

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Baker new SGA prez.; Durham to lead senate

By Heather Hybarger / staff

Christin Baker received 404 votes in the run-off election Tuesday, becoming Student Government Association (SGA) president for the 1996-97 school year.

Presidential candidate Chad White received 212 votes.

Baker's running mate Ryan Durham was voted speaker of the senate with 385 votes. Jennifer Jones received 218 votes.

"I'd like to sit down with Christin [Baker] and Susan [Guin, 1996-97 speaker of the house] and develop a plan for the year," Durham said. "Then we can start directly in with getting Raider Fund usage off campus and looking at this years SGA newsletter and see how to improve it. I'll also start meeting all the senators and get a feel for how we can work together."

In the run-off election for the final College of Graduate Studies senator, Nathan Farrar received eight votes to Brady Wit's six votes. Farrar withdrew from the race on Tuesday, and Wit has yet to accept the position as senator.

A total of 629 students voted in the run-off election.



Baker



Durham

The new SGA officers will be inaugurated during the SGA Banquet tonight at 6 p.m. Awards for outstanding Senate and House members will be presented.

Members from campus organizations and local officials are invited to the banquet, including: Representative John Bragg, Murfreesboro Mayor Joe B. Jackson, the SGA cabinet, supreme court, election commission, traffic court, members of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL), the Homecoming committee, student ambassadors, Student Orientation Assistants, cheerleaders and members of Who's Who. ●



Brian G. Miller / staff

Firing it up

A welder works on the new Aerospace/Business building, projected to be open in Fall 1997.

JAWC sponsors day for daughters

By Christi Underdown / staff

Seventy girls will participate in Take Our Daughters to Work Day, according to Malinda Richardson, co-chair of the event and worker in the June Anderson Women's Center.

The Ms. Foundation for Women started the day five years ago to inspire girls who were thinking of working outside the home, Richardson said.

"Studies show that, up to adolescence, girls are equally as motivated as boys," Richardson said.

"After that, school grades go down and females tend to get discouraged. This program is to encourage girls and show them that there is an opportunity for women in the workplace."

The agenda for the 70 girls participating includes "shadowing" their sponsors and hearing a luncheon speech by Mary Scales, member of the Murfreesboro School Board and former member of the city council. The last activity planned is a tour of the MTSU campus. The girls will then be split into groups according to their interests.

During the activities, the Technology Office is supporting an Internet tutorial for the girls, allowing them to explore the Internet on their own.

Any company on a business level can participate as a sponsor. Some national corporate supporters include AT&T, American Express and The Limited, Inc. Girl Scouts of America has also been a big help, Richardson said. MTSU has participated in Take Our Daughters To Work Day for the last three years. ●

Logo/mascot evaluation continues in committee

By Dustin Schrimpscher / staff

MTSU could have a new mascot and logo as soon as next fall.

President Walker has appointed a committee to review current mascots and logos and determine what colors and logos can best represent the university.

"The committee is made up of alumni, students and Murfreesboro community members," said Linda Hare, vice president of Development and review committee chair. "The committee was created to evaluate the mascot and logo as part of the athletic master plan."

Hare said there is a trend among colleges across the nation to review their mascots. Hare added that as MTSU gains national visibility with the move into Division I-A athletic programs, the university wants to be

sure that the logo is appropriate.

"We are looking at the whole package," said Holly Karstens, associate dean of Students. "We've used a lot of different logos, colors and mascots over the years. Currently we have royal blue, navy blue, silver and white uniforms for different athletic teams across campus."

"We want to come up with one logo and color which can be used across campus that everyone recognizes as MTSU," Karstens said.

Karstens said the name of the university is also being evaluated.

"The name change wasn't originally in question," Karstens said. "It will take a lot more than this committee to change the school's name." ●

Honors organization inducts MTSU officials

By Dylan Ross / staff

Five individuals affiliated with Phi Kappa Phi are being inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society in recognition of their outstanding achievements, said Rosemary Owens, dean of Continuing Studies and president of MTSU's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

The five inductees will be honored at a special ceremony to be held at 5 p.m. on April 29 in the University Alumni Center.

Yuri Melnikov has been a mathematics professor at MTSU since 1992. Melnikov holds degrees from Dniepropetrovsk State University and the Moscow Institute of Civil Engineering. He has written several published works on applied mathematics and engineering, including his latest book, "Green's Functions in Applied Mechanics."

Donald Curry, dean of Graduate Studies, received a doctorate in physiology from the University of California — San Francisco Medical Center. He came to MTSU in 1995 after serving as a professor of physiology and an administrator at the University of California — Davis. Curry has conducted extensive research in physiology and endocrinology and has served on various academic forums. He won the American Diabetes Association Research Contest in 1969.

Linda Hare has been vice president of Development since spring of last year. She holds a doctorate of education from Tennessee State

"Phi Kappa Phi recognizes and encourages superior scholarship in all disciplines."

Rosemary Owens
MTSU's Phi Kappa Phi chapter president

University and is listed in "Who's Who Among Black Americans." She received the Achiever Award from the Nashville YMCA last year. Before coming to MTSU, Hare worked as an administrator at Meharry Medical College.

Sen. Andy Womack has served two terms in the state Senate and is the chair of the Senate Education Committee. He was named Outstanding Legislator of the Year by Community Mental Retardation Agencies in Tennessee in 1992. Womack also sponsored the Education Improvement Act in 1992. He is the president-elect of the MTSU Foundation. In addition to his political career, Womack has worked as an agent for State Farm Insurance Co. and as an assistant manager for New York Life Insurance Co.

Whitney Stegall, who currently works in the Murfreesboro law firm of Bragg, Mansfield and Stegall,

graduated from MTSU in 1937. He taught and coached girls' basketball at Smyrna High School prior to entering the Army and graduating from Officers Candidate School. After leaving the Army with the rank of major in 1947, Stegall graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in 1950.

He was elected to the state Senate for one term in 1965 and was elected chancellor in 1974, an office he held for 16 years.

He was appointed as a circuit judge by Governor Ned McWherter in 1993, where he served for 18 months. Stegall is a founding member of the MTSU Foundation and served as president in the past.

Phi Kappa Phi is an organization that inducts outstanding students, faculty, administrators and alumni of universities nationwide.

"Phi Kappa Phi recognizes and encourages superior scholarship in all disciplines," Owens said.

"This is a university-wide society," she continued. "Anyone may be initiated if they meet the induction requirements."

These requirements include at least a 3.5 grade point average for graduating seniors and a 3.75 g.p.a. for outgoing graduate students and incoming seniors, said Ruben Kyle, a member of the university economics faculty. More than 70 student inductees will be initiated this year.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1903. MTSU's chapter was chartered in 1987 by Jeanette Heritage, a member of the psychology faculty and the first president of the chapter. ●

Research students compete

By Martha Stroud / staff

Psi Chi, a National Psychology Honors Organization, will be sponsoring the second annual Undergraduate Psychology Research Poster Contest.

The posters will be displayed in Jones Hall first floor lobby and corridor from noon to 4 p.m. Faculty will judge the posters at 4 p.m.

"We are trying to encourage students in their professional development in psychology," said Thomas Brinthaup, associate professor of Psychology.

Psi Chi was founded by Beryl West, professor of psychology, in 1969. The contest was started last year by Trish Cole, an adjunct psychology professor, and Donald Kendrick, professor of psychology.

"One of the things psychologists do is to present their research findings at conferences," Brinthaup said. "We are trying to create that atmosphere

here and allow students to present their research to their peers and research community."

"We are trying to encourage students in their professional development in psychology."

Thomas Brinthaup
Associate professor of psychology

All participants will receive a certificate of participation, and the best poster from each of the four areas will be awarded a cash prize of \$75. The money for the awards comes from faculty donations.

The posters must be four feet by four feet and cover one of the four topic areas: Industrial/Organizational/Social/Applied; Clinical/Personality; Cognitive/Learning/Quantitative/Experiment; and General.

Most of the participants' research has been done in conjunction with a professor or a research class, Brinthaup said. ●

FEATURES

Dr. Father Judson bids us adieu

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WEATHER

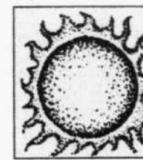
THUR
scattered showers
High: 80
Low: 52



FRI
windy
High: 65
Low: 54



SAT
sunny
High: 67
Low: 54



SPORTS

Golf team wins OVC championship

Page 7



Mark T. Gibson / staff

Lunchtime entertainment

Gerordo Davila (front left) and Sean Harrison (front right) led the MTSU Steel Drum Band with Darren Garing, Mark Howell, Eric Stevens, Chris Long during a lunchtime performance in the KUC Grill yesterday afternoon.

Music students receive contest recognition

By Todd R. Cruse / staff

Three MTSU music students were recognized and received awards at the 19th annual Phi Mu Alpha Composition Concert Competition.

The competition, which was held on April 12, is an annual event sponsored by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Professional Music Fraternity to recognize MTSU student and faculty composers.

First place at the competition was awarded to graduate student Eric Stephens for his "Suite of Emotions for Solo Percussion," performed by undergraduate percussion major Scott Foreman. Stephens received \$100 for his winning piece.

Students winning runner-up awards at the concert included Doug Thurman, an undergraduate

theory/composition major, and graduate student Don Radford. Thurman's piece, "Glimpse of Utopia Coming Through the Walls," was presented by the MTSU Clarinet Choir, directed by John Duke.

Radford was named runner-up for "Earth (from Elementum)," a tape and dance piece which he composed and choreographed. The choreography was performed by Andrea Hebert.

Both runners-up received a \$50 cash award.

The program also featured the MTSU Clarinet Quartet, MTSU Orchestra and MTSU Wind Ensemble.

Judges for this year's event were: Bill Yelverton, assistant professor of music; Michael Linton, associate professor of music; and guest composer David Amram of New York. ●

The last publication of *Sidelines* for the Spring semester will be Monday, April 29. Publication for the summer semester will begin on June 5.

Congressman Gordon establishes World Wide Web page

By staff reports

In an effort to stay in touch with his constituents in Rutherford County, Congressman Bart Gordon announced his own home page

on the World Wide Web last Thursday in the LRC.

Information available on the Bart Gordon Home Page includes information about Gordon, the 6th Congressional District, Social Security,

Department of Veterans Affairs and college loans.

The page provides links to the home pages for every federal cabinet department and agency, the White House Home Page, and the Library of

Congress "Thomas" system, which contains the text of every congressional bill and resolution.

Residents of the 6th District can request tour information for the White

House, FBI, Capitol and the Kennedy Center, as well as dozens of other tourist attractions in the Washington, D.C., area.

Bart Gordon's e-mail address can be found on the

page, as well as information on ordering flags that have flown over the U.S. Capitol. Bart Gordon's home page can be seen at <http://www/house.gov/gordon/> ●

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WEDNESDAY 5/1: **RUB**
THE PLAIN

THURSDAY 5/2: **MYSTIC MEDITATIONS**

FRIDAY 5/3: **FLEMING AND JOHN**
MIND'S EYE

SATURDAY 5/4: **BUTTERSCOTCH BICYCLE**

FRIDAY 5/17: **PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE BAND-- PULSE**

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CAMPUS CAPSULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Psi Chi/Psychology Club presents "Undergraduate Research Poster Competition." Poster's will be displayed in the Jones Hall Lobby from 1-4 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

The City Council of Cannonburgh invites you to attend Cannonburgh's Tennessee Bicentennial Celebration and Rededication. The pioneer village dedication to life the early southern lifestyles, hosts old time artisans and good cooks to bring skills and finished products for demonstration, display and trade or sale at Pioneer Day from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Booth space is free. Call Mrs. Giblin at 893-0214 (8-4:30 Mon.-Fri.).

MONDAY, APRIL 29

MTSU Right to Life will be sponsoring a presentation by "Today's Choices" at 7 p.m. in KUC 322. The program will include a video and sharing of personal experiences by three women who have had crisis pregnancies. For more information call 848-0448.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

The Native American Heritage Society will hold a general meeting from 5-6:30 p.m. in KUC Room 322.

FRIDAY, MAY 3

The Toshiba Philharmonic Orchestra from Tokyo, Japan will be performing at the War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville at 8 p.m. If interested in tickets, please call The Japan Center of Tennessee at 898-2229 or Toshiba America at 615-444-8501 extension 0.

The final date to pay outstanding debts to the university to hear your grades via tram and/or receive a printed grade report upon request is May 10.

The MTSU Women's Chorale is recruiting new members. All MTSU Women who enjoy singing are encouraged to join. Members are not required to be music majors, in fact, women from all majors are welcome. No formal audition is required. WC meets on T/R from 1:40-2:55 in SFA 117 for 1 hour credit. To register sing-up for Chorus 0370-01, call number 03122. For more information call 2487.

ONGOING EVENTS

If you are interested in international relations and current affairs, and want to develop leadership, negotiation

and debate skills, get involved in MTSU's Model United Nations! For more information, contact Tony Mathews at 223-8884 or Dr. Anne Sloan in the Political Science Department.

ENT on MTSU's Channel 8. Movies, Music and More. Monday and Wednesday night at 8:30 p.m. Questions or comments: entch8@frank.mtsu.edu.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in Dance Studio B. Everyone (athletes and non-athletes) welcome. Come for fun, fellowship, and Bible Study.

Women's Clinic in the Academic Nursing Center offers the following gender specific assessments for \$15 initial and \$10 follow-up: breast exam, pap smear stool for occult blood, urine check, pregnancy test, blood chemistry profile, tests for infections if indicated and follow-up reporting and counseling. Blood Chemistry Profiles available the first Wednesday of every month from 8-10 a.m. at \$10 for the 18 component blood chemistry profile and \$10 for PSA (prostate cancer test). The clinic also offers free blood pressure screenings every Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. For an appointment call 898-5950.

Raiders for Christ will hold a devotional on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Middle Tennessee Christian Student Center.

The MTSU Christian Faculty and Staff Fellowship will meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in KUC Room 312. Interested Faculty and Staff are invited to attend any of these meetings. For further information contact Kim Sokoya at 898-2352 or ksokoya@frank.mtsu.edu.

The MTSU College Democrats will hold weekly meetings in room 313 of the KUC at 5:00 p.m. Come and find out what we are all about.

Codependents Anonymous (Coda) will meet Thursday's from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Marks United Methodist Church, Room 109 under the red handrail. Coda is a fellowship of men and women whose common problem is an inability to maintain functional relationships. The only requirement for membership is a desire for healthy and fulfilling relationships with others and ourselves.

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) will meet Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at St. Marks Methodist Church, 1403 E. Main

St., Room 109. ACOA is a 12-step support group for people raised in an alcoholic or other dysfunctional family.

Lambda, an organization for gay, lesbian and bisexual students, faculty, non-students, and their supporters, will meet every Tuesday in the Mass Comm building, room 103, at 6:30 p.m. For further information write to MTSU Box 624 or call 780-2293.

Lambda will be hosting a "Movie Night" every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Mass Comm Room 103. For more information call the Lambda Hotline at 780-2293.

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship will hold its weekly meetings on Tuesday at 8 p.m. and Campus Prayer meetings on Wednesday at 9 p.m., in KUC room 312. All campus ministries and all individuals are invited to attend.

Seniors and Graduate Students: create your resume with Resume Expert Plus Software and register with the Placement Center in one easy step. Contact Placement and Student Employment Center KUC 328, 898-2500.

Wesley Foundation will be hosting an hour-long ongoing study group on Human Sexuality in the Christian Faith, Mondays at 5:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation.

Wesley Singers rehearsals will be held Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation. Anyone who loves to sing is welcome.

MTSU students who need speech testing or speech therapy services should call the **MTSU Speech Clinic**, 898-2661, for an appointment.

Anyone interested in being a tutor or getting tutored, please contact Tanisha Harris of the **NAACP (Educational Committee)** at 898-4056.

MTSU Equestrian Team will hold regular meetings every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. in the TLC Sales Arena. Everyone is welcome!

Inroads Nashville, Inc. plans to recruit Sophomore and Junior Minority Students in marketing, computer information systems and business administration. With a GPA of 2.9 or better, successful recruits will have the opportunity to do internships with such firms as IBM, Price-Waterhouse and Northern Telecom. Those interested should immediately call Prof. B. Fayissa at 898-2385 or see him in KOM 322G.

Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for dinner and fellowship at St. Paul's Church, 315 E. Main St. and Thursdays for lunch in the KUC Grill. All are welcome. Contact Andrew Wright at 893-3780 for more information.

MTSU Raidersharks- Scuba Club will hold meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. in the MTSU Pool. It is open to anyone interested in scuba diving or associated activities. All students are welcome. For more information call Tim or Jude at 895-6249.

Phi Sigma Pi will hold their weekly meetings on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Stark Ag Building Room 125. Contact an officer if you can not attend.

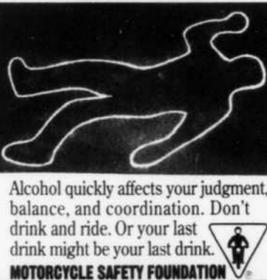
DEADLINES FOR CAMPUS CAPSULE SUBMISSIONS:

MONDAY EDITION:
4:00 P.M. FRIDAY

THURSDAY EDITION
4:00 P.M. TUESDAY

All submissions must be brought 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.edu/~specevent
How to get involved, who's who, a listing of calendar events, and more!

OPINIONS



In our view

Make us proud, SGA

Congratulations to the newly elected SGA officials. Now get to work.

The SGA is presently a weak, largely ignored body. The administration largely ignores the SGA, and most of the student body ignores the SGA.

It's no problem if most students ignore SGA. We can assume that they have no suggestions for improving MTSU — or that they have their heads shoved clean up their hats.

The administration needs to learn to respect the SGA. If they do not, this new SGA needs to show university officials how much the Tennessee Board of Regents respects student concerns.

We need some fresh life and new direction in the SGA.

Hopefully, our new officials can do the jobs they promised in their election campaigns.



Department politics robbing students of fine biology prof.

To the Editor,

For the first time in what has been an extended college career, the politics of a university have motivated me to take action. Like most students I am normally a passive observer of campus issues and conflicts, choosing instead to concentrate on my studies. I am the first to admit that perhaps I have remained a little too detached from the pulse of the school, however, I don't care to debate issues such as creationism vs. evolution and other issues that involve personal decisions. No condescending harangue by a university professor, no matter how rooted in science it may be, is going to change any creationist's view. But, I digress.

What I am willing to take issue with is anything that detrimentally affects my education, especially when the actions taken seem to be in direct contrast to what is best for the students of MTSU. Unfortunately, this is what is happening right here, right now, for despite his abilities in the classroom, the Department of Biology has voted not to grant tenure to Dr. Bruce Cushing. In making this decision the department has failed to take into account the needs and opinions of its students and has done a grave disservice to the university as a whole.

For those of you who do not know Dr. Cushing he is primarily a teacher of Anatomy and Physiology, one who is often known to help students from classes other than his own. He is an individual who obviously enjoys teaching and interacting with his students, someone who brings a rare enthusiasm and personable manner to his classroom. Make no mistake, however, for as enjoyable as Dr. Cushing tries to make his classes, he does not make them easy. Quite to the contrary, his classes are challenging and thought provoking. For myself, this is what has most distinguished

Dr. Cushing as a teacher — his ability to engage his students in active, cognitive thought rather than just requiring rote memorization of facts and figures. Too few teachers seem to have this ability or inclination and it seems a shame that MTSU is so willing to part with one who does. Why then is the Department of Biology so eager to turn Dr. Cushing loose? Ah, but there's more to this story.

Few outside of the Department of Biology would have heard of the interdepartmental conflicts that have occurred with Dr. Cushing the proposed instigator, either by his actions or lack thereof. By denying him tenure, the Department of Biology has conveniently managed to rid itself of its "problem child." Out of sight, out of mind, end of problem. At the same time, however, the department has also managed to eliminate a talented, motivated and effective teacher from its faculty. As a student what I find to be particularly disturbing is that the decision to deny Dr. Cushing tenure was made with little to no regard for what should have been the most important factor — his ability as a teacher. Despite the fact that he has received consistently high class evaluations, that the vast majority of his students have nothing but positive things to say about him and his teaching, and that the Department of Biology is well aware of how the students feel about him as a teacher, Dr. Cushing will not be returning to MTSU. It would appear as though the individuals of the Department of Biology have chosen to put personal conflicts ahead of their purpose as a department and as a part of the university — to provide the students of MTSU with an education. Dr. Cushing does just this and does it well.

I did not come to college to get involved in campus or departmental politics. Usually what goes on behind closed departmental doors I could not care less about. However, when what is going on behind those doors threatens to lessen the quality of my education, I take notice. As a student, you should too, for although you may never have to take a biology class, this could just as easily happen in your major department to the teacher that

you find remarkable or inspiring. What is happening does affect you because the administration of MTSU is allowing it to occur with just as little regard for Dr. Cushing's teaching abilities or for what the students think is best for themselves. By deliberately eliminating good teachers such as Dr. Cushing, the quality of the education you are receiving is cheapened as will be the degree that you receive.

Heather Dyer
Post Baccalaureate

A creationist 'visits' Grand Canyon, tries to save atheist

To the Editor,

In your April 8 issue, biology professor Dr. Charles R. McGhee suggest that since we creationists have finally seen enough proof to have to admit that the small changes call "micro evolution" might occur, we ought to be able to understand that these small changes could eventually add up to the big changes of "macro evolution" over a long period of time. I want to go on record as resenting McGhee's snide insinuation about our reasoning abilities.

His attitude reminds me of my tour guide when I took a trip to the Grand Canyon. There I was, thinking about Genesis 1:1 and marveling over God's power in creating such a place, when the tour guide had to desecrate everything by claiming that all of this majesty had been created by the haphazard wanderings of a teeny-weeny ribbon of water down there called the Colorado River. How can she, as a government employee, get away with spouting such atheistic sacrilege as fact? The Colorado legislature ought to pass a "River Law" that makes it illegal to present the idea that the Colorado River formed the Grand Canyon without admitting that it's only a theory. Then tour guides should also be required to present the creationist view that the Grand Canyon was made by God.

I felt the Spirit of God come upon Me to proclaim His Truth. "Genesis 1:1 says that 'God created the heaven and the earth,'" I proclaimed, "not some teeny little river."

"I know it's difficult to believe," she smiled. "But that 'teeny little river' did it a 'teeny little' bit at a time over the course of two million years!"

"There you go again," I tried to reason with her. "It's a scientific fact that the world is no more than six thousand years old, ten thousand at the outside. But whenever you're cornered by facts, you scientists always go running a million years into the past. You probably even believe that man evolved little by little from animals like chimpanzees a million of years ago! But Genesis 2:7 says clearly that 'the lord God formed man of the dust of the ground.'"

"Personally, I don't think there is necessarily a contradiction," she tried to squirm out of it. "Evolution started with the dust of the ground, so why couldn't God have used evolution as His tool to form humans out of the dust of the ground? Wouldn't that be just as miraculous and glorious?"

"Sure!" I countered. "Like you're trying to say that it wouldn't take away from God's glory to suggest that maybe He used that little river to make the Grand Canyon? Why don't you just admit that you're lost and on your way to hell? Then you could get saved like me!"

I guess she couldn't answer my logic, for she got mad and didn't talk to me for the rest of the tour, which just shows that it doesn't pay to try to do these atheists a favor.

Dr. Tim Wolf
Professor of English

Assimilation may be a problem for creationists

To the Editor,

I have been reading with interest the articles in the *Sidelines* concerning the evolution/creationism debate. I

admire the valiant efforts (unending) of the MTSU biology staff in clarifying this issue. Early in our lives transmission of nervous impulses along various neural (nerve) pathways becomes facilitated (that is, becomes easier) as the result of reception of various stimuli and/or repetition of various motor acts. Subsequently our behavior and thought patterns are influenced. Later in life, alteration of certain of these behavior or thought patterns may be difficult. As an adult, a left-handed person may have trouble learning to write with the right hand. An adult may have difficulty learning to swim or to pronounce foreign words.

The creationist view (in the literal Biblical sense), when instilled early in life, may result in a firm way of thinking which filters out and ignores many of the facts concerning the origin and nature of life. These facts are of overwhelming abundance but are not readily assimilated by the non-receptive mind. Convincing some creationists of the truths of evolution could be like arguing with a fence post. Evolution is fact. Evolution of humans from primitive life forms is fact. Evolution forms the heart of our understanding of biology, of ourselves and of our place in this universe.

H.B. Reed, Ph.D.,
Zoology and Entomology, Retired

LETTERS POLICY

Sidelines encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Authors who want more than 300 words to express themselves should contact the editor. *Sidelines* keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, identification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) *Sidelines* reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the *Sidelines* office in JUB Room 310. Letters can also be sent via e-mail to the editor at: m_c_008c@frank.mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

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Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate

Student finds fault with article about Ocoee, her hometown

To the Editor,

I have just read an article published in the Thursday, March 28, 1996 edition of *Sidelines* titled "How I'll spend My Summer Vacation." I am a graduate student having received my B.B.A. approximately 21 years ago, and I have never been so upset or insulted by a published article that I sat down to write to the editor. This article was written by Keith Russell and it seems his "facts" came from one "Scott Wilkinson, a veteran traveler of the Ocoee who is working on a documentary about the river." Why didn't Mr. Russell talk with any one of a number of friendly residents who would have been more than willing to give him the REAL story instead of one that sounds good to the environmentalists? Since when does it make someone an authority on a subject just because that person is "working on a documentary?" I would be interested in knowing if Mr. Wilkinson has any basis for us to look to him as credible on this subject.

I am a native of the COPPER Basin area (not the Ducktown Basin as Mr. Russell mistakenly calls it). My family has been in the area since shortly after the Revolutionary War. I graduated from McCaysville Grammar School, Copper Basin High School and the University of Georgia. Our home was in sight of the Ocoee River and that river played an

important part in the area's very day-to-day life. The river flows first from the Blue Ridge, Georgia, area northwest into the very heart of McCaysville, Georgia, and Copperhill, Tenn. These are "twin cities" divided by an imaginary line. Many residents are not even really sure of the line's location. Mr. Russell may be interested to know that the river is called the Toccoa River in Georgia. The river literally splits McCaysville-Copperhill in two. There are many homes and businesses located along the river banks. Not once has anyone been able to walk across town on a "dry riverbed." Two large traffic-bearing bridges cross the river to allow people access to either side. Many times I have seen this "dead" river flood and threaten lives and property. This has been constant all my life. Just exactly WHEN does Mr. Russell suggest this river was dead?

At no time during my lifetime has any part of the Ocoee riverbed been dry as Mr. Russell suggests. Once the river leaves the downtown area of Copperhill, it travels through the hills to again become visible to "tourists" as it parallels Highway 64. For many years the majority of the water was diverted from the bed, at this point, into a flume line to produce electricity. Mr. Russell mentions the flume as follows: "Then, with the building of the curiously named Flume, a sort of wooden funnel build into the

side of the hillside next to the riverbank, the river was diverted from its natural course, leaving the riverbed dry." Mr. Russell should have consulted a dictionary. Flume is defined as an aqueduct, canal, duct, pipe (not a funnel). So, why was it "curious" that it would have been called what it is? The flume did NOT leave the riverbed dry; the riverbed simply was not as full as Mr. Russell would have liked. The entire time I was growing up, it was always a treat to go to the portion of the river being discussed in this article. We called it Rock Creek and there was always a crowd of people playing in the water, sunning and enjoying what Mr. Russell now tells us was a dry riverbed.

Mr. Russell does have SOME of his facts straight. There is copper in the area and it was mined for many, many years. It was mined until some outside environmentalists came in, placed unreasonable demands on the mining company to meet unreasonable standards and put over 2,000 people out of work. He is also right that the cutting of trees for the roasting of ore was carried out. He is incorrect, again, by stating that it was "open" roasting. The furnaces were enclosed and very tightly controlled. The sulfuric acid "fallout" did not make the basin a desert. This is a myth that the Basin residents have been fighting as long as I can remember. When the forestry

was cut to feed the furnaces (because there is no other natural fuel in the area and the time was the 1800s before our sophisticated transportation systems were in place), the severe winters eroded the topsoil prohibiting any NATURAL regrowth. Over the generations, the residents felt that this was home just as it was. We were quite happy knowing we lived in a unique area that held much of the same beauty as the Painted Desert in Arizona. If we were very capable of growing anything we wanted. My family always had vegetable and flower gardens which were never harmed by the mythical "sulfuric acid fallout [that] made much of the basin a desert." There was no such fallout. I also had many friends who fished out of the Ocoee. Someone forgot to tell the fish that they couldn't swim in the primordial ooze Mr. Russell would have us believe was the river that ran, and still runs, openly through our town.

I will give Mr. Russell credit for his facts since the river's "rebirth." I have no argument with his facts concerning the actual river today as a recreational area. (And, yes, I was one of those who in "the beginning" did tube the river. Isn't the point of tubing, rafting, kayaking, etc. to get wet? Big deal.)

Mr. Russell is also right about something else. Such

guided rafting trips down the river now does represent one of the area's largest money-making entities. This is thanks to the environmentalists driving the mining operation out of business. It has been proven repeatedly that the environmentalists had little if no grounds at all for their claims. Yes, the operation produced smoke (any "melting" operation does). But that smoke and all other wastes associated with the operation were manageable and well worth it to the 2,000 families that relied on the jobs produced by that operation. The mining company was also one of the largest tax-payers in the STATE, not just the county. That same company also contributed a retail grocery entity, a hospital, a nursing home, youth programs, a recreation center, and even private residential property to the community as needed.

Mr. Russell, you could not be more wrong or insulting in saying that the "people...at one point destroyed it." "IT" was NEVER destroyed. It was used for things I'm sure you will think inconsequential (such as electricity for our homes and businesses) and not for recreation — but it was NEVER DESTROYED!

Mr. Russell, your style is great. Your article read very nicely. You will no doubt become a top-notch journalist IF you get your facts straight and stop unnecessary

insulting entire communities with whom you have had no contact. This is one article that is, unfortunately, worthy of a fiction column in *The [National] Enquirer*. What a shame to mislead so many people about such a wonderful, history-laden portion of our state. Why would you slander us so needlessly? The real facts are just as interesting as your fiction, if not more so. I challenge you to research the area from credible sources and get the real stories about the area. There are many stories much more amusing, entertaining and TRUE. Is there any chance that the REAL story will be printed of the friendly, environmentally-conscious (but not obsessed) people in the oft forgotten corner of the state who have been maliciously maligned by Mr. Russell?

Micki Hyde

Graduate Student

Hometown: Copperhill, Tenn.

(And proud of it)

Editor's Note: After consulting with both Ocoee river guides and environmental writers who have researched the Ocoee area, we received the same data that appears in Mr. Russell's article. *Sidelines* stands behind the article.



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NABI
The Quality Source

Aquatics program: swimmingly good fun

By Joyce Fox / staff

Ray Wiley, who heads the aquatics program for the HPER department, is the kind of person who is always aware of the people around him and their needs.

Lately, those two areas of interest have been melding into a wonderful combination in Wiley's brain and the mix has blossomed into benefits for every differently abled person on the campus of MTSU.

Along with Jan Dodson, head of the Rec Center's aquatics program, and John Harris, head of the Disabled Students' Center, he has put together a plan to promote aquatic exercise and fun for those who otherwise would have no chance to spend time in the water.

At the Rec Center pool, a wheelchair ramp runs right down into the water, there are ties for seeing-eye dogs and there are always folks such as Dawn Shelar, Assistant Professor of Recreational Therapy and Jessica Russell, lifeguard, willing to assist. With all this going on, everyone can enjoy the benefits of weightless exercise.

So far, about 10 people have experienced the freedom and excitement of a mobility never before available to them. John "Buck" Barrett, for instance, had this to say about the program: "Before my automobile accident and resulting paralysis in 1992, I was actively involved with water-related activities. I am a native of the Kentucky Lake area and learned to scuba dive for mussel shells in its waters at an early age. I have always enjoyed being in and around water. Recently I have made the soul enlightening pleasure of returning back to water activities. The new Recreation Center has the staff and facilities to make this possible. There is a wheelchair ramp made to easily wheel down into the huge pool of water. Staff members have assisted me with life preservers and swimming techniques or anything I



Photo provided by Joyce Fox

Ray Wiley (right) assists John "Buck" Barrett down the wheelchair ramp.

might need. They even carried me to the top of the water slide so I could enjoy rushing back to the bottom. This has been all fun and great! Thumbs up for the Rec Center!"

Wiley explains that Barrett has great upper body strength and with the aid of a float belt, he has been able to swim laps using the elementary backstroke and he is now working on his breaststroke.

When Heather Norman, who has never been able to control her muscle movements enough to jump, heard that the staff was willing to do anything possible to make dreams come true, she explained, "I've always wanted to jump rope in the water I could do it."

Since ropes won't move right through the water, the staff and other students began coming up with ideas that would enable her to realize her dream. Some of the suggestions included using a weighted rope or a rubber hose that would be solid enough to move through the water.

"Sooner or later, we'll get you jumping, Heather," Russell promised.

When Marcia Mullins was 10 years old, she nearly drowned. Because of this experience, she was afraid of the water and thought she would never get in the pool. Now, she has learned to float in the water and is slowly learning to relax in it, letting it carry her instead of fighting against it.

Land Reed says, "It's been seven years since I've jumped and I was jumping all over the place!"

Lisa Busch was worried about her seeing-eye dog, but has found that as long as she gives him a pan of water, he's fine while she works on her breaststroke and water-walking.

Shelar, who has assisted in the development of this program, says, "I am proud that all of these students are willing to try new activities and realize how important their health and happiness is. They are eager to take responsibility for their own well-being. It is so wonderful that MTSU is also eager and able to make these opportunities possible." ●

Turn that down! Boom boxes blare from Amish buggies

Associated Press

Amish teens are turning their peaceful, quaint buggies into horse-drawn boom boxes, carrying radios so loud that some are powered by car batteries.

Residents have complained that it's impossible to tune out the blaring music from the passing buggies, and their slow pace only makes it worse.

"It could be two o'clock in the morning and you'll hear the sound coming down the road, and you know exactly how far away it is," Rick Roose, owner of a local drug store, said Tuesday. "I guess I'm getting old and turning into an old fuddy-duddy — and kids will be kids."

The Village Council in this town of 2,000, about 40 miles east of Cleveland, has sorted through multiple complaints and turned the problem over to police. Councilwoman Linda Smallwood said the buggy

"I guess I'm getting old and turning into an old fuddy-duddy - and kids will be kids."

Rick Roose
local drug store owner

owners could be cited for violating the village's noise ordinance, but for now police are being asked just to warn them.

Roose said he tries to tell the young Amish who come into his store

to turn their radios down, and most promise to oblige.

He said some Amish turn up the radios just so they can hear the music over the creaky buggy sounds. They put the speakers under the front seat and turn them toward the back so the sound isn't muffled.

"At least the horses don't have to worry about it then," Roose said.

The Amish shun modern conveniences, including automobiles and telephones, and other "worldly" distractions. Middlefield Township, which stretches about 5 to 7 miles from downtown Middlefield, is the fourth largest Amish settlement in the nation, Roose said.

Mayor Benjamin L. Garlich said he wrote to the area's Amish bishops about the problem. Garlich didn't return a message Tuesday for further comment. ●

Brewer to host poetry reading

By Joey Butler / staff

Assistant Professor of English Gay Brewer will be reading from his latest collection of poems, "Presently A Beast," Wednesday, May 8, at 7 p.m. at Williams Booksellers.

Although Brewer has published over 250 poems in various publications over the last decade, "Presently A Beast" is his first full-length collection.

Following the reading will be an informal discussion.

"I hope to make it lively," Brewer said. "With any luck at all, it will be a drunken debacle and someone will get hurt."

Decade or no, students are urged to take a short break from their finals studies and attend the reading. ●

ENTERTAINMENT EXTRA!

TODAY
THE BORO (895-4800) Springfest '96 rocks into the Boro with the Cripple Creek Band, Saturn V, Big Vessel, and Laughing Storm Dogs. The show starts at 7 p.m. for \$4.
BUNGANUT PIG (893-7860) Tim Daly performs at 8 p.m. No cover.
CACTUS JACK'S (890-8280) presents The Holdouts at 9:30 p.m. No cover.
KUC THEATER (Student Programming 2551) Last showing of "Grumpier Old Men" Shows are at 6:30 and 10 p.m.
MAINSTREET (890-7820) welcomes the Velcro Pygmies. Cover charge is \$5.
MIDDLE TENNESSEE BAND will be performing at 8 p.m. in the Music Hall of the Wright Music Building.
SQUEEZER'S (896-8175) TBA

FRIDAY
THE BORO Springfest '96 continues with Winslow's Calling, Nether, Mojo Bone, Uncle Daddy, and Stalemate. Again show is at 7 p.m. for \$4.
BUNGANUT PIG presents Blue Like Me at 9 p.m. No Cover
CACTUS JACK'S presents Mending Fences at 9:30 p.m. No Cover.
MAINSTREET rocks with the Hotter Than Hell, a Kiss Tribute band and

Ballistic Whiplash, not a Kiss tribute band for \$7.
MUSIC ON THE KNOLL showcases local Christian music talents the Grits, FIN, and Keepers of the Quest. Show begins at 3 p.m.
SQUEEZER'S: TBA

SATURDAY
THE BORO Springfest rages on with Koosch, The Smoking Section, Thicket Grove, Redstone and Dr. Gonzo. show starts at 7 p.m. for \$4.
BUNGANUT PIG welcomes the Bunganuts (how appropriate). Show starts at 9 p.m.
CACTUS JACK'S brings back Mending Fences. Same time, same price.
JAZZ FESTIVAL CONCERT closes out the two-day festival at 8 p.m. in the Music Hall of the Wright Music Building.
SQUEEZER'S: TBA

SUNDAY
THE BORO Springfest '96 ends the frenzy with Joe Audette, Don Marten, Marc Pierce, Don Clark, and Chad Johnson.
MUSIC DEPARTMENT Callie McGonical will perform her senior recital at 6 p.m. in the Music Hall of

the Wright Music Building. At 8 p.m. Eric Stephens will perform his graduate recital in the same hall.
SQUEEZER'S: TBA

MONDAY
THE BORO presents Canvas.
BUNGANUT PIG welcomes Dallis
JONATHAN'S presents Disco Retro Night this and every Monday night.
MIDDLE TENNESSEE SYMPHONY final concert at 7:30 p.m. in Tucker Theater. The theme of the performance is "Pops Britannia." For ticketing information call 890-1862.
SQUEEZER'S: TBA

TUESDAY
THE BORO welcomes the music of Don Marten.
BUNGANUT PIG hosts Lisa at 8 p.m.
SQUEEZER'S: TBA

WEDNESDAY
THE BORO gets down right bluesy with the Nationals.
BUNGANUT PIG welcomes the Warren Brothers. Everything gets started at 8 p.m.
CACTUS JACK'S spotlights you! It's Karaoke Night with David Lovell!
SQUEEZER'S: TBA ●



Dr. Judson solves your problems

Farewell, dear Judson

Dear Dr. Father Judson,

What's the deal with the lame letters you have been running in the last two issues? Is that the best you can do? Please say you can do better.

Whatever, Sick of your lame Honk!

Dear Honk,

I only respond to the letters I am sent. It's not like I make them up or anything ... um, well, I gotta go. My laundry's boiling over.

Yours,
Dr. Father Judson

Dear Dr. Father Judson,

I am getting ready to graduate from Middle Tennessee State University. I am a 22-year-old man and I am scared about the future. I mean, think about it, you get all this training in the classroom and then get put out in the street to find a job!

I know all about using the placement office and doing an internship, but that doesn't really do anything except give your resume a little shine and get you job offers from telemarketers. Don't get me wrong, I believe that my college years have been spent well, I just want to know what my future holds.

PLEASE GIVE ME SOME GOOD NEWS!!!! At least tell me that my life isn't going to end.

Thanks,
Graduation Jitters

Dear Jitters,

Don't get down on yourself. You will do just fine. You don't churn out honk letters. You didn't just decide to quit the advice business. . .

I'm not down on myself. I will do just fine. I do churn out honk letters. I did just decide to quit the advice business.

Yes, that is correct! There will be no further columns. To those of you that actually wrote in, I thank you. To those of you that didn't write in complaint letters, I thank you. Finally, to those of you that cracked a smile and felt like your life was a little bit better after reading those letters written by people without a life, I hope you get professional help!

Dr. Father Judson

P.S.: Congratulations to all '96 graduates - even if you don't know what you are going to do!

**DON'T
DRINK &
DRIVE**

* Dr. Judson is neither a licensed therapist nor the author of honk letters. Sidelines assumes no responsibility for those following his advice, because he's out of our hair after May 11 anyway (so are the rest of us, and we're all going to do just fine). If you must write him, please do so at another address. Box 42 is officially closed.

(Was that too honk??) ●

MTSU golf claims 3rd straight title

By Rob Nunley / staff

The Blue Raider golf team posted five top-twenty individual scores on their way to winning their third consecutive Ohio Valley Conference title yesterday at Opryland's Springhouse Golf Club.

Middle Tennessee shot a combined team score of 876 over the three day, 54-hole tournament, twelve strokes over par and 14 ahead of Murray State and Eastern Kentucky, who tied for second at 890.

The Raiders led Murray by only two strokes going into yesterday's final

round, but several impressive efforts over the final 18 holes allowed Middle to win by an impressive 14 strokes.

"Eastern was playing good early today, and so was Murray," said head golf coach Johnny Moore. "But we just kept pouring it on them."

Three Blue Raiders, Brian Higgins, David Head and Steve Ressler, shot one-under totals of 71 in the final round. Maine Brock's even-par 72 contributed to Middle's 285 total, while David Reed's one-over 73 was not counted toward the team score.

"I thought all along we could win

it, but I never dreamed they would go up there and do what they did today," Moore said. "They just ran over those guys."

Higgins's three-day total of 217 (one-over) was good enough to tie for third place on the individual leaderboard. Reed finished sixth with a 219, while shooting a 73 in every round for the second straight year. Ressler tied for seventh place overall with a 220.

Head finished tied for 13th with a total of 223, and Brock tied for 20th with a 227.

Murray State's Adam Grogan shot

the lowest individual score, with a three-day total of 213 (three-under par). Grogan also shot the tournament's low round, with a 67 on the first day. Grogan, who shot a one-over 73 yesterday, was named the OVC's Golfer of the Year.

Higgins was named to the All-OVC team for the 1996 season, and Moore was named OVC Coach of the Year for the third consecutive year.

"I'm really proud of them," Moore said of his team. "I knew we had a good team, but I think they waited until the last to show us just how good they really are." ●



The Leprechaun's Pot
Sean P. O'Toole

Albert Belle's reputation for trouble makes him a target

Well, crazy kids, it's that time of year.

Yes, sir, it's that time of year where you get two of me in the same week!

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE, DOUBLE YOUR FUN!

Well, continuing in my discussion of sports violence from Monday, I am going to shed light on a man who makes my stomach turn.

Yes, folks, I'm talking about Albert Belle.

Now, I'm not all that old, so I can remember back to when he was Joey Belle, an up and coming, but not yet fearsome, ballplayer.

He was not the big lug that he is now, he didn't even know he could hit 50 home runs and 50 doubles in the same year, and he wasn't quite half the menacing jerk that he is now.

This whole feast of anger really began in the Halloween of 1994, when Belle chased a group of youngsters in his car.

The youngsters had egged his house, so Belle jumped in his car and began chasing them.

Then, before game three of the World series last year, Belle shouted profanities at NBC's Hannah Storm and was fined \$50,000-the largest single player fine in major league history.

And just recently, Belle turned down a four-year, \$37 million dollar contract, and threatened to sue local Cleveland restaurants when they started selling \$100 hamburgers to poke fun at the greedy left fielder.

And finally, the events that took place on April 6 and came to light just this past weekend. And just when Albert Belle was trying to improve his image....

Tony Tomsic, a veteran photographer for *Sports Illustrated*, was taking pictures of Belle and teammates warming up before a game at Jacobs Field with Toronto.

Belle ordered Tomsic to stop, and he did. But when Chief Wahoo's tribe moved out to left field for loosening-up, Tomsic followed (still not taking pictures, though).

Before he knew it, Tomsic said he heard players shouting, and then he heard a ball hitting something behind him. Belle threw it.

The next ball Belle threw hit Tomsic in the hand. Tomsic said that he had blocked it, or it would have hit him in the head or the upper body.

Indians manager Mike Hargrove and several other players (not including Belle) apologized to Tomsic.

But now the incident has come to light. And I hear some people say,

"Well, if Mike Piazza or Ken Griffey, Jr. did this, it would go unnoticed!"

Exactly my point. Albert Belle has become the Dennis Rodman of baseball for one simple reason...History.

Do you people actually think that referees just woke up one day and said, "Hey, let's all hate Dennis Rodman!"

Or, do you think that football refs stood up at a meeting and said, "Hey, let's start being strict to Greg Lloyd!"

No, they didn't. You people out there can sit and scream racism all you want, but the simple facts are that guys like Rodman, Belle, and Lloyd have all become targets because they make themselves targets...with their actions on and off the field.

The reason guys like Piazza and Griffey don't ever end up in stuff like this is because they aren't punks who haven't grown up, unlike Rodman, Belle, and Lloyd.

Because Mike Piazza and Ken Griffey have learned one thing the other three punks haven't.....How to be professionals.

Until the fall (or the summer for those of you that will be here), across the rainbow I go, dodging baseballs. ●

Lady Raiders beat Tech to capture OVC crown

By Joel Frey / staff

Did someone say pressure? Anxiety? Nerves?

Lately, the Lady Raider tennis team has been unable to identify with such words.

Less than a week after an 8-1 win over Tennessee Tech to win the OVC regular season title, coach David Thornton's squad calmly duplicated the feat in Monday's championship match of the OVC tournament with a 5-3 win over the Lady Eagles.

With the win, M T S U recaptured the title it had won four consecutive years from 1990-1993.

"This team has shown a lot of maturity and poise over the last month of the season and I think this was proven once again on Monday."

Thornton said. "Tech was pumped up for this match but I think we showed we wanted it more than they did."

As in their April 16 match with Tech, the Lady Raiders' superior doubles play proved to be critical in the match.

Middle jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead following doubles' wins from the teams of Jennifer Bryans/Alex Toelle, Michelle Wilson/Kelley Bacich and Malinda Ryan/Amy King.

Unlike the first match, however, all of the doubles victories did not come easy for the Lady Raiders.

Bryans and Toelle fell behind 3-0 to Tech's Esra Bayburt and Marieta Valkova before coming back to win 8-6. Likewise Wilson and Bacich were down 4-1 to Diana Pous and Mona Kronheim before rallying to a 9-8

victory.

The three doubles wins proved to be the margin of victory for MTSU. Tech took three singles matches over the Lady Raiders before Toelle clinched the MTSU win with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Pous at number three singles.

Wilson had earned Middle's fourth point of the match with a 6-2, 6-2 win against Ozge Arslan at the number four position.

Thornton said it felt good for him as well as the entire team to achieve a goal they set for themselves at the beginning of the season.

"This is something we wanted to accomplish," Thornton said. "Now we can look to build on this for next year's team."

Toelle echoed the sentiments of her coach.

"We are really happy with this but we don't want to stop there," she said. "Next year we will shoot for regionals and keep building from there."

Bryans, Toelle, Wilson, King and Ryan were named to the all-conference team.

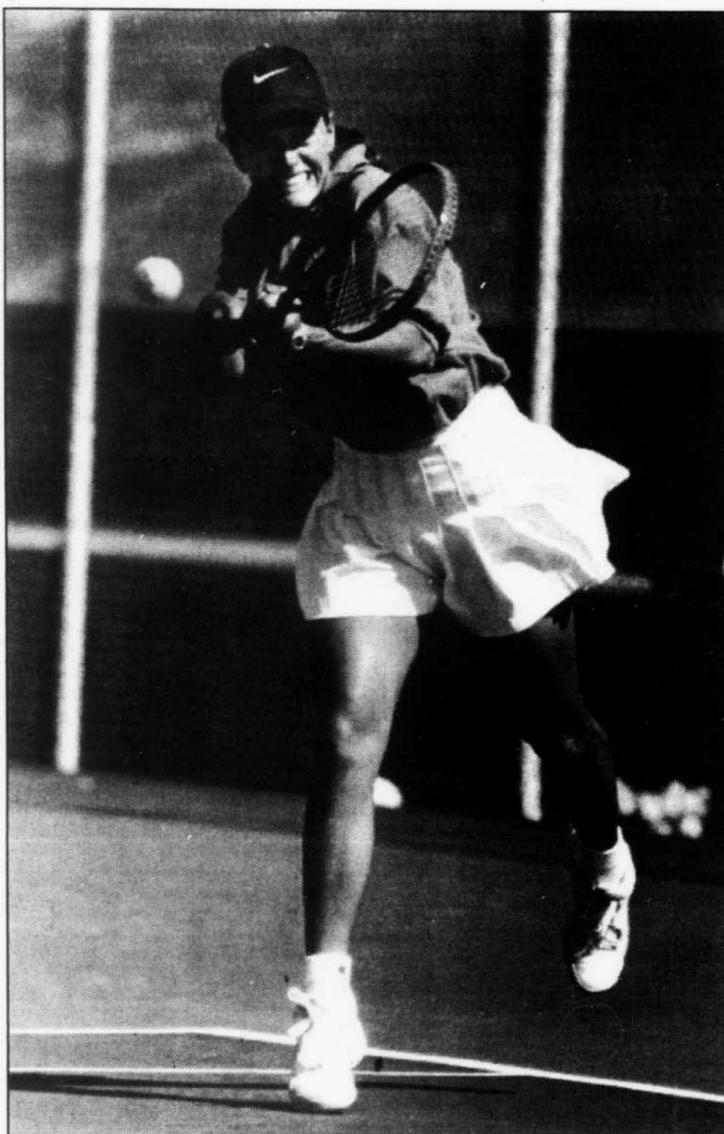
Additionally, Thornton was named OVC coach-of-the-year in only his second year at the helm of the women's team.

Look for the Lady Raiders to improve on their accomplishments next year. Thornton returns six members from this year's squad and has recently signed a walk-on player from UT.

"We really want to get our program on the national level," Bryans said. The freshman from Georgia added: "Our maturity and confidence levels will only continue to rise." ●

"Tech was pumped up for this match, but I think we showed we wanted it more than they did."

David Thornton
Lady Raider tennis coach



Brian G. Miller/staff

Lady Raider Malinda Ryan returns a shot during a recent doubles match. Ryan and Amy King's doubles victory Monday at the OVC tournament final helped propel the Lady Raiders to the title.

Baseball team splits two-game series with Alabama-Birmingham



Brian G. Miller/staff

Jeremy Owens beats a pick-off attempt during Sunday's game.

Staff Reports

It got a little scary late, but in the end the Blue Raider baseball team won the second game of this week's series with the University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers, 6-4.

The Raiders came in to the ninth inning of yesterday's game holding onto a 6-1 lead, but closer George Oleksik struggled, loading the bases and giving up three runs on four hits and two walks with two outs.

Jamie Hill (3-4) recorded the win for MTSU, and Oleksik chalked up his sixth save.

Middle scored two runs in the fourth inning. Clay Snellgrove led off the inning with his second home run, and Shane Shoemaker singled with one out to bring home Wil Fraley.

The Raiders added another run in the fifth, and one more in the sixth thanks to Andrew Thompson's fifth

homer of the year.

In the eighth, Jordan Beedies led off the inning with a single and stole second. Lee Marbet followed with his second homer of the year, a two-run blast that would prove to be enough to clinch the win for MTSU.

Tuesday night, the Blazers overcame an early 2-1 deficit to triumph over the Raiders 4-3 in a game that saw the two teams leave a total of 11 men on base.

Blazer starter Scott Beyer went eight and a third, giving up three runs (two earned), on five hits, walking four and striking out five, to halt the Blue Raider momentum.

The Blue Raiders (25-21 overall), started senior right-hander Brian Early, who lasted four innings, giving up two runs on two hits, while sending eight Blazer batters back to the bench

Please see BASEBALL on page 8

MTSU Rugby downs Western Ky. to win Banshee Classic

Staff Reports

It was a rugby "battle royal" of sorts last weekend at Western Kentucky University.

Eleven teams from across the Mid-South participated in the 20th annual Banshee Classic and when it was over Middle was the only team left standing, defeating host WKU 23-15 in the championship match.

Before this impressive victory, the

Moosemen defeated Fort Campbell Army in the first round 8-7 and another team from WKU dubbed the "Old Boys," 33-0.

Tournament MVP Dace Shuck said this was an important win for the rugby program and a tribute to the hard play of the entire team and not just him.

"Winning is a tradition for our team and this award is not for me, but

for the entire squad that plays for MTSU rugby," he said.

Besides Shuck who scored two tries over weekend action, team members Wes Barnes scored three tries, Toby Florek added two and Will Maddux, Brian Dynard, Will Rogers and Jason Boyd each chipped in one try for the Moosemen cause.

In celebration of their win the team will be holding a victory party for

students and faculty at their house located behind Lee's Chicken tonight at 9:30. Team president Ryan Moore said attire for the party is "sharp."

The team has one more match before closing out its spring campaign on Saturday May 4 against MTSU Old Boys at 1:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in playing rugby for Middle in the fall should contact Moore at 849-3692. ●

BASEBALL: Raiders host Western Ky. tonight at 7

Continued from page 7

via strikeout. However, it was reliever Ken Bedwell, not Early, who figured in the decision.

With the game tied at two in the bottom of the fifth, Bedwell gave up a one-out double to UAB second baseman Joe Grawey, followed by a single to left by shortstop Kelly Ray. Ray then stole second, and after Bedwell walked left fielder Corey Hardin to juice the bags, Grawey scored on a fielder's choice to give UAB the 3-2 lead.

They would tack on one more run in that inning to expand the lead to 4-2.

The Raiders had their chance in the top of the ninth. After Clay Snellgrove singled with one out, Mark Ammerman replaced UAB starter Beyer, and gave up a two-out single (following a Doug Barner flyout) to junior catcher Andrew Thompson.

With runners at the

corners and two out, coach Doug Peterson subbed senior Perry Lyons for freshman Ty Curley, and Lyons hit a fly ball to left field, but Blazer reserve left fielder Ricky Morgan dropped the ball, allowing Snellgrove to score and tighten the game at 4-3.

But with extra innings seemingly in hand, and runners at first and second, only a base hit was needed to send the contest into extra frames.

But senior Shane Shoemaker grounded right back to the mound to end the Raider threat, and the game.

Beyer earned the victory, improving his record to 5-1 on the year. Bedwell picked up his first decision of the season, unfortunately a loss.

The Raiders will be in action tonight at Reese Smith Field, where they will host the Hilltoppers from Western Kentucky University. Tonight's game is scheduled to begin at 7:00. ●

TSSAA discusses public/private split plans

Teresa M. Walker/AP

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Private high schools in Tennessee would compete with public schools under only one of three plans proposed Wednesday, and separate public and private champions would be crowned in each.

Whether or not the 282 public schools will be separated from 52 private members in competition will be decided next Wednesday by the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association's Legislative Council.

The TSSAA's Board of Control met with the council Wednesday at Overton High School to hear staff proposals on how to handle such a split.

Under all three plans, competition would be split along a public-private line with separate champions. Only one plan would let public and private schools play each

other in the regular season before dividing for the postseason.

The work session was scheduled after the council first approved a split in March. That vote violated the TSSAA's constitution and resulted in next week's second vote.

Board member Morris Rodgers said he couldn't tell how the revote may go, but he is glad the public-private fight finally is reaching some decision.

"It's been an issue so long. At some point it's time to go with it, so we can find out if it can work. If now's the time, let's go do it. Hopefully, we'll take an approach and find the best way we can do this," Rodgers said.

At least 100 coaches and fans turned out for the session. Some coaches offered their own plan, which would consist of three classes and

offer private schools the chance to compete with them by offering no financial aid to students.

Seymour football coach Gary Householder drove about three hours to hear what the TSSAA staff had devised.

"Up in East Tennessee, we haven't had any problems with them at all. From our standpoint, everything is OK the way it is. But I understand the schools down here have some problems," Householder said.

Plan A offers the only chance for private schools to compete against public for state titles.

Public and private schools could play each other in the regular season. In basketball, AA and AAA private schools would play separate postseason tournaments, while football would see a separate tournaments for privates in 2-A, 3-A, 4-A and

5-A. But both public and private schools would play for titles in basketball's Class A and football's Class 1-A.

"We have 70 percent of private schools all in what is Class A," Carter said. "... It's going to have a drastic impact on small schools."

Plan B would separate both the regular season and playoffs with three classifications in football, basketball, baseball and softball; one class in wrestling, tennis and girls' soccer; and two classes in the remaining sports.

Classifications would be tiered by thirds in football.

Plan C only differs from Plan B with four classifications in football tiered by one-fourths. But basketball and softball would lose district playoffs, going instead to regionals, sectionals and then a state tourney. ●

Women's NBA approved

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NBA Board of Governors today approved the concept of a Women's NBA to begin play as a summer league in 1997.

"We think this is an idea whose time has come," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "Fans have come to appreciate the excellence of women's basketball and we believe that significant network and sponsor opportunities exist to

create a foundation on which to build a league."

Stern said details would be announced in early July with teams expected to be placed in cities that already have NBA franchises.

Earlier plans were announced for another women's pro league that would operate during the winter and Stern said players could move from one to the other or to Europe, where women's leagues already exist, if they wish. ●

Oilers release 1996 schedule without a definite home

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Oilers will open the 1996 season with a home game against the Kansas City Chiefs. Whether home means Texas or Tennessee is anyone's guess.

The team on Wednesday issued its 1996 schedule, which includes four preseason games, but didn't mention where the home games would be played or hint that visiting opponents would be traveling to Houston.

Team owner Bud Adams is poised to abandon Houston for a \$292 million stadium deal in Nashville, Tenn., but Tennessee voters first must approve \$80 million in bonds in

a May 7 referendum.

The Oilers also await rubber-stamp approval from the league, expected to come next week, and must negotiate a way out of the last two years of their Astrodome contract if they want to leave right away.

Team spokesman Dave Pearson hinted at the uncertainty of whether the Oilers' Sept. 1 opener against the Chiefs will be in the Astrodome or in Tennessee, possibly at the Liberty Bowl in Memphis.

"We have maintained throughout this process our intention to honor our (Astrodome) lease subsequent to any amendments," Pearson

said. "I'm also sure the league has given our situation consideration and made the appropriate contingency plans."

Team vice president Mike McClure did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press to his new office in Nashville.

Wherever they open the season, the Oilers will play their next four games against AFC Central Division rivals Jacksonville, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati with a bye week on Sept. 22. Baltimore is the only home game of the four.

The Oilers play at Atlanta on Oct. 13 before returning home for games against

Pittsburgh and San Francisco.

The second half of the schedule includes games at Seattle and New Orleans, at home against Miami and Carolina, at the New York Jets, home against Jacksonville and Cincinnati and a final road game at Baltimore.

There are no Monday night games for the Oilers and only one prime-time game, the Oct. 6 matchup with Cincinnati to be televised on TNT.

The Oilers will play four preseason games against Indianapolis, the Jets, Detroit and Dallas. The dates and sites for those games have not yet been determined, Pearson said. ●



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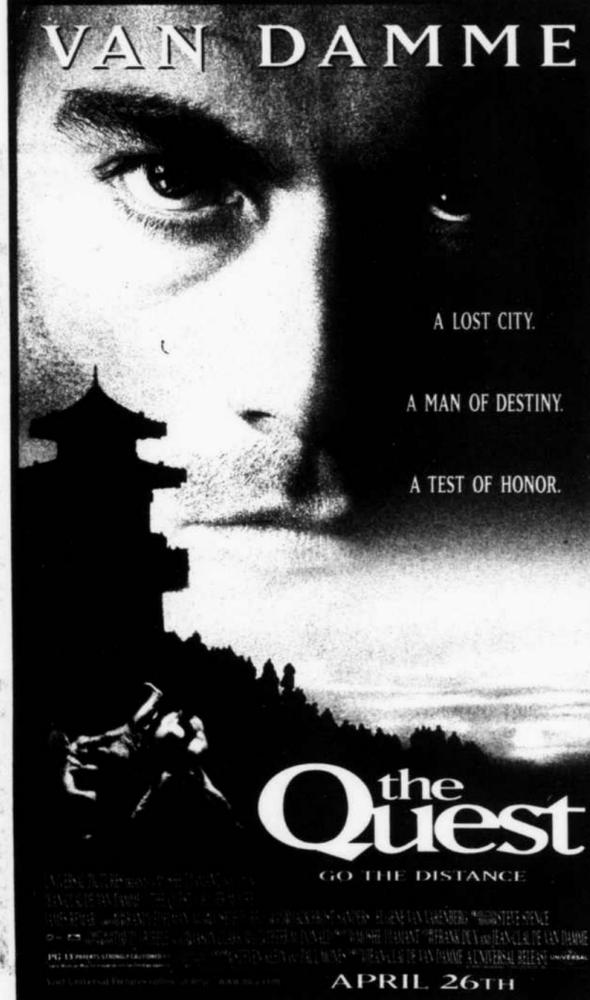


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THATCH by Jeff Shesol



THE Crossword

ACROSS

- Penny
- Impurities of molten metal
- As blind as —
- Medicinal plant
- Traveled way
- Cord
- Bathe
- Failed auto
- Girl
- Burns brightly
- Frogs-to-be
- Otherwise
- Anchor
- Unspoken
- Des —
- Simian creature
- Illegal burning
- Memorize
- Loch — monster
- MacGraw the actress
- qua non
- In a — (fast)
- Pulls
- Contented
- Mental health
- Antiered animal
- Servant
- Old Greek portico
- Mobile homes
- Distorts
- Injury
- Certain contract
- Ark builder
- On the ocean
- Friend to
- Pythias
- Threesome
- Sign of sorrow
- Small, crested ducks
- Canine cry

DOWN

- Leg part
- Israeli airline
- Variable star
- Abounded
- Bureau
- Stewart or
- Serling
- Eject
- Kind of engine
- In frequently
- Weapons
- Storehouses
- Seethe
- Church part
- Hardy character
- Fitzgerald
- Nationism
- Natatorium
- Composition
- Things desired
- Musical entertainment
- Varnish
- ingredient
- system
- Artless
- Tennessee —
- Ford
- Scornful look
- Playing cards
- Oriental sword
- And others:
- abbr.
- Feline creatures
- Kind of tire
- Succumbs
- Delicately beautiful
- Reverse
- The thing there
- Misleading action
- Length times
- width
- 59 Identical
- 61 Painful
- 62 Airplane part
- 63 Boutique
- 66 Scatter seed

ANSWERS

ACROSS

- 1 PENNY
- 2 DROSS
- 3 BLIND AS A BAT
- 4 GINKGO
- 5 TRAIL
- 6 CORD
- 7 BATHE
- 8 FORD
- 9 GIRL
- 10 BURNS BRIGHTLY
- 11 FROG
- 12 OTHERWISE
- 13 ANCHOR
- 14 UNSPOKEN
- 15 DESERT
- 16 SIMIAN
- 17 ILLEGAL
- 18 MEMORIZE
- 19 LOCH NESS
- 20 MACGRAW
- 21 QUANTUM
- 22 IN A HURRY
- 23 PULLS
- 24 CONTENTED
- 25 MENTAL HEALTH
- 26 ANTILION
- 27 SERVANT
- 28 PORCHICO
- 29 MOBILE
- 30 DISTORTS
- 31 INJURY
- 32 CERTAIN
- 33 ARK
- 34 ON THE OCEAN
- 35 FRIEND
- 36 PYTHIAS
- 37 THREESOME
- 38 SIGN
- 39 SMALL
- 40 CANINE

DOWN

- 1 LEG
- 2 ISRAELI
- 3 VARIABLE
- 4 UNBOUNDED
- 5 BUREAU
- 6 STEWART
- 7 SERLING
- 8 EJECT
- 9 KIND
- 10 INFREQUENTLY
- 11 WEAPONS
- 12 STOREHOUSES
- 13 SEETHE
- 14 CHURCH
- 15 HARDY
- 16 FITZGERALD
- 17 NATIONISM
- 18 NATATORIUM
- 19 COMPOSITION
- 20 THINGS
- 21 MUSICAL
- 22 VARNISH
- 23 INGREDIENT
- 24 SYSTEM
- 25 ARTLESS
- 26 TENNESSEE
- 27 FORD
- 28 SCORNFUL
- 29 PLAYING
- 30 ORIENTAL
- 31 OTHERS
- 32 ABBR.
- 33 FELINE
- 34 KIND
- 35 SUCCUMBS
- 36 DELICATELY
- 37 REVERSE
- 38 THE THING
- 39 MISLEADING
- 40 ACTION
- 41 LENGTH
- 42 TIMES
- 43 IDENTICAL
- 44 PAINFUL
- 45 AIRPLANE
- 46 PART
- 47 BOUTIQUE
- 48 SCATTER
- 49 SEED

Senators kill lottery bill; referendum undecided

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Senators killed legislation Wednesday calling for a convention to be held to decide whether to strip the lottery ban from the state constitution.

Voters would have decided in August whether they wanted to hold a constitutional convention. If so, they would have elected delegates and met in November.

But senators voted 17-15 to reject that idea.

Sen. Bob Rochelle, D-Lebanon, called the constitutional convention legislation "an excuse to derail support for the people to decide directly."

Senators are expected to decide Thursday on a resolution allowing voters to decide the lottery issue in a statewide referendum.

It would only allow lawmakers to authorize a state lottery, by creating an exception to the constitution's lottery ban.

That means bingo, raffles, slot machines or other games of chance would still be prohibited by the constitution.

Brooks & Dunn top country awards

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP) — Brooks & Dunn were named top entertainers of the year and Canadian sensation Shania Twain continued her freshman hot streak Wednesday at the 31st annual Academy of Country Music Awards.

"I think back to bars and hog killings I played 25 years ago. I kind of know now how it feels to climb Mount Everest and plant a flag," said Kix Brooks, who with partner Ronnie Dunn also won the best duet award.

Twain also doubled, winning the album trophy for "The Woman in Me" and best new female singer in ceremonies at the Universal Amphitheatre.

"This is a really special award for me to win because you're only new for a very short period of time and I cherish it very much," Twain told the audience at the Universal Amphitheatre, where stars arrived in boots, Stetsons, rhinestone belt buckles, neon-bright feather boas and lots of big hair rising above lace and sequins.

Gen. Dan cowboy George Strait's "Check Yes or No" was the single record of the year and Tracy Byrd's romantic ballad "The Keeper of the Stars" was top song.

Alan Jackson was chosen top male singer and Patty Loveless was the academy's top female vocalist. The Mavericks won a second consecutive best group award.

Twain was bubbling backstage after winning the latest in a string of honors for her breakthrough album. "I really feel I have everything I ever wanted. I just feel like I'm on top of the world right now," she said.

"The Woman in Me" also won the country album Grammy this year, and Twain was the best new country artist at the American Music Awards in January.

Loveless gave tribute to all the women of country. "I'm so proud to be a part of you my sisters," she said. "They are making some music that is blowing them away out there."

The ceremony boosted the ACM award total for Brooks & Dunn to nine.

The Mavericks won a second consecutive best group award, the group's third ACM trophy. Last year, they also won for top new group.

Lonestar got the new group trophy and newcomer Bryan White got a standing ovation when his name was called for the new male artist award.

Jeff Carson's sentimental "The Car" won the top video trophy.

Merle Haggard won the Pioneer Award for his field of country music.

Entertainer Jeff Foxworthy, best-known for his "You might be a redneck if..." comedy routine and TV show, was given the academy's Special Achievement Award for promoting country music.

Faith Hill and Brooks & Dunn hosted the NBC-TV show, which also featured a Dwight Yoakam-led tribute to Minnie Pearl, who died this year.

The show outside the Amphitheatre was as exciting as the one inside.

Patty Loveless arrived, sporting a plastic, violet pantsuit, Toby Keith had a red plaid vest under his double-breasted black tuxedo and Clay Walker sported a hubcap-sized belt buckle.

Naomi Judd, in silver sequined pantsuit with plunging neckline, held a sign reading "Hi Wy," referring to daughter Wynonna.

"Wynonna couldn't be here tonight. I feel weird without her," she said.

Winners were selected by the nearly 3,000 members of the Academy of Country Music.

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