson and Patrice Holmes, junior Tia Stovall and sophomore Chrissy Givens began to pull closer as leaders and future leaders to help guide a team through some tough non-conference games this season, including matchups against Xavier, South Carolina and Cincinnati.

Holmes, undeniably one of the greatest players in the program's history, made her presence known on the court by yet again leading the team in scoring. Stovall became the iron fist of the team in muscling her way through defenders to score points.

MT made some improvements in its defense by playing more man-to-man defense in an attempt to get more steals and force more turnovers against their opponents.

Apparently it worked, because MT has forced its opponents into 20 or more turnovers in 24 of the team's 31 games this season. In two of those games (a 65-41 victory over New Mexico State on Jan. 29 and a 79-55 win over Western Kentucky on Feb. 24), the Lady Raiders forced 30 or more turnovers.

And most importantly, MT beat the Lady Toppers two out of three times this year, including a 65-61 win in the SBC Tournament semifinals. With that victory, the Lady Raiders squared off against Louisiana-Lafayette in the finals of the tournament, which MT won 67-52.

So after all the ups and downs of this season, the Lady Raiders are right where they wanted to be: back in the NCAA Tournament.

They just took a different road this year to get there. ♦

Clarence Plank is a junior mass communication major. He can be reached at ckp2a@mtsu.edu.

LADY RAIDERS: 2005 SUN BELT CHAMPIONS

MT wins second straight title

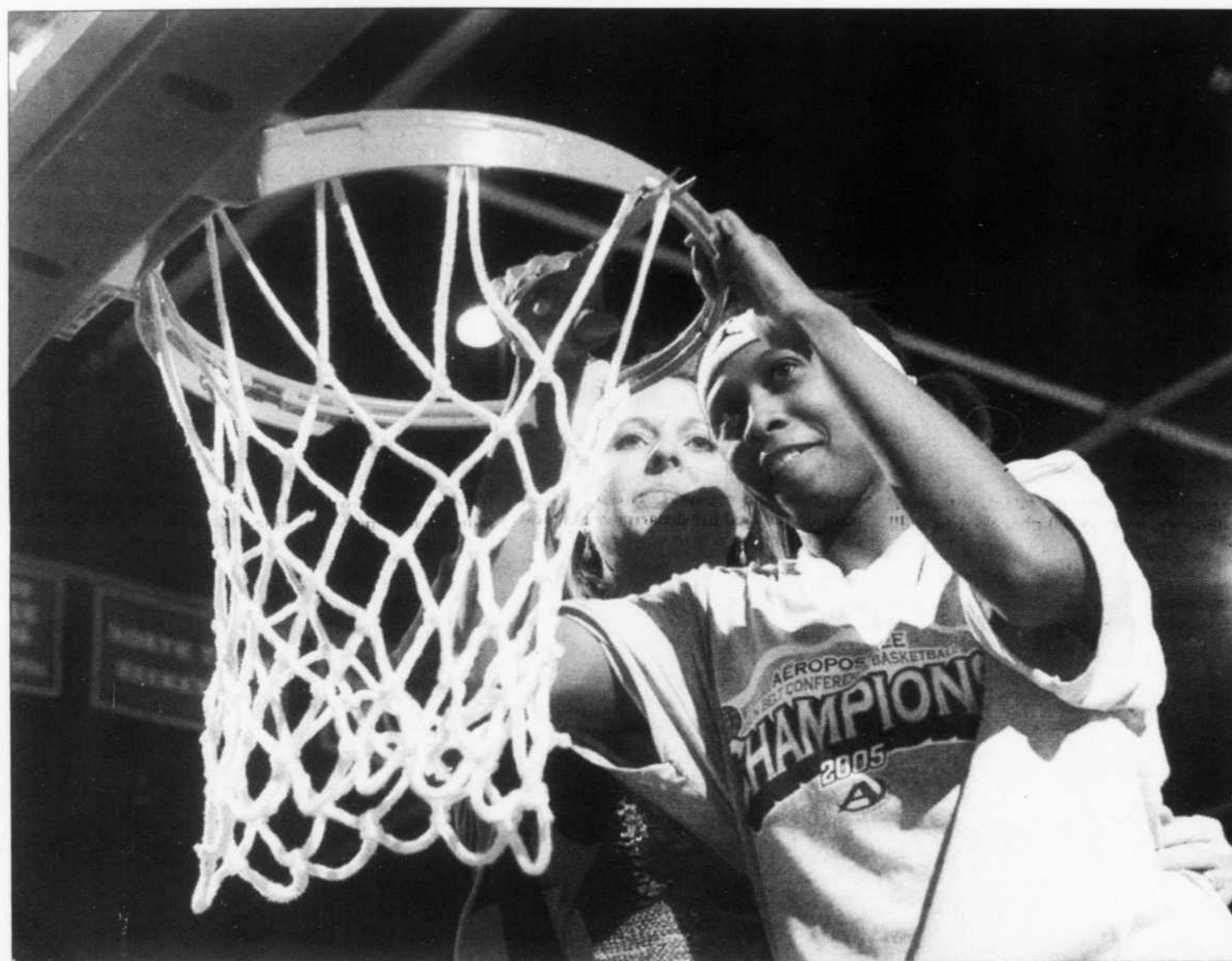


Photo by Rick Yeatts | Courtesy of MT Media Relations

MT senior Patrice Holmes cuts the first thread of the nets at North Texas as head coach Stephany Smith looks on.

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

After two previously harrowing victories, the Lady Raiders made their second Sun Belt Conference championship look easy.

Middle Tennessee defeated Louisiana Lafayette 67-52 last Tuesday in the championship game of the SBC Tournament to ensure the team's second straight trip to the NCAA Tournament.

"You will have to forgive me for not being overly excited right now," MT head coach Stephany Smith told MT Media Relations after the win. "It has been a long and adversity-filled season, and it will take time to reflect."

For the Lady Raiders (23-8), all five

starters scored in double figures. Chrissy Givens led MT with 18 points, with Ciara Gray close behind with 17 points.

Senior Patrice Holmes scored 14 points and had eight rebounds with three steals. Krystle Horton had 12 points, and Tia Stovall contributed 10 points.

"I am so proud of this team because this game was just like the last two, a team win," Smith told MT Media Relations. "If you had told me back in October I would be sitting here today, I would have said you are probably right, but as the season went on and we lost players and got struck with adversity, I would not be so sure. It's just a testament to this team's character."

Just like the regular season, which was marked early on by three players leaving the team, the journey through the tournament

wasn't easy.

The first game of the SBC tournament for the Lady Raiders didn't present much of a challenge, however, as MT crushed New Orleans 73-30.

The Lady Raiders jumped out to an early 14-0 and led UNO for the entire game.

"You always have to feel good when your team comes out and opens the game on an immediate run," Smith told MT Media Relations after that game. "I thought we came out with a lot of focus, got everyone involved and played well. That is a nice way to start a tournament."

Stovall led the Lady Raiders with 17 points, six rebounds and four assists. Holmes added 13 points and Givens had 10.

See Title, 7

Wrong kind of repeat: Men's team falls to Lafayette again



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

MT's Bryan Smithson averaged six points and three assists in the Sun Belt Tournament.

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

For the second consecutive year, Louisiana-Lafayette earned an automatic berth into the NCAA tournament for winning the men's basketball Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

And for the second consecutive year, the Ragin' Cajuns ended Middle Tennessee's season in the process.

The Blue Raiders opened the tournament March 4 with a 77-63 victory over New Mexico State in the first round.

Steve Thomas led four MT players in double-figures with 17 points and 17 rebounds. Marcus Morrison added 17, while Michael Cuffee chipped in with 16. Mike Dean scored 11.

MT outrebounded NMSU 43-23, including 16-1 on the offensive boards.

"That was the difference in the game," MT head coach Kermit Davis told MT Media Relations. "We have been one of the better rebounding teams in the league this season, and it showed up in the game tonight."

The Blue Raiders' strength against NMSU, however, became the team's fatal weakness just

three days later.

ULL defeated MT 71-57 on March 7 in the quarterfinals. The Ragin' Cajuns controlled the glass, 39-26, including 13 offensive boards that turned into 18 second-chance points.

Thanks to their work on the glass, the Ragin' Cajuns outscored MT 32-10 inside the paint.

"The better basketball team won tonight," Davis said to MT Media Relations. "We are one of the best rebounding teams in the league and Louisiana-Lafayette just dominated us on the boards and around the glass throughout the game."

The Blue Raiders only shot 37.5 percent from the field and turned the ball over 19 times.

Dean led the way with 17 points, while Cuffee added 15. ULL's Tiras Wade scored 27 in the win.

The following night, ULL beat Florida International 80-69 in the semifinals.

Then, on March 8, ULL clinched the conference title with an 88-69 win over Denver. Wade scored 30 points and was named Most Outstanding Player of the tournament.

The Ragin' Cajuns earned a spot in the 2005

See Loss, 7

Title: Holmes leads Lady Raiders to NCAAs

Continued from 6

The next game provided much more of a test for the Lady Raiders, however, as they played host North Texas. The Mean Green led by as many as eight points in the second half before MT caught up and forced overtime.

With 12 seconds remaining on the clock in the extra session, Holmes buried a layup to give MT the victory.

"I think a big weight was lifted from us," Smith told MT Media Relations. "We feel fortunate to come out of here with the win and reach the semifinal round, but I thought our girls fought hard and did what they had to do in order to find a way to win."

Holmes led MT with a game-high 24 points. Holmes also had 11 rebounds, four

blocked shots and four steals. Givens added 12 points.

"At the end of regulation we were trying to get the ball inside and score or draw the foul," Holmes told MT Media Relations. "At the end of overtime, Coach wanted to have the ball in my hands and see what I could do."

The Lady Raiders moved on to face rival Western Kentucky for the semifinals. The Lady Raiders fell behind again and trailed 32-25 at halftime.

Holmes saved the day once again, however, for the Lady Raiders. Trailing 60-59 with 2:32 left in the second half, Holmes hit a three-pointer to put MT ahead for good. MT defeated the Lady Toppers 65-61 to move on to face ULL in the finals.

Holmes finished with 21 points and seven rebounds

while playing all 40 minutes. That performance helped Holmes win her third consecutive Tournament Player of the Year award last Tuesday.

"Patrice is the difference in the game," Smith told MT Media Relations. "When we had to have a basket or a big play, she was there. She's a special player, and one of the very best I have ever been around."

Tia Stovall and Chrissy Givens were also named to the All-Tournament Team.

The Lady Raiders, who earned a No. 12 seed, now move on to face No. 5 seed North Carolina State at Reunion Arena in Dallas, Texas on Saturday. ♦

Jori Rice covers Lady Raider basketball for Sidelines. She can be reached at jdr2y@mtsu.edu.

Loss: MT falls short in creative bid for NIT

Continued from 6

NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year. As a No. 13 seed, ULL will face No. 4 seed Louisville in Nashville at the Gaylord Entertainment Center on Friday.

With their 19-12 record, the Blue Raiders had hoped for a spot in the National Invitational Tournament.

"We will have to wait and see," Davis told MT Media Relations. "We have the second most wins in the Sun Belt behind Western Kentucky, and if we could host a first-round game against a Vanderbilt or Memphis, I believe we could

have the best attendance of any first-round game in the NIT. That's our selling point."

According to *The Tennessean*, interim athletic director Diane Turnham even contacted tournament officials, guaranteeing at least 11,000 tickets would be sold.

When the NIT bracket was announced on Sunday, however, the Blue Raiders were not included. Vanderbilt is slated to play its opening-round game at Indiana on Friday. ♦

David Hunter covers Blue Raider basketball for Sidelines. He can be reached at dah2e@mtsu.edu.

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1999 Dodge Conversion Van, auto/overdrive, 318 CI 29K miles, TV, VCR, dual radio, CD, tape, PW. Used on trips only. Extended warranty transferable. 895-3480.

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RESTAURANT WORKERS CHILI'S BAR & GRILL, 610 Sam Ridley Pkwy, Smyrna, TN has openings for wait staff, host/hostess, and cooks. Part time and full time available. Experience is helpful but not necessary. Start date is immediately. If interested, please come in and fill out an application. 615-220-4545. Always accepting applications. You determine your own hours, your own pace and your own compensation. Great way to work around your current schedule, earn extra money and try a new financial services career. For more information...Valerie 904-1871 or 943-8274.

The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is seeking student tutors for the following ETIS courses: Statics, Instruments and Controls, Technical Drawing, Industrial Electricity. Please contact Barbara Knox at 898-5311 for more information, Jones Hall Room 333.

Need Money? Student advisors are needed for 120 unit off-campus MTSU apartment community. On-site training, cash referrals and generous hourly salaries are included. Call toll free, 1-866-594-5470 to make an appointment with Kimberly Sanders.

Now hiring full-part time for front desk help. All shifts open. Please apply in person, prefer experience. 1-24 - exit 64 Waldron Road. Super 8 LaVergne. 615-793-9999.

Five Senses Restaurant & Bar is now hiring cooks, requirements - good listener, hard working and quick learner. Apply in person between 2-4 pm Tu. - Fr. 1602 W. Northfield Blvd. Suite 515 (Georgetown Park)

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Nursery caregiver, \$7.00/hour, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Competitive wages, great environment. Must be over 18 years of age, have experience with young children and provide excellent references. Apply in person at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1267 N. Rutherford Blvd.

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College Suites is hiring 9 Community Assistance; 16-20 hours per week (more summer hours available). Apply at our leasing trailer at 1155 E. Northfield Blvd.

College Suites is accepting applications for 3 maintenance positions. Brand new community! Apply at our leasing trailer at 1155 E. Northfield Blvd. Call 893-9499.

New Community Assistants Positions Available. University Courtyard is hire for new community assistant position with-in office. If you or someone you know would be interested in a position as a community assistant, please apply in the leasing office in person. Qualifications are individuals that are highly motivated and driven. Also, they must be capable of working well in a high pace office atmosphere to support the success and personal growth of our residents and community. The community assistant is a part time position requiring a commitment of approx 20 hours per week. The right individual for the position must possess great people relations.

For Rent

Newer house for rent, 3br, 2ba, hardwood floors, w&d, lawn maintenance included in rent, 5 min from MTSU, 900/month. call neil @482-1941 for more info.

Newly remodeled condo for rent. 4bd/2bath, wash/dry included. Walking distance to MTSU. \$900/month. Call 804-3817.

Condo near MTSU for rent. 2 bedrooms left. 4 bed/3.5 bath for lease. Washer and dryer in Unit. 3,000 sq. feet. \$330.00 + 1/4 utilities per month. Valerie at 943-8274 or 904-1871.

Walk to MTSU from this beautiful house on Greenland Drive. This house is ready for your new and exciting 2005 Academic Year. Available 2/1/05. Fantastic Location, Quiet environment, Spacious rooms for 4 students as a group. \$300 x 4 + 1/4 utilities. \$350/person security deposit + lease. Circle drive, patio, 2-car carport, hardwood floors, new carpets, new roof, refrigerator, Built-in oven, washer n' dryer, dishwasher, central H/A, fireplace, gas logs. Call 898-2005.

Female roommates to occupy new 2BR 1BA cottage, private entrance, 2 blocks from MTSU. \$365 each per month includes heat and air, water, electricity, cable and internet. \$500 deposit, 1 year lease, no pets. 615-364-1004.

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If you would like to make \$500 to \$5000 per month part time or full time while working around your current schedule and are not afraid to speak in front of small groups, please call...serious inquiries only. 615-217-8494 or 615-360-1013 ext 23.

VINYL SOUP is looking for very serious Keyboardist to Tour. Must be able to rehearse once a week. We are based in Franklin. www.vinylsoup.com. Call 615-397-9634 or 931-682-3878.

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girls Rock" Flash show in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. Undergraduate research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair for qualifying criteria.

The Anointed Ladies of Alpha Theta Omega Christian Sorority will be hosting an informational for undergraduate and graduate students. The informational will be Sat. Feb 19, 2005 at the KUC. Call Alisha Vaughn at 615-893-1012 for info.

Pets

Free kittens, 6 weeks. Litter box trained, friendly, will make great pets! 615-995-9907 or 615-585-9909.

Roommates

Need 2 roommates ASAP for nice 3bdr/2 1/2 bath cottage style apt. Rent is \$366/month, includes everything. Please contact Thomas at 615-653-3328.

1Roommate needed to share 3bd/2ba house w/ 2 other people. 1.5 miles from campus. \$450/mo- all inclusive. Available 4/1/05. Jennifer 615-474-2399.

Female roommates to occupy new 2 BR 1 BA cottage, private entrance, 2 blocks from MTSU. \$365 ea/month include heat& air, water, electricity, cable & internet. \$500 deposit, 1yr lease, no pets. 615-364-1004

Female Roommate needed ASAP!! 3 BDRM! BATH BRICK house! Needed to take over lease until May with possible Lease Extension. \$217 plus 1/3 utilities. Call Samantha if interested at 931-581-6064.

Responsible female roommate needed to share new house, room has never been lived in! 3 BR, 2 BA w/ garage not far from MTSU campus. For more information, please contact Ellyn at 615-419-6696.

Female roommate needed ASAP to share 3 BR, @ BA house in stone gate subdivision, located off S. Rutherford 5 minutes from MTSU campus. Washer/Dryer included, with high speed internet & 2 car gate. Very nice, brand new house with vaulted ceilings. Rent \$325/mo plus 1/3 utilities. Call 615-585-4802 or 731-693-9595 for more info.

Female looking for female roommate. 10 min from MTSU in a town house. Private bath, and walk in closet. \$350 including utilities. Needs to be neat. 584-0797, ask for Rachel.

Roommates needed to share 3bd/2ba home in M'boro. Incl. all utilities \$450/mo (furn.rm. & \$400/mo (unfurn.) 615-867-

7689.

Responsible female roommate wanted to share a 3bd, 2 bath house located 1 block from campus. All hardwood floors, dishwasher, W/D included. house is very clean and in great condition. Kitchen, dining rm, dining rm, living rm, good size front& back yard, carport & shed. Rent is \$325/mo plus 1/3 utilities. \$200 deposit. No pets. Call 615-419-0802 for appt.

Need 2 female Roommates to share 3bd, 2.5 bath in "like new" condo with same. Middleborough Court. walk to campus approx. .5 miles. washer/dryer provided. 1st bedroom \$250, 2nd bedroom \$235, share utilities. \$200 deposit, 6 months lease. 904-7819 leave a message!

Large room for rent, walking distance to campus. No lease required. \$250 rent plus 1/4th utilities. Call 945-3088.

Roommate needed ASAP to share 3bd/2bath apt. 5 minutes from campus. Rent \$265 plus 1/3 utilities. Will pay first months rent. 931-581-6623.

Sales

512 MB (2x256MB) Crucial DDR266/PC2100 desktop computer memory; lifetime warranty; \$60; email ccm2b@mtsu.edu.

ATI Radeon 9700 Pro (built by ATI); HDTV adapter included; 128 MB; AGP 8x; still under warranty; windows only; \$150; email ccm2b@mtsu.edu.

House for sale, walk to MTSU, hardwood floors, move-in condition, rented attic apartment pays \$350/month. \$114,500. 614-571-2291 or oliverkleban@hotmail.com.

The North Face Summit Series Jackets, new w/ tags, Men's \$125 (L,XL), Women's \$115 (M). 3 in 1 system with Goretex outershell and zip in fleece inner shell. grey, navy, royal, light blue, red and green. obo call 217-9569 or email ras2g@mtsu.edu.

Two Cheap Computer desks. One desk type with cabinets overhead. One is a stand type with 1 drawer, no cabinets. \$30 for both. Email: deb_mtsu@yahoo.com. Call 615-563-4488 after 5:30.

For Sale. 8 ft. pool table descent condition and accessories. One set of normal balls, one set of clear balls. Eight sticks including a short stick. Love the table but moving. \$350 or best offer. Call and leave a message. Joe @ 904-2035.

Two white semi-new microwaves for sale. \$20 each. Great condition. Just moved into place with built in microwave. Call Andrea at 364-0634.

1990 Lincoln Towncar, runs great, 2 year old paint job, 1 year old transmission, solid dependable car. \$1,950. Call 615-364-1004.

'92 Ford Taurus for sale. 110k miles, runs fine, needs new tires, & has a leak in power steering. Moving to LA, must sell! \$875 OBO. 615-403-3154.

Services

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320 West Main St. Suite 121 Murfreesboro, TN 37130 Visa/MasterCard Accepted.

MTSU student needs ride to campus and back. In the Manchester area. Call 931-723-8177 or email rnb2f@mtsu.edu.

Guitar and bass lessons \$10/hour. 15 years playing, 5 years teaching experience. Will teach all levels. Call Ryan for details at 703-723-3273.

Sublease

Sublessee needed to take over lease through August. 2 bed/2 bath apt. rent includes half water. 1st month rent free! only mins from campus. Call Tara @ 615-418-6919.

Female sublessee needed ASAP! University

Gables. Furnished, with utilities & internet included. \$375/month. \$300 off first month's rent. Call 615-319-2341.

I will pay you \$200.00 to sublease my apartment! Seeking female, \$375/month, all utilities included, washer & dryer, private patio, furnished, tanning beds, pool, computer center, transport to campus, fitness center, basketball and volleyball court & game room. Contact 615-308-5463.

3 bed/ 3 bath duplex. Walking distance to school. Great roommates. Nice duplex. 325/month. Call Rodney 615-218-3400.

1 Roommate needed or 3 bed 3 bath apt. Campus Crossing. Fully furnished. Workout center, highspeed internet, pool. 439/month. Utilities included. call 615-482-3796.

One Roommate needed for three bed three bath apt. Campus Crossing. Fully furnished. Utilities included. \$439/month. 200 off first months rent.. Contact: 615-587-0954.

University Courtyard sub-lease 1 bedroom, 1 private bath in 4 bed unit. Coed. Jan through Aug. available now-Furnished.Utilities included. \$375/month or best offer-Kevin at 615-429-7929.

Sublease for the University Courtyard. Call 615-48-1531 to move in immediately.

Sublessee needed for room in 2 bed apartment at Campus Crossing. Less than actual rent, will pay \$100 of each month's rent or first month when you move in. Fully furnished, high speed internet, own bathroom, shower, 24 hour computer lab and fitness room. Next to greek row. Call Mark 901-487-2716.

Room available for sub-lease in a 3 bed apartment for a male at Campus Crossing. For info call Campus Crossing about apt K-203.

Female roommate needed. University Gables. 1bd/bath in 4bd apt. Fully furnished, 24 hr internet, pool, fitness room, w/d. Rent is \$5K (utilities included). Will give \$200 or pay half rent. No Deposit. Call Evelyn @ 615-631-6220 or email emm2q@mtsu.edu.

Sub-leaser needed for apt. at Campus Crossing. Less than actual rent!! High speed internet, fully furnished, own bathroom, free tanning, shuttle bus to school, 24 hr. computer lab and fitness center. Call Mark 901-487-2716.

3 bd/2 bath, looking for one more roommate. Rent is \$325 plus utilities. No pets. Very close to Campus, on Beu St. Living room, dining room +kitchen, fully furnished, w/hardwood floors. Call Nichole @ 419-0802.

Travel

Condo in Myrtle Beach for Spring Break! Sheraton Broadway Plantation Resort. March 5-12, 2005, 7 nights. 1 BR (sleeps 4) \$90/night with minimum of 4 nights. 615-975-4792.

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Scott helps Blue Raiders avoid weekend sweep

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

After two straight weekend home losses to Jacksonville State, the Blue Raiders finally found a win over the Gamecocks on Sunday.

Behind solid pitching from Matt Scott, Middle Tennessee (7-5) was able to post a 9-0 win on Sunday and avoid the three-game sweep. JSU (6-8) defeated the Blue Raiders 4-1 on Friday and 9-8 on Saturday.

Scott, who pitched the first complete game of the season for the Blue Raiders, only allowed three infield hits and struck out three batters for his third win of the season.

"Basically, all I threw today was my fastball," Scott said after the win. "I was locating it extremely well today, getting ground balls and giving the infielders a lot of work."

With a hard wind blowing in from center field, Scott was able to place his pitches around the plate and let his defense do the work.

"[The wind] changes the way you pitch because you can get away with more stuff," Scott said. "Usually, if the wind is blowing in, I'm going to pitch inside more on the hitters because it will be tough for them to hit it out of the park."

Scott focused on getting a first-pitch strike on

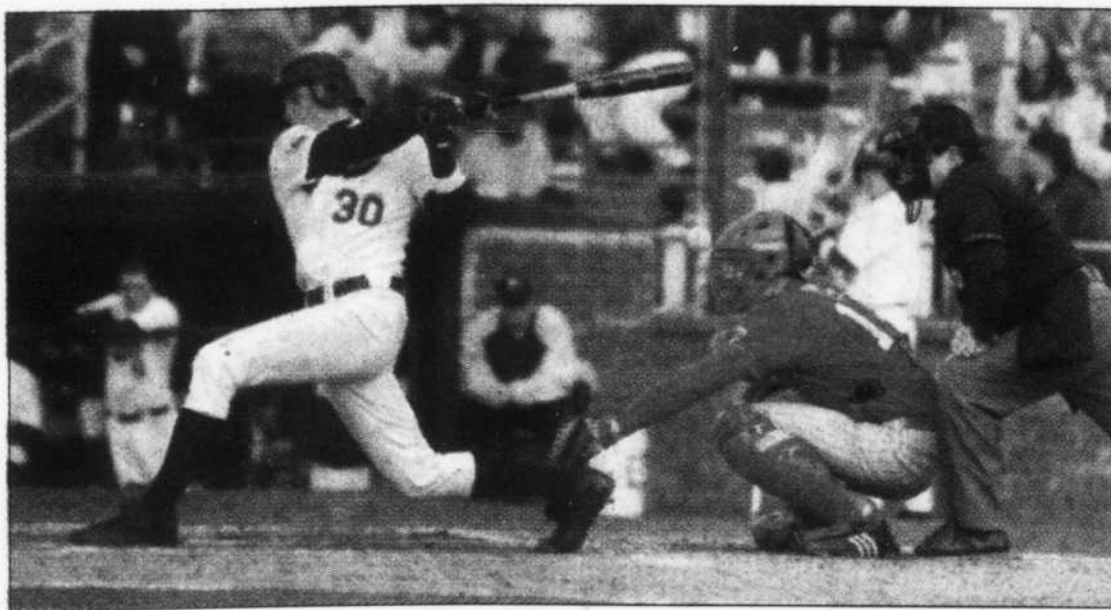


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

MT's Adam Warren and JSU catcher Ray Bearden both missed the ball on Sunday.

many of the batters he faced on Sunday, which allowed him to play around with the count.

"When you get that first-pitch strike, it's a huge advantage," Scott said. "The hitters are automatically down, and it sets me up to make the next

pitch for them to chase or makes room for a set-up pitch."

Scott's performance was the kind of play MT head coach Steve Peterson has been looking for from the Blue Raider starting rotation, which features two

sophomores in Scott and Tyler Copeland.

"Our pitchers have to step up," Peterson said. "We just need to get our pitching going and get our bullpen to do only what they are capable of doing. We're not asking them to do anything else than what they are capable of doing, and that's executing their pitches."

MT got up early on the Gamecocks (6-8), scoring four runs in the first inning on five hits. Nate Jagers had a solo blast off adjacent Floyd Stadium in the second inning to make it a 5-0 lead.

Jeff Beachum and Marcus Taylor both had RBI's in the fourth inning to push it to a 7-0 advantage. Chase Eakes had an RBI in the seventh inning and McNamee walked with the bases loaded to post the 9-0 final. Beachum, Taylor and Eakes all had two RBI's in the game.

Tony Drinkard, the starting pitcher for JSU, only lasted one third of an inning.

MT concludes its homestand today in the Blue Raiders' second game against Southern Illinois today. The Blue Raiders defeated the Salukis 6-1 yesterday; for more on that game, see page 6. ♦

Jonathan Hutton covers Blue Raider baseball for Sidelines. He can be reached at jdjh3x@mtsu.edu.

MT loses four on road trip

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

Any sports team has its good days and its bad days, but the weekend of March 4 and 5 turned into a couple of bad days for the Middle Tennessee softball team.

The Blue Raiders dropped all four tournament games on Friday and Saturday in the Georgia Tech Buzz Classic.

Friday's doubleheader against Auburn was a major defeat in which the Blue Raiders managed to score only one run between both games. The victory for the Tigers improved their record to 21-5.

Despite the losses, there were many significant firsts for the Blue Raiders. Freshman Kayla Sparks hit the first home run of her career and the first home run of the Blue Raiders' season. Sparks' long shot over the center-field wall gave MT its only run of the two-game series.

The Tigers remained scoreless in the first inning of Game 1 but

gave the Blue Raiders a run in the next four innings, winning 13-1. Senior pitcher Crystal Bobo fell to 3-2 on the season as her three-game winning streak came to an end.

The second game of the series was not as harsh but left MT scoreless. Freshman pitcher Ashley Katinas proceeded through two innings before the Tigers put numbers on the board. Auburn scored three runs in the third inning and three more in the fourth off a three-run homer by Sara Dean. Nicole Russo added to the home run fix in the sixth inning, closing the deal as Auburn won 7-0.

Saturday was not in favor of the Blue Raiders either. MT dropped both contests against Georgia Southern 4-2 and Iowa 3-1.

After falling behind early, Georgia Southern tied the score 2-2 in the fourth inning, then came back in the sixth to break the tie when Sam Steiner hit a one-out, two-run homer to give the Lady Eagles the lead and eventually the 4-2 win.

Lady Raider Liz Davis added to the list of firsts with her first career home run in the bottom of the second inning that put the Blue Raider on the board and in the lead.

The matchup between MT and Iowa was a little closer. The Hawkeyes were first to score, but the Blue Raiders answered in the top of the second inning. Shortstop Candis Littrell launched one over the center-field wall, the second home run for the day and Littrell's second in her career.

Iowa broke the 1-1 tie in the bottom of the fifth when Summer Downs hit a triple to right field and then scored off an RBI single by Kylie Murray.

Katinas tossed her second complete game of her career and took the loss to fall to 0-4 on the season.

MT took on Alabama yesterday (results were not available at press time), and the Lady Raiders return home Thursday to take on Mississippi State in a doubleheader starting at 3 p.m. ♦

Copeland: Pitcher earns second victory

Continued from 6

team gets the win, it's fine," Copeland said following his performance.

MT received its second straight complete game from their starting rotation from Copeland, who only allowed three hits through eight innings of work and had just one strikeout. Matt Scott pitched a complete game in a 9-0 victory over Jacksonville State on Sunday.

The Blue Raiders will look to grab another win today when they play their last home game for two weeks. The game against SIU begins at 3 p.m. ♦

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MTSU Student Affairs announces the 2005 Dean Judy Smith Scholarship Award

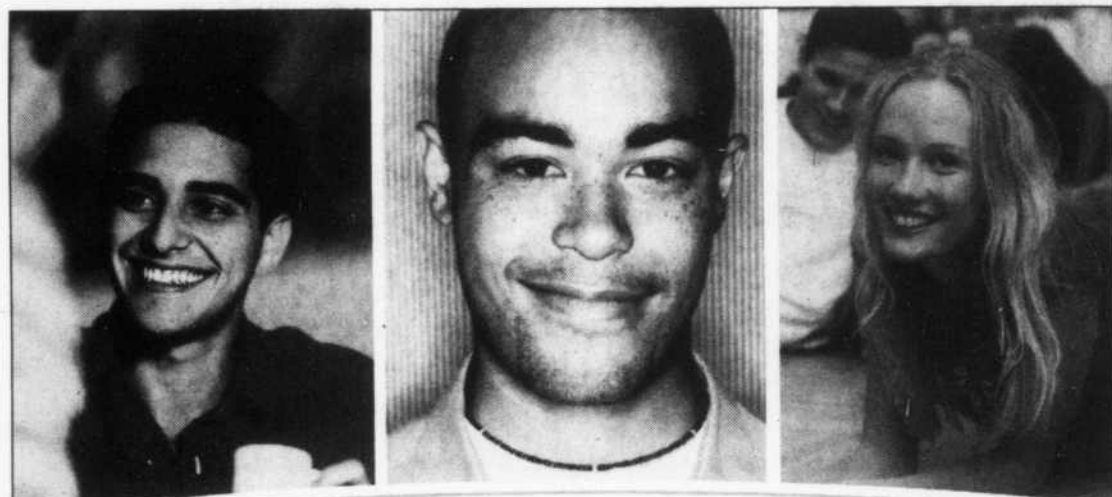
Description: The Dean Judy Smith Scholarship Award is given to a student who is an active participant in one or more of the following areas of campus life: social sorority or fraternity, cheerleading squad, Student Programming/Special Events, Student Government Association (executive, legislative, or judicial branch), or CUSTOMS (new student orientation).

This student must have completed at least 30 hours credit in residence at MTSU and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00. (Because of the terms of this award, graduating seniors are ineligible.)

Applications are available now in the Office of Vice President for Student Affairs, KUC Room 212.

Application Deadline: March 25, 2005

If you have any questions about the application process or the scholarship award, please contact Jennifer Lane in the Office of Vice President for Student Affairs at 898-2750.



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