

WEDNESDAY

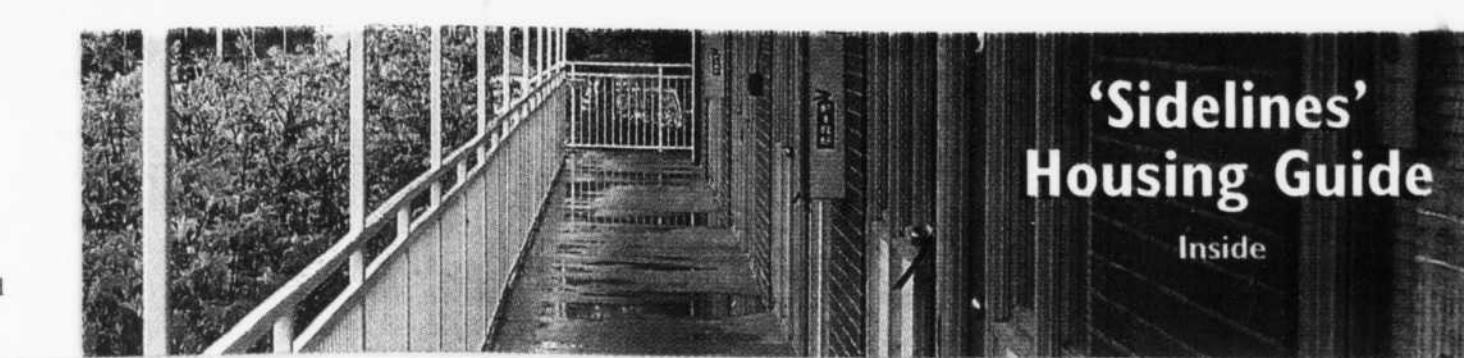
April 14, 2004



The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper



This week's online poll question
at www.mtsusidelines.com:
Has the state adequately addressed
the pay needs of its employees?



'Sidelines'
Housing Guide

Inside

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 79

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Label extends submission cutoff

RIM Records, the recently formed student record label, has extended its submission deadline to April 30.

Interested students and artists should bring their press kits and compact discs to the College of Mass Comm office, located on the second floor of the Bragg Mass Communication Building.

Chamber Players to perform finale

The Stones River Chamber Players will feature the music of Franz Schubert and Johannes Brahms during the ensemble's final concert of the 2003-2004 season.

The concert will be held tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the Wright Music Building.

The performance, which is free and open to the public, will be the first local performance by pianist James Douglass. Douglass is a new faculty in the McLean School of Music.

For more information, contact the School of Music at 898-2493.

Forum to address Greek life, issues

Kim Godwin, director of Greek Life, will host a discussion on MTSU's Greek community today.

The forum will be held at 8 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room S128, and is open to all.

Some of the topics that will be discussed are the history of Greek life at MTSU, leadership opportunities for Greeks and recruitment in the fall. For more information, contact Godwin at 898-5812.

'Reckless' appears at Tucker Theatre

A comedy about identity, perceptions, romance and assassins, *Reckless* will be performed at Tucker Theatre on campus.

The play will be shown tomorrow through Saturday and April 22-24 at 7:30 p.m.

MTSU students will be admitted free with an ID, while general admittance will be \$8. Tickets will be \$6 for MTSU employees and senior citizens.

Advance tickets to *Reckless* can be purchased by calling the University Ticket Office at 898-2103. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door.

Film Festival wraps tomorrow night

Three films will be presented tonight as a part of the fifth-annual Student Films Festival.

Beowulf, by Frank Hasenmeuller; *A Northern Lights Reality*, by Jason Burks and Charles Robinson and *Dark and Stormy Nights*, by Whitney Tyler and Jacob Warren will be shown in the Keathley University Center at 7 and 9:30 p.m.

Awards night will be held tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. with a screening of the top four films. ♦

SUBMIT IDEAS TO
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Middle Tennessee State University **SIDELINES**

State might mandate faculty pay raise

Universities expected to fund 2 percent base salary increase

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

University faculty members could see a base salary increase in the coming year, but funding for the raise won't come from the state.

Gov. Phil Bredesen has asked

the state legislature to pass his \$24 billion budget proposal, which includes a 2 percent base salary adjustment for all state employees. But the proposal will require state higher education institutions to reallocate their own funds as needed to provide for the raise.



Mary Morgan, director of communications for the Tennessee Board of Regents.

raises, they have never provided the full amount for higher education," Morgan said, "and this year they chose not to provide any of it."

President Sidney McPhee said MTSU must fund the money, either through internal reallocation, cuts in the university budget or some other means.

"It's a matter of making choices and priorities and I've said all along that retention and

entirety of pay increases they mandate.

"When they mandate these

recruiting good faculty is a top priority," McPhee said. "To bring the salaries up to a competitive level, that is a priority. But it will not be done at the expense of academic programs."

McPhee said university officials planned conservatively last year in anticipation of tough fiscal times.

"Because we were conservative and anticipated the cuts, we

See Salary, 2

Greeks honor excellence

By Will Fanguy
Staff Writer

Greek Week began Monday night with the presentation of the 2003 Greek Awards.

Trophies and awards were presented to Greek groups and individuals that exhibited outstanding service to the community.

Ashley Elizabeth Graham of Chi Omega, Luke Naylor of Pi Kappa Alpha, Michael Cooper of Kappa Alpha Psi and Dekia Trice of Zeta Phi Beta won the Greek Men and Women of the Year awards, while the group awards were widely dispersed among many different organizations.

"They had each presented themselves as someone who not only gives the campus, but also gives to the community in Murfreesboro as well," said Kim Godwin, director of Greek Life. "They're not only seen with Greeks. They are seen across campus as positive influences for the Greek community."

The Greek Programming Committee selected the award winners based on pre-selected criteria.

"This year there were 21 people who were nominated," Godwin said. "It's a big deal to get that award because it means you've proven yourself to the Greek community for all of them to think you should be the one that represents them."

Group awards were presented first. Pi Kappa Alpha collected sports trophies in softball and indoor soccer, while Alpha Delta Pi collected trophies for winning softball, indoor soccer and outdoor soccer. They both received the overall sports trophies as well.

The events, fund-raising and service awards were presented next.

Pi Kappa Alpha again received the bulk of the awards, winning in the Outstanding Philanthropic and Outstanding Non-philanthropic Fundraising categories for their work with

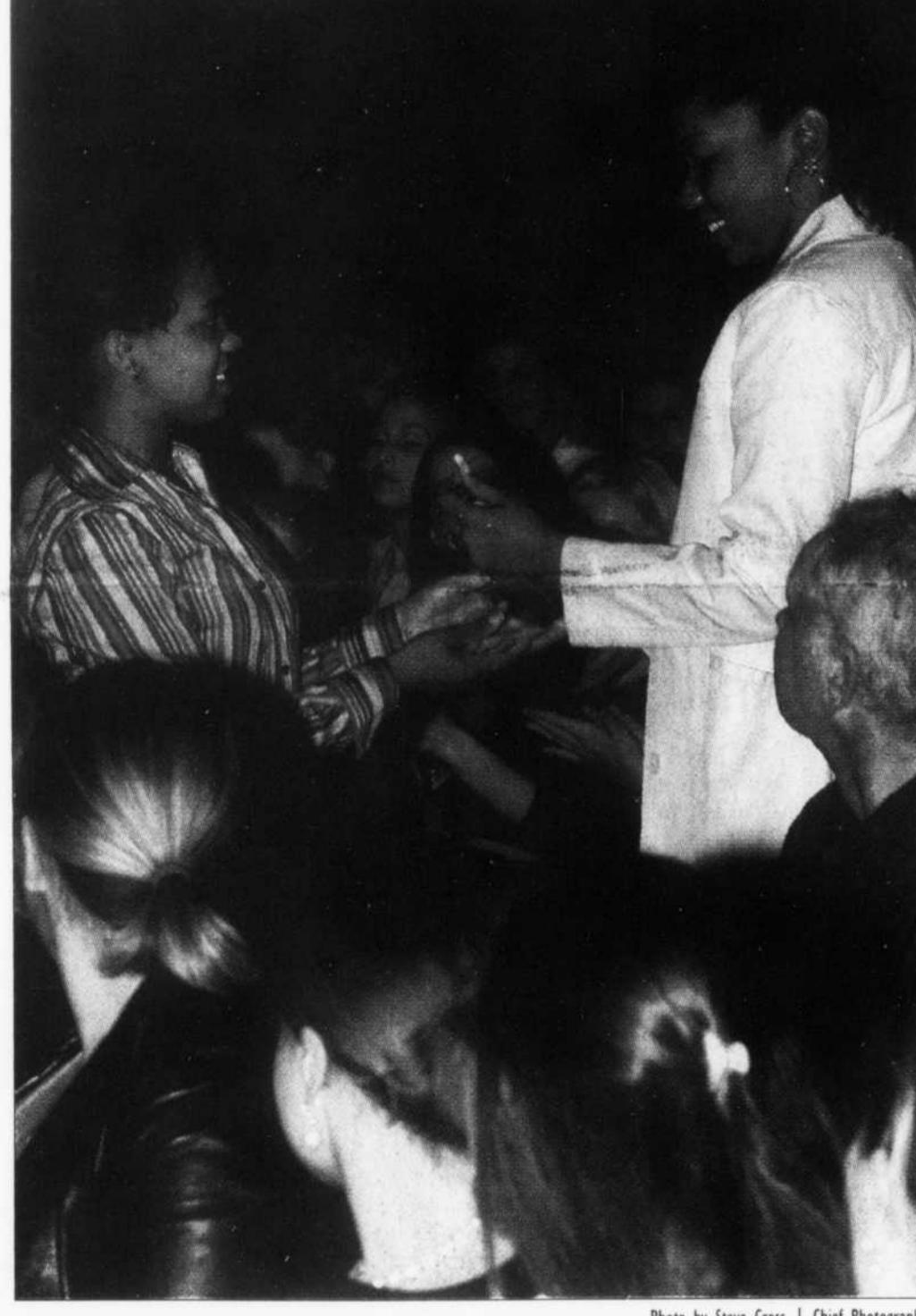


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Janelle Smith, right, receives the National Panhellenic Council outstanding new member award Monday night during the annual Greek Awards.

Relay for Life and the AIDS Quilt. They also won the awards for Outstanding New Member Program, Outstanding Service Hours, and the Great Strides award for their improvements during 2003.

Beta Theta Pi also won two awards, Outstanding

Scholarship Program and Outstanding Service Project.

Alpha Phi Alpha also won in those categories, in addition to the Great Strides award.

Five different sororities shared the eight available awards, with Alpha Omicron Pi winning the Outstanding

Non-philanthropic Fundraiser, Outstanding New Member Program and Outstanding Service Hours awards.

Chi Omega won the Outstanding Scholarship Program and Great Strides

See Awards, 2

See Week, 2

Fischer will lead 2005-06 senate

Staff Reports

The Faculty Senate elected Rebecca Fischer as its 2005-2006 president Monday.

Rebecca Fischer, a professor in the speech and theatre department, defeated one other nominee — former Faculty Senate President Terry Whiteside.

Fischer, who has served on the senate for three years, said her main goals include working proactively to contribute to the university and provide support services for faculty.

"I also would like to see us work on improving

See Senate, 2



File photo

Murphy Center is often filled to capacity during MTSU graduation, so the university is only allowing ticket-holders to attend this spring's graduation ceremony.

Ticket policy will continue

By Will Fanguy
Staff Writer

The policy requiring a ticket for admission to graduation will continue this spring, according to the vice provost's office.

All graduates are allotted eight tickets, but exceptions will be made.

Murphy Center's maximum capacity has been reached in the past, and the number of graduates and those in attendance continues to grow.

For the safety and comfort of all those involved, only those

with a ticket will be allowed to attend, while a simulcast will be shown in the Alumni Memorial Gym for those without tickets.

According to Sherian Huddleston, vice provost for Enrollment Services, this is the third semester that MTSU has had a graduation ticket policy.

"We have so many students graduating that we have outgrown our guest seating capacity in Murphy Center," Huddleston said. "We are asking all students that are graduating in absentia, students that are not going to be here, to tell us

that so that we can distribute their tickets to those with exceptionally large families or those with a large number of guests.

"We're also asking students to share the tickets that they might get and then realize they're not going to use," Huddleston said.

The ticket policy is continuing this semester for two main reasons: safety and comfort, Huddleston said.

"Guests just can't get seats," Huddleston said. "There's a

See Tickets, 2

Week to highlight international culture

By Andrea Hinch
Staff Writer

Throughout this week events are planned for International Culture Week, which has been celebrated at MTSU for the past 14 years.

Exchange and international students will be able to meet other students of their background, as well as Americans interested in their culture through food and fun.

An e-mail has been sent to international students to let them know what

events are occurring. A reply back is needed or the student can come by the office and say they want to attend.

"What we like to do is make our students feel welcome to our campus as well as that we are grateful that they are here," said Angie Melton, assistant director of the International Programs and Services Office. "It's basically an appreciation week for them."

The week started off with a meal at Ryan's and then a movie at Jackson Heights Plaza. Yesterday, the group went to CiCi's Pizza and then to the

bowling alley.

A coffee hour will be held today in the Keathley University Center, Room 124, where organizations will bring food and refreshments so as to meet the students.

Tomorrow, a cookout will be held at the Recreation Center. The international banquet will be held in the James Union Building Saturday.

"The banquet is the main event," Melton said. "International students who attend the events will receive a free pass to the banquet on Saturday."

The banquet will have country exhibits in the lobby with artifacts, clothing and portraits from various countries. The meal will include ethnic foods and international entertainment.

Amber Weening, a student from Canada, will be singing. International student organizations on campus will be helping to organize a fashion show of mainly Indian and some Western fashions. Scottish Highland dancers from Nashville will dance and play the bagpipe.

"It was a really nice experience last

year and it's a good way to meet other international students," said Pooja Marella, an international graduate teaching assistant.

"It's nice when you meet families through these events that invite you home for holidays since most of us don't have family here."

Marella will appear in the fashion show and also perform a dance to celebrate India.

For more information, call the International Programs and Services Office at 898-2238. ♦

Professor pushes for alternative to stem cell research

By Tim Hill
Staff Writer

Matt Elrod-Erickson discussed genetic technologies during Monday's weekly honors lecture.

Elrod-Erickson said that there is both a genetic and environmental component to every aspect of our physical existence.

Science has shown that there are two extremes to genetics—either genes dominate or environment does.

"I like to tell my students that genetics are like the boundaries, and your environment determines how you're going to end up," he said.

Humans each have 46 chromosomes, and in terms of our genetic code and DNA, all people are approximately 99.9 percent the same.

"Although we are that much alike in terms of our genetic patterns, there are about 60,000 proteins in our genes that determine our vast differences," he said.

Elrod-Erickson said that since the entire human genetic code has been decoded already, genetic technologies are gradually making their way into every day life.

"Forensics, which is what the people on the CBS show 'CSI' use, are able to help police find criminals sometimes with just one small sample of blood," he said.

Genetic engineering is another technology that allows scientists to manipulate genes to create new organisms for agricultural and industrial purposes.

Genetic technologies have even made their way into fami-

ly planning.

"In vitro fertilization and prenatal screening carries with it the ability to screen for genetic diseases before a child is born," he said.

Stem cell research was also discussed during the lecture.

"These are cells that know how to turn into any cell to build or repair your body's organs," he said.

Elrod-Erickson said that with the discoveries of adult stem cells in skin cells, bone marrow, red blood cells and even hair follicles, he hopes this research eliminates the need for embryonic stem cell research.

"Embryos could be potential human life, and these include 250 cell clusters and involve the destruction of the embryo in order to gain the smaller number of stem cells within the embryonic ball," he said.

He said that federal funding is banned on research that involves the destruction of future embryos, but not ones that have already been destroyed.

Elrod-Erickson said that gene therapy—the ability of scientists to change or implant different genes in order to prevent disease—will impact students later in life.

"You will make this choice in your lifetime," he said. "You may even get to the point where you will be able to personally select your children's height, hair color or intelligence."

Elrod-Erickson urges students to not just believe any genetic test results.

"Science gives us our current best guesses, but this knowledge is continually being revised," he said. ♦

Salary: McPhee wants to increase bonuses

Continued from I

held back on some of the dollars, so we wouldn't be in the position where we would have to cut deep in the academic program," McPhee said.

McPhee said other outside funds will help ease the strain on the university's budget.

"Actually, we were able to bring in close to \$3 million total from Washington [D.C.], which is the highest ever in the history of our university," McPhee said. "We were able to go out there and raise additional dollars from donors to put in scholarships. That means we don't have to take as much money from the operating budget to put into scholarships."

Bredesen's proposed budget

also includes a one-time 1 percent bonus for employees, to be funded by the state.

McPhee said he wants to tack on an additional 1-2 percent (or an optional flat raise of about \$500) bonus for MTSU faculty, if university funding will allow for it.

"I think we will be in a position to look at a percentage greater than 1 percent," McPhee said.

"The 2 percent will become effective July 1 and we don't know yet about the bonus money," McPhee said. "But in either case, my plans are to, within the means of resources at the university, increase the salaries as much as we possibly can." ♦

Bredesen's proposed budget

Live music infuses Mass Comm building

By Nina Ricks
Contributor

The on-campus live music experience is thriving these days, particularly within the John Bragg Mass Communication Building once a week.

"Live on Main Street" is a unique, open-mic event that is offered to MTSU students and faculty every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Not only does it provide an opportunity for student musicians to make statements and express talents, but "Live on Main Street" also allows students and faculty to have a break from the daily grind and listen to new music for a while.

Recording industry assistant professors Amy Macy and Hal Newman organized Macy's initial idea of showcasing the RIM department's talents, and they

asked RIM assistant professor John Fishell to arrange the sound system.

The idea materialized last semester and quickly became an irrefutable success.

"We have had all kinds of student songwriters sign up to try out new material they've written," Newman said. "Some are in commercial songwriting classes or Nashville Songwriters Association International."

Featured student performers include rapper C-Jay, Nashville songwriter Erin Enderlin and Ghost Finger's Richie Kirkpatrick.

The sound stage is located across from the Mass Comm lounge area where many can enjoy the music while dining, studying or conversing.

The volume level of "Live on Main Street" accommodates both the audience and the sur-

rounding classrooms so that the instructional settings are not disturbed.

Marc J. Barr, a professor within the department of electronic media communication, has a class that meets during the time of the performances.

He does not find the live music to be too intrusive and said it is "for the most part pleasant, except when it is too loud."

"If there are small concerns, Amy and I address them as they happen," Newman said. "Overall everyone likes and supports this."

Chad Arnold, a junior recording industry major, also has a class during "Live on Main Street" in Room 104, the closest classroom just left of the stage.

He had no complaints about the volume and was encouraged by the event's suc-

cess.

"One of these days I'm going to sign up and play here," Arnold said.

"Live on Main Street" is booked through the remainder of this month, but Newman will have more information about future dates.

The April 21 show will feature Erin Enderlin, guitar and vocals; Kristin Crego, vocals; professor Tom Hutchison, bass; and Amy Macy, fiddle; as well as Patricia Fogle, Mark Parsons and the Karg Boys.

The last show of the month will be April 29, during the Mass Comm Spring Forum and Career Fair and will include Justin Davis, Rachel Pearl, Eric Paslay, Treva Blumquist, Erin Enderlin and the Karg Boys. ♦

Awards: Greek members with perfect grades recognized

Continued from I

awards. Other organizations receiving awards were the members of Kappa Alpha Order, Sigma Nu, Phi Beta Sigma, Alpha Chi Omega, Kappa Delta and Delta Zeta.

Individual awards followed. Kim Sutton of Phi Mu was the first to receive the ABC award,

which stands for Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.

Sidelines news editor Kristin Hall received an award for her Outstanding Contribution to the Greek Community through her work with the campus newspaper.

The Greek members who earned a 4.0 grade point average in 2003 were recognized,

Delta Sigma Theta and Jessica Reeves of Delta Zeta.

"It's an opportunity for us to let the individuals in the organizations know that we're proud of them for what they are doing and that they are doing good things for themselves and for MTSU," Godwin said. ♦

Week: Students encouraged to participate in events

Continued from I

will be available to the public through events such as the Clothesline Project. Survivors of any kind of sexual assault, friends and family of the survivors, and all other people are invited to design a shirt that communicates their experiences with sexual assault.

The Clothesline Project will

continue on the Keathley University Center Knoll through tomorrow, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Tomorrow on the Knoll, women from the Nashville Songwriters Association International will perform from 2-5 p.m. The Take Back the Night rally will begin at 6 p.m., and will include a candlelight vigil.

The Journey of Hope 5K Fun Run/Walk will be held on Saturday outside the James Union Building. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m., and the proceeds from the run will benefit the Rape Recovery and Prevention Center.

The run is an opportunity for people to help the new center, which provides a 24-hour crisis line (494-9262), and

offers immediate crisis intervention, information, hospital accompaniment, guidance and legal advocacy.

For those who wish to give back but do not want to run or walk the 5K, help, donations, and eager participation are needed. To find out more, contact the JAWC at 898-2193. ♦

Tickets: Parking an issue during graduation ceremonies

Continued from I

general safety and comfort concern for the guests and the graduates."

Assistant Chief Roy Brewer from the department of Public Safety works as the Special Events Coordinator, and has seen a dramatic increase in safety concerns during his time here. The main safety concern in his mind is the safety of the disabled guests on the floor.

"When we overrun Murphy

Center, the number of disabled persons increases and we run into the possibility of a medical emergency and the inability to break through the crowds to reach the individual," Brewer explained.

There are also a limited number of officers available in ratio to the number of guests.

The issue of parking is another concern for Brewer and campus police.

"We only have a set number of designated parking spaces

for the disabled," Brewer said. "It becomes difficult to accommodate the number of guests we have driving here."

In the past, graduation has caused Murphy Center to be filled beyond capacity. Brewer said that the possibility for injury is multiplied when there are so many people in one building.

"In the event of a fire or weather emergency, such as a hailstorm or a tornado, everyone has to move away from the building."

"When the family shows up and gets turned away, that's negative press for the university, and we don't want that," Brewer said. ♦

Senate: Fischer wants senate to act proactively

Continued from I

communication between the administration and the faculty," Fischer said.

She said one of the biggest challenges facing the senate is

implementation of the Tennessee Board of Regents' mandates, including the switch to 120 required hours for graduation and changes to the general education program.

"I feel like that the Faculty

Senate has an important role to play in the university," Fischer said.

Fischer, who has been at MTSU for nine years, will serve the coming year as president-elect. She spent the past year as

secretary. Larry Burris was elected in 2003 to serve as the 2004-2005 president.

Fischer is an audiologist, and teaches in the communication disorders section of the speech and theatre department. ♦

There are only eight issues of Sidelines left this semester.

If you need to submit stuff for class, do it real quicklike.

• slnews@mtsu.edu, or call 898-2336 with questions. •



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STATE AND LOCAL

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wednesday, April 14, 2004

SIDELINES ◆ 3

Five candidates interview for UT position

By Duncan Mansfield
Associated Press Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Candidates vying to become the next president of the University of Tennessee praised the school's potential and the open process it is using to find its next leader.

The first of three rounds of public interviews began Tuesday with the goal of narrowing a 10-candidate field to four to six candidates on Thursday. More interviews will follow next week.

Up to three finalists will get a final hearing April 21 before the Board of Trustees selects the 23rd president in the 210-year history of the five-campus, 42,000-student system.

"The way the whole thing operates, there is a basic assumption here that you really do want this job," Kermit Hall, president of Utah State University, said after his two-hour session before the 18-member search advisory council.

Hall, 59, compared it to getting a nuclear security clearance some years ago.

"I am being put through the whole thing again," he said. "Now that is OK. I have no problem with this at all."

Background checks are being done, resumes verified and search committee members are visiting the candidates' home turfs in an effort to avoid the scandals that ended two recent Tennessee presidencies — John

Shumaker's in August and J. Wade Gilley's in 2001.

"I feel like a well-done, stuffed pig," Jack Burns, 51, vice president for academic affairs and research for the University of Colorado system, said after his interview. "Points here and there."

Burns said he was "eager for the inquiries. As I told the search advisory committee, I am an open book."

"It is more open at an earlier stage than most searches I have been acquainted with. I welcome it. We need a lot more open discussion in higher education today," said candidate Brady Deaton, provost and executive vice chancellor at the University of Missouri at Columbia.

Deaton, 61, a former agricultural economics professor at Tennessee, said the search offers "a wonderful opportunity to take a look at what this university can do. I think there is unlimited potential here."

Two other candidates interviewing Tuesday bring greater familiarity to the job: UT-Chattanooga Chancellor Bill Stacy and Knoxville hospital executive Jerry Askew, a former development official with UT-Knoxville.

"I don't know how to comment on that," Stacy said when asked if he is a front-runner. "I will tell you I love being part of the University of Tennessee and that I have worked with Tennesseans and they produced."

Though not asked about his age, the

65-year-old Stacy said he is in excellent health and is prepared to devote the next several years to the presidency.

Askew, 50, called the university "a diamond in the rough" that for too long has had an inferiority complex about its peer institutions.

"I think we are too modest," he said. "I am frustrated that we haven't reached our full potential. We don't have to keep it a secret forever."

In an unusual turn, Askew added: "If I am not the best candidate I don't want you to pick me. I care that deeply [about the university]."

The search council asked each candidate the same 16 questions, with few

See UT, 4

Soggy Spring



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer
Yesterday's inclement weather soaked students as well as trees and flowers around town, including this dogwood tree on campus. This type of weather, an inclement cold spell in April or May, is known as "dogwood winter." It usually occurs when the dogwoods begin to bloom.

VA doctors asking for investigation

By B.J. Chaplin
Staff Writer

More than 20 doctors currently practicing at the Alvin C. York Veteran Affairs Hospital are asking for an investigation into management practices, the Associated Press reported.

The AP reported Friday that the doctors signed a letter in March asking Secretary of Veteran Affairs Anthony Principi for help.

The doctors, the AP explained, claim that "ineffective management has led to increased mortality rates among patients" at the hospital, which is located at 3400 Lebanon Pike.

According to the letter, doctors say they are concerned about a push by VA Director John Dandridge to cut services and staff in Murfreesboro when the latest figures show that the number of patients treated annually is increasing by more than 25 percent, the AP reported.

The AP also reported that "doctors say increasing numbers of acutely ill patients are being sent for treatment to the Nashville VA Medical Center," which is about 40 miles away.

VA Public Affairs Officer Molly Reynolds provided a "prepared statement" in response to the letter.

"At the forefront of TVHS [Tennessee Valley Healthcare System] is always the veteran[s] we serve," the statement said. "Any issues that suggest a negative impact on patient care are of concern to all of us at TVHS and require an immediate response."

The statement said that TVHS Director David N. Pennington along with other VA offices continue to work "to address concerns from some of the Alvin C. York (ACY) [campus] physicians and staff."

In December of last year,



Photo by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer
Kim Rucker (left) and Debra Jennings, both licensed practical nurses, process paperwork at the Alvin C. York Veterans Affairs Hospital in Murfreesboro.

when there was an "indication of staff dissatisfaction" at the VA hospital, "the director, chief of staff, and chief [of]...surgery service met with the group of ACY [campus] staff that has now signed the petition" provided April 7, the VA reports.

The VA added that at a second major meeting in March between the group of doctors and VA staff, "all participants at the March 2004 meeting agreed to the following:

- Improve communications by holding quarterly joint Medical Service meetings with staff at both ACY and [the] Nashville [facility], with a defined agenda and minutes;

- Hold quarterly subspecialty care group meetings with staff from both campuses;

- Provide additional front line input from clinical staff in the resource (equipment and

staff) allocation processes;

- Strengthen efforts by the collaborative team of ACY [campus] clinicians in evaluating and streamlining movement of patient from acute care to alternate levels of care; and

- [Establish] ... quarterly interdisciplinary meetings with the ACY staff and the Chief of Staff.

In addition to the letter, Principi received another report in March calling for improvements to the VA program.

The report, titled "The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program for the 21st Century Veteran," was authored by an "independent Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) task force."

Principi created the 12-member Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Task Force in May

of last year and charged the group with "giving the VR&E program an unvarnished, top-to-bottom independent evaluation, and analysis."

In all, a total of 110 recommendations were made.

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs was established on Mar. 15, 1989 to succeed the Veterans Administration.

As the VA explains, "It is responsible for providing federal benefits to veterans and their dependents."

The VA reports spending nearly \$1.4 billion in 2002 to care for the approximately 550,000 veterans who live in Tennessee.

In addition to the Murfreesboro site, VA operates three other medical centers in Memphis, Mountain Home, and Nashville, along with other facilities across the state. ♦

Kerry promises help for students

Senator admits funding programs could be tough

By Jason Cox

State and Local News Editor

Sen. John Kerry lampooned the president for his economic plan and pledged financial relief for college students in a conference call to college newspapers across the country yesterday afternoon.

The Massachusetts senator and presumed Democratic presidential nominee said President George W. Bush has financed tax cuts for the wealthy by cutting aid to states and cutting Pell grants and education loan funds, effectively denying a college education to more than 200,000 potential students.

"Over the last three years, college tuition has increased about 28 percent, and that's even after you take inflation into account," Kerry said. "That has meant that, remarkably, 220,000 young people have been priced out of college this year."

"So in effect, George Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy is a tuition tax increase for students, and I think it's unconscionable."

As part of his plan to help students pay for college, he pledged a one-time, \$25 billion payment to states to help them dig out of the financial hole many legislatures have found themselves in, as well as a \$4,000 tax credit for college students.

Kerry said he wants to boost civil service programs as a way to finance a college education in addition to the G.I. bill, which provides financial assistance to students who are currently serving or have already served in the military.

"I also want to provide an opportunity for people who don't serve in the military to serve their community locally, and in exchange for two years of local service, we want to pay for their four-year college [at] a public institution," he said.

However, Kerry did admit that "budget reality" may force

him to cut back on the number of students admitted to these programs, but he has already taken the nation's current financial situation into account when proposing the relief to states. He also said he would not cut the amount of the tuition credit.

Kerry emphasized the importance of participation in the voting process among young people, saying that they must "re-emerge as a political force in America," reminding students of the power that young voters have had in the past.

"During the 1960s and 1970s, it was mostly young people who drove the civil rights movement, drove the environment movement, drove the peace movement, and what we need to do is make some of the issues that matter to people voting issues again."

"If young people will go out and help organize, organize other young people and do some of the political work necessary in America, we can win back a Congress that will change the priority ... But if everybody just looks away and says, 'Oh, it doesn't make a difference,' then you empower people who have money and spend it in the political system without opposition."

"And so we go backwards on air quality, backwards on water quality, backwards on education policy, backwards on other things because the powerful forces with the money get control."

Kerry also said that, with proper financial management, Social Security will be around for the next century, and that the problems will be small and manageable.

The conference call was conducted as part of the Change Starts With U college tour the Kerry campaign is currently conducting.

Visiting several schools in the Northeast, such notables as Sen. Hillary Clinton (D - New York), Jon Bon Jovi and Blink 182's John DeLonge will be appearing alongside Kerry, urging young students to become involved in the political process again. ♦

Brooks refused to allow Lovejoy to search his vehicle. A K-9 police dog was brought in to run around the exterior of Brook's vehicle. The dog detected a scent around the driver's side door.

Police found a small zip-lock bag containing crystal meth.

"Mr. Brooks stated it was not his, but some friends of his that were in his vehicle," Lovejoy reported.

A Black Medport case containing several more bags of the substance was found in the back seat. The total weight of the drug in Brooks' possession was 26.2 grams. Police also found 19 syringes, two spoons and several plastic bags in the Medport case. Six Celebrex mirrors and a

Police found a small zip-lock bag containing crystal meth.

"Mr. Brooks turned around to his backseat and reached for what he said was a paintball gun," Lovejoy said.

Officer Lovejoy then asked Brooks to step out of the car.

See Meth, 4

Police bust 'Boro man for meth in car

By David Paulson

Staff Writer

Murfreesboro police found a large quantity of crystal meth and several pieces of drug paraphernalia inside a vehicle during a traffic stop at the intersection of Sanborn and Kirkwood Tuesday afternoon. Jason Brooks, 29, of Murfreesboro was arrested and charged with possession of the drug and of drug paraphernalia.

During the traffic stop, Officer Matt Lovejoy asked Brooks if he had any weapons or illegal drugs.

"Mr. Brooks turned around to his backseat and reached for what he said was a paintball gun," Lovejoy said.

Officer Lovejoy then asked Brooks to step out of the car.

Jeweler suspects internal theft

By David Paulson
Staff Writer

An inventory search conducted at Friedman's Jewelers in Stones River Mall last Thursday indicated that over \$30,000 worth of jewelry has been stolen from the store in the past six months. Security Officer Mark Pagan told police that no robberies had been reported at Friedman's during this time period. Pagan believes that the suspects removed the jewelry during the workday and possibly sold them to local pawnshops. At the time of the report, Pagan was planning to provide police with a list of Friedman's employees for questioning.

A motorist threatened a Tullahoma man with a knife on Indian Park Drive early Sunday morning. The victim was stopped on the street to show a friend the home he was considering purchasing when the suspect parked directly behind their vehicle. The victim then backed up behind the suspect to see his license plate. The suspect got out of his car and approached the victim, accusing the two men of being "drunk and uneducated." According to police reports, the suspect retrieved a knife from his vehicle and told the men that he "could cut their throat and not think anything of it."

Both men told police that the suspect stabbed the passenger side door with his knife. The suspect was described as a white male approximately 5-foot-7-inches with a "military-style haircut."

UT: Candidates feeling optimistic

Continued from 3

follow-up queries. The questions covered a breadth of basic issues – from fund-raising to defining a "vision" for the university, from promoting unity within the five-campus system to describing the "role of a system president in relation to students."

The candidates were universally optimistic. While noting state funding problems, they saw potential for private fundraising and from the new state lottery, and in growing areas of research at the UT Health Sciences Center in Memphis and UT-Knoxville's collaboration with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Asked how he might approach the culture of UT, Burns, who has aunts and uncles in Tennessee, said, "I look at it maybe as a joint evolution of my changing and maybe the institution as a whole evolving in a new direction."

Meth: Man assaulted in doorway of home

Continued from 3

pair of digital scales were also found in the vehicle.

• A Murfreesboro resident was assaulted in the doorway of his Greenland Drive apartment Thursday morning. The victim told police that he had opened his door and was about to take out his garbage when two men entered his apartment and pushed him against the wall.

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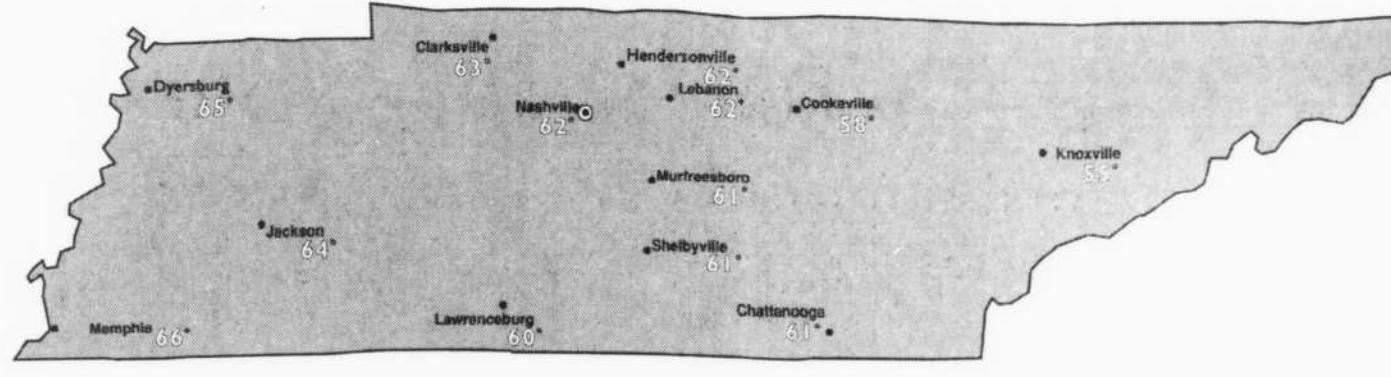
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Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
71° ▲ 42°	76° ▲ 52°	78° ▲ 53°	81° ▲ 54°	76° ▲ 56°

Gay pride event planned in Rhea County

County that tried to ban homosexuals now has pending permit for demonstration

Associated Press

canceled because of space and security concerns.

"Everyone is welcome to come," said Kristie Bacon, 26, organizer of the event. "It's just a gathering to show Rhea County that we're not bad people."

In March, the Rhea County Commission voted to begin researching how to make homosexuality a "crime against nature" in the county. The action received national attention, and the commission rescinded the vote two days

later.

Rhea County, about 30 miles north of Chattanooga, annually commemorates the 1925 trial at which John Scopes was convicted of teaching evolution at the public high school. The verdict was reversed on a technicality and the trial became the subject of the play and movie *Inherit the Wind*.

Bacon said she expected to have no trouble getting a permit for the gay pride event.

"They've been pretty cool about the whole thing," she said.

Dayton City Manager Frank Welch did not return repeated calls seeking comment Tuesday.

Rhea County Gay Day is expected to include contests, music, comedians, speakers,

various booths and a volleyball tournament.

Bacon said she hoped about 2,500 people would attend.

She said Gary Goodin, a representative of GLBT, a gay, lesbian, bisexual transgender organization, is scheduled to attend the event.

Bacon, a production line worker at a factory of heaters and air conditioners, said some people have been hostile since she announced the event.

"A couple of people threw Coke bottles at my car," she said.

"There's been a little damage but nothing big. Everyone has their opinions and if that's the way they choose to live, well, that's the way they choose to live."

Teacher equity pay issue under attack

By Tom Sharp
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The unhappiness of urban school systems with Gov. Phil Bredesen's proposal to equalize teacher pay across poor and rich school systems continues to bubble just beneath the surface in the Legislature.

The bill to enact Bredesen's equity pay proposal was deferred Tuesday for a week in the Senate Finance Committee after its sponsor said an amendment was pending to help three of the four major urban centers — Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville — who feel they are being shortchanged in Bredesen's plan.

Sen. Ward Crutchfield, D-Chattanooga, declined to specify what the amendment would do. He already has submitted a proposed amendment to the governor's budget that would add \$16 million in funding for at-risk students, which would go primarily to urban districts. The administration is cool to that idea.

The equity pay bill is an effort to satisfy the Tennessee Supreme Court, which held for the third time in October 2002 that the state's funding formula for K-12 education was unconstitutional. The court said there were unacceptable disparities in teacher pay between districts, making it impossible for children to have equal educational opportunity regardless of where they live.

Bredesen's proposal adds \$35 million to equalize pay — on top of \$27 million he put into this year's budget — and significantly alters the way the burden for funding edu-

cation is split between the state and local school districts.

It includes money to ensure no system receives less under the new formula than it received this year. The three systems looking to change the bill get most of \$30 million in so-called "hold-harmless" money — Davidson County receives \$15 million, Knox County gets \$7 million and Hamilton County gets \$5 million.

The governor's bill passed through the House Finance Committee on Tuesday. Sponsor Les Wimminham, D-Huntsville, said he had not been approached by anyone about possible changes, and that it could be before the full House as early as next week.

The story is different in the Senate. Sen. Douglas Henry, D-Nashville and chairman of the Finance Committee, said a proposed amendment is being worked on by members of the Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga school boards.

Nashville school board member Lisa Hunt is leading that effort.

"We really understand and appreciate the governor's leadership in responding to the Supreme Court's order, and we support taking a comprehensive look at the [K-12 funding] formula," she said. "But we think this current bill does not effectively hold urban systems harmless, and that we stand to lose the growth potential we've enjoyed and need to keep our schools functioning."

The big school systems' major complaint is that Bredesen's proposal does not recognize the additional burdens and costs of having larger percentages of poor children, or students who use English as a second

language.

The task force Bredesen appointed to study pay equity over the summer made 10 recommendations. Accounting for the cost of teaching at-risk and non-English-speaking students was one of only two of the task force's recommendations that Bredesen did not include in his proposal.

Administration officials have said that those aspects of educational funding will be reviewed over the summer, and that they expect some changes in those areas to be proposed next year.

Hunt said her coalition believes the funding formula shortchanges schools in urban centers.

"We're in conversations with other urban systems to see if we can't craft an amendment that will take our concerns into consideration," she said. "We're trying to lay the groundwork for future collaboration with the governor."

That may mean the urban systems will get out of the way of this year's bill in exchange for a promise — perhaps included in the bill itself — for the administration to account in next year's budget for the higher costs of teaching at-risk and ELL (English Language Learners).

"We recognize that the whole issue of education financing in the state is a huge issue and really needs a deep look, much deeper than we'll be able to accomplish this year," Hunt said. "But we don't want to leave it so open-ended that it's just a promise to look at it in the future. We need something with a little more teeth."

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Middle Tennessee State University

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wednesday, April 14, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 5

From the Editorial Board

State should fund mandated increases

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen is proposing a 2 percent pay increase for all state employees as part of the budget proposal. In order to go into effect, the proposal would have to pass through the Tennessee state Legislature.

As much as we'd like to see our professors get a much-needed increase in pay, a meager 2 percent barely covers the current rate of inflation, which stood at 1.7 percent for the year ended February 2004.

State employees did not receive a salary increase last year, so when factoring the 2.9 percent inflation rate for the year ended February 2003, employees will still come out behind, even if the proposal passes.

Another problem with the increases is that although the state has the authority to mandate them, providing funds for the salary increases is not part of the proposal.

Universities would have to provide funds to cover the salary increases. This would create quite a dilemma for those in charge of working with the already-meager budgets. The Tennessee Board of Regents would have to approve any budget proposals or reallocation of funds made by TBR schools to allow for the increases, if the increase passes in the legislature.

Having to allow for state-mandated but not state-provided increases poses a potential threat to the academic agendas of Tennessee's schools.

While we fully support recognizing the hard work and dedication of the state's employees, the state should not mandate any pay increase for its employees if it isn't willing to provide the excess funds that would be needed to make those increases a reality.

If you're going to give your employees a pay increase, there are two key points you should keep in mind. First, make sure the increase is a real increase, not a measly percentage that doesn't even cover the rate of inflation. Second, be willing to put up the money for it. ♦

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!!

This week, schmucks were plentiful, so we decided on two occurrences that just had to be brought to the public's attention, both of which happened in the same Michigan town.

Two Michigan teens were arrested Monday morning for allegedly robbing a woman delivering pizza.

The criminal masterminds, ages 14 and 15, pulled a black and silver cap gun on the woman and demanded money.

They got it, too — a whole \$20 was given to them by the delivery woman, after which they fled the scene.

Just imagine what the little tykes are going to encounter when they get to spend a night or two in juvenile hall.

We can only guess how that scenario will play out:

"What are you in for?"

"Armed robbery."

"Colt .45?"

"Nah, just a little something I picked up at Toys 'R Us."

If you're going to start a downward spiral into a life of crime and misdemeanors, at least make the effort to commit an actual armed robbery.

These criminal wannabes aren't going to make their fortune pulling cap guns on unsuspecting pizza delivery personnel for 20 bucks a pop.

The incident occurred in Ypsilanti, where another schmuck was making his rounds Monday as well.



In the same Michigan town, police sat a 32-year-old man down for a chat about breaking and entering.

Not wanting the man to escape, they handcuffed him to the chair in which he was sitting.

The man, however, did escape, bringing the chair in tow.

Police offered a description of the man, including height, weight, facial hair and clothing.

However, the man is handcuffed to a chair — he should be fairly recognizable.

Residents of Ypsilanti, beware: Teenagers sort of armed and not at all dangerous may be lurking in your bushes, ready to pounce on your pizza delivery person, and a man wearing a chair may break into your toolshed and use your saw. ♦

Original stories by clickondetroit.com and WXYZ: Local News, via wxyz.com, respectively, both posted Monday.

Democratic senators have history of racism

Consistent readers of my column may remember my Nov. 12, 2003 piece entitled "Dems get free pass on race." I focused on Howard Dean's confederate flag comments, Senate Democrats' filibustering minority court appointees and large Democrat opposition to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

On April 1, another sterling example of the hideous double standard that exists between Democrats and Republicans arose on the Senate floor when Democrat Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut spoke about his colleague from West Virginia, Sen. Robert Byrd, another Democrat.

There's nothing politicians love more than to praise each other, and this particular speech was to honor Sen. Byrd's 17,000th Senate vote.

Dodd stood up and said the following: "I do not think it is an exaggeration at all to say to my friend from West Virginia that he would've been a great senator at any moment. Some were right for the time. Robert C. Byrd, in my view, would have been right at any

time."

He went on to say that Sen. Byrd would have been right at the founding of this country and right during the Civil War. So what's the big deal?

Here are the highlights of Sen. Byrd's past: He was a member of the Ku Klux Klan during the 1940s; he was a staunch opponent of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, even resorting to filibustering the legislation in an attempt to kill it; he was the only senator in American history to vote against confirming Supreme Court Justices Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, the only two African-Americans ever appointed to the nation's highest court; he repeatedly used the word "nigger" in an interview with Fox News in March 2001.

So let's imagine the firestorm

that would've erupted if a Republican senator (say, Trent Lott) had commented that a man with Byrd's track record would have been right for America during the Civil War, a war fought over slavery.

Peter Jennings, Tom Brokaw, Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton and all the rest of the elite liberal crowd would be banging down the door of that senator's office, demanding he be removed from government at that very second.

So where's the outrage now? Of course the answer lies in Dodd's party affiliation; he is a liberal Democrat from New England, so he gets an automatic free ride on any issue dealing with race.

I'll even take this discussion a step further. What would happen if a Republican had Byrd's background? Every sentence in the media about that person would begin with some form of the following: "Republican (fill in a hypothetical name here), former KKK member and renowned opponent of civil rights..."

Such is not the case for Byrd, again because he's a Democrat. A

majority of people in this country probably have no clue about Byrd's past because the elite media outlets ignore it. This type of a blatant double standard is mind blowing.

Again, let's review. Republican Sen. Trent Lott said in 2002 that we may not be dealing with some of the problems in this country we have now if the late Sen. Strom Thurmond had won the 1948 presidential election, a campaign in which he advocated continued segregation. Lott is subsequently removed from his post as majority leader and burned at the stake by the media.

On April 1, 2004, Dodd said that a man who once wore the white robes of the KKK would have been right for America during the Civil War. Cue media outrage now. Still waiting ... and waiting. OK, I guess it's not coming. ♦

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

Bush's 'crusade' unconstitutional

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to hand down a ruling in the case of *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Michale Newdow* in July.

Just in case you aren't familiar with what's going on, Michael Newdow argued and won at the Circuit Court level that the two words in the Pledge of Allegiance "under God" are unconstitutional. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court, where Newdow made what CNN called an impressive argument in front of a group of skeptical judges.

The justices whittled the debate down to whether or not the pledge could be considered a religious prayer, but as Newdow pointed out, the Ten Commandments aren't considered prayer either. And as the crazy Alabama Justice Roy Moore learned last year, the Ten Commandments have no place within a government-operated building.

The word "tradition" has been spewing from people such as our Attorney General John Ashcroft and Cowboy George W. Bush himself in effort to keep "under God" in the pledge. The tradition they speak of goes way back to 1954, when "under God" was implanted into the original traditional pledge. The purpose of implanting the two words was to separate us from the atheistic ideals of

Gagflex
Jason Johnson
Staff Columnist

Communism.

So this tradition was born in the good old days of McCarthyism, blacklisting and pumping fear propaganda into American homes.

According to CNN polls, there's no doubt the vast majority of Americans want to keep God in the pledge.

And without having to poll anybody, no doubt where our government sits on the topic of religion. It sits firmly on the side of separation of church and state, with a wink and nudge.

Speaking out on a topic that's contrary to popular religious belief during election year is the equivalent to committing campaign suicide.

Bush has no qualms with signing new bills against abortion and speaking out against gay marriage because of his massive support from the religious right.

"I think George Bush is going to win in a walk. I really believe I'm hearing from the Lord that it's going to be a blowout electing in 2004," Christian evangelist Pat Robertson told the *700 Club*. "The Lord has just blessed him."

When Bush spoke at a

Dallas Christian youth center last October about being a born-again Christian, two Banners hung behind him that read "King of Kings" and "Lord of Lords." Is there any wonder why many people around the world see our current war as a religious war? Bush himself called the war on terrorism a crusade.

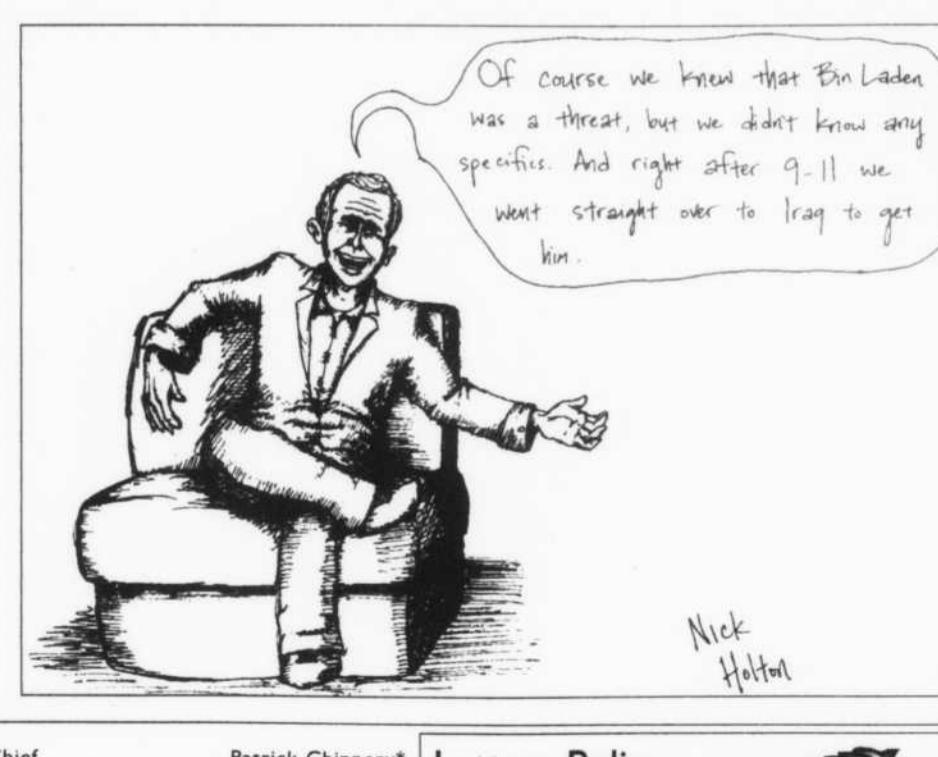
He either has no sense of history or is that arrogant and believes he's on a mission from God.

And since the religious right is up in arms to support Bush, maybe the house that Swaggart built should start paying taxes to support the never-ending wars we have created in the name of the morally right.

In the 2003 Harrison Poll, 84 percent of adults said they believed in miracles, 69 percent said they believed in hell, 68 percent believed in the devil, 51 percent believed in ghosts and 31 percent believed in astrology.

"These numbers aren't duplicated anywhere else in the industrial world. You'd have to go maybe to Mosques in Iran or do a poll among little old ladies in Sicily to get numbers like these. Yet this is the American population," said MIT professor Noam Chomsky. ♦

Jason Johnson is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at jcj2n@mtsu.edu.

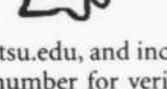


Nick Holtan

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McPhee's behavior still inappropriate

Sorry,

Sidney

McPhee.

Brace

yourself.

Here we go again.

What

The

Nashville

Scene

describes as

"The

Sidney

McPhee

Problem

(April 8)

simply

won't

go

away.

Why

is

that

that

is

LIVING

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, April 14, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Professor examines popularity of reality TV

By Michaela Jackson
Staff Writer

For all of the drama queens out there who were profoundly affected by the genius of *The Real World*, the smorgasbord of reality television shows that have dominated the airwaves must be a shadow of paradise.

From survival skills to shaky marriages, relational tolerance and sex appeal, just about everything imaginable is being showcased – in a very public way.

So why the hype? Why are there so many reality television shows?

While American teenagers are going to sleep every night pondering who will be “voted off the island,” producers are putting the sheep out of a job by counting dollar signs instead as they drift off to sleep.

According to electronic media communication professor Bob Pondillo, “what really drives [television] is making money.”

And as far as reaching the coveted 18- to 24-year-old demographic, reality shows are a cash cow. Advertisers, fully aware of the fact that teenagers buy into the “brand-name mystique,” go to town over consistent captive audiences.

Lucky for the networks, they found a format that Pondillo calls the “cablization of network television.” It is getting harder for the major networks to compete for audience attention.

As a means to the economic end, “networks are interested in audience.”

The networks, having found salvation among televised cheap dates and bug-swallowing money-mongers, have felt the need to reproduce the formula extensively.

“They find a formula that works and do it 600 times,” Pondillo says.

So, if the audience is the driving force behind the producers, who keeps churning out the shows? What is the driving force behind the audience? What keeps them coming back?

One element is the viewers’ “morbid curiosity that demands drama,” Pondillo says. “We love *American Idol* because we hate Simon.”

Basically, the distasteful characters on the show give us an outlet for our disdain. We love to hate.

So is there really an element of “real” in reality television?

“The only reality [television] is surveillance video from the 7-Eleven,” Pondillo points out.

“The programs we see are well thought out, heavily edited and heavily produced.”

Nursing major Jenny Byers doesn’t really like reality television shows.

She says she doesn’t have time for them. She prefers conventional programming.

“I kinda like the old school – let’s get a script going, here,” she says.

While Blair Person admits that reality television shows are a waste of time and that they have lost much of their original charm, she “still gets sucked in.”

How much longer can we expect the trend to continue?

There are shows in Japan and Sweden that we haven’t even heard of, according to Pondillo.

He expects the “parade” to continue for at least another two to five years simply because “it’s so damn cheap.”

Person sums it up best, saying, “It is compelling.”

So brace yourself, America.

See Reality, 7

CONTROVERSIAL Opera hits Nashville

By Melissa Coker

Staff Writer

This week promises to be a true operatic occasion as the renowned story, *Salome*, dances its way into the Tennessee Performing Arts Center Thursday and Saturday.

From an Oscar Wilde play, German composer Richard Strauss wrote this cinematic-natured opera in 1905.

Its local director is the Nashville Opera Association’s Artistic Director, John Hoomes.

The controversial show, considered a landmark premiere, captures stirring music to accompany its actions, thanks to the Nashville Symphony.

MTSU junior Amber Williams says the music is extremely integral to the drama.

“It’s been said to have stirred many emotions in the audience,” she adds.

And stirring it is. The composer implies that some lines should not be crossed when Salome, the heroine of the opera, gets in way over her head by reluctantly complying with her stepfather, Herod’s, wishes to dance for him.

But this isn’t just any dance.

It’s the *Dance of the Seven Veils* and it ends with Salome wearing nothing but a crazed smile.

Herod had promised her anything in return.

And what does she want in return for her moves?

Nothing much – just John the Baptist’s head on a silver platter.

Earlier, the slightly psychotic Salome flirted quite heavily with John, who ignored her advances. He didn’t even look at her.

She’s convinced that her heady request is OK because if he had looked her way, surely he would have fallen in love.

Though Herod tries to charm her with jewelry, part of his kingdom and other small tokens, she has none of it.

Eilana Lappalainen, who will fly to Nashville directly from another performance in Germany, will play the part of Salome.

Based upon the two brief Biblical passages of Matthew 14:3-11 and Mark 6:17-28, the made-for-mature-audiences-only opera has been controversial in many other venues.

When it first premiered at New York City’s Metropolitan Opera in 1907, it caused a riot.

They then pulled it from the stage and it didn’t return until

1933.

“Now it plays to sold-out crowds,” Williams says.

Marketing Director Brian Stephenson notes that, although the Bible mentions Salome’s sultry dance, her fascination with John the Baptist is an invention of Oscar Wilde.

If it were a movie, he says he would give it a PG-13 rating for graphic violence and nudity, but an R rating for intensity and content.

He also says that the title role is one of the hardest for a soprano to sing, particularly because, in the middle of her difficult aria piece, she must perform an eight-minute dance.

“This is the perfect show for college students,” Stephenson says. “What will surprise them, is how much of a music drama it is as opposed to a traditional opera.

Salome is much more cinematic than things we usually do,” she says. “Come expecting to be entertained.”

Past Nashville Opera choices have included *Porgy and Bess*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Hansel and Gretel*.

Artistic Director John Hoomes says that response to *Salome* is usually extremely positive, but that there are always factions of people who don’t like it.

Regardless, the majority feel it is an intensely dramatic masterpiece.

For those who want to become more familiar with the opera Hoomes gives a free “Opera Insights” talk one hour before show time at TPAC’s Andrew Jackson Hall.

He talks about the composer, summarizes the plot and explains the musical climate at the time the opera was written.

While attending this preview is not required to understand or to enjoy the opera, it can be a good orientation for those new to the opera.

Salome is sung in German with easy to read English subtitles projected on a screen above the stage.

Performances are Thursday night at 7 p.m. and Saturday night at 8 p.m. in Jackson Hall.

Tickets range from \$17 to \$75 and are available at www.nashvilleopera.org, from Ticketmaster, or by calling 255-ARTS (2787).

Student Rush tickets will be sold for \$5 each at the TPAC box office 45 minutes before curtain.

A current student ID is required. ♦



Photos and illustrations provided by Nashville Opera Association

Salome is based on a Bible story from the books of Matthew and Mark. In the opera *Salome* requests the head of John the Baptist on a platter.



Local coffee house outlet for artistic expression

By LyAndre Woods
Staff Writer

Since the beginning of time, people have gathered to be intellectually stimulated by the art of spoken word.

Such is the case for the people who gather every Friday at Kijiji’s Coffee house in Nashville.

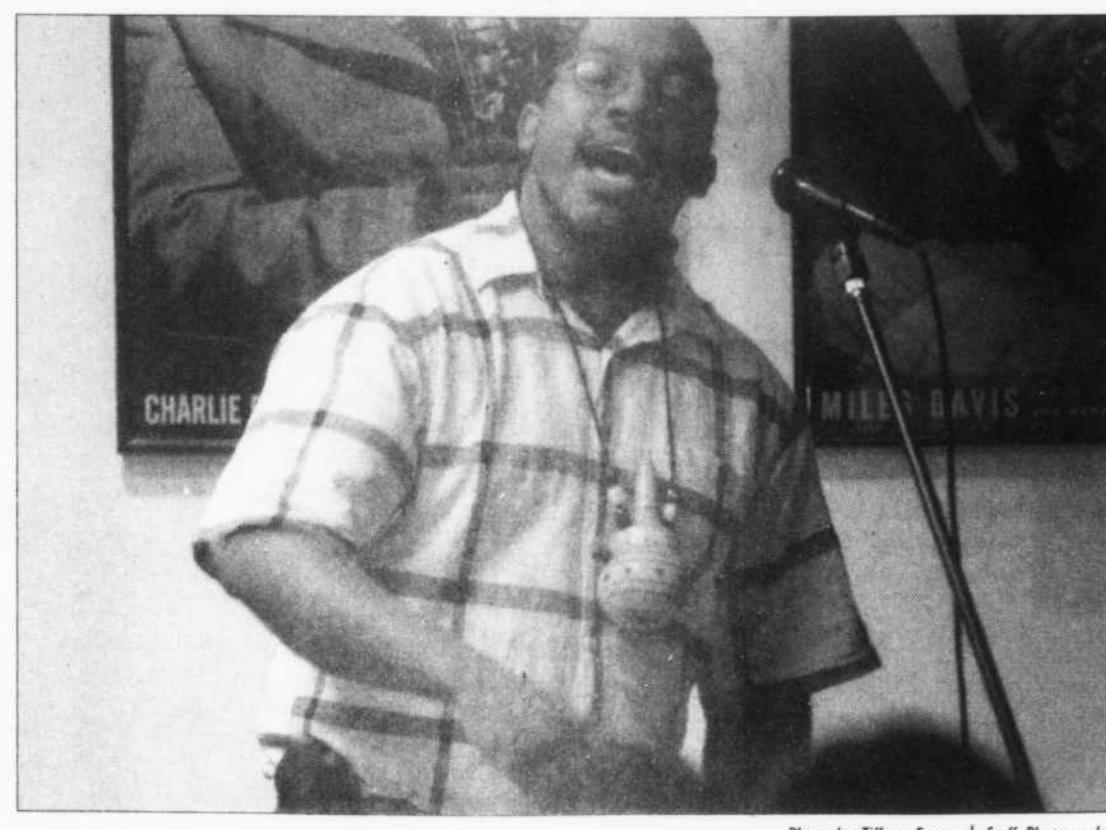
The small intimate setting of Kijiji’s draws in diverse poets from all around Tennessee and throughout the South.

These poets share their thoughts on topics ranging from politics to love and everything in between.

It has been a weekly tradition for six years. In a few short hours, you will hear poets talk about the vastness of the universe, the sufferings of love or just simply about their days.

Plus, it’s free. Something cool and different – not a standard movie and late-night Wendy’s – but an actual fun and thought-provoking experience.

If you are unable to attend every Friday, then you can purchase the Kijiji’s poetry night



“The Church” hosts Spoken Word Poetry Night at Kijiji’s Coffee house.

experience on a newly released compilation titled *The Open Mic Sessions... Live from Kijiji’s*.

This compilation was the brainchild of Desmond Spann and Kris Smallwood who head a

production company called Next Movement.

“We decided to pay homage

to something that we love, and that’s the word,” Smallwood says.

Smallwood and Spann, graduates of Fisk University, say that they wanted to do the record because they felt that people do not go to shows or experience live events much anymore.

“It’s like a live Stevie Wonder record, or a live Curtis Mayfield record, or Dave Matthews – just the feeling of someone on stage with a mic is the feeling we wanted to capture,” Smallwood says.

The compilation was recorded in October 2003 and features sad, humorous and intelligent works from a variety of poets.

With one poet’s witty musings on becoming a “high yellow super hero” to another poet’s cry to help the homeless, the listener cannot help but feel as if they are in the crowd experiencing each emotion.

Even the interlude where the host reads Kijiji’s daily specials sounds like poetry.

See Kijiji, 7



I've come into some money lately and I know graduation (and therefore graduation gifts) is coming up for some people so I thought I might review some laptops I've been looking at.

I'm still pretty poor but I thought I might give everyone a run-down of some of the better laptops out there.

The first is the most expensive. The Toshiba Satellite P15 series is a monster. It's got a desktop Pentium 4, 3 Ghz processor with hyperthreading support.

The video card is a GeforceGo 5100 that makes the 15.4 inch widescreen look very nice. There are 3 Universal Serial Bus 2.0 slots, a Firewire port integrated wireless networking.

All that goodness comes at a price, though. The battery life is only about 2 hours so if you are going on a long trip then you will need an extra battery.

Also, the 80 gigabyte hard drive is only 4200 rpm so it's a good idea to get all the RAM you can to offset this bottleneck. If you are looking to replace your desktop, though, this is the computer for you.

My next pick is the Sony Viao V505 series of laptops. These are very configurable so you can set up a monster like the Toshiba or a more portable solution. I went with the default, portable configuration.

First of all, the Viao only has a Pentium M 1.2 Ghz processor. This is much less than the Toshiba model but Pentium M also uses much less power which equals better battery life.

The video card is a Radeon 9200 which is very good but the screen is only 12.1 inches. There are 3 USB 2.0 slots, a Firewire port and integrated wireless networking just like the Toshiba but the hard drive is only half the size.

This isn't too bad because it equals more battery life. Overall, this is a good mobile computer.

I've saved the best for last.

My favorite is Apple's PowerBook G4.

For this article I'm looking at the 12 inch model. It comes with a 1 Ghz G4 which is quite fast compared to the Pentium competition.

It has a GeforceGo 5200 for video and a 12 inch screen. Also, it has the same ports at the Toshiba and the Sony laptops.

What it is lacking is the built in wireless networking.

If you don't get a higher end model then you have to pay an extra \$100 for the airport card.

On the other hand, you get all the cool Apple software and the ability to look down on and laugh at Windows users.

I hope this article helps some of you out. Now I know some of you may be asking, "Why is Jon changing sides to Apple? I thought he was a PC person."

Well, I'm really a Linux person and since Apple's Panther is very similar to Linux, the conversion came quite easily.

Panther is Linux that 'just works' and it will run all the programs I write natively. So, that's it boys and girls. Let the flame wars begin! ♦

Send computer questions to jh2@mtsu.edu.

Reality: Omnipresent programs likely to continue

Continued from 7

the fun is only beginning.

Challenges unmade, relationships untested and stunts untried await us still.

Danger? We laugh in its face.

Embarrassment? Is there even such a thing anymore?

Imprudence? Even the consideration of such a concept is apparently culturally irrelevant.

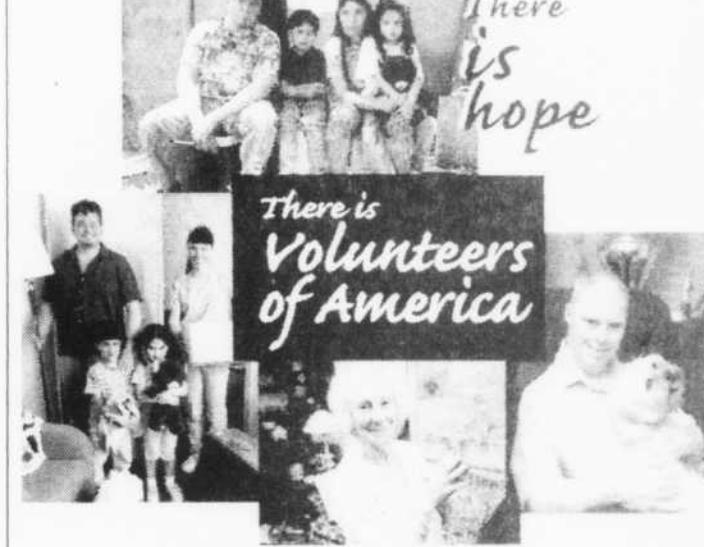
Pointlessness? Why, that's the essence of the genre.

After all, we're all just out for a "real" good time. ♦



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Kijiji: Album depicts live performances

Continued from 7

So, how important is it that people participate in events such as poetry nights?

"It's as important as any form of literature. People are talking about where they've been, what they've seen, or experienced."

"The same as any other literary experience," says a poet who goes by the stage name Suga.

Suga is a schoolteacher that has been performing and writing poetry since the age of six, and performing at Kijiji's since she was in college.

Suga is known for performing personal poetry that deals with what is going on in her life, and is also featured on *Open Mic Sessions ... Live at Kijiji's*.

"If people want a better understanding of where other people are coming from, then they should become a part of it," Suga says.

Kijiji's Coffeehouse has been successful at creating and maintaining an event where other venues within the area have tried and failed.

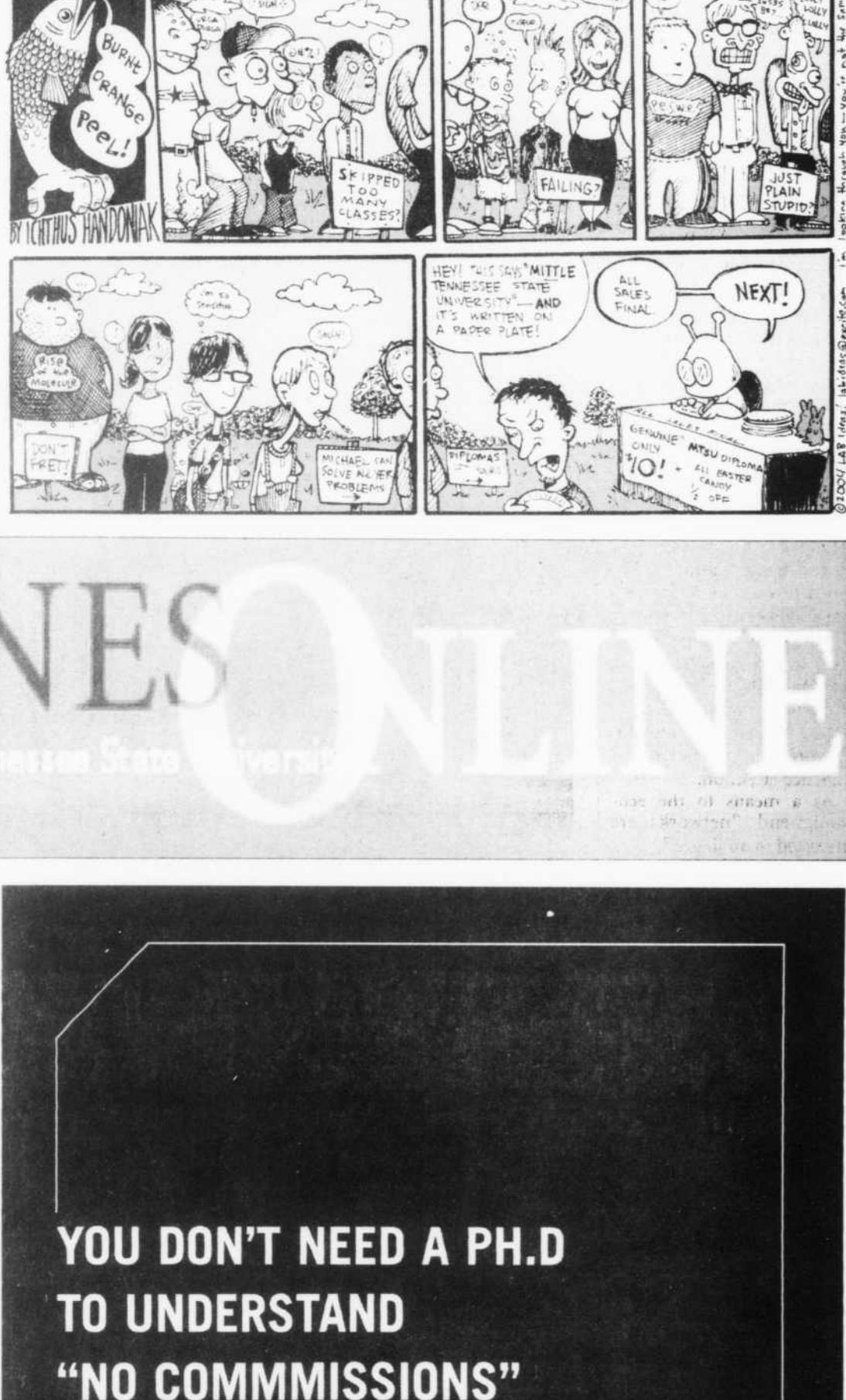


Photo by Tiffany Everts | Staff Photographer

Gran Diddy shares his poetry with an audience.

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SPORTS

8 ◆ SIDELINES

Wednesday, April 14, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Lady Raiders take three of four from WKU

By Matthew Adair
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee nearly pulled off a four-game sweep against Western Kentucky over the weekend in the teams' first conference series.

Both teams played solid defenses in game one, holding each other scoreless until the ninth inning when Lady Raider Cortney Mitchell fired a home run over the right field wall to put the Lady Raiders ahead.

Angie Huebner scored MT's only other home run of the game with a three-run shot to left field that brought herself, Brittany Herald and Leah Grothaus home, giving MT the four runs they needed to win.

Western Kentucky attempted to come back from behind in the bottom of the ninth, taking advantage of a tired Crystal Bobo to load first and third. MT pulled Bobo and replaced her with Trish White, who struck back at the Hilltoppers by grounding out Riley Garcia at first.

A ball hit by Hilltopper Sam Hansen hit White in the stomach, but the MT pitcher managed to recover and throw out Hansen.

However, the last-inning placement of White on the mound did not stop Western Kentucky's Jessie Richardson from blasting a three-run shot over the center field wall, bringing the Hilltoppers within a point of tying. White was pulled for Bobo after White gave up a single to Shelly Floyd.

After giving up a single to Bailey Rolfs, Bobo took the win for MT by forcing Natasha Sevco to pop up to third, halting the Hilltopper threat and claiming a narrow win for the Lady Raiders.

MT wasted little time in game two. The Lady Raiders seized the lead by plating four batters in the game's first two innings. Herald sent Mitchell home after Mitchell stole second, then Huebner plated Herald on a single to close out the first inning.

Michelle Wilkes kicked off the second inning with a walk, advancing through the bases on a single by Katie Tompkins and coming home on an RBI single by Muriel Ledbetter. Herald closed out the Lady Raiders' early lead by scoring her second RBI of the game.

MT appeared ready to dominate the game in the sixth after



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer
MT pitcher Crystal Bobo tosses to a Cumberland University batter in MT's doubleheader sweep Feb. 29.

loading the bases and plating Tompkins on a single to shallow center field by Herald. With only one out, the Lady Raiders seemed sure to pull further ahead. Western Kentucky, how-

ever, thought otherwise as it shut down the Lady Raiders by scoring a double play, ending the inning.

The Hilltoppers added two runs to their side of the score-

board in the bottom of the sixth after Floyd launched a two-run hit, loading the bases and preparing to narrow the gap between themselves and the Lady Raiders. MT rescued its

lead when Melissa Weiland tagged out Renikka Toliver to end the inning.

Freshman hurler Ashley

See Conference, 9

Baseball team wins series at FIU

Carroll's shot in 10th inning gives MT win

By Jon Leffew and Michael Bailey
Staff Writers

The Middle Tennessee baseball team won its first series against Florida International since joining the Sun Belt Conference in dramatic fashion Sunday.

Junior third baseman Brett Carroll hit a 10th-inning solo home run to lead the Blue Raiders to a 5-4 win over the Golden Panthers, MT's third one-run victory of the year.

The win also gave MT its first road conference series win this season.

FIU reliever Mark Worrell held MT (20-12, 4-5 SBC) hitless for five innings until Carroll turned on a high fastball and lofted it over the left field fence for the win.

From there, MT reliever Travis Horschel (1-0), the fourth Blue Raider hurler to toe the rubber Sunday, recorded his second scoreless inning of relief work en route to his first win of the year.

"We had a lot of trouble with Worrell, but Brett had a good swing, and it was the difference," Peterson told MT Media Relations. "Travis has been better against lefthanders, and that proved big against their five left-handed hitters."

FIU sophomore outfielder Brian Aragon gave FIU a 2-1 lead with his opposite field home run in the bottom of the second inning.

Nevertheless, MT regained the lead with a two-run home run of their own in the top of the fourth when catcher Troy Harp drove teammate Jeff Beachum home on his third home run of the season.

MT leadoff hitter Eric McNamee followed the dinger with a single, and after he advanced to third on an FIU fielding error, McNamee scored on senior Derek Phillips' single into left field, his third hit of the day.

See Victory, 10

Ninth-inning rally upends Governors

By Michael Bailey
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee squeaked by host Austin Peay 7-6 at Raymond C. Hand Park on Wednesday night. With the victory, the Blue Raiders (18-11) ended APSU's eight game home winning streak and extended their winning streak to two games.

Wednesday's contest marked the 176th meeting between the two schools all time, and the close margin did not surprise MT head coach Steve Peterson.

"I've been competing against Austin Peay for many years, and the games are always very tight all the way through," Peterson told MT Media Relations.

MT struck first in the top of the first inning when shortstop Jeff Beachum's single to right

field plated leadoff man Eric McNamee. The Blue Raiders padded the lead with two runs in the second before APSU answered with two of their own in the bottom half of the inning.

In their final at-bat, the Blue Raiders began a rally on Beachum's single to center field, his career-high fourth hit of the night.

Senior outfielder Shane Kemp followed Beachum by scorching a double to left field to score the tying run.

With a runner on third and

one out, APSU closer Adam Carrico intentionally walked third baseman Brett Carroll to face designated hitter Nate Jagers, who was hitless on the night.

Jagers' fortunes changed in his fifth at-bat as he delivered an RBI single to right field, scoring Kemp to give Middle Tennessee a 7-6 lead. MT reliever Matt Scott (2-1) picked up the win after striking out the side in the Governors' half of the ninth.

Scott combined with three other Blue Raider pitchers to strike out 16 Gofs on the evening. Beachum, Kemp and freshman catcher McNamee all had multi-hit games.

Austin Peay pitchers Michael Dunn, Scott Steinbrecher,

See APSU, 9



Kemp



Scott

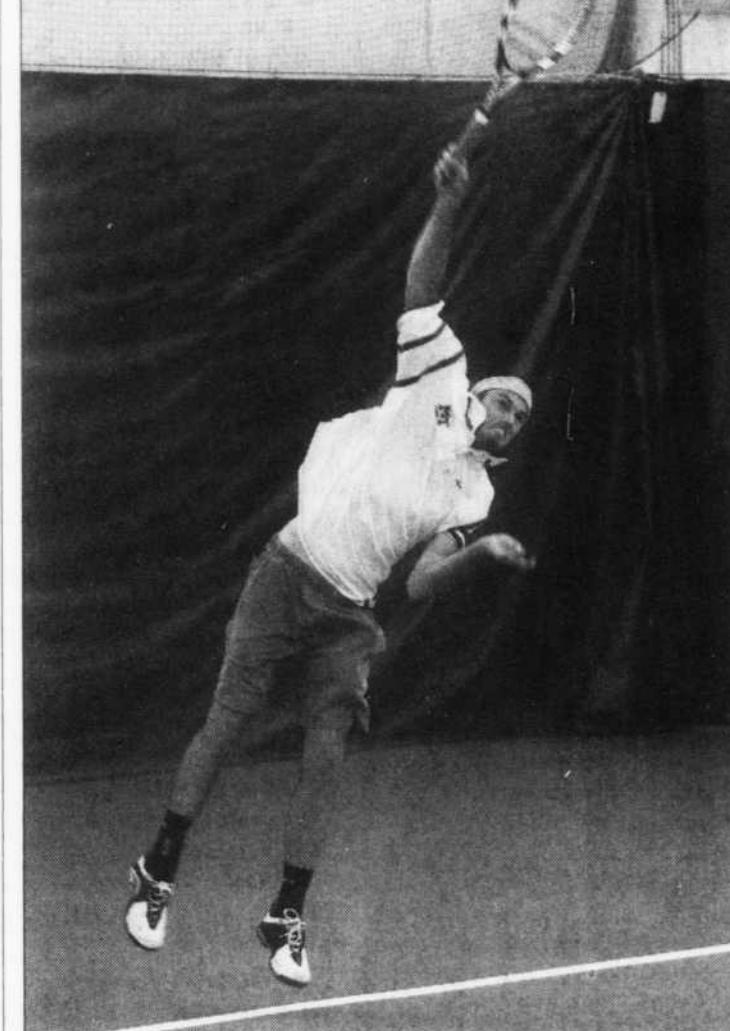


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer
MT senior Kirk Jackson defeated Dmitriy Koch 6-3, 6-4 Sunday in the Blue Raiders' 6-0 victory over UAB.

Siljestrom: Ranked 120th

Continued from 8

conference tournament."

The Blue Raiders lost another 4-3 match Saturday to No. 27 Tulane. The Blue Raiders started off the match by winning the doubles point as the team won two out of three doubles points. The one loss came at the No. 1 spot as Allan and Schledorn lost to the No. 35 duo of David Goulet and Michael Kogan 8-5. Jackson and Short won 8-3 over Goran Vasiljevic and Ted Angelinos at No. 2, and Siljestrom and Fitzgerald defeated Dmitriy Koch and Jacobo Hernandez at No. 3.

In singles, Siljestrom lost 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 to No. 13 Kogan in the No. 1 match. Jackson won at the No. 2 spot by defeating No. 79 Koch 6-3, 6-4 and Schledorn also won at No. 3 over Angelinos 7-5, 6-3.

MT lost at the No. 4-6 spots, however, as Goulet defeated Short 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-3 at No. 4, Hernandez defeated Fitzgerald 6-3, 6-2 at No. 5 and Tulane's Alberto Sotocorno beat Rishan Kuruppu 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-3 at No. 6.

The regular-season finale was an easy one for the Blue Raiders as they defeated Alabama-Birmingham 6-0. The match was played at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro due to the threat of inclement weather.

The singles matches were played first, and the teams

decided not to play doubles after the outcome was already decided.

Jackson won his match at the No. 1 spot as he defeated Anton Mavrin 6-3, 7-5. Short also ended the regular season on a winning note with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Zaman Sanzaruz at the No. 3 spot.

"It was a nice win in the last home match, especially after one of the toughest losses [to Tulane] in school history on Saturday," Dale told MT Media Relations. "I'm very happy for Kirk and Trevor, winning in their last home match."

Siljestrom beat Andre Maier, 6-2, 7-6(2) at No. 2, and Schledorn defeated Kristian Mitrovska 6-4, 6-3 at No. 4.

The Nos. 5 and 6 spots only played pro sets. MT's Brandon Allan defeated Ivan Andreev 8-0 at No. 5, while Anant Sitaram defeated Dino Mancarella 8-5 in the No. 6 match.

"We are playing some great tennis right now, even with the losses to Vanderbilt and Tulane this week," Dale said. "We are a completely different team than we were two or three weeks ago."

The Blue Raiders finished the season with an 8-2 record at home, including five wins against ranked opponents. The team will now travel to Mobile, Ala., to compete in the Sun Belt Championships from April 23-25. ♦

Conference: Lady Raiders now third in SBC standings

Continued from 8

Hilltoppers 5-3. Hilltoppers 5-3. Fizzell earned her fourth win in the game, while Ledbetter picked up her first save of the year.

The two teams continued their series on Saturday with the Lady Raiders sustaining their strong opening stride with three runs in the third. Brandy Davis scored Herald on an RBI single to earn MT the first run of the game, while Weiland plated Kristina Hieb and Huebner.

The Hilltoppers added runs in the fifth, sixth and seventh innings to try and pull into the lead, plating Alana Towns in all three innings. However, MT secured the lead in the sixth with a home run from Mitchell, scoring herself and Wilkes to give the Lady Raiders their third win against the

Hilltoppers 5-3. MT's luck, however, seemed to run out in the fourth and final match of the series. Western Kentucky beat the Lady Raiders to the first point of the game for the first time in the series. Richardson scored a solo homer in the bottom of the fourth, which MT matched the following inning on an RBI double by Ledbetter that plated Tompkins to tie the game 1-1.

Both teams held each other to the ground to force the game into extra innings. The Lady Raiders came close to sending the Hilltoppers home empty-handed in the sixth with third and second bases loaded and no outs. The next three batters failed to reach base, frustrating MT's efforts to break the tie.

Finally, in the bottom of the ninth,

Hilltopper pitcher Alison Silver blasted a three-run homer over the center field wall to clinch the game 4-1. The loss snapped the Lady Raiders seven game win streak that began March 31 against Lipscomb.

Bobo took the loss in game four to return herself to an even record of 9-9, allowing eight hits and four runs, while striking out two.

The Lady Raiders will continue their road series against Austin Peay this Thursday, a match rescheduled from Wednesday due to poor weather conditions. MT will continue conference play in Denton, Texas, next weekend against North Texas.

First pitch against Austin Peay is scheduled for 2 p.m. ♦

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Blue Raiders begin six-game homestand

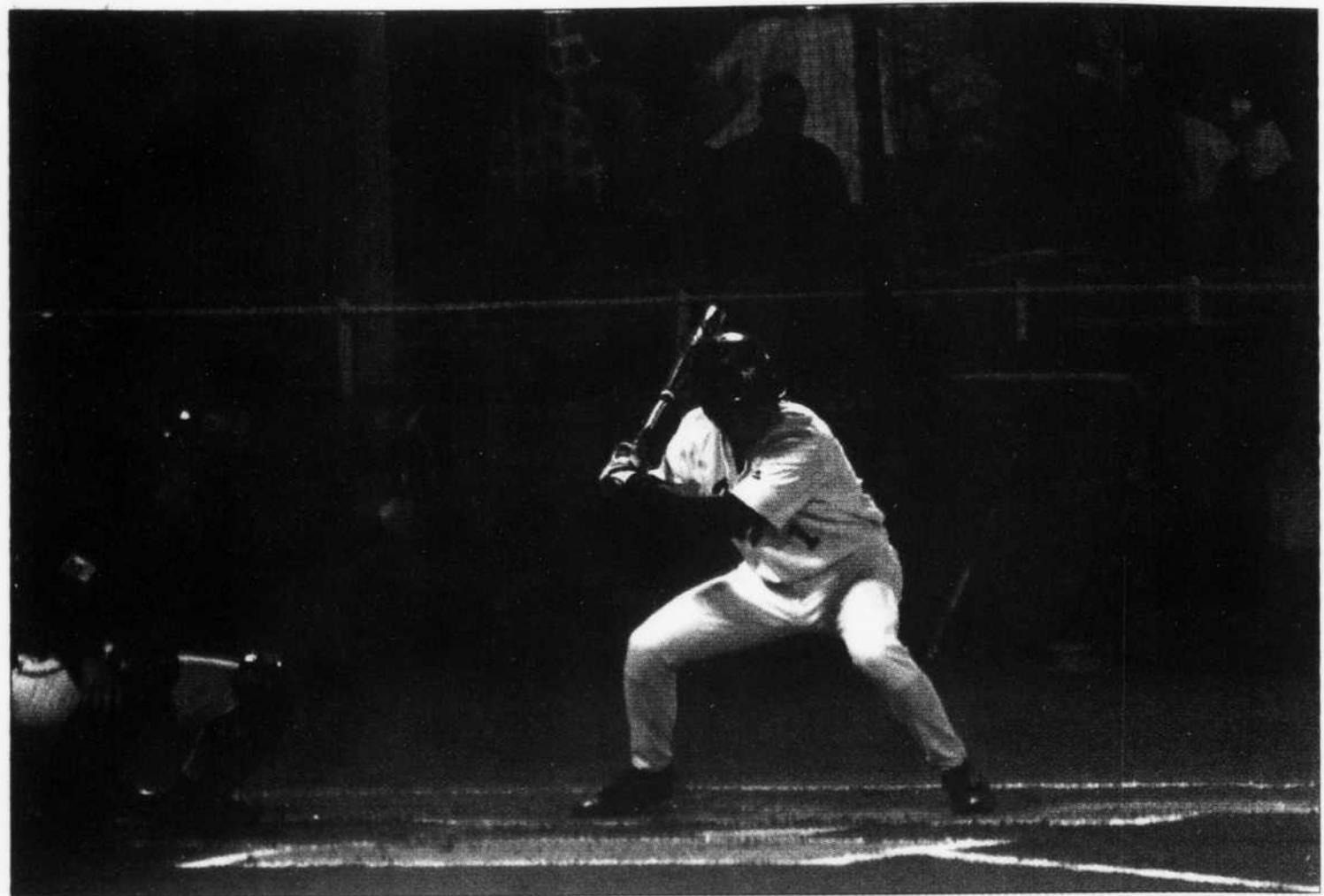


Photo by Julie Madewell | Staff Photographer

MT sophomore Jeff Beachum stands in against Louisiana-Lafayette in a 6-5 loss April 2. Beachum went 0 for 7.

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

After taking two of three games from the Florida International Golden Panthers in Miami, the Middle Tennessee baseball team will begin a six-game homestand today when they host in-state rival Lipscomb.

Despite struggling most of the season, the Bisons recently capped off a series with Belmont with a 17-11 win and will look to pick up their 11th win of the season against the Blue Raiders.

The Bisons are 1-10 on the road, though, and have dropped six of their last 10 games.

Despite their recent slide, the Bisons are averaging almost five runs per game and have four players with a batting average of more than .300. Brent Hastings, a senior outfielder, leads the team in several offensive categories (.352 average, 22 runs, 31 hits) and is second in several others (14 runs batted in, three home runs).

Designated hitter/outfielder Jeff Baumgartner (.345), second baseman Russell Nixon (.313) and third baseman Patrick O'Rourke (.312) round out the Bison players who bat more than .300.

Despite batting .256, freshman catcher and first baseman Ryan Price leads the team in home runs with four and RBIs with 17.

The Bison pitching staff features three players with impressive statistics this season.

David Ayre is 3-0 and has a 1.93 earned run average, leading the team in both categories. Robby Smithson is second on the team in ERA (3.50) despite having no wins (0-1) and pitching 18 innings on the year.

Seth Kuwik has a 3.53 ERA and leads the team in appearances. In 51 innings pitched, the junior from Fairborn, Ohio, has a 2-6 record with 30 strikeouts and also leads the team with two saves.

MT will look to take advantage of the struggling Bisons with an offense that is

averaging over six runs per game and almost a .300 team batting average.

Eric McNamee has led the Blue Raiders all season at the plate. The junior infielder is currently batting .388 with a team-leading .474 on-base percentage.

Shane Kemp leads MT with nine home runs and 30 RBIs.

Brett Carroll, a preseason All-America selection, leads the Blue Raiders with 13 doubles and is second in home runs (6) and RBIs (22).

Carroll's home run in the top of the 10th inning proved to be the difference in the third game of the FIU series. The junior third baseman's solo shot gave the Blue Raiders their first series win ever against the Golden Panthers.

Carroll and his teammates will look to begin another win streak this week as they take on Lipscomb today at 7 p.m. ♦

Victory: MT gets 20th win

Continued from 8

Lapses by the MT defense and timely hitting from senior outfielder Fernando Alvarez, another lefty, helped FIU tie the game 4-4 with one out in the bottom of the sixth.

Church, in his second start of the year, gave way to junior Chase Swing, who induced a popout and a strikeout to squelch the Panthers' rally.

Peterson replaced Swing with junior Danny Borne and Horschel, respectively, as both teams remained knotted at four runs apiece until Carroll's series-deciding home run off Worrell in the 10th.

"This was a very big win for us," Peterson said. "BJ did a terrific job, and as we continue to build up his pitch count, he'll be even better."

On Friday, the Blue Raiders took advantage of home runs from Shane Kemp and Carroll to win 8-4. Blue Raider starting pitcher Chris Mobley allowed four runs (three earned) on seven hits and struck out seven in his six-plus innings of work.

The Blue Raiders picked up 13 hits, led by Derek Phillips, who tied a career high with three.

MT got on the board in the second inning, putting together four straight hits that led to three runs.

Phillips led off the inning with a double, followed by a single from Kemp. Carroll then blasted his fifth home run of the season to give the Blue Raiders the early 3-0 lead.

"We wanted to be patient and aggressive, and we kept him on the ropes in the first three or four innings," Peterson told MT Media Relations. "After that, we had to weather storms. They had a three-run inning that could have been worse. We made some mistakes but weathered the storm."

Kemp's ninth home run of the year, which came in the

fifth, gave the Blue Raiders a 6-1 lead. MT added another in the sixth after an RBI single from Jeff Beachum.

FIU fought back, scoring three runs in the sixth off two hits and an MT error.

However, MT reliever Steve Kline, who picked up his second save of the year, allowed no hits in his final two innings of work to seal the victory for the Blue Raiders.

On Saturday, the two teams played scoreless baseball for almost eight full innings before a two-run home run from J.P. Lehmann gave the Golden Panthers the 2-0 victory.

Both teams combined for a total of 12 hits, as Blue Raider starter John Williams did not allow a hit in four of his eight innings pitched.

FIU leadoff hitter Dennis Diaz began the rally in the eighth, bunting for a single. Then, in an attempt to steal second, Diaz was caught in a rundown. He eventually safely slid into second before realizing no one was covering third, so Diaz picked up two stolen bases on the play.

Williams then surrendered the home run to Lehmann in the following at-bat.

Nate Jagers was the only MT player with multiple hits in the contest, picking up three of his team's six.

Williams pitched seven innings, scattering five hits and striking out five.

"I thought we took a lot of good swings today but hit the ball hard at people, and that's just baseball," Peterson told MT Media Relations after the game. "It hurt us with the rundown, and we didn't execute very well, and that made the difference."

MT's game with Belmont yesterday was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Blue Raiders will take on Lipscomb today at 7 p.m. at Reese Smith Field. ♦

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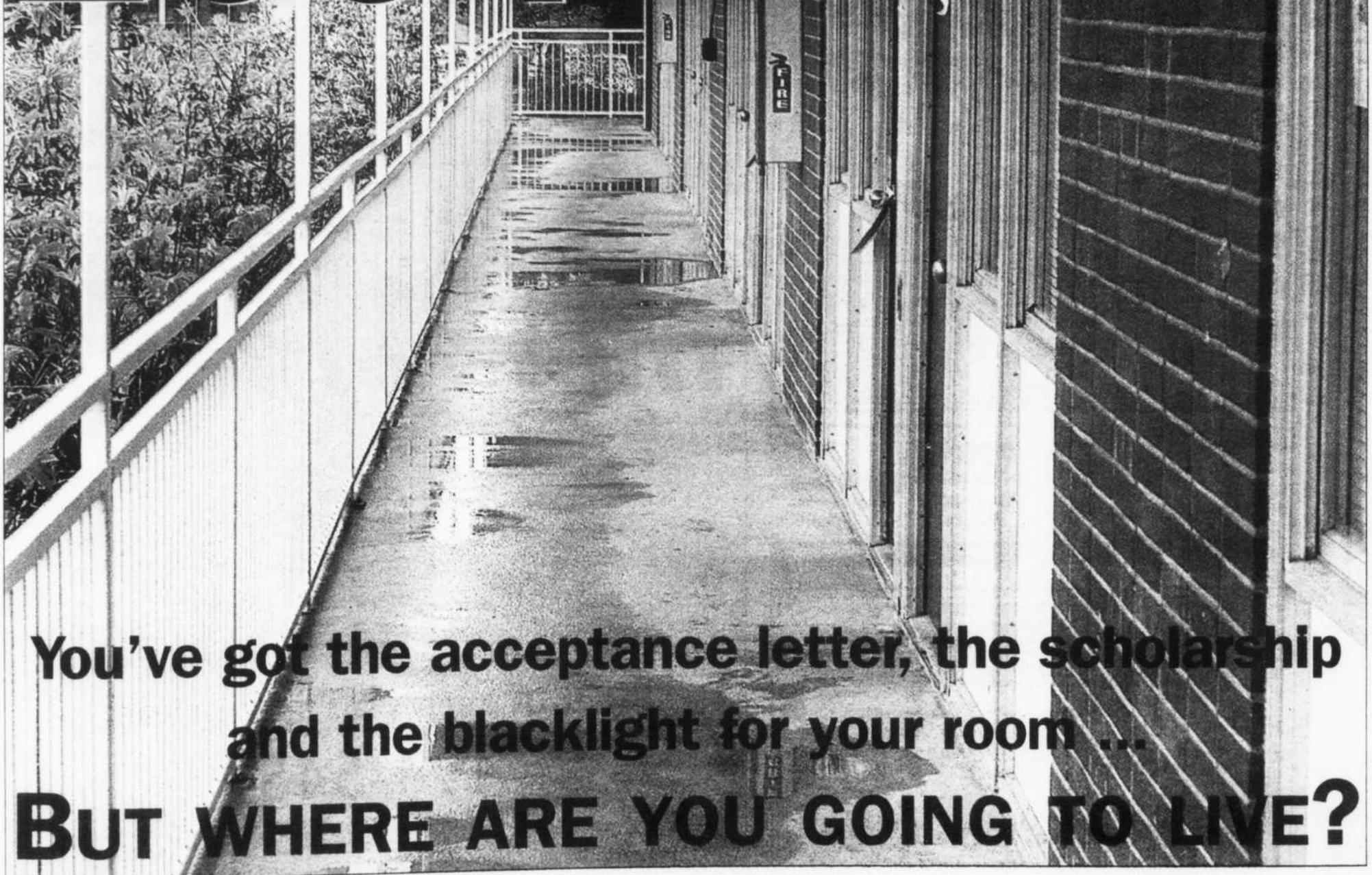
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Housing Guide 2004



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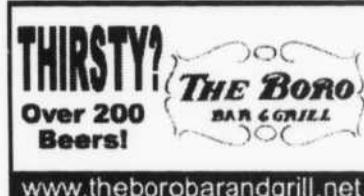
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On-campus housing offers students options

By Wendy Caldwell
Opinions Editor

For those students who choose to reside on campus, MTSU offers a variety of housing options to meet their needs.

First Year Experience

Freshmen residing on campus can opt for the First Year Experience and live in either Corlew or Cummings Halls with other first year residents.

"Freshmen are clustered together with a Resident Assistant and a tutor living on their particular floor," Housing and Residential Life Director Sarah Sudak said. "There's a peer adviser in both of the First Year Experience buildings so that they have access to academic advising personnel."

Corlew and Cummings also have tutoring centers with scheduled evening office hours. Residents can use these hours for individual tutoring.

Smaller learning communities exist with-

in Corlew and Cummings as well.

"There are special interest communities for aerospace majors who are first-year students, for recording industry management majors who are first-year students [and] for students who are undecided," Sudak said.

Programs are available for undeclared first-years. These programs are aimed at helping students choose an area of study. Recent results show that 70 percent of first-year students who were undeclared in August have since chosen a major.

The First Year Experience also includes Raider Learning Communities.

These communities consist of 25 residents who, in addition to living together, take two classes with one another.

"In addition to residing with people, you're in the same class together, so you have an instant academic community as well as a residential community," Sudak explains.

See **Housing**, 8



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

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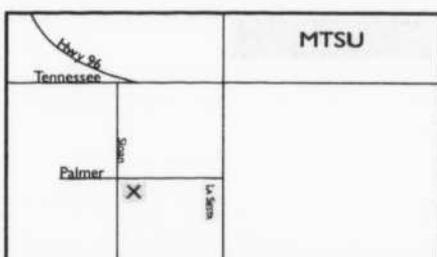
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SEVERAL FLOOR PLANS!

On-campus 'lifers' discuss ups, downs

By Tim Hill
Staff Writer

MTSU upperclassmen who live on campus have some advice for those students who may be experiencing living on campus for the first time.

Gore Hall resident assistant Meredith Mazonek, a senior broadcast major, said that planning events so that students can meet is one of her favorite jobs.

"If you're a new freshman, it's easier to meet people if you don't know anyone," Mazonek said.

"The events we plan people may or may not show up to, but we have them there for the students," she said.

Mazonek said the convenience and space of living on campus made her want to apply for her job.

"It's very beneficial to have your own room and to only have

to share a bathroom with two or three girls," she said.

"It's also very convenient because you're close to classes and you get to know your neighbors, which might not happen if you're living in an off-campus apartment," she said.

Over at the guys' dorm in Felder Hall, Mitch Bearden has been enjoying dorm life for two years.

"What I like best about it is that it's easy to get anywhere, and I hardly ever have a parking problem," he said.

Bearden said his walk to class takes between 10 and 15 minutes, "but I've been able to make it there in eight before," he said.

Noise is not a problem for Bearden.

"Felder is courteous, and once your door is closed for the night,

See Lifers, 8

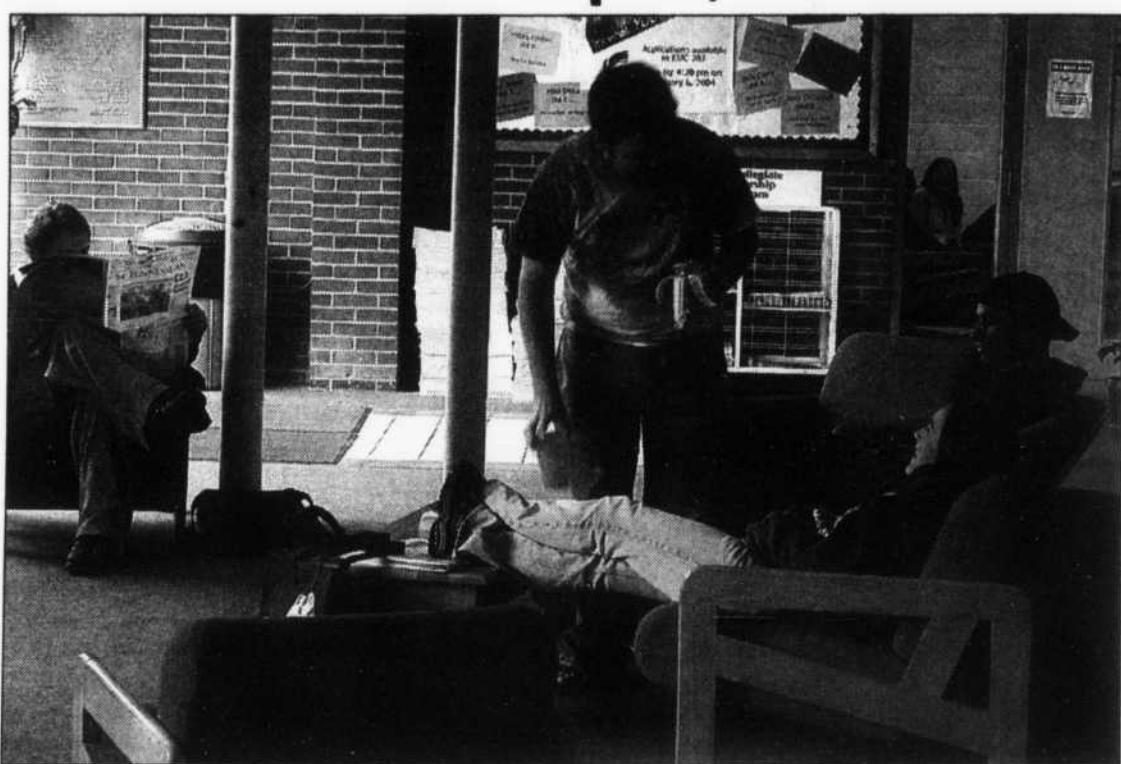
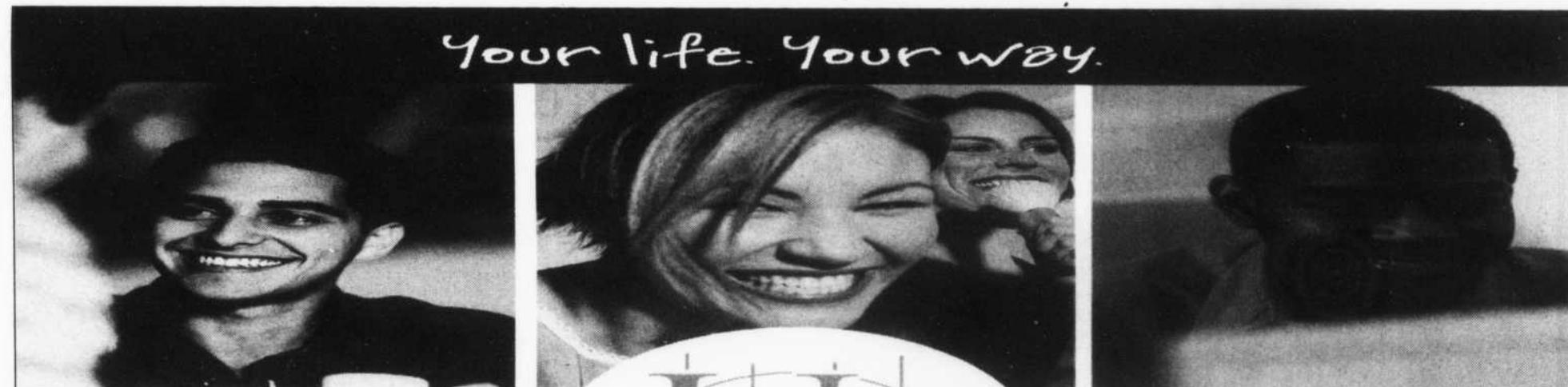


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

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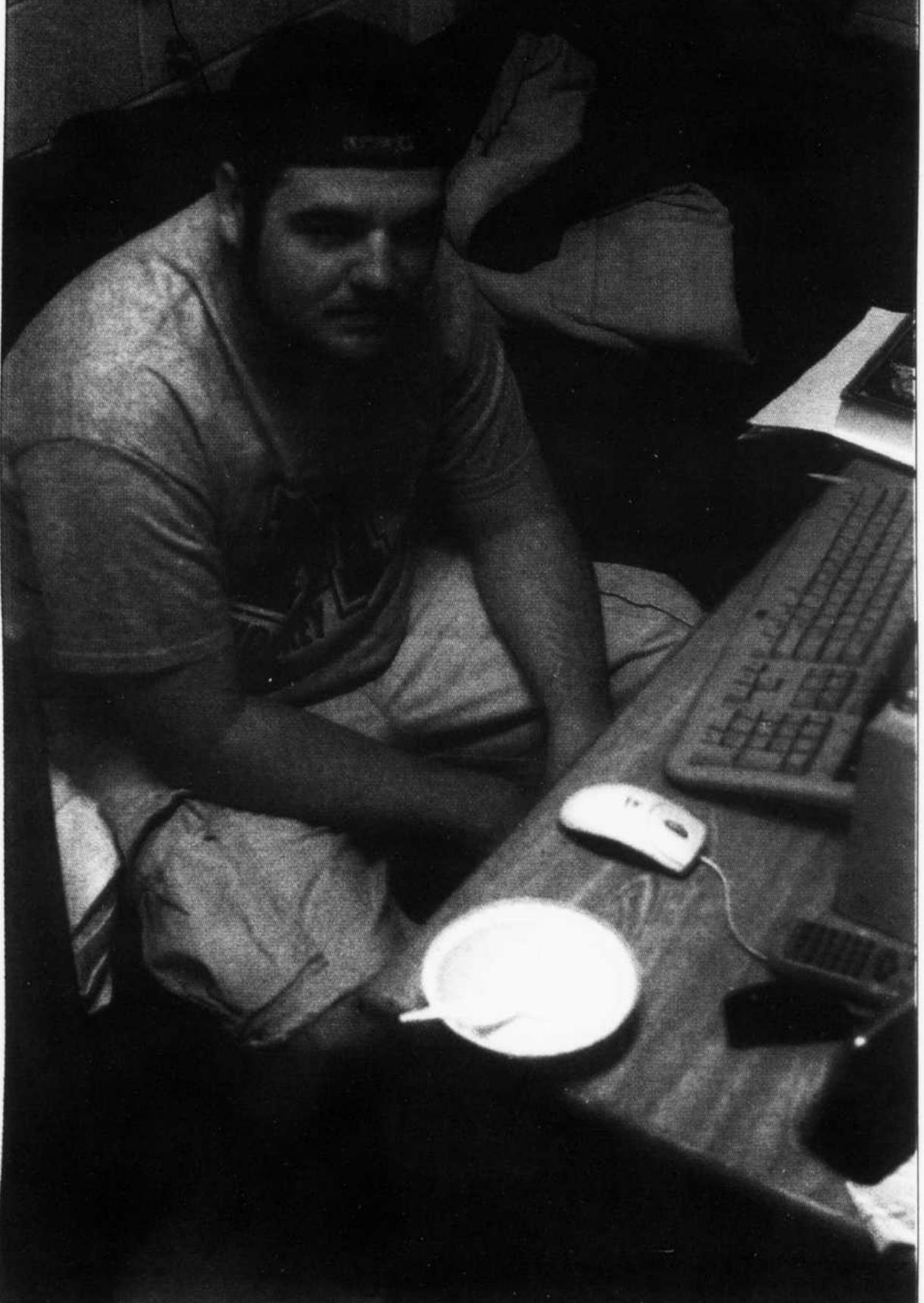


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Who wants to live off campus?

By Laura Taylor

Staff Writer

Several student apartment complexes are near campus that provide students with virtually all-inclusive services. Most of these apartments are fully furnished and include utilities in the rent. All appliances are standard in these apartments.

Another perk is that leases are signed on an individual basis, which means that if a roommate misses a rent payment, the other roommates are not responsible.

These apartments include The Woods at Greenland/Raiders Crossing, University Courtyard, Sterling University Gables, Campus Pointe and Campus Crossings. For the most part, these apartments offer similar advantages, but they also have some slight differences.

The Woods at Greenland and Raiders Crossing are co-owned and include the same features. Both are within walking distance of campus.

They offer two, three and four bedroom apartments with private bathrooms. Water, electricity and cable are included in

the rent.

The two bedroom apartment is \$489 a month per person, the three bedroom is \$429 and the four bedroom is \$399.

On-site amenities include a computer lab, fitness center, game room, pool, hot tub and tanning bed.

Manager Lashelle Baxter takes pride in the services that are provided to their tenants.

"I think that maintenance and management are our best features," Baxter said. "We do everything that we can to make our tenants happy."

With 24-hour emergency maintenance and a friendly, helpful staff, Baxter feels that The Woods at Greenland and Raiders Crossing have a lot to offer.

University Courtyard is located at 1540 New Lascassas Hwy. Leasing consultant Mike Campbell said this is an all-inclusive property — electricity, water, cable and phone are all included in the price of rent.

The two and four bedroom apartments are completely furnished and come in several floor plans. The two bedroom apartments come in two sizes, at \$485 and \$520 per month. The four bedroom, four bath is

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ive on campus anyway?

\$350 a month and the four bedroom, two bath is \$300.

"We have alarm systems in every apartment, and there's a panic button in every bedroom. There's also a high-speed Internet connection in each bedroom," Campbell said.

Amenities include a pool, hot tub, fitness center, game room, tanning bed, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts and 24-hour emergency maintenance, according to Campbell.

Sterling University Gables, located at 2827 S. Rutherford Blvd., is across the street from Wal-Mart and Applebee's. A shuttle takes residents to and from campus, according to manager Dora Kenworthy.

The two, three and four bedroom apartments each have two bathrooms. Water and electricity are included in the rent.

The two bedroom is \$445 per person a month, the three bedroom is \$415, the smaller four bedroom is \$335 and the larger four bedroom is \$355. These prices are for unfurnished units; furnished apartments are an extra \$20 per month.

Sterling has a 24-hour fit-

ness center, pool, hot tub, game room and basketball court.

Campus Pointe is a new addition to Murfreesboro's student apartments. Located at 2707 S. Rutherford Blvd., Campus Pointe is still under construction but will be finished in August.

There will be a movie theater, gymnasium, game room, pool, volleyball court, computer lab and cafe on site, according to property manager Donna Walker.

"The lifestyle and amenities at Campus Pointe are unmatched," Walker said.

The apartments come in one, two and three bedrooms with private bathrooms. The one bedroom runs \$540 a month, the two bedroom is \$475 per person a month and the three bedroom is \$445. This rate includes water, electricity and cable. For a little extra a month, the apartments come furnished.

Another new addition to the student apartments is Campus Crossings, located on Rutherford Boulevard. It is currently under construction and will be opening this fall.

Manager Marissa Swanson takes pride in the apartments'

style.

"The apartments have modern, upscale furniture, granite-style countertops and textured walls," she said.

The location is also very desirable because it is within walking distance of campus. Those that don't want to walk can take the campus shuttle, which has made Campus Crossings part of its route.

There are two, three and four bedroom apartments with private bathrooms. The two bedroom is \$505 a person per month, the three bedroom is \$439 and the four bedroom is \$405. The price of rent includes electricity, cable and water.

Campus Crossings' on-site amenities include a fitness center, pool, hot tub, game room, tanning bed, computer lab and 24-hour maintenance, Swanson said.

Anyone who signs a lease for the fall can get the current special where August's rent is free.

For more information, call the Woods at Greenland/Raiders Crossing at 890-0800, University Courtyard at 907-0600, Sterling University Gables at 890-9088 and Campus Crossings at 867-7110. ♦

Alternative housing rocks

By Jason Cox
State and Local Editor

Thinking about living off-campus?

Students who have made the move to off-campus housing had a number of reasons they decided to live off-campus: finances, privacy, the lack of housing officials monitoring campus housing.

Brooke Mangrum, a senior electronic media communication major who lives with her mother in Smyrna, said she likes living off-campus despite the commute, which she said takes an hour from her house to the classroom.

She said that, in her case, living with her mother has drastically reduced her expenses.

"I can just focus on my work," Mangrum said, adding that she didn't get caught up in the party scene that many students drift toward while living on campus near lots of fellow students.

"It's not a social thing, so I'm graduating sooner than a lot of people I know," Mangrum said, who is graduating in December.

"I like having my privacy," she added.

Jason Wright, a senior recording industry major who currently lives at Womack Lane Apartments on campus, said he was looking forward to his impending move to off-campus housing because of the freedom it allows as well as the added room and a front yard.

"(I like) not having to worry about university policy like a dry campus,"

Wright said. "[It's] one less set of rules you have to live by."

He added that the expense difference wasn't going to be significant.

Jimmy Rider, an undeclared sophomore, said he never gave much thought to living on campus.

"I had friends that lived off-campus, so I just ended up living with them," he said.

"On campus, I don't really feel like I would have a home," he said, adding that having a place to live off-campus makes him feel as though he has more of a home.

Kim Evans, a senior Spanish major, said that even though living on campus would be cheaper for her than her current off-campus accommodations, the price difference is worth it.

"I didn't come here until my second year of school, so I didn't want to live in a dorm," she said. "I still live really close to campus, so it's not like I have to walk very far."

Evans also said she enjoyed the more relaxed atmosphere devoid of monitoring by housing officials.

Allison Hudson, a junior recording industry major, cited privacy and having her own kitchen as two reasons she chose to live off campus with three of her friends.

"I just feel as though I've got more freedom," Hudson said. "It may be a little bit more expensive, [but] it's worth that little extra." ♦

Housing: Rates change yearly

Continued from 3

Academic Clusters

MTSU offers a variety of housing options for upperclassmen as well.

"We do have upper-class clusters for both aerospace and recording industry management," Sudak said. "They can still maintain their connection to the academic program."

Wood and Felder Halls are home to the Honors Living Learning Center. Students in the honors program can opt to live in this learning community.

Dorms and Apartments

MTSU offers a variety of residential choices.

Students can choose the double-occupancy style of most dormitories. These halls vary in that some have community bathrooms, whereas others have four rooms to a bathroom in the quad-

bathroom option.

Residents who favor the apartment lifestyle with on-campus convenience can make their homes in Scarlett Commons or Womack Lane.

In Scarlett Commons, each apartment houses four residents with individual bedrooms and two bathrooms, as well as a shared kitchen and living areas.

Womack Lane houses both single students and families.

"That's your more traditional [style]," Sudak says. "If there are two people in an apartment, you share a one-bedroom apartment, as opposed to the individual bedroom option of Scarlett."

How much is this going to cost?

Rates for housing change each year.

"We're an auxiliary operation, which means we receive no state or university money," Sudak

explains.

A proposal for rates is made in the spring of each year, taking into account rising utility costs. The Tennessee Board of Regents must approve that proposal.

Sudak says that next year's rates will be higher than usual because sprinkler systems will be installed in Corlew and Cummings in Summer 2005.

Rates vary on campus depending on the type of residence hall. Traditional halls have a set rate, and apartment rates are separate.

"This year, we'll add another rate, which will be the renovated hall rate," Sudak explains.

Renovated halls feature new plumbing, electrical fixtures, paint and furniture. The newly-renovated halls also have laundry facilities inside the halls.

For more information, visit the Housing and Residential Life Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~housing. ♦

Lifers: Students say they enjoy dorm life

Continued from 4

noise isn't a huge deal," he said.

Julian Bone, a junior who lives at Simms Hall, said that his dorms are safe.

"There's not too much violence that goes on around here," he said.

Bone agreed with Meredith and Mitch that the dorms offer convenience.

"It also offers a home away from home and a chance to make new relationships," he said. When it comes to social life, Bone said he is well informed of the events going on on-and-off campus.

"I usually just stick

around my own floor, though," he said.

Bone is not on the student meal plan.

"No meal plan for me," he said. "I'm getting skinny."

The resident assistant on Bone's floor even receives a high rating from Bone.

"He's cool and friendly, and doesn't ask if you're still failing one of your classes," he said. "Instead, he wants to see how you're doing with all of your hours."

Students who are interested in living on campus can stop by the housing office in the Keathley University Center before space runs out. ♦

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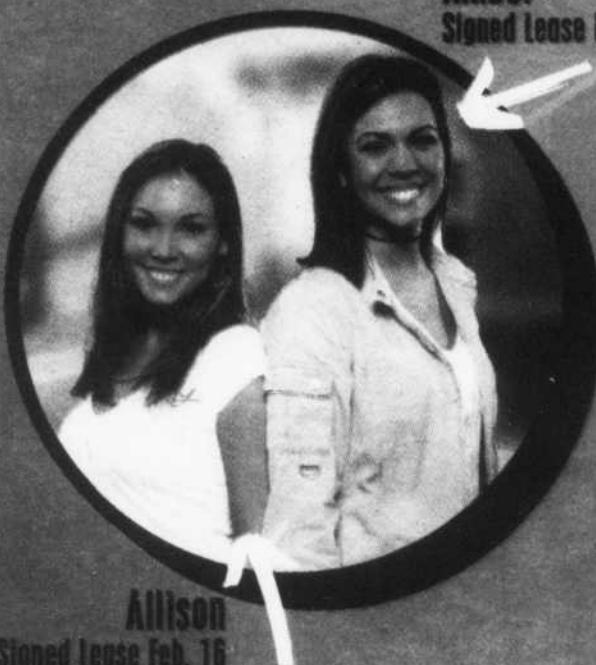
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