



SIDELINES



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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

Allocation of fee money not clear

Susan McMahan
Staff Reporter

Every semester a bill arrives in the mail, and every semester students are expected to pay.

On that bill, a student will see charges for registration, activity fees, debt services fees and technology fees.

But do you really know what each of these charges mean?

The fees that usually cause students the most confusion are the student activity fee of \$65 and the Student Government Association activity fee of \$5.

"It's sort of a misnomer," said Tom Burke, dean of student life. "It's not SGA's money. SGA has to apply like everyone else does."

The \$5 fee is collected from students and divided among student organizations who request the money.

An SGA committee is in charge of taking and granting requests.

Burke said that about \$75,000 currently is collected each semester from this fee. This may seem like a lot, but he added that the request requested each semester runs from about \$250,000 to \$300,000.

The \$65 fee, which is \$5 per hour for part-time students, labeled the student activity fee as actually a debt service fee. A debt service fee is one used to pay the bond money on all non-academic buildings on campus.

Bob Adams, assistant vice president for the business office, said the university is not given

money for these types of buildings — which include the Keathley University Center and the Recreation Center — so they have to be paid for by student fees.

Burke said debt service fees are the way that many universities afford non-academic buildings.

"Most states don't pay for things like that," he said.

Several years ago, when there was a discussion of renovating the football stadium, the Tennessee Board of Regents wanted students to vote to see if there was support for the stadium.

The vote passed, and the result was the student activity fee. The \$65 per semester that students pay is to cover the cost of stadium renovation.

"The only fee that really goes to student activities is the SGA fee," Burke said.

He added that several SGA members thought the name of this fee is confusing and requested permission to change it.

However, Adams said TBR, which controls all public universities in Tennessee that aren't part of the University of Tennessee system, wanted the fee to have that name and did not want to change it.

The stadium fee also is confusing, because it is a debt service fee, and there is a fee called the debt services fee of \$50 for full-time students.

For part-time students, the debt services fee is \$4 per hour.

The other debt services fee is paying the bonds on the KUC, the Rec Center and the Murphy Center, which was paid for in part by

student fees.

Adams said he was not sure why TBR wanted to separate debt services fees, and an SGA resolution asking that the fees be combined was turned down.

Group with the debt services fees on the bill is the technology fee of \$100 per semester.

This money is used to make lab improvements and purchase new equipment.

Requests are made by departments for the money, and it is given out by a technology fee committee.

"It's given out so that the most students get the most benefits," Adams said.

The amount of the fee is mandated by the TBR. All full-time university students under their supervision pay this amount, which is \$8 per hour for part-time students.

Separate from the other fees are the \$8 postal services fee, which covers the cost of a post office box, and the \$15 recreation fee.

Adams said the Rec Center gets no state money, and the money is used to operate the Rec Center. It pays for things like utilities, staff and new supplies.

Like the stadium renovation, TBR wanted students to vote to see if support was there for a Recreation Center, a move TBR did not have to make.

Any new fees added onto student bills don't have to be voted on by students, although Adams said this has an increasing trend with TBR.

"The Board has the legal right to set fees," Adams said. "But more and more they're interested in student input." ■

SGA fee increase to be on Spring ballot

Susan McMahan
Staff Reporter

Students will have the chance to vote this spring to increase the Student Government Association student activity fee from \$5 per student per semester to \$20.

The SGA fee, which appears on the bill of every student taking seven or more hours of class, is not just for the SGA. The more than 185 student organizations on campus request the money, which is given out by a committee.

Tom Burke, dean of student life, said SGA is currently the top funding priority in the distribution, but it is not the only thing funded.

The expanded fee would provide a flat amount available to groups that currently request and receive a large portion of the money. They could no longer apply for money in the general pool.

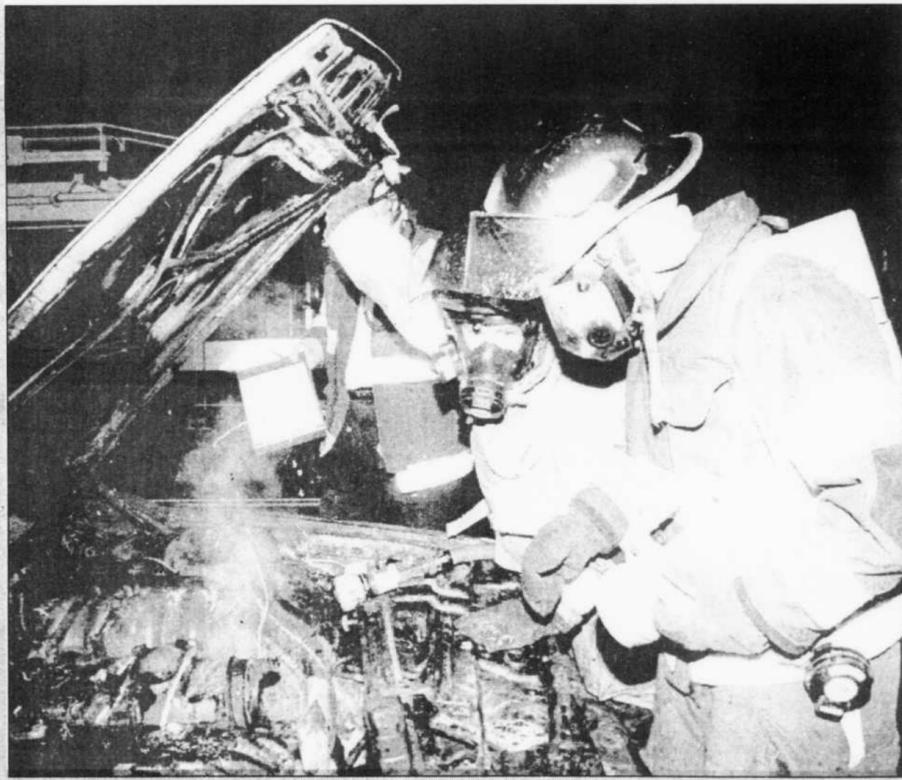
The \$5 currently charged will increase to \$10 per student to go towards student organizations, doubling the amount of money available to these groups.

Burke said the amount would actually more than double because some groups — SGA, Student Programming and sports clubs — will be taken out of the pool.

Currently, about \$75,000 is available for disbursement, which will increase to about \$150,000. Total request amounts usually range from \$250,000 to \$300,000 per semester.

See FEE INCREASE, page 3

Smokin'!



Staff photo by Derrick Willson

A car caught on fire at 6:30 p.m. Thursday on Tennessee Boulevard in front of President James Walker's house. Murfreesboro resident Fred Williams and his wife said they were on their way to church when the fire occurred. Neither were hurt in the incident.

Regulations set for Senate members

Stacie Odeneal
Staff Reporter

With only three regularly scheduled meetings left, the SGA Senate called a special session Wednesday to pass four bills and a resolution.

Senate bills 3 and 4 set regulations for the Senate members. Bill 3-99S requires the president and vice-president to set and post a minimum of 10 office hours per week at the beginning of each semester. Senate sponsor Aaron Tallent and House sponsor Doug Beaucam wrote the bill in an effort to make SGA leaders more accessible.

Senate bill 4-99S, also sponsored by Tallent and Beaucam, will require all presidential or vice-presidential candidates to follow senatorial guidelines preventing those who do not attend meetings or work in the SGA office from running.

Senate resolution 4-99S provides for the replenishment and maintenance of feminine hygiene dispensers in campus restrooms. Sponsored by senators Ryan McGhee and

Aaron Tallent as well as House Representative Adrian Cawly, the resolution would require university administration and janitorial staff to review the problem of generally empty hygiene machines and take appropriate measures to correct it.

A bill sponsored by House Representative Jerome Hruska and Senators Aaron Tallent and Josh Pounders would require that all organizations having a House seat and receiving Activity Fee money to not only be registered with, but actively participate in the House of Representatives. House bill 3-99S would increase House attendance from 33 to 200.

Finally, House bill 2-99S would amend the House of Representatives bylaws to say that "representatives in the House must have completed at least one semester of classes at MTSU."

The bill was sponsored by Representative Jerome Hruska and Senator Tyson McClannahan in an effort to ensure Representatives are better acquainted with campus along with its problems and successes. ■

ROTC offers summer leadership program

Staff Reports

This summer, the military science department is offering a leadership development summer internship program in Fort Knox, Ky.

The program, called Camp Challenge, will give students a chance to earn five weeks of pay, six hours of academic credit and placement credit for the first two years of ROTC.

Participants will also have a 50/50 chance to win a two-year scholarship.

Lt. Col. Doug Chaffin, professor of military science, said the military science department just wants to show students what Camp Challenge is all about.

He also said many of the participants

discover and develop self-confidence and leadership skills they didn't know they had.

Not only will students receive training in leadership, but they will also train in such skills as rappelling, mountaineering, water survival and rifle marksmanship.

They will also get a chance to use some of the Army's newest weapons.

For more information on Camp Challenge, students should attend the information meeting and pizza party on Thursday, Feb. 25 in Forrest Hall at 5:30 p.m.

There will be former Camp Challenge students to answer questions.

Questions can also be directed to Major Bob Ogden or 2nd Lieutenant Jason Selman at 898-2470 or drop by Forrest Hall, room five. ■

East Loop closes to public access

Staff Reports

The traffic "arm" east of the Cope Administration Building will be reactivated on Monday, Feb. 22, leaving East Loop (the section of Loop Drive that runs along the east side of the Cope Administration Building to Peck

Hall) closed to all vehicles except campus shuttles and safety vehicles.

The closing of East Loop is a result of the re-opening of Faulkinberry Drive and to ensure the safety of all campus pedestrians.

East Loop was only made accessible to keep traffic congestion at a minimum because of the closing of

Faulkinberry Drive.

Everyone who has a card that activates the traffic arm should contact Parking Services at 898-2850 to ensure the card will still be able to activate the traffic arm for the entry of the loop. All other questions should be directed to Public Safety at 898-2424. ■

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SPORTS

The Blue Raiders and Lady Raiders host the TSU Tigers in first round OVC tournament play. See page 8.

FEATURES

English professor Steven Rizzo moonlights as composer. See page 6.

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ON CAMPUS



NATIONAL NEWS



WORLD NEWS

LOOKING AHEAD

FEB 23-24
The business education, marketing education and office management department will host a seminar on effective written presentation. Joe Sawyer will be giving the seminar from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in BAS 130A. For more information contact Lisa Mitchell at 898-2036 or 898-2902.

FEB 25
The June Anderson Women's Center will host a support group for survivors of sexual abuse from 3 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. The meeting will be in CKNB room 109. Contact Mary Glantz at 898-5725 for more information.

ON GOING
Presbyterian Student Fellowship will host dinner and discussion on Wed., at 6:30 p.m. located at the Fellowship House on 615 N. Tennessee Blvd. Following the study there will be wallyball at 9 p.m. at the Rec Center. For more information call Rich Zeigler at 893-1787 or Andrew Lee at 867-7370.

Raider Victory Fellowship will have weekly meetings and Bible sessions on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Corlew Hall room 719. They will meet on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Cummings Hall lobby and at 8 p.m. at Felder Hall room 208. Contact Ricky Walters at 317-4541.

Dragon's Guard School of Sword Fighting and Reenactment teaches sword-fighting techniques and swordplay. The school meets for practice at 7 p.m. at Middle Tennessee Christian School gymnasium on Tuesdays and Fridays. For more information contact Hunter Jones at 896-4596

or e-mail at shadowh@bellsouth.net.

MTSU Fencing Club will have practices every Monday at 8:30 p.m. till 10:30 p.m. in the Aerobics Room, located in the Rec Center. The practices are geared to students of all skill levels. Contact Hunter Jones at 896-4596 or e-mail at shadowh@bellsouth.net.

The Kingwood Heights Church of Christ College Class will host monthly devotions every second Thursday at 6:30. Kingwood Heights Church is located at 115 East MTCS Road. Contact Chuck Mullins at 898-1086 or Alan Welken at 890-0940 for more information.

The Student Pagan Organization will have meetings Monday at 8 p.m. The meetings will take place on the 2nd floor of the KUC in the lounge area. For more information contact John Bryan at 898-3734.

The MTSU women's rugby team will have practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 till 7:30 p.m. The practices will be held at the Rec Center or the intramural fields if the weather is permitting. Contact Shannon Bustillos at 867-3592 or e-mail at sib2a@mtsu.edu.

Raider Victory Fellowship will hold Sunday services at 10 a.m. in the Murphy Center. Contact Ricky Walters at 907-4079 for more information.

Lambda Organization meetings will be on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in room S316 of the Business Aerospace building. For more information go to www.mtsu.edu/~mtLambda

Attention, May Graduates! Graduating seniors will need to

complete a 10-minute survey at the Graduation Fair that will be held Feb. 15-19 in the Alumni Center. The times are as follows: Feb. 15, 10-6 p.m., Feb. 16, 10-6 p.m., Feb. 17, 10-6 p.m., Feb. 18, 10-3 p.m., Feb. 19, 10-3 p.m. Surveys need to be completed at the Institutional Research table. For more information, call Ruth Watson at 898-2854.

Campus Crusade for Christ will meet on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in KUC room 322. Those interested may contact Courtney Rushlow at 849-7899 for more information.

The "Right to Life" group of Tennessee will hold an outdoor concert in the KUC courtyard on March 5 and 6. They are looking for music groups, religious organizations, gospel singers, etc. Contact Kevin Fisher at faco0019@frank.mtsu.edu or mail him at Box 6003.

Homecoming Director applications are now available in the SGA office located in the KUC room 208. The applications are due on Monday, Feb. 22. Contact Maggie Prugh at 904-8418 for more information.

Alternative Spring Break applications are available in the KUC 306. The application deadline is Feb. 12. The trip is going to Franklin, NC on March 14-18. The cost is \$100. For more information call Maggie Prugh at 904-8418.

"Up Till Dawn" is a fundraising event benefiting St. Jude's Hospital. Committee applications are due on Feb. 9. Turn them in at the KUC 306. Contact Office of Student Organizations and Community Service for more info at 904-8418.

German brothers choose gas chamber in hopes of avoiding execution

Phoenix (AP)— Given the option of a fatal but painless injection, convicted killers Karl and Walter LaGrand have chosen slower, more agonizing deaths in a cloud of cyanide fumes. It's a calculated move designed to keep the brothers from becoming the first German citizens to be executed in the United States. Karl LaGrand is scheduled to die Wednesday, Walter on March 3.

The LaGrands and their attorneys are gambling that an appeals court will buy their argument that lethal gas is cruel and unusual punishment - and therefore unconstitutional. The brothers, condemned to die for killing a bank manager in 1982, also hope U.S. officials will bow to international pressure and commute their sentences to life in prison. Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and other German leaders have asked President Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Arizona Gov. Jane Hull to intervene.

Germany, which has no death penalty, has also lodged an appeal with the World Court on the brothers' behalf.

After questioning Clinton's veracity, DeLay finds his own challenged

Washington (AP)— Rep. Tom DeLay, the House Republican leader who led the drive to impeach President Clinton for statements he made under oath, now finds himself at the center of his own controversy over truthfulness.

DeLay got a lot of media attention as he kept up a steady stream of invective against Clinton. But now the spotlight has turned and is focused on the Texan. DeLay is being asked about discrepancies between statements he made in a legal proceeding and in financial disclosure forms he is required to file as a member of Congress.

"Frankly, it's my opinion he lied to me under oath," said Gerald DeNisco, the Houston lawyer who questioned DeLay for a 1994 deposition in a civil lawsuit filed against the congressman by a business partner.

Marine dies during training exercise

Twentynine Palms, CA (AP)— A 19-year-old Marine from Tennessee died after being found unconscious in a military Humvee in a base training area.

Lance Cpl. Kenneth E. Carroll Jr. of Hohenwald, Tenn., was found sitting in the vehicle around 4:30 p.m. Thursday in the Camp Wilson training area at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, said base spokesman 1st Lt. Vincent Bosquez.

"A Marine who was walking guard noticed a Marine in a Humvee. It looked like he was sleeping. He was going to wake him up. When he didn't respond, he notified medical authorities," Bosquez said.

Carroll was taken to the combat center's naval hospital where he was pronounced dead at 5:54 p.m., Bosquez said. The Marine was at the base to participate in a live-fire training exercise, Bosquez said. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 10th Marines in Camp LeJeune, N.C.

India, Pakistan vow to reduce risk of nuclear accident

Lahore, PAKISTAN (AP)— The prime ministers of Pakistan and India, old enemies who declared themselves nuclear powers with underground tests in May, ended a two-day visit Sunday vowing to try to reduce the risk of a nuclear war.

They also promised to give advance warning of ballistic missile tests. Both Pakistan and India have missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads and of hitting populated areas in both countries.

"We shall take immediate steps for reducing the risk of accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons," said a joint declaration issued at the end of Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit.

Turkey increasingly combative toward Western critics in Ocalan Case

Ankara, TURKEY (AP)— The Turkish prime minister's manner was mild, but his message was unmistakable: Back off. Now that Turkey has rebel warlord Abdullah Ocalan behind bars, it is telling the West in no uncertain terms it wants no advice from anyone on how to conduct his trial.

"We would consider such attempts an unacceptable affront to Turkish justice," Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit told a news conference on Sunday, six days after Turkish commandos captured Ocalan in Nairobi, Kenya. He is now in an isolated Turkish island prison where he remains in solitary confinement, under interrogation but not yet under formal arrest.

Even before a trial date has been set and the nature of the proceedings agreed upon, the case is pitting Turkey against Western critics who cite its shaky human rights record and question whether the much-reviled Ocalan will be dealt with fairly.

At the hour-long question-and-answer session held by the prime minister and his foreign minister, Ismail Cem, Turkey's prickly brand of nationalistic pride was on ample display. So, too, was an increasingly strident tone at the first briefing specifically for foreign reporters since Ocalan's capture.

Ultra-Orthodox protest Jerusalem supermarket open on the Sabbath

Jerusalem (AP)— The battle between Jerusalem's secular and religious Jews spread to a new front Saturday: the first supermarket in a Jewish neighborhood to open on the Sabbath.

A dozen ultra-Orthodox Jews crowded around "Drugstore 2000" at the Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall, shouting, "Sabbath!"

At one point, a fistfight broke out between two demonstrators and one of the store's owners, Moshe Abergil.

"The time has come to break the ultra-Orthodox grip" on Jerusalem, Abergil said, as a black-hatted ultra-Orthodox man chanted "Sabbath" and tried to enter the store.

"Sabbath is outside," Abergil said, blocking his way. Under Jewish law, all work and commercial activity is banned from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday and most shops in Israel close during the biblically mandated day of rest.

Gene Siskel had lifetime love affair with movies

Tracy Boutelle
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Gene Siskel fell in love with movies as a child. Every Saturday the schoolboy Siskel would walk eight blocks to his neighborhood theater on Chicago's North Side to catch the newest films with his friends.

But it would be many years before Siskel would make movies his life's work, giving the world the thumbs-up and thumbs-down film reviews he and colleague Roger Ebert created.

"I can't even imagine what it will be like (without Siskel)," Ebert said Saturday from his Michigan home as news of Siskel's

death at age 53 spread.

Siskel's death ended a quiet but strenuous battle against complications that arose after a growth was removed from his brain in May.

Ebert said: "There was a history there, a respect that I'm never really going to replace in my life. It's going to be tough."

Writing for rival newspapers, the young Siskel and Ebert were fierce competitors, always trying to out-scoop the other one.

The icy relationship warmed when they reluctantly teamed up to co-host the public TV program "Sneak Previews" in 1975.

"For the first five years that we knew each other, Gene Siskel and I hardly spoke. Then it seemed like we never stopped," Ebert wrote in a column titled "Farewell,

my friend" on the front page of Sunday's Chicago Sun-Times.

"Siskel & Ebert," as their show later was known in syndication, became a household name. Ebert said Saturday that the show would continue with revolving guest critics.

"In the future, we will see," he said.

"The two thumbs up has become an icon in the film industry," said Paul Dergarabedian, a spokesman for Exhibitor Relations Co. which compiles box office receipts. "The average person would look toward them about whether to take their hard-earned dollars to the box office."

Despite his fame, Siskel stayed in the Midwest, resisting the lure of either coasts.

"The boys always wanted to stay in

Chicago — they felt that was neutral territory," said Mary Kellogg of Buena Vista Television, who developed a close friendship with Siskel in the 14 years they worked together on the show.

Orphaned by age 10, Siskel threw himself into his family life with a passion close friends were quick to remark on. He met and fell in love with Marlene Iglitzen while working at WBBM-TV in Chicago. They married in 1980 and had three children, a boy and two girls.

His passions drove him — from the movies he had loved since a boy, the words he grew to love as a newspaper man, the enjoyment he got as a Chicago Bulls fan and for his family.

At the time of his death, Siskel had

taken a leave of absence from his work not only with the "Siskel & Ebert" television show and the Chicago Tribune, but also as a film critic for "CBS This Morning" and WBBM-TV, and as a columnist for TV Guide.

Thousands of letters and e-mails from his fans poured into Buena Vista, which distributes his show, in support of Siskel's leave of absence. In Sunday's column, Ebert recalled how Siskel strove to deflect attention away from his illness and toward his film criticism after his surgery.

"Although it was obvious sometimes that he walked slowly and was in pain, I never once heard him complain. He carried on with a bravery that is hard to imagine," Ebert wrote.

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SIDELINES
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from the Department of _____

for an Outstanding Teacher Award, 1998-1999.
(Nominees must be full-time faculty members to be eligible)

(Please Type or Print Clearly)

Signature _____

Please return this ballot via campus mail to: Office of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, CART, or deliver it personally to the Office of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Cope Administration Building, Room 119.

Please Return Ballot No Later Than Friday, March 12, 1999

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Court says woman was insane when she shot infant nephew

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Kentucky woman was legally insane when she shot her infant nephew to death inside a Buddhist temple in Murfreesboro, the state Court of Criminal Appeals ruled.

On Friday, the court reversed a first-degree murder conviction for Laura Ann Hudson, who had been sentenced to life in prison.

The three-judge panel also dismissed the murder charge against her and instructed prosecutors to have her evaluated for possible committal to a state mental hospital.

In 1991, Hudson took her 1-month-old nephew into the temple and shot him while cradling him in her arms. She then tried to set her vehicle on fire while she and the baby were in it.

She told police that God instructed her to shoot the baby, who was the devil's child.

Defense attorneys presented testimony from expert witnesses who said she was suffering from delusions and depression — and was legally insane — when she killed the baby. The three witnesses offered differing opinions on whether Hudson could conform her conduct to the requirement of the law.

Prosecutors did not offer expert witnesses on Hudson's condition.

Rutherford County Circuit Court Judge Steve Daniel denied her lawyers' request for an acquittal, but granted a request for a new trial on the basis that prosecutors failed to prove she was sane.

The appeals court said Daniel should have found Hudson innocent by reason of insanity.

Prosecutors could ask the Tennessee Supreme Court to reinstate the conviction and sentence. ■

Church van crashes on I-24 near Rutherford County line

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A church van carrying about a dozen teens home from a youth meeting crashed and flipped Saturday on Interstate 24 near the Rutherford/Davidson County line.

No one was killed in the accident, but at least eight people were taken to Southern Hills Hospital in Nashville.

None were critically injured and all were in stable condition, according to nursing supervisor

Becky Clark.

The van was on its way back to the Lighthouse Baptist Church of Murfreesboro from a meeting in Clarksville when it was rear-ended by a Cadillac at mile marker 63.

The van struck a stone wall by the side of the road then overturned, said Dana Keeton, spokeswoman for the Tennessee Department of Safety.

Witnesses told troopers the Cadillac was going 90-100 mph and

weaving through traffic. The driver, 19-year-old Travis Bowers of LaVergne, was being examined Saturday at Middle Tennessee Medical Center and was in custody.

No charges were immediately filed.

Lighthouse Baptist Church member Joy Musselwhite said she was relieved no one was critically hurt.

"We are thanking the Lord that everyone is OK." ■

Albanians, Serbs still holding back on Kosovo settlement

Barry Schweid
Associated Press

RAMBOUILLET, France — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, making scant headway toward a Kosovo peace settlement, said Sunday that if neither Serbs nor ethnic Albanians accept the six-nation plan, NATO cannot carry through on its threat to attack Serb targets.

With a new deadline set for Tuesday, Serb negotiators "are not engaging at all" over the critical question of whether NATO peacekeepers would enforce the settlement, while the Kosovar Albanians must still be persuaded to sign on fully with the plan to give them greater autonomy in the Serb province, Albright said.

"Some really earth-shaking decisions are being made, which is why it is difficult," Albright said on CNN after several hours of talking separately with each side. "And these are really decisions between war and peace and life and death."

Albright, talking to reporters, declined to explain what was holding up Albanian approval. In fact, she said, U.S. officials thought the Albanians had given her a green light on Saturday.

But other U.S. officials said the renewed negotiations focused on the Albanians' quest for independence after the plan's interim three-year period, and the U.S. refusal to endorse independence. And Albright, ruling out any independence referendum

in the agreement, said she was looking for a way "the voice of the people" could be expressed in Kosovo.

But "if this fails because both parties say no, there will not be bombing of Serbia and we will try to figure out ways of trying to deal with both sides," she said.

However, Albright said that if the Albanians give their total endorsement to the complex plan — which would give the majority Albanians significant autonomy but stop short of independence for Kosovo — and if the Serbs keep holding out, then the Serbs would be attacked.

"As far as the use of force is concerned, I think that the allies remain united if the situation is that the Serbs alone are responsible for cratering the talks," she said on CNN.

And British Foreign Minister Robin Cook put pressure on the ethnic Albanians to accept the agreement.

"If you don't sign up to these texts, it is extremely difficult to see how NATO could then take action against Belgrade," he said told the British Broadcasting Corp.

Albright, on CNN, took a much more sympathetic tone with the Albanians, saying "their lives are in the balance," but restated the U.S. opposition to granting them full independence.

"What we really need to do is to focus on this interim period, help them to really make sure that the various instruments that are part of this agreement that has local

elections, local police, the possibility of schools that teach the Albanian language ... plus a presidency and a constitution, that we ought to focus on making those institutions real," she said.

Once a widespread six-republic nation, Yugoslavia has shattered since 1991 to the point of having only two republics, Serbia and tiny Montenegro.

While Kosovo's 2 million people are about 90 percent ethnic Albanian, the Serbs consider the province the cradle of their culture and their Orthodox faith.

Albright met for three hours with Albanian leaders and then for nearly an hour with Serbian President Milan Milutinovic.

The U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the negotiations centered on trying to find a way not to foreclose the option of independence in the agreement.

Speaking to the reporters in a light drizzle outside the Rambouillet town hall, where she was greeted by local dignitaries at the end of her day's talks, Albright said her own plans were up in the air. "I have made no decision how long I will stay here," she said.

The six nations sponsoring the talks — the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Italy and Russia — agreed Saturday to extend the deadline they had set for noon that day until 3 p.m. (9 a.m. EST) Tuesday. They are trying to end the fighting in which at least 2,000 people have died in Kosovo and 300,000 have been left homeless. ■

eBay halts online sales of guns,ammunition

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Concerned about its ability to comply with firearms laws, Internet auction company eBay says it will no longer allow the sale of guns or ammunition.

The San Jose-based company said Friday that firearms sales was an area of growing concern because online sellers cannot guarantee that buyers meet all the qualifications.

"When we started, the firearms categories were targeted primarily to serious collectors," said Steve Westly, vice president of marketing and business development at eBay. "Now

we're starting to see standard-issue firearms that are not collectible and are not appropriate for sale online."

Certain guns and ammunition are illegal to sell in some states, and federal laws govern many aspects of firearms purchases, including how weapons can be shipped and who may purchase them.

Many of the largest online auction sites do not carry firearms, or carry only limited listings.

eBay, the leading online auction house, has been under investigation by at least four states for the use of the service by con artists. ■

Allies deny Iraqi claim plane may have been shot down

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi air defenses may have shot down a Western military plane in southern Iraq Sunday, the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

The United States and Britain denied any planes were lost.

"Our air defenses have confronted the enemy aircraft and one of them seems to have been shot," INA quoted a military spokesman as saying.

A Pentagon spokesman, Michael Byers, said Sunday that "all morning flights were uneventful."

Britain's Ministry of Defense denied any planes were lost and described

Sunday's activity as "routine patrols."

Iraq has made several claims in the past about shooting down Western planes, but none of them has proved to be correct.

American and British planes patrolling the no-fly zones over southern and northern Iraq have regularly clashed with Iraqi defense and aircraft.

The zones were set up after the 1991 Persian Gulf War to protect rebel Shiite Muslim groups in the south and Kurdish guerrillas in the north from Saddam's forces. ■

FEE INCREASE

continued from page 1

If the change is passed, the SGA will receive \$3 per student. Student Programming would receive a \$3 per student supplement to help bring more entertainment and activities to campus.

Sports clubs would receive \$2 per student to be divided between the clubs.

The remainder of the increased fee, \$2, will go to sponsor a new university lecture series. Burke said the details of this have yet to be worked out, but probably will include a monthly lecture by someone well-known in their field of study.

Burke said it is unusual for a school the size of MTSU to have such a small fee.

"Minimal is being generous," he said. "It's not realistic for a school this size."

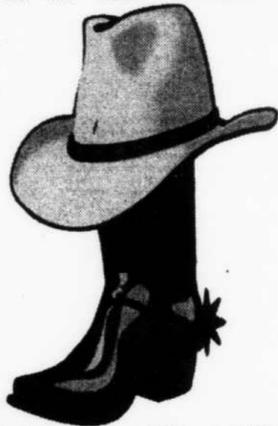
A similar increase was on the ballot last spring to raise the amount to \$25 per semester. The vote failed last spring, possibly because students were not sure what was funded by that fee.

"There is a need being expressed for this," Burke said. "All this money is going back to student activity." ■

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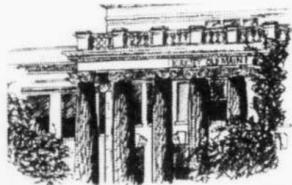
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OPINIONS

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

—Thomas Jefferson
Murfreesboro, TN

4 ■ SIDELINES

Editorial

Thursday's issue of Sidelines contained an ad supplement advocating the pro-life movement.

It contained graphic descriptions of abortion procedures, testimonials from people who had had and performed abortions and "facts" about abortions.

Since it was inserted inside the regular issue of Sidelines, the statement "She's a child, not a choice" may have appeared to be editorial content to some readers. However, it was paid advertising just like any ad readers will find on the bottom of inside pages of the paper.

This does not mean the staff advocates the group's positions or the pro-life movement in general.

But we, as a group, did not want to deny others from making their own decisions about this issue.

College is the time when many people are exposed to completely new beliefs, experiences and ideas. Some people arrive at college never having left a sheltered environment where they haven't been exposed to many issues they will face in college and afterward.

If a student will ever develop a truly open mind, college is the place where this is most likely to occur.

Please don't take our decision to insert this supplement into our paper as evidence we would like to make everyone on campus pro-life advocates. Publishing the insert was geared at getting people to think and perhaps consider their beliefs.

We want you to read the tabloid and make up your own mind. Whether or not to have an abortion is a decision that many people will face in their lifetimes — either for themselves or with their partners — and it is best to know how you feel about the situation before you need to.

Did the logic in the ad seem flawed to you? Or did it make perfect sense? Chances are there was not middle ground — that it was either all or nothing.

That is why we wanted to take the opportunity to present some other sides today.

When we first got word several weeks ago that the supplement could be run, we sat down at a staff meeting and discussed how people felt about publishing it.

Staffers were given a chance to flip through the supplement and evaluate it. And the end result was that the insert should be run, whether or not it represents the view of individual staff members.

It also was decided we wanted to present the other side of the coin. If we presented our readers with pro-life propaganda, we wanted to offer someone who views the issue completely different the chance to refute what was included in the supplement.

We hope that you picked up Thursday's paper to see what the insert was all about just like we hope that you will read the other side of the topic that is presented in this issue of the paper.

But most importantly, we hope that you will take the time to think and decide the issue for yourself. ■

Fathers should have say about abortion

Shawn Whitsell
Staff Reporter

Abortion is a very controversial topic. The debate (or should I say battle) between pro-life and pro-choice advocates seems to get more and more intense. One side says killing an unborn child is murder, while the other side says it's a woman's body so it's her choice. I don't think I would fit into either one of these groups.

True, I believe that life begins at conception and abortion should not be used as a form of birth control. But I also realize that there are some cases, such as rape and medical emergencies, that deserve special attention and should maybe be left up to the woman to make the decision.

I realize that some people believe that no one should be able to tell a woman what to do with her body but abortion is taking away a life and the last time I checked, taking away a life was against the law and most importantly, against God's commandments. I also feel that people who have abortions are labeled as being cruel. First of all,

we all have sin. There is no such thing as little sin or big sin, because sin is sin. We all have skeletons in our closets, and we will have to answer to God for the things we do. It is not up to us to judge. I truly believe that many abortions are done out of panic, and that many women regret it afterwards. These women have to live with this choice for the rest of their lives, and many of them are haunted by their decision.

So as you have read, I understand both points of view, but if I had to choose a side, it would be pro-life. However, I do feel that pro-life advocates can be a little pushy. Both sides should stop the battle and actually listen to each other. Although they don't agree, they can still respect each other and try to come up with a solution.

The answer is out there. We've just got to find it.

Now to the another aspect of abortion, the father's role in abortion. Why is it that some women don't feel like they have to consult the father before having an abortion? That's crazy! The man played the same role as the women did in creating this baby,

the man would have to raise this baby if its born, and the man would be labeled a deadbeat dad and maybe even imprisoned if he didn't take care of his child. So why can't a man play a role in deciding on things like abortions?

I know that it's the woman's body. She is the one who has to

that she was pregnant. This is unfair because the baby belongs to him, too. If a woman was pregnant and the father put her to sleep and had the abortion performed without her knowledge, then he, the doctor and everybody else who had something to do with the idea would be put under the jail.

But yet a woman doesn't need a man's permission to abort their baby. I am well aware of the cases when couples disagree on whether they should have a baby and maybe in those cases, the woman should get the final say. But she should at least talk to him about it.

Believe it or not, some woman view pregnancy and childbirth as a curse. It's not a curse, it's a blessing, and I think women should be thankful to be able to do something that no man could ever do. True, men help create babies, but only a woman can bring life into this world; that's why I think there tends to be a stronger bond between mother and child than father and child. Just being able to have a child is a blessing, because some couples can't have children, but to be able to bring

life into this world is a miracle. Remember that song by Whitney Houston called, "Miracle." ("Nothing should matter/Not when love grows inside you/The choice is yours/There's a miracle in store")

I also feel that men shouldn't pressure women to have abortions, just because they still have some partying they want to do before they become a father. Both people just have to come together, just like they came together to have sex, and come up with a solution.

As you have read, I have mixed feelings on the topic of abortion. This is a very controversial subject, so I know that a lot of people who read this will disagree with what I'm saying, and a lot of people will agree. I think it is great that people disagree. That way, we can open each up to new ideas.

We just have to do it in a mature and respectful way. We'll always have different ideas and opinions but if we keep God at the top of our agendas, we can come to a solution and put an end to this seemingly everlasting battle on abortion. ■

I think that women should be thankful to be able to do something that no man could ever do.

carry the baby and go through labor but women need to get over it because that's just the way things are. I am not trying to be insensitive but that's how God made things, so if you have a problem with that, you need to take it up with Him.

I've heard of far too many cases where the woman had an abortion without even telling the father

Anti-choicers irresponsible with loaded propaganda

Angela White
Staff Reporter

I don't know who pisses me off more, the people who publish hateful and judgmental misinformation and the people who are actually swayed by it.

Don't get me wrong. I love the First Amendment. It allows people to deliver truth and opinion to the masses without restriction or bias.

Unfortunately, it also gives some the right to distribute blatant propaganda filled with enough lies to get ten presidents impeached.

Take, for instance, the "She's a Child, Not a 'Choice'" advertising supplement that ran with our last issue.

Now, I can't really imagine being on a side of a debate that deals more with the concept of morals and judgment than with actual fact, but I can imagine that finding accurate up-to-date information to support that side would be quite difficult.

The anti-choice organization that created this tabloid, the Human Life Alliance of Minnesota, Education Fund, Inc., has proven that concept all too well. How else can you explain why most of the sources they site in their tabloid are almost a decade old?

For instance, the "Breast Cancer and Abortion" article, which suggests that women who have abortions are more susceptible to getting breast cancer and suffering a worse progression of the disease, was written with the latest source cited in 1991.

However, in 1997, a 30-year study from the highly respected Danish Epidemiology Science Center found absolutely no link between abortion and breast cancer.

Meanwhile, the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services all found the ads distributed by Christ Brides Ministries in association with the American Rights Coalition, which said "Women Who Choose abortion suffer more & deadlier breast cancer," damaging and inaccurate.

Apparently the Human Life Alliance didn't see a reason to provide this more recent data, since it didn't suit their interest.

Then there are the skewed statistics and incomplete laws that they use to support their already shaky case.

For example, they mention in their Fact vs. Fiction column that in 1972, the year before Roe v. Wade, "a total of 39 women died from illegal abortions, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control."

Of course, common sense alone could tell you that most illegal abortions weren't reported.

In fact, according to the National Abortion Federation, estimates of illegal abortions during the years prior to the Roe decision were as high as 1.2 million a

year. As for the little snippet entitled "Abortion is Legal During 7th, 8th, and 9th months," it is stated that "because of the broad definition of 'health' the Court...permitted abortion-on-demand in all fifty states right up until birth for any reason!"

However, it fails to mention that at least 23 states have passed anti-partial birth abortion laws as of last August, allowing for PBAs in protecting the woman's life but not her health.

This organization obviously can't believe everything it has printed in this tabloid. Far too many facts have been distorted or just outright changed for them to.

Yet they are perfectly willing to lead on the gullible and for the most part well-meaning pro-lifers like sheep. What is the motive behind this?

Is it really to promote what the organization feels is best and good for the well being of all? Or is it about power?

Hitler used lies and propaganda to obtain power over his naive and unsuspecting people. Could this not be interpreted as the same thing?

I feel that there is a certain responsibility to tell the truth, even if it may not entirely help your case.

While it may be nice to think that most people can see through bare-faced lies, unfortunately there are far too many morons out there. Some people believe everything they take the time to read and don't bother to challenge it or find out facts for themselves. This is how oppressive organizations like the Human Life Alliance can get away with crap like this.

The simple reality is that anti-choicers cannot use any concept of fact to prove their beliefs. "Life" cannot be proven to start at conception, since life cannot be easily defined.

The statistics which state that women are more at risk of death or dismemberment with abortion than with pregnancy or of the existence of "Post-Abortion Syndrome" are unfounded outside studies run by anti-choicers themselves.

Anti-choicers have nothing solid to fight with, so they do what they feel is their only choice to do. They make things up.

I am pro-choice. But I do not distort statistics or mislead my readers in an attempt to "prove" my case. I don't have to. The facts are on my side.

Someone in a crisis pregnancy should not have to put up with these half-truths. No one should. But they're out there, and they're staying. In fact, I'm not sure I would want it any other way.

The thought of restricting speech in any way pretty much causes that whole spine-shivering thing. The trick is being able to tell reality from the BS. Once you are able to achieve that, the propagandists have lost. ■

COLLEGE PRESS



Law against hate crimes would undermine rights

Robert W. Tracinski
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

The gruesome killings last year of two men — a black man in Texas who was dragged along the ground while tied to a pickup truck, and a homosexual student in Wyoming who was bound to a fence and beaten — have inspired new cries for a "hate crimes" law.

This law would make crimes motivated by enmity toward blacks, gays or other protected groups into a special federal offense. The ostensible purpose of such a law is to protect minorities from persecution. The result, however, would be the exact opposite. Targeting those with "politically incorrect" motives undermines the principle of objective law that undergirds our legal system's protection of rights.

Criminal law exists to prohibit certain actions — to safeguard individuals against force or fraud. For this purpose, there is no shortage of existing statutes. The accused killers in Wyoming and Texas, for example, are fully punishable for murder.

What, then, will a "hate crimes" law add? Despite its name, it is not "hated" as such that the proposed law targets. After all, which crimes aren't motivated by hatred? Are assaults and murders usually committed out of benevolence toward the victim? The real target is the criminal's ideas.

The proposed law declares that criminals motivated by a government-designated set of intolerable ideas — racism, sexism, religious sectarianism, anti-homosexuality — deserve special prosecution and additional punishment.

But to subject someone to trial and punishment on the basis of his ideas —

regardless of how despicable those ideas might be — constitutes a politicization of criminal law. Why, for example, should a racist be prosecuted for the special crime of targeting blacks, while the Unabomber is not subject to special prosecution for his hatred of scientists and business executives? The only answer is that the Unabomber's ideas are considered more "politically correct" than the racist's.

A "hate crimes" law would expand the law's concern from criminal action to "criminal thought." It would institute the premise that the purpose of our legal system is not to defend the rights of the victim, but to punish socially unacceptable ideas. This is a premise that should be abhorrent to a free society.

In addition, if committing a crime based on bad ideas warrants greater punishment, then committing a crime based on "politically correct" ideas should warrant lesser punishment. The judicial process would have to focus on the criminal's ideology, rather than on the objective violation of his victim's rights.

The beginnings of this politicization of crime are already in place. When anti-Vietnam War protesters, for example, forcibly occupied buildings and bombed laboratories in the '60s and '70s, they were heralded as "political dissenters," deserving of special leniency — while today, those who commit similar crimes in the name of racism are considered deserving of special penalties.

Similarly, in recent years the left has (properly) campaigned for laws to prevent anti-abortion protesters from harassing doctors and halting access to abortion clinics. Yet its own protesters routinely use force — such as the occupation of timberland to prevent logging — with no

See HATE CRIME, page 5

SIDELINES

P.O. BOX 42
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
EDITORIAL: 898-2337
ADVERTISING: 898-2533
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"Sidelines" is the non-profit, editorially independent newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published every Wednesday during June and July and on Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. FLASH!, the entertainment magazine, is published every Wednesday during the Fall & Spring semester. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily "Sidelines" or the university.

From the Mailbox

Powell got bad rap, says student

To Editor,

Criminal Justice professor Dennis Powell is one of the finest teachers I have encountered at this university.

Dr. Powell is demanding but fair, and he treats his students in the same professional manner that he wishes to be treated. Before becoming an educator, Dr. Powell served his country both in the military and as a law enforcement officer. Dr. Powell teaches his students that it is easy to get a degree, but you must work to get an education. His teaching methods allow his students to see the subject matter in real-life situations.

There has been mention of his so-called "crude" language in his classes. Dr. Powell does not deny that he frequently uses colorful words to get his point across.

However, Dr. Powell never makes off-color comments relating to gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or any other subject that might offend students.

Most students that are enrolled in his courses are preparing for a career in some aspect of law enforcement. If someone preparing for such a career is offended by obscene language, they should choose a different career path, since they will encounter these words on a daily basis. He warns students from the first day that if they are offended by his language, they are more than welcome to drop the course.

Dr. Powell's courses have allowed me to see an entirely different perspective in relation to our Criminal Justice system. When I began his course in the Fall 1998 semester, I was very narrow-minded in my thinking. He exposes his students to many different types of thinking in his courses, including opinions that he does

not share. His goal is to allow his students to think more open-mindedly. Dr. Powell does not rely on a textbook to teach his students; all of the course material is given through his colorful lecturing. These lectures combine facts with his own personal experiences as a law enforcement officer, providing students with both objective and subjective viewpoints. He challenges his students to think for themselves and encourages classroom discussions. He is a true professional in his field.

In regard to the charges that have been brought against Dr. Powell, I believe that they are a result of the over-zealous "politically correct" atmosphere on this campus. Dr. Powell is a very intelligent person, particularly when the law is involved. He is happily married and has three children. If he did in fact touch a student on the hip, it was only done in an effort to get her out of his way.

There is no hard evidence that corroborates the charges of sexual advances that were made in his office. In the society that we live in, any male accused of sexual harassment is automatically judged to be guilty.

Perhaps, for a change, we should wait and let Dr. Powell defend himself in a hearing.

This man has served our university for twenty years, and he has a right to defend himself against these charges. After his hearing, we can all get back to learning, and Dr. Powell can focus his efforts on his superior teaching, instead of being distracted by ridiculous charges made by students who were too lazy to educate themselves and received failing grades as a result of their laziness.

Sincerely,
Gregory R. Atwood
College of Liberal Arts

used to irritate and enrage animals used in rodeos.

The flank or "bucking strap" used to make horses and bulls buck is tightly cinched around their abdomens, where there is no rib cage protection. Tightened near the large and small intestines and other vital organs, the belt pinches the groin and the genitals. This agonizing pain causes the animals to buck, not their "wild nature."

In a study conducted by the Humane Society of the United States, two horses known for their gentle temperament were subjected to the use of a flank strap. Both bucked until the strap was removed.

Then several rodeo-circuit horses were released from a pen without the usual flank straps and did not buck, illustrating that the "wild" frenzied behavior in the animals is artificially induced by the rodeo riders and promoters in rodeo events.

I am boycotting all rodeos, and I am pleading with other MTSU students to do the same. Let's spread the word that if we need to spend our hard-earned money to watch animals suffer and scream out in pain in order to get our own personal "kicks" then something is terribly, tragically WRONG.

J. Serena Matthews

Boycott barbaric rodeo coming to town

To the Editor:

It's 1999 folks. Animal cruelty should be a crime of the past, yet it continues to be very common and widespread in Tennessee and the rest of the country. For example, the rodeo will be visiting Nashville near the end of this month, and I am writing this letter to urge MTSU students not to attend this barbaric event.

Rodeos are promoted as rough and tough exercises of human skill and courage in conquering the fierce, untamed beasts of the Wild West.

In reality, rodeos are simply manipulative displays of human domination over animals, thinly disguised as entertainment. What began in the late 1800's as a skill contest between cowboys has become a show motivated by greed and profit.

Although rodeo performers voluntarily risk injury by participating in these events, the animals they use have no such choice.

Electric prods, sharp sticks, caustic ointments and other torturous devices are

Todd building should be destroyed to build new parking garage

Dear Editor,

Parking on campus is getting worse as days go by. It is to the point where many are afraid to move their cars, because they might lose their spots. It really should not be this way. There are simply not enough places on campus to park. MTSU offer 8,300 parking spaces, but there are 15,496 parking permits that have been sold. That is almost double the amount of spaces available. What are we going to do?

Well, my suggestion is that after we move into the new library, we also tear Todd Library down.

We tear the old library down in order to build a parking garage. MTSU could get some of the architect majors to draw up some blueprints rather than hiring a company to do it. This saves the college some money, as well as giving the architect majors some experience. Next, the school's concrete management program could build the new garage on its own. This process can easily be followed

through with the resources provided.

With this parking garage, campus life could become a little better. First, students can be in class on time, instead of looking for a parking spot. Also, there would not be such hectic traffic in front of Peck Hall due to those who couldn't find a spot. These changes could cause MTSU to become a better campus.

Yet, we must consider the problem of where to receive finances. Where can we get the money? Our alumni have just helped us build our new library. At the moment, we don't have a definite means of finance. So, how can we raise money to improve our campus?

Yes, money is always a problem. Nevertheless, it does not cause a situation to become impossible.

We still have basic insurance in our school's account, which should cover a majority of the finances of this reconstruction.

After the parking garage is built, we could charge each motorist a toll fee that would pay the rest of the balance. This may not be the best plan, it is a plan. This problem must be solved, because parking is getting worse day by day.

Lisa Burgess and Josh Russell



Republicans should look forward, not dwell on Clinton

Bill R. Phillips
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

It is time for the Republican Party to get back to business.

There are those among the Republicans who have become obsessed with what they view as an illegitimate presidency, and they have dedicated every ounce of energy to correcting what they think was a horrible mistake made by the voters in 1992. The nation's business and resolve have been damaged by the intensity of the effort.

As a former presidential aide in the Reagan and Bush administrations, vivid are the memories of a few Democrats who truly believed the Reagan administration was an illegitimate presidency held by a "Grade B actor."

They never accepted his election - no more than some Republicans can accept the fact that someone known to possess a weak moral foundation was elected in 1992.

The president was acquitted by the Senate, not exonerated.

It has been months since

anyone has seriously attempted to explain away his behavior, but it has been decided through proper process that his actions do not merit removal from office - for better or worse.

Now is the time to get on with it.

Unfortunately, that advice is destined to be ignored by some.

For example, at a recent reunion of Reagan administration alumni, the talk was not of moving forward, but rather regaining momentum to "recapture the revolution."

Recapture included sending Bill Clinton back to Arkansas.

The truth is, many of these people thought the revolution was derailed in 1988 when George Bush was elected president; and there are a few who privately think Reagan, himself, may have strayed from the true agenda on occasion.

There is no way in hell they will ever think a proven lech should be residing in the White House.

The fact of the matter is President Clinton is being punished. There remains absolutely no respect for the man.

However, the voters early on let it be known that they did not want to throw him out of office, but punishment was in order. Foremore, Bill Clinton will still be impeached.

And, for the next two years, his agenda will be at the mercy of Congress.

His administration will begin to deteriorate as talented, dedicated individuals look for their exits from positions, and replacements will be nearly impossible to find.

Bill Clinton now is viewed by most Americans as a damaged and wounded president, and in his heart, he knows it.

In many ways, this may be a far more severe punishment than conviction by the Senate and removal from office.

That sentence he could protest as politically motivated, but now he still has to face the cameras everyday and pretend to be in power. We know different.

So, instead of devoting the next two years to making Clinton look bad, the Republicans need to get back to the business of improving the nation through sound public policy. If they are true to the

Reagan Revolution, they will devote their energies to positive improvements rather than vindictive rhetoric.

And, if the White House is to return to Republican hands in 2000, the Dutchman's 11th Commandment, "thou shalt not speak ill of fellow Republicans," must be reactivated. Conservative is conservative no matter the adverb in front of it. There is room for variation in implementing conservative, well-thought-out policies.

The nation is emerging from the impeachment process with a look forward. The Democrats appear to be focused on taking back at least one chamber of the Congress and putting Al Gore in the driver's seat. It is clear that Bill Clinton's role in the party's future is restricted.

Rather than the GOP placing all its energy into punishing Bill Clinton, it would serve everyone well, including the legacy of Ronald Reagan, if the Republicans returned to the business of ensuring good government along the lines as envisioned by that "Grade B actor." ■

HATE CRIME

continued from page 4

fear of special government prosecution.

Nor is the attempt to politicize the criminal law limited to the left.

Several years ago, a conservative judge suspended the sentences of two priests — arrested for physically blocking entry to an abortion clinic — because they were motivated by "sincere religious beliefs."

Under such a system, anything goes. The entire criminal justice apparatus can be used as a political tool by whatever faction happens to be in power.

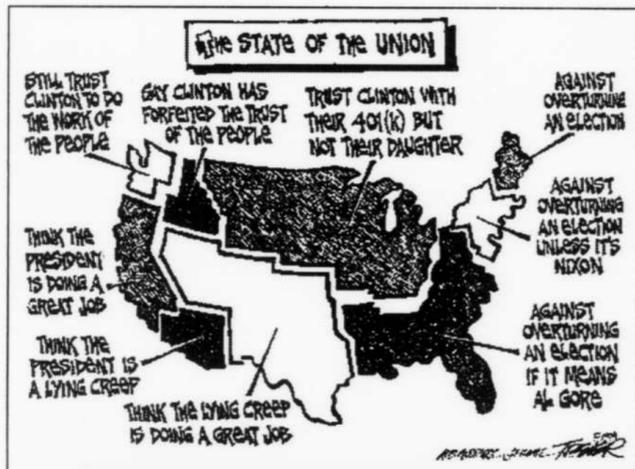
Crimes can be whitewashed if done for the "correct" political motives, while extra punishment can be meted out to those with "incorrect" motives.

Where will this end? If a man convicted of an actual criminal act can be sentenced to

additional years in prison simply for his ideas — then, in logic, why can't someone be punished solely for his ideas? Even if he has not committed a single action against another person, why can't he be tried simply for being a "purveyor of hate"? Indeed, this development is already foreshadowed by campus "speech codes," which bar statements deemed "offensive" to protected groups.

The first official step on this deadly path — the creation of a special category of "hate crimes" — should be resoundingly rejected.

It is an attempt to import into America's legal system a class of crimes formerly reserved only to dictatorships: political crimes. Instead, we should insist on the one principle that forms the foundation for the protection of all rights, i.e., that the purpose of law is to punish criminals for initiating force against others — not for holding bad ideas. ■



Here's the fact: more than two-thirds of all women on welfare have recent work experience. They also have the determination to provide stable futures for their families. With new welfare reform laws, many have already proven this by re-emerging into the work force as productive, loyal, and even model employees. Many more would like their chance. To learn how your company can benefit by hiring someone who truly wants to work, call The Welfare to Work Partnership at 1-888-USA-JOBI. Or visit us at www.welfaretowork.org. Welfare to Work. It works.

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FEATURES

6 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Book Review

'The Angel of Darkness' bound for bestseller list

Edward Kauffman
Staff Reporter

Caleb Carr earned a degree in history and used that knowledge to his advantage as a storyteller. The story takes place in 1897 in New York City where Mr. Kreizler an alienist with Stevie Taggart, Marcus and Lucius Isaacson, John Schuyler Moore, Cyrus Montrose and Miss Sara Howard form a team to catch this child killer. They only have so long before the killer will murder the baby, so time is of the essence.

The story works out as a concentration between the killer and Doctor Kreizler. Kreizler studies the minds of so-called "insane" people. He is the leading alienist in this field. Kreizler's life goal is to prove to people that these "insane" people who have committed atrocious crimes are really sane; their methods and reasons for doing such things as they have can be explained, he believes, by understanding their past experiences of life.

As they tackle the case, there is this constant foreboding of Libby Hatch and even when she becomes a part of the story, she is worse than what the reader had thought. She is playful, yet at the same time, there's a deep threat underneath her so that if you cross her there is danger. Mr. Moore puts it nicely: "I couldn't tell whether that woman wanted to f--- me or kill me." She is a paradox and her some of her intentions possess deadly dimensions.

Caleb Carr takes the reader into a world of 1897 filled with dismay, haunting and fear, yet there is hope and a new beginning for these New York bastard children getting into trouble and 10-year-old girls involved in prostitution.

The climax of the story involves Mr. Darrow, a practicing defense lawyer in Chicago that shifts this story all topsy-turvy. The reader begins to focus on him rather than what Kreizler and company are trying to achieve and the reader actually begins to doubt Kreizler and his team's convictions about providing justice. That is what makes this story so interesting—the turns that lead off the main road and then back onto the main road.

Mr. Carr writes poetical ease that catches the readers unaware. "Angel of Darkness" will most likely be one of the best books this year. ■

MUSIC



Steven Rizzo performing with his wife Amy.

Photo provided

English professor teaches composition by day and writes compositions by night

Stacie Odeneal
Staff Reporter

At the end of a test or the beginning of a lecture, it seems as though a professor's life revolves around nothing but research topics and essay questions. Many professors, however, lead a secret life, including Steven Rizzo.

By day, Rizzo teaches composition for MTSU's English department. By night, he is a country songwriter with 120 written songs, three of which have been published.

Rizzo said his songwriting career started his freshman year of college, when he wondered on his way to school if he could incorporate his poetic past into song. By the time he got to class, he had most of his first song written.

Originally from Bryan, Texas, he wasn't a big fan of country music until his senior year of high school.

"I was flipping through the radio

when I heard 'I should be with you right now' by Steve Wariner, and I loved it," Rizzo said. "Then I bought his album and I loved the whole thing."

The country bug bit even harder when a three-year relationship ended.

"I had lots of inspiration and my roommate at the time had written some. It just grew from there."

Songwriting complements his professorship nicely. Not only does teaching at the college level provide flexible hours, but songwriting and composition are almost one in the same.

Rizzo said, "Songs involve a lot of details, coherency, imagery and metaphors just like composition. On the other hand, reading for class gives me new ideas and different aspects of styles for my songs."

Rizzo said songwriting is not the rose garden it may seem. The industry is very competitive and involves industry politics that can be frustrating.

The art of songwriting isn't so easy either, especially when it comes to country music.

"It's difficult to be clear in a song and still have a deeper meaning," he said. "In country music, you have to use common language and be direct, compared to poetry that can use terms that are more vague."

While he hopes to be a songwriting success, Rizzo has come to enjoy teaching far more than he expected.

"Ideally, I'd like to keep teaching even if I 'make it' in songwriting."

However, he has some advice for those who want to go all the way into a career on Music Row.

"Be open to criticism, but don't accept everything people tell you," Rizzo said. "Have your opinion and stick with what you feel is good about your music."

Fans of Rizzo can catch him at the Broken Spoke this Friday from 8-8:30 pm, February 25, at 11:15 or at the Gibson Guitar Cafe on March 2 from 5-7 pm. ■

CD Review

Meshuggah, 'Chaosphere' a loud experience

David Robinson
Staff Reporter

Every once in awhile you come across a band with extreme talent and a totally original approach to songwriting. Throw in a blender and a few other pieces of machinery, and you have Sweden's Meshuggah. Just recently releasing their fourth full-length studio album, 'Chaosphere', Meshuggah have risen to the ranks of underground stardom.

The lineup on 'Chaosphere' includes Jens Kidman on vocals, Gustaf Hielm on bass, Tomas Haake on drums, Marten Hagstrom on rhythm guitar and Fredrik Thordendal on rhythm and lead guitars.

Similar to previous albums, 'Chaosphere' focuses primarily on the concept of mind-boggling poly-rhythms, which have become Meshuggah's trademark. Working around an almost impossible to perceive 4/4 time, the band uses computer technology to construct each rhythm before actually playing it in the practice room. As you can imagine, this makes for some extremely intense rhythm patterns, which almost hang in the balance between on- and off-beat.

One thing I'm not happy to say about 'Chaosphere' is that Meshuggah have dropped their beautiful clean guitar compositions, which were prominent on their previous release 'Destroy, Erase, Improve' and have kept the guitars on full distortion throughout the entire album. There was something about those interludes that just gave the songs more depth, almost like an unexpected change of pace.

Major influences for Meshuggah include Cynic and Chic Corea, two artists on almost opposite ends of the spectrum, but at the same time contributing similar musical focal points.

'Chaosphere' grinds on like a raw machine, never letting up with its insane rhythm structures, powerful and impossible drumming, and haunting lyrics which perceive a bleak future. These boys know what they're doing, and each album is like a different look into the future of this genre of music. I definitely recommend 'Chaosphere' to anyone seeking something different, but be prepared; this is not like anything you have heard before. Get ready for a full-on audio experience. Listen loud. ■

'Blast From the Past': great storyline, no chemistry

Brendan Fraser has made a name for himself by playing characters that are out of their element, like those in Encino Man and School Ties. Blast From the Past has Fraser doing this as well.

This film tells the story of Alvin and Helen Webber, played by Christopher Walken and Sissy Spacek, and their reaction to the Cuban Missile Crisis. On the night in 1962 when John F. Kennedy addresses the nation about the hostile relations with Cuba, Alvin, a brilliant professor, takes his wife down in an extravagant fallout shelter.

While they are in the shelter, a

fighter jet with engine trouble crashes on their house. They see the explosion and assume Los Angeles has been hit by a nuclear bomb. Alvin tells Helen they must stay in the shelter for 35 years to wait for the radiation to clear.

Still in the shelter, Helen gives birth to a son, Adam (Brendan Fraser). Adam grows up to be a very intelligent and well-mannered individual. His only weaknesses are his weak knowledge of pop culture and the real world.

When the 35 years have passed, Adam is sent above ground to get supplies. Having never been above ground, Adam has no clue about how to find his way around Los

Angeles. He has his father's collection of valuable baseball cards. When he is about to get cheated for the entire collection, Eve (Alicia Silverstone) steps in and helps him out.

Realizing he is too naive to make his way around the real world, Adam offers to pay a reluctant Eve if she will help him sell his baseball cards and round up the supplies. During this time, Adam and Eve begin to start having feelings for each other.

In originality, Blast From the Past earns points for having one of the most inventive stories in recent years, for a romantic comedy. The different elements, especially the

set piece that makes up the fallout shelter, are interesting treats as well.

The performances by the two parents also stand out. Christopher Walken is terrific as usual as Adam's brilliant but paranoid father. Sissy Spacek is also good as Adam's simple, god-fearing mother who is dying to get to go above ground. Kids in the Hall alumnus Dave Foley is also very funny and likable as Troy, Eve's gay roommate.

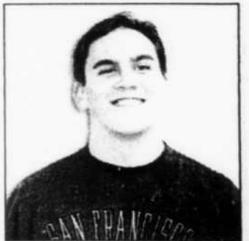
The main problem with Blast From the Past is that the chemistry between Adam and Eve is unbelievable. I can see how screenwriters Bill Kelly and Hugh

Wilson intended for their relationship to progress, but I just do not believe that these two characters are in love.

One other problem I had with the film is that Kelly and Wilson have us spend over 30 minutes getting to know Alvin, Helen and Adam and spends no time letting us get to know Eve. The audience could have benefited from a little more development of Eve's character.

A love story with a great storyline but no chemistry between its lead characters can only expect a lukewarm response from its audience. ■

"Natural Talent"



Aaron Tallent
Staff Reporter

STARS (out of four): ★★ 1/2

Online retailers help students play 'buy' the book

Christine Tatum
College Press Exchange

While shopping for books this semester, Troy Dumire spotted an intriguing ad in the student newspaper at the University of South Florida.

It dared him to find "any other area college bookstore" offering books at lower prices. Campus bookstore officials were so confident it couldn't be done that they offered to pay double the difference to anyone who proved them wrong.

Dumire, consoled by the thought that the bookstore would give him double the difference - \$157 - proudly presented his receipts and Internet research to store management. They turned him down, stating in a letter Dumire received that online booksellers couldn't be counted among "area college bookstores."

"I don't know why not," Dumire said. "Online sellers are advertising on this campus, and they're certainly available in this area. If the student bookstore didn't want to include them in the offer, it should have put a disclaimer in the ad."

Dumire was even more insulted when he learned that VarsityBooks.com is an affiliate member of the National Association of College Stores.

"The lesson here is that I'll be in the future," Dumire said. "It was easier, and it was definitely cheaper."

Such conclusions are sending shivers up the spines of college bookstore managers around the country. While it appears campus bookstores still have a much stronger foothold in textbook sales, it's tough to say how much longer that edge will remain. Students are increasingly Web savvy and have been searching for ways to overthrow campus bookstores for years. And with Web textbook vendors advertising on campus more aggressively, the battle for students' business is expected to get ugly.

"It's real competition at last," said John Dennis, a junior majoring in math at California State University at Bakersfield. "I've been waiting a long time for this."

Given the explosion of online shopping, it was only a matter of time before someone tapped into the nation's \$3 billion textbook industry.

VarsityBooks.com and Big Words have emerged as the frontrunners among a half-dozen online bookstores looking to grab students' money.

Most of the Web "stores" tout hundreds of thousands of titles and discounts of up to 40 percent - reductions they say they are able to



they're willing to pit service and product quality against their online competition any day. But price?

Well, that's another matter - at least for now. Many managers, like Farley, say there's something fishy about the reduced prices being peddled online these days.

"The publishers won't even let me buy some of these books at the rates they're being sold for online," she said. "I don't understand that."

Neither does the National Association of College Stores, which has hired attorneys to look into allegations of impropriety, said spokesman Jerry Buchs.

And another thing about those low prices: Little or none of the money spent with companies online goes back to the university to help students, bookstore managers say.

Figured into the price of textbooks sold by many campus stores are administrative fees paid to universities for a variety of support services and contributions to student, faculty and staff activities and promotions.

"These are all on-line that are not required of on-line booksellers and, to some extent, to private bookstores," Jeffrey Mack, director of auxiliary services at USF, stated in the rejection letter Dumire received. "Without these expenses, these private companies can reduce the margin

(and subsequent prices) necessary to run their operations. Their incentive is profit, and they are contributing nothing to the university."

To help its members fend off competition the association is encouraging them to fight fire with fire.

"It's simple," Buchs said. "College bookstores have to find a way to do business on the Internet."

In February, many college stores are expected to take advantage of a new product called "Course Web," a series of Web pages that can be tailored to individual campuses and are designed to make students' shopping easier.

Using Course Web, professors will be able to post changes in required reading immediately. Students will be able to reserve books at the campus store, where they can pay for them when they pick them up, or they can choose to conduct the entire transaction online and have their books delivered to them at home later that day.

"It's the best of both worlds because it gives students up-to-the-minute information on their courses and the full convenience of shopping online," he said. "And because the student store is right on campus, this option also provides the next-door, face-to-face connection people need."

Tell that to John Dennis, the Cal State student who ordered his books online this semester.

"I'll shop wherever the books are cheapest," he said. ■

offer because they don't have to maintain stores or buildings. E Follet tells students to "get out of line," and Big Words currently is not charging for shipping and handling. For a flat shipping rate of \$4.95, VarsityBooks promises that books will be on students' doorsteps within three business days. For a few extra bucks, overnight options are also available.

"Our plans are already working," said Eric Kuhn, co-founder and CEO of VarsityBooks. "We fully understand that people expect shopping online to be cheaper and speedy. The savings and short delivery time we offer distinguish us from anyone else. We believe we have the whole package."

Not so fast, said Kay Farley assistant union director for retail and bookstore manager at Kansas State University. She's keeping a watchful eye on what her online competitors are up to and so far isn't too impressed.

"I think service is a big factor, and from what I hear, their service isn't as good as they say it is," she said. "People I've talked to get their books, and that's not good - especially when it's an algebra book; it's imperative you have that at the start of class."

"And what if a student drops the class or gets the wrong book?" she continued. "Returning a book ordered online is another hassle I wouldn't want to contend with."

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SPORTS

Lady Raiders tackle TSU Tigers tonight in tourney

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

The Lady Raiders will host the Tennessee State Lady Tigers in the first round of the OVC tournament tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. in the Murphy Center.

The Ladies went 2-0 against the Lady Tigers this year, with 39- and two-point victories.

In their first meeting, the Lady Raiders dominated the Lady Tigers. Jamie Thomatis led the assault with 19 points, while Jessica McClure chipped in with 11. Schronda Moore led TSU with 22 points, but it was not anywhere near enough to save the Lady Tigers, as she was the only Tiger to score in double figures. TSU shot only 23 percent from the field, while the Lady Raiders shot a blistering 62 percent from the field. When the Lady Raiders happened

to miss a shot, they usually got the rebound. They had 52 rebounds, while the Lady Tigers grabbed only 32. The end result was an 89-50 MTSU win.

When these same two teams met at Murphy Center on Feb. 11, the score was much closer. Schronda Moore was not the only Tiger to score in double figures this time, as Cari Hassell scored a game-high 29 points. In the first contest she scored only six. As a result, the Lady Tigers shot 44 percent from the field and scored 79 points, but they still fell short. Jamie Thomatis and Bama Burrell each scored 17, enabling the Lady Raiders to prevail 81-79.

Obviously, the Lady Raiders have the ability to defeat TSU. Assuming they prevail, MTSU will play the winner of the UT-Martin Eastern Kentucky contest. The Lady Raiders swept

sixth seeded EKU, while managing a split with the third-seeded Lady Skyhawks.

Expect MTSU and UT-Martin to win their first-round games and face each other in the second round. In a tough battle, the Lady Raiders will prevail and advance to the conference finals against Tennessee Tech. Since I am an MTSU student, I will have to pick the Lady Raiders to win the tournament. Do not expect them to advance in the Big Dance, because they will be seeded 14th or 15th, which means they will face a ranked team.

The TSU game is tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at Murphy Center. Because this is a tournament, game tickets are \$4 each. If the Lady Raiders prevail, they will play on Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Nashville Arena. ■

Blue Raiders in third place going into tournament action

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

It's that time of year again. It is time for March Madness. MTSU starts it off by playing TSU on Tuesday night in the Murphy Center at 7:30.

The Blue Raiders finished the season on a high note by beating the Colonels of Eastern Kentucky. The Raiders played at Eastern but came away winners by a 72-65 score.

With that win, the Raiders locked up a third-place spot within the conference and insured themselves a home game in the first round of the Ohio Valley Conference.

The first game of the tournament pits the Raiders against the sixth seed, the Tennessee State Tigers. MTSU has beaten the Tigers both times this year by scores of 70-60 and 78-74.

However, in the last meeting with TSU, the league's leading scorer, Jamie Roberts was injured and did not play. It is not certain

whether he will play or not in the game on Tuesday.

Both teams are coming off wins in their final games of the regular season. TSU beat UT-Martin by nine in overtime on Saturday.

To win the game, MTSU has to control the rebounds. The defensive rebounds were big keys to the wins for the Raiders. MTSU out-rebounded TSU 28 to 12 on the defensive end of the floor. MTSU led by nine at the half on the back of Lee Nosse. He is another big key to this game. Nosse is capable of taking over a game, and probably will if he is given the opportunity. If Lee Nosse can get a touch at least once every time down the floor, he can open a lot more for the perimeter shooters of MTSU.

MTSU will win the game tomorrow by a score of 81-64. Nosse is going to have a huge game and Cedrick Wallace is going to step up as well.

In the second round of the tournament, MTSU will play the winner of the Southeast

Missouri game. SEMO will win that game and the Raiders will take them on Saturday night at the Nashville Arena. Tip off will be at 7 p.m. for the men's games.

In the other brackets, Murray State plays Tennessee Tech for the 1-vs.-8 game, while Austin Peay plays Morehead State for the 4-vs.-5 game. The winner of those two games will play each other.

MTSU is going to need Lee Nosse to play huge against Bud Eley, Southeast Missouri. Eley is the most dominant big man in the league. Nosse can take that role if he steps up and beats Eley.

MTSU will beat SEMO and then take on Murray State in the finals, when they will take on the Racers of Murray State. Murray will be a bit sluggish and MTSU will upset Murray for the first time this year. MTSU will go on to be a 15-seed in the NCAA tournament. ■

1999 Nautica Footwear Ohio Valley Conference Women's Championship Basketball Tournament Bracket

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23 (@ Campus Sites)	SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27 (@ Nashville Arena)	SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 (@ Nashville Arena)
#1 Tennessee Tech GAME 1 7:00 p.m.	GAME 5 11:00 a.m.	GAME 5 4:30 p.m. (Live Fox Sports South Telecast)
#8 Austin Peay #4 Southeast Missouri GAME 1 7:00 p.m.		
#5 Murray State #2 Middle Tennessee GAME 1 7:00 p.m.	GAME 6 1:00 p.m.	NCAA AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER OVC OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE
#7 Tennessee State #3 Tennessee-Martin GAME 1 7:00 p.m.		
#6 Eastern Kentucky		



NCAA AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER



ALL TIMES ARE CENTRAL
Graphic by Phonethip Melaynee Liu

ID not enough, tickets required

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

The MTSU men's and women's basketball teams tip off the OVC tournament tomorrow at the Murphy Center, but if you want to get in, don't rely on that old student ID.

The OVC tournament requires a ticket to enter. Tickets are \$4 for students and can be purchased at the Murphy Center ticket office or at any Ticket Master in the world. Tickets for high school students and

elementary students are included in the "student price." However, if you just claim to be a student of life, your price is \$10. The number for Ticket Master is 255-9600, and the Murphy Center ticket office is 898-2103.

The women's game will tip off at 5:30 against Tennessee State, and the men will take on the Tigers thirty minutes following that game.

MTSU season ticket holders will have through 4:30 on Monday to purchase their regular seats for the games. ■

Women's tennis splits double header with Brenau, Belmont

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

The Lady Raider tennis team played a double header Saturday against Brenau and Belmont. MTSU lost to Brenau but bounced back to defeat the Bruins without losing a match. Despite the cold temperatures, MTSU pulled out a victory.

Against Brenau, Jennifer Bryans won 6-4, 6-2 in straight sets, and doubles partner Alex Toelle did the same in her match. Michelle Grading took the first loss for the Raiders in straight sets to Shaun Lieu. Esther Eisnebarth defeated her opponent 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 to capture the Raiders third victory of the day.

MTSU lost two points due to the default seed. Their sixth-seeded player went down early

in the year with an injury and that has cost MTSU two points in every MTSU this season. What that means is that if MTSU loses 5-4, those points cost them the match. It indeed did against Brenau.

Against Belmont, the Raiders won despite the lack of the two points. MTSU destroyed Belmont 7-2.

Jennifer Bryans once again tore her opponent apart with a 6-1, 6-1 win. As a matter of fact, MTSU won the first 11 games among the top three seeds. The Raiders got up big early on, and the Bruins could not recover.

All of MTSU's not recover in their matches against the Bruins.

Even though the Raiders are lacking a player, they still remain confident that they can win the Ohio Valley Conference.

"I think it will be a tough year. It's tough when you only have five players," Coach David Thorton said.

Thorton continues to believe in his band of players. In fact, this could be a very memorable year for the Raiders.

"It's a team thing. It's up to [the players], and what they want to do. We have a good enough to team to pull out an OVC victory, but it's up to the players," Thorton said.

MTSU takes on Louisville Wednesday and Jennifer Bryans thinks it is going to be a tough match.

"They are a tough team. They always play very aggressive. We have played every year that I have been here. I think every player has to play well," Bryans said. ■



Softball wins against Samford, Alabama St.

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

The ladies of summer hit the diamond last weekend for a tournament in Troy, Alabama.

The Troy State Invitational featured MTSU, Troy State, Samford and Alabama State. The Raiders took on Troy State Friday and won the game 1-0 in a great pitcher's dual.

The next game featured Samford and Alabama State. Samford drilled ASU by a count of 14-4. Troy State then got the chance to pound on ASU and did so 16-1. MTSU took on Samford and won that game 7-3, while Troy State beat them 4-0.

MTSU then got the opportunity to take out their frustrations on ASU and did so with 5-0 win. The next day saw the Raiders win one game against ASU, 15-0. Unfortunately, Samford got revenge on MTSU and defeated the Raiders 3-2 in 11 innings.

The final of the tournament featured our very own Blue Raiders and the Troy State Trojans. Through out the game, MTSU stayed close to the Trojans. However, Troy State's pitching stymied MTSU and delivered the victory by a 2-0 score. ■

Blue Raider baseball upsets third-ranked Auburn, 5-2

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

The Raider baseball team took on the third-ranked Auburn Tigers over the weekend and pulled out an upset. On Saturday, MTSU won the game 5-2.

On Friday, the Raiders were on television channel 10, but took a defeat by a score of 8-2. Starting pitcher Jeff Parsons gave up five runs in the second, but none in any other inning. Through 4.1 innings, Parsons gave up five runs on only three hits, while striking out three and walking seven. The walks just killed Parsons in his first appearance of the year.

Saturday's game would provide some reconciliation for the Raider baseball team. MTSU scored one in the first and three in the third, and one in the fourth to take a 5-0 lead into the seventh inning.

Through five innings of work, Jamie Powers shut down the bats of the Tigers. He gave up four hits and no runs while walking one and striking out three. Dewon Brazelton entered the game in the sixth inning and gave up the only two runs of the game. He walked one and struck one out.

Brett Allen pitched in the ninth inning and picked up the save. Allen faced four batters and retired three, giving up no runs and no hits. The batter reached on error.

After the first two games of the season, MTSU has a 1-1 record and a win over a top-five team. MTSU takes on Southern Mississippi next weekend in Hattiesburg. ■

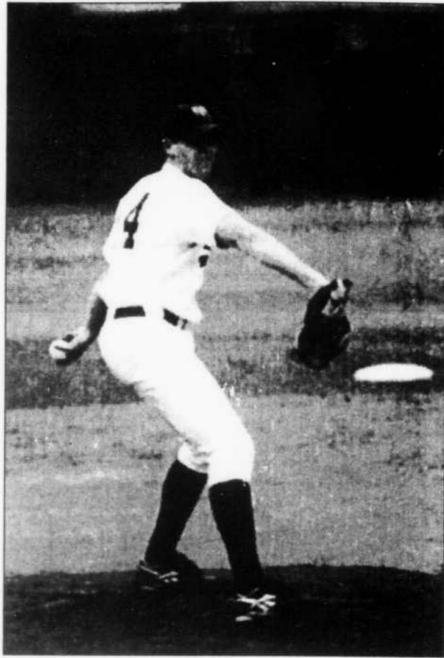


Photo provided
Jeff Parsons gave up five runs and seven walks to the Auburn Tigers Friday in his first outing of the season. MTSU came back Saturday with a 5-2 upset.

Golf has another disappointing outing

Keith Ryan Cartwright
Staff Reporter

TAMPA, FL. — Trips to Florida generally conjure up vivid thoughts of fun in the sun. However, the Blue Raiders golf team's weekend jaunt down south was anything but fun in the sun.

The wind blew in from the Gulf of Mexico, the temperature dropped lower than expected and, more importantly, the golf team struggled.

"There's not much I can say," head coach Johnny Moore said. "We played bad. I'm not trying to be catty, but there's teams beating us who have never beat us before."

Needless to say, the Blue Raiders finished the Ron Smith Intercollegiate, hosted by South Florida, in 15th place out of 17 teams. The Raiders carded a three-round team score of 932, 50 strokes behind tournament winner Virginia-Commonwealth.

"I think they're trying," Moore said. "I just don't have any answers. All we can do is try to get better."

"We've gone from having one of the best team's the school has had in a long time, to falling down a couple of notches."

Richard Spangler was the Raiders top finisher this weekend, tying 36th place. Spangler entered the final

round just five strokes off the lead, but a dismal 81 on the final day dropped him out of the top 20.

Four of the five Raiders all carded scores in the low 80s in the final round, including last year's Ohio Valley Conference champion Brett Alexander.

"When you have four of your players shoot in the 80s, you're not going to beat anybody," Moore lamented.

The Raiders will next participate in the Matlock Intercollegiate. The 54-hole tournament, hosted by Florida Southern, will take place March 5-7 at the Imperial Lakes Country Club in Lakeland, FL. ■

Classifieds

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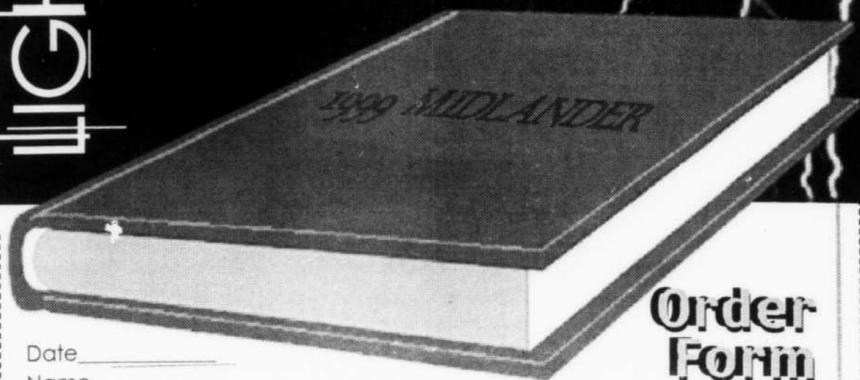
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