



HI: 61°
LO: 46°



HI: 74°
LO: 50°



Pain doesn't stop student's drive

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Justin Rainey, unsung hero on defense

page 7

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

Vol. 82 No. 28

www.mtsusidelines.com

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2006

Editorially independent

Rutherford County Election Results



Governor*
Phil Bredesen (D)

U.S. Senate*
Bob Corker (R)

U.S. House District 6
Bart Gordon (D)

Tenn. House 34th District
Donna Rowland (R)

Tenn. House 48th District
John Hood (D)

Tenn. House 49th District
Kent Coleman (D)

Tenn. House 62nd District
Curt Cobb (D)

Senate 13th District
Bill Ketron (R)

Amendment 1
YES

Amendment 2
YES

All results were current at press time.

* Leading in Rutherford County at press time.

Voters make final surge to polls in midterm elections



Photo by Tom Cheredar | Contributing Photographer

Thomas Dowly, left, shown voting at the Central Middle School voting precinct last night while poll worker Ralph E. Thomas stands by to assist in voting.

By Dana Owens and Tom Cheredar
Community News, Staff Writer

The midterm elections attracted an unusually large number of voters yesterday at precincts near campus.

The atmosphere was feverish at the Reeves Roger Elementary School gym on Greenland Drive. Long lines of people stretched out behind registration tables and electronic voting machines while children from the after-school program weaved their way between the noisy bodies to their parents — themselves fighting the election traffic outside.

This year the lines have been especially long, according to Brad Lamb, a poll official whose family has been working the polls for many years.

Lamb said although lines were long, it was not due to problems with electronic machines. People were unfamiliar with the machines during the August elections and experienced more difficulties, he added.

"I think it's the way they operate that get people," Lamb said, referring to the action of pushing a button to choose a candidate.

Lamb said a major draw to the polls has been the U.S. Senate race between Republican candidate Bob Corker and Democratic opponent Harold Ford Jr.

MTSU alumnus Wayne Henderson said he always votes, but is not sure if these elections are of particular importance and does not feel too strongly in favor of either candidate.

Both candidates tried to portray themselves as drastically different from their opponent, Henderson said, but they both seemed like "pretty good



Photo by Mary Beth Gregory | Contributing Photographer

anthropology major Megan Dotson, adding that the war in Iraq also made an impact during these elections.

Dotson said she thought the voting machines were easy to use and she only waited about 30 minutes.

"Honestly, I don't know of any of my friends who aren't voting," she said.

This trend was confirmed by poll workers at the nearby precinct of Central Middle School, which drew a diverse crowd of eager voters for this year's midterm election.

"The election is the best it's been in eight years," said Ralph E. Thomas, a poll worker for the past 14 years. "People turned out."

Thomas, 80, said the previous election had a very poor turnout but was surprised by the amount of younger people who came to vote.

"All ages turned out," Thomas said. "We've got more college students than we usually have."

This is the second election in which electronic voting machines were used at this precinct, according to Thomas.

"It's been running smoothly," Thomas said, adding that not one person requested a paper ballot.

According to Lamb from the Reeves Rogers precinct, paper ballots were only offered in the event that electronic

See Election, 2

Students write to raise funds



Photo by Andy Harper | Campus Life Editor

(From left to right) Taylor Corlew, sophomore recording industry major, Libby Foster, sophomore nursing major, and Wes Pomeroy, sophomore concrete industry management major, write letters to raise money for St. Jude's Hospital.

By Andy Harper & Christin Pepple
Campus Life Editor & Staff Writer

Students gathered Monday night for the "Great Lick-A-Thon," a letter-writing party to help raise funds for Up 'Til Dawn.

"The Great Lick-A-Thon is the biggest fundraiser that we have this year," said Meagan Flippin, senior public relations major and associate director of Up 'Til Dawn.

During the event, participants bring their address books so they can send out letters asking for donations.

"20 percent of each person's letters are returned," Flippin said. "Last year we sent out 18,000 letters and usually we get about \$30 per letter, but it varied."

The event was in coordination with Up 'Til Dawn, an event sponsored by several committees of MTSU students who raise funds for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Students spent several hours on Monday night writing to family and friends to ask for donations to the cause.

"St. Jude's gives us information for our Up 'Til Dawn teams and we arrange the letter-writing party," said Shelia Umayam, senior psychology major and associate director of Up 'Til Dawn. "Each team mem-

ber writes 50 letters to family and friends asking them to make donations to St. Jude's for the team."

Other than addressing letters, the event also featured a patient from St. Jude's as a guest speaker, a D.J. and free food donated by Aramark.

"We funded the food because Up 'Til Dawn is just a great cause. We want to support it and the students as much as we can," said Luke Niedermyer, 2004 recording industry alum and Aramark employee.

Up 'Til Dawn has around 60 teams currently participating. Teams are made up of six members and each team pays the event a \$50 entry fee, Umayam said. Many of the groups represent various campus organizations such as honors societies, religious affiliations, fraternities and sororities.

"We have all sorts of groups," Umayam said. "For example, students from Hillel — the Jewish organization on campus — and the Muslim Student Association formed a team this year."

"The campus gets to be involved in such a good cause," said Jami Perkins, senior business management major. "It's just a way to give back to the community and to people who need help."

Students who do not necessarily represent an

See Up 'Til Dawn, 4

Voters' Response...

Here is what MTSU students and alumni had to say about the midterm elections as they left Reeves Rogers Elementary School and Central Middle School voting precincts Tuesday night.

"The issues with the war are so prominent, now people have stronger opinions one way or the other," Stephens said of the large voter turnout.

-Jennifer Stephens, graduate student

"One of my friends sent me like 30 text messages to remind me [to vote]."

-Laci Goodgame, undecided sophomore

"I think it's disturbing that in 2006 we could pass an amendment that actually takes rights away from people," Bryce said of amendment one.

-Benjamin Bryce, 2006 alumnus

"It's actually the voters' responsibility to review what they're voting on before they get up there. That's where most of the problems come in, in my opinion."

-Beverly Mallory, Murfreesboro resident and MTSU alumna

"It feels good because I have a right to complain now."

-Molly Maguigan, freshman mass communication major

"[These elections] could be important if anyone bothers to do anything constructive," Henderson said of the candidates.

-Wayne Henderson, 1997 alumnus

"I feel like crying - I know [Republican candidate Bob] Corker is going to win, but its important to vote anyways."

- Andrea Hinch, junior history education major

Compiled by Dana Owens | Community News Editor and Tom Cheredar | Staff Writer

State unemployment affects new graduates

By Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

As the statewide unemployment rates drop, MTSU alumni may feel the effects in their quest for that ever-elusive first job.

Tennessee's unemployment rate dropped to 4.6 percent in September, according to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Falling from a rate of 5.4 percent in Sept. 2003, Tennessee's unemployment went from 156,300 unemployed to 129,800 in three years.

In response to the drop in unemployment, enrollment in the MTSU Career and Employment Center's computer system has not been as high they would like it to be, said Karen Austin, assistant director at the center.

"2001 and 2002 were tough years, but in 2003 it started to get better," Austin said. "It's a great market right now."

She said there are many jobs available across the board, from construction product sales to social work and medical sales.

"I got a job at the company I did my internship with when I graduated," said Brian Westerman, a 2005 MTSU alumnus with a Bachelor's degree in music business.

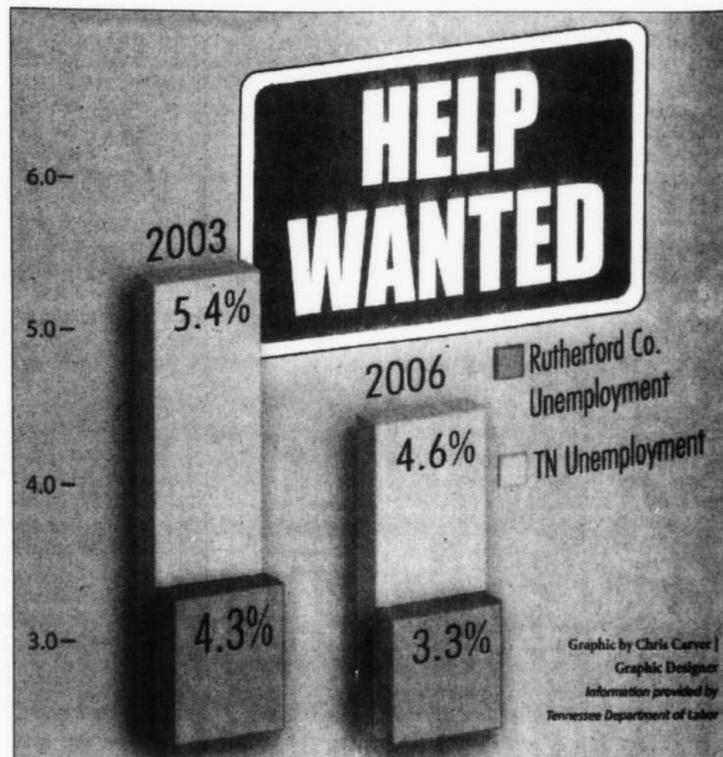
Westerman recently changed jobs. He used Monster.com, an online job site, to help him find his current employer.

"I think it was harder for me to find a job because I'm in the music industry," he said. "It seemed like all that was out there was insurance and financial planning."

Westerman's current job is in mobile marketing. He does text messaging for concerts.

Austin said it is hard to tell if MTSU students are having an easier time finding a job in their field. The only way to track them is if they call the career center and say what kind of job they have found after they graduate.

General studies show the average student



does not work in the field in which they have received their degree, she said.

According to the fall 2006 Salary Survey Report, issued by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, five out of nine public relations majors and seven out of thirteen history majors were offered jobs outside of their field.

Austin said there are several internships, communication jobs and sales jobs available.

The current unemployment rate for

Rutherford County is 3.3 percent, which is 1.3 percent lower than the overall state unemployment rate of 4.6 percent. Rutherford County's unemployment rate has dropped 1 percent since Sept. 2003, according to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Web site.

For information on jobs currently available or for information on jobs currently available on our campus, you can contact the Career and Employment Center at 898-2500 or go to room 328 in the Keathley University Center.

New Web site makes bidding easy for potential MT vendors

By Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

MTSU Procurement Services is implementing new online procurement software to ensure the campus gets the least expensive prices from vendors.

Procurement Services, which is conducted through the Purchasing Office, is in charge of obtaining contracts from vendors who in turn supply products and provide services needed for MTSU to operate. Companies that provide everything from paper to computer parts have to go through a bidding process with Procurement Services.

The software package is called SciQuest E-Procurement Market Place.

The site is similar to amazon.com Web site said Will Pritchett, director of procurement and auxiliary services.

The way it works is you log-in to the e-procurement Web site and put the items you need in an online shopping cart, said Joe Hugh, assistant vice president for procurement and auxiliary services. Then the software will reacquisition the supplies from the least expensive source.

The bidding part of the application will be the first to go online, Pritchett said. However, the entire program will not be up and running until late next spring.

Any company that has filled out an application with procurement services will have to be switched to the new system, Pritchett said. Once a vendor has been put on the

new software it is their responsibility to go to the Web site and update their information.

"We're still in the process of switching vendors over," Hugh said.

At this time procurement services is trying to reach out to other vendors in the area, Hugh said.

The software will allow procurement services to do bidding online with more accuracy, Pritchett said.

"It makes sure we get our products at the best price," Pritchett said.

He said every dollar MTSU saves is an actual dollar and can be used elsewhere in the university.

"The software package is going to do a lot of good things for the university," Hugh said.

The e-procurement software will also enhance MTSU's ability to obtain bids from small and minority- and women-owned businesses, Pritchett said. This will help the university comply with Governor Bredesen's Executive Order Number 14, meant to assist small businesses and businesses owned by minorities and women.

With the e-procurement system, any company with Internet access can put their products and services online so that the procurement center can place bids on them, Pritchett said.

Procurement services will still have paper bids, but the majority will be electronic, Hugh said. Using less paper will also save the university money.

Vendors that don't have computers can

still go through a manual process in order to have their products bid upon, Pritchett said.

The e-procurement system will be run through an off-site server, Pritchett said. If the new system goes down, the existing procurement service system will still be in place and act as a backup.

"We hope to eventually have any task that needs to be accomplished on campus ordered through the system," Pritchett said.

If the university decides to implement the system in a specific way, teachers will be able to use it to order things such as computers and telephones, he said.

"I can see where this will be an advantage for everyone," said Neil Brawner, project manager and estimator for Bradley Coatings.

Bradley Coatings has a contract to do all the painting for campus.

The new system will not effect Bradley Coatings at this time because their contract is not set to run out for a few more years, Brawner said.

He said they would have to use the system if there was a large bid over \$40,000.

However, Brawner said he wasn't aware of how the system will effect the competition for bids.

Yale, Notre Dame and Cornell already use the system, Pritchett said.

Currently, four Tennessee Board of Regents Schools are implementing this system, Pritchett said. Other than MTSU, the schools are East Tennessee State University, University of Memphis and Tennessee State University.

Election: Lines not as long as expected

Continued from 1

machines do not work.

Most voters were surprised by the short time it took to get through voter lines and cast a ballot.

"I'm going to be out of here a lot quicker than I thought," said Thomas Dowdy, who allotted an hour for voting. He waited less than half that time.

"I was 18 [when] I first got registered to vote," Dowdy said. "The older I get, the more I like it."

For some, like Laci Goodgame, this was the first time to vote in an election.

Goodgame, a 19-year-old sophomore at MTSU, did not have any problems voting and described the process as "simple."

"If you can read you should have no problem," Goodgame said.

Another MTSU student voting at Reeves Rogers, Brad Qualls, also said he thought the machines were easy to use.

"If you can read and understand a little bit of technology, it should be easy," he said.

However, it was just as easy for those who could not read, such as MTSU student Jessica Beechan, 21, who is legally blind.

"It was not difficult [to vote] whatsoever," Beechan said - although poll workers did not know how to help her at first.

"It's a good feeling to know that you influenced a possible change," Beechan said.

Don't like the election results?

Next time, vote and make your voice heard...

And read *Sidelines*.

Whispering Black code talk for whites

Molly Secours

Writer, speaker and anti-racist activist confronts the unfair and unearned advantages of being white in



When: November 13th @ 7pm

Where: MTSU/James Union Bldg./Tennessee Room (Meet and Greet from 5:30-6:30 in Hazelwood Dining Room. Light refreshments provided.)

Sponsored by: Distinguished Lectures, Social Work Forum & National Association of Black Social Work Students.

“Butterflies” take flight in professor’s new book

By Kelly Fitzpatrick
Contributing Writer

MT journalism professor David Badger has authored a book on butterflies with nature photographer Brian Kenney. Published this month by Voyageur Press, “Butterflies” is a colorful report on 60 species of butterflies from around the world.

Badger was recruited by the publisher to write the text to accompany more than 120 photographs. He says he had no experience working with or writing about butterflies prior to accepting the project.

“Before I wrote this book, I’d never heard of host plants or caterpillars,” said Badger, who had already published four nature books with his long-time friend and late photographer John Netherton.

After a year and a half of research and seven rough drafts, Badger completed the book, which he said is not a field guide.

His previous work with Voyageur Press has been noted for its engaging yet informative prose, as Badger often relies on anecdotal narratives to relay the science of a species. In “Butterflies,” he uses the same format to introduce a deeper understanding of the insects.

“It’s not just a pretty picture book,” he said. Badger hopes the book will appeal to the sympathies of all readers by emphasizing the importance of butterfly conservation in places where species are threatened by urban development and commercial mistreatment. He admits that all of his nature writing has contained a message of conservation.

The destruction of natural habitats is a point of

concern, he said. In an effort to sensitize readers to problems facing butterflies, the book contains a chapter on conservation that includes a list of butterfly conservatories throughout the nation.

“If this book informs some people of the plight of monarchs, it’s done some good,” he said.

The writing process instilled a newfound respect for butterflies in Badger. Since researching them for the book, he has taken up the hobby of planting nectar plants around his home to attract the little creatures.

“Right now, I have gulf fritillary caterpillars next to a stretch of bushes by my garage,” he said. He also has two in chrysalis in his living room.

“I found them more interesting than I ever could have imagined,” he said of his new pastime.

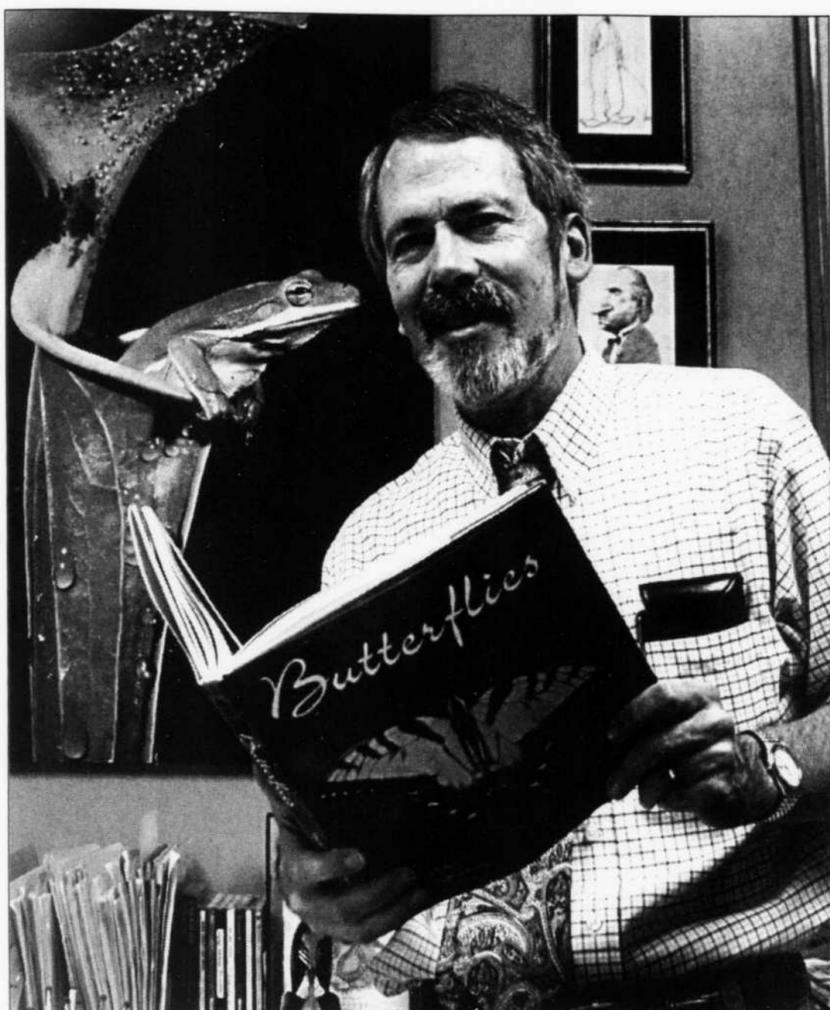
Badger has never met the book’s photographer, Brian Kenney, face-to-face. In spite of the distance, both are proud of their work together.

“We started the book as strangers, but by the time it was wrapped up, I felt like we had been close friends for years,” said Kenney, whose photography Badger called “handsome” and “gorgeous.”

“I think that ‘Butterflies’ turned out great,” Kenney said.

Kenney’s background in nature photography is considerable. He has published two books, and his award-winning photography has appeared in *The National Geographic*, *BBC Wildlife* and *Wildlife Conservation*.

Badger’s previous works with Voyageur Press are “Lizards,” “Snakes,” “Frogs,” and “Frogs Worldwide Library.” Badger has also been published as a film critic and book reviewer. His work has appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers.



Journalism professor David Badger recently released his fifth nature book, “Butterflies,” a cooperative effort with nature photographer Brian Kenney. Badger knew nothing about Butterflies before writing the book, but now cultivates a butterfly habitat.

Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director

Circle encourages conversation safe-zone

By Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday marked the beginning of Gender Circles, a new organization sponsored by the June Anderson Women’s Center.

“Gender Circles is designed for students to have open, honest and safe conversations about the world as a whole,” said Terri Johnson, director of the June Anderson Women’s Center.

At the Nov. 1 meeting, the group watched “Iron Jawed Angels,” a film about the women’s suffrage movement in the United States, according to Amber Ferguson, senior mass communication

major. After the movie, the group had a discussion about what they had seen, Ferguson said.

“We talked about what women had to go through for us to have the right to vote,” she said. “I knew it wasn’t easy but I didn’t know they were force-fed like they were.”

In addition to the movie and discussion, a survey was administered asking what the women’s center could do for the community.

The Gender Circle discussions are guided, but the center doesn’t limit the conversation to only women’s topics, Johnson said. People of both genders can come and participate.

“We’re definitely trying to get more male

involvement with the center,” Ferguson said. “A lot of males think the center is just for females and that’s not so.”

“There were not any guys at the last meeting, but the center is working on it,” she said. “We’re in the process of getting the word out.”

Gender Circles is a way to find out different people’s ideas about topics such as books, movies and events on campus, said Mary Ann Guiliano, secretary for the June Anderson Women’s Center.

“It’s about sharing information on gender-related topics,” said Sara Woldentensaye, junior criminal justice major.

The women’s center may show a documentary, discuss a book or show a movie as their main

topic, Johnson said. They will also discuss anything else people want to bring up.

The women’s center is really looking forward to this because it is something new, Guiliano said.

“We’re hoping to have a great turnout,” Guiliano said.

The women’s center would like smaller groups between five and 10 people, but they are willing to accommodate 20 or more, Johnson said.

“[Gender Circles] is a good thing to come and get involved with,” Ferguson said.

Gender Circles will take place every Wednesday in November from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the James Union Building, Room 206.



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Second Annual Chili Luncheon

Thursday, November 9th
KUC 322
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cash donations benefit
St. Jude
Children's Research
Hospital
through
UP 'TIL DAWN

Lecture marks anniversary of highway system

By Josh Cross
Staff Writer

With his biography of Albert Gore Sr. near completion, Tony Badger will speak to MTSU students and faculty about the Federal Aid Highway Act and Gore’s role in its creation Thursday evening.

Badger, a professor of American history at Cambridge University, will be speaking in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the highway system and the contributions to the system made by Gore.

“This is a subject that really impacts everybody’s life and we sort of take for granted the roads that we drive on and don’t realize what it would be like to travel through Tennessee without an interstate highway,” said Lisa Pruitt, director of the Albert Gore Research Center. “People need to come and learn something about something they take for granted.”

Gore, a 1932 graduate of MTSU, then Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, was the co-author of the Highway Act in 1953, which funded the creation of the interstate highway system.

“It is a very important piece of legislation that has made it possible for the South in many ways to catch up to the rest of the country both economically and in terms of its infrastructure,” Pruitt said. “Without the highways, Murfreesboro would still be a small town very much apart from Nashville.”

When Badger first started work on the biography in January 2002, he visited MTSU about three times a year to gather research from Gore’s congressional papers, which were donated to the college, but Pruitt did not ask him to lecture because

she didn’t want to interrupt his research time.

Now that his book is almost finished, Pruitt said she decided that it would be a perfect time for him to lecture, since it coincided with the 50th anniversary of the bill being passed.

“The title of the talk, ‘Albert Gore Sr., the Interstate Highway Act, and the Modern South,’ indicates also that his specialty in history is southern political history, and so he is also going to be taking about the implication of the interstate highway system for southern regional development,” Pruitt said.

“I think that one of the things that is interesting about this lecture is that Dr. Badger is British and he teaches about American history,” Pruitt said. “That brings a really unique perspective to the subject.”

His view of this is more that of an outsider and so he sees things that those of us on the inside might not necessarily see.”

The lecture, which will last about 45 minutes and answer a 15-minute question and answer session afterward, will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday in the State Farm Lecture Hall in the Business and Aerospace Building, with a reception immediately following.

The presentation will be taped for broadcasting on Channel 9. Pruitt said people are asked that when they come to the lecture that they try not to leave early.

“It will be really eye-opening for people to think about, especially for younger generations of people for whom the interstates have always been there,” Pruitt said. “I think the real draw of this lecture is that it’s going to bring up ideas about something that seems mundane, but really, when you start looking at it, isn’t mundane at all.”

Up 'Til Dawn: Write for money

Continued from 1

organization or cannot form a team are still encouraged to sign up for Up 'Til Dawn.

"We are still accepting teams so it's not too late," Umayam said. "Individuals can always contact us and we form teams of ungrouped people. We want everyone who wants to help."

The goal of each team is to raise \$600 by January. In addition to writing letters, teams raise money through car washes and bake sales.

"Wal-Mart off of Old Fort [Parkway] is a favorite place for teams to raise money," Umayam said. "Any money a team raises at Wal-Mart, the store will match."

The overall goal of the Up 'Til Dawn is to raise \$90,000 for the hospital.

"It's important to do this for St. Jude's because they rely solely on donations," Flippin said. "No patient there is charged anything, so every little bit that we can raise counts. Every team can save at least one person's life."

On Jan. 23 the teams will gather in a final celebration of their fundraising efforts by staying up from 7 p.m. till 7 a.m. The finale of the fundraiser will feature games, food and other forms of entertainment as thanks to the teams for their fundraising efforts, Umayam said.

"This year, our theme is 'Be a Lifesaver,' so we are doing a beach type festival," Umayam said. "We stay up all night, have mini-competition games between the teams, listen to music and socialize. Last year we even had a hypnotist."

Awards will also be given out to teams who raise the most money and who show the most spirit during fundraising.

"We are giving sick children chances that they might not otherwise have, like to go to college," said Faye Tyree, the head chairman of the Great Lick-A-Thon. "We have to give so that they can have the opportunities the rest of us take for granted."

"It's a great way for students to involve themselves in the community and stand up and be a part of something that is so important," said Crystal Griffey, entertainment coordinator for the Great Lick-A-Thon.

Upcoming events to raise additional money include a chili luncheon on Thursday for faculty members as well as the "Carts for Kids," a golf cart that carries people around campus to classes in exchange for donations, Flippin said.

"We just want commemorate the patients and parents who support their children battling cancer," Umayam said. "This is the least we could do because while we only stay up for a night, they do it every night."

CRIME BRIEFS

Tuesday, Oct. 31 - 1:10 a.m.
Scarlett Commons
Aggravated Robbery
Patrol officer was flagged down by two victims who reported they had been robbed at gunpoint by three males.

Tuesday, Oct. 31 - 6:51 a.m.
Business Aerospace Building
Theft under \$500
Police were notified that a custodian's keys for the building were stolen.

Tuesday, Oct. 31 - 9:17 a.m.
Judd Hall
Arson
Police officer took a report of a burnt piece of paper on west custodial door.

Tuesday, Oct. 31 - 9:44 a.m.
Corlew Hall
Theft under \$500
Subject reported theft of room key and ID.

Tuesday, Oct. 31 - 2:07 p.m.
Greenland Drive Lot B
Leaving Scene of Accident
Subject called and reported her vehicle was hit. Damage estimated at over \$400.

Tuesday, Oct. 31 - 5:24 p.m.
Kirksey Old Main

Theft under \$500
Police were informed that a purse was stolen outside complainant's office door.

Wednesday, Nov. 1 - 1:29 a.m.
Smith Hall
Harassing/Threatening Phone Calls
Area Coordinator informed police that one of the resident advisers had received a harassing phone call.

Saturday, Nov. 4 - 1:00 a.m.
Deere Hall
False Fire Alarm
Police received a call reporting a fire alarm. Resident director notified.

Saturday, Nov. 4 - 3:01 a.m.
Alpha Gamma Rho - Fraternity Row
Fire Alarm - Fire Present
Caller reported smoke coming from Alpha Gamma Rho house. Police went to investigate.

Saturday, Nov. 4 - 5:27 p.m.
Peck Hall
Open Container
Brian Prater, 25, of Jackson, Tenn. was given a citation for an open container and expired driving license.

Saturday, Nov. 4 - 5:29 p.m.
Peck Hall
Vandalism over \$500
A couch was set on fire at a tailgate site while football game was going

on. A second couch was then placed over the first couch and burned.

Saturday, Nov. 4 - 5:44 p.m.
Smith Hall
Theft over \$500
Subject called to report stolen laptop.

Saturday, Nov. 4 - 10:43 p.m.
Rutherford Blvd
Driving Under the Influence
Gregory Campbell, 32, of Manchester, Tenn. was placed under arrest for driving under the influence and driving on a revoked license. Tow truck called for subject's vehicle.

Sunday, Nov. 5 - 12:51 p.m.
Sigma Alpha Epsilon House - Greek Row
Underage possession of alcohol
Jordan James, 18, of Cordova, Tenn. was caught carrying a case of beer.

Sunday, Nov. 5 - 3:32 p.m.
Murphy Center
Theft under \$500
People walked in to file a report for a stolen cell phone.

Monday, Nov. 6 - 12:06 p.m.
James E. Walker Library
Theft under \$500
Jay Grissom, 27, of Murfreesboro, Tenn. was arrested for theft under \$500.

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Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

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Continued to next column

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Senate winner remains uncertain; Tennessee's the real loser, though

While it is too early for us to call the winner for Senate, does it really matter?

When it comes to the issues, Harold Ford Jr. and Bob Corker are too similar, giving Tennesseans few options to choose from. The problem is that both candidates have been vying for the votes of conservative southerners, making the election moot for moderates and liberals.

The reason for this lack of choice is partly due to the obsession to see which political party will be in power, making the Tennessee Senate election a national fiasco for all to watch, and thereby ignoring the issues that Tennesseans should be discussing to improve both the state and the nation.

When the debate centers around who is going to take the House or the Senate, the issues become drowned and the details lost. For example, consider the war in Iraq. You have Ford vaguely advocating Sen. Joe Biden's (D-Delaware) plan to divide Iraq into three divisions and Corker distancing himself from Bush and his own party.

It is not surprising then, considering the failure to debate, that this campaign turned sour so quickly. Because really, how can two politicians with similar goals debate? If Ford and Corker agree on the issues, then all they've got to talk about is each other.

But the worst part of this frivolous election was the media saturation. The late night phone calls, road signs and the TV ads (that would run consecutively, sometimes three in a row) disrupted Tennesseans' lives for two months, and for what? So that one of these two men can be shipped to Washington, D.C. and continue the tired partisanship that is devouring our country from the inside. It doesn't matter who wins, because Tennessee has already lost.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

Republicans need to keep quiet

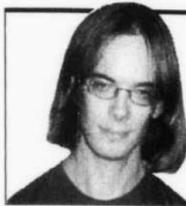
It seems the White House can't win for losing. They foul up when they keep quiet, and they foul up when they say too much.

The *New York Times* reported Friday that the head of national security, John Negroponte, announced that he was overseeing the dismantling of a government Web site containing documents recovered from Iraq. The documents in question describe in precise engineering details former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's nuclear weapons program prior to the 1991 Gulf War. So precise, in fact, that concerns were raised that hostile countries or terrorist groups could easily access the documents and use them to develop their own nuclear weapons.

Intelligence officials here acted quickly to close down the entire Web site, but this comes as a particularly embarrassing blow to the Bush administration, which has spent the last few weeks traveling the country trying to shore up Republican control of Congress. The president, who's tenure in office has been dominated by national security, as well as his full cast of characters, are now having to ask themselves, what were we thinking?

Good question. The government had made the documents available in the first place in order to support their case that Hussein's government was on the verge of building and deploying nuclear weapons that could threaten the United States and its interests. The documents were publicly available for scholars to examine and determine whether or not Iraq was, in fact, nuclear-ready.

This seems like a brilliant idea on the administration's part – pass mountains of writing on to people outside the government and let them prove that the president's case for war was, in fact, reasonable. Brilliant, until you realize that anyone could take a peak at these



Fair And Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

documents: Iranian scientists, members of al-Qaeda or that know-it-all 14 year old kid who lives next door to you. Your neighbor would probably have a hard time making sense of the documents, most of which were in un-translated Arabic, but both of the other parties mentioned, as well as anyone else willing to find a translator, would have a pretty easy time making sense of the massive body of work that Iraqi scientists had managed to assemble.

Conservative writers have been quick to slam both the International Atomic Energy Agency, which officially declined to comment on the documents, and the media for trying to sabotage the election for Republicans, but this line of thought is weak armor for the right not only because it claims that the nuclear regulatory organization and *The New York Times* are bad for essentially doing their job, but also because it tries to spin attention away from a serious security problem that had the potential to put a large number of lives in danger.

For everyone eager to call victory, declaring the nuclear documents to be proof that Hussein had a nuclear program so advanced that the Bush administration felt just cause in declaring a preemptive war against Iraq, consider the following:

The documents recovered by U.S. intelligence pre-date the 1991 Gulf War. In the years that followed that war, U.S. and U.N. forces broke down Iraq's ability to develop weapons

of mass destruction, dismantling equipment and dispersing materials until the 1998 removal of U.N. inspection teams by Hussein.

The Iraqi government certainly had the know-how to build a nuclear weapon, even after the Gulf War and subsequent police actions against Hussein. However, Iraq lacked the materials with which they could construct a nuclear weapon, and were, as far as anyone has been able to tell, unable to acquire those materials prior to the U.S. invasion in 2003. The documents pulled from the Internet by intelligence officials are not the smoking gun that the right has been looking for to justify President George W. Bush's war, and do not point to an imminent threat to the United States from the former Iraqi government.

The fact of the matter is that congressional Republicans had the documents posted online so that others could try and justify their thus-far baseless theory for invading Iraq. Conservatives can spin this any way they please, but the only threat these documents speak of is the one created by Republicans in their rush to legitimize their decisions. There is no justification for making such detailed and sensitive information publicly available, especially given how mindful we are supposed to be about national security – something that the Bush administration likes to remind us of as often as possible.

Our government has a lot of explaining to do if it wants to clean up this latest mess in the ongoing story of the Iraq war. However, this shouldn't be a problem for them, since as we've seen, they're more than willing to share what's on their minds.

Matthew Adair is a senior art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.

Learn to value reality over image obsession

Image is something that Americans thrive on. According to dictionary.com, 'image' is a physical likeness or representation of a person, animal or thing, photographed, painted, sculptured or otherwise made visible. It is the basis for politics, entertainment and everything necessary to sustain life.



My 'Keep It Real' Policy

Shannon Mitchell
Staff Columnist

Americans' views on different candidates and celebrities are based on those people's images. I guess that is why they employ consultants to do most of the dirty work.

Most people do not have image consultants, but are still very concerned about the way they are being viewed. The way that others perceive us is extremely important for survival purposes.

For example, any time you go to an interview of any sort, the first impression has a lasting impression on the employer. A person in a business suit automatically receives more respect in a corporate job interview than a person in a t-shirt and work boots. Even if the man in the suit has no work experience and is dumb as a rock, he may be considered above the other candidate by looks alone.

Unfortunately, our view of others is very faded. Who is to say that a nice suit and fresh haircut make you more intelligent and assertive?

I will never forget learning in my university seminar class that the average millionaire drives a Ford or Chevrolet. Most of those people who feel the need to drive the latest cars are in debt for the sake of "looking rich."

Unfortunately, Americans have taken image so much farther than cars and clothing. People now feel the need to demonstrate their images through changing their physical appearances. According to CNN.com, there were nearly four million Botox treatments last year alone.

Cosmetic surgery is on the rise and several patients are going under the knife to look like their favorite celebrities. However, I have a secret.

The celebrity pictures that we see in magazines are people who do not exist. Thanks to computer technology and the art of airbrush those gorgeous pictures are digitally altered. That means the image that is seen is not obtainable and is completely unrealistic.

So far, we have learned that for the sake of image we will inject bacteria into our foreheads, foreclose on our homes and run the risk of dying in procedures all to feel accepted. Wow. It is amazing the things people will go through to appear a certain way.

Although I was raised in the suburbs, urban culture has always intrigued me. Yes, I am guilty of liking a guy in baggy jeans and a fitted cap. However, many brothers are taking this whole rap-image thing to a different level.

Sure, it looks cool when Jay-Z wears million-dollar studs in each ear. Yet, I do not know how tired I am of seeing larger than life cubic zirconium earrings in my peer's ears. From a distance they may appear real, but the whole wannabe factor makes it very corny.

It may be wrong to pick on rap culture, but I have seen one too many minivans with hub-capped spinners. The list goes on. The fake grills, the fake chains, the fake rims... Enough already.

Hopefully, one day, internal value will gain substance again. There are too many people living beyond their means for image purposes. I am guilty of being superficial at times, but never enough to jeopardize my health. Think about it – how far will you go for your image?

Shannon Mitchell is a junior public relations major and can be reached at srm3i@mtsu.edu

Community involvement protects land

By Kathleen Williams

Guest Columnist

Throughout Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia, the people who live surrounded by some of the most beautiful and biologically diverse forestlands in the world have spoken. They have spoken for our forests, a sustainable economy and our heritage.

A coalition of fishermen, hunters, environmental groups, businesses, religious leaders and unaffiliated average Americans let the Bush administration know that its misguided proposal to temporarily fund rural schools by selling 300,000 acres of our public national forests – approximately 3,000 in Tennessee, 7,000 in North Carolina and nearly 5,000 in Georgia – would not fly.

Due to this groundswell of support for preserving our region's ecological heritage, members of Congress on both sides of the aisle refused to move the forest-sale legislation this summer, effectively killing it. It was a victory for all of us in the Southeast.

However, the threats to our forest-based heritage remain. And we must be vigilant if we are going to preserve it for our children and grandchildren to enjoy and benefit from economically.

Now that we've successfully protected a portion of our local forestland from being sold off by

the federal government, it's time to protect it more permanently from poorly conceived, poorly planned private development.

Numerous environmental and conservation groups are with us in this struggle, as are state agencies dedicated to environmental protection. Tennessee's Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, for example, recently bought 13,000 acres of land from paper industry giant Bowater on the Cumberland Plateau, an environmentally rich region that spans six southeastern states.

Furthermore, the Bowater Corporation has chosen to practice more sustainable forest management. In its recent agreement with the Dogwood Alliance and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) – which has designated the Cumberland Plateau one of 12 BioGems, biologically rare and threatened regions in the Americas – the company chose to forgo forest conversion, protect ecologically important areas, and limit its use of chemicals.

However, Bowater still has hundreds of thousands of acres it's trying to sell and much of that land might go to private developers. Thousands of acres of forestland are also for sale by other, less scrupulous timber and paper companies. And state government, land trusts and environmental groups can only do so

much. That's where the rest of us come in – those who stand to gain the most from living in a region that is both environmentally and economically sound.

First of all, we need to accept the common-sense reality that environmental protection is good for our property values, our drinking water supplies, our health and our spiritual well-being. People will pay a premium to live where the air, water and landscape are pure and pristine, and these types of surroundings bring peace of mind.

Secondly, we must balance development with environmental protections by using some of the sound planning practices that hundreds of communities throughout the United States have used for decades. We do not have to allow each and every form of development to control us.

We can do this by carefully adopting targeted land use protection laws that encourage developers to conserve ecologically and culturally essential areas.

For example, we might consider concentrating housing subdivisions on only the buildable portions of property and leave the rest as protected open space.

Also, local communities can raise funds from developers in exchange for the right to build, funds that can be used to purchase open space for hunting and outdoor recreation.

Local community development corporations can offer low-interest loans to entrepreneurs who are interested in creating businesses catering to outdoor recreation and vacations. This type of economic development should be strongly encouraged.

Communities also can create their own greenways and trail systems, which would attract outdoor enthusiasts, tourists and perhaps even conservation-minded developers.

Another possibility is for local governments to establish community conservation boards that would operate much like county parks boards. These groups of business people, conservationists and developers could be appointed by local elected officials to develop open space inventories and identify natural areas that are good candidates for preservation.

However, no matter how we plan at the local level, the point is to begin now before the accelerating and inevitable onslaught of development overwhelms our heritage: Our precious and limited natural resources.

If we were able to successfully take on the federal government in the battle to preserve our lands, surely we can act locally.

Kathleen Williams is the president and executive director of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation.

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

An editorially independent newspaper

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

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FEATURES

Wednesday: **Health & Life**

Pain doesn't stop student's drive

Aspiring reporter to graduate despite debilitating disease

By Joe Bird

Contributing Writer

Jamie Young has had one goal since 1997: To graduate from college with a Bachelor's degree in mass communication. Little did she know that it would take nearly seven years to obtain a four-year degree.

After many setbacks and hardships, however, Young will finally graduate this December.

In 1988, Jamie moved from West Frankfort, Ill., to Chattanooga because her dad obtained a new job. Years later, in 1997, she began her college life at Cleveland State Community College near Chattanooga. During her first semester, she was a typical college student making exceptional grades.

In the spring of 1998, however, the first of two life-changing events occurred when her dad died from complications of AIDS.

Later that year on Dec. 12, Jamie was involved in a serious car collision when a car came across the yellow line and struck her head. Paramedics thought Jamie was dead, but she was able to mutter "I'm alive," and was quickly transported to the hospital. A few hours later, she slipped into a coma.

After coming out of the coma, she knew she would be in pain, but the pain she was experiencing was not like anything she had felt before. Tests were run and it was found she had a rare syndrome called Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) that was activated by a large amount of nerve trauma. Currently, Jamie has RSD in her right foot.

"The best way to explain my pain is to drain all the blood out of my foot and then replace it with lighter fluid and set it on fire," Young says.

WebMD.com defines RSD as a rare disorder of the sympathetic nervous system that is characterized by chronic, severe pain. RSD can be anywhere in the body, and over time it spreads throughout the body.

While there are treatments to help relieve some of the pain, there is no cure for RSD. One treatment, called a spinal block, requires a needle to be stuck into Young's spinal cord to inject medication that suppresses activity in that part of her nervous system.

"This basically numbs my foot anywhere from one to three weeks," Young explains. "While this still does not block all the pain, it's a huge relief."

As helpful as the spinal blocks are, over time scar tissue builds up, making the blocks less effective and requiring longer waiting periods before another block can be performed. Medications are available to help alleviate some of the pain.

"My blocks are now only allowed once every two to three months due to scar tissue," Young says. "This allows a huge relief."

She takes three different pain medications, but she sometimes wonders if the benefit of numbing the pain outweighs suffering through side effects like drowsiness, clumsiness and forgetfulness. Nonetheless, her family and friends cope with the side effects and life goes on.

"I take the medication because I have to be able to function ... (and) unfortunately, no matter how much I take, I'm always in pain," Young says. "On the upside, I actually have an excuse for being ditzy!"

On a scale of one to 10, with 10 being the highest level of pain, on a good day Jamie says she is usually at a 4. The more she walks and the more stress she puts on her foot, the more it hurts.

Young considers that pain a small price to pay, however, compared to what she could have faced. She was told by her doctor that, due to brain damage, she would not successfully graduate from college, never walk again, and would be dependent on her parents for the rest of her life.

After recovering, however, Young transferred to Motlow State Community College, where she met instructor Jeannie Brown.

"The first time I met Jamie, she came to my classroom in an electric wheelchair," Brown says. "I realize she is always in constant pain, yet she is always positive and upbeat. I have high standards for her and she meets those high standards. She keeps on surviving."

Brown and Young quickly developed a closeness atypical of the usual teacher-student relationship. Both now view their connection as a mother-daughter bond.

"Jeannie helped me out of the shell I had put myself into after my car accident," Young recalls.



Photo by Colby Sledge | Features Editor

Senior mass communication major Jamie Young has battled through the death of her father and a chronically painful disease since entering college nine years ago, but she is finally ready to graduate in December. "After six-and-a-half years of school, I'm reaching the college student's dream - to graduate," she says.

While at Motlow, Young sang in five stage productions for Brown and served as the Communications Club president. She declares that going to Motlow was "one of the best decisions I made."

After spending three years at Motlow, Young transferred to MTSU to finish her communication degree. It was only about a year later that she went out of remission, meaning the chances of RSD spreading increased, as did the level of pain.

"There are days where the pain is so bad, I don't want to wake up or get out of bed," Young admits.

What encourages her enough to get out of bed? School. With her Bachelor's degree in mass communication only a few months away, she doesn't let the pain stop her.

Despite living an hour away from campus, Young took summer courses, including a math class that began at 7:30 a.m. This fall, she has moved to Murfreesboro and is registered for 20 classes.

"It's a lot of work and can be very stressful, but I will not let RSD stop me and I will graduate in December," she vows.

Jamie's mother, Becky Freeman, has waited anxiously for graduation day to come.

"When she lost her dad and had the wreck, her whole frame of mind and attitude changed," Freeman says tearfully. "Many thought that those events would destroy her. It just goes to show how determined she is and how great she is to have reached this goal in her life."

Freeman is not the only one who knows how determined Young is to get her college degree. Young's best friend, Cameron Brewer, sees the determination in Young's eyes.

"Jamie is an inspiration to everyone," Brewer says. "She has overcome so many obstacles without wallowing in self-pity. She meets her challenges with the right attitude and has not let anyone come in the way of her dreams. Graduation is only a stepping stone in her life path, because she has so many wonderful experiences ahead of her."

And to this day, nothing has stopped her. From her father's death to



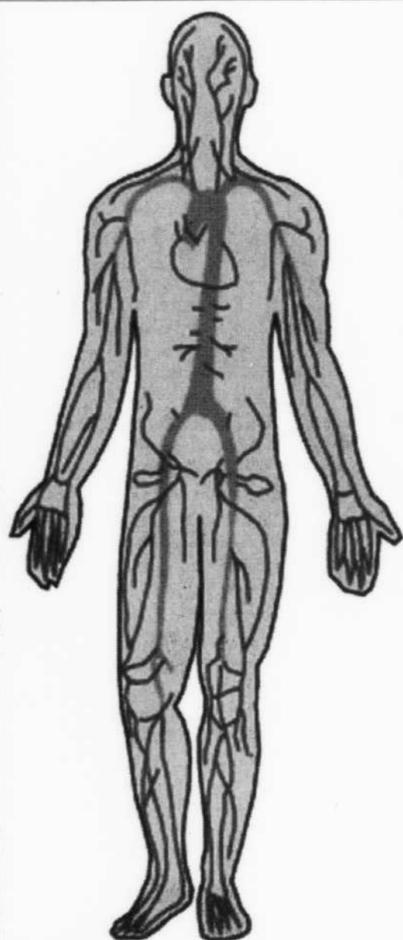
Photo by Colby Sledge | Features Editor

Jamie is forced to wear this specialized shoe to help relieve some of the pain from which she suffers daily as a result of her accident.

the many months of recovery from her wreck after being told she would never walk again, Jamie is about to take a very special walk in December.

Not only is Jamie graduating, she will become the first in her family to obtain a college degree. She will begin her career as a reporter at a news station and aspires to become a White House correspondent.

"After six-and-a-half years of school, I'm reaching the college student's dream - to graduate," she says with a smile. "I never graduated from high school or anywhere else. This is the first time I'll get to wear the cap and gown."



RSD At A Glance

Although the disease is often misdiagnosed, Reflex Dystrophy Syndrome (RSD) is characterized by several symptoms, including:

- Severe burning pain
- Pathological changes in bone and skin
- Excessive sweating
- Tissue swelling
- Extreme sensitivity to touch
- Changes in skin temperature and/or color
- Evidence of edema
- Decreased range of motion
- Motor dysfunction
- Immobilization due to pain

Source: <http://rds.org>

Little known about RSD Syndrome needs research, advocate says

By Colby Sledge

Features Editor

For many years, Jamie Young's story of living with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy may mark the first time they have heard of the syndrome.

For those who suffer from RSD, however, the chronic pain that accompanies it is a constant reminder.

"A lot of times people are isolated, and they have difficulty because no one really can understand it," said Jim Broatch, executive director of the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funds for RSD research. "More and more people are telling their stories - that's increasing the publicity."

RSD, which is also known as Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, occurs when part of the nervous system malfunctions, sending constant pain signals to the brain. RSD can be triggered by a wide variety of events, some of which seem relatively harmless.

"RSD usually occurs after some sort of physical trauma," Broatch said. "It could be after an accident, after surgery, or it could be as simple as spraining an ankle or giving blood. Somehow it sets off a chain reaction in the nervous system, and it must be hit quickly or it will spread."

CRPS/RSD is characterized by continuing pain in the affected region, changes in skin blood flow and evidence of edema. Although it remains virtually unknown, the syndrome has a fairly lengthy history in the United States.

"The first time it became prominent was when Union soldiers came back from the Civil War," Broatch said. "Their wounds had healed but they still complained of severe, terrible pain. They even got to the point that they put their limbs in buckets of ice."

Because of its relative obscurity both in the medical world and in the public eye, however, the syndrome is often misdiagnosed and misunderstood. Sufferers often have to see multiple physicians before being accurately diagnosed with CRPS/RSD, and many can have prolonged battles over compensation if they can no longer work due to the pain.

"Once you're labeled with something, then the company has to put up reserves," Broatch said. "This can be a very expensive diagnosis, because once adults are diagnosed with it, many cannot go back to work ever."

One of the most frustrating aspects of CRPS/RSD, Broatch said, is the simple lack of research on the syndrome.

"We really don't know why both of us can sprain our ankle, but one of us can get RSD and another won't," he said. The syndrome is two to three times more frequent in females than males, however, and diagnosis often occurs in patients in their early 40s.

There is no cure for CRPS/RSD, Broatch said, and there is no specific treatment to partially relieve its symptoms, although some effective methods include medication, physical therapy and sympathetic nerve blocks.

Those interested in learning more about CRPS/RSD can call the RSDSA at 1-877-662-7737 or visit <http://www.rds.org>.

SPORTS

Rainey: Unsung hero

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

Justin Rainey has overcome a lot of adversity in his career. After a solid stint at Hutchinson Community College, Rainey came to MTSU last season and competed for playing time immediately. However, injuries set in and Rainey was not able to play in the final eight games of the season.

This season, Rainey had a chance to play and was firmly entrenched at the outside linebacker position after the spring game. Yet Rainey's role became even more important when Chance Dunleavy went down with an injury during the first few weeks of the season. Rainey has stepped up big time, as he is second on the team in tackles with 45. Last week, Rainey also had one of the most exciting plays of the Blue Raider season, a 50-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown to put the game out of reach against Florida Atlantic University. Rainey said the recovery was a big play, but he just wanted to make sure he scored.

"I was just thinking I had to make it into the end zone," he said. "It was a big part of the game, and we needed a touch-

down for some breathing room. I just wanted to do it for the defense; we've been playing hard. I just wanted to bring it home for us."

The performance against Florida Atlantic netted Rainey the Sun Belt Conference's defensive player of the week. Rainey's final line for that game: 11 total tackles, two tackles for loss and the 50-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown.

Rainey joined fellow Blue Raiders Eugene Gross and Damon Nickson. Justin explained that awards are a positive for the team that gives them motivation. Rainey said he believes everyone benefits from the awards and recognition given to the program.

"It means a lot," Rainey said. "We worked so hard this summer to be number one. It's paying off right now. We practiced everyday, we worked out everyday, this is the hardest we have ever worked since I have been here."

This week's upcoming game against Arkansas State is a huge one as it is yet another conference game for the Blue Raiders. Rainey and the team have adopted the "one game at a time mentality" that Coach Rick Stockstill has instilled. Rainey

said that this week's game is the main focus and there is no chance they are looking down the road.

"We still have to keep working hard," Rainey explained. "We could slip up once, and that would be it. Arkansas State is great team and if we don't come to play they will beat us. We just take it week by week. The record doesn't matter in the Sun Belt."

Rainey's attitude has been a huge influence on the defense, as he has had to handle the middle linebacker duties. He has been in charge of the recognition and audibles for the defense and has done an excellent job. His quiet leadership has played a big part in the success of the Blue Raider defense. Rainey attributes all of his success to the coaches and his fellow members of the defense.

"Well, I think the defense does have a lot to do with it," he said. "I think it has a lot to do with my defensive line, and that opens a lot of room up for me."

Rainey has had a very successful season, but he knows it is not over. He has become a leader on the defense and a force on the inside. Rainey has come a long way since the start of this season and has evolved into one of the best defenders in the Sun Belt.

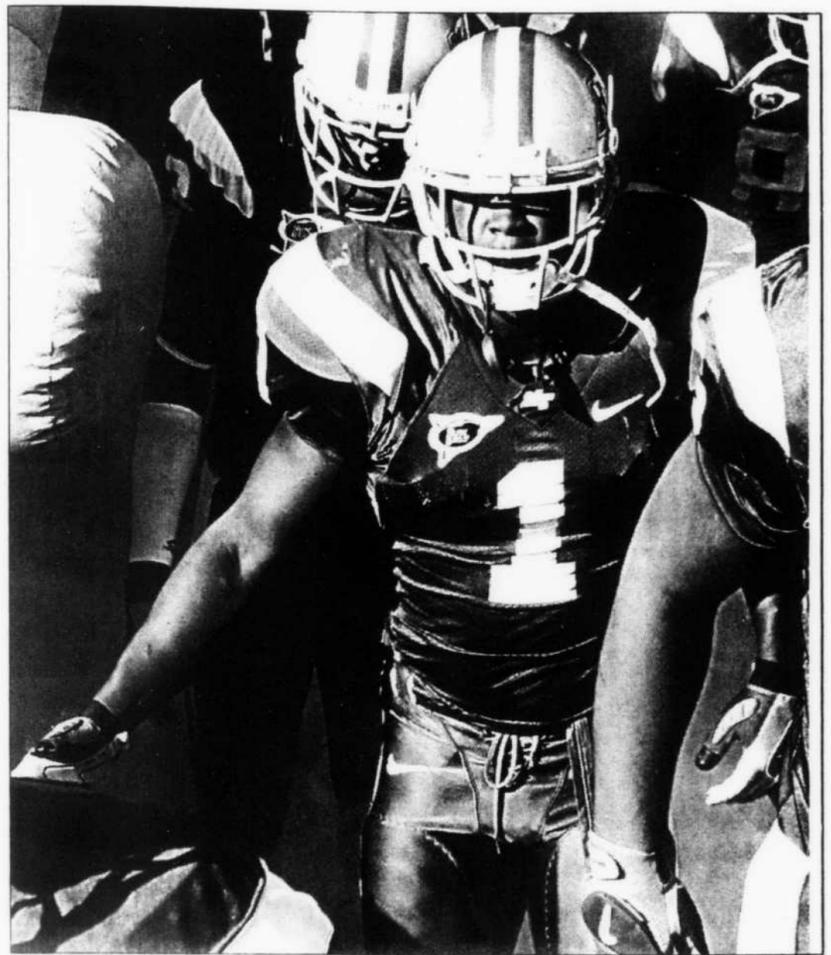


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Senior linebacker Justin Rainey charges out of the tunnel as the Blue Raiders take the field to host Florida Atlantic during Homecoming.

Bizzaro Blue Raiders: MT winning, fans MIA?



The Cynic

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

It's been a strange year in sports. My Miami Heat team has gone cold, my Pittsburgh Steelers are ready to fold, the Vols are stuck and the Titans... well...

Every team I cheered my heart out for last year is in a weird slump, and the team that defined slump is riding a wave of energy so powerful that they have moved up over 45 spots in the rankings in one season (they are now #65 on the Sagarin computer ranking system). For sports fans all over the state there is really only one team left to turn to and it's THE RAIDERS (for the record, every time I type out those words I hear Chris Berman in my head yelling "Thaa RAAAIIDDDAHS").

No, no, not Oakland. They still haven't gotten over losing coach John Madden 30 years ago. I'm talking about the Blue Raiders. Middle Tennessee State University became MT and no one noticed, they fired their coach and the Athletic Director and no one noticed. They put a state of the art turf down and had the gall to expect to win on it but no one believed them. Well they are winning, and people are finally starting to notice.

Sports Illustrated has picked MT to play UTEP in the New Orleans bowl. Jeff Sagarin has moved the team up 18 spots in two weeks. USA Today's MT page is filled with coverage. A month and a half ago I was writing about how we were the only Sun Belt team not ranked in the hundreds. And now, we're actually set to break the top 50.

People all over the nation are noticing that a Sun Belt team is having a very un-Sunbelt sort of year. But one small town in Tennessee just isn't paying attention to the only team in the state to play exciting football. Unfortunately, it's a college town in the geographic center of the state.

I know what my Wednesday column would be before halftime at the Homecoming game. About the time I realized that no more fans were going to show up. To the 18,000 who showed, ignore what is about to follow.

Where were you Murfreesboro? Too busy memorizing hip new bands on

Pitchforkmedia.com? Frisbee Golf couldn't wait a few hours? Trying to catch up on the last two seasons of Lost and 24?

Don't you guys get it? We're MTSU, this doesn't happen! None of the coaches will say it, none of the players will say it, but I certainly will... Shame on you Murfreesboro.

How did MT actually lose almost 5,000 in attendance after playing amazing football on the road, sweeping the conference and putting up a fight against Louisville? Not only that, they hadn't played at home in two months and it was Homecoming, so where the heck were you guys?

I know I'm ranting, but just once before I graduate I want to see a sold out stadium and this team has done everything it could to accomplish that. I'm not supposed to talk about former coaches, teams or administrations in scorn but seriously does any one remember Andy McCollum chastising fans for not watching MT lose? He couldn't talk me into watching a game in my living room let alone in the stands.

I understood the skepticism then, I was almost proud of it. But this team is winning and playing with a great attitude. To make matters worse, hardly anyone else is. The SEC is in shambles, Ball State almost beat Michigan and Florida State and Miami look terrible. The Titans are a memory and the combined record of the two teams who met in the NBA finals last year is 1-5. The Superbowl teams? Seven wins, nine losses.

I can make predictions about the team, I can determine what they will do based on their history but based on Murfreesboro all I can say for sure is that I have no idea how many people will show up at the Troy game.

If MT wins this weekend they will only have one Sun Belt team in between them and an undefeated conference record. Will Murfreesboro care? Don't ask me, I just work here.

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

MT falls in the SBC semifinals

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee soccer lost another heartbreaker 3-1 to North Texas in the Sun Belt Tournament semifinals. The Blue Raiders (17-4) finish their season and missed out on an at-large bid for the NCAA tournament. SBC foe Denver earned a berth after winning the SBC finals.

MT led 1-0 at the half before giving up two goals to UNT early in the second half. The Blue Raiders were held in check by the Mean Green's stingy defense and M1 had a tough time getting the ball back into the net after their early goal.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game and it was. You get into these tournaments and the games intensify. When you look at the Championships you have to be a good team to win, but you also have to have some luck and North Texas had the lucky breaks go their

way," MT head coach Aston Rhoden told MT Media Relations.

"To their credit, they recovered from a goal down to take the lead and we just couldn't catch up," Rhoden said. "It was pretty much a 2-1 game and we were trying to find a way to get a goal late, so we pushed a lot of people forward and they got the third goal but it was not a 3-1 game by any means."

MT controlled most of the first half after scoring off the leg of Kala Morgan with an assist by Rebecca Rodriguez in the 44th minute of the game. UNT's Brittany Cleveland scored two goals and Kendall Jeutt added another to pull UNT ahead 3-1 in the second half.

ESPN announced the women's soccer tournament bracket yesterday and Denver is the only Sun Belt team in the tournament. It is another heartbreaker of a season for MT, considering they broke numerous single-season records and several players ranked nationally

in different categories.

Middle Tennessee advanced to the semifinals after beating South Alabama 2-0 in the quarterfinals on Wednesday of last week. They were credited with their 17th win of the season after Kala Morgan and Mary Zapapas each scored.

MT wasted little time getting on the board first after Zapapas scored her 11th goal of the season in the eighth minute of the game. Morgan scored to push the game out of reach for USA 2-0.

The Blue Raiders defense held USA for their eighth shutout of the season and gave Erynn Murray her 12th win of the season. Murray got her fourth shutout and got five saves. She finished the season with 55 saves and is currently tied for 10th on the single-season list.

Zapapas scored 11 goals on the season, third most by a freshman in school history.

Alumna Danielle LaDuke holds that record with 13, in 2001.

Blue Raider volleyball dominates three of four SBC road trip games

Friday, October 27 MT 0 FAU 3 Next Game at W. KY, November 11	Sunday, October 29 MT 3 Fla. Int'l 0	Friday, November 3 MT 3 So. Alabama 1	Saturday, November 4 MT 3 Troy 0
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By Wesley Mize

Contributing Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team has enjoyed recent success against Sun Belt Conference foes. The Blue Raiders traveled down to Troy, Ala. to pick up their most recent victory, a clean 3-0 sweep past the Trojans of Troy (30-28, 30-25, 30-17).

Sophomore Ashley Adams led the Blue Raiders with 14 kills while senior Jessica Robinson was right on her heels with 11. Junior Alicia Lemau'u added to her career record total of digs by leading the team with 13. Middle Tennessee hit .320 in the match, while holding Troy to an average of .116.

Friday the Blue Raiders squad began their Alabama road trip by defeating the South Alabama Jags 3-1 (30-21, 30-21, 29-31, 30-16). Sophomore Ashley Adams registered 23 of her team's 70 kills to lead the way for the Blue Raiders.

Junior Victoria Monasterolo had a season-high 20 digs, while freshman Leslie Clark collected her third double-double of the season with 58 assists and 11 digs. The Blue Raiders averaged 11.5 blocks per game and hit .241 in the match.

Middle Tennessee took a trip through Florida back before arriving in Alabama and took one of two from conference rivals. The victory came against Sun Belt East division leader Florida International by way of a 3-0 sweep (30-21, 30-25, 31-29). The victory marked the first time in school history that a Blue Raider volleyball team has recorded back-to-back 20-win seasons (28 wins in 2005).

This is the 17th shutout the Blue Raiders have registered this year, including nine shutouts of Sun Belt Conference opponents. Leading the way for MT was junior Victoria Monasterolo, as she tallied a game-high 23 kills while also contributing nine digs and three block assists. A new career digs record was set in this match as junior Alicia Lemau'u passed Lisa White's old mark of 1,424 digs. Lemau'u has 1,448 career digs, as of the FIU game.

The Blue Raiders began the road trip with a disappointing 3-0 loss to Florida Atlantic University (24-30, 28-30, 25-30). Middle Tennessee had a poor attack percentage of .127, which broke a streak of three straight .300 average matches. The Blue Raiders shot themselves in the foot by committing 33 errors and seven service errors. Jessica Robinson and Ashley Adams recorded double-digit kills with 11 and

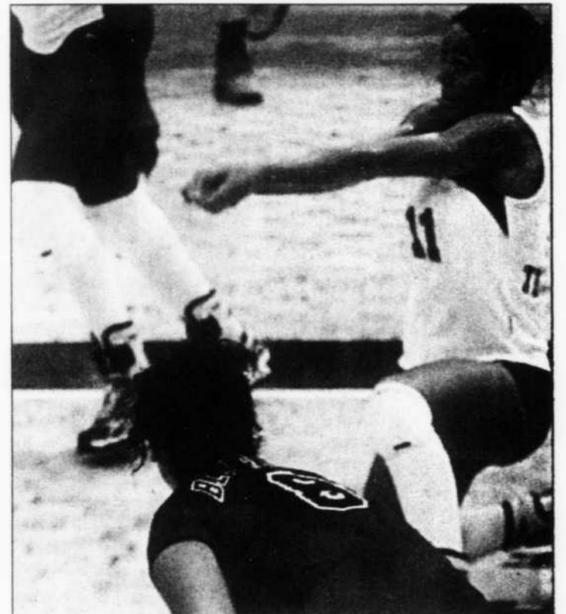


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Junior Victoria Monasterolo registers a dig against SBC foe Troy State on Saturday.

10, respectively.

The Blue Raiders' record as of the Troy match stands at 22-7 overall with a 13-3 record in Sun Belt Conference play. The Blue Raiders' next match is against Western Kentucky this Saturday, Nov. 11. The Blue Raiders can take a share of the Eastern Division title with a win and carry the number one seed into the conference tournament, which begins November 16. If the Blue Raiders were to fall to Western Kentucky, MT could receive the third seed in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Kala Morgan: Getting a kick out of life

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

Two steps. Then another. Is she cheating left?
Wait for it. Stay on. You've got help. Now!

"Goal, Middle Tennessee!"
This scenario, or at least one of comparable offensive precision, played out 78 times for the Blue Raider soccer team during the 2006 season, and Kala Morgan was directly involved in 33 of those scores.

Morgan scored national-ly in goals with 22, and led the Sun Belt Conference in points with 53.

While the sophomore from Abernethy, Wales, is in the process of rewriting the record books in Murfreesboro, however, her heart remains in her home country.

"I'm going to play here as long as I can, but I want to get back on the Welsh team," says Morgan, who competed for her native Wales on the national under-16 and under-19 teams.

"You can't beat playing for your country," Morgan says. "I think it's one of the best things you can achieve. I was very proud."

At least one other Blue Raider can relate to that feeling. Sophomore midfielder Katie Morgan competed alongside Morgan for the Welsh team before coming to Middle Tennessee.

In fact, Daley and Morgan grew up playing on the same club teams together, and formed a special bond along the way.

"We've been friends since we were 12, so we're very close,"

Morgan says.

It was Daley who was partially responsible for Morgan's arrival in Murfreesboro. Daley knew Blue Raider assistant coach Adam Sayers through his work in football development with the Football Association of Wales.

Rhoden scouted the pair after Sayers brought them to his attention. Now the two former Welsh teammates continue to thrive on the other side of the Atlantic.

Still, the transition to American soccer has not always been a simple one. Morgan was forced right away to learn a different style of play, causing her to struggle initially last season.

"It's more technical and tactical [in Wales] than out here," Morgan says, "and it's a lot more running now."

Still, the sophomore feels that her time and effort has been well-spent.

"Last year I didn't know what to expect. I'm a lot fitter now, and I'm glad I came, because I've gotten a lot better," Morgan says.

In the current edition of the Blue Raider Soccer Media Guide, Morgan is described as a "versatile player who is tenacious in her play" and that she "displays skills that can help fuel an offensive attack."

MT will need all of the skills that Morgan can muster as the team prepares for the rigors of next season.

With a record of 17-4 and 10-1 in the SBC, the Blue Raiders entered the conference tournament as the number two seed, but fell 3-1 to North Texas in the semifinal round.



Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations

Sophomore forward Kala Morgan gets ready to pass the ball to another player.

Despite impressive credentials, the selection committee passed over MT for the third consecutive year.

She has already rewritten the individual record books, but now Morgan has another goal in

mind: Getting the Blue Raiders to their first ever NCAA Tournament.

"I don't care who scores as long as we win," Morgan says. "Hopefully the best memories are yet to come."

Women's golf team finishes sixth in finale

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

MT finished sixth overall after three rounds in the Ross Resorts Invitational in Southern Pines, N.C. The Blue Raiders were fourth going into the final round, but during the final 18 the team shot their highest score of the rounds. Blue Raider Leigh Wilkins finished with a 78 for the best individual score.

Five different players shot between 78 and 82 to push the team's score to 318 for the final round. After a three-day total MT finished with a 939, which put them in sixth place.

Taryn Durham finished with an 82, and tied for 24th place with 235 after being tied for 11th place entering into the final round. Sophomore Mallory Bishop and freshman Clara Leathers finished with 79 each. Junior Jamey Dillard finished with an 81 to tie for 24th place with fellow teammate Durham and Dillard finished in 31st place with 237.

Wilkins had it rough going through the first and second rounds, but finished tied for 45th place with a total of 245.

"We made some bad choices on the golf course, really left a lot of shots on the

course," MT head coach Rachael Short told MT Media Relations. "Course management just killed us, but now we know what we need to work on heading into the spring."

The Blue Raiders women's golf team will finish their fall season along with the men's golf team in the SID Ryder Cup-format over the next three weeks in . MT will be playing at Old Fort Golf Club in Murfreesboro, Tenn starting today.

The Blue Raiders return to action on Thursday 19-20 in Miami, Fla. at the 29th Annual Pat Bradley Invitational.

MT men's golf wraps up season with fourth-place finish

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee men's golf team missed a chance to win the Sam Hall Invitational Tuesday after falling behind early in the event. The Blue Raiders rallied late in the final round coming up short on the final three holes.

They started out in third place, but by the end of opening holes, had fallen into 10th place. The Blue Raiders came back to be within three shots of taking the lead with three holes left to play.

"It was a very good comeback and we had an opportunity to win the golf tournament on the last nine holes," MT head coach Johnny Moore told MT Media Relations. "We probably expended all of our energy coming back and weren't able to finish the job."

Junior Nick Bailes led the Blue Raiders after shooting a 72 in the final round of 36 holes on Monday. Bailes was tied for sixth with a total of 210, three-under par. Sophomore Chas Narramore finished ninth with one-under par after the final round with a 73. Narramore's second-round score of 68 was the low round of the tournament for the Blue Raiders on Monday.

Men's basketball team routs York University



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Sophomore guard Kevin Kanaskie had five assists and five points in MT's 86-54 rout of York.

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

While the fans at Murphy Center were trying to figure out who exactly York University was, the Blue Raiders were busy on the court defeating the Lions 86-54 Thursday night in the only exhibition game of the season for MT.

The Blue Raiders took advantage of the contest as an opportunity for the bulk of the roster to see action, as 12 players received minutes. Ten of the 12 scored for MT.

Four players for the home team totaled double-digit point totals, led by senior Tim Blue who scored 18 points in 18 minutes of action. Blue was 7-of-9 from the

free throw line.

Another senior, Kyle Young, tallied 15 points and seven rebounds in 22 minutes of work, while junior Theryn Hudson looked strong at the post, scoring 12 points in 14 minutes.

Highly-touted redshirt freshman Desmond Yates earned the start for the Blue Raiders. Yates added 10 points and seven boards to the MT total.

One particularly encouraging statistic for the Blue Raiders was the zero turnovers committed by floor general Kevin Kanaskie, who dished out five assists in the win.

MT will open the season Friday against nationally-ranked Tennessee in Knoxville.

Always wanted to be a
Sidelines sportswriter?
Come to Mass Comm 269
and sign up today!



ROSS RESORTS INVITATIONAL Southern Pines, N.C.

- Team Scores**
1. Rollins College 902
 2. Princeton 907
 - T3. Harvard 922
 - T3. Xavier 922
 5. Yale 936
 6. Middle Tennessee 939
 7. Cincinnati 942
 8. Methodist College 943
 9. Kentucky 947
 10. Richmond 960
 11. Longwood Univ. 963
 12. William & Mary 980
 13. James Madison 984

- Individual Scores**
- T24. Taryn Durham 235
 - T24. Mallory Bishop 235
 - T29. Clara Leathers 236
 - T31. Jamey Dillard 237
 - T54. Leigh Wilkins 245

* T stands for tied matches



SAM HALL INVITATIONAL Hattiesburg, Miss.

- Team Scores**
1. UNC-Greensboro 845
 2. Rhode Island 850
 3. South Florida 851
 4. Middle Tennessee 853
 - T5. Austin Peay 855
 - T5. Louisiana Tech 855
 7. New Orleans 863
 8. Louisiana-Monroe 866
 9. Jacksonville State 868
 10. Troy 874
 11. Arkansas State 882
 12. Southern Miss 885

- Individual Scores**
- T6. Nick Bailes 210
 9. Chas Narramore 212
 - T24. Craig Smith 216
 - T41. Bart Barnes 220
 47. Rick Cochran 221

* T stands for tied matches

CORRECTION:

I misidentified General Manager/Assistant Coach Seth Lake as the person people should contact in order to try out for the ice hockey team, and gave the wrong e-mail address as well. The information was wrong because Lake is with the inline hockey club. The correct person to contact for the ice hockey team is Cody Smith, and he can be reached at puchster67@hotmail.com.

Sidelines apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.