

TUESDAY
APRIL 1, 2003

98.6  98.6

Golden showers



This week's poll question at www.mtsusideways.com

Why are people who routinely vote in online polls so unbelievably lame?



Ignorance is bliss
Senior still doesn't know his way around campus

In Living, page 5

Middle Tennessee State University

SIDEWAYS

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Satire
is the most sincere
form of insult.

Volume 2 No. 1

Regents raise tuition 49.9 percent

By Lindsey Turner
Editor in Chief

After estimating that tuition would be raised anywhere from 8 percent to 14 percent, Tennessee Board of Regents officials have reneged on their estimate and decided to increase tuition by 49.9 percent.

TBR Chancellor Charles Manning had a difficult time making a decision Monday during an impromptu meeting with the board.

After glancing at his notes, Manning proclaimed that the TBR would not be raising tuition.

After a second look, however, Manning decided that the board would raise tuition.

"How am I supposed to make this decision for thousands of students?" Manning



Manning

asked, frustrated. "They're going to complain if we raise tuition, but they're going to complain if we don't have enough money for them. How can I possibly win?"

Manning, after spending a brief recess in the men's room crying, returned to the chambers with a plan.

He revealed a shiny quarter coin, with a quick flip of the coin, decided that a 49.9 percent tuition increase would have to do. ♦

Student kicked out due to cuts

By Nick Fowler
Staff Writer

Due to the 8.8 percent state-mandated chemistry major Zachary Zimmer was kicked out of school today.

"We just can't afford to educate all these students," said MTSU President Sidney

McPhee. "The governor has asked us all to sacrifice, and that means Zimmer has to do his part and get out."

"This is some bulls—," a flabbergasted Zimmer said as he was escorted off campus.

"We've done the math. We've cut after the math. We've programs already. At some point we have to start cutting stu-

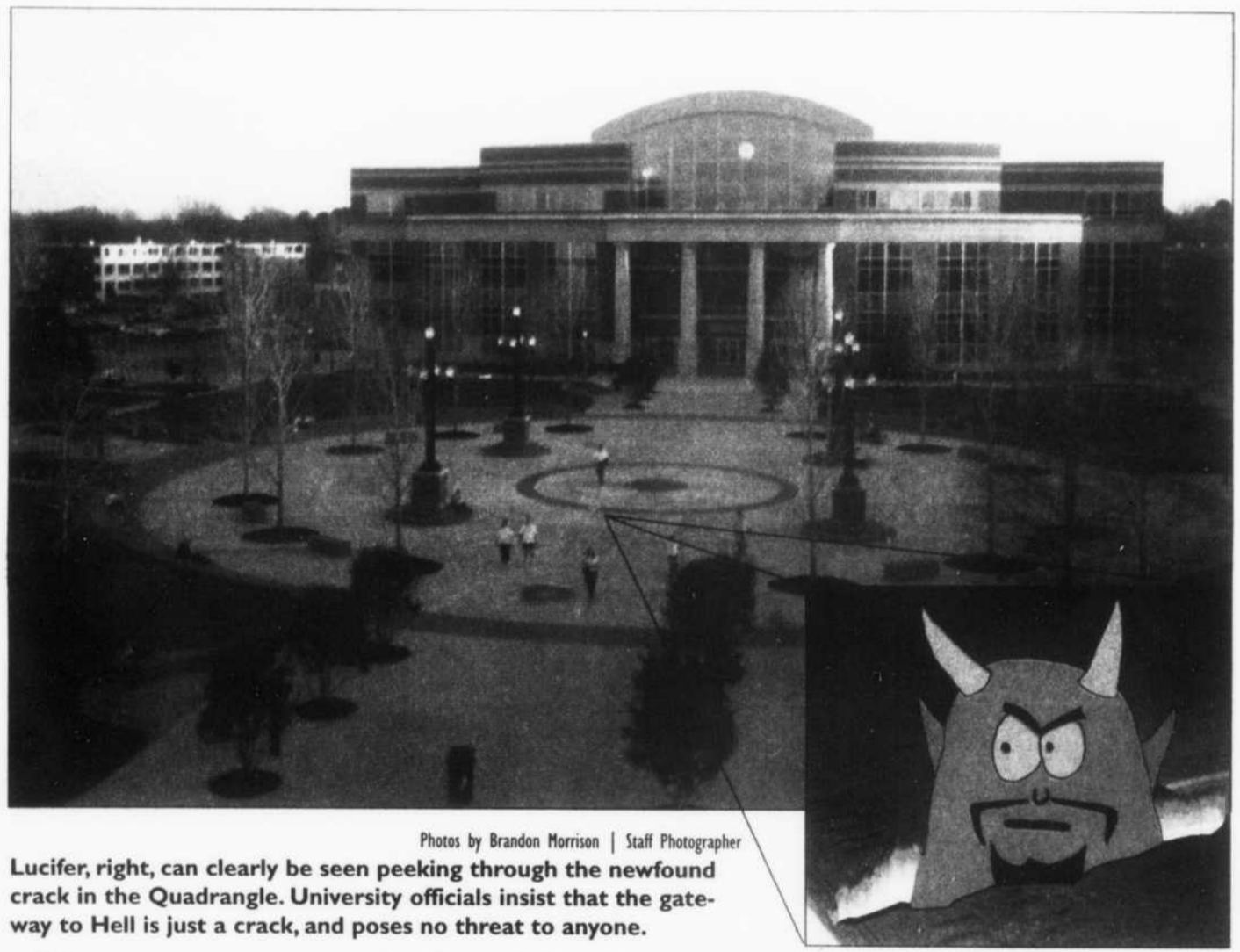
dents. Actually, we just have to cut one student — Zachary," said John Cothorn, vice president for Business and Finance.

Zimmer will not be receiving a refund for his tuition, Cothorn said.

"We don't guarantee an education upon payment," Cothorn

See **Booted**, 3

Glance at Godless damnation



Photos by Brandon Morrison | Staff Photographer

Lucifer, right, can clearly be seen peeking through the newfound crack in the Quadrangle. University officials insist that the gateway to Hell is just a crack, and poses no threat to anyone.

Gate to Hell found in Quad

By Nick Fowler
Staff Writer

A gateway into Hell has been spotted in the recently built Quadrangle between the John Bragg Mass Communication Building and the Business and Aerospace Building.

University officials are downplaying the discovery.

"It's more of a crack than a gateway," said Sidney McPhee, MTSU president. "Gateways are generally characterized by

formalities such as pentagrams, candles, incense, sacrificial virgins and whatnot. Do you see any virgins here? I sure don't. Looks like a crack to me."

Others disagree with the university's official position.

"Virgins or no virgins, that's a gateway to Hell," said Michele Butler, Student Government Association president-elect. "Any portal that provides Satan, demons, or other assorted minions of Hell passage between this world and the underworld is by definition a gate-

way. Crack? No, that's a God damned gateway. And I mean 'God damned' in the technical sense."

Members of the Campus Freethought Alliance, a campus group that advocates atheism, denies that the crack is a gateway to Hell or anywhere.

"Don't be so passe," said Mat Pauly, president of the group. "Nobody believes in Hell anymore. The heat is probably coming from some underground hot

See **Gateway**, 2

'Sidelines' adopting fake news format

By Patrick Chinnery
Staff Reporter

Citing a lack of interest, *Sidelines*, another student newspaper at MTSU, has announced it will no longer carry fact-based articles.

The paper, which has published accurate information since the 1930s, reached its monumental decision Friday after a startling presentation by advertising manager Rebecca Pickering and intense discussion.

"The point is, the most popular issues are the ones where we just make stuff up," Pickering said. "Rather than try

and change that, it's easier to go with what the market demands. There's just not enough interest in what's really going on to maintain a newspaper."

"I know we receive the vast majority of our letters to the editor when a reporter makes something up, so that must mean those are the stories the people want to read," opinions editor Amber Bryant agreed.

According to inside sources, the staff of *Sidelines* has been insanely jealous with the popularity of *Sideways*. Although currently published only twice a year (on April 1 and Oct. 31), it

See **Fake news**, 2

Police 'pull one over' on sweatshirt suspect

By Lindsey Z. Turner
Editor in Chief

A man suspected of multiple assaults and attempted assaults almost escaped police yesterday by wearing a red hooded sweatshirt instead of his usual black one.

Officers stationed on the first floor of the Keathley University Center said they saw a man matching the suspect's description in a red hooded sweatshirt lurking around the post office area of the KUC at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The officers said they were suspicious of the man, but that they soon dismissed him as just another student in a ratty, hooded sweatshirt, discarding loads of credit card offers from his campus mailbox.

Officers became suspicious



A red sweatshirt such as this one almost allowed the suspect to escape.

when the man left the building and began following a woman to her car.

"I peeked my head out the

See **Suspect**, 3

Students petition for removal of Aramark

By Jason Cox
Managing Editor

Nearly 30,000 people signed a petition to university President Sidney McPhee urging him to sever all of MTSU's ties to Aramark, the university's food service provider.

In the document, Aramark is accused of price-gouging, providing low-quality products and committing egregious violations of sanitary and freshness measures. McPhee responded by saying that the item would be addressed at the next Student Affairs meeting.

Among the specific items listed was an incident where a student found a severed possum nose in his sausage and cheese omelet from McCallie Dining Hall, which failed a health

inspection less than two weeks ago.

"How the f— do they manage to get a freakin' nose in my sausage?" exclaimed Joseph McCreary, a freshman electronic media communication major, who subsequently began the drive to boot Aramark from the campus. "Maybe they're using dog feces for sausage — I don't know. Maybe that roadkill law's working out for them."

McCreary has also filed suit against Aramark and the university. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for April 8.

"I might have been willing to write a letter of complaint and let that be the end of it, but the cashier wouldn't even give me the meal credit back," he said.

See **Aramark**, 3

Nike accuses MT of stealing emblem

By Lindsey Z. Turner
Editor in Chief

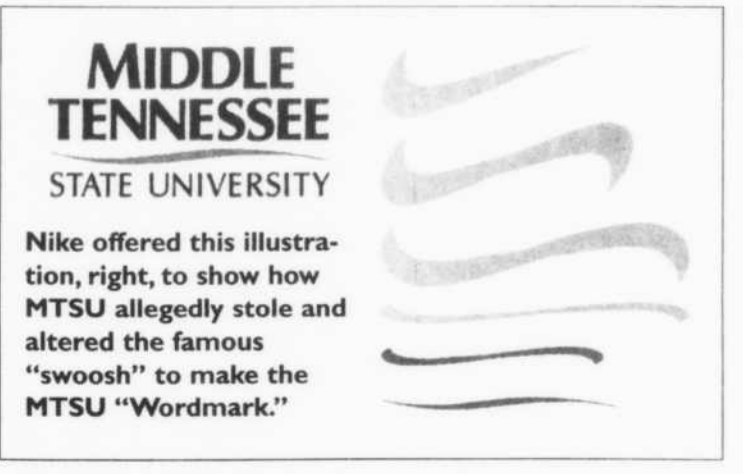
MTSU will have to scrap its recently adopted logo and search for a new, less Nike-ish one, according to Doug Williams, director of News and Public Affairs.

According to Nike Chairman Phillip Knight, his company isn't too keen on MTSU's recent adoption of the logo, which Knight says looks too much like Nike's famous swoosh.

"Clearly, the university was overwhelmed by Nike's far-reaching influence," Knight said.

"It's quite clear that MTSU took our single swoosh and inverted it, morphing it into two swooshes. This infringes on our legal right to the logo."

Williams disagrees, saying that the university was not



influenced by Nike's symbol, which was adopted in the 1970s.

"We were looking for something that really represented the university and its mission and purpose," Williams said. "Unfortunately, we ran out of time and had to kick that swoosh thing out at the last minute."

Williams said his office received a notice from Knight's office last month, prompting the university to discontinue its use of the new swoosh logo, which was formally introduced as the MTSU "Wordmark" in April 2002.

"Nike demands that your institution cease and desist its

unauthorized and highly generic usage of our logo, which, by our estimation, is worth more than the lives of all your students, staff, faculty and administration combined," according to Knight's letter.

"If we have to take this issue to court, it will be an even sadder day for your institution than that time several years ago when that Student Government Association kid was caught peddling porn out of his dorm room."

The "Wordmark" had been adopted to replace an outdated logo MTSU had used for 30-plus years.

"We were trying to incite contemporary, progressive ideals," Williams said, "but it seems that we may have forgotten not to step on any corporate toes while pursuing those ideals." ♦

Students deceived by fake Gideons

Green Bibles replaced by 'classic' works of literature

By Lindsey Z. Turner
Editor in Chief

When sophomore Ida Daed walked past the Keathley University Center last Tuesday on her way to class, she cringed at the sight in front of her – a solicitor distributing information to passing students.

But as Ida approached the older man, who was dressed in a modest black suit, she realized he was a distinct solicitor – a Gideon. Describing herself as a nice, all-American girl, she politely accepted the small green Bible from the smiling old man and placed it in her purse for safekeeping.

It wasn't until that night in her dorm room that Daed real-

ized that something had gone horribly wrong.

"I was cleaning out my purse and found the Bible, only to realize that it wasn't a Bible at all – it was a copy of Plato's *Republic*," Daed said. "I was appalled. Someone had managed to slip me a copy of some antiquated book that should be restricted to the classroom. It was insulting."

Daed wasn't the only student who received a book from someone posing to be a Gideon on campus. Student Affairs officials estimate that the Gideon look-alikes distributed more than 3,000 books that day. Officials say the books distributed were likely "classics" such as *The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri, *Aeneid* by Virgil and *Ethics* by Baruch de Spinoza.

"This is completely unacceptable," said Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs. "These people were posing to be members of a respected organization that distributes more than 59 million copies of the

What is it going to take to foster an atmosphere where like people can all get along and worship and love the same things without confrontation and conflict?"

– Ida Daed
Disgruntled student

Bible worldwide each year. These people distributed nothing of the sort – they just gave out some unwanted material people aren't interested in – material that is potentially offensive to some members of the campus community. Some of these books have been banned from classrooms, for Heaven's sake."

Glenn said a few students complained to the administration after being duped by the

faux Gideons. Officials alerted campus police, who sought out the men in black and removed approximately five of them from campus.

"Soliciting without a permit is a major offense on this campus," said Chief of Police Jack Drugmand. "These men face steep fines for the actual solicitation, but they could face criminal impersonation charges for pretending to be Gideons."

Police say they confiscated

thousands of books from the five men's van, which, according to Parking Services, did not have the proper visitor's permit and could face up to \$350 in fines.

Among the titles the police found are *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand, *Analects* by Confucius, the Koran, the Kabbalah, *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine, *The Manifesto of the Communist Party* by Karl

Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir, *Roots* by Alex Haley and *On Liberty* by John Stuart Mill.

"It's hard for me to accept that my university can't protect me from ideas and people I am uncomfortable with," Daed said. "What is it going to take to foster an atmosphere where like people can all get along and worship and love the same things without confrontation and conflict?"

The men posing as Gideons were incarcerated for a short time last week, but were released on bond. They could not be reached for comment.

Daed, frustrated by her encounter, said a Bible verse most appropriately fits what happened to her and the other students affected by the fake Gideons:

1Jo 3:7: Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. ♦

Gateway: Groups debate origin, cause of crack; some claim Satan peeked through crack

Continued from 1

spring. By the way, did you know we evolved from apes?"

The reason for the appearance of the gateway is unknown.

Some students have blamed the Student Pagan Association.

"They've cajoled Satan and his underlings to invade our campus via the courtyard," said

John Franklin, sophomore member of the Baptist Student Association.

"They want our souls. They keep them in crystals they carry around their necks."

"Who wants your soul?" asked Tracey Peppercorn, SPA president. "What would anybody do with your soul? Crystals? Is this guy high? Seriously, is he high? Somebody

make him piss in a cup. He's got to be tripping balls. He thinks I've got somebody's soul in a crystal around my neck. Stop smokin' the reefer, you high bastard. Then we'll talk about the gateway to Hell that has opened up in the courtyard like civilized students."

Satan was seen peeking through the gateway, according to several students.

"He looked right at me," said Jennifer Pringle, freshman advertising major.

"I swear to God, he winked at me. I'm not sure whether the wink was a 'keep this secret kind of wink' or a 'you're cute, let's get coffee sometime kind of wink.' Do you think Satan thinks I'm cute?"

MTSU Public Safety has issued a warning for students,

faculty and staff to not cavort with the demons that may come through the gateway.

"The young ladies on campus should be particularly careful. We believe that the demons may try to impregnate you with hellspawn," said Jacob Webster, Public Safety officer.

Public Safety also added that the gateway does not appear to be an act of terrorism.

"But just in case, don't be afraid, because then the terrorists win," Webster said.

The university patched the crack with a piece of plywood for a few weeks, but recently replaced the broken concrete.

It is unclear whether or not this will seal the gateway permanently. ♦

Fake news: Popularity of fake news exceeds real news; staff jumps at chance to be cool, funny

Continued from 1

is generally acknowledged that either issue of *Sideways* will generate more discussion on campus than any issue of *Sidelines*.

"I just don't think it's fair," said Amanda Maynard, news editor of *Sidelines*. "It's not like their rag takes any effort. They just have to sit there and make stuff up. We have to interview people."

Other *Sidelines* staffers are looking forward to the change,

however.

"This is going to make my job so easy," said staff reporter Kristin Hall. "I get to keep the fun part of the old paper – seeing my name in print – and combine it with the fun part of the new paper – making fun of other people."

The *Sideways* staff's reaction to the news was one of smug superiority, expressing confidence that their experience would continue to keep them more popular with the student body.

"Oh, please, like those kids are ever going to come up with enough original copy to fill two issues a semester, let alone three times a week," *Sideways* Editor in Chief Lindsey Z. Turner said.

Sideways is planning a few changes, however. The paper will run once a week, and publish one "real news" issue each semester, tentatively scheduled for their traditional publishing dates of April 1 and Oct. 31.

One concern about the change expressed by university professors and officials is that

there will no longer be a consistent information source for school news.

While MTSU publishes *The Record*, its focus is on positive campus events and activities, as opposed to *Sidelines*' previous mission of reporting all news-worthy actions on campus.

"There are a lot of events that transpire on this campus that *The Record*, unfortunately, doesn't have the time to cover," President Sidney McPhee said. "While I'm not going to tell the student paper what they can

write, I'm very disappointed that this is the course they've chosen."

"It's a shame that the *Sidelines* investigative journalists will no longer be unearthing high-caliber stories," said *Sidelines* writing coach and journalism professor Gary Wolf, "not that they've done much of that in the past."

The change will also hinder student writers' job prospects after graduating.

The Onion, America's only satirical newspaper, is currently

not hiring, whereas many traditional newspapers are.

Sidelines editor in chief Lindsey A. Turner is not fazed, however.

"I don't care what they say. I've written enough serious news stories to fill three portfolios. I want to have some fun before I my term is up," Turner said.

Sidelines will begin its fake news format next week, and *Sideways* will publish its first weekly issue April 15. ♦

SIDEWAYS

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Sideways is the evil, oft-vulgar alter-ego of *Sidelines*, the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sideways* publishes on April Fool's Day and Halloween of each year. The opinions expressed herein are pretty ridiculous, as you've probably surmised, and don't reflect anyone else's views but those of the disturbed individuals who wrote them. Mostly, we just want to make our readers laugh twice a year. Is that so bad?

Letters Policy

Sideways welcomes letters to the editor from readers. However, we ask that, before you fire off a mean letter about how much this issue offended or insulted you, keep in mind that it is OK to laugh and have fun – even at the expense of yourself and those you love. Lighten up, then write us a letter: slopinio@mtsu.edu. We won't publish anonymous letters, and we'll edit the hell out of letters that sound like they were written by third graders.



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CAMPUS BRIEFS

Greeks raise money, stay out of trouble

Members of several MTSU fraternities and sororities raised money for their respective philanthropies last week, staying on the good side of both the law and humanity.

The charities will be distributed among several monies that focus on the disabled and disadvantaged.

"We've gotten this really bad reputation among non-Greeks," said Greek Life director Kim Godwin.

"It's tempting to blame movies such as *Nerds* and *Animal House* or even shows like *Sorority* and *Fraternity Life* for planting that stereotypical image of a frat boy or sorority chick in the heads of America's youth, but it's much more fun — and easy — to blame newspapers that never seem to have anything good to say about us."

— Lindsey Turner

Couple donates funds for new museum

The estate of recently deceased millionaire Robert Hightop, an MTSU alum, has penned a donation to MTSU of more than \$67 million.

However, Hightop's widow, Zephora, said the donation must specifically be earmarked. She said the only proper way to memorialize her husband, an underwater basket weaving major, is to construct a museum dedicated to the art of underwater basket weaving on the MTSU campus.

"With so much turmoil in the state legislature and our university's inability

to secure the kind of funding we'd like for our academic programs, it's refreshing to have people such as the Hightops to help out with their generosity," said William Bales, vice president for Development and University Relations.

"Unfortunately, this donation has been earmarked for something quite useless in the grand scheme of things."

But Zephora disagrees.

"My husband never would have bought the Kentucky lottery ticket that won him our fortune had he not gone into a store to buy basket-weaving supplies," she said. "If MTSU students leave the university not knowing anything else, at least they'll understand the importance of underwater basketweaving."

The donation is the largest to the university since the \$20 million gift that allowed the esteemed Miller Coliseum to be constructed.

— Lindsey Turner

Anti-stupidity group to meet tomorrow

Students Against Oxymoronic Protests, a new student group, will hold an informational meeting Thursday night. In addition to establishing membership, those at the meeting will discuss protests.

The group, which has no political ideology, said its mission is to highlight non-sensical protests. The recent "Books Not Bombs" protest, which involved students skipping class, will be the first demonstration discussed by the group.

All interested students and staff are invited to attend. Punch and pie will be served. For more information, contact

Paul Rosenstein at 898-5555.

— Patrick Chinnery

University to host reality TV conference

The Walter J. Fellows English fund will host a self-help conference to discuss the cultural values found in reality television shows. Jeff Probst, host of the smash hit *Survivor*, will be the July conference's keynote speaker.

"There are those who would say that reality television has no value to society," said conference organizer and English professor David Lavery. "But I maintain that we could learn a lot from every one of these shows."

Sessions at the conference include "When to rat out your friends: Lessons from the *Mole*," "It's OK to lie to women to make a profit: the *Joe Millionaire* Dating Guide," and "Using our bodies to win immunity: Real-life *Survivor* strategy."

The conference, which runs July 7-9, has no cost for students and faculty. Tickets for the general public go on sale next week at a cost of \$10. Call Lavery at 898-1223 for more information.

— Patrick Chinnery

Registration expected to be slow, painful

Rather than beat around the bush, campus administrators acknowledged yesterday that next week's class registration was going to be difficult for most students, and that there was nothing they could do about it.

Suspect:

Continued from 1

door," said Officer Guy O'Day, "just in time to see the red-shirted man gaining on a woman walking to her car. It didn't dawn on me until then that he was our man."

O'Day and his partner, Manley Flannagan, ran after the man, pounced on him and put him in a figure four leglock on top of the woman's car.

The officers handcuffed the man, escorted him to their police cruiser and gently tossed him inside, while effortlessly reading him his Miranda rights, they said.

"That's really the coolest part of the job," O'Day said.

"You wait around all day to see the criminals, and when they finally appear, it's like a scene out of *NYPD Blue*."

O'Day said it's quite likely that the suspect would have escaped had he worn a sweatshirt that was not red or black.

"If he had come in there with a pink or green sweatshirt on," O'Day said, "we wouldn't have thought twice about him. That may be called color profiling, but sometimes you just have to do that to catch people. It's true what they say about red and black cars getting pulled over the most, for your color. The same goes for shirt colors."

The officers were not at liberty to discuss why the suspect chose to wear a color other than his usual black.

"We may be dealing with a criminal mastermind," O'Day said. ♦

'Boobs Not Bombs' rally to sway public sentiment

By Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

Taking a cue from the popularity of the *Girls Gone Wild* series, the Campus Freebase Alliance plans to launch the "Boobs Not Bombs" anti-war rally tomorrow.

Matt Pauly, CFA leader and resident Grateful Dead junkie, claims the rally was inspired by the popularity of the similar "Books Not Bombs" protest held early last month, in which students skipped class and marched to Rep. Bart Gordon's office in the town square.

"We figure if there are 100 people who love books, there are 500 people who love boobs," Pauly said.

"We want to inspire onlookers to push for peace without resorting to unnatural academic propaganda, but using instead the flesh that evolution

blessed us with. Hey, have you been in my stash?"

Pauly and CFA faculty adviser Andy "Moonstork" Smith are urging all participants, both males and females, to attend regular classes this time, but to protest.

"Most people don't realize this, but men have boobs, too," Smith said, lifting up his shirt and pointing to the area in question.

"A good rule of thumb is, where there's a nipple, a boob is bound to follow," he said.

Protesters are planning to meet at 10 a.m. in front of the James Union Building holding signs featuring such witty slogans as "Support my boobs, not my Bush," "Fighting for Peace is like F—ing," and "Sidelines Sucks!"

Another item on the agenda is the presenting of a petition for peace to MTSU President

Sidney McPhee.

"Uh, I don't have anything to do with the war. What are you people, idiots?" McPhee said.

The petition will be a giant hemp banner painted with flowers and covered with Beatles song lyrics.

"I got these from Wal-Mart," Pauly boasted.

Protesters and other anti-war proponents hope to sign the petition by covering their boobs in colorful acrylic paints and rolling around on the banner, leaving marks with their respective private parts.

No matter what kind of turnout the rally sees, Smith said he knows the display will make a big impact on the campus and surrounding Earth.

"We hope to see a lot of boobs this Wednesday," he said. ♦

Booted: Payment doesn't guarantee education, snickering official says

Continued from 1

said. "He should still be able to sell back his books."

Zimmer was chosen for exemption because of his major and last name.

The administration chose to eliminate a chemistry major because the lab equipment is very expensive.

They then chose the student from the bottom of the roll.

"He has an unfortunate last name," McPhee said.

At least one student has started the paperwork to change her last name.

"I'm changing my last name to Aaaaalexander," said Chasity Zamora, sophomore chemistry major.

"That's right. Four As. Those sons of bitches will never get me."

"This could have all been avoided with a state income tax," Jerry Zimmer, Zachary Zimmer's father, wrote in a letter to McPhee obtained by *Sideways*.

McPhee, however, rebutted Zimmer's argument in a memo of his own, in which he referred to Zimmer as a "damned socialist."

Student reaction appears mixed.

"I'm just glad it wasn't me," said Frank Zeller, a junior biology major.

"My classes are overcrowded as it is. I'm glad to see him gone," said Stacy Moore, a freshman recording industry major.

"He wasn't all that bright. It's not like they're kicking out the smart kids," said Patrick Benhausen, a sophomore political science major.

He then proceeded to high five his friends before returning to his game of *Dungeons and Dragons*.

Campus pinko organization Solidarity organized a protest outside of McPhee's office in support of Zimmer.

"He has a right to an education," said Barry Freeman, protester and Solidarity member.

"Again with the damn commies," McPhee said. "Get those smelly hippies out of my office."

More student cutbacks aren't likely, Cothorn said.

"But if I were Jason Ziegler I wouldn't get too comfortable," he said, then proceeded to high five his co-workers before returning to his game of *Dungeons and Dragons*. ♦

Aramark: Price-gouging claims unfair, director says as he holds up full money clip

Continued from 1

Another student, senior elementary education major Elise Simmons, said she was inspired when she heard Taco Bell would be leaving campus due to a disagreement with Aramark.

"It was bad enough when they took it out of the JUB cafeteria and made us pay FLEX dollars to eat there," she said. "But think about it — Taco Bell serves Grade E meat. Dog food is Grade D. And Aramark won't adhere to their policies on freshness and pre-cooked items?"

Simmons also complained about the price of food on campus, which increased substantially at the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year.

"\$6.50 for a 6-inch Subway sandwich and a drink?" she said. "They can't expect students to have that kind of cash."

McPhee said he was more baffled by the astonishing number of signatures on the petition than the violations it describes.

"It's amazing to me that there were almost 10,000 more signatures than there are students at this university," he said. "It really shows an overwhelming opinion."

McPhee said he was not too surprised by the violations found at McCallie Dining Hall, saying, "I'd never touch that stuff."

Stuart insisted that all of Aramark's products were sanitary and of high quality and that the company has kept all of

its establishments open.

"You can eat anything on this campus and be just fine," he said.

"It's good food served by good, hard-working people."

Stuart declined comment on the sanitation and Taco Bell issues, but said that accusations of price-gouging are unfair and untrue.

"We got these kids new countertops, new sneeze guards, signs to order off of and ... well, that stuff costs a lot of money," Stuart said. "Do they want quality or do they want crap?"

"Besides, you know what it's all about, right?" Stuart said as he held up a diamond-encrusted money clip, which appeared to be filled with \$100 bills. "We're going nowhere." ♦

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OPINIONS

◆ SIDEWAYS

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board

University to 'get right' with the Lord Jeeezus

Are you as sick as we are of hearing the money excuse every time students or faculty want something to improve this university?

It's become evident to the *Sideways* staff that the state is never going to fix the financial problems it has. Higher education is clearly not a priority in Tennessee and that students are continually going to have to foot more and more of the bill to keep MTSU operating at a sub-standard level.

Therefore, we propose that MTSU be put on the market and sold to the highest Christian bidder. MTSU needs to get right with God.

Just think of the money some church denominations could pour into a university such as ours – the University of Notre Dame and Pepperdine University are just two examples of fine, prestigious Christian institutions.

While tuition would certainly increase, students could take comfort in the fact that their money is getting them somewhere and that they are not literally paying more for less, as is the current state of affairs.

The people here obviously need to learn some morals anyway. This was clearly illustrated by the *Sidelines*' staff's terrible and irresponsible decision to print a photo depicting the worst obscenity of them all. Mandatory chapel attendance just might get heathens such as these on the stairway to heaven rather than the Autobahn to hell.

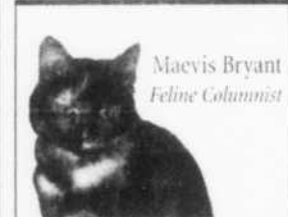
It wouldn't have to be a stuffy event. We've got plenty of recording industry majors and music majors that could be forced to provide music – anything to get the kids into religion. The pastors could talk frankly to students about sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll and urge them to avoid all three, as they are tools of a darker force.

Chapel should be a part of school anyway. Our nation was settled largely by the most godly people on the face of the planet, after all – and who are we to question the very people who gave us the land we live on and, perhaps, the very air we breathe?

So, come Lutherans, come Baptists, come Catholics, Methodists and Unitarians – we want you to save our school. Surely to God one of you will want us. Please? ◆

From the Opinions Editor's Cat

Take time to eat blinds, drop toys in water dish



Maevis Bryant
Feline Columnist

You might be surprised to see a cat writing a column, but I'm no ordinary feline – I can communicate with the English language.

I would have been published sooner, but it's only been recently that I've gotten any computer time.

Apparently, neither my owner nor her boyfriend understand that when I walk across the keyboard and delete things it's because I want to write, not because I'm annoying.

I'm concerned that my owner is spending too much time concerned with trivial matters, and too little time lavishing me with catnip and bright, plastic toys. At first glance, she appears to be relaxing, but it never lasts. For example, while both my owner and I sleep for roughly 15 hours a day, she wakes up in constant stress over missing things called "meetings" and "bills." I'm mostly concerned with how many toys I can fit into my water dish and rubbing my butt in her face while she watches television.

Another thing I can't understand is her concept of certain items' household uses. For example, while she uses blinds to block out the sun for an extra hour of sleep, I think they make excellent chew toys. She might yell and whine a little, but I get a certain satisfaction from destroying things she never intended me to play with in the first place.

Speaking of her dramatic reaction to my most beloved hobbies, I hate it when she takes my ponytail holders away. Don't let her fool you with the old "I bought them and I wear them, so they're mine" routine. I want them, so I'll take them, even if they're already fixed up in her hair. For her, they're nothing more than a convenient restraining utensil. For me, they're hours of unadulterated fun. Now, who has the greater claim?

I want more attention from certain humans who worry too much about time and money and denying me my hair things. Now that I'm a published columnist, my plan to change my human for the better has begun.

Please watch for next week's column: "What freak names her cat 'Maevis?'" ◆

Honey, bitch-slap me all you want

On Bottom



Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

If you have a vagina, sit down and shut up.

It's high time we learned our place in the natural hierarchy of being – underneath our strong, brave men, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. Put down those textbooks, take off that pantsuit and toss that birth control you purchased even though you aren't married – it's time for a revolution.

America is in danger of becoming a nation riddled with "loose" women who do nothing but pine over their almost non-existent rights. These feminists spend all their time lobbying for equal pay for equal work, stronger rape laws, reproductive freedom and social parity. Many of these women live their entire lives dedicated to academic

pursuits and social independence, when they should be at home cooking a roast for their husbands and making sure the hand towels are clean and hanging symmetrically.

These broads even go so far as to form support groups and Web sites to solicit progression independent of men, who know way more about computers and fellowship than anything with breasts ever could.

The notion that women deserve as much independence and protection as men is nothing short of appalling. If God had intended women to do anything other than cook dinner, raise and stay children, His Holy Goodness would have given Eve, the elusive mother of all evil, working muscles and a capable brain. Everyone knows the female cranium is filled with packing peanuts, which explains why women aren't able to fix the broken fan belt on their husbands' Toyotas. Fortunately, men are sweet enough to forgive them and take on the task them-

selves, even though they have enough responsibilities already.

If we allow such unrestrained madness to continue running rampant throughout our homes, churches and department stores, our beloved country will be overrun by lesbians and witches shouting absurd pro-liberation slogans, such as "Women are people, too." Our husbands and boyfriends will be constantly tempted by liberated women advertising sexual freedom as a bonus. Our repressed, devout frigidness is no match for their nonconformist ways.

While it may seem that way, it isn't too late to put these sluts in their proper places. We can begin by burning all known copies of feminist propaganda usually referenced during the so-called "oppression rants" launched by these angry women: Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* and all Rosie the Riveter merchandise available at Cracker Barrel.

Unfortunately, we'll

never be able to conquer them all. Many have the power of Satan behind them, and overcoming them would be too dangerous for gentle Christian women to attempt. We wouldn't want one of our own to fall prey to the common sensical ravings of a baby-hating lunatic.

However, it isn't too late to stop feminist breeding. Ladies, the change begins with you. As mothers of a future generation of servile wenches, you have a responsibility to raise your daughters to constantly think and act as if they were each starring in a Victoria's Secret commercial.

The first step is to buy your little princesses as many Barbie dolls and accessories as the shelves of Toys 'R Us will allow. For years, Barbie has provided a positive example of how young women should look – plastic, happy, beautiful and without genitals with which to please herself. A maiden without a Barbie dream house and 25 plastic babies is like a Hooters waitress without a groping

hand on her ass – something just isn't right.

The second step is to teach your young girl the basics of womanhood – menstruation proves you're dirty, looking below your own waist leads to hell, pubic hair is for animals, going without make-up is just as bad as being naked, thinking without male assistance merits a beating and, without marriage, you'll never get a diamond ring.

The future lies in the hands of our women. Start making female infants and teach them the wisdom they'll need to be properly subservient. However, make sure it's OK with your husband before you make these decisions. If you don't have a husband, ask your father. If your father is unavailable, any penis-bearing stranger will do. ◆

Amber Bryant is a loud, obnoxious, homewrecking feminist English major and perceives herself to be on the path straight to Hell. She can be reached via e-mail at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

Got shady neighbors? Pull a 'Dubya' and drop da bomb

For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox
Staff Columnist

We're miles from Baghdad in less than two weeks. We've damn near got the thing roped and ready for America to deliver some justice – Texas-style!

But the electric chair ain't good enough for Saddam Hussein. I say we wrap an American flag around his face and lead him through the streets of Baghdad. It'll show him and all those who witness that President George W. Bush is not to be crossed!

However, I must admit those Iraqis are tougher than I thought they'd be. I guess liberty and justice isn't in the Arabic vocabulary – makes sense, I guess.

Maybe we just need to load us up some of them MOABs and start tossing them around a little bit. I bet some of them sneaky ones might feel a tad bit snuck up on themselves ... but we've got to be all 'humanitarian' and 'bound

by the Geneva Convention.'

So, since we can't just drop a few bombs and solve the problem once and for all, let's talk about a few things – about what is and what isn't.

First of all, do you think you can trust the man next to you?

I bet you're looking at him right now, wondering what his nationality is and looking at his skin color, because that's the way we are.

People won't fly with Arabs on the plane or they cross the street when they see a black man, especially a young black man, coming their way.

Think the clean-cut white guy next to you isn't a psycho? No!

Anti-Americanism is virulent in this country; spreading like a tumor. These people have their random and hateful reasons for wanting to wage war on our country.

The truth is these people hate freedom.

I urge you to watch your neighbors. If they indulge in wine, women and song, if you think they're doing drugs, be suspicious and watch

them! Not only does it keep their dog from taking a crap on your beautifully groomed lawn, but it is your duty as an American.

If only Ronald Reagan were here. He'd round up everybody in our country who even looked anti-American, round them up and shoot them into space. He'd give the launch countdown himself, too.

Back to the war abroad, it's high time we show a little bit of what we can do. In the past, we've thrown some missiles at them and blown some stuff up, but it's peanuts compared to what we're capable of. Ask one of those three-legged, two-toed children of Hiroshima how American firepower can really shake things up a little bit.

It's time to get this thing done. Clear out all the civilians we can, leave the loyalists and the government and give them a one-way ticket to Allahworld.

Now that's infinite justice. ◆

Jason Cox is a sign-stealer, tobacco-smokin' junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at slmedit@mtsu.edu, if you're lucky.

Verbally Abusing the Editor

Goals should include 'stop sucking'

To the Editor:

God, do you guys ever stop sucking?

I've been attending MTSU for over seven years now, and *Sidelines* just keeps getting worse and worse. The news section does nothing but cover the basic, insignificant functions of any university, such as budget meetings and students committing felonies. Where are the stories readers want? Where is the page-long coverage of important fraternity and sorority events or even a preview of that musician I like? Where are the interesting stories about the aliens who probed President Sidney McPhee, or that psycho who keeps peeing in the grass behind the library? As if the stories weren't bad enough, the illustrations usually displayed on the front page is nothing short of horrendous. I'll never forget the time I picked up *Sidelines* only to find a steaming-hot bowl of chili pictured on the front page next to a cartoon hamburger. The amateurish art made me both hungry and nauseous at the same time.

If news is bad, the opinions section is worse. I don't know who came up with "What A Schmuck!!," but it "What A Sucks!!" Ah ha ha ha.

By the time I get to the features and sports sections, I'm too flabbergasted at the lack of quality your paper possesses to be even remotely psyched about any football games or the happenings at local churches. Not that I ever attend either one of them anyway.

I don't know how *Sidelines* has managed to stay up and running for so long, what with how much it sucks and all. In fact, not only do I feel the need to insult the newspaper you kids run, but also your individual intellects and personalities. If it were up to me and half the student population, you would each be tarred, feathered and forced to march down Main Street to a death by hanging waiting in the middle of the Square.

That's how passionate I am about how much you guys suck.

Stu McStudent
Freshman, chemistry

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sideways' occasional watch for mutton-heads.



This week's schmuck presents a man that just doesn't know a gift from God when he sees it.

The man, who went unnamed in the news report, hails from Chiloquin, Ore. The man, whose wife and/or friends probably beat him when he told them of the story, found a briefcase with \$60,000 cash in it and turned it into police.

The police found some personal contact information inside the case and called the owner, who picked up his savings.

The story he gave was that he had cashed a certificate of deposit earlier that morning, placing the money in his briefcase. He managed to lose the briefcase when he placed it on top of his car.

On top of his car? Sweet fancy Moses, come on! This guy is too stupid to have \$60,000. Gotards like him don't deserve to possess that much money. I guess that's why capitalism is so cool. It provides a way for dumb, forgetful people to give their money to smart, productive ones.

More disturbing, however, is the unnamed man who looked this gift horse in the mouth. It was an act of God, our merciful and just God, that he found the money. What does he do? Gives it right back to its "rightful" owner.

What a putz. We'll bet dollars to doughnuts that God's never going to give another chance

like that. \$60K isn't that much nowadays, but it's enough to buy a car, put a down payment on a house, rent a dozen crows for a week, whatever. The point is he could have done a lot with it.

We don't want to hear any of that "It's better to be honest" crap. Do you know where honesty gets you? A quick divorce, an alimony scheme that forces you to sell your house and right kidney and an address down by the river.

A little fib never hurt anyone. In fact, although the news story says the money came from a CD, why should we assume that that's accurate? We submit that the money is actually from a drug deal gone horribly awry, and that the "Good Samaritan" is actually perpetuating terrorism by giving the heathen bombers more funds.

So, next time you find those Microsoft stock certificates or signed, blank checks pick it up and walk on down to the bank. Finders keepers, losers weepers. Don't support terrorism. ◆

Patrick Chinnery is a senior Ayn Rand-obsessed political science major and can be reached via e-mail at pwc2c@mtsu.edu.

Sideways online poll results

Last week, we asked readers, "What the heck is up with this war, yo?"

War is bad. I don't like war and those who do are evil even though that's the same sentiment that started the war in the first place. (43%)

Same as the black box, but vice versa. (43%)

Holy crap, we're at war? I was wondering why Wal-Mart keeps trying to sell me beef jerky and toilet paper. (2%)

Huh? (13%)

Visit www.mtsusideways.com to answer this week's poll question, "Why are people who routinely vote in online polls so unbelievably lame?"

We care what you think. Really.

E-mail us at slopinio@mtsu.edu.



Ignorance is bliss

Senior Jimmy Dean Cook, a recording industry major, gazes at a map of Murfreesboro outside the John Bragg Mass Communication Building, where he has taken five years' worth of classes. Cook, one of MTSU's finest, knows nothing about the campus — just the way he likes it.

Photo by Brandon Morrison | Staff Photographer

Senior still doesn't know his way around campus

By Lindsey Z. Turner
Editor in Chief

If you mentioned Peck Hall to him, he might accuse you of making up stupid names for buildings.

If you asked him how to get to the Cope Administration Building, he might shrug and feign concern.

If you inquired where the Business and Aerospace Building is located, he might wave his arms in a non-specific direction and laugh.

Despite his utter lack of knowledge about campus or anything other than himself (and even he will confess that that knowledge is questionable), senior recording industry major Jimmy Dean Cook has managed to survive five tough years at MTSU, and is looking forward to graduation in May.

"I consider it quite an accomplishment," Cook says, eyeing his Chik-fil-A nuggets he just purchased at the café in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building, the only building he has ever entered in his years at MTSU. "Just think how much determination and grit I've had to show. Think of how clever you must be to avoid the entire campus and everything associated with it."

Cook, sipping on a Vanilla Coke, scans his transcript and points to his cumulative grade point average: 2.12.

"Just think," he says proudly, "most kids with those kinds of grades actually have to navigate this campus for those kinds of results. I did it without ever

venturing outside this very building."

But Cook is deliberately leaving out one portion of his life story that will forever stick in his mind as a frightening reminder just how close he came to becoming acquainted with a portion of campus that is definitely not the Mass Comm Building.

One afternoon last year, Cook awoke 10 minutes before his Copyright Law class, hopped in his Chevelle and sped off to campus from his apartment five minutes away.

"Parking on this campus is reprehensible," Cook says, shaking his head.

"I just couldn't find a spot near the Mass Comm Building. I just couldn't find a spot."

He places his head in his hands and tries to compose himself, pushing the nightmarish memory out of his head. But he remembers it all too clearly.

It was a few minutes after noon on Wednesday during the fall semester — there were no empty parking spaces anywhere near Cook's destination.

Despite the nagging sense that he should continue to circle the lot near the library until one poor soul left, Cook made the difficult decision to leave the lot and check another — one that was closer to some tall building with students gathered around it.

"Tears welled in my eyes as I neared the lot," Cook says. "I found a spot right outside the big building, but it wasn't the Mass Comm building, so my heart was fluttering like crazy. I wasn't sure what to do, so I sat for a minute to try and settle myself."

Cook says he looked at his watch. It was seven minutes after his class was scheduled to start.

"Luckily, my professor had told us

that if we were going to be more than five minutes late, we shouldn't even bother coming to class," Cook says. "So I restarted my car and went to Dairy Queen. Problem solved."

But Cook has had to engineer some complex schemes to avoid attending classes in any other campus building than Mass Comm.

"I usually try to sign up for Internet classes," Cook says, pointing them out on his transcript. "I just come to the Mass Comm computer labs and pretend that I'm taking the classes here, in this building."

He has also passed several elective courses without attending a single class.

"Even I can't explain how I did that," Cook says, laughing. "But it really doesn't matter. My degree will come from this college, so the only grades that matter, I've aced. Well, sort of."

Cook says he doesn't worry that he is missing out on the full "college experience" by not being familiar with the campus or any of its organizations.

He has no knowledge of 88.3 WMTS (the student radio station), *Sidelines* (the student newspaper) or MTTV (the student television station).

He has never attended a concert in Murphy Center or on the Keathley University Center Knoll and he has never been to a football game. Cook has never even been to a pep rally for the free food.

"In 40 years, I won't remember anything that happened at college anyway," he says philosophically.

"I mean, I hear so many people complain about the high-school rigidity of Picadilly Hall [sic], the weird smell of the Lake Union Building [sic] and the lameness of the Kingsley University

Center [sic], that I would much rather stay confined in this nice, modern building that I've grown to love."

He does proudly admit, however, that he was responsible on his own for locating one non-Mass Comm building — the New Classroom Building.

"I had to take some English classes, which sucked because none of those professors even have those cool English accents," Cook says. "I asked my roommate, who's also RIM, and he said they have English classes in that doughnut-looking building. So I got the map my mom had when she went to school here and found the NCB."

"But who would want to go there anyway? If they don't have cool British accents, I don't want to hear their English. My American is just fine, anyway."

Cook ended up taking the courses online.

Gazing upstairs to the office area of the Mass Comm Building, Cook sighs.

"I mean, most of the faculty who've taught me everything I know never venture outside these walls," he says, sighing. "Why should I think I'm any better than they are — that I got to go anywhere else on this campus to earn my education?"

Cook smiles, happy in his decisions and their implications for his future.

"If some pathetic freshman came up to me and asked me how to get to the Badwell Drama Building [sic] or Geek Row [sic], I would just laugh, put my arms around her, and invite her to come along with me to the Mass Comm building." ◆

Jason Cox contributed to this story.

Dear Fannie

Another loser wants a boyfriend

Dear Fannie,

I'm a sophomore university studies major and a regular attendee of Campus Cruisin' for Christ. I participate in all kinds of events—I volunteer in the parole program to clean the trash from local highways, pee in the grass behind the campus library and eat breakfast, brunch, lunch, high tea and dinner at the McCallie Dining Hall. Hell, I even spay and neuter my pets without the aid of veterinary assistance or local anesthetic.

However, even my impressive social life and stellar academic objectives haven't landed me that special snuggly someone. Fannie, I'm miserable. All I want in life is a semi-attractive, wealthy man to take me to a bar, get me drunk and convince me to make out with a mutual girlfriend before kissing me passionately underneath the stars while moaning the name of some random *Baywatch* bunny and appearing disappointed every time he opens his eyes. Without someone to call my "cutie-patootie-teddy bear-face-spanky-pants," my world is drab and meaningless. I want someone to rollerblade around the Quadrangle with and confide in about my habit of displacing repressed sexual feelings onto my relationship with the Lord. I'm at my wit's end. Should I just give up and work on bravely facing a life of masturbatory solitude?

— Yearning for Conditional Acceptance My Parents Never Gave Me But Lavished Upon My Busty Older Sister

Dear Yearning for Conditional Acceptance My Parents Never Gave Me But Lavished Upon My Busty Older Sister,

You're absolutely right to believe your life to be meaningless without a companion to call your own. I remember when I met my boyfriend—he took me in his arms, bought me diamonds, cut the homemade noose down from the ceiling fan in my bedroom and made life wonderfully tolerable. While your social calendar certainly is impressive, I suggest being slightly less, well, deranged and opting for a more traditional lifestyle.

The first step is to bleach your hair blonde, have your breasts and/or genitals augmented



Illustration by Lindsey Turner | Staff Illustrator

and buy a new wardrobe at Abercrombie and Fitch or The Gap (I recommend any T-shirt affirming your self-confidence, such as "I Rock" or "Your Boyfriend Wants Me"). It's important to remember that all men want is someone to pander to their every need and stifle any remaining scrap of genuine identity that society may have overlooked. Bottom line: Originality will have you buying your affection at the local Purple Onion, if you know what I mean.

I know that self-confidence gurus and other such "mentally healthy people" would tell you that loving yourself and staying grounded in your preferences and beliefs is the key to living a significant life, but they're wrong. Without a boyfriend, you're little more than a waste of precious, precious resources, such as water and oxygen. Trust me—I'm a college-age advice columnist. ♦

E-mail your questions to DearFannie@hotmail.com. Not to be confused with Dear Annie, who is *Sidelines'* advice columnist.



Entertainment Briefs



Compiled by
Wendy Caldwell

Sideways'
connection
to the stars

Playmates go on strike; women pose in sweats

Much to the dismay of Hugh Hefner, *Playboy's* Playmates have gone on strike. Claiming that men "only read it for the articles," the Playmates are determined to prove to the men of America that *Playboy* wouldn't be the same without naked women. So far, no one has disagreed. In the meantime, Hefner has resorted to publishing photographs of obese women in sweats until an agreement with the Playmates can be reached.

Madonna finishes second and third children's books

Singer, actress and now author Madonna has finished the second and third of her children's books, both set for release in November. The second, *Katie Has Two Daddies*, introduces toddlers to the non-traditional family. Not to be outdone, the third book, titled *Susie's Mom's a Streetwalker*, focuses on, as Madonna says, "the repercussions of premarital sex." Both books come with full color illustrations.

Lisa Marie Presley makes rock video; dad rolls over

Lisa Marie Presley's recently released rock video, "Lights Out," has caused quite a stir, and not just for the living. Shortly after the video's release, sounds were heard coming from father Elvis Presley's coffin. Upon opening the coffin, officials found that Elvis had done a complete 180—he had rolled over onto his stomach.

Al Gore named Sexiest Man Alive ... or dead.

Former Vice President Al Gore was recently named *People's* Sexiest Man Alive. The press release named Gore as "Sexiest Man Alive ... or dead. We're not really sure." Disappointed by his loss to Gore, Shrek (who finished second) claimed that Gore "should not be allowed to receive this award because he is really a robot." Gore assured the public that Shrek was just angry and he is not a robot. Of course, that's what all robots say. ♦

Robert Blake's wife found alive; all charges dropped

It was an interesting first fishing trip for little Jimmy Hanson Sunday. Jimmy, 8, and his father, Abraham, stopped at a bait shop 20 miles west of Lake Tahoe, where they noticed a bad smell—and it wasn't the nightcrawlers. Behind the shop, in the dumpster, Abraham found a woman who had been left for dead. The woman, who identified herself as "Mrs. Robert Blake," is currently undergoing observation at General Hospital. All charges were dropped.

Calista Flockhart knocked over by "a strong breeze"

Following the 75th Annual Academy Awards ceremony, Calista Flockhart spent the evening at Elton John's post-Oscar bash. However, the actress was knocked to the ground by what she called "a strong breeze" while getting into her limousine. Meteorologists say the breeze was between 10 and 15 miles per hour. A spokesman for Flockhart says she now "plans to eat at least twice a week."

Cher joins convent; turns in slits for crucifix and habit

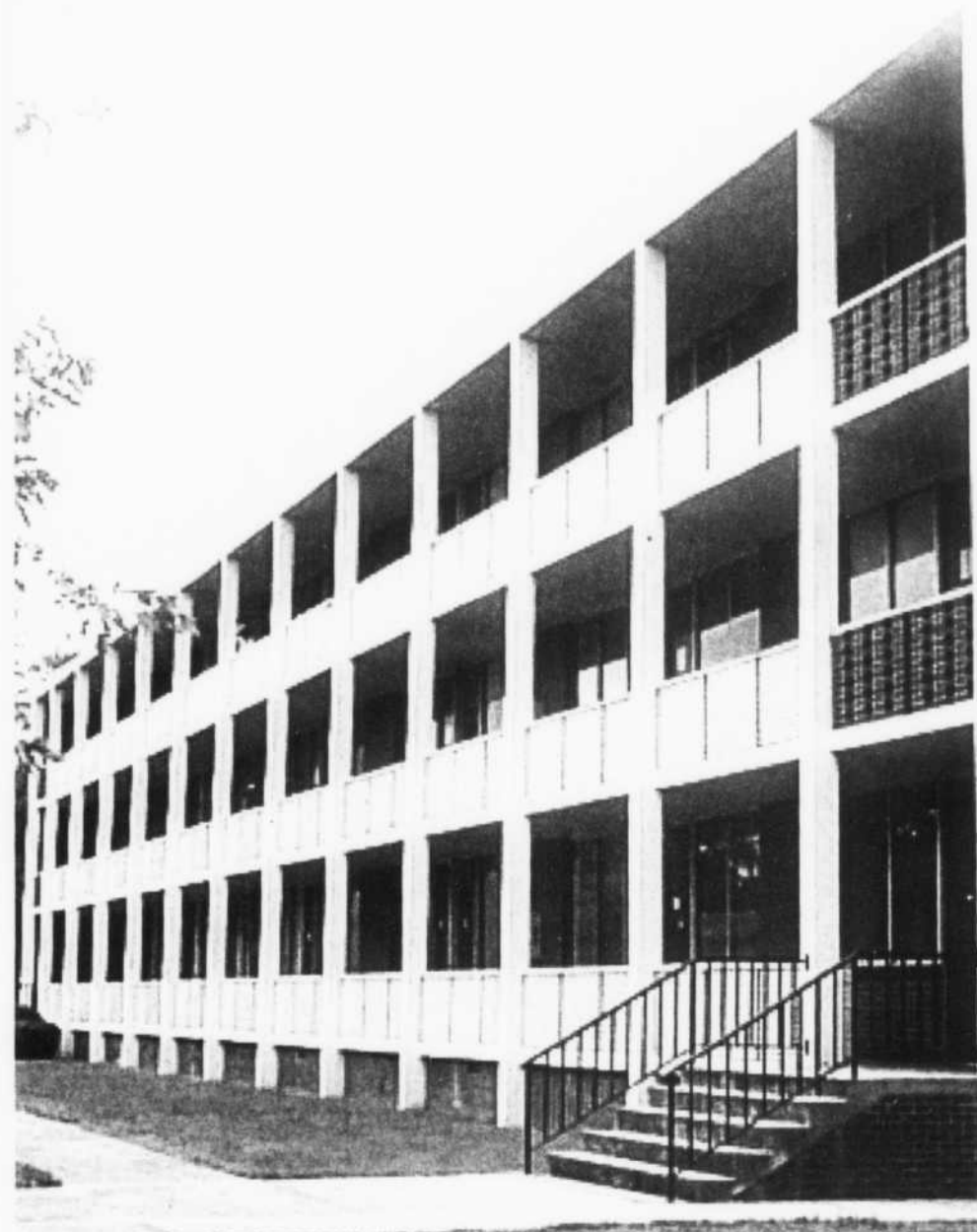
Cher, known for her daring, barely-there getups, has made a bold move by joining a convent. Friday, Cher announced that she would be devoting her life to God and the Catholic church. The announcement came as a surprise to her agent, who believed Cher was going to announce giving a generous donation. Cher declined to comment on what this will do to her career.

Wanna get closer to your classmates?

Live in an on-campus dormitory!

Room with big men on campus like:

- The Athlete's-foot guy
- The Not-ashamed-to-walk-around-naked guy
- The Guy-who-never-leaves guy
- The You're-pretty-sure-he's-a-NARC guy
- The Always-stoned guy
- The Won't-admit-he-has-a-drinking-problem guy
- The Talks-with-a-British-accent-but-is-really-from-Alabama guy
- The Doesn't-speak-English-at-all-but-still-gets-laid-more-than-you-guy
- The Roommate's-friend-from-high-school-who-was-supposed-to-stay-the-weekend-but-has-been-here-for-3-months guy
- The Was-supposed-to-entertain-your-visiting-girlfriend-for-an-hour-while-you-were-in-class-but-had-sex-with-her guy
- The Bitter-and-depressed-about-his-cheating-girlfriend guy
- The Janitor



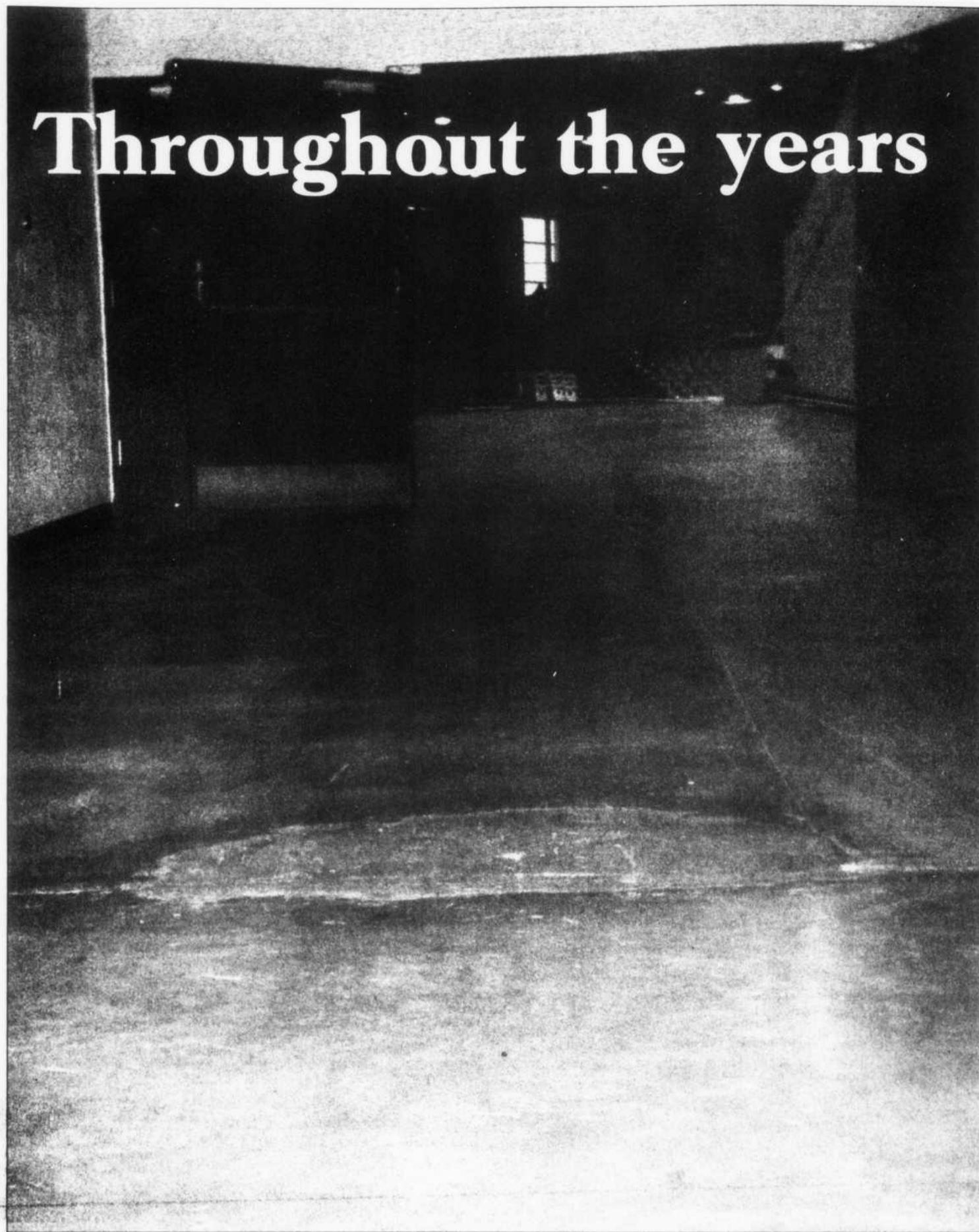
SPORTS

7 ♦ SIDEWAYS

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Throughout the years



Murphy Center's link to its history – Patchy the Patcherific Patch – waits in silence for the next team to trample him.

Photo by Brandon Morrison | Staff Photographer

Center's 'Patchy' has seen history

By Brando the Amazing
Sports Editor

Thousands of MT alumni returned to Murfreesboro on Monday to celebrate the 30th anniversary of one of the Blue Raiders' most cherished landmarks.

On December 11, 1972, the Murphy Center first opened its doors to MTSU students with the first basketball game played in the complex. The Blue Raiders played two games a week at the Murphy Center for three months until March 31, 1972.

Longtime janitor Ivon Bailey reflects on that night.

"The Blue Raiders were playing against the Boys and Girls Club," Bailey said. "As usual, the 8-year-olds were playing more like 12-year-olds, but the Blue Raiders were playing their best game to that point in the season."

The 95-34 loss to the Boy's and Girl's Club wasn't the worst thing to happen that night. During the post-game festivities, MT guard Juan Don was greeting fans in the south court. "[Don] wasn't the most able-bodied kid I ever knew," Bailey said. "His center of balance was always a little off."

After hearing a fan yell out to him, Don turned around. Unfortunately, Don's rapid quarter turn proved to be his last.

"Don tripped right over his feet and crashed right into the floor," said former Blue Raider basketball coach Stephen Hill. "That boy ain't right."

Don's fatal fall hurt more than his cracked skull. As he landed, a small crack formed in the floor. However, the crack fell right on a structural focal point of the building. If Murphy Center was going to last for the next 30 years, it needed to be

fixed.

"I think they should have torn the whole building down and started over," said cranky old man Old Man Porter. "It blocked my view of the Shell Station across the street, and I like me women filling up their cars."

After much deliberation, the administration decided on the best way to solve the shaky problem.

Three weeks later, the Juanito J. Don Memorial Patch was completed.

"I had the hardest time mixing the cement for that patch," Bailey recalled. "It always seemed to come out a bit watery."

Ever since, the patch has held a special place in MTSU history. Much like Notre Dame's Touchdown Jesus, MT athletes give credit to the patch, affectionately nicknamed Patchy – the Patcherific Patch, for all the success to the Blue Raider athletic program.

"Why, just the other day, Patchy helped us in our recent game against the School for the Blind," said MT head basketball coach Kermit Davis.

The players agree that the 75-12 rout against the Blue Raiders wouldn't have been possible without the patch.

"Our success wouldn't have been possible without the patch," said MT guard John Humphrey.

Patchy hasn't always had good times. In the 1982 basketball season, Athletic Director Erich Fulmer had more sinister plans for the patch. Palmer secretly worked with the administration, trying to remove the patch in favor of a new, springy sealant. Once fans heard of the new plans for the patch, they rioted.

See Patcherific, 8

Sports Briefs

Generic coach, players express optimism

Shortly after his team's victory Sunday, coach Dane Peterson had cautious words of hope regarding his team's future.

"Well, we went out and played a good game today, but there are still things we need to improve on. Hopefully, with a little more practice, we might be able to make a run at this thing," Peterson said.

Offensive leader Carter Palmer agreed. "Coach told us what we needed to do, and we did it. It's all about working together. I don't care about my stats, I just want to win," Palmer said.

The team goes into the last week of the season with a record of 24-2. Playoffs will begin April 7.

– Patrick Chimmery

Badminton team wins national championship

For the first time in school history, the Blue Raiders have won the NCAA badminton championship, defeating a field of 15 other teams to bring the coveted Golden Shuttlecock to Murfreesboro.

"Yeah, we won, but where's the student support? I swear, if you're not football, no one cares on this campus," dejected captain John Tanner said. "They went 4-8 and choked against North Texas, and still get the attention. It's just not fair."

Tanner continued fighting, but all reporters had to leave to cover Wednesday's football scrimmage. MT quarterback Andrico Hines was 10-12 during the practice game.

– Patrick Chimmery

New rugby stadium nearing completion

Moose Stadium is almost finished, according to construction officials, and will be open in August.

The facility will boast a seating capacity of 69,028 with 24 luxury and corporate suites. All player and press facilities are top-of-the-line, according to Patti Miller, director of Campus Planning.

These indulgences, however, may come at a price – new Vice President for

Business and Finance John Cothorn has said he has no idea how his predecessor, Duane Stucky (now holding a similar position at the University of Southern Illinois), planned to sell the naming rights to as many as eight corporations.

So far, he said, Pepsi has given the best offer, but the university's exclusive agreement with Coca-Cola prohibits any negotiation with Pepsi.

Backers so far are American Ace Coffee, Verizon Wireless and Aramark.

– Jason Cox

Donnelly boots the butt after decades

Athletic Director and long-time football coach James "Boots" Donnelly has done what he's sworn to do for years – stop smoking cigarettes.

Donnelly said he started smoking at age 16 and that, after decades of smoking, he finally decided to heed the warnings he had been giving students about the dangers of tobacco and nicotine. He added that "the second Tuesday of next week" had finally arrived.

In addition to being the athletic director, Donnelly served many years as head football coach.

– Jason Cox

McCullum to give best Liberace impression

Head football coach Andy McCollum has decided to add a twist to his famous gameday blue windsuits.

Media Relations has announced that McCollum's pants and jacket will be as sparkly as they are swishy, thanks to the special sequined jumpsuit he'll sport.

"Well, I just thought Liberace and Elvis looked like funny-looking idols with that light shining down on them," McCollum said. "I thought it'd make our opponents think we've got divinity on our side. If nothing else it'll at least get our boys laughing and let the mommas and daddies of future recruits know we've got a sense of humor here at Middle Tennessee."

McCollum added that the embellishments were coming from his personal

supply and not from athletic funds.

– Jason Cox

Alcohol sales at games on Regents' agenda

University President Sidney McPhee will make his case to the Tennessee Board of Regents Thursday as to why athletic facilities at MTSU should be allowed to sell alcohol.

He said he has been pushing for it ever since he found himself wanting a stiff drink during the fourth quarter of MTSU's home game against Southeast Missouri State.

"Well, I was able to get some from my private refrigerator, but I feel for the students and alumni in the stands who have to watch these things stone cold sober," McPhee said. "And what about the baseball team? No matter how good they are I'm about to fall asleep from boredom every time."

"It would also be a huge revenue generator for our athletics department in order to begin turning a profit," he said.

The board is expected to reach a decision in the next two weeks.

– Jason Cox

Ready to rumble? Tyson coming to 'Boro

Mike Tyson's manager Shelly Finkel has announced that his next fight will take place in the Murphy Center.

The move to a smaller venue, she said, would significantly lower the overhead costs from fights at The Pyramid in Memphis, where plenty of unsold seats were left for the main event against Clifford Etienne in February.

"We're pleased to have such a significant athlete wanting to take advantage of our facilities and what Murfreesboro has to offer," said Tom Tozer of News and Public Affairs. "It will be a financial boost to the campus and to the whole city."

In turn, Parking Services has announced that no students will be allowed to park on campus on the days of, before and after the event, including spaces around Greek Row, Scarlett Commons and Womack Lane.

– Jason Cox

New recruits must decide fate of souls

By Wendy Caldwell
Staff Writer

The MT football team started spring training last week, and there were some notable changes due to last October's bargain with Satan.

The deal, during which all MTSU football players sold their souls to the devil, came as a shock to the new football recruits, who were unaware of the change coming into spring training.

"I think our new players will adjust [to the changes]," said football head coach Andy McCollum. "The rest of our players have. It just takes time." McCollum equated the changes to getting a new coach.

Some players weren't as optimistic as McCollum.

"It's been hard on all of us," said quarterback Andrico Hines.

In addition to the usual drills the team practices, spring training also consists of other activities such as devil worshipping and practicing in extreme heat. "I don't like the rituals," Hines said.

"They kind of freak me out. But I'm more freaked out about what would happen if we didn't do them."

Tyrone Hicks, one of the new recruits, says he and the other new players are still deciding whether or not to sell their souls as well.

"My soul isn't something I really notice, but I think I'd notice it if it were gone. I've always had a soul," Hicks said.

Satan himself made an appearance on the first day of training, announcing he will be



Satan

taking over as the new head trainer.

"Eternal damnation is a great motivational tactic," the Prince of Darkness said.

As word of the deal has spread, other teams in the Sun Belt Conference are dreading taking on the Blue Raiders. Experts predict the Blue Raiders will go undefeated this season. McCollum has similar hopes.

"We have a lot of potential this season," McCollum said. "I'm really proud of our progress. They're really doing this as a team."

The new recruits must decide the fate of their souls by the end of April, thanks to a generous time extension by The Tempter.

"There will be serious repercussions for anyone who doesn't participate," the Devil said. "This is a team effort."

The recruits say they plan to make an announcement on April 28.

"It's an eternal commitment. We need to talk about this for a while," said another new recruit, Sean Mosley.

The Blue Raiders are slated to play their first game of the season against Florida Atlantic on Aug. 28.

The game is expected to last as long as it takes for Lucifer to incinerate the other team. ♦

Curling comes to Middle Tennessee

By Patrick Chinnery
Staff Reporter

In a government-sponsored effort to completely demoralize Canadians everywhere, MTSU is slated to receive a federal grant to establish a competitive curling program.

President Bush's Homeland Security budget for fiscal year 2003 included little-noticed funds earmarked to embarrass those countries that did not support America's war on terrorism in very petty ways.

When Canada refused to support the current war on Iraq, the Bush administration sought to determine what it considered appropriate retaliation. As Americans have already perfected hockey, beer, field hockey, ice and maple syrup, it was determined the only thing Canadians had an advantage in was curling.

"We knew that our country had potential - after all, we're Americans, we do anything we damn well please. But once we figured out what curling was, and how much like shuffleboard it is, we were sold on the idea," said Jason Galacowitz, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security.

The sport of curling is a time-honored tradition in Canada and other northern territories, like Iceland and

Finland. In a game there are five "ends," much akin to innings in a game of baseball.

Two teams take turns sliding stones (which can weigh no more than 19.96 kg or, in American, 44 pounds) along a sheet of ice. In front of the stones, players sweep corn brooms to clear or make rough the ice in front of the stone.

Like shuffleboard, the object is to land the stone on a specific target. Also like shuffleboard, an opposing team's stone can knock another stone out of the way.

We know, it doesn't sound interesting to us, either.

Its boring nature doesn't deter Canadian-Americans on campus from wanting to be founding members, however.

"Oh, I can't wait to join the new curling team. Hopefully, by joining and winning a world championship for the United States, that'll stop people from making fun of my accent, eh?" junior Clayton McKenzie, a Canada-born naturalized American, asked or said.

"Curling is in every ethnic Canadian's blood, just like hockey. We don't need to practice - just put us on ice, and we'll go," an excited Jim Bastion said.

And while many American MTSU students have never heard of the sport,

all who were interviewed loved the idea of a new subject to make fun of Canadians about, eh, about.

"It's almost too easy to mock them, what with their beady, little eyes and how their heads come apart when they talk," said sophomore and *South Park* fan Dan Balle. "You would have thought that they would have given up and become Americans by now."

Senior Mike Langland agreed.

"There's so much already that Canadians do that I want to ridicule. It'll be great when we will have taken both the Stanley Cup and whatever stupid trophy you get for curling away from their homeland," Langland said.

The funds will be transferred to the university some time in mid-June, and the program is slated to begin this fall. The short time-table has some officials wondering if the project can be completed on time.

"While I'm grateful that the federal government has chosen Middle Tennessee to be the flagship institution for its new project, I'm a little concerned that we're not going to have the time to put it in place for next year's world championships," said Boots Donnelly, MTSU athletic director.

It is hoped that the federal funds will be enough to make MTSU the training institution for the United



Photo from www.polar.net.ca

Curling, the sport shown in this illegally acquired Internet photo, will make its debut on the Middle Tennessee campus this fall.

States Curling Association, the organization that oversees the sport in the United States.

The USCA is also in charge of selecting players for Olympics and the annual world and junior world championships.

Included in the grant is money to convert the pool in the

Alumni Memorial Gym into a curling rink, 14 full-tuition scholarships, several gift certificates to Home Depot to buy brooms and rocks, and a curling dictionary.

For more information on the new curling program, contact Donnelly at 898-2454. ♦

Patcherific: Patch defended by students, janitors alike

Continued from 7

Feb. 4, 1982, saw the start of the Students Against Patch Desecration organization. SAPD fought tooth and nail trying to prevent Patchy's untimely demise.

"We couldn't let a tradition like Patchy die on us," said for-

mer president and founder of SAPD Cynthia Mouthpiece. "Without Patchy, our athletic program wouldn't be the same."

Twelve lawsuits, two unsolved murders and an endorsement by U2 front-man Bono later, Patchy has a new lease on life.

A 24-hour watchman has

been in place guarding the patch ever since.

"It's a living," said Patchy guard Butch Butcherson.

Throughout the years, Patchy has played an important part of MT history. During a recent concert, Alan Jackson dedicated a song to Patchy: "What Would We Do If Patchy

Wasn't Existing?"

Both Garth Brooks and Elvis Presley has commented on Patchy's craftsmanship.

"That's a mighty fine looking patch," Presley said.

"Thanks Elvis," Bailey replied. ♦

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