



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com:
Should Ralph Nader actively
pursue the presidency?



ESCAPE WITH POTTERY

In Living, 6

The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 65

Campus briefs

Deadline nearing for study abroad applicants

The deadline is nearing for students interested in studying abroad to apply.

The Study Abroad Office is still accepting applications for the following programs: anthropology, history, philosophy, English, education, geography, recording industry and sociology.

Apply in Keathley University Center, Room 325, or call 898-5179 for more information. Financial aid is available for students. The Study Abroad Office offers more than 71 programs in countries including Brazil, Africa, Thailand, England, London, Costa Rica and Ireland.

Student Art Alliance to hold exhibit in April

The Student Art Alliance will hold a student exhibit and concert April 2 at 8 p.m. in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room.

The event will include live music, large and non-traditional artwork and art forms, a potluck buffet and more. The event is free and open to the public.

Student group to host free 'Gandhi' screening

The India Students organization will present a screening of Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning 1983 film *Gandhi* Saturday at 2:30 p.m. The movie will be shown in the Business and Aerospace Building's State Farm Lecture Hall.

The movie will be shown for free, and the event is open to the public. For more information, contact Pooja Marella at prm2i@mtsu.edu.

Marketing career fair on campus today

A sales and marketing career fair will be held today in the BAS south lobby at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, call 898-2346.

Anthropology professor to discuss emotion

Jackie Eller, professor of sociology and anthropology, will present a lecture titled "Deviant Emotion: Is This a Women's Issue?" in the JUB, Room 100.

The lecture, which is a part of the Women's Studies Series, will begin at 3:30 p.m. today. For more information, contact 898-5910.

May graduation fair continues through week

The graduation fair for May graduates will continue throughout the week on the first floor of Keathley University Center, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Murfreesboro orchestra to perform on campus

The Murfreesboro Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra will perform Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Tucker Theatre. For information, call 898-1862. ♦

Fighting mad



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

John Payne, right, an instructor in the health, physical education, recreation and safety department, says that removing physical education courses from the university's general education requirements will send the message that personal health and wellness aren't important.

Faculty, administration debate required physical education

By Maryam Kassaei
Staff Writer

The elimination of physical education courses as a general requirement has at least one instructor frustrated.

Along with the Tennessee Board of Regents, university officials decided last year to cut semester hours required for graduation from 132 to 120 for most programs.

Physical education courses are no longer mandatory in the new general education program. Previously, four semester hours of physical activity courses, or two semester hours plus a health class, were required for graduation.

"It was a pretty difficult decision," said university President Sidney McPhee. "Once you make the decision to limit your degree to 120, something has to go. Obviously, we don't want to do anything that would impact the quality of education."

But John Payne, an associate professor in the health, physical education, recreation and safety department, disputed the idea that de-emphasizing physical education won't have an effect on the quality of education students receive.

"We are sending a message [that] physical activity is so unimportant - so non-academic - that you don't have to take a single class in it to get a bachelor's

degree," Payne said. Administrators asserted that their intentions are not to devalue physical education.

"We do take them as academic," said Bill John Badley, MTSU's representative at the TBR and member of the Faculty Senate. "Physical education courses should not be mandatory."

Badley said there are a lot of states that have taken the same step and converted their physical activity courses into voluntary classes. Badley cited the University of Southern California as one example.

McPhee said he recognizes the

See PE, 2

Science rewrites history, prof says

Anthropology instructor recounts time spent digging

By Tim Hill
Staff Writer

Kevin Smith, professor of sociology and anthropology, discussed challenges of studying history during Monday's honor lecture, titled "Tough Choices in Rewriting History: Finding Common Ground or Segregating the Past."

Smith said that historical evidence has been overturning previously unchallenged knowledge of history.

"We don't know for sure whether or not George Washington ever told a lie, but we do know that he did not chop down a cherry tree," Smith said.

Smith said that archeology digs he has participated in have led him to ask, "How do you allow science to tell a story?"

Archeology is trying to recover from years of being distracted from this goal, Smith said.

Smith, who specializes in investigating black slavery residences as well as Native American lands, came to MTSU in 1994 to start an archeology program here.

Smith has been actively involved in preserving Tennessee's historical and archeological sites and educating students at MTSU about the importance of sustaining state history.

He oversaw the creation of the Summer Archeological Field Program, which held excavations at Bledsoe's Station, Tenn.

"We found the largest fort in Middle Tennessee and ended up

See History, 2

'Expressions' tackles body image

By Meagan Kirby
Staff Writer

The June Anderson Women's Center and the feminist organization Women for Women kicked off National Eating Disorders Awareness Week Monday with a presentation about body image.

"Expressions" consisted of students, faculty and volunteers performing plays, and reading poems or telling their own stories about body image.

"Eating disorders prevention must stress more than just issues of food," said Melissa Sandefur,

master's candidate. She said any attempt to prevent eating disorders must also address a cultural assessment of slenderness as more than just a physical and psychological issue.

The performers spoke about their battles with body image and how society looks at people.

Mary Hunter, a registered dietician from Health Services, explained the differences between anorexia nervosa, which is self-starvation, bulimia nervosa, which is binge eating followed by purging, and binge eating disorder.

Hunter demonstrated ways

to prevent these diseases and steps to take if a person has an eating disorder.

Performers included Lauren Wade, a junior global studies and Spanish major; Courtney Wood, a junior English major; Charisse Wooding, a senior entrepreneurship major; Jo Collier, a junior pre-dental and textile design major and Sarah Neal, a sophomore history major.

For information about eating disorders, visit nationaleatingdisorders.org or call the information helpline at 800-931-2237. ♦



Photos by David McCombs | Staff Photographer

John Cosmo, left, and Charisse Wooding, above, perform during Monday's "Expressions," a presentation centering around body image and eating disorders. The performers spoke about how society views and affects people.

Dean discusses Western influence on Hindu musicians

By Tim Hill
Staff Writer

Britney Spears' dance moves are showing up in India and affecting popular music in the second most populous nation in the world.

"This western style of music is very popular in India, and it has a larger global audience than any other industry," said Anantha Babbili, dean of the College of Mass Communica-

tion. "Michael Jackson's *Thriller* started the trend of featuring a large group in the background, and people in India have liked it ever since," Babbili said.

During the weekly popular music lecture series, Babbili discussed how India's Hindu musi-



Babbili

cians have moved away from traditional songs.

He even showed a few music videos from India, including one called "Night Before the Wedding."

"This song is about happy endings in arranged marriages," Babbili said.

Babbili said that artists are no longer making songs dealing just with love, but are writing songs dealing with life today.

"There is an enigma in

Middle East culture that actually bashes western influence in the song lyrics, but in these film songs, the whole style includes Western influences of dance and melodies," he said.

In the videos, which are three-minute films shown in movie theaters in India, female Indian artists are seen dancing in sync, similar to American artists such as Spears.

The entertainment industry of India is making money off

the new musical style there.

"India spends millions and millions of dollars promoting the new Western style of music," Babbili said.

Just as rappers sample musical selections to make new songs, Indian artists are also dealing with issues of copyright infringement.

In Bombay, Indian artists take Western songs and remix them in native languages. ♦



Photo by David McCombs | Staff Photographer

Kevin Smith, professor of sociology and anthropology, explains during a lecture Monday that archaeology tries to use science to tell stories, though some archaeologists become distracted from that goal.

History: Professor's group successfully lobbied state

Continued from 1

collecting over 75,000 artifacts, some of which my students are still working on," he said.

The town was named after Abraham "Abram" Bledsoe, who was a black frontiersman.

Smith also brought his students to the Wynnewood Historic site, the former grounds of several slave residences, including the oldest known log cabins in Tennessee.

"New houses were about to be built and these historic sites were going to remain buried," he said.

The state was able to buy the land before anything was built, "and before Gov. [Don] Sundquist diverted the money somewhere else," Smith said.

The weekly honors lecture is held every Monday from 3 to 3:50 p.m. in the Paul Martin Sr. Honors Building. ♦

PE: No instructors will be cut from HPERs department

Continued from 1

importance of physical education, but felt that students could actively exercise their bodies, as well as their minds, even if they weren't required to do so.

"Mind, spirit and body is an important part of the education process," he said, "but in terms of board of priorities ... the general thing was that if something has to go, [it should be something] that students could take more responsibility of, [like] their physical activity, as opposed to getting credit for it."

But Payne insisted that elimination of required physical activity courses will have more dire effects on the student population.

The elimination of physical

activity courses as a requirement "was a stupid blunder by a group of people that were one, uninformed; two, did not think; or three, they don't consider the healthcare system and the shape of Americans important," Payne said.

"We have 60 percent of the population of the United States overweight, and our healthcare system is in shambles," he said. "One way we could possibly help the health care system is to get people moved and exercised. That's why we need to get them young."

Badley, however, disagreed that it's the responsibility of the university to ensure that students are physically fit.

"This [making physical activity courses mandatory] is

not a way to make sure about health of Americans," Badley said. "In the past, they have been teaching those classes, and there was a rise in obesity."

Badley said that students would still enroll in physical activity classes, even if they were not required.

McPhee said no instructors in the department will be cut.

The recent changes in physical education requirements, however, have had an influence on the maximum possible number of enrolled students per class.

"Up until this year, this semester, I had average of 45 to 50 in every class," Payne said. "This semester ... they kept that at 25. I've never taught classes this small, ever at

MTSU."

Payne is the director of an alternative school for at-risk teenagers. He has taught at MTSU since 1980.

While the small number of students in each class can be an advantage for both professors and students, Payne said he worries that it could mean some students couldn't get into the classes they want.

"I just see it as a way to keep people that want to take the class out [...] because there are so many activity classes [to get filled], so they try to spread students around to all the classes, which is kind of communistic to me," Payne said.

"They [students] should be able to take whatever class they desire." ♦

CRIME LOG

Thursday, Feb. 5 - 11:53 p.m.

Green Row
Shane M. Allen of Columbia, Tenn, was arrested for driving under the influence, first offense.

Friday, Feb. 6 - 10:26 a.m.

Murphy Center
Wallet stolen.

Saturday, Feb. 7 - 1:50 p.m.

Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building
Cell phone stolen.

Sunday, Feb. 8 - 1:15 a.m.

Greenland Dr.
James A. Morgensten of Nashville was arrested for driving under the influence, first offense.

Sunday, Feb. 8 - 3:12 a.m.

Pi Kappa Alpha - Greek Row
Complainant reported that her cell phone was stolen possibly from her jacket pocket while she had it on at a party.

Monday, Feb. 9 - 9:40 p.m.

Homerly Pittard Campus School
Burglary to automobile.

Tuesday, Feb. 10 - 9:24 a.m.

Corlew Hall
Complainant advised they were receiving harassing phone calls.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 - 12:47 a.m.

Tennessee Livestock Center
Vehicle found with busted window, but nothing was stolen. Student was notified. Other lots were checked for vandalism.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 - 12:46 p.m.

Alumni Gym
Cell phone lost or stolen.

Friday, Feb. 13 - 2:05 p.m.

Alumni Gym
Property stolen from gym.

Monday, Feb. 16 - 12:35 p.m.

Mass Communications Building
Vandalism to radio van, spray painted.

Monday, Feb. 16 - 3:25 p.m.

Tennessee Boulevard
Teresa Louise Capps of Murfreesboro was arrested for driving on a suspended license, second offense.

Monday, Feb. 16 - 3:48 p.m.

Deere Hall
Subject filed a report on harassing phone calls.

Monday, Feb. 16 - 4:10 p.m.

Judd/Sims Lot
Report of a stolen boot from a vehicle that had left the scene.

To report a crime, call Public Safety at 898-2424. To report clues on crimes, and possibly earn cash, call Crime Stoppers at 893-STOP.

SIDELINES IS LOOKING FOR A CRIME REPORTER.

APPLY IN JUB 310.

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Bill seeks to allow restrictions on abortion

Proposed constitutional amendment would not ban abortion outright

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU — A proposed constitutional amendment that would rescind constitutional protection of abortion passed the Senate Finance Committee yesterday morning.

The joint resolution, SJR127, will now be eligible to be put to a full vote in the state Senate.

The language of the proposed amendment reads, "Nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or the funding thereof." If passed, the amendment would make null and void a Tennessee Supreme Court ruling in 2000, which held that Tennessee's constitution provides greater privacy protections for abortion than the U.S.

Constitution does.

However, local civil rights advocates and pro-choice groups such as Planned Parenthood have raised objections about the joint resolution, saying it serves as a back-door method to one day make abortion completely illegal in Tennessee should *Roe v. Wade* ever be overturned at the federal level.

Rep. Mike Turner (D - Old Hickory), who is the primary sponsor of the joint resolution in the House, said the intent of the amendment would not be to ban abortion outright, but to allow the state to impose restrictions such as those which were on the books before the Supreme Court struck these regulations down, including a waiting period, mandatory counseling and a ban on late-

term abortions.

"If you look at the Constitution, it does not mention abortion in there," Turner said. "They're broadly interpreting the clause and we feel wrongly ... If this bill passes, it does not ban abortion. Even if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, it doesn't ban abortion. It just makes us go back where we could pass laws to allow us to put restrictions and tighten things up."

Turner went on to say that the intent of the writers of the Tennessee Constitution is unclear and that state voters should have the opportunity to decide the policy.

"The Constitution's pretty clear," Turner said. "It talks about interest being paid, it talks about taxes, it talks about lottery, it does a lot of things ...

and now [the Supreme Court] is trying to say that this is the intent of the framers of that Constitution [of] 1870 that we're going to give Tennesseans a greater right to abortion. I disagree with that."

Sen. David Fowler (R - Signal Mountain) is the primary Senate sponsor and was unavailable for comment.

Jeff Teague, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee, said his group is "absolutely opposed" to the resolution because of privacy concerns and the potential for legal challenges that would use the amendment to make abortion illegal.

He said it was "disingenuous" for the supporters to claim that the amendment, if passed, would not allow for even more restrictions on abortion in the future than were ruling before the Supreme Court ruling.

"Despite what other people are saying, the supporters of this are saying, the ultimate goal of this is to make abortion legal in Tennessee," Teague said.

Teague said that even if the

Roe decision is not overturned at any point, privacy is a key issue and must be upheld.

"What will happen if this legislation is approved is it will strip away those privacy protections," Teague said, "and it would make it possible for the legislature to pass legislation for waiting periods, mandatory counseling, those sort of things that are not allowed under the constitution right now."

"This is a very complex and complicated issue, and (pro-lifers) kind of make it seem like it's very simple, and it's not," Teague continued. "And I don't think people have a full understanding of what the implications and what the effects might be."

While neither the Tennessee Right to Life organization or the American Civil Liberties Union

of Tennessee returned phone calls for comment, the TRL Web site reported that the bill "enjoys the sponsorship of 17 of 33 state senators and 53 of 99 state representatives."

Turner said there was a myriad of opinions amongst those who co-sponsored the bill, with opinions ranging from banning abortion completely to simply banning late-term abortions to allowing the procedure only in cases of rape or incest.

An amendment to the bill passed in the Senate Finance Committee allows for an absolute right to abortion in case of rape or incest.

In order for the Constitution to be amended, this bill must pass the House and the Senate by a simple majority. The 104th General Assembly would have to pass the bill again in the 2005 session by a two-thirds majority. If this occurred, a referendum on the matter would be placed on the 2006 ballot. Referendums may only be reintroduced at the state level in a gubernatorial election. ♦



Turner



Fowler

Cop land



Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

Rutherford County is one of 28 counties that received a grant to fund the Impaired Driving Enforcement Campaign.

County wants to put DUI grant to use

By Sandi van Orden
Staff Writer

Think twice before reaching for your keys after a night of drinking. The Tennessee Department of Safety, along with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, are on a mission to keep impaired drivers off roadways.

Twenty-eight counties, including Davidson and Rutherford, have an increased the number of highway patrol officers to watch for impaired drivers.

The counties with the increased patrol have the highest averages for DUI related incidence, according to a press release from the Tennessee Department of Safety.

"By determining where the problems are the greatest, we're able to put in place effective enforcement efforts to combat the deadly results of impaired driving," said Tennessee Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips.

The Governor's Highway Safety office has given a con-

tinuing grant of \$400,000 to fund the Impaired Driving Enforcement Campaign. The grant pays for salaries, overtime and capital purchases, according to Beth Denton of the Tennessee Department of Safety.

"More than 3,000 hours of overtime will be dedicated to combating impaired driving in these high-risk counties," High Patrol Colonel Lynn Pitts said.

Most alcohol related crashes take place between Friday nights and early Sunday mornings. Those

will be the hours when the most troopers will be on the lookout, according to the Department of Safety.

Safeguards against drivers under the influence will "include sobriety checkpoints, enforcement roadblocks and saturation patrols," according to the Department of Safety.

Accidents rose to 31,933 in 2003 from 31,418 in 2002 according to the Trooper Activity File. There had been 3,097 accidents as of Feb. 17. While accidents have increased citations for

impaired driving have decreased.

The number of citations by the highway patrol went down from 4,449 in 2002 to 4,072 in 2003, according to the Trooper Activity File. There had been 399 citations for DUI this year as of Feb. 17. The results from the campaign are not yet available.

"We won't have all the statistics until September," Denton said. The campaign began in October 2003 and will continue until September. ♦

Car wash robbed

By David Paulson
Staff Writer

● An armed robbery was reported outside of Auto Pride Carwash on Memorial Blvd. Saturday morning.

At approximately 2:00 a.m., Julie Keys of Wartrace parked her car in front of a garbage can to throw away some trash. A man opened Keys's passenger side door and asked her for a cigarette. He then quickly picked up a mirror sitting on the passenger seat and struck Keys in the head with it. The suspect took a \$100 bill from her purse and fled.

The suspect is described as a black male about 5-feet-5-inches tall with a skinny build. He was wearing a black toboggan and black sweatshirt.

● Two women were arrested with criminal simulation after attempting to cash two counterfeit checks Friday afternoon.

Police arrived at Ace Check Cashing at approximately 3 p.m. after receiving a call from the business, and made contact with Tabitha Crawford and Shavon Davis, both of Louisville, Ky.

Crawford had a check from Liberty Tax Service in the amount of \$3,219.28. Davis' check was from Direct Insurance in the amount of \$2,461.55. Police contacted both businesses and were told that both checks were counterfeit. Direct Insurance also told police that the Secret Service was currently investigating fraudulent Direct checks in Memphis, Tenn.

Crawford and Davis were

See Crime, 4

Bill regulating charity raffle operators advances in Legislature

Organizations seeking raffle would have to register, pay fees

By Amber McDowell
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Those who would profit from running raffles for Tennessee charities would have to register, pay annual fees and limit their take to 40 percent of the money raised, under legislation that advanced in the General Assembly Tuesday.

The measure was approved by committees in both the House and Senate

as lawmakers continued to push for quick passage of a companion bill that would allow charities to begin holding gambling fund-raisers this year.

The so-called "Charitable Gaming Operators Licensing Law" would require professional operators to pay a \$50 application fee and an annual \$100 licensing fee. They also must have a \$50,000 bond to cover "any losses associated from malfeasance, nonfeasance or misfeasance in the conduct of charitable gaming activities."

In addition, applicants would have to undergo a background check by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and must not have been convicted of a felony or had their license to operate charitable gaming revoked in another state.

The provisions wouldn't apply to charities that run raffles without professional operators.

The bill, which gives the secretary of state regulatory authority, is part of an effort by lawmakers to avoid problems associated with state-sanctioned gambling in the past.

The "Rocky Top" federal and state criminal investigation found some bingo operators used state charters of legitimate Tennessee charities to run gambling operations in the late 1980s. The House majority leader and several others were convicted of federal crimes and a legislator and the secretary of state committed suicide.

"When you look at the history of where things went wrong, it was the operators that took advantage of the

charities," said House sponsor Rep. Harry Tindell, who presented the bill to that chamber's Government Operations Committee. "We're establishing a framework so we know who these people are ... that they're credible people."

After the Rocky Top scandal, the state Supreme Court ruled in 1989 that bingo and raffle games violated the state Constitution's ban on lotteries.

Eight years later, the attorney general cited that ruling in an opinion that said the popular rubber duck races benefiting the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley were illegal. That changed in 2002 when voters approved a referendum to amend the state Constitution to allow the legislature to approve such events.

Even if approved, the regulations won't take effect until July 1, 2005, in order to allow the secretary of state's office to institute the approval process. That means businesses and individuals would be able to operate charity gaming events for a full year without a license — something Senate sponsor Jim Kyle says he isn't worried about.

"We don't believe very many people will be applying with only two or three weeks to take applications," he told the Senate State and Local Government Committee, which unanimously approved the bill. "That minimizes the risk to get that done. But there will be a report filed so we'll know if a charity dishonors itself by doing something inappropriate." ♦

TENNESSEE

news briefs

The Associated Press

Firestone case could become class-action suit

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Firestone tires are under fire again, with a court hearing scheduled today in California to determine whether an RV owner's complaint about alleged defects with the Steeltex brand can grow into a national class-action lawsuit.

Pasadena attorney Joe Lisoni calls the tires "dangerous and lethal lemons," responsible for more than a dozen deaths and over 100 injuries.

"We just want them off the street," he said Monday.

Lisoni said the company used substandard materials to make the tire and then concealed the defects. He is seeking at least \$1 billion in reimbursement to motorists and a recall of Steeltex R4S, R4SH and A/T tires.

However, the federal agency that prompted Bridgestone/Firestone to recall millions of Wilderness tires four years ago found no defect trend with Steeltex tires, which are common on larger vehicles such as RVs, ambulances and popular trucks such as the Ford F-150.

After an 18-month investigation, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration found that the tires performed better than some competitors.

Dan MacDonald, a spokesman for the tire manufacturer now known as Bridgestone Americas Holding Inc., said there's no truth to Lisoni's allegations.

"He is implying some sort of tradeoff between efficiency and safety, that if we could cut costs and compromise the quality of our tire we would do that. That's absolutely untrue," MacDonald said. "We are in a very competitive business and we put out the best product using the best materials and processes we can find."

He also said the suit relies heavily on claims from a disgruntled former employee of the company's testing lab in LaVergne, Tenn.

Lisoni said his firm has received complaints from thousands of people throughout the nation, and that independent tire experts back up the claims. He said 175 ambulance services around the nation have replaced Steeltex tires with competing brands after tread separations and accidents.

TVA looks to staff cuts to lower debt

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Valley Authority offered voluntary early retirement and buyout packages to employees Monday as part of efforts to cut its debt.

Employees in departments where TVA has found surplus staffing were asked to volunteer for retirement or a reduction in force. TVA executives said Monday they didn't know how many employees were offered the option to leave voluntarily, and they didn't offer a target for the number of positions they hope to eliminate.

But if enough volunteers don't come forward, TVA will announce mandatory retirements and layoffs April 22, officials said. The agency has 13,245 employees — down from about 34,000 in the 1980s.

The nation's largest public utility aims to cut payroll and other costs to help prepare for eventual industry deregulation. TVA hopes to trim its \$25 billion to \$26 billion debt by \$3 billion to \$5 billion in a decade.

"Reductions in force — if they are appropriate — are only a part of this," TVA Chairman Glenn McCullough said. "This is difficult but it's a necessary step that TVA is taking to ensure that TVA remains strong for the future."

TVA officials also said Monday they have identified \$247 million in cuts to capital costs in 2005. Additional savings also have been found in operating and maintenance and support service costs, and department reviews are ongoing.

Employees in departments where TVA has found surplus staffing were targeted for voluntary retirement. People whose jobs are critical to TVA operations, such as generation and transmission, would not be urged to leave.

"TVA is a large organization so we trust management to review every program and say, 'How important is every program to keeping the lights on and in doing our part for clean air and a strong economy and how many people are necessary to ensure the program is successful?'" McCullough said.

Employees have until March 15 to decide whether to accept the severance package, and managers have until March 29 to approve the requests. May 28 is the termination date for employees taking voluntary retirement.

Trial over adoption of Chinese girl begins

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A trial began Monday over custody of a young Chinese girl whose parents have struggled for almost five years to get her back from an American couple.

Less than a month after daughter Anna Mae was born in January 1999, Shaoqiang He and Qin Luo put her in foster care with Jerry and Louise Baker.

The Hes say they were out of work and unable to care for the child when they signed juvenile court papers giving custody of their daughter to the Bakers.

The Bakers have had the child ever since and are trying to adopt her over the Hes' objections.

In an opening statement to Circuit Court Judge Robert Childers, who is hearing the case without a jury, Larry Parrish, the Bakers' lawyer, said his clients are the only parents Anna Mae has known and she should not be taken from them.

Parrish said He wanted to get rid of the child permanently but was later pressured by his wife to try to get her back.

"He has all the traits of a pathological liar," Parrish said. "These people are not stable."

David Siegel, a lawyer for the Hes, said they had no intention of giving their daughter up for adoption.

"They thought they were entering into a temporary arrangement," Siegel said.

The trial is on a petition by the Bakers seeking to terminate the Hes' parental rights on the basis of abandonment. Such a ruling would clear the way for adoption.

The Hes contend the Bakers have not let them see their daughter for more than three years.

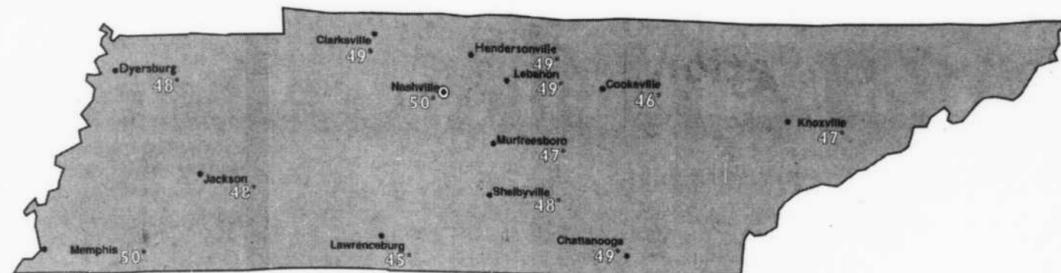
The trial is expected to last a week to 10 days with testimony from psychologists, court workers involved in the custody arrangement, character witnesses and others.

Shaoqiang He's legal and financial troubles began in 1998 when he was on scholarship as a graduate student in economics at the University of Memphis.

A female student accused him of fondling her and He was expelled, losing the student stipend that was his main source of income. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Wednesday's Highs

From the Associated Press



| Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | | |
| 46° ▲ 28° ▼ | 55° ▲ 32° ▼ | 61° ▲ 41° ▼ | 66° ▲ 42° ▼ | 57° ▲ 37° ▼ |

Ticketed cows merely a myth

By Linda G. Selby
Staff Writer

A British Web site for ITV.com had an article on their site regarding two cows that were left for pickup on Rutherford Boulevard and Broad Street near MTSU on Thursday morning.

There was no author of the article, and there were numerous inaccuracies in the story. Part of the story read as follows:

"Two dead cows have been issued with 'unattended vehicle' tickets after they were left by the side of a road by a U.S. farmer.

"The Tennessee farmer had left them for collection by the

local refuse department.

"But, instead of removing them, authorities in Rutherford County deemed the dead livestock as 'unattended vehicles' and issued them with the tickets.

"The farmer from Murfreesboro, Tennessee had put the cattle down and left them by his house which backs onto the road for collection.

"The solid waste department, however, refused to remove the carcasses, saying they don't offer a curbside service for livestock.

"The local sheriff's department later ticketed the cows, thinking they were asleep."

The real story is that a local

farmer left the cows for pick-up from Griffin Industries of Pulaski, Tenn. They are the company that picks up all of the local larger animals in Rutherford and surrounding counties, and all of the farmers are aware of this.

"We got a call for pickup from the farmer to pick up the cows on Rutherford Boulevard on Thursday morning," Don Hasty of Griffin Industries said. "I picked up the animals myself on Friday evening around 5 p.m."

He said there were no tickets on the cows when he picked them up. Griffin Industries cannot go into the fields to pick up the animal; they must be left on

a driveway or side of the road in order for them to be picked up. The company also discards grease from restaurants and other unusual debris.

Rutherford County's Sheriff's department did admit to putting green neon stickers on the cows so that the cows would be visible to cars when the lights picked up the bright stickers at night since the road is poorly lighted in that area.

Rutherford County's finest were apparently quite able to determine if the cows were dead since there were four legs sticking up from a swollen carcass. ♦

Crime:

Continued from 3

taken to the police department for questioning. They both claimed that an unknown black male had given them the checks, and had asked them to cash the checks for him.

• Police recovered a stolen vehicle on Church Street Friday morning. The victim had reported to police that her boyfriend had taken her 1998 Chrysler Sebring from her residence at approximately 3:00 a.m. The suspect was spotted walking from the vehicle on Church street half an hour later. He was arrested and charged with theft. ♦

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**Chiropractic...
The Choice For Me**

Jason Kucma is a Third-Year student from Medford, NJ. He graduated from Ithaca College with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology concentrating in Cardiac Rehabilitation.

"The only thing that has ever captured my attention was studying the human body. The more I learned in school, the more I needed to know. The most logical step for me was to become a Doctor of Chiropractic so I could truly help people."

Before making his decision to attend Logan, Jason visited nearly half of the chiropractic colleges in the United States. "Logan is in the perfect location in a safe, residential area. The Admissions staff are very friendly and helpful and the faculty are excellent."

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Jason Kucma
Third-Year Student

From the Editorial Board

Physical education not necessary

In an effort to help students graduate quicker, the Tennessee Board of Regents asked universities to reduce hours required for graduation from 132 to 120.

MTSU decided to cut the mandatory physical activity courses from the schedule and now some professors are lamenting the loss.

However, *Sidelines* agrees with the administration's decision to cut these unnecessary classes.

As President Sidney McPhee stated, the decision was made in order to protect academics, which is the reason we're all here in the first place.

Tennessee is evidently in a state of fiscal crisis and with the mobs of lottery students coming in the fall, MTSU is stuck between a rock and a hard place.

The appropriate cuts were made because this is a college, not a high school.

While we recognize the importance of physical activity in a nation with an epidemic of obesity, we don't think it's the university's responsibility to educate us on how to take care of our bodies.

That burden lies squarely on the shoulder of the individual, who can make their own choices about the type and level of physical education he or she wants.

The student body speaks for itself when the most popular physical education classes are the ones that require the least amount of effort and sweat, such as bowling and golfing.

Barely getting anything out of them.

No faculty will be cut from the health, physical education, recreation and safety department and all the same courses will be offered.

Furthermore, the students taking the physical activity courses will be the ones who are really interested in learning, not the hundreds of students who shuffle through karate just to get a passing grade.

The students are provided with a fairly large and well-equipped campus Recreation Center, which offers tons of programs, trips and classes all year long.

Simply put, MTSU students are provided with all the tools necessary to maintain a healthy body, but it shouldn't be required. ♦

Correction

In "Student allegedly raped en route to car" (Feb. 23), it was reported that there were 27 forcible rapes on college campuses in Tennessee in 2001 and 18 forcible rapes in 2002. The story should have reported those statistics refer to forcible sexual assaults. Forcible sexual assaults include forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object and forcible fondling. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

From the Opinions Editor

Eminem 'loses self' in copyright lawsuit

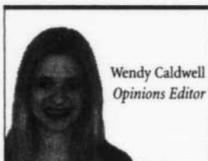
The voice against authority, the man with many names, has filed a lawsuit against Apple Computer for copyright infringement of his Grammy-winning, Academy Award-winning and otherwise really catchy song "Lose Yourself."

Mathers a.k.a. Slim Shady a.k.a. Eminem claims Apple aired a commercial for iTunes without Eminem's permission to use the popular song from the movie *8 Mile*, Eminem's acting debut. In Apple's commercial, which aired on MTV, a kid sings "Lose Yourself."

There seems to be a rising popularity in copyright lawsuits – the trend adopted by record companies to squeeze a little more money out of the songs they had no part in creating. At least Eminem has the talent to back up his suit.

I should n't mean you shouldn't try.

I admit I'm not too fond of the current



Wendy Caldwell
Opinions Editor

tracking down of anyone who's ever illegally downloaded a song, but that's on a much smaller scale.

Eminem's music publisher didn't file suit against some 16-year-old guy who downloaded the tune so he could sing along while putting on his baggy pants and his "bling-bling."

Eminem's going after a corporation that used his song in a commercial, a way to increase consumption and turn an even larger profit than they already make, and that's just wrong.

Using someone else's creative work without his or her permission is what we journalists like to call plagiarism, a.k.a. a good way to get fired, not to mention sued.

Eminem has succeeded in giving the middle finger to plagiarism. ♦

United States needs healthcare

Over the past couple of weeks, we've seen the list of Democratic presidential nominees narrowed down.

Each wants to highlight why they're a better choice than the frontrunner and President George W. Bush. They all have their select issues they want to talk about that make them seem like the best candidate.

One issue that must be discussed more is healthcare. The United States is one of the only industrialized nations in the world that doesn't extend healthcare to all of its citizens. I'm not talking about a poor quality, communist healthcare system that we would be taxed at 65 percent to pay for like some Republicans would have you believe.

I don't like paying taxes any more than the next guy, but with more than 25 million Americans without healthcare insurance, many of them children, it's obvious something needs to be done.

In a country as powerful and wealthy as the United States, one would think every citizen would be able to go to the doctor and receive medical attention without having to worry about how they're going to pay. This country should



Yesterday's Tomorrow

John Miller
Staff Columnist

follow the lead of other democratic nations such as Canada and Great Britain and adopt universal healthcare.

It's true the United States has some of the best hospitals and doctors in the world, but people often don't have access to them. Many times this is attributed to lack of insurance, or the insurance company doesn't want to cover the patient's medical costs.

In the United States' capitalist society, the cost of health insurance and care has risen to astronomical rates. Insurance and pharmaceutical companies often see their clients in terms of dollar signs instead of human beings.

Companies should be able to pursue a profit because it's what drives our economy. However, the medical community should be more concerned with a patient's quality of life than their ability to

pay. Patients in this country pay more for medicine than they do in virtually every other nation. In other countries, pharmaceutical companies are limited in the amount they can charge for prescription drugs. Here, they can charge two and even three times as much for the same, life-saving drugs.

Last year a bill came before Congress to allow the re-importation of drugs into this country. Drug companies are heavily against this because it would limit their profits by allowing drugs to be imported from places with price ceilings, such as Canada. Drug companies would lose money.

Another healthcare bill introduced to Congress last year (that Bush is still pushing) would cap medical malpractice pain and suffering damages at \$250,000. This seems like a lot of money unless you've been severely injured in a case. Would your vision be worth \$250,000?

Although I understand the doctors' concerns about having to pay higher insurance premiums, limiting the rates charged by insurance companies would be more beneficial.

Rep. Richard Gephardt is the only candidate to my knowledge, who proposed a universal healthcare system. He wanted Bush's tax cut money to fund the healthcare program. This means tax cuts over the past couple of years would be repealed.

Obviously, people enjoy getting back some of their own money, but in the end the average refund check was less than \$1,000 last year. It would seem more beneficial to use this money to establish a healthcare system that everyone could take advantage of. The benefits of having healthcare for all are greater than the refund checks people received. However, Gephardt is no longer in the race.

In the coming years, we may or may not see the establishment of a universal healthcare system. One thing that's certain: The cost of healthcare will continue to rise. Hopefully at some point in the near future, we'll realize a person's life is more important than the amount of money in his or her bank account. ♦

John Miller is a senior political science and French double major and can be reached via e-mail at bjharf@comcast.net.

Bush can't hold 'combatants'

Staff Editorial
Daily Skiff
(Texas Christian U.)

(U-WIRE) FORT WORTH, Texas – The Supreme Court agreed last week to hear a case challenging President George W. Bush's self-assumed right to hold U.S. citizens without charge or counsel simply by labeling them as "enemy combatants."

The case in question, *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, centers around Jose Padilla from Chicago who was arrested after visiting Pakistan. The Bush administration maintains he was part of a plot to commit terrorist attacks in the United States.

Though this case is separate from one concerning

prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, it still has enormous potential to affect Americans' civil liberties in wartime.

However much we'd like to forget it, America's record of upholding the rights of its citizens in times of war is unsatisfactory: It's appalling.

During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln suspended the Writ of Habeas Corpus, imprisoning thousands without trial. During World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt sent hundreds of thousands of Japanese Americans to internment camps, robbing them of their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Now, using his "war on

Gibson's 'Passion' depicts Jesus' life

I normally get very agitated at movies that supposedly depict biblical events or characters; so often the only aspects of such films that are accurate are the characters' names.

However, Mel Gibson's monumental task to depict the final 12 hours of Jesus' life just may be the real deal. *Reviews* have praised *The Passion of the Christ*'s accuracy as it shows in reportedly graphic detail the events surrounding and including the brutal crucifixion.

If you've never studied the process of a Roman execution in Jesus' day, you'll be in for a shock. It involved much more than the final act of nailing someone to a cross.

Jesus is the most widely known figure in world history, yet very wildly.

Many believe Jesus is who he said he was, the true and only son of God who offered his life as a sacrifice for sins and was resurrected on the third day as final proof of his deity and authority.

Others don't believe Jesus is the son of God but rather a good man with good teachings who fancied himself a king. Still more completely dismiss Jesus and his teachings without a second thought.

A careful study of Jesus' life yields no room for compromise. He must either be the son of God to whom every knee should bow or a complete lunatic who should be thoroughly discounted and forgotten.

Those who claim Jesus was merely a good man with good teachings are seeking a middle ground that simply doesn't exist. If he wasn't God's son, then he was a shameless liar, probably in need of a mental examination, whose teachings can't be trusted.

But just who was Jesus? Watching *Passion* won't answer that ques-



Common Sense

Randall Thomason
Staff Columnist

tion for the curious mind. However, it's my hope that Gibson's work will inspire many to examine Jesus more closely.

A large number of people who know virtually nothing about Jesus or his teachings will watch the movie just to gauge what all the hype's been about.

My caution to anyone in this group is to remember that the film is one man's account of the crucifixion. It may or may not be accurate; having not seen it yet, I can only rely on others' opinions that say the events depicted agree with the biblical account.

There are a lot of questions surrounding reaction to the film: Will it cause anti-Semitism? Will it be harmful to younger viewers? Will it help or hurt Gibson's career?

All of these questions, though important, pale in comparison to the big question that everyone should ask: What will I do with Jesus?

I'm not going to use this column to preach a sermon, but I'd encourage anyone who views *Passion* to study the main character long and hard.

Regardless of whether you decide to believe Jesus' claims of his identity or dismiss them, your general education will increase by gaining knowledge of this man.

Even if you believe you know everything you need to know about Jesus' life and teachings, look deeper. You may be surprised at what you find. ♦

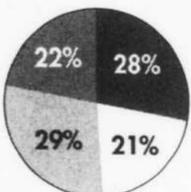
Randall Thomason is a junior mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at rthomason@raiderrepublishers.com.



Sidelines online poll results

Last week we asked readers, "Would you support making women eligible for the military draft?"

Here's what you had to say:



- Yes, drafting women would help fight the stereotype that women are inferior to men.
- Yes, it's about time women showed that they're capable of.
- No, drafting women would hurt the overall effectiveness of the military.
- No, it isn't fair for women to be drafted.

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Escape with Pottery



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Vases, pitchers, dining-ware, figurines, trinket boxes and picture frames are among the available pieces of pottery.



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Andrea Fisher decorates a clay bowl at Third Coast Clay on Memorial Boulevard.

By Erica Rodefer
Features Editor

Imagine a place where you can go to get away from all the stresses of college life. Soothing music plays in the background, lulling all your worries away as you listen. Beautiful artwork decorates the walls around you, making you feel serene.

The only distraction is the faint splashing sound your paintbrush makes as you dip it in a bowl of water.

You are an artist. You can express whatever you are feeling on the piece of clay, which sits on the table beneath you.

In seven short days, you will have a creation to show all of your friends. They'll probably be jealous, but you don't care. This is greater than human friendship.

This is art. OK, so maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration, but Third Coast Clay does offer people the opportunity to be artistic.

"It serves a need for people that feel creative for an afternoon — and for a little money — so they can be an artist for a day, basically," Third Coast's owner and founder Deborah Brannan says.

It works like this: Customers come in, choose a piece of "naked clay" (white, unpainted, unfinished pottery), take a quick crash-course on the basics of painting pottery, then it's up to the artist-for-the-day to paint the piece however he or she chooses. Third Coast Clay then glazes and fires the piece, which can be picked up a week after the painting session.

The finished product is a shiny, decorative original piece of pottery.

Third Coast Clay provides paints, stencils, sponges and brushes to those who come in to paint and pay the studio fee of \$6 a painter.

"We have had a great response," Brannan says about her business, which opened in Murfreesboro in 2002. "People still don't know we're there, so that's what we're working on right now."

"People who come always come back," she adds with a confidence that can only come from someone who truly believes in her business.

Many different kinds of people have expressed interest in the studio.

"Our typical customer is age three to 80," Brannan says. "It's every age because it appeals to everybody."

Parents bring in babies and children to do painted handprints on pottery, children have birthday parties there, teenage and college-aged couples come in on dates, girlfriends come for "girls night out" and there's a large group of older adults who are regulars, according to Brannan.

"It really isn't artists that it appeals to," she says. "It's people who don't consider themselves artists that feel creative."

The pottery studio has over 200 pieces of "naked pottery," Brannan says, including plates, bowls, mugs, vases, figurines, trinket boxes and even fully functional lamps. Pottery prices range from \$4 to around \$50, depending on the size of the piece.

"It's a fun place to paint," Brannan says. "People are inspired by being there because of the atmosphere — we have music playing and original artwork on the walls."

The biggest rush of college students is during midterms and finals weeks, she says.

"Most people want to get out of their house, or out of their dorm room so they can get away," Brannan says. "It's set up like a coffee house so that people are comfortable and can socialize while they're being creative."

Andrea Fisher, a senior media design major, has worked at Third Coast Clay since its opening.

"MTSU students come in a lot," she says. "The coupons we have in 'Campus Cash' are probably the best we've got."

Fisher understands the financial burdens of being a college student.

"It's a good place to have a date night," she says. "A lot of people do that on Friday nights when we have our Happy Hour."

Happy Hour, a buy one studio fee get one free night, lasts from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Fridays and is a perfect time to bring a date. Every Wednesday, studio fees are half-price, and on Sundays, groups of four or more can paint for \$4 plus the price of the pottery.

"I go once a week on Wednesday," Pam King, a frequent customer, says.

"I feel like I'm artistic. It just makes me feel good," she adds. "I just forget all of my problems — it makes it go away."

Whether you're artistic or not, Third Coast Clay has something for you.

"We like to tell people that everybody's an artist, so it's OK if you make a mistake," Fisher says. "If you want something perfect, go buy it at Target." ◆

Air Force ROTC extends opportunities

Involved students express their appreciation for the program

By Adam Parker
Staff Writer

Ask aerospace junior John Milam why he joined the Air Force ROTC and he'll tell you, "You have the coolest freakin' job in the world. You get to fly \$30 million jets at twice the speed of sound."

Members, known as cadets, generally receive financial aid in college and credentials that make potential employers say "yes."

They have an understanding of leadership that few civilians will ever know. But you've got to do the work to get the perk.

The Air Force ROTC is a four-year program. The familiar college terms freshman, sophomore, junior and senior apply to this program as they do in college.

The double commitment to academics and the Air Force ROTC is an exercise in time management that forces students to stay responsible around the clock.

"There have been times when I've had so much homework at MTSU it's been difficult

to participate in the [Air Force] ROTC," freshman pro-pilot major Forrest Butler says. "You're going there thinking you should have done your homework," Butler says of the 45-minute drive to Detachment 790, the nearest Air Force ROTC base.

Once a week the students set foot inside Detachment 790, located on the campus of Tennessee State University, where they spend three hours training while their classmates at MTSU are doing their homework or attending lectures.

Every lesson they learn is rooted in the core value of the Air Force ROTC — leadership.

The three-hour training sessions are broken down into two sections.

During the first hour, the detachment commander lectures the cadets.

The next two hours is a case study in leadership, appropriately known as the "leadership lab." The cadets divide into two groups, based on seniority.

Led by the juniors, the freshmen and sophomores learn to march in formations, how to salute and how to properly fol-

low military commands. The seniors oversee the process.

Assuming he or she does not drop out of the program, the cadets come of age in field training, the Air Force ROTC version of basic training the summer between their sophomore and junior years.

Field training is a six-week program that involves waking up at 4:30 a.m., physical conditioning, weapons training and survival training.

Add in the time spent in a classroom setting to the above activities and the cadets are worn out by their 9:30 p.m. curfew. The cadets get to do it all over again starting at 4:30 the next morning.

This is when the cadets learn whether or not they are truly Air Force material.

The question is how deeply motivation is burned into their souls?

"I went to air shows as a kid and I saw the military jets fly. The seed was planted there and it's grown ever since," says Milam, whose motivation was genuine enough to get him through field training.

With field training under



"You have the coolest freakin' job in the world. You get to fly \$30 million jets at twice the speed of sound."

John Milam
Aerospace junior

their belts, former sophomores will then have a new batch of freshman and sophomores under their command when leadership labs resume next fall.

Whatever the Air Force ROTC, Detachment 790 had it.

Last October the Air Force ROTC headquarters presented Detachment 790 the Right of Line Award, which is given to the best Air Force ROTC in the nation based on overall performance.

"Detachment 790 has a spe-

cial situation — there are nine different campuses so there is a lot of diversity," Milam says.

The AFROTC members come from nine different universities including Vanderbilt, Lipscomb, Austin Peay, Belmont, Fisk and MTSU. With such a wide cross-section of students, everyone brings his or her own unique talents to the Air Force ROTC, which Milam says was crucial to their collective success.

Although there are many non-pilot occupations available

in the Air Force, cadets Milam and Butler want to fly the fighter jets.

Milam has his eye on the F-16 Falcon for its maneuverability. Butler wants the F-22 Raptor.

"It is the newest plane. It is pretty much unstoppable and it is one of the few fighter jets with voice recognition," Butler says of the plane that combines stealth and firepower better than any of its predecessors. ◆

Professor explains mystery of leap year

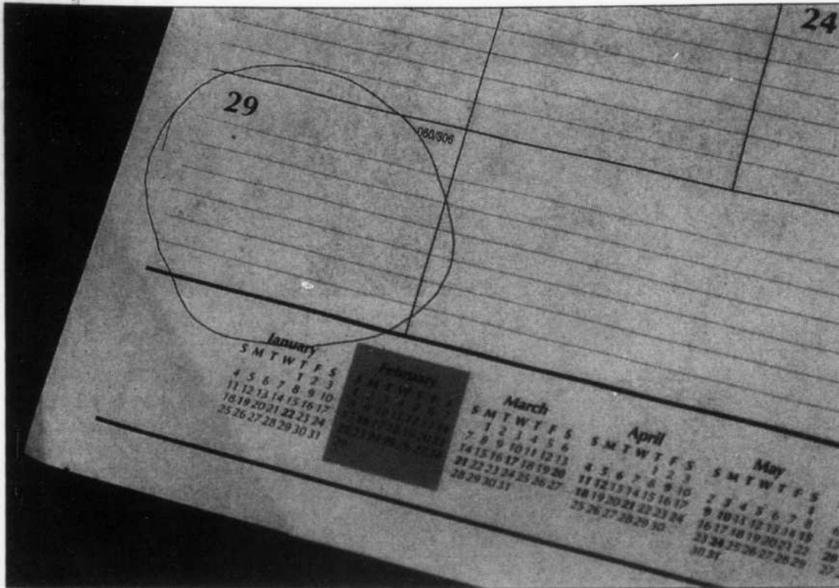


Photo illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

The concept of leap year as we know it was first introduced in the year 46 B.C.

Every four years we add another day

By **Trey Porter**
Staff Writer

There are 29 days this month, not the usual 28.

No, the world is not coming to an end. No, the government did not adopt a new calendar.

It's very simple really — this is a leap year.

The actual concept of leap year is fairly simple.

Every four years, one day is added to the calendar to balance everything out.

"It just makes no sense to me," freshman James Tidrick says.

Other students seem to share Tidrick's ill feelings toward the calendar change.

"Confusing man, that's all this thing is, just confusing," freshman Eric Easterday says.

There is actually a very good, yet somewhat confusing reason for this whole thing.

It's technical at times, and it really takes an astronomer to explain the entire concept of leap year.

Eric Klumpe, a professor in the astronomy and physics departments, is one of the enlightened few in this subject.

When asked how many days there were in one year sophomore Staci Doig replies, "365, I think."

Doig, like many other people, is unfortunately mistaken ... but just barely.

"In reality, it takes about 365.24219 days for the Earth to go around the sun once," Klumpe says.

According to Klumpe, what we do with our calendar is basically just round the 365.24219 days down to the 365 that people are most familiar with.

Then, very slowly, the num-

bers start becoming factors. This is where the extra day starts to grow.

After the first year, our calendar is off by only 0.24219 days.

After the second year, the calendar is off by 0.48438 days (or two multiplied by 0.24219 days).

After the third year it is off by 0.72657 days (or three multiplied by 0.24219 days).

Finally, by the time the fourth year rolls around, the calendar is off by 0.96876 days (or four multiplied by 0.24219 days) which is almost equal to a full day.

"A leap year occurs every four years, and is defined to be a year in which an extra day is added to the calendar to compensate for the 0.96876 day error that has accumulated in the calendar during those four years," Klumpe explains.

That is why this February there are 29 days.

Knowing why we have a leap year is only half the battle. The true science is knowing when.

Adding one full day to compensate for the 0.96876 days of error is adding just a little too much, Klumpe says.

Essentially, every time we celebrate a leap year, the calendar adds 0.03124 days more than needed (0.03124 is equal to one minus 0.96876).

Klumpe went on to explain that, after 24 leap years, which is a little bit more than a century, the small numerical error (24 multiplied by 0.03124 days), which is equal to 0.74976, is too much, or about three quarters of one day.

"We eliminate this extra time by not having a 25th leap year," Klumpe says.

The general consensus is that any year that is divisible by 4 (like 2004, 2008, etc.) is a leap year unless it ends in 00 (like 2100, 2200, etc.).

By not having a leap year during a year that ends in two zeros we effectively remove an entire day from our calendar when we only need to remove three fourths of a day. In other words, our calendar accumulates 0.25 days of error every century.

This is compensated for by having an extra leap year every four centuries. This explains why the years 1700, 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200 and 2300 are not leap years but 2000, 2400, and 2800 were/will be, according to Klumpe.

"I hate leap year," sophomore Alex Cherinkow says.

"My mom likes chocolates; and I always buy them for her on her birthday, but sometimes I forget because her birthday is February 29, and it's hard to remember."

Klumpe explained that "the concept of leap years, as you and I understand it, was introduced in the year 46 B.C. (for those cultures that had adopted the Julian calendar) to formally keep the calendar synchronized with the season."

"Unfortunately, the time-keepers of that day were incorporating leap years every third year instead of every fourth year, resulting in a calendar that was grossly out of sync with the seasons."

They fixed this problem in 9 B.C. when the Gregorian calendar was introduced, which set things on track and is very similar to the one that Klumpe described above. ♦

Dear Emily



Dear Emily,
I don't know what my life has turned into.

One day I'm engaged to an amazing guy, totally in love and planning my wedding. The next day, I find out that he's been cheating on me for months.

How do I deal with this? Why must bad things always happen to me? Is it my fault? What did I do wrong?!

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

First of all, I'm very sorry to hear about your devastating news. What a shock! There's absolutely no way you can ever be prepared for something like that.

I'm sorry that the infidelity took so long to surface; though there's no good time to be betrayed, it would have been a bit easier to cope with, had your relationship not reached such a serious level of commitment.

That said, it is fortunate that you found out before you married this guy. How much more overwhelming the news would have been after committing to marriage.

The bad news is that your world has been turned upside down and will remain so for a while. There's no quick-fix cure for being hurt so deeply by someone you trust so implicitly.

In addition, the once bright future is now uncertain and shaky. Understandably, you're probably scared and confused. Love was yanked out from under your feet and it hurts.

Yes, it's going to take some time to heal. But it can be done. The good news is that you have a choice. Several choices, actually.

First of all, you have to decide if you're going to stay with your fiance. This is completely up to you; there's no right or wrong

answer.

However, I believe much of your decision will be, in effect, determined by your fiance.

Is he sorry? I don't mean sorry that you found out, or sorry his cheating didn't last longer, or sorry to hurt your feelings. I mean, does he truly regret his act of unfaithfulness? Does he understand what he did to you? Will he do it again? Can you trust him with your heart?

Only you can answer those questions, but it is possible that you can work through this together, and choose to forgive and forget. Or, you may decide that you just can't continue moving forward with someone who has the potential to be unfaithful to you again. It all depends.

You also have a choice of how you're going to respond to this. You can sink into a depression, wondering why you always seem to draw the short end of the stick. Or you can overcome the pain and the obstacles. Choose to not let it beat you.

Yes, I'm sure you did something wrong along the way, but I also have no doubt that this is absolutely not your fault. His actions cannot be blamed on you, by any stretch of the imagination. What he did was a conscious choice, so don't beat yourself up about it; it's his problem, not yours.

How do you deal with it? Accept that this happened and move on with your life. It will get easier as time goes by, and trust me, life will go on. It may not seem that way now while your heart is breaking, but the sun will rise again tomorrow.

I sincerely hope you find love again, whether it's with the same guy or with someone else, further on down the line. Whatever you do, don't swear off love. Love will always find a way — it never fails.

I hope everything works out for you. Keep me posted. ♦

Dear Emily can be reached via e-mail at mtsudearemy@hotmail.com.

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Women hitting stride after weekend sweep

By Matthew Adair
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's women's tennis team is on a roll. The Lady Raiders seized two consecutive victories over the weekend, winning 5-2 against the University of Arkansas-Little Rock Friday and 7-0 against the University of Memphis Sunday.

MT's wins extend the women's winning streak to three. The Lady Raiders have remained unbeaten since their loss to Georgia Tech on Feb. 11, when they fell 1-6 to the Yellow Jackets.

MT (6-2) opened the match against UALR with No. 31 doubles pair Manon Kruse and Carien Venter blanking UALR's Katie Prokop and Cecelia Poveda 8-0. Junior Jennifer Klaschka and senior Laura McNamara followed up by defeating Jenna Hirdle and Bindiya Parekh 8-1 in the No. 2 position.

The Lady Raiders sealed up the match in singles with Klaschka defeating Hirdle at No. 2 6-2, 6-2 and Ana Maria Cibils beating Vanessa Nieto in the No. 5 match 6-1, 6-3. Venter took the deciding match against Parekh at No. 3 6-2, 6-2 to earn the Lady Raiders the win.

A sweep of all three doubles contests against Memphis set the tone for a Lady Raider victory at the Racquet Club of Memphis. Kruse and Venter defeated Memphis' Marlene Dirnstorfer and

Viktoria Gruber 8-6, while Klaschka and McNamara took an 8-4 win at No. 2. Cibils and Jacqui Williams won at No. 3 against Kristin Noble and Alex Tjoie 8-5.

No. 54 Kruse seized her eighth straight singles win against Dirnstorfer at the No. 1 match, defeating the Memphis senior 6-3, 6-0.

Memphis sophomore Andrea Fiechtinger was the only member of the Lady Tigers not defeated in straight sets, forcing Venter to a tie-breaking set. Venter defeated Fiechtinger in the tie-breaking set, winning 6-2, 6-7, 10-3 to give the Lady Raiders their third sweep this season.

In other singles matches, Klaschka defeated Gruber at No. 2 6-2, 6-3. McNamara won 6-2, 6-1 against Ysica Area in the No. 4 match. Cibils took a 6-2, 6-2 victory against Kristin Noble at No. 5, while Williams beat Christina Wieser at No. 6, 7-5, 6-1.

The Lady Raiders will stay at home for the next two matches, hosting Murray State University March 3 and Georgia State University March 7. MT will hit the road again March 10 to take on Mississippi at Oxford, Miss.

All matches are scheduled to start at 2 p.m. ♦



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT junior Jennifer Klaschka awaits a serve in her doubles match against St. Louis University Feb. 15. MT won 7-0.

Local talent shines for Lady Raiders

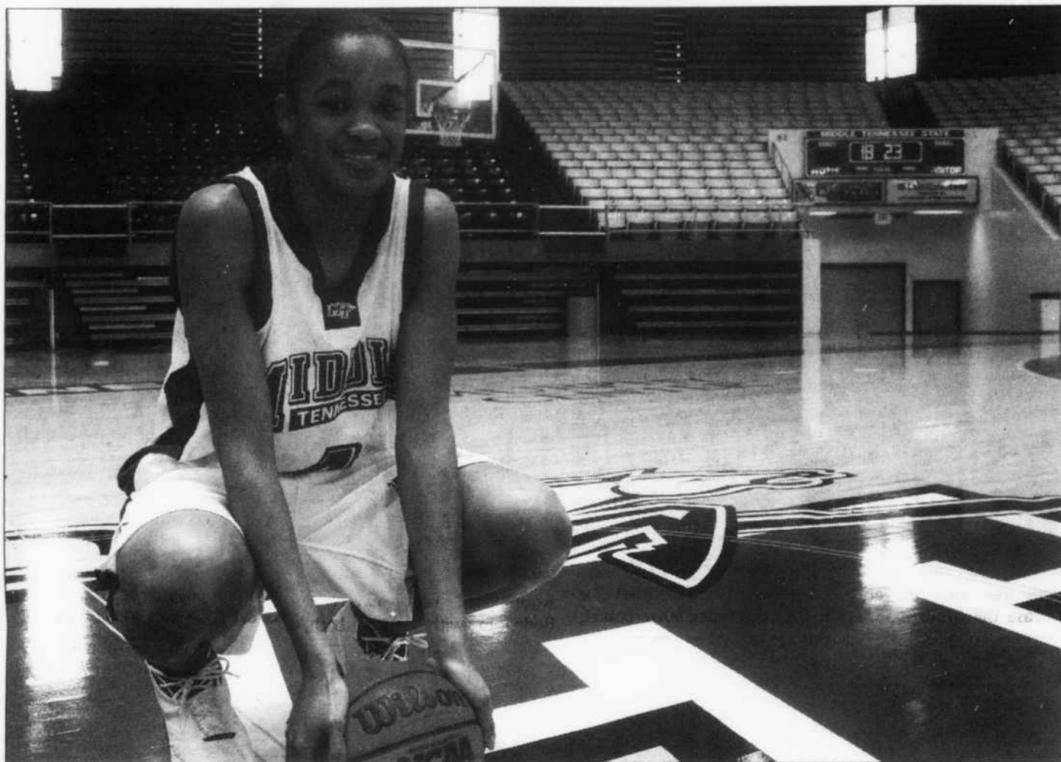


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT forward Krystle Horton is the second-leading scorer for the Lady Raiders, averaging 14.7 points per game.

Freshman forward quickly becomes scoring threat

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

When the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team signed Krystle Horton last year, it came as a surprise to many. The 6-foot-2-inch forward, who scored more than 2,000 points and was a Miss Basketball finalist, left Riverdale High School as one of the most decorated players in Rutherford County history.

"Krystle had a lot of offers coming out of high school," Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith said. "I think we probably had to work harder because she lived here and MTSU was just 'the school over there.'"

An old adage states "familiarity breeds contempt." That's not always the case; for Horton and the Lady Raiders, familiarity almost bred nothing at all. Just because Horton

was a hometown native and had been going to MT games most of her life didn't necessarily translate into wanting to play for the hometown team.

"I just always thought of MTSU as 'that school down the road,'" Horton said. "I had been going to all the games, but I had never really visited the school until my official visit. Then it was like, 'Whoa, there's a school here?' and I

really starting liking it, and being close to home, it made it a perfect place for me."

On signing day, Horton signed with MT, forgoing UT-Chattanooga and Memphis. It's safe to say that for Horton and the Lady Raider basketball program, everything's worked out just fine.

Through 25 games this season, Horton is averaging

See Surprise, 9

Blue Raiders win second straight

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's tennis team evened their record at 4-4 with a 5-2 victory over No. 55 Purdue University Sunday at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro.

The No. 63 Blue Raiders lost the first doubles match as No. 30 Trevor Short and Kirk Jackson lost to Purdue's David Robinson and Paul Rose 8-5 at No. 1.

The No. 40 MT duo of Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn improved their record to 7-1 as they defeated Filip Koziell and Sounak Chatterjee 8-0 at No. 2. The first point of the match was won when Rishan Kuruppu and Andreas Siljstrom defeated Colin Foster and Troy Havens 8-5 at No. 3.

In singles play, three matches went into three sets. MT was able to win two of three and four of the six singles matches. At No. 1, Siljstrom lost the opening set

6-3. He then fought his way back to win the next two sets 6-0, 6-3 to win the point over Troy Havens. Short, coming back from a knee injury, lost in three sets to Paul Rose 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 at No. 2.

At the No. 3 and No. 4 spots, the Blue Raiders did not need three sets as Schledorn defeated David Robinson 6-3, 6-3 and Jackson beat Colin Foster 6-4, 6-3. Kuruppu improved his singles record to 6-2 on the season as he beat Jarred Leibner in three sets 6-3, 4-6, 10-3 at No. 5.

In the final singles match, freshman Aidan Fitzgerald lost to Eric Hodgman 7-5, 6-3 at No. 6.

The win was the fourth consecutive home victory for the Blue Raiders and the second consecutive win overall.

"I'm very happy to get a win," MT head coach Dale Short told goblueraiders.com. "I think our team is beginning to find its way after struggling early. I think we're twice as good as we were two or three weeks ago because we're getting healthy and guys and more mature."

The next match for the Blue Raiders is at No. 17 University of Alabama on Wednesday. They will then return home and face Indiana State University March 8. ♦

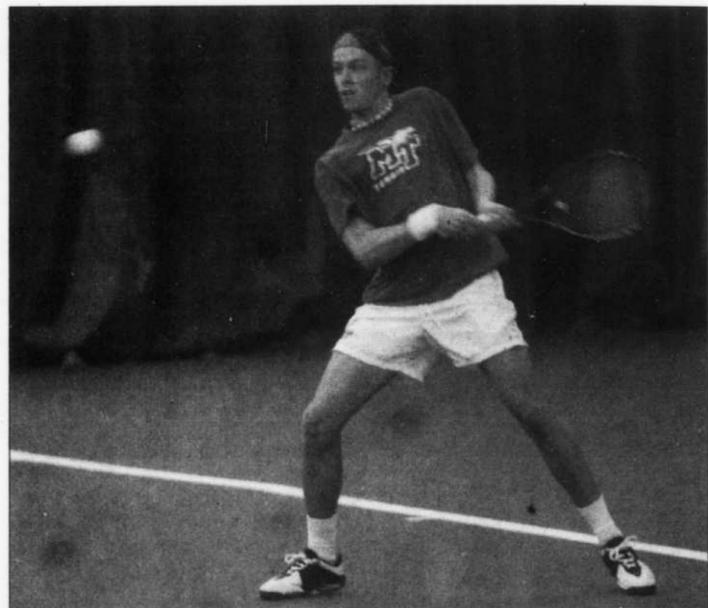


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT freshman Kai Schledorn prepares to volley against Memphis Friday.

The Greatest Victory

A month-long tribute

Rudolph triumphed over ailments, illness

By Michael Bailey
Staff Writer

Life presented hurdles for Wilma Rudolph from birth to death. Born the 20th of 22 children in St. Bethlehem, Tenn., on Sept. 23, 1940, Rudolph had three factors working against her: poverty, segregation and sickness.

By age four, Rudolph endured bouts with polio, pneumonia and scarlet fever. These illnesses were so severe Rudolph lost use of her left leg by age six, and had to wear metal braces. Yet through determination and medical assistance from her siblings, who administered four massages per day on the impaired leg, Rudolph became independent of the braces by age nine.

In 1958, Rudolph enrolled at Tennessee State University to run track, but her modest financial resources were another test. As before, she embraced the challenge head-on and found a way to topple the barrier by working various jobs around campus five days a week.

Working was necessary because it facilitated Rudolph's athletic pursuits, and she delivered at the 1960 Olympics in Berlin by becoming the first American female athlete to win three gold medals.

Before graduation, Rudolph accumulated a bevy of equally prestigious trophies, such as United Press Athlete of the Year 1960, Associated Press Woman Athlete of the Year 1960, James E. Sullivan Award for Good Sportsmanship 1961 and the Babe Zaharias Award 1962, given annually to the premier female athlete in America.

After earning international recognition-European sports-writers deemed her Sportsman of

the Year. Rudolph's impeccable bouts in Berlin-Rudolph would never be the same.

Yet Rudolph returned to her native Tennessee to find little had improved on the social front. Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington, elected as an "old-fashioned segregationist," planned to head a welcome home celebration for the newly decorated star. But Rudolph would have no part of a segregated event, and she forced her hometown, Clarksville, to host its first integrated event in civic history.

Post commencement, the honors continued to roll in for Rudolph. In 1973, she was inducted into the Wilma Rudolph Hall of Fame and was voted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame the following year.

After the achievement, the honors continued to roll in for Rudolph. In 1973, she was inducted into the Wilma Rudolph Hall of Fame and was voted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame the following year.

"I remind them the triumph can't be had without the struggle," Rudolph told ESPN.com.

Rudolph made history by beating the odds. She evolved from using only one leg to being the world's fastest woman on two legs; she worked between attending classes and awards ceremonies; and she forced integration in a state with a segregationist governor.

But after fighting the good fight for 54 years, Rudolph succumbed to brain cancer on Nov. 12, 1994. However, Rudolph's efforts will not be forgotten. As Olympic teammate Bill Mulliken told ESPN.com, "She was beautiful, she was nice, and she was the best." ♦



Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress

MT golf swings into action

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

After opening their spring season at the Rio Pinar Invitational, the Middle Tennessee men's golf team continued play last week at the Dick Witcoff/University of South Florida Invitational in Tampa, Fla.

The Blue Raiders finished 11th in the Rio Pinar, so MT head coach Johnny Moore and his team were looking to improve last week.

Behind the strong third-round performances of Chris Webb (71) and Kenny Green (73), the Blue Raiders did just that, firing a team total of 890 to finish third in the tour-

nament.

MT's Josh Nelms tied for eighth overall in the tournament, leading the Blue Raiders with a total score of 220.

Blake Bivens (227) and Charlie Gibson (233) rounded out the scoring for the Blue Raiders. Webb tied for 10th with a 221, while Green fired 225, good for 19th.

Moore was impressed with his team's performance, especially on the play of Green on the tournament's final day.

"The golf course was extremely tough today with the difficult pin placements," Moore said. "But we responded, and I am very proud of our complete team effort. We got a great tournament from Josh Nelms

and Chris Webb, but Kenny Green's play over the final 36 holes was probably the difference."

Jacksonville State finished first in the tournament with a total team score of 875. Four Gamecocks finished in the tournament's Top 15, led by Nick Mackay and Matias Anselmo, who finished fourth with a total of 218.

Florida Southern College finished second, one stroke ahead of the Blue Raiders, shooting 295 in the tournament's final two rounds to finish with a three-day total of 289.

Oscar Fraustro of the University of South Florida finished first overall for the tournament with a three-day total of 214.

Christian Ries of Columbus State finished one shot down with a three-day total of 215, while Virginia Commonwealth's Manuel Relancio was third with 216.

The Blue Raiders will resume play this weekend at the Emerald Coast Collegiate in Gulf Breeze, Fla. ♦



Nelms



Moore

Surprise: Horton shines

Continued from 8

14.7 points per game and is leading the team in scoring in conference games with 15.2.

She has led the team in scoring in games (including six of the last eight) while also pulling down five rebounds a game.

She was also named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week for the week of Feb. 7 after averaging 22 points and 8.5 rebounds against Western Kentucky University and Florida International University.

"Lately she's found a way to lead in scoring just about every night," Smith said.

"But even in those games, in my opinion, she's had just average nights. That's how good she is. Ability wise, she has a pretty unlimited ceiling."

Another aspect of Horton's game that belies her freshman status is her passing. She is third on the team in assists with 59, many to frontcourt mate Tia Stovall.

The pair averages six assists between them a game and has developed into what is widely regarded as the best frontcourt in the Sun Belt Conference.

With all the attention, it would be easy to lose focus, but Horton is a freshman with the mindset of a senior at least or a coach at best.

"I'm just a freshman right now," she said. "I'm going to go out and play, try to win. I'll worry about the other stuff later." ♦

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Lady Raiders improve to 4-2 Men's tennis to play Alabama

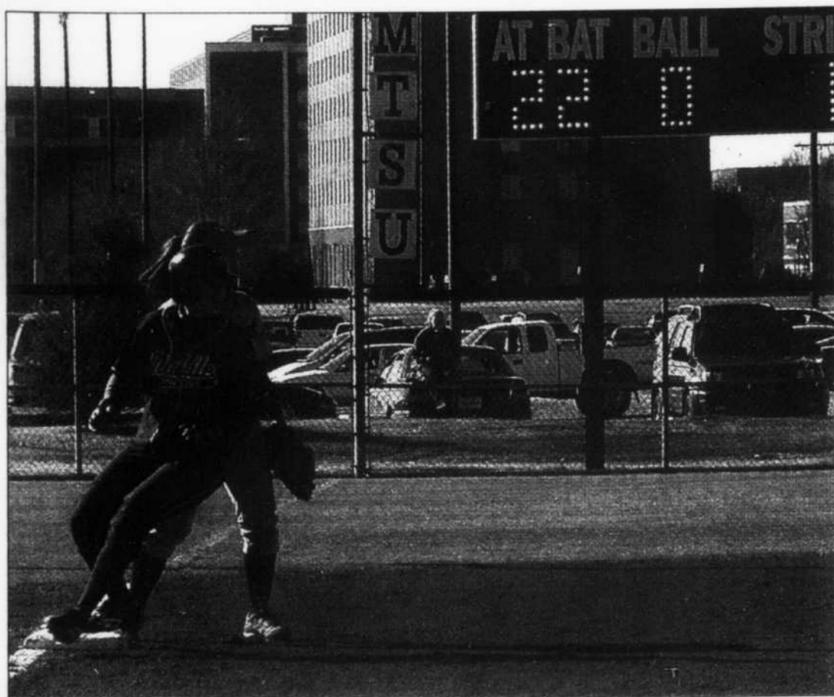


Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

MT outfielder Brandy Davis looks to advance from third against Belmont on Feb. 18.

Squad pulls off wins with three out

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

After a 4-2 start to the season, Middle Tennessee softball coach Cindy Connelley is extremely pleased with the way her team has played as a whole.

"We couldn't be happier at 4-2 right now," Connelley said. "Obviously, you'd love to be 6-0, but to play four games on the road with such a fairly young and untested team and to go 2-2 at South Carolina was a really good weekend for us."

The Lady Raiders opened the season last Wednesday with two wins over Belmont University 10-0 and 9-1.

In the first game of the doubleheader, the Lady Raiders scored four runs in the first inning.

Cortney Mitchell, 2003 Sun Belt Conference Newcomer of the Year, began the scoring with a triple, driving in Katie Thompson, who walked to start the game.

Catcher Angie Huebner, batting cleanup, hit a two-run home run over the right field wall to put MT up 3-0.

Jennifer Dorais knocked in Melissa Weiland to account for the final run of the inning.

After Dorais walked to score another run in the third, the Lady Raiders posted two more runs in the fourth inning after runs batted in from Mitchell and designated hitter Brittany Herald.

Third baseman Melissa Weiland ended the game in the sixth with a three-run shot that scored Herald and Mitchell.

Weiland, a sophomore from Riverdale High School, went four for four in her MT softball debut. Weiland originally came to MT for women's basketball but decided to switch sports and redshirted last season.

"Melissa Weiland has always had great hands; that's what makes her an effective softball player," Connelley said. "That four for four start just has to be a dream come true for her."

Crystal Bobo pitched 5 2/3 innings for the win. Bobo, a transfer from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, gave up

two hits and struck out 10. Belmont's Mandy Miles gave up all 10 runs, nine of them earned, on 11 hits and six walks.

In the second game, the Lady Raiders waited until the second inning to erupt for five runs, highlighted by a two-run single from right fielder Leah Grothaus.

Belmont scored its only run of the doubleheader on a double-play ball from Erin Mullen that scored first baseman Jennifer Battle from third.

After a solo shot from freshman shortstop Candis Littrell, MT finished the Lady Bruins off with a three-run fifth inning that ended on an error by Belmont catcher LeAnna Crandall, allowing pinch runner Christi Benton to score.

Freshman Ashley Frizzel pitched four innings of two-hit ball for the win. Belmont's Tara Allen took the loss.

The Lady Raiders then traveled to the South Carolina Invitational, where they split their first two games Saturday. MT defeated Radford College 9-4 before falling to the University of South Carolina 5-0.

Liz Davis homered in the first game as MT scored in five of the seven innings. Jennifer Dorais came in the second inning and pitched the rest of the way for the Lady Raiders, giving up three runs on five hits while striking out four for the win.

In the late game, South Carolina's Meghan Cornett hit two home runs and drove in four runs in the No. 23 Gamecocks' victory. Bobo pitched the whole game, taking the loss for the Lady Raiders.

MT split Sunday's games as well, losing 10-2 to the College of Charleston before defeating Radford 1-0 in nine innings. Bobo (2-1) gave up four hits and struck out six as she pitched all nine innings against Radford for her second shutout victory and her second straight complete game.

Connelly is even more excited over what her team could look like in the future, as three MT starters are currently side-

lined. Katie Thompkins is recovering from a stress fracture suffered four weeks ago, while Kristina Hieb and Frizzell have battled tendonitis.

On top of that, Muriel Ledbetter missed the doubleheader against Belmont with the flu and has suffered from the effects of the illness for the past week.

As a result, 19 of the 20 players currently on MT's roster played at the South Carolina Invitational.

"Unfortunately, injuries are part of the game, but they can't be used as excuses," Connelley said. "You can't lean on what if, could have, should have ... you've just got to say we're 4-2, and we're playing a lot of people."

The Lady Raiders' next game is Feb. 29 against Cumberland University at Lady Raider Field at 1 p.m. ♦

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's tennis team faces No. 17 University of Alabama today in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

The Crimson Tide are 3-2 on the season and coming off a 6-1 win at No. 75 University of Central Florida, the third consecutive ranked opponent they have faced this year.

The other two were losses to No. 35 University of South Florida 4-3 and No. 16 Ohio State University 6-1. Their other two wins came against Troy State University and Furman University.

The Crimson Tide are led by three seniors: Christian Brodersen from Heinsberg, Germany; Stephen Mitchell from Cape Town, South Africa; and Chris Gostek from Toronto, Ontario.

Mitchell and Gostek are currently No. 13 in doubles in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings. They are

currently 2-3 on the season, having dropped their last three matches.

Mitchell is currently No. 63 in singles and 3-2 on the season. In one of those matches he lost to Jeremy Wurtzman from Ohio State, the then-No. 1 player in collegiate tennis.

One of Alabama's biggest strengths is its doubles play, but the Crimson Tide have lost the doubles point twice in their last three matches.

"It's a surprise, because of the strength of their doubles teams," MT head coach Dale Short said. "We see this team as a very beatable team. A lot of the teams ranked in the 70s are beating teams ranked in the 20s."

The Blue Raiders are coming off two victories in a row, including a 5-2 win over Purdue University Sunday that got MT to 4-4 on the season.

"We reached a mini-goal of getting back to .500 on the season," Short said. "Now hopefully we can get over the hump and get above that. The [momentum] means a lot. I think the guys are beginning to believe in themselves and that they can beat anybody."

The Blue Raiders, ranked No. 59 as of yesterday, have faced seven ranked opponents this season and have gone 3-4 against them.

"Playing a tougher schedule gives the players the opportunities they want," Short said. "If all we played were easier teams, then the guys would start to lose focus."

The Blue Raiders' match against Alabama will be their last indoor match of the season. MT plays at home March 8 against Indiana State University. ♦



Short

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