

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008

EDITORALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 84 NO. 17

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Lady Raiders lose in OT



Amber Holt scores 32 points, but it's not enough as Kentucky defeats MT in 68-66 in overtime.

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FROM MARCH 7 - AUGUST 2008

MTSU Blvd. is closed from Rutherford Blvd. to Blue Raider Drive due to construction. Drivers will be able to enter the campus off Rutherford Blvd. at Alumni Drive (newly opened road by Greek Row). The 4-way stop at MTSU Blvd. will also be closed during construction. Please follow detour signs.

The gravel lot at the corner of MTSU Blvd. and Rutherford Blvd. will also be closed during this time. Students are recommended to park in the Rutherford Blvd. lot across from Greek Row and ride the shuttle.



Photo courtesy Trey Sugg
Students raise awareness for the homeless through "Cardboard Village" by the KUC on Monday, March 24.

Helping the homeless by raising awareness

MTSU chapter of Habitat for Humanity spends week rallying support on campus

By BYRON WILKES
Contributing Writer

MTSU Habitat for Humanity raises awareness and money this week with its "Habitat Week" fundraiser.

The event is being held on the Keathley University Center Knoll until Friday afternoon.

Awareness of bankruptcy by sub prime mortgage was one of many platforms Habitat addressed during their awareness and fundraising week.

After building homes erected from cardboard boxes and duct tape, members of Habitat for Humanity spent the night in the homes on Sunday and Monday to raise awareness about the homeless.

"It really shows a lot of devotion to the cause to put themselves out there like that," said Courtney Watson, senior journalism

major. "They're not even complaining about it, even though they're facing the elements."

Currently, there are 1,681 families in Murfreesboro who live in public housing or are on a waiting list. These habitat families are mostly made up of the working poor and are required to invest 400 hours into helping with the construction of their house as well as paying a low interest fixed mortgage rate.

"Even if this isn't your issue, I hope this inspires [people] to take action and be constructive, regardless of what the cause is," said Dean Andrews, Habitat for Humanity member and junior political science major. "Habitat for Humanity is a hand up, not a hand out."

According to Andrews, the purpose of the cardboard village is to confront the apathy of regular college

life with the starkness of life as a homeless person and contrast the different lifestyles of similar people.

Habitat Week will also include a nine-hole miniature golf course constructed on the KUC Knoll, as well as a basketball hoop game and DJ on Thursday.

After raising money and awareness throughout the week, members of Habitat for Humanity will go directly to a neighborhood home site and help with the construction of a house on Friday, March 28.

"Friday is more of a day for us as the Habitat for Humanity chapter," said Adam Brown, Habitat for Humanity president.

In addition to constructing a home and entertainment event on the Knoll, Habitat for Humanity held a car bash on Tuesday as a

HABITAT, PAGE 2

MTSU hosts Web lecture

Gore, Seigenthaler discuss Internet issues in KUC Theater

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

Former Vice President Al Gore visits MTSU with guest Seigenthaler to discuss his observations and experiences with the Internet on March 27 in the Keathley University Center Theater.

Numerous lectures and discussions will take place throughout the day as students and community members are encouraged to attend.

"This event is designed to explore the Internet in a rapidly changing society," said Beverly Keel, director of the Center for the Study of the Internet. "This will help us examine where we [society] are and what needs to be done about it."

The event will begin with Cass Sunstein, author of *Republic.com 2.0*, who will discuss the Internet's effect on Democracy and self-government.

Following Sunstein, John Seigenthaler will reveal his actual experiences with Wikipedia in a lecture entitled "The Wonderful World of Wikipedia: Sinbad, Fuzzy Zoeller, Ann Coulter and Me." Throughout the speech, Seigenthaler will discuss how he was accused of killing John F. Kennedy and raping Jackie Kennedy.

In contrast to Seigenthaler, Jimmy Wales, creator of Wikipedia will discuss "The Future of The Free Culture: Challenges, Changes and Opportunities."

According to Keel, the fact that students will have the opportunity to see both sides will be very beneficial to understanding the Internet's role.

After a brief intermission, Al Gore will reveal his ob-

servations about the Internet due to his recognition, as one of the people to predict the success the Internet would have. Gore will give his opinion on this technology as he addresses the topics of Internet blogs and news reports.

Shortly after Gore's lecture on Internet blogging, Wales and Seigenthaler will join him for an hour-long roundtable discussion.

"It will not be a debate but more of a conversation with each other to discuss the Internet and how it has brought about impact," Keel said.

Following the roundtable discussion, a panel featuring Sunstein; Robert Cox, President of Media Bloggers Association; Karen Dunlap, president of The Poynter Institute; Jonathan Landman, Deputy managing editor of *The New York Times*; and attorney Charles Sizemore, who represented a client that filed a lawsuit for libel and invasion of privacy against bloggers will be held to discuss the Internet's impact on journalism.

"The Internet is nothing short of a revolution in journalism," Keel said. "It has changed the way journalists do their job."

In addition to the impact the Internet has had on journalism, Frontline documentary *Growing Up Online* will be showing before a panel entitled "What Parents Should Know About the Internet."

The guests on the panel will include Anna Benson of Metro Nashville Public Schools, Eric Anderson, detective sergeant of Tennessee Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Becky Alexander and her son, Eldridge Alexander.

INTERNET, PAGE 2

Afroflow educates on smoking risks

By TALIA CUNETTO
Contributing Writer

The American Cancer Society presents Afroflow Tour to encourage tobacco cessation and cancer awareness through influential music and poetry courtesy of rapper Michael "MIKE-E" Ellison.

Although the main purpose of the Afroflow Tour is to educate on the effects of smoking, entertainment and audience participation are other goals that Ellison strives to achieve in every performance.

"Once I set out on my own path, I determined very early that I would always make the audience a part of whatever I do," Ellison said.

From the second the music started to play on March 24 on the Keathley University Center Knoll, Ellison introduced vocalist Kenny Watson, DJ Invisible and African

percussionist Sowandé Keita, as students were already being incorporated into the live show through Ellison's freestyle lyrics.

Less than 10 minutes into the performance, the artists brought the first student up to perform.

Ellison handed the collegian volunteer a tambourine and asked her to play with the music however she saw fit and to pass the instrument to someone else when she got tired. Immediately, the crowd was moving to the beat, despite the unseasonably cold weather.

The musicians called up singers and other students to perform with them throughout the show, showcasing some of MTSU's talent. Ellison said that the artists involved with Afroflow want to break the barrier between them and the audience.

"There are enough en-



Photo by Chet Overall, Contributing Photographer.
"MIKE-E" persuades students to stop smoking outside the KUC on Monday, March 24.

emies of art so if you want to befriend the artist, give him a platform," Ellison said.

Using eye catching techniques, Ellison soon had the

attention and participation of everyone who stopped to listen.

Adam Dickson, senior electronic media commu-

nication major, said that he could not help but notice that the crowd kept growing

TOBACCO, PAGE 3

Professor criticizes forgiveness in lecture

Vanderbilt philosopher speaks on Friday

By MICHAEL CANNON
Staff Writer

John J. Stuhr motivates students to analyze viewpoints and actions towards themselves during his critique on negative consequences of forgiveness.

Stuhr, a Vanderbilt University philosophy professor, delivers his lecture "Against Forgiveness" at 3:30 p.m. in room 304 of the James Union Building on Friday.

The MTSU philosophy department is sponsoring Stuhr's lecture as a part of their annual Applied Philosophy Lyceum.

During the lecture, Stuhr aims to demonstrate that, contrary to popular belief, our conception of forgiveness can have profoundly negative consequences in both our personal lives and broader culture.

"Forgiveness for many people is like motherhood and apple pie, and so they may wonder why and how anyone would criticize forgiveness," Stuhr said.

In addition to lecturing, Stuhr has written a book about the subject of forgiveness.

"I want to distinguish the book from the huge number of self-help books that preach the moral, religious, political, psychological and medical virtues of forgiveness," Stuhr said.

The lecture examines forgiveness from various aspects, including ethical, religious and legal senses, Stuhr said. Psychological, economic and medical focuses on forgiveness will also be examined.

"The practical implications will concern how we view and treat ourselves, how we view and treat people around us, and how we view and treat people around the world," Stuhr said.

Currently a professor of philosophy and American studies at Vanderbilt, Stuhr primarily researches social and political philosophy, ethics, American philosophy, 19th and 20th century philosophy and contemporary cultural issues and problems.

In addition to teaching, he

has also authored numerous articles and books, including "Pragmatism", "Postmodernism" and "the Future of Philosophy".

One of the chief components of philosophical work is real world application, Stuhr said.

"The point of philosophy is not to make theory more practical but instead to make practice more intelligent," Stuhr said, quoting American philosopher John Dewey.

Stuhr has applied his research to many concrete issues such as mediating dialogue between environmentalists and logging communities in the northwest.

In addition to working on projects concerning democracy and public media, he has also designed programs for diplomats on ethics and terrorism.

"Non-philosophy students should attend for the same reasons anyone else should - to learn something, to expand their imaginations, to gain some critical perspective on who they are now, to surprise themselves and above all, to live better," Stuhr said. "All this, plus there is no quiz afterwards."



STUHR

HABITAT FROM PAGE 1

way for students to vent their mid-semester frustrations and donate money to the homeless for the price of \$5 per hit.

As a way to encourage donations, an all-you-eat nacho buffet was held in the KUC in

room 313 on Wednesday for students and members of the community to enjoy for \$5.

Habitat Week is one of the first major fundraising events Habitat for Humanity has hosted since being chartered in 2007.

Brown said the chapter hopes to raise an estimated amount of \$1,000 to donate

to the Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity to ensure the money goes into the hands of the community and those who need it.

"This week was devised independently and entirely by the organization," said Trey Sugg, Habitat for Humanity liaison and public communications director.



Photo by David Angel, Contributing Photographer

Students protest Iraq War

Students for a Democratic Society protested the five-year anniversary of the invasion last Thursday, March 20.



Photo by Ryan DeBooy, Photography Editor

Courtney Cox, sophomore undeclared, protests Thursday.

INTERNET FROM PAGE 1

"Parents depend on children to guide them through new technology, but have no clue what their children are doing on the Internet," Keel said. "This will give them the tools to help monitor

what their children do online."

As a whole, Keel said that the Internet impacts the lives of every student she knows. By coming to this event she hopes to warn them about their descriptions or information posted on various Internet sites such as Face-

book and MySpace.

"As students prepare for careers, they need to know the Internet is public property and future employers view MySpace or Facebook sites," Keel said. "When inviting the world into your life, be aware of personal information told online."

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10:25 a.m.- John Seigenthaler

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1:45 p.m.- Gore, Wales and Seigenthaler

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Student dies in wreck

STAFF REPORTS

MTSU flew flags at half-staff this past Monday in honor of a 20-year-old student who died last week after sustaining injuries in an automobile wreck.

Colee Andre, sophomore concrete management major, sustained fatal injuries after his vehicle veered off of Hamilton Drive on March 17. He died while being transported to Vanderbilt Medical Center via helicopter.

An additional passenger, Patrick Meador, 22, suffered non-life threatening injuries and was airlifted to Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

Funeral services for the Michigan native were held in Mt. Morris, Mich. on March 22. Andre is survived by his father, mother and sister.

"He was such an outgoing

person," said Nicole Houston, Andre's girlfriend, to *The Daily News Journal*. "He loved life. Everyone loved him and he had so many friends."

Andre moved to Murfreesboro to attend MTSU and play ice hockey, he would be remembered for having a great sense of humor.

"We always fly the flag half-staff when a member of the MTSU community dies," said Becky Garrett, coordinator of University Withdrawals. "He was a good student."

According to Murfreesboro police, Andre's full-size truck hit a brick mailbox at high speed, overturned and struck a utility pole. The impact ejected Andre from the truck.

Debris from the wreck caused damage to two additional vehicles.

TOBACCO FROM PAGE 1

as the event continued.

"I think [the artists] did a good job of using music to express what they wanted to say," Dickson said. "They got a lot of attention from passersby."

Aside from the star quality "MIKE-E" exhibited on the knoll, Afroflow's real message was not overlooked. From the moment Ellison shared his first poem with the crowd, it was clear that Afroflow had come to promote tobacco cessation.

Halfway through the performance, Ellison asked students to throw their cigarettes onto the knoll and take the first step toward becoming nicotine-free. After several requests, a pack of cigarettes was tossed at the artist's feet. This act was rewarded with a hug from El-

lison and a free copy of the Afroflow album.

Others soon started to hand over cigarettes as well, and were each given a copy of the album in return. Ellison believes that he gets through to his audiences by putting the problem in a social, historical context.

"When [audience members] see this as a poison industry that was built on the backs of slave labor and is maintained through the misery of economically-challenged people, black and white, it strikes a different chord and it gives people greater incentive," Ellison said.

By appealing to diverse crowds, Afroflow can reach out and shared its anti-smoking message with people from many different backgrounds. A smoker himself, Dickson said that the performance did not make him want to stop smoking.

However, he did appreciate the non-forceful way in which the topic was approached and thought that the show appealed to smokers and nonsmokers alike.

Ellison said he is proud to be working under a sponsor like the American Cancer Society and that he feels good about the message it sends to bigger name artists. He said that he wants other artists to feel good about their music, their message, and the fact that neither are being delivered along with alcohol or tobacco marketing.

This is only the second year that Afroflow has toured, but Ellison said it looks like they will be on the road for years to come.

Ellison said that he and sponsors are strongly considering taking the tour national next year but that they would love to come back to MTSU.

Veteran alumna returns

STAFF REPORTS

The first black woman to serve as a combat pilot in the U.S. military, Vernice Armour, spoke Monday night in the James Union Building.

Armour, an MTSU alumna, served two tours in Iraq with the Marines, piloting a Cobra helicopter. After introductions Monday night she burst into the Tennessee Room collecting high fives while the music from the movie "Top Gun" played.

Armour did not dwell on the challenges she faced, either in combat or in achieving her dream, though only in the last few decades have women gained the right to initiate U.S. military combat.

"Acknowledge the obstacle; don't give it power" was Armour's mantra for the evening, as she recounted stories from growing up in Memphis. She told of her efforts to learn to play trombone in middle school, and reminisced about her first motorcycle, which she bought with student loans when tuition at MTSU was \$836.

"Prepare for passion," Armour told students before moving on to talk about her experience as a police officer in Nashville.

"News flash: Your mentors aren't always going to look like you," Armour said in closing. "It's not always who you know - It's who knows you."

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

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

Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15

Editor selection will be held the week of April 28 and will be conducted through an interview with the University Newspaper Publications Board.

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

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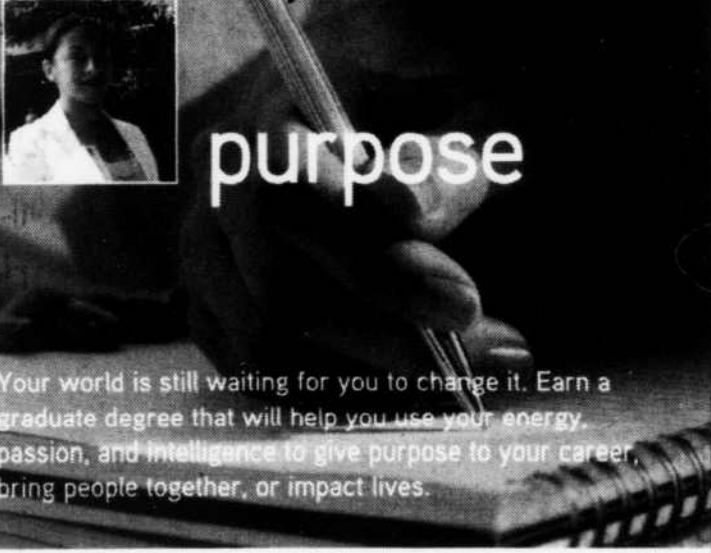
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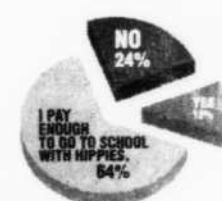
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FEATURES



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THE RIM WORLD

With graduation approaching, one recording industry student wonders, 'what next?'

By **MICHAEL STONE**
Staff Writer

Brad Sanders didn't know for sure which road he wanted to take when he graduated from Lone Oak High School in Paducah, Ky., but he had a general idea.

"I was in a couple awful bands in high school," Brad says. "It was then that I discovered that I'm not a songwriter or a performer. I still had a love for music, though."

When Brad shared that idea with his high school counselor four years ago, she suggested looking into the recording industry program at Middle Tennessee State University.

Working behind the music scene sounded like a dream job to Brad, but he wasn't sure if MTSU was the right place to start that dream. But after weighing his options, he knew the university was the right choice.

"I looked at a lot of recording programs," Brad says. "Places like Belmont and Butler would have put me in some pretty bad debt. MTSU has paid for my education in scholarships, so at least I won't have creditors chasing me when I'm homeless after college."

The recording industry program at MTSU has three concentrations: music business, production and technology and commercial songwriting.

When Brad made candidacy—the process in which 50 recording students in the fall, 50 in the spring and 15 in the summer are admitted into the program based on grades—he chose production and technology as his concentration.

"I wasn't worried about making candidacy," he says. "I was worried about what happened once I got in. You get thrown into the program without ever touching a console."

The production and technology major teaches students how to become recording engineers and gives them a good knowledge-base about the recording industry in general. But Brad feels most of the learning takes place after college.

"MTSU has given me a knowledge base to perform an entry level position in the recording industry," he says. "But most of it is learned on the job because there are so

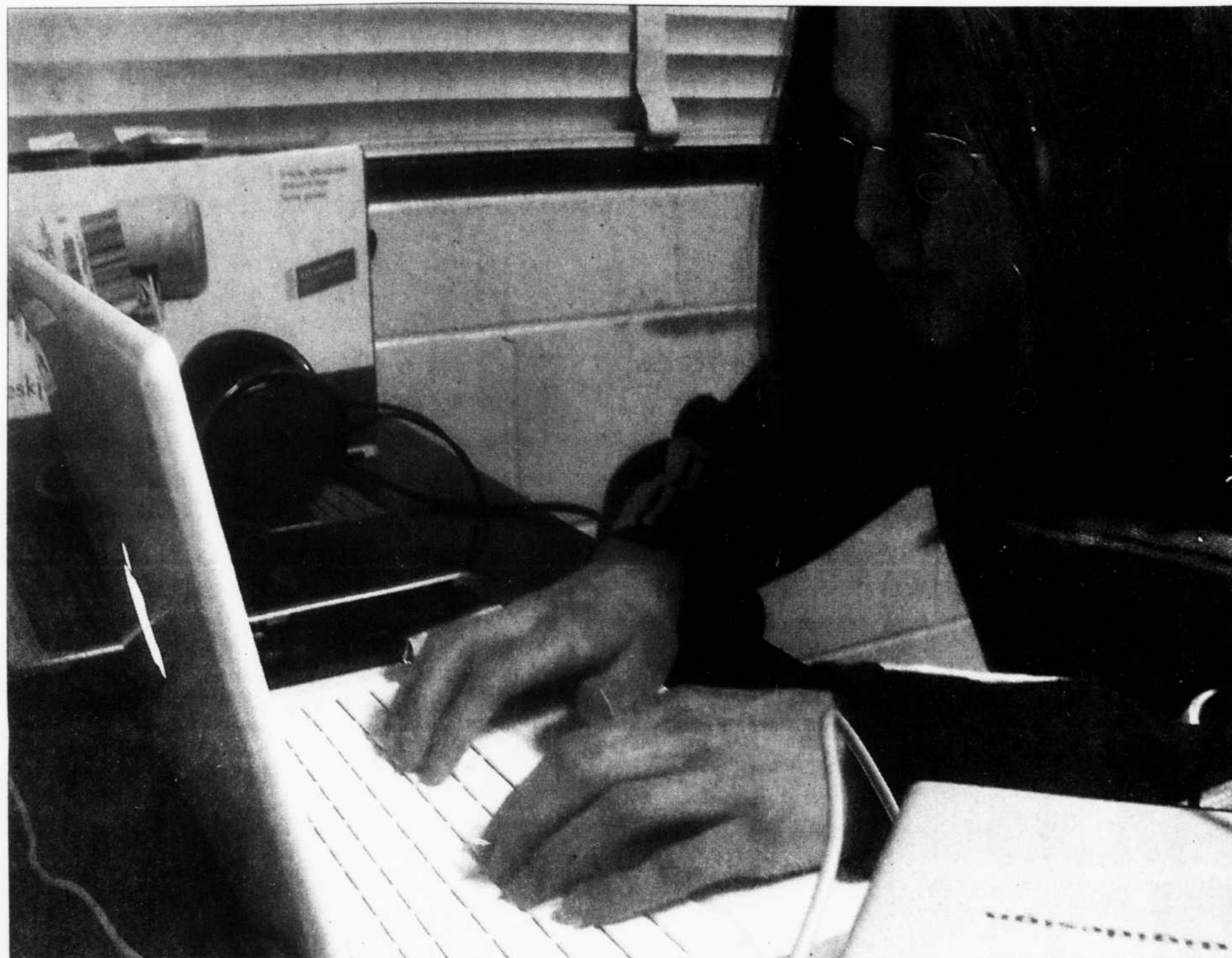


Photo by Michael Stone

MTSU recording industry student Brad Sanders is working through his last stretch of classes before graduation. But he still wonders what really comes next.

many different situations that won't come up here at school."

The class that has been most beneficial to Brad in getting that "piece of paper" was his Advanced Technology of Digital Recording class with Professor Dan Pfeifer.

"[Brad] was a good student and worked hard," Pfeifer says. "You could tell he was thinking and wanted to learn."

In addition to doing what is required for class, Brad has been involved with a recording-related organization, the Audio Engineering Society.

AES is not the only organization related to the recording industry on MTSU's campus.

"Students are encouraged to get involved with clubs and organizations on campus, specifically RIM-related ones," says Sarah Jackson,

academic adviser for RIM students. Audio Engineering Society, ASCAP, Society for Electronic Music and Grammy U are just some of the organizations recommended.

Brad says he believes that what recording industry students do in and out of class, though, is nowhere near as important as the connections made within the industry.

"[Recording industry jobs] aren't in the want ads," Brad says. "You have to know people and keep in contact with them. There are so many people wanting jobs, and the connections are what get you them. Not a degree, not grades, but connections."

Since Brad is graduating in May, keeping in contact with those connections is more important than ever for him.

"I try and keep in touch with everyone I have met, es-

pecially the people in Nashville," he says. "People there are nice and will work with newcomers to the industry."

Brad had enough credit hours to graduate last December but felt that the more knowledge he obtains about the industry, the better. So he stuck around.

"I decided to come back because my scholarships hadn't run out yet," he says. "I'm taking some business classes this semester to get a more diverse knowledge of the recording industry. I'm probably not going to be doing engineering right out of college, so the more I know about different aspects, the better."

While at MTSU Brad has enjoyed the more linear structure of his business courses.

"The teacher tells you something, [and then] you remember it and recall it for

the test," he says. "Engineering requires more creativity and subjectivity."

But Brad doesn't want that creativity and subjectivity to be up to him. He wants it to be up to the musicians he records.

"Bob Johnston was the man who recorded Bob Dylan," he says. "He said that all he did was put [microphones] in front of the band and hit record. He just got the sound and captured the moment. That's what I want to do."

No one in the recording industry gets to be Bob Johnston immediately after graduation, of course.

According to Nancy Stubblefield, the career coordinator for RIM students, the average salary for graduates right out of college is \$26,715.

"[The amount] is more than I expected," Brad says.

"I'm sure that figure doesn't include the graduates stocking groceries, because if it did, it'd be a lot lower."

Brad doesn't have anything lined up yet, not even stocking grocery shelves for after college. And for him, this ending is a little frightening.

"I know I'm good at school," he says. "But I'm not so sure I'm good at life."

Professor Pfeifer has confidence in Brad, though.

"Brad shows a lot of potential," he says. "He seems to have a good musical ear and a good initial grasp on the technologies involved, [which is] a very good combination. It's too early to tell how well Brad will do, but in reality, it's all up to him."

Perhaps, one day, we'll have Brad or another RIM student at MTSU to thank for the next Bob Dylan.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES (AP)

— The Los Angeles Times will conduct an internal investigation concerning the authenticity of documents used in a story that implicate associates of Sean "Diddy" Combs in a 1994 assault on Tupac Shakur, the editor of the newspaper said Wednesday.

In a story posted on the newspaper Web site, Editor Russ Stanton said he ordered the review after the editor

of the Web site The Smoking Gun told the newspaper he had reason to doubt the validity of the FBI records that were supposed to back up the story.

"We're taking this very seriously and we have begun our own investigation," Nancy Sullivan, a spokeswoman for the newspaper, told The Associated Press.

BOSTON (AP) — This could make for one odd

family reunion: Barack Obama is a distant cousin of actor Brad Pitt, and Hillary Rodham Clinton is related to Pitt's girlfriend, Angelina Jolie.

Researchers at the New England Historic Genealogical Society found some remarkable family connections for the three presidential candidates — Democratic rivals Obama and Clinton, and Republican John McCain.

Clinton, who is of French-Canadian descent on her mother's side, is also a distant cousin of singers Madonna, Celine Dion and Alanis Morissette. Obama, the son of a white woman from Kansas and a black man from Kenya, can call six U.S. presidents, including George W. Bush, his cousins. McCain is a sixth cousin of first lady Laura Bush.

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Justice Department on Monday approved Sirius Satellite Radio Inc.'s proposed \$5 billion buyout of rival XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc., saying the deal was unlikely to lessen competition or harm consumers.

The transaction was approved without conditions, despite opposition from consumer groups and an intense lobbying campaign by the land-based radio industry.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)

— Justin Timberlake has made two separate donations of \$100,000 each to the Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum and the Memphis Music Foundation.

The 27-year-old area native, who was in Memphis for filming on the independent movie "The Open Road," presented the checks to the two groups last week at the museum.

Janet's new CD utilizes old school signature

BY KYMETHEA BRADEN
Contributing writer

Janet Jackson's new album, "Discipline," gives listeners a combination of her signature sultry yet sweet sound along with a futuristic edge.

Indeed, this CD is different from what fans are used to. Fortunately for Janet, different is good.

Jackson teams up with producers Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins, The Dream, Jermaine Dupri, Ne-yo and Chris "Tricky" Stewart—among others—to accomplish a slightly different sound.

"Feedback," produced by Jerkins, is the album's first single, is energetic and club-ready. The digitalized beat is reminiscent of the song "Together Again" from her sixth album, "The Velvet Rope."

Other memorable tracks on the album are the fun and upbeat second single "Luv" during which she sings, "Got me I'm caught in a wreck I'm a mess/ Somebody call the paramedics cause/ He hit me with his luv," along with the ultra-smooth "Rock With U" and the sultry ballad "Can't B Good."

Although most of the tracks on the CD are enjoyable and memorable, some of them are easily skipped over. Tracks such as "Never Letchu Go" and "Greatest X," which are both ballads, fade into the background even after listening to the album numerous times. The album also has an overabundance of interludes—nine of the 22 tracks, to be exact. The majority of the interludes are of Jackson carrying on a conversation about her ex-boyfriend with what seems to be a robot servant, leaving the question: is all this space-filler really necessary?

Overall, Jackson takes a trip back to the basics while creating a modern sound with "Discipline," illuminating Jackson's growth as an artist and demonstrating how her views on relationships have matured. It omits the overly sexual tracks that her albums have had in the past, with the exception of the title track, "Discipline."

This is an album that Jackson's older and younger fans alike can appreciate. The elements that launched her to the top—with albums like "Control" and the sound newer generations are accustomed to with albums like "All For You"—are present in this CD.

Super Smash Bros. Brawl smashes

By JAMIE LOVETT
Staff Writer

Plumbers, princesses and anthropomorphic animals are ready to fight to the finish in "Super Smash Bros.: Brawl," the latest Nintendo blockbuster, developed by HAL Laboratories Inc., to arrive on the Wii.

One part multi-player fighting game, one part Nintendo tribute to itself, "Brawl" pits Nintendo's popular franchise characters against each other in fast-paced, free-for-all battles.

"Brawl" is the third game in the Super Smash Bros. series and boasts the most expansive lineup of characters yet, including series staples like Mario, Samus and Link, Nintendo rookies, such as Pit from "Kid Icarus" and Kirby's dark nemesis Metaknight, and even a couple flag-bearers for other companies in Sega's "Sonic the Hedgehog" and Konami's "Solid Snake."

The basic game-play remains mostly identical to previous series installments. Up to four combatants are chosen and sent to battle on one of the games' many stages, most of which are meant to resemble a location from a Nintendo game, such as the Bridge of Eldin from "The Legend of Zelda: the Twilight Princess."

Characters then fight it out, raising their opponents' "hit percentage" with each blow landed. The higher a character's hit percentage gets, the better chance that character has of being knocked off the screen for a knockout (K.O.).

Players can choose from three different types of matches: "Time" matches are contests to see who can K.O. the most opponents within a set time limit, "Stock" matches are "last man standing" style affairs, and "Coin" matches have players scrambling for gold that falls from there opponents after being hit. Time limits and the number of K.O.'s a player is allowed can be customized from the options screen, as well as many other features that create a large amount of freedom for players to choose exactly how they want to battle.

While going it solo, players can participate in "Classic Mode," where they are put through a gauntlet of opponents in typical fighting game fashion, "Event Matches," which offer special circumstances and unique situations for a player to deal with, or the new "Subspace Emissary" adventure mode.

In "Subspace Emissary," the Nintendo heroes team up to face off against an invasion by mysterious mechanical creatures who have enlisted the aid of many Nintendo villains. The heroes must jump from world to world to

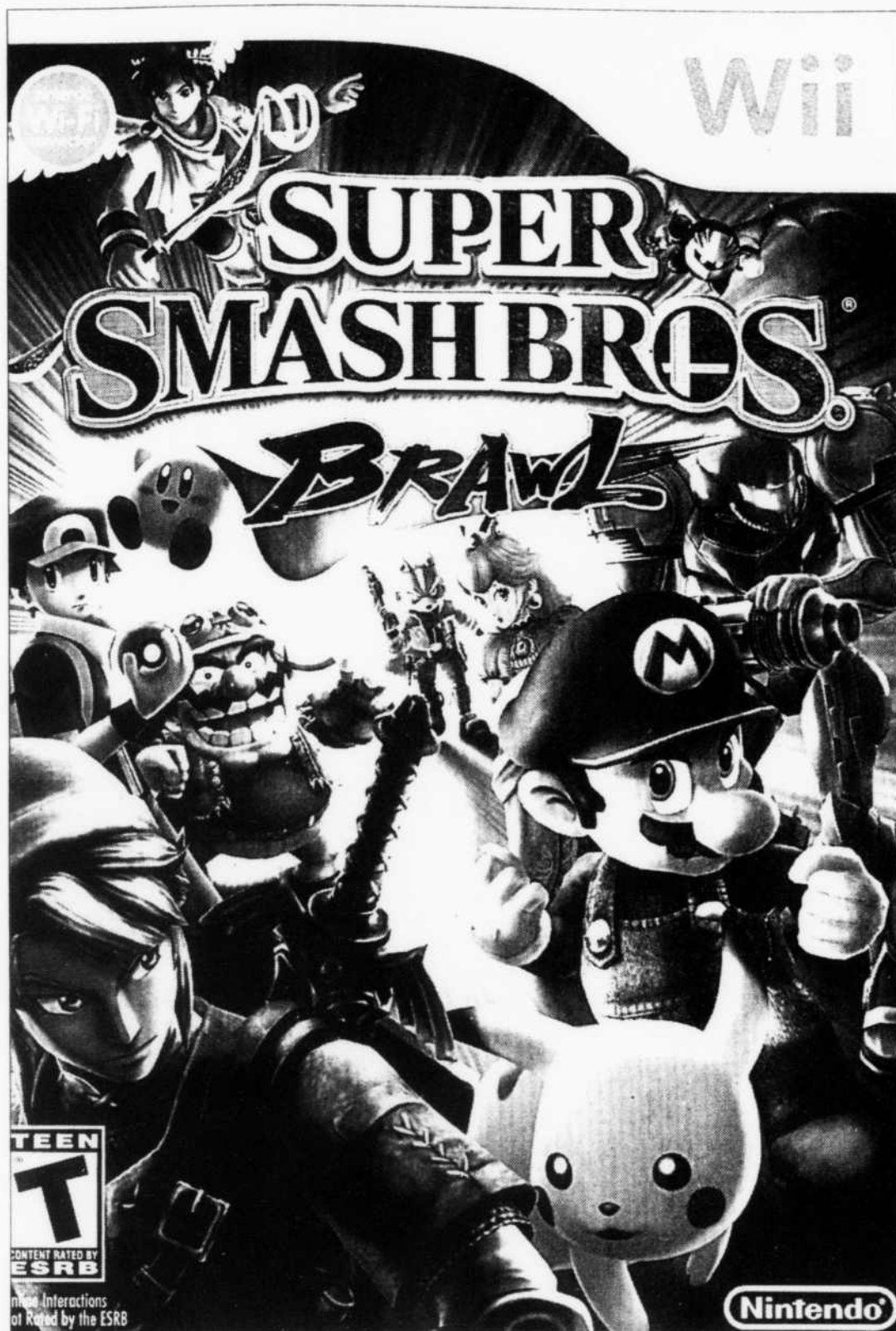


Photo Courtesy of Jamie Lovett

Nintendo's "Super Smash Bros.: Brawl" may have its flaws, but it doesn't disappoint.

battle these foes and defend their homes.

The story in "Subspace Emissary" is more than a little similar to "Square-Enix" and Disney's franchise-combining series "Kingdom Hearts," only without the depth, character development or dialogue. However, the Nintendo characters' charm manages to shine through in humorous cut-scenes between each level.

The game-play in "Subspace Emissary" is reminiscent of the Tekken Force mode in "Tekken 3." Characters are taken straight from the fighting roster and placed in a side-scrolling "beat 'em up" setting. A second player can tag along in a similar fashion to how Tails tagged along with Sonic in "Sonic the Hedgehog 2": player two can fight by player one's side, but cannot advance the screen, and only player one's deaths count against the total lives count.

Repetitive combat, dumb level design and controls not meant for the side-scrolling genre keep this mode from shining. It takes a long time to complete, but there's not a whole lot of variety in the opponents players will face. Some of the stages are actu-

ally empty of any enemies or obstacles at all, and when players do fight, the controls simply feel too loose for close combat against so many minor foes.

"Subspace Emissary" isn't great, but it can still be fun to play with a friend, even if only to see the cut-scenes and unlock more of the game's secrets.

Multiplayer-mode is where the game's real meat is at. Up to four players can play together in either a "Brawl," with everyone fending for themselves, or a "Team Match," which allows players to form one-, two-, or three-player teams for combat.

Players can choose from four control options: a Wii remote with a nunchuck, a Wii remote turned sideways, a classic controller, or a GameCube controller.

The GameCube controller is the only really comfortable fit. The Wii remote with nunchuck combo feels strange and unresponsive, the Wii remote turned sideways simply doesn't have enough buttons, and the classic controller suffers from awkward button positioning.

The in-game combat remains mostly unchanged. Players use smash attacks,

special attacks and randomly generated items to try to K.O. their opponents. The speed of the game-play has been toned down a bit from the frantic pace of "Super Smash Bros.: Melee," making it a bit easier to keep track of what's going on during the game.

This isn't to say that the game is slow. "Brawl" is still as fast-paced and tense as its predecessors, leaving players at the edge of their seats while they struggle desperately to stay on the screen.

One major addition to the game mechanics is the "Smash Ball" item. These floating, glowing balls will randomly appear, and whichever player manages to destroy it will be able to perform their character's "Final Smash" attack.

A "Final Smash" is a powerful finishing blow that almost always results in massive damage and probably death for at least one, or possibly all of the character's opponents. Whenever one of those balls appears on screen, players will no doubt want to pay attention.

Brawl is also the first game in the series to offer the ability to play over the Internet through Nintendo's Wi-Fi service. This a huge step

forward for the series but is severely flawed in its current form.

When playing online, players can choose to play "With Friends" or "With Anyone." The former requires players to trade "Super Smash Bros.: Brawl" friend codes with each other. After adding a code to their friend list, players can then see if the player attached to that code is online when they go to enter a match and try to join a game with them. The friend code system isn't nearly as intuitive as an online hub like Xbox Live, but once friend codes are traded, connecting "With Friends" is fairly painless.

Playing "With Anyone" is even more painless, since it removes the need for a friend code. Players simply enter a "Play Anyone" match, and wait for their opponents to be chosen.

Once everyone is logged in, the battle begins. Unfortunately, in order to play "With Anyone," players have to sacrifice match customization options and are instead relegated to two-minute timed matches.

While playing against friends over the Internet can be a lot of fun, the lack of leader boards, voice chat and player profiles really hurts the "Play Anyone" option. It's impossible to communicate with your opponents, and since no names are displayed on the screen at any time, it's impossible to find a good opponent again, at a later time, for a rematch.

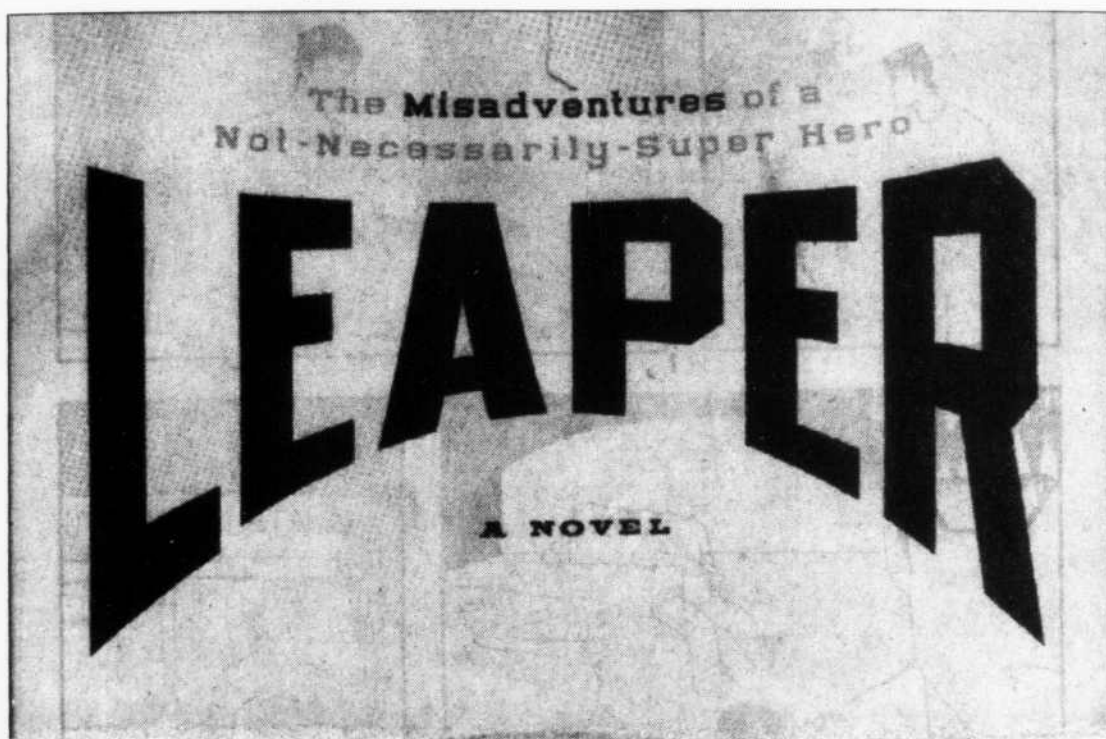
Without any human contact, playing online with random strangers just ends up feeling very much like playing computer-controlled characters.

The game's graphics are simple and colorful, which fits well with a cast of characters consisting mostly of cartoon mascots. The level of polish and detail in the character design and level background can't compare to that of other Wii highlights such as "Super Mario Galaxy" and "Metroid Prime 3," but this is forgivable considering that the game runs at a never-wavering 60 frames-per-second no matter how chaotic and cluttered the action on the screen gets.

While some of the new play modes in "Super Smash Bros.: Brawl" are flawed, the core gameplay is more fun than ever thanks to the subtle tweaks made during the development process and the addition of "Final Smash" attacks. The online play modes and new level editor only add to the previous games' already incredibly high replay value.

"Super Smash Bros.: Brawl" will certainly have fans of the series and newcomers alike hooked for weeks, months, and maybe even years to come.

'Leaper' makes a smooth landing



By SAMANTHA EGBERS
Contributing Writer

Since when does a superhero not get the girl?

In Geoffrey Wood's novel "Leaper," we meet a superhero who can never seem to get the girl, or even begin to understand the business of being a super hero.

Spun in a style reminiscent of 90s cinema, the novel's not-quite-superhero James tells the story of his life. He talks in the spaces between the inaction and misadventure that falls atop his shoulder with the coming of this new life.

James is just your ordinary, 12-espresso-drinking barista when he suddenly finds a way

to transport himself across time and space.

Trying to cope with his newfound power, his new divorce and picking up the pieces of his caffeine-fueled life, James finds himself at the most inopportune time to suddenly be able to defy the laws of physics.

Not to mention, he sounds a little crazy if he tries explaining his situation to anyone.

Perhaps even more important, if not more compelling, is the true theme of the book. Between the loosely written novel and kooky characteristics of the main character, you find yourself relating to James, which can become

scary when you begin to relate to his feelings of mistrust and desire for redemption.

This book holds between its pages wonderful twists on our ways of thinking. There are tears of laughter instead of pain, a superhero who has no idea how to be super and only a duct-tape-ridden apartment as his home base, and a heartbreakingly accurate display of what it means to be saved.

Don't be fooled—"Leaper" is nothing like the new movie "Jumper" that just got done rocketing the box office.

"Leaper" is a one-of-a-kind, laugh-out-loud-funny novel you will find yourself making excuses to read.

OPINIONS

Equal rights needed for all workers

Employers and agencies take advantage of contracts at workers' expense

Temporary employment agencies are often touted as a quick and easy way for low income and "unskilled" workers to find a job.

This claim has some justification, as the hiring process for these temporary agencies generally only consists of filling out a few forms and providing a Social Security card. Prospective employees do not have to endure a selective hiring process and can often be assigned work the same day they apply.

Labor's equivalent of fast food may offer, as its name implies, temporary employment, but it comes at an unreasonable cost. Any short-term benefits of temp agencies are often outweighed by tricky contracts, legal loopholes, and few rights in the workplace.

These agencies essentially function as a way for businesses to draw on a cheap labor pool without having to abide by the labor standards reserved for traditional, permanent employees. For example, if an auto factory is looking to hire new employees, recruiting through a temp agency is much more cost-effective. If the factory

management were to hire workers directly, it might be obliged, by a trade union or various laws, to pay workers higher wages and provide them certain benefits.

Hiring through a temp agency, however, allows management to substantially cut overhead, at the worker's expense. Few, if any, temporary positions carry some form of health insurance, pension, or other benefits. This, coupled with the fact that many employers do not recognize temp work on a resume, makes temporary work the quintessential dead-end job.

Here in Murfreesboro, Temporal Personnel do not even have full control over their own paychecks. Instead of issuing checks or direct deposits, All-Star gives their workers "pay cards," which can only be used at select ATMs.

This arrangement also makes it much easier for agencies like All-Star to deduct fees from employees' wages. These can range widely, from a few dollars to an entire week's pay.

Perhaps the most offensive



Pravda Michael Cannon

aspect of All-Star is a clause in their hiring contract, which must be signed and agreed to in order to work. If someone quits without putting in a two-week notice, his or her unpaid hours revert to minimum wage. The fact that this is legal is a sad example of how far workers' rights have regressed.

By using temp workers instead of permanent, businesses can pay less for labor and terminate employment at any time. Such actions are possible because the temp workers are not employed by the site they work at; they work for the temp agency. This is analogous to an individual using a contractor to build a home. The construction workers are not

the homeowner's employees. The client pays a fee to the contractor to use their employees' labor. Similarly, a temp agency receives a fee from the client business, and also garnishes some of the temp worker's wages. Consequently, workers can be out of a job or suddenly shifted to another jobsite at the client company's whim.

In addition to rocky job security, temporary workers receive considerably less pay than their colleagues in permanent positions. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of 2003, "temporary agency workers earned on average around 24 percent less than permanent employees holding a comparable position."

This kind of disparity is in part made possible by nonsensical laws that place many temp workers in the same category as small-business owners. As such, a number of basic workers' rights are negated. Due to temp workers' status as self-employed, they can be both paid less and be subjected to legal action if they make a mistake on the job. Additionally, this working arrangement makes

it nearly impossible to form unions, as temp workers are scattered in different industries and employed by different agencies.

The weakness of organized labor has probably aided the growth of temp agencies to some degree. The growing number of temporary workers in the labor market is symptomatic of the drastic decline in workers' rights over the past few decades. In a state like Tennessee, with its anti-labor "right to work" laws, temporary agencies are particularly harmful to people's careers and standards of living. It would be lovely if our elected officials would benevolently update our antiquated labor laws.

But as we all know, the state concedes nothing without pressure. Working people themselves must bring the labor movement back to its militant roots in order to replace sporadic employment with quality jobs for all of us.

Michael Cannon is a sophomore sociology and philosophy major and can be reached at mrc3G@mtsu.edu.

FACES IN THE CROWD

What do you think about former Vice President Al Gore, New York Times Managing Editor John Landman and Wikipedia creator Jimmy Wales coming to speak at MTSU on Thursday?



Bridges

"I didn't know they were coming. What are they going to talk about? If it's something significant, that's great."

Daniel Bridges, junior physics



Woodard

"Honestly it's not a big deal to me. I'm probably not going to see it. If I lived on campus and was bored, I might go."

Miles Woodard, sophomore math sciences



Johnson

"I guess it's good that MTSU is getting some acknowledgement."

Onethia Johnson, senior veterinary medicine



Dave

"I think that it will be a good [opportunity] for MTSU to get their name out there."

Tiara Dave, freshman Electronic Media Communications

COMICS



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rally for global human rights

I am writing to ask you to join the event "One Human Race" in support of justice for Tibetans and all people.

This is an opportunity to come together with people from different faiths, cultures and communities in support of human rights for Tibetans and for the oppressed all over the globe.

This rally will take place on Sunday, March 30 at 1 p.m. on the lawn in front of the downtown Nashville courthouse, on the corner of Union Street and Third Avenue.

In keeping with Buddhist

tradition, we invite you to bring a blanket or towel for sitting. You may also bring drums and other percussion instruments to join with us at closing to send the sound of 1,000 drums (from the heart) for Peace.

We will share stories and poems written by Tibetan exiles and former prisoners of conscience, and offer suggestions on what we can do to help.

Speakers from many different faith groups will be represented as we call for our communities, our politicians and the leaders of countries all over the world to respect the rights of all people.

In this climate of divisive-

ness, let us come together to show that compassion and justice are universal to all faiths and to all people.

Please plan to bring flags, signs and banners with statements compassionately in support of our brothers and sisters around the world. Most importantly—bring you and your family to stand with us.

No doubt you have seen the photos and reports of Tibetans calling for the end to the oppression of their religion and culture.

This is a chance to not just stand up on the news, but watch it and support basic human rights that we all should be granted: freedom of religion and freedom of

speech.

It is easy for us to speak out. It is not for those who live under a regime that crushes free speech with an iron fist. Tibetans are risking their lives to speak out against the oppression they have endured.

Stand with them in solidarity that all humans should live in equality.

This event is supported by Project Giving Justice, Tropic Heat Studios, Blue Moves Modern Dance Company, Homeless Power Project and members of the Nashville Peace and Justice Center.

For more information, contact: onehumanrace.justice@gmail.com or

615-469-2584.

"The free must speak for the unfree, and the silenced." —Nawang Losel, Tibetan exile

Giselle Roche, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

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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Do you want to give your opinions about current events and get paid for them? Write for *Sidelines*. Come to Mass Comm 269.

SPORTS

Wildcats need overtime to edge MT

By JO JO FREEMAN
MT Media Relations

Brandi Brown hit a 3-pointer in the final seconds to send the game to overtime but Middle Tennessee scored just a pair of buckets in the extra period, as the Wildcats escaped with a 68-66 victory over the Blue Raiders in the second round of the WNIT Friday night at Memorial Coliseum.

Kentucky (16-15) led the game almost the entire second half after a 9-0 run in the opening minutes, but the Blue Raiders continued to hang around despite shooting less than 30 percent most of the period. Brown hit a 3-pointer with 1:20 left before UK's Lydia Watkins missed a pair of free throws, her only mistakes of the second half.

Amber Holt then scored two of her 32 points on a layup with 22.3 seconds remaining. After a timeout the Blue Raiders (22-12) forced a turnover on an inbounds pass by the Wildcats and took the ball under the Middle Tennessee goal. Holt got the inbounds and drove to the basket, kicking it out for Brown, who nailed it from the corner with a hand in her face.

UK could not get off a shot until just before the final horn, a desperation heave by Victoria Dunlap that fell short. It capped a frantic comeback by the Blue Raiders, who were playing their second game in three days in the WNIT.

In the overtime UK's Samantha Mahoney hit a driving layup 56 seconds into the extra period, and it was the only points for either team until Holt scored with 1:11 remaining. Watkins hit a turnaround jumper as the shot clock expired for the Wildcats before Holt scored

again.

Watkins missed the next time down the floor and Holt got the ball in the final minute. Her defender fell down on the entry pass and it took her a split second to realize it. She took a 10-footer off the glass, but the ball rattled in and out and Chelsea Chowning made a breakaway layup for a four-point UK advantage.

Holt nailed a 3-pointer on the next trip with 4.4 seconds remaining and Chowning made just 1-of-2 free throws, but the Blue Raiders were unable to get off a last desperation shot before the clock expired.

Holt added six rebounds to go with her 32 points as well as three assists, while Chelsia Lymon was the only Blue Raider in double figures, netting 11. Brown added eight, but the Blue Raiders shot just 37 percent for the game and were 9-of-27 from 3-point range.

Watkins was a beast in the second half on the glass, grabbing 13 rebounds in the period, including five on the offensive glass. The Wildcats outrebounded Middle Tennessee, 36-18, in the second period, including 15 offensive boards.

Watkins finished with 16 points and 16 rebounds, while Chowning added 13 and Mahoney had 10.

Holt scored the first bucket of the second half for the Raiders before UK reeled off nine consecutive points, including a pair of putbacks by Victoria Dunlap. The Wildcats went ahead by as many as eight, as the Blue Raiders could not buy a basket in the first eight minutes of the second period, going 3-for-14, including at least two missed layups by Holt.

Middle Tennessee slowly

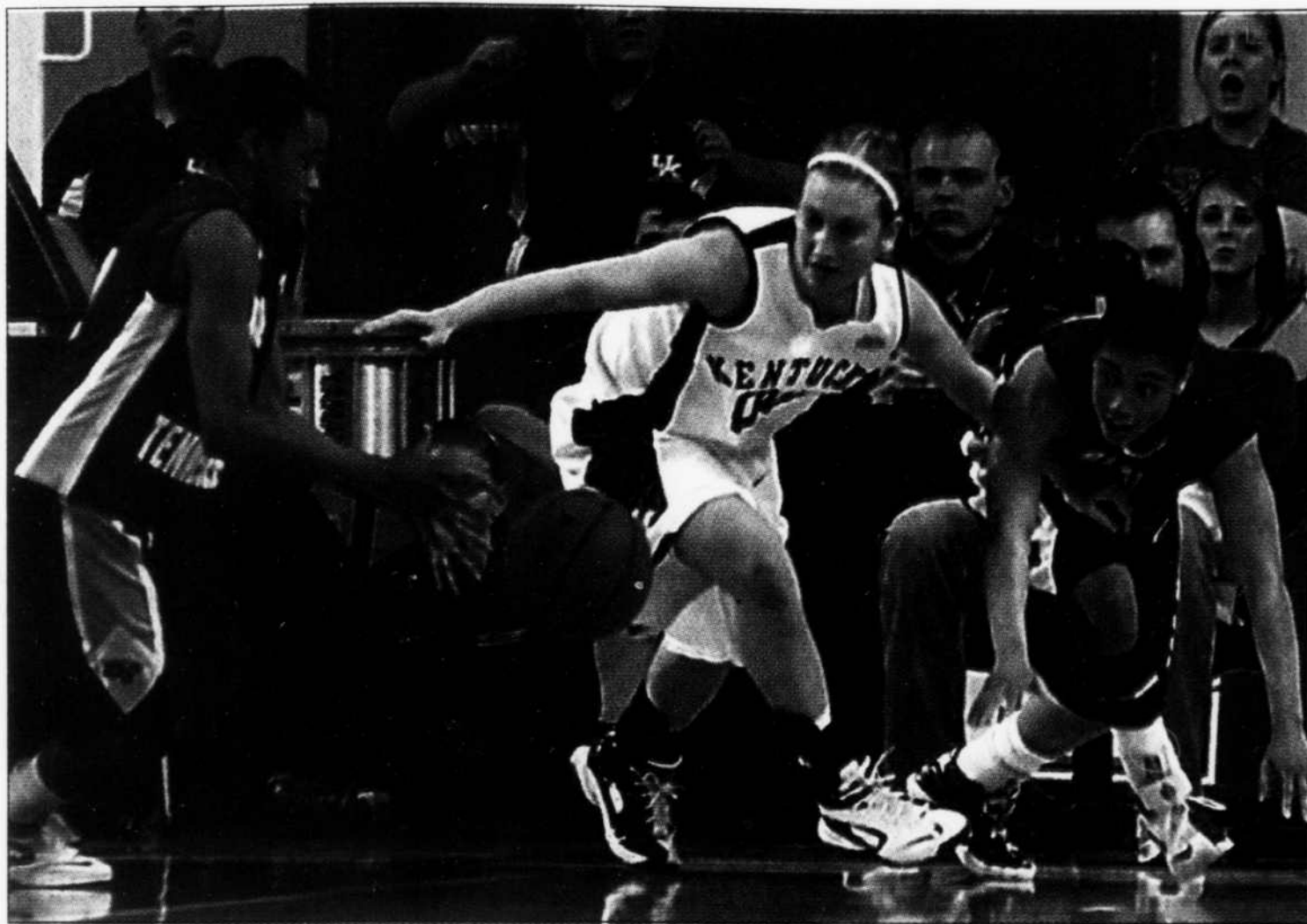


Photo by Bradley Lambert, MT Media Relations
Chelsia Lymon (left) and Latoya Barclay (right) scramble for a loose ball in the Lady Raiders' 68-66 loss at Kentucky on Friday.

climbed back into the contest, starting with a 3-pointer from the wing by Jackie Pickel. Holt added a bucket and Brown made nice move in the low post for another. After the under eight media timeout, Lymon knocked down a 3-pointer, cutting the deficit to 49-48, but Pickel's 3-pointer the next time up the floor was off the mark. That was as close as the Raiders would get until Brown's 3-pointer sent the contest to overtime.

The first half saw consecutive big runs by the two teams in the middle of the period. The Blue Raiders put together a 10-0 spurt over 2:01 that featured four points from Emily Queen and two each by Lymon, Pickel and Latoya

Barclay for a 23-12 Raiders advantage.

But the Wildcats answered with an 11-0 run to tie the contest, starting with a 3-pointer from the corner by Amani Franklin. Watkins added a 3-point play and Dunlap had a bucket before Chowning knocked a down a 3-pointer to cap the run with 6:29 left in the half.

The teams were back-and-forth for the rest of the half from there, with Holt netting the final six points for the Raiders, including a driving layup with 1:06 left to put the visitors ahead 29-28 at the break. At one point at the end of the first half and the beginning of the second, Holt netted 13 consecutive points for the Blue Raiders.



Photo by Bradley Lambert, MT Media Relations
Chelsia Lymon (left) was MT's second-leading scorer with 11 points.

Softball team completes sweep against Austin Peay

By DAVID POWELL
MT Media Relations

Caitlin McLure was 4-for-4 as the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (9-16, 3-5) exploded for eight runs on 12 hits in a 8-2 victory over the Austin Peay Lady Govs (4-17, 1-5) in the first game of a doubleheader at Blue Raider Field on Wednesday afternoon.

MT sophomore Lindsey Vander Lugt (6-9) made her 15th start of the season in the win. The lefty gave up two runs and scattered seven hits while striking out one in the complete game.

Meagan Williams (0-7) picked up the loss for the Lady Governors. The sophomore gave up three earned

runs on four hits while walking two in 2.2 innings.

Ashley Elrod gave up five runs on eight hits, while striking out one in 3.1 innings of relief for the visitors.

Later in the day, Davis crushed two home runs and the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (10-16, 3-5) continued their offensive prowess as they completed the sweep over the Austin Peay Lady Govs (4-19, 1-5) with a 11-3 win in the second game of a doubleheader at Blue Raider Field on Wednesday evening.

McLure powered the Blue Raiders to a 8-2 win in the first game of the doubleheader earlier on Wednesday. The sophomore went 4-for-4 with three runs scored and a RBI to

lead the MT offensive attack.

Vander Lugt (7-9) picked up the win for the Blue Raiders in the relief appearance. The lefty hurled a shutout and scattered three hits, while striking out two in 2.2 innings.

Kellie Head got the start and gave up three runs on four hits in 3.1 innings pitched.

Whitney Padgett opened the 2nd inning with a triple down down the right field line before Cerda's sacrifice fly to deep right field pushed Middle Tennessee out in front 1-0.

Austin Peay scored three runs in the fourth inning to take a 3-1 lead. Ashley Alverson, Krista Henke and Meagan Williams had RBI hits

for the Lady Govs.

Middle Tennessee's defensive effort was highlighted by Padgett's spectacular play at third base which she rushed forward to field a slow rolling ball and fired a throw to first base across her body for the second out of the fifth inning.

The Blue Raiders pulled a run back in the bottom of the fifth inning to make it 3-2. Darlington began the inning by reaching on a fielding error by Lady Govs shortstop Brittany Williams.

Cerda singled to center field before Darlington advanced to third base when pinch hitter Jessica Ives flew out to deep center. Darlington scored on a wild pitch by

Austin Peay pitcher Williams to cut the APSU lead to one run.

Darlington and Cerda went a combined 4-for-5 with five runs scored and two RBI.

Middle Tennessee smashed four runs by the Lady Govs in the fifth inning to take a 6-3 lead. Ashley Cline started things off with a single to left field before advancing to second base off a throwing error by Lady Govs catcher Daniella Hooper.

Abel lined a RBI single to right field, driving in Cline tie the game at three runs apiece. After McLure was thrown out trying to score following a wild pitch, Davis nailed a two-run homerun to left center field.

Darlington tripled to left field and was plated by Cerda's sacrifice fly down the line in right field to score the final run of the inning.

The Blue Raiders increased their lead to 11-3 courtesy of Davis' second two-run blast of the game and a three-run homerun by Padgett to force the game to end on run rule.

Davis finished the game going 2-for-4 with two home runs, 4 RBI and two runs scored. She moved into fifth place all-time in Middle Tennessee history for home runs.

Middle Tennessee returns to Sun Belt Conference play at Blue Raider Field as they begin their series again the Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Don't let brackets skew the true reason for March Madness

I'm sure the last time many of you saw your bracket, it was sitting in some form of trash receptacle, torn into a dozen pieces. And those who haven't laid waste to their tournament predictions have probably strongly considered it.

I am no different from the rest of you. In fact, this has become a yearly tradition that follows an eerily predictable series of events. I fill out a bracket and look upon it beaming with pride at my own cleverness, seeing as how I have just correctly predicted all 63 games.

Then the first round begins and, after the first day, I



Outside the pocket
Chris Martin

am still confident that I haven't completely ruined my chances at winning bragging rights. By the end of the second round, I can't even remember my picks because I am too ashamed to look back at the debacle I have created.

In the end though, it's what makes March one of the most enjoyable months on the sports calendar. The unpredictability of the NCAA tournament is its trademark. Most of the excitement generated by March Madness comes from the David vs. Goliath storylines that pop up every year. Everyone loves the upsets—this is America, after all. We love rooting for the underdog.

Because of society's propensity to cheer for the little guy, those of us who annually pencil in the names of colleges along a tournament tree often have two oppos-

ing forces tugging at our heart strings. Our love for a Cinderella story wants Davidson to beat Georgetown in the second round, but our bracket pride wants to see Georgetown advance to the Final Four.

This is unfortunate because it causes people to root against teams they actually want to win. This is the fantasy sports enthusiast's conundrum; the wish to be right intrudes on the wish to enjoy a good plot.

For this reason, I want to condemn the NCAA for making such a perfect post-season. If not for the inven-

tion of the printable bracket, the tournament would be fun for what it is—a crazy collection of games in which anything can happen.

The problem is that the tournament created a new form of addiction that afflicts millions of Americans for one month out of the year. It even has its own name: March Madness.

In mid-March, sports fans clamor around their TVs to see which teams are in, which teams are out and how the teams that made the tournament are seeded.

From there, the madness begins. Fans flock to Web

sites to print the fresh brackets and fill them out once, twice, maybe even three times before settling on a final selection. Then they skip class and/or work on Thursday and Friday and stay glued to CBS, afraid to use the bathroom because they don't want to miss a single second of the action.

By this time, the tournament watcher has surely felt the sting of Ty Rogers last-second 3-pointer that catapulted Western Kentucky into the second round. The caveat is that instead of trying to calm

MADNESS FROM PAGE 7

his pounding heart that was aflutter as he watched a great game that ended on a buzzer beater in overtime, he is cursing the Hilltoppers because he had Drake in the Sweet Sixteen. Instead of realizing he just witnessed a moment that will be replayed for years to come, the tourney fiend is distraught because, like every other aspiring bracketologist, his tournament picks are a befuddled mess.

I must confess I find myself in the same position as many of these fanboys I just

described, but I'm taking a stand. Brackets have ruined my tournament watching experience long enough. Next year I choose not to be a slave to a piece of paper with the names of 64 colleges. Instead I will enjoy the tourney for what it is—the chance to watch the best basketball played every year. That is, as long as there's not a sexy upset pick that's too tempting to not gloat about when I'm right.

Chris Martin is a junior Journalism major and can be reached at slsports@mtsu.edu

SPORTS BRIEFS

Holt Named Finalist for State Farm All-America Team

Middle Tennessee senior Amber Holt was named a finalist for the 2008 State Farm Coaches' All-America Basketball Team on Monday, as announced by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. The 40 finalists, who were chosen from the 52 regional finalists by the State Farm Coaches' All-America Team, are now in the running for selection to the 10-member State Farm Coaches' All-America Team. The State Farm Coaches' All-America Basketball Team for NCAA Division I will be announced at the State Farm Coaches' All-America Team Press Conference at the Tampa Hyatt Regency on April 5, at 8:45 a.m. in Tampa, Fla.

Nambawa Voted Athlete of the Week

Middle Tennessee's Sarah Nambawa was voted the Sun Belt Female Field Athlete of the Week after her performance at the Clemson Relays, as announced by the conference office on Tuesday. Nambawa picked up in the first outdoor meet of the season right where she left off indoors. The Kampala, Uganda, native recorded eight victories indoors this season, including six in the long and triple jump. It is the third SBC Field Athlete of the Week accolade for Nambawa after she won twice last season - March 27 and April 24. Letitia Eady (March 19, 2002) and Kim Freeman (April 23, 2003) are the only other Blue Raider women to claim the award.

MT track athletes ranked in preseason polls

The United States Track and Field/Cross Country Coaches Association released its preseason outdoor rankings on Wednesday and Sarah Nambawa, sophomore MeLyn Thompson and senior Carlos Morgan as well as a pair of men's relays were part of the rankings.

The rankings are based only on last year's outdoor performances and do not reflect any of this season's indoor efforts.

Morgan is ranked ninth in the long jump, while the men's 4x100-meter relay is 10th and the 4x400-meter relay ranks 27th.

For the women, Nambawa is 29th in the triple jump and Thompson ranks 17th in the shot put.

Men's golf wins third straight tournament

The Middle Tennessee men's golf team made history at the Carter Plantation Intercollegiate this week.

Middle Tennessee continued its outstanding spring season by dominating the field at the Carter Plantation Intercollegiate with a 26-shot victory - its record-setting third straight triumph and

fourth overall during the 2007-08 season. The Blue Raiders improved to 50-5 in four spring tournaments on their way to becoming the first team in program history to win three consecutive team titles. The four tournament wins overall are the most in a school year. Second-place Marquette shot 43-over 907.

Junior golfer Rick Cochran made it a clean sweep when he captured low medalist honors with a 1-under 215 for the three-round event. Cochran, a native of Paducah, Ky., was the only player in the field to break par on the way to his first career win and eighth Top 10 finish. Chas Narramore also continued his exceptional play with a third-place finish. Narramore shot 4-over 220 for the tournament and notched his 12th career Top 10 finish as well as his fifth Top 5 showing. Cochran and Narramore were named to the five-person all-tournament team.

In addition to Cochran and Narramore's fine play, standout Craig Smith - the reigning Sun Belt Player of the Year - finished tied for 12th with a 226, followed by Kent Bulle (228) at 17th and Jason Millard (229) at 18th. Nick Bailes was playing as an individual and tied for 23rd with a 232.

The Blue Raiders will play host to the second Middle Tennessee/Aldila Invitational Monday and Tuesday at Old Fort Golf Course.

Leathers closes UALR Women's Classic with career-best round

Middle Tennessee's women's golf team produced its highest finish of the spring under first-year Head Coach Chris Adams, battling to a sixth-place finish behind a sterling effort from sophomore Clara Leathers at the UALR Women's Golf Classic.

Leathers tied her career high with a 3-under 69 and was the only player to post a sub-par round at the Diamante Country Club. In fact, her third-round 69 tied for the low round of the tournament and was one of just five rounds under par during the three-day event. Leathers turned in a personal-best seventh-place finish for her third career Top 10 showing.

Middle Tennessee shot 929 for the tournament to finish sixth. The Blue Raiders 310 Tuesday was the fifth-best round of the day.

Leathers was the third different Blue Raider to lead the team in scoring this spring, following Jamey Dillard and Taryn Durham. Dillard scored in the second lowest round for Middle Tennessee at the UALR Women's Golf Classic with a 233 to finish tied for 27th. Durham and freshman Morgan Hale tied for 36th with a 237 and Leigh Wilkins was tied for 51st with a 242.

Information courtesy of MT Media Relations

Sun Belt Conference Scores (Home team last) Tuesday, March 25

Softball

Louisiana-Lafayette 2, Western Kentucky 5 (Game 1)
Louisiana-Lafayette 11, Western Kentucky 4 (Game 2)
Northwestern State 2, South Alabama 5 (Game 1)
Northwestern State 3, South Alabama 6 (Game 2)
Louisiana-Monroe 1, Nicholls State 6 (Game 1)
Louisiana-Monroe 1, Nicholls State 3 (Game 2)
Central Florida 3, Florida Atlantic 0

Baseball

Tennessee Tech 15, Middle Tennessee 11
Central Arkansas 6, Arkansas-Little Rock 2
Arkansas State 12, Tennessee-Martin 6
Louisiana-Monroe 11, Stephen F. Austin 12
Florida International 7, Tampa 11
Western Kentucky 10, Evansville 1
Jackson State 6, New Orleans 13
South Alabama 6, Mississippi State 5

Wednesday, March 26

Softball

Austin Peay 2, Middle Tennessee 8 (Game 1)
Austin Peay 3, Middle Tennessee 11 (Game 2)
Louisiana-Lafayette 2, Western Kentucky 3
Central Florida 9, Florida International 5
North Texas 7, Texas-Arlington 1 (Game 1)
North Texas, Texas-Arlington (Game 2)
Troy 5, Alabama-Birmingham 10

Baseball

Middle Tennessee vs. Vanderbilt, LATE
Louisiana-Monroe 5, Stephen F. Austin 7

172ND ANNUAL SIDELINES MADNESS FACEBOOK BRACKET INVITATIONAL OF AWESOMENESS

RANK	PLAYER	SCORE
1	 JESSICA LAVEN OPINIONS EDITOR	46
2	 RYAN DeBOOY PHOTO EDITOR	45
3	 CHRIS MARTIN ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR	44
4	 ERIC SHUFF PRODUCTION MANAGER	43
4	 RICHARD LOWE SPORTS EDITOR	43
5	 ANDY HARPER EDITOR IN CHIEF	39
6	 TIFFANY GIBSON CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR	37



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