

Volume 78 No. 57 Sexual crimes in parking lot linked

By Callie Elizabeth Butler Assistant News Editor

A female student was a victim of sexual battery in the greenhouse parking lot Tuesday evening. Police believe that the incident was linked to a similar incident that occurred on Nov. 25

Tuesday's incident occurred at approximately 7 p.m. While walking through the parking lot, the victim was approached and grabbed from behind. The

assailant then proceeded to grope the victim's breasts and forcibly kiss her. She escaped and used a cellular phone to contact campus authorities. Sgt. Matt Foster and Officer Kim Moses responded to the call

Police described the assailant as a 6-foot-2-inch black male of medium build wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt, dark-colored wind pants and tennis shoes.

This incident has been linked

to an attempted sexual assault that occurred Nov. 25 in the same area involving an assailant with the same description. In that case, however, the assailant was only able to grab the victim's arm before she escaped and called police from a public phone.

Police have currently been unable to identify any suspects. MTSU's Public Safety department institutes a number of measures to help ensure student safety.

cars and also have student officers on foot in the area," Foster said. "When something like this happens in a particular area, we put added patrol in the area."

Also available are lighted emergency call boxes which provide quick access to police assistance.

In compliance with the Tennessee Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act, MTSU reports that in 1998 and 1999, one incident of

"We're out there in patrol forcible sexual offense had been reported during each academic year. In 2000, two were reported. National statistics show that one in four female students will be sexually assaulted during four years of college.

> "Sexual assault can range from stranger rape to being emotionally coerced for sex by someone the victim knows," according to the MTSU Public Safety Web site.

Victims of sexual assault are encouraged to contact Public

Safety at 898-2424 or the Murfreesboro Police Department. Sexual assault complaints should also be reported to the Office of the Assistant Dean of Students, located in the Keathley University Center, Room 122. Resources and support staff are also available at the MTSU Counseling and Testing Center, also located in the KUC, and the June Anderson Women's Center, located in the James Union Building. ♦



MTSU students included in citywide census

By Juanita Thouin Staff Reporter

"Sometimes college students are unclear as to whether or not they should be included," Murfreesboro Assistant City Manager Rob Lyons said of an upcoming special census.

Beginning this week, Murfreesboro government officials will mail special census forms to each household address within the city limits. This includes houses, apartments and dorms occupied by MTSU students.

"According to census rules,

their college is located, they can be included in final census figures.

With many of MTSU's students living within the city limits, this bodes well for Murfreesboro's populationdependent share of state revenue.

Recognizing that some localities will see explosive growth between federal census years, lawmakers in Tennessee allow municipalities to conduct up to three special censuses per decade.

Murfreesboro has issued 2,922 single-family residence and 787 multifamily unit building permits since May of 2000. This leads city officials to estimate that since the last count,

Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

An electric tram rests in front of the Cope Administration Building yesterday as officials from the Center For Energy Efficiency and Parking Services observe its performance. The bus and trailer combination, if brought to campus, would accommodate 40 passengers and likely use routes separate from already existing campus streets.

Students get lift to support St. Jude

Up 'Til Dawn begins fund-raising

By Lindsay Palmer Staff Writer

Students will soon be able to take a load off their feet and coast to class via campus golf carts.

Jan. 27, 28 and 29, the MTSU branch of Up 'Til Dawn will be sponsoring Ride For Life, a fund-raiser designed to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Up 'Til Dawn committee members will meet students in major parking lots like Murphy Center and the Recreation Center starting at 8 a.m. Jan. 27.

They will then give students a ride to their classes from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rides are free, but stu-

dents are encouraged to make donations to Up 'Til Dawn.

According to Stephanie Plemons, public relations committee member, Ride For Life is only one of the series of fundraisers sponsored by Up 'Til Dawn. The organization is also planning to hold letter-writing parties, canned food drives and an event called Stepping For the Cure scheduled for Jan. 27.

Tim Johnson, public relations committee member, noted that all the fund-raising leads to the final event, which will take place from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Feb. 28 through March 1.

During the allotted 12 hours, there will be free food, bands, comedians and relay games played by teams from various campus organizations.

"Even St. Jude Children's Research Hospital patients are going to be there," Johnson said.

Money donated by the organization is derived from corporate sponsors, fund-raisers and the final event's registration fee of \$550 for each participating team.

Plemons noted that the MTSU branch of Up 'Til Dawn

has raised over \$50,000 over the past few years. The organization hopes to raise another \$50,000 this year alone.

Up 'Til Dawn was created on the campus of the University of Memphis in 1999. Since then, 70 different college campuses have become involved.

[MTSU was] the second university in the nation to adopt this," Johnson stated.

This is the fourth year MTSU has held the year round fundraising and Up 'Til Dawn has been working towards this year's grand finale since September.

See Ride, 2

full-time college students do count," Lyons said.

Federal and state laws say that because college students spend more than half of the year living in the city where See Census, 2

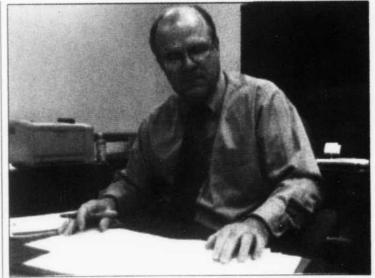


Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer Interim Vice President for Business and Finance John Cothern looks over a budget proposal yesterday.

Business and Finance interim VP appointed

By Dennis Sterle Staff Writer

John Cothern recently took the position of interim vice president for Business and Finance after Duane Stucky left abruptly in November 2002 for a job at Southern Illinois.

Cothern worked 29 years as the assistant vice president for Business and Finance at the University of Memphis. Memphis is a Tennessee Board of Regents school, and Cothern will continue to work with them

"I will keep giving advice but devote 100 percent of my MTSU," employment to Cothern said.

In 1998, Cothern moved to Nashville, where he lived and commuted to Memphis, staying in a condo while he worked.

Cothern will be working at See Cothern, 2

MTSU on an interim basis until the position can be permanently filled.

"I am looking forward to the new and expanded challenges of the V.P. position, and helping the university any way I can during the interim appointment." Cothern said. "I enjoy learning about MTSU. The university is different than Memphis. With more students living on campus at MTSU, there is not as much of a rush. MTSU is more of a traditional college campus."

"John Cothern has worked in higher education since 1973, and he has direct leadership experience in business and finance," MTSU President Sidney McPhee said in a recent Record article. "He has worked with MTSU over the past five

"My opinion is that evolutionary science is silent on the issue of God."

Professor wants equal perspective representation

By Leah Massey Staff Writer

An article titled "From Dust to Dust" disturbed Stephen Howard, professor of biology, when he found it posted outside the biology department office.

The article was published in the Nov. 6, 2002, issue of Sidelines. Howard felt that the article didn't give a fair portrayal of mainstream science.

'This view is not consistent with the view of mainstream science," Howard said, expressing his disturbance with a few of the article's expressed opinions.

The first problem Howard noticed with the article was the description of an opposition between two extremes, the origin of life as naturalistic evolution, and the creation of life by God in six days.

According to Howard, the



www.mtsusidelines.com

scientific process does not involve religion. Howard goes on to say that scientists do not try to prove or refute the existence of God. God never enters the scientific equation.

"My opinion is that evolutionary science is silent on the issue of God," he said.

Howard says that 'naturalistic evolution' is what is taught by most biology professors, but there is a difference between the fact of evolution and the theory of evolution.

The fact of evolution is that

- Stephen Howard Professor of biology

common ancestor and that populations change over time. The theory of evolution is the best guess that scientists can make to explain how these populations and organisms change.

"We have never believed we evolved from apes," biology professor Marion Wells said in the "From Dust to Dust" article. "We believe we may have shared a common ancestor."

Wells has been teaching his students the origin of life and urges them to decide for them-

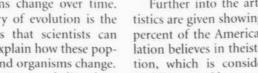
selves between extremes.

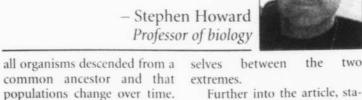
tistics are given showing that 37 percent of the American population believes in theistic evolution, which is considered the middle ground between the two extremes. Theistic evolution states that God initiated and oversees evolution.

These statistics also show that 45 percent of the U.S. population believe in a six-day

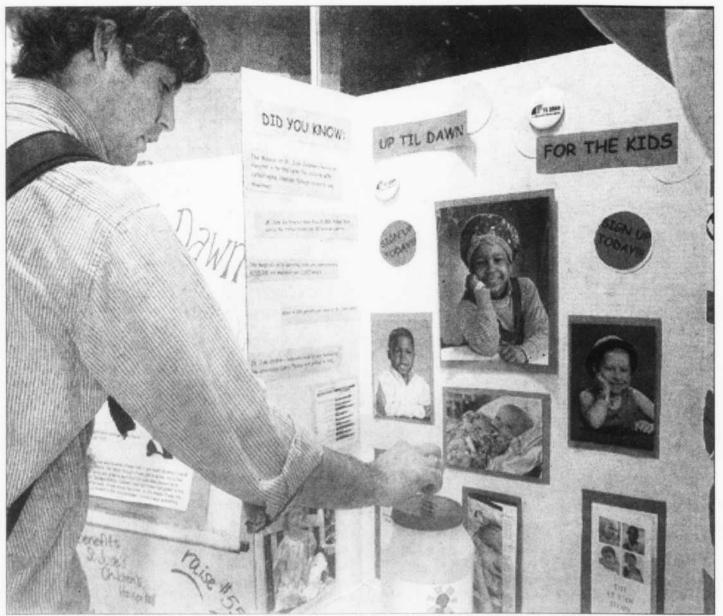
See Howard, 2

Opinions 4 * Sports 5 * Classifieds 7





Up 'Til Dawn raises funds



Junior Derrick Brown donates to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at a booth in the Keathley University Center managed by Up 'Til Dawn, an organization uniting campus and communities to help cancer patients.

Howard: God, science separate issues

Continued from I

creation, while 12 percent support naturalistic evolution.

"Scientific theories don't rise and fall as a result of public opinion," Howard said.

"Scientists obviously care deeply about public opinion, but public opinion does not drive the evaluation of theories and hypotheses in science."

All science consists of facts and theories, Howard said.

Howard maintains that in order for a theory to be scientific it has to be falsifiable, meaning that there has to be some possible way for an experiment

prove that it is incorrect.

reactions in a chemistry class or the revolution of the planets around the sun in an astronomy classroom. The theory of evolution, like all theories, has changed to reflect modern scientific findings since it first entered the scientific arena.

Howard said he does not feel there is a conspiracy against evolutionary biologists, he just feels that more information needed to be explained about evolutionary science.

"Scientists are not, in general, anti-religious. It's just that good science requires that we separate out our religious beliefs from what we do in the

rooms." Howard said. As to the posting of the article outside of the biology office, Howard said he thinks it was simply done to recognize an article in which Wells, a fellow professor whom Howard greatly respects, was interviewed and gave his own opinions.

laboratory and in the class-

Wells still believes that God's creation was done in a most fascinating and complicated manper, which science is learning more about every day, according to the Sidelines article.

There was some discussion of the article in the [biology] department," Howard continued, "but I also want to say that it's good to see people in discussion. Something we want to do is get people talking about it."

Howard received his Ph.D. in biology from Indiana University. He has been trained as a population geneticist and an evolutionary biologist.

His original research has been published in such journals as Nature, the Proceedings of the Royal Society, Evolution, and the Iournal of Evolutionary Biology.

Cothern: Lawyer

Continued from I

years in contract area and is especially familiar with the new Tennessee Miller Coliseum project and with Aramark. Cothern has worked on a university campus for many years, and he has worked with the the Tennessee Board of Regents, so I believe that this transition will be very smooth."

Cothern is a licensed attorney with a Juris Doctor degree from UM's School of Law.

"Law school gives you a good background in business, much like an MBA program,"

Cothern said.

"I never had the desire to get out and practice in court, though I have done it from time to time."

"I enjoy working at universities. It keeps you mentally young; they bring in new ideas every four to five years," Cothern added.

The Business and Finance division oversees business operation budgets, the finance office, facilities, parking, food, Phillips Bookstore, operations of Murphy Center and the new Tennessee Miller Coliseum for the horse science program. •

Census: Data shows increase

Continued from I

the city's population has increased by around 8,000.

With the local share of state revenue at \$96.77 per person, this population increase could result in an additional \$774,160 for the 2003-2004 budget.

"This is a painless way to help us raise more money to fund the programs residents say they want," Lyons said.

According to Joe Rand of Tennessee's Department of Revenue, nearly 53 percent of the shared revenue funds will be available for general fund expenditures.

Locally, the city council decides where to allocate this money. General funds usually pay for such things as recreation, schools, police and fire departments and solid waste removal. The remainder of shared revenue must be earmarked for items such as roads and pollution clean up.

Conducting the special census will cost the city approximately \$35,000, and there is no guarantee that additional funds will be forthcoming.

Each year the state legislature decides how much of Tennessee's revenue will be dispersed among cities, counties and other municipalities. This

disbursement is called shared revenue. In attempting to balance the state budget, lawmakers have studied the idea of abolishing or reducing this form of local income.

Nonetheless, Lyons still believes the \$35,000 cost is a good investment.

"It [the special census] could offset or mitigate the cut revenues," Lyons said.

"I think it's a sign of strength in city government when city leaders take the steps to make sure they receive the appropriate level of revenues," Ross Loder, deputy director of the Tennessee Municipal League told The Tennessean.

The special census is being organized and conducted by the city of Murfreesboro. Part-time and temporary employees will handle all tabulations and final results must be reported to the state by May 15.

The census questionnaire will not ask for any demographic information. It simply asks for the first and last names of each person living at that address.

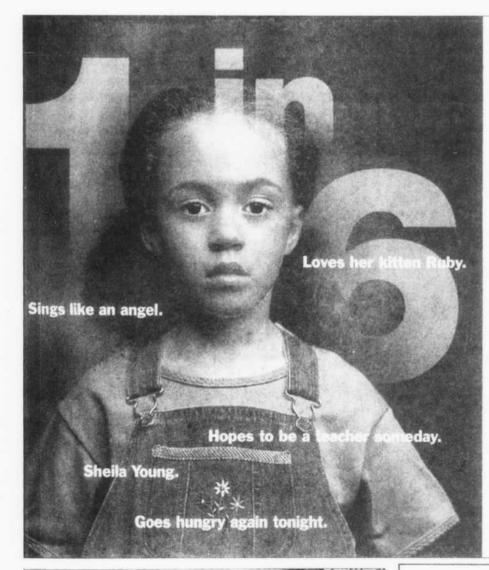
A stamped, self-addressed envelope will be provided with the questionnaire, or residents can respond via a special telephone number or through the city's Web site. ♦

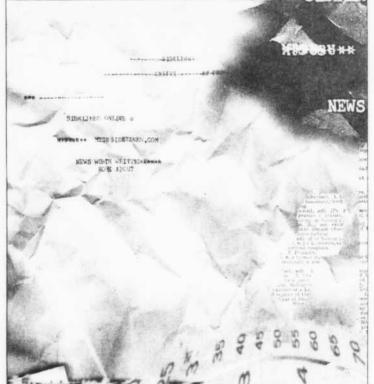
Ride: Each lot to have cart

Continued from I

Each major parking lot should have at least one of the bigger golf carts ready and waiting for participating students. Plemons remarked that the students should have no difficulty in finding the golf carts. They'll be decorated with balloons and signs; they won't be hard to spot," Plemons said. 🔶

Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer





One out of every six children in America is living in a state of poverty. And that's one too many American dreams broken. One too many American childhoods at risk, threatened by the daily struggle to secure enough food, enough shelter, enough medicine just to survive. Nearly 12,000,000 precious lives hanging in a brutally uncertain balance. Sixteen percent of all our children - a poverty rate that's higher than any other age group. But who cares to notice?

> **Catholic Campaign** for Human Development

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has been working toward this year's grand finale since September.

Plemons and Johnson noted that Ride For Life will only play one part in the overall fundraising process, but it should still be beneficial, provided that students are interested in getting a ride to class.



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Talks scheduled between North and South Korea

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) – North and South Korea set dates for high-level talks on Wednesday, boosting the diplomatic drive for a peaceful solution to the nuclear dispute, despite signs the North has increased military patrols near its border with the South.

The announcement that North and South Korea would hold a round of Cabinet-level meetings later this month was matched by hopeful commentary from U.S. envoy James Kelly, who said before meetings in Beijing that he was "reassured" by efforts to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons development.

The reclusive regime in Pyongyang, however, kept up its drumbeat of anti-American invective through the state-run media, blaming nuclear proliferation on the United States and accusing Washington of using its weapons to threaten and blackmail other nations.

U.N. secretary general says peace is possible

UNITED NATIONS (AP) – Secretary-General Kofi Annan says peace is possible in Iraq, in the Koreas and even between Israel and the Palestinians, and terror can be defeated if all 191 U.N. member states deny terrorists refuge and cut off their funding.

Annan said Tuesday, "We are within striking distance of reuniting Cyprus, ending the long civil war in Sudan and pacifying the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Surveying world hotspots and critical global problems, Annan told a news conference "We start the year with anxiety."

The Ivory Coast "is now caught in the downward spiral of conflict," and the worldwide AIDS epidemic "will claim many more lives this year than

ntsuside line

even a war in Iraq would," Annan said. A significiant change in climate has caused storms, floods

and droughts that cause "more and more humanitarian emergencies and tragedies," he said.

Also of "particular concern" are Venezuela, where he urged the government and opposition to use democratic means to resolve their dispute, and Zimbabwe, where he urged the people to work together and with the international community to meet the challenges that the widespread AIDS epidemic and hunger pose.

Despite the threats and anxiety, however, Annan said "I am still an optimist."

U.N. inspectors visit palace in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) – U.N. arms experts inspected a presidential palace in the heart of the Iraqi capital Wednesday, making their second visit to a residence of President Saddam Hussein since inspections resumed last year.

The inspectors, who are searching for the presence of weapons of mass destruction, visited a complex in the al-Karadah district popularly known as the Old Palace.

It was not immediately known if Saddam was in the palace, which overlooks the Tigris river.

Journalists, who were kept outside by Iraqi security officers, peered through the black and white gates to see U.N. and Iraqi vehicles parked on a long road lined with palm trees.

They could not see the palace, which was built after the fall of the monarchy in 1958. It was bombed twice during 1991 Persian Gulf War and subsequently repaired.

Chief U.N. inspector Hans Blix said Tuesday that the inspectors would require months to finish their search for Iraq's nuclear, biological and

chemical weapons, long-range missiles and the programs with which they were produced.

More gene therapy studies suspended after illness

WASHINGTON (AP) – U.S. officials are suspending 27 more gene therapy studies while they investigate a possible serious risk.

A second European toddler cured of the deadly "bubble boy disease" by the use of gene therapy has come down with an apparently leukemia-like side effect.

It marks the second time in three months that health officials have interrupted gene therapy studies because of the grave side effect.

Bubble boy disease – an immune disorder formally called severe combined immunodeficiency, or SCID – is the only disease ever to be cured with gene therapy. But three months ago, a boy whose life was saved by a SCID gene therapy experiment in France when he was a baby came down with a leukemia-like syndrome at age 3.

Scientists have long warned that cancer is a possible risk from any gene therapy, such as that for SCID, that uses retroviruses, a type of virus that permanently invades cells, to deliver new genes into a patient's body.

No one given gene therapy for SCID or other diseases had ever had such a side effect.

Bush to oppose Michigan affirmative action policy

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Bush plans to challenge a University of Michigan program that gives preference to minority students, telling the Supreme Court there are better ways to promote diversity, administration officials say.

Justice Department and White House attorneys, acting on Bush's orders, worked Tuesday night on a brief arguing against programs that gave black and Hispanic students an edge when applying to the university and its law school.

World Briefs

Compiled By Callie Elizabeth Butler - Assistant News Editor

The lawsuit brought by three white students is the biggest affirmative action case in a decade, a political lightning rod as Bush struggles to increase his party's appeal to minorities.

The president had not given his final approval of the brief Tuesday night. Officials said that he had not given his approval, but he was familiar with its contents and was expected to give lawyers the goahead before the dealine on Thursday.

North Korea denies nuclear pact withdrawl

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) – North Korea denied Tuesday that its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was aimed at squeezing concessions from the United States and accused Washington of being insincere about prospects for dialogue.

Pyongyang kept up its confrontational stance as a U.S. envoy in Seoul offered the possibility of energy assistance if North Korea gives up its nuclear programs and called for a peaceful resolution of the standoff.

The communist country's state-run news agency, Korean Central News Agency, said that as a sovereign country, North Korea has the right to opt out of international agreements.

"Some countries and media describe our recent measures as brinkmanship tactics, and that is a silly allegation," KCNA said in a commentary that was reported by the South Korean news agency, Yonhap.

Pyongyang withdrew from the nuclear pact last week and has threatened to drop a selfimposed moratorium on missile tests. They have also threatened to begin operating a plant that can be used to extract weaponsgrade plutonium from spent fuel rods.

North Korea has protested the suspension of U.S. fuel shipments to the impoverished country following its admission last fall of a secret nuclear weapons program.

The North says it will resolve U.S. security concerns if Washington agrees to sign a nonaggression pact.

Chief U.N. inspector says Iraq must provide evidence

UNITED NATIONS (AP) – Chief U.N. inspector Hans Blix says Iraq must provide new evidence about its nuclear, chemical and biological programs or face the possibility of war.

"I think they only need look around their borders, and they should realize the seriousness," Blix said in an interview Monday with The Associated Press and Associated Press Television News, alluding to the U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf and neighboring Kuwait.

Blix said the inspectors require months to finish searching Iraq for weapons of mass destruction, but they may not get the time if the Security Council decides to stop inspections.

The world wants Iraq to disarm peacefully, Blix said. To do that, it must provide documents and allow U.N. inspectors to interview Iraqi scientists in private.

They must also show physical evidence of what facilities and weapons have been destroyed.

"What the show of force demonstrates to Iraq is that here is the other alternative," he said.

Filtering water can halve cholera cases

WASHINGTON (AP)

The simple act of filtering water through old sari fabric may be enough to reduce cholera cases

Bangladesh, researchers say. In a study that appeared this week in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, scientists filtered pond and river water through nylon mesh and through old, much-washed sari cloth.

by about half in rural villages in

They concluded that the sari solution worked best and could save lives in villages. The waterborne disease has been determined to annually sicken thousands of people.

"Sari cloth is cheaper, and we found that it is much more effective than the nylon mesh," said Rita R. Colwell, a professor of microbiology at the University of Maryland, College Park and primary author of the study.

Colwell said researchers discovered in laboratory studies that most of the cholera bacteria in ponds, rivers and other standing water is attached to organisms in the gut of a copepod, a type of zooplankton commonly found in standing water.





COLDEN AS



Golden Key International Honour Society

Rewards Excellence Congratulations to the top juniors and seniors who have been invited to join Golden Key! Send your profile by Feb. 11 to take advantage of the following lifetime benefits:

> Recognition •Career Assistance •Scholarships •Leadership Opportunities •Voluntary Chapter Activities Information Tables: KUC Lobby, Jan. 22, 23 Membership deadline: Feb. 14, 2003 Induction Ceremony: March 3, 7 p.m., James Union Building

For more information, please contactAdvisor: Jenny CrouchPresident: Stan LacyPhone: 898-2815Email: marthalacy1@aol.comEmail: jcrouch@mtsu.edu

Be sure to visit Golden Key's home page at http://goldenkey.gsu.edu You must be in the top 15% of the junior or senior class. If you feel you are qualified but did not receive an invitation, please contact one of the above.

'Your Job Search' Workshop

Where: KUC 322 When: Tuesday, 21st January 2003 Time: 1pm - 2pm

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> Do you know how to network at a fair?

> Are you ready for the upcoming Fairs?

 Summer Jobs & Internships Fair on January 29th

 Nashville Area College to Career Fair on February 11th

 Nashville Area Teacher Recruitment Fair on February 11th

> Sponsored by the Career & Employment Center KUC 328, 898-2500 BAS 5123, 494-8911 Jones Hall 158 (Office opening in February)

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()PINIONS

4 SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board **Better, more lights** needed for safety

A young woman walking to her car through the greenhouse parking lot on campus was assaulted early Tuesday evening. An unknown male grabbed her, kissed her and groped her breasts against her will. Fortunately, the woman managed to escape before anything more serious occurred.

This incident comes only two months after a male fitting the same description assaulted another woman in the same parking lot. The woman was able to get away with only an arm grab in the November assault.

In both cases, the assailant had been able to flee the scene, escaping police and walking free to prey on other female students unaware of the threat.

Both attacks happened between 7 and 8 p.m. when the parking lots were less crowded and dimly lit. Sidelines sent one of our staff members to check out those lots where the students were attacked and can report that most of the area is well-lit, excluding the parking lots closer to Scarlett Commons. Those lots adjacent to the greenhouse lot had many lights that were simply burnt out.

Public Safety urges us to use campus call boxes that are strategically placed around campus, yet none were used in either of these cases. In fact, according to the "Emergency call boxes replaced on campus" article in the March 11, 2002, issue of Sidelines, the boxes were used a total of 10 times within a seven-month period.

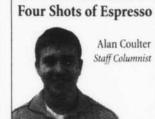
We wonder how effective these boxes are when a woman is running from a person trying to assault her, or how her attacker could have been discouraged by the well-lit parking lot she was parked in?

MTSU needs to make the rational decision and install better lighting or more lighting rather than waste time and money on call boxes that are only helpful if your car breaks down, not if you're being assaulted.

From the Assistant News Editor Americans who choose not to marry have rights

structure and the grow-

Exploitative ads demand student change



You won't find Abercrombie & Fitch in my closet.

It's not just because I think the company is ripping off undergraduates by mediocre overpricing clothing.

I recently found out about the advertising methods A&F takes in the company's catalog - if you could call it a catalog.

The subscription-based book not only portrays sexy models, but also highly explicit pictures including full frontal female nudity, men holding only articles of clothing over their genitals and other sexually suggestive photographs.

It isn't like A&F doesn't know what they're doing, either. The slogan for their Christmas catalog was, "280 Pages of Sex and X-Mas Fun."

To even buy a subscription to the catalog, you must have the same qualifications needed to buy a Playboy. This isn't advertising clothing. This is pornography and exploitation of the human body.

If you're going to produce porn, must you sell jeans with it?

There's a line somewhere between being immoral and flaunting immorality as far as your dollar will take you. Yes, individuals have a right to choose whether to subscribe to the catalog or not, but it doesn't stop there.

A&F leapt past their protection behind the subscription defense when they had their models pose in stores everywhere this last Christmas season as

"greeters."

At many stores above the Mason-Dixon line, men clad in nothing but a thin pair of boxer briefs roamed around the racks just feet away from the rest of the mall.

Clever. Let's put a nearly naked man in the middle of a mall full of hormonal teenage girls and innocent children.

How many mothers covered the eyes of their four-year-old daughters? "Hey, Mommy, what's that?" Meanwhile, cash registers rang up the roaming beefcake's salary for his indecency.

I, for one, will never even set foot in the store, much less buy anything to support this sad excuse for marketing. It's as if they're saying that their products aren't valuable enough to stand on their own. Instead, they must lure young people in using suggestive poses and sexual

content.

Will I look down on anyone wearing their clothing? Not at all. I simply would like to see a turnaround in the capitalism of this country.

I challenge the students of MTSU to care more about what goes on in the world concerning the brand names across their behinds while they work out at the Recreation Center. How much do you want to spend on gym shorts anyway?

Rethink wearing your Christmas gifts this year. It isn't the company that allows the nudity to appear in the catalogs. We allow it. If the consumers took a stand against such lowclass smut, then it would have no place or demand. Consumers' actions DO

affect the world. Yes, this includes the sweatshirt you wear or the boxers you show off as you walk around the mall, A&F is

well aware of the rising concerns and protests to such advertising across America. However, they don't seem to want to change anytime soon.

Regarding the protests to A&F's advertising, company spokesman Hampton Carney told the Chicago Tribune, "We've always said this was adult stuff." Smaller sects have stood against A&F's flippant attitude for a couple of years now, but we as college students hold the real power.

For the bolder students, I encourage you to not only stop shopping at the stores, but also make phone calls and write letters to the company, voicing your concerns.

we demand Until changes, there will be none. ♦

Alan Coulter is a junior English major and can be reached via c-mail at ajc2h@mtsu.edu.

Bush's antics hitting 'Shields' deserve respect too close to home Conventions that the No matter what your **Finding Trouble** opinion of their politics,



Last Saturday night, my mom and I were going through some old pictures of my family.

Amid the messed up hairstyles, loud '80s clothing and even some naked baby pictures, were pictures of my older brother as a toddler.

Paul was a weird-looking kid. His head looked like it weighed more than his body, his eyes were this weird ever-changing hazel color and my mom was still cutting his hair. He looked like a mess, but in all of the pictures he was sporting a goofy grin that comes from not knowing you look like a mess.

He sees the best in anyone, even when they're at their worst.

Before he signed on the dotted line, Paul may have been naïve enough to think that, if he were ever shipped out, it would be for a noble cause.

However, he's smart enough to realize that the upcoming war against Iraq isn't that.

Just last week in Time Magazine, there was an article that questioned if Iraq should be the target of an emerging war, or if the U.S. and "Dubya" should be more concerned with North Korea, who has denied access to U.N. weapons inspectors and have admitted to trying to become another country with nuclear capability.



As I write this, selfdesignated human shields travel to Iraq. This sort of activism is not new, but it is unique. These people voluntarily walk into harm's way in the interest of keeping total strangers alive. Whether you are antiwar or not, this is something you have to respect.

Activists of this ilk

U.S. holds other nations in contempt of - like Iraq. It's a pity that we don't hold ourselves to our own standards.

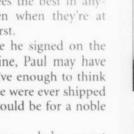
O'Keefe and other human shields will gather in Iraq later this month, just in time for United Nations the report on Iraqi compliance due Jan. 27th. Based on this report, President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair will decide whether

or not to attack. So, these human shields consciously decided to be there, in Iraq, when the bombs

these human shields deserve our admiration. How many people, including yourself, do you know would stand up for something they believed in, even if it meant they may never live to talk about it? Never get to brag? Never get recognition for it? Never see their families again?

No, these people are not the same type of activists you see standing in front of logging trucks, throwing paint on furs or crowding the streets of Washington are set to go off - and D.C. These people will

walk into death while





In its most recent report, the American Law Institute declared that the legal definition of the family should be revamped to accommodate the changing structures of families and the people who head them. This report, if accepted, dramatically would change practices in family law and change the legal status of cohabitating couples to be equal to those who choose to marry.

Some couples simply decide against marriage. They're everywhere. They're living in your neighborhood, working at your job and even on your television. Some of your favorite actors choose not to marry but live with their partners and even choose to have including children, Susan Sarandon, John Malkovich and Richard Gere.

The nuclear family is becoming much less commonplace as the number of single-parent families and unmarried couples with children continues to rapidly grow. When considering this growing family

ing acknowledgement of the nuclear family as a fantasy, why are legal structures in place that leave the unmarried individual with less sta-

tus in our society? As George W. Bush and his supporters continue to push an emphasis on marriage, he excludes the millions of couples - many of which are voters - who choose not to marry. And the decision not to enter marriage, for whatever reason, is a valid one. Like any course in life, marriage is something that some choose to enter into while many do not. Should those who find themselves in a

lifestyle not suited to marriage be forced to bear legal and financial consequences?

In a diverse society, we should accept the differences of others. Couples shouldn't be swayed toward marriage by lesser expense or attain greater legal advantage. If marriage is to con-

tinue to be regarded as a legal status, cohabitating couples and their families should also have such advantages available to them. A family is a family

whether they come with a marriage certificate or not. Millions would agree. ♦

On Jan. 6, my brother celebrated his 22nd birth-

day. A lot has changed in these years. His body finally grew into his head, his eyes finally settled on brown, he discovered the wonders of a fade done by a professional and he isn't quite as goofy. But then, why should he

be? Three days after his birthday, Paul found out that he would be one of the first 50 people on his Air

Force base to be sent to Iraq. Paul is resigned to the fact.

I'm far from pleased. My older brother, the kid who used to whisper to me while we were supposed to be taking our naps, the boy I used to kick if he touched me in the car, the teenager who used to bitch like crazy whenever he had to drive me somewhere, is going to be sent to Iraq to fight a stupid war perpetuated by stupid people.

"Well your brother knew what he was getting into when he joined up," some people might say.

To them I would say, "Not really." If I'm the pessimist in the

family, then my brother is the optimist.

Why don't we just vote in a President who is smart enough not to call three of the nations hostile to the U.S. the "Axis of Evil?"

Come on - Saddam Hussein has been in power since 1979; is it really imperative that we rush to send in troops when Mohammed el-Baradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said that U.N. weapons inspectors would need "a few months" to finish their work in Iraq.

So, if we invade, endanger the lives of American and British soldiers, kill thousands of Iraqis and CNN finds out that Iraq was never close to being a realistic nuclear threat, what are we going to say? "Oooops! Our bad.'

In Monday's edition of the comic strip "Boondocks," militant Huey tells his more laid-back counterpart Caesar that scientists should clone 100,000 copies of W. Bush and Donald Rumsfield.

When asked why, he replies "So that they can fight their own damn war." Huey, I'd have to agree. •

Angelica Journagin is a junior public relations major and can be reached via email at ahj2a@mtsu.edu.

Lindsey Turner*

remove themselves from comfortable, their everyday lives and travel to places most of the Western world considers too dangerous to even visit. And they don't do this for fun like 1 would - they do it on principle.

They so ardently believe war is abhorrent that they will put up their lives to defend that belief. In hopes that U.S. pilots will refuse to drop their bombs on them, human shields willingly hole themselves up in hospitals, water treatment plants and other places the military should not target (but often do).

Ken Nichols O'Keefe is a witness of such illegal targeting and heads up one of the human shield organizations. A former U.S. Marine, O'Keefe renounced his U.S. citizenship after participating in the Gulf War. Sadly, during that war, he saw our military cut down retreating enemy soldiers in clear violation of Common Article III of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Yes, these are the same Geneva

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not just be there, but be in the possible field of fire. Most of the activists are going directly to Baghdad, which will naturally be the focus of any attack. Before I go on, I want

to make one thing very clear. Each one of these activists signed forms saying that they do not support the Iraqi regime. Opposing a war with Iraq doesn't imply support for Iraq. That would be like saying that, because a person is against abridgments of our freedom of speech, he or she must support the Ku Klux Klan. A person can consistently be against both. The human shields hate war, but also have no love for

Saddam. What stands out here is that these remarkable people will stand up and die for their opposition to war.

Convictions that strong are rare nowadays. Ask some people what they would be willing to die for, and the most likely response will probably be a blank expression (please, try this at home.)

the news calls them 'Saddam's fools, or Idiots.' Their ranks include law students, veterans, paramedics and many people of faith, just to name a few. These activists are deadly serious. We should back off of

Iraq; however, these activists' passion for that position does not necessarily make them more right. That passion does make them a force to contend with though, and each of us should take notice. Three questions should surface: First, what the devil is really going on with Iraq? Second, do you have convictions as deep as these? And last, if you do not, why not?

Don't trust popular media for the answer to the first one; look overseas.

As for the other two, you will have to find those answers yourself even though it might hurt. 🔶

Audie Sheridan is a junior philosophy major and can be reached via email at als3g@mtsu.edu.

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

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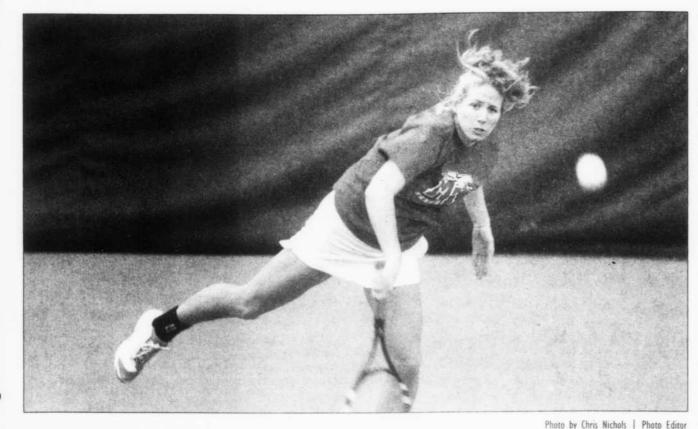
Letters Policy

letters to

SPORTS

5 SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, Tenn.



Lady Raider Stacy Varnell returns a serve during the Vanderbilt tournament yesterday.

Women's tennis team gears up for new season

MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee women's tennis opens the 2003 season ranked No. 62 in the Omni Hotels Collegiate Tennis rankings. The team traveled to Nashville to play against Vanderbilt University yesterday.

"I am pleased with our ranking and believe it is where we belong as a team," said head coach Randy Holden. "Opening with Vanderbilt will be a good test for our team and individual players.'

Lady Raider junior Manon Kruse also received a preseason ranking of No. 56 in singles.

Kruse amassed a record of 24-6 in 2002 and received a bid in the NCAA Tournament in singles. Although she went 1-1 at the All-American Championships in October, she struggled through a foot injury in the fall, ending the campaign 3-2.

Kruse and partner Stacy Varnell picked up a preseason ranking of 29. The duo was 28-8 in the spring of 2002 and just missed the round of eight at the NCAA Tournament.

In the fall, the pair also competed in the All-American Championships, leaving with a record of 2-1.

"Stacy and Manon struggled through some injuries in the fall, and that hurt them because they didn't play as much as some of the others," Holden said. "I believe they are going to have another record-setting year."

Middle Tennessee returns home after the Vanderbilt match to host Virginia at noon on Jan. 19 at the Racquet Club in Murfreesboro.

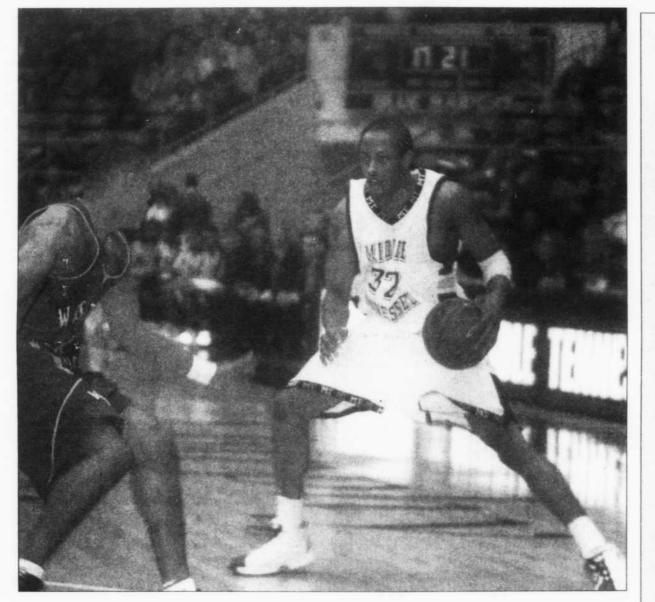
University of Idaho Vandals preparing to become full-time SBC member

"All that is left to be done for the University of Idaho is for them to fill out some paperwork."

- Chris Jackson, SBC Media Relations director

By Erich Heinlein Senior Staff Reporter

Blue Raiders take on SBC foes



From Coach Davis...

To all Middle Tennessee students:

I am writing to ask for your help in continuing the long tradition of student support as our team faces two crucial Sun Belt Conference games at



home this week against South Alabama and New Orleans.

Since becoming your men's basketball coach in April, I have heard all of the great stories about the teams of the past and the electric atmosphere that existed in the Murphy Center. I believe that atmosphere can and will

The University of Idaho has agreed to become a full time member of the Sun Belt Conference by 2004-2005, in order to keep the Sun Belt Conference eligible for I-A.

For a conference to become I-A they must have 14 teams and all teams must be eligible for I-A. A member must have 200 scholarships, 16 teams, and average 15,000 fans per game in football.

However, they are not officially members yet.

"All that is left to be done for the University of Idaho is for them to fill out some paperwork," said Sun Belt conference Media relations Director Chris Jackson. "Right now it is hard to pin down an exact date as to when it will be announced that the University of Idaho will become a member of the Sun Belt Conference.'

Another school that has applied to the Sun Belt Conference is Troy State.

"We have petitioned to join the Sun Belt Conference," said Troy State Media Relations Director Tom Strother. "Right now we are early stages of the process."

"Our ultimate goal is to gain membership in a I-A conference. However, it does not appear that this will happen.

"We are not accepting any more teams at this time," said Jackson.

The football team is already a member of the Sun Belt Conference. All other teams will be phasing into the conference, but must be a fulltime member by 2004-2005.

The Vandals will be moving from the Mountain West Conference. However, their football program is currently in the Sun Belt.

The Vandals are the second team since November to join the Sun Belt in the last three months. In November, Utah State joined the Sun Belt and is also phasing in its athletics program as a full time member until 2005. The Aggies football team will be joining the Sun Belt conference in 2003.

exist again, and it is my sincere hope that you, the 21,163 Middle Tennessee students, will do your part to help the Blue Raiders in key games this week and the rest of the season.

While the student body was away from campus, the Blue Raiders knocked off defending Sun Belt Conference champion Western Kentucky. Last week, we defeated Arkansas State in Jonesboro for the first time in school history, and we took Arkansas-Little Rock to

MT guard Tommy Gunn glares down the court, looking for a Blue Raider score.

Middle Tennessee basketball plays against South Alabama tonight

By Kasimu L. Harris Staff Reporter

The Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders return home tonight to face the University of South Alabama Jaguars after splitting two games on the road.

The Blue Raiders (6-9, 2-1) hope to rebound against the Jaguars (7-7,1-2) after their season's first winning streak of two games snapped. The Belt Conference Tournament.

Blue Raiders dropped their first conference game in a 62-71-overtime loss to the University of Arkansas Little-Rock on Jan. 11.

Although the Jags lead the overall series with the Blue Raiders with a 5advantage, Middle Tennessee claimed the victory in the last meeting. In a 48-47 win, the Blue Raiders out-lasted the Jaguars and advanced to the second round in last year's Sun

The Jaguar team is lead by firstyear head coach John Pelphrey, who recently worked under Billy Donovan as an assistant at the University of Florida. Last years sub .500 season was the only the 10th losing season in the programs 35-year history. Pelphrey will try to restore winning ways in South Alabama. In the past seven years, the program has won four Sunbelt Championships and advance to NCAA tournament twice during that period.

See Davis, 7

Four of the five starters for the Jaguars are averaging double figures, lead by junior college transfer guard, Chris Young 6-1 185 pound with 18.1 points per game (ppg). Demetrice Williams, a 6-2, 155 pound senior guard is second on the team with 14.9 ppg and leads the teams in assist with 5.9 assist per game (apg). Henry

See Jaguars, 7

Blue Raiders look to rekindle magic on the floor of Monte Hale Arena

By Josh Beasley Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders look to cap off a week of Sun Belt Conference play with a win against the University of New Orleans Privateers this Saturday night at the Murphy Center.

Coming off a disappointing loss in which they were out-shot 75 percent to 14 percent in overtime against University of Arkansas-Little Rock, the Blue Raiders will attempt to restore that beloved home court advantage they possessed against The Hilltoppers of Western Kentucky.

"We just wanted to get everyone involved into that game [Western Kentucky], fans and all," MT forward William Pippen said. "We knew it was the 30th anniversary of the Murphy Center, so we just came out with the energy right off the top and ready to play."

The Raiders will try to recapture that energy Saturday night. Defending the Murphy Center will be no small task. The

Privateers (9-5, 2-1 SBC) recently had their eight-game Sun Belt Conference winning streak and a 12-game regular season home winning streak snapped by in-state rival UL-Lafayette, and would love nothing more than to get back on the winning track at the expense of the Blue Raiders.

It will be important that the Blue Raiders keep locks on senior forward Hector Romero, who leads his team in scoring with over 20 points a game, shooting a lights-out 48 percent from the field. In addition, UNO Junior guard Johnell Smith, who has scored in double-figures the past three games, is coming off a season high 15 points against UL-Lafavette.

The Blue Raiders have a few weapons in their arsenal as well. William Pippen, coming off Sun Belt Conference accolades last week, figures to have a big game.

He'll need support from Tommy Gunn and John Humphrey, both of whom combined for 35 points in Middle's loss at UALR.

Tip-off is set for Saturday at 7 p.m. •



MT forward Steven Jackson shoots through the arms of a Western Kentucky defender.

MT Blue Raiders prepare for new football season with new recruits

Staff Reports

The MT Blue Raider football team is making final preparations for the 2003 football season.

The schedule features four Sun Belt home games, including Sun Belt champions North Texas.

The Blue Raiders will also face Florida Atlantic on Aug. 30 and Troy State on Nov. 8 at Floyd Stadium.

Other games of interest for MT are the University of

University on Sept. 13.

loss of graduating players gram. We have addressed some Dwone Hicks, Tyrone Calico and ReShard Lee. Lee is the first player in MT history to leave early to join the professional ranks.

To make up for the loss, the team has signed six new players over the winter break.

"These six players are quality athletes who will make immediate impacts on our football program," head coach Andy

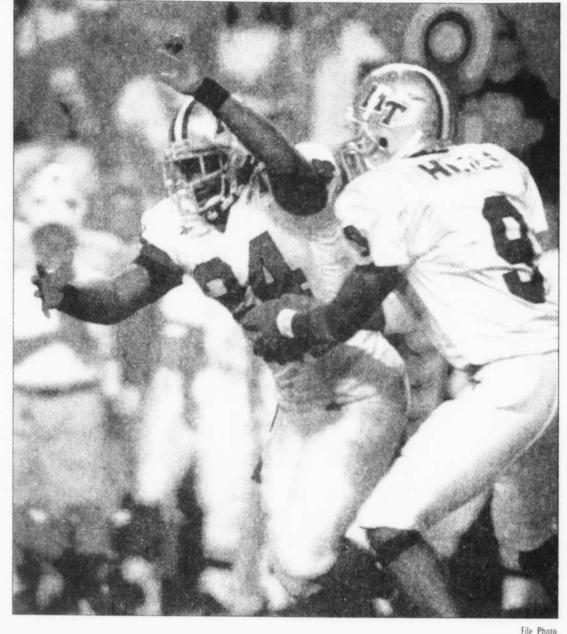
Georgia on Sept. 6 and Clemson McCollum said. "They will be here in January and begin Middle Tennessee faces the working in our offseason proneeds and we're excited about them being in our program."

> The new players are Danny (Coffeyville Tolbert Community College), Joe Evilsizer (NE Oklahoma A&M), Ft. Scott Community College), Pedro Holidy (Southwest Mississippi Junior College), Tyrone Hicks (Lee High School) and LaRue Beck (Marietta High School). ♦

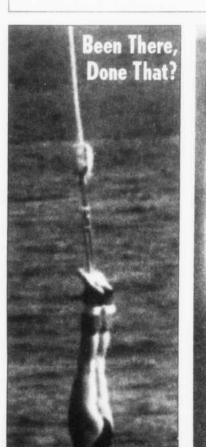
2003 Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders unofficial football schedule Aug. 30 - Florida Atlantic

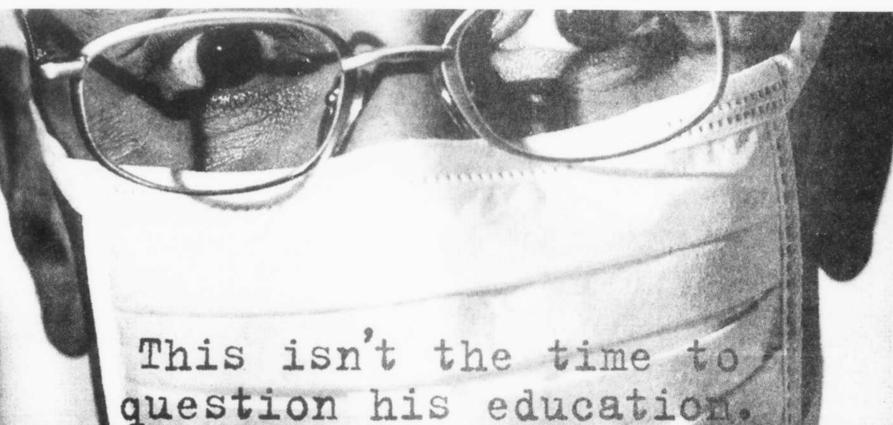
Sept. 6 - at Georgia Sept. 13 - at Clemson Sept. 20 - at Missouri Oct. 4 - Temple Oct. 11 - New Mexico State Oct. 18 - at Idaho Oct. 25 - North Texas Nov. 1 - at Utah State Nov. 8 - Troy State Nov. 15 - Louisiana-Lafayette Nov. 22 - at Arkansas State

Bold - home



ReShard Lee (left) grabs for a handoff from Andrico Hines (right). Lee has decided to forego his final year of eligibility for a shot in professional football.





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Big bucks for Blue Raiders

By David Hunter

Senior Staff Writer

An MTSU student has a chance to win some big bucks this week at the two Blue Raider men's basketball games.

All season, during halftime of all the men's and women's home basketball games, there has been a drawing for an MTSU student to win some money from the Blue Raider Bookstore, Sidelines and the athletic department. The only bad news is nobody has won, but the good news is that the pot has been raised all the way to \$2000 for somebody to collect.

However, there is a catch, the student whose name is drawn has to be present at the game to receive the cash. If the person is not present an extra \$200 is added to the pot for the next game.

The two chances to win are Thursday night against South Alabama and Saturday night against New Orleans. Both games begin at 7 p.m. at the Murphy Center. ♦

80 PERCENT OF SUN DAMAGE OCCURS BEFORE AGE 18.

Davis: Next game tonight against SBC rival South Alabama

Continued from 5

overtime in their home arena. In both cases, their crowds, and especially their student body, made it very difficult for us. It's time for us to show the opposition that the "Glass House" can be as intimidating a place to play as anywhere in the league. Tip-off for both games this week is set for 7 p.m., but we would love to see a huge crowd of Blue-clad students making

Please consider coming to our games and supporting your team. We have worked very hard to put a quality team on the floor to represent you and we have come back from our recent road trip in first place in our division.

Jaguars: Bedden made All-American team

life rough for our opponents

during their warm-ups, too!

Continued from 5

Williams 6-6, 225 senior forward has 12.8 ppg average and leads the team with 4.8 rebounds per game (rpg). Malerick Bedden a third-team junior college All-American rounds out the starting five averaging double figures with 12.5 ppg and 3.7 rebound rpg. Richard Law 6-6,195 is the lone freshman and tacks on 5.4 ppg, 2.1 rpg.

The Blue Raiders should have the ability to control the boards and inside game with its size and height advantage over the Jaguars. Richard Law, South Alabama's freshman forward is three inches shorter and 40 pounds lighter than Middle Tennessee's Napoleon Rhodes who is 6-9, 240 pounds.

Rhodes a junior has a 6.5ppg with 5.5 rpg and 0.7 apg 15 games into the seasons playing forward. William Pippen 6-8 200 pound forward a senior who recently received Sun Belt conference honors is second on the team in scoring with 13.5 ppg and leads the team in rebounding with 6.1 rpg. Fellow

senior, John Humphrey the 6-2 guard is having a steady year with 9.3 ppg and 4.7 rpg. Tommy Gunn the 6-3 junior shooting guard leads the team in scoring with 15 points per game. Keith Connor is the starting point guard for the Blue Raiders with 5.1 ppg and 2.1 apg.

This is the first of the two game home stand. Jan. 23, Middle Tennessee will face the University of New Orleans for the first time ever at the Murphy Center. ♦

We can use your help in keeping our team atop the standings!

Thank you, and go Blue Raiders!

Sincerely, Kermit Davis ♦



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Thurs. - Blue Raiders vs. South Alabama - 7:00 p.m. Saturday - Blue Raiders vs. New Orleans - 7:00 p.m.

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John P. Wand had his name drawn and was not at the game. He missed out on winning over \$1,600.

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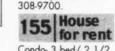
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for the first lease. \$300 security deposit Fully furnished, washer & dryer, dish washer, microwave, central H/A and Culligan drinking water. Call 898-2005

165 Roommates

Roommate needed for 2 bedroom/1 bath duplex in Nashville, Green Hills Area. Great Neighborhood \$325/month plus util Call Andrew at (615) 292-5979 or email at aecarr74@yahoo.com Best Moved in Jan. 18. Possible: Move in beginning of Feb. Spacious room with private both. Laundry and kitchen privileges Grad student preferred. \$350. 867-6994

Looking for 2 female roommates for a nice 3 bed/2 bath house near campus. \$360 a month per person, all util., cable and internet included. Call Ashley at 474-0002. Female housemate

\$300/month. Includes utilities. Credit Check & Ref. required. Call 890-9484 for interview.

Roommate needed for 3 bedroom apt. at SUH. 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 jwh2g@mtsu.edu oommate wanted \$100 deposit, \$385 includes all utilities. washer & dryer, fully furnished. Call 615 907-3962 or 931-278-0043 Roommate needed to take over lease beginning Feb. 1st. Located on Eaton St., within walking distance of campus. Live with 2 girls and 3 cats in a 3 bdrm with storage space. Rent is \$250; water and electricity included. Call 494 1360 or 419-1740 for more information Roomate Needed. Female or Gay-male to share 2 bedroom 11/2 bath apartment

mation

Female wanted to sub-

lease 1 bedroom in 4

bed/2 bath apt. one

Fully furnished \$325

a month/utilities includ

ed. call Amber at 615-

758-3333 or 615-

Male subleaser need-

University Gables start-

ing in January Rent is \$330 a month and I

will pay you \$100 to

fully furnished with

W/D and has a view

of the pool. Call 893

Apt. for sublease at

Sterling Univ. Gables

on S. Rutherford Blvd

ties included. Sterling

Gables. "I will pay you

\$100 to move in"

1 bedroom available

move in! Apartment is

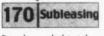
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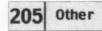
mile from camp

out of 4. WD included, \$300 month. Move in 5 mins from campus. after finals Call Jacob Liberal Arts major pre at 931-286-0207 ferred. Smokers preneed a subleaser! \$485 per month ferred. Must be clean, courteous, openmindncludes everything ed and like cats. Rent phone cable - full-size W/D, smoking is fine \$225/month and half utilities. Please call Large 2b/2b apt. 217-9470 for an inter Male or Female is fine view & more details!! Call 218-7447 Ask for Jenny or leave 4 BR / 2 BA (male) \$370 a month all utili a message.



Female needed to take Call 289-0720. over lease @ Univ University Courtyard Apartments, Looking Courtyard. Private bed/bath \$365 a for a female to submonth, reg. \$3851 5 lease 1 bedroom and minutes from campus private bath in a 4 Call Leigh (615) 482 edroom unit that is fully furnished. Move 3090. Looking for a subleasin as soon as possible er. \$280 per month Rent is \$354, everyplus utilities. Available thing included. I will now through May 1. No Deposit. Call 481 pay deposit and pay you \$100 cash! Call 6005 for more infor-Rachel @ 400-2275

Sublease apartment. Nottingham Apt. Across from campus 2 bedroom 2 bath. email chrispytaul@yahoo.co



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Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball News and Notes

Florida International Golden Panthers

Eulis Baez scored a game-high 15 points and tied for the game high with seven rebounds in the loss to Denver on Thursday night. The junior was 6-for-12 shooting in 27 minutes of play. Baez continues to lead the

team averaging 8.5 rebounds per game and 32.5 minutes per game.

He is second on the team with 13.1 points per contest. FIU out-rebounded its second consecutive Sun Belt opponent against Denver and eighth of the season. The Golden Panthers are averaging three more steals per game than their opponents (9.3-6.3), despite Denver, out stealing FIU eight to four. Al Harris scored 14 points on 5-of-6

shooting and grabbed seven rebounds in 21 minutes. The Golden Panthers will play New Mexico State on Tuesday to wrap up their six-game home stand. FIU is 0-2 against the Aggies with both meetings in Las Cruces, NM. FIU then travels to Louisiana-Lafayette for a Saturday night

matchup. UL leads the all-time series, 6-2, including winning the last four contests.

Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns

The Cajuns have won their last three non-conference outings, all by double digits (Loyola-Chicago, Charlotte and Houston) and all of them away from the Cajundome.

Louisiana-Lafayette will finish with a non-conference winning record for the second straight season.

Senior point guard Kenneth Lawrence will play in the 100th game of his collegiate career against Providence.

The Cajuns will return to conference action on Saturday against Florida International, beginning a stretch of five-ofseven games at the Cajundome and 12 straight Sun Belt games to conclude the 2002-03 regular season.

The FIU game will be the Cajuns' fifth home game of the season in the 17th game of the season. The Providence games ends the Cajuns current four-game road trip and a stretch in which the Cajuns played nine of the last 10 games on the road. Louisiana-Lafayette will bring a school record 15-game Cajundome win streak into Saturday's FIU game.

New Mexico State Aggies

Junior James Moore continued his hot streak from the inside as he scored 12 points on 4-of-7 shooting from the field in the

2003 Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball Records

	Sun Belt Games				All Games							
	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	<u>L5</u>	<u>L10</u>		
Middle Tennessee	2	1	.667	L1	6	9	.400	L1	3-2	5-5		
Western Kentucky	2	1	.667	W2	9	6	.600	W2	3-2	7-3		
Arkansas-Little Rock	1	1	.500	W1	10	6	.625	W1	3-2	6-4		
Arkansas State	0	2	.000	L2	6	8	.429	L2	1-4	5-5		
Florida International	0	2	.000	L8	6	9	.400	L2	2-3	2-8		
West Division												
	Sun Belt Games			All Games								
	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	<u>L5</u>	L10		
Denver	2	0	1.000	W2	10	6	.625	W2	4-1	7-3		
Louisiana-Lafayette	2	1	.667	W1	10	5	.667	W1	4-1	7-3		
New Orleans	2	1	.667	L1	9	5	.643	L1	2-3	5-5		
North Texas	1	1	.500	L1	6	8	.429	L1	2-3	4-6		
New Mexico State	1	2	.333	W1	9	4	.692	W1	2-3	7-3		
South Alabama	1	2	.333	LI	7	7	.500	L1	2-3	5-5		
* - Division Champion		+ - 7	Tournamen	t Cham	pion							
\$ - NCAA Tournament Participant		nt ^ – NIT Participant										

Aggies loss to the Privateers. Moore then scored a game high shot 50 percent or better from the floor in the last 13 contests. 21points in the Aggies 14 point victory over

South Alabama. Moore has now scored in double figures in all seven games he has

East Division

played this season and is shooting 68 percent from the field.

He also has a team leading 17 blocks and is second on the team in steals with 13.

NMSU has four players shooting over 83 percent from the charity stripe this season. In fact, since the first game of the season when Jason Fontenet missed two free throws he has missed only one out of 28 attempts. Fontenet has hit 19 straight from the

M line, James Moore, Brandon Mason and Fontenet are all perfect from the line in three conference games.

As a team, the Aggies are 73 percent from the line. Last season, the Aggies were just 67 percent from the line. It's taken only six games, but the impact of Chris Jackson and James Moore inside for the Aggies has been immediate.

Western Kentucky Hilltoppers

Senior David Boyden scored his 900th career point Thursday at UALR after collecting 16 in the win, his first game in double figures in six contests. Boyden tied a career high with five free throws against the Trojans.

Nate Williams led the Hilltoppers with 18 points and seven rebounds in Saturday's ASU victory. The senior forward averaged a team-best 17 points per game in last week's two wins. He has



Filip Videnov recorded his fifth straight game in double digits Saturday, scoring 15 points on 4-of-6 shooting from the floor.

The senior has made multiple three-pointers in all of those contests and has also connected on his last 11 free-throw attempts dating back to the Chicago State game Dec. 28. Videnov shot 51.6 percent (16-of-31) from three-point range in the last five games.

Sophomore Patrick Sparks has led WKU in assists in the last 13 games, collecting the 200th of his career at Arkansas-Little Rock Thursday.

He also recorded four of the Hilltoppers' five steals Saturday at ASU, increasing his team-leading total to 37 on the season - that's 23 more than any other player on the roster.

Mike Wells helped lead WKU to a two-game Sun Belt Conference win streak on the road with his performance on both the offensive and defensive end of the floor.

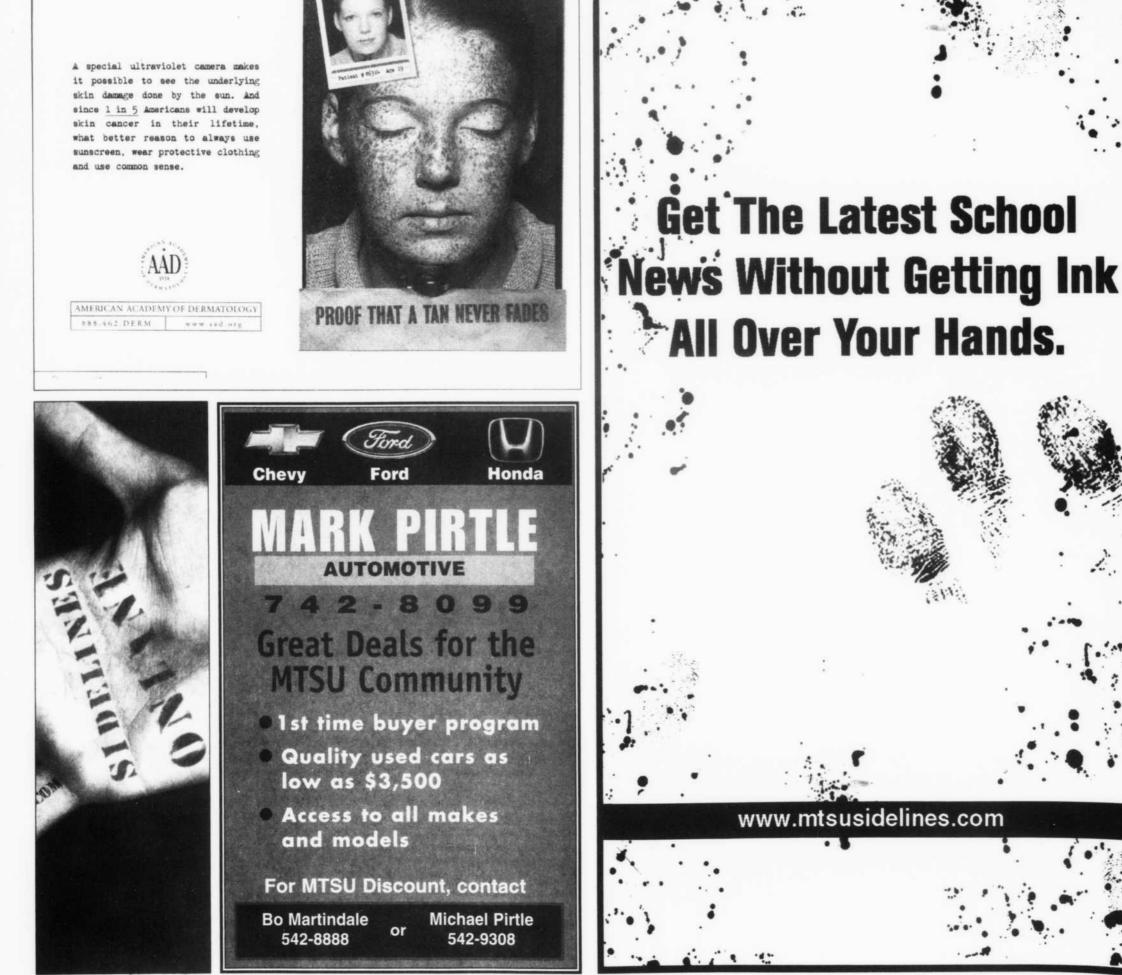
The senior averaged 11 points, 6.0 rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game while shooting 60 percent from the field.

Against Arkansas-Little on Thursday, Wells scored nine points and grabbed six rebounds in only 15 minutes while con-R tributing to Nick Zachery's 3-10 performance from the field - it was the first time in eight games that the UALR guard did not hit a three-point field goal.

He then posted 13 points, six rebounds and five assists in the Hilltoppers' win at Arkansas State Saturday, limiting Tevoris Thompson - the league's second-leading scorer entering play to only four points and one field goal from the field. Those two players combined to commit seven turnovers in 31 minutes. •







All Over Your Hands.