

Got an idea? Call

Editor	898-2337
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Tennis team wins OVC!

Golf team wins as well

FEATURES, 6

Tenure: Is it an anachronism?

Features Editor responds to witch-hunt

SIDELINES

Possible revision on grade appeals policy

A student's grade appeal may result in a change of policy

CINDY WOLFE
Staff Writer

The university's grade appeals policy may undergo some changes as a result of a recent controversial overturning of a nursing student's grade.

A failing grade was given to an unidentified second-year nursing student last Spring semester by two professional nurses team-

teaching a clinical laboratory class.

Dr. Judith Wakim, chairperson of the nursing department, said that the student first agreed with the grade earned, deciding later to appeal. It was the second time the student had received a failing grade for the clinical lab course. Wakim stood by the original grade given by the teachers and denied the student's appeal.

The student continued the appeal process but missed the 10 day deadline to present her case to the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Robert

B. Jones. However, Jones passed the appeal on to an academic appeal committee to review the grievance.

The committee denied the appeal at the first hearing. The student complained that some of the case information was restricted because she was allowed to speak only to sub-groups of the committee instead of the committee as a whole.

After a second meeting with the student and a careful investigation, the appeals committee overturned their original decision and awarded the student with a grade of "W". The grade of "W" is not a

passing grade but acts as a temporary mark until the class can be retaken and a permanent grade received.

"The second time we met with the student she was much more clear about her reasons for disagreeing with the grade and supplied us with more information," said committee member and developmental studies chairperson Dr. Carol Bader. "We also became aware of some procedural problems during the course of her appeal process. The committee felt the change was warranted."

The two professors disagreed with the decision

because they were not allowed to present their side to the appeals committee. Following the decision, the nursing department drew up a resolution containing suggestions on the change of policy on grade appeals.

One suggested change is to take away the absolute power of the appeals committee. President Walker gave the committee the ultimate power over all grade appeals several years ago. The grade appeals committee is the only faculty committee with this kind of power. All other committees

See **Grade**, page 4

Music department addresses concerns

MARK BLEVINS
Assistant News Editor

The music department faculty and staff began a series of departmental meetings this month to address concerns that have been expressed by some faculty and students.

The meetings were called by Dean of Liberal Arts John McDaniel with a purpose of establishing dialogue within

the department.

The concerns were expressed after Music Department Chair John Bingham

was charged with simple assault by Associate Professor of Band Derle Long. The charges were dropped by Long when the case went before the General Sessions Court of Rutherford County.

A group of music students drafted a letter of concerns for President James Walker soon after Long's charges were filed.

But, things seem to be looking up for the music

department.

The department has had three meetings and plans to have one more this semester.

"I am encouraged by the openness by which the department is proceeding," McDaniel said last week. McDaniel chaired the first meeting and attended the second one. "I think things are improving."

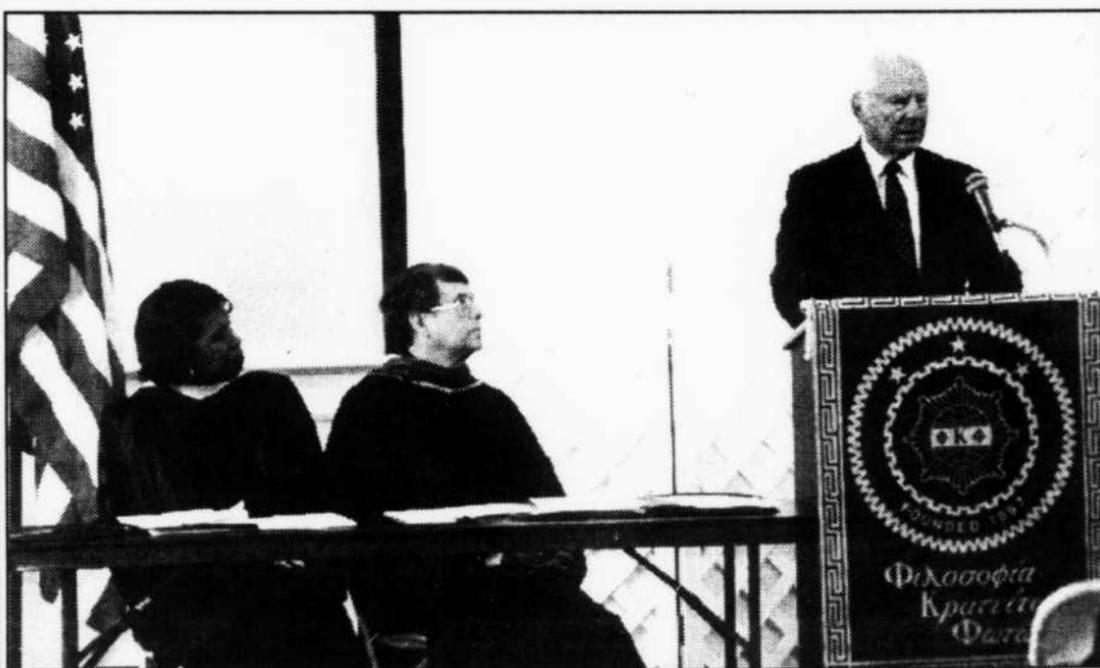
According to Bingham, the meetings have so far focused on tenure and promotion policies, workload equity and the department's hiring procedure.

Bingham, who described the meetings as "very healthy" and "very open," said he thinks that faculty and staff are encouraged by the dialogue.

Music student Amy Williamson is also happy about the dialogue within the department. Williamson, who was a principal leader of the students who drafted the letter to Walker, said the dialogue is a move towards

See **Music**, page 4

An honored scholar



CHARLES HOGUE/Staff

Senator Al Gore Sr. speaks prior to his honorary induction into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society Monday afternoon in the Alumni Center.

Kappa Alpha raises \$11,000 for Muscular Dystrophy Association

KRYS SPAIN
Staff Writer

The Kappa Alpha fraternity raised \$11,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association by holding a Jail-a-thon April 12-13 at the KA house.

Several MTSU officials, members of the community and all sorority presidents were arrested. Bail was set

at \$500 for most participants, but sorority presidents had to raise only \$150 each. There was only one hour allotted for raising the bail of the 50-60 persons arrested.

"We really appreciate the community participation we received," said KA Vice-President Joey Davenport.

Participants scheduled a time convenient for them to

be arrested," said Steve Probst, MDA Chair of Kappa Alpha. "We have been planning [the Jail-a-thon] with MDA since November. We met with them two or three times a month, discussing who to target.

"Our original goal was to raise \$5,000, but we raised our goal to \$20,000. With Alumni donations the final

See **KA**, page 4

Campus Capsule

Today

A Job Information Sessions sponsored by Campus Rec will be held at 3 p.m. in AMG Room 120A. 100 student positions are needed for the new Recreation Center by Fall 95.

The Advertising Club Spring Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. at Holiday Inn. \$20/person; contest, prizes and more! Semi-formal. To make reservations, call Greta Kozicki at 831-9160.

The American Criminal Justice Assoc. will be sponsoring a special agent of the U.S. Customs Service at the last regular meeting of the year at 5 p.m. in KUC Room 314. Topics to be covered include spring banquet, summer fundraisers and selling T-shirts. Anyone interested welcomed to attend.

An open discussion on "Quality Compensation for Quality Care" concerning upgrading the quality of child care in Rutherford County will be held in KUC 324 at 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Friday, April 28

An All-Sports Banquet honoring former MTSU football coach and athletic director Charles "Bubber" Murphy will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the main floor of Murphy Center. Tickets are \$40 apiece—each ticket underwrites a dinner for one student athlete. For further information call 898-2210.

Fashion Group of the Human Sciences Dept. is sponsoring Heather Allen from the Smithville Craft Center on at 3 p.m. in Human Science Bldg. Room 110. She will be talking about textile design and its process. Free and open to the public.

A Yard Sale, sponsored for the benefit of the Exchange Club Family Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, will be held at 3205 West End Ave. on April 28 and 29 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Hundreds of items such as hardware, clothing, books, household items, bikes, toys

and more will be sold.

Monday, May 1

The Middle Tennessee Symphony will present its final scheduled concert of the 94/95 season on at 8 p.m. in Tucker Theatre. The feature work of the evening will be Mahler's Symphony No. 4 with Julie Wolf performing soprano. Tickets are \$10 for classic seating, \$8 for economy seating and student tickets may be purchased after 7:45 p.m. for \$2 with student ID.

The Society of Professional Journalists will meet at 4:30 p.m. in JUB 310. Election of officers for 1995-96 will be held and business will be finished up for the year.

Upcoming & Ongoing

The 1995 Student Photographic Exhibit will be on display from April 30 - June 30 at the Photographic Gallery in the LRC. A reception will be held April 30 from 7 - 9 p.m. Free and open.

The PSI CHI/Psychology Club is having a spring picnic on May 2 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the Murphy Center Pavillion.

The Bethune-Cookman Concert Chorale will perform at the First United Methodist Church, 220 N. Church St., M'boro on May 3 at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune founded the first singing group in 1904, with six members. The Concert Chorale currently consists of more than one hundred.

NACEL international exchange programs is looking for host families for Spanish, French and German students who will be attending school daily for three of four weeks. The dates are July 12 to August 8. For more info. call Rita Maisonneuve at the Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures at 5013, 2981 or 898-0862.

Summer '95 Co-op Vacancies are available for students majoring in aerospace, chemistry,

computer information systems, computer science, engineering technology—design and/or electrical, interior design and marketing. Any student interested should call Wayne Rollins, director of cooperative education.

Drum Circle every Tuesday, fair weather providing, at 5 p.m. between Peck Hall and Cope Admin. amongst the trees.

BICYCLISTS: Get fit and enjoy the beautiful spring weather with the M'boro Bicycle Club! Rides leave the Greenland Parking lot at 3:30 p.m. every Tue. Length and speed determined by consensus. More info from 898-2688. (Helmets required.)

The National Assoc. of Environmental Professionals meets every Friday in VIS 103 from 11 - 11:50 a.m. Anyone wanting to participate, please join us or call.

Block & Bridle meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. in SAG Room 125. Everyone is welcome!

Single Fathers: I am doing a research study concerning the rights and the problems you may have encountered with state and federal laws. Please, call me. I am interested in your stories, and I want to help change the laws for your equality. Ashley Rouse, 781-0136.

If anyone is interested in studying Ayn Rand and the philosophy of Objectivism, write to: MTSU Box B-890. Email: m_c_000b@frank.mtsu.edu

MTSU Equestrian Team meets every Monday at 7 p.m. at the TN Livestock Center Sales Arena.

The Horseman's Assoc. meets at the Tenn. Livestock Center Mondays at 7:30 p.m.. All majors are welcome. Come share a love and interest in all breeds of horses.

MTSU students who need speech testing or speech therapy services should call the MTSU Speech Clinic,

898-2661, for an appt.

The Honors Student Association Movie Night is being held every Friday night in room 108 of Peck Hall. The first movie begins at 5 p.m. and the second at 7 p.m. Movies to be shown will be posted in the Honors Lounge from Wed. until Fri. night. All HSA members are welcome and may bring one guest.

MTSU LAMBDA ASSOCIATION: A social support group for gays, lesbians and bisexuals meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in Mass Comm Room 104. For more info. call 780-2293.

Child Abuse Prevention of TN, a nonprofit agency, needs volunteers to answer the statewide Parent Helpline/Domestic Violence Hotline, to work with parents of newborns in the Parent Pathway Program, to assist with Parenting Classes, or to assist with childcare during parenting classes. Next volunteer training will be in March. For more information contact Terry Ann Hull, Volunteer Coordinator for Child Abuse Prevention of TN at 227-2273.

Hospice of Tennessee is looking for volunteer support to help provide service to terminally ill patients and their families. Call 320-1991 or 1-800-638-7046 if interested.

International Student's Association meets Fridays at 6 p.m. in KUC 318. Contact Kaysone Panyanouvong at 893-4457.

Dinner/Worship every Tue. at 5:30 p.m. at Wesley Foundation for \$2.50. Worship on Wed. at 7 p.m. and Sun. at 8 p.m.

Prayer Breakfast at Presbyterian Student Fellowship Friday mornings from 7 - 8. Contact Michael Malone at 893-1787.

"Raiders for Christ" devotional every Monday at 7 p.m. Contact Eddy Dyer at 895-9439 or Mike Stroud at 896-1529.

College Worship

Wednesday nights at 9 at the Presbyterian Student Fellowship (615 N. Tenn. Blvd.). Contact Michael Malone at 893-1787.

Church of God in Christ Revival on Campus Ministries meets every Thursday in the KUC. Bible study and guest speakers. Everyone is welcome. For more information call Rolanda Payne at 898-4065.

DEADLINES FOR CAMPUS CAPSULE SUBMISSIONS

MONDAY EDITION:
5 P.M. FRIDAY THURSDAY EDITION:
5 P.M. TUESDAY

All submissions must be brought by or sent to the *Sidelines* office in writing. Phone in submissions will not be accepted. *Sidelines* reserves the right not to publish any listing for any reason. *Sidelines* is not responsible for false information.

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MTSU NEWS

Shopping on the Knoll



CHARLES HOGUE/Staff

MTSU alumna Cathy Rigsby checks out some of the merchandise on sale in the front of the KUC Wednesday afternoon.

Banquet honors African American achievement

NICKI JOHNSON

Special to *Sidelines*

The fourth annual University Mentoring Program and Ebony Achievement Awards celebrated the promotion of excellence through culture and achievement Tuesday night at the Murfreesboro Holiday Inn.

The ceremony was sponsored by the African-American Student Association, the United Greek Council and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

An award was presented to Duane Stucky, Vice President of finance and administration, for assisting minority organizations with funding for event security. Football star Kippy Bayless and Lady Raider' basketball star Sherry Tucker were awarded plaques for Male and Female Athlete of the Year.

The Erudite Emancipators were presented with the award of Best Campus Organization for their outstanding service on campus and within the community.

"The goal of our organization is to create a harmonious environment for all students but especially for African-American students," said Bonnie Shipp, advisor to the Erudite Emancipators.

The award for Sorority Female of the Year was presented to Sonya Collier, and Mark Howes was presented with Fraternity Make of the Year.

Dean of African-American

Studies Thaddeus Smith was awarded Faculty of the Year. Dr. Robert LaLance was recognized as Mentor of the Year; Mentee of the Year, Ryan Rowland and Advisor of the Year Bonnie Shipp.

The awards banquet dealt with the controversial political topic of the Contract with America.

"Is it a contract on black America?" said guest speaker Michael "Spike" Davis, a professional stand-up comedian and comic writer.

Davis used his humor to inform the audience on the changes the legislation would have on welfare programs, affirmative action and federal grants to college students.

Davis cited the Republican party as the instigators of this legislation to cut federal programs that mostly benefit minorities.

"The Republican party is the same party that wants to phase out affirmative action and revise Civil Rights legislation want us to walk the tight rope of their promises without a net," Davis said.

Michael Davis was invited to speak at the Banquet by Ralph Metcalf, head of Multicultural Affairs.

"To tell you the truth, I was a little hesitant speaking on such a serious topic," Davis said.

Davis can be seen this Friday and Saturday night at Comedy on the Square with performances at 8:00 and 10:30 p.m. ■

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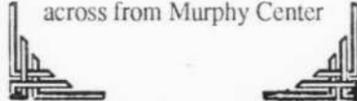


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MTSU NEWS

GRADE

continued from page 1

act only on an advisory level. The resolution was presented to the Faculty Senate Meeting on Mar. 13. The nursing faculty member claimed that the student had been allowed input with the committee that the teachers were denied.

The professor asked for an expert witness from the nursing field to review the appeal and advised that faculty members should be treated with more respect. The professors claimed that

the appeals committee had been rude to them.

No members of the committee were present at the meeting, and the senate decided to table the resolution until more information was available and both sides could be heard.

"I was worried that we were doing the same thing as the appeals committee, only hearing from one side," said Carolyn Hopper. "So we assigned a senate subcommittee to look directly into this matter. Then we can make an informed

recommendation, but we can only advise. The final

"We try to be very careful not to violate any student rights..."

-Dr. Carol Bader
Chairperson of
Developmental Studies

decision comes from President Walker."

The sororities participated in the event as part of Old South week with Kappa Delta winning the week's activities.

"Old South week is a revival of traditions long past, and a time of southern American culture that it almost forgotten because of the intergration of northern culture and what was once known as southern culture," said Danny Baseheart, member of Kappa Alpha.

"It is our duty as southerners to keep the spirit of gentility alive for southern society was, above all, a society of manners, an

incredible triumph of manners and the twilight of the manners of the world."

KA also participated in a Kappa Delta softball tournament to benefit Child Abuse Prevention. Their philanthropy efforts include working with Habitat for Humanity, coaching little league teams and performing basic maintenance on the Oakland Mansion. They are also helping to build a church on Thompson Lane.

"It's great when a fraternity can work with the community towards a common goal," Davenport said. ■

According to Bader, any changes made to policy and the power of the committee would be welcome.

"We try to be very careful not to violate any student rights but the university is growing at such a fast rate it's hard to insure a fair hearing within a short period of time," Bader said.

A letter issued by Wendy J. Thompson, legal assistant to President Walker, said that overriding the decision of the appeals committee should be done only in extreme situations. She suggested a renewed

declaration of the university's commitment to preserving the academic freedom of the faculty that if policy changes are to be considered.

According to Wakim, this is the first time in MTSU's history that a grade was ever allowed a second appeal. The nursing student is no longer enrolled in MTSU.

"The main concern is standing behind the teachers and having confidence in their competence in giving fair and appropriate grades," Wakim said. ■

KA

continued from page 1

Alumni donations the final tally should be somewhere between \$13,000 and \$15,000."

This is the largest amount that KA has raised for MDA in the 25 years as a chapter, and the first year that they have held the Jail-a-thon. They earned 270 service hours for this project. Nationally, KA chapters raise close to a million dollars annually.

"It is good to see the hard work that we put into this help the community," said Probst.

MUSIC

continued from page 1

solving problems.

"I think the department as a whole is very sound and we have good faculty members, but there were some problems that needed to be attended to," Williamson said.

In an interview last week, Music Professor John Duke said there are some good examples of senior and junior faculty members working together.

"We've got some great young faculty members—just fantastic. I think we should

accent the positive a little more," Duke said.

"We've got a lot of excellent students and a lot of excellent teachers who come to work everyday and do their best—students and teachers."

Bingham said the meetings will not continue through the summer due to faculty schedules.

"As we meet going into the fall, we'll meet again and see where we are," Bingham said. ■

The Sidelines staff would like to extend our thoughts and prayers to Mrs. Roxie McHenry. Roxie, an administrative assistant to the athletic director, is suffering from cancer. Mrs. McHenry has been on staff at MTSU for many years and has been a great asset to the athletic department. Our hearts are with you.



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EXAM SCHEDULES**Final Examination Schedule, Spring Semester 1995****Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

7:00-7:50 a.m.	Wednesday, May 3, 7:00-9:00 a.m.
8:00-8:50 a.m.	Monday, May 8, 7:00-9:00 a.m.
9:00-9:50 a.m.	Monday, May 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
10:00-10:50 a.m.	Friday, May 5, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
11:00-11:50 a.m.	Wednesday, May 3, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
12:00-12:50 a.m.	Monday, May 8, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
1:00-1:50 p.m.	Wednesday, May 3, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
2:00-2:50 p.m.	Friday, May 5, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday

1:00-2:15 p.m.	Monday, May 8, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
2:25-3:40 p.m.	Wednesday, May 3, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
2:00-3:15 p.m.	Monday, May 8, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
3:00-4:15 p.m.	Monday, May 8, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
4:30-5:45 p.m.	Wednesday, May 3, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
6:00-7:15 p.m.	Monday, May 8, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday

8:00-9:15 a.m.	Tuesday, May 9, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
9:25-10:40 a.m.	Thursday, May 4, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
10:50 a.m.-12:05 p.m.	Tuesday, May 9, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
12:15-1:30 p.m.	Thursday, May 4, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
1:40-2:55 p.m.	Thursday, May 4, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
3:05-4:20 p.m.	Thursday, May 4, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
4:30-5:45 p.m.	Tuesday, May 9, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

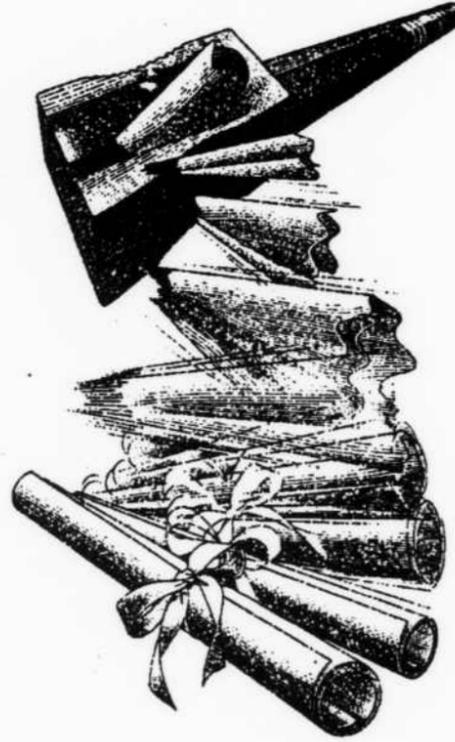
Evening Classes

Exams for evening classes not listed above will be May 3-9 during regularly scheduled class meeting times.

Saturday Classes

Exams will be on Saturday, May 6, from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

NOTE: Exams for classes meeting at other times are to be arranged by the instructor between May 3-9.

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SIDELINES

Teachers and tenure: Is this Academic Freedom or an anachronism?

Tenure system began for research purposes, but it may be outdated

NANCY SWAIN
Special to *Sidelines*

What do union workers, retail workers, and politicians all have in common? None of them are guaranteed jobs for a lifetime—they can all be fired at any time with no form of “due process.”

However, tenured teachers do have a job for life, which can only be terminated after due process of the law is provided. This means following the rules and principles that have been set up for enforcing and protecting the rights of the teacher who is being accused.

This protection could be referred to as fairness. But what if the teacher's right to fairness prevents a student from receiving a high-quality education? What law protects the student's right to fairness?

There is none!

Students question whether or not the tenure system should be maintained. Some aren't even aware of what it is or when such a concept developed.

The concept was first developed in the latter part of the 19th century by professors who had been schooled in Germany. At that time, if scientific research was to take place, teachers needed the academic freedom to research and lecture on whatever they felt was necessary for advancements in science.

Research is an important part of being tenured. According to Dr. Michael Payne, an adjunct at MTSU, the process of being approved for tenure includes evaluation by students and peers, community service, extracurricular activities such as publications and

research documentation, grant money brought in to the university, with some political overtones.

Payne said, “The process varies from university to university and was started to protect educators from political issues. After having been on contract for three years, a teacher can be placed on tenure track. After seven years and the necessary evaluations, the faculty members and chairs in that department vote on approving him or her for tenure. Then the decision works its way up to the president of the university.”

Dr. Alexander Nagy of the Mass Communications Department has tenure, but doesn't see it as “the perfect system.” “Like with any system, it has its pros and cons. There was a time when an administrator could look at you and say, ‘I don't like that sweater you're wearing, so you're fired,’ or ‘I only want Republicans teaching here, so if you're not a Republican, you're fired.’”

Dr. Nagy said, “A teacher could be fired if a parent complained about something the teacher said in class. It also could decrease the diversity of the faculty if everyone had the same opinions. We need diversity in a university.”

Nagy believes that good teachers deserve tenure, but feels merit raises are commendable as well. That too has flaws, because it requires evaluations that may be biased.

As a teacher who wants what is best for the students and the faculty, Dr. Nagy said, “If someone knows of a better system, I hope they will come here and present it, but it wouldn't be perfect either.”

Another solution is to grant tenure to fewer teachers or to hire more part-time instructors. According to Dr. Payne, many colleges are hiring more adjunct professors. By doing this they save more money. He

see *Tenure*, page 7

The Windy City



BRENT ANDREWS/Staff

Downtown Chicago, Summer 1994, before my wife and I got lost in a part of town where gunshots could be heard popping in the afternoon heat. Welcome to Chicago.

Ivy League students pose for Playboy, earn up to \$500 for efforts

KEITH BLACKMAN
College Press Service

PHILADELPHIA—Most student's idea of a study break entails playing video games or snacking on nachos.

But for college senior Susane Colasanti, posing nude in a hot tub for *Playboy* magazine was the best way to put off studying for her chemistry exam.

Colasanti, who will be featured in the magazine's October spread, “Women of the Ivy League,” received \$500 for being photographed completely naked.

Colasanti had to make a difficult choice when she found out that *Playboy* wanted her for the photo spread.

“They said ‘We're shooting today.’ I told them I had to study for a chem test. Since they had to shoot on Sunday, I didn't study for the test,” she said.

Colasanti was taken to a club in Philadelphia for the final shoot. She was photographed in two outfits: a see-through body slip and a low-cut black slip.

She said she arranged the clothing according to the wishes of *Playboy* photographer David Chan. Piece by piece, she displayed her entire body.

“Not all of the polaroids of me were naked,” she said. “But enough of them were.”

Colasanti said her decision to pose in *Playboy* was done on an impulse, something not especially unfamiliar to a woman whose bedroom has poetry recklessly scrawled upon the walls.

“I got a feeling to do it, and I did it,” she said. “There's no big reason.”

Colasanti admitted she was a little scared by the thought of removing her clothes in front of the camera. “I was nervous on the first day of the shoot,” she said. “But I wasn't for the other two days.”

This self-confidence most likely helped her through the shoots.

“I kind of knew I'd be picked,” she added.

Playboy conducted a preliminary “interview” on March 14 and 15. Approximately 50 students either brought spring break pictures of themselves in scanty clothing or bathing suits, or were photographed in bikinis at the interview. Students who made the first cut were called back on March 16.

They were photographed again—but this time in both bikinis and in see-through body suits. The poses in the body suits were “basically nude photos,” according to Colasanti. Finally, Colasanti and three other accepted applicants were contacted on March 19. They were taken to different sites, where they were photographed for the October issue.

The women who auditioned each had their own reasons for participating. “People criticized me,” said an applicant who did not want her name disclosed. “I felt that if you have a good body, there's nothing wrong with showing it off.”

But even with such “good bodies,” some students had to be cut. “It didn't bother me,” college freshman Christina McGuire said. “I wasn't doing it to get into the magazine. It was curiosity, probably.”

Chan made sure the woman who were

see *Playboy*, page 7

FEATURES

TENURE

continued from page 6

predicts that by the year 2005, 75% of all professors will be retired, and most will be replaced by adjuncts, which teach at the university part-time. Tenure is only available to full-time teachers.

This raises another point of controversy. Do adjuncts provide the same standards of education as professors do?

In Michael Payne's opinion they do. He explains, "DDA's are available in almost any department at MTSU. PhD's are primarily for professors whose focus is mainly on research and publications. Harvard is an example of a school with a large number of PhD's who do research."

Research is a part of MTSU's objective, but it is basically a teaching college. And the teaching abilities and dedication to the students substantially effects their education. Can tenured teachers be a problem for the students? Absolutely!

Paul, a junior majoring in Mass Communications, said, "I once had an English professor who didn't teach us anything. He thrived on humiliating and embarrassing students. No one did well enough to deserve an "A" from him, and no one ever knew what he expected from us."

After conferring with the head of the English department, nothing was changed or resolved. Paul feels that the indifference was due to the fact that the teacher had tenure.

As Kaye Payne, adjunct in the HPERS department said, "What is their incentive to be a good teacher? What would cause them to be pro-student? If you're a good teacher, why do you need it?"

Regardless of evaluations and screening, incompetent teachers can still be granted tenure. The administration loses the right that employers in the private sector has—the right to fire teachers who are incompetent and non-productive.

Often the administration is afraid to attempt removing

a tenured teacher. The "due process" is a complex procedure which involves a hearing conducted before an impartial panel, which is usually the school board. Ill feelings and resentment among the faculty is often the result.

One such example would be the recent conflict surrounding the music department here at MTSU. Charges have been brought against the Chair of the Music Department, Dr. John Bingham. He is charged with assaulting the Associate Band Director, Derle Long. Students have recently stated in articles published in *Sidelines* that they feel pressured as they are caught in the conflict between teachers within this department. The students feel slighted because the teachers are more involved in their disputes with faculty than they are with them.

Who can they turn to in order to receive the time and attention their education requires?

They need to be assured that the tenure status of a teacher will not impede their efforts to learn. They need to be assured that their rights are equal to those of the teachers.

Teachers' rights are now protected by professional organizations such as the National Education Association (NEA) and the Academic Federation of Teachers (AFT). With protection of academic freedom from these organizations, isn't the tenure system outdated?

As Kay Payne said, "A good teacher will be a good teacher regardless of tenure. A good teacher will strive to improve and have the student's best interest at heart."

Students want outstanding teachers, but they also want fairness. When they enroll at a university, they aren't guaranteed a diploma or passing grades regardless of their academic achievements. They can be dismissed due to poor grades, poor attendance, or unacceptable behavior. But many of their teachers have a job and salary for as long as they want to stay.

Does this seem fair? ■

PLAYBOY

continued from page 6

photographed did not come into contact with other applicants. "They spaced out the interviews," said the female student who did not want her name used. "They didn't want the people to see each other."

Chan also coordinated the salaries of the women. "They said they paid me \$500 because they were going to use the naked shot," Colasanti explained. "They give you \$100 if you are wearing clothes, and \$250 if you are topless."

Following their shoot at the UP, the *Playboy* photographers headed to Columbia University to continue their Ivy League photo tour. ■

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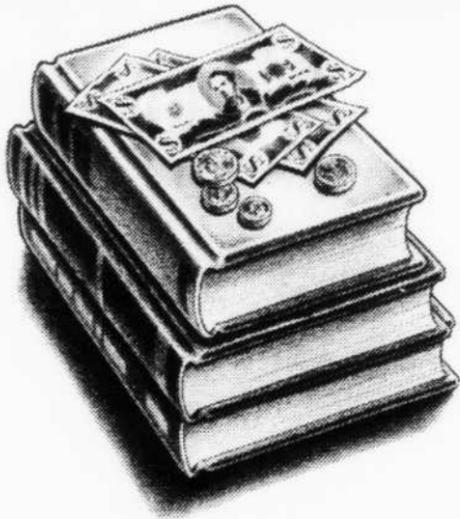
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Oklahoma City column creates stir, encites witch-hunt for debauched features editor

Response to letters
complaining about
sordid column
leads to stooping

BRENT ANDREWS
Features Editor



If you have jumped headlong into the Opinions section before reading Features then you

have seen the uproar that I have caused with my April 24th column.

If not, go there (page 14), then come back. If you haven't read the letters, then you won't get any of this.

You back? Good, then settle comfortably into your chair with that Coke or coffee or whatever and let's begin this session of debauchery. Go ahead, cross your legs. We could be here a while ...

In my article about the Oklahoma City bombing I used humor to look at a tragic situation, not laughing at the jugheads that committed the crime and perhaps making light of the whole thing. I hate that it happened; I really do. I don't condone any kind of violence, especially when it is inflicted upon children (I have a 6 year old of my own), but I am of the opinion, like Mr. Louis Johnson (the headlining comic from last issue's lead feature story about Comedy on the Square) that you have to laugh at things sometimes, you have to try and make light of the things that happen in this world, because everything is "so real." Because if you don't make light of things, and you look at everything seriously, then you just go nuts and end up in the loonie bin (uh oh, now I've upset the lunatics, and that's a crowd that you don't want to mess with--they don't write letters!).

But this was a serious matter, to say the least, and I feel for the families of the victims (both young and old) of this senseless tragedy; I feel for those of you out there who are from Oklahoma City and had to see your hometown in a panic, looking more like some third-world

military zone than a peaceful city in America's heartland; I feel for the workers who are digging through the wreckage and finding toys and clothing and body parts. Crazy crazy crazy.

But I also think it's funny that these wackos got caught so soon.

Does this make me stupid? Does this make me the spawn of a "scum-covered pond?" Franklin, Tennessee was a pretty insane place to grow up, but it wasn't scum-covered. I grew up in a house just like my good friend Mr. Penny.

Also, I am not lacking in intelligence, and I think I have good common sense as well (but it was strange--the other day when it was raining and I was getting absolutely soaked I couldn't think of what to do to prevent getting even wetter).

But Mr. Bigshot Oklahoma reporter and sociology helper knows best, as his grammar obviously shows ...

Stoop stoop stoop.

Anyway, at some point in my column I said that the guys that did the bombing "did a good job" of it. I stick to this because I think the bomb created just the kind of devastation they were looking for. I still don't condone it, but I always thought that if you're going to do something, you should do it right. If you're going to bomb a federal building or, say, a post office, then you don't want everyone to think some kid is playing with firecrackers outside. You want that place to crumble. This does not mean that I think it was good that all those people lost their lives.

As far as those people go, they were working in a federal building, for a government that nobody likes anymore, and when you work for the good old US of A you are taking certain risks in exchange for that benefit package, and that nice salary. This is just something they have to face.

It's too bad that things like this happen in our society. But someone has to provide comic relief for the masses to prevent them from pulling out their hair about these things, and if I made even one of you laugh then I have done a good thing.

And besides, those shelves at Save A Lot are still getting stocked, no matter what my friend Mr. Penny thinks.

Thanks for reading, everyone! ■

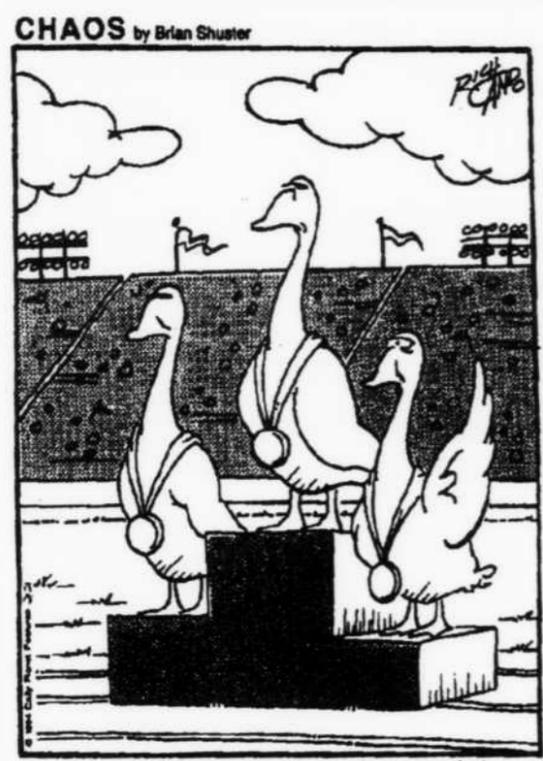
COMICS



"Well, yes, I loved him once, but that was before I realized that I need more than just a silhouette in my life."



"Oh, and I suppose it was me who said 'what harm could it be to give the chickens a book on nuclear physics?'"



"... and third place goes to ... the goose that lays the bronze eggs!"

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Foreman, Oleksik -- A tale of two Georges

I've got a lot to talk about and not much space in this, my last column of the semester, so let's get on with it.

First of all, How about that Foreman-Schulz fight Saturday night? I love a good fight, and that was

Robservations



Rob Nunley

definitely a good fight. But as much as I love boxing, I've got to admit it.

George should have lost that fight. Schulz battered Foreman for 12 solid rounds, and still lost the majority decision. The most he could get was the one judge who scored the bout a draw.

There are a lot of arguments to justify why George got the decision, but the one that makes the most sense is simply that he was supposed to win, so the American judges let him win. Plain and simple.

Now, the IBF is investigating tapes of the fight and may grant Schulz a rematch. I'm not so sure that the young East German knows what he's getting into. George may be big, fat and old, but if you go around accusing him of cheating, he may lose that ever-present grin and beat you into a greasy little buzz-cut pulp.

● Speaking of big Georges, did you see Monday's baseball story, in which our dazzling sports writing staff informed you of Blue Raider reliever George Oleksik breaking the single season saves record against Morehead last Saturday?

In case you missed it, Oleksik, who before his three appearances last year had never pitched before, got his seventh

See Rob, page 11

Tennis wins fifth title

Tennis team squeaks past Murray for OVC championship

JOEL FREY
Staff Writer

It was only fitting that the men's tennis team won their fifth straight OVC title with the match on the line and Fred Niemeyer in a third set tiebreaker.

Niemeyer's clutch 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 win at number one singles versus arch-rival Murray State Monday afternoon at Centennial Sportsplex enabled the Blue Raiders to defeat the Racers 4-3 and capped an undefeated conference season and earned Niemeyer the OVC player of the year award.

This was the fourth year out of the last five an MTSU player earned player of the year honors.

Joining Niemeyer on the all-conference team were Mark Follett, Marshall Brown, Julius Robberts, and Patrick Zackrisson.

Zackrisson became only the second MTSU player ever to earn all-conference recognition all four years of his college career.

Also for the fifth consecutive year, Dale Short earned OVC coach of the year honors completing the Blue Raider sweep of conference awards.

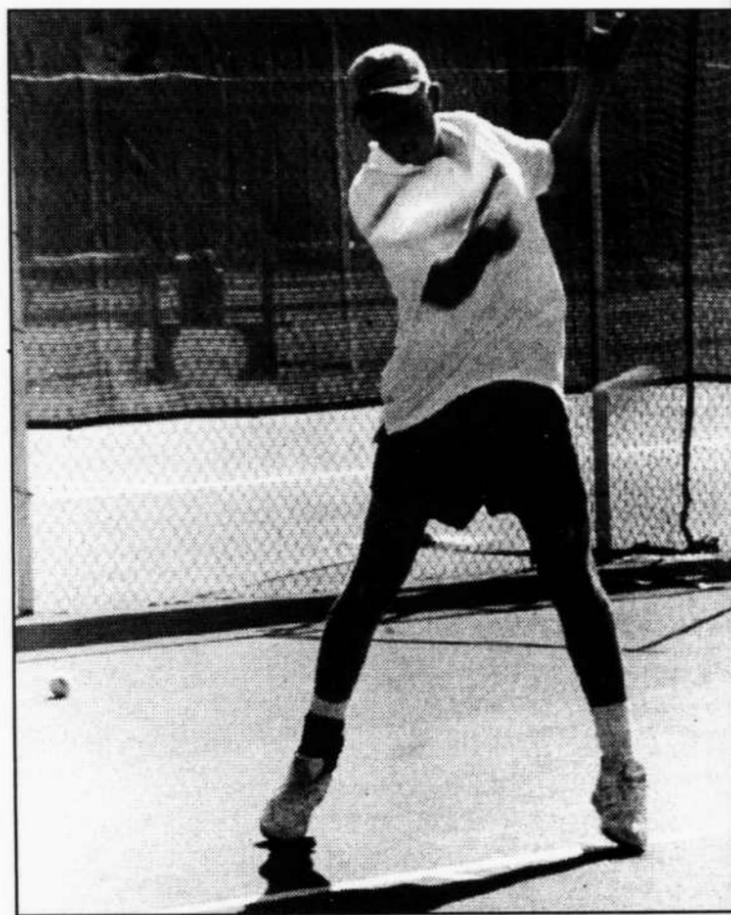
Short said winning the OVC for the fifth straight year was a tribute to the young Raider squad that handled the pressure as favorites all season long.

"Early in the year when we lost some close non-conference matches this team could have rolled over," Short said. "I felt like we have always had the most talent but it is definitely a big relief."

The day began ominously for Middle as the Murray doubles teams came out blazing, winning the number one and two doubles matches taking the all important first point of the match as well as gaining the momentum as singles play began.

"We came out really flat in doubles," Niemeyer said. "I think we might have

See Champs, page 11



File Photo

Champs Again!

The MTSU tennis team took home its fifth Ohio Valley Conference Championship in as many years this weekend. Above, David McNamar goes for a shot in a recent match.

Golfers keep OVC title

ROB NUNLEY
Senior Sports Writer

An entire season of preparations on some of the toughest courses in this part of the country paid off for the Blue Raider golf team this week, as they won their second consecutive Ohio Valley Conference title at the Springhouse Golf Club in Nashville.

There was a special motivation for the Raiders this week. They dedicated their efforts in the tournament to longtime MTSU athletic staff member Roxie McHenry. McHenry, secretary to the Athletic Director Lee Fowler, is fighting a courageous battle against cancer.

"We dedicated this tournament to Roxie," coach

Johnny Moore said. "The guys played for her this week."

Middle finished the three day tournament with a combined team score of 302, only three strokes over par. Second place went to Eastern Kentucky, Southeast Missouri, and UT-Martin, who tied at 910.

Blue Raider team captain Nick Shelton and David Reed tied for the individual first place score, earning both of them the honor of being named Conference Player of the year. Reed shot a 73 in every round of the tournament, and Shelton tied the tournament low round score with a second-round 70 on their way to the win.

"I'm very proud of David and Nick, they played exceptionally well," Moore said. "The conference

couldn't ask for two better representatives as player of the year."

Other Raiders contributing to the title win were Brian Higgins (228, 11th), Erick Paschal (239, 34th), and Jon McDaniel (242, 38th).

"I'm very proud of our effort this week," Moore said. "We came in feeling like we had something to prove."

Since last year's championship tournament was shortened by rain, Coach Moore and his team had the feeling that some people around the league may have felt the Raiders may not have fully deserved last year's title.

"Some people doubted us," Moore commented. "But I think we proved our point this year." ■

Holcomb new Bucs QB for '95

SPORTS INFORMATION

Middle Tennessee senior Kelly Holcomb, a quarterback who holds most of the school's passing and total offense records, will play professional football with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the National Football League.

Holcomb, a two-time All-Ohio Valley Conference selection and the Most Valuable Player for last December's Blue-Gray All-Star Game in Montgomery, Ala., signed a two year, no cut contract with the Bucs Sunday night. Other details of the contract were not disclosed.

Holcomb completed 58.2 percent (501-for-861) of his passes for his four years as a starter at MTSU, holding school records for 2,154 passing yards in 1994 and 7,064 passing yards in his MTSU career. The latter figure is the third best ever for an OVC quarterback. ■

Lingwall hired at CU; Otis honored

ROB NUNLEY
Senior Sports Writer

Two Blue Raider track standouts were given recognition for their abilities this week.

Senior Micah Otis was named the Ohio Valley Conference Trackman of the year by OVC coaches. A strong team leader throughout both the indoor and outdoor seasons, Otis competed in the jumps and sprinting events.

At last weekend's OVC championships, when Middle Tennessee's men took third place overall, Otis won three individual events. He took first in the long jump with a leap of 2 feet 11 inches on his last jump, won the 110 meter high hurdles with a time of 14.32 seconds, and won the 200 meter dash with a time

See Otis, page 11

SPORTS

CHAMPS

continued from page 10

thought that Murray was just going to give us the OVC. It was an eye-opener and definitely got our attention."

Short agreed with Niemeyer's assessment.

"I told the guys we had better get our acts together if we were going to win it," Short said.

Fortunately for MTSU, the team was able to gather their composure taking four of the six singles matches to win the championship.

However, the win did not come without its share of drama and tension for Short and Blue Raider fans alike.

The first four matches were all completed in straight sets.

Roberts, at number three, and Brown, at number six, won their matches 6-2, 6-2 and 6-2, 6-3, respectively.

However, Zackrisson and Follet were defeated leaving Murray with a 3-2 lead and needing only one more match to take the crown.

OTIS

continued from page 10

of 21.36 seconds.

Otis also served as the anchor man on the 4 X 100 relay team, which placed first at the championships with a time of 40.22 seconds.

"He's got a world of talent and the championships was a time when he was really able to shine," coach Dean Hayes said. "He's helped lead us to team titles during his career as well as the individual things he has done."

A slightly different honor was given to distance runner Jeff Lingwall, as he was named as the new cross country teams coach at Cumberland University.

After coming to Middle

Freshman David McNamara, playing at number four, provided Middle with its first must-win of the day.

His 7-5, 5-7, 7-5 win pulled the Raiders even at three and left emotional team leader Niemeyer on the court with the title on the line.

Although Niemeyer had succumbed to the pressure on other occasions this season, he said he was not going to let himself or his team down the last match of the season.

"I just beared down and told myself I was not going to let this guy have the match," Niemeyer said.

Although the season is more than likely over for the Raiders as a team, Niemeyer, ranked 56th in the nation, has an excellent chance to qualify for the NCAA tournament.

If Niemeyer does qualify, the NCAA championships are slated for the 20th of May in Athens, Ga. on the campus of the University of Georgia. ■

after serving in the military, Lingwall was a standout in the distance events for the Blue Raiders in both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

Coach Hayes was confident that the Bulldogs made the right choice in selecting Lingwall to coach their distance runners.

"He's a real hard worker and has huge goals and expectations," Hayes said. "I'm sure that will carry over at Cumberland and he'll be a real asset to their team."

Hayes jokingly added that there is a downside to Lingwall's hiring.

"We'll be going against each other," the coach joked. "Now he's going to be my enemy." ■

showing up 15 minutes early for every class. (Look, Ma. Sarcasm.)

But I am going out on a limb and proposing that MTSU attendance guidelines for spring semester should be amended. From now on every student should be allowed to miss four days of class to watch baseball. Two days of Raider games live and two days of the big-leaguers on TV.

You know, when I was in eighth grade we sometimes got to go into the gym and watched our junior high team play during school hours. That's the only basketball day games I've ever heard of, but the idea of school-sponsored absences to see ballgames intrigues me.

So come on. Stand up for your right to cut class and watch some ball.

Dr. Walker's a sports fan. I'm sure he'll go for it. ■



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ROB

continued from page 10

save of the year in the Raiders 5-4 win.

That's right. Seven is the record.

But when you're as traditionally powerful as the Raiders, you don't really need a big time closer.

It's hard to get a save when you win by 10.

● You know, yesterday was a national holiday, and we still had class.

Can you believe it? Major league baseball's official opening day (no matter what ESPN says) and classes at Middle Tennessee State University were not cancelled. What's next, class on Christmas?

Now I'm not one to advocate missing classes, and if you know me you know I'm like every other college student, getting up at seven every morning and

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Editorial

Why leave out the sons?

Thursday is Take Our Daughters To Work Day. Parents are supposed to keep their daughters out of school for the day and bring them to their offices and related workplaces. The idea is to give them a view of what working in the real world is like.

This is a good idea, but why not include sons?

The whole idea behind this special day is that women have a more difficult time gaining success in the workplace. It is harder for women to gain respect and to gain standing financially.

This is true, but most of the families who participate in this event have daughters in the sixth grade or lower. There are not as many high school girls participating in this day at MTSU as there are children.

At age 6-12, that being elementary school age, children of both genders have a limited amount of knowledge about the workplace. Why not give boys the same opportunity to experience an office setting for the first time as well as girls?

The title of the day alone lends itself to a form of discrimination. To exclude males from this day is to say that boys will learn this atmosphere automatically whereas girls must be shown the workplace. This is incorrect.

At that age, boys need to see the workplace in action just as much as the girls.

In the future, this should be made "Take Our Children To Work Day." This would make this day non-discriminatory in both idea and stature.



Middle Eastern treatment of women not the norm in Islam

The Gadfly Opinion



Mary Cummins

Religious fundamentalism. We hear those words so often in our own nation, but Christianity is not the only religion experiencing a fundamentalist resurgence. Islamic fundamentalism is on the rise in Middle Eastern countries where economic hardship and the insecurities of new-found modernity have threatened societal stability. In these nations, fundamentalist regimes focus on a scapegoat issue in order to divert attention from more serious problems, such as poverty. Bearing the heaviest weight are Muslim women.

Islam is a patriarchal religion, but the Koran demands compassion for women. Mohammed himself said, "Treat your women well, and be kind to them." These laws are ignored and broken by the religious extremists who claim to be acting in the name of Islam. To protect men's honor, they insist, women must be controlled, and they do so with indescribable cruelty and violence.

A woman in an extremist society is a slave to a male owner—her father or husband. He is entitled to beat or kill her if he wishes. (In Pakistan, heroin addicts sell their wives and daughters to buy drugs, and the Egyptian "Law of Return" enables police to return women who have fled their abusive husbands.) The woman is encouraged

never to leave her home. If she does, she must ask permission and is forced to wear a sheet-like garment which covers the body and often the face and eyes as well. She can be jailed or whipped if so much as a strand of hair escapes from her covering.

If a woman is raped in Pakistan, she can be charged with adultery or fornication. The penalty is death by stoning or a 10-year imprisonment. Seventy-five percent of jailed women in that nation are there for "sexual immorality." In Iraq, nonvirgin females may be killed by male relatives to preserve family honor. In some countries, women are mutilated by clitoridectomies, in which the clitoris is removed, or infibulation, in which the entire outer genitalia of the woman is sliced off, not uncommonly causing death from infection, shock, or hemorrhaging.

It is important to note that most Muslims, especially in the U.S., are not extremists and, in fact, condemn extremist practices. In this country, we hold a deep and indifferent misunderstanding of the Arab world. We associate the religion of Islam immediately with terrorism and torture, but we must be aware that the laws of extremist Islam are laws of man and tradition, not necessarily representative of the religion itself. The Koran can be used to guarantee women's equality and fair treatment. However, religious radicals use the book to justify misogynist brutality, political purposes and power.

Islam is one of the world's great religions. Like Christianity, it has comforted and inspired countless

followers. Also like Christianity, it is a religion which can be manipulated and misinterpreted for oppressive purposes. Violence is the consequence of this manipulation. The slaughtering of women in the Middle East is no more "Islamic" than the slaying of an abortion doctor in America is "Christian."

Not all women and men in the middle East are intimidated by violence. Many continue to fight through subtle demonstrations, careful written words, or even speaking namelessly with Western journalists. For them they are tortured, jailed, murdered, or driven into hiding but they fight nonetheless, not only for women but also for the preservation of authentic Islam.

Salmon Rushdie said that "...as the fundamentalists grow in power and ruthlessness, the courageous men and women who are willing to engage them in battle of ideas and moral values are rapidly becoming as important for us to know about, to understand and support as the dissident voices in the former Soviet Union used to be."

It is important that we in the West are aware of what is taking place in the Middle East. We can be quite apathetic at times but we must remember that, for the U.S., international problems tend to become domestic ones. In a world which is becoming increasingly smaller (and in which we finance fundamentalist regimes with our petrodollars), we cannot afford to consider true Islam our enemy, nor fundamentalism our ally. ■

Letters Policy

Letters should be limited to 300 words. They will be edited for spelling, grammar and malicious or libelous statements. They may be edited for space. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, the letter must also include the writer's full name, address and telephone number. The telephone number will not be published. Students should include their classification, major and identification number for identification purposes. The student ID number will not be published.

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OPINIONS

Letters To The Editor

Public Safety forgot a few in bomb threat

To the Editor:

This is concerning the recent bomb threat in Peck Hall. According to *Sidelines* as well as SEVERAL people already outside on Thursday, the call was reported and action began at 1:40 p.m. The building was supposedly evacuated and all of its occupants safely outside by 2 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., people were allowed back into the building.

I have a problem with the steps taken to clear the building that day, along with approximately 25 others, were taking a tax test in Peck Hall room 105. We were NEVER informed of the bomb threat and the need to evacuate until 2:25 p.m.!!!! What's wrong with that picture?!? The remainder of the building had been standing outside for 45 minutes before we were even told to evacuate. Had there been an ACTUAL bomb in the building, the University would have been responsible for the deaths of 26 people. This should go to show that either 1) the Public Safety officers, who looked like students, were not trained for this possible situation or 2) the Public Safety officers on the scene were EXTREMELY careless in clearing

the building and assuring the safety of everyone therein. We have been in this room all semester, so it is not as if we had just borrowed the room for the test.

I would hope that in the future, a more precise plan of action is enacted so that the entire building (whichever that may be) is evacuated within a few minutes as opposed to within an hour. The safety of all of the University's students, faculty and staff may depend on it.

Dasmonda Beaton
Box 4684

All Wakeland does is bitch and moan

To The Editor:

I've been reading *Sidelines* for the last couple of semesters here at MTSU and I've read the articles you write. They all sound the same. You're just a whiner who would not be happy anyplace. I've not had the urge to write *Sidelines* or you about them because I got a kick out of listening to you cry about your life here at MTSU.

Now after your article criticizing Tennessee I have to respond. If you can't handle the pressure of living out from under your momma's apron and

following the rules and laws that everyone else lives by, then maybe you should consider moving back home to Georgia. You should be trying to grow up, but you're too busy crying about anything and everything. Then again, maybe that's why you're here at MTSU, the people in Georgia got tired of your bitching and moaning all the time and sent you far away.

Van Steekley
Box 3289

Editor's note: The people in Georgia held a special election and 53% voted to keep me in state. The governor had to write a special proclamation to send me far away. And please, Mr. Steekley, learn proper grammar.

Insensitivity by instructor should not be tolerated

To The Editor:

This past week was Disabled Student Awareness Week, although some people still are not aware. I am a registered disabled student here at MTSU and was parking this past Thursday in a white parking spot. This is okay if you have a blue pass. As I was getting out of my car,

another car pulled up and the driver, a member of the MTSU faculty, asked me if I had a white parking pass. I said that I did not but I had a blue pass and told her "blue is handicapped."

I figured this would end our conversation, but then she asked if I would go park in a blue space. I told her they were all full and that I would only be a minute. She must have thought my disability was being hearing impaired because I could hear her swearing at me under her breath.

Next, she told me she would park her car behind mine and for me to run up and get her in Jones Hall room 257 so she could get my parking space. Again I told her I'd only be a minute; all I had to do was check my mail. I guess she thought I didn't look disabled and that these passes come in boxes of Cracker Jacks. She even had the nerve to ask me if I had a handicap or if I was borrowing someone else's pass.

Isn't that discrimination? Just because I look normal enough to her, does that give her a right to question me? Is that her business? Was it also her business to judge me and swear obscenities at me? This is one faculty member that needs some sensitivity training.

Gwen Evans
Box 4797

See more letters on p. 14

A prospective intern's biggest question: to cut or not to cut

school daze



Warren Wakeland

It's coming to the end of the semester (thank God!) and time for the summer internship interviews. A painstaking process whereby the student sells his/her soul for an opportunity to work their butt off and find out what working in their chosen field really like.

For me, this means public relations. I had three interviews to go through last Tuesday. This meant putting on the Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes and (heaven forbid) cutting my hair.

This was a difficult decision for me. My hair is my distinctive feature. It is what makes me feel different from everyone else. I like it that way.

Before Tuesday it was down on my shoulder blades. I like it long because most of my women friends look at it and say, "When are you going to cut your hair?" and I tell them, "When it's as long as yours." See, most of my women friends have long hair.

I think women look great with long hair. Call me chauvinistic if you will, but

that's what I like.

Anyway, back to my hair. I thought long and hard on the decision. To cut or not to cut, that was the question.

I chose not to cut. I got it trimmed, but it needed that. What I didn't do was cut off all the long hair. It still lays on my shoulders and I am proud to admit that.

One of the things you are supposed to do when interviewing for a job is to not make yourself out to be something you're not. What I am is a pretty complicated person. I voted for George Bush and I am pro-gun control. I do things a little differently from most.

I decided that if I cut my hair I would be perpetrating a fraud upon all who interviewed me that day. I would be making myself out to be a good little suck-up preppy who would lick the dirt off the bosses shoes to get a raise.

I don't like dirt. If I cut my hair I would be doing myself a disservice. I would not have liked the way it would look and would have hated myself for trying to portray an image that is not me.

For a long time I wore my hair Marine-short. I never wanted to deal with long hair because with short hair you don't need a hair dryer. It was the lazy way out. I

thought it looked alright, but I always thought long hair would look better.

Finally, about a year ago, I decided that I would forego societal standards concerning proper conservative behavior and let it hang. If they couldn't take it, the hell with them. I was going to do what I wanted to do.

So I cut about two inches off the back to get it even and put it in a ponytail to go to the interviews. I feared the people interviewing me would look at my long hair and decide I was a '60s loving, pot smoking hippie who wouldn't be good for squat.

I was wrong. No one brought up my long hair. One of the interviewers even complimented my hair. "It's hard for a man to keep long hair neat. I like how it looks," said one of the interviewers, who happened to be female.

From all of this I have learned a valuable lesson upon which I import to all of you at this time: don't be afraid to be yourself.

They say that in business, image is everything. If you can portray a positive image of yourself with hair down to your feet, go for it. If you try to make yourself something you're not, you probably can't do a good job of it and could be detrimental in the long run. ■

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OPINIONS

Letters To The Editor

Andrews' lack of respect angers former Oklahoman

To The Editor:

In regards to Brent Andrews' column of April 24 on the bombing in Oklahoma City, I find it very tempting to lower myself to whatever scum-covered pond that you must have slithered out of to write such a story.

I don't want to hear no crap about the First Amendment or Freedom of the Press, because I used to be a reporter in Oklahoma and know that along with these freedoms come certain responsibilities that you and *Sidelines* have completely failed to be accountable for, anyone who could even think of humor about a situation such as that in Oklahoma City obviously must be heartless and compassionless S.O.B. (but, that would be lowering myself to your level to imply that, wouldn't it?).

You state in your column how you would manage to avoid capture after such an event, but if the intelligence demonstrated in this article is any demonstration of your overall abilities, I sincerely doubt that you would be able to tie your shoelaces, much less plan such an act of outrageous violence.

As someone who lost dear friends in that explosion, I personally find it sickening that you could joke about upsetting the lunatics who committed this act by dating their sister or referring to the children as

"government brats". And furthermore, there is nothing wrong or indecent in working for an agency such as the Social Security Administration or Department of Housing and Urban Development. Perhaps next time, the so-called militia will strike a newspaper—let's see then how much outrage you show at the attack on the so-called "Fourth Estate."

I know that as I sit here writing this letter that you and your editorial staff will most likely lack the guts to print this reply to your column, mainly because you are afraid of any real criticism. For you see, as a proud 'Okie', there is something viscerally disturbing about seeing your hometown in flames. It's even more troubling because it probably came at the hands of someone who meant to harm and who likely didn't know the many good people who live there.

The pictures of the bombed-out Murrah building and of little Baylee Almon have left me outraged and sick at heart for the very public loss of life. And yes, selfish as it is, I am aggrieved at the loss of security; that the kind of tragedies we usually see in video footage from places like Sarajevo, Buenos Aires and Beirut can happen here.

Yes, we had the World Trade Center bombing. But that was in New York City, a news media and population capital where positive and negative events that grab global attention happen with regularity. But Oklahoma City is not such a place where someone would make a statement or commit what may turn out to be the deadliest act of terrorism in U.S. history.

It is a place of wide open spaces, where 800,000 are spread across a

metro area as big as some states—a place where a tornado, not terrorism, is the biggest danger. Very little about this place is controversial. Its citizens love their freedom and pretty much leave each other alone. And that knowledge leaves me cold in knowing that if such a tragedy can happen there, it can happen anywhere.

And then there are the children. Oh, the innocents, who offer the best hope to change this troubled world. Now we know that they were the latest victims in this explosion. If the terrorists wanted to strike a blow against the government, they chose the wrong people and the wrong place.

While Oklahoma City is not accustomed to grabbing the world's attention, it is not a stranger to tragedy. In the suburb of Edmond, a post office worker killed 14 one morning. Another morning, a school water heater blew up and killed six children. Oklahoma City people know how to deal with adversity. They will rise above this tragedy as they have with the others. As the Phoenix rises from the ashes, so too the human spirit in the face of overwhelming violence.

Our God and Father said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord." I can anticipate our government executing judgement, which hopefully would include the death penalty, without personally emotionally hating those who did this deed.

Timothy Penny
Teaching Assistant
Department of Sociology

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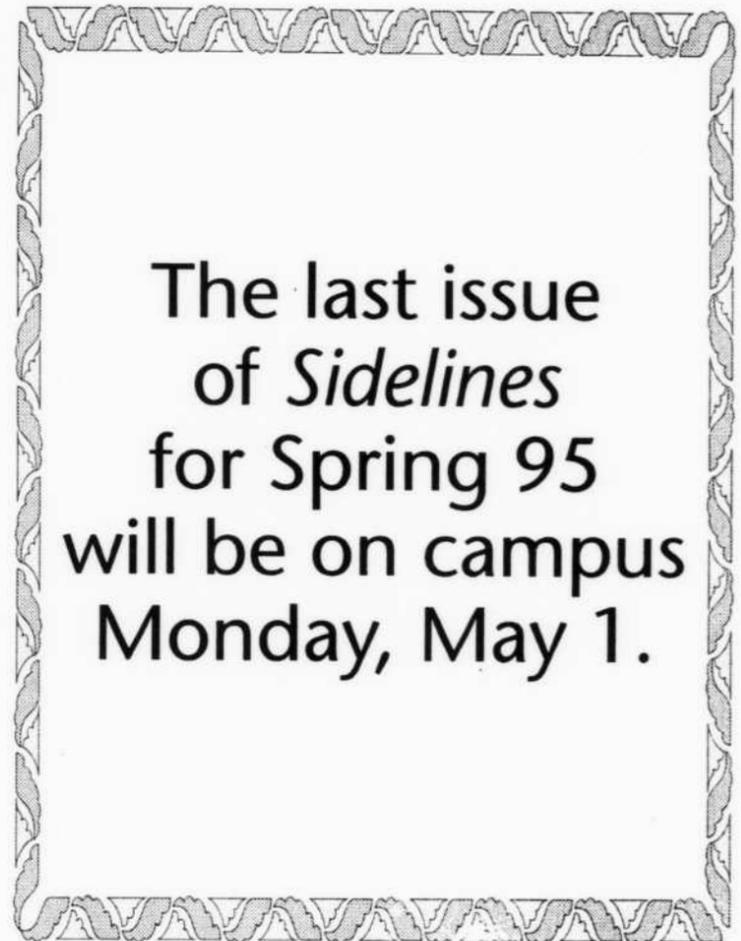
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