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Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

An editorially
independent
newspaper

Volume 78 No. 57

Student robbed; suspect still at large

By Kristin Hall
Staff Writer

Public Safety is investigating an armed robbery that occurred at 1 a.m. Wednesday in front of Judd Hall.

The male victim was walking from Nicks Hall to Judd Hall when a black male wearing a black hooded sweatshirt approached the victim and

forced him against a wall, according to Sgt. Matt Foster.

According to an e-mail circulated by the university, the robber produced a blue-stepped handgun and, after robbing the victim, ran toward the courtyard in front of the Learning Resources Center.

The victim alleges that when the robber left, another black man with a shaved head in a

jacket joined the robber.

"[Public Safety] received the call at 1:12 a.m., and officers arrived at the scene at 1:15 a.m.," Foster said.

Police officers searched the crime scene and the area where the men fled, but did not apprehend them.

Public Safety wouldn't divulge how much was stolen from the victim.

According to the victim's account, the first male wore black pants, black shoes and had a large, red lettered logo on the black hooded sweatshirt.

The victim was unable to distinguish the logo.

Both males are estimated to be 20 to 22 years old and about 6 feet tall.

"The speculation is that they are students," Foster said.

Foster said he does not believe that this case is related to the two sexual assault cases in November and January.

"The assault victims were females in those cases, and this victim was a male. Furthermore, there was no handgun present [in the assault cases]," Foster said.

Foster encourages students to walk together in well-lit areas

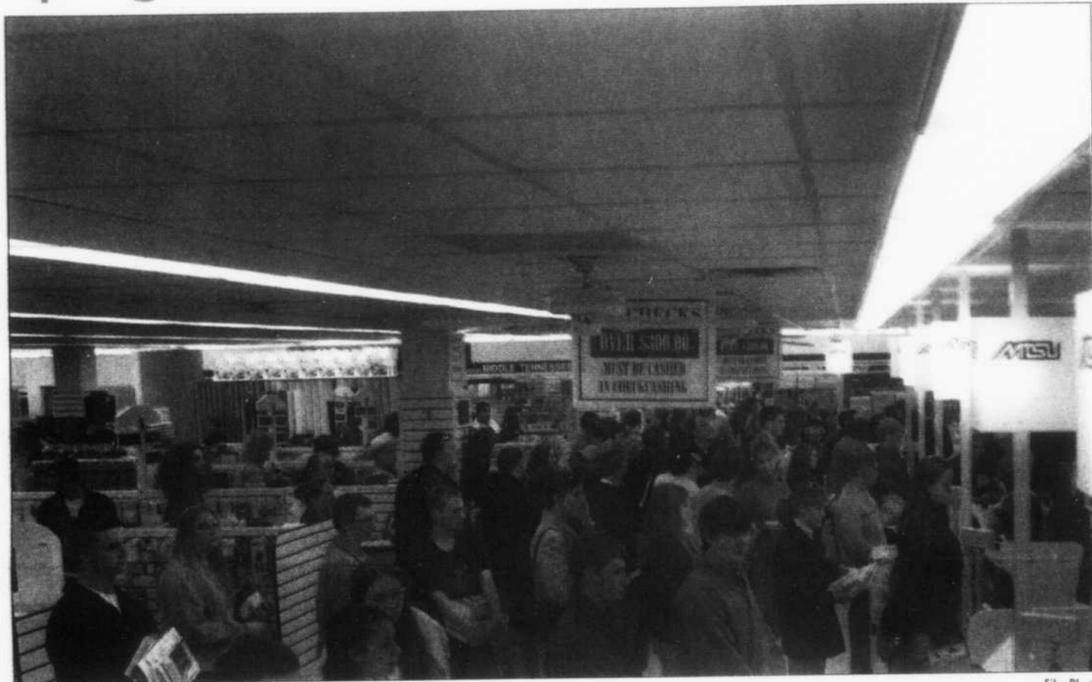
and to keep their heads up and eyes off the ground.

"Walk like you've got a purpose," Foster said. "Don't look like you're going to be a target."

This is the first armed robbery this year.

Public Safety is asking for information pertaining to this case. Call Crime Stoppers with information at 893-STOP. ♦

Spring numbers finalized



File Photo

Students at Phillips Bookstore experienced increased enrollment at the start of January. MTSU's enrollment has reached more than 19,000 students and the university is still one of the most underfunded in the state.

19,615 final count for spring 2003

By Dennis Sterle
Staff Writer

MTSU is the largest Tennessee Board of Regents school and the second largest underfunded compared to the rest of the state universities.

"We don't get paid enough by the state," said Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs. "We get the lowest amount of money per student from the

state. If we got more we would have more, but we're going to make do with what we've got."

MTSU's spring 2003 headcount enrollment has been submitted to the TBR and the official count was 19,615 undergraduates and graduate students total.

The funding for MTSU comes from two main revenue streams: student fees and tuition and state appropriations.

"The TBR doesn't allocate the money," said Mary Morgan, director of communi-

cations for the TBR. "Those numbers come from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission based on the enrollment we give for each of our schools."

THEC calculates a formula called the Higher Education Formula. From this formula, money is allocated to all higher education universities in Tennessee.

The formula is based on full time See Enrollment, 2

University gets ready to revamp orientation

By Michael Larkin
Staff Writer

The Customs program is being revamped to increase the number of sessions and is now mandatory for all incoming freshman and transfer students.

Along with increasing the number of sessions from eight to 19, the entire process will be revamped to provide more individualized attention.

"About 90 percent of all freshmen and only about 40 percent of all transfer students currently attend Customs," said Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs.

Each session accommodates approximately 240 students who will then be broken down into groups of 10 to 12. Smaller groups are accompanied by at least one faculty member and two Student Orientation Assistants. Qualified staff advise students and provide guidance

for a successful college career rather than being forced to do it alone.

Students are no longer led to a room full of telephones in order to register. Each student registers via computer with their assigned faculty member present to provide guidance and to take care of any problems that arise.

The students are still free to choose their own path, but are assured that their classes will actually count toward their major.

"The advisers will not make the decision for them, but make sure that they have the information for the decision they make," Glenn said.

Undeclared students receive more attention as well. Glenn said that the administration is developing an "undeclared advising initiative that will

See Customs, 2

MTSU gets new scholarships

By Lindsay Palmer
Staff Writer

The Edscholar program will fund 12 new scholarships for incoming MTSU students beginning in the 2003-2004 school year.

Currently, the largest scholarship offered by MTSU is the Presidential Scholarship, according to David Hutton, director of Financial Aid.

The Presidential Scholarship awards students \$4,000 annually. According to Hutton, the Edscholar program will be offering the qualified incoming freshman \$250 more than that a year.

"We've been focusing on our scholarships," said President Sidney McPhee.

McPhee said MTSU has been considering several priorities.

"The first was a nursing program," McPhee said. "The second was to enhance our scholarship budget."

The Edscholar program is a project of Edsouth. Edsouth is part of a larger organization, EdAmerica.

"It's the largest lender in the state of Tennessee," Hutton said.

Edsouth works with several of the banks in Tennessee, according to John Norrell, scholarship coordinator.

Edsouth is a top 20 lender, providing financial aid for more than 500,000 students in 23 different states and the District of Columbia.

This particular project is to

help bright students remain involved in the Tennessee higher education system.

Tennessee has been having problems keeping students interested, according to McPhee.

Students go through Edsouth to get their loans, but after they graduate, they will typically work with EdAmerica. EdAmerica sends out the loan statements and charges a service fee.

According to Hutton, EdAmerica is using this fee money to provide the state of Tennessee with approximately \$3 million to use on scholarships.

"They're giving it back to the students," Norrell said.

Each school in Tennessee was given a certain amount of money based on the size of the university.

"MTSU got the largest amount, primarily because we made the largest case," McPhee said. "It's consistent with our mission. We were very fortunate to have that."

According to Norrell, the 12 students who receive the scholarship will have to meet certain criteria.

Applicants are expected to have a minimum GPA of 3.7 by December of their senior year of high school. They are also expected to have a minimum composite score of 23 on the ACT or a score of at least 1070

See Edsouth, 2

Online admission quick, easy for students

System makes enrollment more time efficient

By Stephanie Hill
Staff Writer

As the age of technological advances and time becomes a commodity, many students choose to apply for college online instead of submitting a traditional paper application.

The online application

process can be done in quick, easy steps once a student is logged on to the MTSU homepage.

The applicant clicks on the "Going to MTSU" page and then immediately click on the admissions homepage. Then, he or she chooses the "Apply On-Line" option and follows the step-by-step instructions for filling out the application, as well as paying the application fee.

First, an applicant has to establish an account for future

reference when logging onto the Web site. Then, the applicant must fill out the application, remembering to save frequently in case the server crashes so the data is not lost.

After the application is completely filled out and all of the information is correct, the user hits the save/pay/send button. MTSU does not receive the application until the application fee is paid and authorized.

The fee can be paid by several convenient methods - credit card, debit card or check. Once

the payment is authorized, the application is sent to the Admissions Office and changes cannot be made.

The Office of Admissions treats online applications with the same respect as paper ones. An Admissions Office employee enters each applicant's information by hand.

"For the fall semester 2002, we had over 3,000 on-line applications come into the Admissions Office," Lynn

See Online, 2

'American Idol' denies student chance at fame

Staff Reports

MTSU pre-med student Meosha Denton was not among the two finalists chosen to move to the top 10 in last night's *American Idol*.

Coming off a Tuesday night performance judge Randy Jackson called "just OK," Denton, 20, was among six other performers from group one who will not continue in



Meosha

the contest.

Denton will, however, have a

See Denton, 2

MTSU revitalizes Aerospace partnership

By Erich Heinlein
Staff Reporter

The aerospace facility that tested the Challenger is looking to revitalize its partnership with MTSU.

Arnold Engineering Development Center is a Tullahoma company that tests aircraft before they lift off and is the largest aerospace testing company in the world.

If the program works out, a co-op program between the two schools will be created. The AEDC will also be sharing knowledge with MTSU through joint lectures, seminars and workshops.

MTSU originally signed an alliance agreement with the AEDC in February 1998. This time, however, no paperwork

See AEDC, 2

Customs: Transfer students get extra treatment due to difficulties in scheduling

Continued from 1

enable us to hire a number of undeclared advisers." This initiative will take the form of a "Freshman College" that will help undeclared students discover their interests and choose a major.

"Students can be sure that they are moving systematically in some direction. That they are not taking classes that are useless to them," Glenn said.

Advising will become a bi-yearly process for all students. Every semester, students should consult with their adviser every semester in order to make sure that they are still on track.

This especially benefits undeclared students, as the advisers will be able to show them classes that will not only

peak their interest but will also count toward their general education requirements.

Transfer students will also receive extra attention.

Because of the inherent difficulties involved with transfer equivalency and course differences, these students will be receiving nearly twice the attention they once were given.

The administration is developing a budget to cover all of these changes, as well as one change that is a bit more complicated: finding money to pay enough faculty members to serve as advisers during the increased number of sessions.

Summer is a chance for professors to pursue research and visit other universities. Taking part in Customs will be difficult for many teachers, but the uni-

versity hopes that each department will be adequately represented in order to maximize student interest.

The final issue is what to do with the increased number of parents that will accompany their students to orientation.

The goal is to provide a program that will allow parental interaction but leave the final decision to the student.

Part of Customs is teaching the student what to do.

"The student has to be able to step up to the plate and do it correctly," Glenn said. "A good orientation program will get you through the first six weeks of uncertainty."

For more information on Customs, contact Glenn at 898-2440 or rglen@mtsu.edu. ♦

Enrollment: MT second in state

Continued from 1

equivalents, which are full-time students. The total hours of all the students attending MTSU are included to make up the FTE.

THEC then looks at where the FTE hours are generated. Different rates to determine how many hours it takes to generate a faculty member. For example in English it takes 21 hours and in clinical studies (nursing) only 10 hours are needed.

Fewer hours are needed to

obtain a teacher in clinical classes because of the individual time needed by students to work with the teacher.

"Since MTSU has less clinical and high cost courses they receive less funding," Ron Simmons, assistant vice chancellor of Business Education for the TBR said. "The higher education formula is not fully funded by the state, only part of it has been funded."

The current formulation of this higher education formula that funds all the state universities was set in 1985.

Some MTSU officials disagree with the formula.

"I seriously doubt that MTSU has less of these courses than the University of Tennessee at Martin or the University of Tennessee," Glenn said. "Maybe we had less when the formula was put into place way back then."

The Fall 2002 headcount enrollment of 21,163 students established a new record and propelled MTSU to become the largest TBR institution and second largest in the state, behind the University of Tennessee. ♦

AEDC: Co-op grads wanted

Continued from 1

will be involved.

"There won't be any type of signed agreement," said Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. "We just don't see any need for one."

The relationship between MTSU and the AEDC lessened in recent years because of unfortunate circumstances, according to Tim White, captain and director of Public Affairs.

The reason the relationship went down, according to White, was because of monetary issues. He said the AEDC is still waiting for additional funding, which is supposed to come from their headquarters in Oklahoma. The money is used for funding salaries, area growth and personnel.

According to Cheatham, the extra money for the AEDC will come from additional defense spending requested by U.S. President George W. Bush.

Aerospace students may also have the opportunity to gain leadership skills while gaining experience in their field.

"We also talked about how we do work at the Gossick Leadership Center," Ralph Graham, member of AEDC Plans and Programs Division, said on the AEDC Web site.

"They offered to participate and understand it. How we do group work with that facility could be a base study for the business school."

Col. David Eichhorn, who recently visited MTSU with White, is excited about the move as well.

"As we re-establish the pipeline of fresh blood, young minds coming in, I think we'll see opportunities for MTSU grads to come back to Arnold and help us make AEDC as vibrant and vital as it has been through the 20th century and into the 21st century," Eichhorn said. "We're national partners. I would like to see us do more things together."

MTSU interim Executive Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs Robert Eaker is excited about second major move in the aerospace department in consecutive years.

"We're looking at opportunities for partnerships," Eaker said.

"We've developed a really nice partnership with NASA. Last year we developed a partnership with the UT Space Institute."

The University of Tennessee space institute is located next to the AEDC.

"The only thing that has happened in the process,"

Cheatham said, "is that Eichhorn and White came to tour the campus. As of right now, nothing else has been done to continue the process."

Another thing that MTSU offers is its young graduates.

"Within the next two years our whole staff (from the AEDC) is going to be retiring," White explained. "This makes this the perfect partnership. We have the resources to provide graduates with jobs and we have students who know how to use our equipment."

MTSU is not the only school that has a relationship with the AEDC. Motlow State Community College has a similar relationship.

According to the AEDC Web site, the agreement with Motlow State promotes joint lectures, seminars and workshops, and they also collaborate in order to help develop classes and to help the students better understand the technology.

However, White feels that the MTSU co-op program will be more useful.

"It is better to have a bachelor's degree than an associate's degree in this field," White said.

"There are just so many more things which can be done with a bachelor's degree." ♦

Online: Info secure on Internet

Continued from 1

Palmer, Director of Admissions said. "Since the program started in the mid 1990s we have gradually progressed from a few hundred applications being processed to thousands. Students really respond to this procedure."

An applicant does not have to fill the entire online application out at once; it can be saved and finished at a later date.

Another positive aspect is that the submitted online application is transmitted securely over the Internet and all personal information is sent only to the disclosed department, to which it is addressed.

Other highlights include saving time by not re-entering the

same information many times.

An applicant will also know when the university has received and processed the application because a note appears in the student's activity log.

"A benefit for the student is that they can come back and work on the application later on, by saving their data online," Palmer said.

"We in the Admissions Office are benefited in the fact that we do not have to decipher messy handwriting, and an overall benefit for the environment is that we save a good amount of paper from not having to send out so many applications."

Students also do not have to wait for an application to come in the mail or request one from

the guidance office at their high school. All they need to do is log onto the computer and pull up the application.

"There is both a new student application as well as one for students who have withdrawn from MTSU and wish to reapply available online," Palmer added.

The Admissions Web site warns students not to forget to submit their high school or college transcript and other information needed to process the information as well.

Because they are applying online, that step may be overlooked.

To apply online, visit www.applyweb.com/aw?mtsu. ♦

Edsouth: Schools give money

Continued from 1

on the SAT.

They also have to reveal certain leadership qualities and display an involvement in school activities.

The applications are due by Feb. 15, and the FAFSA forms are due by April 1.

The financial aid office will

then begin the selection process, starting with consideration of GPA and test scores.

Once the students are selected, they will be expected to maintain a college GPA of at least 2.5, according to Norrell. They will also be expected to remain in good academic standing and to fulfill all the criteria set upon them by the university.

This is a way for Anthony Hollin, president of EdSouth, to give back personally.

"His mother worked in a financial aid office," Hutton said. "He started EdSouth to help out."

"We're trying to keep the best in Tennessee," Hutton said. ♦

Denton: Cowell has harsh words

Continued from 1

chance to come back in the show's "wildcard" episode, in which a performer who did not initially make the cut will have a chance to redeem him- or herself.

Judge Simon Cowell had harsh words for the performers,

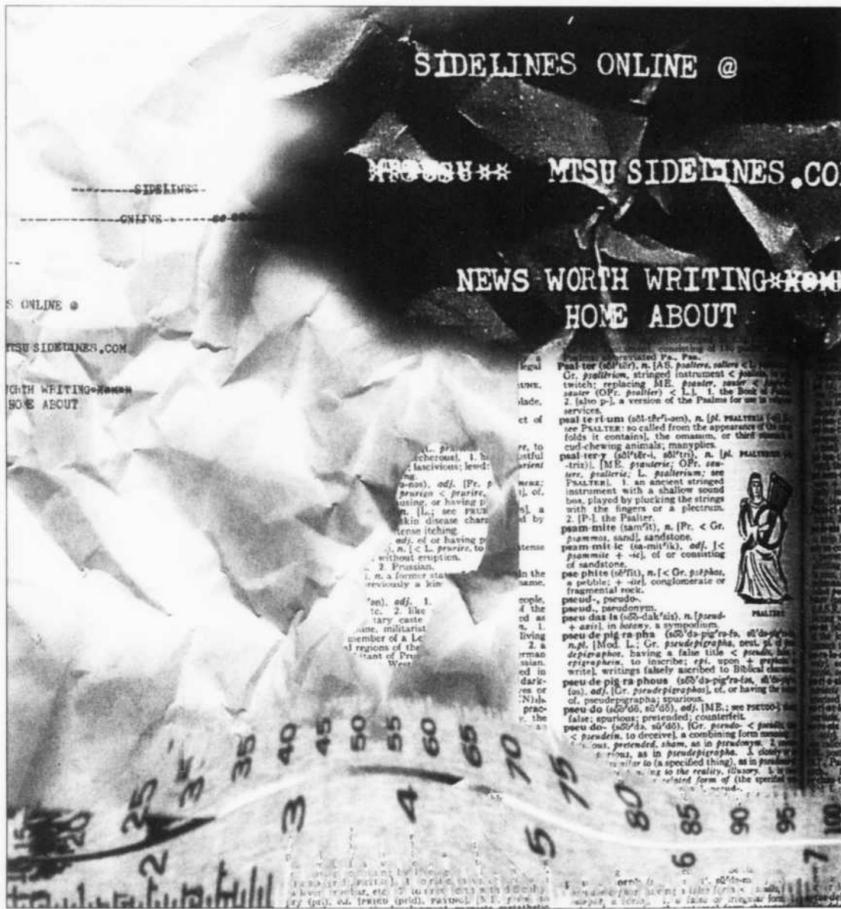
however.

"The show was dismal overall in terms of talent," he said, asserting that it would be difficult for the contestants to prove themselves again and make the wildcard episode.

According to host Ryan Seacrest, more than 8 million votes were cast for the performer.

Julia DeMato and Charles Grigsby were the two finalists chosen to move on to the top 10.

The second group of eight contestants perform Tuesday at 7 p.m. on FOX. The voting results will air Wednesday at 7:30. ♦



Nashville Area Teacher Recruitment Fair For Juniors, Seniors, Graduate Students, and Alumni

Meet recruiters and have on-site interviews with many school districts.

Tuesday, February 11, 2003
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tennessee State Fairgrounds
Nolensville Road, Nashville

Free tickets and rosters of employers are available in the MTSU Placement Center.
KUC 328 and BAS S123

Student Teachers who are unable to obtain their ticket on campus must present their MTSU ID at the Fair Entrance

Nashville Area College to Career Fair For Juniors, Seniors, Graduate Students, and Alumni

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Free tickets and rosters of employers are available in the MTSU Career Center.
KUC 328 and BAS S123



WORLD BRIEFS



Compiled By Callie Elizabeth Butler - Assistant News Editor

U.N. inspectors revisit site of Iraq's former nuclear program

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - U.N. inspectors revisited the main site of Iraq's former nuclear weapons program Wednesday, just hours before Secretary of State Colin Powell's appearance at the U.N. Security Council to offer evidence of Iraqi attempts to hide banned weapons.

Iraq says the United States has fabricated evidence, and President Saddam Hussein, in a rare television interview broadcast Tuesday, said Washington's claims that Iraq has chemical, biological and nuclear weapons were a pretext to seize Iraq's oil fields.

He also said Iraq is willing to work with the inspectors to avert a war.

"If the intention (of inspections) is to confirm that Iraq is free of biological and chemical and nuclear weapons, then they can do so," he said in the interview with retired British lawmaker Tony Benn. "These weapons are not some aspirin pill someone can hide in his pocket. These are weapons of mass destruction, so it's simple to determine if Iraq has them or not."

On Tuesday, U.N. inspectors searching for those weapons found an empty chemical warhead during one of a dozen surprise inspections at the al-Taji ammunition depot, just north of Baghdad. It was the 17th empty chemical warhead found over the past month.

Report warned damage to tiles can cause destruction of shuttle

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) - A technical report warned at least nine years ago that the space shuttle could be destroyed if tiles protecting critical wing parts were damaged by debris, but NASA engineers never found a complete solution for the safety soft spot.

Now the failure of the tiles is a leading theory for the catastrophic end of Columbia.

NASA struggled for years in trying to ensure that the tiles were firmly attached to the shuttle, Paul Fischbeck, an engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University, said in his analysis.

He said Tuesday that NASA engineers "took a lot of our advice to heart" and made changes to lower the risk of debris hitting the tiles during launch. The problems were never completely solved, he said.

A patch of foam insulation breaking off from the shuttle's external fuel tank during launch and striking tiles on the underside of the left wing is being studied as the possible cause of Columbia's destruction Saturday, which left all seven astronauts dead.

Possible Columbia wing piece found in eastern Texas

HEMPHILL, Texas (AP) - NASA sent a team to California to inspect material that may be part of space shuttle Columbia's wing, while searchers scouring an eastern Texas pond discovered what is believed to be a wing fragment.

Possible debris found far west of Texas, where Columbia was seen breaking up, could shed light on the earliest stages of the disaster that left the shuttle's seven astronauts dead, officials said.

Michael Kostelnik, a NASA spacelight office deputy, cautioned that the space agency has not determined whether the material found in California is from Columbia's wing.

"Debris early in the flight path would be critical because that material would obviously be near the start of the events" that unfolded during the shuttle's west-to-east trip across the country, Kostelnik said.

Shuttle fragments and body parts continued to turn up in Texas and Louisiana on Tuesday. And after days of warning people to stay away from debris, law enforcement officials said they may start taking some action against looters.

Serbia, Montenegro new after abolishing Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro (AP) - Officials faced the difficult work of institution-building Wednesday after reshaping the troubled nation of Yugoslavia into a new country with a new name. Residents greeted the change with little enthusiasm.

Serbia and Montenegro, as the country now is called, is all that is left after a decade of war that broke Yugoslavia into pieces. A European Union-brokered accord approved by parliament on Tuesday leaves the two republics only loosely united, and they could break up for good as early as 2006.

"Does this mean we'll have to stand in lines for new passports again?" Jelena Mistic, a 32-year-old from Belgrade, said Wednesday.

The skepticism about the reform is typical for many Serbs and Montenegrins who lived through a decade of bloodshed during the disintegration of the old, six-republic Yugoslav federation created after World War II.

Tuesday's vote erased the name Yugoslavia from the world map, decades after it was founded as The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in 1918. The country's name was changed to Yugoslavia, which means "the country of southern Slavs," in 1929.

The new country is a loose union of its two republics, Serbia and Montenegro, linked only by a small joint administration in charge of defense and foreign affairs.

Despite nuclear tension, South Korea wants to expand

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - South Korea wants to pursue reconciliation with North Korea, even as its communist neighbor remains defiant over international pressure to give up its nuclear program, Seoul's No. 2 leader said Wednesday.

In Washington, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage gave senators the U.S. administration's strongest assurance to date that Washington intends to have a direct dialogue with North Korea.

While hoping for a peaceful solution to the nuclear dispute with the North, South Korea fears that the tension might escalate into an armed conflict on the volatile peninsula.

"There is no clue to a solution to the nuclear issue, but South-North relations should continue to develop," South Korean Prime Minister Kim Suk-soo said in a speech to the National Assembly.

South Korea, the prime minister said, intends to expand several key joint projects with North Korea. ♦



Kate Hudson

Matthew McConaughey

One of them is lying.

So is the other.

HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS
A ROBERT EVANS/CHRISTINE PETERS PRODUCTION AND A LYNDIA OST PRODUCTION
A DONALD PETRIE FILM KATE HUDSON MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY
"HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS" ADAM GOLDBERG MICHAEL MICHELE
SHALOM HARLOW WRITTEN BY DAVID NEWMAN PRODUCED BY RICHARD VANE
PRODUCED BY LYNDIA OST ROBERT EVANS AND CHRISTINE PETERS
BASED ON MICHELE ALEXANDER AND JEANNIE LONG SCREENPLAY BY KRISTEN BUCKLEY &
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This university-wide awards program pays tribute to three undergraduate students honored for exemplary character and achievements in scholarship, leadership, and service.

Applications are available online and in the Leadership Development Office in room 306 of Keathley University Center. Applications are due on February 21, 2003.

The three awards include:

- President's Award
- Provost's Award
- Achievement Award

For more information please call Deana Raffo - Director Leadership Development.
898-5786

<http://www.mtsu.edu/~stuaff/studev/awards.htm>

'Harry Potter' suitable for kids



Wit and Wonder
Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist

In a recent press conference at the Vatican, the Rev. Don Peter Fleetwood endorsed the *Harry Potter* novels, deeming them suitable for Christian consumption. This announcement comes just months before J.K. Rowling's fifth release of the series, *Harry Potter and The Order of The Phoenix*, set for release in mid-June.

Did we really need to wait until long after the fourth book's release to wise up and admit that many religious denominations were foolish in declaring books centered around three children who do bits of magic blasphemy and celebrations of the

occult? The appearance came shortly after the announcement that the Vatican will release a book on the New Age phenomenon and the church's stance on the issue, which ignited the question of the church's position of magical themes such as those found within Rowling's books.

Fleetwood stated that he saw no problems with the book's themes in relation to Christian theology. "I don't think there's anyone in this room who grew up without fairies, magic and angels in their imaginary world," Fleetwood told reporters. "They aren't bad. They aren't serving as a banner for an anti-Christian ideology."

Two thumbs up for Fleetwood. He continued to say that Rowling's books were

tales of good against evil, and that she clearly differentiates between the two forces within her characters.

The Bible is a collection of tales chronicling battles of good versus evil, as well as themes of man versus himself, another theme found in the misadventures of Mr. Potter. So there's a little hocus-pocus – so what? The fact remains that Rowling is in no way cheering to the masses, "Wicca is the way, children! Throw down the Christian teachings of your parents and practice witchcraft! It's fun!"

Rowling herself is admittedly a Christian, and it's doubtful that she'll be throwing down her Bible for a cauldron anytime soon.

However, the whole debate that has spanned over years, though losing popularity with each new

book's release, raises an interesting question: Why is Wicca and witchcraft deemed so evil? What if these books did include serious Wiccan theology? Do other religions not have legitimate needs to educate and express their belief structures, even if they don't include Jesus or other Christian themes? Why is any belief structure that doesn't conform to Christian thinking automatically evil?

The controversy reflects the continually negative attitude our country as well as others exhibit towards any belief system – be it Wicca, atheism or Islam to name a few – which doesn't fit into a Christian mold.

The only religions to sneak beyond this standard are a few eastern religions, such as Buddhism, which have become deeply rooted in hipness, seen in

clothing and body décor and deeply rooted in pop culture.

Nevertheless, the Catholic Church's addressing of New Age theology shows real progression and demonstrates that there is some out-of-the-box thinking at work. Religion should be ever changing to incorporate the ideas of today while, as their teachings state, continually learning from ideas of the past.

But there's still work to be done and narrow barriers to be deconstructed. Deeming the antics of *Harry Potter* suitable for the consumption of children is no great mile marker.

This marks one small step. ◆

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

From the Editorial Board Customs changes not necessary

Unless you sniff glue, you probably remember Customs, the cutesy college orientation your parents urged you to attend the summer before your first semester at MTSU.

The powers that be are planning to love up the program and recreate it as both mandatory and more efficient, breaking down each session into smaller groups, providing computers with which to register (instead of a room full of telephones) and giving transfer and undecided students more attention.

Right now, the university is trying to piece together a budget to cover the expenses. The biggest obstacle might prove to be finding enough money to cover the added teachers' expenses for the increased number of advisers helping the Customs newbies.

While efficiency is marvelous, we can't help but wonder why, during a fiscally tragic time, the university is planning to spend more money on something as unessential as Customs. Touring Greek Row, sampling the delicious cuisine in McCallie Dining Hall and learning the initials of the major buildings are all adventures new students will experience on their own – to the point of insanity.

Though a helpful leg up for the clueless freshman and occasional transfer student, Customs isn't nearly as essential as holding onto high faculty standards, maintaining the staff that keeps the campus running, and doing all the things necessary to make the experience for current students as beneficial as it can be.

With imminent budget cuts and tuition increases lingering over our heads, perhaps beefing up the orientation program might be lower on the proverbial list than, say, not firing lots of personnel. ◆

Letters to the Editor College fans set obnoxious example

To the Editor:

My daughter plays basketball for Barfield Elementary School in Murfreesboro and had the opportunity to play during halftime of one of the Lady Raiders' games a few weeks ago. We were both excited to be at the game and for her to play on the court where "Mom" goes to school.

As the Lady Raiders filed out onto the court we yelled and cheered. The enjoyment of the occasion soon turned to embarrassment as the opposing team entered the court. I couldn't believe my ears – coming from the band section was loud, obnoxious boing. The jobs of parents and coaches are to teach our children to have respect and act with proper sportsmanship. I wondered where these college students were when their parents, coaches or band directors taught that lesson. These are supposed to be adults who are in college – not kindergarten. What kind of example were these students setting for the middle school guests attending the game that night?

During a bad call by the referees later in the game (which, by the way, was in favor of the visiting team), one band member yelled out and called the opposing coach "a Pat Summit wannabe." At that point, I was totally disappointed and embarrassed to claim myself as an MTSU student. I've been to my share of elementary school basketball games and never have I witnessed children behaving as the MTSU band members did that night. Maybe these college students should attend some middle school games and learn what true sportsmanship really means.

Sheree Warrick

Sex education responsibility rests on family

To the Editor:

I'm writing to reply to Callie Butler's column ("Bush sex education plan ineffective," Jan. 23). I just wanted to point out some inconsistencies.

First, I don't know how she can pull consistent interpretations from statistics. I thought statisticians are only trying to establish human behaviors rather than trying to support pet ideologies; I'm certain they are well aware that there are several contributing factors to the behavior to make any interpretation full of confounding principles. When you look at the statistics given by *The New York Times* and the University of Washington on the embarrassing number of people who don't know how to use a condom, it should reflect their locality and not Texas. In reality, it's another ploy for those traditional states that have always voted heavily democratic to try and spread the gospel of sexual liberation with your tax money.

Second, Butler makes another mistake by stating, "Neither the public school system nor the government is the moral authority for millions of families of differing beliefs and ethical standards." She then states, "Abstinence-until-marriage education is not the plan for our nation's schools. Instead, we should take a more sex-positive approach, teaching students the realities of sex and sexuality."

The fact is, she places the responsibility of sex education on the school and away from the family. As a parent, I'm scared that teaching a child how to use a condom will be translated into making it an application assignment that is physically observed – which, of course, is improper and lewd. You don't see the school cramming religion down our throats, so why should we expect sex education to offer our children using a condom as just another alternative, implying (intentional or not) that it's moral for you not to control your hormones.

Stephen Brace

Guiler violated responsibility to respect patient

To the Editor:

I'm writing in response to Amber Bryant's column ("Greedy woman giving birth to bad lawsuits," Feb. 3).

As I sat in my apartment while my roommate relayed the column, I was appalled to the point of reading the column for myself.

I find it hard to believe that a woman in today's society would have the audacity to disrespect another woman's right to defend herself against this wrongdoing by a doctor. Maybe a small symbol on her uterus is no big deal to Bryant, but her callous attack against Stephanie Means' lawsuit was obnoxious. Means, like any other patient, has the right to be respected under a surgeon's knife, and the trust she instilled in Dr. Michael Guiler was violated.

Regardless of the fact that Guiler's actions might not seem severe to some, doctors need to take responsibility for their actions while a patient is in their care. I don't believe that Guiler thought his actions, during a filmed surgical procedure, would warrant no recourse. He was there for one reason and one reason only, and that was to perform a hysterectomy. There was no need for him to pay homage to his alma mater, or to humor himself mid-procedure.

While my advice to Guiler is to do his job, my advice to Bryant is to find something better to criticize.

If it's frivolous lawsuits she'd like to focus on, why not look to smokers who claim that they weren't aware of the detriments of smoking suing tobacco companies. Then, there are always the obese who are suing McDonald's because they weren't aware that a Big Mac, fries and Coke isn't a well-balanced meal. Maybe then she'll be attacking the lawsuits that are causing "legitimate lawsuits [to] become lost in a sea of ridiculous ones."

Sarah Hadzor

Learn a little: taxes aren't evil

To the Editor:

Tennessee hurts. Cinching up the purse strings is always painful, and if anyone needs to cut back spending, it's this state. However, spending isn't the only problem.

Blanket spending cuts are an example of the idiotic short-term thinking that plagues all levels of government. Last month, Gov. Phil Bredesen asked most state department heads to cut their budgets by up to 7.5 percent.

The only departments left out of his request are children's services and mental health.

MTSU can expect a five percent cut almost immediately, and for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, the state will cut MTSU's budget by 8.8 percent.

Having trouble getting the classes you need? Prepare for it to get even worse. Next fiscal year will see the budget cut by \$7.56 million. Ouch.

Let's put this number in perspective.

The total spending on research, public service, scholarships and fellowships last fiscal year totaled just under \$10 million. This may not be where the cuts come from, but they will affect you.

Bredesen asks for the unreasonable.

When people come across financial difficulty, they don't cut essentials, such as rent, mortgage, electricity or groceries for the kids. Instead, they cut the non-essentials, like cable television and eating out.

Perhaps they even get a second job.

Not Bredesen – he wants less money spent on everything, including the kid's groceries.

In the case of MTSU and of most Tennessee Board of Regents schools, cutting budgets means cutting into meat.

The people who will suffer for this foolishness are MTSU students.

Possible solutions to this state budget crisis include many things that, strangely enough, people just don't want to hear. Income taxes, sin taxes – more taxes of any kind.

Taxes aren't evil.

Income taxes, in this case, have become necessary. To delay their implementation is irresponsible

and childish.

New tax sources are the state's equivalent to getting another job, and this state needs to work harder.

So what if it hurts in the beginning? It will be a good decision for all of us in the long run, and that's what's important.

Certainly, we need to fix spending before the budget bleeds out, but we need to do it wisely and realize that doing so is only half the solution.

Tennessee's reliance on sales taxes costs this state money.

People who live paycheck to paycheck (read: the poor, those just getting started and unlucky folks) pay the bulk of the taxes under such a system.

Guess who doesn't pay? People who own real estate, people who make enough money that they need not spend it all, and anyone else who can get by without spending a large percentage of their income. That's right people, I mean the rich.

Define rich? Sure. Anyone with a six-figure or higher income, and anyone who makes their income off other people's labor.

Neither rich people nor the politicians that cater to them are to blame in careless spending or taxation reluctance. They're only doing what we allow through our own ignorance.

People who aren't wealthy outnumber the rich, but you wouldn't know it by looking at financial policy.

This is your money, so teach yourself what the state does with it.

Don't believe any advertisements about the budget or taxes.

If people advertise, they want you to buy something so that they can make more money. This rule applies to taxes, too.

Even if you agree with none of what you just read, do get involved.

Taxes, spending and all other political machinations are really not hopelessly complicated. They only present that way to keep you from trying to figure them out.

The future depends on all of us.

Only through knowing what's going on in the far too often neglected arena of state politics can we keep ourselves from getting hurt.

Audie Sheridan is a senior philosophy major and can be reached via e-mail at als3g@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

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Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of *Sidelines* or MTSU.

Letters Policy

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SPORTS

5 ◆ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 6, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Blue Raiders face wild weekend of games in middle of SBC title race

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Reporter

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team looks to continue its winning ways with two more Sun Belt Conference games this week.

Tonight, the University of North Texas (7-13, 2-6 SB) will make an appearance at the Murphy Center, and on Saturday night, the Blue Raiders (10-11, 5-3 SB) take their first ever trip to the University of Denver (12-10, 4-4 SB).

North Texas will come to Murfreesboro on a high note, after breaking their six-game losing streak last Saturday with an 82-75 victory over New Mexico State. On the other hand, the Blue Raiders have

themselves been on a roll by winning four out of their last five games, including a 60-58 victory over Florida International last Saturday night while trying to catch the Sun Belt East Division leaders Western Kentucky (12-8, 5-2 SB). Currently, MT is only half a game way from the Hilltoppers.

The Mean Green brings one of the best players in the SBC in guard Chris Davis. Davis comes into the matchup as the second

leading scorer in the SBC with 18.3 points per game. However, besides being a powerful scorer, Davis also ranks high in 10 other stat categories in NT basketball history. Davis has had four double-doubles this season including scoring 19 points and 10 rebounds in the loss to NMSU.

"He [Davis] may be the most difficult guy to guard in our league," MT head coach Kermit Davis said.

Another factor in the game is the Murphy Center crowd, with over 5,000 people for the last game against FIU. The team is hoping for another big crowd to give the Blue Raiders a home-court advantage that could be the difference between a win and a loss.

After the NT game, the Blue Raiders will go on a road trip to deal with both the altitude of the Rocky Mountains and the University of Denver's offensive game.

Denver started the conference season red-hot by winning their first four games. However, the tide has turned as the Pioneers have lost their last four, not counting a Wednesday night game at Western Kentucky. Scores for the WKU and UD game were not available at press time.

The Pioneers are lead by a rebounding machine named Brett Starkey. Starkey is ranked 10th in the nation in rebounds with 10.4 per game. Starkey has



Davis



File Photo

MT guard Tommy Gunn grabs some air with a slam dunk during last week's game against IPFW.

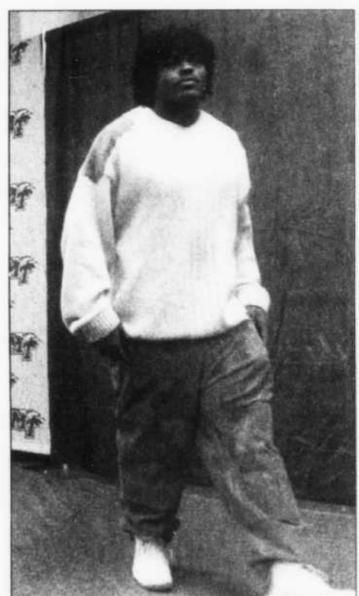
See Pioneers, 8

New MT football recruits introduced



Photos by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

Middle Tennessee football head coach Andy McCollum introduces the Blue Raiders' 2003 football class to the media yesterday. MT's incoming class is currently ranked 46th in the nation by www.rivals.com.



2003 Football Signees

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (Prev. School)
Kenyon Buford	OL	6-6	345	Fr	Murfreesboro, TN (Riverdale HS)
Leon Cesar	LB	6-1	225	Jr	Miami, FL (Dodge City CC)
Seneca Chambers	WR	6-2	180	Jr	Port St. Joe, FL (Hinds CC)
Joe Evilsizer	OL	6-1	302	Jr	Broken Arrow, OK (NE Oklahoma A&M JC)
Ty Goodrich	OL	6-5	300	Fr	Union City, TN (Union City HS)
Eugene Gross	RB	5-11	215	Fr	Statesboro, GA (Statesboro HS)
Ralph Gunter	FB	6-0	265	Fr.	Hephzibah, GA (Hephzibah HS)
Jonathan Harris	DB	5-10	185	Fr.	Montgomery, AL (Jefferson Davis HS)
John Henry	OL	6-6	303	Fr.	Nashville, TN (Hillsboro)
Taron Henry	WR	6-2	187	Fr.	Murfreesboro, TN (Riverdale HS)
Tyrone Hicks	DB	5-10	175	Fr.	Huntsville, AL (Lee HS)
Pedro Holiday	WR	6-1	185	Jr.	Rome, GA (SW Mississippi JC)
Jerrin Holt	WR	6-3	215	r-So.	Grand Prairie, TX (Ranger JC)
Marcel Horne	LB	6-1	215	Fr.	Stone Mountain, GA (Clarkston HS)
Sam Hunt	QB	6-3	210	Fr.	Cedartown, GA (Cedartown HS)
Patrick Jackson	QB	6-3	180	Fr.	Macon, GA (First Presby. Day School)
Terry Jackson	RB	5-10	185	Fr.	Memphis, TN (Kingsbury HS)
Tommy Manus	WR	6-4	215	Jr.	Dallas, TX (Ft. Scott CC)
Lance McCullough	OL	6-4	309	Fr.	Gaylesville, AL (Cedar Bluff HS)
Demarco McNair	RB	6-0	180	Fr.	Thomson, GA (Thomson HS)
Sean Mosley	LB	6-3	245	Fr.	Sylvania, GA (Screven Co. HS)
Darren Mustin	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Franklin, TN (Brentwood Academy)
Antoine Owens	LB	6-2	215	Fr.	Antioch, TN (Ezell-Harding HS)
Bobby Payne	DE	6-4	285	Fr.	Morrilton, AR (Morrilton HS)
Justin Rainey	ATH	6-1	195	Fr.	Rock Hill, SC (Northwestern HS)
Bradley Robinson	WR	5-9	165	Fr.	Duncan, SC (James F. Byrnes HS)
Danny Tolbert	DB	5-10	170	Jr.	Okeechobee, FL (Coffeyville CC)
Erik Walden	DE	6-3	225	Fr.	Dublin, GA (Dublin HS)
Jonathan Ward	ATH	6-1	222	Fr.	Collinwood, TN (Collinwood HS)

Look out: here comes the 'J' word once again

Sports commentary



Michael Rutledge
Assistant
Sports Editor

Haven't gotten enough of LeBron James yet?

Don't worry. Just stay seated in an upright position and keep your hands and feet inside this wild ride, because here comes your daily injection of LeBron.

Face it, America wanted James.

We wanted him for his amazing talent, his youth and his rise from the 'hood. We all like stories of incredible achievements and the men and women who accomplish them. But, more importantly we love to put people on pedestals just to tear them down. That's the American way.

If LeBron James was born with the clean cut All-American image Peyton Manning brought to the sporting world in 1997, then LeBron would still be just a funny name that many of us couldn't pronounce. Doing the right thing just isn't fun.

The National Basketball Association is boring right now. They need flashy.

They got LeBron. America embraced him and then played him like a fiddle.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to swoop down like an all-knowing savior and lift all the blame off James, just most of it.

I do believe the Ohio High School Athletic Association made the right call to end James' amateur status, just at the wrong time. I don't believe James thought accepting two free jerseys was OK only days after the Hummer incident.

James knew the repercussions he would face. But, why should he care? Honestly, how often does America hold our stars accountable for anything?

I know James walked up to the table and put his ante in to play the game. He deserves the risk of having his clock cleaned by the other players (i.e. media, OHSAA, general public) and being sent back to the ghetto broken, ruined and ridiculed.

But, where do we draw the line between the rational and the absurd, tough love and brutality.

That, too, is for America to decide.

James is going to continue to be James regardless of how hard we scrutinize him. To an 18-year-old this is all just fun attention. And, he is going to laugh it up all the way to the bank.

But, if you just have to have more and more, wait for the day James actually receives the cash and power waiting for him. Just think, are we just going to let him be with all that money to live out a privileged life without our inquiring noses sticking in? Fat chance.

The circus is only beginning. ♦

Lady Raiders brave Texas to face Lady Indians

By Josh Beasley
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders will wrap up a week of Sun Belt Conference play Saturday night when they host the University of Denver Pioneers in the Murphy Center.

Before returning home to Murfreesboro, Middle Tennessee will travel to Denton, Texas, tonight to take on the Mean Green of the University of North Texas.

The Lady Raiders (11-10, 4-4 SBC) will try to rebound tonight after dropping a hard fought battle with SBC foe Florida International last weekend.

MT currently holds down the number three spot in the SBC East Division and would like nothing more than a couple of victories this week. With the help of other teams around the league, the ladies could gain a spot or two in the conference standings.

North Texas (8-11, 3-5 SBC) is coming off an embarrassing 78-62 loss to the Aggies of New Mexico State. North Texas' defense was dismal, allowing the Aggies to shoot 43 percent from behind the arc, knocking down 14 of 33 three-point attempts. Sinnamoon Garrett, SBC player of the week, led the Aggies with 27 points. Despite four losses in their last five SBC showdowns, MT continues to fight for a spot in the SBC tournament. Look for the Lady Raiders to lead the ball around for open looks from behind the arc.

The Lady Indians are allowing an average of six three-point buckets a game and turnovers have been a problem for the Lady



File Photo

Lady Raider guard Patrice Holmes led her team in points with 13 points against the University of North Texas, while earning her third career double-double.

Indians as well. UNT is giving the ball away 20 times a game.

Patrice Holmes prepares to have a big game, as she led the Lady Raiders last weekend with 13 points and 12 boards to record the third double-double of her career.

As the conference schedule hits the home stretch, the Lady Raiders return to the friendly confines of the Murphy Center for the first time in two weeks

facing the Denver Pioneers. A win tonight, coupled with a win this weekend, would put the Lady Raiders on track for a conference run before another pivotal road schedule next week.

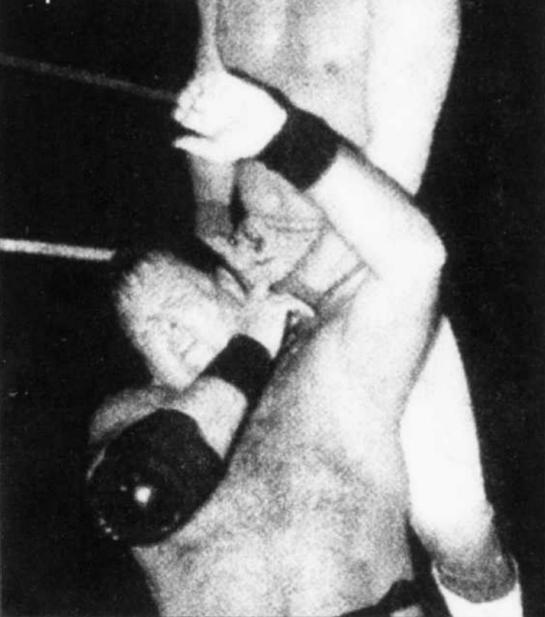
The Pioneers (12-10, 6-2 SBC) have won six of their last seven SBC match-ups and share the top spot in the division with New Mexico State, despite losing to them last week.

Other women's SBC match-

ups this week include New Orleans at Florida International, UL-Lafayette at South Alabama, Arkansas State at Arkansas Little Rock, and Western Kentucky will play host to North Texas Saturday night in Bowling Green.

The Lady Raiders look to defend their home floor Saturday night after returning from UNT. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. ♦

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Sports Briefs

From Associated Press reports

U.S. Olympic president resigns after controversy

DENVER — Marty Mankamer resigned as president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, succumbing to pressure from colleagues who blamed her for infighting that fractured the world's most powerful Olympic organization.

The USOC's executive committee was expected to take a vote of no confidence this weekend in Chicago after seven of the 22 members asked for her resignation Jan. 21.

Under USOC bylaws, vice president-secretary William Martin will serve as interim president.

The USOC's board of directors will vote on a permanent replacement after a nomination is made by the executive committee. No date has been set for an election.

Bush wants U.S. to foot 2004 Olympic security bill

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is asking Congress for \$2.7 million to provide security for the U.S. Olympic team that will participate in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Milwaukee investors shopping for Bucks

MILWAUKEE — Local and national investors are interested in buying a majority stake in the Milwaukee Bucks but the league wants to keep the team in the city, NBA commissioner David Stern said.

Stern said in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel he is confident this can be done. He did not identify any of the interested parties.

Williams trial canceled, charges may be dropped

NEWARK, N.J. — Jayson Williams' trial for Feb. 18 was called off when an appeals court agreed to consider dismissing manslaughter charges against the former NBA star.

An appellate panel is to hear arguments March 12 in Trenton from his lawyers' and the prosecutor's office.

Mariucci goes from top to bottom, hired by Lions

DETROIT — Steve Mariucci was hired as coach of the Detroit Lions, taking over one

of the NFL's worst teams less than three weeks after his dismissal by the 49ers.

Mariucci, born and raised in Iron Mountain, Mich., signed a contract with the Lions and will be formally introduced at a news conference Wednesday.

Everything OK in Indy, QB, kicker apologize

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning and kicker Mike Vanderjagt have resolved their public feud.

The players told *The Indianapolis Star* that they apologized to each other during a series of phone conversations.

Mosley thinking twice about De La Hoya

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Shane Mosley is having second thoughts about taking a \$4.25 million purse to fight Oscar De La Hoya. Promoter Bob Arum is having second thoughts about Mosley fighting De La Hoya at all.

With a planned Sept. 13 rematch between the two fighters in jeopardy, Arum said that De La Hoya will fight a rematch with Fernando Vargas if Mosley doesn't sign a contract his agent agreed to.

Injured Fans bring suit against Red Wings, NHL

DETROIT (AP) — Two women who claim disabling

injuries from pucks that flew into the stands at Joe Louis Arena filed suit against the Detroit Red Wings, the arena's owners and the NHL.

Attorney James Elliott said Elizabeth Taylor, 52, of the Flint area, and Sandra Quick, 32, of suburban Detroit, would not have been hurt had the team installed nets to stop pucks from entering the stands during games.

Sabres owner keeps franchise in Buffalo

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Renewing his effort to purchase the bankrupt Buffalo Sabres, billionaire B. Thomas Golisano, had more discussions with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman.

MIA: Sampras withdraws from another tourney

NEW YORK — Pete Sampras withdrew from the Siebel Open, further delaying his return to tennis after a long absence.

Sampras, who has not competed since winning the U.S. Open in September, said he is not prepared to play in a tournament. He and his wife, actress Bridgette Wilson, became first-time parents in November.

Swiss teen next to face Serena in upcoming match

PARIS — Myriam Casanova, a Swiss teenager who practices with Martina Hingis, beat Barbara Schett 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 in the Gaz de France and will next

face Serena Williams.

Also, Elena Dementieva of Russia upset sixth-seeded Silvia Farina Elia, and fifth-seeded Patty Schnyder was beaten by Tina Pisnik.

Top seed Fernandez upset early in Indian Open

HYDERABAD, India — Top-seeded Clarisa Fernandez was upset in the first round of the Indian Open on Tuesday, beaten 6-2, 6-4 by Akiko Morigami of Japan.

Second-seed Tamarine Tanasugarn and fourth-seeded Mary Pierce advanced but were stretched to three sets by Yulia Beygelzimer and qualifier Jie Zheng.

James back on court, attorney files order

AKRON, Ohio — LeBron James' attorney requested a temporary restraining order to block a ruling by state officials that barred the high school superstar for the rest of the season.

James was originally barred for accepting two jerseys from a Cleveland sporting store. He is expected to be the NBA's No. 1 draft pick this spring.

James is expected to return to the Akron squad soon. ♦

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Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball News & Notes

Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns

Louisiana-Lafayette increased their lead in the Sun Belt Conference West Division to two games over New Orleans and South Alabama with a road sweep of North Texas and Denver this past week.

The Cajuns pounded the Mean Green 89-58, their largest Sun Belt road win since hammering Louisiana Tech 91-51 on Feb. 26, 1994 and their largest Sun Belt win since plastering Texas-Pan American by 46 (112-66) on Jan. 17, 1998. UL Lafayette has won four straight overall, the third such streak this season. Louisiana-Lafayette has also won five straight Sun Belt games and three straight Sun Belt road games.

A win over South Alabama would give the Cajuns their longest winning streak of the season, at five games.

The Ragin' Cajuns bring a Cajundome-record 17-game winning streak into Thursday's game with USA, the seventh longest active home court winning streak in NCAA Division I Men's Basketball and second-longest in the Sun Belt.

Louisiana-Lafayette has won 12 straight Sun Belt home games, dating back to February 2001.

Arkansas State was the last Sun Belt team to hand the Cajuns a home loss, doing so on Feb. 3, 2001 (82-80). A win over South Alabama on Thursday would guarantee the Cajuns their fourth straight winning season and fifth in six years under head coach Jessie Evans.

The Cajuns lead the all-time series with USA 16-15 and will seek to avenge a 93-89 loss in Mobile, Ala., on Jan. 9, the lone Sun Belt loss for the Cajuns this season.

New Mexico State Aggies

NMSU has lost only one home game this season and won three of their last five games overall. During that stretch, the Aggies picked up their first ever victory over Western Kentucky. In two games against teams from the state of Colorado. Against Colorado, Haynes had a career-high 25 points, including seven three-pointers. Then against Denver, Haynes was 6 of 9 from long range as he racked up 21 points.

NMSU has three players shooting over 80 percent from the charity stripe. Brandon Mason leads the team in free throw percentage with 84 percent. As a team, the Aggies are 71 percent from the line.

In conference play, Jason Fontenet is leading the team in free throw percentage at 91.4 percent. He has made 32 of his last 35 attempts, including a perfect 7 of 7 performance against North Texas.

Chris Jackson owns the boards this season with a 9.8 aver-

2003 Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball Records

East Division

	Conference Games			Stk.	All Games			Stk.	L5	L10
	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.			
Western Kentucky	5	2	.714	W1	12	8	.600	L1	3-2	6-4
Middle Tennessee	5	3	.625	W1	10	11	.476	W2	4-1	6-4
Arkansas-Little Rock	4	3	.571	W1	13	8	.619	W1	3-2	6-4
Arkansas State	2	5	.286	W1	9	11	.450	W1	3-2	4-6
Florida International	0	6	.000	L12	6	13	.316	L6	0-5	2-8

West Division

	Conference Games			Stk.	All Games			Stk.	L5	L10
	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.			
Louisiana-Lafayette	6	1	.857	W5	14	6	.700	W4	4-1	8-2
New Orleans	5	4	.556	L1	12	8	.600	L1	3-2	5-5
South Alabama	5	4	.556	L1	11	9	.550	L1	3-2	5-5
New Mexico State	4	4	.500	L1	13	6	.684	L1	3-2	6-4
Denver	4	4	.500	L4	12	10	.545	L4	1-4	5-5
North Texas	2	6	.250	W1	7	13	.350	W1	1-4	2-8



age. In only 13 games this season, Jackson has led the Aggies in rebounding 12 times, including eight in a row. Against North Texas Jackson had a career-high 23, 15 on the offensive end. He is averaging 10.2 boards per game in conference play.

Junior James Felder will miss the rest of the 2002-03 season after a right knee injury in the Western Kentucky game. Felder has had surgery to repair his medial meniscus.

Felder averaged 4.5 points and 4.4 rebounds before his injury. He was also second on the team with 21 blocks.

Western Kentucky Hilltoppers

David Boyden posted 13 points and six rebounds Saturday at Detroit, the first time since the Hilltoppers' season opener at Arizona that he has led the team in both categories. It's the fifth time in the last seven games that the senior from Richmond, Va., reached double figures in the scoring column.

Senior Filip Videnov matched Boyden for team-UDM. He was one of three players to shoot 50 percent or better from the field, going 5 of 9 overall while hitting 3 of 5 attempts from behind the three-point arc. Videnov also had four rebounds, three assists and a pair of steals against the Titans. He needs five assists to join Patrick Sparks as the second Western individual to collect the 200th helper of his career this season.

Nate Williams connected on all four of his attempts from the field in Western's last appearance, the



third time this season the senior has been perfect from the floor. Williams, who reached double figures in scoring for the first time in three contests against UDM, also accomplished the feat in victories over Auburn (Dec. 1) and South Alabama (Jan. 18). Williams leads the Toppers with a season-high 56.8 field-goal percentage, ranking fifth in the most recent conference statistics.

Sparks hit three three-pointers Saturday to pass both Mark Bell (1991-93) and Brett McNeal (1986-89) and move into eighth place all-time at Western with 119 in his career.

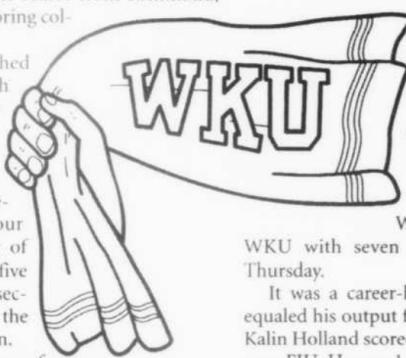
He added an assist against UDM to move into a tie with the same duo for ninth on the season record list with 124.

The sophomore guard needs four steals and seven three-pointers this year to also enter the top 10 season performances in each category. Freshman Danny

Rumph had not recorded an assist in the Hilltoppers' last five games prior to the Detroit contest, but led WKU for the first time in his career with four – a total shy of matching his personal best – against the Titans.

The Philadelphia, Pa., resident also shot 50 percent from the floor for the first time in the last four outings. Anthony Winchester was one of three players to lead WKU with seven rebounds against Florida International Thursday.

It was a career-high total for the freshman, while it also equaled his output from the three previous games. Sophomore Kalin Holland scored his first career points in the win Thursday over FIU. He was 1 of 2 from the field in his 14th appearance for the Toppers. ♦



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165 Roommates
Spacious room with private bath. Laundry and kitchen privileges. Grad student preferred. \$350. 867-6994.
Looking for 2 female roommates for a nice 3 bed/2 bath house near campus. \$360 a month per person, all util., cable and internet included. Call Ashley at 474-0002.

Female housemate. \$300/month. Includes utilities. Credit Check & Ref. required. Call 890-9484 for interview.
Roommate needed for 3 bedroom apt. at SUH. Available at the end of fall semester. \$420/month includes washer/dryer, all bills (including cable.) I will pay you \$100 on move-in. Call 898-3588 or email jwh2q@mts.edu.
Roommate wanted: \$100 deposit, \$385 includes all utilities, washer & dryer, fully furnished. Call 615-907-3962 or 931-278-0043.
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One male and one female needed to sublease 2 bdrms in a 4

bdrm/4bath apartment @ Univ. Courtyard. Will pay 1/2 of 1st months rent and security dep. Call 347-3956 or 347-3954 ask for David or Sarah. Apt. for sublease at University Courtyard for summer. Last 2 weeks of May are discounted. June & July are \$339 a month. Includes all utilities, furnishings, private bedroom, share bath. Call Kelly @ 893-6354. Female needed to take over lease @ Univ. Courtyard. Private bed/bath. \$365 a month, reg. \$385.5 minutes from campus. Call Leigh (615) 482-3090.
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Pioneers: Blue Raiders only have two more home games

Continued from 5

also had eight double-doubles this season, and was named SBC player of the week on January 13.

The game will also feature the top two three-point shooters in the SBC with MT's Tommy Gunn and Denver's Erik Benzel. Gunn leads the SBC by shooting 47 percent from long distance. Benzel has connected on 42 percent of his shots from three-point land.

The Blue Raiders only shot 38.3 percent from the field in

the win over FIU. However, MT had a season-low nine turnovers and went to the free throw line 29 times, which was a season high.

"One of main reasons our team has played better in the league is we've cut down our turnovers," Davis said.

MT is looking to go over .500 if they win both games this weekend.

Thursday's game begins at 7 p.m. inside the Murphy Center. The Denver game tip off is at 8 p.m. Saturday. ♦

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St. Jude Children's Research Hospital February 2003

"Patient of the Month" **Gabriel Gouge** 22 months old



Diagnosis:

Gabriel was found to have acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) in January 2002 when he was just 8 months old.

Gabriel's Story:

Gabriel's mom remembers thinking, "Cancer was something that happened to somebody else's kid; somebody else's family. Not mine. It all seemed so far away. Then all of a sudden, in a matter of minutes and hours, your whole world is turned upside down. And it's you. It's your child and your family."

At St. Jude

Gabriel spent 6 months undergoing chemotherapy. In June of 2002, the family was able to return home where Gabriel continues to receive treatment.



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