

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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Former student pleads guilty

Kevin Sisco sentenced to 14 years in prison for attempted second-degree murder

By ALEX MOORMAN
Campus News Editor

A former MTSU student pleads guilty Thursday to one count of attempted second-degree murder after brutally beating another student in Jim Cummings Hall in 2007.

Kevin Sisco, 20, was sentenced to 14 years in prison, which is the maximum sentence for attempted second-degree murder according to Assistant District Attorney Paul Newman.

"We obviously would have liked to have a longer sentence but under the circumstances of the case the attempted first degree murder starts out at 15 years and the one he plead to was 14," Newman said. "There was an issue on whether or not premeditation could be proven and Manis has no recollection



Sisco

of the incident and so we did not want to put her on the stand."

Newman said that Sisco will be eligible for parole in about five years but the chances are very unlikely that he will be release.

"He can meet a parole board technically in 4 to 5 years but under these types of circumstances," Newman said. "I would be shocked and the judge said he would be shocked if he didn't end up serving most if not all of that sentence."

Sisco was charged for the beating of Ashley Manis after Sisco made a 911 call. In the call Sisco said that Manis had taken pills and had been

drinking alcohol and that the incident was her attempt at suicide. Authorities found no proof that alcohol or drugs had been consumed by either of the victims.

Guy Dotson Jr., attorney to Sisco, said, "I think there were allegations of alcohol but I don't believe that any of the tests revealed that on the part of either one of them."

Dotson said that the sentence was a harsh one but that he was not sure they could have gotten a lesser sentence.

"The sentence was hard for what he was charged with but not as hard as he could have gotten," Dotson said. "I think the sentence fairly represented the crime that he plead guilty to."

Newman said that Sisco had already served about two years

in prison because of an additional charge.

"We arrested him for possessing brass knuckles and he served a two year sentence which we stacked onto the attempted second," Newman said. "We gave him the maximum on attempted second and stacked on two more years."

Dotson and Newman have very different opinions on the level of remorse Sisco felt before and during the case.

"Sisco did feel remorse during his initial discussion about the matter but we really didn't discuss it during the time of the hearings because stuff got pretty hairy the last day," Dotson said. "There wasn't the opportunity for him to feel that he was more worried about the trial."

Newman said that he saw very little indication that Sisco felt remorse for his actions.

"I watched the video tapes and I didn't see remorse," Newman said. "At one instance he did seem to tear up but that was only on one occasion."

Two MTSU criminal justice majors interned during the case, Beci Huddleston and Lindsay Bogt.

"They prepared the case and they interviewed witnesses, read the case file, watched all the videos and summarized it," Newman said. "They saved us a couple hundred hours of work they spent 320 hours on this case, they were a tremendous help."

Huddleston, senior criminal justice major, said that this was a great learning experience

and that she felt that she and Bogt really helped this case.

"Because we are so familiar with the case we are able to highlight the issues in the case," Huddleston said. "We get the case prepared to go to court even though it didn't go to court I think that even if they hadn't plea bargained out we still would have won our case."

Newman said that while the Manis family would have liked a harsher sentence they were ready for the case to be settled.

"They feel her life has been changed but they are positive about her moving forward," Newman said. "They want to put everything back together and start over and that a weight has been lifted off their shoulders."

AfroFlow filters out smoking at concert

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

The intercultural performing group AfroFlow teamed up with the American Cancer Society and the American Red Cross to help raise awareness and funds for tornado victims on the Honors College lawn Tuesday.

After volunteering for the American Red Cross and witnessing firsthand the damage left by last Friday's storms, recording industry professor Ramona DeSalvo said she wanted to help raise money for the cause at the show.

"We are just trying to raise as much awareness about it as we can," DeSalvo said. "One hundred percent of any money we collect here today is going to the American Red Cross to help victims specifically in this area."

Members of the recording industry fraternity, Omega Delta Psi and the Association of Recording Management Students/Grammy U set up tables at the event and collected donations.

"When [DeSalvo] told me her idea about helping the American Red Cross, I immediately approved," said AfroFlow recording artist Michael "MIKE-E" Ellison. "The American Cancer Society supported this effort, and we're happy to shift the attention to the more immediate need."

Ellison said he had a chance to see the damage to the Rutherford County area and even spoke with victims who lost their homes.

"We met a couple at a hotel who lost everything," Ellison said. "You would have thought they just won the lotto because they were just happy to still have each other, and that really put it into perspective for me."

The AfroFlow show kicked off with a parade of flags at the Todd Hall art building. Students involved with Intercultural and Diversity Affairs held flags of their home countries and led the way to the Honors Building where



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Steve Muller, a sophomore political science major, dances on stage with MIKE-E during AfroFlow on Tuesday.

cultural displays were set up.

"We wanted to make sure students came here to partake in AfroFlow," said Vincent Windrow, director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs. "We knew there were going to be some international tables, so we wanted to make sure there was an international gathering of students."

Kovan Murat, a junior political science major who was born in Kurdistan, and many other students who participated in the parade wore their flags to show pride for their country.

"We wanted to express our culture, heritage and country with everyone else here," Murat said. "This is just a great opportunity to be able to share who we are with this community."

Windrow said the International Student Services gave most of the flags to them and some of the students even

brought their own.

"They were so excited to participate," Windrow said. "One of the strengths of MTSU is that there's so much diversity, and the parade of flags was a way to acknowledge that diversity."

Ellison said he felt the cultures of the world and the cultures of the community were all being represented with the parade of flags and displays.

"It's a cultural celebration and that really is the central core and philosophy of the AfroFlow tour," Ellison said.

Before AfroFlow took the stage, students got the opportunity to showcase their talent by performing free-style rap, dancing and singing.

AFROFLOW, PAGE 4



online

www.mtsusidelines.com



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Anesia Collins, a junior pre-nursing major, sings on stage with MIKE-E during AfroFlow on Tuesday.

MTSU student receives award for research

By JAZ GRAY
Staff Writer

Shannon Murphy, a junior biology major, earned recognition last month as a 2009 Barry M. Goldwater Honorable Mention recipient for her research in biomedical science.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program is a competitive, merit-based opportunity for college students pursuing careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering.

"I was actually shocked when I found out," Murphy said in regards to receiving honorable mention, adding that she was one of only 175 students to receive the acknowledgment from more than 1,000 applicants.

Through its Goldwater Foundation, the program, which was created in 1986 to honor the late Sen.

Goldwater, has awarded 5,801 scholarships worth approximately \$56 million.

"Even though she didn't get the money part of it, just getting the honorable mention will help her get into the grad school of her choice," said John Vile, dean of the Honors College.

Vile said that he and Laura Clippard, the undergraduate fellowships coordinator, chose Murphy to represent MTSU because she had the right balance of research and academic excellence.

"He just said that they were looking to nominate someone from this university who was planning to go into research, and he just saw that I had done an internship in research

and I was doing my honors thesis," Murphy said. "He knew I was interested in it, so he offered it."

Murphy said that she completed her research internship last summer at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in a program called Summer in Biomedical Science.

She was paired with a mentor, UAB professor Robert Novak, and studied mosquitoes that carry malaria and West Nile virus.

Murphy said that her honors thesis research concerns ways to detect, in 30 minutes, bacteria comparable to the anthrax used in terrorists' attacks.

The thesis is titled "A Label-Free Method for Detection and Differentiation of Bacillus Endospores" and her mentor is Steven Wright, a biology professor at MTSU.

Murphy said that she plans to earn a Ph.D. and

M.D. so she can put theory to work by researching and treating infectious diseases "from beginning to end."

"I would love to go work in another country and hopefully have a lab here [in the United States] and combine my research with treating the patients,"

reer plans would generally be viewed negatively by the Goldwater program, which primarily wants students aiming for a Ph.D. only.

Clippard said that Murphy's recognition is a reflection of her character and hard work.

Vile said that he hopes

According to Clippard, the UFO "educates students about the resources that are available and works with students on helping them go through the process."

Murphy said that working with UFO and the Honors College was a great experience and that she has more confidence now to continue her research endeavors.

"[The honorable mention] just looks really good for our university," Murphy said. "It shows that MTSU is putting out good students who are doing academic research [and] who have shown that they are willing to contribute."

Students interested in learning more can visit the Goldwater Program Web site act.org/goldwater, and the Honors College Web site, mtsu.edu/honors/ufu.

"It shows that MTSU is putting out good students who are doing academic research and who have shown that they are willing to contribute."

SHANNON MURPHY
JUNIOR BIOLOGY MAJOR

Murphy said. "I think that would be really rewarding" because there is a real need for infectious disease research around the world."

Vile said that Murphy's honorable mention was a "big deal" because her ca-

Murphy's recognition will help bring awareness to the Undergraduate Fellowships Office (UFO) and its role in helping students, particularly those in math and science, attain scholarships like the Goldwater.

Local community unites for public safety

By DUSTIN EVANS
Staff Writer

After last week's severe weather destruction, MTSU, along with residents of Rutherford County, pulled together to assist in cleaning up the catastrophic damage in the area.

The Department of Public Safety and the Department of News and Public Affairs also helped by releasing a list of helpful tips that students can take in the event of severe weather.

This information can be found at mtsu.edu/alert4u/tornado_protection.shtml.

"I think safety on campus means that it's a cooperative ef-

fort between the departments on campus that are responsible for working on safety initiatives and all of us as individuals working together to help ourselves and each other," said Buddy Peaster, MTSU chief of police and director of Public Safety.

The list includes common directives, such as staying away from windows, as well as a list of instructions that the faculty, staff and administrators can take to ensure safe actions are taken on campus.

Sondra Wilson, Student Government Association president, said she did not think Friday's storms were

going to be as traumatic as they became. She added that Friday's tornadoes were a "real eye-opener."

"When the alert text messages are sent and the sirens go off, students should immediately take shelter," Wilson said.

Peaster said that in addition to university departments working toward improving campus safety, everyone at MTSU should become more informed about safety and prevention and pass "valuable information" during danger or crises.

However, Peaster said that some technological outlets

can become overwhelmed because of high-volume communication in a crisis, so information should be vital, accurate and concise.

"The fact that good information gets out, regardless of how it gets out – if it is good solid information – I think it is important," Peaster said.

Wilson said that some MTSU groups, like fraternities and the football team, devoted their services after the storms to assist the community in repairing damage, cleaning up and helping those in need.

"It was amazing how many students went to help the Murfreesboro community,"

Wilson said.

A local youth group from St. Rose of Lima helped residents pick up debris.

"I can't believe how many trees were ripped from the ground," said Pete Espil, director of youth ministries at St. Rose. "Some of our kids talked about houses that had been completely wiped out – one house had moved 15 feet out of its foundation."

Wilson said that members of the youth group are not only dedicated to service, but that it's their favorite thing to do.

"The kids said how weird it was to walk up and start helping," Espil said. "They felt like they were meant to

be there."

Even though MTSU faculty, staff and students cannot participate with the St. Rose's youth group, Espil said there are other opportunities for service in the community.

"If you are able to look around for a few minutes, it isn't hard to find people in need of service," Espil said.

Peaster said promotion of public safety and public service can only aid the university in its efforts.

"I think that we will come a lot closer to being an institution that is very impactful on people's lives in a very positive way," Peaster said.

Corey Smith to perform at MTSU Sigma Phi Epsilon sponsors benefit concert to help American Heart Association

By BRYCE HARMON
Staff Writer

Sigma Phi Epsilon will bring Corey Smith, a Georgia-born singer/songwriter, to the Murphy Center this Friday in an effort to raise funds for the American Heart Association.

"This is a really important show for the Sig Ep's and for us because all proceeds go towards the American Heart Association," said Julia Price, tour marketing manager for Corey Smith. "We love having this opportunity to raise money for things like this."

After raising more than \$1,000 for A.H.A. at the Queen of Hearts "Alpha Delta 1R week," the Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers are excited to host another event.

"It's all of us doing it for The American Heart Association. We got Corey Smith involved and he was just as excited to [play] for a good cause," said Brad Periino, event director and vice president for Sigma Phi Epsilon. "It's going to be an all-day party."

Matt Grimalda, a member of the fraternity said he has been selling the concert tickets in front of the Keathley University Center all week.

"Sales are good," Grimalda said. "We'll be here from nine until four through Thursday and on Friday, tickets will be available at the MTSU box office. There are still plenty left, but we're expecting a lot of people from out of town."

Price said the thing heard the most from college stu-

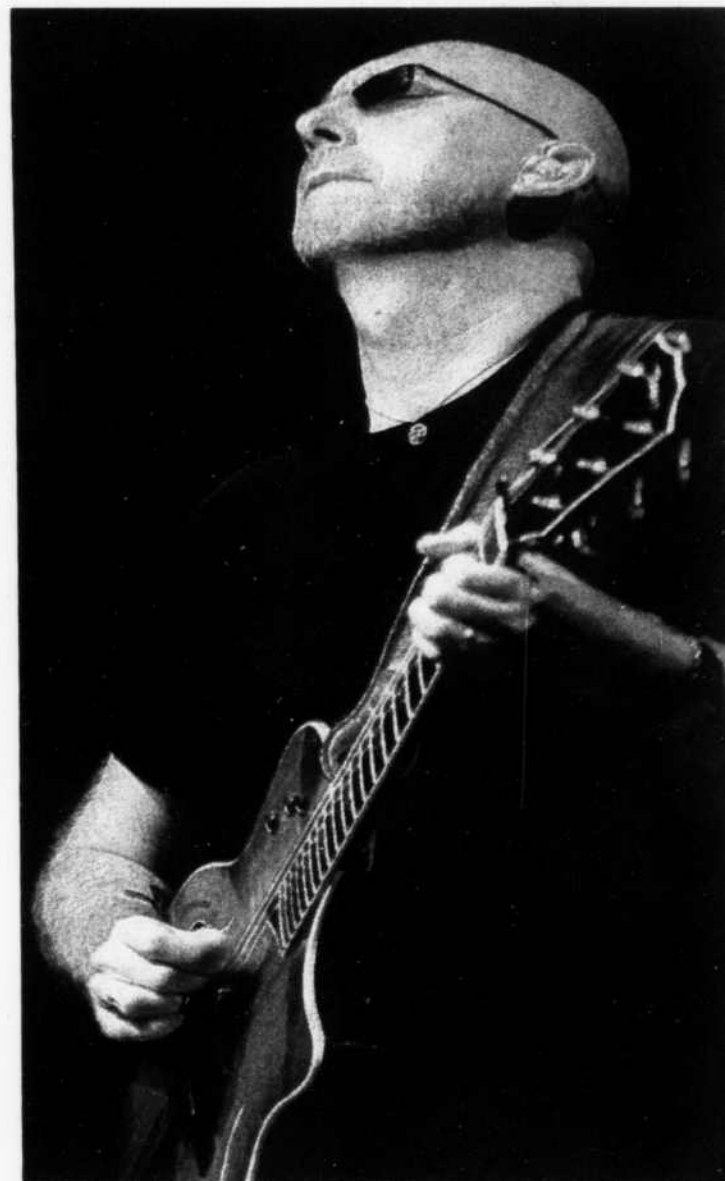


Photo courtesy of Corey Smith

Corey Smith is scheduled to perform at MTSU this Friday to help raise money for the American Heart Association.

dents is that Smith is a sincere songwriter.

"It's not that he's writing songs to try and be popular," Price said. "He's just writing about his experience, what he sees and hears, and that really resonates with people."

Price said Smith is passionate about raising money for causes like the American Heart Association.

"He has a show coming up that's raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association," Price said.

"Corey really enjoys being able to use his status and where he is now with his music and popularity for a good cause."

There will be a benefit after-party at Graffiti's Bar, an 18 and older venue, from 11 p.m. until closing at 3 a.m.

There will probably be a VIP section open, said Stephen Tsauo, another member of the fraternity. However, he said that will not be definite until Friday.

SUMMER 2009

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Through the *Sidelines*' Lens

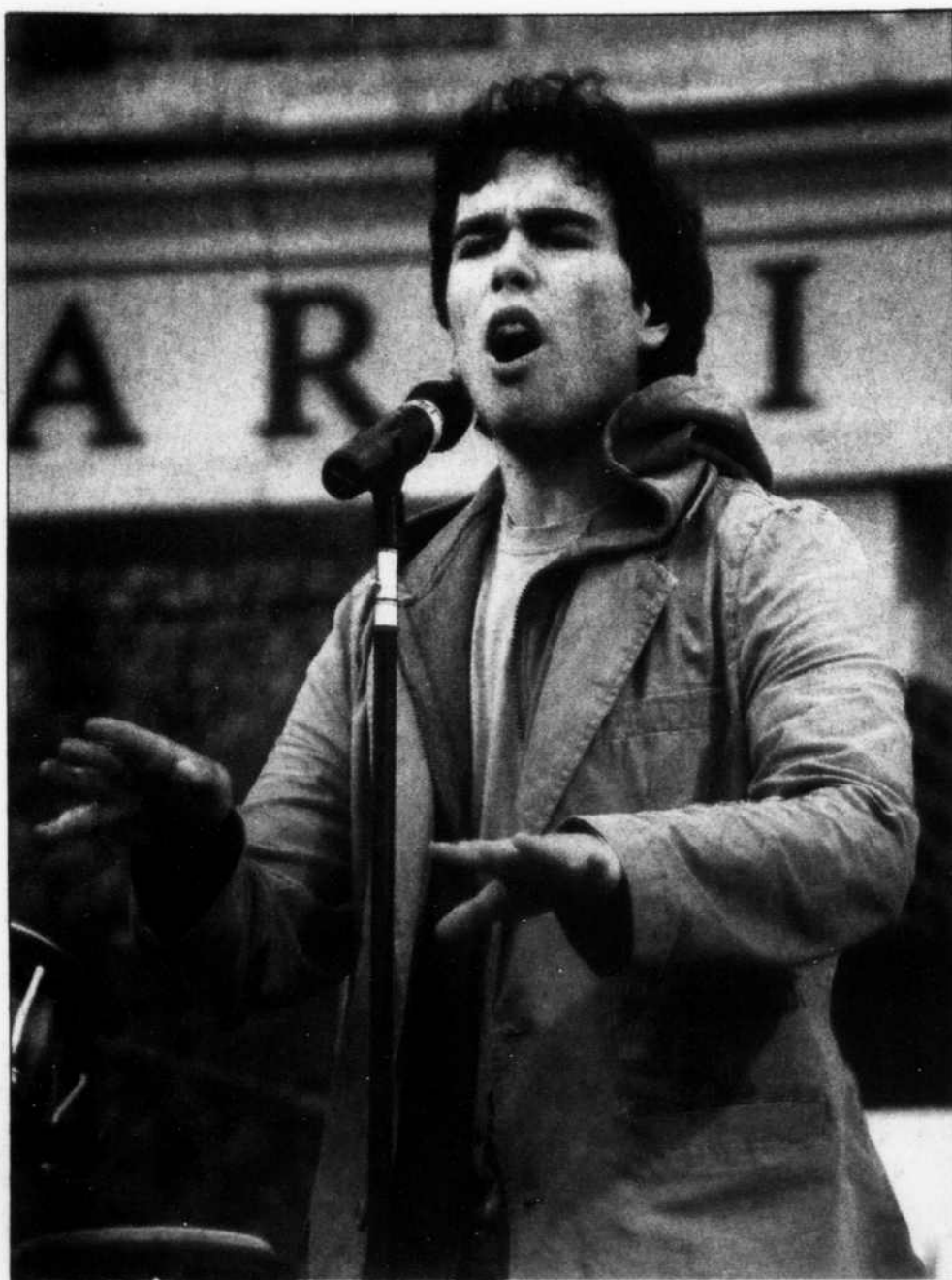


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
(Left) Dean Andrews, a senior political science major, recites poetry before AfroFlow.
(Right) Devin Alphin, a junior recording industry major, performs as 'Hades' before AfroFlow on Tuesday.



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

seeks an

Editor in Chief for the Summer and Fall 2009 Semesters

Candidates for the position must be currently enrolled students in good standing, have a 2.5 minimum GPA, and have two semesters of media experience.

To apply, complete a Sidelines Editor application (available in COMM 269) and attach a resume, cover letter, three letters of reference and at least three bylined clips, and deliver to:

Steven Chappell, Sidelines Director, Box 8
or deliver applications to COMM 269

Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 24

Editor selection interviews will be held Wednesday, April 30, at 4 p.m.

Sidelines is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Summer and Fall 2009 semesters:

Managing Editor

News editor

Sports editor

Features editor

Photo editor

Opinions editor

Copy editor

Assistant editors

Staff writers

Staff photographers

Production Manager

Distributors

To apply, come by COMM 269 and fill out a staff application.
These positions are open until filled.

PRACTICUM CREDIT IS AVAILABLE TO ALL APPLICANTS.

Raider Xpress aids students stranded by tornadoes

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Community News Editor

A Raider Xpress bus helped transport Nashville commuter students who were left stranded on-campus due to Friday's tornadoes.

The Metro Transit Authority Relax and Ride route that usually comes from Nashville could not continue its route to Murfreesboro due to road closures, said Ron Malone, assistant vice president for Events and Transportation Services.

"The [MTA] bus could make it to a certain point, but it could not get any further in this direction," Malone said.

William McCray, a junior continuing education major, said that he and the other stranded students were trying to work with MTA, a cab company and student services and kept running into roadblocks.

"We were stranded for hours," McCray said. "It was a traumatic experience."

McCray said there were 15 students who were stranded with him, and they were all trying to find rides because they did not have an alternate way home.

"We were out there since 1:30 p.m. waiting on the bus," McCray said. "We were calling every 20 minutes and no bus came."

McCray said that he spoke with MTA supervisors who told him that the MTA bus was not being allowed to pass Smyrna.

"Finally, somehow Ron Malone got involved, and they sent us a red Raider Xpress," McCray said.

The students did not leave

until after 5 p.m., McCray said. The Raider Xpress took the students to meet an MTA bus in Smyrna.

"I was glad to see that the school took consideration for its students even though it is not a policy," McCray said. "It made me feel good about my campus."

Malone approved the use of one of MTSU's bus drivers to transport the students to meet the MTA bus.

"We felt that it was imperative to help," Malone said. "Based on all of those circumstances, we felt that it was just something that the university really needed to do."

Danny Tomkins, the Raider Xpress driver who transported the students, said he was off work and volunteered to come to campus and to transport the students.

"Our driver knew some of the shortcuts to avoid the closed roads," Malone said. "We took advantage of his knowledge and allowed him to take our students to the location where they could meet the MTA bus and get back home to Nashville."

Malone said that the decision to allow the shuttle was not just his decision but a departmental one.

"Tracy Read was the supervisor in charge of the shuttle buses," Malone said. "When she contacted me, we did everything we could to figure out a way to get the students back home."

Read, the assistant manager for Parking Services, said that she spoke with an MTA supervisor who said the MTA bus was stuck on I-24 due to overturned cars from Friday's tornadoes.

"I began to call drivers because the ones who were on campus could not go," Read said. "I think it says a lot about our drivers being willing to do their part. It just shows what kind of people we have driving our buses."

Read said that the coordination to get the students back to Nashville was a collaborative effort.

"We worked with the Relax and Ride to do what we could do, and it was a joint effort between us and them," Read said.

Read said the main reason the department did it was because of the students.

"If you were in that situation you would want someone to help you in any way [that] they could," Read said.

Tomkins said he knew the route because he lives close to MTSU and used to work for MTA.

"I live within seven minutes of the college," Tomkins said. "I always tell them [students], if they need anybody they can depend on me."

Tomkins said that his department does its best to try to take care of everyone.

"I was glad they called me," Tomkins said. "I felt that it was important to help them, I would want to get home too."

McCray said that he hoped the incident would "open a door" for a permanent policy to be put into place to aid office-campus students.

"I hope if something like this happens again that off-campus students will have somewhere to go because we were just stranded for hours," McCray said.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 615-904-8357 Fax: 615-494-7648
Advertising: 615-898-5240 Fax: 615-904-8193

www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
Michael Stone*
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Sports
Chris Welch
slsports@mtsu.edu

Production Manager
Alicia Wilson
slsdesign@mtsu.edu

Managing Editor
Tiffany Gibson*
slmanage@mtsu.edu

Assist. News
Emma Egli
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Photography
Alex Blackwelder
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Campus News
Alex Moorman*
slnews@mtsu.edu

Assist. Features
Malarie Woods
slflash@mtsu.edu

Adviser
Steven Chappell
schappel@mtsu.edu

Comm. News
Faith Franklin*
slstate@mtsu.edu

Assist. Sports
Zach Reves
sports02@mtsu.edu

Advertising
Jeri Lamb
jlamb@mtsu.edu

Opinions
Byron Wilkes*
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Copy Editors
Jessica Haston
Chris Martin

Business
Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

Features
Katy Coil
slfeature@mtsu.edu

Online
Bryan Law
slonline@mtsu.edu

* denotes member
of editorial board

AFROFLOW FROM PAGE 1

Devin Alphin, a junior recording industry major, rapped onstage while his friend and former MTSU student, Jordan Kelley, disc jockeyed.

"We got a chance to perform because someone put in a good word for us," said Kelley said. "AfroFlow's re-

ing healthier lives.

"I thought it was amazing how every musician was so talented," said Levi Ray, a sophomore recording industry major. "I definitely appreciated their message and the way they fully embraced their culture as well as appreciating others."

Ellison said after they performed at MTSU last year, AfroFlow was incredibly honored to be invited

"I thought it was amazing how every musician was so talented. I definitely appreciated their message and the way they fully embraced their culture as well as appreciating others."

LEVI RAY

SOPHOMORE RECORDING INDUSTRY MAJOR

ally cool. "They have a funky sound to them and they stick to the roots of hip hop."

Ellison, along with R&B vocalist Kenny Watson, mixer DJ Invisible and djembe drummer Sowande Keita, performed and delivered a powerful message to encourage students to quit smoking.

"Tobacco companies are knowingly practicing legalized genocide," Ellison said in his spoken-word poetry.

Ellison got members of the crowd to throw their packs of cigarettes onstage as a promise they would quit the habit and start liv-

back. He said the AfroFlow show is something he hopes can continue at the school in the future.

"Anyone can get invited once, but when someone wants to bring you back, that's special," Ellison said. "We hope the students gain as much as we do from this experience."

To view more AfroFlow photos, visit us online.



www.mtsusidelines.com



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Alexandra Aguirre, whose stage name is Pana, performs at AfroFlow. He is a member of 'Word Up', a poetry, music and hip-hop performance group on campus.

CURRENT EVENTS

"Paul Blart-Mall Cop"

April 13-17
Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Friday, 7 p.m.
Admission: \$2
Location: KUC Theater

A night of comedy with Iliza Shlesinger

Thursday, April 16 at 7 p.m.
Admission: free
Location: JUB Tennessee Room

More Information: visit ilizashlesinger.com

Sixth Annual Wing Fling Hosted by Kappa Delta

Saturday, April 18 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Murphy Center Lawn
More Information: Contact Grace Janoski at 615.478.8874

9th Annual MTSU Student Film Festival

April 20-24

Visit KUC 308 for more information

Free Self Defense Workshop

Conducted by Mr. Don Dennis, Police Officer
Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Auxiliary Gym 1 Murphy Center

More Information: RSVP by April 24 to Nancy James at 615.898.2970

CORRECTIONS

In the article entitled "McPhee provides transparency" from the April 2 edition of *Sidelines*, a philosophy student was paraphrased as asking President Sidney McPhee at his second open forum "why the university was not making a moral commitment to save the Department of Philosophy." The student, who is a psychology major, said, "You need to make a moral commitment and work your way backwards."

Sidelines regrets this error.

CRIME BRIEFS

April 9, 4:10 p.m.

Theft

Floyd Stadium
Theft of a laptop from the Enhancement Center in stadium.

April 9, 4:16 p.m.

Theft

Business Aerospace Building
Theft of a laptop reported from building.

April 10, 5:08 a.m.

Assault

Corlew Hall
Physical altercation had occurred in a room of this dorm between two males.

April 10, 5:08 a.m.

Assault

Corlew Hall
Physical altercation had occurred in a room of this dorm between two males.

April 10, 2:18 p.m.

Fire Alarm

Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building
The fire alarm in the second floor faculty lounge went off.

April 10, 11:42 p.m.

Public Intoxication

Greek Row

Brandon Edinger was arrested for public intoxication.

April 11, 2:43 a.m.

Theft

Greek Row
Subject reported that her vehicle had been broken into in front of the Sigma Chi House.

April 11, 9:08 p.m.

Alarm

Boutwell Dramatic Arts
Fire alarm was false.

April 13, 4:10 p.m.

Traffic

Judd/Sims Hall Lot
Jason Brasher was issued a state citation for not having a license and a campus citation for speeding.

MTSU Evening Extended School Program

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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 organizations. 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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Letters Policy

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

OPINIONS

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 individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Women must prepare in case of rape

In September 2007, former MTSU student Kevin Sisco attacked 18-year-old Ashley Manis in Jim Cummings Hall. Sisco openly admitted to detectives that he struck Manis in the head with the handle of a broomstick and choked her with a lamp cord.

According to a *Sidelines* article published in 2007, Peaster said Manis suffered extreme head-trauma and numerous internal injuries including several broken bones.

Nearly two years later, Sisco plead guilty to attempted second-degree murder before being tried for attempted first-degree murder. He will face the maximum sentence — 14 years in jail.

Cases like these explain why women may be afraid to walk to their vehicles in the dark. It reasons why lighting on campus should not be decreased to save energy.

Of course, it could be argued that Manis brought the attack on herself by entering Sisco's dormitory, but she didn't ask to almost be beaten to death.

To prevent future attacks from happening, campus police have taken action by offering free self-defense classes for women. Rape aggression defense classes are taught by trained police officers that show young women how to protect themselves on a college campus. The classes are also open to females in the community.

One class will take place on Saturday May 2 at 9 a.m. in auxiliary gym 1 of the Murphy Center. The workshop is free.

Even if women receive training on what to do if attacked, this may not be able to help them if the assault comes as a surprise. So here are a few tips to follow for not only women, but all students on campus on how to stay out of potentially endangering situations.

—Never walk alone at night. An attacker is less likely to commit assault on a person if they are traveling with someone else. MTSU does have emergency call boxes on campus. But if you're being pursued, don't stop to use these. The boxes even malfunction sometimes.

—Get to know people before you spend time with them in private. Even if you think you know someone well, there is always a chance they have other motives besides being your friend. If someone in your class asks you to study with them, do it at the library or somewhere else on campus. Don't allow mere acquaintances into your dorm room or apartment.

—Always be on the lookout. Even if you feel you're around safe people in a safe environment, bad things still have a chance of happening. It is better to always be attentive and nothing happen, than to let your guard down and become a victim.

Rape can happen to everyone and it's safer for you to be prepared in case the police or others aren't around to help.

Hunt for budget cut scapegoat futile

Or, pragmatic solutions all of us can take to relieve financial woes at our university



Desist! Rely! Conform!

Byron Wilkes

Budget cuts, budget cuts, budget cuts. That's all everyone seems to be talking about these days. For those of you that haven't been keeping up, there's about \$20 million of operating costs that have to go here at old MTSU. Of course, if you haven't been keeping up, you probably aren't reading this at all.

Now, there's been a lot of talk and action concerning these cuts, as well as the administration's handling of the whole process of determining what and what not to cut. At any rate, it's clear that there will be some very real and sobering changes in the way this university operates.

Some students say President Sidney McPhee is doing as good a job as any other president would do in his situation. They may or may not act as his bulldogs, viciously attacking and accusing anyone who dares to slight McPhee.

Other students yell on his front yard and hold up signs that humiliate him or demand his head on a silver platter. Not literally, of course. Silver costs almost \$14 an ounce; God knows we can't afford that around here right now.

That being said, a number of students don't even know who our president is.

The faculty seems pretty divided on this issue, too. A lot of faculty I've spoken to are vehement in their accu-

sations that McPhee is laying waste to the name of higher education.

Some faculty just reminisce about presidents gone by rather than take one side or the other. In lieu of action, they'd prefer to sit on figurative rocking chairs on the porches of their offices, entertaining nostalgic feel-

“Most of [the faculty] keep their mouths shut, though, perhaps out of some chimeric fear that, in so doing, they will keep their nest eggs safe from ‘Paul Bunyan’ McPhee blindly axing any departmental tree with chirps too loud.”

ings of past presidents who fought the war of academia in the good name of MTSU.

The rest of the faculty (along with most of the administration) are defending McPhee's actions, either verbally or by saying nothing at all. Some take up the argument of the students, claiming no other president could handle the situation any better. Most of them keep their mouths shut, though, perhaps out of some chimeric fear that, in so doing, they

will keep their nest eggs safe from “Paul Bunyan” McPhee blindly axing any departmental tree with chirps from above too loud.

More faculty members than usual would rather just retire than hold their hand until the river card.

Clichés and gross exaggerations aside, all of us need to take a step back and look at what's going on. McPhee isn't arbitrarily cutting this budget. It's a result of our bleak economic outlook in America and how it breaks down in Tennessee.

What can we as students, faculty, administration and staff do to help soften the blow of these shortfalls on our beloved university?

Those of you who claim “nothing” may stop reading here, for I have compiled a deeply analytical and no-nonsense list of simple, easy and sure-to-be effective steps that all of us can take to increase efficiency at MTSU.

This list is not for anyone with a weak constitution. It will separate those who love MTSU and those who should probably transfer to what Gov. Bredesen would call one of our sister universities, like Tennessee Tech or Motlow.

Don't eat off campus, ever.

During the week and week-

end, eat breakfast, lunch and dinner at one of the myriad venues afforded by our favorite food service provider, Aramark. Your daily bill will probably wind up being in the neighborhood of at least \$20, further buttressing on-campus business and repaying Aramark's kindness and loyalty to our school.

Take superfluous or unnecessary courses.

Admittedly, this item is a personal favorite. I was actually fortunate enough to be placed in a course I had passed at another university, despite the fact I had also taken a course for which this was a prerequisite. Taking unrequired courses not only can be enlightening, but it creates a demand for more professors. I'm ecstatic to say that my own alms to the university totaled somewhere in the neighborhood of \$700; guess it's just my way of saying “Thanks, MTSU!”

Don't waste a drop of water.

I endorse this action to the highest degree to which it can be carried out, even if it means installing pay-toilets and urinals campuswide (I'm thinking 50 cents a flush). Don't flush when you pee, only for number two. This option is not only fiscally responsible, but also environmentally friendly. If it's raining, grab your shower caddy and towel and find a secluded spot to take advantage of nature's bath time.

Tip your faculty, staff

and administrators.

Tipping maintenance workers should already be mandatory; they keep this school functional and aesthetic. However, the amount they get paid is a pittance compared to faculty and administrative pay. Students should tip the people who make all this popular because we're just one big family when it comes down to it, and families have to stick together. If you want to tip Grandpa McPhee for services rendered (at a measly 15 percent rate), I've calculated you can do so for a little under \$10,000 a semester.

Now I'm sure there are plenty of you who will chastise or berate me for making light of this situation, or perhaps even trivializing MTSU as an institution of higher learning. I assure you, having come from a family who made its way in higher education, that this was not my motive.

If your program or department of interest is being considered for elimination, by all means organize appropriately and try to save what could one day become your livelihood.

If not, don't encroach on the freedom of expression of others or attack others who work or attend class here.

Some form of budget cuts is unchangeable, but the process of preparing and acclimating to them doesn't have to be.

Byron Wilkes is a senior in journalism and can be reached at bdw3t@mtsu.edu.

Amazon's rating system prejudiced against LGBT

The popular online super-bookstore Amazon.com has begun de-ranking and de-searching books that it deems inappropriate, meaning books with adult content. This means that these inappropriate books will not show up in searches, because search results are based on rankings.

According to *The Los Angeles Times*, even if a book that Amazon.com has deemed inappropriate has sold more copies than the *Twilight* series, since its rankings have been removed, it will not appear on the bestseller's list.

However, how does the Web site decide what book is inappropriate or not? Bret Easton Ellis' “American Psycho,” the story of a



The C-Word

Courtney Watson

sadistic murderer and one of the most graphic and horrifically detailed books I have ever read, still shows up on the site, but a book called “Unfriendly Fire,” about gays in the military, which is a well-reviewed book on military policy, no longer appears in the search results.

If a site that sells books wants to limit the types of books they offer, the policy

needs to be implemented in a way that is consistent. Instead, they have *Running With Scissors* without a ranking but still have two *Playboy* picture books ranked.

What deems content inappropriate or not? A true story about a gay man growing up in an unstable environment loses its ranking and therefore its spot on the Amazon bestseller list, but they still have two collections of nude photographs?

Author Mark R. Probst wrote a book featuring gay characters in the Old West

and noticed recently that his book had lost its rankings. Probst is convinced that gay-friendly books have been targeted. When he asked Amazon customer service why his book

clue ‘adult’ material from appearing in some searches and best-seller lists. Since these lists are generated using sales ranks, adult materials must also be excluded from that feature.”

“According to The Los Angeles Times, even if a book that Amazon.com has deemed inappropriate has sold more copies than the ‘Twilight’ series... it will not appear on the bestseller's list.”

was removed from search results, he received the following response:

“In consideration of our entire customer base, we ex-

Most of the books that remain ranked are no less “adult” than those that have lost their rankings, and some books, such as *Maurice* by E.M. Forster, lost its ranking under the 2005 W.W. Norton edition but remains under the 2005 Penguin Classics

AMAZON, PAGE 6

COMICS



AMAZON
FROM PAGE 5

edition.

So what are the rules? There don't seem to be any. More troubling than the unevenness of the de-ranking and de-searching is the act itself. In a society that already does not read as much as it should, why would anyone want to make books harder to find simply based on content?

Amazon.com used to be the place to find any book you wanted, and now it's just becoming a place to find only the books it wants you to find.

Courtney Watson is a senior in journalism and can be reached at cew2y@mtsu.edu.

Stupid state laws reflect legal impotence

Absurdity of some states' laws reveals archaic nature behind process by which they are created, sometimes they show inequalities inherent to states' lawmaking

When you think of breaking the law, it could be something as simple as stealing someone's material possessions to taking a human life. Both are against the law and hold serious consequences, but have you ever wondered how and why peculiar laws even make it past the legislature?

I have actually looked up strange laws in all the states of the U.S. and laugh because some of them are just so ludicrous it's hard to imagine that the people who propose them are actually serious. For example, in Alabama it is illegal to carry an ice cream cone in your back pocket. The thought of doing this doesn't exactly appeal to me, but to each his own. I'm just wondering if laws like these have a reason behind them.

Are dry cleaners in Alabama breaking down because they can't handle the pressure of cleaning people's stained back pockets? Are designers becoming enraged that their expensive child labor products are being ruined every time the ice cream truck rolls around?

In Wyoming it is illegal for women to stand within 5 feet of a bar while drinking. This law is odd because Wyoming was the first state to allow women to vote and yet it prohibits women from drinking in bars or in public. Now that they have more rights, women should take

Open Mouth,
Insert Foot

Tiffany Gibson

charge and use their voting rights to abolish this law.

A Web site called dumb-laws.com has all of the states listed and their "dumb" laws. Shockingly, Tennessee doesn't really hold too many bizarre laws, but some are definitely worth taking a look.

You can't shoot any game other than whales from a moving automobile. Well this is good to know considering we are located next to an ocean. And how do you shoot a whale from a moving automobile? Wouldn't a boat be more convenient?

of drugs or alcohol are understandable, but I thought driving while conscious is common sense? I guess you can't put anything past us Southerners.

It is legal to gather and consume roadkill. This makes sense because roadkill is usually found on public property, but to actually list this as a law is a little disheartening. Please don't tell me our elected officials have nothing better to do than pass useless laws like this one.

More than eight women may not live in the same house because that would constitute a brothel. For college institutions this means no sorority houses. Talk about a double standard between men and women in this state. How long can this law possibly hold value with changing times and women seeking equal privileges?

So you see, these laws have little to do with safety.

America's silly laws

A Michigan law states that the act is worthy of a felony and if the act is committed between a married woman and an unmarried man, the man gets the felony.

A statute in the New Jersey code states that, "The driver of an overtaking motor vehicle not within a business or residence district shall give audible warning with his horn or other warning device before passing or attempting to pass a vehicle proceeding in the same direction."

Tennessee's Constitution includes a special provision that forbids clergymen and atheists from holding public office.

One Vermont lawmaker said he wants to ensure that citizens have the right to hang their clothes outdoors without fear of reprisals or punishment.

—from dumblaws.com

Mostly, they are timely laws that need to be re-evaluated. I have faith that more than eight women can handle living in the same house without turning into prostitutes. The only thing I foresee is squabbles among themselves.

Also, shooting whales from an automobile in a state with no body of salt water seems a little pointless, and I don't think the state has to worry about receiving phone calls from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals anytime soon.

If anyone does still duel, then chances are he or she

can't run for a public office position because they'll be doing time in prison for homicide.

Bottom line, state officials need to stop passing laws telling people not to sleep while driving. They should focus on more important things like education and how funds should be allocated up front to higher education institutions instead of being put on the back burner and funded last.

Tiffany Gibson is a sophomore in journalism and can be reached at tdg2w@mtsu.edu.

“Bottom line, state officials need to stop passing laws telling people not to sleep while driving.”

Any person who participates in a duel may not hold any public office in the state. Why do I feel like Andrew Jackson had something to do with the passing of this law?

Driving is not to be done while asleep. Laws against driving under the influence

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In response to "Why the
draft isn't so bad"

Regarding last Thursday's article entitled, "Why the draft isn't so bad," by Catharine Broemel, I have a few comments.

"If the US drafted educated, well-behaved people into the army, they would be better cultural ambassadors for America, and be able to do a better work. It would also revolutionize how young people participate in politics and the emotional bond they feel towards their country."

First off, if the military did decide to draft the educated, well-behaved people, who would be left to police our streets?

Who would heal our sick? Educate our young? Investigate and disseminate our

news? Run our businesses? Create our laws? There's a reason the military doesn't already do this. These educated, well-behaved people are needed here, to solve our problems here.

Secondly, don't we already have cultural ambassadors? Why should it be a soldier's job to be a cultural ambassador?

I'm sure Hillary Clinton gets paid to do something. And something tells me that she'd do a better job than some twentysomething gun-toting soldier who is forced to fight for a cause in which he or she doesn't believe.

These cultural ambassadors you so desperately seek already exist at the U.N. On the plus side, most of them are already educated and well behaved.

Thirdly, why does an emotional bond for one's country have to be built solely through the military? I'm sure community volunteers, civic leaders, small business owners, journalists and lawmakers are all capable of feeling a strong emotional bond to our country without having to survive even one day of boot camp.

They protect our freedom not by fighting for it, but by practicing it. After Sept. 11, when our emotional bonds to our country may have been the strongest, many people chose to fight back by joining the military, which is perfectly acceptable.

However, the vast majority of Americans chose to fight back in another way, by going back to their normal lives; by turning off the news, getting

off the couch and setting the gears of freedom back into motion.

This, above all else, was a true byproduct of our "strong emotional bond we feel toward our country."

"The army provides work for everyone: cooks, drivers, nurses and other civilian jobs that are appropriate for every individual."

This statement may have been truer in past years, but not any more. More and more civilian-type jobs are no longer being held by military personnel; they are held by real civilians.

The military, over the past few years, has been contracting these duties out to private companies, most notably kitchen staff on bases and navy vessels, and on-base medical personnel.

Sean Mahoney is a senior in mass communication major and can be reached smm4e@mtsu.edu.

Open Forum on the Budget
Cuts

At this past Thursday's open forum, several students decided to present themselves in a very unprofessional and immature way.

While I believe that everyone should be free to voice their own opinion, I also believe that there are better ways to get a point across than being rude and disrespectful.

It is sad that a small minority of students decided to ruin the forum for everyone else in attendance.

The fact is that everyone involved with or connected to this university is concerned with the current budget cri-

sis. I commend President Sidney McPhee for the job he has done fighting to save our university. Still, when all is said and done, cuts are going to have to be made, and that is a fact we are going to have to live with.

I ask everyone to remember that in the future.

Brad Craig is a senior in liberal arts and can be reached at bwc2m@mtsu.edu.

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.

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FEATURES



HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR ABOUT FRIDAY'S TORNA-DOES?

BASED ON VOTES FROM
MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Athens band goes from local to global

The Whigs score performances on 'Letterman,' in Japan, at musical festival

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

In the summer of 2005, three guys occupied an Athens, Ga. frat house, recording their first album. They used equipment purchased on eBay, which they would later resell once recording was finished.

What came out of the University of Georgia fraternity mansion was The Whigs' debut "Give 'Em All a Big Fat Lip." This rough-around-the-edges rock 'n' roll time capsule combines a vast assortment of rock elements, starting from the '60s and working up to present day. The album incorporates everything from post-punk to alt-country and grunge.

The Whigs — frontman Parker Gispert, drummer Julian Dorio and bassist Hank Sullivan, who would later be replaced by Tim Deaux — may have lacked high fidelity and a big budget, but the band made do.

"We tried to make up for [the lack of money] in good vibe and creating an environment in which we were having a lot of fun, which was definitely the case," Dorio says. "It was summertime in Athens. And Athens in the summer is a good place, which sort of showed through in the recording."

A band in Athens is definitely not news — the tiny college town is a thriving music scene, home to legendary venues like 40 Watt and the birthplace of R.E.M. and The B-52s. With so many shows on a nightly basis, a band has to stand out if it hopes to gain any sort of recognition.

"We always felt like Athens kept us on our toes," Dorio says. "Before you even get to play regionally or nationally, there are plenty of bands in Athens for people to go and see. You're not the only band in town."

"People don't have to go see you. They have a lot of options, so it's kept us working hard."

Whether or not the competition was a motivating factor, The Whigs churned out "Big Fat Lip" and released it in late 2005. It encompassed all the exuberance of a signed band that knows it has a suc-



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

The Whigs' drummer Julian Dorio performs at Exit/In in Nashville on April 3. To see more tour dates, visit thewhigs.com.

cessful tour ahead.

"I think you can be in a studio and have the nicest setting that money can buy, and that stuff is really nice," Dorio says. "But it does boil down to the songs and the state of mind you're in when you're making them."

The nicest setting that money could buy was actually not too distant for The Whigs.

Two summers later, the band was receiving very different treatment while working with Producer Rob Schnapf in the acclaimed Hollywood studio Sunset Sound/The Sound Factory. After signing with ATO Records, The Whigs found themselves going from frat house to L.A. studio to record album number two, "Mission Control."

The Whigs had experienced problems with major labels previously as so many other bands have. The typical indie-band-gets-screwed-by-the-big-bad-record-label scenario has happened before. But ATO was a polar opposite situation for The Whigs.

"Those really uncomfort-

able scenarios are almost cliché," Dorio says. "It's like, 'Why are you even signing this band when clearly it sounds like you don't like half the things they do?'"

"Meeting everyone at ATO was the opposite. They appeared like they wanted us to evolve, but they wanted to offer a home for the band. It didn't take us five minutes to be comfortable working there."

With ATO, "Mission Control" was released early in 2008. And instead of opening an altogether different book with the album, The Whigs just flipped the page.

In the tradition of "Big Fat Lip," "Mission Control" is the same sweet but gritty garage-rock with a definite Southern appeal. Gispert's gravelly drawl is not unlike the yowl of The Hives' frontman Pelle Almqvist or Spoon's Britt Daniel. And the album's rusty sound may account for The Whigs' general, do-it-yourself appeal.

It's evident in the grungy sound of "Right Hand on My Heart." The tune vaguely resembles that of Yeah Yeah Yeahs' "Dudley" and "Already Young," in which Gispert pulls a Kurt Cobain with his passive aggressive mumble of "I don't care what your old man thinks of me."

"Mission Control" brought a wave of success for The

Whigs in 2008. Having already played the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival the previous summer,

the band performed on "The Late Show with David Letterman" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," which significantly amped up the band's name.

"We could play anywhere in the States after that and people would come to the show and come up to us and say, 'We saw you on Letterman the other night,'" Dorio says.

The Whigs also played U.S. music festivals like SXSW, Sasquatch! and Bum-

bershoot as well as festivals in Ireland, Scotland and Belgium.

Performing overseas was a surreal experience for the band.

"You play in your basement for your whole life and you kind of feel like you wake up and you're in Japan playing a festival and you're like, 'What? How did this even happen?'" Dorio says.

Going from under-the-radar to overseas and playing festivals with bands the guys look up to has been exceptionally defining for them.

"It's the same if you're a writer or a doctor or anything [in that it's watching] some of the best in the world at what you do," Dorio says. "It's just incredible to stand on the side stage and watch a band like Radiohead where we played earlier that day."

The Whigs finished touring with Nashville's Kings of Leon earlier this year and an April 3 show at Exit/In wrapped up the band's last few gigs before returning to Athens. The trio expects to start recording their third full-length album in May, which might be released in

late 2009.

Besides traveling and practicing, Dorio says one of the upsides of being part of a three-man band is that there can be more of an emphasis on all band members, not just the lead singer.

Dorio grew up listening to his '60s-and-'70s-rock-loving father's vinyl records. He says he loves how all members of those bands had crucial roles, and how a fan's favorite member could easily be the drummer or bassist.

"I guess The Beatles in a way started that," Dorio says. "Your favorite Beatle could be George or Ringo. Modern day, people have no idea who the bass player is."

"In a trio, there's so much responsibility on each guy."

Onstage, they're all clearly working equal parts.

Gispert, who resembles a young Thurston Moore, has a powerful and entertaining stage presence that is countered by the energy and talent of his two bandmates.

The Whigs switched out bass players for six months after Hank Sullivan left to tour with other bands. Dorio was pronounced "Best Drummer" by *Esquire Magazine* in 2007, an award which flattered and embarrassed the drummer.

"I tried not to tell anybody," he laughs. "But my friends who are great drummers found out and gave me all sorts of hell."

Awards aside, what is most notable about The Whigs is the lack of labels stamped on the band. Dorio says they aren't opposed to having their music pegged as "garage rock."

"There's something in garage rock that indicates that it is not a highly-polished, radio-rock, mainstream band, but I don't know," Dorio says. "People are just always going to want to get on MySpace and see the little name of the category you fall in."

Most would say the band falls into the category of rough and grungy garage-rock. That said, The Whigs aren't doing anything avant-garde, but the bands musical scramble of established and pre-loved sounds may precisely explain their appeal.

BAND OF THE WEEK

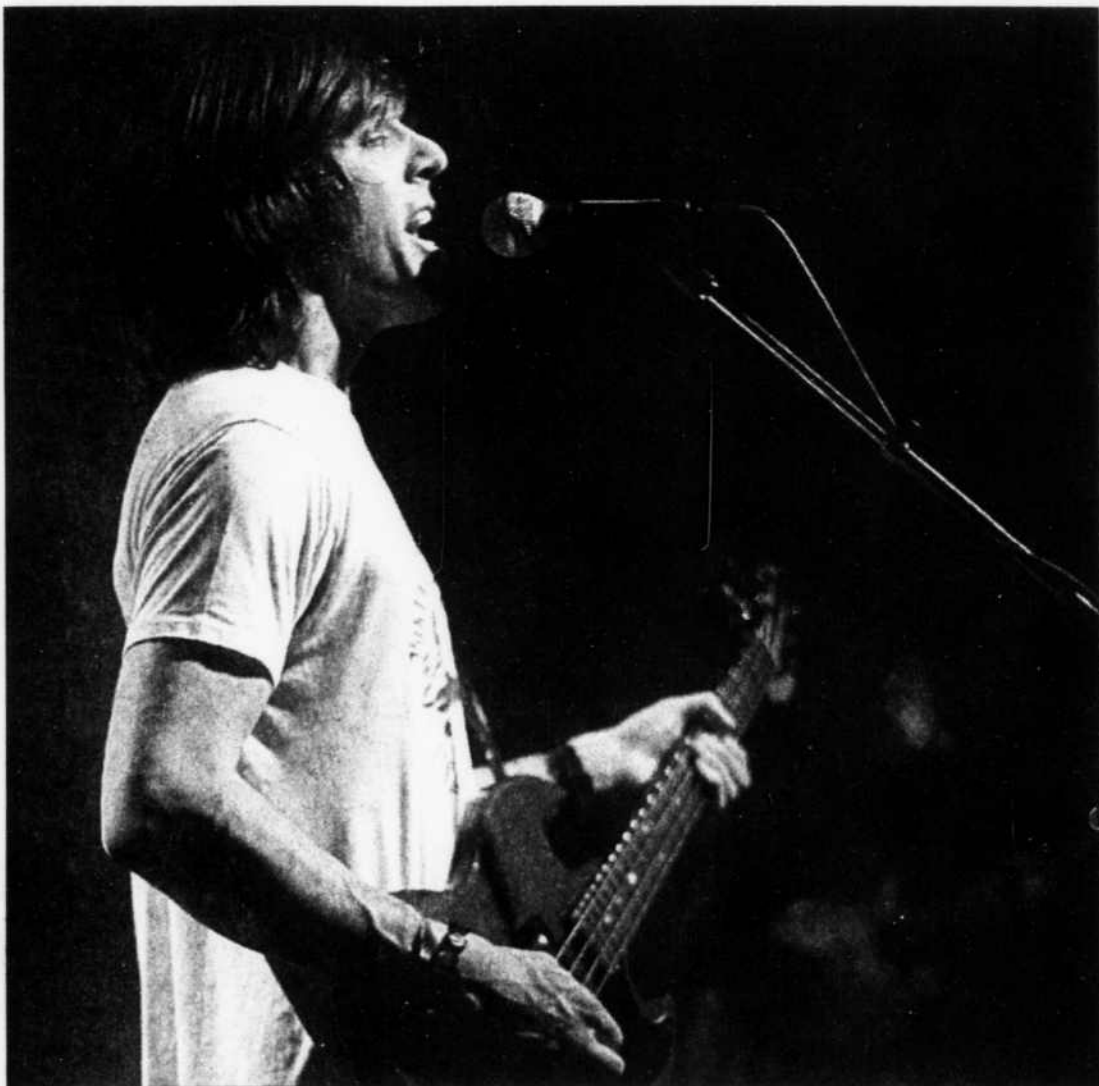


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Tim Deaux, bassist for The Whigs, joined the band after Hank Sullivan left.

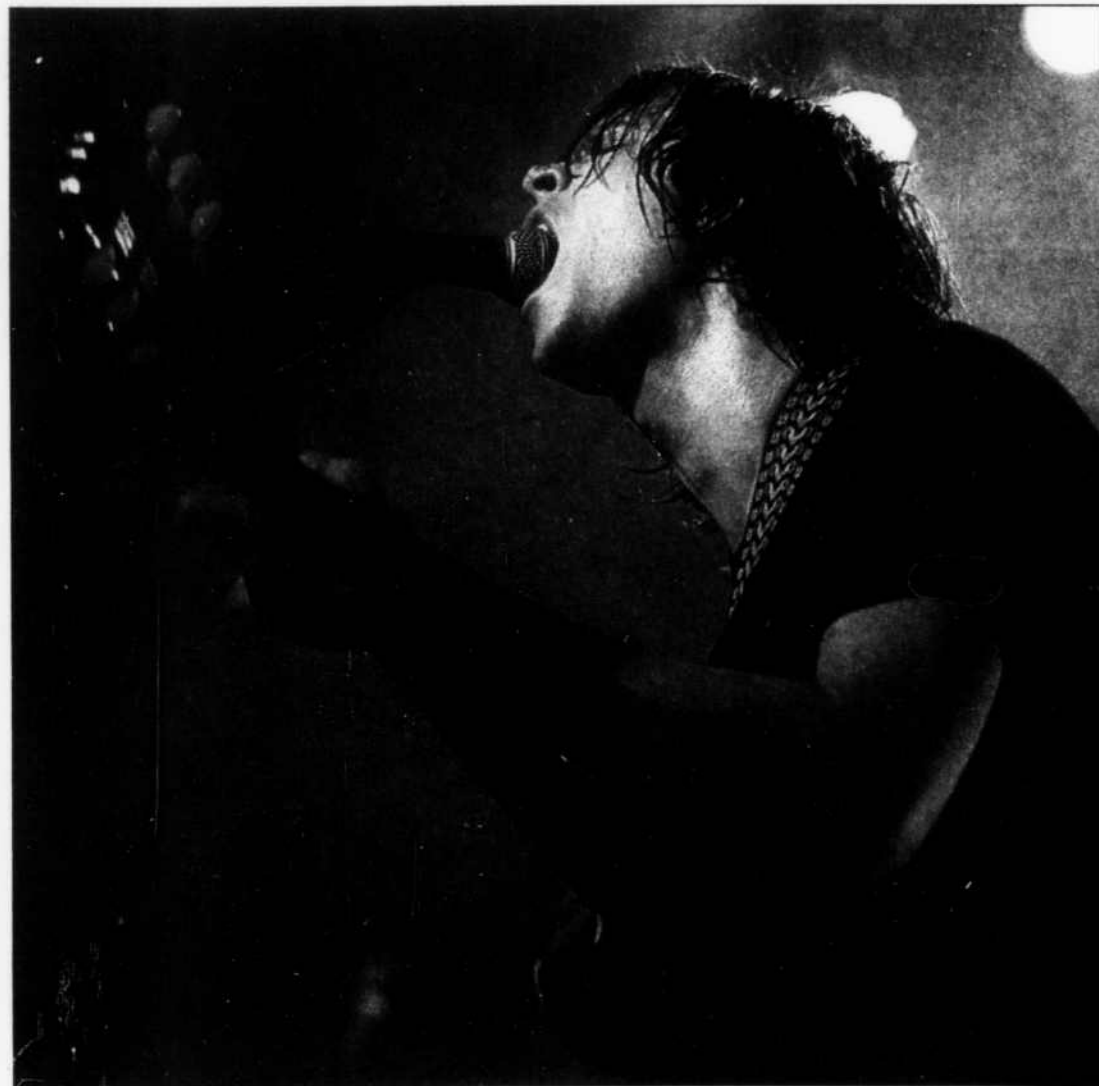


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Whig's guitarist Parker Gispert met the other original members of the band while in a fraternity in college.

Film Review

'Adventureland' less than stellar ride

Mediocre acting, base humor turns film into subpar teen comedy

By BYRON WILKES
Opinions Editor

Greg Mottola's "Adventureland" is a lot like the mediocre carnival rides that pervade most of the movie's mural: it's certainly fun at times, but are those few cheap laughs worth wasting your whole day at the sultry state fair?

To be sure, the movie isn't all that bad. Mottola also wrote the tale and weaves a moderately interesting coming-of-age story with wacky twenty-something antics in doing so.

"Adventureland" takes place in the summer of 1987 at a crappy amusement park where young college grads come to rot when they don't have real jobs.

The story revolves around James Brennan (Jesse Eisenberg), whose parents inform him their tough financial situation means he won't be traveling to Europe over the summer and he'll have to get a job.

Eventually, Brennan is forced to work at Adventureland, a ramshackle amusement park managed by Bobby (Bill Hader) and Paulette (Kristen Wiig), both of whom play off each other wonderfully. "Adventureland" does not suffer in giving Hader and Wiig more screen time than the assuredly hilarious bit parts they usually see on the big screen.

Brennan eventually, though predictably, falls in love with Em Lewis (Kristen Stewart, of "Twilight" and "Into the Wild"), whose character actually has some pretty serious relationship issues.

Unfortunately, Stewart's performance falls back to her classic formula: look as full of angst as possible and make sure your eyes constantly dart to the ground. This is how

she gets all the guys to ponder the greater transcendental mystery that is the secret to her heart — if you've seen her in other leads, this will be tediously familiar.

What is actually pretty engaging is the initial tension composed upon discovering early on that married maintenance man Mike Connell (Ryan Reynolds of "Waiting" and "Van Wilder") is having an affair with one or more of the park's younger staffers. Connell's initially cool demeanor abruptly morphs into a married man unabashedly running around town in the wee hours of the morn to cheat on his wife over and over and over. This is all pretty interesting to watch, but the latter half of the movie opts to focus mostly on the exchanges between Em and James.

Pot jokes and alcohol consumption fuel the movie, perhaps excessively so. The relative youthfulness of the cast begs the question: Were the ages of characters chosen simply so they could be shown drinking and toking up at every corner?

In terms of the adults, the parents of Em and James have superior chemistry. James' mom (Wendy Malick of TV's "Just Shoot Me") is convincingly nosy while incessantly harping on her son. His dad (Jack Gilpin) remains thoroughly tanked and silent throughout.

Em's dad (Josh Pais) is likewise quiet, while her stepmom, Francy (Mary Birdsong of TV's "Reno 911!"), is evilly intrusive and prone to pecking, which makes for some pretty arresting conflict later in the movie.

Fans of the TV series "Freaky and Geeks" will immediately recognize James' best friend at the carnival, Joel

(Martin Starr of "Knocked Up"). Starr's performance as the pipe-smoking Russian-literature graduate is not only hilarious but, at times, poignant. He is amusingly awkward, but his longing glances at Em and James reveal his

own desire to find a significant other.

As Em and James' relationship hits the rocks, the happy ending in which the guy gets the girl still becomes evident, though thankfully not as conventionally as in other

teen flicks.

Melissa Toth's costuming and Stephen Beatrice's production design are painstakingly vintage, though some facets, such as repeated references to a certain disco club, might feel more 1977 than

1987.

Mottola's "Adventureland" has its ups and downs like any rollercoaster, but the feel of the movie as a whole is lackluster and drab, like the obsolescent props and clothing that permeate it.

Director: Greg Mottola

Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart, Martin Starr, Bill Hader

Rating: R for language, drug use, and sexual references

Run Time: 107 minutes



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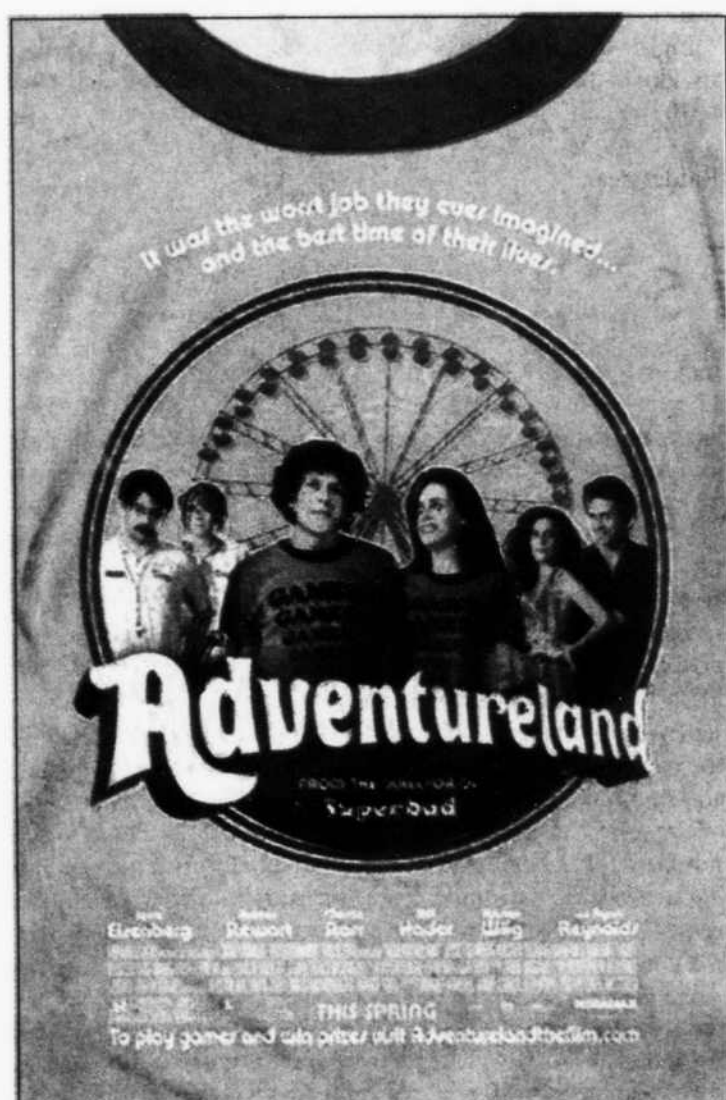


Photo courtesy of Miramax Films

"Adventureland" focuses on a group of teens getting their first job at a local amusement park.

SPORTS

Blue Raider softball falls 9-4 on road

No. 15-ranked Louisville relies on record-setting pitching staff, superior hitting to pull out win

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider softball team hung tough with the No. 15 University of Louisville Cardinals but fell 9-4.

MT led the game twice but could not hold on as the Cardinals' Kristen Wadwell set a new school record by allowing just one earned run on three hits in four innings.

Wadwell continues her reign as the nation's leader in wins and now owns the single-season record for victories.

MT sophomore Lindsey Vander Lugt got the start and pitched until the third inning, giving up two runs on six hits. Freshman Kellie Head followed and allowed two earned runs on four hits in just one inning as relief pitcher.

Freshman pitcher Caty Justson finished out the game for the Blue Raiders surrendering three runs across four hits.

MT got on the scoreboard in the top of the second off a double from freshman outfielder Shelby Barrett. Barrett advanced to third as sophomore shortstop Brittney Banania scored a base hit.

Sophomore right fielder

Kandra Singleton's bunt loaded the bases, and freshman and fellow second baseman Tobie Joy hit an RBI to bring Barrett to the plate.

The bottom of the frame saw MT making a strong defensive stand. UL catcher and clutch batter Melissa Roth managed to run the bases after a base hit but was thrown out at home plate.

The Cardinals responded in the bottom of the third with a bunted single from Vanessa James and a triple from Kristin Austin.

Chelsea Bemis followed with a single, giving Louisville the 2-1 lead.

The Blue Raiders staged a comeback in the top of the fourth. Barrett drew a walk from Louisville's Wadwell, who pitched her first inning of the game. Banania then shipped a shot to left-center field, missing the glove of Louisville center fielder Kristi Cunningham and rolling to the wall.

Freshman outfielder Kelsey Dortch gave MT the lead as she singled to center field, giving her an RBI and allowing Banania to score.

In the bottom of the fourth, Louisville's Brittany York hit a double and sparked a four-run inning that would pull the Cardinals ahead for the

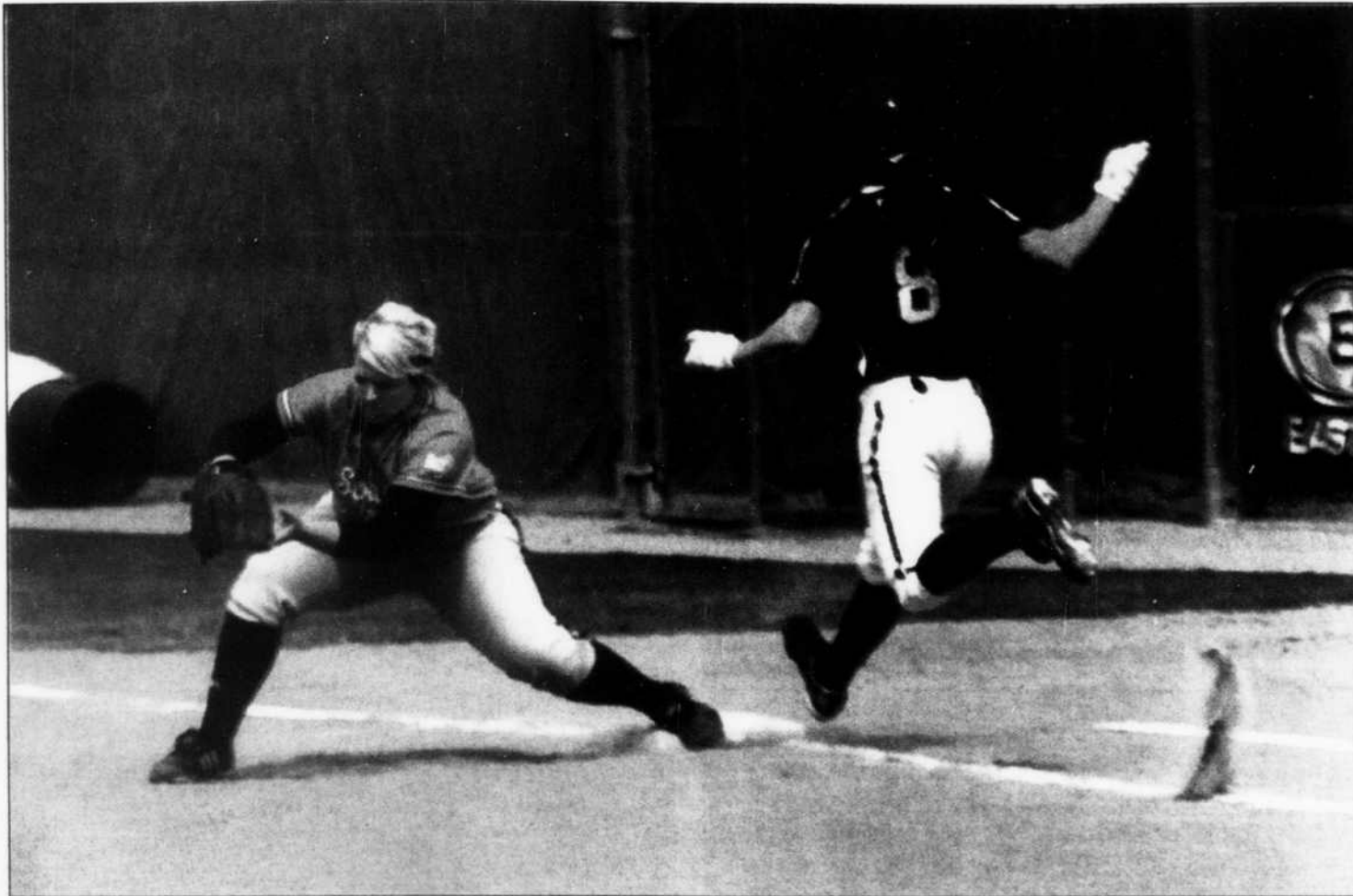


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Junior outfielder Caitlin McClure attempts to beat a throw to University of Louisville's first baseman. The Lady Raiders lost the game 9-4.

remainder of the game.

The Cardinals would continue to score in the sixth inning, using four hits and two errors to their advantage. York reached on an error and plated on Austin's double. Both Bemis and Megan Bivins scored on errors,

and Kassie Stanfill's base hit increased the lead to 9-3.

Junior outfielder Martha Davis attempted to revive the fledgling MT team in the seventh inning with a lone home run over the left-field fence. Davis' score brought the Blue Raiders to a 9-4

deficit.

Banania went 2-for-2, garnering an RBI and a walk to lead the Blue Raider offense. Davis finished 2-for-4 in the game.

Head took the loss, giving up four runs, two of which were earned in the first in-

ning.

This loss drops MT to 8-29 for the season, with a 3-15 conference record.

The Blue Raiders will next face Evansville in a double-header Tuesday. The non-conference contests will begin at 3 p.m.

Football team readies for Blue-White Spring Game

By RYLEE PATRICK
Staff Writer

The MT football team is set to conclude spring drills as it hosts the annual Blue-White Spring Game on Saturday at 1 p.m. in Floyd Stadium. The event is free and open to the public.

The game is an annual tradition that gives Blue Raider fans the opportunity to interact with the players and coaches while getting autographs and photos with the team.

"The game is more for the fans than for the players and coaches," head coach Rick Stockstill said. "We want to go out and compete and play well, but spring games are more of a reward for the players for all of the hard work they have done in the offseason."

For the first half of the scrimmage, the clock will run like a regular game before running continuously for the second half. Each quarter will last for 12 minutes.



File photo

Members of the Blue Raider football team are preparing for Saturday's annual Blue-White Spring Game.

utes.

"We've got a pretty good idea [of who will start in the upcoming season], but a lot of that will change," Stockstill

said. "Every day, you have to prove that you're a starter or a second-stringer."

"Just because you're a starter in the spring doesn't mean

you'll be a starter come fall. A lot can change between now and Sept. 5."

At halftime, the Blue Raider Athletic Association will recognize the high bidders from

an auction for the "blackout" jerseys from the game against Florida Atlantic University last season. Stockstill will also present spring awards to the players and recognize the returning lettermen.

"For the most part, it's been a really good spring," Stockstill said. "Offense started a little bit slower because learning a new system took the first four or five days, but the last five or six practices have been really good. Defense has been very consistent the whole spring."

"They had a good grasp of what they were doing. I like coming out of spring. I like where we are."

In addition to attending the game, Blue Raider fans are also encouraged to tailgate throughout the day at Greenland Drive as well as Walnut Grove.

Lightning's Locker Room in Floyd Stadium will open at 10 a.m., giving fans the opportunity to purchase Blue Raider gear.

Also beginning at 10 a.m., Blue Raider Athletics will hold their annual garage sale outside Lightning's Locker Room. Nike jerseys, a limited supply of helmets and other items will be sold.

An autograph session with Blue Raider players will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. by Gate 2A in the north concourse of Floyd Stadium, with photo opportunities and free roster cards available.

Throughout the game, athletic representatives will be available to sell season tickets for the upcoming football season. Season tickets are \$90.

Following the Blue-White game, the MT baseball team will be playing conference foe the University of Louisiana-Monroe at 4 p.m. All fans who attend the Blue-White Spring Game will be given a coupon for free admission to the baseball game. The coupons will be located at Gate 2A of Floyd Stadium.

Isiah Thomas brings pedigree of shame to SBC

Gaining national exposure for the Sun Belt Conference is a great thing—except when it comes in the form of a living train wreck that still hasn't finished blowing up.

Yet, that's exactly what Florida International University got Tuesday when it gave Isiah Thomas a 5-year contract to coach its men's basketball team.

Thomas, at first glance, has a long and storied basketball pedigree that could prove useful in coaching at the college level. He's a 12-time NBA all-star with two championship rings in his Hall of Fame career with the Detroit Pistons.

After his retirement from the pros, Thomas returned as a coach and led both the Indiana Pacers and the New York Knicks for a number of seasons before being fired for



Mr. Irrelevant
Zach Reves

"social mishaps."

Hoping to revive an anemic program that hasn't posted a winning record since 1999, FIU ignored the person and bought the brand name.

"Having a nationally recognized coach like Isiah at FIU will have a great impact on our university as a whole, helping us achieve additional national exposure," FIU President Modesto A. Maidique, told *Sports Illustrated*.

What FIU doesn't realize is that Thomas will have an impact, but not in the way it's hoping. Instead, the SBC now has a well-known figurehead with a well-known, and incredibly embarrassing, track record.

During his career, Thomas was the ringleader on a Pistons team commonly referred to as the "Bad Boys" for its rough, trash-talking style of play. Thomas held nothing back on the court with his play and his mouth, much to the chagrin of the rest of the league. Who can forget Thomas leaving the court pouting with 7.9 seconds left, refusing to shake the hands of the winners after losing in the 1991 playoffs?

As a coach, Thomas never found much success, both in the game and outside of it. In 2006, Thomas was sued

for sexual harassment, and while denying a majority of the charges, he did admit in his testimony that he referred to the plaintiff in derogatory fashions and that physical contact was appropriate between co-workers.

During the harassment trial, allegations of racist remarks Thomas had made also popped up into the mass media. It didn't help his case in the public's eye when he, talking about Larry Bird, said "He's an exceptional talent, but if he were black, he'd be just another good guy."

To finish the three-ring circus, Thomas was taken to a hospital by police after overdosing on sleep medication in 2008. It was ruled accidental, and Thomas was released from the hospital later that day. However, after the

incident, Thomas used his 17-year-old daughter as a cover-up, claiming that it was her and not him that suffered the overdose.

What does all this add up to? This is a man who is not responsible or in control of situations where he is supposed to be a leader. And FIU, desperate for attention, snatched him up despite all the red flags of poor judgment and social skills.

The SBC doesn't need a sideshow. It has been growing steadily for years now, but now the conference is stuck with one.

There is a reason why most pro teams around the country cut loose players and coaches with social dysfunctions. They are a plague that influences others and causes disruptions in the minds of those

around them.

And the Golden Panthers want a man like this leading and being a role model for their basketball team? Their decision to hire him was completely short-sighted. They saw only what they wanted to see as they turned a blind eye to the potential trouble that may come.

I sincerely hope that MTSU never follows the same path. I think I speak for the student body when I say that we want to win, but we will not sacrifice our morals for that cause. We should only allow those with moral backbones and heart to lead our teams to victory.

FIU may find out that once a derogatory event occurs, there is no way of ever removing the scar. Let's just hope FIU doesn't take the Sun Belt down with it.

Baseball team falls short against Vanderbilt

Rawley Bishop sets new Blue Raider record for career runs scored in 15-7 non-conference MT road loss

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Contributing Writer

Senior third baseman Rawley Bishop set the school record for runs scored, Tuesday, as MT fell to Vanderbilt 15-7.

Bishop's one run in the game put him at 180 in his career breaking the record held by shortstop Jeff Beachum, who played from 2004-2007.

Sophomore pitcher Jud Stoltz had early trouble with his command. He gave up four runs in the first four innings before a disastrous fifth inning forced him out of the game. He finished with seven earned runs surrendered on eight hits.

Sophomore reliever Marshall Mears had an equally tough time with the Commodores' lineup, surrendering six runs on five hits

in just two innings of work.

Senior reliever Brett Smalley also worked two innings, giving up two runs on two hits.

Sophomore left fielder Bryce Brentz led the Blue Raider offense, going 3-for-5 with a home run and three RBIs.

Bishop went 2-for-4 with one RBI. He also drew one walk and struck out once in the game.

Senior center fielder Nathan Hines contributed to the attack, going 2-for-5 from the leadoff spot. Hines notched one RBI in the contest to go along with two runs scored.

While the entire Commodore offense was productive, catcher Andrew Giobbi stood out the most, going 3-for-5 with a home run and four RBIs. Left fielder Joe Loftus also went

3-for-5.

Vandy pitcher Richie Goodenow made the first start of his collegiate career but got in trouble early and left after 3.1 innings of work, after surrendering four runs on five hits.

Reliever Sonny Grey was credited with the win, working 1.2 innings and giving up just one run. Vandy reliever Sean Bierman followed with three innings of one-run pitching, with Taylor Hill finishing the game for the Commodores.

The loss drops MT to 24-9 while Vanderbilt improves to 22-13 and snaps a two-game, non-conference losing streak.

The Blue Raiders are next scheduled for a three-game home stand against the University of Louisiana-Monroe starting this Friday at 6 p.m.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

A Blue Raider infielder waits for a throw as an opposing player tags the base. MT is now 24-9 this season.

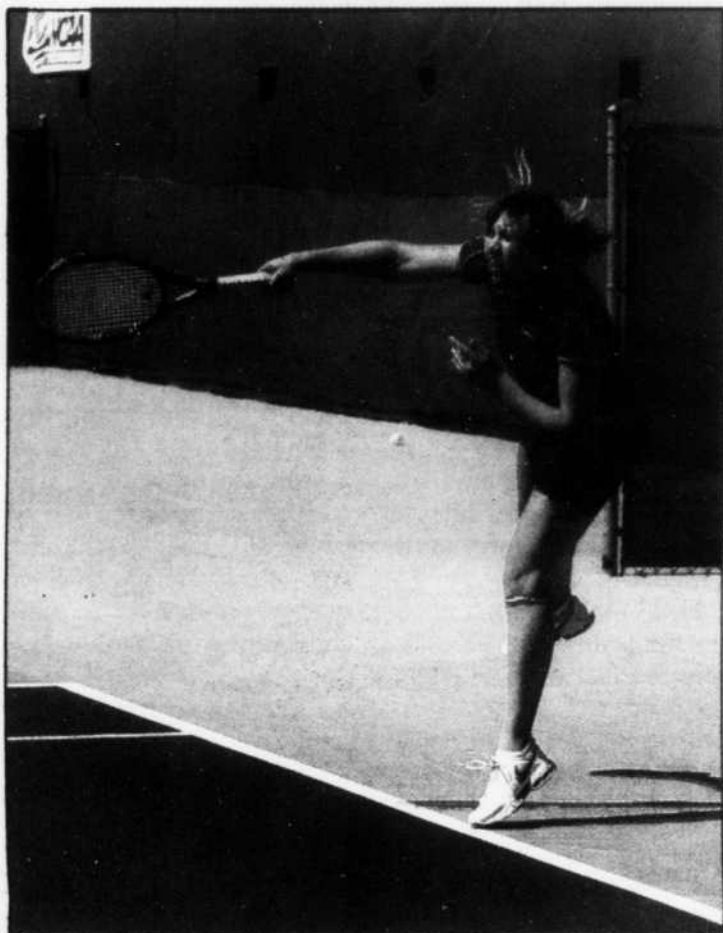


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Junior Natalie Araya hammers a serve in a solo match for MT. Both teams will begin SBC championships runs starting this weekend.

MT tennis ready for Sun Belt title

Men's team set to play rival WKU in tournament opener on Friday

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The MT tennis teams are currently preparing for the Sun Belt Conference Championships, hosted by the University of North Texas this weekend.

The men are slated as the No. 1 seed in the tournament.

This ranking comes on the heels of a win over in-state rival Belmont over the weekend. MT pulled out a 4-3 win over the Bruins, in part due to the No. 29-ranked doubles team of senior Robert McKenzie and sophomore John

Peers.

The Blue Raiders are set to first play No. 8 seed WKU at 3 p.m. on Friday.

The women's team will also be participating in the Sun Belt Championships. The team is seeded eighth out of 13 SBC schools.

The women's team will participate in this tournament following a loss to the University of Memphis on Sunday. MT finished the regular season with an overall record of 8-13.

The women are slated to begin play against ninth-seeded New Orleans at 8 a.m. on Friday.

MT TENNIS

Season Top Performers

Marlene Chemin
(SR-3L)
14-11

John Peers
(SO-1L)
21-3

Robert McKenzie
(JR-TR)
20-1

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