



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com:

Was Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* worthy of all the hype?

IN THE ATTIC
WITH ANNE FRANK

In [flash], inside



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Middle Tennessee State University
SIDELINES

Volume 79 No. 69

Professor urges no confidence vote for McPhee

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

Faculty member Joel Hausler wrote a letter to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee asking for a forum in which faculty members can have a vote of confidence in university President Sidney McPhee.

The issue was addressed during Monday's Steering Committee meeting and the recommendation was voted down 10 to 0.

Faculty Senate President Dan Pfeifer said that the committee

forwarded a statement to the full senate that said due to the pending litigation against McPhee, it would be inappropriate for a vote of confidence to be taken.

The Steering Committee's duty, according to McPhee's bylaws, is to bring to the Senate any business suggested by administration or staff.

However, Hausler's suggestion for a vote of the faculty may



McPhee



Pfeifer

still have a chance, according to Larry Burriss, president-elect.

"He can certainly go to a senator from his college or his department and say, 'Would you please bring this forward,' and the senator could certainly do that," Burriss explained.

The Senate will be having a meeting Monday and the statement from the Steering Committee regarding Hausler's

request will be in the president's report.

"There's any number of things that could happen on Monday," Pfeifer said.

Hausler said he requested the forum because he feels that McPhee is not serving the interests of the university.

"This is kind of a culmination of things Dr. McPhee has done that has led me to believe he's not the person that can lead MTSU," Hausler said.

According to Hausler, it's the senate's job to evaluate the president's actions and provide a

balance of power at the university.

"People don't realize how much power the president has," Hausler said.

Most importantly, Hausler said that McPhee was not appropriately punished after the investigation into Tammie Allen's sexual harassment charge in October 2003.

Chancellor Charles Manning from the Tennessee Board of Regents is to blame for this problem, according to Hausler.

"I don't think Manning gave Tammie Allen a fair shake,"

Hausler said. "He didn't check with the people Allen suggested he check with and he didn't follow up on stories."

McPhee "got more or less a slap on the wrist," Hausler said.

Hausler worked with Allen when she was under the College of Education and Behavioral Science before becoming the president's executive assistant.

Hausler said that he has heard a lot of support for a vote of no confidence in McPhee on campus from faculty, but he

See **Vote, 2**

Concert to help fund mission

By Melanie Blair
Contributor

The MTSU Christian Student Center will sponsor "An Eclectic Evening of Talent" Friday night at 6 with four musical acts to benefit their Tanzania mission team.

Summer O'Neal, a graduate student, will host the show and entertain the crowd with her comedic stylings in between acts by rock band Revelation, singer Mallory Wright, guitarist Andy Karg, and The Lawrence Jazz Infusion.

The benefit concert is being put on by a team of nine students who will travel to Tanzania, Africa, on a mission trip this summer.

The team will stay at the Light in Africa Children's Home. This home "offers 36 babies and children a safe haven of love, hope, medical care and education which they could never before imagine," according to the Web site, lightinfric.com. The Light in Africa program also works to offer medical assistance, disability outreach, food outreach and other service work in the area.

Admission to the concert Friday night is a box of Children's Tylenol or other children's medication. Donations will also be accepted.

"There is a great need for children's medicine there," said Joel Hoag, one of the team members. "The funds we raise at this benefit will also be used to buy clothes for the children, repair and reinforce huts damaged in the area during the monsoon season, build houses, and take children on a holiday."

Revelation will perform a selection of their original songs. Vocalist Mallory Wright will

See **Concert, 2**



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Pulling all-nighters can be harmful to students, says physician's assistant Shandora Dorse. Dorse said lack of sleep makes multi-tasking difficult, and can place stress the body and mind.

Losing sleep over school

Medical expert urges students to manage time

By Kristin Hall and Lindsey Turner
News Editors

Mid-terms might wrap up Saturday, but experts say some students will maintain unhealthy sleep and study habits that could negatively affect their health.

"With kids going to school and working more, they oftentimes function on less than eight hours of sleep," said Shandora Dorse, physician's assistant at Health Services on campus.

Dorse said lack of sleep makes it difficult to focus.

"You're not good at multi-tasking," she said. "It stresses the body."

"I think if you develop good time management skills, I don't think the stress from school is that big of an issue."

Shandora Dorse
Physician's assistant

Dorse said many students don't manage their time well, which results in loss of sleep when time to do assignments or study for tests actually rolls around.

"You know that this paper is coming, you started this class and it's in the syllabus and here it is two months later and you don't even have your topic," Dorse said. "I think if you develop good time management skills, I don't think the

stress from school is that big of an issue. But a lot of people who are young do the fun things first and then you give yourself two days to do that paper you knew about two months ago."

Freshman Lindsey McCormick, an undeclared major, said she procrastinates for a reason.

"I work better under pressure," she said. "I have to want to do it."

McCormick said she took a class once that required she keep track on paper of every detail of her schedule - including when she ate and slept. She said it allowed her to see what portions of her day she utilized and what portions she wasted. She said students could benefit from writing out their schedules and planning ahead.

Dorse said it's essential to find a balance between time spent at work and

See **Studying, 2**

Feminist group plans events

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

Women for Women, the feminist organization on campus, is spreading its wings and increasing membership in order to raise awareness about women's issues.

The organization was founded in 2001, but barely made it off the ground before becoming inactive.

"It had fallen inactive since the officers had graduated," said junior Kelley Anderson, organizational chair.

"That's one of our big goals this year is to up our membership and keep it going."

Anderson revived the organization last summer with many new programs on campus, most notably the Southern Girls Rock 'n' Roll Camp.

The rock camp was a week-long music program that provided instruments and instruction for high school-aged girls.

"Our first goal I guess is to raise awareness on campus," Anderson said. "The feminist perspective seems to get overlooked a lot at MTSU."

"And then to broaden that out to the community, which we did really well with the Rock 'n' Roll camp," Anderson said.

Anderson said that during the preparation of the music camp, she was worried whether or not the whole thing would be a success.

"Up until it actually happened, we weren't even sure it was going to happen," Anderson said. "I was asking myself, 'Are these volunteers really going to show up?' But everybody just

See **Women, 2**

► SEE PAGE 2 FOR A SCHEDULE OF THE 'FEMME FILM FESTIVAL,' SPONSORED BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN

Native American festival to celebrate heritage this weekend

File Photo
The annual Native American Festival is the largest indoor American Indian event in the state. Musicians, dancers, and more will be on campus this weekend.



By Andrea Hinch
Staff Writer

The largest indoor all-nations American Indian event in the state will be held on campus this weekend.

The annual American Indian Festival will bring together nationally acclaimed dancers, musicians, artists and other entertainers representing the Apache, Cherokee, Shawnee, Cheyenne, Seminole, Choctaw, Paiute, Catawba, Creel, Chippewa, Lakota Sioux, Menominee, Lenape, Metis,

Nanticoke, Kickapoo, Hopi and Navajo nations.

"The nations are not coming to dance for money or to compete," said Georgia Dennis, festival and event coordinator. "This festival will be one of the older kinds where the nations get together out of enjoyment and to meet back up with old friends. For them it's not a hobby to earn money, but a part of their culture that carries on through the living heritage and tradition of events such as these."

Dancers and demonstrators

of traditional mask carving, bead weaving, pottery and stone tool technology will be present along with a teepee setup and storytellers of woodland peoples. A puppeteer will perform on the hour every hour as the event is child-friendly with special group rates offered.

"The whole offering will be full of things happening and going on all the time," Dennis said.

Native Americans will be coming from as far as South America, Mexico, Ecuador and Canada to appear at the celebra-

tion, which has won the Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Award.

The event is non-profit and self supporting with volunteer labor from student organizations.

"If in the future the event starts to make enough money that it goes beyond paying the costs of running such an operation, a fund will be set up to help Native American students attend our school through some type of scholarship," Dennis

See **Festival, 2**

Mr. MTSU



Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

Senior Justin Essary clutches his trophy Tuesday night after receiving the Mr. MTSU crown. The pageant was sponsored by Chi Omega sorority.

Vote: 'I work for the taxpayers and the students that are in my class,' Hausler says

Continued from 1

believes that many are too afraid to say so.

"I think morale at MTSU is really low among faculty," Hausler said. "I think there is a feeling of fear and intimidation."

However, he said he hopes

that this forum will give faculty a freedom to express their concerns without fear of reprisal.

Hausler is a full professor with tenure and said he is not worried about coming forward with this recommendation.

"The worst that I am afraid of is that people are going to think I've got some motive for

doing this," he said, due to his working relationship with Allen.

Hausler said his only true motive is to do what's right for the university and the students.

"I don't feel like I work for McPhee," Hausler said. "I work for the taxpayers and the students that are in my classes." ♦

Festival: Event free, open to public

Continued from 1

said.

On Saturday, the doors of the center will open at 9 a.m. The Grand Entries, a parade and ceremony featuring each nation's flag, will take place at

noon and 6 p.m. The festival will close at 9 p.m.

On Sunday, the festival will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 6 p.m., with Grand Entry at 1 p.m.

The festival will take place inside, so rain is not an issue. Parking is free.

The festival is sponsored by the University Honors College, the Native American Student association, the Middle Tennessee Anthropology Society, Student Programming/Student Activities and the MTSU Anthropology Program. ♦

Concert: Mission workers to visit Tanzania to offer help to children

Continued from 1

also sing a variety of songs, including blues, contemporary Christian, pop and country. Wright usually sings with a band, but will perform with a solo guitarist.

Andy Karg, a sophomore from Nashville, plans on playing some of his original country music. Karg writes his own lyrics and guitar music.

The Lawrence Jazz Infusion, which includes members from MTSU's jazz band, will offer some improvisational jazz numbers for the crowd. This jazz combo plays a sultry blend of jazz, funk, salsa and swing music.

The evening will also include a presentation made by the team. They plan to include pictures and a more detailed description of where they will be and the work they will be doing. The team leaves June 5 and will return July 7.

"A team from the center went to Africa three years ago," said Aleesha Buzan, another team member, "but they taught English in a primary school for a month instead of this kind of service work. We're going to do construction work and things with the children instead of just teaching."

This trip is only one of many mission trips done by the Christian Student Center. Other

teams have traveled to teach and do service work in China, Chicago, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Utah. Students can get involved at the student center and go on one of these trips. Mission teams often do benefits such as this one to raise the needed funds.

The Christian Student Center is located at 1105 E. Bell St., across from the Bell Street parking lot. More information on the activities of the student center can be obtained by calling the office at 896-1529. For more information on the benefit concert, e-mail Joel Hoag at joel482@hotmail.com. ♦

Studying: Excessive caffeine, stimulant intake can lead to problems, Dorse says

Continued from 1

time spent on schoolwork.

"A lot of kids work on certain days and they go to school on other days," Dorse said. "They don't really have any time when they're working to do homework. They are either at school all day or they're at work the next day."

Dorse said a lot of students she hears from place work above school in their priorities, which adds stress.

Mike Mollé, a senior finance major, said he used to work 40 hours a week in addition to taking 12 hours of class. He said his work schedule affected his study time.

"When I was working full-time, I did lose quite a bit of sleep," Mollé said, "because I wouldn't get off until 11 or 12 at night and then I had to go home

and do homework until 3 or so and the get up and be in class at 11."

Mollé said now that he isn't working, studying is easier and less stressful, though he still has to get out of the house to get his studying done.

"The library is really about the only place to get peace and quiet," he said. "If I'm at home, I tend to watch more TV than do studying."

"As long as you stay focused on school first and work second," Dorse said, "maybe try not to stretch your budget so you have to work a 30- or 40-hour week, school is very manageable."

Dorse said some students try to cram, using caffeine and other stimulants to keep them alert and awake.

Caffeine "can raise your blood pressure, it can increase

your heart rate, which can lead to heart palpitations," Dorse said.

"Once you take all of that, even after your tests, you're often times not able to go to sleep because you're still so jittery," she said. "It takes about two days after that before you're actually able to get a good night's sleep."

Dorse said that when students sleep during the day and stay up all night, their Circadian cycle is thrown off, adding stress to the body.

"It stresses your immune system and it stresses your body," Dorse said.

"So that certain times when the hypothalamus has to do its thing at night and when you don't get proper rest, it throws that whole cycle out of balance." ♦

Women: Group sponsors film festival

Continued from 1

pulled through."

Seventy girls ages 12 to 18 from as far away as Pennsylvania attended the camp, and some of them still keep in touch with other campers and Anderson through e-mail.

"That was a really big issue for me, not just what happens that week, but what happens afterwards when they go back in the fall, when they go back to their schools and they might be the only girls that like rock 'n' roll," Anderson said. "But now they can connect and there are others girls they get to know."

Anderson hopes to make the experience even better for the campers this summer.

"We've definitely learned from last year," Anderson said. "Overall it was great, but there were things that could be improved upon."

This summer Main Street Music has donated five public address systems to the organization.

Anderson now has a co-chair to help the organization grow and complete all the projects they have planned.

Jo Collier, the co-chair, joined after seeing a member handing out flyers on Love Your Body Day.

"It's just a very inclusive group and we try to support many points of view," Collier said. "We have women who are pro-life, pro-choice and we get along pretty well."

Anderson said she is pleased

FEMME FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

MARCH 7

- 3 p.m. **Enough** (Jennifer Lopez, Juliette Lewis) PG-13
- 5:10 p.m. **Real Women Have Curves** (America Ferrera) PG-13
- 7 p.m. **Tank Girl** (Lori Petty) R
- 9 p.m. **Frida** (Salma Hayek) R

MARCH 14

- 3 p.m. **Chutney Popcorn** (Nisha Ganatra) NR
- 4:45 p.m. **The Joy Luck Club** (Lisa Lu, Tsai Chin) R
- 7:15 p.m. **Cabaret** (Liza Minelli) PG
- 9:30 p.m. **If These Walls Could Talk 2** (Ellen DeGeneres)

The festival is sponsored by Women for Women. All films shown in the Keathley University Center Theater.

to see new members and what they have to bring to the group.

"This semester, the girls that are involved are so ambitious and so awesome," Anderson said. "They're bringing in so many ideas."

Collier said that the fact that the group is still relatively new lets them experiment with new ideas.

"Feminism on campus is not dead," Collier said. "There is still so much to be fighting for."

Collier said that it's important for women to think globally in terms of women's issues.

"It's really easy to think locally and feel that everything in your little microcosm is good," Collier said. "But women need to think globally and realize that women in this country

make 79 cents on every dollar a man makes." ♦

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Rolling rumpshakers could face fines

By Patrick Chinnery
Editor in Chief

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU – While some people may enjoy a car full of bass while driving, at least one state legislative committee is tired of hearing those block-rockin' beats.

The state House Judiciary Committee unanimously passed a bill yesterday that would restrict noise emissions to no farther than a 50-foot radius from the offending vehicle – and those who love to rock out on rural roads should take note – the bill outlines the offense as a class C misdemeanor and carries a \$50 fine.

Sponsored by Rep. Mike McDonald (D-Sumner County), HB 2326 doesn't limit emergency sirens, nor does it restrict sound levels while a vehicle is parked on private property. Vehicles in municipal- or county-licensed parades would also be exempt.

Several cities across the state already have noise ordinances, including



McDonald

Murfreesboro, Nashville and Memphis. While counties have the authority to pass individual regulations, McDonald believes that Tennesseans are better served with a state law.

"I think this is a problem all across the state, and we can take care of the problem at one time with a bill like this," McDonald said in an interview yesterday.

Several groups have written letters of support to the representative in support of the bill, including the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, Noise Free America and Director Charles Miller of Education Directing Services. McDonald said that he had received

no negative feedback from his constituents.

"Who's going to say they're for noise?" he asked.

MTSU freshman Aaron Chism does.

"I really don't see the big problem with it [loud music], myself," Chism said. "Where I'm from ... I'm pretty used to it."

He added that he had never found car-emitted noise to be disruptive or have a negative effect on his lifestyle.



Johnson

When the bill was heard last week in the Judiciary Committee, Rep. Russell Johnson (R-Loudon) produced the "thundering trunk of funk," a compact disc player blaring beats audible to the gallery audience to illustrate how limited a distance 50 feet was.

The demonstration surprised the committee, but McDonald was prepared with a letter from the Tennessee Municipal League stating that 50 feet was the most widely-accepted distance by Tennessee cities that had their own noise ordinances.

Committee Chair Joe Fowlkes (D-See Noise, 4

Senior ceramics



Madeline Green and Frankie Holt, a retired instructor from Columbia, participate in a ceramics class at the St. Clair Street Senior Center. The center hosts numerous classes, events and trips for area senior citizens.

Photo by Tiffany Evetts | Staff Photographer

Frist, Gordon voice support of fetal murder, assault bill

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

Legislation that would make killing or injuring an unborn child a federal crime passed the U.S. House of Representatives last week and will likely be considered by the Senate later this month.

The Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which was passed by the House 254-163 last Thursday, would make it a federal offense to harm a "child in utero" and allow for separate criminal charges to be filed for injuries to both the mother and fetus.

The bill is also known as Laci and Conner's Law, named for Laci Peterson and her unborn son, Peterson, of Modesto,

Calif., was pregnant when she was killed in December 2002. Her husband, Scott Peterson, is charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the case under California state law.

"There are two victims in these kinds of attacks," said the bill's primary sponsor, Rep. Melissa Hart, (R-Pa.) "That is so clear from the Laci and Conner Peterson case."

Tennessee law also allows prosecutors to file separate criminal charges for death or injury committed against a viable fetus under specific circumstances.

The bill will likely be presented in the Senate in the next few weeks, Majority Leader Bill Frist, (R-Tenn.) told *The Washington Post*. Frist said he

planned to support the bill but was not sure if there would be enough votes for it to pass in the Senate.

The bill has drawn praise from pro-life groups and criticism from pro-choice groups who fear that the law will undermine abortion laws.

"The Laci and Conner Peterson case has made this a living room issue," said Wendy Wright, senior policy director for Concerned Women for America. "As this bill moves to the Senate, our leaders should be aware that Americans will not accept anything short of the full protection this bill gives to children in utero who are victims of violent crimes."

In an issued statement, Ralph Neas, president of People

for the American Way of Life, charged "anti-choice ideologues are using victims of violence as pawns in their political fight against *Roe v. Wade*."

"Supporters argue that this [law] would deter violence against pregnant women," said Laura Murphy of the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington legislative office. "But there is little doubt that it is a thinly veiled attempt to create fetal rights and further erode women's reproductive rights."

Mark Huffman, spokesperson for Planned Parenthood of Nashville, said that while his organization would support more severe penalties for crimes against pregnant woman, the

See Fetus, 4

Kidnapping attempted, victim escapes

By David Paulson
Staff Writer

William Green, 25, was arrested and charged with attempted aggravated kidnapping after accosting a woman on Spring Street Friday morning.

The victim gave police an accurate description of the suspect, and he was arrested four hours after the incident occurred.

The victim, Mary Pittard of Murfreesboro, was walking down the sidewalk on Spring Street to her job in the National Healthcare Corporation building. She was stopped by a white male in his mid-20s driving a white Honda Civic. The man motioned to Pittard and asked for directions to the Rutherford County Courthouse.

According to police reports, the man then said, "Instead of directions, why don't you come over here?"

"I looked at him, confused," Pittard told police. "He was smoking with his left hand and proceeded to move his right hand under his shirt, appearing as though he had a gun."

The man then told her, "Why don't you come here, or this thing is going to go off."

Pittard ran away from the vehicle and into the NHC building.

"I turned and ran expecting for a gun shot, but hoping he was lying and didn't have a gun."

Pittard's co-workers called the police. She gave a description of the suspect and the vehicle over the phone. She stated

that the suspect was wearing a Titans toboggan and had a scar on his cheek.

Police pulled Green over on North Highland Street at approximately 1:15 p.m. after matching his vehicle and appearance with the report. He was ordered out of his car, and taken to the police department.

Green claimed that he only asked Pittard for directions, and presumed that she ran from him because of his appearance.

"I don't know if it's the way I look, if I look like a criminal or something. I might have been a little rude with her. I just wanted directions. She was flipping out," he said in the report.

Murfreesboro police had Pittard look at Green in the back seat of the police car. She confirmed that it was the same man.

Green was placed in jail with a \$25,000 bond. His court date is set for March 8. ♦

"He ... proceeded to move his right hand under his shirt, appearing as though he had a gun."

– Mary Pittard
Victim of attempted kidnapping

Man's tools stolen from parking lot

By David Paulson
Staff Writer

A Woodbury man was arrested and charged with burglary to auto and theft after allegedly stealing \$1,700 in tools out of a truck parked at Wal-Mart on Rutherford Boulevard Monday.

The victim, Tony Hipps, had gone into the store with a co-worker at 11:45 a.m. but had failed to lock the toolbox in the back of his truck. When the men returned to the vehicle, a witness told them that a man driving a small red car had taken some items from the toolbox. The suspect had taken a cut off saw and a drill. The witness also gave Hipps the suspect's tag number. Police traced the tag number to James Nipper, 39.

Officer Terry Spence and Detective Greg Flannagan reviewed the parking lot's security camera footage. The victim had parked out of sight of the camera. Spence

and Flannagan located the suspect's car driving by on the tape and observed that it had a black top and a dent in the front fender.

Police spoke with Nipper at his place of employment, the Americold plant on Stephens Drive. Police told Nipper about the eyewitness account and showed him still photos of the Wal-Mart video footage. Nipper admitted to police that the tools were in a box behind his home in Woodbury.

Police arrived at Nipper's home at approximately 9:20 p.m. Nipper brought a blue tote box to the officers. Inside the box were the stolen items. "The descriptions given by Mr. Hipps matched perfectly, all the way down to the wooden handle on the pull string of the Stihl cut off saw," Spence reported.

Nipper was transported to the Rutherford County Detention Center for booking. ♦

Frist Center hosts 'Great Migration'

By Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

Bobby L. Lovett, professor of political science, history and geography at Tennessee State University, will present Nashville's role in the "The Great Migration" tonight at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts.

Lovett is a featured historian in the Frist's Nashville's Migration Education Exhibition, and in a Frist film, he gives a talk titled "The Great Northern and Nashville Migration."

As blacks in the early through mid 1900s sought a better way of life, many migrated to the North, a movement that earned the name "The Great Migration" because of its enormity. Between 300,000 and 1,000,000 blacks moved north between about 1910 and the early 1920s, according to Ralph Ellison's book on the subject, *Invisible Man*.

Black migration between 1916 and the 1960s remained strong, with more than six million Southern black making the move to the North.

"I learned something I didn't know, which is that many people moved from the deeper South to Nashville as well as from Nashville to bigger Northern cities such as Chicago," remarked Frist Education Programs Manager Michael Christiano.

"I invited Dr. Lovett to speak about the Great Migration," Christiano said. "He'll also discuss Nashville's involvement in the Migration as it relates to our education gallery exhibition."

Concurrent with and integrated in Lovett's talk are the Frist exhibitions *Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series* from the Phillips Collection and *Nashville's Perspective on the Migration*.

The *Nashville's Perspective* Education Gallery exhibition examines one family's journey to Nashville from rural southern Georgia during the period of the Great Migration. Nashville's Holt family shared stories of their migration experience with young participants from Metro Parks' Looby Community Center and the Northwest Family YMCA.

Paintings by the children depict various aspects of the family's story and are presented with historical photographs and a documentary giving the personal accounts of Holt family members, which is the film featuring Lovett.

In 1940 and 1941, the renowned black painter Jacob Lawrence created *The Migration Series*, an artistic document that tells the story of the mass migration of blacks from the rural South to the urban North between the two world wars.

Lawrence's stark compositions and dramatic colors convey the powerful emotions felt by these uprooted people as they moved to the harsh environment of the inner city and carved out new lives for themselves and their families, according to the Frist Center.

Each of the sixty paintings in the series is accompanied by words from the artist. The rhythmic captions and simple yet powerful images combine to convey the suffering, disappointments and hopes of those in the Great Migration.

The Lawrence Migration Series is on loan from the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. Both the Migration Series and the Holt presentation run through May 16.

Regular gallery admission to the Frist Center is free for visitors 18 and under and for members. Admission for adults is \$8.50, \$7.50 for seniors and \$6.50 for college students with ID.

Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; extended hours Thursdays until 8 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. Lovett will deliver "The Great Northern and Nashville Migration" tonight at 6 p.m. in the Frist Center auditorium. Admission is free. Call 244-3340 for more information. ♦

high school Basketball

ROUND UP

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

In the first round of the Region 4-AAA tournament, three local teams advanced to the next round while two others lost.

On Monday night, the girls' quarterfinals took place with Oakland High traveling to Coffee County and barely hanging on for a 70-69 victory.

The win came even with the Lady Patriots having three of their guards foul out, including Taran Hayes. However, Ashley Asberry picked her game up with a career-best 25 points. Coffee County had a chance to win with two seconds left, but they were not able to get a shot off.

The Lady Patriots improved to 22-6, while the Lady Raiders ended their season at 15-15.

Last night, the Lady Patriots took on Columbia in the semifinals at the Murphy Center. Columbia won over Cookeville Monday night 53-45.

Blackman, the other local girls' team in action, saw their season come to a close losing to Lawrence County 50-35.

Each time the Lady Blaze tried to make a run, a three-pointer by the Warriors put an end to the comeback. The damage was done when the Lady Cats hit two long distance shots in a row to put the game away in the final quarter 43-32. Beforehand, Blackman had cut the lead to five.

Kristen Spann and Catie Woods had 15 points each for Lawrence County, while Therrie Patterson and Jennifer Gregory scored nine apiece for the Lady Blaze.

The Lady Blaze's season ended, while Lawrence County took on defending Class AAA champion Shelbyville yesterday afternoon in the semifinals.

Shelbyville won their quarterfinal game 71-30 over White County on Monday night.

The boys played their Region 4-AAA quarterfinal games on Tuesday night. The Blackman started the second half on a 14-2 run to put away Franklin County 67-47.

The run began on a three-pointer by David Price. Price hit four from downtown in the third quarter. Blackman outscored the Rebels 22-7 in

that quarter.

Price led the way with 22 points, while Ben Sneed added 19. The Blaze improved to 22-9, while Franklin County completes their season at 13-12.

Their opponent for last night's semifinal was city rival Oakland High. The Patriots used their size to help defeat Lawrence County 64-54 on Tuesday night. Thirty eight of those points came from the paint.

Devin Boyd came off the bench to lead Oakland in scoring with 17 points. Chris Methvin scored 14, the most for Lawrence County.

Oakland is now 21-7, while Lawrence County finishes their season at 22-10.

The Blaze-Patriots game was at 9 p.m. last night at the Murphy Center.

Riverdale ended their season with a 58-50 loss to Shelbyville on Tuesday night. The game was tied at 50 with 2:23 remaining in the game. However, the Eagles went on an 8-0 run to seal the victory. The Eagles scored a bucket and hit six free throws during that run.

Barry Stewart, Dequan Willey and Chase Williams each scored 12 points for the Eagles. LaBrian Lyons scored 21 points for the Warriors.

Riverdale's season ends at 24-9, while the Eagles' improves to 22-6.

Shelbyville took on Lebanon last night in the semifinals. Lebanon won their quarterfinal game over Columbia 65-57 on Tuesday.

Last night's results were unavailable at press time. The winners from those games face each other tonight in the Region 4-AAA championship at Murphy Center. The girls play at 6:30, and boys play at 8.

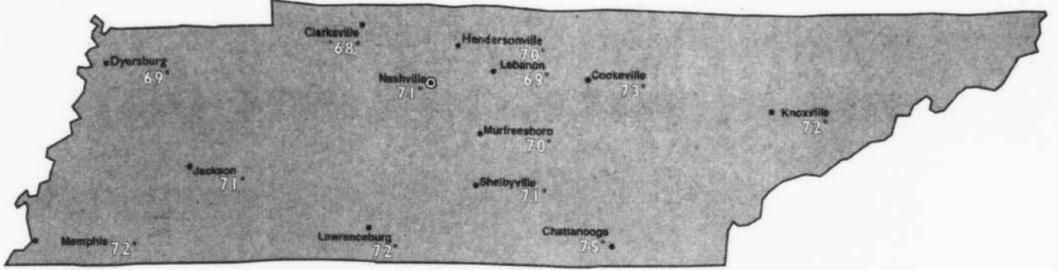
The top two teams in the girls' bracket from this region will face a team from another one in the sectional tournament on Saturday.

The sectionals are a one game playoff with the winners advancing to the state tournament beginning next Wednesday at the Murphy Center.

The boys' sectional tournament is Monday with the winners going to the State Tournament beginning on March 17 at the Murphy Center. All the games from both state tournaments will take place at the Murphy Center. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
70° ▲ 47° ▼	60° ▲ 43° ▼	56° ▲ 32° ▼	51° ▲ 33° ▼	49° ▲ 33° ▼

Fetus: Planned Parenthood objects to wording

Continued from 3

language of this bill sets a dangerous precedent.

"What we object to in the wording," Huffman said, "is the attempt to get into legal language that a fetus has the same rights as born citizens. This could chip away the right of women to have children."

Two similar pieces of legislation passed the House in 1999 and 2001, but the Senate brought neither of those bills to a vote.

"We must continue to build

a culture of life in this country," President George W. Bush said in a statement last week. "A compassionate society in which every child is born into a loving family and protected by law. Pregnant women who have been harmed by violence, and their families, know that there are two victims--the mother and the unborn child --and both victims should be protected by federal law."

The statement concluded with Bush urging the Senate to pass the bill, with his pledge to sign it.

An alternative bill, spon-

sored by Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., would have created harsher penalties for crimes committed against a pregnant woman as a single victim. That version was defeated 229-186.

The vote for the final bill was divided sharply along partisan lines; 47 Democrats voted in favor of the bill while only 13 Republicans dissented. Seven of the nine Tennessee representatives, including Sixth District Congressman Bart Gordon, voted for the bill.

"Congressman Gordon felt that there should be an enhanced punishment to injure

a pregnant woman," said Gordon's press secretary Keith Talley. "He felt that the Democratic substitute [bill] was the way to go, but it didn't pass."

Talley said that Gordon did not believe the bill would jeopardize abortion rights.

"It's really not an issue," Talley said, "and some of that is a little political rhetoric. Congressman Gordon is pro-choice, that's proven in his record."

The bill does include specific language that excludes legal abortion and medical treatment from prosecution. ♦

Noise:

Continued from 3

Cornersville) then offered an amendment to the bill that would exempt private property from the 50-foot restriction. The amendment passed, and the bill was rolled to yesterday so the amendment could be put in writing.

Without that amendment, areas like privately-owned parking lots and individuals' lawns would have been subject to the provisions of the bill.

Sen. JoAnn Graves (D-Gallatin) is the sponsor of the companion bill, which she hasn't yet put on notice in the Senate Judiciary Committee. She couldn't be reached for comment yesterday. ♦

Got news?
slstate@mtsu.edu

Oops



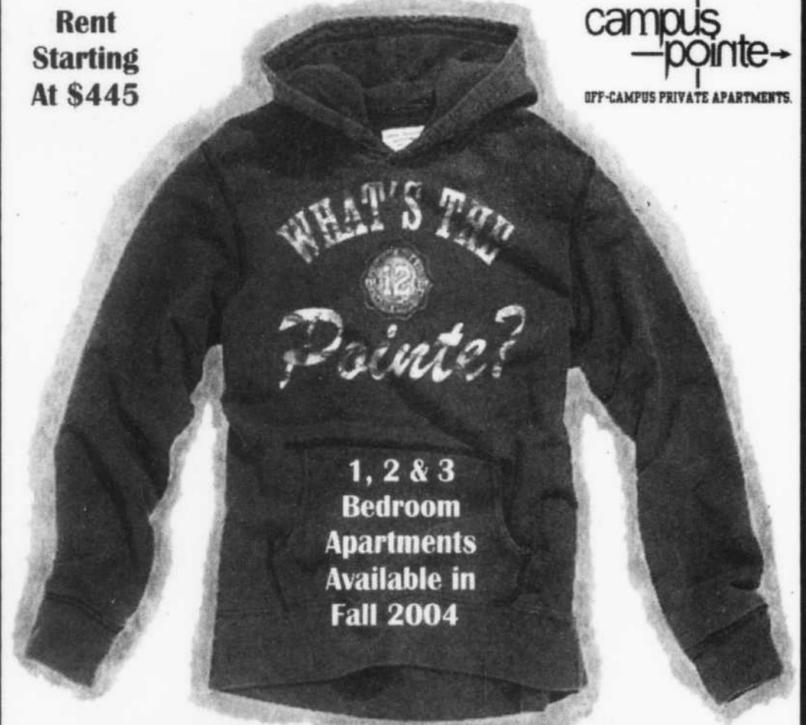
Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Students from the MTSU Honors College attempt to retrieve a football stuck in a tree by the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center.

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From the Editorial Board

Vote 'no' for McPhee

The Faculty Senate meets Monday, and what's on the minds of many is a possible vote of no confidence for university President Sidney McPhee.

The Steering Committee suggested that senate not conduct a vote on the issue earlier this week because McPhee faces litigation – they claimed a vote now was "inappropriate."

For the senate to decide whether or not to allow a vote of confidence or no confidence in a university president accused of sexual harassment and in the midst of a civil claim is hardly inappropriate. The Steering Committee is mistaken in whom has acted inappropriately.

We urge the senate, as representatives of MTSU faculty, to decide to hold a vote. It would certainly send a powerful message to the Tennessee Board of Regents and McPhee, as well as a positive message to Tammie Allen.

It's apparent at least one faculty member feels the Senate should hold a forum during which members could vote anonymously. Others must certainly agree.

In light of the events that have transpired since Allen first filed the sexual harassment complaint against McPhee, we realize that the integrity of this university has been constantly called into question because of the alleged actions of its president.

When the senate meets, they should keep in mind the integrity not only of MTSU, but also that of each department and every member of the faculty.

Opting for a forum is an excellent way to uphold that integrity. Just as faculty should support a president they feel confident in, they should also question one in whom they hold little or no confidence.

We urge at least one senator to bring this issue to the table at Monday's meeting and press for a vote of no confidence in McPhee.

If the faculty does indeed feel confident in McPhee, nothing will change.

If, however, the faculty announces a lack of confidence in the president, they will have done a great service to this institution and students by addressing this issue.

As the largest undergraduate university in Tennessee, our faculty and president must have faith in one another in order to operate smoothly and effectively.

We realize it takes great courage to be the one to address an issue many wish to sweep under the rug, but we hope that the pride our faculty members have in this university and what it stands for will outweigh butterflies in the stomach. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Too much film hype harmful to industry

With the recent mass media coverage of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, I'm reminded of how often hype can ruin a film.

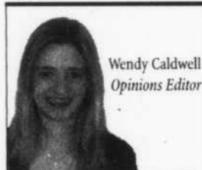
Over-hyping a movie, while at least assuring a successful opening weekend, does nothing but give people hopes that will almost certainly be crushed upon realizing the film isn't worth the action figures and commercial time and sneak preview showings.

Though I have yet to hear of an action figure Jesus, I wouldn't be a bit surprised if the studio wanted to get a little more money out of the film, already a blockbuster hit.

Other films in the past have been hyped and disappointed audiences. Case in point: *The Matrix Reloaded*.

After the brilliant first edition of the trilogy that redefined the way American movies and special effects are done, the second installment did little but disappoint the fans who lined up to see the midnight release, *ala Star Wars*.

Speaking of *Star Wars*, *Episode I: The Phantom Menace* gave us



Wendy Caldwell
Opinions Editor

Jar-Jar Binks, aka the biggest let-down in *Star Wars* history.

Promoting a film is always a great idea. How else will people go see it?

The *Lord of the Rings* trilogy definitely lived up to the hype, and *Star Wars Episode II: The Attack of the Clones* was infinitely better than the first flick.

However, there's something inherently wrong in devoting a huge amount of media time and advertising expenses to any film, especially a religious one.

At the end of the day, we watch films to entertain us, or perhaps to inform us or show us a different view. It's an escape from our everyday lives.

Leave it that way.

If I want to watch a movie, I will. I don't want to see clips of that movie on every station whenever I turn on my television. ♦

Jesus film demeans savior's life

The Passion of the Christ is another example of a Hollywood filmmaker using deplorable violence in pursuit of high box office ratings. Despite the biblical subject matter, this film shows Jesus Christ in a highly demeaning light, making this film far from inspiring and not one that will attract new Christian followers.

While Mel Gibson has said in multiple interviews that his intention was to move and inspire audiences, the graphically violent nature of this film does little more than invoke utter horror. Depicting Christ in his most vulnerable condition isn't inspiring – it's saddening.

It was this violent content that brought many to the theaters. A film about the life of Jesus and his teachings wouldn't have hailed the attention that a bloody showing of his last hours would attract. So, instead of choosing to celebrate the teachings of Jesus, Gibson chose, instead, to show us his ribs, his torn flesh and his blood, with



Wit and Wonder

Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist

only an occasional flashback to his remarkable teachings that have attracted millions of followers across the world.

There is something disturbing about seeing an individual that many regard as their personal savior, the Messiah, stripped down to such a state. This isn't celebrating Jesus – this is demeaning him.

Far worse was the resurrection scene, which like all the other positive aspects of Jesus' existence, was downplayed. The beauty in Christ's death was his rising, yet this scene lasts less than five minutes of a film that opens with violence and continues that theme almost to the end.

The beauty of Jesus' life wasn't his death but the wisdom he conveyed to the people and the faith he inspired in them. His dedication to faith could have easily been communicated in other ways, despite the lower audience appeal. Many other films have shown Christ in this way, but these better-constructed films didn't rack in ticket sales; one was only aired on television.

And this film doesn't serve as a shining tool to attract believers. As a non-Christian who attended the film with a very open mind, I left disgusted and felt the obviousness of the embedded scare tactics used by many fundamentalist Christians to convert nonbelievers.

Seeing the brutal torture and death of a religious icon on a large screen doesn't make non-Christians feel more connected to that faith. I found myself inspired by the scenes, though brief, in which Jesus was speaking to others about the beauty of God and shar-

ing ideas such as loving one's enemies. I was in no way sparked to seek out more information or connect with Christianity after seeing such graphic violence – just a little sad that the events around such a loved figure's death would be shown to audiences in this way.

Vividly illustrating the conditions of one's death is not a way to honor that person – whether the person be a common citizen or religious icon.

Despite the fact that Jesus is celebrated as giving his life for his faith and sacrificing for others, this bloody picture of his crucifixion was nothing more than a tool to generate money and attract viewers through the use of violence outweighing almost any film to date. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a senior mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at cek2b@mtsu.edu.

Women, not legislators, need abortion choice

The Tennessee Senate is preparing to vote on an amendment to the state constitution concerning abortion.

The amendment "would state that the Tennessee Constitution cannot provide greater abortion rights than those provided by the U.S. Constitution, as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court," according to an article in *The Tennessean*.

Let's suppose for a moment the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Do we want the government to decide our morals for us?

Abortion is a moral issue. Every citizen has a moral code. Some believe in abortion, and others don't.

Arguing over it normally doesn't do any good, so let's all agree to disagree and keep the politicians from telling us what to believe.

Think for another minute if this amendment were to pass, and abortions were later made illegal; would that stop abortions?

No. If a woman wants to get an abortion, she will,



Sandi's Logic

Sandi Van Orden
Staff Columnist

and it won't matter if it's legal or not. The abortion a woman would receive from someone she found would most likely not be as safe as the one she would receive in a hospital or clinic.

So, by making abortion illegal, not only would the legislature be deciding our moral code, but they would also be risking the lives of women who aren't at a point in their lives when they want a child.

Abortion is a personal choice. Women who believe abortion is the right thing choose to have them. Women who do not believe in abortion choose to give birth to their children.

It's that simple: If you don't believe in abortion, don't have one. It's not up to you to tell other women they shouldn't have the

procedure because you think it's wrong.

The same thing goes for women who believe in abortion. It's not up to you to tell a woman she should have an abortion if she believes abortion is wrong.

This country allows many freedoms. We get to choose if we want to worship, and, if we do, where, when and how.

We get to choose how to raise children. Why should lawmakers consider attempting to take away a woman's right to choose if she wants to have children?

Elected officials shouldn't have the right to tell the people they're representing how to live.

The legislature should do everything in its power to protect the rights of every citizen.

Just because a senator doesn't believe in abortion doesn't give him or her the right to take the choice away from the women of this state. ♦

Sandi Van Orden is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at slv2e@mtsu.edu.

Marriage, love still exist today

Who said college kids shouldn't marry? Your favorite columnist is about to take on the skeptics – and go against the odds – on March 20.

Yes, that's right. I'm getting married, and yes, I'm sane. Or, at least, I think I am.

My beautiful bride-to-be Maranda and I will be starting our life together in a little more than two weeks, and I won't lie – it's a bit overwhelming.

I'm not graduating until May, yet I'm a senior without the assurance of a stable job, getting married right after mid-terms.

What am I thinking? I'm thinking that sometimes even the most careful planning cannot predict nor determine the way we should live life.

Some people are still finding out, after working for years to establish the "perfect situation," they may never create a Utopia in which to begin a new life with a significant other.

Since I began announcing my engagement in November, I've seen a wide variety of responses.

"Are you sure this is what you want to do?"

"You're so young. How can you know?"

"Congratulations!" And as they're walking away, "I just thought the guy was smart. What an idiot!"

And a small percentage of people say, "Good for you. Forget what all the others are babbling about. Do you think you'll actually ever feel ready? Go for it."

I cannot say I haven't felt overwhelmed and spastic at times, but Maranda keeps me sane, grounded. Every time I look at her, I know I'm making the right decision.

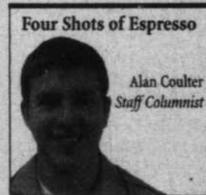
Sure, I could wait five years until I can afford a better apartment or own a home and a new car. I could wait until I feel more fixed in a career that will pay me the salary I desire.

Oh wait. I forgot. I'm an English major. Scratch that last daydream.

But then I would be forfeiting five years living with the love of my life.

Sorry, folks, I'm not for shaking up.

All I can say is chivalry lives. Romance isn't



Four Shots of Espresso

Alan Coulter
Staff Columnist

dead. It's alive and kicking, and believe me, after an eight-month courtship, I'm feeling it.

Why else would so many novelists, poets and essayists try to get the state of love down on paper, or at least the longing for it? Why else would artists and artisans attempt to create the work that concretely exhibits this abstract phenomenon?

Oddly enough, most of the naysayers come from what I thought were the freest times – the 1960s. Make love, not war and all that jazz. What happened?

A lot of once liberals, who were crazy passionate about something have forgotten what passion is all about. How in this world can we feel passionate about world-changing events if we are not first passionate about the relationships we have in life?

Yes, I know I sound like the rejected Hallmark card, but this manifesto isn't intended to say everyone should get married right now.

What I'm suggesting is, life isn't always simple. Life happens, and in my case, I'm thrilled it did.

It may be hard, but who's to say that life can't be hard?

Many of us who claim to be freethinkers babble on about philosophies of life and how the world should function, but we are scared to put our ideas to the test.

I hate to be the advocate for the overly used "carpe diem" line, but it's overused for a reason. If we don't live life when life offers us the chance, then we only choose death by default.

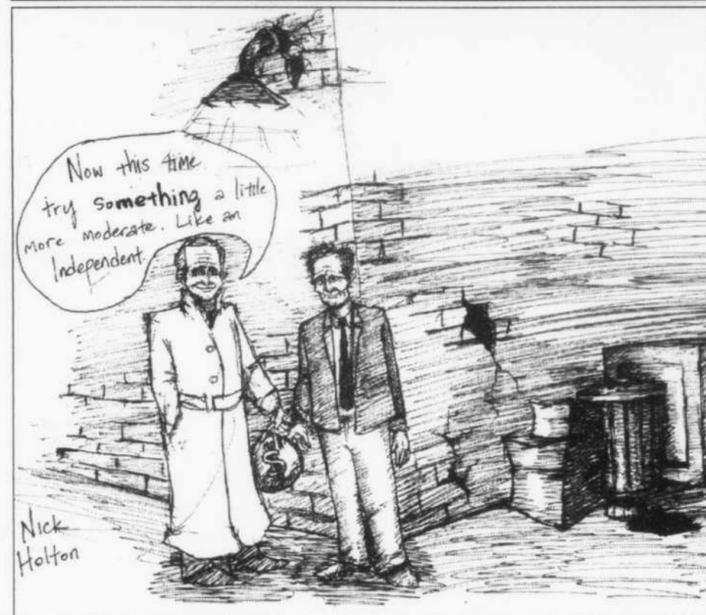
So, while all of you are basking in the freedom of Spring Break, I'll be enjoying my first week as a husband on a cruise to the Bahamas.

I'd like to say I'll be thinking about you – but I probably won't. ♦

Alan Coulter is a senior English major and can be reached via e-mail at ajc2h@mtsu.edu.

Did you catch *The O.C.* last night? We didn't either.

slopinio@mtsu.edu



Nick Holton

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Lady Raiders play Lipscomb after rainout



By Brad Jameson
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee softball team will face Lipscomb University Thursday for a non-conference doubleheader.

The Lady Raiders return to Murfreesboro after their doubleheader against the No. 13 University of Tennessee-Knoxville was postponed due to rain.

MT is 6-2 on the season and is looking to extend its three-game winning streak. The Lady Raiders have achieved six wins against three opponents: Belmont University, Radford College and Cumberland University. In their six wins this season, the Lady Raiders have outscored opponents 42-6. Their only losses came against the University of South Carolina and the College of Charleston.

The Lady Raiders are a perfect 4-0 at home this season.

MT's greatest offensive threat so far this season has been freshman Brittany Herald. She is batting more than .500 after starting in all eight games. Her average now stands at .542, with 13 hits in 24 at bats.

Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Left: MT freshman Trish White swings and misses at a pitch against Cumberland University on Sunday.



Mitchell

Herald also leads the team with 10 runs batted in.

Last season, senior Courtney Mitchell became just the second Lady Raider in school history to bat over .400 in a season. She has continued the trend into the spring season, currently holding an average of .481 with five doubles and 10 runs scored. She also has the team's best slugging percentage at .926.

MT's bullpen is strong as well, featuring junior pitcher Crystal Bobo. The UT transfer is 3-1 with a 1.01 earned

run average and 35 strikeouts.

She also threw her third shutout of the season against Cumberland.

Lipscomb University is 8-10 so far this season and 3-7 in its last 10 games.

Freshman Julia Davidson leads the Lady Bisons with a .225 batting average but has struck out 11 times. Junior Jennifer Cannon is batting .212 with five doubles and two home runs, giving her a team-best .423 slugging percentage.

The doubleheader will begin Thursday afternoon at Lady Raider Field. First pitch is set for 2 p.m. ♦

Scales leaves competition in dust

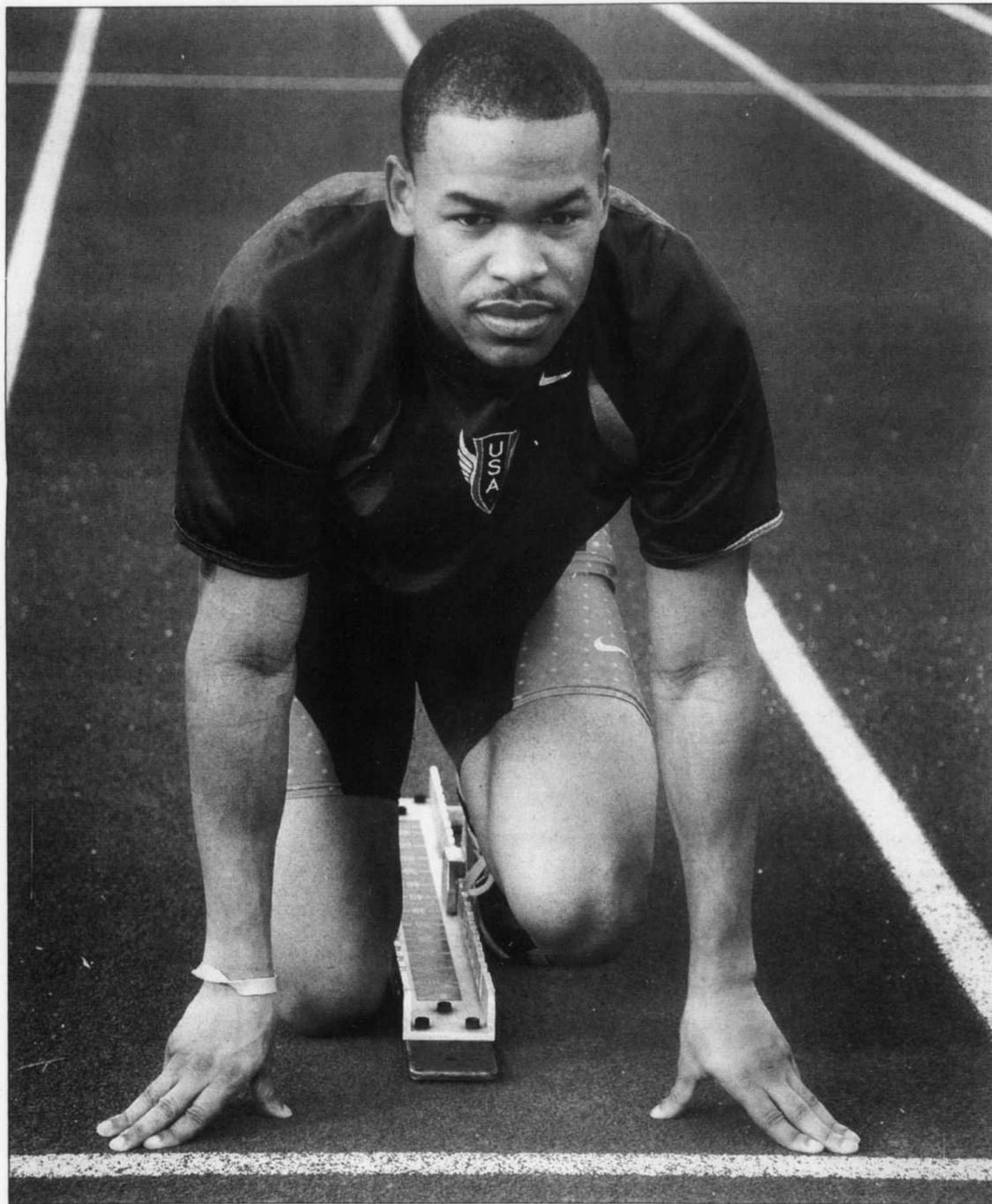


Photo by Julie Madewell | Staff Photographer

MT sprinter Mardy Scales was named the SBC Most Outstanding Track Performer for the second straight season.

Senior ready to defend national outdoor title

By Colleen Johnson
Contributor

With the recent victory in the Sun Belt Conference Indoor Championships this past weekend, Middle Tennessee's men's and women's track and field teams have retained their dominance in the conference. Both squads have taken the SBC Championships for the past four years.

For MT sprinter Mardy Scales, these meets are a time to thrive in what he loves most about his sport: competition.

Scales has a history of successful competitions. Last year he earned All-American honors in the 60-meter race for the second year in a row. Not only was he the sole SBC athlete to earn that honor in 2003, but his time also remained nationally unbeaten for six weeks. At the end of the 2002-03 season, Scales held the fastest times in the 55-meter, 60-meter and 200-meter dashes in the entire conference.

And his dominance doesn't end there. He won both the 55-meter (6.31) and the 200-meter race (21.16) in the conference championships and was voted the

Most Outstanding Track Performer in the conference.

He currently holds the school record for the 55-meter (6.2) and the 100-meter (10.24). He broke the 200-meter on Saturday with a time of 20.84 seconds, beating Roland McGhee's previous record of 20.99, set in 1993.

Scales is also the reigning NCAA 100-meter national champion.

Scales has certainly contributed to a track squad that sits in the No. 18 spot on the Trackshark Top 25 men's collegiate rankings and is the only SBC team to rank in the poll.

"My strongest events are the 60, 100, and 200-meter competitions," Scales said.

He first discovered his sprinting ability while playing football for Centennial High School in Franklin, Tenn. He said he chose Middle in part because of how close it is to his home and his family.

"My house is just 30 minutes down the road and it's all about my fans in Franklin," Scales said. "I have everything I need right here at home."

His fans are not all he cares about.

"My family also motivates me," Scales said. "I want to be successful for them."

Scales' success as a collegiate track athlete has enabled him to further his career before he graduates in December this year. He currently sprints for the USA men's team, which Scales describes as an honor, and will be competing to qualify for this year's Olympic games in Athens, Greece. Only the top three athletes in each event will make the team.

For Scales, the Olympics will be the ultimate competition.

"The entire experience [of being a successful athlete] has been great," he said. "I've met a whole lot of different people, and I've gotten to see the world. After my track career as a professional, I'd like to coach. I want to help other kids. I'd like to play a little football, too."

Scales traveled to the Dominican Republic last year to compete with the USA men's team. He enjoyed the trip, but he experienced more than just competition. He got a glimpse at the politics of the sport,

See Scales, 7

Women's tennis team hosts two matches after break

By Matthew Adair
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider tennis team is looking dominant as it prepares for two matches this weekend.

Middle Tennessee (6-2) will face Murray State University on March 5, a match that has been delayed due to the threat of inclement weather. If all goes as scheduled on Friday, it will be the Lady Raiders first outdoor match this season.

The Lady Racers are 2-2 in the spring season after defeating Wright State University 7-0 Feb. 22.

The women will follow the Murray State match by hosting Georgia State March 7. The Lady Panthers are 4-4 for the season, coming off a recent 5-2 win against 1-5 Tennessee Tech University only to lose to Hampton University 7-0.

Georgia State sophomore Anne Breiholtz appears to be the Lady Panthers' strength in singles play, remaining undefeated so far this season. The No. 1 doubles team of Breiholtz and junior Annamarie Forgacs, as well as the No. 3 team of Rebecca Mitchell and Anna Dolinska, also remain undefeated so far, holding records of 3-0 and 6-0, respectively.

MT's women, however, have their own share of advantages going into this weekend.

The Lady Raiders currently hold a three game winning streak, with their most recent win coming against the University of Memphis. MT shut out the Lady Tigers 7-0 in

Memphis, Tenn., in that match.

Two Lady Raiders, Manon Kruse and Jacqui Williams, hold undefeated records in singles play, while three other players, Ana Maria Cibils, Jennifer Klaschka and Carien Venter, have maintained winning records so far.

Overall, the Lady Raiders have a win percentage of .632 in singles and .636 in doubles play. Neither of their opponents this weekend had win percentages listed at press time.

In addition, Kruse received the title of Sun Belt Player of the Week for the second time this spring. Kruse currently holds a total of 71 singles victories, tying the current team record, all of them coming at the No. 1 singles position.

MT junior Klaschka also earned honors for herself this season, receiving her first career ranking from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. Klaschka currently stands at No. 86 in singles. Teammate Kruse improved four spots to hold No. 50, while she and Venter are ranked No. 35 in doubles.

Both matches will be at home at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center, weather permitting. The match against Murray State will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday, while the Georgia State match will begin at 2 p.m. ♦



Kruse



File Photo

MT junior Jennifer Klaschka awaits a serve in a doubles match against St. Louis University on Feb. 15. Klaschka is currently ranked No. 86 nationally in singles play.

Scales: Commitment first

Continued from 6

his least favorite aspect of track and field.

"I was the fastest person on the team, but for some reason, they wouldn't put me on the relay team," Scales said. "I don't know why. It didn't make sense to me."

Politics or no politics, Scales is committed to his sport. He plans to give every competition his all, even if it means practicing seven days a week.

For the SBC Championships this past weekend, Scales anticipated "a good race, a win and a title."

His anticipations were accurate to say the least. MT fought hard throughout the competi-

tion to bring home the title. While Murphy Center is Scales' favorite place to run, Scales looked forward to seeing familiar faces in the crowd. It was the last time either track squad would compete at home this season.

"I don't like the surface in Murphy Center," Scales said. "It's so hard that people tend to get hurt all the time, but it's always nice running for the hometown crowd."

Soon, though, that hometown crowd could become the entire world in the Olympics, the largest stage for track and field.

You can be sure, however, that Mardy Scales won't mind the competition. ♦

Baseball has no room for steroids

By Michael Bailey
Staff Columnist

Several people are gaining suspicion of Barry Bonds and his recent production from the batter's box as a result of alleged steroid use.

Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield, Bonds' offseason workout partner, have been linked to BALCO, a California lab which Sheffield sent a Fed-Ex package to last year. Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, is at the core of the investigation that sent fellow consumers Giambi and Sheffield before a grand jury in December to testify.

The issue is receiving attention from the national level, earning mention in President George W. Bush's State of the Union address alongside other topics such as the lagging economy and war against terror. Steroid use in baseball has apparently launched a war on the national pastime's integrity.

So, Commissioner Bud Selig has begun a vigilant search accompanied by Bush. I suspect Selig and Bush will find weapons of mass baseball destruction when their mission is complete.

One must consider Bonds' suddenly-improving physical tools. Bonds as a rookie was a mere shadow of the man he is today. Bonds entered the league as a skimpy-framed speedster at 6-feet-2-inches and 185 pounds.

Then he was more feared after he got on base than when he stepped into the batter's box. Now, Bonds, at age 39, checks in at a robust 230 pounds and trots more often when rounding the bases.

Today, Bonds is a much more muscular, physically dominating athlete than the one who debuted for the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1986.

But such anatomical evolution is not revolutionary. Consider the greatest basketball player in NBA history, Michael Jordan.

Jordan gave new meaning to above the rim when he arrived fresh out of Chapel Hill, N.C. He attacked the basket with check-less abandon, challenging anyone to contest "Air Jordan." Why? Because he had the youthful exuberance, and more importantly, the physical ability to engage in this high wire act over ninety times a year.

Now, think about the Jordan of the Washington Wizards. At age 39, the man who once defined above-the-rim play was now a victim of gravity.

I remember scratching my head after he botched a wide-open dunk in the 2002 All-Star game. His body developed, yet I cannot recall anyone delving into his personal trainer's medicine cabinet.

Basketball, by sheer nature of the game, is less conducive to weight gain than baseball. This is why Bonds has gone where no athlete has gone before. He has fused his peak mental capacity with his peak physical state as never before.

Throughout history, baseball players, especially the superstars, have been known to compete at a high level longer than any other sports' athletes.

That Williams hit .316 with 29 home runs as a 40-year-old in 1960. Williams might not have tallied the eye-popping power numbers Bonds is churning out at a comparable age, yet I will step out on a limb and say Williams never imagined incorporating

weight training into his offseason regimen, much less applying the focus Bonds employs.

It is well documented that in the first half of the 20th century, baseball's superstars devoted more of their time to tearing their body apart rather than building it up. In fact, weight training is a rather recent phenomenon to baseball players.

Mark Grace, doubles and RBI leader of the 1980s, admits he has never lifted a weight in his life and does not recall seeing weight rooms' presence in the clubhouse until the mid-90s.

Through his vigorous offseason training, Bonds has, in effect, been able to debunk the mercantile theory of skills where increasing experience primordially necessitates a diminishing physical ability.

Bonds now has the patience to wait on his pitch (198 bases on balls in 2002, an MLB single-season record) and the physical prowess to punish the pitch he selects to swing at (73 home runs in 2001 - an MLB single-season record).

Even lesser-known than these groundbreaking marks is the fact that in his home run setting year of 2001, Bonds averaged a home run every 7.1 swings, sending him into a slugging stratosphere all by himself.

By the close of his career, Bonds will go where no man has gone before: 700 home runs to go with 500 steals, making him major league baseball's greatest player of all time hopefully without an asterisk. ♦

All statistics courtesy of www.mlb.com

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MT men to face Hilltoppers first round of championship

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

Imagine drawing the defending champion in the first round of the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

Now imagine that defending champ is your biggest rival. Add to it that this defending champion and rival is playing at home. That's the position the Blue Raiders find themselves in going into this weekend's SBC men's basketball tournament in Bowling Green, Ky.

Middle Tennessee faces host Western Kentucky University Sunday evening at 5:30 in one of four first-round matchups in the men's bracket.

The Blue Raiders split the regular season series with WKU, losing 70-66 at E.A. Diddle Arena and winning a 73-59 decision in front of a record crowd of 11,807 last Thursday at Murphy Center.

It will be no small task for MT, who haven't faced the Hilltoppers on their home floor since the OVC tournament finals in 1982, the same year the Blue Raiders ousted the University of Kentucky from the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"I like the way we're playing right now," Blue Raider head coach Kermit Davis said. "We've won five of seven, and we're going in playing well. We're excited about playing Western Kentucky. You figure the tournament runs through them anyway. You might as well catch them on the first night."

The MT-WKU winner will move on to face the winner between the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and the University of South Alabama. ULL is the top seed in the tournament, and USA just squeaked into the tournament with a win over the University of North Texas last Sunday, but the teams split in the regular season.

In the other half of the bracket, No. 3 University of New Orleans faces No. 6 UNT, and No. 7 Arkansas State University faces No. 2 University of Arkansas-Little Rock, with the Arkansas-Little Rock and UNT face off at 11 a.m. Monday at 8 p.m.

UALR won the SBC Eastern



MT guard Tommy Gunn puts up the three pointer against Florida International Feb. 7. MT won 54-53.

Division championship but faces a tough task against in-state rival ASU. The Indians boast the league's top scoring duo in guards Dewarrick Spencer and J.J. Montgomery. The two combine for more than 35 points per game.

The championship game is set for Tuesday night at 7 p.m.

With parity the rule in conference this year, many coaches do not like the format of this year's tournament with only the top eight teams.

All three of the eliminated teams, Florida International University, New Mexico State

University and the University of Denver, won at least one game in last year's tournament, with NMSU and Denver advancing to the tournament's semi-finals.

"I don't think it's very good for the league," Davis said.

"I think all 11 teams should play, but with the men and women playing together in one venue there's just no way of playing the games in a concise time, but next year going to Denton [North Texas] we'll have everyone back again. But this year we all knew going in the format, so that's all there is." ♦

Photo by Josh Jordan | Staff Photographer

Lady Raiders begin tourney against SBC foe North Texas

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

The Lady Raiders face the University of North Texas in the first round of the Sun Belt Conference women's basketball tournament Sunday.

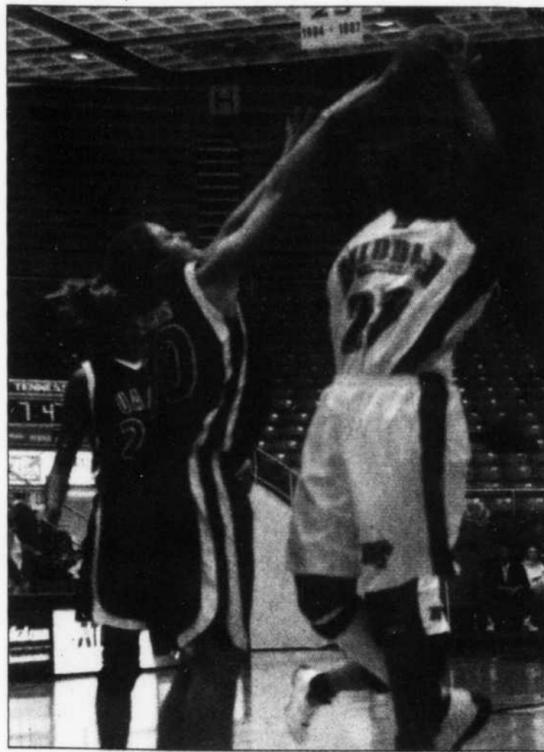
Middle Tennessee finished the season at 20-7 (10-4 SBC) and shared the SBC East Division regular season championship with Arkansas State University and Western Kentucky University. The Lady Raiders earned the No. 4 seed, however, by virtue of two losses to WKU, who in turn lost twice this season to the Lady Indians.

UNT finished the regular season Monday with a 61-50 loss to the University of South Alabama. The No. 5 Lady Eagles (11-16, 7-8) are the highest-seeded team with a losing record in the tournament.

Senior forward Kim Blanton leads UNT in scoring with 11.8 points per game and rebounding with 6.5 per game. Junior guard Jill Medlock averages 10.9 PPG.

In other tournament action, top-seeded USA faces No. 8 University of Denver in the first game Saturday. The Lady Jags (22-5, 11-4) are riding a six-game winning streak, but they will have to compensate for the loss of their leading scorer, freshman Whitney Woodard. Woodard, who averaged 15.3 ppg in 22 starts, underwent surgery Tuesday on her left knee to repair her anterior cruciate ligament. Woodard injured her knee Feb. 12 against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

Denver (13-14, 6-9) backed into the tournament after Florida International University lost 63-48 to MT Monday. USA defeated Denver in two close games this season, 62-56 Jan. 29 at home and 56-50 Feb. 26 in Denver.



MT guard Patrice Holmes looks to pass against UALR Feb. 21. Holmes leads the Lady Raiders with 412 points.

Tasha Jones leads the Lady Pioneers with 12.6 ppg, and Ragon Neblett averages 10.4 ppg.

No. 2 Arkansas State University takes on New Mexico State University in the late game Saturday. ASU (19-8, 10-4) will look to avenge its only conference home loss after the Aggies (12-15, 6-9) defeated the Lady Indians 67-61 Feb. 28.

The Lady Indians have five players averaging double figures, led by Amber Abraham's 12.3 ppg in 15 games and Rudy Sims' 12.0 ppg in 27 games.

The final game of the first round features No. 3 WKU against No. 6 ULL. The Lady

Cajuns (13-14, 7-8) won the teams' only regular-season meeting 80-72 on Jan. 29 in Lafayette, La. ULL's Anna Petrakova leads the conference in scoring with 18.7 ppg.

For the Lady (16-12, 10-4), Tiffany Porter-Talbert is currently fourth in scoring in the conference with 16.4 ppg. Current SBC Player of the Week Leslie Logsdon is ninth with 14.8 ppg.

All tournament action will take place at WKU's E.A. Diddle Arena in Bowling Green, Ky. MT and UNT face off at 11 a.m. Sunday. ♦

Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

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