

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009

VOL. 85, NO. 19

Thunderstorm damages Murfreesboro



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

Strong winds ripped apart the Boys and Girls Club of Rutherford County. Meetings will be moved to McFadden Community Center while the building is being demolished and reconstructed.



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

Parked cars on Jones Boulevard off Medical Center Parkway suffered damage from debris during storms on Saturday.

STAFF REPORT

This past Saturday, severe weather hit Murfreesboro and caused damage to buildings, as well as minor injuries to three residents in the area.

Rutherford County was under a tornado watch until 9 p.m. Storms hit the area around 7 p.m. and struck with damaging winds and heavy rainfall.

The businesses that reported damages included the Premier 6 Theater and Marti and Liz Shoes located in the Jackson Heights plaza off Broad Street. The Boys and Girls Club of Rutherford County located behind the Jackson Heights also suffered extensive damage.

Large sections of the Boys and Girl Club's metal roofing was ripped away and landed on power lines several blocks away. The storms also blew out the windows of businesses and damaged cars.

Storm sirens on campus did not go off because the campus was only under tornado warning when storms hit. However, Rutherford County's sirens were turned on after funnel clouds were sighted.

See more photos at www.mtsusidelines.com

online

The business of college

MTSU business professors make an average of \$32,000 more than professors in other four main colleges

By MICHAEL STONE
Editor in Chief

Editor's note: All salaries in the following story are based on the 2008-09 budget released in July 2008 available at the James E. Walker Library's reserve desk.

The average salary for a professor in the College of Business teaching during the 2008-09 school year is more than \$30,000 higher than the average pay for professors in the other four main colleges at MTSU.

"Why do you pay more for a diamond than you do for coal," said James Burton, dean of the College of Business. "The reason is strictly economics – it's supply and demand. There aren't very many folks who stay in the

business and get Ph.D.s in business fields."

To help pay for business professors' salaries, business students are charged a \$20-per-credit-hour course fee. This fee excludes business classes – macroeconomics, microeconomics and statistical methods I – students in other colleges can take to meet general education requirements.

The average yearly pay for full-time, tenured professors in the College of Business is \$95,289. For professors in the other four colleges – Basic and Applied Sciences, Education and Behavioral Science, Liberal Arts and Mass Communication – teaching during the current school year is worth a combined average

salary of \$62,590.

Professors teaching in the College of Liberal Arts make an average of \$58,188, the lowest of the five colleges. This figure is brought down by the Department of Art, which has the lowest average salary – \$50,948 – of all the departments at MTSU.

Jimmie Cain, an English professor who has taught at MTSU since 1996, said many professors in the College of Liberal Arts are displeased with the amount of money business professors get paid.

"Even some faculty in the sciences find business salaries to be inflated," Cain said.

BUSINESS, PAGE 5

Alumni return to 'Urinetown'

Department of Speech and Theatre brings professionals to MTSU's stage

By DUSTIN EVANS
Staff Writer

The Department of Speech and Theatre has brought back several alumni to lead student actors and actresses in the artistic direction of its upcoming production, "Urinetown: The Musical."

The musical is set to open on Wednesday and is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. from April 1-4 with a 2 p.m. matinee on April 5 in Tucker Theatre.

The alumni, who have worked professionally in the theater field, are giving students the chance for hands-on education with a different opportunity than they normally receive.

"I think they are seeing that

SHOW DATES

Wed, April 1 – Sat, April 4
7:30 p.m.

Sun, April 5
2 p.m. matinee

All shows will be held in Tucker Theatre.

you can get out of here and work in your field," said Deborah Anderson, a professor in the speech and theatre department and director of "Urinetown: The Musical."

Richard Browder, a Nashville-based choreographer; Diane Bearden, event planner for the Country Music Association; Michael Brown, a

freelance lighting designer in New York; and Trish Clark, resident costume designer for the Tennessee Repertory Theatre have all returned to their alma mater to lead students through the production of "Urinetown" in their respective fields.

URINETOWN, PAGE 4

Wing eating contest sets MTSU on fire



Photo by Alex Trenoff, staff photographer

Participants try to eat 15 hot wings in the fastest time. Naga jolokia peppers were used to make the sauce

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

Twenty-five students participated in Aramark's second Annual Hot Wing Eating Contest at McCallie dining hall last Thursday.

A crowd gathered to watch students participate in the contest, which rewarded the winner with a \$250 cash prize for eating 15 hot wings in the shortest amount of time.

"The rules are you can't get up to get a drink," said James Perry, Aramark coordinating director. "So they either have to take the heat or get out of the kitchen."

Perry said having contests like these give students who don't have a meal plan a chance to see what Aramark does for the MTSU community.

"We try to have different fun events to break up the monotony," Perry said. "We have smaller events almost every week and we are thinking about having a watermelon-eating contest in the fall."

Harrison Crite, a senior marketing major and the winner of the contest, ate all 15 of his wings in three minutes.

"On my second wing, I wanted to cry because it was so hot," Crite said. "After the sixth wing, my lips were burning from the sauce, but I just had to get through it."

Crite said he has participated in eating contests like this before, but he actually hates spicy food.

"My technique is that I just love to eat," Crite said. "I'm going to use the money to help

pay for my rent."

"Batman" Capazoli, McCallie's executive pastry chef, said made the sauce for the wings himself with naga jolokia peppers, the hottest chili peppers in the world.

"They've got a heat rating of over a million heat units," Capazoli said. "To put into perspective, The red savina peppers have a heat rating of about half a million, so the Naga pepper is twice as hot."

Capazoli said he had been soaking the wings in the sauce for hours to ensure absolute spiciness.

"Last year the winner only ate 12 between two rounds, and the sauce wasn't even this hot," Capazoli said. "I loved making these wings because I really love hot food."

Students and alternates had to sign waivers before they could participate in the contest.

"I'm a pretty hungry guy, and I live for spicy food," said Jeremy Simmons, a freshman recording industry major. "I'm pretty sure I can win this, and if I do, I'll use the money to buy myself a nice dinner."

While some students were serious about winning the contest, others were there simply because friends wanted them to sign up.

"This is my first time participating in a contest and the competition doesn't look too good," said Anthony Hunt, a senior business management major. "My roommate made me sign up, and I don't really think I have a chance of winning, but at least I'm willing to admit it."

John Tate, Aramark food director, said the prize money was Aramark sponsored.

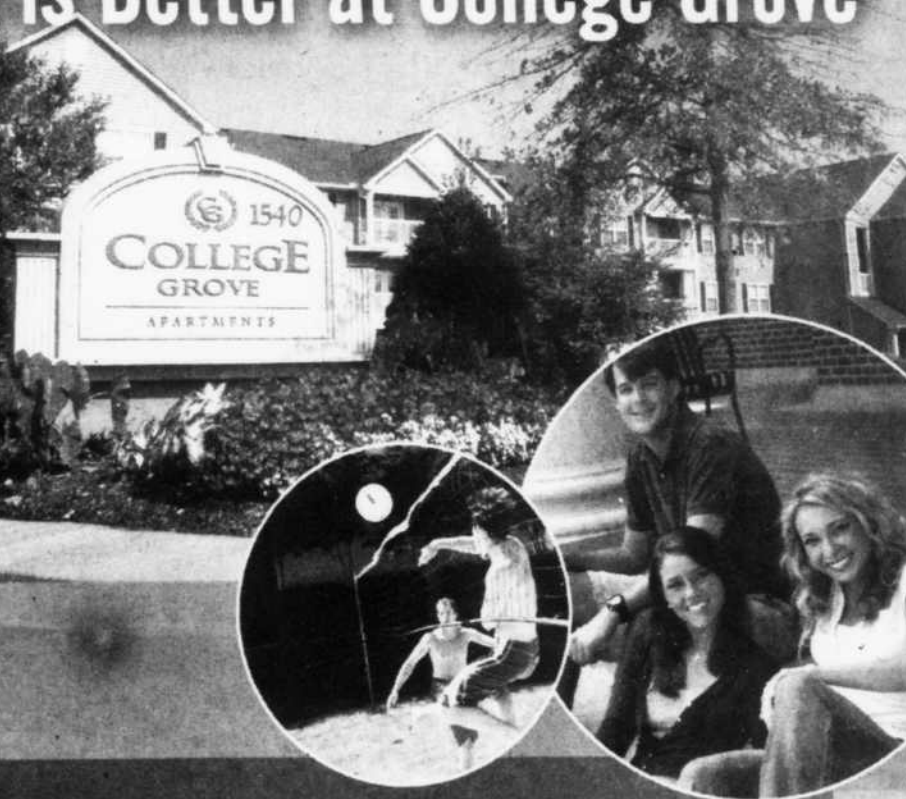
"We started this contest last year, and we are planning on continuing it every year," Tate said.



Photo by Alex Trenoff, staff photographer

Harrison Crite, a senior marketing major and the winner of the contest, devours hot wings from Aramark. He won a \$250 cash prize.

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3) *n.* the thrill of

finding a whole, new outfit for only

\$15, allowing MTSU

students to have more money in their pockets.

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Aramark meeting sets up for change

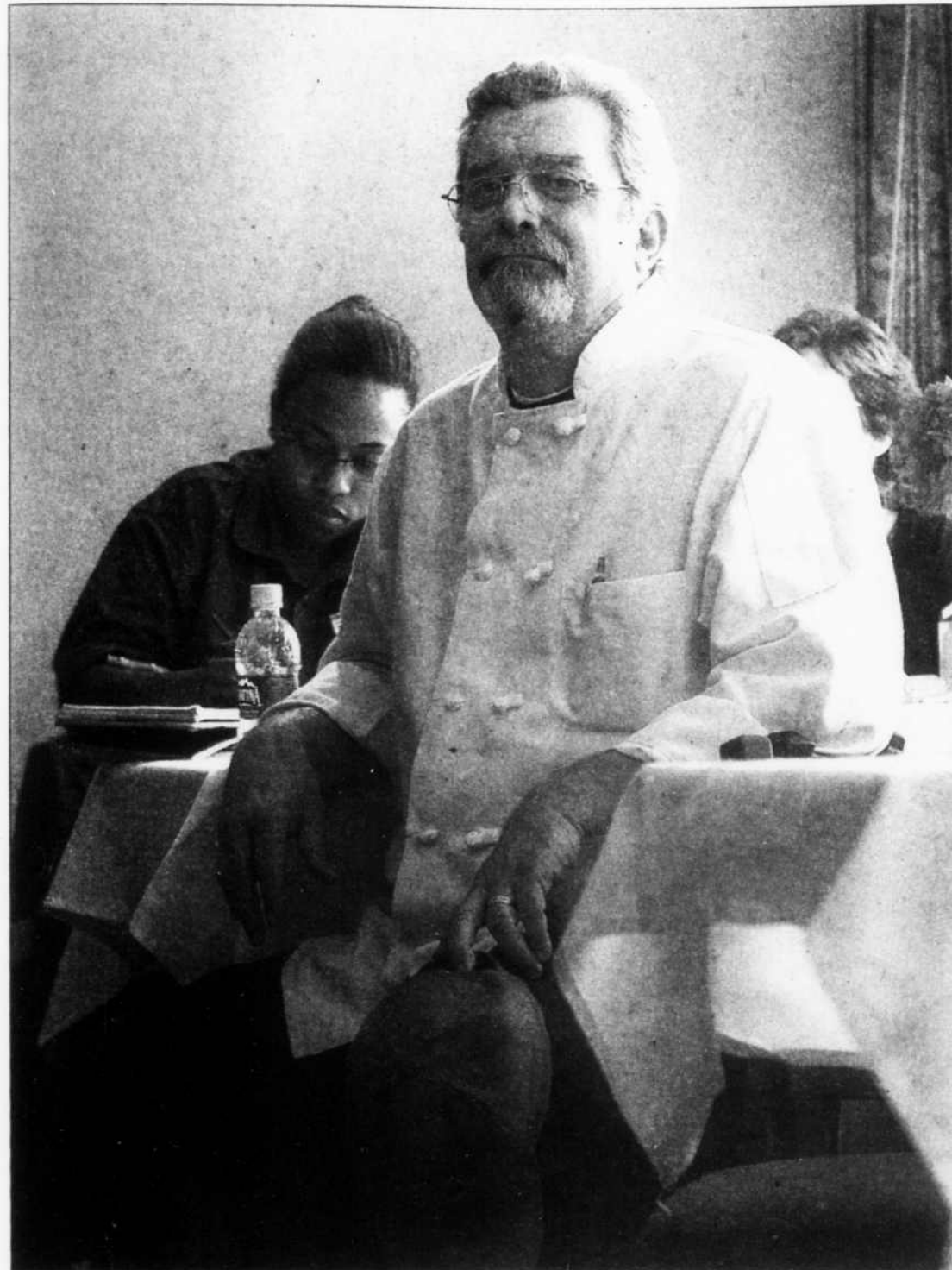


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Lewis Catignani, the head chef for Aramark, sits at the meeting and provides solutions for students' issues.

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Community News Editor

MTSU's current food service vendor, Aramark, announced Wednesday that it is working on getting the option for students to embed the price of meal plans in their tuition.

Currently, the price for a meal plan is not included in the student's tuition unless he or she is a freshman living on campus.

Students gathered to voice their concerns, complaints and approval at an open-forum food-committee meeting conducted by John Tate, Aramark food director.

"If the meal plan fees could be grouped with students' regular tuition, it would be easier if I could pay everything all at once," said Prerna Kuckreja, a senior liberal arts major.

Tate said he attributes the delay to "access issues" within MTSU. Since Aramark is not a part of the university, it is on a different billing system, Tate said.

"We are hoping to [implement] it for the fall," Tate said. "We are working with the university, but it will take time."

During the meeting, some students said they were concerned about not being able to find a manager to address their concerns to while eating in the MTSU's

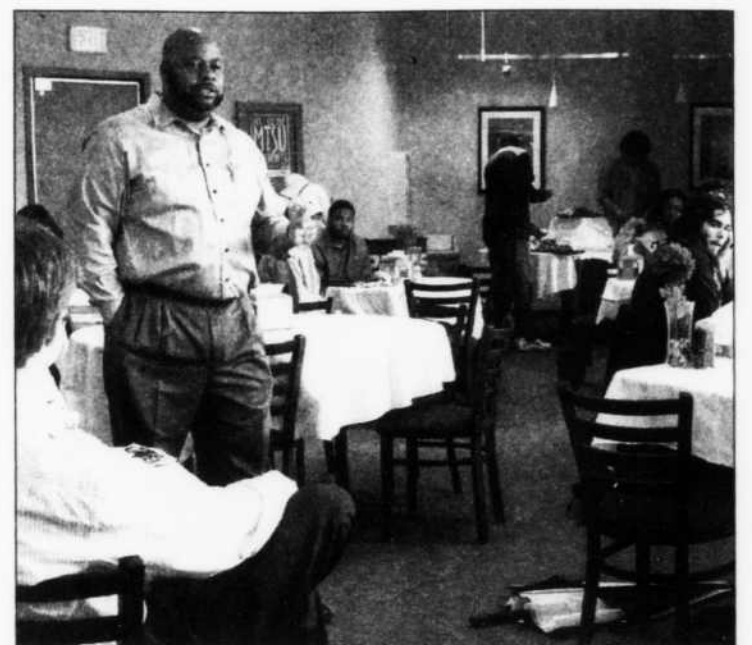


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
John Tate answers students' questions about Aramark's food services.

various dining halls.

Tate said that Aramark is working on posting whom-ever the manager at the time is on a board that will be placed in each dining facility.

"The MOD [manager on duty] boards will make it easier for students to recognize who is in charge and have any issues addressed," Tate said. "We are in the process of putting those boards up."

Kuckreja said that she thinks the boards will be useful for students who have a problem knowing where to go.

Aramark has been hosting open-forum meetings the first Wednesday of every month since August,

Tate said.

"I continue to come [to the open-forum meetings] because I regularly eat on campus, and when certain issues come up, I like to address them," Kuckreja said. "I like to hear what other people at the meetings have to say about the food on campus or any other new ideas that develop during the meetings to make the food on campus better for students."

Kuckreja said that she felt her concerns were addressed in the meeting.

"I like the meeting and think it's a good thing," Kuckreja said.

The next meeting will be held April 29 at 5 p.m. in the James Union Building.

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Scholars Week 2009

Monday, March 30

Featured College: College of Business

Poster Session, 12:30-2:30 p.m., BAS south lobby.
Contact Dr. Charlie Baum at 615-898-2527.

Tuesday, March 31

Featured College: College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Hands-on Learning Showcase, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., KUC Quad (In case of rain: KUC 1st & 2nd floor lobbies)
For more information, contact Megan Hall at 615-898-8643.

Featured College: College of Education and Behavioral Science

Speaker: Dr. Sandra Titus, director of Intramural Research in the Office of Research Integrity
in the DHHS, from 2-3 p.m. in Tom H. Jackson Building's Cantrell Hall.
Contact Tara Prairie at 615-494-8918.

Wednesday, April 1

Featured College: Liberal Arts

Talks, panels and performances, 1-5 p.m., Room 117 of the Honors Building.
Contact Dr. Mark Byrnes at 615-898-2351.

Thursday, April 2

Featured College: College of Mass Communication

Open Mic, 2-3 p.m. in the main atrium of John Bragg Mass Communication Building.
Contact Dr. Daniel Pfeiffer at 615-898-5944.

Friday, April 3

Universitywide Poster and Multimedia Exposition

12:40-3:30 p.m., Murphy Center track.
Awards will be presented at 3 p.m.
Contact Dr. Wasimuddin Qureshi at 615-898-5090.

Graphic by Alicia Wilson, production manager

Aerospace Career Fair takes off

STAFF REPORT

The Department of Aerospace is set to hold a career fair on Wednesday at 3 p.m. located in the lobby of the Business and Aerospace Building to try and prepare students for their future.

"The annual Aerospace Career Fair is for MTSU students, and professional attire is strongly encouraged," said Nicole Green, career coordinator for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

Employers from across the aviation and aerospace industries will meet and greet students from the five aerospace concentrations: professional pilot, maintenance management, technology, administration and flight dispatch and scheduling.

"Our aerospace students eagerly anticipate this event and are rewarded by visits from air taxi operators; aviation maintenance providers; commercial-service and general avia-

tion airports; mainline and regional airlines; corporate flight departments; manufacturers; fixed-based operators; local, state and federal agencies; and more," Green said.

The Department of Aerospace has more than 800 students enrolled in the five concentrations.

MTSU Future Airport Executives, a student chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives, is sponsoring the event with the Department of Aerospace.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES

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URINETOWN

FROM PAGE 1

"It's both exciting and almost surreal to be back in this theater [Tucker Theatre], said Michael Brown, lighting designer for "Urinetown." "The program has taken a lot of positive steps, and it's refreshing to come back and see that there are still capable students around."

Amanda Walker, stage manager and assistant director for the show, said that the musical is set in a town "like any other town," and the world has been caught in a severe draught. Because of this, the Urine Good Company begins to charge everyone to pee.

"It is about a young man who decides that that is not going to work for him anymore, and the show goes on from there," Walker said.

children are going to suffer."

The three-time Tony Award-winning musical carries its message with a song that pokes fun at the American musical, said Bearden, musical director and conductor of the show.

"It is great music, really difficult though," Bearden said. "It has a lot of intricate harmonies, great tunes and lots of different styles."

Anderson said that throughout the process of preparing for "Urinetown," the students involved with the production have had a chance to work with professionals and see the world of theater through different eyes.

"Maybe they see themselves in the future," Anderson said. "Maybe they see that these people are actually working professionally in what they went to college for."



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Members of the cast perform a number from Tucker Theatre's newest musical.

"Urinetown" Cast

Bobby Strong – Daniel Joyce
Caldwell Cladwell – Josh Ginsburg
Hope Cladwell – Tonya Pewitt
Officer Lockstock – Andy Riggs
Officer Barrell – Dan Floyd
Little Sally – Amber Grant
Penny – Jennifer White
Fipp – Jesse Cannady
McQueen – Chris Rhoton
Ma Strong – Leah Fincher
Hot Blades Harry – Justin Bourdet
Little Becky Two Shoes – Rachel Craig

Graphic by Alicia Wilson, production manager

Anderson said that the show carries an ecological message to the audience - a relevant topic with the current economic and ecological situations in the world.

"I think it is saying something extremely important, and I like to do shows that have a message," Anderson said. "And the message is, better clean it up, or your

Anderson said that the students are getting a chance to see how expansive the life of theater is - the freedom gives you opportunities to do things, like come back to your college and teach.

"Even though your parents don't want you to major in theater, you can be successful," Anderson said.

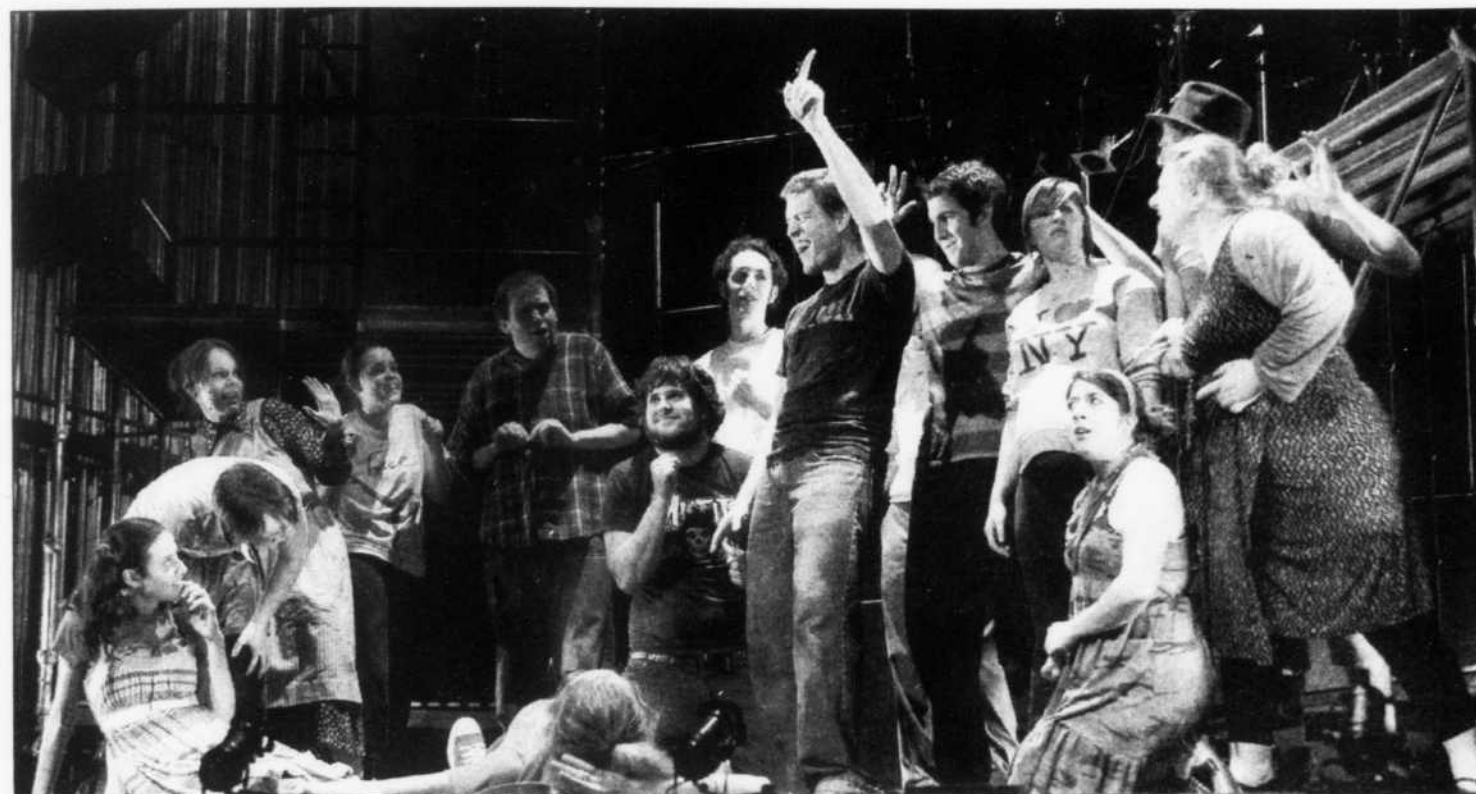


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
The cast of "Urinetown" prepare for their opening show on Saturday with a full dress rehearsal.

Up 'Til Dawn raises \$81,000 for St. Jude

Positions are open for next year's Up 'Til Dawn. Once you become part of this organization, you will receive experiences sure to add value to your resume and make you feel good about helping children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

There are many ways to get involved as a volunteer, team member, executive board member or planning committee. Within these positions are opportunities in entertainment, catering, corporate sponsorship, public relations, recruitment, finance, patient relations, logistics, fundraising and more.

Applications are in the KUC room 326-S and are due Friday, Mar. 20. For more info visit <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~uptildawn> or call 615-898-5812.



Up 'Til Dawn is a national student-led, student-run fundraising organization. Over 200 campuses participate in an Up 'Til Dawn event, but MTSU is among the best. For over 10 years, MTSU students have been leading the way in hosting this campus and community wide event, raising over \$640,000 to fight childhood cancer.

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UP 'TIL DAWN
 ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

BUSINESS FROM PAGE 1

The average salary for professors in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences is \$67,679, followed by the College of Mass Communication's \$64,534, then the College of Education and Behavioral Science's \$63,202.

"It's the market," Burton said. "Every choice we make has a consequence. If you chose a discipline that is lower paid in the market place, that's what's going to happen."

Of the 100 MTSU employees that make more than

ment of Computer Information System's \$101,092.

Burton said that the number of people achieving their doctorates in business is far less than those retiring from teaching business. And of those graduating with a business-related Ph.D., many move to other countries to teach.

"One of the issues we have is that many folks in the business field have other opportunities that are well paying, and they chose those opportunities," Burton said.

The average salary for business professors at MTSU is less than the many other

fessors in the College of Business approach him asking why they aren't making as much as the averages in the AACSB, a system of accreditation for business schools worldwide.

"They know what those numbers are, [and they ask] why are you offering me \$90,000 when everybody else is offering \$120,000," Burton said, adding many MTSU business professors teach at the university because of its location and its proximity to their families.

Burton said the escalating scarcity and demand for business professors has not impacted class sizes in a negative way in the College of Business. The average size for a business class during the current semester, excluding online classes and those available to all students to meet general education requirements, is 32.

"We don't have huge classes, [but] we don't have any 15 or 20 [classes] to speak of or not very many of them," Burton said. "What we try to do is judge the best way to get the job done."

Sidelines conducted a survey of 128 business instructors, professors and chairpersons and 41 replied. Of those 41, 82.9 percent of MTSU business professors do at least some testing using Scantrons, a computerized-grading method that requires students to select an answer from multiple choices. Many of those who use Scantrons said that they did so at the undergraduate level and for larger classes. Some said they used the testing device for only a small portion of their examinations, and some said

Average Professor Salary

Business	\$95,289
Basic and Applied Sciences	\$67,679
Mass Communication	\$64,534
Education and Behavioral Science	\$63,202
Liberal Arts	\$58,188

Graphic by Alicia Wilson, production manager

Top 5 Paid Positions

Sidney McPhee President	\$263,857
Rick Stockstill Head Football Coach	\$194,155
Michael Allen Vice Provost for Research/ Dean of Graduate Studies	\$180,250
Kaylene Gebert Executive Vice President and Provost	\$170,264
John Cothorn Senior Vice President	\$167,144

Graphic by Alicia Wilson, production manager

\$100,000 a year, 46 are business professors.

Kenneth Hollman of the Department of Economics and Finance is the highest paid professor at MTSU, making more than \$146,000 a year. Hollman's department has MTSU's third highest average professorial salary – \$98,244 – below only the Department of Accounting's \$100,811 and the Depart-

universities, Burton said. He added that, according to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the average pay for an accounting professor is \$136,900.

"I don't have any [accounting] professors making \$136.9 [thousand]," Burton said. "They are all below the mean."

Burton said that some pro-

they did so for all testing.

Of those who said they use Scantrons, 73.3 percent said they felt class size was a determining factor for using the device.

Cain, whose department is known for using predominantly writing to test its students, said the salary differentials between the College of Business and the other MTSU colleges is symbolic of the direction higher education across the United States

is headed.

"In my career, which began in 1982, college and university presidents have changed from academics – professors with administrative experience – to CEO's – professionals with degrees in academic leadership and education," Cain said.

Burton said he sees no symbolism in the salary differentials between business professors and those in other colleges, and that the reason

behind it is simply economics.

"If you go to East Tennessee State [University], for example, the highest paid professors on that campus are going to be in the medical school," Burton said. "If you go to Tennessee Tech [University], the highest paid professors on that campus are going to be engineers."

"If you go to a school that has medicine, engineering and business, we'll be third."

CURRENT EVENTS

"Yes Man"
March 30-April 2
Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Friday, 7 p.m.
Admission: \$2
Location: KUC Theater

"Pistons and Pipes"
March 30 at 7:30 p.m.
Admission is Free
MTSU Faculty Brass Quintet and MTSU Symphonic Brass En-

semble and First United Methodist Church organist and MTSU faculty member Sandra Arndt.

Located at the First United Church at 265 W. Thompson Lane in Murfreesboro

Coming to See Privilege Systems Diversity Workshop
Tuesday, March 31 at 4 p.m.
Admission: Free
Location: BAS State

Farm Room
"Positioning the University for the Future"

Open Forums for Faculty, Staff and Administrators

Wednesday, April 1 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 2 from 3 to 4 p.m.
Location: Tucker Theatre

Aerospace Career Fair

April 1 at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Located in the Business and Aerospace Building in the lobby
Only MTSU student and faculty allowed

The Whigs With Wax Fang and The Ettres
Friday, April 3 at 8 p.m.
Admission: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door
More Information:

www.exitin.com

Ninth Annual MTSU Student Film Festival
April 20-24
Submissions due April 3

Stop By KUC 308 for applications and more info

The BIG Event
hosted by the Student Government Association
Saturday, April 4

Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the Murphy Center Parking Lot
For more information: visit mtsu.edu/~sga/bigevent.htm
Or call the SGA office at 615.898.2464

"Valkyrie"
April 6-10
Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Friday, 7 p.m.
Admission: \$2
Location: KUC Theater



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CRIME BRIEFS

March 22, 2:47 a.m.
Disorderly Conduct
Tennessee Livestock Center
Four males fighting in the TLC lot, one party left in a vehicle on Greenland Drive.

March 23, 10:37 a.m.
Theft
Miller Horse Coliseum
Subject called and said that someone had taken the lights of one of the trucks that is owned by Miller Coliseum.

March 23, 11:46 a.m.
Vandalism
Scarlett Commons
Officer was flagged down in reference to a vandalism report.

March 23, 4:49 p.m.
Assault
Corlew Hall
Complainant reported a fight outside Corlew Hall. One subject was reported armed in the KUC. The KUC was evacuated and cleared. No weapons were found.

March 24, 4:13 p.m.
Vandalism
Gracy Hall
Report of a broken window.

March 24, 4:52 p.m.
Theft
Nicks Hall
Report of a stolen wallet.

March 25, 1:08 a.m.
Public Intoxication
Greek Row
Eugene Lockhart was arrested for public intoxication, disorderly conduct and underage consumption.

March 25, 2:04 p.m.
Theft
Off campus
MTSU owned property damaged and front door stolen.

March 26, 12:16 a.m.
Trespassing
Gracy Hall
Male subject issued a trespass warning.

March 26, 5:21 p.m.
Theft
James Union Building
Report of theft of a golf cart from Jones Hall.

March 27, 2:51 a.m.
Warrant
Alumni Drive
Mercedes Mosley was arrested for violation of probation, underage consumption, possession of a legend drug without a prescription and public intoxication.

March 27, 3:26 a.m.
DUI
Greenland Drive
Kyle Kazor was arrested for DUI first offense.

OPINIONS

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Freshman meal plans should not be mandatory

With a looming rise in the costs of higher education, the last thing that students need is a mandatory fee unrelated to their educational well-being.

Currently, all incoming freshmen who live on campus are required to purchase a meal plan through the university food service vendor Aramark.

"As a freshman living on campus, you will be automatically signed up for a dining plan with 10 meals per week and \$350 FlexBucks. The cost of the plan is \$1,174 per semester and will be added to your MTSU tuition bill," according to the MT Dining Web site.

Students who believe that they may need more than 10 meals are allowed to choose an unlimited plan for no extra charge. This allows students unlimited access to both campus dining halls. However, the students will only receive \$150 in FlexBucks.

Adding \$1,200 to a student's tuition is a lot of extra money to spend, especially when it has nothing to do with education.

Students entering college already have enough expenses, adding one more only aggravates their financial situation.

However, the need for freshmen living on campus is apparent. They live here, and it only makes sense that they eat here, although they should not be forced to.

In most cases, freshmen are at least 18 years of age and the law considers them adults. Adults should be able to make decisions about their eating habits. Students should not be forced to have a meal plan, but rather, they should be given the option.

Most freshmen and their parents would choose to have a meal plan, but the decision should be theirs, not the university's. Each person on this campus is an individual and has individual eating habits.

It is unfair for each freshman to be held to the same standard.

This is not to say that having a meal plan for freshman is not a good thing, however, students should not be required to have one, especially when the quality of food is not up to par.

Those living on campus can attest to the fact that dining options during weekends are pretty scarce. Students do not have much of a choice and a lot of the food options are unavailable during weekends.

The freshmen meal plan does make provisions for those freshmen residents who live at Scarlett Commons and Womack Lane. Their meal plan costs \$623 per semester, and they receive five meals per week and \$250 FlexBucks.

The bottom line is that when students enter college, they are treated as adults and are quite capable of making their own decisions. Students should be given the basic freedom to choose what they want to eat.

Solutions to MTSU's budget crunch

President Sidney McPhee released his response to the recommendations of the Steering Committee during a student protest on March 19.

While these recommendations aren't absolute, McPhee's publication of this document does bring MTSU one step closer to finalizing plans to dramatically reduce the budget and substantially cut many programs available at MTSU. In the interest of pragmatism, we can no longer deny that substantial reductions must be made, including the elimination of several academic programs, departments and some faculty.

Students, faculty and community members shouldn't be under the impression that MTSU can continue to operate at its current capacity while the state of Tennessee generated \$1 billion less this fiscal year than previously budgeted. Once we realize that difficult and



Hurt Pride
Matthew Hurtt

substantial cuts must be made given the financial atmosphere, we can begin to propose meaningful suggestions in an attempt to reach an agreeable solution. Publicly, student input has been reduced to sign waving and yelling on street corners. Not to belittle or demean the efforts of these passionate students, but I tend to agree with McPhee when he suggests students find something else to do with their time.

Two solutions have been proposed outside of McPhee's departmental restructuring and program

elimination recommendations.

The first suggestion, promulgated by a group who call themselves Tennesseans for Fair Taxation, would institute a graduated income tax, coupled with a reduction in the state sales tax. Tennesseans overwhelmingly rejected a state income tax between 2000 and 2002, and the political will to rekindle such an argument is slim.

What should be discussed about instituting an income tax in an economically volatile environment is that as people lose their jobs so too do they lose their income. With Tennessee's unemployment numbers hovering just below 10 percent, fewer and fewer people will be able to pay an income tax. The proposal by TFT amounts to state-level re-

distribution of wealth, and it is fiscally unwise at this point to even consider the notion.

As Tennessee continues to move rightward politically, the income tax will continue to diminish as a political

31st in college tuition when comparing the average in-state tuition at state colleges across the United States. It is cheaper to attend MTSU than to attend another state college in more than half of the states.

Whatever the solution, we must all contribute to the political debate. I prefer to operate within the established political structure, and I suggest that students who want their voices to be heard do the same thing.

Protests, marches and sign waving do not produce solutions. Presenting ideas, meeting with administrators and suggesting ways to save money, on the other hand, do.

Matthew Hurtt is a senior history/political science major and can be reached at Matt.Hurt@gmail.com.

“Protests, marches and sign waving do not produce solutions. Presenting ideas, meeting with administrators and suggesting ways to save money, on the other hand, do.”

solution to economic difficulties.

Another suggestion – one that I feel is more viable – is to increase tuition to cover the budget shortfall. Using round figures, a campus of 23,000 students experiencing a \$19 million shortfall could recuperate the cost of said deficit by increasing tuition roughly \$413 over the course of two semesters.

The most recent figures reveal that Tennessee ranks

If you aren't a slut, you're a prude

What does it mean to be a slut? Or a prude? Is either title really all that bad?

I think not. Let's be honest, you can be either in any given week. But it's not you who gets to choose, either. It's peers who think they know about your sex life.

The whole concept of being sexually liberated has been taken way out of context from the early '60s.

Women today can find no middle ground in the debate of being a slut or prude. Why do I have to be either?

If a woman has sex with a man, regardless of whether it's love, just for fun or whatever reason, she will be labeled as a slut.



Tales from a Feminist
MacKenzie Fox

If the same girl does not want to have sex with that same guy – well then, of course she is a prude. It's lose-lose in this case for us because most women aren't taking control of their sexuality.

In most cases, women are

so afraid of being labeled one of those two names that they shy away from what will make them happy.

So what's my take on all of this? Do what you please.

Do what makes you happy, even if it's not what society says is right. Because let's be real, when it comes to sexuality for women, nothing you do will make everyone happy.

Abstaining from sex – or just other people thinking you're abstaining from sex

– will make you a prude.

Having sex because you enjoy it will make you a

“If a woman has sex with a man, regardless of whether it's love, just for fun or whatever reason, she will be labeled a as a slut.”

slut.

Break these boundaries and do what makes you feel comfortable. No one else owns your body, and only you have the power to say what you want to do with it.

Start owning up to what you want to do. When peo-

ple call you a slut, let them know that you aren't.

If you want to sleep with multiple partners, fine. Be safe and make sure that it's what you want to do and enjoy it.

If you don't want to have sex at all, great.

Don't let anyone ever tell you it's not the right choice, because it's not their choice to make.

MacKenzie Fox is a sophomore in sociology and can be reached at mdf3c@mtsu.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help, this construction is killing me!

I'm a resident of Campus Crossings South. Next door to my apartment, there is construction. The constant jackhammering does not allow me to be at my apartment during the day.

This past Monday night, I was kept awake from 11:30 p.m. until 4 a.m. by the jackhammering.

I have made several complaints to individuals in charge but am constantly brushed off with a "that's your problem" attitude. I'm not the only upset resi-

dent and most of the residents at the apartment are students.

Adam Waters is a junior mass communication major and can be reached at abw3i@mtsu.edu.

We only live once

Every single person, regardless of who they are, has the ability to bring about change. In order for us to progress, we must change. Don't be afraid to think outside of the box. On your way, you might fall down, but it's OK. Just pick yourself back up and keep

on going. We always have to believe in ourselves no matter what.

MTSU, standing around with a sign in your hand on the president's lawn is not going to accomplish much. If you think that the administration is out to get you, then you are misinformed. Whether you want to believe it or not, our administrators are wiser than us and they do care.

During this time, we have to support them. Ask what you can do to help, but don't protest. We are fighters. We will get through this, but we have to stick

together. This is all of our lives and all of our futures.

King Whitney Jr. once said, "Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better."

We have to walk forward. Remember that you only get to live once, so don't be afraid to live. We all have a voice, so let yours be heard.

Charles Crews is a sophomore computer information systems major and can be reached at cscrcws@crews-hooks.com.

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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

COMICS



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

DO YOU HAVE A TWITTER ACCOUNT?

online TELL US ONLINE AT
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

FEATURES

SHOULD CAMPUS
HAVE BEEN EVACUAT-
ED DURING THE KUC
GUNMAN INCIDENT?BASED ON VOTES FROM
MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Nation's capital makes for historic holiday

Student gives account of meeting future husband in Washington, D.C.

By CLARA RASMUSSEN
Contributing Writer

Did you plan an overseas vacation for this summer? Are you ready to cancel it due to the economy or security issues? If you are, don't give up because there's always plan B.

If you love history and would like to learn more about the Holocaust, American Indians or spies, Washington, D.C., is the place for you.

In 2006, I decided to take a school trip to D.C. where I met my future husband, Paul, who was a student from Southern Illinois University. Having the same idea, we just happened to take the same trip just to taste the city, melting ourselves in adventure.

The first day, he invited me out on a paddle boat near the Jefferson Memorial, where we both lay back, looking around admiring the calm park by the Washington Monument.

If you concentrate hard enough you can hear the great President Jefferson saying, "Our greatest happiness does not depend on the condition of life in which chance has placed us, but is always the result of a good conscience, good health, occupation, and freedom in all just pursuits."

The water is so clear, carrying the reflection of the great



monument and absorbing stories from the land of heroes who will never die.

The next day, we took a very emotional visit to the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Looking at the statues, I tried to imagine their life stories, and somehow I believe that they come to life during

the night protecting us with their lives.

As we took a short walk away, we read the names of the people who served and gave their lives during the Vietnam war. As we touch the monument wall, we try closing our eyes and we hear the 58,000 soldiers' voices

praying and believing in what they died for.

Today, they are alive here on this impressive monument. The enemies, who thought they had killed them, gave them life forever.

After paying respect to all the heroes, we moved to the sculpture that represents the

hunger during the Great Depression. The sculpture takes me back to a time when I was a child waiting for a piece of bread during the awful years of communist rule in Romania. It's not that way anymore because today America gives me the freedom to live a better life.

We decided we couldn't leave the U.S. capital without visiting the amazing Lincoln Memorial. It is 190 feet long, 119 feet wide and almost 100 feet tall.

We walk between the 38 fluted columns and take a moment to think about all the work and time people put into the monument. We take the time to enjoy and appreciate the history of America.

All these historical monuments are situated in the National Mall and Memorial Parks, also known as National Capitol Parks Central.

It is nearly impossible to cover everything in just a couple of days, but we were lucky enough to pass by some of the museums and embassies, breathe the busy air of the city, eat in the nice restaurants in town and smile while tourists excitedly shared their experiences with us.

"What have you seen so far?" some of them ask.

I realize I will never forget the beautiful town full of great memories and history.

For our one-year anniversary, we bought tickets for a trip back to D.C. because we have not – and probably never will – see everything that the city has to offer.

So if you really want to take that summer vacation, but don't have the money to leave the country, don't forget about Washington, D.C.

Twitter is taking over cyberspace

Social-networking site predicted to outpace Facebook, Myspace in popularity

By SHANNON GOOSTREE
Contributing Writer

It's official: Twitter is moving up the ranks of social-networking sites.

From February 2008 to February 2009 it grew at a whopping 1,382 percent rate, according to CNET News.

It seems Twitter cannot be stopped.

If you have been hiding under a rock, here's a quick breakdown:

Twitter, founded by Internet moguls Jack Dorsey, Biz Stone and Evan Williams in July 2006, is a social networking and micro-blogging service that allows users to post updates about their lives. An update, limited by 140 characters, can be posted through three methods: Web form, text message or instant message. These are called "tweets."

So what's the appeal? Well, being connected seems to be the theme.

"I like knowing what people are doing outside of my small

world," says Brittany Jones, a senior public relations major. "It's a good way of being nosy but with people that you actually want to know about. For example, I want to know what someone in my field of public relations is doing everyday, because that will be me soon."

What about Facebook and Myspace? Have these become old news or is Twitter just a trend?

Facebook and Myspace are much more detailed. While these can be used as marketing tools, it seems that Twitter is the place to post for those who have something new and quick to say.

"I post hyperlinks for my press releases in tweets," explains Courtney Hyder, publicist for the publicity firm The Media Collective. "This is a quick way to get out information to a lot of people that are in the same mind set – networking. I also update my Myspace and Facebook with blogs, [but] these are longer. Tweets are just for

MTSU TWITTER ACCOUNTS

MTSU ATHLETICS
TWITTER.COM/MTATHLETICS

COLLEGE OF MASS COMMUNICATION
TWITTER.COM/MASSCOMM1

SIDELINES
TWITTER.COM/MTSUSIDELINES

quick posts with links."

So does this mean Facebook is threatened? According to *Business Weekly*, the answer is most definitely yes.

This month Facebook added a real-time Web component to its site in attempts to keep up with the ever-growing popularity of Twitter.

Facebook investor and board member Peter Thiel has been trying to downplay the excitement surrounding Twitter.

"Facebook is eyeing lots of acquisitions," Thiel recently told *BusinessWeek*.

Even celebrities are getting in on the action. But are their Twitter accounts actually

real? According to *Newsweek*, it just depends.

"When Alex Rodriguez admitted earlier this week that he tested positive for steroids, many a Twitter feed were aflutter," *Newsweek's* Kurt Soller wrote in a February 13 article entitled "Twitter, Unmasked." "The best response came from basketball player Shaquille O'Neal, aka THE_REAL_SHAQ, who wrote: 'Ok I admit I ate performance enhancing Frosted Flakes 2 years ago, LOL.'"

It seems that some are authentic and others, well, not so much. There is even controversy over Twitter etiquette.

The morningnews.org has a few tips for this:

1. Don't stalk.

"If only a few people follow you, but you follow a thousand or more, many people will assume you're a spammer. That's because you probably are. Go away, spammer. Do not care about your

Facebook app [application]."

2. Think twice before Tweeting in an altered state.

Bad idea – instead of just your ex-filing seeing it, it's the world.

3. Don't blow up the board.

Chill. Don't seem desperate. If you post 100 tpm (tweets per minute), you seem like you're needy, not interesting.

"Also, don't you occasionally need to use the restroom? Please don't take your phone in there. Thanks."

4. Keep private conversations private.

Enough said.

5. What's rude in life is rude on Twitter.

If you're ready to dish it out be ready to take it back.

6. Leave when you want.

"If you want to stop following someone, stop. There's no need to send a breakup note unless you're having Twitter sex."

CALENDAR

movies, music, nightlife and more

MUSIC

March 30

Dan Fester @ The Blue Rooster – 8 p.m.

Dear Future w/ Kopecky Family Band, Winter Sounds, Cool Hand Luke @ Exit/In – 9 p.m.

Music City Idol @ Bunganut Pig – 9 p.m.

March 31

Blake Worthington w/ Dave Armstrong & The Shadow Figures @ The End – 9 p.m.

Eliot Lipp @ Exit/In – 9 p.m.

Brenda Best @ Bunganut Pig – 9 p.m.

Blues Jam @ Club 527 - \$5

April 1

Hells Bells @ The Blue Rooster – 9 p.m.

Chad Ray Crochet & Pistol Pink @ Graffiti Bar – 10 p.m.

"90 Gigs in 90 Days Benefit Show" @ Exit/In – 8 p.m.

MicQeyQoolaid @ Club 527 - \$3

April 2

RCSCC @ The Blue Rooster – 9 p.m.

Barefoot Renegades @ Graffiti Bar – 10 p.m.

Cory Morrow & Roger Crea-ger @ Exit/In – 8 p.m.

MicQeyQoolaid @ Club 527 - ladies free

April 3

Old Union @ Wall Street – 9

p.m.

Cuttlefish @ Wall Street – 8 p.m.

Stacy Mitchhart @ The Blue Rooster – 9 p.m.

The Highlife @ Graffiti Bar – 10 p.m.

Dark Meat w/ The Daria Farmer @ The End – 9 p.m.

Deep Fried Five & Josh Roberts Band @ Club 527 - 9 p.m.

The Whigs w/ Wax Fang and The Ettes @ Exit/In – 8 p.m.

April 4

Atomic Trunk Monkeys @ Wall Street – 9 p.m.

The Bohannons w/ Ribbon-pigeon and Josh Robert & The Hinges @ The Boro – 8 p.m.

Nappy Roots w/ Biscuits & Gravy and DJ Wick-It @ Exit/In

Led Zeppelin Tribute Night w/ "Mothership" and Fuel to the Fire @ Club 527 - 9:30 p.m. - \$8

April 5

Dan Fester @ The Blue Rooster – 8 p.m.

PacAKracRs @ Graffiti Bar – 9 p.m.

OTHER

March 30

Joker's Poker @ Graffiti Bar – 7 p.m.

March 31

Karaoke @ The Blue Rooster

Karaoke @ Graffiti Bar – 9 p.m.

April 1

Live Trivia @ Wall Street – 8 p.m.

April 2

Tip of your Tongue Trivia @ The Blue Rooster - 8 p.m.

SPORTS

Blue Raider baseball wins again

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raider baseball team scored another Sun Belt Conference series victory this past weekend on the road against the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

MT (19-4 overall, 10-1 SBC) took an 8-5 win in the series opener and a 4-2 victory in yesterday's match. With the wins, the Blue Raiders have moved into first place in the SBC with a half-game lead over rival Western Kentucky University.

In game one, the Blue Raiders squeaked out an 8-5 win after denying the Trojans a ninth inning comeback attempt. With only one out, UALR had the bases loaded but was unable to score as junior pitcher Coty Woods closed the door and earned his fifth save of the season.

Sophomore pitcher Bryce Brentz (3-0) earned the win for MT, as he allowed five runs on eight hits in 7.2 innings of work. Brentz struck out four and walked three in the victory.

The Blue Raider offense compiled nine hits on the game with three players earning two hits each. Junior catcher Drew Robertson, who



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Sophomore pitcher Bryce Brentz waits in the batter's box against Florida Atlantic at Reese Smith Field.

is batting .462 for the season, led the Blue Raider scoring attack going 2-for-4 with a walk and scoring three runs. Junior designated hitter Ben Darlington added to the attack going 2-for-4 with two RBIs.

"The offense has been

real solid the past couple of games," head coach Steve Peterson said. "The biggest thing we need to work on is to be more aggressive on the base paths."

UALR also had nine hits on the night, but were un-

able to turn them into points as they left 10 runners on base.

The Trojans scored first in the game off Brentz's early miscues from the mound. UALR scored two runs after Brentz hit two batters and walked one to

start the inning. In the bottom of the third, UALR extended their lead to 3-0 with a solo home run by Tim Emmons.

MT answered back in the top of the fourth with a pair of doubles and a sacrifice double play that cut the Trojan's lead to 3-2.

The Blue Raiders took complete control of the game in the top of the sixth with doubles by Robertson and Darlington. Senior center fielder Nathan Hines added a sacrifice fly to give the Blue Raiders their first lead of the game, 5-4.

MT continued to pour runs in the top of the eighth with an RBI single and senior pinch-hitter Zach Dean's sacrifice fly. MT scored another run from third base after a passed ball committed by the Trojans to take an 8-4 lead.

UALR threatened in the ninth, but Woods forced a double play with the bases loaded to end the threat and the game with a Blue Raider victory.

Yesterday, the Blue Raiders earned a 4-2 victory to seal the series in favor of the boys in blue.

Brentz ensured the victory with a two-run home run in the top of the ninth to break a 2-2 tie against

UALR.

Sophomore pitcher Nick Montgomery (2-0) earned the win in his 1.1 innings of scoreless relief. Woods earned his second save of the series and his sixth of the season as he earned the final out of the game.

Junior pitcher Kenneth Roberts received the start as he worked 6.2 innings allowing two runs on two hits along with four strikeouts.

Robertson continued to hit the ball well, going 3-for-5 with two runs scored in the second game. Senior third baseman Rawley Bishop added three hits to the Blue Raider cause as well.

MT outhit UALR 13-2, but the boys in blue had trouble scoring a majority of the runners.

UALR scored first in the bottom of the third with a sacrifice double play. The Trojans added their second run in the fifth innings with an RBI single to create a 2-0 home team lead.

The Blue Raiders scored in the top of the sixth and seventh with a pair of sacrifice flies followed by Brentz's game-winning home run in the top of the ninth.

MT will return to action for a one-game series at Austin Peay Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Softball suffers SBC series sweep

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

Poor hitting and defensive errors continue to highlight the Blue Raiders softball season as MT was on the losing end of a series sweep in this weekend's Sun Belt contests against the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

The girls in blue dropped both games in Saturday's doubleheader by scores of 4-1 and 2-1. ULM finished the series sweep, beating the Blue Raiders 4-1 yesterday.

MT (6-21) kept the games close, but costly mistakes built up over time to slowly sink the team's chances of winning. In the three game series, the Blue Raiders committed eight fielding errors, giving the Warhawks free passes again and again.

In the important Sun Belt Conference contests this season, MT is averaging little more than two errors per game.

The Blue Raiders are also hurting themselves at the plate, as MT struck out 28 times compared to 11 hits over this weekend's three-game road series.

In game one, sophomore pitcher Kellie Head (1-4) took the start as she gave up three hits in two innings of work. Head allowed three unearned runs in the second giving her the loss.

Junior Lindsey Vander Lugt pitched four innings of relief,



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
The softball team meets at the mound for mid-game strategy against South Alabama on March 21. The Blue Raiders lost 10-0.

allowing one unearned run on two hits with five strikeouts.

Opposite the Blue Raiders was ULM's Kandace Causey (7-9), who struck out 13 batters on her way to a complete game win.

Things started off well enough for the Blue Raiders. Sophomore center fielder Kelsey Dortch began the game by blasting her second home run of the season to give MT a 1-0 lead.

The Warhawks came storming back in the bottom of the second with three runs off two key defensive errors committed by the Blue Raiders to take a 3-1 lead. ULM

added an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth off a Katie Giradi RBI-single to finish the game at 4-1.

MT came close once again in game two of the doubleheader, but ultimately fell short with a final score of 2-1.

Vander Lugt (4-10) got the start, allowing one earned run on four hits, while striking out five in a complete game loss.

The Blue Raiders compiled four hits in the contest with senior third baseman Martha Davis leading the team by going 2-for-3.

ULM drew first blood in

the bottom of the first by capitalizing once again on an MT error. The Warhawk's Elyse Stark scored from third on a passed ball by the Blue Raiders' freshman catcher Natalie Ysaais.

The game turned into a defensive match until the bottom of the fifth when ULM manufactured a run with a two-out single followed by an RBI double to make the game 2-0 in favor of the home team.

MT attempted a comeback in the top of the sixth by scoring a run on a ULM throwing error, but the Blue Raiders ran out of chances as they continued to strike out at the plate to end the game 2-1.

The Blue Raiders couldn't prevent the sweep Sunday as they fell 4-1 to the Warhawks.

Freshman Caty Jutson (1-7) gave up two earned runs on four hits in three innings of work as she took the loss.

MT was held scoreless until the final frame when junior first baseman Jessica Ives hit an RBI double into right field for MT's first and only run.

ULM scored their first run in the bottom of the third with an RBI single. The Warhawks continued their attack in the next inning as they scored three more runs on two MT defensive errors.

MT will return to SBC action on the road with a doubleheader against No. 21 Louisiana-Lafayette, Tuesday at 4 p.m.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Nyeisha Wright leads an opponent at the Valentine's Day Invitational in the Murphy Center.

Track meet washed up

Inclement weather ceases meet

STAFF REPORT

The Blue Raider track teams were unable to complete their meet on Saturday due to severe thunderstorms.

On Saturday morning, officials from Georgia Tech declared the meeting suspended in hopes that the rain would pass. But the rain persisted, and the

match was officially cancelled at 11:50 am EST.

Junior Brittany Cox managed to compete in Friday night's hammer throw, but had no recorded throws. She was the only MT athlete to compete.

The Blue Raiders return to action Friday and Saturday in Auburn, Ala. For the Auburn Invitational hosted by Auburn University.

Blue Raider men's tennis serves Denver 4-3 win

Nationally ranked tennis teams split singles play for close Sun Belt match

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders came out on top Friday night against No. 69 ranked University of Denver 4-3 with apparent ease.

The men's tennis team, ranked No. 61 heading into the match, took the doubles matches. Sophomore John Peers and freshman Victor Melo took the 9-8 (7-4) win over Denver's Martin Zimmermann/David Simon

team.

Junior Robert McKenzie and senior Morgan Richard teamed up to take on DU's Raviot Dhatt/Benny Althaus pair for an 8-2 victory.

"I am really happy we got off to such a good start," head coach David McNamara said. "The guys did what they were supposed to do which was take care of business."

In singles play, Melo began with his 7-6 (7-5) 6-0 victory over DU's Benny Althaus.

Peers then put up a 6-2, 7-5 win over Simon.

McKenzie handed the Blue Raiders the win as he bested

three matches were allowed to finish. Denver won the final three singles matches, but it was too late for the Pioneers

"The guys did what they were supposed to do which was take care of business."

DAVID McNAMARA
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE MEN'S TENNIS

Zimmermann 6-3, 7-6 (7-6). Though McKenzie's victory clinched the match, the final

to take the win from the Blue Raiders.

"Tonight was a tough con-

ference battle," DU head coach Danny Westerman said. "We competed very well, and I am very happy with the growth of this team."

"Hopefully we get a chance to play them again at the Sun Belt Shootout next weekend, [because] I know our guys would love another shot at them."

The Blue Raiders were also scheduled to play the University of Central Florida over the weekend, but due

to cancelled flights and wintry weather conditions, the Golden Knights were unable to make it to Denver.

The Blue Raiders will compete again April 3-5 when they host the Sun Belt Shootout. This competition will involve Sun Belt Conference opponents including Denver, Troy and Western Kentucky. The Sun Belt Shootout will take place at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.