

Thursday

Hi: 66°
LO: 39°

Friday

Hi: 71°
LO: 45°

Saturday

Hi: 72°
LO: 49°MT prepares for
South Alabama

page 9

Exposure

inside

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES

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Thursday, April 19, 2007

Editorially independent

VP continues search for job at universities

By Andy Harper

Campus News Editor

Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost, is one of four finalists for the position of chancellor at the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

"I love MTSU, my house and my friends," Gebert said. "I am just at a point in my career where I want to look at other options. I want to look into being a chief officer."

Gebert has an on-campus interview at UT-Martin April 11 and 12. In addition to being considered for the chancellor's position, Gebert will visit Georgia Southwestern State University to apply for the open president's position.

Since March of 2003, Gebert has held the position of executive vice president and provost at MTSU. Her position is second-in-command under the president.

"She has demonstrated skills in finding, recruiting and retaining talented faculty, which is the core of any university," said Sidney McPhee, university president, in an October 2006 Sidelines article. "She is a welcomed asset to the leadership team at MTSU."

The next step in the application process for the chancellor's position will be university's recommendations to John Petersen, system president of the University of Tennessee.

If Gebert were to obtain employment at either university, an interim executive vice president and provost would be placed, although the person for the job remains undecided.

"Jack Thomas is the senior vice provost, although the decision for

an interim is a presidential decision," Gebert said. "There is no direct line of succession, and if I were to resign, the president would be free to name whoever they wish to temporarily fill my job."

After resigning and naming an interim, the university would begin the application process to fill the post of executive vice president and provost.

In the event that Gebert does not receive the job opportunity to serve at UT-Martin, she said she will continue her work with MTSU as well as continue searching for higher position opportunities.

"I am delighted to be here," Gebert said. "This is a great place to be, and there are a lot of wonderful things happening."

I love my job very much, and in the event that I do not get the job, I will continue my job search and looking at selected institutes. ♦



K. Gebert

Other UT-Martin Chancellor applicants:

Thomas Rakes
provost and vice chancellor
at UT-Martin

John Schwenn
vice president for academic affairs
at Emporia State University
in Emporia, Kansas

Roosevelt Newson
provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of North Alabama in Florence, Alabama

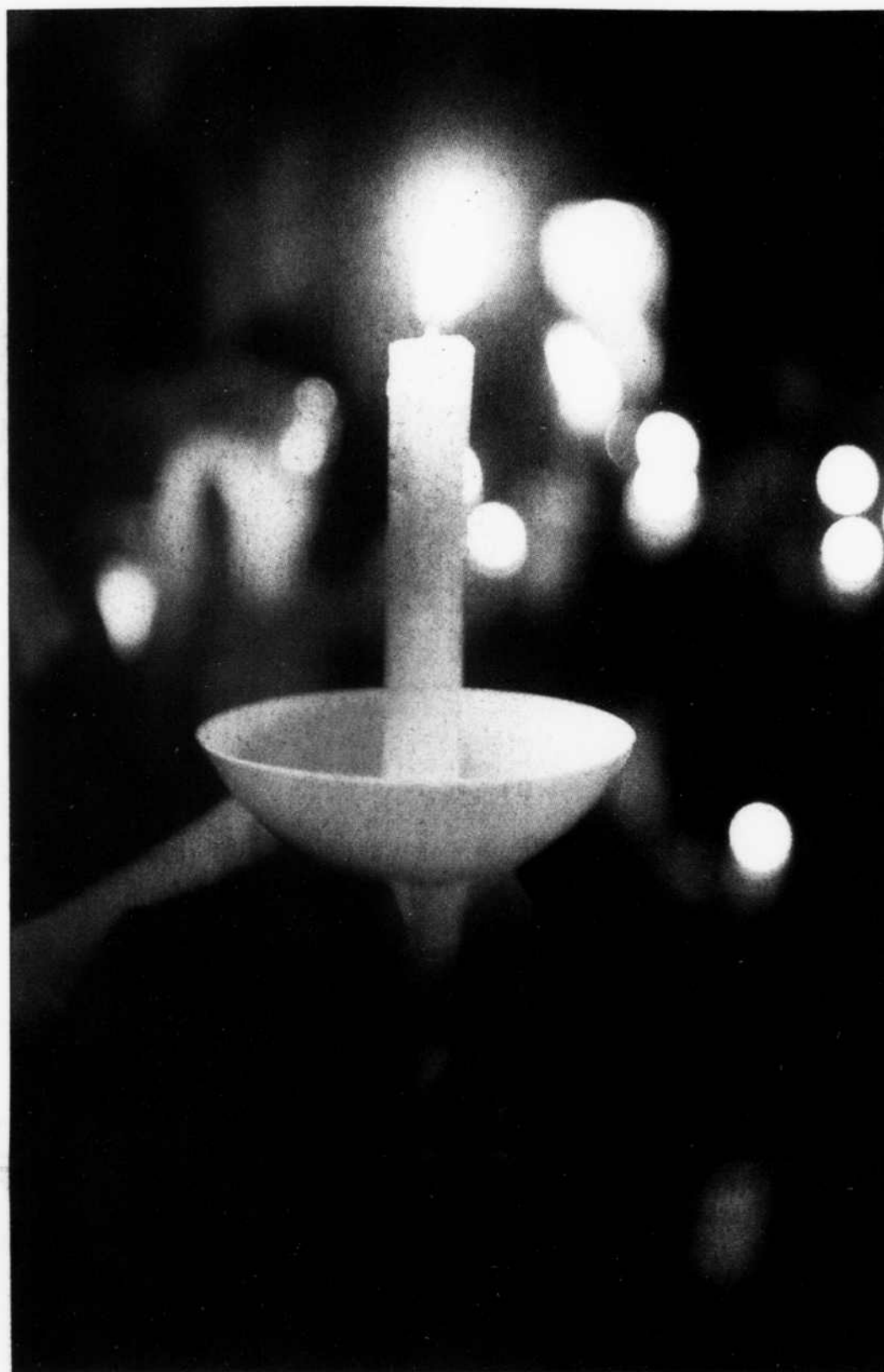
What would MT do?

Photo by Chet Overall | Graphic Designer

Students gathered at the Keathley University Center Wednesday night to hold a candlelight vigil to honor the victims of the Virginia Tech massacre. Another ceremony is planned for Sunday evening at the Business and Aerospace Building.

Campus discusses emergency plans, reassures students

By Andy Harper

Campus News Editor

The massacre at Virginia Tech left 33 dead and affected college campuses around the United States, including MTSU, pulling security and evacuation plans into question by the college community.

The gunman, 23-year-old VT student Cho Seung-Hui, began the massacre at 7:15 a.m. by killing two people in a co-ed dormitory. Seung-Hui then traveled across the campus to an engineering building, where he killed 30 people before committing suicide.

"All of us are shocked and saddened by the tragic events that occurred [Monday] at Virginia Tech," said Sidney McPhee, university president, in written statement released Tuesday. "From one university family to another, we offer our deepest condolences to those touched by this incident, and our thoughts are with our colleagues at Virginia Tech in the days and weeks ahead."

In the wake of the VT event, McPhee said he met with Buddy Peaster, chief of MTSU police, and reviewed campus procedures for an emergency situation.

"We are fortunate that we established an emergency-preparedness plan a few years ago, which we periodically review and revise, when necessary," McPhee said. "While no plan is perfect, I am confident that we have developed strategies that can effectively serve our university community."

See News, 2

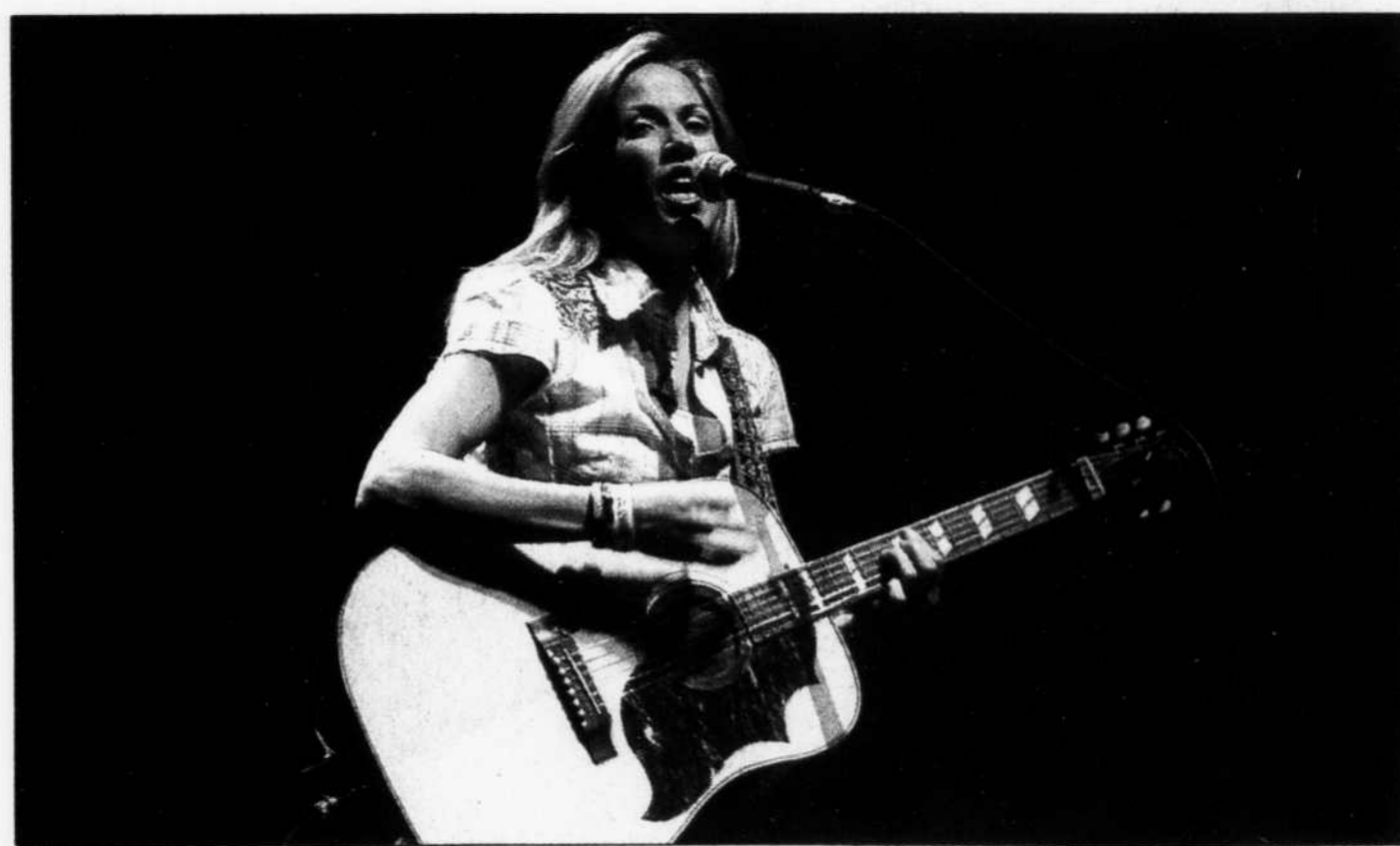


Photo by Joe Harvey | Staff Photographer

Sheryl Crow sang a three of her hit songs while performing during the Stop Global Warming College Tour.

Artist sings for global warming

By Michelle McCrary

Assistant News Editor

Paul Revere, the Blue Man Group and former Vice President Al Gore showed MTSU students the peril earth faces due to the effects of global warming on Tuesday night.

Grammy Award winning singer-song writer Sheryl Crow and global warming activist Laurie David parked their bio-diesel tour bus at Murphy Center to help educate students about global warming, its effects on the Earth, and the dangers it poses for future generations.

"I am terrified about what is happening to [the] planet," said David, founder of Stop Global Warming. "Global warming is happening faster than expected, but [we] can do something to stop it."

David said scientists have concluded the

earth has less than 10 years to slow global warming, or else "we set ourselves on a course that cannot be corrected."

According to statistics David provided from scientists, such as James Hanson of NASA, human activity has guaranteed a two-degree global temperature increase.

"The difference between one degree is a frozen Popsicle in your freezer or a puddle on the floor," David said. "No other issue is going to impact your life more than global warming."

Both David and Crow offered suggestions on how students could make positive changes in their lives to help slow the process, such as taking a reusable cup to Starbucks to get coffee, driving a hybrid car, taking a garment bag to the dry cleaner to reduce using plastic, and voting for candidates who are doing something to try and slow the process down.

"We need to change as individuals first, then as families, schools, cities, and then as a country," David said.

David shared stories from other college campuses on how they are making changes to combat global warming.

"Texas A&M is using left over oil from their cafeteria to power their campus trucks. LSU students started a petition to eliminate cars on campus and it's going to effect as of July," David said, adding that students should work with their school president to make their campus carbon neutral.

In the past, MTSU students have done their part to combat global warming.

In the 2006 spring, Student Government Association election, students voted unanimously to raise student activity fees by \$8.00

See Crow, 4

Study abroad soon cheaper for students

By Ashley Brase

Staff Writer

Students hoping to study abroad soon have the opportunity for financial assistance through the new Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007.

The act, established by Senator Paul Simon, is a program proposing to award grants to United States students hoping to study abroad in four-year universities, as well as community colleges and other nontraditional schools.

"A big concern for the bill was that it not be just for four year institutions but for community colleges as well," said Jennifer Campbell, director of the MTSU Study Abroad Office. "It allows others to have the opportunity [which] university students have had."

Funding for the grants will go through the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program. Students intending to study abroad will fill out an application and apply for the grant.

"If it wasn't for scholarships I have received, money would be a concern for my plans to study abroad," said Cassandra Stevens, undeclared freshman, who plans to study in the United Kingdom.

The Study Abroad Foundation Act differs from current national scholarships and grants for students hoping to study abroad, because this legislation does not set a grant number for each university, but processes each request

based in individual need.

through the act. Study abroad opportunities are intended to become more diverse in terms of participants, fields of study, and destinations with a larger number of study abroad student traveling to the developing world.

"The idea is to give American students the opportunity to live, study and work in an international community they may not have here," Campbell said.

The act states that within 10 years of the date of the enactment, upwards of one million undergraduate U.S. students will study abroad annually for credit.

"Nationally, the United States currently sends 204,000 students overseas each year," Campbell said. "The act would make it more open to students who may not have been able to afford to travel overseas previously."

The act cites the foreign policy challenges as a central reason for the need to expand Americans' knowledge of other cultures and foreign languages.

"At 28 percent, business majors are the highest percentage of students nationally studying abroad," Campbell said. "Traveling abroad and doing internships in places like London makes a candidate for a job stand out from the other applicants."

If enacted, the bill is scheduled to be initiated no later than March 31, 2008.

MTSU currently has 248 students preparing to depart for summer studies abroad. ♦

Safety: Police disclose emergency plan scenarios

Continued from 1

Communications

E-mails were sent to students and staff at VT, informing them about the gunman and recommending everyone take shelter.

"In this kind of situation, students need to be notified instantly to be kept out of harm's way," said Jay Cash, Student Government Association president, in a statement released Tuesday. "At MTSU, the campus is developing a mobile technology system where the university will have every students' cellular phone number and will be able to send out text messages to students instantly when weather or danger is near."

In situations such as bad weather or hazardous events, MTSU has several methods to keep students, faculty and staff safe.

According to Peaster, the campus operates on two different documents, which were recently combined into an emergency plan approved by the university a few months ago.

The first is a general orders policy for the university. The other is a procedure manual used by the police department that highlights specific types of incidents and law enforcement procedures. Although there is a plan for emergency, the campus has no stringent guidelines for specific situations.

"If we put in place a document of exactly how to do something and if the scenario or situation doesn't fit, we take the risk of handcuffing folks who make policy decisions," Peaster said.

One of the questions raised about the VT shootings was the two-hour lag-time between the first dorm shooting and notification to students and staff.

"If you look at it from a tactical sense, this was a reasonably unique situation," Peaster said. "There is not another campus

shooting that had these dynamics and it doesn't fit into any categories."

The three major categories include a person who intentionally inflicts harm, as in the case with a domestic dispute. Another option is a person who operates in a stationary location, having set up with the intent to harm or kill as many people as possible and intending to either escape or die. The third option includes a situation where a person constantly moves through a predetermined area, causing havoc.

"We realize we need some good policy in place and we are working with off-campus officials," Peaster said. "We are also engaged in improving the notification system and communication amongst departments. In any situation, it doesn't have to become tragic if we manage to eliminate communication barriers."

Emergency plans

While the response to an emergency situation is always different depending on the type of circumstance, Peaster said the university has three major actions it can take.

In situations such as inclement weather, the university president has the authority to shut down the campus.

"What that means is that there will be no classes and business that the university will conduct that day," Peaster said. "Some needed personnel will come to campus, like people from the police department and facility staff. Also, students would still be in dorms."

When an event like a hazardous chemical spill or bomb threat occurs, the campus may be evacuated. This may apply to the entire campus or just a part.

"We could also have an opposite evacuation," Peaster said. "The Red Cross has denoted the

Murphy Center as a holding place in case of an evacuation of the city or county. For example, if there was a terrible explosion and not enough room at the hospital, people could be moved to the Murphy Center or somewhere else on campus."

An opposite evacuation for MTSU is when an incident occurs within the community and victims are evacuated into the campus.

The third situation is somewhat like VT, where students and staff are instructed to take shelter and wait for further instructions.

"The situation takes a different perspective depending on what is happening," Peaster said. "In a situation like that, procedures need to be fluid and flexible. If you don't give yourself that, you will paint yourself into a corner."

In a situation where students or staff are instructed to take shelter or to wait for direction, every scenario is different.

"I just read an article that gave the top five alternatives to an incident like VT," Peaster said. "In order from first action to last resort, a person will escape, barricade, conceal, play dead or attack back. But again, no one really knows exactly what to do until they are in that type of situation."

The only way to prepare is to learn about options and general concepts, as well as becoming cognitive of your surroundings.

"It is really important that people understand that we, as law enforcement officials, need to be receptive and are receptive of help," Peaster said. "It may not always be a resolution, but without the feeling of partnering and people being heard, folks won't come to us and let us know about these issues. It is vital to keep the relationship with the community in-tack." ♦

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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IN THEATRES APRIL 27

Campus memorial events for the Virginia Tech community:

Sunday at the Business and Aerospace Building courtyard
8 p.m. - Candlelight vigil sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

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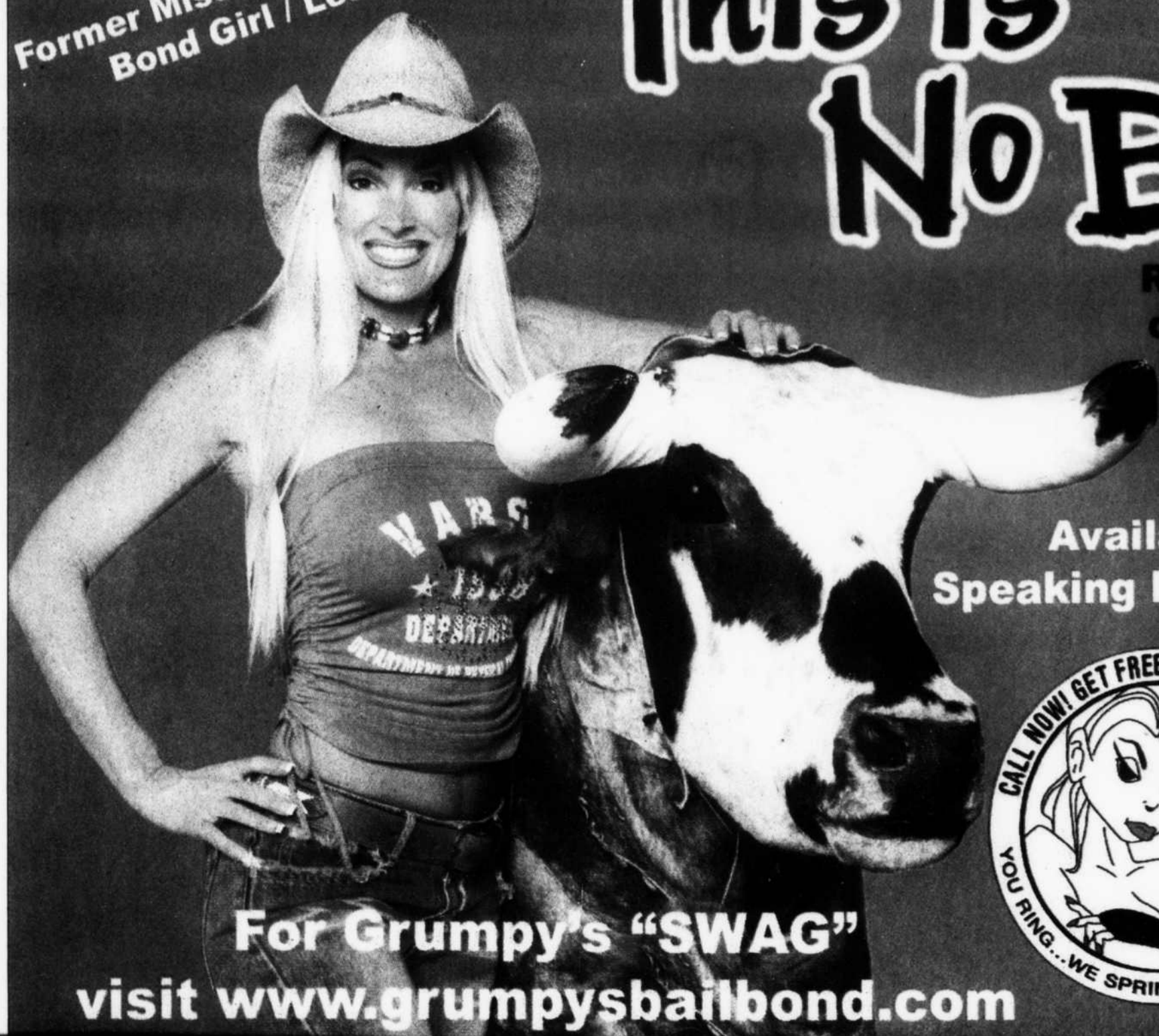
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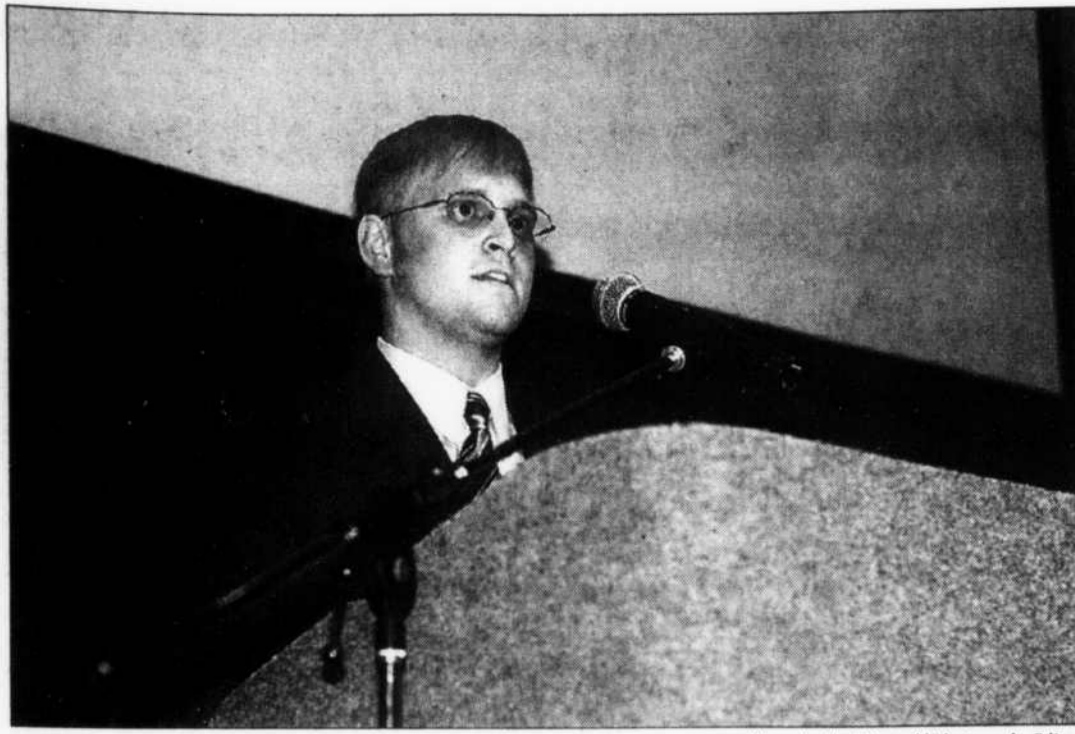


Photo by Chris Barstad | Photography Editor

Staff Report

The student government association officers, senate and committee members were recognized for their excellence and achievements over the past school year Wednesday night.

The 2007 through 2008 SGA executive officers were also inaugurated at the banquet.

In coming student body president Chassen Haynes said he is proud to represent MTSU and

wants to see positive changes for the university. "I plan to reestablish MTSU's involvement with the Tennessee Legislature, as well as implement new positions such as Philanthropic coordinator," Haynes said.

Haynes also said that he plans on creating a safe learning environment for the student body and professors. ♦

Crow: Singer-songwriter speaks for environmentalism

Continued from 1

to purchase green power.

"Every student purchases clean energy and green power with their tuition," said Reggie Miller, co-chair of Students for Environmental Action. "They can do even more by turning off a light, or by carpooling and biking to campus."

Crow paused during the show for a moment of silence to "send good energy and our deepest condolences to the families and victims at Virginia Tech."

Crow sang acoustic versions of her hits, including "A Change Will Do You Good" and "Everyday Is a Winding Road," which she said have taken on a new meaning for her.

"The more I learn about [global warming]" Crow explained, "the more there is the burden of knowing."

Crow joked with the audience about tips to help stop global

warming including wearing recycled paper outfits and using one square of toilet paper.

Crow responded to questions about different steps schools can take to better educate, not only students, but university staff as well.

"Part of the problem is that we have been in denial for a long time. We don't want to face the fact that this is happening," Crow said.

Crow also recommended that every school show "An Inconvenient Truth." She considers the documentary to be a well-spring of information for students and teachers that lays out the issue of global warming in terms everyone can understand.

Students who attended the concert received a free Phillips, International energy-saving light bulb, which lasts for seven years and is more energy efficient than a regular light bulb.

"It's not about doing every-

thing, but about doing something," Crow said.

Steve Goldmacher, a representative for Philips Electronics, said the evolving technology is allowing energy to become viable and allow people to hear the message.

"Energy saving bulbs are identical to [the] light bulbs people are already using, but they save 75 percent in energy costs," Goldmacher said. "The only difference is that the bulbs are fluorescent as opposed to incandescent."

The Stop Global Warming College Tour concludes on April 22 in Washington, D.C. Along with other artists, David and Crow will then urge U.S. leaders to take necessary steps to protect the planet before it is too late.

"Our message is that it is possible; scientists are saying that it's possible and to not give up hope," David said. "Hopefully, we'll begin to look around and start to make changes in our personal lives." ♦

SPOTLIGHTING

Tuesday, April 24, 2007 · 2:30pm

Middle Tennessee State University
James Union Building
Tennessee Room

Service Award for Liberal Arts Faculty

15 Years

Mark Byrnes, Political Science
Russell Church,
Speech & Theatre
Judith Rusciollelli,
Foreign Languages
& Literatures
Sharon Shaw-McEwen,
Social Work
Shelley Thomas,
Foreign Languages
& Literatures
J. Brandon Wallace,
Sociology & Anthropology

25 Years

Deborah Anderson,
Speech & Theatre
Angela Hague, English
Christie Nuell, Art
David Rowe, History

Outstanding Advisors for the College of Liberal Arts

Kay Garrard, Speech & Theatre
David Carleton,
Political Science
Rosemary Kaw,
Foreign Languages
& Literatures
Vicky MacLean,
Sociology & Anthropology

College of Liberal Arts Senior Honor Students

Students must have been enrolled fulltime for the current and past three semesters at MTSU, have completed 90 or more semester hours before the current semester, have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 and are working on their first degree.

Nicholas Andal
Richard Anderson
Stacey Badger
Henry Barnes
Shannon Beels
Amber Bland
Krystal Bledsoe
Ashley Bosshart
Heather Bowington
Melissa Bowman
Meredith Burton
David Carson
Jennifer Carter
Kristen Chandler
Amy Clark
Daniel Clem
Corey Collins
Kendra Creekmore
Destiny Doyle
Ashley Edington
Angela Feeney
Michael Fletcher
Ashley Fuqua
Ashley George
Natalie George
Serafina Green
Crystal Griffey
Mary Hammer
Christen Harris
Whitney Hawkins
Brittany Hayes
Lydia Helm
Natalie Hogan
Meghan Jones
Stacy Kelley
Charlotte Lewis
Suzanne Luter
Sara McCarty
Virginia McKenzie
Erin Meaker
Kristin Mullins
Candice Nunley
Chadrick Owens
Mara Ownby
Anna Parker
Nicole Payne
John Pfeiffer
Rachel Pitt
Emily Radke
Lacee Reeves
Sarah Schneider
Christopher Smith
Katrina Stanifer
Savanna Teague
Megan Tozer
Joshua Turner
Dennis Van Dyke
Joseph Vaarvik
Rachel Walters
Amelia West
Jon Williamson
Carly Wolfe
Sally Woods
Brent Woolsey

Other Awards
Homer Pittard Scholarship
in Creative Writing
Monica Brown
Jacob Sharbel

Art

Art Enrichment:
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Jacqueline Quinton

Art Enrichment:

Outstanding
Sophomore
Brett Warren

Art Enrichment:

Outstanding Junior
Lani Asuncion

Charles M. Brandon
Scholarship

Rachel Bonham

Hester R. Rogers Scholarship

Melissa Lindsey

Suzanne Luter

Judith Mitchell

Charles and Ola Massey
Scholarship

Jeremy Braden

John and Elva Griffin
Scholarship

Danny Greene

Denise Johnson

Jerry's Artarama Award

Hannah Green

Lauren Veteto

English

Virginia Derryberry
Memorial Scholarship

Jason Caldwell

Meredith Burton

Jennie Willingham

Christine Vaughan
Scholarship

Lindsay Shaw

William R. Wolfe
Graduate Writing Award

Qingjun Li

Cynthia Burkhead

Jeffrey Frame

Joseph Ballantyne

Foreign Languages & Literatures

Outstanding Student in German Award

Charlotte Lewis

Outstanding Student in Spanish Award

Colby Sledge

Matthew Meredith

January Ware

Wera Howard Award

Joanna Angel

June Hall McCash Award

Matthew Meredith

Geosciences

Gem and Mineral Scholarship

Jessica Beard

James Carroll

Anna Tegarden

Outstanding Geography Student

Spencer Pelton

Michael Huff

Estwing Rock Hammer Award

Richard Anderson

History

Tennessee Historical Commission Award

John Williamson

Ernest Hooper Undergraduate Scholarship

Jon Williamson

Scott McAnally

Krystal Bledsoe

Thelma Jennings Graduate Scholarship

Scarlett Miles

Edward and Eileen Jennings Undergraduate Scholarship

Caleb Raymer

Bart McCash Scholarship

Lauren Nickas

Robert L. McLean School of Music

Outstanding Achievement in Trumpet

Brad McIlwain

Outstanding Achievement in Horn

Linda Elliott

Outstanding Achievement in Percussion

Tyler Warren

Outstanding Achievement in Woodwind Performance in Clarinet

Jonathan Copeland

Outstanding Achievement in Woodwind Performance in Flute

Lindsay Seagroves

Outstanding Achievement in Vocal Performance

Diane Johnson

Outstanding Achievement in Instrumental Music Education

Matthew Crossley

Outstanding Achievement in Vocal/General Music Education

Chelsey Shelton

Outstanding Achievement in Low Brass-Graduate

Courtney Mosley

Outstanding Achievement in Music History

Travis Clem

Tracey Phillips

Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Studies

Jerry Monds

Outstanding Achievement in Guitar Performance

Erol Ozsever

Political Science

Norman L. Parks Award

Ashley George

Stacey Badger

C.C. Sims Award

Christopher Smith

John W. Burgess Award

Justin Wax

Corey Collins

Jack Justin Turner Award

Russell Parman

Meritorious Service Award

Jamie Bowers

Social Work

Gloria H. Kimmel Outstanding Student Award

Valaria Davis

Dale Robert Seime Award

Justin Bucchio

Marian Clark Scholarship

Justin Bucchio

Virginia McKenzie

Devarick Scandrett

Tasha Avery

Lydia Day

Shelley Doyle

Ashley Evans

Aimee Gholson

Luke Glaude

Jennifer LaChance

Kelley Lee

Charlotte Oliver

Andrea Pace

Daphne Page

Tiffany Thomas

Sociology & Anthropology

Joe Ramsey Leatherman Award

Teresa Ingalls

Clayton James Scholarship

Tara Perrin

Andrea Eller

Ashley Bosshart

Marian Clark Scholarship

Ashley Bosshart

Sandra Franks

Teresa Ingalls

Dayton Deaton

Talia Robertson

Speech & Theatre

Dorethe Tucker Scholarship

Josh Proctor

Ryan Chittaphong

Charletta Jordan

Richie Smith Memorial Scholarship

Patricia Chavez

Emily Snyder

Clayton Hawes Scholarship

Kristen Chandler

Brandon Gwinn

Robert Vernon

Katrina Stanifer

David and Sandra Walker Scholarship

First Star Debate Team

William B. Smith

Robert Aden Memorial Scholarship

Dustin Napier

Amy Clark

Sarah Fye

David and Janice Arnold Scholarship

Kasey Siemssen

Julie Uphaw

Kay Garrard Academic Leadership in Communication Disorders Award

Natalie George

Naveen "Scott" Pejaver Memorial Scholarship

Hugh Dudley Lott

First Star Debate Team Endowment Scholarship

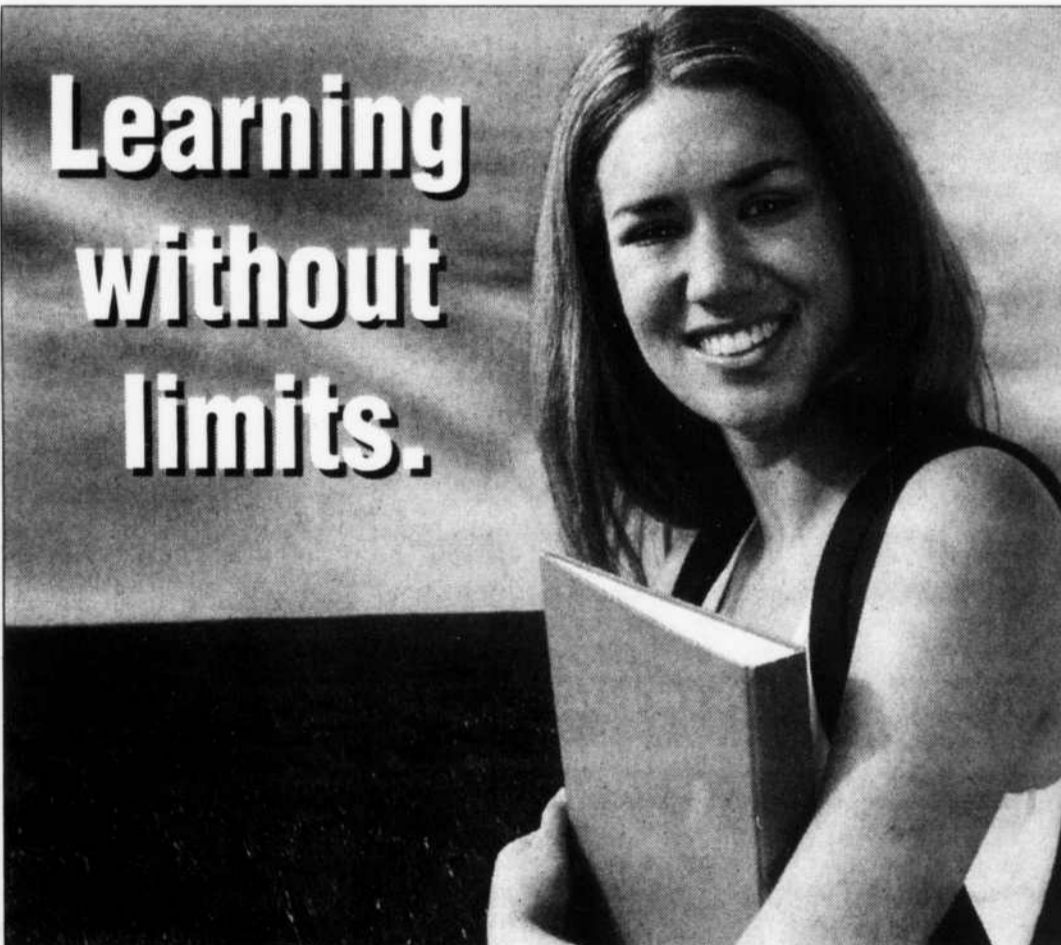
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STUDENTS '07
in the college of liberal arts

FEATURES

A little town with a big heart

Whitwell, Tenn. students dispel assumed Southern intolerance

By Sarah Lavery

Features Editor

The rain is pouring down as we make the trek to a small town in Tennessee. It's early Wednesday morning, and the four of us, members of MTSU's Women and the Holocaust class, have decided to brave the unseasonably cold April weather, the sheets of rain falling from the sky, to leave Murfreesboro for the rural, two-stop-light town of Whitwell.

Our ears are popping as we make the ascent into the Cumberland Mountains.

Jennifer Rybolt is driving the slick and curvy roads, focusing on maneuvering through the rain and mist from passing semi-trucks.

We're all a little apprehensive.

"I had to wake up this morning at 3 a.m. just to say a little prayer," Linda Mayfield, a senior psychology major, says from the back seat, her voice straining to overshadow the pounding rain. "I just couldn't stop thinking about this area we're going to and how badly people like me have been treated there. I've been in lots of situations like my life, but I've been willingly put myself in one like this."

Mayfield's difference is immediately apparent. The rest of us, though we've all experienced the inevitable teasing that comes with being an outsider in a small, homogenous town, have the luxury of hiding behind our white skin.

In the back seat, I wonder how the people of Whitwell would react to me if my difference were immediately apparent like Linda's. What if I had worn a yamukah today? If my shirt boasted a giant Star of David, would they really approach me with tolerance?

Before Whitwell Middle School's courageous project, this town had never even seen a Jewish person.

Growing up in Murfreesboro, a town considerably larger than our destination but still with minimal diversity, I've come to expect the raised eyebrows, attempts to save my soul and being treated like a novelty.

You go somewhere like New York to find diversity and tolerance. London. San Francisco.

You don't see deeper into rural Tennessee.

Whitwell only has about 1,600 residents. Ninety-seven of them are white. All of them are Christian. In an area usually regarded as "redneck country," just 40 miles away from the courthouse where a teacher was famously convicted for teaching evolution and a hundred miles away from where the Ku Klux Klan was reportedly born, something extraordinary is going on. It's something that inspired a Miramax documentary and a book, something that attracts visitors from all over the world to this tiny town nestled in Tennessee's valleys.

Whitwell will become famous for a different reason than its neighbors.

Whitwell Middle School Principal Linda Hooper saw that her students all looked alike, believed in similar things and came from nearly identical backgrounds. She recognized the dangers of intolerance and decided to do something about it.

In 1998, the school began to study the Holocaust as a way to expose the children to a cul-

ture completely unlike their own, not to mention a prime example of the consequences of hate. The faculty integrated Holocaust memoirs into the curriculum and added voluntary, after-school classes on the subject.

The students knew they wanted to do more.

In an attempt to visualize the enormity of the number 6 million—the number of Jews killed during the massacre—the students set out to collect paper clips, each representing a soul lost. What began as a trickle of donations, solicited through the school's Web site and a letter campaign, turned into a flood when 94-year-old Holocaust survivor Lena Gitter heard of the project. Gitter alerted two German journalists, Roger and Dagmar Schroeder, who became enveloped in the school's cause.

Soon after, paper clips started flooding in from all over the world. By the time they were able to actually count, with the entire town pitching in to help, they had reached over 20 million.

After Hooper had the idea to house their collection in an authentic German railcar of the period—an idea she admits seemed, at first, impossible—the Schroeders criss-crossed their native country to find one and sent it across the Atlantic.

The students of Whitwell Middle School did something wonderful. The town, with its tireless contributions to the memorial, the donations, interest and applause, seems to dispel the narrow-mindedness assumed of the South.

But all of us have our doubts. Hooper herself has described the town's citizens as "white, Christian and very fundamentalist."

The idea that this project could magically change an already existing mindset, one that only accepts certain beliefs as correct and honorable, seems amazing.

I still can't help but worry that it's just too good to be true.

Putting a face to the name

Once we enter Whitwell, Amanda Newton, a junior art history and English major, tries to comprehend the nearly encrypted directions to the school. Up this hill, turn right and go down another. We keep pulling into church parking lots and turning back around, signs proclaiming "He has risen" and greeting us each time. Hallelujah Pottery and a Civil War Dinner Theater stand on either side of us.

And then we see it. In front of a regular middle school in middle-of-nowhere Tennessee, the railcar, "Holocaust Mahnmal de Kinder" printed on its front, looks out of place.

The sign on the school's door permits all visitors to explore the memorial as they please. Even if they arrive at 2 a.m., a tape-recorded guide can be picked up at the nearby police station to accompany their tour.

The railcar has no security system. Even when rumors of a KKK rally circulated during the summer of 2006, the school took no extra precautions.

The houses across the street keep a close watch on the railcar. They're so close visitors would be able to smell their dinners cooking standing in the memorial's doorway.



Junior art history and English major Amanda Newton (above) stands in the Holocaust memorial at Whitwell Middle School. The school gathered millions of paper clips to represent all those killed during the genocide and housed their collection in an authentic German railcar (below) of the period.

And that's all the security they need. Standing on the other side of the school's door is an elderly couple. A man, wearing a paper-clip printed tie and matching pocket scarf, and his wife, her brown curls bobbing up and down as she laughs, chat with secretary as if it's perfectly natural. Judging by the sound of their accents, though, it's clear they're not Whitwell natives.

Peter and Dagmar Schroeder are standing right before our eyes.

It's clear the Schroeders are great friends of Whitwell. They chat about the great pizza they had across the street, about how each time they come, the town seems more and more receptive and open-minded.

Mainly responsible for Whitwell's notoriety and singularly responsible for procuring the school's antique railcar, they come to Whitwell once a year to visit their cherished project.

It's just happened to have arrived at the same time. "It must be bershart," Hooper says, emerging from her office to greet us.

My Yiddish vocabulary is about as small as Whitwell's population, but this word I know: meant to be.

An MTSU graduate and born-and-raised Whitwell citizen, Hooper grew up poor. "Dirt poor," she says. The first in her family to ever graduate high school, she went on to receive an honorary doctorate from Yeshiva University in New York for her accomplishments in education. She will humbly say what she did isn't extraordinary, but all evidence proves otherwise.

It probably would have been easier to let her students fall into the trap of homogeny. Many great schools, after all, function just fine without pushing the envelope. Maybe some of the kids would eventually move out of Whitwell, see some real diversity, learning how to be accepting after experiencing the "real-

world." Hooper didn't want to take that chance, though. She brought the diversity to them.

"At Whitwell, we talk about the similarities between all of us," Hooper says. "There's not that much of a difference between a Friday night Shabbat and a Sunday night in church. You always get that, 'Well, Jewish people go to Hell, Jewish people killed Christ,' but if you look carefully at the Bible, there's some stuff that those people miss. First, it says Jews are God's chosen people, so you better not be messing with them."

Inside the memorial

The rain is still pouring down as we enter the rail car. My feet are wet. The bottom of my pants are wet, I'm cold, I'm getting hungry, and the 9 by 5-foot space feel as if they are closing in on me.

Then again, I'm standing in this car of my own free will, as a free human being.

It's hard to imagine over 100 people being crammed into this minuscule space for days or weeks, with no light, no food, no water, no room to breathe.

The walls inside are lined with plaques, poems and glass display cases housing letters from survivors, their families and people affected by the school's project. Yamukahs and meuzahs and copies of the Hebrew Mourner's Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead, are also there, all sitting on top of millions of paper clips.

Outside, another small memorial had to be built, filled with 11 million paper clips to represent the "gypsies," Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, handicapped people and blacks, among others, killed during the Holocaust.

Before we leave, we stop to reflect on the sign that stands in front of the memorial. "Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed students can change the world, one class at a time," it reads.

We all doubted. We all watched the documentary, we were all moved. Before actually stepping foot in Whitwell, though, before hearing the passion behind Hooper's voice and seeing the hard-work the students put into this memorial with our own eyes, it seemed too good to be true.

The four of us have a hard time sometimes believing Murfreesboro citizens could have this town have done any better?

But Murfreesboro, let alone Nashville, doesn't have anything like Whitwell Middle School.

The journey home

The sun is shining by the time we pile back into the car and head home.

As we make the hour-and-a-half drive, the view out the window becomes less and less rural. The beautiful fog rising off the hills turns into gas stations, the seemingly endless stretch of green trees into outlet malls, signs for Raccoon Tavern into Murfreesboro's bursting-at-the-seams restaurant list.

Suddenly, the town's population of 86,000 doesn't feel so small or so alarming.

Hooper said if her cause opened just one mind, she'd be satisfied. But the school has hundreds of kids and more each year, all opening their eyes to something different. Who knows how many people have been affected by Whitwell, who watched the documentary, read the book or heard the incredible story on the news.

The memorial's guestbook has to be changed every month to accommodate more signatures; people from all over the world, even Holocaust survivors, land in the Nashville airport and head straight for the Jasper/Dunlap exit off I-24.

If nothing else, Hooper just changed four more people, opened four more minds to the idea that real

change in the world just might start in the places you'd least expect it.



Exposure

Your guide to entertainment on campus, around town and beyond.

Louis Hayes headlines at Jazz Fest



Drummer Louis Hayes finds his groove with the Cannonball Legacy Band, playing May 5 at the Main Street JazzFest.

Photo courtesy Main Street JazzFest

Hayes marches to own beat as band leader

Dara Tucker

Exposure Editor

Louis Hayes is an upbeat kind of guy. And why shouldn't he be? He's an active player on the contemporary jazz scene at a time in his life when most musicians are storing away their drumsticks for good.

But Hayes is not about to slow down. Not with his Cannonball Adderley Legacy Band about to headline Murfreesboro's Main Street JazzFest on May 5. His enthusiasm for his life's work is palpable from the moment you hear his sing-song greeting, "Louis Hayes here!"

In a 50-year career that has defied the odds and proved to be one of jazz music's longest-running winning streaks, Hayes has managed to stay afloat through some of the genre's most turbulent times.

That longevity has been a gift for a musician who began his career as a performer at an age when most people are just learning to tie their shoes.

At the urging of his parents, Louis Hayes began his tenure as a drummer/piano player at the tender age of five. He soon discovered that the drums were his true passion, and he eventually gave up the piano altogether.

"My cousin, Clarence Stamps, taught me how to read," said Hayes. "All I had to do was practice playing in school." It was the school band that provided Hayes with his first exposure to playing as part of an ensemble. Within three years, he would be sitting in with much more experienced players in some of Detroit's most notable nightclubs.

"In 1955 I was playing at a bar with [Grammy award-winning reed player] Yusef Lateef. When the club owners found out I was only 18, I lost the gig." It wouldn't be long

though, before Hayes' youth and relative inexperience would be all but forgotten.

By 1956 Hayes had moved to New York City, and soon after, offers to play with many of jazz music's major players began rolling in. "I wanted to grow as a musician and really become a part of the New York music scene," Hayes said. Soon, New York's jazz heavyweights began to take notice.

He was eventually asked to join the Horace Silver Band, a group with whom he recorded five albums in the 1950's. In 1959 Cannonball Adderley bassist Sam Jones saw Hayes perform at New York's historic Birdland nightclub and immediately asked him to join Cannonball Adderley's successful quintet.

He remained with Cannonball from 1959 to 1965. During his time with the soul jazz pioneer he was able to develop habits that would solidify his standing as a major force in the jazz community. He also learned the ethic that would ensure he retained that force for some time to come. In true Louis Hayes style, he expresses his philosophy quite simply.

"You've got to have the ability to perform, stay in good health and be a nice guy."

After leaving the Cannonball band, Hayes was able to parlay his reputation as a dependable pro into a successful stint with the Oscar Peterson Trio. After helming several bands of his own in the 70's and early 80's, he joined McCoy Tyner's trio for three years.

Taking on the role of bandleader again in 1989, Hayes toured Europe for several years with his own quintet until New York DJ and club owner James Browne suggested that as the only living member of Cannonball Adderley's original quintet, Hayes should start a Cannonball Adderley Legacy Band.

The idea proved to be an inspired one. Hayes has found a great deal of professional

fulfillment in paying tribute to one of his musical heroes. Says Hayes, "Cannonball taught me to love the art form, to hang out with the right people, to get along with people and to stay on top of the business side of things." These lessons, he says, have guided him through the often-choppy waters of the music industry.

Among the many pitfalls Hayes hopes to see his younger counterparts avoid — "know what's going on with your business. It's great to be able to play, but you have to be able to make a living. You have to continue to grow, and take care of yourself. Go in the direction that's best for you."

Forever the optimist, Hayes is hopeful about the state of jazz music. "The music isn't in any trouble talent-wise. The business of music—the venues and handlers—they're the problem," says Hayes.

He adds, "Musicians today have to find their own voice. There aren't too many small groups where the personnel stays the same over the years. If you are talented enough, you become a leader before you really have the chance to grow."

Young musicians would do well to heed the advice of a musician who's recording and performance roster includes names like John Coltrane, Kenny Burrell and of course, the great Cannonball Adderley.

"I'm really enjoying it," says Hayes of his recent success. "We're getting lots of accolades, and our CD [Maximum Firepower] is doing really well."

Louis Hayes more than holds his own with musicians Vincent Herring (saxophone), Jeremy Pelt (trumpet, cornet, flugelhorn), Anthony Wonsey, Rick Germanson (piano), and Richie Goods (bass), with whom he'll be performing at the upcoming Main Street JazzFest.

Hayes has every right to be slowing his pace a bit, but all signs indicate he has no intention doing any such thing. After all, when he's found his perfect rhythm, why would he? ♦

Record crowds expected at this year's festival

Rodney Henry

Staff Writer

The Main Street Program is gearing up to bring its annual celebration of jazz to Rutherford County once again. The Main Street JazzFest has doubled in size since its inception in 1995. That year, an estimated 10,000 people were in attendance. Now, 12 years later, organizers are planning to host a crowd of more than 20,000.

The Main Street Program, a non-profit corporation, began the Main Street JazzFest in 1995 to revitalize downtown Murfreesboro.

The organization's goal was to transform the downtown courthouse square area of Murfreesboro and the surrounding areas into the cultural, social, professional and retail center of Rutherford County.

The annual Main Street JazzFest allows members of the Murfreesboro community to enjoy the new developments that have taken place on the square.

When asked how musicians are chosen for the popular festival, program organizer Sean Gilliland says, "The musicians performing at the event are selected by a committee of local musicians, professors and jazz aficionados."

Jazz bands from surrounding high schools such as Siegel, Riverdale, Smyrna and Riverdale will grace the stage on opening night, May 5 from 6pm until

10:20 p.m.

Highlights from Saturday's show will include a performance by the MTSU Jazz Ensemble I at 12 p.m., MTSU professor and percussionist Lalo Davila at 3 p.m., and US Army Ground Forces Jazz Guardians at 6 p.m.

Headlining the festival this year will be The Louis Hayes Cannonball Legacy Band with Jeremy Pelt and Vincent Herring.

According to organizer Gilliland, "The music doesn't stop with JazzFest. The square

offers several locations for live music well into the morning. Wall Street, Liquid Smoke and Bluesboro all offer live music after JazzFest closes."

The festival will include inflatables, a climbing wall and many other family-oriented activities. There will also be numerous food vendors at the festival including Mike's BBQ, Dippin' Dots and Chick-fil-A. Sponsors for this year's festival

include MTSU McLean School of Music, Fifth Third Bank, Middle Tennessee Medical Center and Nissan.

The Main Street JazzFest has helped the square become a place where much more takes place than just court proceedings. On Friday and Saturday it will be the home of some of the best jazz that Murfreesboro has to offer. For more information on the Main Street Program and the Main Street JazzFest visit www.mainstreetjazzfest.com. ♦

MAIN STREET JAZZFEST 2007

Who?

Louis Hayes Cannonball Band w/ Jeremy Pelt and Vincent Herring, U.S. Army Ground Forces Jazz Guardians, A. P. S. 9, Lalo Davila, Jerry Tachoir, MTSU Jazz Ensemble I, and The Rutherford All-County Jazz Band.

What?

A two-day festival featuring music from renowned jazz performers, as well as bands from local high schools, MTSU and the community.

When?

May 5th, 10:30 AM to 10:20 PM
May 6th, 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM

Where?

The Square, in downtown Murfreesboro.



Photo courtesy Main Street JazzFest

Record crowds are expected at this year's JazzFest. Organizers expect more than 20,000 festival-goers to be in attendance this year.

Carter, Jones hit road to bring rebirth of hip-hop



Teron "Bonafide" Carter (l) and Stacy "Coffee" Jones (r) take pride in taking hip-hop back to its positive roots.

Photo courtesy of Adam Davis-McGee

Jaz Gray

Staff Writer

Since Don Imus made his comments about the women's basketball team at Rutgers University, people have been asking the question, "What about hip-hop?" My answer is, "What about GRITS?"

Progressive hip-hop group GRITS, comprised of Teron "Bonafide" Carter and Stacy "Coffee" Jones, has set out for the past twelve years to use hip-hop as a tool to reach people and enrich their lives. Although they agree with some critics who say that hip-hop has lost its way, they are witnesses to the positive messages that hip-hop has to offer.

"Now, it's just [an] over saturation of the market, and people are talking about the same old monotonous things," Coffee says. "Of course, if there is no diversity in [hip-hop], if it's just going to be snap music for the next twenty years, then of course [we're going to] die out."

GRITS says in order for there to be serious changes in the music industry, artists have to step forward and make their music a little more empowering and inspiring.

"[Some of us] have been irresponsible in the way we write songs and the kind of songs that we deem as 'what's hot and what's not,'" Bonafide says.

GRITS believes they are a group that can help change the image of hip-hop by not only hav-

ing music that people can groove to but delivering powerful messages.

"I feel like we bridge the gap between what is already out there and what isn't out there. We give it that happy meeting," says Coffee.

GRITS started in 1994 and dropped their first album in 1995 during what Bonafide calls the "Golden Era of Hip-hop."

"Everything was pretty much straight-up positive," Bonafide says.

From the start of their career in 1995, GRITS says that they set out to offer people something unique and different, by combining exciting beats with positive, spiritual messages.

"In our personal lives, we are men of faith, and you can tell that it influences the way we write our music. That's the way we choose to be," Bonafide says.

Like U2, GRITS does not put a religious label on their music. They say their music has something to offer anyone that can appreciate good music.

"Look at all the other groups that did not have titles on them -- Tribe Called Quest, Talib Kwali; they had a spiritual message in their lyrics too," Coffee says. "Our goal is to get the music out [to our fans]... whatever they believe."

"We have stayed true to that [empowering message]. It's nine albums later, and now we are in 2007, and we still have this same vision," Bonafide says.

Continued on page 7

ATHF, a force to be reckoned with

Dan Potter

Staff Writer

The cable television show Aqua Teen Hunger Force has a supportive fan base, which has embraced characters Master Shake, Frylock and Meatwad through four animated seasons. The program depicts the hijinks of anthropomorphic fast-food in a late-night slot on Cartoon Network's Adult Swim block.

However, in making the leap to the big screen, there was some uncertainty as to how well the show would translate into a feature-length film, especially because its normal episodes are extremely short, averaging just over ten minutes long.

Further, due to its surreal nature, its funniest parts often occur when the credits suddenly begin to role, leaving unresolved such major plot issues as a smoldering house, for instance, or a terminally ill main character.

Accordingly, it must have a challenge for writer/director duo Matt Maiellaro and Dave Willis to maintain their series' bizarre, attention-deficit hyperactivity for a good hour and a half, but that's exactly what they do with *Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters*.

To manage this, they employ all manner of diversions and deceptions, which seem intended to entertain infrequently and meandering plotting.

This strategy of comedic misdirection begins even before the audience realizes it. What masquerades as a retro jingle for soda and popcorn transforms into heavy-metal rules for the theatre: "Do not nudge, kick or jiggle the seat in front of you. I'm sitting there! I am everywhere at once and I will cut you up."

This driving opening number, complete with subtitles to help you understand the yells of popular metal band Mastodon, continues, "Do not crinkle your footprints loudly. Be considerate to others, or I will bite your torso and give you a disease!"

Mastodon's presence is serious fan service, given the show's history of metal guests, such as Glenn Danzig and Zakk Wylde.

Cameos also come from Rush drummer Neil Peart, SNL alum Tina Fey, and Army of Darkness hero Bruce Campbell.

Another amusing tactic used throughout the film occurs when strange situations continue long after we expect the camera to cut away - awkwardness mounts as we engage in a seeming staring contest with the often silent characters, eventually forcing us to laugh.

Interestingly, the film's R rating seems to stem almost solely from worse language than is currently tolerated on cable. Aside from that there isn't anything much more offensive here than on the regular show, despite the opportunity to test new limits.

As the film progresses, it becomes clear the creators' main priority lies with pleasing loyal fans, not winning new converts to this brand of uncalled-for, much of the film's plot seems unduly preoccupied with explaining the main characters' origin.

Forgive me, but I prefer my floating, talking, bearded boxes of French fries to be devoid of rational explanation, thank you.

Origins aside, the story centers on typical Aqua Teen fare: strange relations with the aptly-named Dr. Weird, a twisted robotic menace tearing the city, and plentiful abuse of the gang's neighbor, Carl.

This is all rounded out by periodic interruptions from other characters, most notably the infamous Januinites, probably best known for their late-January appearances on a number of bridges in Boston - part of an ill-advised publicity campaign for the movie that eventually cost parent company Turner Broadcasting Systems \$2 million in legal settlements to the city after the ensuing bomb scare.

Despite the incident in Boston and a subsequent April Fool's day hoax on the Cartoon Network, the film is unwavering in its delivery of material likely to delight any fan of the show. And while the uninitiated may do well to steer away, this approach doesn't seem to be hurting the film's success too badly.

As of press time, estimates put the movie at just over \$3 million in its opening weekend, more than enough to recoup its six figure budget, even on top of the fines to Boston. ♦

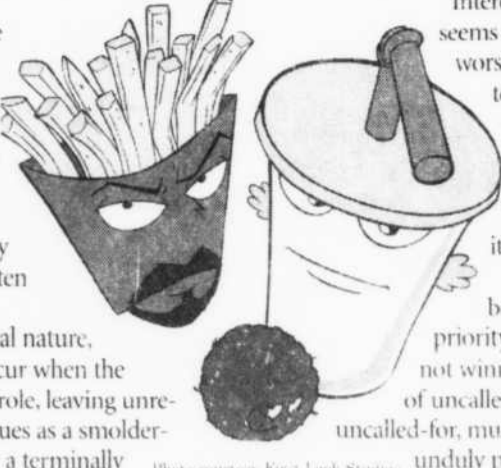


Photo courtesy First Look Studios

"Hip-hop" continued from p. 6

GRITS says that young people who are tired of some of the lyrics in hip-hop music should not stop at complaining, but should take an extra step and support those in the hip-hop community who are striving for change.

Bonafide says, "Don't just stand on the side of, 'it's all bad, and we need to get rid of [it]. Be an advocate for the artists who are out there and who are trying to make a difference."

GRITS says their main goal right now is to grind it out on the base and continue to increase their growing fan base.

Coffee says, "Right now, touring is everything for us. You [have to] get out there and ... meet people one fan at a time, and that's how [we're going to] do it."

Coffee describes their live show as a movie. Bonifide prefers to describe it as a "speeding train." "Once we get started, we keep going," Bonifide says. "We keep it right around 45-50 minutes. It's hype - it's crowd participation."

GRITS says, because hip-hop was originally a call to unity through the promotion of clean fun, their albums and their shows aim to give young people entertainment that will feed their souls and keep them "jammin'".

"That's what hip-hop was meant for," Bonifide says. "It's more about culture and the art and empowering people and raising the group up."

You can catch GRITS at the "GRITS and Glamour" Party on April 24 at Bar 23 in Nashville. GRITS' latest album, Redemption, is in stores now and online at myspace.com/officialgrits. ♦



(Everything you need to know about is right here.)

April 19-26

MTSU, 3 p.m.

TODAY

- Acoustic Nights in the 'Boro @ Bluesboro, 8 p.m. (18+)
- Student Nurses Association event @ the Cason Kennedy Nursing Building, MTSU, 11 a.m.
- Wrigley Finals Stress Relief Gum Lounge @ the KUC Courtyard feat. complimentary massages, live DJs, college gear and finals care package giveaways, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Colossal Head @ Wallstreet, 8 pm
- Card Sale @ KUC 2nd floor lobby, 9am-5pm. Proceeds benefit the MTSU Foundation and the Tulip Poplar Press.

APRIL 20

- MTSU Earth Day/Festival feat. comedian Zach Galfianakis, Oteill and Peacemakers, Heartland, Arj Barker, Overzealous, Happy Birthday Army and the Low Harvey Band @ Murphy Center lawn and arena, noon.
- United Cherokee 9th Annual Pow Wow with dancing, singing and various cultural artistry. You may bring a lawn chair and spend the day @ 3550 Creek Path Road, Guntersville, Ala. Continues until April 22.
- Live interview with Three Pups Music on "Eclectic Cuts", WMTS 88.3 FM @ 10 a.m.
- The Biscuit Burners @ The Station Inn.
- Minusjoy, Selektah, Ponder, Mike Vulcan, Chris Smotherman and Hyper J vs. Sinn as well as Chrispleaze, DJ Justice and Weezl @ The Muse.
- Left Can Dance @The End (18+)
- Juan Profit Organization, Seafood Hotline, Colossal Head and Screamin Boveevils @The Boro, 9:30 p.m.
- LYLAS, Happy Birthday Army and The Ferver @ Casa Burrito, 10 p.m.
- Her Death Was So Silent, Sangrar, Stigmatic, Amen Kru Jungle Revenge 4:20, Force Fed Broken Glass, Soma and Shekel @The Muse, 8 p.m. \$5 for 21+, \$7 under 21.

APRIL 21

- Open Mic Writer's Night feat. Kara Langer, Angel Snow and more @ Blue Coat Burrito, 8 p.m. Artists must sign in by 7:45 to play 3-5 songs.
- Wing Fling @ the Alumni Building, Noon-3 p.m. WMTS will DJ the event.
- Mat Kearney @ Rites of Spring, Vanderbilt University.
- Prabir and the Substitutes, Peter Adams and Chris Shinn @The Basement (21+)
- Acid Living Room benefit show with Stone Jack Jones, BabyTeeth Thieves, Bad Friend and Of Novas @ Springwater.

APRIL 22

- MTSU Symphony Orchestra @ Wright Music Building, MTSU, 8 p.m.
- Live interview with The Clutters on "Fascination Street" from 8-10pm, WMTS 88.3
- Emergenza Music Festival semifinals feat. Methods of Maddness @ the Exit/In, 9 p.m.
- Queen City Romance and Dolarhyde @The Muse, 8 p.m. \$5 for 21+, \$7 under 21.

APRIL 23

- Rock the Rabbi @ TPAC's Polk Theatre
- Ettrick @ Ruby Green, 8 p.m.
- Full Service Music Hosts 8 off 8th Writer's Night feat. Justin Earle, Altered Statesman, Monkeybowl and more @The Mercy Lounge, 9 p.m.
- Dave Brotman's Writer's Night and All Out Guitar Pull @ Bluesboro, 9 p.m. Sign up ends at 9 p.m.
- Goatwhore, The Dead Sun Theory, Her Death Was So Silent, F.U.C.T @ The Muse, 8 p.m. \$5 for 21+, \$7 under 21.
- MTSU Guitar Ensemble @ Wright Music Building.

APRIL 24

- Rock the Rabbi @ TPAC's Polk Theatre
- Sugar Lime Blue and Alan J. Bloom @ The French Quarter, 7 p.m.
- Karaoke Contest @ Bluesboro, 10 p.m. (21+)
- Total Chaos, Complete Control, The Ghoulz @ The Muse, 8 p.m. \$5 for 21+, \$7 under 21.
- MTSU Symphonic Band @ Wright Music Building, MTSU, 7:30 p.m.

APRIL 25

- Full Service Music and the Nashville Film Festival host "Some Kind of Wierdpink Breakfast Candles," a night of John Hughes soundtrack cover songs and originals performed by The Features, Nite Nite, Turmcoats, Turbo Fruits, Happy Birthday Army, The States and Mother Father @ The Exit/In, 9 p.m.
- Death Comes to Matteson CD release show with Sleptalker, Young Professionals and White Rose Rebellion @ The End, 9 p.m. (18+)
- Bringing Down Broadway, Alcina, Passion @ The Muse, 8 p.m. \$5 for 21+, \$7 under 21.
- Joey Wilburn senior trombone recital @ Wright Music Building, MTSU, 8 p.m.

APRIL 26

- Death Comes to Matteson CD release party with Theatree Junction and BabyTeethThieves @ Wallstreet, 9 p.m. (18+)

WELCOME TO FABULOUS MTSU EVENTS CALENDAR

Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>House for rent/2 roommates needed. 3BR/2BA, plus many extras. Near MTSU off N. Rutherford Blvd in Eastwood subdivision Cayuga Dr. Call 400-8957 Mary.</p> <p>SUBLEASER</p> <p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>Campus Crossings South Looking for outgoing individuals to fill part-time leasing positions at both locations! Please call for details. 615-217-9360</p> <p>Camp Counselors needed for great overnight camps in the Pocono Mtns. of PA. Gain valuable experience while working with children in the outdoors. Teach/assist with athletics, swimming, A&C, drama, yoga, archery, gymnastics, scrapbooking, ropes course, nature, and much more. Office and Nanny positions also available. Apply on-line at www.pineforestcamp.com.</p> <p>SUMMER WORK</p> <p>Great Pay</p> <p><i>Continued to next column</i></p>	<p><i>Continued from last column</i></p> <p>Immediate FT/PT openings, customer sales/svc, no exp. nec, conditions apply, all ages 17+, 832-8448</p> <p>PART TIME WORK ALL AGES 17+</p> <p>Good pay, ideal for college students & '07 high school grads, customer sales/svc, will train, conditions apply, 832-8449</p> <p>WORKFORSTUDENTS.COM</p> <p>SUMMER EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>Stewarts Special Events is now hiring for Delivery and set-up positions. Part time and full time positions available. Applicants must possess a valid drivers license and have an excellent work ethic. Applications available at 939 N. Murfreesboro.</p> <p>Home City Ice is hiring Delivery Drivers in LaVergne, TN. Up to 12.50/hr! Flexible scheduling! PERFECT for students! Apply at www.homecityice.com or call (615)833-3345</p> <p>Summer camp counselors</p> <p><i>Continued to next column</i></p>	<p><i>Continued from last column</i></p> <p>needed in Nashville area. Camp Whippoorwill needs lifeguards and general activity counselors. Bus transportation will be provided. 615-799-9925. e-mail: whippoorwill@starband.net</p> <p>Student needed for p/t work. Must be proficient with computers and able to transcribe dictated material. Call C.B. Arnett for more information: 615-631-0038</p> <p>Live-in nanny - part time 2 nights per wk and 1 week end a month, free room & board plus \$100 per mo. # 848-2742 or 481-5067.</p> <p>ROOMMATES</p> <p>Female roommate needed ASAP! Nice 3BR/2BA house w/garage and deck. 1 yr lease preferable, no pets, everything incl in rent. Call Eilyn @ 615-419-6696</p> <p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>Summer Internship in Nashville or Knoxville. Make \$8,000 this summer. Build your resume. Gain valuable work experience. Contact Jay Austin at (615)975-7171</p> <p>SERVICES</p> <p>Julie Lampley Photography offers wedding packages starting at \$650. Servicing the Greater Nashville Area, contact us at (615)799-9618 and see galleries at www.pbases.com/jlampley</p> <p>SALES</p> <p>POLICIES</p> <p>Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.</p> <p><i>Continued to next column</i></p>
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MTSU Evening Extended School Program

Evening Care for Children Kindergarden through 8th grade 923 E. Lytle Street (behind Bell Street parking lot) (615)904-8220 www.mtsu.edu/eesp Monday-Thursday 3:00-9:30

Feels:

\$4.00 weekly, first child	\$20.00 weekly, additional children
*\$1.00 daily, first child	*\$8.00 daily, additional children
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OPINIONS

From the Editor in Chief: Administration ignores journalism department

With the semester drawing to a close in a usual feverish pitch, I must admit I am both relieved and saddened by my last issue of *Sidelines*.

As a final-semester senior only weeks away from graduation, I have gone through all the required motions to obtain a degree in print journalism. My real training, however, has come from this little office at top of the stairs in the Mass Comm building. Here at MTSU, budding young journalists, eager to expose the truth and enlighten the public, are a dying breed, thanks, in part, to the administration. It's fairly obvious the pet project in the School of Mass Communications is the recording industry management program. Journalism and all journalistic endeavors would have fallen to the wayside.

As most of us in the media know, the industry is quite chaotic right now. Many universities across the country, such as Northwestern and Virginia Commonwealth, have recognized this trend and are adapting their programs for the 21st century by converging broadcast, radio and print journalism with emphasis on Internet communication. Unfortunately, MTSU is obstinately refusing to adapt, despite the obvious benefits it would provide for students.

Belmont University in Nashville has recognized the vital importance of adapting and has created the New Century Journalism Program. Newly involved in this project is MTSU's very own Stephan Foust, electronic media communication professor and supporter of *Sidelines* convergence efforts, who will not be here in the fall. It is a shame the administration did not recognize the future when it was sitting in front of them.

Plainly stated, MTSU does not care about journalism students. *Sidelines* itself, in the voice of the students and eye of the campus community, is in danger of drowning in the administration's indifference. Despite the fact that this little office is one of the only places on campus and within the department that students can gain valuable and practical experience, the faculty would sooner criticize our efforts and discourage participation. I spent one more than thankful for the two and a half years I've spent with paper than the four spent sitting in theory-loaded classes. I only wish I could leave this university confident my degree and training will prove beneficial to my future – sadly, I lack many of the vital skills necessary in this new, multimedia communication industry.

MTSU would do well to follow Belmont's example and converge the mass communication department. Believe it or not, students are eager to learn and will not shy away from a challenge. So I propose this: Give students hands-on experience in different aspects of the field and prepare them for the real world of journalism.

Letters to the Editor

Get involved; write for local papers

To the Editor:

This minister-publisher is about to start a brand new monthly, black-oriented publication that will be based in Murfreesboro, but covers news throughout Middle Tennessee, and the Hollywood-Los Angeles area. That covers news from A to Z, and especially content that other publications are afraid to tackle, as well as a wide-range of entertainment by my son, George Brooks III, who resides in Hollywood. We are looking for journalists that are interested in writing for this publication, *The South Wind*, as well as entertainers that would like to "make contact" with Hollywood.

Also, in a recent conversation with Jimmy Hart, the executive editor of the local *Daily News Journal*, concerning a complaint from me about not allowing MTSU student Matthew Hurtt to become a regular columnist, with no experience and a one-sided view that what in the city and at MTSU is too conservative, and somewhat racist, he and DNJ opinion editor Sam Stockard claim that they will permit other young columnists with different views to occupy the same column space within *The Daily News Journal*. Naturally, my call is aimed at young black writers and columnists on campus, so that the readers of the DNJ can get a black perspective, for white writers cannot speak for them.

So, young black journalists of MTSU, step forward and put a "journalistic hurting" on the conservative views of Matthew Hurtt. Call me at (615) 494-9056, if you're interested in putting your skillful pens or computers to work for *The South Wind*.

Rev. George Brooks
Floyd Avenue, Murfreesboro

Video games yield love, satisfaction

To the Editor:

I strongly disagree with your assertion in Monday's edition of *Sidelines* that physical human interaction is so much better than social interaction over the internet. ["Video games distract students from classes," April 16] I'm also angered that you referred to *World of Warcraft* as a "mind-numbing trap." I personally play *World of Warcraft*, and I find social interaction within the game to be rich and fulfilling, even more so than real life.

Within the game, I play a heroic night elf warrior and am in a romantic relationship with a beautiful night elf priestess. We explore the dangerous wilderness together. We slay magnificent dragons together. We share our deepest feelings while improving our fishing skill at the majestic Steamwheel Port. I just can't find that level of teamwork and love in the real world. Just try slaying a dragon with your significant other, and then you'll understand what true love is all about.

I agree that students shouldn't neglect their schoolwork in favor of video games. However, you guys should remember the immortal words of Kip in the movie "Napoleon Dynamite," "Napoleon, don't be jealous that I've been chatting online with babes all day."

Jason McClenny
Senior, college of basic and applied sciences

Students left in untrained hands

How would you feel if you were trapped in a burning building with no means of escape? Would you be frightened? Would you scream for help? What if nobody heard you?

To most of you out there, this is an unlikely, worst-case scenario. However, for me and the many others on this campus with a physical disability, it is a nightmarish, all-too-real possibility.

On Monday afternoon, I was trapped on the third floor of Peck Hall when the elevator broke down. A maintenance guy was sent out to fix the problem.

Sent out from Nashville, that is. So I waited, and I waited, and half an hour later two officers showed up from the campus police. They could take me down the stairs, they told me, but the only way they were authorized to do so was with an Evacu-Trac, a device not unlike a dolly they strap you to.

I tried to tell them I would just as soon be carried down in my wheelchair, but the officers were quite adamant that this was the only option – although they personally advised me to "have patience" and wait for maintenance.

"File a complaint with Disabled Student Services," they said.

They lifted me down into the Evacu-Trac, gripping me under my arms [no way to lift anyone over 100 lbs.], set me in the waiting sling,



Sarah K. Crotzer
Contributing Columnist

and started wondering how to make it work.

That's when they told me they have never been trained to use an Evacu-Trac.

Eventually, I convinced them to lift me back into my chair and carry me down the steps. 90 minutes after I first called, I was able to leave the building.

"There will be a second elevator here this summer," the officers said, by way of apology. So where does that leave all the other buildings with only one elevator? Sure, I made it out okay – but I am left disquieted, disturbed and with an awful lot of questions.

What if my chair hadn't been light enough to lift? What if they had seriously injured me lifting me up and down from the Evacu-Trac?

Most importantly, what if I hadn't been able to communicate with these officers?

I am what is described as a "highly functional" disabled student. I get myself where I need to go, I say what I need to say. However, there are students on this campus who cannot do

these things. Who speaks for them?

Who will warn the police not to lift the girl with the bad back, the guy with brittle bones, the woman with the alphabet board, the catheter, the oxygen machine?

Who saves the person trapped in a burning building who can't scream for help?

The fact that our campus police have an evacuation device is admirable. That they have no training in how the device works, how to lift a disabled adult, or how to listen to someone's needs and concerns – all of that is absolutely inexcusable.

MTSU's Web site is proud to report that students with disabilities attend this campus. Indeed, we have a wonderful Disabled Student Services department. However, there needs to be a discussion between the administration, those campus agencies charged with aiding students, and the same students who depend on that aid. Plans must be put in place. Training must be held. We have all this knowledge, experience and good will on one campus – why isn't it being shared?

I'm graduating next month. I have to go up Peck Hall's elevator at least four more times.

I can only hope there isn't a fire.

Sarah K. Crotzer is senior journalism major and can be reached at skc2e@mtsu.edu.

SAFH oppose violence, vandalism

Greetings from one of the "wolves" from the Students Against Forrest Hall. I like being described as a wolf because sheep have no backbone. The wolf faces his opponent head on with no tricks or illusions. We go at the problem straight ahead like a linebacker would a running back. We do not condone violence of any kind. No one from our group is out to harm anyone.

I do not know what meeting Brian Petraitis has been to given I just now know who he is. We have always been a peaceful group that strives to right what we think is wrong. If anything, we are peacefully angry. I am angry at how our image is being depicted by those who know nothing about us.

Petraitis is correct in a sense. There are some things we do hate: injustice, racism, intolerance, bigotry, ignorance and last, but not least, hate. We hate that some people hate. I hate the fact that someone outside the group is defining the group. I hate that someone who led a hate group is on our ROTC building. I hate that some fail to realize that is part of my history. I hate that readers and peers are being misinformed about my group. However, we do not hate the opposition.

I do not hate Matthew Hurtt. I do not agree with his stance, but I do respect the man. We are not trying to harm Hurtt or have any



Andre Sterling
Kgos
Guest Columnist

ill will towards him. There may be some things that we could agree on; however, this issue about Forrest Hall is not one of them. I can respect his position on this conflict. I reassure you, Mr. Hurtt, no one in my group is out to "get" you in any way.

Emily McDonald's words have also gotten to me. No one in my group threatened her or anyone else. We just want the name down; we don't have to use violence to do so. Violence is the first and only action of the ignorant. I don't know what happened to that Sons of Confederates member in that parade, but SAFH had anything to do with it. Whoever did that probably had it out for the victim anyways, an excuse was simply needed. I applaud my opponents' tactics, though; it keeps me on my toes. It does not anger me, because this is an opportunity to teach who we really are. I do not know why Petraitis or McDonald intended to paint us in such a way, but I do not hate them either. We are going to disagree about something, but to disagree without any

malice or hate is what makes one truly a human.

We were not the ones responsible for vandalizing Forrest Hall. I see our opponents are trying to spin it so it appears we caused that. We condemn whoever wrote it. I agree he or she should be punished for the crime. I am aware those against us are also trying to paint us as a Black Power group. It is true that a black woman started this group and this writer is a black man. However, blacks are not the only members of SAFH. Blacks were not the only ones who suffered by Forrest's actions. People from all walks of life are on our side. I ask people to look within our opponents group. How diverse is Students to Save Forrest Hall?

It tickles me we were accused of defaming the mind of the building. The mindset of whoever wrote that was already in shambles before we came into the picture. He or she may have always had that mindset; they just needed an excuse. Many people in the past have used emblems and groups as an excuse to hurt. The Cross, the Crescent Moon and Star and others were used by degenerates as their reason to hurt. One cannot not condemn a whole group according to the actions of those outside the group.

We don't want Forrest's name down for the sake of it. It is not

erasing history, because Forrest will be forever immortalized. He will not be forgotten, but why should I go on knowing that a man who led a terrorist organization is on a building at my school? It is like I was supporting him by not doing anything about it. Supporters for Forrest Hall have a right to keep his name, but admit the wrong he has done. Tell me why a man such as this should be revered. There are other alumni at MTSU who have contributed to the military and to our ROTC. They should be honored for their actions. I consider them heroes, not Forrest.

I know what I am, and I refuse to let someone else define me. I assure you I will not beat you up if I disagree with you. Love is something that has not been discussed yet. I love that someone took time out of their busy schedule to write about us. I love that groups like us exist. I love groups like those against us. I love the passion of both. I love that college students are active; it proves we are truly the millennial generation. SAFH is a group of peace and unity; hate was never on our agenda.

This controversy shows today's youth are anything but slackers. We are destined to change our society. This is just the beginning. Salaam.

Andre Sterling Kgos and Canty are a junior English major and can be reached at asc2s@mtsu.edu.

Don't buy into global warming scare

"MTSU Make a Difference Week 2007" is coming to a close, and I realized I have not yet done my part this week. I also realized this is my last chance to do so, as you are reading the final, regular *Sidelines* publication for this semester.

An issue undoubtedly on everyone's mind this week was our experience nearly record cold temperatures and the slightest bit of snow last weekend is that of global warming. This controversial theory suggests that human action is in some way negatively affecting the climate of the earth and that we are fast approaching a fiery death.

Flat out: there is not enough conclusive evidence to either support or disprove the theory of global warming. There are just as many scientists who support the claim as there are scientists who deny that the earth is gradually getting warmer.

Scientists who point to charts and graphs of increased CO2 and other emissions often present the information in a very misleading manner. One chart former Vice President Al Gore uses in his presentation shows the "Temperature Anomaly" since the 1860s. The chart shows an overall increase of one degree Celsius over a period of nearly 150 years.

I'm no scientist, but most people would say that a difference like that is negligible. It seems unreasonable for government environmental policy to be dictated by such a minor change in the overall temperature of the globe.

It seems fitting to address the terminology scientists use to describe this environmental phenomenon: "Global warming" is somewhat of a misnomer. To suggest that the entire globe is warming is scientifically ignorant because different hemispheres experience different seasons



Hurtt Pride
Matthew Hurtt
Staff Columnist

throughout the year. Scientists decided recently to change the term due to its misleading nature.

They decided "climate change" was more appropriate in describing the obvious. In the early 1970s, when the Environmental Protection Agency was formed, these same scientists warned Americans of the impending doom of "global cooling." The recent change in word choice probably allows for scientists to change their minds when the global temperature begins to drop, which would indicate the start of another ice age.

Another term these scientists use in their quest for third-worldism is "greenhouse gases." These alarmists lump carbon dioxide into their definition of greenhouse gas. It should be noted that humans exhale carbon dioxide, so the only way to systematically reduce CO2 emissions is for the United States to continue its imperialist goal of world domination and indiscriminately slaughtering thousands of "terrorists" in an attempt to make the world a safer and more environmentally-friendly place.

If I learned anything from biology, it was that trees take carbon dioxide and release oxygen. The relationship between plants and oxygen-breathing creatures is mutually beneficial. What would

the trees say about this revelation if they could speak? What if trees started systematically reducing the amount of oxygen released into the air? How would humans feel about that?

The scientific community really is divided on this matter. Meanwhile, global warming is being taught as scientific fact in the classroom, and thousands of people are subscribing to the madness, most notably on college campuses during Earth Day-related celebrations. Sheryl Crow came to campus to spread the global warming cheer. Unfortunately, the Raiders for Rationalism were not present to protest the event like I imagined they would be.

The global warming argument is absolutely massive. To say one columnist can address the issue would be naïve. There simply is not enough evidence to support the claim that human involvement is destroying the planet. Not only that, but the actions taken by people who believe global warming seem to be hypocritical.

There are obvious reasons for reducing the amount of pollution we release into the atmosphere or working toward more environmentally-friendly means, not because "the end is near" as so many scientists believe, but rather because it is the right thing to do as stewards of Mother Earth.

As we reflect on the warnings of Sheryl Crow through her music and Al Gore through his film, remember that musicians and politicians are not scientists – and neither are columnists.

Matthew Hurtt is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.

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SPORTS

Baseball team faces South Alabama

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

After a long weekend series against New Orleans and another with Vanderbilt during the week, Middle Tennessee travels to Mobile, Ala., with a renewed sense of optimism and a chance to get back at the top of the standings in the Sun Belt.

With a lot on the line this weekend, it will be up to the Blue Raiders to climb back into the race for the top spot in the Sun Belt as the season starts to wind down.

MT has offensively hit the ball better than most teams in the Sun Belt. In conference play, the Blue Raiders are in the middle of the pack, but their .299 average overall has really eased the load on the shaky pitching the team has received from their bullpen at times this season.

Wayne Kendrick currently is fifth in the conference with a .384 batting average and continues to

lead the team offensively.

Kendrick is one of six Middle Tennessee players who is hitting over .300 for the season. MT has been outscored by their opponents 274-259 this season.

Many of those points have come from Southeastern Conference team Vanderbilt and the SBC as well the last time, MT played Vandy on March 28 and lost 14-2 in Nashville. The tough schedule has gone a long way in preparing the team for the conference road ahead.

The South Alabama Jaguars have compiled a 18-16 record, and they are 16-4 at home as of this season. The Jaguars are hitting .284 as a team, and they are led by David Doss, who is batting .366. South Alabama's Jeff Cunningham who has hit 14 home runs and driven in a team leading 34 runs is a rising star with the Jaguars.

The Jaguar pitching staff has not fared much better allowing

opponents to hit over .300 against their pitchers, and their team ERA is 5.19.

Dan Goldberg has been the most consistent pitcher for the Jaguars as he has the only starter with an ERA under 4.00.

South Alabama will rely on a number of pitchers to get the Blue Raiders out in this three game series.

This stretch will be huge for Middle Tennessee, as they have fallen to fourth in the Sun Belt standings. This series could mean the difference between hosting a game in the Sun Belt Tournament or traveling to another site.

South Alabama's home record will be put to the test after the first pitch on Friday at 6 p.m.

The Blue Raiders continue the series on Saturday and Sunday. Be sure to check www.mtsusidelines.com for the recaps and previews of up coming games. ♦

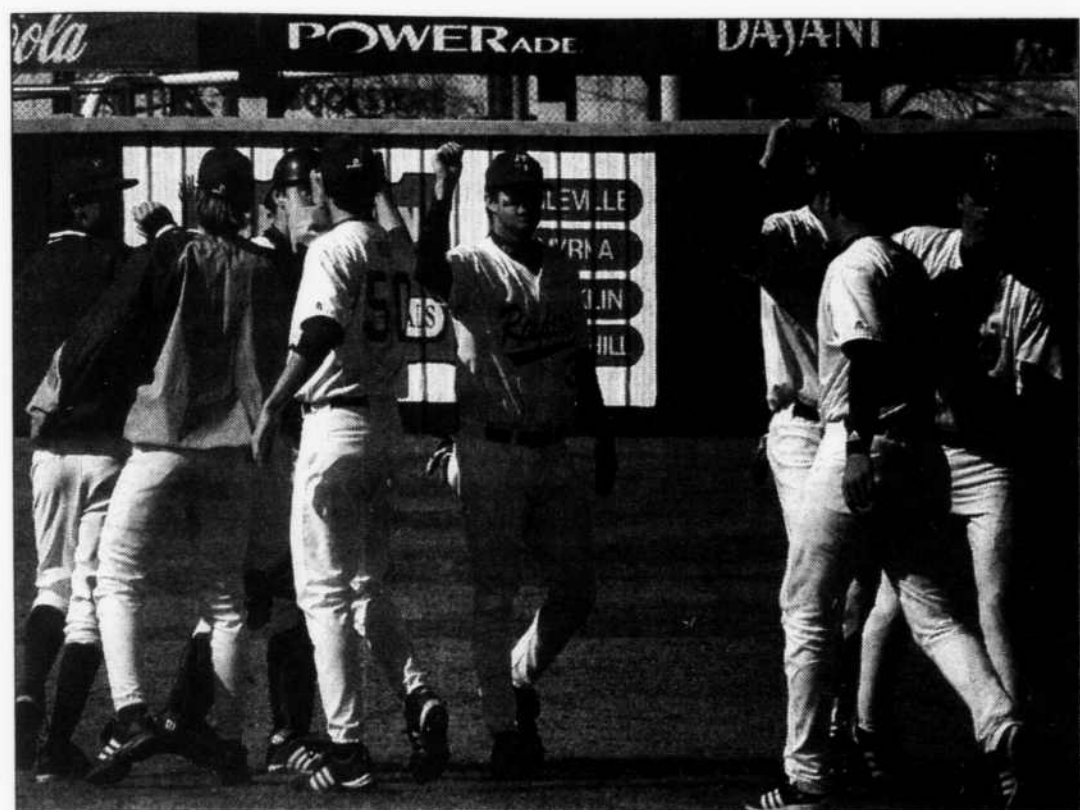
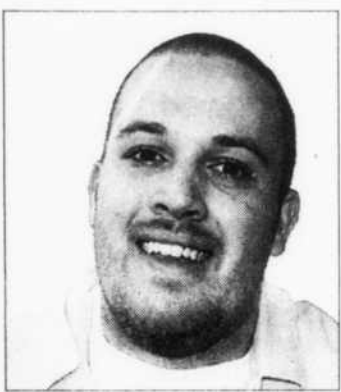


Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer

The team celebrates after beating Austin Peay on March 27 at Reese Smith Field. The Blue Raiders face South Alabama this weekend. Last night they played against Vanderbilt in Nashville.

Thanks for giving me a chance



By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

When writing the last column as a college undergraduate, a number of memories arise from the three years I have spent covering Middle Tennessee athletics. I guess I should begin with how I got here.

I toured the MT campus with a couple of my friends in high school. I had visited the campus before while playing football in the state championship games at Floyd Stadium. I had never known of the amazing experience I was about to uncover. I still don't know why to this day I decided to come here. It was between Middle Tennessee and the mighty Tennessee growing up in the shadow of Neyland Stadium. It was almost destiny for me to graduate from the University of Tennessee. I shunned all of that to

come here, away from home, away from everything. To this day, I do not regret my decision because it all became the most important years of my life.

I came to Sidelines with the desire to cover sports. I had always wanted to be a sports writer, reporter, analyst, guru-you name it that was what I wanted to be. I went to the first Sidelines meeting, and I was hooked. My editor at the time was Colby Sledge, now a reporter for the *Tennessean*. He helped plant the seeds of journalism along with the countless great professors I have had here at Middle Tennessee. I couldn't have a column long enough to thank the professors that have made such a difference in my life. Now, with Clarence Plank editing, I am still enjoying what I do. I really feel that women's basketball head coach Rick Insell said it best, "I haven't worked a day in my life since I became a coach." This is true to me. Not only have I had the amazing experience of covering these sports, but also, I've had the once in a lifetime opportunity of meeting some very interesting people.

Coach Insell comes to mind, as well as former Coach Andy McCollum. Who could forget head coach Rick Stockstill's brand of dry humor to this day, I think he is one of the funniest people on

this campus. One of the nicest guys in the business is Kermit Davis, who always gave great interviews and made my job easy. Where else could you have two legendary coaches Steve Peterson and Dean Hayes that nobody knows about? All of these people have made my job easy and have made life a little bit more interesting for everyone.

I am very thankful that I had a chance to go through the metamorphosis of the athletic program as well bidding farewell to the quick and quotable Boots Donnelly and bringing in the savvy Chris Massaro, who changed the face of this school forever in a short time. I feel fortunate to have the access to the program as well as be a part of something so special. There are so many things I have been a part of that I will never forget.

The blocked kick against Vanderbilt comes to mind, ruining those "smart kids" and their bowl hopes in 2005. The Lady Raiders taking Maryland to the wire this season was one of the most thrilling games I've ever seen from men's or women's. Speaking of the men, nothing beats the Blue Raiders taking down Western Kentucky at home. It doesn't matter what either team's record is, it still makes me smile.

I've seen so many people come and go on this campus

without appreciating the ridiculous amount of athletic talent on display. I don't see how this campus still doesn't fill its football stadium.

With a jumbo-tron on the way, I feel those days are coming to an end. My one wish leaving this school is for people to get out and support Middle Tennessee, but people always have some built-in excuses for coming to the games. They have to work, don't have time or rather watch someone else supporting MT. The Blue Raiders are a privilege, and it doesn't always mean being at the game. It means talking about them and giving athletes a pat on the back knowing who your head coaches are. It's not that hard to be fan. All you need is heart.

My last point, cheering for the big programs is all great and everything-I do it too on occasion-but how many people are fans of those teams 500,000 or more. I mean, if you are a fan of Middle, you are part of an elite club that not everyone can say they are. If you go tailgate or speak with the alumni, you know what I mean. Middle Tennessee is the finest school in this state, and I will truly support and love it all my life. Thank you to everyone I have ever worked with, met, interviewed or covered. I will always appreciate the impact you have had on my life. ♦



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

Columnist's last gasp: look back at MT's year

The time has finally come. My first year of sports writing has come to a close and what a year it has been. In the last two semesters, I have gone from worrying if there would be anything worth writing about to complaining that the sports section isn't big enough. I somehow changed from a three-time-drop-out known as "that guy with a Mohawk" into the enigma that is Sportacus. Nothing has meant more to me in this last year than the people who have walked up to me in my street clothes and asked "Hey, aren't you Sportacus?"

This is not just because I enjoy yelling out "I am Sportacus" in response. I'm proud that I've had an opportunity to be a part of what I consider to be a groundbreaking year in Middle Tennessee sports. Other than being a sports nerd, I have selfish reasons for that excitement. The less MT is known as a suitcase school, the less I will be tempted to drop out again, pack up my Cadillac and drive west again.

Ever since about 17,000 of the 19,000 in attendance at the TTU game discovered that they could have fun in Rutherford County without downing 15 Pabst Blue Ribbons, I have noticed that people have started to smile a little more in this town. As for me, I'm running out of reasons to smile. This won't be my last column before next fall-I'll still write about MT for Sidelines and about the NBA playoffs on my blog on Myspace-but it will be a while before I'm court-side or in a real press box. When I accepted this job-and received less training than a Waffle House dishwasher-I had no idea I was acquiring yet another addiction. Unlike booze, cigarettes and fast driving, the need to watch sports games in person is an expensive and hard to keep habit.

I started this job to see if I wanted to write about sports for a living. Now I have to. On the plus side, I love doing it. The only negative is I see going into the newspaper business in this day and age being similar to going into vaudeville five years after all the clubs closed down. The kids just don't like to read like they used to. I have a feeling that within fifteen years my job will have boiled down to text messaging sports scores to fans, so they won't even have to watch the highlights anymore.

So here I sit, coffee-filled and pensive, wondering just what I'm going to do with my time for the next few months. The only solution I can come up with is to keep writing, whether anyone reads it or not. I would prefer readers though it keeps me sharp. I have an offer to make. If you have enjoyed my column this year, and have had the endurance to make it through this particularly incoherent article then I suggest you add myspace.com/IamSportacus to your bookmarks. If enough people add, I will finally get off my butt and start the website I have been talking about.

I didn't intend for this final column of the spring to turn into a Myspace bulletin, but such is life. So, I would like to offer some other great Web site to get your sports fix over the break. First and foremost, while everyone loves Espn.com-fun fact, [ESPN](http://Espn.com) is the fourth fastest growing religion in the world-I wonder if enough people take advantage of [Espn.com's](http://Espn.com) Page 2. Page 2 is an alternative, blogger-generation-friendly collection of columnists, personalities and off the wall commentary I find it impossible to live without.

Boston-native Bill Simmons, my muse and inspiration, is irreverent, hilarious and more in-depth than the Ken Starr report. Jemele Hill, Gregg Easterbrook and D.J. Gallo are equally entertaining and offer more originality than the world will ever again see in mainstream media. Also, famous writers like the late Hunter S. Thompson and Chuck Klosterman have been regular contributors.

And finally, [Deadspin.com's](http://Deadspin.com) sports coverage is the farthest from typical sports coverage you can get. The off-the-wall site covers sports with the same blog-style fervor that most sites devote to celebrity news. I can't say much more. You really have to see this one for yourself.

I suggest checking these sites daily. The NBA playoffs are coming, the NHL post-season is in full swing, and the NFL will be back before you know it. There will be plenty of sports news to keep us all distracted, of that I promise. Good luck, Murfreesboro, have a good summer and try not to get arrested. Sportacus, out.

J. Owen Shipley is a junior English major and can be reached at myspace.com/IamSportacus

Sports Briefs

Men's Golf team competes in SBC Championship

The Blue Raiders entered the day in fifth, 13 shots off the lead, but by the time the second round was complete Middle Tennessee had made up seven shots and bolted into third place with a 2-over 290 on the long, challenging course.

MT is seeking its first SBC Golf Championship, tied for the low round of the day with Louisiana-Lafayette and enters Wednesday's final round six shots behind New Orleans and one behind the Ragin' Cajuns.

"I'm really proud of this team and the way they came through out here today," Blue Raider men's golf head coach Johnny Moore told MT Media Relations. "We did all we could today, and we did what we had to do to give ourselves a chance. We would have liked to shoot par and that's what we were shooting for but it was a good day."

While MT was doing its part to make a run, UNO was coming back after shooting a remarkable 285 in tough conditions Monday, that left MT in position to make a run.

After making 3-over the Blue Raiders put together a staunch

run on the back nine. They shot 1-under and knocked in seven birdies. One of the biggest turning points in the round came on the par-3 12th hole when the Blue Raiders sank four birdies and never let up.

Leading the charge was freshman standout Craig Smith, who blistered the course with a 3-under 69. His solid round included no bogeys, 15 pars, and three birdies. The SBC Freshman of the Year candidate followed his 1-under 35 on the front with an even more impressive 2-under 34 on the grueling back nine.

"I was putting well and had my speed down good," Smith said. "I really worked on that this morning. I was hitting good iron shots. The driver was going pretty good, but I still have some work to do on that."

"I feel like we have a good shot at winning this tournament. We have a good, solid team and I know we can do it. We came back today, played well, and we gave ourselves a chance."

Chas Narramore continued his assault on the course with another superb round. His 72 came on the heels of a 71 Monday and leaves him at 1-under 143 and leading the tournament entering Wednesday's final round. The Kingston, Tenn., native was steady throughout, shooting even

on the front, and he was even on the back to remain in contention for low medalist. He came on strong on the back nine, particularly on the 12th-through-15th holes where he fashioned birdies on three of the four holes.

"Par on this course is very good," Moore said. "Chas played well and fought through a back injury to hang in there. Craig Smith was solid out there today and after making a seven on the first hole, Kent Bulle held on all day long and played well. Rick Cochran came back and played well and put together a nice round. They played well today."

Cochran shot a 1-over 73 and enjoyed a good day with the driver and putter. He was in good position all day and rebounded strong from the 78 he posted Monday. Bulle finished a 4-over but after shooting 3-over on the first hole, he was virtually even the rest of the way.

If the Magnolia Golf Course at the Walt Disney World Complex already was not tough enough for the field at the Sun Belt Conference Championships, then the weather conditions made sure it was a tough task for competitors Monday.

MT shot a 10-over 298 and is 13 shots off the pace set by UNO on the opening day of the 54-hole event. The Blue Raiders' are in

fifth place overall, but just two shots out of second.

UNO is leading the tournament is no shock; however, the 3-under 285 the Privateers shot was somewhat startling on a day when many believed the course would be the biggest winner considering the six teams teeing off faced temperatures in the 40s and whipping winds that gusted up to 30-plus miles per hour.

Sophomore Narramore continued his outstanding breakout season with a 1-under 71, which is tied for third overall and two shots out of first.

Narramore leads the field in birdies (5) and par-5 scoring at 3-under. The Kingston, Tenn., native opened play with five straight pars before dropping birdies on two of the next three holes. He was 1-under on the front and played even on the back.

Murfreesboro native Spencer Provov was Middle Tennessee's second-leading scorer Monday with a 3-over 75. He was 3-over on the front but rallied to shoot par on the back nine and help keep the Blue Raiders within striking distance.

Freshmen Craig Smith and Kent Bulle are tied for 22nd with a 4-over 76. Both players stood firm in their first SBC

Sports Briefs: Women's golf championships

Continued from 9

Championship and finished strong to aid the Blue Raiders' scoring. Sophomore Rick Cochran is tied for 39th with a 78 after the first day of competition.

The Blue Raiders will resume action looking to make Moore Tuesday morning, and ground is quick to warn that Middle Tennessee doesn't have to try to win the just make up ground.

better today and so were the conditions. We just need to pull together and have another solid round as a team and see what happens."

Senior Maggie McGill turned in Middle Tennessee's best round Tuesday with a 1-over 73 and is tied for ninth at 9-over 153. McGill was solid from start to finish and is eyeing a top 10 finish to close out her career.

Mallory Bishop has been consistent and she is tied for 18th after posting a 155 through the first two days. Clara Leathers is tied for 34th with a 161, and Leigh Wilkins is tied for 40th with a 165.

MT women's golf team fired a 315 at Walt Disney's Eagle Pines Course and is in seventh place heading into the second round of the Sun Belt Conference Championships.

Short said course management decisions played a factor in the team falling off the pace down the stretch.

"We left numerous shots on the course on the last four holes and that cost us," Short said. "We hit some good shots, but we made some bad course management decisions that hurt us. I would have thought 310 would be a good score today with the conditions."

In most instances 310 would have been a good score and Middle Tennessee's 315 would have been within striking distance; however, three-time defending champion Denver finished with a 298 and once again established itself as the team to beat.

Defending individual champion Taryn Durham led Middle Tennessee with a 5-over 77 and is five shots off the lead established by South Alabama's Michelle Toth. The Glasgow, Ky., native was rolling through the course, but she four-putted 15 and cost herself a chance at being even closer heading into Tuesday's second round.

Durham said she wasn't overwhelmingly pleased with her first-round outing; however, she is pleased to still be within striking distance.

Bishop was MT's second-leading scorer and is tied for 17th with a 78, followed by McGill and Leathers, who are tied for 29th with an 80. Wilkins fired an 81 and tied for 34th overall. ♦

Women's golf face SBC foes in second round of championships

MT women's golf team improved by nine shots in the second round of the Sun Belt Conference Women's Golf Championships and moved up a spot into sixth place entering Wednesday's final round at the Walt Disney World's Eagle Pines Course.

The Blue Raiders are one shot behind UALR and USA for fourth place and three shots out of fourth. Three-time defending champion Denver owns a 17-shot lead over second-place Florida International and has distanced itself from the pack.

MT's 306 was the third-best round of the day and enabled the Blue Raiders to put themselves in position for a solid finish.

"Our goal was to make a move and improve our game from the first round to the second, and we were able to do that," MT golf coach Rachael Short said. "The 306 score on this course was a good score for us today. Hopefully we can do that again tomorrow and improve our standing in the tournament. I'm pleased with how we approached the course and took care of ourselves today."

Defending SBC individual champion Taryn Durham is sixth overall and eight shots off the lead. Durham fired a 3-over 75 Tuesday and stands at 158 for the tournament.

"I improved by two shots today and I need to make another improvement Wednesday," Durham said. "This is a tough course but the approach was much

Eastcoast Swim Club Championships.			Desirae Selitsch :28.00 19			200 Freestyle			25 Freestyle		
100 Freestyle			Bethany Powell :31.08 39			Sue Ann Holton 2:48.44 20			Sue Ann Holton :16.14 31		
Bethany Powell 1:08.58 36			Pam Footit :46.74 54			50 Breaststroke			Eleanor Gilchrist :16.34 34		
Desirae Selitsch 1:02.24 21			Chad Farmer :22.71 6			Desirae Selitsch :35.34 5			Luke Robbins :13.14		
Sue Ann Holton 1:18.39 42			Luke Robbins :27.05 42			100 Butterfly			200 IM Relay 2:03.83		
Chad Farmer :49.78 9			1,000 Freestyle			Chad Farmer :57.25 8			Bethany Powell :30.83		
50 Butterfly			Sue Ann Holton 16:09.07 7			100 I.M.			Eleanor Gilchrist :33.18		
Pam Footit 1:02.64 35			50 Backstroke			Desirae Selitsch 1:09.09 5			Sue Ann Holton :32.98		
Chad Farmer :26.42 12			Desirae Selitsch :32.79 13			Bethany Powell 1:19.05 31			Sue Ann Holton :32.98		
100 Breast			Bethany Powell :34.57 18			Sue Ann Holton 1:26.77 37			Desirae Selitsch :26.89 33		
Desirae Selitsch 1:15.21 5			Pam Footit :51.70 35			Elenore Gilchrist 1:48.42 39			200 Free Relay 2:19.14		
50 Freestyle			Chad Farmer :28.25 13			Pam Footit 2:01.56 40			Bethany Powell :29.54		
			Luke Robbins :25.98 5						Pam Footit :44.81		
									Sue Ann Holton :36.28		
									Desirae Selitsch :28.51 12		

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Photo by Chris Barstad | Photographer Editor

The new Rugby fields are located off of East Main Street across the street from Sir Pizza. The walking track was moved closer to the fence in order to make more room for a swale. The photo is the western side of the field near some residential homes.

Rugby fields prove problematic

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

The Rugby fields off of East Main Street are nearing completion with a few extra additions remaining to the field before its grand opening in August.

Steve Lund, has been resident of Ragland Courts, for 14 years and feels that Middle Tennessee State University has overlooked adding a class C buffer that was originally in the drawings. A class C buffer is a drainpipe is a graded drainpipe.

"They told us that they were going to add some drainage to [have]. I [have] that on a drawing in here that I'll show you," Lund said. "They were going to add two class C buffers area drains to the bottom of this swale. That was [to] collect any excess water and take it down to East Main, but when it came time to put it in, they decided not to do it."

The area to the western side of the Rugby Fields is two feet higher than the properties on that side. The reason for this is to create a swale way to take the water down to culvert on Main Street.

"My property used to drain all across here [where the rugby fields now stand] and went

down," Lund said. "They came in here and built all this up. Everything now is supposed to go down this little swale and end up down there on East Main Street."

Lund's concern is that the water could either back up because the drains are clogged, or the water may be redirected to his backyard.

The buffers that he feels were left out are meant to help with the drainage of the area and are required by city zoning codes.

"The landscape ordinance require that you put a class C buffer between two different zones," Lund said. "MTSU came in here and bought this property, and then, they went to the zoning commission and [have] them to rezone this area to college and university. You got two different zones, and you're suppose to put a class C buffer in."

In a letter sent to Lund from MTSU senior vice president John Cothorn, he said Lund "was correct in his observation that the project was nearing completion."

"Our civil engineer outlined the drainage grading work on the western boundary of the property," Cothorn said. "He pointed out that the area drains [which were to be placed] along the west

side of the project that were shown in earlier drainage plans were deleted when the walking track was shifted toward the sports field. This swale will have more flow capacity than the pipe that was going to be utilized."

MTSU moved the track closer to the field creating a more pronounced swale area that will channel the water down better.

"It doesn't improve on the situation of flooding," Cothorn said. "We see that [its] better that it reduces the potential for flooding."

The fields are still incomplete at this moment with landscaping and the Bermuda Sod to be planned on the fields, and that will not be done until June. They are going to leave some of the brush near the fences to help keeping people from trespassing on the properties around the fields.

"We were asked to maintain as much of the existing hedgerow as possible," Cothorn said in his letter. "This modification required additional study concerning what plants to use and the appropriate layout. Also, additional coordination time with the city agencies affected has been necessary for approvals." ♦

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