



This week's poll question at  
www.mtsusidelines.com:  
Was Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* worthy of all the hype?



# Softball squad keeps Lady Dawgs on leash

In Sports, 8



55 66  
Scattered Thunderstorms

The university's  
editorially independent  
student newspaper

# Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,  
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 68

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### Quiz Bowl looking for participants

The Scotty M. Tucker Memorial Quiz Bowl is looking for teams to compete in Tuesday's faceoff. Up to four people can be on a team. The first place team will receive \$80, with subsequent teams also receiving monetary rewards. The deadline to sign up is Friday at noon. Contact Ken Hollman at 898-2385 to sign up.

### ABC bureau chief to speak on WMD

Tom Osborne, a bureau chief and reporter for ABC from 1989-2000, will present a lecture titled "Still No Weapons of Mass Destruction: Preemptive Failures of the Past" tomorrow night at 7 in the Tucker Theatre. The lecture is free and open to the public.

### MTSU Orchestra to perform concert

The MTSU Orchestra will perform its next concert on Sunday at 3 p.m. in Wright Music Hall. Featured works will include Gliere's "Russian Sailor's Dance," Verdi's Overture to "I Vespri Siciliani," Respighi's "Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite No. 2," and Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2." The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 898-5318.

### Campus Rec taking Spring Break trips

Two Spring Break trips are available from Campus Recreation. The first is a backpacking trip in the Great Smoky Mountains March 19-28. The deadline to sign up is Tuesday at 5 p.m. The trip is open to six participants. The fee for students is \$75 and \$85 for non-students.

The second trip is a canoeing trip in the Suwannee River in Florida March 20-27. The deadline to sign up is Monday at 5 p.m. The trip is open to 12 participants, and the fee is \$190 for students and \$210 for non-students.

### Fraternity holds fund-raising events

Sigma Phi Epsilon wraps up Queen of Hearts Week today and tomorrow, with today's Sig Ep auction at Stampedes Dance Hall and tomorrow's Party with a Heart On at the Sig Ep House. For more information, contact Arash Gholizadeh at 497-1854 or Matt Young at 948-4546.

The fraternity's philanthropy is the American Heart Association. Other events the group has held this week include a banner decoration contest, a heart-shaped cookie bakeoff and a dodgeball tournament.

### Lifeguard training classes offered

Campus Recreation will offer lifeguard training March 12, 16, 18 and 19 from 6-10 p.m., March 13 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and March 14 from 2-7 p.m. For more information, contact Pam Footit at 898-2104 or visit mtsu.edu/~camprec/aquatics.

MORE BRIEFS, PAGE 2

## Rec Center thief steals wallets, car

### Unsecured locker allowed larcenist access to car keys

By Kristin Hall  
News Editor

A car and several items of personal property were stolen Monday night at the Recreation Center from student lockers, according to Public Safety.

The items, such as keys, wallets and clothing, were stolen from unlocked lockers in the first floor men's dressing room located across from the weight



room. One student's keys to a 2001 green Chevy Malibu were stolen, which allowed access to the car, which is currently missing.

Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer  
Two students reported stolen property from the lockers at the Rec Center Monday night. Neither student put locks on their lockers while at the gym.

The car's license number has been entered in the National Crime Information Center, a computerized index of criminal justice information available to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. "Basically what happened was the guy came in and put all

his stuff, his keys and his wallet, in a locker and he didn't put a lock on it," said Charles Gregory, director of the Rec Center.

"Someone came in and was looking for a locker and the temptation was there for that person to take his stuff and find his car and take it," Gregory said.

According to Vonda Scott, the Rec Center manager on duty that night, seven students filed incident reports at the Rec Center in regard to missing items from their lockers.

See Stolen, 2

### 'Tales' going overseas



Ryan Jolicoeur Chittaphong, "Coyote," and Alex Wallace, "Cowboy," perform in *American Tall Tales*, a student-written script by MTSU students. The show will be the first international tour for the MTSU Theatre as students will travel to Finland, Russia and Latvia to perform in May. See the full story in Living, page 6.

Photo by Julie Madewell | Staff Photographer

## Rural music proponent to perform

By Melissa Coker  
Staff Writer

Mike Seeger masters a wide variety of traditional styles on an impressive array of instruments.

Seeger, a producer and six-time Grammy-nominated musician who will be playing tomorrow night on campus, boasts skills with the banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, autoharp, lap dulcimer, harmonica, quills and more.

He seeks out musical vision by creating within its traditions, making what he plays uniquely his own.

"It's my hope that I will

► MIKE SEEGER will perform tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building. For more info about Seeger, visit [www.mikeseeger.info](http://www.mikeseeger.info).

introduce the audience to the Southern sounds of traditional music, and that they will follow up on wanting to know more," Seeger said.

A tireless proponent and brilliant performer of traditional American music, he is one of our "greatest musical and cul-

tural resources," according to the Ralph J. Gleason Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts.

"I have heard him play before," said Paul Wells, director of MTSU's Center for Popular Music. "He's very good at playing rural Southern music, which is the roots of popular music."

"Hopefully, students will walk away with an appreciation not just for what the music led to but for the music itself," he added.

Thanks to his founding member status with string band The New Lost City Ramblers, Seeger has played a primary role in helping to revive interest in a

variety of traditional music, played by thousands of young musicians across the country.

Since his first recordings with the Ramblers, Seeger has gone on to record more than 40 albums, both solo and collaborative.

He's toured throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Japan as a full-time musician and collector since 1960.

Seeger has produced 30 documentary recordings of traditional music and another 38 of his own music. He has garnered six Grammy nominations – two

See Seeger, 2

## Professor outlines 'four horsemen of political destruction'

By Tim Hill  
Staff Writer

MTSU professor and current Rutherford County Commissioner Bob Bullen offered would-be politicians a look at behaviors he said they should try to avoid before their first elected office.

Bullen spoke during Monday's honors lecture on the topic "Tough Choices in Public Office." He started out by stating the often-repeated advice from former U.S. House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neil: "All politics is local."

"Don't forget your voters or else they will kick you out later on down the line," Bullen advised.

He said that had former Vice



Photo by Daniel McCombs | Staff Photographer

Bob Bullen outlines Monday certain behaviors would-be politicians should avoid.

President Al Gore paid more attention to the people of Tennessee, he might have ended up carrying the state, and the

presidency, in the 2000 election.

During the lecture, Bullen described what he calls the four horsemen of political destruction: arrogance, position, publicity and power.

"The problem with most politicians today is that they possess all or most of these qualities," he said.

Bullen said that prominence involves association with the powerful and famous, such as getting to sit next to the governor or president when they come through a politician's district. It also involves receiving recognition and favorable comments from one's supporters.

"If a citizen likes the way you laid into a bureaucrat during a recent council meeting and urges you to 'keep giving

them hell,' then that could definitely affect your ego if you are a politician," Bullen said.

"Prominence can lead to arrogance, which means your public official won't care about the little people because he won't believe he is one of them anymore," he said.

Bullen said that position could be a problem as well.

"If you're the chairman of a committee, people will see you building a reputation for yourself," he said.

He said that the danger comes when the authority to conduct official public hearings, for example, becomes a way to

See Lecture, 2

## Clinton seeks Pell increase

### Senator's act would expand grant availability

By Nona Kempton  
Staff Writer

The federal Pell grant program could be expanded to meet the needs and schedules of non-traditional college students, staff members from Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's office said.

The legislation, drafted last month as a collaboration between Clinton's (D-N.Y.) office and the office of Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.), will make Pell grants, a federal aid program for needy college students, available on a year-round basis.

Currently Pell grants are only available for the fall and spring semesters, not for summer sessions.

Clinton press secretary Amy Bonitatibus said that the Non-Traditional Students Success Act will be introduced in the Senate this month by Clinton and Graham.

The bill identifies several obstacles to obtaining a college degree for older, working students with families, including lack of time, poor academic preparation, inflexible course scheduling and unstable

See Pell, 2



Clinton

## Woods honored

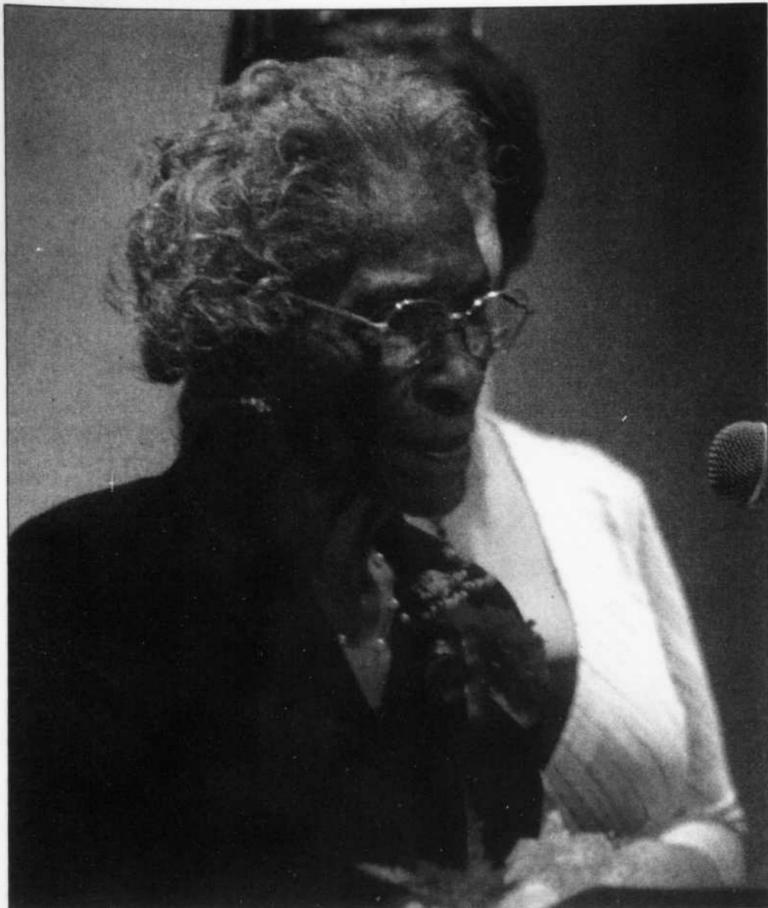


Photo by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer

Olivia Woods, MTSU's first black graduate, speaks last night during a ceremony in her honor in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Woods attended MTSU from 1962-1965, and graduated with an elementary education degree.

## Lecture: Bullen lists political guidelines

Continued from 1

enact revenge or play on the public's emotions.

Winning elections and kicking popular incumbents out of office are some forms of publicity that politicians try to seek, Bullen said.

"I have not met a single politician yet who hasn't loved publicity," he said.

"Every politician in the county was at the sold-out Western Kentucky basketball game last week, and they were there to work the crowds."

He mentioned that newspapers tend to seek opinions from public officials as well, on just about any given topic.

"My family is horrified every time my picture is in the paper," Bullen said, laughing.

"Power is perhaps the worst one of the four horsemen of political destruction," Bullen said.

He said that people are indebted to public officials on some level, and that even the impact of a politician's own ideas and opinions can become negative traits.

"You find you have the power to block and obstruct other people's ideas, and that comes when you begin learning the parliamentary procedures that can delay or prevent votes, even if there's majority support that exists," Bullen said.

He said that, sometimes politicians might even be able to solve a problem facing the community.

"Most of the time, they will end up taking the credit for existing programs, when people other than themselves did more work to get it off the ground than they did," he said.

Although Bullen discussed what he describes as negative traits, he said that there is a solution to the problem.

"In order to avoid having your values and principles compromised, as a politician, you need to remember that the public sees you as one of them," he said.

"The four horsemen of citizenship that all of us should strive to follow are selflessness, integrity, social consciousness and grace," he said.

Despite focusing a majority of his lecture on the negative aspects of politics, Bullen had words of encouragement for all Americans, on and off campus.

"The experience of political participation is a vital part of the range of the American citizen's life experience," Bullen said. "It is an education to be valued as much as formal education."

The weekly honors lecture meets in Room 104 of the Martin Honors Building on Monday, from 3 to 3:50 p.m. ♦

## Seeger: Musician to perform tomorrow

Continued from 1

with the New Lost City Ramblers, one with John Hartford and David Grisman and three on his own.

Recently, he was honored with a Grammy nomination for the 26-track *Southern Banjo Sounds* in 1998.

"Ultimately, you needn't have mastered clawhammer technique (or even know what it is) to enjoy Seeger's work," said an editorial review of the album on Amazon.com

Seeger has devoted his life to nourishing the growth of true vine music, which was made at home by rural southerners before the media age.

For them, the great variety of music, song and story provided their Shakespeare, dance music, news and the fabric of their daily lives, according to Seeger's Web site.

"It's important to preserve this music so that it's accessible

day to day," he said.

It became the roots of today's bluegrass, popular music and country, and it remains refreshing listening.

He began playing instruments in his late teens, learning from nearby musicians such as his close friend Elizabeth Cotten, and later seeking out other master stylists such as guitarist Maybelle Carter, banjoists Dock Boggs, Cousin Emmy and autoharpist Kilby Snow.

Eventually Seeger's love for traditional music led him to produce documentaries – more than 25 field recordings and videos – and to organize countless tours and concerts featuring traditional musicians and dancers.

His music often manipulates sound to imitate trains, weather or animals.

"Fox Chase," for example, highlights a harmonica solo with vocal effects that imitate and follow the adventures of a

mountain fox chase.

"In brushing the dust of time from American folk music, Mike Seeger illuminates the roots of contemporary music and champions their strength," said Dan Bottstein of *Billboard* magazine.

Seeger's performance is a joint presentation of the Center for Popular Music and the McLean School of Music at MTSU, with funding from the MTSU Distinguished Lecture Fund.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building. It is free and open to the public. Call the Center for Popular Music at 898-2449 for more information. ♦

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## Stolen: Not all victims filed police reports for thefts

Continued from 1

Only two police reports have been filed for the stolen property with MTSU Police, according to Lt. Darrel Collins. Sgt. Matt Foster has been assigned to the investigation.

Video surveillance tapes from the Rec Center will be obtained for clues, Collins said.

Collins said that Public Safety is waiting for the rest of the students who had property stolen to file a police report.

"There will probably be more of these reports coming in," Collins said. "Sometimes students are slow and reluctant to file reports and some may come in a week from now."

However, Collins said that the investigation would move more quickly if the students whose property was stolen filed police reports as soon as possible.

"The sooner we can find out what happened, the sooner we can solve it," Collins said.

The Rec Center was hosting several events that night, including intramural basketball and an indoor soccer game.

Scott said that all of the students who filed reports did not have locks on their lockers.

"The biggest thing they need to do is start locking their lockers," Collins said. "Very rarely do

you catch somebody carrying a pair of bolt cutters around."

Collins said that this type of temptation is hard for potential thieves to resist.

"You know what a lock is? It keeps an honest man honest," he said.

Scott pointed out that students could rent locks from the front desk for \$1 a day, or rent a locker for a semester. Collins recommended that students use lockers or keep their property in their car when they go to the Rec Center.

"We're definitely not a crime-free campus," Gregory said. "And people aren't taking care of their stuff."

Scott said that in the four years she's been working at the Rec Center, she's never seen a theft incident this large.

"It's like when it does happen, we're hit hard," Scott said.

In recent months, the Rec Center has added new surveillance cameras around the facilities and stricter admittance policies to keep students safe.

"We have a no ID, no entrance, no exceptions policy and this is one of the reasons why," Scott said.

"We're just trying to make this place safe for students so things like this will not occur a lot. ♦

## BRIEFS CONTINUED

### Reception Friday for book artists

A reception will be held Friday for Santa Cruz book artists Peter and Donna Thomas and their students in the visiting artists seminar.

The reception will feature an exhibit of the artists' 25 handmade ukelele books, a brief lecture by the artists, and a presentation, by the students of their own collaborative book.

The reception will begin at 5 p.m. at the Rutherford County Center for the Arts, 110 W. College St.

### K-12 students in piano competition

Final-round action of the Clavierfest will take place Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Wright Music Building's Music Hall. Fifty top Kindergarten-12th grade pianists across the state have been narrowed to 12 finalists. The competition is free and open to the public. For more information, call 898-2493.

### Sorority to offer spaghetti meal

Delta Zeta sorority will have a fund-raiser on Tuesday. The meal will include spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and a brownie for \$5. Sisters will deliver within city limits and on campus. Contact Jessica Reeves at 604-9357 by Saturday to place orders.

### Group to host kids' Arby's Bowl

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee is hosting the Arby's Bowl for Kids' Sake to raise money for the mentoring program. Participants of all ages and skill levels take pledges from the community. Bowling will be at the Smyrna Bowling Center on March 13 from 2 to 5 p.m.

To register or for more information about the event, visit the Web site at [bbbsmt.org](http://bbbsmt.org) or e-mail [info@bbbsmt.org](mailto:info@bbbsmt.org). ♦

HAVE INFORMATION FOR CAMPUS BRIEFS? E-MAIL US AT [SLNEWS@MTSU.EDU](mailto:SLNEWS@MTSU.EDU)



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# STATE AND LOCAL

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 3

## House subcommittee passes drug tax bill

By Jason Cox  
State and Local News Editor

People caught selling illegal drugs or alcohol may soon have another "man" to deal with - the tax man.

A bill that would levy an excise tax on illegal narcotics and alcoholic beverages passed the House Criminal Procedure and Practice Subcommittee yesterday morning, allowing it to go forth to the full House Judiciary Committee.

If passed, the bill would not "provide immunity from criminal prosecution for a person who possesses an illegal substance," but it would impose tax penalties against any dealer who was in possession of more than 42.5 grams of marijuana, 7

grams of any drug sold by weight (such as cocaine), or 10 or more doses of any drug not sold by weight. The penalty would also apply to "illicit alcoholic beverages" such as moonshine.

Rep. Charles Curtiss (D - Sparta), sponsor of House Bill 2796, admitted he first thought the senate version of the bill championed by Sen. Randy McNally (R - Oak Ridge) was "nuts" but came to think that it was a good idea.

"It starts out saying that if you want to sell illegal drugs in Tennessee, first [you've] got to register with the Department of Revenue, you gotta get a stamp and put that stamp on the product you're selling," Curtiss said. "And as you read through this,

you think, 'This is silly.'

"Once somebody engages in illegal activity, they're beating the

Department of Revenue out of tax revenue, and ultimately they're going to go at them on the civil side," he continued. "So they may beat a criminal rap, but they're going to have a hard time beating the civil side."

In the subcommittee meeting, Curtiss spoke of the additional methods the state would have to go after drug dealers, adding that legendary mobster



Curtiss

Al Capone was ultimately nabbed on tax evasion.

McNally said he got the idea from a similar law recently enacted in North Carolina, and he is requesting revenue projections as a result of the law from that state. He said the revenue from such a bill would assist in the enforcement of other current drug laws.

"Right now, the legislature's struggling with how to better enforce and increase the penalties for methamphetamines," he said. "And we, because of the way the budget's structured, we have a great deal of difficulty because the money's not there. This would provide us with a new source of revenue, you know, in order to prosecute drug crimes."

When asked what would happen if a dealer tried to take one of the named substances to the



McNally

Department of Revenue for a tax stamp, Curtiss said, "I think that [we'd] probably want to send them off for psychological testing, then have a trial."

The tax on each substance would be \$3.50 per gram of marijuana (and 40 cents per gram of seeds and stalks of the cannabis plant), \$50 per gram of cocaine, \$200 per gram of any other controlled substance

sold by weight, \$50 per each 10 dosage units of "low street-value drugs" and \$200 per 10 dosage units of any other controlled substance not sold by weight.

Illegal alcohol would be taxed at the rate of \$31.70 per gallon of alcohol sold by the drink, and \$12.80 per gallon not sold by the drink.

Proceeds that would be raised have not yet been earmarked, but according to the bill, 75 percent of money obtained would go to the law enforcement agency or agencies who made the bust.

The other 25 percent would go into a general fund set aside for the matter. ♦

## Local agencies hold seminar on child safety, abduction

By Melissa Bowman  
Asst. State and Local News Editor

The NAACP, the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department and Murfreesboro Police Department teamed up Monday to host an informational seminar on child safety and abduction at Allen Chapel AME Church.

The seminar covered safety tips as well as some physical maneuvers children can use in case of an attempted abduction.

"[We wanted to] get things moving and start addressing the issue, not wait until something happens," said Rev. Dwight Ogleton, president of the local NAACP chapter.

Officer Melvin Cunningham of the Murfreesboro Police Department addressed safety tips for parents and children.

"Talk with your children; practice things such as escape routes," he said, adding that parents should discuss safety precautions with their children every three to four months.

Cunningham talked about locking windows as well as doors at night, teaching children about 911 service and having a secret code between parent and child. He also warned against "dumpster divers," people who go through trash to get information about a person. He recommended shredding documents containing important information such as Social Security numbers.

Cunningham encouraged parents to always carry current photos of their children and to remember that not only young children but also teenagers and even adults are abducted.

He said that abduction has not been a problem in Rutherford County, and that there has only been one suc-



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Sheriff's Department Deputy John Acton and Clint Tilley demonstrate the proper self defense for an abduction of a child on a bicycle. Deputy Melissa Tilley recommended that the child hold on to the bike to add weight.

cessful abduction in the county in the past few years.

Following Cunningham's safety tips, Sheriff's Department Deputies Melissa Tilley and John Acton demonstrated some maneuvers children can use

to defend themselves, such as the "hammer fist," bringing a fist down on top of the attacker's head. She also emphasized that children should try to attract as much attention as possible if attacked.

Tilley encouraged parents not only to discuss these maneuvers with their children but also to have the children practice them.

"Anything that they can

See Safety, 4

## Student files suit against teacher

Plaintiff was allegedly raped nearly 200 times

By B.J. Chaplin  
Staff Writer

A teenager and his mother filed a civil suit in the U.S. District Court of Nashville against a former teacher convicted of rape as well as two school boards and a principal last Tuesday.

The plaintiffs, who seek more than \$20 million in damages, name as defendants the Rutherford County Board of Education, the Dekalb County Board of Education, Barfield Elementary principal Judy Goodwin and the man convicted of the rape, Steven Craig Fults.

Fults was found guilty last year of five counts of rape, 12 counts of sexual battery by an authority figure and seven counts of statutory rape against

the younger plaintiff, who is identified as John Doe. Fults' sentence, which was to be determined yesterday, was unavailable before press time.

The lawsuit purports that "over a period of approximately two years, defendant Fults raped plaintiff John Doe on nearly 200 occasions."

Among the sexual acts the lawsuit claims Fults "perpetrated" on John Doe were "kissing, fondling plaintiff, performing oral sex on plaintiff and performing anilingus [oral stimulation of the anus] on plaintiff."

The lawsuit claims that John Doe "suffers from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder" and that Fults used knowledge of John Doe's "disability" to "prey upon plaintiff in his weakened position."

When John Doe resisted, the lawsuit claims, Fults told Doe, "You've already done this. You're in as deep as I am. You don't want your reputation ruined, people will think you

See Lawsuit, 4

## State Route 840 could be renamed

By James Nix  
Staff Writer

State Rep. Glen Casada (R - Cottage Grove) wants to rename state Route 840.

He is currently sponsoring bills in the Tennessee House of Representatives to name it "Ronald Reagan Parkway."

Casada is pushing two bills. One will affect only Williamson County, but the other will change the name for the entire stretch of state Route 840, which includes Dickson, Hickman, Williamson, Rutherford and Wilson counties.

"I think we should name bridges, buildings and roads after great people," Casada said.

Sen. Jim Bryson (R - Franklin) of Williamson County agreed to support the bill in the senate.

"I believe that Ronald Reagan was one of our best presidents we've ever had," Bryson said. "And I think it would be great to honor him in this way."

When asked to help, Bryson said he "would be glad to." But before Bryson pushes his Senate version of the bill, which would only make the name change effective in Williamson County, he says he will wait to see if Sen. Bill Ketron's (R - Murfreesboro) bill passes.

Ketron is working to pass a Senate version of Casada's bill, which would rename all of state Route 840.

"I'm going to use my bill as a back up. And if his bill doesn't pass, then I'll try and pass my bill," Bryson said.

And what if the bills do pass? The counties, not the state, will absorb the cost of erecting the signs, according to Casada.

The cost per sign will be a b o u t \$ 1 6 2 . 5 0 , according to the fiscal note for House Bill 2 2 8 0 (Casada's

bill) and Senate Bill 2441 (Ketron's bill).

The fiscal note on Tennessee.gov, quotes the total cost to erect signs in all five counties (two signs per county) around \$1,625.

Casada said it will be tough to pass the bills.

"I think it will be difficult," he said. "I'm going to try to get it through this year, but this is probably a two- or three-year process."

Bryson agrees there will be hurdles.

"I think there are some Democrats who would rather not name a road after a Republican regardless of what he has accomplished," Bryson said.

At the time of his presidency, Reagan's appeal in Tennessee was not limited to the Republican Party. Many Democrats also approved of the job Reagan was doing, according to Casada. Reagan was "a president well liked, well loved by the American people," he said.

Reagan turned 93 on Feb. 6. He served from 1981 to 1989 as the 40th U.S. president. By the end of his term, he felt he had fulfilled his campaign promise to restore "the great, confident roar of American progress and growth and optimism."

Ketron was unavailable to comment prior to deadline. ♦

## Kerry cements Democratic nomination

Edwards drops out after poor showing

By Ron Pournier  
AP Political Writer

John Kerry cemented the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday, driving John Edwards from the race with a string of Super Tuesday triumphs.

Edwards, the sole major challenger to Kerry, planned to step aside tomorrow in Raleigh, N.C., two Democratic officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Kerry rolled up huge victories in Ohio, Maryland, Connecticut and his home state of Massachusetts as he made Edwards' presidential effort a political impossibility. The four-term Massachusetts senator also was

favored in the late-poll closing states of California, New York, Minnesota and Rhode Island.

The freshman senator from North Carolina struggled even in his lone Southern stronghold of Georgia, with exit polls showing Kerry leading among blacks, low-income voters and Democrats in a primary open to all voters.

Kerry was already pivoting toward a general-election fight.

"Boy, wait until you see the fire in my belly," he told a TV interviewer.

The White House dispatched Vice President Dick Cheney to TV studios to criticize the presumptive foe. "He very clearly has over the years adopted a series of positions that indicate a desire to cut the defense budget, cut the intelligence budget, to eliminate many major weapons programs," Cheney said of Kerry, a 19-year

Senate veteran.

In the too-little-too-late category, Howard Dean finally won a presidential election, two weeks after being run out of the race. It came in his home state of Vermont, as partisans gave their former governor a sentimental nod and a few delegates that he might leverage for a budding reform movement.

"I'm an ABB kind of fellow - anybody but Bush," said Dean voter Jeffrey Hughes of Shelburne, Vt.

Edwards, a 50-year-old senator who barely competed in half the states, targeted Georgia, Ohio and Minnesota for candidacy-saving victories.

In all, 10 states with a combined population of 94 million - one-third of the U.S. total - awarded 1,151 delegates, more than

See Kerry, 4

## Hangin' out

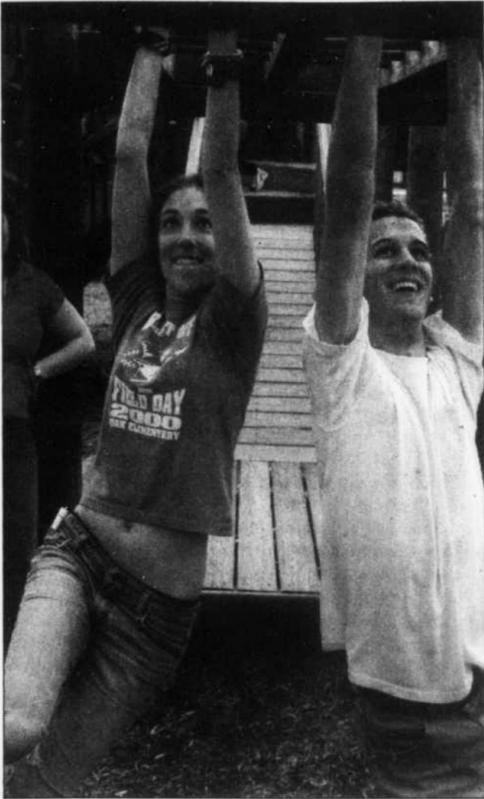


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Monica Brown and Steve Molyneux enjoy a childhood memory, the monkey bars, at Kids' Castle on Old Fort Parkway yesterday afternoon.

## Lawsuit: Plaintiffs seeking \$20 million

Continued from 3

are gay." John Doe, according to the suit "is heterosexual," while Fults is "admittedly homosexual."

John Doe first met Fults at Barfield Elementary, a K-8 school located at 350 Barfield-Crescent Rd., when Fults was a sixth-grade student there, according to the lawsuit.

Several years later, the lawsuit stated, when John Doe was a freshman at Riverdale High School (located at 802 Warrior Dr.), Fults contacted John Doe. Fults then asked John Doe, who was then 14 years old, to work for him and he agreed, the lawsuit stated.

The lawsuit describes Fults as becoming "obsessed with John Doe," alleging that Fults "at one point even purchased a car for plaintiff John Doe."

Fults, the lawsuit claims, "used his position as a school teacher with defendant Rutherford County Board of Education to gain the trust of Jane Doe and her son, plaintiff John Doe, in a deliberate attempt to satisfy his own deviate sexual appetite toward young boys."

Rutherford County School System is blamed by the lawsuit for violating John Doe's rights under the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The lawsuit states that after John Doe transferred to another high school within the Rutherford county school system due to publicity incurred from last year's criminal case, he "was discriminated against by teachers in retaliation for his criminal charges against defendant Fults."

An example of this "retaliation," according to the lawsuit, is that John Doe was "referred to as 'Forrest Gump' by a teacher employed at his new high school."

The Rutherford County Board of Education is also charged by the lawsuit for a failure to conduct "reasonable background checks" of "such an egregious nature as to constitute gross negligence on the part of the county."

Fults, according to the lawsuit, was asked to leave the Dekalb County School System as a teacher at Dekalb West School, located at 101 Bulldog Ln., in Liberty, Tenn. "for having pornographic material on his school computer and for accessing over 400 pornographic [Web sites]" in a six-week period "during school hours."

Also, according to the lawsuit, "there were other complaints and/or allegations concerning defendant Fults from

other school systems" that would have "easily been discovered" had the Rutherford County school system "conducted a reasonable investigation of the background of defendant Fults."

John Doe and Jane Doe alleged in the lawsuit that the Dekalb County Board of Education "willfully and intentionally 'turned a blind eye' to the severity of the problem with defendant Fults" while he was employed at Dekalb West School.

In the process, the Dekalb County Board of Education "virtually guaranteed that defendant Fults would be exposed to children," even though "a reasonable person could easily conclude he would prey on them," according to the lawsuit.

Judy Goodwin, principal of Rutherford County's Barfield Elementary, is being accused of "negligent supervision" in the lawsuit.

"Goodwin, because of a personal friendship with defendant Fults, failed to see the danger presented by defendant Fults, when this danger would be obvious to a reasonably prudent person," the lawsuit claimed.

Furthermore, the lawsuit claimed, "given the number of cases of sexual abuse at the school where defendant Judy Goodwin is principal, defendant Goodwin knew or should have known of the danger of minor children ... being subjected to the kind of abuse which plaintiff John Doe sustained."

The amount of compensatory damages sought by the plaintiffs from Goodwin is "to be determined at trial," according to the lawsuit.

John Doe and Jane Doe are seeking \$15 million in compensatory damages from the Rutherford County Board of Education and the Dekalb County Board of Education.

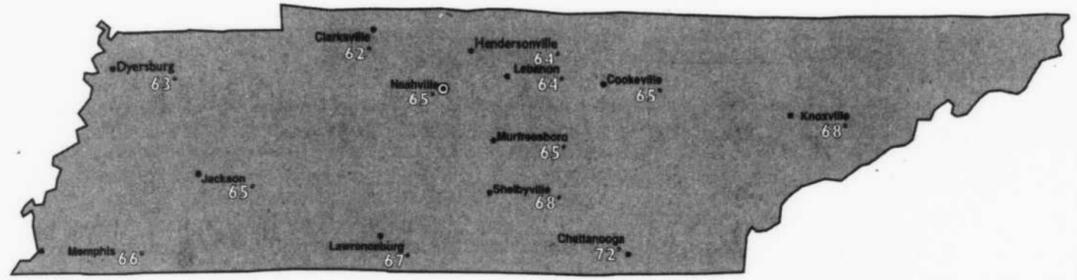
They are also seeking \$1.5 million in punitive damages from Fults and an additional \$5 million in punitive damages.

The lawsuit also asks that the Rutherford and Dekalb county boards "be ordered to pay for all past, present and future medical and psychological expenses for both plaintiffs arising from the injuries sustained as a result of the acts which are the subject matter of this litigation."

Fults is being held at the Rutherford County Adult Detention Center and has also been charged with pretending to be a licensed professional, in violation of T.C.A. 39-16-302. He allegedly pretended to be a "private investigator." ♦

## Tennessee Weather – Wednesday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Monday



## Kerry: Ousting Bush top priority amongst voters

Continued from 3

half of the 2,162 needed to seize the nomination.

Kerry, a 60-year-old senator, had 701 delegates to Edwards' 205, even before Tuesday's voting.

Winning nine of 10 states could give Kerry about 1,500 delegates – a virtually insurmountable lead.

As votes were being counted, the lawmakers took a Super Tuesday time-out in the Senate to vote on extending the ban on military-style assault weapons. The extension failed, and they returned to campaign work after chit-chatting on the Senate floor.

The pair spent part of the day in Georgia, with Kerry looking ahead to November.

"President Clinton was often known as the first black president. I wouldn't be upset if I could earn the right to be the second," Kerry told the American Urban Radio Network.

His unbridled optimism outside a polling place in suburban Atlanta, then declined

to take questions from reporters.

Answers came all day from 10 states with nearly 50 million registered voters, many of them torn between the two candidates.

"The issue that drove me is getting rid of Bush, and that led me to Kerry," said Ron Debray, 47, of suburban Cincinnati. "Maybe Edwards someday, but I don't think he's ready yet."

Ousting Bush was the top priority for voters in nearly every Super Tuesday state, with large majorities saying they are angry at the president, according to exit polls conducted for The Associated Press and TV networks by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

The economy and jobs were the dominant issue in the states.

Kerry won 18 of the first 20 elections, many by routs, in a six-week campaign that drew attention to his decorated service in the Vietnam War and amplified Democratic criticism of Bush. However, with the White House gearing

up for Bush's re-election, Democratic leaders grew increasingly eager to end the nomination fight.

"Edwards is a team player," New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said. "He'll know what to do."

Edwards won a single state, his native South Carolina – and that was four weeks and 11 defeats ago. He has had eight second-place finishes, five third-places and six fourth-places.

Bush's re-election campaign begins a multimillion-dollar TV ad blitz Thursday designed to bolster the president's sagging political fortunes. Kerry is prepared to dip into Democratic Party coffers to pay for his own ads.

Democratic interest groups, required to act independently of the Kerry camp, laid plans to air ads critical of Bush.

Two other candidates, Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio and Al Sharpton of New York, had no chance of winning the nomination. ♦

## Safety:

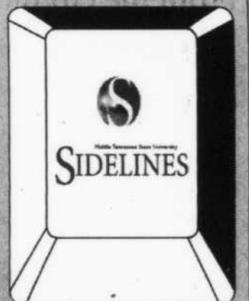
Continued from 3

actually do will help," she said. Tilley teaches a program in child safety and self defense called RAD Kids.

She hopes to get with area schools and YMCAs to do the program. The program is for children ages 10 and under, and any group that would like to participate should contact Tilley at 223-6295 at least one month in advance.

Cunningham said that other safety tips can be found on the Web, but he warned to check the credibility of a site before following the tips. ♦

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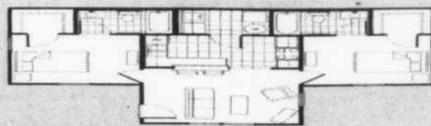
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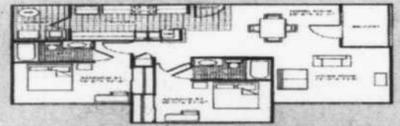
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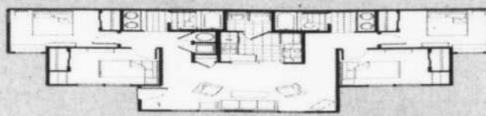
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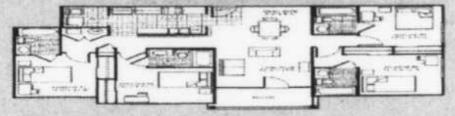
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## We need more than gay marriage

### From the Editorial Board Don't excise, legalize; substance tax unfair

A bill winding its way through the General Assembly would place a tax on "unauthorized substances."

These substances include any illegal drug (marijuana, cocaine, etc.) as well as illicit alcohol, i.e. moonshine, a.k.a. white lightning. The bill wouldn't make these items legal; it would merely tax the person who was caught with the narcotics relative to the amount confiscated.

The sponsors say they support the bill because the money obtained from the taxes would go to fight the exploding methamphetamine problem in Tennessee. That's great, but we think the legislators have it backwards.

See, the real money comes from post-legalization taxation. Instead of merely being able to tax the relatively small amount that will be confiscated in drug busts, the state could collect boatloads of cash that would be raised from these excise taxes.

Legalization has its social benefits. As has been seen in the Netherlands, while drug use might increase initially, once the allure of the forbidden passes the percentage of people who have used substances will likely decline, or at least be equal to the numbers now.

It is also philosophically abhorrent to keep a narcotic illegal, taking away one's right to do as one pleases with his or her body. Drug use - not to be confused with the illegal drug trade, which is at the root of the problems anti-legalization types cite - is as victimless a crime as alcohol or tobacco use, and both of these substances are perfectly legal.

And with all of this money previously used to fund drug law enforcement suddenly freed up, police agencies will have more resources to go after violent criminals disassociated with the newly-eliminated drug trade and the state will be able to educate its citizens properly on the real consequences of drug use and provide help for people seeking help for their addictions and dependencies.

Memo to the General Assembly: As thousands before you have discovered, there's money to be made in slinging drugs. Legalize them and beat the dealers to the punch. ♦

The issue of gay marriage is something I've never really been passionate about. Of course homosexual couples should have the same rights as heterosexual couples, but the way our society usually keeps me out of this debate.

Rosie O'Donnell just got married to another woman. At the same time, President George W. Bush wants a constitutional amendment that bans same-sex marriage.

Keep in mind this man is the ruler of a country that claims to give people equality.

And in this country there seems to be as many gay TV shows as there are reality TV shows. So, now seems like a good time to talk about gay marriage, and marriage in general.

It's utterly ridiculous that marriage in our society is an institu-



Human, All Too Human

Eric Blevins  
Staff Columnist

tion most people think should be endorsed by the church and the state to be legitimate. Marriage should be about the love two people have for each other and nothing more.

If a couple wants to commit to spending the rest of their lives together, they shouldn't need their government and church to give them the OK. People have a right to privacy that should be respected by their government and their church, if they have a church.

It's obvious why gay couples want their marriages to be recognized. Most of us were raised to

believe that marriage is a fact of life that you simply have to commit yourself to at a certain point in your life. Because so many people have these expectations, it's natural for homosexuals to want to be able to meet those expectations. They just want to be accepted into something they're already a part of.

Another reason gays want their unions to be recognized by the government is to receive the many benefits that married couples in our country have. Gay men and lesbians want equal rights, and they should have them. Married couples get health insurance and tax benefits, and these should not be denied to a couple because they're homosexual.

But married couples shouldn't get benefits that aren't available to single people anyway. Our government shouldn't be endorsing marriage, which ought to be nothing more than a lifestyle choice in its

eyes, especially when it's a choice so many people see as being mainly religious. When a government encourages marriage through its policies, it's essentially endorsing religion.

Some of my best friends are gay, and I want them to have the right to get married if they want to, so I fully support the fight for gay marriage. At the same time, I think it's more important to try to change the way people think about marriage. If people were to look at marriage as simply a commitment between two people, there would probably be a lot less people fighting against gay marriage. ♦

Eric Blevins is a senior recording industry major and can be reached via e-mail at ericblevins@hotmail.com.

### Letter to the Editor

#### Columnist takes 'unpatriotic position'

To the editor:

In "Liberals too intolerant" (March 1), Justin Wax offers the astonishing claim that "separation of church and state" doesn't exist in the Constitution.

The phrase, he points out, "doesn't appear" in that document. Well, as Leo Pfeffer reminds us, neither do the terms "fair trial" and "religious liberty."

Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a group devoted to protecting the integrity of the First Amendment, offers the sensible argument that the absence of the "literal phrase ... does not mean the concept isn't there."

For Wax's point to hold, he would have to be ready to abandon religious liberty and the right to a fair trial. That way, of course, madness lies.

Wax also asserts that "we're guaranteed the freedom of religion. Those on the left seem to believe they're guaranteed freedom from religion, especially when it applies to Christianity."

Actually, it isn't only those "on the left" who believe that; reasonable people of all faiths and political affiliations believe that.

Here's why. Freedom of religion means, I suppose, that I am free to worship the god(s) of my choice. From this it follows that I have the right to reject all of them if I don't find any of them appealing. If I didn't have that right, I would be forced to worship what I believe to be a false god. What kind of freedom would that be? In addition, my right to choose my faith is meaningful only if others do not have the right to impose their faiths on me (or my children) in schools, universities and other places where people of many different faiths (as well as non-believers) meet.

The First Amendment's support of these principles is one of the greatest achievements of the United States of America. I find it disturbing that Wax would take such an unpatriotic position.

Alfred Lutz  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

#### Feminists must continue fighting battles

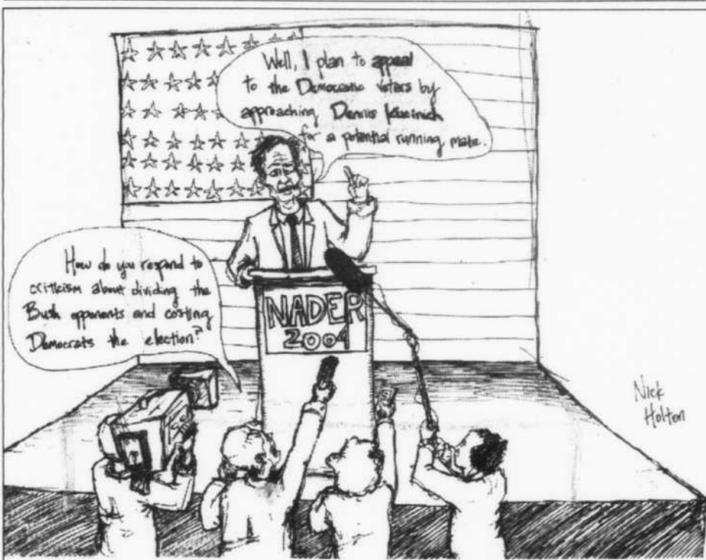
To the editor:

I'm writing in response to Sarah Crotzer's column "Feminism Exists in Daily Life" (Feb. 26). I struggle to find an adequate place to begin, but perhaps with the mere observation that simply being a woman in the world does not make one a feminist.

The column has done an amazing disservice to the concept of feminism, adequately dumbing it down to the point that it is barely recognizable. Why did our "mothers and grandmothers [fight] so hard" for us to discredit their work? The war is not over, we haven't finished proving our rights - we are not all equal in America, in the world. Waking up in the morning and remembering you're a woman is not empowerment, neither is being in a film or falling under perhaps less obvious stereotypes like actress and feminist.

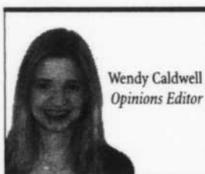
While I agree that feminism exists in daily life, and even walks around campus with a backpack on, there are still battles to be fought and perhaps that is the true "standard for real, modern feminism."

Samantha Storey  
Sophomore  
Recording Industry major



### From the Opinions Editor Arson never a good cover-up for crime

Six years after a "deadly" fire in Philadelphia supposedly claimed 10-day-old Delimar Vera's life, a chance meeting at a birthday party proved that theory incorrect.



Wendy Caldwell  
Opinions Editor

Vera's biological mother saw the child at the party and believed the child looked like her. After further inquiries and DNA testing, it became apparent that the child did not die in the fire. She was kidnapped by Caroline Correa and has been residing in New Jersey.

Officials determined that the fire was in fact a cover-up of the kidnapping. This raises an interesting point: What kind of society has members who will set fire to a building in order to cover up a crime, thus creating two crimes that will inevitably be solved.

These criminals must be under the impression that fire destroys all evidence. Though a burning home may make fingerprints harder to detect, fires leave all sorts of new evidence as well, including traces of accelerants and other arson clues.

Correa is certainly not the first to attempt

an arson-based cover-up. Last May, a dorm fire at Western Kentucky University caught media attention, especially when an 18-year-old female was found in her room with stab wounds.

It didn't take long to determine the reason the building went up in flames: An arsonist was at work, attempting to cover up the stabbing. The woman died, and the stabbing became a murder.

When criminals break the law, they're already putting a strike against themselves. Committing another crime to attempt to avoid getting caught is an asinine practice that will only result in harsher punishments when the perpetrator is eventually caught.

Vera and her biological mother haven't been reunited yet, and Correa is still at large, but perhaps would-be arsonist kidnappers will think twice before adding to their criminal records. ♦

## SIDELINES

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

### California marriages bring anarchy, chaos

What is the law, what purpose does it serve and why do we have to follow it?

Laws are those social and moral boundaries that society sets up in order to prevent all-out chaos and anarchy.

Laws in a democracy such as our own are established in accordance with the wishes of the majority.

Recently, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom defied the majority's wishes by allowing the marriage of gay couples in his city, throwing the spotlight of the world once again on that "city by the bay."

And once again, a few extreme liberal ideologists, who are in the minority, are pushing their views on the rest of society.

This column isn't going to debate whether homosexuality is right or wrong, but rather, how strong are our convictions for our institutions and system of government, and how much are we willing to defend them?

The fact of the matter is, in California it's illegal for gay couples to wed. So by wedding gay couples, the mayor is acting illegally.

The reason Mayor Newsom has given for issuing these marriage licenses is, "[the] California Constitution's equal protection clause trumps state law and requires that all persons be treated equally."

Where does equal "protection" translate to marriage? The context of this clause seems to have been misconstrued and used to further this social cause.

Marriage has been an institution established for thousands of years between a man and a woman based in religion and acknowledged by the state because of the relationship of church and state in building a society.

But currently more than 3,300 gay couples have been married in San Francisco, including former talk show host and gay rights activist Rosie O'Donnell. The mayor is going to continue issuing these marriage licenses until the courts decide on this issue.

Democracy itself is at



Cosmo's Corner

Jeremy Coseo  
Staff Columnist

stake. If the courts decide the gay marriages will stand, then we will no longer be living in a democratic system. Instead, we will live in an activist system. The opinion of the majority will no longer matter.

Any group whose views differ from the majority will only have to become public activists and bide their time. Eventually, when they have enough people and the public has been beaten over the head by their activism, all the group has to do is storm up the steps of city hall and change the rules by misconstruing clauses or existing laws.

This siege on city hall in defiance of the will of the people cannot stand. The majority of Californians and Americans oppose gay marriages. The courts in California now need to stand up, enforce the existing laws and act on the public's wishes.

What we have going on in San Francisco is nothing short of anarchy and complete disrespect for a democratic form of government.

In support of this activist society, Newsom has assumed a dictatorial character in his fight against the system. And like any dictator, he needs to be dethroned.

Marriage isn't an equal right. It's an institution that exists for a man and a woman who believe in a higher power.

As far as equality goes, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but there never has been, nor ever will be, absolute equality for all people. Perfection is something people aren't capable of.

Someone is always going to treat somebody else differently for one reason or another. It may be painful to realize this, but you have to deal with it and move on. ♦

Jeremy Coseo is a sophomore journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at jdc3g@mtsu.edu.

## SIDELINES WANTS YOU



## Dear Jonathan,



Jonathan Hicks

I found some really cool software this weekend and I had to write about it.

Firefox is a free Web browser from the same people who wrote the Mozilla browser.

I was really impressed by their product, and I'll explain why it beats Windows Explorer.

I know some of you may be thinking, "I've got Explorer, why do I need this?" Let me just point out Firefox's strong points.

First of all, Firefox is fast — really fast.

Not just starting up but also in rendering pages while you're surfing the Web.

Try it out. You'll be impressed.

Firefox also has an automatic pop-up blocking program built in. Pop-ups are one thing I hate the most about browsing the Web.

In Explorer, you have to download a secondary application to take care of them, but not with Firefox.

The first time an unwanted window tries to pop up, Firefox will ask you if you want to block all pop-ups. That's really nice.

Something else I love is the tabbed browsing.

I do a lot of research on the Web, so I usually have many searches open in a browser. If I use Explorer, that means a whole lot of windows cluttering up my desktop, which is not the case with Firefox.

Instead of multiple windows, Firefox uses one window with tabs below the location bar, so when you would normally open a new window, a new tab is opened instead.

You have to try tabs to really understand it, but once you start using them you'll never go back to multiple windows.

Another cool thing about Firefox is that there is a built-in search bar.

Many people download some program to put a search bar, either from google.com or yahoo.com, into their Explorer windows.

This is fine, but why not just have one built in already?

The Firefox search bar can also be configured to point to whatever Web site you like to use to search so you can choose the search engine you like best.

Since I'm a programmer, and just a geek in general, I'm usually downloading a lot of stuff from the Web — technical descriptions for computer languages or the newest movie clip for Spiderman.

When I start a download, Explorer always asked me where I want to keep it.

Sometimes I forget where I put a file and have to look around for it, which is really annoying.

Firefox, on the other hand, will let you choose a directory for downloads and just put any file you download there.

When you're done you just have to look in one directory.

So, for all my Windows and Linux readers out there I highly suggest using Firefox.

You can download it from <http://mozilla.org/products/firefox/>.

Send computer questions to [jh2f@mtsu.edu](mailto:jh2f@mtsu.edu).

## Group offers chance for adventure

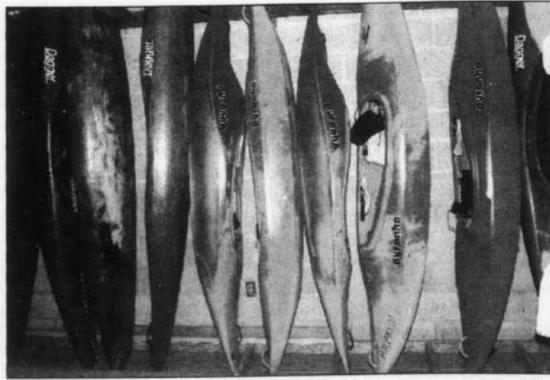


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Equipment for Outdoor Adventure trips is included.

By Laura Taylor  
Staff Writer

Would you like to have a relaxing yet exciting Spring Break where you can enjoy the outdoors and meet new people?

If so, check out Outdoor Adventure Pursuits, a division of Campus Recreation that organizes adventure trips throughout the year. An exciting schedule of events is planned for this spring. Destinations include the Smoky Mountains, the Suwannee River in Florida, the Ocoee River and Costa Rica.

Two of these trips, canoeing the Suwannee River and backpacking in the Smoky Mountains, will take place during Spring Break, the perfect opportunity to relax and enjoy time off from class.

Tim Jewell, director of Outdoor Adventure Pursuits, is enthusiastic about the upcoming trips. He emphasizes the fact that anyone can go and that no experience is necessary.

"All you need is an appreciation for the outdoors," he says.

The canoeing trip involves five days of paddling down 50 miles of the Suwannee River and camping along the way, Jewell says.

The Suwannee River is located in Northern Florida and is about an eight-hour drive from Murfreesboro, Jewell explains.

Outdoor Adventure Pursuits will be using a 15-passenger bus to make the trip, which lasts from March 20-27.

The Smoky Mountains trip consists of a 35-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail, which winds through the mountains providing spectacular views,

Jewell says.

From March 19-28, participants will spend days hiking and nights relaxing around the campfire.

If you've already got plans for spring break, there are other trips this semester that may fit into your schedule.

A whitewater canoe and kayak trip is scheduled for the weekend of April 3. Also, two whitewater rafting trips to the Ocoee River are scheduled for the weekends of April 24 and May 1.

This spring's grand finale for Outdoor Adventure Pursuits is a trip to Costa Rica. A week and a half of adventures and sight-seeing is planned for May 16-27. Activities include visiting a volcano, whitewater rafting, hiking, horseback riding, beach combing and touring the capital city, San Jose.

Junior Christy Eschenbacher has been on several trips. She enjoyed her experiences so much she changed her major to outdoor recreation, she says. She is now an intern for Outdoor Recreation Pursuits.

"The trips are a blast," she says. "You get to know everybody very well; it's a really good opportunity to meet new people."

She also says the trips are not too strenuous and are geared toward beginners.

If you plan to go on one of these trips but would like to learn more about what you'll be doing, Outdoor Adventure Pursuits offers classes at the Recreation Center that may help.

For example, there is a free backpacking clinic on March 11 that will teach the basics of

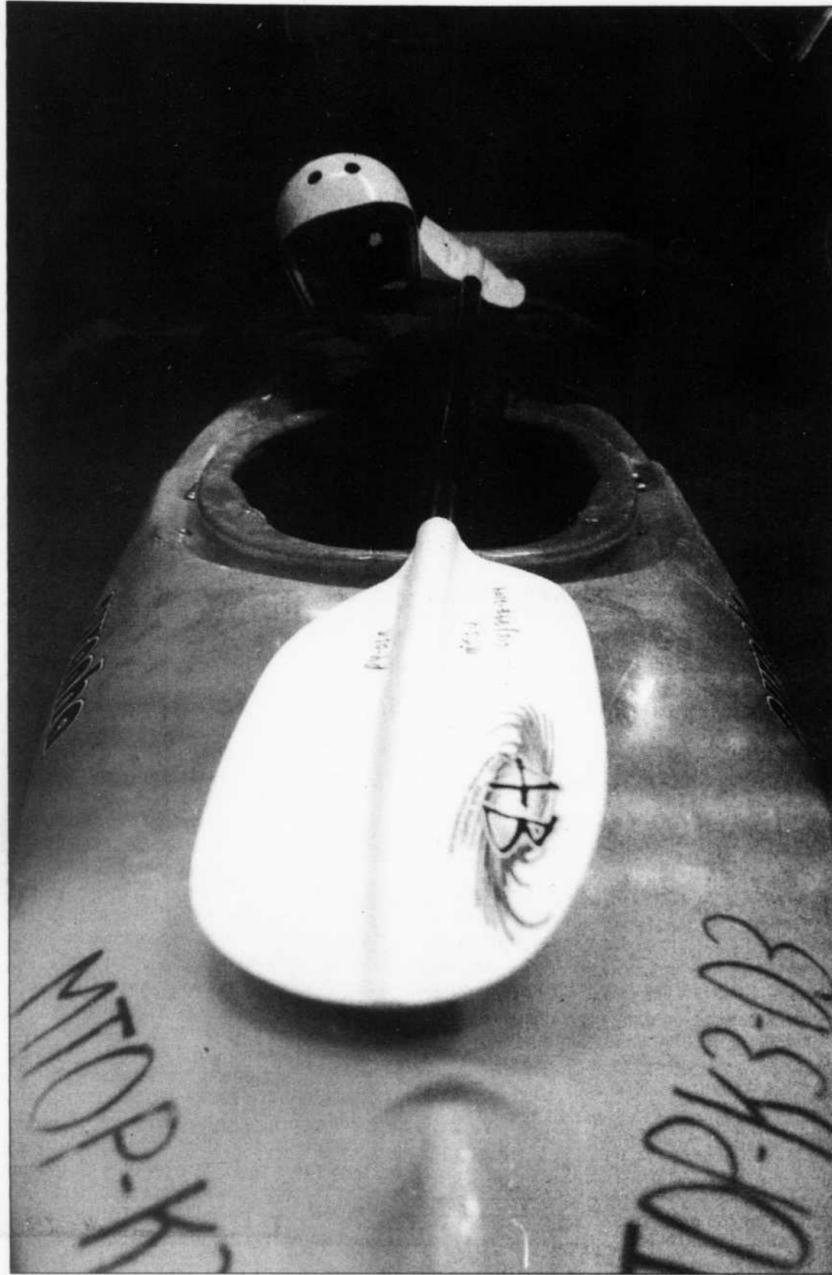


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Outdoor Adventure Pursuits will offer a kayak roll clinic March 16 and 17.

backpacking to get you ready for the Smoky Mountains trip. There is also a kayak roll clinic on March 16 and 17 that will teach some kayaking techniques.

If you sign up for a trip, you should attend the meeting that usually takes place a week before the trip.

At this meeting Jewell will help prepare you for the trip.

He'll tell you things like what to bring (clothing, food, etc.), what to expect and how to prepare for bad weather.

Another good thing about taking a trip with Outdoor Adventure Pursuits is that you don't need to go out and buy an expensive backpack or tent, because all equipment is provided, Jewell says.

The backpacking trip costs

\$75 for students, the Suwannee River trip costs \$190, the whitewater canoe/kayak trip costs \$30, the Ocoee rafting trips cost \$40 and the trip to Costa Rica costs \$1,150. This includes transportation and equipment. For the Costa Rica trip, the price also includes lodging and some meals.

For more information call 898-2104. ◆

## 'Tall Tales' will perform in foreign countries

By Abby Sliger  
Staff Writer

A whirlwind hit Tucker Theatre last week — Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett to be exact.

*American Tall Tales* gave life to the stories of such legends as Pecos Bill, Annie Christmas, Johnny Appleseed and Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett.

A speech and theatre class taught by Jette Halladay wrote this piece for children's theatre. Performances began last week.

"The show was creative and very entertaining," junior mass communications major Lauranetta Marshall says.

Beginning by popping out of what looks like a pile of garbage on the stage, the story opens with a group of children searching for a pot that is used as a hat. The hat is used to begin and end the folklore stories.

Besides animating the characters of *American Tall Tales* on stage, the cast uses shadows to portray the story of John Henry, who was twice the size of a normal man, the play explains.

"The shadows were my favorite part," junior David Dulaney says.

The incorporation of a sign language interpreter is another aspect that sets *American Tall Tales* apart from other performances. Halladay says she likes to include an interpreter so the hearing-impaired can also



Photo by Julie Mabewell | Staff Photographer

Theater majors helped write and act in the production.

enjoy the performances.

These showings were the first of many — and not only in America.

"I have wanted to take students to other countries before, and now it's time," Halladay says.

Fifteen MTSU students and graduates and four faculty members will travel to Finland, Russia and Latvia in May to perform the play.

They will be out of the country for three weeks giving many performances, teaching theater workshops and seeing the world, Halladay says.

The students involved were chosen last spring after auditioning for the performance. The crew was interviewed and required to bring resumes as though it was a professional position, Halladay says.

Halladay decided to write a play. Tall tales became the sub-

ject.

"Personally, I have always loved tall tales, and it gives us some American culture to share with other countries," Halladay says.

To cross language barriers and still entertain audiences of different languages, the play had to be visual, according to Halladay.

The show will be performed in English, but Halladay says a few words native to the country might be included in the international performances.

The cast and crew wrote the whole script and all the music except for one folk song, Halladay says. Over the summer, everyone researched the topics and met as a group to discuss their findings.

Having a large group write caused problems since students

## Involved student changing lives

By Leah Massey  
Staff Writer

A sincere smile, a loving laugh and a poignant prayer emanating from the lips of Teresa Pickering.

"It's been good for her to be able to use the skills that God's given her in a different capacity than she's used to," Jenny Rone, head of the women's ministry of the MTSU chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ, says.

Rone has known Pickering for about two years.

She describes her as "probably one of the most joyful people I know."

"It's been amazing to know Teresa and see her change over the past two years," Pickering says.

Pickering, who grew up in Woodbury, Tenn., became a resident assistant for Wood Hall in the fall semester of 2003. In addition, she leads a small group of ladies in an informal Bible study once a week.

"I love what I do," she says, smiling, "both as an RA and as Bible study leader."

She firmly believes in the power of prayer in a perilous world.

Seven girls usually attend the Bible study group she leads from her dorm. Pickering explains that it's important for girls to feel they can talk to

other girls about their problems.

"Some things you need to share with just girls," she says shrugging, adding that many girls get dragged down by some of the bad relationships and experiences they have and feel there is no one they can really share their hearts with.

She smiles again, but it's a much more thoughtful smile. "God put a desire in my heart to work with girls."

Candice Nunley, a freshman in Pickering's Bible study, explains that she stepped out of her comfort zone when she came to college. She joined the group in the fall, and it became a new comfort zone where she always knows it's safe to relax and gain a greater fellowship with God.

The openness between the girls makes it possible for them to speak honestly about any situation, and all of Pickering's girls take full advantage of that trust.

"If there's any problem, I can talk to Teresa," Candice says.

Shannon Beels, another freshman member of the Bible study, says Pickering is a real encouragement.

"First time I saw Teresa, I just knew — that's got to come from Christ," she says.

Campus Crusade backs

See Tall Tales, 7

See Pickering, 7

## Pickering: RA shares God

Continued from 6

Pickering's Bible study group. Though, Pickering explains that her study group isn't simply "something with Campus Crusade's name on it," although CRU is a wonderful resource for the group.

Pickering became a serious member of CRU her sophomore year, leading a study group for freshmen and transfer students. That was when she originally met and started working with Rone.

They'll continue working together in Sweden over the summer when Rone takes a group of students there to do missionary work. Pickering has been accepted among the students to go on the trip.

While in Sweden, she will have a chance to work with students enrolled in colleges around Stockholm. The group will also help interested Swedish students set up campus ministries.

Last summer, Pickering went on a similar trip to Clearwater, Fla., where she worked with children at the YMCA.

She smiles nostalgically. "It was just the most amazing summer of my life," she says. She spent 10 weeks in Clearwater, working with the kids, pouring faith into them even as they did the same for her.

"Those are my kids from Clearwater," she motions toward her wall.

The entire length of it is covered in photographs of close friends, the girls from her Bible study and the children she worked with.

Where there aren't photographs, Bible verses have been taped up.

Verses from the gospel of John and the books of Colossians, Hebrews and 1 and 2 Corinthians, as well as a number of psalms, fill in the spaces between photographs.

"I guess everybody's wall in their room is an expression of themselves," she muses.

She explains the verses are there because she needs to see them; there are too many nega-

tive messages a person comes into contact with in every day life. Getting up in the morning, or having a particularly hard day, or when everything just seems to go wrong, she can look at her wall and see things that are positive and "true."

Pickering stops for a moment and looks thoughtfully at the verses and pictures.

"I want truth to be poured into my life - and I need it."

She says she first met Christianity in the seventh grade. She hasn't questioned her beliefs since opening herself to the Lord, but she didn't really continue to grow as a Christian until she joined the MTSU chapter of Campus Crusade.

Her decision to attend MTSU was not an easy one. Although she did not lack any Christian universities and applied for every scholarship she could, Pickering still had to consider the cost of her college career.

Her parents wouldn't be able to help her much, and she would have to continue working while at school.

It ultimately came down to a matter of finances.

"MTSU was good education, reasonable prices," she explains.

Pickering has struggled between her responsibilities as a student, holding a job and being an RA, but when she puts her faith in God, she knows it will all turn out the way it's supposed to.

What does the future hold for the faithful?

Pickering doesn't know. She admits that if asked the question, she wouldn't know what she'll be doing in 10 years. For now, she'll continue her duties as an RA, continue to hold weekly Bible studies for the "lovely ladies" in her dorm and continue to look to God for strength.

For now, her focus is on Wood Hall and studying English education. Her plan is to "take a step of faith" and see where her life leads after college.

"I pray about it," she laughs. "I'm going to pray about anything."

## Tall Tales: Students prepare for performance, competitions

Continued from 6

love their ideas and don't want to give them up, Halladay says.

Writing *American Tall Tales* became an ongoing process for the class.

"We did some improvisations, then wrote a script from that. Then we rewrote and did more improvisations," Halladay says.

"We kept writing as we went, and eventually the show evolved to what it is today."

*American Tall Tales* is still being changed to clarify what needs to be clarified, Halladay says.

"Since we opened, we have worked out lots of things and it keeps getting better and better," she says.

Halladay thinks the play is exceptionally creative, but says there are still some problems to be fixed between now and May. "It's been a long process," crewmember Sara McLoud says.

"In theory, the play could be a two year long commitment,"



Photo by Julie Mabewell | Staff Photographer  
**Charletta "CJ" Jordan plays Annie and co-wrote the production.**

actor Austin Sanders agrees.

*American Tall Tales* has the possibility to go to the American College Theatre Festival nationals, held in Washington D.C., according to Sanders.

But first they have to get through the regional competitions.

Last Friday night, a group of respondents came to MTSU from Nashville to watch the play.

The respondents' job was to rate the play and judge if it is ready to go to regionals, according to Halladay.

Though the play finished its first run on Saturday night, the cast and crew have not finished their obligation to *American Tall Tales*.

The night after Spring Break, they are going to get together to fix problems, Halladay says.

The group has to wait, because two company members of the cast are going to Washington D.C. to be awarded the title of best playwright in the nation and the other the best director in the nation, according to Halladay.

At least three more performances are in the works for the *American Tall Tales* company in the area. Halladay also hopes to perform in Patterson Park,

some local schools, and in Nashville.

The variety of places is to help the cast get used to performing on any stage type they do not know what since they will be presenting the show in while out of the country, according to Halladay.

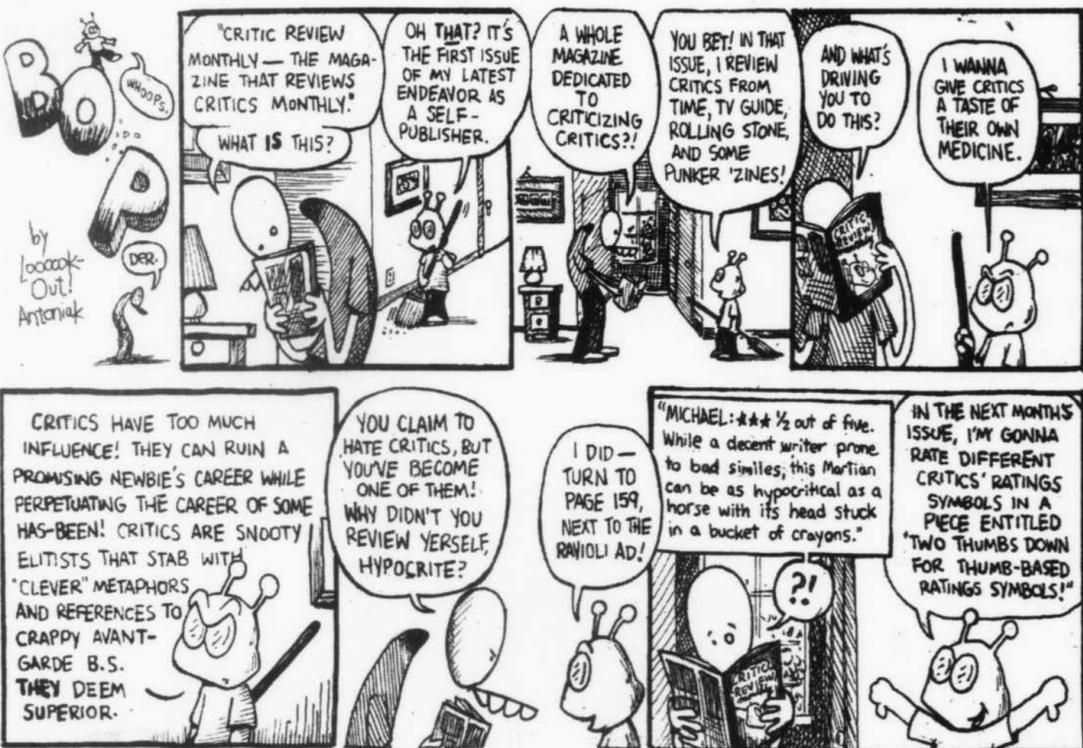
Halladay also hopes this will be the first of many shows from MTSU to tour in other countries.

"I would like to try and do this every other year or so," Halladay says.

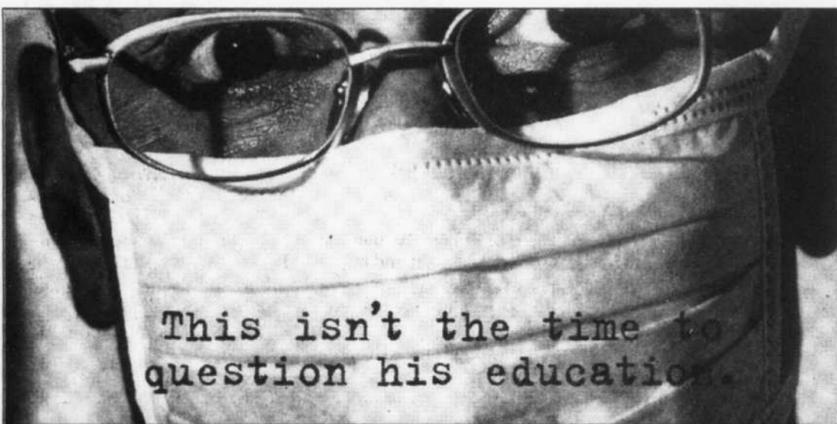
Funding for the trip has been coming from every possible source, according to Halladay.

While some money has been received, the troupe is still working to obtain all they need.

If you are interested in joining to *American Tall Tales* as they represent MTSU in other countries, contact Jette Halladay at 898-5824. ♦



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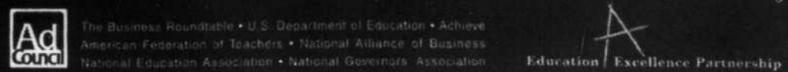
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## Softball squad keeps Lady Dawgs on leash

By Katy Hamlett  
 Staff Writer

The Lady Raider softball team swept the Cumberland University Lady Dawgs 7-0 in the first game and 6-1 in the nightcap this weekend.

In the early game, sophomore pitcher and outfielder Muriel Ledbetter scored first for the Lady Raiders after stealing second base and cruising across home plate on freshman Britney Herald's grounder to second. Junior catcher Leah Grothouse and senior co-captain Cortney Mitchell also scored in the bottom of the first to put Middle Tennessee up 3-0.



Mitchell

Mitchell returned to bat in the bottom of the third to bring in another run for the Lady Raiders.

"Cortney continues to lead us," MT head coach Cindy Connelley said of the 2003 Sun Belt Conference Newcomer of the Year. "She consistently swings the bat well."

MT junior third baseman Dani DeCamino and freshman pitcher Trish White racked up two more runs, bringing MT to 6-0 at the top of the fifth.

The Lady Dawgs threatened at the top of the fifth, with senior centerfielder Jessie Willingham and sophomore outfielder April Harris advancing to second and third bases.

Bobo struck out Cumberland's fourth batter, senior first basemen Savannah Dennis, to keep the Lady Dawgs leashed up at 6-0.

MT's final run came from Mitchell after hitting a double and reaching home on a double by Herald, giving the Lady Raiders a 7-0 shutout victory.

Trish White, a freshman, was MT's starting pitcher for the nightcap and kept the Lady Dawgs scoreless in the first inning.

In the second inning, Baird eased across home plate after stealing third base, giving Cumberland their first and

only run of the night.

After scoring in the bottom of the first, Mitchell returned in the bottom of the third with a triple. Mitchell scored on Herald's grounder to mid-field.

Freshman pitcher Ashley Frizzell and Grothouse also scored in the inning.

The top of the fourth saw another base hit for Cumberland outfielder Jaime Yost, but the Lady Dawgs came up empty when freshman outfielder Danielle Stewart flied out to center field.

White had her best games of the season Sunday, scoring one run in the first game and pitching her first victory in the second.

"Trish is a great batter and has a strong glove," Connelley said of the All-State freshmen from Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

The Lady Raiders improved to 6-2 this season and will take on Lipscomb University Thursday at 2 p.m. ♦



White

**Next Game:**  
**MT vs. Lipscomb**  
**2 p.m.**



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT catcher Leah Grothouse slides in safe against Cumberland. MT swept Cumberland 6-1 and 7-0 in the two game stretch.

## Seniors play final game at Murphy

### Only 3,400 faithful show after record

By Mark Emery  
 Staff Writer

The seniors came out the biggest winners as the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team ended the regular season with a 60-42 victory over Florida International University.

The Blue Raiders trailed only once during the game at 9-8 early in the first half. The team then went on a 27-8 run to end the first half. MT shot 48 percent from the field while hitting 6-13 three pointers.

The second half was not as successful for the team. The Blue Raiders only shot 28 percent from the field, but their defense held FIU to only 29 percent.

"About 12 minutes in the first half, I thought we played really hard and really well," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "From there, we just kind of hung on and played and weren't real good offensively in the second half."

This game was the last for the four seniors on the team. Tommy Gunn, Keith Connor, Steven Jackson and Marcus Robinson were all voted as Alexander Automotive co-Players of the Game on Senior Night.

"The only way senior nights are really successful is if you win them," Davis said on what the night and game meant to him. "It was good for our seniors. Tommy Gunn has played tons of minutes since he has been here. I was really excited that Steve, Marcus and Keith all played 20-plus minutes. They all contributed."

Tommy Gunn recorded his second career double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds. With the 12 points, Gunn moved into fourth place on the all-time points list, passing Randy Henry.

"Coach [Davis] wanted me to play as hard as possible to leave a sort of lasting impression on the fans," Gunn said.



Photo by Josh Jordan | Staff Photographer

MT forward Michael Cuffee tries the layup against an FIU defender on Sunday.

"Tonight's game, I came out with a double-double, so that's a good way for me to go out."

The other three seniors combined for 13 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists.

Connor and Robinson led the team with four assists. Connor also scored five points and grabbed two rebounds. Robinson put in six and also had two rebounds. Jackson contributed with two of his own

and was second, behind Gunn's 10, with seven rebounds.

The seniors were not the only ones who took center stage Monday night, as junior Michael Cuffee scored a career-high 19 points. He also had six rebounds and two steals.

Reserve walk-on Wes Durrant also scored the first points of his collegiate career when he hit a three-pointer in the final minute of the game.

Durrant entered the game after the crowd chanted for him and Davis conceded.

With the win, MT clinched the No. 5 seed in the upcoming Sun Belt Conference Tournament. The Blue Raiders will face Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky., Saturday night in the first round of the tournament. ♦

## Ladies win finale as McClinic sets new season record

Staff Reports

The Lady Raiders clinched a share of the Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division Championship after defeating Florida International University 63-48 Monday.

Krystle Horton and Patrice Holmes each had 16 points as Middle Tennessee (20-7, 10-4 SBC) won its 20th game of the season, the first time the Lady Raiders have reached the 20-win mark since the 1995-96 season. The Golden Panthers (11-16, 5-9) lost their sixth straight game and suffered their first losing season in 23 years.

Both teams battled back and forth in the first half as FIU shot nearly 54 percent from the field, and MT shot 46 percent. The Lady Raiders went into halftime leading 34-30, however, and began the second half with a 17-7 run to go up 51-37 with 11:38 left in the game.

MT went into a scoring drought that lasted more than six minutes, but the Golden Panthers were unable to capitalize, scoring just four points over the same stretch. Neither team dominated offensively the rest of the way as the Lady Raiders won their first game in Golden Panther Arena.



McClinic

Stovall was the only other Lady Raider in double figures, finishing with 13 points. Ivelina Vrancheva led FIU with 16 points and Allison Bustamante finished with 10.

Senior Keisha McClinic set a

See Record, 9

## Netters start strong, come up just short

By Matthew Adair  
 Staff Writer

The No. 59 Middle Tennessee men's tennis team found itself just short of a win last Wednesday, losing 4-3 against No. 28 University of Alabama.

Despite having a number of injured players, the Crimson Tide came back after a strong Blue Raider start in doubles, culminating with Rishan Kurupuu's 6-3, 6-2 loss to Alabama's Christian Broderson in the No. 5 singles match.

MT started the match with Trevor Short and Kirk Jackson losing No. 1 doubles to

Alabama's Stephen Mitchell and Chris Gostek, 8-2. However, the Blue Raiders came back to win the remaining two doubles matches. Kurupuu and Andreas Siljstrom defeated Tom McVey and Eric Molnar 8-4, while Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn won 8-4 against Joseph Jung and Broderson.

The Blue Raiders' good start, however, began to show its strength as they went into singles play.

Going into singles ahead 1-0, MT's lead disappeared quickly as Gostek defeated Short at No. 2 6-2, 6-2, tying the match

See Loss, 9



Kurupuu



Short

## Athletic Director's surgery goes 'extremely well,' recovering in Nashville

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee athletic director Boots Donnelly successfully underwent open-heart surgery Tuesday morning at Saint Thomas hospital in Nashville, Tenn.

Donnelly, 60, suffered a mild heart attack last Friday night at the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame banquet and checked himself in to the Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn. He was transferred to Saint Thomas Hospital on Sunday.

The quadruple-bypass surgery went "extremely well," according to Dr. Stephen Hof,

who performed the surgery, according to gob-lueraiders.com. Donnelly is expected to be out of intensive care by Wednesday.



Donnelly

"Our hearts and prayers go out to Boots and his family," university President Sidney McPhee said to gob-lueraiders.com. "This is a very unfortunate circumstance, and we wish him a very speedy and full recovery."

Associate athletic director

Diane Turnham will serve as interim athletic director while Donnelly is recuperating. Donnelly is expected to return home in four to six days.

After coaching the Blue Raider football team to a 140-87-1 mark over a 20-year career, Donnelly moved into the athletic director position on an interim basis in 2000. His position became permanent Jan. 15, 2002.

Under Donnelly's watch, Middle Tennessee has transitioned from the Ohio Valley Conference to the Sun Belt Conference, winning conference

championships in football, baseball, men's and women's indoor track and men's outdoor track, as well as runner-up finishes for the men's and women's basketball teams last spring. ♦



## Loss: Singles play dooms men

Continued from 8

1-1. The Blue Raiders won in the No. 1 and No. 6 positions, with Siljstrom beating Mitchell 7-6, 6-3, and Anant Sitaram taking victory over Mike Green 6-3, 6-3. Jackson forced the No. 3 match against Jung into a tiebreaker but



Jackson

ultimately fell to the Alabama freshman 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

The Crimson Tide won the remaining matches, including the deciding No. 5 match as well as the No. 4 match, in which Molnar defeated Schledorn 6-4, 6-4.

The Blue Raiders will go on a 12-day break, after which they will host Indiana State University March 8 before starting a series of road matches in the National Blue-Gray Tennis Classic in Montgomery, Ala.

The Indiana State match will begin at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center at 2:30 p.m. ♦

## JSU takes two of three from MT

By Jon Leffew  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee baseball team squared off against Jacksonville State University Sunday in Jacksonville, Ala., in the final matchup of a three-game series against the Gamecocks.

MT suffered their first loss of the season in the first game of the series 2-1, then bounced back on Saturday with an 8-2 victory.

Sunday, the Blue Raiders were defeated 5-3 in an exciting game.

"Jacksonville made the plays today and pitched better than we did," MT head coach Steve Peterson told MT Media Relations. "The better-playing ball club won today."

JSU starter C.R. Palmer gave up four hits in six innings of work, picking up the victory for the Gamecocks.

The Gamecocks scored two runs in the second and sixth innings off losing pitcher Steve Kline, then added an insurance run in the eighth.

Most of JSU's offensive output came from the bottom of the order, as four of the Gamecock's eight hits came from the eighth and ninth spots in the lineup.

For the Blue Raiders, Eric McNamee scored in the first inning on a two out single by Josh Archer.

In the second, the Gamecocks took

inning. After reliever Eric Blevins entered the game for the Blue Raiders, Pearson grounded into what appeared to be an easy double play. The throw to second from MT third baseman Brett Carroll sailed above McNamee's head, however, giving the Gamecocks a runner in scoring position with no outs.

A hit batter loaded the bases, and Bret Pettus singled to drive in two more runs, giving the Gamecocks a 4-1 lead.

MT pinch hitter Derek Phillips responded in the seventh, hitting a two-run home run that scored Shane Kemp, cutting the deficit to 4-3.

The Gamecocks scored again in the eighth after a bloop single by Jason Horn.

With the 5-3 lead, JSU closer Robby Goodson dominated the Blue Raiders, striking out the side in the eighth and ninth innings to pick up his second save of the series.

MT will be in action again this weekend, traveling to Hammond, La., for a three-game series with Southeastern Louisiana University. ♦

"Jacksonville made the plays today and pitched better than we did. The better-playing ball club won today."

— Steve Peterson  
MT head coach

## Record: Lady Raiders No. 4 seed

Continued from 8

new MT single-season steals record with 94 after two steals Monday. McClinic broke Holmes' year-old record of 92 steals.

"If somebody deserves to break a record on this team, it is Keisha McClinic," MT head coach Stephany Smith told MT Media Relations. "She has given 110 percent of herself to this basketball team and has had so many clutch plays to help us to this night."

With the win, the Lady Raiders earned a No. 4 seed for this weekend's SBC tournament. MT will face the University of North Texas in the first round of the Sunday. FIU did not qualify for the tournament. ♦

Photo courtesy English.com

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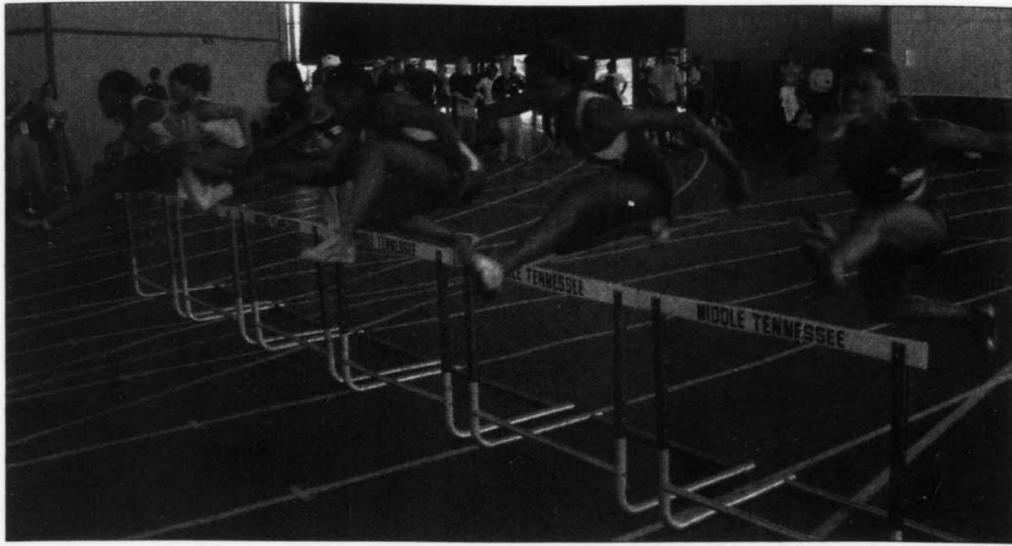
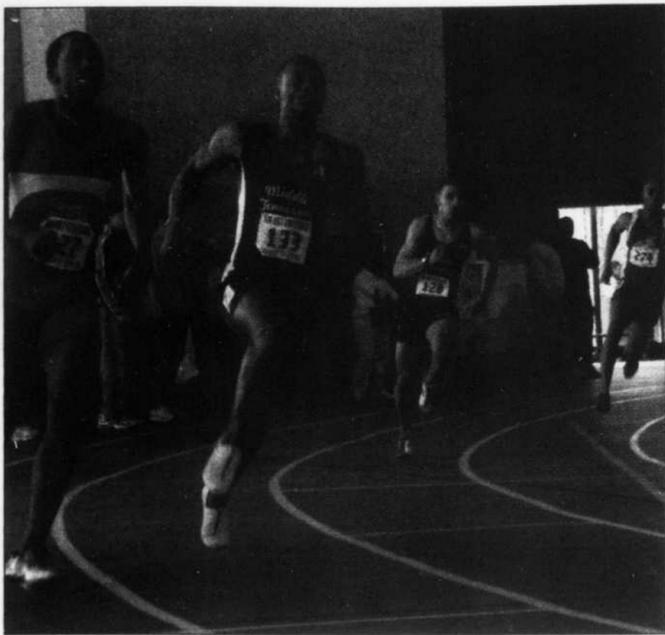
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# MT track squads win fourth SBC Championships



Photos courtesy MT Media Relations

The Middle Tennessee men's and women's track teams both finished first in the SBC Indoor Championships over the weekend. The wins marked the fourth consecutive titles for both squads.

By Colleen Johnson  
Contributor

Just as the conference coaches predicted in a preseason poll, the Middle Tennessee men's and women's track squads both won their fourth consecutive Sun Belt Conference Indoor Championship titles this past weekend at Murphy Center.

Each team had four first-place finishes, mostly in the sprint events.

Lady Raider Kishara George won the 400-meter dash in a personal-best 54.26 seconds, while teammate Kerry Barrow (56.84) and Contrena Brown (57.29) finished sixth and seventh, respectively.

"I really felt good about how I did today," George said. "I have been training hard since the start of the season, and I'm just glad it all paid off. This was my best for indoors."

Blue Raider Sean Waller also won the 400-meter race with a personal-best 47.25 seconds. Senior Tim Hicks placed fifth (47.97), and junior Victor Okorie placed eighth (48.77).

"We mainly focus on the sprints," Waller said. "We can't wait to get to the sprints. I was just trying to stay relaxed. When I came out of the blocks, I saw that I had caught two people real quick, so my legs stayed with me."

MT prevailed in both the men's and women's 55-meter dashes as well.

Junior Rosemary Okafor ran 6.93 seconds for first place, with freshmen Nicole Marcus (7.19) and Tiffany Owens (7.23) snagging fourth and fifth, respectively.

"We had the confidence we were going to win," Okafor said. "I was pleased with my performance, and when you believe in your coach and your efforts, it's hard to lose."

Voted the Most Outstanding Track Performer for the second year in a row, senior Mardy Scales won the 55-meter dash in 6.34 seconds. Three more Blue Raiders scored overall points for the team, with Pedro Holiday in second (6.41), Xavier Darden in fourth (6.45) and Wesley Dupar-Scott in eighth (6.52).

Sophomore Candice Robertson placed first in the 55-meter hurdles in 8.22 seconds. Jessica Anderson finished fourth (8.30) and Jerkita McClorin finished in 11th place (8.74).

"I just felt I had to step up, because I wanted us to win conference so I had to give it my all," Robertson said. "I felt a lot of pressure because North Texas was making a push, but I had to do it. This is where we come out, at conference."

The University of North Texas women's team remained close to MT in overall points throughout the championships and was 18.5 points behind

before the last event.

Blue Raider Garland Martin placed second in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 7.39 seconds. Linnie Yarbrough took fourth with 7.42 seconds.

Scales had another victory in the 200-meter dash with a first-place time of 21.00 seconds. He set a new school record of 20.84 seconds during the qualifying races on Saturday, beating Roland McGhee's previous record of 20.99, which was set in 1993.

"I was shooting for it," Scales said. "[This is] my last year in the 200 here. I wanted to go out on a strong note."

Darden took third place in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.69. Dupar-Scott finished fifth (21.71), and Holiday finished seventh (21.80).

Lady Raiders Okafor (24.09) and George (24.20) placed second and third in the women's 200-meter dash. Teammates Marcus (24.91) and Owens (25.42) came in fifth and 11th for the event, respectively.

In the men's 3,000-meter race, Blue Raider Tarik Thabet finished 10th, running for 8 minutes and 57.5 seconds, while David Hughes finished 11th with a time of 9:01.52.

Both MT teams also fared well in the field events.

Sophomore Meaghan Byrd took second place in the weight throw with a distance of 15.49 meters. Senior Katie Mirgliotta placed fourth with 14.56

meters and junior Laetitia Florimond placed 10th with 10.04 meters for the Lady Raiders.

In the men's weight throw, newcomer James Thomas finished second with a personal-best 15.68 meters. Willie Parker finished seventh (13.24 meters), and Brandon Parker took 10th (11.50 meters).

Lady Raider Letitia Eady placed second in the triple jump with a distance of 12.53 meters. Rolanda Howard finished sixth with 11.83 meters, and KeKe Deckard finished ninth with 11.48 meters.

Sophomore Greg Jones took third place in the men's triple jump with 15.06 meters, while fellow Blue Raiders Clyde Gibson (13.32 meters) and JJ Sturm (13.26 meters) placed 11th and 12th, respectively.

Yet another second-place finish for the Lady Raiders was Laetitia Florimond in the women's shot put with a distance of 13.55 meters. Byrd threw 12.96 meters for sixth place, and Kelley Enoch placed 11th with 11.89 meters.

Parker finished fourth in the men's shot put with a distance of 14.87 meters, while Thomas placed sixth with 14.32 meters.

In the high jump event, Blue Raider Bryan Anderson took seventh place with 1.92 meters. Lady Raiders Jennifer Thomas (1.57 meters) and McClorin

(1.47 meters) placed 11th and 13th, respectively, in the same event.

The grand finale for both the men's and women's team came in the last event of the championships, the 1600-meter relays.

The Lady Raider team of Okafor, Brown, Barrow, and George finished first with a time of 3:43.50, a full seven seconds faster than second-place Florida International University.

The Blue Raider relay team of Darden, Scales, Hicks and Waller finished first with a time of 3:10.15.

Both the men's and women's team have won every championship title since entering the SBC in 2000. The men's team has actually won five in a row because they won in 1999, when MT belonged to the Ohio Valley Conference.

"We definitely got it together and competed hard," MT head coach Dean Hayes said. "We scored in every event that we needed to. Our key events are the sprints, hurdles and relays, and we pulled through in those. It's the same on both teams. They are a mirror image of each other, which is extremely rare."

The victories allow both teams to head into the outdoor season with an air of confidence.

"It marks the team for the spring season," Hayes said. "It shows a continuation of excellence." ♦

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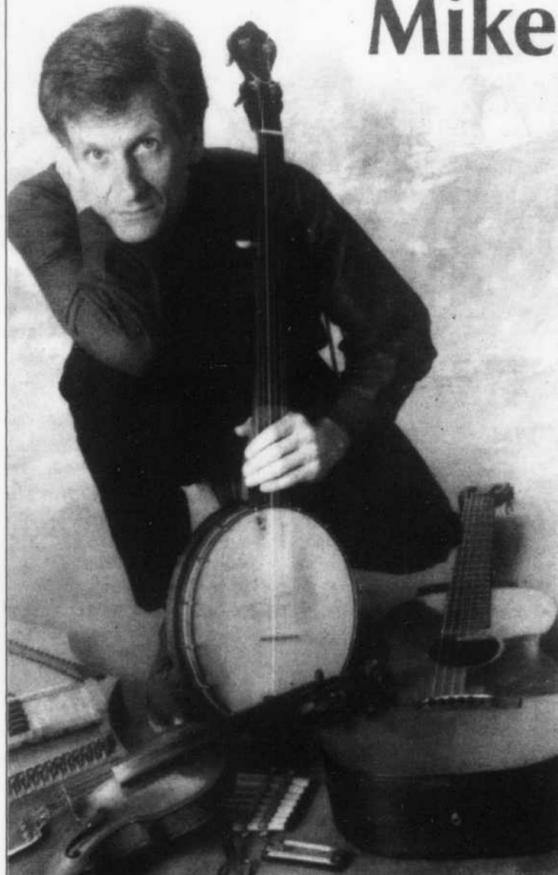
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