



Sidelines



Volume 81 Number 38

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An editorially independent newspaper

The Gutter

Today's Weather

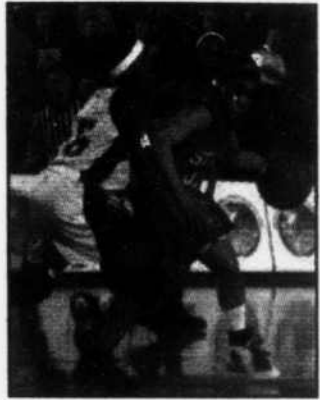
Sunny
44/21



Average Price of Gas
in Murfreesboro:
\$2.12

Source: www.tennesseeprices.com

MT teams announce early signees



The Middle Tennessee athletic programs have enjoyed a successful early signing period, as most programs announced their new signees last week.



Inside is a review of each sport's early signees.

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Discussion planned by Raiders for Rationalism

Raiders for Rationalism will be hosting a panel discussion titled "Pharmacists, Morality, and the Conscience Clause" in the Cason Kennedy Nursing Building, Room 121.

The panel will discuss the role of pharmacists who are refusing to fill prescriptions for certain patrons due to moral objection to the medication.

The event is free and open to the public.

Solidarity hosts panel discussion

Middle Tennessee Solidarity will sponsor a panel discussion today at 4:15 p.m. entitled "Counter-recruitment, Occupation and the War in Iraq."

Panelists will be faculty and students from MTSU. A short film on the U.S. assault on Fallujah will also be shown.

This event occurs in conjunction with educational activities and demonstrations happening across the country as part of "Not Your Soldier Day" sponsored by the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition.

The discussion will be held in James Union Building, Room 204.

For more information, contact Jessica McKee, 615-893-4206, jdm2c@mtsu.edu.

Raiders for Life put on "Music for Life"

Raiders for Life will be hosting "Music for Life" tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Clay Cup.

The event is free, but donations will be accepted. The donations will go toward bringing speakers to campus next year.

For more information, contact Mandy Singleton at 848-1359 or acs3v@mtsu.edu.

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MTABJ paid to move event

Conflict over Tucker double-booking solved with money

By Michaela Jackson
Campus News Editor

The university paid the Middle Tennessee Association of Black Journalists \$10,000 after their event was ousted from Tucker Theater in favor of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

The relocated production, "Get Your Laugh On Comedy Night," will now be held in the gymnasium of the Student

Recreation Center tomorrow night at 7 p.m.

MTABJ was the first group to book Tucker Theater for tomorrow night, but they were later told that they could not use the facility because the theater department needed it, according to Jason Burks, president of the United Student Coalition, which is partnering with MTABJ to host the comedy show.

Russell Church, chair of the Department of Speech and Theater, and Dale MacGilliard, director of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," were both unavailable for comment.

Burks said he is satisfied with the resolution of the situation. He said he believes that race may have played a factor in the decision of the university to relocate his organization's event, but he was reluctant to make a firm accusation.

"I think that there are some issues that are underlying that are race-related, but I don't think there are any direct issues to stand on," Burks said.

A satisfactory resolution was reached in the situation, according to Bob Glenn, Vice President for Student Affairs, who was asked to help facilitate the compromise.

"From my standpoint, it looked like the students involved were not happy, but they understood and they were willing to accept the compromise that was offered, and we're moving forward to make the event as successful as it can be," Glenn said.

Glenn was not available for comment on whether race was a factor.

Burks and other student representatives were seeking a compromise in which the university would cancel the 7:30 p.m. staging of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" tomorrow night, in light of the fact that the play will also be performed tomorrow at midnight.

"They would rather pay all this money to have us do a show than to cancel a show that they're showing from last Saturday," Burks said, "and the night that we want it they're showing it twice, and then the day after they're showing it again."

"That's crazy to me."

Burks said he does not hold hard feelings toward the university for what happened because MTABJ is still being allowed to host their event.

"I do not have any outstanding



Glenn

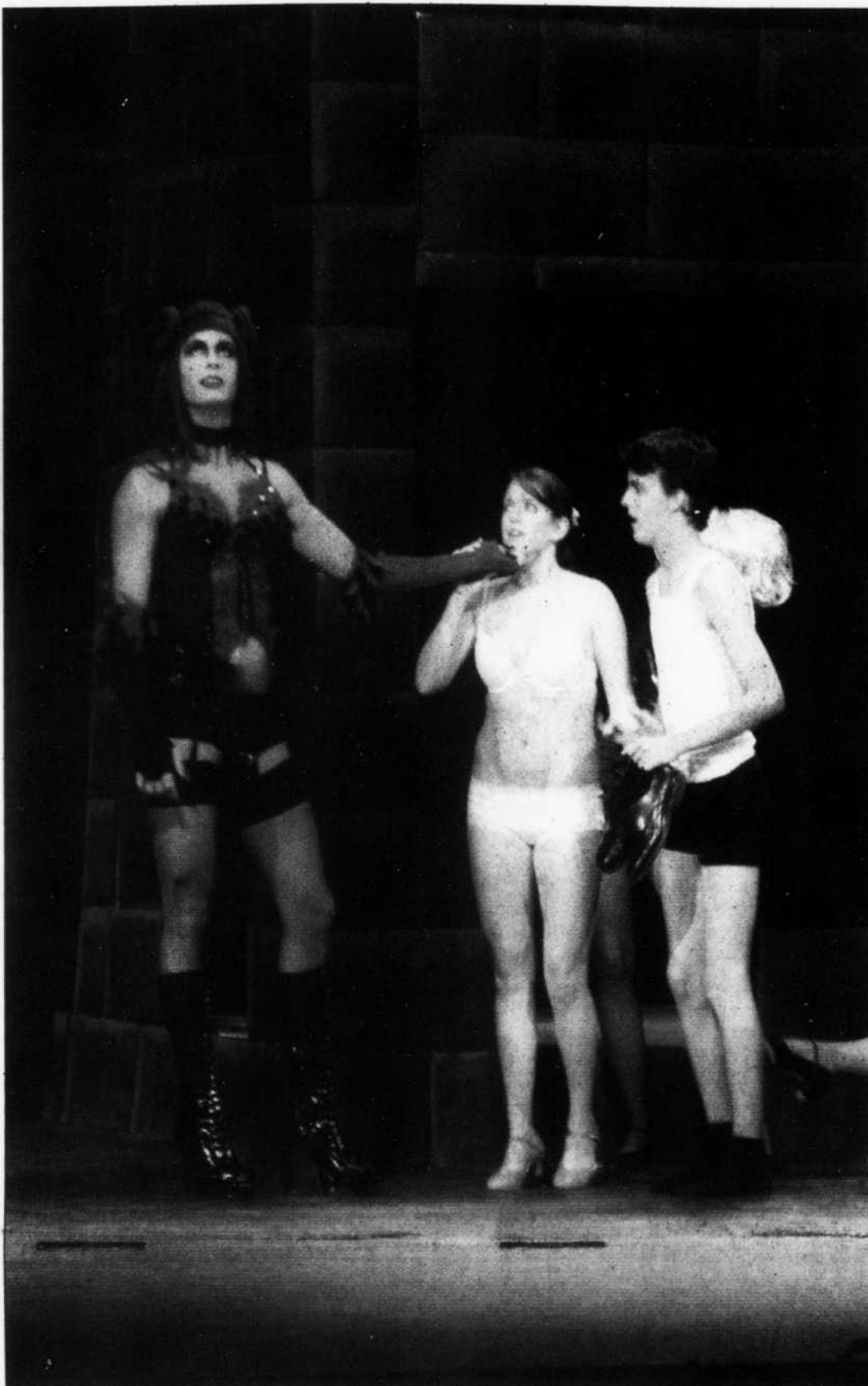


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
"The Rocky Horror Picture Show" was given preference over a comedy show in the use of Tucker Theater.

animosity or anything toward any faculty member or administrator on this campus in regards to this issue," Burks said. "I have no issues at all with them because they have compensated us for what happened."

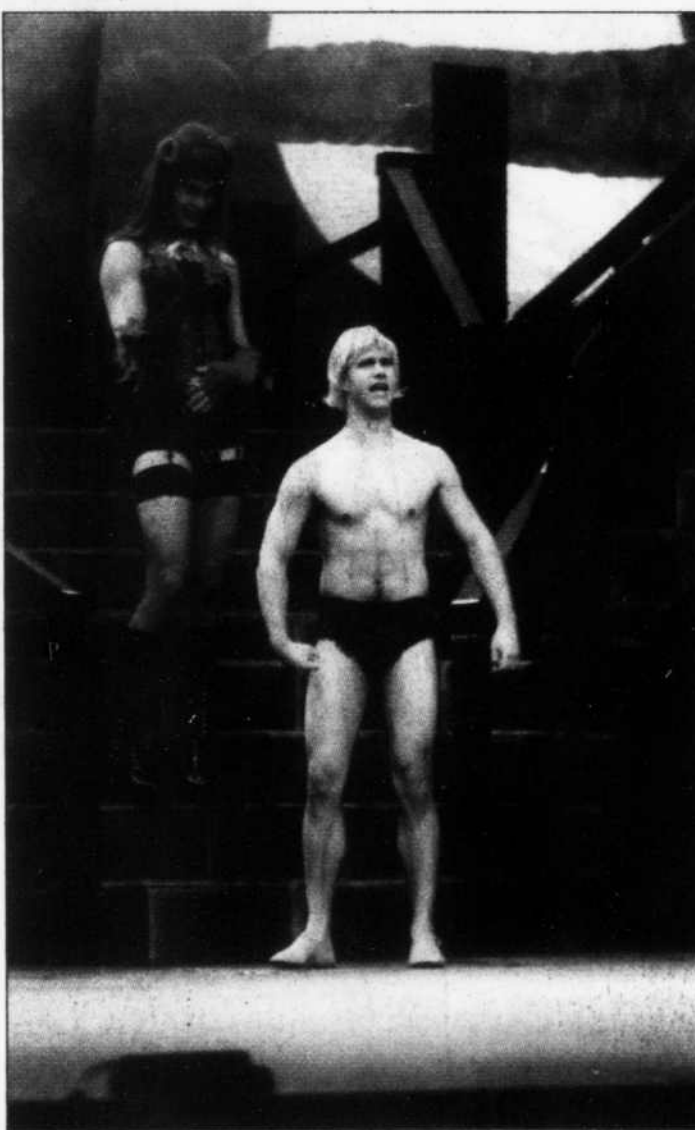
"For the problem at hand, the problem is fixed," Burks added. "But the problem didn't have to be broken in the first place."

Burks said he was more confused than upset at the university's handling of the conflict.

"With the mistake that had been made, as far as double booking the theater, the administration on this campus would rather spend another \$10,000 - 10,000 real dollars - to move it to the Rec Center, than to compromise on that spot," Burks said. "That just baffles me. But I really can't say that [they were unfair] because they spent \$10,000 on the show."

The incident was handled fairly, Glenn said.

"If it's an amicable decision and an amicable conclusion, then it's as fair as it can be," Glenn said. ♦



Roads, drain issues raised

By Andy Harper
Staff Writer

Murfreesboro residents expressed concern over road construction and drainage surrounding a new subdivision.

The new subdivision, Brookside, will be built along Kimbro Road by developer Brian Burns and his company, Krobousanos. Residents spoke at a City Council meeting earlier this month.

The projects are the addition of a new residential development on the Westside of Kimbro Road as well as the actual road itself, said Matthew Blomeley, city planning and engineering department planner.

"The property development will end up being right behind my house, right up against my fence," said Heather White, Murfreesboro resident, who was at the meeting. "Also, they are putting an interstate in front of my house by making Kimbro into a five lane, 55 mile-per-hour zone."

The main concern with the residential development in the city is taking farmland and putting up residential areas without any forethought on how it is going to affect police coverage, firefighter distribution and school zoning, White said.

"It is almost like they are worrying about getting people here first and then they are going to worry about the other problems later," White said.

Tim Kelly, another resident who was present at the meeting, said he was worried about drainage.

"Because the area is so flat, there is a lot of drainage, so they have got to account for that in the development plans," Kelly said.

Although problems do exist, Kelly said the road will be helpful, if done properly.

"As far as the development goes, I think it will be nice as long as it isn't a bunch of vinyl sided rectangles," Kelly said. "The road will probably go down one side of my property, but they haven't completed the surveying yet."

"It will help clear up a lot of congested traffic in the area, especially elementary school and Riverdale High School traffic," Kelly said.

The second reading of the proposal will likely be at tonight's City Council meeting, Blomeley said. ♦

MTSU alumni plan to run for county mayor

Candidates can pick-up petitions to run tomorrow

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

Two MTSU alumni are likely to enter the county mayor election in which tomorrow is the first day for petition pick-up.

Although the elections are not until Aug. 3, the possible candidates who have already come forward are Republican Ernest Burgess and Independent Bill Shacklett.

Shacklett said he has been a lifetime resident of

Murfreesboro and earned a degree in Urban Planning from MTSU.

Shacklett said he is running as an Independent because the need for leadership is more important than partisan issues. He said Rutherford County needs an effective and efficient government to bring people together.

"Local government is about providing effective services to citizens, not advancing partisan philosophy," Shacklett said.

He said his campaign is framed around individuals communicating with each other. Shacklett said he wants to encourage more people to get involved in the political

process.

Shacklett said he does not want to spend a lot of money on his campaign and is setting a contribution cap at \$100. He said he will rely on people in the community to discuss his campaign.

One tactic Shacklett plans on using is creating "neighborhood networks," or get-togethers among neighbors, friends and coworkers, in which they will talk about issues and get to know each other.

MTSU students would be encouraged to get involved with the elections as well. Shacklett suggested students sponsor an event in which all the county mayor candidates

would be invited to campus to discuss issues.

Shacklett said the elections will have an impact on the quality of life of students and citizens in Rutherford County. He said the elections are not just a spectator sport and people need to get involved.

Shacklett has been a Murfreesboro City Councilman for over three years, where he served on the board of Parks and Recreation and acted as a liaison for the council with city school boards. He was also active in the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce.

Shacklett was chairman and sat on the board of directors

for the Rutherford County Red Cross. He was on the Main Street board of directors for downtown Murfreesboro, where he also owns a family photography business on the square, "Shacklett's Photography."

Burgess is also an MTSU alumnus and graduated in 1961.

Burgess said the county mayor seat is extremely complex and requires tremendous business and leadership skills. He said it is very important to pull the county together and it will take many people to do so.

"As fast as the county is growing, it needs a binding, cohe-

see Elections, page 2

World Briefs

By the Associated Press

Bush risks alienating GOP over Iraq war

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's efforts to paint Democrats as hypocrites for criticizing the Iraq war after they once warned that Saddam Hussein was a grave threat could backfire on Republicans.

Polls show marked declines in support for the war, notably among moderate Republicans, especially Republican women, and independents — voting blocs that the GOP needs to woo or keep in their camp.

If Bush castigates Democrats for changing their minds on the war, he might wind up alienating Republicans who have done so, too.

The administration has been engaging in a rhetorical high-wire act in its efforts to defend its use of prewar intelligence — so much that some analysts have likened it to President Clinton's remark in his deposition on the Monica Lewinsky case: "That depends on what the definition of 'is' is."

Bush and his administration conceded that the administration was wrong in its assessment of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction before the U.S. invasion. So the debate centers on whether they misled members of Congress and the American people.

Tornadoes barrel across Midwest, Southeast

MADISONVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Tornadoes barreled across the Midwest and portions of the Southeast, knocking out electricity and damaging buildings in several states. The storms killed at least one person.

Meteorologists said a cold front moving east collided with warm, unstable air to produce severe thunderstorms and funnel clouds across Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Tennessee. Tornadoes also were spotted in Indiana and Illinois.

"We heard a weird sound coming through, kind of a whistle," said Penny Leonard, 37, who sought shelter in the basement of a hospital in the western Kentucky town of Madisonville. "I thank God I'm safe."

In some parts of community, the roofs of homes were caved in, walls were blown out and entire buildings were blown off

foundations. Some water pipes sticking from the ground gushed water.

Trees around the area were shorn off at the top, and chunks of wood were blown into sections of U.S. 41. Police cruisers and fire trucks lined the streets, setting up checkpoints.

Bush hails Taiwan as model of freedom

KYOTO, Japan (AP) — Piquing China just days before meetings with its leaders, President Bush on Wednesday held up the self-governing island of Taiwan that Beijing claims as its own as a model of freedom "at all levels" that the communist giant should emulate.

Bush's speech opening a four-country tour of Asia amounted to a road map of the coming discussions he was to have on a potential bird flu outbreak, global trade, North Korea's nuclear ambitions and other issues at a gathering of Pacific Rim economies in South Korea.

After meeting here with his closest Asian ally, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Bush arrived in Busan, South Korea, on Wednesday night for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit and a one-on-one meeting with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun. The president was traveling to China and Mongolia over the weekend.

In remarks sure to irritate his Chinese hosts, Bush prodded the communist nation to grant basic freedoms to its 1.3 billion people and further open its economy.

"We encourage China to continue down the road of reform and openness," Bush told an audience that stayed silent until its polite applause at the end. "By meeting the legitimate demands of its citizens for freedom and openness, China's leaders can help their country grow into a modern, prosperous, and confident nation."

Rice: N. Korea nuclear intentions unclear

BUSAN, South Korea (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says North Korea has not followed through on promises

to drop its nuclear weapons program and needs to bring "a different attitude" to the next round of international talks.

North Korea agreed in September to dismantle its existing nuclear weapons and renounce new ones, in exchange for a package of economic incentives and diplomatic assurances. Since then, however, the secretive communist regime has seemed to pull back from those pledges.

"I think the jury is out on whether the North Koreans are ... prepared to do what they need to do, which is to get serious," Rice told reporters Wednesday after meetings with other members of a six-way international negotiating team on North Korea.

A disappointing round of talks ended last week without progress toward details of how to dismantle existing weapons and verify that the country has really ended all suspicious programs.

"The round that just ended did not have the kind of engagement we thought the North Koreans on that issue that we might have expected," Rice said.

Caesarian sections at all-time high in U.S.

ATLANTA (AP) — The rate of Caesarian sections in the U.S. has climbed to an all-time high, despite efforts by public health authorities to bring down the number of such deliveries, the government said Tuesday.

Nearly 1.2 million C-sections were performed in 2004, accounting for 29.1 percent of all births that year, the National Center for Health Statistics reported. That is up from 27.5 percent in 2003 and 20.7 in 1996.

The increase is attributed to fears of malpractice lawsuits if a vaginal delivery goes wrong, the preferences of mothers and physicians, and the risks of attempting vaginal births after Caesareans.

The Caesarian rate increased for all births, even those that involved healthy, first-time pregnancies with a full-term, single child. In 2000, the government announced a national public health goal of reducing the C-section rate for such births to 15 percent by 2010, but the actual rate now is about 24 per-

cent and rising.

The government also reported that more than a half-million infants were born preterm — at less than 37 weeks' gestation — in 2004, which is another record. And the proportion of infants with a low birth weight rose to 8.1 percent in 2004, from 7.9 percent the year before.

Teen returns to Penn. to face murder charges

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP) — An 18-year-old man accused of killing his girlfriend's parents and fleeing with her to Indiana is back in Pennsylvania to face murder and kidnapping charges.

His 14-year-old girlfriend, Kara Beth Borden, was returned home on a separate plane. She was not under arrest.

Indiana police captured David Ludwig on Monday after the car he was driving slammed into a tree during a chase. He is suspected of shooting Kara's parents, both 50, in their Lititz home early Sunday after an argument over the teens' relationship.

Warwick Township Chief Richard F. Garipoli Jr. said Kara will be considered a victim in the case — rather than a willing participant — "until I hear otherwise."

"Kara's upset. She's crying. She's a 14-year-old child and we seem to forget that," Garipoli said. "She's devastated. So it's important that we do put her back with her family where she belongs."

Alito downplays 1985 abortion statement

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Samuel Alito who argued against abortion rights in 1985 was "an advocate seeking a job" with the conservative Reagan administration, the Alito who is now a Supreme Court nominee told Democrats on Tuesday.

The current version "thinks he's the worst person" with "a better grasp and understanding about constitutional rights and liberties," senators said as Alito tried to downplay a 20-year-old document in which he asserted "the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion."

At the same time, some anti-abortion groups warned Alito

not to go too far if he hopes to retain their support.

"A nominee who is willing to take the seemingly mandated Roe oath, whereby they testify that it is settled law, never to be overturned, is not the type of justice worthy of pro-life support," said Stephen G. Peroutka, chairman of the National Pro-Life Action Center.

President Bush nominated Alito last month as the replacement for retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who has been a crucial swing vote on contentious issues including abortion during her 24-year high court career.

Lee Ann Womack earns three CMA Awards

NEW YORK (AP) — The CMA Awards held its first shindig in New York with its country twang intact Tuesday night, as Madison Square Garden was transformed into the Grand Ole Opry with rootsy performances from Lee Ann Womack, Gretchen Wilson, Sara Evans and Rascal Flatts.

Appropriately, Womack emerged as the leader with three wins, including album of the year for "There's More Where That Came From." The album marked her return to more traditional country music after a detour through pop-infused material.

"Oh my God, I love country music!" Womack shouted as she accepted her award for single of the year for "I May Hate Myself In the Morning," a bitersweet ballad. Earlier in the evening, she won for best musical event for her duet with George Strait, "Good News, Bad News."

Backstage, she said she hoped her wins would encourage more of her kind of country music.

"Sometimes I think we are scared of real country music but a message like what was in that song, that transcends any boundaries, and a great song is a great song," said Womack of "I May Hate Myself."

Bernanke expected to gain Senate approval

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ben Bernanke used his Senate confirmation hearing to address doubts about his abilities to

take over as chairman of the Federal Reserve from economic legend Alan Greenspan.

From the reaction of the senators, he succeeded.

For those in financial markets who worried that previous writings made him sound too dovish about fighting inflation, he pledged that battle would be a top priority.

For those Democrats who fretted that his support of establishing numerical targets for inflation made him too hawkish on inflation, Bernanke promised to follow the central bank's dual mandates of seeking low inflation and high employment.

And for those who believed that his current job as President Bush's chief economist would make him too politically tied to the current administration, he vowed to uphold the Fed's long-standing independence.

Baseball to toughen steroid penalties

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball commissioner Bud Selig got his toughest drug policy, persuading the players' association to agree to a plan that gives management its biggest victory over the union in more than three decades.

Spurred by the threat of federal legislation, players and owners agreed Tuesday to increase the penalties for steroid use to a 50-game suspension for a first offense, 100 games for a second and a lifetime ban for a third.

In addition, players for the first time gave management the right to test for amphetamines, viewed by baseball management as a bigger problem than steroids.

The sport's current penalties are a 10-day suspension for a first offense, 30 days for a second offense and 60 days for a third. The earliest a player could be released for life is a fifth offense.

The new deal is almost exactly what Selig proposed in April — one month after he and union head Donald Fehr were scolded at a House hearing for being soft on performance-enhancing drugs. Owners could ratify the agreement as early as Thursday, when they meet in Milwaukee. ♦

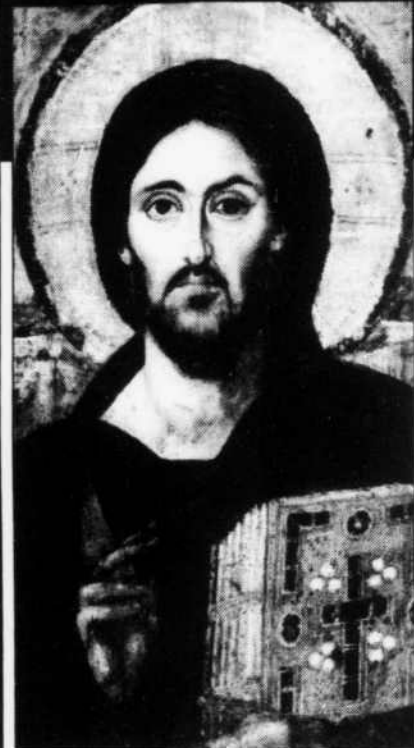
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This man once asked St. Peter:

"Who do you say that I am?"



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Opinions

From the Editorial Board Comedy show payoff nonsensical

It probably would have been an awkward crowd anyway. Two productions, one a comedy show put on by the Tennessee Association of Black Journalists, the other a "Rocky Horror" show by the theater department, were both scheduled to play tomorrow night at Tucker Theater. Student Affairs worked out a deal between the two groups that involved moving the comedy show to the Recreation Center gym. Obviously, the school shouldn't have double-booked Tucker Theater. According to the theater department's Web site, the theater is only booked for 14 days for the entire Fall 2005 semester. That's a 5-month semester where a theater is only being used 5-6 times a month. The school paid MTABJ \$10,000 as part of their compromise between the theater department and MTABJ. While it's a good deal for MTABJ, the original compromise that MTABJ offered involved canceling the 7:30 p.m. "Rocky Horror" show. That deal offers better benefits for everybody involved. The reasoning behind the school's decision to pay off MTABJ makes no sense. By moving the venue at the last second, MTABJ faces potential losses of ticket sales due to confusion. The theater department's show runs for an entire week; they weren't going to lose a significant amount of money by dropping one show. Even if they do, the school should cover any losses anyway. Economically, the school as a whole loses more money by paying out the \$10,000. According to the theater department Web site, Tucker Theater seats 1,000 people. Tickets for the show are either \$4 or \$8. Even if the school sells out every ticket for that particular show at \$8, the school is still short \$2,000. The only way the school is going to make more money by paying off MTABJ is by selling practically everyone who comes in to the show a bottle of water and an audience participation bag. Anybody who's been to a football game at the school knows how well audience participation works here. The school also has to deal with issues of the appearance of racism. The school moved the comedy show put on by the Tennessee Association of Black Journalists from a semi-prominent position in the center of campus to a gymnasium off at the end of campus better suited for a bad high school prom than a comedy show. Add a large payoff to that, and watch the accusations fly. Overall, the school made a decent effort to appease everybody involved. It would be nice, though, if MTSU would make at least one decision, at some point before the end of the year, that doesn't make it look shortsighted, outright dumb or potentially racist. ♦

FDA guilty of valuing politics over people

The Government Accountability Office released a report on the rejection of the morning-after pill, as reported in *The New York Times*. According to the findings, the decision was made against the findings of an independent advisory committee, and went against the Food and Drug Administration's own scientific review staff. The article also states that in the last 10 years, this is the only drug out of 23 that the FDA went against the advisory panel in its decision. It appears that political motivation was behind the rejection. This is because some believe use of the morning-after pill is the same as abortion, according to the article. "In scientific reviews, the FDA has concluded that it is a contraceptive," according to *The New York Times*. This illustrates one of the ways women's health issues are being politicized to the detriment of women. When a drug is not made accessible because of political reasons officials are causing harm to women. The morning-after pill, Plan B, is available by prescription, but if a woman needs it and is not able to see her doctor to receive the prescription, she is harmed by the FDA's willingness to think of politics instead of people. The problem with preventing people from being prescribed contraception is that it becomes the reason that person decides to have an abortion.

For those against abortion, wouldn't it be better to prevent a pregnancy than to terminate it? If having few abortions occur is the goal why keep women from preventing them in the first place? Plan B must be taken within 72 hours in order to prevent pregnancy. According to the Plan B Web site, it should not be taken by someone who is pregnant because it will not terminate a pregnancy. It is unfortunate to think that a contraceptive would terminate a pregnancy unless it is believed that there is a fetus formed during intercourse. Dr. Steven Galson, the director of the FDA's drug center, said the reason for denying the drug was due to the lack



Sandi's Logic
Sandi Van Orden
Staff Columnist

of study done with teenagers under the age of 14, and the low number of teenagers between 14 and 16 that participated in the study, according to the article. He also said he thought younger teenagers may take more risks than older teenagers if they knew emergency contraception was available. The problem with this logic is that he is not considering the many teenagers who engage in risky behavior now. Having this available will not encourage a child to do something she would not do to begin with. What it would do is allow her to prevent something that she probably wouldn't be ready for at that age. The problem behind all of the political talk is that it does not consider what is best for women. This is a social problem that comes up whenever abortion or sometimes birth control is discussed. Unfortunately, there are still people, some in positions of power, who believe a woman, cannot, or should not, be able to make a decision about her body. If it were a man's choice, no one would say anything because we have been taught that men are able to make these types of decisions. That is probably why most people don't say anything about condoms unless they are being given to young women. Society views it as a man's right to protect himself, and to make decisions concerning his body, but some men don't want to give women the same right. Until we decide that a woman has the same rights to control her own body, and her own life, as a man does, there will be people in power who hurt women's rights in order to maintain that power. ♦

Sandi Van Orden is a senior journalism major, and can be reached at sto2e@mtsu.edu.

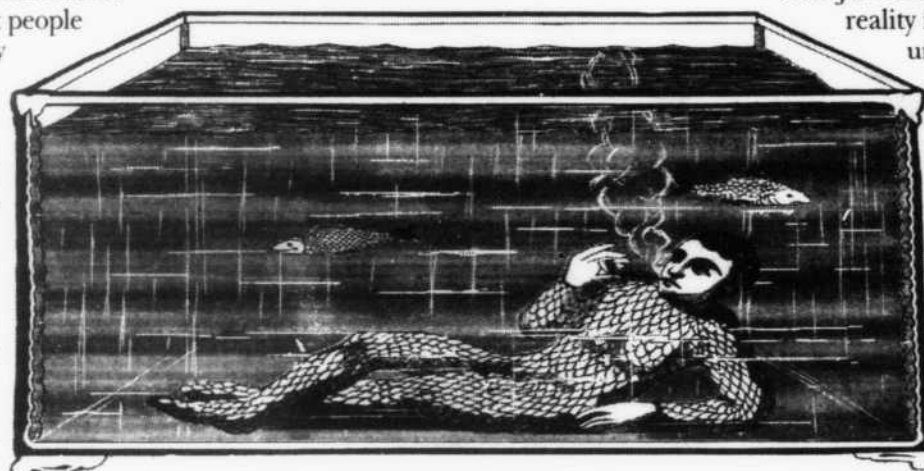
Lawmakers should legalize use of drugs

Long before our Armed Forces were sent to Iraq, America was at war. It wasn't fought against a nation, people or idea. It was fought against a substance. Or, rather, a list of substances that have been deemed "evil." I speak, of course, about controlled substances, also known as drugs. Depending on the context, the word "drugs" can mean either a helpful medical aide or a rampant scourge that will overtake your mind and cause you to do terrible, terrible things. Anything that has a physiological effect is a drug. Alcohol, marijuana, nicotine, caffeine, aspirin, hydrocodone and tryptophan (the stuff in turkeys that makes you sleepy) are all drugs. So make sure you're specific when you ask someone if they "do drugs." The projected budget for both state and federal law enforcement agencies fighting the war on drugs this year is clocked at a staggering \$44 billion. This includes money for rehabilitation and prevention, which make sense, and incarceration, which doesn't. Warning people about the dangers of drug abuse is important. So is warning people about the dangers of crossing the street, unsafe sex and bad relationships. But we don't put people into prison for ungodly amounts of time for being stupid about those things. In a free society, you need a reason to make something illegal, not a reason to make something legal. And you can't just say "because drugs are bad for you" and move on, because then there are a lot of other things that should be illegal. Drugs that are legal can be just as life-threatening as narcotics. An overdose or addiction to prescription medication isn't just possible, it's downright likely. Declaring war on drugs was a political maneuver made by President Richard M. Nixon in order to press his moral views on the rest of the nation. Personal freedoms have been infringed upon, and the nation accepted it because it was said that drugs would make us all sterile and stupid. But look at other countries where drugs are legal. In Amsterdam, for instance, the literacy rate is 99 percent. What's that, you say? Almost every sin-



You Should Know This Already
Carter Fort
Staff Columnist

gle human being born in Amsterdam can read? Could it have anything to do with the fact that they spend money on education rather than fighting a never-ending war against an enemy that will never die? We all know that there will never be a final victory against the drug importers, because whenever we take down one crime lord there will always be another one to take his place. Also, because of our trade agreements with Columbia and other South American countries, not to mention our national craving for anything that will get you high, we're funding both sides of this war. Imagine, for a moment, if all drugs were made legal. The government could grow the products here, then export and tax them for revenues that could pay down the national debt.



Don't think that legalization would cause a doomsday scenario. If you do, let me ask you this: is there any reason to believe that there are a significant number of people that want to smoke pot but don't because it's against the law? More to the point, doesn't making something taboo or illegal cause more of an interest in it than if it were OK to do? Don't we see, time and time again, that it's not the availability of a particular substance that makes people use it, but their personalities? Strictly speaking, an alcoholic is an alcohol whether or not they've ever had a drink. People with addictive personalities are going to fill the voids in

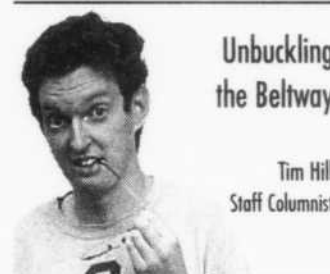
their lives with something, be it heroin, fatty foods, bad television or crappy literature. So why do we fill our overcrowded prison systems with people whose vices just happen to be different than the societal norm? Nine states have legalized medicinal cannabis use. If a doctor prescribes it, you can obtain marijuana just like any other medication. But those are just a few states responding to liberal activists, right? I mean, the federal government would never allow such a morally questionable thing to pass, right? Wrong. Back in the 70s, the feds started a program to grow and distribute medicinal marijuana to a small group of suffering individuals. This pilot program was shut down when Nixon started his "war," but 7 of the people on that list are still alive today, and guess what? They still receive marijuana cigarettes from the federal government. So let's not play the moral superiority game here, okay? I would like to point out that I don't use illegal drugs, and I don't particularly care for people who do. But I'm not going to bust their rice bowl just because they deal with reality in a way that I find unappealing.

One last thought I'd like to leave you with; isn't it always the G.O.P. who talks about smaller governments, about more power in the states, about less federal involvement? Well, then why does it seem to be the conservative Republicans who want to make sure that federal law rules all when it comes to drugs? Even though the aforementioned states have legalized medicinal marijuana, the federal government has reserved the right to storm the clinics and arrest the sick people, as well as those providing the drugs. Let's talk about what this war is really doing. Let's discuss the fact that some people just hate people who use drugs and want to see them gone. Let's stop calling it a war. It's a massacre. You tell me which side is getting killed. ♦

Carter Fort is a senior digital media major and can be reached at ctf2b@mtsu.edu.

United States exercising restraint in war on terror

Both bases have their own ideas on how to confront terrorism. Some liberal-minded folks wish that a care package could be sent to Bin Laden. Some conservatives want to close our borders to all Muslims. These approaches are off-base, and not all Muslims are terrorists. At my friend Keith's house, I walked in on sexy Orlando Bloom. Stephen Colbert would say it "only makes me more manly by saying this." Jon and Keith were under an hour into the Crusades epic, *Kingdom of Heaven*. The movie had been discounted by some conservative groups as too harsh against the Christian church. I sat in on the rest of the movie and liked what I saw. In most epic movies, I can't remember who is who. In this one, all I know is that Orlando Bloom had some sword fight scenes, but was a liberal's hero. He was also a realist's hero. In the film, Bloom plays a guy who reluctantly fights in the Crusades because he must. In his ideal world, he wanted a place without war. He played an agnostic blacksmith who had pacifistic tendencies in battle. Politically, it's sort of like a former Texas Democrat-



Unbuckling the Beltway
Tim Hill
Staff Columnist

turned-White House counsel that would worry conservatives down the road if placed on the highest court of the land. Because I'm such a political nut, I couldn't help but make the parallels between the Crusades depicted on screen and our modern fight today. In the film, the leader of the Muslim fighters looked strangely like Osama Bin Laden. The leaders of the Crusades came across as bled-happy Jesus Christs willing to defy Sen. John Kerry's "global test" to go to war. If President George W. Bush wanted to bring his base back and anger the left, he could quote this movie in his anti-terrorism speeches. Before the film at Ft. Hood, he could say, "An army that bears Jesus Christ as its symbol can never be defeated. There must be war. God will it!" The soldiers would cheer. I probably would too, after I picked up my jaw from the

floor. When Bloom was defending Jerusalem from attack, he ordered his soldiers to drop molten tar over the walls onto the enemy. The soldiers then followed it with fire balls. If American cities added those measures to their homeland security plans, then there'd be outrage. Clearly, from this standpoint, it can be argued that Bush has exercised restraint in the war against terrorism. Most recently, Bush has declared that the United States doesn't torture. Maybe he means he doesn't want to hear about it if or when it does happen. A nominee for deputy attorney general refused to answer questions from a Senate committee recently. He was asked if he thought "simulated drownings and mock executions" were appropriate forms of behavior for our troops to obtain information. I would have said a resounding "yes." Let me put it in context. If I was Bin Laden's former driver and I had information I wasn't sharing with my interrogators, they would try to get it from me. One way would be to whisk away my best "cell mate" who they noticed I got along with.

From a distance, they could "drown" the guy, and in my native language come to me, saying, "You're next, unless you talk." I'd probably comply and stop throwing human feces at them as they walked by my cell. Four hours later, I may see that same cell mate reading the newest "Harry Potter" book from the Gitmo library. Government actions are not new plot lines for director Ridley Scott. *Enemy Of The State* and *Black Hawk Down* are two of my favorites. Even though *Black Hawk Down* made me want to kick something after I watched it, it's given me reason to support the troops. We must persevere in Iraq and with its people, and give Ridley Scott the chance to make a movie about Iraq with a happy human ending. If all else fails, President Bush could quote Orlando Bloom as he withdraws troops. "If this is truly the kingdom of heaven, then let God do with it as He wills," Bush could say in a one-sentence statement from the White House. ♦

Tim Hill is a junior journalism major and can be reached at StuckInNewOrleans@yahoo.com.

Sidelines

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Flash in the Pan

WMTS CALENDAR OF WEEKLY EVENTS

Thursday 17	tony danza tapdance extravaganza, year of desolation, frontman, and surprise party surprise @ wallstreet corleone @ windows halo stereo and pilot's lounge @ the mercy lounge "music for life" featuring arthur allgood and danita petraitis @ the clay cup 7-9pm murphy and belize @ bluesboro 9 pm
	eq and 24/7 [of full hows collective] @ liquid smoke 9pm kill or be killed, and the gravedancers @ the boro 9:30pm [canned food items accepted at door] the unzipped dj crew present: the kanye after-party with dj bawston sean, mcqueen, and april the invisible @ the campus pub 11pm 21+
Friday 18	strut and the homegrown band @ windows the beat mobile: a presentation celebrating the beat generation @ the kuc theatre 8pm actress, bang bang bang!, and margo and the nuclear so and so's @ 12th and porter 8pm 18+
	cutthroat junction, the clutters, the states, and prizzy prizzy please @ the boro 9:30pm old union and jeb @ bluesboro
Saturday 19	levi gunn and the strange angels @ windows ryan cabrera, click five, and the veronicas @ rockettown
	lopan @ the boro 9:30pm
Sun 20	the rachel nevedas, the bang up, the velcro stars, and how i became the bomb @ grand palace [128 1/2 church st] newton dominey, brian ritchey, and richard sexton @ the 5 spot 8:30pm
Mon 21	jedd hughes @ the basement
Tues 22	girls that rock @ bluesboro 10pm
Wed 23	against me!, the epoxies, smoke or fire, and the soviettes @ the exit/in

apologies:

The past few weeks the events calendar has been pulled word for word from WMTS' Web site without giving them credit. Flash in the Pan will submit itself to any punishment the radio station sees fit. Some of the events in the last two calendars have been entirely made up. There were no electric wheelchair drag races; there was no "FEMA Evacuation Marathon."

Belize

the band, not the country
Do you even know where it is?

By Alan Laidlaw

Belize plays tonight with [Charlie] Murphey at Bluesboro
KanYe West pre-after show. Flash in the Pan's Alan Laidlaw spoke to Davis and Tyler, bass player and drummer for Belize.

Alan: Tell me if this is a fair description of yourself: plagued by high unemployment, drug trade and increasing urban crime.

Davis: I would say two out of three.

Alan: You have a population 279,457 citizens, 33 percent of which are below the poverty level.

Davis: There are five people in the band.

Alan: Yes, but is that a fair description of your sound?

Tyler: (Laughs) We're more emo.

Davis: Country

Alan: Third world-country-emo?

Belize gained independence in 1981. Tourism is the mainstay of their economy. The average age is 19.35 year and they are big on bananas.

Alan: Why is your band named

Belize?

Tyler: We're from a country, and Belize is a country, so...

Alan: Your band lives on Ewing and your power was out for two weeks. During that time you took showers at a the house of a neighbor who is an admitted "OC fan."

Why?

Tyler: Method acting.

Alan: You were trying to get inside the minds of your Belizean brothers?

Tyler: I guess.

Alan: Bright Eyes. Did you go to the show?

Davis and Tyler: No.

Alan: Why not?

It was made clear to me that it would take a break up, an accidental matricide and a parking ticket for Belize to see Bright eyes in concert.

Alan: Murfreesboro. What is your favorite venue?

Davis: The Boro is the only place we've ever played that is still open. The Red Rose was good, but it's gone. The Farmhouse got pulled.

They became depressed.

Alan: Sounds like you want to leave. Perhaps a country in Central America that is slightly smaller than Massachusetts that is very hot and humid and where approximately 3,600 people have AIDS?

Davis: We're not emo, you know.

Alan: I know.

Davis: That was a joke.

Alan: Do you feel that Murfreesboro is a lost cause?

Davis: I think the opening of Grand Palace is good, they'll lead the way to scene greatness. I hate that word "scene."

Alan: Yeah sure. If your band was a fruit, would fruit would you be?

Davis: A pomegranate. ♦



Community Concern: Godfather of Murfreesboro

by Alan Laidlaw

Everyone has heard of Amin Salemi, the godfather of Murfreesboro and creator of the 630-member strong Murfreesboro Show Collective, but few have the coglione to confront him on his turf: Camino Real (the Mexican restaurant on Main Street). I slipped the waiter a five, and he lead me through the kitchen to Amin's personal table next to the washing machine.

Amin: None of that is true, you are just narrating.

I could tell that I had not made a good first impression. He glared at me and flipped his scarf over his shoulder, indicating that my family was dead.

Amin: I'm not wearing a scarf! I thought this was an interview, aren't you going to ask me questions?

Alan: What is the Murfreesboro Party & Show Cooperative and when did it get started?

Amin: The MPSC is just a myspace site. It has around 630 members,

and I tell them about upcoming shows.

Alan: This is how you became the Godfather? Don't you have to donate a finger to join?

Amin: No. You have to live in Murfreesboro or Nashville. Lately, I've been getting requests from people in Florida.

What's up with that?

Alan: But you are a sort of "SceneGod," yes?

Amin: No, I'm not an ultra scene kid. I don't keep up with the latest music. I don't have an iPod. All my favorite are from the 90's -

Alan: What are your favorite bands?

Amin: Grade, Texas is the Reason, Crumb and, of course, Journey.

Alan: Journey?

Amin: That's only because Steve Perry visits me in my sleep. (Laughs)

Alan: Steve...

Amin: Perry. Steve Perry, oh my God, you don't know Steve Perry?

Alan: Nothing.

Amin: That's why I never answer my phone on the first ring, it's Journey's "Separate Ways,"

and I have to listen to it whenever it comes on.

Alan: How did you become the "Godfather of Murfreesboro?"

Amin: It was an experiment. I wanted to see if I would be treated differently if I created an image for myself.

Alan: Did it work?

Amin: Yeah, people started kissing my ring.

Alan: Do you ever want to extend your influence to Nashville?

Amin: A few months ago I was going to change the name to Middle Tennessee Party and Show Cooperative but nobody wanted that.

People here want a scene that is distinct to Murfreesboro.

Alan: There isn't much here that screams "scene." I've heard a lot about the Red Rose but I missed that.

Amin: Everybody loves the Red Rose. I loved it in 2001 but it became too scene. You would walk in and feel judgement. The kids, and a lot of them

are my friends, relied on the Red Rose. That is just as bad as nothing at all. That's like Nashville. But now there is Grand Palace at the square and the Little Man.

Alan: Isn't Little Man just another scene invention?

[The Little Man is the new name of MPSC and a zine. The show on Sunday is another benefit show for Little Man so they can raise enough money for their self aggrandizing scene.]

Amin: Hopefully not. I don't kids just to wait around for another Little Man magazine or show. And we aren't trying to cater to one scene. I want to bring in hip-hop or frats or whoever wants to actually do something. I want other people do other Little Mans. Murfreesboro Party and Show Cooperative is still the basic idea, cooperation - our town is too small for competition.

Alan: Or [insert mafia threat here]. ♦



Flash in the Pan scours the interweb in search of funny stories to amuse you, the readers. Fortunately for us, Drew and the rest of the Fark.com crew did our work for us.

Thanks, Fark.

Bad: You get heckled while making a speech. Worse: They are Tennessee hecklers. Worst: You are vice president of the U.S

Source: Yahoo News

Vice President Dick Cheney was heckled by protesters during a speech honoring former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker Tuesday. Out of the 400 people attending the speech, 50 were war protesters.

It isn't known if the protests were over Cheney's stance on the Iraq war or confusion over whether or not the vice president was a zombie sent by the devil.

Nerd-gasm alert: Star Wars brand Transformers are on the way (with pics)

Source: ign.com

Hoping for a combination better than peanut butter and chocolate, Hasbro will come out with a set of Star Wars-themed transformer toys.

The company is trying to avoid the failures of previous bad combinations such as Coke with bubble gum and small children with hand grenades.

California churches feud over age-old dilemma: What would Jesus pay for regular unleaded?

Source: ksat.com

So there's this church in California that offers discounts on gas that are worth up to 50 cents a gallon. That's good.

Then there's this other church in town that says that the discount is a marketing scam that cheapens the church. Valid point.

Historical records show that the Children's Crusade was actually started over a similar situation. The pope couldn't afford to drive his SUV Pope-mob, and sent the children of Vatican City to find discount coupons in the Holy Land. Unfortunately, the Pope's message was mistranslated; Rather than packing bargain shopping guides, they grabbed swords and shields instead.

Of the 23,547 complaints the FCC received in July about indecency on TV, 23,542 came from the Parents Television Council. The other five complained that TV needs more indecency, not less

Source: broadcastingcable.com

The headline almost says it all, but it misses an even funnier point. Of those 23,542 complaints by the PTC, 10,775 were against Fox, while 12,767 were against ABC.

Obviously the fine programming of NBC, CBS, UPN, and the WB are above reproach. There's no glorification of violence (CSI series), graphic depictions of sexual situations (Law and Order: SVU), or anything else worth complaining about (quality of programming in general on WB and UPN, sans "Everybody Hates Chris." Good stuff, that Chris Rock).

Rocket carrying ashes of 'Star Trek's' Scotty into space is grounded by engineering problems

Source: hollywood.com

It'd be easy to make a joke about if Scotty was alive, he'd get that rocket going in no time.

It'd be even easier to start screaming "She can't do it, Captain, she don't have the power!"

Such jokes would be in really bad taste, though, and not to be accepted in any form.

But if Scotty had kept away from those doughnuts these last few years...

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MT teams announce early signees

The Middle Tennessee athletic programs have enjoyed a successful early signing period, as most programs announced their new signees last week. The following is a review of each sport's early signees.

Blue Raiders add Green, Ivey to team next year

By Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

The MT men's basketball program will begin its 2005 season next week, but head coach Kermit Davis and company wasted no time in getting a jump start on their 2006 signing class.

Davis announced the signing of two players to national letters-of-intent on Wednesday of last week, the first day of the NCAA early signing period.

Green, a guard from Daytona Beach Community College, and Jay Ivey, a forward at Owensboro (Ky.) Catholic High School, made their verbal commitments to MT official when they signed their respective national letters-of-intent.

The 6-4, 190-pound Green averaged 11.7 points, 5.0 rebounds and 3.1 assists for coach Brad Underwood at Daytona Beach Community College as a freshman in 2004-05. He is a third-team preseason junior college All-American.

Green helped lead Lexington Catholic High School to a 33-2 record, a No. 10 national ranking and the Kentucky High School State Championship as a sophomore. The school's all-time leading scorer, Green was named the state tournament's most valuable player during the team's title run in 2002.

The signing of an experienced perimeter player in the 2006 class was imperative as senior guards Fats Cuyler and Marcus Morrison are braced for their final college campaigns.

"We felt we really needed to address an immediate need, and we think Demetrius Green was one of the top junior college guards out there," Davis told goblueraiders.com.

Ivey (6-8, 225) will provide the Blue Raiders a hard-nosed, physical inside presence and a

mature player with a tremendous upside, according to Davis. Ivey enters his senior season at Owensboro Catholic after a junior season in which he averaged 13 points, eight rebounds and three blocks to help his team to a 24-8 record.

Ivey is a two-time All-State honorable mention, two-time 9th District selection, 3rd Region First Team and he is rated the No. 6 prep prospect in Kentucky by Rick Bolus. He helped lead Owensboro Catholic to a school-record 24 wins in 2005.

"With Jay, you know his progress and best basketball is in front of him. He's a very mature kid, a great student, and I think he is going to fit in really well with what we want to do," Davis said.

Ivey said proximity also was important in his decision, as well as wanting to play for a strong program and for coaches who showed interest in him from the outset.

Orr, Owensboro Catholic's successful coach, said Ivey has an ability to change the way a game is played with his inside presence.

"When he's on the floor, things change at the offensive end and especially on the defensive end," Orr said. "He's the one player (in our region) capable of doing that. He's worked hard to become a better player, to improve his game. Middle Tennessee likes a lot of aspects of his game. They have a quality basketball program and they would not have recruited him if they didn't believe he could help them." ♦



Davis



Photos courtesy of MT Media Relations
Lady Raider signee Angelique Burts (right) averaged 17 points and eight rebounds last season.

Lady Raiders boast 10th best 2006 recruiting class

By Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

After making appearances in the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 during the last two seasons, the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team appears poised for similar runs in the future.

Last week, during the early signing period for 2006, head coach Rick Insell announced the signing of five young women that compose the 10th best recruiting class in the country, according to Blue Star Report.

Insell got scholarship agreements from guards Jackie

Pickel and Chelsia Lymon as well as forwards KeKe Stewart, Angelique Burts and Brandi Brown.

"The one thing I can say about four of our commitments is that they are all competitors," Insell told goblueraiders.com. "We looked for players that hated to lose and were competitors like that of these players have that trait."

Pickel brings an impressive resume to the Lady Raiders.

The 5 foot 10 inch guard has been an All-District selection three times and an All-Region choice twice. This summer, she was also named an AAU All-American.

Pickel averaged nearly 25 points per game last season and has more than 1,400 points for her career.

"She gets after it defensively," Insell said. "She can run the floor and can shoot the ball extremely well. Jackie is a consummate team player and her leadership skills that match her athletic ability. If you are going to build a basketball player Jackie Pickel would be the mold for the player. She is a great student

Continued on 8

Peterson adds depth with early signees

By Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

MT head coach Steve Peterson announced the signing of five players last week, all of which have the potential to help the program out as early as next year.

Junior college All-American and Columbia native Bobby Bratton was one of the highlights the signing class for next year's Blue Raiders.

Bratton earned National Junior College Athletic Association Third Team All-America honors last season as a freshman at Motlow State Community College after batting .388 with 13 doubles, 20 home runs and 57 runs batted in. He tied for the national lead in home runs and led the Tennessee Junior and Community College Athletic Association in runs scored with 70.

For his efforts, the 6-foot-1, 190-pound infielder was voted TJCCAA Freshman and Player of the Year as well as First Team All-TJCCAA.

Bratton was a four-year starter at Columbia High School and was voted All-State by the Tennessee Sports Writers Association his final three seasons.

"Bobby is a kid who I watched play all through high school and he is now beginning to see the value of an education," Peterson said.

"Unless he gets drafted high enough and there's a good deal of money on the

"[Bratton's] a player who will have opportunities to play professional baseball. He's just a good baseball player. He can hit, hit for power, run and he can hit in the middle of the lineup."

— Steve Peterson
MT Baseball Head Coach

table, he will be a Blue Raider in 2007. He's a good infielder with all of the tools to be an outstanding player," Peterson added.

Bratton joins Blake McDade, who prepped at Oolwetah High School. McDade was an All-District and All-Region selection last season after batting .400 with three home runs, 42 RBIs and 15 doubles. He is breaking with family tradition after his father played football at Tennessee.

"Blake can really hit. We needed some lefthanded hitters and I was really impressed watching him this summer," Peterson said. "He runs enough to be a corner outfielder, but we see him as a first baseman and think that's where his future is for our ball club."

Joining McDade will be Drew



Peterson

Robertson from Ravenwood High School, Zach Hudson from Overton High School and Tyler Hyde from The Chaminate Preparatory School in St. Louis.

Hudson is an outfielder, Robertson is a catcher, and Hyde is a pitcher.

Hudson's Overton team reached the state finals last season, with the 6-foot-2, 215-pounder batting .354 with 13 doubles and 38 RBIs along with 11 stolen bases. Hudson played mostly rightfield last season but should see some time in centerfield this year for coach Mike Morrison.

Robertson is not the prototypical Blue Raider catcher under Peterson, standing 6-foot-2 and 170 pounds. Every catcher under Peterson has been drafted at the end of their career, and Robertson should add to the program's success behind the plate.

Hyde struck out 33 in 43 innings of work last season, posting a 2.93 ERA with opponents batting .195.

The Blue Raiders baseball team will open the 2006 season February 18-19 at home against IP-Fort Wayne. ♦

MT Golf, Tennis teams add talent

Staff Reports

MT head men's golf coach Johnny Moore announced today the signing of Kent Bulle to a scholarship.

Bulle, who went to Glasgow High School in Glasgow, Ky., will join the Blue Raiders in 2006.

"We are very excited to sign a player of Kent's caliber," said Moore. "Along with being an outstanding golfer he also excels in the classroom where he is ranked 11th in his class.

Kent is a grinder on the golf course who reminds me of Tom Lehman. He is not flashy, but just knows how to score on the golf course. We expect him to step right in and make an immediate impact on our program."

Bulle was named Mr. Golf in the state of Kentucky in October, and he is ranked the No. 2 player in the state by the

Junior Golf Scoreboard.

Bulle, who joins Lady Raider golf standout Taryn Durham as Glasgow High School standouts, finished fourth at the AJGA Ringgold Junior Classic (75-68-70) and also came in fourth at the AJGA Subaru Open (69-74-72).

Bulle picked the Blue Raiders over Louisville, Bowling Green, and Western Kentucky.

Middle Tennessee men's tennis coach Dale Short announced the signing of Brazilian Joao Paoliello to a scholarship agreement on

Wednesday.

A Londrina, Brazil, native, Paoliello has been ranked No. 5 in Brazil in singles and No. 3 in doubles in the last two years. He has also been ranked in the Top 400 in the world in the junior rankings and trained at the Francos Tennis Academy outside of New Orleans, La., with former Blue

Continued on 8



Moore



Short



Photo courtesy of The Oak Ridge
KeKe Stewart, from Oak Ridge High School, is ranked 13th in the top 100 high school players in the country by Blue Star rankings. She helped the Lady Raiders have 10th best signing class in the nation.



Photo by Jay Richardson |
Chief Photographer

MT women's basketball head coach Rick Insell added five players to his roster for 2006, including Shelbyville Central's Jackie Pickel (left) and York Institute's Brandi Brown (right).



From Women's Basketball Signings, page 7

and the type of player you can bring in and recruit other great players into the program with."

Lymon, from Scott County High School in Georgetown, Ky., is the top-rated point guard prospect in the state of Kentucky, according to many publications.

She has nearly 2,000 career points and 700 career assists, and should provide help to the backcourt immediately next season.

"Chelsia sees the floor very well and is very athletic," Insell said. "She is the type of guard that will complement what we already have at the guard position."

In the Blue Star rankings Stewart, from Oak Ridge High School, is ranked 13th in the top 100 high school players in the country.

The six-foot Stewart has led the Lady Wildcats from her post position since her freshman season, leading the team with 20 points and nine rebounds per game last year.

"She [Stewart] runs the floor, hits the three, plays defense, dives after loose balls, she does it all. She is going to give her body up for a win," Insell said.

Burtis is one of the top prospects in the state of Georgia. A guard and forward for Rockdale County, which went 24-6 last season. She averaged 17 points, eight rebounds, four assists and four steals last year.

Brown, a 6-foot-3 forward from York Institute in Jamestown, averaged nearly 26 points and 10 rebounds per game last season. She is an excellent shooter, and was a Miss Basketball Finalist last season.

"Brandi is a dead eye and goes back to the old school basketball players," Insell said. "She knows how to pass, she knows how to shoot and knows how to get open; the Larry Byrd type of player. She can do it all and has the size to go with it."

Of the top 30 schools including in the ranking, Middle Tennessee beat out three Southeastern Conference schools. The University of Tennessee's recruiting class was ranked No. 16, Auburn was 18 and Vanderbilt had the 20th best recruiting class.

The 2005 edition of the Lady Raiders begin their season this Friday on the road against Chattanooga. ♦

Blue Raiders overcome lackluster first half to defeat Bulldogs, 95-82

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

Behind a strong second half, the Blue Raiders survived with a 95-82 win on Tuesday night after trailing by 10 at the half against



Vogelsberg

Union University in the season's exhibition opener.

Adam Vogelsberg led Middle Tennessee with 18 points, making 4-of-6 from three point range. Marcus Morrison added 17 points while Kyle Young played big down low with 16 points and nine rebounds.

Union, who is ranked #6 in the nation in NAIA, led 47-37 at the half in front of 1,538 Blue Raider fans who attended the game despite severe weather around Rutherford County.

"Our team is usually at the top of the Sun Belt in rebound margin and defensive field goal percentage and tonight we gave up 54 percent [shooting] and was out rebounded [37-36] so I think we lost some of our identity, at least for tonight," Head Coach Kermit Davis said. "I think this was what we needed against what we consider the best non-Division I team in our state this year. They have a good team and if they keep going they have a chance to win the NAIA National Championship. They went right at us early."

The Blue Raiders recovered during the halftime break and outscored Union 16-5 in the first five minutes. MT outscored the Bulldogs 58-35



Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations

Junior guard Bud Howard finished Tuesday's night's Blue Raider victory with five assists, three rebounds and two steals.

total in the second half.

The Blue Raiders took their first lead since the first possession on a three point connection from Vogelsberg, which put MT on top for good 53-52 with 15:02 remaining in regulation.

The game was delayed for more than 30 minutes during

the first half due to the tornado warnings in the area and fans were placed in the lower levels of the Murphy Center.

MT opens its regular season Monday night against a good Utah State team at 7pm in the Murphy Center. Admission is free with a student ID. ♦

From Golf and Tennis Signings, page 7

Raider Lucas de Brito.

"Joao has a big serve and a very solid all-around game," Short said. "He has a lot of international tournament experience. I've been getting a lot of calls about him from other coaches because they were recruiting him as well. I

expect him to contribute almost immediately and really provide our team some depth at the 4-6 spots."

Middle Tennessee returns five starters from last year as well as Rishan Kuruppu, who missed all of 2005 with a pair of injuries. The Blue Raiders

are the defending Sun Belt champions after posting an 18-7 record last season and ranking as high as No. 21.

Short's squad begins the dual match season January 29 against Chattanooga at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro. ♦

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