

Honduras
series
goes out
in style

page 2

June 28, 2006

Wednesday

Fourth of
July events

page 4

Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

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Student pilot dies in plane crash

By Sarah B. Gilliam and
Associated Press Reports

Editor

Senior MTSU aviation student Mitch Wilson died Monday when the plane he was flying crashed in Pennsylvania, injuring three passengers, officials said.

Wilson, 21, flew out of Springfield, Tenn. with three others on a Piper Cherokee en route to Philipsburg, Penn. when it crashed about 3 a.m. in a remote area, according to state police and the Federal Aviation Administration.

State police said Wilson was an instrument-rated pilot who was

flying under instrument flight rules due to bad weather when traffic controllers lost contact with the plane.

"He had all the licenses he needed, he was just finishing up the courses he needed to fulfill the requirements for the degree," said Wayne Dornan, an associate professor and Wilson's adviser.

The plane had been cleared to land at the Mid State Regional Airport in Philipsburg at 2:47 a.m., at which time it was about two miles from the runway and flying at an altitude of about 3,200 feet, said Jim Peters, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Rescue and recovery workers had to build a road to reach the crash site, a wooded area near Black Moshannon State Park in Centre County, state police said.

The three injured passengers, also from Tennessee, were taken to hospitals for treatment of multiple injuries, a Civil Air Patrol

See Pilot, 2



Wilson

Students write on Wilson's Facebook

"Thank you all for your wonderful words. At this time, they are words I really already knew...but what a blessing it is to know he had such wonderful friends...Always remember him and carry a part of him in your hearts. And know...reading your words gives me more comfort and clarity than you will ever know...Thank you all so much...Love Mitch's Mom"

"I can remember you coming to my job 3 week ago asking me to fly with you and i just laugh because of the fear of flying but now that laugh was a tear of sadness but i know you are in a safe place man it

sucks it to see bad things happen to good people. one thing i will never forget about you (Mitch) is that one time Coach Offutt called our name and you asked him Coach did you need me and he replied no you "Mitch" the "Swale Eagle". I'm going to miss you "Bald Eagle" #17 SHS Football for life baby!"

"Mitch, you were always at home in the sky. My mom would wave at every plane that went overhead in case it was you. Whenever I think about an all-around good guy your name is always at the top of the list. My family's thoughts and prayers are with you and your family."

"The words i want to say cant even explain how i feel right now. The moment i heard your name so many memories raced through my mind like football practice when we constantly joked with one another and you calling me big head all the time. You were a great friend to me and i know to every one you meet. I will miss you and i know you're in a better place right now. Higher than you could ever reach. We all love you and i hope to see you again oneday..RIP"

See Quotes, 2

Students fight to keep Green Power alive

By William C. Fancher

Staff Writer

Student representatives from MTSU and Tennessee Tech University have petitioned Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Charles Manning in the hopes of saving the Green Power program, voted on by students of both universities last fall.

The program provides on-campus energy from Green Power Switch, a public service project in association with the Tennessee Valley Authority. The energy is generated from renewable resources such as solar and wind energy, reducing dependence of fossil fuels including oil, natural gas, and coal.

Before the program can be implemented, it must first be approved by TBR. On June 9, Chancellor Manning issued a memo to President Sidney McPhee and Tennessee Tech President Robert Bell, stating that he was not willing to approve the program as defined in the fall 2005 SGA elections. A copy of the memo was also sent to Students for Environmental Action representative Brandon Armstrong and Tennessee Tech representative Tyler Pannell.

Under the program, student fees are to be increased by eight



File Photo

Last year, Students for Environmental Action encouraged MTSU to adopt the Green Power program.

dollars per student per semester. Five dollars will go to providing renewable energy, while the remaining three dollars go toward on-campus conservation programs. The fall election at MTSU saw a record 3,800 voters, and the

Green Power program passed with an overwhelming 89% approval from the student body. Tennessee Tech also approved its own program by a large majority. "We participated in the student democratic process," said

Armstrong. "It's the students' money, and we've already decided what to do with it."

In the memo, Manning recommended a four-dollar student fee increase to fund on-campus conservation programs, but without

funding toward renewable energy, citing "unresolved issues" between TBR and TVA. These issues include a conflict over TVA's basic rates, stemming from a large capital investment made by TBR toward a cogeneration energy plant serving MTSU and Tennessee Tech.

President McPhee replied to the Chancellor's memo on June 13, supporting the compromise. Armstrong and Pannell, who helped organize the Green Power votes on their respective campuses, felt that the program could still be implemented in full despite Manning's reservations.

On June 16, Armstrong and Pannell sent a memo to Chancellor Manning and Presidents McPhee and Bell, outlining their objections to the compromised program. The memo stated that Green Power Switch is audited by an independent third party, the Center for Resources Solutions, and its fees are not put into TVA's general fund. Therefore, TBR's fiscal impact on the Green Power program.

"I think [Manning's] reasons are genuine, but we see it as comparing two different things," said Armstrong.

The memo emphasized the

importance of Green Power as an expression of students' desire for clean energy, and that a compromise based on irrelevant issues "marginalizes the voiced will of the students and undermines the democratic process." Armstrong and Pannell also recommended that the five-dollar renewable energy fee be placed in an escrow account until the "unresolved issues" were satisfactorily cleared up.

Less than a week after Armstrong and Pannell's objection, Chancellor Manning replied via e-mail, confirming that he will recommend the eight-dollar fee as outlined in both universities' elections. The program will be implemented in full for one year, during which a "task force" of student, faculty, and professional representatives will evaluate it.

"We are very interested in green power," said Manning. "And we are also interested in keeping expenses as low as possible."

Armstrong said he applauds the Chancellor's decision and the support of TBR. However, while Armstrong and Manning are both confident in the Board's approval, the program has not yet been approved. The final decision will be made on Friday, June 30, at TBR's quarterly meeting on the campus of Tennessee State University.



Photo by Adam Casto | Photo Editor

Gov. Phil Bredesen came to campus last Wednesday for the ceremonial signing of the 2006-07 Appropriations Bill, which will increase the money for educational programs and teachers' salaries.

Gov. signs bill to increase funding

By Wesley Murchison

Assistant News Editor

Governor Phil Bredesen came to MTSU last Wednesday, June 21 for the ceremonial signing of the 2006-2007 Appropriations Bill.

The event was hosted in the courtyard of the Business and Aerospace Building at 11:00 a.m. Students from the Governor's School participated in the ceremony.

The new bill – which was sponsored by Senators Douglas Henry and Jim Kyle and Representatives Craig Fitzhugh and Kim McMillan – was a modified version of Bredesen's original bill.

At \$26.3 billion, the bill focused on education, healthcare and economic development.

"With the signing of this budget – the fourth balanced budget of my administration with no new taxes – we confirm today this state's commitment to educa-

tion," Bredesen said during his speech.

Most of Bredesen's speech focused on the bill's increase in spending for education.

The total amount of money appropriated to education, including both K-12 and college, amounted to over \$366 million.

"From day one, education has been the fundamental priority for me personally, and for my administration as a whole," Bredesen said. "On the day I took office more than three years ago, we had a pretty big hill to climb if we were going to be able to make the investments in education our children deserve."

Bredesen highlighted key improvements in education, including a \$20 million increase for pre-K; an extension for the Books for Birth program; \$1 million for the creation for a residential math and science high school; a raise of teachers' salaries above the Southeastern average; and a

\$600 million increase for maintenance and major projects on college campuses, such as the approval for the first phase of MTSU's new science building.

Aside from education, the bill would also make for improvements in Tennessee economy and healthcare.

"I truly believe the most fundamental responsibility of state government is the education of our children ... but we are doing good things and making investments that count in other areas as well," Bredesen said.

The investments include increases in Tennessee's Rainy Day Fund and state employee salaries, as well as assistance to make healthcare more affordable for chronically sick adults and low-income children.

The bill would also include additional resources for law enforcement to combat Internet crime and meth labs.

Bredesen praised the bill for

being "fiscally conservative." By working with money that was already available, the bill did not raise or create new taxes.

"Fiscal discipline and savings, I believe, are true hallmarks of a state with the right priorities," Bredesen said.

Along with the spending increase made towards education, healthcare and the economy, Gov. Bredesen and legislators were able to save \$16 million, which made up roughly a 0.1 percent deduction from last year.

Near the end of the speech, Bredesen praised the bi-partisan collaboration made in writing the bill.

"This budget represents real progress, and none of it could have been achieved had we not put aside the predictable and stale political debate of the past and worked together in a bi-partisan effort to serve Tennesseans," Bredesen said.

LOCAL FORECAST

Thursday



HI: 86°
LO: 63°
PRECIP: 20%

Friday



HI: 83°
LO: 64°
PRECIP: 20%

Saturday



HI: 83°
LO: 66°
PRECIP: 20%

CAMPUS

New vaccine

Twenty million people in the United States are infected with human papillomavirus, or HPV, health officials estimate. However, a new means of prevention is on the horizon.

FEATURES

Local kayaking

Tired of doing the same old thing every weekend? Looking for something new and exciting to do this summer? Kayaking could be the breath of fresh air that you need.

SPORTS

M'boro Musicians

The City of Murfreesboro has a "hidden treasure" that hardly anyone knew existed. The Murfreesboro Musicians are a professional basketball team managed by former pro, pastor, and musician Ben Tankard.

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Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the Fall and Spring and Wednesday during June and July.

New vaccine comes to MTSU

By Bryan Magdal
Staff Writer

Twenty million people in the United States are infected with human papillomavirus, or HPV, health officials estimate. However, a new means of prevention is on the horizon.

Merck Co. Inc. has created a new vaccine for HPV, which will soon be made available to physicians. Immunization for HPV will be offered to students at MTSU later this summer through the McFarland Health Services Clinic.

Dr. Pat Spangler of MTSU's McFarland Health Services said that MTSU is one of four universities in Tennessee that will be part of a new program that provides immunization for the virus. The other universities include the University of Tennessee, the University of Memphis and Vanderbilt University.

"We're still working out the details," Spangler said. "We will be meeting with representatives from Merck over the next several weeks. We'll have more information available after the Fourth of July."

According to information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, of the approximately 100 different HPV strains, more than 30 are sexually transmitted. If there are symptoms, the most apparent will be in the form of small swellings or discolorations in the genital, groin and thigh areas. These are typically referred to as "genital warts" and can appear within weeks of contact with an infected person, though in some cases, they do not appear at all.

Although HPV infections will often clear up on their own, a person exhibiting symptoms should not ignore the dangers or avoid treat-

ment. As with many diseases, early diagnosis is one of the best means of treatment. HPV is usually detected when a pap test returns abnormal results, after which further tests are administered.

Spangler said that HPV infection can cause irregularities in the cervix that might indicate cancerous cell growth. For this reason, he said, college age people, especially women, should get checked for this virus before it causes more serious problems later, since it is the leading cause of cervical cancer.

Merck Co. Inc. has been developing the vaccine, called GARDASIL, for several years, according to information from the pharmaceutical manufacturer. Testing has involved over 12,000 women in 13 countries.

The test groups involved women ranging in age from 16 to 26 years from countries that included Brazil, Columbia, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Poland, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The vaccine, administered through the injection of three doses over a period of a few days, has been found to be very effective against certain cervical pre-cancerous conditions and cervical cancers associated with several strains of HPV.

Furthermore, there were no adverse side effects reported by those using the medication, other than some local discomfort in the area where the vaccine was injected.

Spangler said that later this summer, the McFarland clinic will offer a more detailed presentation with information on the new vaccine, its costs to the students, and other treatment options for HPV.

MTSU plans future for Honduras project



The villagers of Cane, Honduras held a fiesta for the MTSU group on the last day of their trip. Students and faculty members stayed in Cane for two weeks to do humanitarian work.

Paige Hall | Staff Photographer

Professor sees potential for university-wide participation

By Sarah Crotzer
News Editor

Over the past two weeks, we've seen how the Honduras project started at MTSU, developed into a collaboration between multiple departments and led to a trip that involved 30 students and faculty members. Now, in the final installment of our Honduras series, we find out what happened at the end of the trip and where the project will go from here.

Having spent two weeks in the village of Cane working with children, painting, building, planting trees and more, the group from MTSU prepared to return to the United States. However, the people of Cane had a surprise for their last day.

"They had a big fiesta for us," said Jette Halladay, theater professor, who spearheaded the trip and the project. "It was a grand party — they did performances that were far better than ours! They served us great food and we danced and we danced..."

But Halladay said that final celebration was bittersweet.

"I saw some of the children hugging the students and they were weeping," she said. "The children were saying, 'Don't go.' And some of our students shed a few tears, as well."

The people of the village invited them to return, and the mayor himself told the group there are many more projects they can work

on. Halladay said they are in the process of making plans and trying to finance ways to go back, but future trips will be somewhat different.

"I'm hoping small groups, maybe six or seven people at a time, will go for a week, or two weeks, with a special project in mind," she said. Additionally, she said she hopes to start a center at MTSU to help not only Honduras, but other countries as well.

In the meantime, however, Halladay is looking to bring more people into the Honduras project.

"Students have talked to me from different departments, and said, 'How can I get involved?'" she said. "I tell them — and I'll tell students who read this article now — go to your professors and say, 'There are these things happening. Is there a way for our department to get involved?' There's no department on campus that couldn't be involved somehow."

The Honduran president has recently mandated that English be taught in every classroom. In response, Halladay said she is already contacting the education department to find people who are teaching English as a second language.

"The teachers don't know English, and they don't have English material, so it's really an impossible request," she said. "But they are so hungry to learn."

One student is equally anxious to go back and help.

"The trip wasn't long enough for me," said senior theater student C. J. Jordon. "I cried when I got back. I just wanted to be there. I loved being with people who needed me."

Jordon said she saw a difference in the lifestyle mentality of the Hondurans, describing it as "living life to live" as opposed to "living because there's nothing else to do."

"I feel that, in the States, sometimes people get up just because they're tired of sleeping, whereas in Honduras, every single day, we saw people getting up to live," she said. "If they didn't get up, they couldn't keep the house they were living in, or get the meal they needed to provide for their family."

This outlook on life is a key reason why she wants to go back to Honduras, Jordon said. Right now, she is pursuing ways to return sometime within the next year and continue teaching English to the kids, but she also hopes to remain involved with the project long-term.

"My entire future has changed because of this trip," she said.

Check out the Podcasts page on our web site for exclusive footage of the Honduras fiesta. If you are interested in finding out more about the Honduras project, or how you can get involved, contact Jette Halladay at jhallada@mtsu.edu.

Pilot: "MTSU student dies"

Continued from 1

spokeswoman said.

Dorman said the young pilot was an above average student and a team player in the classroom.

"Flying a plane is not the only thing—it's being a team player. During that time, we had a crew member who needed a lot of help—Mitch volunteered. He really went to bat for his team and helped his two other crew members," Dorman said.

With 700 students in the aero-

space department, MTSU has one of the top aviation programs in the nation.

"A sad thing about this business—it is a risky business, and when you get into it, you will lose someone you know," Dorman said. "He was a really good student and a good pilot."

Sidelines used information gathered by the Associated Press in this story.

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Quotes: "Students say goodbye"

Continued from 1

"Mitch...you were always the happiest guy I knew! No matter what was going on in your life you had a smile on your face. You were taken way too young but I know that I will see you again! Fly with the angels."

"Mitch, you're going to be missed by many people, and I hate to hear that you are gone. Your a good friend and made our classes together fun. You went down doing something you loved to do like many people have already said. We are going to miss you dude."

"God bless you Mitch. I can only hope that you are in a much better place now. My thoughts and prayers are with your friends and family."

"Mitch, I still can't believe it. But now I understand why we all had such a perfect weekend together. Of all the great memories I have of you, I think that last night's were the best. I know that you are in a Perfect Place, but I can't help but miss you. You have always and will always have a special Mitch-sized place in my heart. I love you so so much. You will never ever be forgotten. Until I see you again..."

"Mitch...I don't know what to say. It still seems so unreal to me and probably to the rest of the family. I keep wanting to "wake up" and realize that this was all just a crazy dream. At least we have you up there on our side, watching out for us. You were such a good person, we know for sure where you are. I love you and miss you so much already. I'll see you again one day!"

"I can't believe what has happened, Mitch. All I can think about were our days on the football field and in the weight room and all the times we had. It was a true blessing to know you and have you as a friend. You will be greatly missed buddy."

"You are a good friend mitch and you will be missed. Words can't express how much everyone is going to miss you. I saw from some of the other postings that people have said that you were doing what you loved. I am sure of it as well. I assume you are already being a guardian angel for some young pilot out there. There is certainly a STAR for Mitch Wilson in heaven."

"Hey Mitch!! I can't believe you're gone. But you sure did love flying didn't you? We had some good times didn't we? You always kept everyone laughing. We love you and you will be terribly missed. See you again someday."

"God Bless you my friend...you will be missed."

CRIME BRIEFS

June 21—26, 2006

June 21—3:06 p.m.
Scarlett Commons Club House

Parking services called and advised that someone hit their bus and left the scene. The suspect was working the front desk at the clubhouse at Scarlett Commons when a repo man came to repossess his vehicle. Suspect got in vehicle attempting to flee and struck the repo man and bus. Lisa called Jackson to advise that no one is watching the desk.

June 22—08:26 a.m.
Lyon Hall

Some one called and advised that one of the ladies staying in the dorm has had their bike stolen.

June 23—2:06 p.m.
Tennessee Livestock Center
Officer came upon a vehicle that might be stuck in the livestock lot. Offices waited for the wrecker to arrive—Hackett brothers automotive came to pick up the vehicle. They pulled her out and subject is going back home.

June 24—6:25 p.m.
Recreation Center
Subject's car caught on fire,

Terry Logan was notified and a fire unit arrived on the scene.

June 25—2:36 p.m.
Sims Hall
Complainant called in to report his bike being stolen at Sims Hall bike rack on north side. Bike described as silver vertical PK7 and Blue Bike Chain Lock.

June 25—4 :24 p.m.
East Main Street
Randy K. Heidgerken, 23, of Murfreesboro was given a traffic citation for failure to obey traffic control device, registration violation and financial responsibility law.

June 25—8:01 p.m.
Murphy Center
S.P. Hill discovered vandalism of two campus bathrooms—water overflow and toilet seat dispenser tore off wall. Two "Juice Concentrate" boxes busted open on floor near concessions # 4.

June 26—4:09 p.m.
Fairview Building
Fire alarm trouble caused by maintenance.

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OPINIONS

Bush Administration needs to improve its media strategy

By Tim Hill

Opinions Editor

Besides a lifelong membership in the "Jelly of the Month" club, a solid conservative appointee to the U.S. Supreme Court is the gift that keeps on giving. New Justice Samuel Alito, Jr., much like UN Ambassador John Bolton, has arguably been kicking major tail in his new job. The Bush Administration needs to defend the president's actions if they want victory in Iraq and in November.

Justice Alito has been labeled as the new tie-breaker by numerous articles by the Associated Press. However, Justice Anthony Kennedy, a Reagan appointee, has become the court's new moderate. Kennedy joined the majority opinion that said police officers with a warrant don't have to knock and announce themselves. Alito agreed with that opinion, but he shouldn't be counted as the tie-breaker.

Alito has also taken an under-standing approach to capital punishment. He cast the tie-breaking vote upholding the death penalty law that Kansas instituted, but he actually needs to be praised for part of that ruling. Kansas originally wanted the death penalty to be carried out against the inmate while the state finished its appeals to the Supreme Court. One of Alito's first actions was breaking the tie to stay the execution until the Court decided on the inmate's fate.

In New York City, another Bush appointee has been making strides that aren't being appreciated enough. UN Ambassador John Bolton hasn't thrown any papers at Secretary General Kofi Annan yet, even though there are plenty of reasons for him to do so. Bolton has demanded greater accountability from a body that clearly does not want it. The same United Nations that says they want Iraq to be a part of the international community again is the same body that cut \$350 million dollars from its inspection team's budget.

Bolton has also led the criticism of the new Human Rights Council, arguing at first that a new agency was not needed if it wasn't specifically structured to punish corrupt nations. Even though three or four nations got behind Bolton, the UN Assembly had the votes needed to create the council. Bolton has pledged to work to make sure that the council doesn't reward corrupt governments.

Yesterday, it was announced that White House Communications Director Nicolle Wallace was stepping down in order to spend time

with her husband. This departure offers President Bush the chance to get real when dealing with a press corps that still believes Al Gore was elected President in 2000.

The President's base believes Bush has been "apologizing for winning the election." Bush still has not vetoed a single spending bill, and his two calls on Congress to pass a line-item veto doesn't justify it. Bush foolishly named a Texas friend, Harriet Miers, to the Supreme Court seat that conservative groups helped Sam Alito eventually win.

When Cheney accidentally shot someone during a hunting trip, the president did not encourage his party to run ads about former Democratic presidents who loved to duel. When Democrats complained that Bush was watching Hurricane Katrina from his Texas ranch, Bush didn't present them with proof from Google Maps that Crawford was

closer to the action on the ground than the White House complex was. President Bush did not waiver when authorizing the handing out of billions in FEMA aid—16% of which we now know was spent and/or obtained fraudulently (and that was just a low estimate!).

A new White House press strategy is needed to energize the president's agenda before November. The White House needs to operate from the attitude of, "Not if, but when" the Democrats pick up some seats in the Congress, the opposition party will have a lot of energy going into the presidential elections in January 2007.

The president's press strategy needs to include hitting the college radio circuit for interviews. Even though many student DJs are radical leftists, Bush could use the debate prep. Instead of condemning The New York Times for helping the terrorists, Bush should try becoming a contributing guest columnist. No speechwriters, interns, or top aides should help him write his own views for it, either.

Bush needs to explain his relationship with Bill and Hillary Clinton. My biggest fear is that Bush is helping Sen. Clinton get elected president one step at a time. "I'm no Marxist," is the perfect way to distinguish himself from them. Fishing trips in Kennebunkport should be authorized with discretion.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and the RNC are using wedge issues to sway the voters. They're doing this because they don't have much else to offer the voters this year. It is not reasonable to bring any constitutional amendment for a floor vote if your caucus isn't even behind it.

Banning flag burning is a direct contradiction of the First Amendment; defending traditional marriage is noble, but sadly does not have the support of enough "Red State" Senators.

To bring conservatives to the polls in November, the Republicans will

Banning flag burning is a direct contradiction of the First Amendment; defending traditional marriage is noble, but sadly does not have the support of enough "Red State" Senators.

—Tim Hill, opinions editor and a senior liberal arts major

Daschle, but instead recess appoints the most controversial of his judicial nominees.

In regards to Iraq, Bush needs to have it in his mind that conservatives want "our boys home," and if not brought home, then certainly repositioned for Iran, Syria or North Korea next.

These are all actions that will force media coverage. For too long, the president has had to rely on talk radio hosts and maybe a few Fox News anchors to defend his record.

It doesn't have to be that way, Mr. President. I'm telling you this as a brother in Christ. J

Tim Hill is a senior liberal arts major, is a conservative liberal and can have a beer with, and can be reached best at slopino@mts.edu

Bush policies, lack of parenting contribute to educational crisis

By Ian Skotte

3rd Moderate From The Sun

What can I say about the current state of education in the U.S., other than the plain facts that it is under-funded and left behind?

President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" program lacks any merit in helping students and teachers improve the system. The current administration points their finger and blames teachers for doing a bad job. To "solve" this problem, Bush has under-funded a policy whose sole purpose was to "teach every child in America."

Bush proposed to focus federal dollars on programs that worked in public schools and so on. Yet, due to this administration's tactics, public schools have been forced to discontinue after-school programs because of a lack of funds.

So what has been working? In Tennessee alone, high school dropout rates have been on the rise. Not only that, but where should President Bush be focusing the money to reverse this trend?

Maybe it needs to go to parents. Most of the time, parents are the ones who are forced to work more than one job to support their children. Unfortunately, this has left parents unable to do their job at home—parenting and reinforcing the education of their kids.

The saddest thing when it comes to education is the promptness to point the finger at

teachers for doing a bad job. Teachers today have a choice: teach the kids or discipline the kids. In some schools, far too many times teachers have resorted to the latter.

President Bush can't receive all the blame on this one, however. Congress obviously could do more, and states could very well do more on the state level. Of course, state lawmakers can, at times, be more stubborn than indicted members of Congress.

So, what is the solution to fixing education in the United States? One word: care. Teachers need to care about how they mold these minds of the future.

The caring shouldn't stop at teachers. It should include the parents, students and even the lunch lady. Parents, too, should care enough to get their children enthused about learning all there is to learn out there. Students need to take it on themselves to better their academic lives.

Finally, there is the government. At all levels, they should care enough to support those parents who are unable to always be there for their children because of being overly worked. There are things besides tax cuts that can really help these parents be there for their kids.

Who is ultimately to blame for our educational crisis in this country? If we look inwardly, we shall soon see.

Ian Skotte is a senior journalism major, doesn't always blame the President for everything wrong under the sun, and can be reached best at ias2a@mts.edu.

Freedom isn't Free

Opinion Editor's note: In celebration of our nation's independence, let us remember the words from that song from "Team America: World Police." As you read these lyrics, please think about the men and women who have died fighting and winning wars, thereby preventing war from happening," as President George W. Bush puts it.

FREEDOM COSTS A BUCK O' FIVE

What would you do
If you were asked to give up your dreams for freedom
What would you do
If asked to make the ultimate sacrifice

Would you think about all them people
Who gave up everything they had,
Would you think about all them War Vets
And would you start to feel bad

Freedom isn't free
It costs folks like you and me
And if we don't all chip in
We'll never pay that bill
Freedom isn't free
No, there's a hefty (frickin') fee.
And if you don't throw in your buck 'o five
Who will?

What would you do
If someone told you to fight for freedom.
Would you answer the call
Or run away like a little [wussy]
'Cause the only reason that you're here
Is 'cause folks died for you in the past
So maybe now it's your turn
To die kicking some ass

Freedom isn't free
It costs folks like you and me
And if we don't all chip in
We'll never pay that bill
Freedom isn't free
Now there's a have to hook in fee
And if you don't throw in your buck 'o five
Who will?

You don't throw in your buck 'o five. Who will?
Oooh buck 'o five
Freedom costs a buck 'o five

LYRICS COURTESY OF TREY PARKER AND MATT STONE

Letter to editor: Hill's column offered wrong comparisons

Oh DEAR GOD!

Tim Hill's op-ed ("Corruption in Washington") wrongly bundles Clinton's lying with that of I. Lewis (Scooter) Libby. However, those two examples do not relate to the broader issue of financial gain and government access that is occurring now within this administration, and, sadly, led to the political demise of Newt Gingrich back in the early 1990's.

In those instances, money bought access, favors and policies that favored those entities funding politicians.

More research into this would encourage most Americans to favor public funding of political campaigns as it would likely save billions of dollars in taxpayer "favors" to those who would buy access otherwise for unnecessary public works and expenditures.

In the case of Clinton's lying versus that of Scooter Libby, those two cases are like comparing apples to Howitzers. Clinton was asked under oath about having consensual sexual relations with another adult. Scooter Libby was asked about actions that promoted a war of choice in a sovereign country by identifying a covert CIA operative—an act that the current President's father considered treason.

The actions by Libby and others within this administration have caused the needless death of more than 2,500 of America's military, maimed tens of thousands of others, not to mention the needless deaths of tens of thousands of Iraqis. Moreover, the actions taken by Scooter and others within this administration have enriched corporations within the defense and energy industries who were or are linked to this administration.

Scooter's boss, Dick Cheney, was the former CEO of Halliburton, which has been accused and is under investigation for obtaining billions of dollars in revenues from

illegal no-bid contracts in Iraq and after Katrina. Its stock price has escalated from near \$10 per share in early 2002 to \$70 a share today.

One final thought on the corruption that Tim Hill spoke of for all Americans to consider: As the current operations in Iraq continue in this war of choice, do we Americans wish to continue on the road to conducting for-profit wars? Iraq is likely to cost \$1 trillion before all is said and done.

I am all too aware of the sacrifice the all-volunteer forces give to this country. I am justified in asking this as my second son is fighting in Iraq at this time as a member of the U.S. military (the best fighting force in the world) but one which is being stretched thin by this war of choice. Enticements by private contractors also woo our soldiers to leave the all-volunteer military to work for them for five times the amount.

With so much of the operation of this war in Iraq being outsourced to private military contractors—from feeding the troops to providing security details to certain VIP's in country—does it benefit our national security to embrace this policy?

Should we allow such a stranglehold by the defense and energy industries on our policy-makers? Does this war open the floodgates to the military-industrial complex that former Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned us about so many decades ago?

Finally, do our current war policies encourage the concept of war as a last, rather than first resort?

Maura Satchell
Bachelor of Science, Journalism 2004
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QUESTION: "How many Republicans does it take to screw over the middle class?"

ANSWER: "Five. By name, they are Lincoln Chaffee, John McCain, Susan Collins, Olympia Snowe, and George Voinovich."

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FEATURES

Fire destroys studio, but not bands

By Wesley Murchison
Assistant News Editor

"You want to hear some F---ed up news?" was the first thing guitarist Layne Meylain of the Tony Danza Tap Dancing Extravaganza heard over the phone last Thursday morning.

"No, not really," was Meylain's response, but had little choice. That morning, Concert Productions, the studio he and his band practice in, caught fire and burned for eight hours before authorities were able to get the flames under control.

"So I got in my truck and I rounded Memorial. I could see the clouds of smoke. I was like, 'that is probably all our stuff,'" Meylain recalled. "The closer I got the bigger the clouds of smoke got. When I got on Main Street everything was blocked off."

The building and all its contents were destroyed. Meylain lost a total of \$12,454 worth of equipment out of \$17,000 for the entire band. It was his gear — microphones, a power amplifier, P.D. mixer, equality control channel and an assortment of cables and peddles—that the band used to play shows.

But Meylain and his band were not the only ones to suffer a loss. The building, located at 654 West Main Street across North West Broad Street and sitting next to CSX Railroad tracks, housed the music equipment of 15 bands, 13 practice rooms, one recording studio and one workshop. The fire department was notified sometime between the hours of 5 and 6 a.m., just shy of an hour before the first music act was scheduled to perform at Bonnaroo. When the fire department arrived it was 6:23 a.m.

No one knows when the fire started exactly, and as of yet, investigations have been inconclusive as to the cause. What is known is the loss felt by the bands—the loss in money, time, a place to practice, and even more damaging, the loss in music.

"It such a shame that place burnt down. It was like a mega for bands who came through Murfreesboro," said Daniel Scobey, owner and manager of ITC Productions.

Scobey knew many of the bands that practiced at the rehearsal studio. Having played in several bands throughout his life before starting ITC Productions in 2002, Scobey has a unique position of seeing this tragedy both as a musician and businessman.

Scobey was about to start recording with Espaso and was already working with Killer Bee Killed when both bands lost their gear to the fire.

"I'm actually going to probably loan a drum set to those fellas," Scobey said of Killer Bee Killed.

"If you are a wealthy business owner you need to have the sense to insure your property," Scobey said, adding that "the bands should have [had] renters insurance for their space. The contents should have been covered by the bands."

Yet Scobey knows, both personally and through the experience with his studio, that bands make difficult sacrifices for their music — often leaving them to live a poor life style.

"Bands are flaky," Scobey said laughing. "They don't pay rent on time; they are living the dream."

The fire has setback recording time for Scobey with Espaso and Killer Bee Killed, but it is the loss of a place to practice that he feels leaves a hole in the Murfreesboro music scene.

"Something will have to come up to replace it," Scobey added. "If something doesn't replace it, it could be a big loss."

The building burned for about eight hours. It was 1:04 p.m. when it was declared clear by the fire department, but Meylain had arrived well before then.

"I started walking and there came Chris [last name] from Los Cobra who just threw up his arms up and said, 'everything is gone' ... You could see inside and everything was burned," Meylain said.

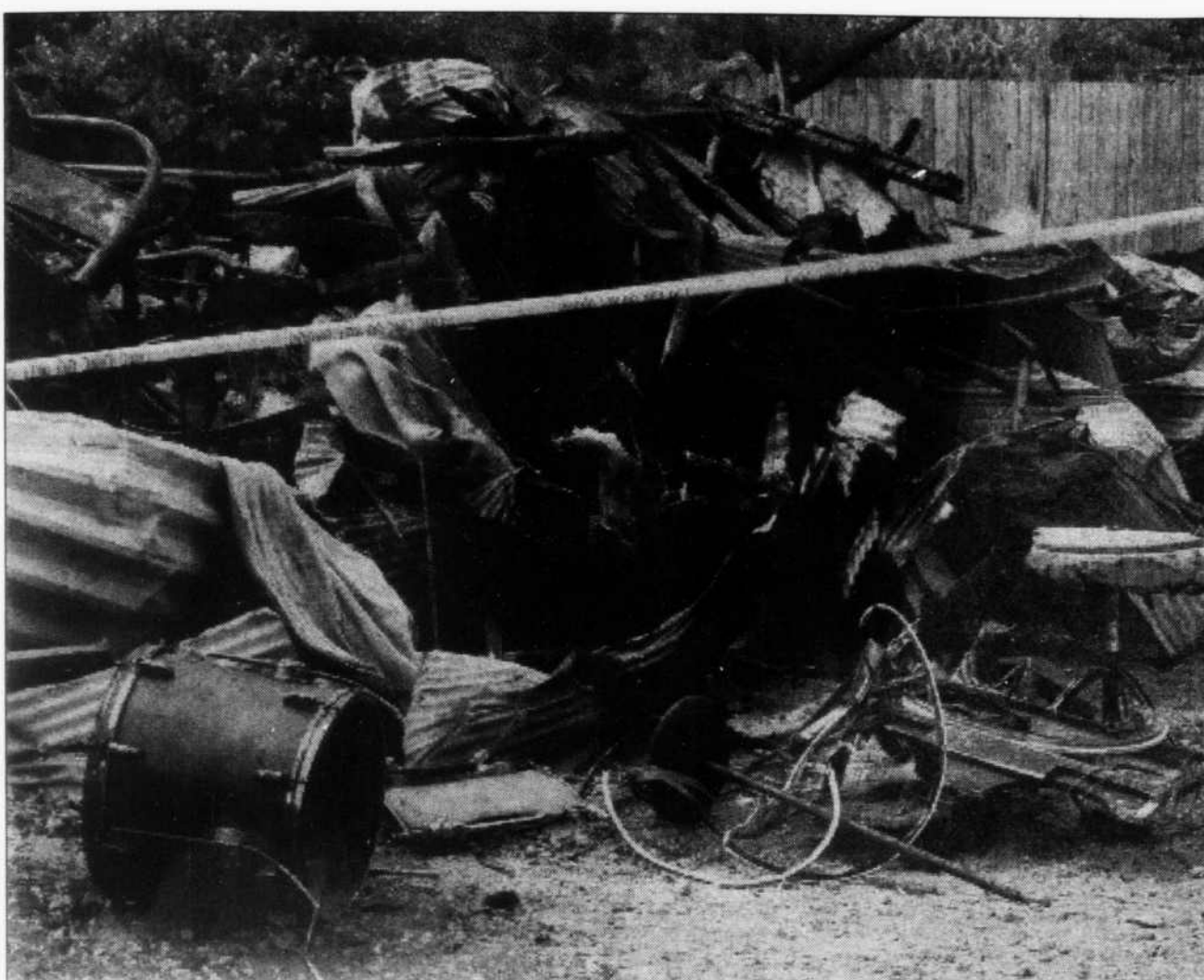


Photo by Abby Waddoups

Drum is among the debris that remains at the site of the Concert Productions fire June 15. The building and all its contents were destroyed. A loss of \$12,454 worth of equipment and of \$17,000 for one band.

"[The fire department] asked us if we had practiced last night and we said we did, and they said it started around our room."

City planning had the precarious remnants of the building bulldozed to the ground, before any of the bands could salvage their music gear. Even with the loss of the equipment, Tony Danza, one of Murfreesboro's top touring bands, was still able to play a show in Nashville at Rocket Town that next day.

Presently, the band is having to scram-

ble and re-shuffle their plans: delaying their next CD by two months, possibly pulling out of the Warped Tour and borrowing equipment from local and even national bands that open for them to avoid canceling local shows.

"It was kind of a reawakening, that first song we played," Meylain confessed of the first the band played after the fire. "I just got pissed off. We are basically just playing off other people's stuff — rocking out on their stuff."

But even with the travesty of losing a

practice space and their equipment the band has been able to keep their sense of humor about it all.

"Luck be a lady tonight!" Jessie Freeland, lead singer of the band, screams ghoulishly to the crowd at a recent show in Murfreesboro. "Luck be a lady to begin with!"

Wesley Murchison will continue his report on the loss of Concert Productions next week.

Festivals for the 4th



Looking for something to do for the fourth? Whether you're going home, hanging in the 'Boro or making the trek to Nashville, there are several options to ensure you get your dose of American patriotism.

Celebration Under the Stars

Murfreesboro, Rutherford County

Right here at the MTSU campus on the Interim Fields, activities for families will precede the firework display at 9 p.m. Bring blankets, chairs and some snacks, but no alcohol. This is a dry campus, after all.

Independence Celebration and Fireworks Show

Smyrna, Lee Victory Recreation Park, Rutherford County

This display will take place Sunday, July 1st, and will feature food, music and games from 5 - 9 p.m.

Music City July 4th Spectacular: Portrait of America

Nashville, Riverfront Park, Davidson County

This is Nashville's largest one-day event from 12 p.m. - 10 p.m. It will feature a fireworks show over the Cumberland River accompanied by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra (how you'll be able to hear them is anyone's guess). Get there as early as possible to grab a good spot—last year over 100,000 people flocked to the small park. Two stages will be set up, featuring performances by Jamie O'Neal, Diamond Rio, the Charlie Daniels Band, Ronnie Milsap, Scrap Metal, Josh Turner and others. Food vendors will be present.

Goodlettsville Independence Day Celebration and Encampment

Historic Mansker's Station, Davidson County
This unique all-day event includes a cannon firearm display, a reading of the Declaration of Independence as well as a fireworks show.

Crockett Park Concert

Brentwood Crockett Park Amphitheater, Williamson County

If you'll be the Brentwood area, a sedate but enjoyable display will be held at the beautiful park on Crockett Road. Pack a picnic and find a good spot on the lawn to watch The Kadillacs perform at 7 p.m. followed by fireworks.

Franklin Celebration

Franklin High School Stadium, Williamson County
Sponsored by the Franklin Lions Club, activities geared towards families will be held at the Franklin High School football stadium on Hillsboro Road from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Lebanon Celebration

Lebanon, James E. Ward Agricultural Center, Wilson County
This Wilson County town will host a fireworks display and activities.

White House Independence Day Celebration

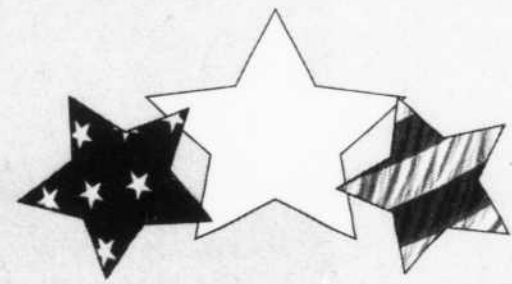
Whitehouse City Park, Sumner County
This will be an all-day event with its craft show, music, games and food. If you should get there around 6 a.m., you can enjoy the pancake breakfast. The day closes with a fireworks display at 9 p.m.

Gallatin Chamber Independence Day Celebration

Gallatin Civic Center, Davidson County
Typical fare with food, music and fireworks from 4 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Shores and Stripes

Hermitage, Nashville Shores, Davidson County
Enjoy fireworks, a boat parade and an undoubtedly over-crowded water amusement park from June 24 to July 4. General admission to the park, open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily, is \$21.95 with reduced rates for children.



Ample opportunities for local kayaking

By Rangebar Merani
Staff Writer

Tired of doing the same old thing every weekend? Looking for something new and exciting to do this summer? Kayaking could be the breath of fresh air that you need.

Kayaking is a sport that can appeal to both outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the peaceful connection with nature and thrill-seeking daredevils who push the sport to its limits.

MTSU's Campus Recreation Center gives students a chance to both learn and go kayaking. The Outdoor Equipment Rental located in the Campus Recreation Center allows students to rent kayaks and kayaking equipment to prepare them for a fun experience.

"Kayaking isn't very difficult to learn," explains Assistant Director of Outdoor Pursuits Tim Jewell. "It just takes some getting used to."

The Outdoor Equipment rental offers a kayaking package that includes a kayak, paddles, a helmet and lifejacket. This package is available for all students for \$16 and for guests at an additional cost.

Although the spring and fall may have conditions more suitable for kayaking, the summer is a good time to learn because the water level is calm.

"It really isn't the best time to go kayaking, because the summer is so dry and the water level is low," explains Jewell. "It's best to wait for some rain before kayaking during the summer."

"The Harpeth River, Duck River and Elk River are all some local favorites to go kayaking on," Jewell says, "but the Stones River is the closest spot."

For those of you who don't want to travel far to kayak, the Stones River right here in

Murfreesboro is perfect for paddling.

"The Stones River is a great spot for beginners to learn how to kayak," explains Jewell.

For those of you who would like to travel a little further and maybe camp out for a weekend, there are plenty of other rivers to visit.

"The Duck River is probably one of the best rivers near," explains Jewell. "The Elk River isn't that far off either."

Safety Tips

From Tim Jewell

- At least 3 boats in a party
- Utilize equipment. Wear helmet and life jacket
- Beware of water conditions
- Know both your skill level and partners skill level.

remember is safety first," Jewell explains. "At least three boats in a party. That way there are enough people to help in a crisis situation."

Anyone going kayaking should always remember to wear their helmet and life jacket.

"The life jacket and helmet are there for a reason," Jewell explains. "They don't work if you don't wear them."

Kayakers should also be aware of the water conditions for the river they choose.

"Here at the Recreation Center, we use an internet site called amerian-whitewater.org to check the water conditions for rivers in our area," says Jewell. "They have water gauges that check the water level to let us know if it's safe to paddle."

The Campus Recreation Center is holding a kayaking trip on

September 16 and 17 for students and guests to learn about kayaking.

"It's going to be a weekend trip," says Jewell. "We're going to limit it to about 12 people and we'll camp out for the weekend."

And for those of you who are really interested, there are a few guys trying to form a kayaking sports club. They will be taking memberships this fall at the Recreation Center.

Whether you're trying to do something new or just trying to enjoy the beautiful summer, kayaking is a great sport to learn. With the many rivers to choose from and all the equipment you need at the Campus Recreation Center, it's very convenient to get started. Just grab a few friends, pack up your things and plan on having a great time.

"The most important thing to

SPORTS

Local team makes sweet music

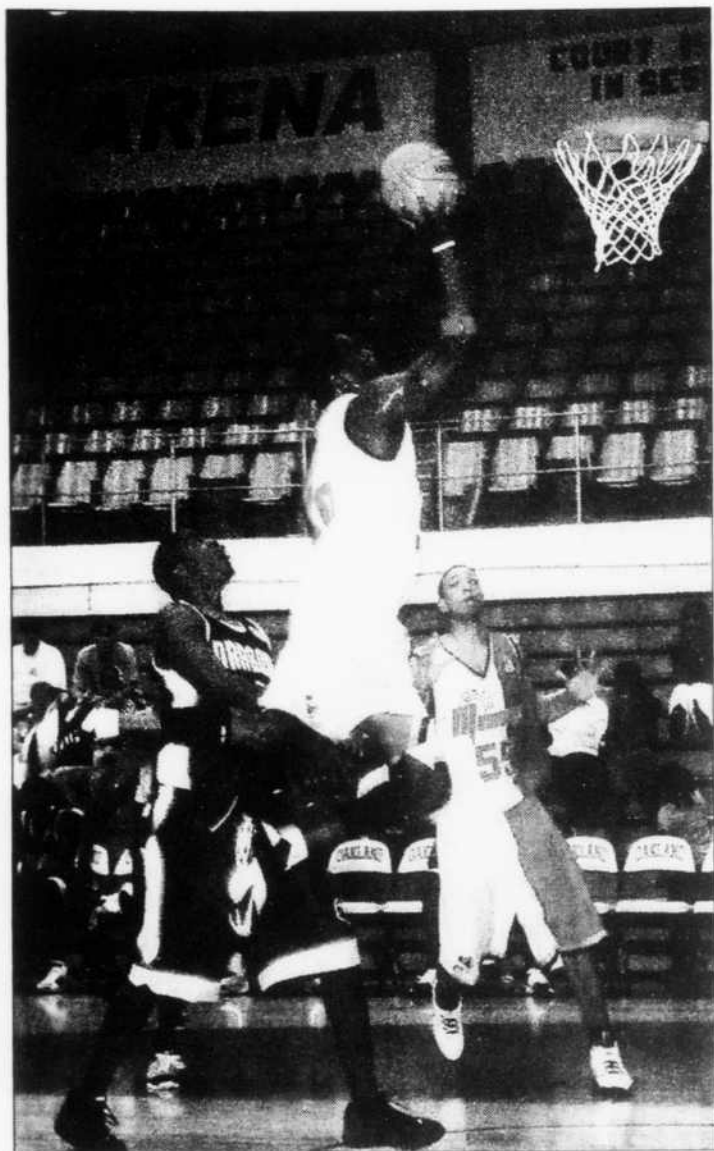


Photo by Abby Waddoups / Contributing Photographer

Murfreesboro Musicians forward Chris Ferguson beats his defender to the basket for a layup as teammate William Phippen (right) looks on.

By Ebony Pugh

Staff Writer

The City of Murfreesboro has a "hidden treasure" that hardly anyone knew existed. The Murfreesboro Musicians are a professional basketball team managed by former pro, pastor, and musician Ben Tankard. Although the Musicians are still struggling to establish name recognition, the talent of the players, coaches and

a professional franchise owned by parent company Musicians Group, Inc. The team is a part of the World Basketball Association, which is a minor league affiliated with the National Basketball Association.

The WBA teams, which include the Murfreesboro Musicians, Anderson Heat, Arkansas Archangels, Cleveland Majic, Druid City Dragons, Cartersville Warriors, Marietta Storm, Mississippi HardHats, North MS Tornadoes and Rome Gladiators, play a season of 24-30 games during the months of April, May, June and July.

The Musicians currently play at Musicians Arena, currently housed in the Oakland High School gymnasium. With little fanfare and recognition, the Musicians have brought professional basketball to Rutherford County. WBA games provide an affordable, family-friendly basketball experience, with tickets priced at ten dollars.

The organization has attempted to build geographic ties to the area, partially as an attempt to build a devoted fan base. Four current Murfreesboro Musicians are former Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders. Fats Cuyler, Tommy Gunn, Steven Jackson and William Phippen are all Musicians who have donned MT blue in recent seasons.

"Cuyler and Jackson are still young players but they are developing well, and Phippen and Gunn are very skilled, which makes them top-rated players in the WBA," Tucker said. Each of these four were also key contributors for the Blue Raiders, and all four hope the future holds plenty of opportunity.

Tucker has thus far been pleased with his team's performance. The Musicians had compiled a 10-7 record as of June 20,

and are currently jockeying for preferable playoff seeding.

"We've had an outstanding home season," said Tucker. The hotly contested regular season will soon give way to bigger and better things, including a tournament in Rome, Ga. hosted by the league leading Rome Gladiators.

Tucker has undoubtedly been a key asset in guiding Murfreesboro to a successful start as well as finish. Tucker's hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed, as he was voted 7th on the list of top current professional coaches at the minor league level compiled by Pro Basketball News. The assistant coaches, management, and staff have also played a large role in the Musicians season.

A successful season helps the players and coaches get more recognition inside and outside of the community. With the almost overnight popularity of the Musicians, more and more benefits await the team.

One major benefit of playing in the WBA is gaining the skills needed to take a pro basketball career to the next level.

"The WBA is a platform for the players to display their skills," Tucker said.

The league doesn't just give the players an outlet for participating in the game they love. The WBA also gives the players an opportunity to showcase their talents enough to advance their careers, which may include stops in the

NBDL, European leagues, the CBA and eventually the NBA.

Last season about 22 WBA players were invited to take part in NBA training camps, and five of these players went on to make the rosters of NBA teams.

Although the Musicians are approaching the end of their first season, they end it with respect and support from the Murfreesboro community. Though they might not be hidden for long, the Musicians hope to remain a treasure of the Murfreesboro community.

For more information regarding the Murfreesboro Musicians or the World Basketball Association please visit www.musiciansproball.com.



Photo by Abby Waddoups / Contributing Photographer

Musician and former MTSU standout Tommy Gunn attempts to drive by a Druid City guard in Murfreesboro's 133-110 victory on June 9. Gunn, Fats Cuyler, William Phippen and Steven Jackson are all former Blue Raiders who now play for the Musicians.

MT softball adds Volunteer transfer Cline for next season

By Russell Luna

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee softball recently added another new Blue Raider with valuable postseason experience. Ashley Cline, a University of Tennessee transfer, will use her two remaining years of eligibility with the Blue Raiders.

Cline will join head coach Leigh Podlesny as one of the elite few who have participated in the Women's College World Series. The former Lady Volunteer second baseman scored the lone run in UT's 1-0 defeat of Arizona in the opening round of the CWS in 2005.

"She (Coach Podlesny) was really nice, and we connected on going to the College World Series," Cline said. "She talked about when she was at DePaul University and how they were the underdogs, similar to the situation we were in at Tennessee."

In addition to talking about her meeting with Podlesny, Cline explained that she wanted to be a



Photo courtesy of UTLadyVols.com

Former Tennessee Volunteer Ashley Cline [second from right] celebrates with teammates during the 2005 College World Series. Cline recently transferred to MTSU.

part of a smaller, friendlier environment.

"I really wanted to see more flat land than hills," said Cline jokingly. "Seriously, I wanted a change of scenery and I wanted to be comfortable in my environment."

Cline, a native of Gallatin, finished her career at Tennessee with

a batting average of .236 with 46 hits and 25 RBI and was 12-for-12 in stolen bases.

"We are thrilled to have Ashley join our softball team at Middle Tennessee," said Podlesny, who is now entering her third season.

"Our goal is to build a Top 25 program at Middle Tennessee and adding a player with College World Series experience is a huge addition to our roster."

Cline's transition to Middle Tennessee should be relatively easy. She will join former high school travel teammates Melissa Weiland and Trish White.

"I will approach this fall like I would have anywhere else," Cline said. "It's nice to start with them [Weiland and White], and I'm going to end with them."

The Blue Raider softball team, in addition to signing Cline, has also tabbed Washington high school standout Lindsey Vander Lugt, Motlow State transfer Whitney Darlington and Fullerton, Ca. native Caitlin McClure.

"We are excited to add these players to our program," Podlesny said. "They are outstanding people, talented athletes and dedicated scholars who want to make a difference in our program. I think they will fit in really well with our current team."

Niemeyer at Wimbledon



Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations

Former Blue Raider All-American Fred Niemeyer received a bid into the doubles draw at Wimbledon with partner Glenn Weiner. The duo will face 13th-seeded Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Alexander Waske of Germany. Niemeyer has played at the All-England Club twice before, falling in the second round in 2003 in singles and dropping a second-round doubles match last season. Match results are at wimbledon.org.

United States suffers disappointing elimination

By Casey Brown

Sports Editor

What happens next?

This is the question supporters of American soccer are asking after the United States lost its final match in group play 2-1 to Ghana, eliminating the U.S. from the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

In a tournament that began with American hopes higher than ever before, the team went 0-2-1 in Group E, securing a last-place finish in what many believed to be the toughest group.

On June 12 the U.S. fell 3-0 to the Czech Republic in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Jan Koller put the Czechs on the board in the fifth minute with a header, and Tomas Rosicky added a goal right before the half as well as a second on a late breakaway.

U.S. captain Claudio Reyna just missed a score in the 28th minute when he struck the inside of the left post with a shot that had Czech keeper Peter Cech beaten. That chance was one of few for the Americans, who were outmuscled by the larger, more aggressive Czech team.

After the game, head coach Bruce Arena stressed that his team needed to file the loss away and begin preparing for the team's next match with Italy.

"We have to make sure that the Czech Republic doesn't beat us twice," Arena told the U.S. Soccer website.

The Americans appeared to follow his instructions on June 17, when the team stunned observers with a 1-1 tie against powerful Italy.

The result was made more surprising by the fact that the U.S. played with only nine men for 43 minutes, after contro-

versal red cards were given to Pablo Mastroeni and Eddie Pope, who had previously received a yellow card.

With the match even at 1-1 in the 65th minute, American substitute DaMarcus Beasley connected for an apparent goal off a near-perfect cross, but after the ball found the net Brian McBride was called offside, negating the score.

Still, the U.S. remained alive with the tie, and several analysts predicted that the Americans would finish second in the four-team group to advance to the Round of 16.

The Black Stars of Ghana had other ideas, however, as the World Cup newcomers defeated the Americans 2-1 on June 22.

Ghana drew first blood in the 22nd minute when Hamidu Draman scored off a Reyna turnover near his own goal.

The U.S. found an equalizer when Beasley dribbled through three defenders and sent a cross that Clint Dempsey put away in the 43rd minute.

That would be all the offense the Americans could muster, however. In stoppage time at the very end of the first half, referee Markus Merk awarded a penalty kick to Ghana, which Stephen Appiah buried just under the crossbar for the game-winning strike.

"We're disappointed and we think we could have advanced today," Arena said. "I think we were among the top half of the teams in this tournament."

After an unexpected run to the quarterfinals in 2002, the best finish in American history, many felt that the U.S. could advance just as far this year. But the team was plagued by a lack of production on offense, notably from "big

guns" such as Landon Donovan.

After the match, Arena and Reyna sounded positive despite obvious disappointment.

"Regardless of our ranking...we're still a small footballing nation," Reyna told the U.S. Soccer website. "It's just a matter of putting this behind us and learning from it as well."

"U.S. soccer has a bright future," Arena said.

The Americans now have four years to recuperate, prepare, and qualify for the next Cup, to be held in South Africa in 2010. Can the supposed bumper crop of young U.S. talent send the team to new heights next time?

Only time will tell. Right now, however, American fans are still trying to figure out what happens next.



Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee



Compiled by: Casey Brown

Summer update for baseball professionals

Nine former Middle Tennessee baseball players are playing or coaching professionally this summer, with four of the six with affiliated clubs in the Southern League. All stats are through Wednesday of this week.

Chris Mobley (2002-04) is 1-3 with a 4.43 ERA in 23 games, all in relief, with four saves and 21 strikeouts in 22.1 innings of work for the Carolina Mudcats (Florida Marlins). Brett Carroll (2002-04) spent the first part of the season with the Jupiter Hammerheads in the Florida State League, compiling 12 doubles, eight home runs and 30 RBIs in 59 games before being called up to Carolina two weeks ago. Carroll is batting .281 in nine games with four doubles, two triples and six RBIs for the Mudcats since his call-up. Jeremy Owens (1996-98) is batting .233 in 69 games for the Montgomery Biscuits (Tampa Bay Devil Rays) with eight doubles, nine home runs and 27 RBIs.

Jayhawk Owens (1988-90) is the manager of the Chattanooga Lookouts (Cincinnati Reds), who won the first half in the Southern League's North Division by one game over the Western Tenn Diamond J with a 44-26 record. The Lookouts are 2-1 in the second half. Dewon Brazelton (1999-01) is 1-3 with a 3.79 ERA in seven games with the Portland Beavers (San Diego Padres) in AAA, starting six contests and compiling 24 strikeouts in 38.0 innings of work. In his last outing, June 16 versus Fresno, Brazelton tossed a complete-game, one-hit shutout, walking four and striking out seven. The righthander is scheduled to pitch Thursday night for the Beavers.

Michael McKenry (2004-06) is just 1-for-9 (.111) in his first three games as a professional for the Tri-City Dust Devils (Colorado Rockies) Class A. In the independent leagues, Josh Renick (2000-01) is batting .289 in 37 games for the St. Paul Saints in the American Association, posting five doubles, 19 RBIs, 23 runs scored and five stolen bases. Eric McNamee (2004-05) has a .264 batting average in 30 games for the Gary Southshore Railcats

with 12 RBIs, while Adam Larson (2002) has pitched in three games for the Somerset Patriots in the Atlantic League, tossing two innings with one strikeout and one walk.

Former track standouts compete in national meet

Three former Middle Tennessee tracksters competed this past weekend in the USA Track & Field Championships in Indianapolis, Ind., with Mardy Scales, Linnie Yarbrough and VanTonio Fraley all running in the sprint events.

Scales, a seven-time All-American as a Blue Raider and the NCAA 100-meter champion in 2003, posted times of 10.31, 10.34 and 10.43, all on Friday, in three round of the 100-meters. The Franklin, Tenn., native finished eighth overall in the event.

Yarbrough, who just completed his career and earned his only career All-America honor two weeks ago, ran 13.76 in the 110-meter hurdle preliminaries on Saturday and 14.03 in the semifinals on Sunday, failing to reach the event finals.

Fraley, who also just completed his Blue Raider career two weeks ago, posted a time of 21.58 in the 200-meter prelims on Saturday and did not advance to the semifinals.

Track inks two state champions

Middle Tennessee track head coach Dean Hayes has signed a pair of Tennessee state champion throwers to national letters-of-intent for the 2007 season.

Brittany Cox from Glenciff High School in Nashville, Tenn., and Melyn Thompson from Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga, Tenn., both inked scholarship papers with Middle Tennessee after their state title performances during Spring Fling a month ago on the Middle Tennessee campus.

Thompson won the Division II shot put and discus championships with marks of 44-4.25 and 124-4, respectively. She helped the Bruisers of GPS to a team title in 2005 and

set personal-bests of 45-2 in the shot put and 125-0.5 in the discus this season.

Cox also won the shot put at the 2006 Spring Fling, claiming the Class AAA individual title with a mark of 42-9.5 and placed second in the discus with a mark of 116-9. She won both events at the Metro Nashville Track & Field Championships in early May this year as well.

"It's great to get two state champions who have really thrown well in their careers," Hayes said. "We can get four years of them working together and that's good for our program."

"They're both good students and both will have an opportunity to learn two new events - the weight throw indoors and the hammer throw outdoors. They'll be replacing Meaghan Byrd, who graduated and who we taught the same events four years ago. It's rewarding to watch them learn and grow and many times they do better in those events because they have no expectations."

Women's basketball signees compete in all-star games

Four Middle Tennessee women's basketball signees competed in All-Star Games over the weekend.

Jackie Pickel (Bradley Central), KeKe Stewart (Oak Ridge) and Brandi Brown (York Institute) combined for 38 of the East's 53 points in the 74-53 loss to the West at the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association East-West All-Star game. Brown, a 6-foot-2 forward, led the East with 14 points, while Stewart, a 6-foot center, added 13. Pickel, a 5-foot-9 guard, poured in 11 points.

In the second match-up between the Kentucky and Indiana All-Stars, Scott County, Kentucky's Chelsia Lymon had 12 points in the loss to Indiana 75-63. Lymon had 13 points in the two team's previous meeting on June 17.

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