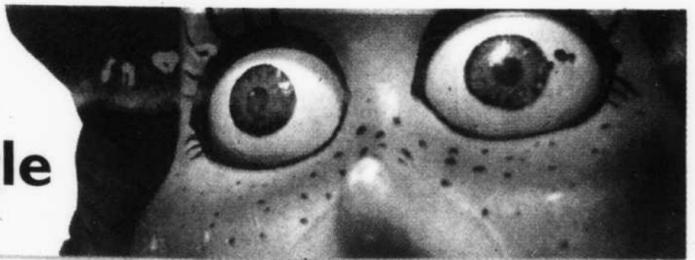




This week's poll question at www.mtsusidelines.com:
Have you - or anyone you know - ever tried methamphetamines?

ART
**20 years
in the jungle**
In Living, 6



Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

Volume 79 No. 54

Campus briefs

International study opportunities available
The International Education and Exchange Office is sponsoring the Study Abroad Fair tomorrow. The fair will be in the Keathley University Center on the second floor, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MTSU's 71 study abroad programs through the Center for Cooperative Study Abroad and the Kentucky Institute for International Studies. For more information about the fair, contact Jennifer Campbell at 898-5179.

Flying saucer debate on campus tonight

Tonight at 7 p.m. the Campus Freethought Alliance is presenting a debate called "Are Flying Saucers Real?" Stan Friedman, a nuclear physicist, and James McGhaha, a retired U.S. Air Force pilot and astronomer, will present opposing points of view.

The debate will be held in the State Farm Lecture Hall in the Business and Aerospace Building.

Predators, MTSU host networking expo

The Predators' Sports Networking Expo, along with MTSU's sport management program, will showcase sports franchises, teams, companies and academic programs Saturday. The expo begins at noon and will wrap up at 5 p.m. at the Gaylord Entertainment Center. For more information, contact Colby Jubenville at 898-2909.

Director to discuss women's movement

Susan Trentham, director of the June Anderson Women's Center, will speak on "Younger Women's Relationship with the Women's Movement: What's Going On?" This speech is part of the Women's Studies Research Series. The lecture will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the James Union Building, Room 100.

For more information, contact Trentham at 898-2193.

'Evening of Short Plays' will start tomorrow

MTSU Theatre will present "An Evening of Short Plays" at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow through Saturday in Tucker Theatre.

Two MTSU graduates, Josh Dunkin and Paul Daniel Bond, wrote *The View from this Room* and *The Pillbox*, respectively.

The show is free for MTSU students with a valid I.D. All other tickets are \$5 at the door.

Women's center offers free legal clinic

The JAWC is sponsoring a free Legal Clinic tomorrow at 7 p.m. All MTSU students, faculty and staff can attend and speak to attorneys from the Rutherford-Cannon County Bar Association.

Appointments are necessary. For more information, call 898-2193.

Lottery won't come to campus

University policy prohibits gambling

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

A university policy against gambling will keep the state lottery from coming to any of MTSU's retail outlets.

Though the Tennessee Board of Regents doesn't have a gambling policy, page five in MTSU's student handbook lists gambling in any form as a disciplinary offense.

"There isn't a board policy, but there is a campus policy, and to set the operation up here would be against that policy, that would create some conflicts," said MTSU President Sidney McPhee.

McPhee said there are no cur-

rently to revisit the policy in light of the new lottery.

"What I will do, however, is raise the issue at a larger scale and suggest that the board take a look at a Board of Regents policy on the issue," McPhee said. "I think it impacts all of our universities rather than just MTSU."

Dwight Johnson, owner of Dwight's Mini-Mart in Keathley University Center, said he was initially interested in applying for a lottery sales permit, and that he asked the administration for its input on the matter. He said he hasn't yet heard directly from the administration that he would be unable to sell tickets in his store. He said he will likely wait until he gets word from them before he officially stops his application inquiry.

Johnson said it seems odd, however, that university policy doesn't allow gambling on campus.

"How could you refuse to have gambling on campus when the gambling money is going to be used by students?" he asked.

Johnson said that though he is interested in selling lottery tickets, it isn't an issue he is adamant about. He also said that he has only heard from a few patrons that they want the lottery in his store.

"I'm not extremely anxious to sell lottery tickets," he said, citing financial concerns. It costs \$95 up front to apply for a permit. Lottery retailers make back 6 percent on ticket sales. He said that even if he made \$1,000 a day on ticket sales, a \$60 return might not even be enough to cover the expense of staffing someone to sell the tickets - much less make a profit.

"On a personal side, certainly I don't

See Lottery, 2

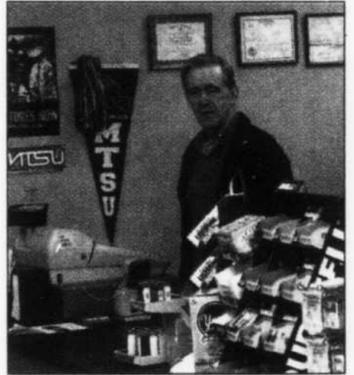


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer
Dwight Johnson, owner of Dwight's Mini Mart in Keathley University Center, has considered applying for a lottery permit.

Pretty in pink



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

A examination gown designed by Jamilia Brack, a senior fashion merchandising major, is on display in Keathley University Center on the second floor. The gown, designed to be worn by women during Pap smears, was created as part of a contest to help increase awareness of cervical cancer. Gowns are on display in Cummings Hall and the Recreation Center, as well as the KUC.

Survey: Students have shifting eating patterns

Food Services contemplates extending hours

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

A survey last semester could lead to some food services changes on campus.

Food Services Director Paul Stuart said the survey, conducted in October, found that MTSU students are moving away from eating three meals a day.

Instead, he said, students tend to eat several small meals throughout the day.

"They may start grabbing a muffin and juice early in the morning, and they may not finish up until 2 o'clock at night," Stuart said. "It's a busier generation than it was years ago."

Stuart said Food Services is considering opening up more small dining kiosks (such as the ones in the Bragg Mass Communication Building and the Business and Aerospace Building) throughout campus to help provide points of service. He said the new Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors College

Building as well as the James E. Walker Library might be the next buildings to house food service areas.

The campus won't see any major new dining halls in the foreseeable future, Stuart said - at least until a new student union building is constructed.

"What we're doing now is trying to take the kiosks that we started with and the coffee shops that we started with and

just keep on expanding those because the students like that service," he said. "They like that ability."

The survey also found a significant change in how price is perceived by students, Stuart said.

"As a graduate of MTSU, I have always known ... how price-conscious our students are," Stuart said. "And I think what the survey this year told us

is that that term has basically changed."

Students "seem to be more value conscious than price conscious," he said, noting that students are willing to pay more for services they perceive as more valuable.

Stuart said changes in operating hours may come about as

See Survey, 2



Photo by Seth Holland
Staff Photographer

Food Services employee Lynda Mead has been working in the James Union Building cafeteria for five years.

McPhee pushes university support in lecture

By Amanda Maynard
Managing Editor

"I don't mind the criticism because you can always do better, but be proud of your institution. Be proud of your institution," McPhee said Monday. "Everything that comes out, if it's negative, you ought not be here."

During his honors lecture, McPhee was concerned about criticism of budget cuts, specifically cuts to academic departments. He also vocalized concerns about criticism of the university in general and lack of school spirit.

"I'm not saying that you put



things under the rug and you don't face reality," McPhee said, "but ... if all you have to report [is] negative stuff about this institution, find another place."

His lecture, titled "Tough

Choices in Higher Education," focused on the national, state and local economic impact on the university. He admitted that he is passionate about the issue and that he feels that students

Photo by Rick Kersmarki | Staff Photographer
MTSU President Sidney McPhee speaks Monday about tough choices in higher education.

should be supportive of their university.

"You have to understand the national picture, the state-level picture and the local picture," McPhee said. "So when you begin to read in the newspaper, these letters to the editors and these articles, then you're informed and you know which ones to disregard and which ones you should really pay attention to."

McPhee said that despite the

university's growth in size and quality, budget cuts inhibit the growth of resources and the university's ability to provide support for its students. And, even during the good years, he said, MTSU was not getting the resources it needed.

He cited the loss of nearly \$12 million after last year's cuts to the operating budget as proof that the university has some tough choices to make, but said there are some encouraging signs from the state government this year.

"The revenue picture is not as bad as last year," he said. "They told us to be prepared for

See Lecture, 2

CRIME LOG

Thursday, Dec. 18
9:51 a.m.

Kirksey Old Main
Attempted suicide occurred on the 3rd floor. Individual busted out window and tried to jump out.

Sunday, Dec. 21
3:30 a.m.

Greek Row
Vandalism over \$500 occurred at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house.

Monday, Dec. 22
1:42 a.m.

Tennessee Boulevard
Manuel de Jesus Morena Velez of Murfreesboro, Tenn. was arrested for driving without a license.

Tuesday, Dec. 23
3:17 a.m.

Tennessee Boulevard
Lorenzo Garcia Camacho of Murfreesboro, Tenn. was arrested for driving under the influence.

Friday, Dec. 26
11:12 p.m.

Pi Kappa Alpha House - Greek Row
Minor vandalism to a vehicle.

Saturday, Jan. 3
3:10 a.m.

E. Main Street
Arthur F. Burt Jr. of Murfreesboro, Tenn. was arrested for driving under the influence.

Sunday, Jan 11
5:30 p.m.

Scarlett Commons
A woman called to report an ex-boyfriend pushing her and vandalizing her bedroom.

Sunday, Jan. 4
5:20 p.m.

Womack Lane Apartments
Male subject called requesting an officer to escort his wife out of his apartment.

Monday, Jan. 5
9:30 a.m.

Greek Row
Wooden fence on west side of building has been knocked down.

Tuesday, Jan. 6
12:37 a.m.

Tennessee Boulevard at Greenland Drive
Keith Weston Staley of Murfreesboro, Tenn. was arrested for driving while impaired.

Tuesday, Jan. 6
9:00 a.m.

Homer Pittard Campus School
Teacher reported that a digital camera is missing from classroom.

Friday, Jan. 16
1:32 p.m.

Gracy Hall
Purse stolen.

Thursday, Jan. 15
12:48 a.m.

Smith Hall
Harassment reported.

Wednesday, Jan. 14
5:13 a.m.

Womack Lane Apartments
Subject reported harassing/threatening phone calls.

Monday, Jan. 12
1:12 p.m.

MTSU campus
Complainant reported his medication was taken.

Friday, Jan. 9
2:03 a.m.

Pi Kappa Alpha - Greek Row
Subject reported seeing an individual trying to knock down a fence then fleeing to the Sigma Nu Fraternity house.

Saturday, Jan. 10
3:27 a.m.

Tennessee Boulevard
Ramiro Martinez of Murfreesboro, Tenn. was arrested for driving without a license and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sunday, Jan. 11
4:44 p.m.

Alumni Memorial Gym
A female wanted to file a report regarding her lost cell phone.

Sunday, Jan. 25
10:14 p.m.

Davis Science Building lot
A hit and run was reported.

Wednesday, Jan. 21
10:50 p.m.

Corlew Hall
A non-student was trespassing and harassing a student.

Tuesday, Jan. 20
2:05 p.m.

Judd/Sims Hall
Subject found sword in room and wanted to turn it over to an officer.

Friday, Jan. 16
12:14 a.m.

Corlew Hall
Student reported \$40 missing from purse after leaving a male alone in her room.

Friday, Jan. 16
1:28 a.m.

Mapco Express on Tennessee Boulevard
Clerk reported a highly intoxicated male fueling a white Blazer.

Friday, Jan. 16
12:43 p.m.

Business and Aerospace Building
Purse was stolen or missing.

Friday, Jan. 16
1:26 p.m.

Kappa Alpha House - Greek Row
Wooden gate stolen.

These entries were compiled by the Public Safety media log. To report a crime or emergency, call 898-2424, or 2424 from any campus phone.

To contact Crime Stoppers, call 893-STOP.

Lottery: State statute does not prohibit on-campus ticket sales, spokeswoman says

Continued from 1

have a problem with Mini-Mart — obviously it's not the university selling it — [having] the entity on our campus," McPhee said. "I think it's important to know that that majority of the benefits of the lottery goes to scholarships to benefit our students." McPhee said that simple possession of a lottery ticket on campus would probably not be enough to merit disciplinary action, because it technically is

not the act of gambling. "The transaction when you purchase that ticket is the process of gambling," he said. "If we don't [sell tickets] on campus, it's not an issue."

Kym Gerlock, a lottery spokeswoman, said that there is no official lottery policy that would prohibit a campus store from selling tickets.

"According to state statute, the only businesses who can't sell our tickets are cash advance locations, pawn shops, and any

business that is in business just to sell lottery tickets," Gerlock said.

Both Gerlock and McPhee said they are unaware of any other universities in the state or country that might have lottery tickets available for purchase on campus.

The lottery's first week sales were announced yesterday, and topped \$41.3 million. The Nashville region led the state with \$13.5 million in sales. ♦

Lecture: Access, equity, growth among chief concerns of university president

Continued from 1

a 5 percent cut," McPhee said. "I have my executive team now working on a 5 percent cut."

Last year, Gov. Phil Bredesen handed down a 9 percent cut across the state and MTSU was forced to make cuts to several areas of the university.

When asked about ideas on how the 5 percent cuts would play out, McPhee was adamant about preserving MTSU's academic departments.

"Despite what you hear from *Sidelines*, our beautiful student newspaper, we don't start with academics," McPhee said.

[Editor's Note: In the Dec. 4, 2003, issue of *Sidelines*, McPhee spoke of possible cuts to academics. Read "Academics face

chopping block" at www.mtsu-sidelines.com.

"Last year with the impoundment, we totally held the academic areas harmless," McPhee said in the *Sidelines* article. "This year we will not be in such a position."

Although McPhee sees encouraging signs from the state, he also understands the state's list of priorities, at the bottom of which is higher education.

"There are some critical needs in our state," McPhee said.

"But what are our priorities? TennCare, prison, court mandates and then education."

McPhee said some of the issues the university has to deal with include excellence,

equity, access, and growth versus equity. He also said the university would have to make tough choices concerning students coming in under the HOPE Scholarship funded by the new Tennessee lottery.

"We'll have a lot of students who will come in with scholarship in hand and we're going to have to say, 'No, you can't get in to MTSU,'" McPhee said.

Another recent tough choice the university made involved capping enrollment for the recording industry and nursing programs.

"We made the tough decision to focus on quality," McPhee said.

"We want to be accountable and we need to improve our facilities here." ♦

Survey: New eateries might be in store

Continued from 1

a result of the survey.

Many respondents expressed a desire for campus eateries to expand their operating hours — particularly McCallie Dining Hall, which extended its hours just last year. Stuart said it's possible that he could institute an hour trade-off, perhaps opening 15 minutes later and staying open an hour or so later. Other dining halls will likely extend

their hours as well, he said.

The Woodmore Cyber Café, however, could see longer days ahead, he said. It's possible that the café could eventually be open 24 hours a day.

"That is the nature of the business," he said. "It's what the students are asking for."

Other changes to campus dining could include the introduction of new eateries. Stuart said his department is currently looking into acquiring a

Quizno's. He also said he would like to see a system set up that would allow students to use their Raider Funds or dining dollars to order pizza from a national chain restaurant such as Domino's. Bene Pizza in the Cyber Café currently delivers pizza on campus.

About 1,800 students responded to the survey, which is about 10 percent of the university population. ♦

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STATE AND LOCAL

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 3

Plant contractor denies cheating on security tests

By Duncan Mansfield
Associated Press Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A security contractor charged with protecting the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge denied cheating on terrorist drills and suggested if its guards had lost no one would have raised the issue.

After security guards repelled four simulated terrorist attacks at the Y-12 plant on June 26 — when engineers predicted they would fail at least twice — the Department of Energy began an internal probe, suspecting the guards were tipped off.

The department's inspector general, Gregory H. Friedman, issued a report Monday concluding the drills were "tainted and unreliable" because two guard supervisors were allowed to see computer simulations one day before the attacks.

Moreover, Friedman's investigators said they received "compelling testimony" from more than 30 former and current security officers at Oak Ridge that this was part of "a pattern of actions ... going back to the mid-1980s that may have negatively affected the reliability of site performance testing."

The Y-12 plant, located about 20 miles west of Knoxville, makes parts for every warhead in the U.S. nuclear arsenal and is a major storehouse for bomb-grade uranium.

"Most of this is old news. It may or may not have occurred. I don't know, I wasn't here," said Jean Burleson, senior vice president and Oak Ridge general manager of Wackenhut Services Inc., which has been in charge of security at Y-12 and other Energy facilities in Oak Ridge since Jan. 1, 2000.

"But I can tell you there is no impropriety right now going on," he said. "Security is better today than it has ever been at Y-12, and it just gets better every day."

Burleson acknowledged that two guard supervisors saw the exercise plans the day before the June 26 drills. But he said they were filling in for two absentee supervisors who had reviewed the same material with other supervisors two weeks before.

What happens in these drills and their outcome is closely guarded. Energy Department officials refused Monday to expand on the agency's formal response that unspecified corrective action was taken.

But Burleson said the June 26 drill was not a typical "force-on-force" assault in which guards moved freely to counter a mock attack. Rather, it was an exercise in which the guards' movements were closely computerized "to replicate the computer modeling."

"I understand the perception, but the fact is there was nothing wrong with what occurred," Burleson said of the advance notice.

"If everything had gone perfectly and these guys had been given the information when



Shays

everybody else was two weeks before, it never would have been an issue. And, by the way, if we had lost the

exercise, it wouldn't have been an issue because they expected us to lose the exercise."

The plant paid Wackenhut award fees of \$2.2 million and rated its work "outstanding" for the latest six-month period through July 2003, just weeks after the alleged cheating occurred.

The inspector general said guards in another mock attack in late 2000 or early 2001 were improperly told which building would be attacked, the exact number of attackers and where a diversion was being staged. Investigators also said managers substituted their best security guards for others scheduled to work the day of attacks; standby guards would sometimes be armed and used to bolster existing security guards on duty.

Wackenhut showed the inspector general pay records and shift schedules to prove the company wasn't "stacking the deck" with guards during exercises, Burleson said.

In other cases, security guards disabled laser sensors they wore to determine whether they received a simulated gunshot, the inspector general said. Guards removed batteries, deliberately installed batteries backward and covered sensors with tape, mud or Vaseline so they wouldn't operate properly.

Such cheating is "not uncommon at all," said Ronald Timm, president of RETA Security Inc. of Lemont, Ill., a consulting company that has worked with the Energy Department to analyze vulnerabilities at its plants.

"Most security guys don't like to lose; they go through great lengths to cheat to win. A loss is considered a negative mark against them," he said.

"There's no point in doing them if you have people who are going to cheat," said Richard Clarke, a former senior White House counterterrorism official. "That's ridiculous. It kind of defeats the whole point of having these tests."

The National Nuclear Security Administration, the agency within DOE that oversees nuclear weapons plants, was sharply criticized in May 2003 by congressional investigators, who accused it of failing to make sure contractors were adequately protecting nuclear facilities.

Rep. Chris Shays, R-Conn., who requested the earlier audit, said it showed the Energy Department couldn't provide assurances that weapons-grade material was protected against a "determined, well trained adversary force willing to die in a nuclear detonation." ♦

Brrr!



Photos by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Nicholas Brewer (left) was able to play in short sleeves at Kids' Kingdom Monday, but by yesterday Joey Jennings (right) was selling firewood on Broad Street.

Cold snap follows unusual warmth

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

New Murfreesboro resident Joey Jennings got a taste of temperamental Tennessee weather today.

"It's cold as hell," Jennings

said as he and Oliver Nelson tried to sell firewood at the intersection of Mercury Boulevard and Broad Street yesterday.

While the pair didn't sell any firewood, there was plenty reason to get inside and get

warm. A morning dusting of snow precipitated a cold day for Middle Tennessee, as schools in the more remote counties closed early and the high temperature barely reached above freezing levels in Murfreesboro, representing

a 20-degree high temperature drop from Monday to yesterday.

The National Weather Service forecasts another cold day today, with a high of 38. The high temperature will rise back up to 48 on Thursday. ♦

Joint committee passes revamped telecommunications theft bill

By Patrick Chinnery
Editor in Chief

After almost a year of contentious debate, Tennessee's telecommunications theft bill moved one step closer to becoming law Monday.

A joint committee created specifically to address the conflict created by the bill unanimously passed a significantly revamped version of House Bill 457/Senate Bill 213, one that has both proponents and opponents of the original bill unsatisfied.

However, Sen. Larry Trail (D-Murfreesboro), said in the meeting that was exactly the reaction he wanted.

"It was our consensus, because we were ... unable to pull the two sides any closer together, we asked Mr. [Tom] Tighe [legislative attorney] to draft a bill that might be equally unacceptable to both sides," Trail said. "He came up with a bill that sent a lot of people crying to my office, so he must have done a pretty good job."

Lawmakers are trying to address theft of digital cable services (including television and high-speed Internet access) and Pay-Per-View movies. Items and actions that the legislature are trying to ban include digital cable descramblers, theft of Internet access through wireless "hotspots," and some encryption devices.

Though they could have been construed as illegal in the original draft, devices such as routers (Internet service splitters to be

used inside a home or office) and firewalls (software designed to prevent unauthorized access into a computer) would be acceptable with the new legislation.

The cable industry claims that current telecommunications theft law provides too weak of a deterrent.

"We've had a problem in getting judgments, getting the courts to award sufficient damages when we find people that are stealing cable," said John Ferris, an attorney hired by cable companies.

The Monday's amended bill includes revised criminal and civil penalties.

After Monday's amendment was added, a first offense of less than \$1,000 of theft would be punished by fine only, although an offense involving five or more communications devices would automatically be construed as a class D felony.

Damages an aggrieved party could pursue in a civil case include the actual damages suffered and any profits made by the violator or statutory damages between \$750 and \$5,000 for each offense, with judicial discretion to reduce the minimum or exceed the maximum. The original bill prescribed penalties ranging from \$1,500 to \$10,000 per offense, per day.

A key point of contention during the debate over the bill has been the phrase "intent to defraud." The original bill submitted in April by Rep. Rob Briley (D-Nashville) and Sen. Curtis Person (R-Sheby

Co.) was model legislation drafted by the Motion Picture Association of America and didn't contain the phrase.

The amended version makes it clear that merely possessing the unlawful device isn't enough to constitute a violation of the law — a person must use "deceit, trickery, misrepresentation or subterfuge" with a device.

Several groups are behind the bill, notably the Tennessee Cable Telecommunications Association (a lobbying effort of cable companies like Comcast and TimeWarner Cable) and the Motion Picture Association of America. When introduced, those groups claimed it was an innocuous housecleaning bill, meant only to update current legislation to encompass new technologies.

However, opponents of the original bill thought it went much too far.

"House Bill 457 was promoted as addressing theft of cable and Internet service, but this overly broad legislation instead threatens the manufacture, sale and use of legitimate products such as computers, televisions and personal video recorders," Douglas K. Johnson, senior director for technology policy of the Consumer Electronics Association (the largest trade association of the consumer electronics industry), wrote in an April 2003 letter to the House Judiciary Committee.

The bill will be resubmitted to House and Senate committees for further consideration. ♦



Persons



Briley



Trail

New Web site aims to keep both sides of the aisle honest

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

Remember back in the day when the weapons of mass destruction were just plain old weapons of mass destruction?

OK, so it was last year, but President George W. Bush referred to them as "weapons of mass destruction-related programs" when talking about the war in Iraq in his State of the Union speech last week.

And when the liberal activist group moveon.org criticized Bush's drug prescription plan by asserting that the pharmaceutical companies made "huge" contributions to his campaign, they failed to mention that the total contributions made by these companies is just under \$900,000 for both his 2000 and 2004 campaigns. In other

words, the industry doesn't even rank in his top 30 supporters.

These inaccuracies and others like them are being brought to the forefront by the non-partisan Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, which has started the Annenberg Political Fact Check at www.factcheck.org.

The site launched in December, and Fact Check Director Brooks Jackson said site traffic is up dramatically since he appeared on *NOW With Bill Moyers* just more than a week ago. He said more than 6,000 people have subscribed to e-mail updates, compared to approximately 800 before the PBS appearance.

Jackson is no newbie to the business, with

See Factcheck, 4

Smyrna waits to hear from TDOT on proposed I-24 exit

Staff Reports

A proposed I-24 interchange at Rocky Ford Road in Smyrna is undergoing review by the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

Town manager Mark O'Neal said the city submitted the proposal and paperwork to the state, but it will be a while yet before he expects to hear approval, saying that it could still be six months to a year yet before the city gets the nod from TDOT. The city submit-

ted the formal proposal to TDOT about eight months ago.

O'Neal said he expected the process to take five to seven years to complete from now at a cost of \$5-\$7 million. The state and federal governments would pick up most of the costs for the project, he said.

Rocky Ford Road, which is between Sam Ridley Parkway and Lee Victory Parkway/Almaville Road, would be expanded to five lanes to accommodate the additional traffic.

O'Neal said he expected to

see commercial development along the interstate exit, gradually turning into additional residential development west toward the town.

The interstate exit is intended to relieve traffic at Smyrna's other two exits as well as to anticipate future growth.

The *Daily News Journal* reported in November that the Sam Ridley Parkway intersection currently handles about 30,000 cars daily, and the Lee Victory Parkway exit has about 20,000 pass through on a daily basis. ♦

TENNESSEE

news briefs

Associated Press

Cash-3 tickets on sale in March

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Lottery's first pingpong ball style game will be Cash 3, a daily televised drawing that will begin in March and award prizes up to \$500, lottery chief Rebecca Paul said Monday.

Paul also told Tennessee Education Lottery Corp. board members that the scratchoff games, which began last Tuesday, have so far brought in \$38 million and resulted in a \$25,000 winner in Memphis.

The lottery's Nashville district sold the most, bringing in more than \$12 million, followed by the Memphis area with just over \$9 million and Chattanooga and Knoxville with more than \$6 million each. The Tri-Cities area of upper East Tennessee brought in approximately \$3.1 million, Paul said.

Paul also said businesses in Ardmore, LaVergne, Fayetteville, Brentwood, Pulaski and Murfreesboro were among those in the top 25 of sales.

"It's heavily dominated by (businesses along) the Alabama and Mississippi lines, but outside of that they're pretty much across the state," she said. Neither Alabama nor Mississippi have lotteries of their own.

Now that the scratchoff side of the lottery is under way, Paul is turning her attention to the online games — which must begin within 60 days of the first instant ticket sales (Jan. 20) for her to receive a \$52,500 bonus.

Paul's contract calls for \$350,000 in base pay, and she already has qualified for an extra \$192,500 for launching instant ticket sales before Feb. 10. She could receive an additional \$157,500 if the lottery brings in at least \$128 million by June 30, the end of the current fiscal year.

TennCare costs up dramatically

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — When Gov. Phil Bredesen presents his budget next week, the state appropriation for TennCare probably will go up about \$200 million, and that's assuming the state cuts \$115 million from current spending levels.

TennCare Director Manny Martins discussed the status of the state's \$7.1 billion expanded Medicaid program for 1.3 million poor, disabled and otherwise uninsured citizens on Monday before the Legislature's TennCare Oversight Committee.

Martins deferred to the governor to release the details in his budget address on Feb. 2, but said the increase in the state portion of the program would be about \$200 million.

That would be an increase of about 9 percent over the \$2.2 billion the state is spending for the program this year.

An independent study released late last year concluded TennCare would eat up all the growth in state tax revenue within a few years if it is not fundamentally changed. Bredesen has promised to present the Legislature with an overhaul of the program after he releases the budget.

As for the cuts expected for the fiscal year that begins July 1, Martins again declined to provide details, but noted the biggest increases in the last several years have been in pharmacy costs.

Cuts in that area could mean a restriction on the number of prescriptions available per month, or some other control on the use of drugs by TennCare enrollees.

Martins said the preferred drug list implemented last fall is on target to save the \$150 million officials estimated.

"I'm happy to report the PDL seems to be working relatively well," Martins said. "We're seeing a good market shift beginning to occur toward drugs in the PDL, and we think we'll hit our budget estimate."

The PDL allows the state to leverage its buying power to negotiate cheaper prices on drugs from pharmaceutical companies. It also encourages use of cheaper generic drugs.

Knox shelves 'God' resolution again

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A resolution recognizing "God as the foundation of our national heritage" has been shelved again by the Knox County Commission.

For the second time in three months, commissioners voted to postpone a decision on the resolution, essentially killing it until next January. Their vote Monday was 10-7.

The measure is similar to one adopted by Greene, Blount and Anderson counties and considered by several others. It calls for no action, such as placing religious material on government buildings, but it recognizes God as the foundation of American heritage and government.

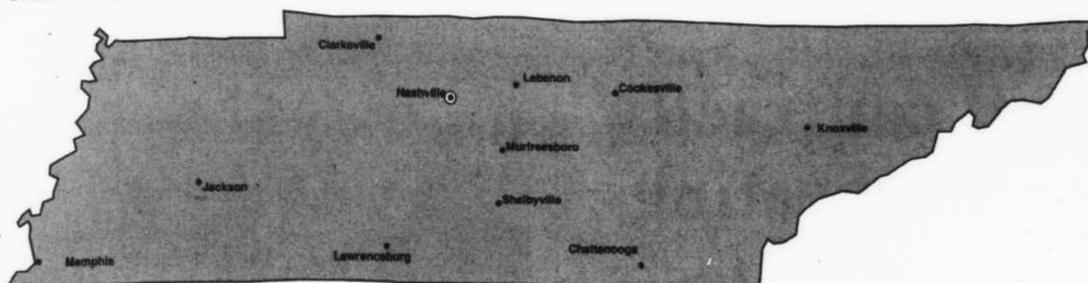
Commissioner John Griess pushed for Monday's vote to remove a "divisive issue" from the community and to handle it "without all the emotion" surrounding it.

Commissioner Ivan Harmon, a supporter, said he would drop a phrase commending former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore for placing the Ten Commandments in a state building in defiance of federal court orders, which led to Moore's removal from office.

"I don't think there is any way to rewrite it to get 100 percent of the community behind it," Griess said. ♦

Middle Tennessee Weather – Five Day Forecast

From the Associated Press



Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
47° ▲ 25° ▼	42° ▲ 37° ▼	43° ▲ 19° ▼	46° ▲ 34° ▼	39° ▲ 29° ▼

Factcheck: Wealth of reports in first months

Continued from 3

more than 30 years of experience in journalism covering Washington for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Associated Press* and CNN.

And even though the site has been up for less than two months, there seems to be no shortage of reports. With headlines such as "Facts Take a Bath at Democratic Debate," "Puncturing a Republican Tax Fable" and "Edwards Ad Falsely Claims Taxes Have Increased," it seems there's no shortage of material for Jackson and his co-workers.

At first glance, the site might seem to have a rightward bent. After all, as of Friday there were 14 stories posted striking down various claims by Democrats versus only eight that do the same to Republicans.

Jackson said there's a simple reason: The Democrats are just talking more right now.

"For the time we've been active, the fact is Democrats have been doing most of the

talking," he said, "and Democrats have been accusing each other of lying not infrequently, and we've had to spend a disproportionate amount of time sorting that sort of thing out."

"You'll find more articles about Democrats than about Republicans on our site at the moment, but that's purely as a result of the fact that we're in a hot Democratic nomination contest. That, obviously, will change as the general election approaches."

Jackson said one of his favorite busts on political spinners came when a Republican congressman issued a press release saying that the average after-tax income had gone up, contrary to census figures that stated that incomes had actually gone down by a full percentage point.

Researchers at Fact Check delved into the House Joint Economic Committee meeting records, where the congressman claimed the figures came from, and they

came to find that this figure was based on an experimental way of calculating after-tax figures that did not factor in capital gains income.

"You just know that's going to be used by every Republican speech writer in the coming campaign and then cite the Joint Economic Committee of Congress," Jackson said, "when what they're really citing is a Republican staff member who wrote a press release at the joint economic committee."

"It did not reflect a bipartisan view," he continued.

Republican staff member Christopher Frenze was so upset by the article that he wrote a letter demanding a retraction. According to the article about the retraction, researchers re-checked their facts, then published Frenze's letter along with a statement that the group stood by its facts.

The Annenberg Political Fact Check can be accessed at www.factcheck.org. ♦

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Kerry easily wins New Hampshire

By Ron Fournier
AP Political Writer

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — John Kerry easily won New Hampshire's primary yesterday, overpowering Howard Dean and other Democratic rivals for a second-straight victory to establish the four-term senator as the party's presidential front-runner.

Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina and retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark were in a distant race for third as early returns trickled in from across the Granite state. Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut was fifth, his candidacy in peril.

"Tonight is another step in the winnowing process," said Democratic Party chairman Terry McAuliffe. He has said no

candidate can survive without a victory in Iowa, New Hampshire or one of seven states holding contests Feb. 3.

Edwards, who finished a surprise second in Iowa, predicted he would finish in the double digits, an improvement over his standing in polls before Iowa. He's staking his candidacy on South Carolina, a centerpiece of next week's contests. "Beyond South Carolina, I don't want to make any predictions," he said.

With 27 percent of the precincts reporting, Kerry had 39 percent, Dean had 24 percent, Edwards 13 percent, Clark 12 percent, and Lieberman 10 percent.

A delegate count showed Kerry winning five delegates and Dean three, with 14 delegates still to be allocated. ♦

Get a job! E-mail slstate@mtsu.edu

From the Editorial Board Criticism inspired by love of university

Criticism, and the responsibilities that go along with it, has been the focus of many, if not most of my classes at MTSU.

Political science? Of course you should question the administration and the powers that be. Communication? How to criticize effectively. Biology? Scientific inquiry is investigation and reporting deviations. Investigative reporting? The professor teaches how to crusade for change.

With this educational background, at this institution, I can't fathom why university President Sidney McPhee would announce to Monday's Honors Lecture crowd that if one constantly speaks ill of the university, he or she should leave.

"Be proud of your institution. Tell us what we need to improve and we will do better. But everything that comes out, if it's negative, you ought not be here," is the sentence the president used.

I, as the editor of the student newspaper, am even more concerned with his statement, "... if all you have to report are negative stuff about this institution, find another place."

Sidelines strives to cover all the pertinent news that happens on our campus. Our first thought is never "How will this story affect the university or administration's image?" but rather, "Is this something the university community should know about?"

Our lead story Monday was of the recent station's increased broadcast zone, while other recent top stories have discussed the lottery on campus and tenure reversals. Hardly negative news.

McPhee's recent statements, however, seem to echo those we often hear from another group on campus — that our paper only ever looks for negative publicity.

If it's newsworthy, we run it. That includes allegations of sexual harassment, hazing and mysterious smells wafting out of decades-old dormitories recently converted into office space.

I speak for the staff of *Sidelines* when I say that we publicize and criticize because we "bleed blue," and out of the hope that our voice will lead to positive change. ♦



Patrick Chinnery
Editor in Chief

From the Opinions Editor Depp deserves Oscar

It's finally that time of year when the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has announced the nominees for the 76th annual Academy Awards.

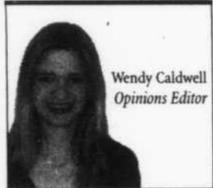
Not to Lord's surprise, *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* received the most nominations with 11. The final chapter of the epic trilogy proved more than successful at the box office, and the academy does love epic adventures.

The trilogy has amassed many nominations in the past three years, and this third film may be the one to win the much-sought-after golden statue.

Peter Jackson, director of the trilogy, should also stand a good chance of taking home the Best Director Oscar.

As far as acting goes, I was very pleased to read that Johnny Depp has been nominated for the Best Actor Oscar for his stellar performance in Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean*. The academy tends to overlook comedic performances, but Depp's Captain Jack Sparrow made that movie, and it's nice to see Depp's talent being recognized.

It's Depp's first Oscar nomination after being overlooked for his roles in films such as *Chocolat*



Wendy Caldwell
Opinions Editor

and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*.

Will Depp win? Probably not. I like Bill Murray's chances for *Lost in Translation*, but I will be silently rooting for Depp. Well, probably not silently — I get pretty vocal on Oscar night.

For the Best Actress Oscar, I'd like to see Charlize Theron win for *Monster*, but Naomi Watts of *21 Grams* and Diane Keaton of *Something's Gotta Give* are in the running as well.

Finding Nemo should have no problem winning the recently-added Oscar for Best Animated Feature Film.

This may be Renee Zellweger's year to walk away with a statue for her supporting role in *Cold Mountain*.

The 76th annual Academy Awards will take place in California's Kodak Theatre on Feb. 29.

The Oscars begin at 8 p.m. Eastern, 5 p.m. Pacific on ABC.

For a complete list of nominees, visit www.oscar.com. ♦

Bush's tax cuts help economy

"Tax cuts for the rich, tax cuts for the wealthy, blah blah blah."

Unless you have lived a Saddam-like spider hole existence for the last three years, you've heard this mantra repeated by Democrats seeking to use class warfare to woo voters.

Overexposure to this rhetoric can be fatal to your intelligence. Look at the facts.

Internal Revenue Service 2001 figures show that more than half of federal income tax is paid by the top 5 percent of wage earners. The top 10 percent pay nearly two-thirds, while the top half of income earners pay more than 96 percent of all income taxes.

Translation: Nearly half the country pays 4 percent of income taxes.

"Oh, but that's the way it is supposed to be! These people have plenty of money and won't be hurt by bearing the tax burden."

Not true; the top 50 percent of income earners in 1999 were individuals or couples filing jointly that earned \$26,000 and up — not exactly a Park Avenue existence.

Due to tax cuts passed during the Bush administration, a family of four earning \$40,000-\$50,000 has benefited from a 23 percent decrease in their income tax. This family paid upwards of \$4,500 in



Common Sense

Randall Thomason
Staff Columnist

2001; this same family paid more than \$1,000 less this year, so I guess Howard Dean thinks this family of four is rich since he claims the tax cuts only benefited the wealthy.

Well that's all great, but tax cuts for the extremely wealthy, top 1 percent of wage earners are irresponsible when your country is in debt, right? Actually, just the opposite is true.

First, the top 1 percent are probably not as wealthy as many think. This group is composed of those making \$293,000 and up — a lot of money, yes, but few millionaires.

Many, if not most, of this group are business owners. When business owners have more money, they put it to work.

They update their equipment, boosting the manufacturing industry, which then hires more labor in many cases, or the business owners themselves hire addi-

tional employees with the money that was previously targeted for government.

Not only do businesses benefit from lower taxes, but government revenues actually increase. Extra money to work with allows businesses to increase productivity and experience higher gross earnings. In turn, business owners end up paying more tax dollars than they did in the past even though their rates were slashed.

President George W. Bush said it best in the State of the Union address last Tuesday: "The American people are using their money far better than government would have — and you [Congress] were right to return it."

Obviously, tax rates can't continue to be slashed to the point where the government becomes starved for funding.

Economist Arthur Laffer set out to find the ideal tax rate in the 1980s. He developed a simple curve that shows tax revenues actually decrease once tax rates exceed a certain level.

Exorbitant tax rates cause businesses to stall and paralyze economic growth. Employers have less money to hire workers, and those that do have jobs lose incentive to work because so much of what they earn goes straight to

Uncle Sam.

Anyone interested in learning more about basic economics would do themselves well to study the Laffer curve.

So are U.S. tax rates above the ideal mark? Evidence says yes. Recent tax cuts have been followed with record economic growth, and the job market looks promising. Government revenues have increased, proving that not tax cuts but large discretionary spending has led to our large debt (which is not as bad as a certain crop of presidential wannabes would like to believe).

Of course, the John Kerrys of the world won't allow these facts to be presented before labeling conservatives as heartless and cruel, saying we only look out for the wealthy. After all, class warfare is a good political strategy.

Former President Ronald Reagan described the partisan divide on taxes quite eloquently: "Republicans believe every day is the Fourth of July, but the Democrats believe every day is April 15th." ♦

Randall Thomason is a sophomore mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at rkt2c@mtsu.edu.

Banning guns unnecessary; education prevents death

I'd like to kick my career in journalism off right with something that will get people talking: guns.

There hasn't been much publicity on the gun issue as of late, but I think it's time to spark interest in the topic again. As you probably know, Congress is proposing the banning of firearms in the United States. Luckily, none of these bills has passed. What a terrifying day that would be.

At the forefront of the argument for banning guns are the numerous school shootings over the past years.

Tragic incidents where disgruntled, disturbed students walked into classrooms and began spraying other students and teachers with gunfire have been publicized and condemned by the public and the media.

One can't turn on the television or pick up a paper without hearing the sob stories of eyewitnesses and police who saw, then had to clean up, a school shooting.

Then there are the immediate cries for banning firearms to prevent things like that from happening again.

Don't misunderstand; someone who kills someone else should be locked up and the key swallowed. But the hullabaloo over guns and their lethality is highly overrated.



Commentary

Jason Brunner
Staff Columnist

Guns aren't the problem. In fact, several school shooting incidents have been put to speedy and almost bloodless ends because of guns.

A gunman was at bay at a school in Pennsylvania by a citizen who had a right-to-carry permit in his wallet and a shotgun in his trunk. He put the gunman in his sights and didn't lower his gun until police arrived 10 minutes later. There was only one death that day.

The phrase "Guns don't kill people, people kill people" has been shouted by the National Rifle Association since before Columbine. They're 100 percent correct. A gun lying on a table is no harm to anyone until a person with a desire to kill or injure decides to pick it up and use it in that manner. Last time I checked, a gun won't go off unless the trigger is pulled.

For the trigger to be pulled, someone has to have control of the gun, the desire to fire it and the smarts to know what will happen when the trigger is pulled.

But what about the kid who finds dad's gun and accidentally shoots

himself or herself? A very scary thought, to be sure. It's happened, and it shouldn't.

How do we prevent it? One: Dad explains to the child that the gun is dangerous and that he or she will not play with it because it's not a toy. Two: Dad explains the consequences of playing with or otherwise touching the gun.

The child will get the idea. Studies have shown that children run a greater risk of death by drowning in a bucket of water than by accidental gunshot.

In Australia, when the government decided to ban firearms, their crime rates soared. The same thing will happen in the United States if a bill banning guns is passed.

Take guns away from everyone, and only the criminals will have the guns. Why should someone who doesn't respect any law governing this country respect a law forbidding guns?

If everyone would take a healthy dose of common sense and take the time to educate themselves and find out the truth, this country would be much safer. A little knowledge goes a long way. ♦

Jason Brunner is a sophomore history major and can be reached via e-mail at yankoo_dragon@yahoo.com.

Defense, intelligence should keep funding

Major efforts have been made by the Democratic Party to diminish vital funding from our intelligence and military agencies. Under former presidents, America has experienced decreased military spending, which has been detrimental to our success in combative situations.

Under the Clinton administration, these reduced funds included the failure to replenish used missiles during the Iraqi conflict, not to mention a decreased number of spending for more advanced weapons.

Additional cuts were recommended recently by presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, who proposed a bill for a \$1 billion cut in intelligence.

Despite this hypocritical request, Kerry has declared the country needs more intelligence and is suffering from not having an adequate information network.

Aside from the fact that he has destroyed his credibility, Kerry makes himself appear as if he doesn't understand his own political platform — or his party, for that matter. Is it not obvious this correlation pertains to the military situation, particularly the intelligence department?



Lizzie Miller
Guest Columnist

With the cut in military funding that various politicians endorse, how can they expect grand results in intelligence?

Unfortunately, the world has entered an era of warfare where civilians are now just as susceptible targets as uniformed soldiers. The best prospect for any armed force is to utilize intelligence to prevent casualties and triumph in battles. This belief is redefined with every explosion in the Middle East and U.S. fortification in Iraq.

As U.S. citizens, we should advocate military spending that support our protection. The United States should continue to invest in its military and intelligence in order to preserve our freedom and appreciate all the privileges we are granted as Americans. ♦

Lizzie Miller is a freshman criminal justice major and can be reached at EMiller@RaiderRepublican.com.

Jury selection unlawful

Staff Editorial
OSU Daily Barometer
(Oregon State U.)

(U-WIRE) CORVALLIS, Ore. — Several new trials will be granted to death row inmates due to discrimination in jury selection.

The process of jury selection should have the goal of choosing the most competent people. On the other hand, it seems the real goal of the jury selection process is for the attorneys to select jurors they believe will most likely favor their side while eliminating potential jurors likely to favor the opposition.

Both the prosecution and defense will seek information about characteristics of possible jurors who might indicate their tendency to favor one side or the other. In many cases lawyers will hire "jury consultants" to help in the selection of jurors.

This brings to light the

question of the importance of race, gender and occupation when selecting a jury.

The way the system is now, both lawyers and jury consultants use stereotypes and their own suspicions and prejudices about potential jurors to eliminate them.

Sounds like quite the process for what is supposed to be a random selection.

The Constitution forbids race discrimination in jury selection. Juries are supposed to be a group of peers, reason being that people of different backgrounds, races and genders will more often than not have experiences and perspectives that can benefit a jury's deliberations.

The goal of this ends up being the selection of a jury that is more likely to convict based on their own prejudices and not necessarily a jury that will make a decision based on evidence. ♦

E-mail letters to the editor

slopinio@mtsu.edu

Correction

In "Americans prove their ignorance" (Jan. 26), John DiVincenzo's name was misspelled. Also, Norma McCorvey never had an abortion. *Sidelines* regrets the errors.

Letters Policy

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

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20 Years in the Jungle



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Wayne White created puppets for television show *Bill and Willis*, which appeared on MTV in the early 1990s.

By Erica Payne
Staff Writer

What makes fine art so fine? Is it the prestige or the quality?

Wayne White's *20 Years in the Jungle* exhibit in the Art Barn Gallery challenges the definition of "art."

The exhibit, in the Art Barn through Friday, displays his work on children's television shows. Not your "old-fashioned canvas and paint" kind of artistry.

Two television sets showcase his art from *Beakman's World* for CBS and *Bill and Willis* for MTV.

On the walls are set designs for *Shining Time Station* and *Riders in the Sky*.

The set design displays show the concept first as a sketch, then on a storyboard and finally a picture of the finished set.

There are also actual *Bill and Willis* puppets featured along with a puppet from *Riders in the Sky*.

Most people in America have seen White's work on *Pee-Wee's Playhouse* or *Mrs. Cabobble's Caboose*.

The sets of those television

shows, like most of White's creations, were colorful and cartoonish. They combined the imagination of a child and the creativity of a professional.

More recently, White earned Best Art Director in 1996 for Smashing Pumpkin's "Tonight, Tonight" music video.

He has won two Emmys throughout his nearly 30-year career, one for his work on *Pee-Wee's Playhouse*.

A native of Chattanooga, Tenn., White is a product of MTSU's art department.

He graduated in 1975 with his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree.

Director of the Art Departmental Gallery and professor, Lon Nuell, refers to White as "one of our own."

White exemplifies what hard work and determination can accomplish, he says, and converts his artistic mind into a profitable tool.

The exhibit shows the use of an "artistic mind in a practical, functional way," he adds.

White's art is different from

other art exhibits because it shows a high degree of creativity, but the purpose is entertainment, Nuell says.

Seeing White's exhibit brought back a lot of memories for Kevin Jones, a junior graphic arts major.

White's art is "abstract yet

childish," Jones says.

"Art can be many things," he says. "The artist must be open to possibilities."

That is exactly what Nuell wants students to gain from White's exhibit.

Nuell hopes viewers will acquire a better understanding

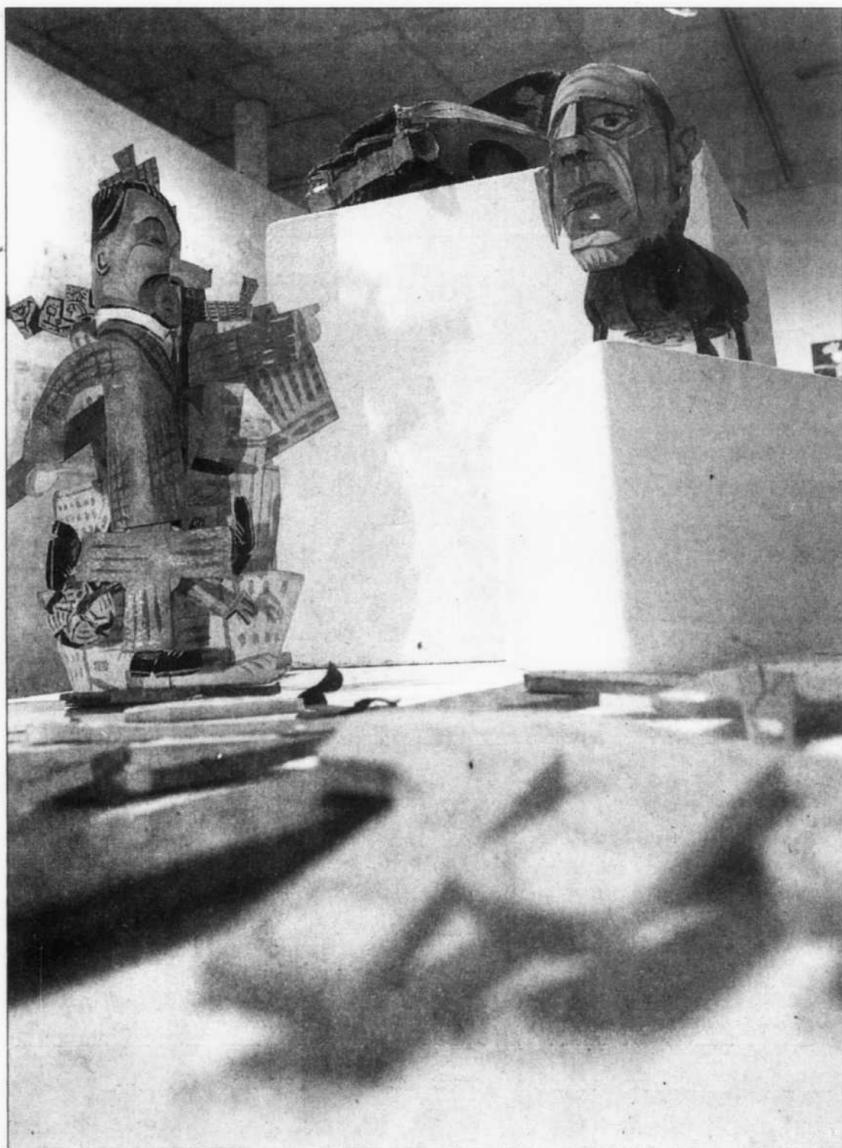
of art production and set design.

A great deal of thought and work are required to transform simple ideas and sketches into television commercials, shows or any other media productions.

White will be making an

appearance at MTSU at the exhibit's closing reception on Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Art Barn Gallery.

His paintings will also be on display at Cheekwood Fine Arts Center in Nashville Feb. 1. ♦



“ Art can be many things.
The artist must be open to possibilities.”

Kevin Jones
Junior, Graphic arts major



Photos by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Artwork from *Beakman's World*, *Pee Wee's Playhouse*, *Riders in the Sky*, *Bill and Willis* and *Mrs. Cabobble's Caboose* are featured in Wayne White's *20 Years in the Jungle* exhibit.

SGA President discusses job obligations



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Michele Butler is the third female SGA president.

By Michaela Jackson
Staff Writer

In today's society of larger-than-life promises, high-profile public relations campaigns, and the "pied-piper-esque" appeal of the so-called expert, what does it truly mean to be a leader?

Do you have to have a secretary? Or drive a flashy sports car?

Or is it really much simpler than that?

Michele Butler, MTSU Student Government Association president, and "official liaison between the students and the administration," understands that being a leader means staying connected to the listen," she says, emphasizing the importance of communication with her constituents.

Butler, a senior working zation because "there was a lot [she] had to prove."

"There is still sexism and racism in this world," she says.

She has sought to bring together a "very diverse group" for the government that represents the student population, not only by becoming the third female ever to earn the presidency of SGA, but also to make appointments to influential governmental positions.

After becoming president of her senior class in high school, Butler realized that the privilege of being in an influential position presented her with the opportunity to make changes for the benefit of those around her.

With these goals in mind, Butler pursued a position in the SGA soon after starting her work to be in a leadership position.

It has been this determination because "there was a lot [she] had to prove."

McWherter Learning Resource Center and the library will soon be paved, a kiosk, like the one in the business and aerospace building, will be set up in Peck Hall and beginning next fall, credit and debit cards will be accepted in the Keathley University Center Grill.

These improvements did not just happen — they have been the result of hard work and many long hours.

Butler, though only officially delegated to work 20 hours a week, according to University policy, actually puts in between 30 and 40 hours per week.

Her typical day consists of spending considerable time checking her voice mails and e-mail, attending an "unbelievable amount of meetings and "Allocation and delegation" have become two of her best friends, she says. "I can't answer all the questions," she admits. ing that Butler attends once a

week. She considers this event not just another chore that she must endure, but "an extremely important privilege that [she] has been given."

Having spent such consistent time with President Sidney McPhee over the course of the semester, Butler has been aware and up-to-date on the controversy surrounding him, but feels that "everybody looks at situations differently," and prefers not to comment about her own opinion.

"College has been the best four years of my life," acknowledges Butler.

"Make the most of your college experience — get involved! Don't let life pass you by," she advises younger students.

Butler still asserts that the most rewarding experience she has had have been the relationships that she has formed with

Students believe some slacking OK

well, any college student in general. Here is a list for you. winter break by one very well-traveled, well-educated, easygoing professor. It's not for the one in a million, lifetime over-achiever, but it runs the table as far as the rest of the population is concerned.

Mark Anshel, who has a Masters' degree in psychology of human performance and a Ph.D. in philosophy, teaches a graduate course called "Research Methods" here at MTSU. The purpose of the list is to give his students a colorful reminder of what not to do if they want to pass with a decent grade.

The list, however, relates well to any student at any level of the academic ladder. The following is an abbreviated preview of things any good student would

likely avoid:

1) Class attendance: Miss as the break ... Besides, there's probably something on TV you'd rather watch.

2) Pre-class rituals: If this class is taught in the evening, be sure to go all day non-stop, don't rest before class, and come to class completely exhausted. Also, avoid food and make sure you arrive to class starving.

3) Study habits: Wait until a few days before — better yet, the day before — the exam before you begin to study. Try pulling an "all-nighter."

4) Plagiarize: Since developing writing skills and reading research are both totally unnecessary, especially for research purposes (if you don't intend to write a thesis), just cheat. Copy articles and books verbatim. Plagiarism can result in expulsion from the university pro-

ne last week's class ... ing your assignment so you can ... why work is criticized (e.g., when the professor edits your written work), just conclude that the professor expects too much and that you'll never be asked to write "like this" again.

5) Don't read: Most courses have handouts in addition to the class textbook. Avoid reading any of this. Consider anything the professor does not review in class as unimportant.

6) Back to blaming the professor: When you finally get the

list of how to fail



Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Procrastination is one reason students fail, Anshel says.

(C, D or F) grade in a graduate course you have earned, blame your professor.

Remember, these are some of the things NOT to do, unless of course, you want a D or an F for your final grade.

"One of the most painful things for me is to give a student a low grade," Anshel says.

Anshel, like so many of MTSU's faculty, is serious about educating his students.

"My main job is to act as a facilitator of knowledge," says

Anshel. He does, however, remember what the college life was like.

"I was in a rock band in college," he recalls. "It was called Eksticy."

The list has essentially two main objectives, according to Anshel.

The first is the need to educate students about the things they do that are counterproductive — the things that are basically keeping them from reaching their goals. The second objec-

be remembered, or "tongue in cheek" as Anshel puts it.

Anshel created this list to help his students succeed. like some of the lists were broken.

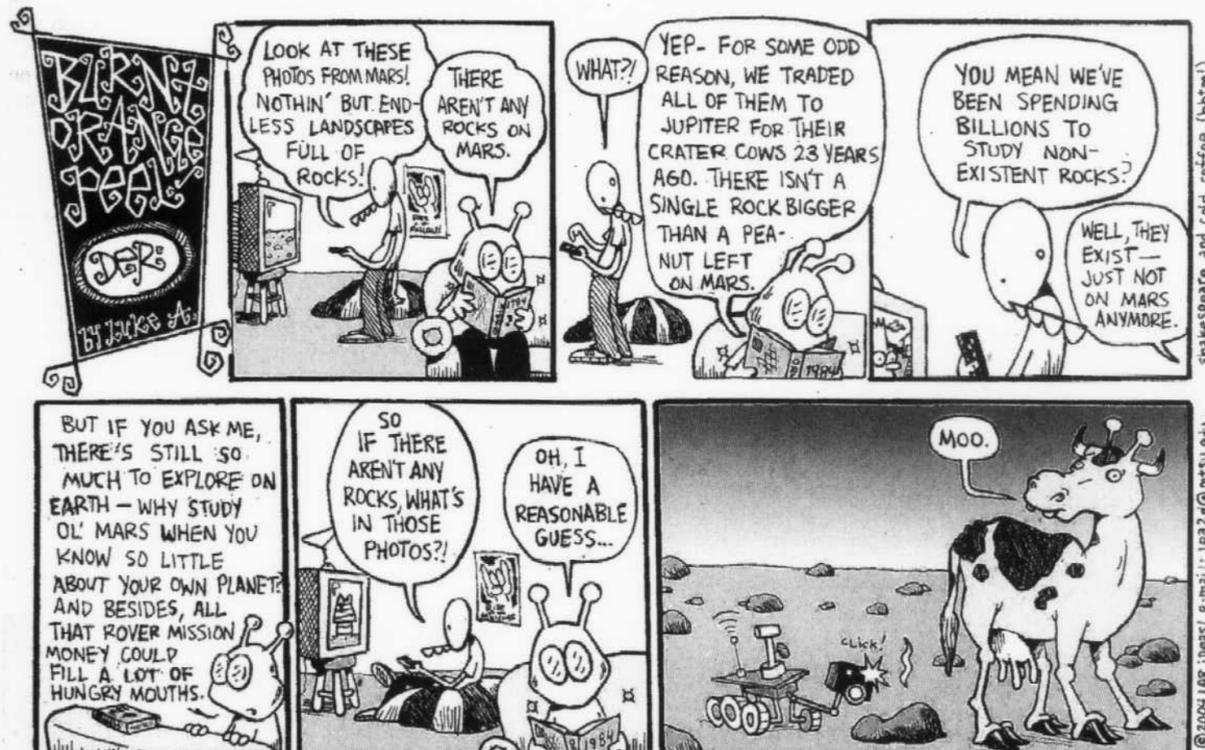
Jonathan Coomes, "but you can probably do a couple and still squeak by with a B."

"I pull all-nighters all the time, but they tend to work for me since I'm used to it," he says, "but it's definitely easier if you keep up with the work so you don't have to pull that all-nighter."

Chris Goebel, a junior, agrees.

"I don't think I've been awake for class in three years," he says, "but I do OK." ♦

Erica Rodefer contributed to this article.



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MT track squads place first in ten events

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee indoor track teams, picked to win the Sun Belt Conference indoor title again for 2004, hosted the Blue Raider Invitational Saturday at Murphy Center.

The MT teams came away with a combined 10 first-place finishes in various events.

For the MT women's team, Rosemary Okafor led the way in the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.90 seconds and the 200-meter dash with 24.22 seconds.

Jessica Anderson won the 55-meter hurdles in 8.31 seconds, while Letitia Eady won the long and triple jumps with marks of 18 feet, 7 3/4 inches and 39 feet, 8 inches, respectively.

For the No. 18 Blue Raiders, Mardy Scales won the 55-meter dash in 6.28 seconds.

Pedro Holiday won the 200-meter dash in a time of 21.54 seconds, while Linnie Yarbrough won the 55-meter hurdles with NCAA provisional marks in both the preliminaries at 7.30 and finals at 7.32.

The Blue Raider mile relay team, composed of Victor Okorie, Xavier Darden, Tim Hicks and Sean Waller, also ran an NCAA provisional time of 3:11.06, good enough for first in the event.

James Thomas won the weight throw by breaking his own school record with a mark of 51 feet, 4 inches.

In addition to their first place finishes, several other Blue Raiders performed well in various events.

For the women, Tiffany Owens finished second in the 55-meter dash with 7.09 and third in the 200-meter dash with 24.96.

Nicole Marcus placed fourth in the 55-meter dash with 7.19 and second in the 200-meter dash with 24.69.

Kerry Barrow finished sixth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.78 seconds, while Candice Robertson finished second in the 55-meter hurdles with 8.51.

The Lady Raider mile relay team, consisting of Barrow, Owens, Jerkita McClorin and Robertson finished third with a time of 4:04.97.

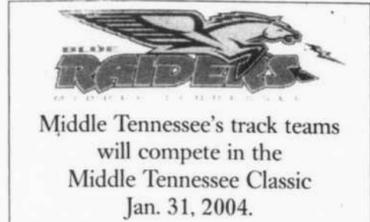
In field events, KeKe Deckard finished second in both the long and triple jumps with marks of 18 feet, 6 1/2 inches and 39 feet, 1 1/4 inches respectively, while Rolanda Howard placed third in the long jump with a mark of 18 feet, 5 1/2 inches.

Laetitia Florimond was the top collegian in the shot put with a mark of 43 feet, 1/2 inch, while Meghan Byrd was second in the event with a mark of 41 feet, 8 1/2 inches, and Kelley Enoch was third at 39 feet, 8 inches.

In the weight throw, Katie Mirgliotta won second place and set a school record by throwing for a mark of 47 feet, 1 inch.

Byrd was fourth in the weight throw with 43 feet, 4 inches, while Jennifer Thomas tied for sixth in the high jump.

For the men, Wesley Dupar-Scott was



Middle Tennessee's track teams will compete in the Middle Tennessee Classic Jan. 31, 2004.

second in the 55-meter dash with 6.28, and Holiday was third with 6.39.

Darden finished second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.63 seconds.

Hicks placed second in the 400-meters with 47.99 as Okorie finished third with 48.01, and Waller was fourth with 48.20.

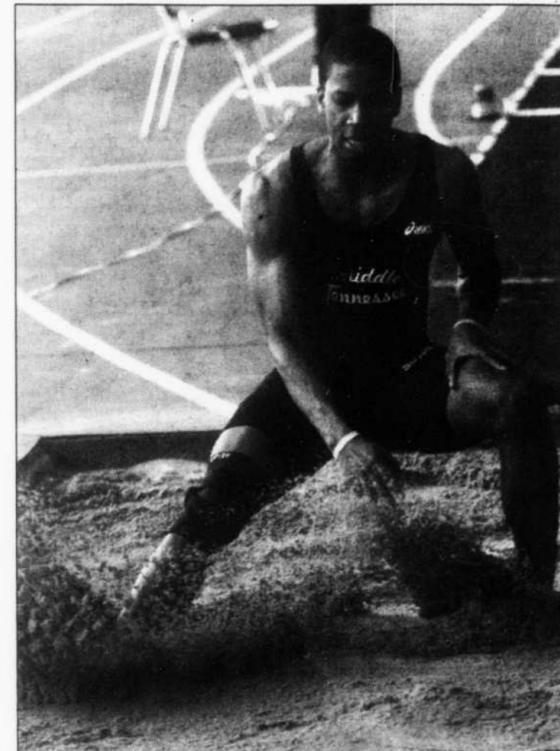
Tony Carufe came in seventh in the 800-meters with 1:59.14, while Tarik Thabet finished fifth in the 3000-meters in 9:06.07.

In field events, Bryan Anderson placed third in the high jump by clearing 5 feet, 10 inches, while J.J. Sturm came in second in the long jump with 23 feet, 5 1/2 inches, and Clyde Gibson was third with 22 feet, 10 inches in the event.

Greg Jones finished the triple jump in second with a mark of 48 feet, 3 inches.

Willie Parker was third in the shot put with 46 feet, 5 inches and weight throw with 43 feet, 5 inches, while Thomas was fourth in the shot put with a throw of 42 feet, 10 1/2 inches.

The teams will be back in action this weekend as they host the Middle Tennessee Classic on Saturday at Murphy Center. ♦



Blue Raider Greg Jones finished second with a 14.70 meter triple jump Saturday. Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

Collins eager to improve floundering defense

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

After taking a year off from coaching, newly hired defensive coordinator Mike Collins comes to Middle Tennessee refreshed and ready to work on improving a defense that finished next-to-last in the Sun Belt Conference last season.

"We have a chance to have a good football team," Collins said in a sit-down interview Tuesday. "Obviously that's why he [MT head coach Andy McCollum] brought me here, to help defensively and help us get to where all of us and all the players want to be—conference champions."

In 2003 Collins worked as an intern on the strength and conditioning staff at co-national champion Louisiana State University.

His time with the Tigers helped him reshape his defensive strategy before coming to MT.

"It gives you an opportunity to evaluate what you've been doing, what you've done in the past," Collins said. "It reaffirms ideas and thoughts that you had that you felt like were good ideas and good thoughts. Then again, it changes you as far as maybe it gives you some more ideas about things that can help you be successful in the end."

McCollum contacted Collins before Christmas about a possible opening for the defensive coordinator position.

McCollum also visited Collins during a Tigers' practice leading up to the Sugar Bowl, in which LSU defeated the University of Oklahoma 21-14 on Jan. 4 to share the national championship with the University of Southern California.

Collins then met with McCollum the following week-end. Collins was offered the job and accepted the position.

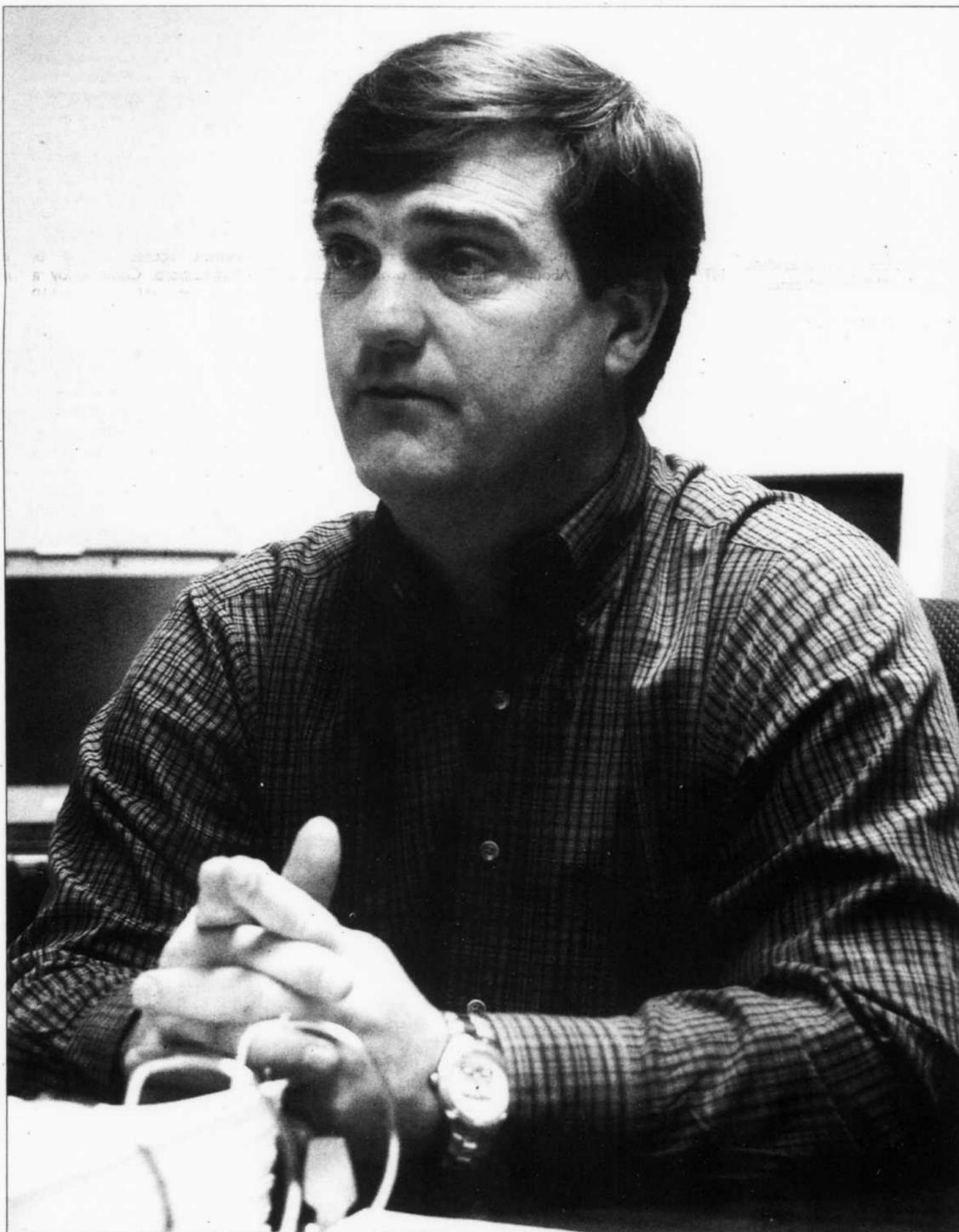
Collins served as defensive coordinator for the University of Louisiana-Monroe from 1999-2002.

Collins became the interim head coach three games into the 2002 season and was named the head coach of the team on Nov. 20, 2002, three days before the team's last game of the season against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

In the spring of 2003, Collins was charged with driving under the influence after he drove his truck into a house in Monroe, La., last April.

Collins was later cleared of those charges after providing evidence he has sleep apnea and fell asleep at the wheel due to sleep deprivation, but he was forced to resign by ULM president James Cofer.

"I was told point-blank," Collins said. "He told me he was



Defensive coordinator Mike Collins discusses his plans to rebuild a defense that finished last in pass defense in 2003. Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

going to fire me, the president did."

Looking back on the incident, however, Collins is grateful for how the situation has turned out so far.

"Things happen for a reason," Collins said. "Obviously the good Lord had a plan for us, and I think he has a plan for everybody, but you don't know what that plan is. He gave me an opportunity to be at LSU, along with coach Nick Saban, and I'm very appreciative of that, and things worked out great there. Having an opportunity to win a national championship is

always special."

Louisiana Tech University head coach Jack Bicknell also contacted Collins in reference to the university's vacant defensive coordinator position, but Collins never interviewed for the job. Bicknell had considered Collins as one of four finalists for the position when Collins decided to come to MT, according to the *Monroe News Star*.

Collins faces a unique challenge this off-season because the Blue Raiders will lose three of their four starting defensive backs from last season. Considering he often uses five

defensive backs on the field at one time, Collins will have to implement his defensive scheme early and hope his young players adjust quickly.

"We are losing a lot of them [defensive backs], but we do have a lot of them here," Collins said. "They're young, but that's not all bad either, because they haven't been exposed to many other things, and it will be easier for them to learn the scheme and understand what we're trying to get done."

Collins said he had spoken to many of the defensive players already, calling them "a bunch

of fine young men with great work ethic, great attitudes and discipline."

When asked what he would tell Blue Raiders fans who want to know what he is going to do to improve the defense, Collins emphasized work ethic and determination.

"Our defense is going to play for 60 minutes," Collins said. "Regardless of the score and regardless of the situation that we're in, we're going to give great effort every play. I think anytime you do that, you have a chance to be successful." ♦

Predators command respect

Sports commentary



Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

The Nashville Predators, after five long years of being regarded as lightweights in the National Hockey League, are beginning to earn the respect of more than just their die-hard fans.

The greatest attention given to the Predators lately has been the selection of defenseman Kimmo Timonen and goaltender Tomas Vokoun for the 2004 NHL All-Star team. Vokoun is tied for most wins (21) this season, while Timonen has demonstrated his many talents by becoming Nashville's top player when it comes to games played (382), goals (48), assists (128) and points (176).

This year's All-Star match will be played at the St. Paul/Minneapolis Xcel Energy Center on Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. local time. ABC will cover the game.

Nashville has been to the All-Star game before, having sent Sergi Krivokrasov to the game in 1999. Timonen was also previously selected as an All-Star in 2000 but missed playing due to injuries.

This year though, Vokoun and Timonen symbolize a team that has recommitted itself to chasing after the Stanley Cup playoffs, a team that is trying to look for more balance between offensive power and defense.

"It's a great honor," Timonen told ESPN concerning his selection as an All-Star. "I look forward to going there. There are so many great players around the NHL, and it really means a lot."

Exactly how much the distinction matters is almost beyond measure for a team that, coming into the 2003-04 season, was mediocre at best.

Nashville's promise of getting the Predators into the playoffs in five years came back to bite them when the team proved to prefer staying in a protective shell of defense instead of striking out across the ice to score goals.

Some fans were ready to write the team off as having no hope against contending against the Goliaths of the NHL.

The acceptance of not one but two players into the All-Star team shows that Nashville is serious about winning now more than ever. Coupled with a

Respect: Preds gaining ground

Continued from 8

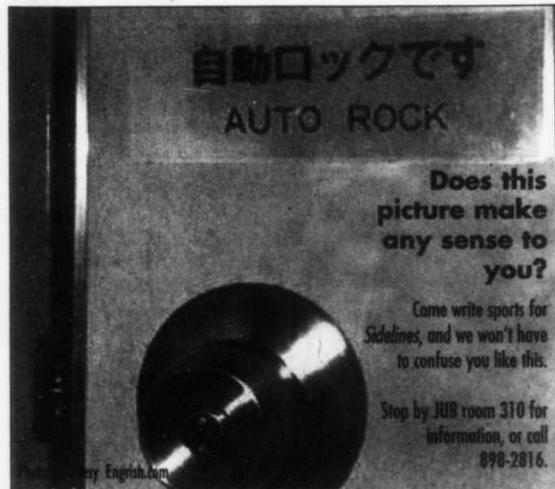
sixth place spot in the Western Conference, this season may prove to be a defining moment for the Predators and may finally let Nashville slide its way into a playoff slot.

ESPN has the team ranked at No. 13 in the league despite their 4-1 loss to the Vancouver Canucks last Sunday, a vast improvement over a sorry start at No. 28 after the first week of play.

Ditching members of what was an overly-defensive team despite being seen as a risky

move has been a boon for Nashville this season and may give the team just the edge it needs.

If the Predators can hang on and continue to consistently score on their opponents instead of retreating into their shell as they have in previous seasons, team owners will know for sure that the gamble they took six years ago has paid off, if maybe a year later than they had expected. That, more than anything else, will prove once and for all that Nashville is a force to be respected around the league. ♦



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Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee



Compiled by Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

Scales, 1600-meter relay team named to power ranking

Middle Tennessee's Mardy Scales and the men's 1600-meter relay team were named to the Trackwire Dandy Dozen list this week. The Dandy Dozen is a power ranking of the top 12 athletes in each individual and relay squad NCAA event.

Scales currently is fourth in the 60-meter dash behind DaBryan Blanton of Oklahoma University, Tyson Gay of the University of Arkansas and Michael Frater of Louisiana State University. Scales is the defending NCAA 100-meter outdoor champion and is a two-time Indoor All-American. Last week he won the 55-meter dash at the Blue Raider Invitational with a time of 6.28 seconds.

The men's 1600-meter relay team is

composed of Victor Okorie, Xavier Darden, Tim Hicks and Sean Waller. The team is ranked 12th in this week's ranking and its time of 3:09.86 Saturday at the Blue Raider Invitational currently ranks third in the nation.

Both the men's and women's teams will compete this Saturday in the Middle Tennessee Classic at Murphy Center.

Assistant softball coach honored at Kent State University

Middle Tennessee volunteer assistant softball coach Sue Nevar will travel to Kent State University this weekend to be honored for her tenure as head coach from 1986-1996. KSU will hold its 26th Annual Varsity "K" Hall of Fame Weekend January 30-31.

Nevar led the Golden Flashes to a 43-9 (20-4 Mid-American Conference) record in 1990 and a berth in the Women's

College World Series. Both marks for victories are school records. Nevar also holds KSU's career wins record with 289.

MT baseball picked to finish fourth in SBC coaches' poll

The Blue Raiders baseball team was picked to finish fourth according to a poll among Sun Belt Conference coaches released last week.

The team, which won the SBC Tournament championship last season and advanced to the NCAA Regionals before falling to Mississippi State University and the University of Missouri, finished behind the University of South Alabama, Florida International University and the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

MT begins its 2004 season Feb. 20 at Reese Smith Field against Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. ♦

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Peck named volleyball coach

MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee Associate Athletic Director Diane Turnham announced today the hiring of Matt Peck as the head volleyball coach. The former head coach at North Alabama became the ninth head coach in the program's 27-year history.

"Matt's personality and enthusiasm really put him a step ahead of the other applicants we had for this position," Turnham said. "He has really distinguished himself as a top-notch coach with his success and career record."

"Middle Tennessee is one of two schools I earmarked as a job I would love to apply for if it came open," Peck said. "It was a job I really went after when I heard it became available."

Peck was aware of Middle Tennessee and its program, as he brought his North Alabama team to the campus last spring to play in a tournament.

He was impressed with the facilities then and equally enticed by the commitment the athletic department has to the success of the program after meeting with Turnham and Athletic Director Boots Donnelly.

"I believe Matt can come in and develop this program into one of the best in the conference and in the region," Turnham said. "He can take this program to the next level, and we are proud to have him here at Middle Tennessee."

"I am really grateful to Boots Donnelly and Diane Turnham for giving me this opportunity," Peck said. "It feels like home already."

Peck is bringing a tradition of success to Middle Tennessee.

He led North Alabama to a NCAA Division II National Championship in 2003.

The American Volleyball Coaches Association in conjunction with Tachikara USA named Peck the Tachikara/AVCA Division II National Coach of the Year this past season.

"I am anxious about getting started at Middle Tennessee and settling into my office and beginning to recruit the players we need for the fall," Peck said.

"It is kind of bittersweet here at North Alabama because we are unveiling our National Championship banner on Saturday, and I am consumed with that event here but know I have to finish things up at UNA

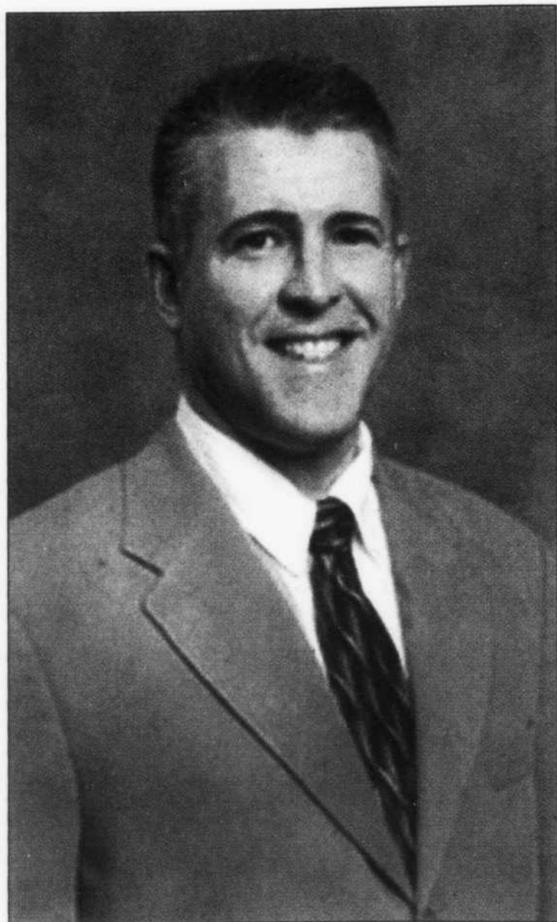


Photo courtesy MT Media Relations

Matt Peck served as the head volleyball coach at North Alabama for nine seasons, compiling a record of 291-41.

to prepare for my move to Middle Tennessee."

Peck led North Alabama to its eighth consecutive NCAA Tournament, capped with the school's first-ever NCAA Championship with a 3-0 win over Concordia St. Paul.

North Alabama finished the season with an overall record of 33-7.

"I think Matt will be a great addition to the Middle Tennessee coaching staff," MT head soccer coach Aston Rhoden said. "He has a proven track record for success and I believe he will bring that same success here to Middle Tennessee."

"When I was a coach at North Alabama I was always amazed at the talent and athleticism he was able to produce out of his athletes and I am looking forward to seeing that same kind of style of play here at Middle Tennessee," Rhoden said.

In nine seasons at North

Alabama, Peck compiled a record of 291-41, which includes seven straight Gulf South Conference Championships, eight straight NCAA Tournament appearances and four straight in the NCAA Division II Elite Eight.

Peck is the only coach in Gulf South Conference history to be selected as its coach of the year for three consecutive seasons (1996, 1997, 1998) and has won the award four times overall.

"Coach Peck has a great resume that speaks for itself," UNA Athletic Director Joel Erdmann said. "He came to North Alabama and transformed an honorable program to an elite program."

"What is impressive to me is that he came in and brought a consistency of success to the program with no peaks and valleys," Erdmann said. "We will miss him terribly but wish him continued success at Middle Tennessee."

"Matt is a great person and coach and he really helped me grow as a player and a person in my four years at North Alabama," Metro State Assistant Volleyball Coach and former UNA player Amy Hendrichovsky said. "I believe he is ready to take the next step in his coaching career and will be successful at Middle Tennessee."

"Matt knows how to recognize a player's talent and how to push the players into being the best they can be. Hendrichovsky said. "He also knows how to build tradition and a program and help the players understand the importance of creating something to be proud of. Playing for Matt was the best four years of my life at UNA."

Prior to North Alabama, Peck spent seven seasons (1987-94) as the head coach at Wayne State University in Michigan, compiling a record of 231-135 with two NCAA Tournament appearances (1987 and 1994).

Under Peck's guidance, Wayne State produced 27 All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference performers, 20 GLIAC All-Academic members, one All-American, 12 All-Region players and three GLIAC Freshmen-of-the-Year.

"I think Matt will do a wonderful job," MT Provost and Executive Vice President Kaylene Gebert said. "He has all the right skills, from my perspective, to create a great atmosphere for a student-athlete to succeed. He has always emphasized athletics and academics in his programs."

Before joining Wayne State, Peck coached volleyball on the high school level in Indiana, and also served as a graduate assistant at Purdue University from 1980-83.

While at Purdue University, Peck served as the graduate assistant for the Boilermakers' men's volleyball team and also worked with various volleyball clubs in the West Lafayette, Ind., area.

Overall, Peck has compiled a record of 543-196 in 20 seasons. A 1980 graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor degree in psychology, Peck received his master's degree in physical education-sport administration at Wayne State in 1992.

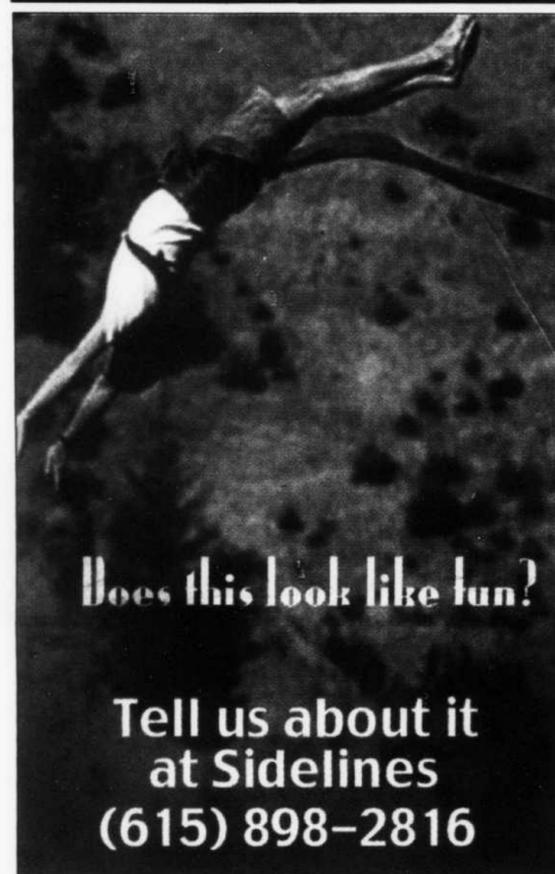
Peck is a native of Dearborn Heights, Mich. ♦



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