

# Dance Team places top 10 in national competition 8

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008

VOL. 84 NO. 23

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Students chase the 'high' life.



Despite risks, some students choose to partake in marijuana usage.

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## COMMUTE

FROM MARCH 7 - AUGUST 2008

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

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

# Students remember victims



## Virginia Tech honors those killed in 2007 massacre

Photo by Eric Connolly, Collegiate Times

Members of the Virginia Tech community hold candle aloft at a candlelight vigil held to commemorate the anniversary of last year's shootings on its campus.

By SUE LINDSEY  
Associated Press Writer

Caitlin Hammaren loved playing the violin. Emily Hilscher was a skilled horsewoman. Ryan Clark was a collector of friends. Daniel Alejandro Perez Cueva dreamed of bringing people together and making the world peaceful.

Thousands of mourners

in maroon and orange who gathered at Virginia Tech Wednesday found comfort in remembrances of the 32 people slain by a student gunman one year ago in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Some stood with heads tearfully bowed, and others locked arms as memories of each of those killed echoed

across the main campus lawn. During the afternoon, small, reflective gatherings were held around campus.

"The world was cheated — cheated out of the accomplishments that were sure to come from these extraordinary lives," Gov. Timothy M. Kaine told the crowd.

Afterward, about 50 people participated in a protest

against lax gun laws on the lawn as groups of students played spontaneous games of Frisbee, soccer and tossed footballs nearby.

Trees were planted in front of an honors dormitory in memory of two members of the program who were slain. Members of several grieving families as well as students took turns shoveling dirt

around a white oak for Austin Cloyd of Blacksburg and a sugar maple for Maxine Turner of Vienna, Virginia.

Renee Cloyd, wearing a maroon sweater and a small cross that was a Mother's Day gift from her daughter and son, greeted Austin's friends.

"I have a prayer shawl to

VIRGINIA TECH, PAGE 2

# City elects two new members to school board

By MARK BELL  
Staff Writer

Three incumbents retained their seats in the Murfreesboro City Council election on Tuesday, while one school board member was replaced and one school board vacancy was filled.

Murfreesboro Vice Mayor Chris Bratcher, Toby Gilley and Ron Washington were reelected for another four-year term in the city council election. They defeated Dave Beardsly, Eddie Smotherman and Jeff Weems.

One school board member, Patrick McCarthy, was replaced after serving only one term. The late Lon Nuell's vacant seat was also filled.

Voters replaced them with Walter Hill Principal Butch Campbell and education consultant Nancy Duggin.

Only 4,679 residents cast votes in this year's election. There were approximately 53,000 registered voters in the city.

That amounts to an 8.7 percent voter turnout rate, the lowest amount of voter turnout in the past 10 years.

The closest contest in this year's city council election was between Murfreesboro Vice Mayor Bratcher, who received 2,237 votes, and Smotherman, who received 2,049, a difference of 188 votes.

Bratcher, who has served on the city council for 20 years, said he plans on im-

proving the conditions of city employees, especially firefighters and police.

Bratcher said the low voter turnout was a reflection of the voter satisfaction in the city is being run.

"A lot of times people vote against a candidate rather than for one," he told the *Daily News Journal*.

Bratcher also promised Murfreesboro residents he would work to ensure "no more property tax increases" for the 14th consecutive year.

Washington, who has served on the council for 10 years, said he was troubled by the lack of votes.

"We need to do a better job of getting people [out] to vote," he said.

Gilley won his third term on the city council. He agreed with Bratcher on his belief that Murfreesboro residents are happy with the way things are going.

Gilley said new developments like The Avenue Murfreesboro, Medical Center Parkway and the new hotel and conference center have made Murfreesboro "a model city," the envy of other communities.

The new Murfreesboro school board members will be sworn into service at a meeting set for May 27. Each member will earn \$200 dollars a month for attending meetings.

Campbell received 2,802

ELECTIONS, PAGE 3



File Photo

Students evaluate volunteer opportunities at the previous job fair in September, 2007.

# Volunteer Fair recruits students for summer

By SHANNON KIDDER  
Contributing Writer

The Office of Leadership and Service held a Volunteer Fair on the Keathley University Center Knoll on Tuesday as part of the Student Government Association's "Make A Difference Week."

"Many of the organizations expressed how pleased they were with the number of students that stopped by to talk with them, and the commitments they received from students to volunteer," said Heather Arrington, assistant director of the Office of Leadership and Services. "They all wanted to know when the

“There are volunteer opportunities for everyone, including child-related causes, national organizations and environmental groups.”

MEGAN FLIPPIN  
Office of Leadership and Service

next fair would be."

Informational booths were set up by 13 service-based campus organizations and community nonprofit organizations in the hopes of recruiting student volunteers.

The agencies were available to talk with students and worked to assist them in finding the right opportunity to

make a difference.

"There are volunteer opportunities for everyone, including child-related causes, national organizations and an environmental groups," said Meagan Flippin, Office of Leadership and Service.

Heather Arrington, assis-

VOLUNTEER, PAGE 2

# Jay Fisher discusses view regarding war on drugs

By BYRON WILKES  
Staff Writer

Attorney Jay Fisher revealed his and others' belief that the war on drugs is eroding the rights of civilians.

Fisher spoke on behalf of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, with the term prohibition referring to the current illegal status of narcotics, from marijuana to crack cocaine and ecstasy.

LEAP consists of sheriffs, constables, and cops, as well as academics such as linguist and philosopher Noam Chomsky and noted economist Milton Friedman.

"The act of prohibition effectively sets up the black market which America fights against," Fisher said. "The notion of an absolute ban is a failure. The question of pol-

icy can only be debated proactively after elected officials have hashed out the current situation."

Fisher spoke not only from a policeman's perspective, but as someone who has spent five years as a paramedic, seeing the brutal reality of the drug war as it affects common people in the streets.

Fisher also represents Georgia's state corrections department constitutional rights cases, and has seen the overcrowding of prisons by inmates with nonviolent drug offenses firsthand.

During the lecture, Fisher defined the rights an average person is entitled to. After showing a few quotations of men such as John Adams and James Madison, Fisher put on view a quote from current President Bush that read:

"There ought to be limits to freedom."

He discussed the statutes which state and federal government have usually made their case against narcotic drugs known as the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, which allows Congress to regulate commerce between states, and vicariously, many areas including criminal justice.

Fisher brought up *Gonzales vs. Raich*, a Supreme Court case in which Angel Raich, an elderly woman, was convicted for buying medical marijuana in California despite the fact that no interstate commerce had taken place in the transaction.

He also pointed to the 18th Amendment that prohibition ultimately fails despite the extent of any measures

taken to fulfill the law.

Pointing to research done at the Cato Institute indicat-



Fisher

ing the initial decrease of a lcohol consumption in 1921, and the relapse that increased a lcohol consumption beyond its prior levels by 1923, Fisher asserts that the relapse was due to the activities of gangsters and bootleggers, who realized the potential profit that could be made due to the prohibition of alcohol.

Fisher also discussed the salient dissimilarity between the types of arrests law en-

forcement officials make when dealing with different kinds of criminals. He mentioned the show "48 Hours," in which suspected murderers are actually often treated as docile citizens without the use of excessive force or firepower.

In contrast, Fisher brought up the extreme methods used by narcotics agents or the Drug Enforcement Administration, including the approval of Special Weapons and Tactics team entries.

"One reason people justify the use of SWAT teams is for the quick apprehension of a suspect," Fisher said. "But a larger aspect of it is the heavy reliance authorities have on confidential informants whose information can often lead to bad decision making on the part of the officers."

According to a Cato Institute study, there have been 150 botched raids conducted by paramilitary SWAT teams; a 'botched' raid denotes the death of at least one individual not affiliated with the police.

Fisher also discussed a future in America where the twisted and paradoxical execution of the drug war might be brought under close scrutiny in terms of its constitutionality.

Steps have already been taken to close disparities between sentencing for similar drugs (in terms of sentencing, possession of a single gram of crack is equal to 500 grams of powder cocaine), but the question of retroactivity and timeliness for those already incarcerated remains an issue.

## VIRGINIA TECH FROM PAGE 1

give you," she told one. Cloyd said 12 or 13 shawls had been sent to the family as gifts.

Cloyd's husband, Bryan, said Austin had announced as a youngster after the family moved to Champaign, Ill., that she was claiming a tree near the new home for a private place to read. Soon afterward, a developer leveled the tree.

"I think a tree is a very fitting memorial," he said.

During the morning ceremony, mourners held back tears as a moment of silence was observed for those killed by Seung-Hui Cho, who took his own life in a classroom building as police closed in. But as music started playing, many sobbed and wept openly, overcome again by the magnitude of loss.

One grieving young woman fell to the ground and EMTs hurried to tend to her, eventually helping her off the field as she blinked back tears.

"We remain deeply and profoundly saddened by the events of that tragic day," Virginia Tech President Charles Steger told the crowd. "Indeed, all our lives were changed on that day."

"We have not found all that we have sought, but at every turn we have found each other."

After the ceremony, bells in the nearby administration building tolled 32 times as mourners approached the semicircle of memorial stones, each engraved with the name of a victim.

The gathering took place on the same field where a white candle lit at midnight began a day of grieving for the victims. Its flame was to be used to light candles for a vigil at dusk.

Peter Read, whose daughter Mary was killed, said the day was "bittersweet." He was among several family members of those injured and killed who attended a "lie-in" held on the Drillfield, one of 80 such demonstrations held nationwide Wednesday to protest what participants call the "gun show loophole."

Virginia is one of many states that does not require private sellers at gun shows to run background checks on customers, which opponents say creates an easy opportunity for criminals and the mentally ill to obtain firearms.

At the campus lie-in, protesters stretched out on the grass for three minutes, to symbolize the amount of time

they say it takes to buy a gun in Virginia. Lori Haas, whose daughter Emily survived being shot, lay down and clasped hands with Suzanne Grimes, whose son Kevin Sterne was also injured in the shootings.

Some had opposed holding a lie-in on campus on a day dedicated to mourning the dead. But Read said it was done to honor those very victims, and to create awareness of a critical public safety issue.

"We see this as a profoundly respectful event that was done out of love," he said.

Read stood beside Colin Goddard, who was shot four times, and watched over the protesters on the ground. Among them was Joseph Samaha, whose daughter Reema was killed.

Some 20 people gathered in front of Norris Hall shortly after 9:30 a.m., the time one year ago that Cho killed 30 people in the building.

Dan Gonzalez of Chester said this was his first visit to Virginia Tech, and he came to honor the memory of Matthew Gwaltney. He and his family had been neighbors of the Gwaltneys for seven years and he knew Matthew as a child.

"It was a senseless killing," he said. "Matt was a great kid. He's the kind of kid you'd want to have as a son or a son-in-law."

Shane Hutton, a senior from Bristol, said he had wanted to go into Norris but it was closed.

"I find comfort in it," he said. "I just go in and think about the victims and the families."

Hutton, who had had victim Jamie Bishop as a professor, said he has visited the wing of locked classrooms a half-dozen times in the past year.

Some in this close-knit campus of 27,000 were just hoping to make it through what they knew would be a difficult day.

"It's just so emotional for everybody," Haas said before the commemoration. "The kids — you're just so worried about them and think, 'Are they reliving those moments?'"

Some family members of victims entered War Memorial Chapel early Wednesday for a private service. Other family members of those killed said they couldn't bear to attend the official events and planned to grieve privately.

Associated Press writers Kristen Gelineau and Hank Kurz Jr. contributed to this report.



Photo by Ryan DeBooy, Photography Editor

A student mourns at a 2007 candlelight vigil on the Virginia Tech campus.

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# Campus radio station hosts record convention

STAFF REPORTS

MTSU's college radio station will host a record convention this Sunday at the Holiday Inn on Old Fort Parkway.

WMTS, which is operated by students and alumni, will host at least 11 local dealers, including such record stores as Grimey's and the Grand Palace. Others may be added after this printing: "We've had quite a few late registrations coming in," said Stan McCloud, general manager of the station.

In addition to the vend-

ers, members of rock band Superdrag will be on hand.

"The main thing I'm looking forward to is Superdrag. We had Adrian Belew [of King Crimson] last time," said Boomer Barr, a senior recording industry major and program director at WMTS. "They're not performing; it's just a few of the members coming in to do a record signing and promote their new album that's coming out."

"I think that Superdrag will bring the ruckus to this convention," Barr said.

The record convention

comes on the heels of a WMTS benefit concert that took place in Nashville Saturday and featured several local rock bands.

"WMTS totally depends on support from our listeners because we're a small, independent radio station. Events like this really help keep us going and help us expand our listenership," said Amanda Nielsen, a sophomore electronic media major who was elected last week to be the new music director of the station.

## VOLUNTEER FROM PAGE 1

tant director of the MTSU Office of Leadership and Services, said that an added bonus of volunteering with any of these organizations is that students are able to earn class credit for certain courses offered at MTSU with a Service Learning component.

"Since students tend to lack valuable work experience, employers give more weight to leadership experience and

involvement in extra-curricular activities," said Wade Davis, trade compliance manager of Nissan North America, Inc.

The Volunteer Fair is usually held in September with a promise of a much larger turnout of organizations. However, the Office of Leadership and Services decided to hold a Volunteer Fair this week to allow the organizations an opportunity to recruit the help of students who may be staying in the area

over summer.

The community non-profit organizations that attended were Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee, Discovery Center at Murfreesboro, Girls Scouts of Middle Tennessee, Greenhouse Ministries, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Primary Care & Hope, Sam Davis Home, Smyrna-LaVergne Food Bank, The Arts Center of Cannon County, The Domestic Violence Program and Youth Villages.

## ELECTIONS FROM PAGE 1

any other candidate in the school board election.

Incumbents Nancy Phillips and Susan Andrews received 1,989 and 1,863 votes.

Phillips and Andrews both said they would miss working with McCarthy, who placed seventh.

"I look forward to serving with the new board members, but I tell you the board lost a great advocate for Murfreesboro City Schools with Pat-

rick not finishing in the top four. It's been an honor to serve with him," Andrews told the Daily News Journal.

The late Nuell, who remained on the ballot, received 370 votes in his honor. Nuell died of a stroke last month after breaking his hip.

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# Rutherford County high school dropout rates increase

By TIFFANY GIBSON  
Campus News Editor

Despite a recent increase in the graduation rate, Rutherford County high schools continue their fight against an increasing dropout rate.

As of 2007, the graduation rate of high schools in Rutherford County was 89 percent with fewer seniors progressing to graduation.

In essence, graduation for high school seniors is approaching quickly and local high schools such as Blackman and Oakland have fewer students within the eleventh and twelfth grades due to high school students dropping out to get their General Education Development certificate.

"High schools get blamed for graduation rates, but we get kids that are not ready for high school," said Diana Brown, Oakland graduation coach. "It's a collection of 'K' through 'I' problems."

Assistant Principal John Strickland of Blackman High

School believes the dropout rate is increasing because parents do not care nor give their children the attention they need; therefore, the students drop out to pursue jobs and other activities.

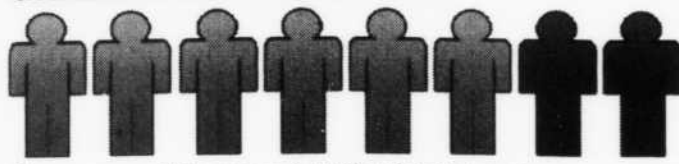
"Every time a student wants to drop out, I meet with him or her in my office," Strickland said. "I have not once met with a parent."

Strickland said that with today's technology, teachers and parents are often competing for teenagers' attention.

"When students have cell phones or other devices they have bills to pay for them, so they get jobs that take away from their schoolwork and attendance," Strickland said. "Those who miss more than 10 days a semester are more likely to fail, and seniors who miss twice the amount of days as others are more likely to fail too."

According to the Tennessee 2004 Report Card, the attendance of students at Blackman High School was at 95

## RUTHERFORD COUNTY GRADUATION RATES 2007



On average, 1 in every 4 Rutherford County high school students will drop out before graduation.

source: associatedcontent.com

percent; however, the graduation rate peaked at 87 percent. Within three years, Blackman has been able to raise the graduation rate by two percent.

In order to encourage students, Blackman has set forth several programs to increase knowledge and success. One of these programs is known as the freshman academy, which serves as an academic support system for incoming freshman whose grades are below average.

By placing these students in smaller classrooms with the same teachers, the students are more focused and attended to rather than when

surrounded by a larger classroom setting.

Oakland High School also has created several programs to help students struggling with attendance and academic performance by creating an international arts program, writing lab, academy of reading, academy of math, freshman academy and sophomore academy.

"Kids get behind in their freshman year [and] if they are one credit behind there's a chance they will drop out," said Butch Vaughn, Oakland principal. "Credit recovery programs will help the students catch up."

According to Brown, statistics show that freshman year is the most important year of high school.

As far as pursuing education, Blackman and Oakland both offer ACT preparation classes as well a college fair for seniors wishing to obtain more information.

In addition to encouraging college, Blackman also remains strict on requirements for its co-op program for juniors and seniors.

According to Cindy Boyd, head of the business academy at Blackman, students wishing to participate in the program must have a job related to a course they are currently taking and a 90 percent attendance rate.

Boyd also said students are not allowed to work at a fast food establishment or anything unrelated to their curriculum if they want to participate in the co-op program.

"We have three types of co-op programs for market-

ing, business and arts," Boyd said. "If a student is taking a marketing class then they can take a marketing co-op."

Stickland went on to say that the original purpose of the co-op program was the further the student's education both outside and in.

"All of the teachers try to encourage us, and their not set on lower expectations," said Robyn Griffith, Blackman high school senior and future business administration major.

In addition to the teaching staff, Griffith said that students realize they can drop out when they turn 18, and instead of working toward a diploma they get tired and eventually give up.

"They [seniors] become lazy and don't see how much a diploma will help their future," said Courtney Hayden, Blackman high school senior and future medical major. "Their short term goals are getting in the way of the long term goals."

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# OPINIONS

## Theme park a headache of biblical proportions

BiblePark USA's plans for development in Murfreesboro suffered a severe setback on Monday night, as the Rutherford County Regional Planning Commission voted 8 to 7 against rezoning the potential development site for the theme park.

To those who haven't heard, Bible Park-USA was proposed as a non-evangelical, non-denominational theme park which would showcase biblical exhibits using special effects and actors. It was to be built in the recently annexed Blackman Community, to the north of Murfreesboro, close to the 840 parkway and I-24.

The park was proposed by Safe Harbor Holdings LLC, a company from New York City which specializes in "A commitment to lower risk, higher reward investment opportunities that are often overlooked by the broader market" according to its Web site.

This is postmodernism at its best (or worst). This is a park designed to cater to the religious sensibilities of a majority of the population, but it's non-everything.

Non-evangelical and non-denominational lessen the odds of serious ecclesiastical opposition as well as broadening the potential customer base. It's warm, it's fuzzy, and it's here for everyone, as long as they have the money.

A rapidly growing city at the confluence of two major interstates and another large tourist area must have seemed a gold mine to the investors and developers at Safe Harbor. Of course, the prevailing stereotype of the Bible belt is that of a place where people generally don't mind mixing religion and politics. Hence the city involvement in the Bible Park scheme.

The Blackman Community was annexed into Murfreesboro in 2006, against vehement opposition from its residents. To add insult to injury, Bible Park was proposed shortly thereafter. In essence, the city of Murfreesboro found a way to expand its property, then found a convenient cash cow to occupy it.

The arguments made by Safe Harbor include the standard "job creation, tax revenue, tourism business, etc." that one hears whenever a large development is proposed. These things are all well and good, but Murfreesboro is doing fine on its own, and city leaders were plain greedy to even entertain the idea. Does anyone want a few thousand tourists out on Old Fort Parkway?

How, in good conscience, could they take over Blackman, then immediately drop a theme park on it? Is that good for the citizens of Blackman? Certainly not.



**THE PEN IS MIGHTIER**  
Evan Barker

Is it good for the citizens of Murfreesboro? Debatably, no.

Of course, traffic concerns, crowding, property values and the like were causes cited by the park's opponents. These causes contributed to the park's defeat in committee. However, Murfreesboro is not out of the woods yet. The plan proceeds to the countywide committee on May 15 for a final vote.

This reflects poorly on Murfreesboro, Rutherford County and Tennessee as a whole. It sends a message to predatory, opportunistic developers that we'll just lie down and take anything, especially if Jesus is involved. If there's money to be made, so much the better.

This is insulting to Christians, whose Messiah is being pimped for profit. It's not even subtle. It's a park, designed to be palatable for everyone, to sell admission to exhibits that capitalize

on religion. It's like being a member of an actual religious group, except without the theology, moral or social implications. This should be patently offensive to anyone, faithful or not. Isn't that similar to the story of Jesus getting angry and pitching the moneychangers out of the temple?

An additional problem is that of land use. What's wrong with farm fields? Blackman was a pristine community before being steamrolled by the city. A gaudy theme park is even worse than suburban sprawl, a problem that currently plagues Rutherford County in epidemic proportion.

Unlike suburban sprawl, however, Bible Park would receive some hefty government subsidies, paid by your tax dollars. Part of the deal involved incentives of the kind that governments provide for heavy industry and other major creators. Except, this is a theme park, and it's about selling Jesus.

Murfreesboro will learn the lesson one way or another. Not all development is good development. Remember the water shortage of the past summer, and keep in mind the ever-lengthening amount of time it takes to get from Broad Street to, say, I-24. Who thinks this is a good idea? Look at endless strip malls, out on Thompson

Lane, Rutherford Blvd, and Medical Center Parkway.

Strip malls park in comparison to the utter greed, exploitation and blasphemy of a ticketed-admission Jesus theme park. If this passes the countywide commission, nothing good will come of it.

Instead, Murfreesboro will be overrun with would-be pilgrims, funneling money to a company in Rockefeller Center. They'll clog the streets and the businesses to create a paltry couple hundred jobs, of which most are part-time.

Is this the American dream? A religious theme park, juiced-up with taxpayer money. Ostensibly, it offends nobody, and helps everybody. It turns our countryside into a cheap tourist trap while millions of Americans have actual crises of faith and while our economy is in poor shape.

There is plenty of shame to go around. An overtly capitalist outfit descends on our growing metropolis to take advantage of the faithful. The plan is to send the profits out of town, and sell watered-down religion, but only to those who have money to buy admission to the spectacle.

What would Jesus do?  
Evan Barker is a senior viola performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

## FACES IN THE CROWD

### Did you vote in the city elections? Why or why not?



Williams

"No. I am not from here."

Kyle Williams, senior biology



Foli

"I can't vote because I am not a citizen yet. I do support the elections."

David Foli, junior accounting



Adade

"I don't vote for that election, but I do vote for elections here at school."

Samuel Adade, junior health



Burrow

"I don't really live here. I don't know anyone to vote for."

Ashleigh Burrow, sophomore biology



Visit us on the web at mtsusidelines.com.

## Letters to the Editor

### Animals suffer too

Thank you to all who came and watched "Earthlings" on Monday at the Keathley University Center. No other documentary can express the suffering of animals at the hand of human beings.

As I write this piece, my chest aches, my body, and I cry—not in sadness, but in joy. I can only cry for so long, however.

The lack of education and ignorance that plagues our society can only numb one's soul. The pain and

suffering of beings, non-human, are strong and industrious. They are like us, surviving and living out their fruitful lives.

Mankind has complete disrespect toward non-human beings. We have spit and stamped on the very beings that have brought cohesion to our puzzling planet.

In addition to a flier that was distributed Monday night, more information can be found at the Web site [www.isawearthlings.com](http://www.isawearthlings.com).

-John Van Hoff, senior mass communication

### Letters Policy

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

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

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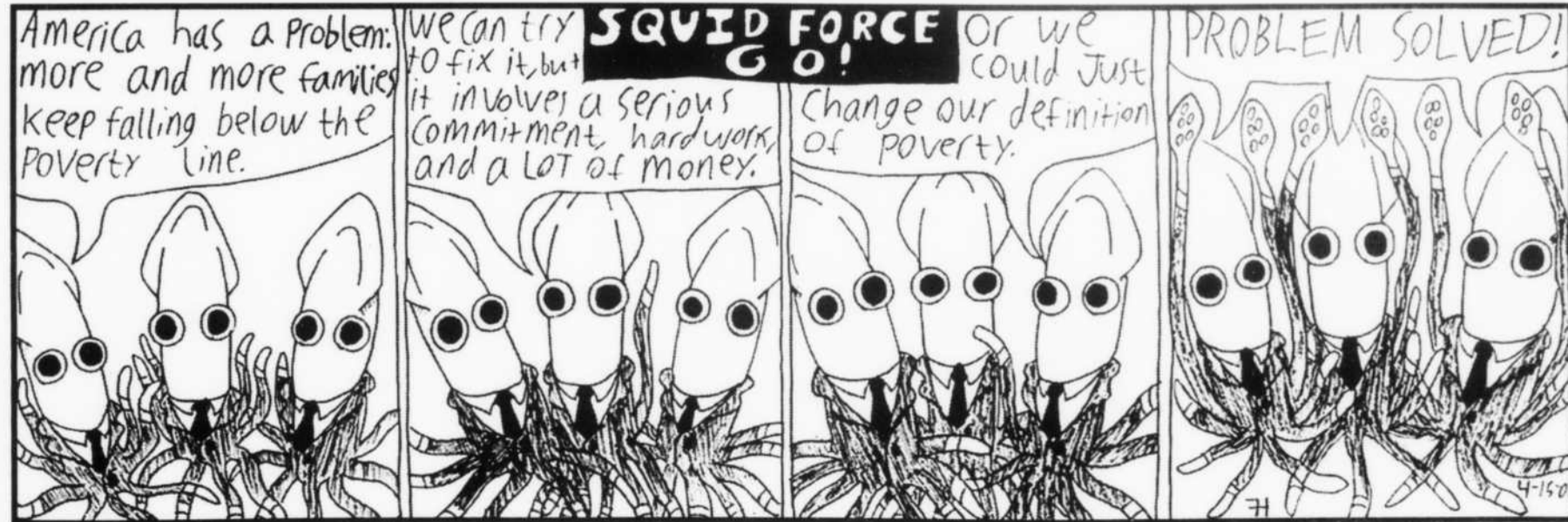
The finer things...



Amy had found a man who truly loved her for her mind

thefinerthingscomics@yahoo.com

Jeremy Ball



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

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DO YOU THINK MARIJUANA SHOULD BE LEGALIZED?

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## FEATURES

DOES MTSU DO ENOUGH TO PROMOTE THE ARTS?  
BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

## Chasing the 'high' life

Issues of legality don't deter some student smokers



Photo by Michael Stone, Staff Photographer

An MTSU student, who asked to be called "Malik," reaches out for a pipe and a lighter. Last year, 135 drug violations were filed with campus police, 14.6 percent of the total violations filed on campus.

By MICHAEL STONE  
Staff Writer

The driver reaches for the ignition, and the engine lets out a loud roar with a clockwise turn of his right hand. It doesn't hold my ears' attention for long. The engine's noise is quickly subdued by speakers, blaring Metallica's "Master of Puppets."

I have no idea where the three of us are going, but a particular destination isn't the purpose of our drive. To be blunt, the purpose of the drive—for the two men in the front seat—is to "get high."

It's obvious they're anxious to achieve that purpose. Most of their conversation during the drive revolves around marijuana.

"You ever smoked the resin before?" the driver, who wants to be referred to as Malik, asks.

"Well, I've laced a cigarette with it," the passenger, who prefers to be called Pickles, responds.

They proceed to joke about past "highs," run-ins with police and good deals they've gotten in the past.

Their desire for marijuana seems like a hummingbird's desire for nectar.

The drive is short, lasting no more than five minutes. We park at an apartment complex close to campus, so close that some of the dormitories are within sight.

"I know that guy smokes, and that guy and that guy," Malik says, pointing at different parts of the apartment building. "They all usually have some preh-ty dank [stuff]."

He grasps the key in the ignition and turns it counter-

clockwise. The engine stops, but the music continues. He reaches for the console between himself and the passenger. He grabs two objects out of a compartment—a pipe and a plastic bag.

"Man, I gotta learn those Spanish flash cards sometime tonight," Pickles says. "It's all those verbs. Ya know, the weird Spanish words."

The driver seems apathetic toward the passenger's need to study.

He's too busy preparing the marijuana to be smoked.

He moves the substance in between the tips of his fingers and pieces of it fall like snow onto a piece of paper torn from a notebook. He grabs the opposite ends of the paper, pulls them together and pours the marijuana into his pipe.

"Ya got a light?" Malik asks.

Pickles removes a blue lighter from his pocket and passes it to Malik. Malik brings the pipe to his mouth with his left hand, raising the lighter above the bowl of the pipe with his right. He lights the marijuana and inhales.

Malik hands Pickles the lighter and pipe, and Pickles repeats the process. The men keep passing, lighting and inhaling for about 15 minutes as smoke fills the car. Their conversations wander from their drug use to family, school and music.

"Dude, it's getting late," Pickles says. "You care if we roll back?"

Through the billowing smoke, the green analog clock projects the time: 12:47.

"Sure, man," Malik replies.

The two are done "getting high" for the night, but it won't be long before Malik's thirst has him hankering for more.

What these two weed-smokers did on that night hasn't always been illegal in the Land of the Free. In fact, once upon a time, marijuana production was highly encouraged because of its other uses which have no relation to "getting high."

Larry Sloman explores this era in his book, *Reefer Madness*.

**"I'm a proud stoner since 1998, and I'll probably be one for my whole life. Everyone in my life knows I'm one. But what most of them don't know is that I acknowledge weed is the enemy."**

"ANGEL"  
Murfreesboro Resident

In the book, Sloman says that marijuana plants were used by colonial Americans for the production of clothing and paper. Its use was so important that, in 1762, Virginia penalized farmers who didn't grow it.

Sloman even writes that the first president of the United States himself, George Washington, wrote in his diary that he grew marijuana plants.

But its uses for products lessened because of inventive farming machinery like the cotton gin which made other plants more efficient.

As the demand for marijuana products decreased, the demand for its medicinal

purposes increased. When inhaled, it relieves the pain of ailments.

America wasn't the only country mad for reefer before it became a social no-no.

Mexicans had a strong taste for marijuana, according to Reefer Madness. Weed, Sloman says, is embedded in Mexico's culture and folklore.

As more Mexicans immigrated to America looking for work in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, their custom of smoking marijuana immigrated, as well.

In 1937 came the Marijuana Tax Act, the first federal law imposed on reefer. It placed a

prohibitive tax on producing, manufacturing and selling weed.

Though this act only placed a federal tax on weed initially, it would lead a destructive path to the downfall of legalized marijuana-use.

But this use, though illegal, has not declined at all. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) reports that, in 2006, an average of 95 citizens per hour were arrested for something marijuana-related. Drugscience.org reports that these arrests cost taxpayers \$41.8 billion annually.

Every time Malik smokes weed, he runs the risk of be-

coming a part of these statistics. But he doesn't care.

"You got anything?" he says into his phone. "Cool, cool. You at your apartment right now? Alright, I'll be over there in a minute."

He makes the short drive to Scarlett Commons Apartments, less than a minute away.

When we park, I reach for the door handle.

"Naw, dude, don't get out," Malik says. "Just stay here."

He gets out of the car. I wait in the cold night for about five minutes.

When he returns, I ask why he hasn't been gone for long.

"We didn't mess with weed

etiquette tonight like I usually do with him," Malik says.

"Weed etiquette?" I ask, having never heard such a term.

"If a friend plays the roll of middleman in a deal," Malik explains, "or finds the hookup for an individual looking for bud, it's common courtesy to smoke that person out."

He drives to his brother's apartment complex, far from campus. His brother wished to be called Rusty. Two of Malik's friends, a man and a woman, are already hanging out at the apartment.

The scene looks like a drug-induced, collegiate stereotype. Empty beer bottles and half-full ashtrays lie on a glass table in the middle of the room.

Malik walks to the restroom and closes the door behind him.

Behind the sealed door, I hear the plea of desperate lungs. "Cough, cough," they cry.

The door opens a few minutes later, and Malik emerges with an army of smoke stalking his path. He removes a cigar from his pocket, puts it in his mouth and lights it.

"Anyone wanna partake in a general session with me?" Malik asks the group. No one responds.

"What's a general session?" I ask.

Malik laughs. "Just smokin' weed, man."

He got high alone that night.

He walks into the bathroom four more times. Each time, I hear coughs from behind the door. Each time, he emerges with the same cloud billowing behind him.

Malik isn't the only member of the MTSU's marijuana scene.

Last school year, 135 violations involving drugs and drug paraphernalia were filed. That was 14.6 percent of all violations filed on campus, according to the most recent TBI Crime on Campus Report.

But one national organization that has a chapter on campus believes that there should be no violations concerning marijuana.

NORML says its mission is to "move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty."

As I followed Malik three more times on his quest for "highness," I realized that

**'HIGH' LIFE**  
FROM PAGE 6

potential penalties were not deterrent for him in using marijuana. I followed him on campus with a man referred to as "Top Dog." The second time was with a young female student in the same place Malik had smoked with Pickles.

The third time, Malik ventured far from MTSU. So far, in fact, that, for as far as the eye could see, there were fields of livestock, rusting machinery and low lying hills identifying where one farm ended and another starts.

We were going to Memaw's house, a 92-year-old woman with Alzheimer's.

Malik is a good friend of her caregiver, who wished to be called Angel.

Angel and Memaw live on a farm that Memaw and her deceased husband purchased many decades ago. Angel was hired by Memaw's son to live at the house with her to assist with what most would call "simple tasks."

When we arrive at the house, Angel pops his head out of the door and whispers, "Memaw isn't sleepin' yet. Wait like 30 minutes."

Memaw doesn't know what goes on in her living room while she sleeps.

So we wait, talking and staring over the fields of cows on the front porch.

Angel pops his head out again.

"Alright, guys. Come on in."

The two get right to business. Malik takes out a bag with a greenish-brown substance in it.

"Here, smell this," he says, handing the bag to Angel.

"Man, smells good," Angel says. "You mind if I grind it with my grinder?"

Angel poured the contents of the bag into his "grinder," and begins to crush it like pepper.

"This is my last time smok-

ing," Malik says. "Well, that is until 4-20." They laugh.

"Do you think that'll get us both high?" he asks Angel.

"Just as much as anything else will," Angel replies. They both laugh again.

He stops grinding and pours the substance into his pipe.

"Let's go outside for this," Angel says.

Once outside, they began lighting, inhaling and passing. With no provocation, Angel pours out his feelings about marijuana use.

"I'm a proud stoner since 1998, and I'll probably be one for my whole life," he says. "Everyone in my life knows I'm one. But what most of

over him. A calm that some might say is too calm.

"Weed causes people to be calm, yes, but it causes them to be too calm," warns Kevin Brown, program coordinator for Arms of Grace Alcohol and Drug Counseling Center. "Pot smokers lose all motivation. It doesn't sound like big deal, but when you're supposed to be going to school or work, it becomes a big deal."

He says that even though pot-smokers may not see immediate consequences, memory loss begins to set in after a while, especially for those truly addicted to weed.

"It's addictive because it changes your perspective on life," Brown says. "When you

**“And once they have that first experience, they'll spend their time chasing that first high. Each high is different, so they'll never get it again, but that doesn't mean they won't try.”**

**KEVIN BROWN**  
Program Coordinator for Arms of Grace Alcohol and Drug Counseling Center

them don't know is that I acknowledge weed is the enemy. There is one benefit weed has to offer, though. And that is it allows me to view life from an altered state. Weed gives you a reference point outside of your own perspective. If you can get a different perspective on reality, you can really see life for how it really is. After all, black wouldn't be black without white."

"Why have you never told it to me like that before?" Malik asks.

"I've tried to tell you that many times. But after five minutes of smoking, we always end up watching cartoons." They laugh again.

Then they laugh more and more, and smoke more and more, until all of it was gone. Malik says goodbye to his friend and, as we drive away, he waves goodbye to rural America.

Each time Malik smokes, he says, a sense of calm comes

smoke it, chemical reactions happen within the brain that cause a euphoric way of seeing things."

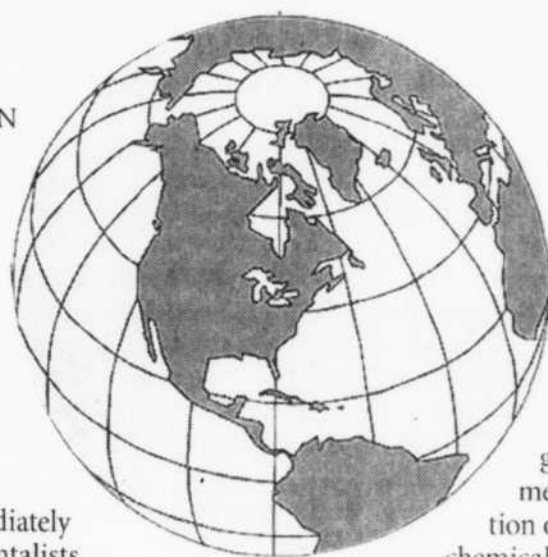
So why do people do it knowing that it's addictive and illegal?

"People do it for the first time mostly because of peer pressure," Brown says. "And once they have that first experience, they'll spend their time chasing that first high. Each high is different, so they'll never get it again, but that doesn't mean they won't try."

And maybe, for Malik, that's true. Or maybe he's trying to get a different perspective on life.

"When I smoke, my mind is released into deeper levels of imaginative thoughts and experiences," he says. "I sincerely believe it has contributed to my open-mindedness toward my beliefs regarding the questionable existence that we live in."

**ENVIRONMENTAL BRIEFS**



WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush called for a halt Wednesday in the growth of greenhouse gases by 2025, acknowledging the need to head off serious climate change.

The plan came under fire immediately from environmentalists and congressional Democrats who favor mandatory emission cuts, a position also held by all three presidential contenders.

Bush in a Rose Garden address for the first time set a specific target date for U.S. climate pollution reductions and said he was ready to commit to a binding international agreement on long-term reductions as long as other countries such as China do the same.

"There is a wrong way and a right way to approach reducing greenhouse gas emissions," Bush said, making clear that he opposes a Senate measure that would impose mandatory limits on greenhouse gases beginning in five years, followed by annual reductions.

"Bad legislation would impose tremendous costs on our economy and American families without accomplishing the important climate change goals we share," the president said.

He said he envisions a "comprehensive blend of market incentives and regulations" that would encourage clean and efficient energy technologies. And he singled out the electric utility industry, saying power plants need to stabilize carbon dioxide pollution within 15 years and reduce them after that.

While characterized by the White House as a fresh strategy to attack climate change, the president gave no new proposals for achieving these pollution reductions.

He cited, instead, measures already enacted such as a 40 percent increase in auto fuel economy, a requirement for a huge increase in use of ethanol and other biofuels, and some efficiency standards, as well as a push for developing clean energy technologies.

Environmentalists said the Energy Department's own forecasts have shown that even with those advances — encompassed in energy legislation approved last year — U.S. carbon dioxide emissions are expected to increase by about 10 percent by 2025.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A chemical used to make baby bottles and other shatterproof plastic containers could be linked to a range of hormonal problems, a preliminary government report has found.

The report was greeted by some environmental groups as confirmation of their concerns, while chemical makers latched on to the report's preliminary nature and its authors' warning against drawing overly worrisome conclusions.

The federal National Toxicology Program said Tuesday that experiments on rats found precancerous tumors, urinary tract problems and early puberty when the animals were fed or injected with low doses of the plastics chemical bisphenol A.

While such animal studies only provide "limited evidence" of bisphenol's developmental risks, the group's draft report stresses the possible effects on humans "cannot be dismissed." The group is made up of scientists from the Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration and the Institutes of Health.

More than 90 percent of Americans are exposed to trace amounts of bisphenol, according to the CDC. The chemical leaches out of water bottles, the lining of cans and other items made with it.

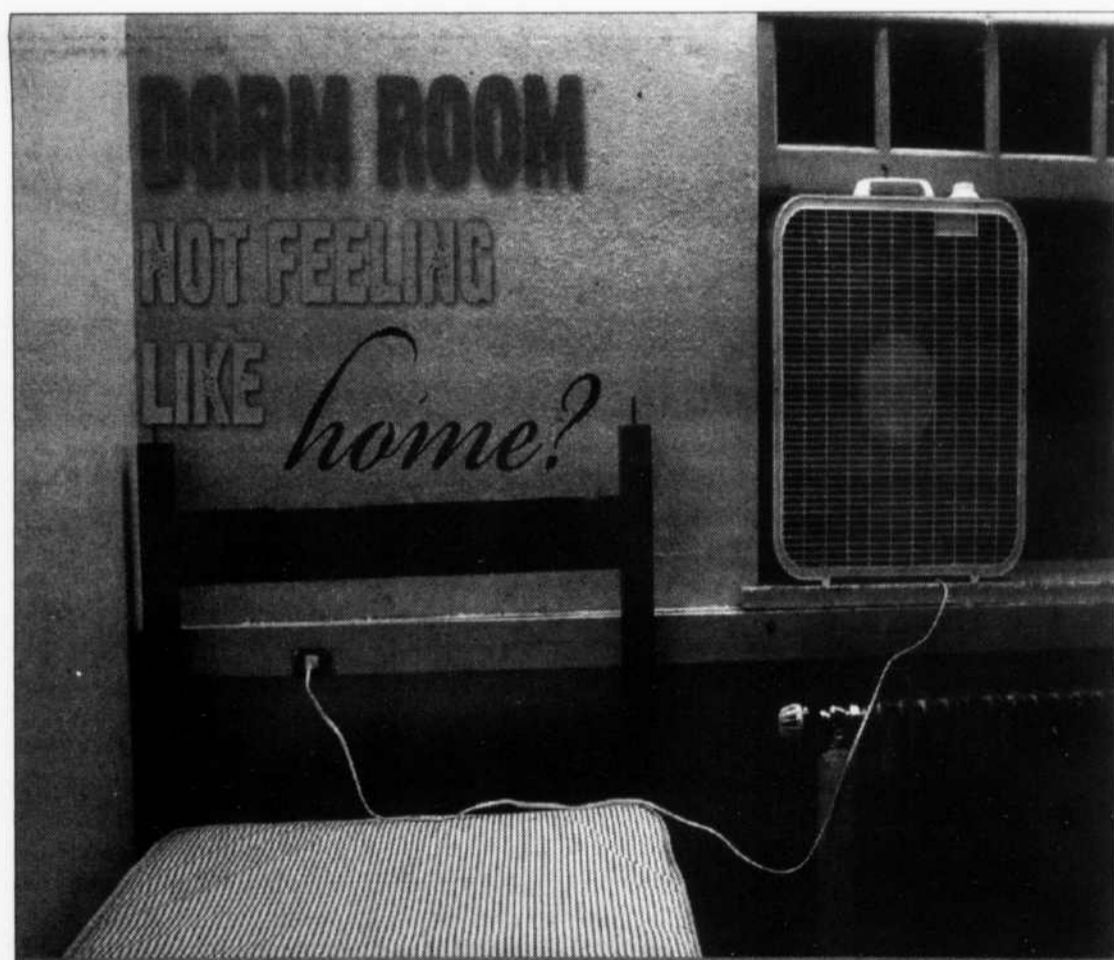
The American Chemistry Council, which represents manufacturers, said the report "affirms that there are no serious or high level concerns for adverse effects of bisphenol on human reproduction and development." Among the manufacturers of bisphenol are Dow Chemical Co. and BASF Group.

The group said it supports additional research to determine whether adverse effects seen in animals "are of any significance to human health."

Environmentalists, meanwhile, hailed the report as the first step toward reassessing a chemical they believe could contribute to cancer and other health problems.

"We're hoping this decision will force FDA to recognize the toxicity of this chemical and make manufacturers set a safety standard that's protective of the most vulnerable populations," said Dr. Anila Jacob of the Environmental Working Group.

The FDA in November said there is "no reason at this time to ban or otherwise restrict its use."



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# SPORTS

## MT Dance Team excels in national competition

By SARAH LAVERY  
Features Editor

In its first year under the spirit program and with a brand new coach, the MTSU Dance Team placed sixth in this year's National Cheer Association-National Dance Association Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship.

The team's new coach, Casey Reese, came into the program in February. The team had already started practicing before she arrived. "I'm so proud of how these girls worked as a team and how they came out on top," Reese said.

During the competition, which took place April 9 through 13 in Daytona Beach, Fla., the team, at first, came just short of making the final round.

But the Dance Team procured the coveted Challenge Cup, competing against other teams that didn't pass the preliminaries for one last spot in the finals.

Before getting the Challenge Cup, the girls were ranked ninth overall in the "Open Dance Division I" category, performing a lyrical jazz routine.

In the end, though, they secured their sixth-place spot.

The team, which recently held its tryouts for the upcoming year, practices twice a week for four hours at a time. The MTSU Dance Team now has 16 new members, and Reese said she couldn't be more excited.

This year, the Dance Team hopefuls had to master tri-

ple Pirouettes, complicated ballet-turns in second position and switch leaps, among many other advanced techniques, just to be considered for the team.

"The team this year is of a totally higher standard," Reese said. "We're really trying to put MTSU on the map in cheer and dance. We had much higher expectations [in selecting this year's group]."

The MTSU Cheerleading Squad also took part in the competition, but did not make it to the final round. They also tried for the Challenge Cup and placed fifth, which put them at 15th overall.

"We actually had a lot of deductions in preliminaries," said Renee Hathaway, MTSU Spirit Coordinator. "Had we not had them, would have been in third."

The small, co-ed cheer squad, consisting of four males and 16 females, is also a new group. Fourteen of the team's members, in fact, are freshman and had never competed at a collegiate level.

"I'm very proud of how hard the cheerleaders worked," Hathaway said. "They worked for three months just to go down there, and for them not to do what they expected, it is disappointing."

During the upcoming year, Hathaway said she hopes the squad will have two full teams—10 couples on a co-ed squad, 20 members of an all-girl squad and six alternates, and each cheerleading hopeful will have already mastered a standing back-tuck.



PHOTO COURTESY MTSU SPIRIT

MTSU's spirit team finished sixth in the NCA-NDA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship, in its first year of existence.

"Our standards have gotten a lot higher," Hathaway said. "This year, I would like to see a lot team bonding, a lot of synchronized stunts."

Even more, Hathaway said she hopes the entire MTSU spirit program can work with each other, to create an even better atmosphere at sporting

events.

"I want the whole spirit program—cheer, dance and the mascot—to be at all of the ballgames. I don't want

[to separate cheer and dance anymore. We will both be on the sidelines. There won't be a basketball game that you won't see the dance team."

## Cline steps up as a leader of softball team

By CASEY BROWN  
Contributing Writer

It's the top of the sixth inning, and the game is still scoreless. The Lady Volunteers shouldn't even be here, but that's the last thing on anyone's mind at this point.

Things are going according to form until Tennessee's Paula Callahan draws the dreaded two-out walk. In something of a surprising move, UT coach Karen Weekly sends in speedy freshman Ashley Cline to run for Callahan.

The sequence of events that follows, Cline said, is one that will play out in her mind for the rest of her life. The next batter, Katherine Card, sends a single to right, and the Arizona outfielder throws wildly to first base.

Having been waved over by the third-base coach, Cline decides that the time is now. She rounds the bag and heads home, sliding just under the tag of Wildcat catcher Callista Balko.

The safe call is made, and Tennessee has its first run and first victory in the 2005 Women's College World Series.

"I was caught up in the moment (when I ran) and took a chance," Cline said, reflecting on the play. "But as I slid in I saw the umpire's face and knew I was safe."

Three years later, one might expect Cline to be patrolling the infield as a senior for the Lady Vols.

Nope. Instead, she traded her orange for blue and now spends her days in Murfreesboro, attempting to lead MTSU to the promised land she first visited as a freshman.

The UT-MTSU move might seem like an odd one

to some, but Cline insisted that it was the right decision. Though she said she has fond memories of her time in Knoxville, she felt like it was simply time to move on.

"I had the time of my life and wouldn't change it for the world," Cline said. "I was happy with the way I played, but I never really felt like I had the coaches' support."

After departing UT following the 2005 season, Cline said she assumed she would never play again. But she credited that little voice, the one that many great athletes seem to have, for her return to the diamond.

"March came around, and I realized I would be finding God-given talent and (that I) wouldn't fully reach my potential," she said. "Looking back, I'm glad I made the call to (former Blue Raider coach) Leigh Podlesny."

Now as a senior, the utility infielder said she feels the responsibility of leadership placed firmly on her shoulders.

"I think the reason that I'm a leader now is because of the experiences I've had playing with some of the best," Cline said. "Being viewed like that now means people are constantly looking at me and listening to what I say."

If her officiating on the field is any indication, onlookers would do well to take notice. Cline led the Sun Belt Conference in stolen bases last season with 32, and is batting an impressive .339 through last weekend's series with Florida International.

Cline acknowledged that her feet are one of her main weapons, but mentioned another quality she feels is equally important.

"My strengths as a player are my speed, and also my

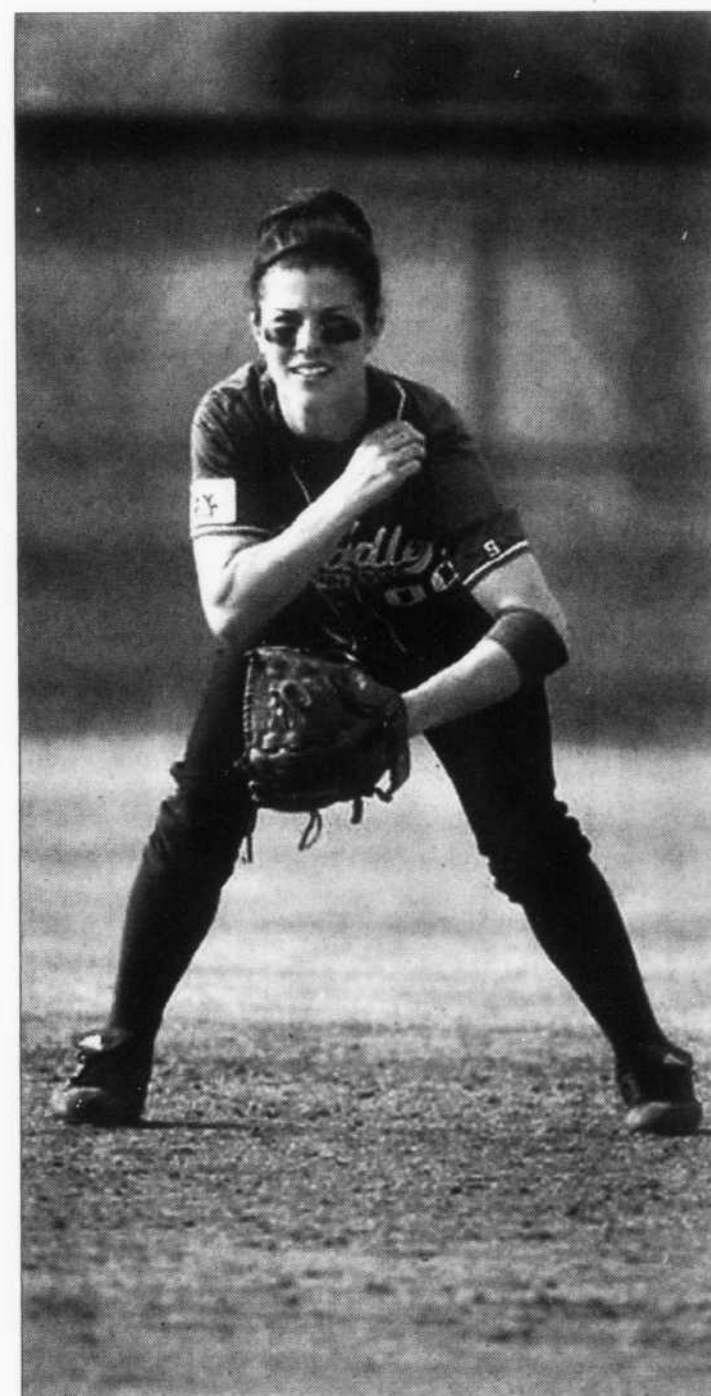


PHOTO COURTESY MT MEDIA RELATIONS  
Senior Ashley Cline has 14 stolen bases this season.

competitive heart," Cline said. "I can't think of anything worse than losing."

And like so many other athletes who play with passion, sometimes that competitive nature can take over.

"Sometimes it's easy to let my emotions get the best of me," Cline said. "I'm harder on myself than anyone else could be. Ever."

No matter how the season ends for the Blue Raiders, Cline is not through with softball. She will play professionally in Switzerland next

year, she said, partly because there are few opportunities in the U.S. for softball players.

"There aren't many opportunities other than Olympic ball," Cline said. "But hopefully (Switzerland) will lead to making new friends and better players out of our competitors in the Olympics."

Although next season will find her in a different time zone yet again, Cline is confident that she will never forget to bring the most important things with her—fleet feet and a will to win.

## When it comes to player salaries, WNBA is a joke



OPEN MOUTH,  
INSERT FOOT  
Tiffany Gibson

With last Wednesday's Women's National Basketball Association draft completed, several female athletes were given a new city to familiarize themselves with, new teammates, fame and a contract offering them \$44,000 per year for the first four draft picks.

When comparing this amount to the sum male athletes receive in their NBA rookie year, it's not even a fourth of their salaries. Getting paid to play the game they love is a dream come true for many, but who has the right to balance paychecks based on gender?

Several contenders such as Sylvia Fowles, LaToya Pringle and Alexis Hornbuckle deserve equal pay for their incredible talents and skill they bring to women's basketball, which is why it is appalling that the organization has yet to increase the salaries of its athletes.

As of 2007, the yearly salary given to rookie athletes in the NBA ranged from \$3 million to \$1 million, while women in the bottom picks were given an insulting sum of \$32,000. Given the WNBA salary statistics, this hardly seems fair considering both genders are athletes whether or not one happens to have any extra chromosomes.

Most people might ar-

gue that men are paid more because the NBA has been around longer than the WNBA, which was established 12 years ago. Even though this is true, it does not mean the energy and heart that is given on the court and to the fans at every game is any different than what has been displayed in the NBA over the last 63 years.

Biological differences should not be an issue when dealing with the dedication and achievements these athletes have received. These women are playing at the highest level possible, and for their hard work they are rewarded by low income and little appreciation.

Men's basketball may be more appealing and profitable, but with recent talents such as Candace Parker and Lindsay Leslie playing for the Los Angeles Sparks, ticket prices are guaranteed to soar for the same reason why the Lady Vols women's basketball team is more profitable than the men's.

When people are intrigued by what they witness in a player or college team, they are more likely to follow the athletes' professional careers.

For example, many women college teams have surpassed the male college teams by captivating fans all over the world. Thinking back to the days of Lindsay Harding and how she almost led the Duke Blue Devils to a national championship while Duke's men team struggled for success. With the men's team only turning out one NBA eligible player for the Gaostenkors harvested more talent in Allison Bales and Harding, who were selected in the first



# SPORTS BRIEFS

## MT scores 13 straight in win over UT

Middle Tennessee scored 13-straight runs to beat Tennessee Tuesday 13-6.

The Blue Raiders (19-14-1) racked up 18 hits against the Volunteers (22-14), who went up 5-0 in the third inning on a grand slam by Cody Brown.

Middle Tennessee used four consecutive one-out doubles to cut into the Volunteers' lead in the bottom of the third. Rawley Bishop's double drove in one run, and two more runners crossed on a double by Zach Dean.

Blake McDade hit a two-run home run to put the Raiders up 9-5 in the bottom of the fifth.

## Athletic Dept. inducts 10 into Honor Society

Middle Tennessee's athletic department inducted its fourth class into the Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society. Seven of the 10 student-athletes were female. The women honored were Brandi Brown (basketball), Nenita Burgess (soccer), Leslie Clark (volleyball), Martha Davis (softball), Ashley Mead (volleyball), Jackie Pickel (basketball) and Leigh Wilkins (golf).

Three baseball players represent all of the men's honorees - redshirt sophomore Dillon Heath and redshirt sophomore Justin Jones and junior Brett Smalley.

Chi Alpha Sigma is a non-profit organization established to recognize college students who earn a varsity

letter in at least one sport while maintaining a 3.4 or higher cumulative GPA throughout their junior and senior years. The goal of the organization is to recognize outstanding academic achievement by intercollegiate athletes.

Middle Tennessee has now inducted a total of 61 student-athletes into the society after just four years of eligibility. In 2005, the first year Blue Raider student-athletes could be inducted, a total of 26 were recognized.

## Titans 2008 schedule released

A Monday night game against the Indianapolis Colts and a Thanksgiving date with the Detroit Lions highlight the 2008 Tennessee Titans schedule released Tuesday.

The Titans will host the Colts on Monday, Oct. 27, their first primetime home game since 2004. Tennessee will make its fifth appearance in franchise history on Thanksgiving at Detroit on Nov. 27.

The Titans schedule features home games against Cleveland, Green Bay, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Minnesota, the New York Jets and Pittsburgh.

Tennessee will travel to Baltimore, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville and Kansas City.

The Titans open the season at home against the Jaguars on Sept. 7.

*The Associated Press and MT Media Relations contributed to this article.*



## College of Liberal Arts Awards Reception

Tuesday, April 22, 2008 · 2:30 pm

Middle Tennessee State University · James Union Building · Tennessee Room

### SERVICE AWARD FOR LIBERAL ARTS FACULTY

**15 Years**  
William Brantley, *English*  
Warner Cribb, *Geosciences*  
Deborah Gentry, *English*  
Douglas Heffington, *History*  
Elyce Helford, *English*  
Robert Holtzclaw, *English*

### OUTSTANDING ADVISORS FOR THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Jimmie Cain, *English*  
Lon Nuell, *Art*  
Kris McCusker, *History*  
Richard Pace, *Sociology & Anthropology*

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS SENIOR HONOR STUDENTS

Students must have been enrolled full-time for the current and past three semesters at MTSU, have completed 90 or more semester hours before the current semester, have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 and are working on their first degree.

Nicholas S. Andal  
Richard C. Anderson  
Heather M. Bowington  
Michelle S. Brasher  
Allison C. Brownlow  
Sarah E. Bryant  
Melissa R. Buchanan  
Joshua K. Busman  
Jason E. Caldwell  
Wendell C. Clemons  
Ryan P. Darrow  
Shelly N. Doyle  
Lagena B. Durham  
Rachel K. Elkins  
Emily E. Frith  
Matthew P. Galloway  
Stephanie D. Gambill  
Christa J. Gates  
Cristina Gomez  
Jonathon E. Gower  
Hannah P. Green  
Andrew T. Lee  
Margaret E. Lewis  
Elizabeth C. Linton  
Eric W. Little  
Suzanne M. Luter  
Laurie M. Lynn  
Summer D. Maness  
Clair M. Marshall  
Brittany A. Martin  
Natalie E. Martin  
Scott J. McAnally  
Byron T. McQuain  
Erin F. Meaker  
Brittney M. Mebane  
Matthew S. Nelson  
Joseph T. Neumann  
Cherise N. O'Connell  
Matthew R. Ogles  
Brandon T. Palma  
Anna G. Parker  
Anita K. Patterson  
Tad D. Petereson  
Candes V. Prewitt  
Jessalynn G. Price  
Daniel L. Pujol  
Caleb D. Raymer  
Paul M. Richards  
Christopher B. Robison  
Erica L. Roe Fehrman  
Stephen J. Russell  
Kimberly N. Senter  
Dana E. Shotwell  
Grace M. Stevenson  
Caleb S. Stewart  
Kelly E. Stewart  
Elissa M. Stuart  
Jason E. Thaggard  
Elizabeth Tucker  
Julie A. Upshaw  
Dennis M. VanDyke  
Katherine B. Vaughn  
Natalya S. Vaughn  
Joshua D. Wagner  
Stephanie D. Weaver  
William E. Wood

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Graduate**  
Catherine Jones & Leah Mittelmeier, *English*  
Allison Smith, faculty mentor  
**Title:** *Collaboration Squared: An Experiment in Collaborative Pedagogy Between Two Composition Teachers*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Graduate**  
Alicja Kutyla, *Biology - FASR Team*  
Hugh Berryman, faculty mentor  
**Title:** *Gunshot Residue on Bone as a Potential Indicator of Gunshot Trauma in the Absence of a Bullet*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Graduate**  
Dean Andrews, *Political Science*  
Clyde Willis, faculty mentor  
**Title:** *Individual Rights and the President's Military Tribunal System*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Undergraduate**  
Marjorie Gombert, *Geoscience*  
Melissa Lobegrier, faculty mentor  
**Title:** *The Effect of Pollution in the Fenholtozey River on Benthic Foraminifera*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Undergraduate**  
Salina Branson-Carll, *Sociology & Anthropology*  
Richard Pace, faculty mentor  
**Title:** *Child Health and Nutrition in the Brazilian Amazon*  
Homer Pittard Scholarship  
Monica Brown  
Arlo Hall  
Kenneth Lovett, II

**ART**  
Scholarship for Art Major  
Randy Purcell  
Emily Ragland  
Jill Montgomery  
Memorial Scholarship  
Nemanja Cavlovic  
Charles M. Brandon  
Scholarship  
Sarah Sullivan  
Hester R. Rogers Scholarship  
Dale Meier  
Rebecca Rodgers  
Jessica Galligani  
Charles and Ola Massey  
Scholarship  
Rachel Bonham  
Lani Asuncion  
Jerry's Artarama Award  
Hannah Green  
Cristina Gomez  
David G. LeDoux  
Antonio Marble  
HIVE Merit Award  
Jeremy Braden  
Erin Chumley

**ENGLISH**  
Richard C. and Virginia Peck Award  
*(These awards were presented in Fall 2007.)*  
Jayne Andrews  
Kirsten Boatwright  
Adam Cottle  
Collin Davey  
Jonathan Mauldin  
Elizabeth Renneisen  
Aaron Shapiro  
Holly Tipton  
Stephanie Weaver  
Christine Vaughan  
Scholarship  
Lindsay Shaw  
Virginia Derryberry Memorial  
Scholarship  
Jason Caldwell  
Donna Jackson  
Lacy Welker  
William R. Wolfe Graduate  
Writing Award  
Holly Tipton  
Collin Olson  
Cassandra Bishop  
Emileé S. LeClear  
Nicole Guertin

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES**  
Outstanding Student in German Award  
Alison Carden  
Outstanding Student in Spanish Award  
Guerline Evariste  
Eric Little  
Wera Howard Award  
Victoria High  
June Hall McCash Award  
Claire Marshall

**GEOSCIENCES**  
Gem and Mineral Scholarship  
Richard Anderson  
Jennifer Pickering

Outstanding Geography Student  
Paul Wiles  
Charles Agin  
Outstanding Geology Student  
Eric Coburn  
Estwing Rock Hammer Award  
Aaron Mayfield

**HISTORY**  
Ernest Hooper Undergraduate Scholarship  
Rebekah Weiler  
Ryan Darrow  
Julie Jorgensen  
Thelma Jennings Graduate Scholarship  
Tara White  
Edward and Eileen Jennings Undergraduate Scholarship  
Walt Trapnell  
Bart McCash Scholarship  
Angela Smith  
Brian Hackett  
Virgil Statom  
Phi Alpha Theta Pi Sigma Chapter Spring 2008 members  
Thomas Clepper  
LaGena Durham  
Brian Griffith  
Tammy Harder  
Broadus Maples  
Scott McAnally  
Savannah McCulloch  
Matthew Ogles  
Keith Schumann  
Wendy Rau

**SCHOOL OF MUSIC**  
Outstanding Achievement in Trumpet  
Preston Bailey  
Marcus Brooks  
Outstanding Achievement in Horn  
Sean Donovan  
Outstanding Achievement in Percussion  
Matt Jordan  
Outstanding Achievement in Woodwind Performance in Flute  
Katie Howard  
Outstanding Achievement in Instrumental Music Education  
Brandon Hill  
Outstanding Achievement in Vocal/General Music Education  
Laura Gilson  
Outstanding Achievement in Music History  
Joshua Busman  
Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Studies  
Jonathan Wright  
Michael Jenner

Outstanding Achievement in Guitar Performance  
Silviu Ciulei  
Outstanding Achievement in String Performance  
Evan Barker  
Peter Wallace  
Outstanding Achievement in Piano  
Andrew Haselden  
Outstanding Achievement in Jazz Studies  
Matthew Galloway  
Outstanding Achievement in Jazz Saxophone Performance  
Jason McVey  
Outstanding Achievement in Musical Composition  
Joshua Busman

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
Norman L. Parks Award  
Natalya Vaughn  
C.C. Sims Award  
Clay Francis  
John W. Burgess Award  
Gretchen Jenkins  
Jack Justin Turner Award  
Elizbeth Tucker  
Meritorious Service Award  
Angela Feeney

**SOCIAL WORK**  
Gloria H. Kimmel Outstanding Student Award  
Claudia Martin  
Dale Robert Seime Award  
Tony Carter  
Marian Clark Scholarship  
Tony Carter  
Robert Chance  
Shelly Dalton  
Shelly Doyle  
Meagan Humbert  
Amber Hyde  
Susan Jones

Marian Clark Scholarship (cont.)  
Sarah Kirby  
Rose Leach  
Yoland Marable  
Caretia Merriweather  
Janay Moreland  
Sherry Newhouser  
Natasha Nunley  
Daphne Page  
Patricia Ritchey  
Abby Roark  
Kelly Stewart  
Lemuel White  
Heather Zindars

**SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY**  
Joe Ramsey Leatherman Award  
Mallory Melton  
Clayton James Scholarship  
Kisha Ledlow  
Lindsey Wozencraft  
Jamie Fuston  
Marian Clark Scholarship  
Christopher Dial  
Kisha Ledlow  
Tara Lee  
Jodi Stewart

**SPEECH & THEATRE**  
Dorethe Tucker Scholarship  
Sarah Fye  
Alli Scott  
Dustin Napier  
Page Hall  
Jayme Smith  
Richie Smith Memorial Scholarship  
Amanda Walker  
Ian Hunt  
Clayton Hawes Scholarship  
Brandon Gwinn  
David and Sandra Walker Scholarship  
Jamin Simms  
Amber Drake  
Robert Lewis  
Dwayne Gibbs  
Robert Aden Memorial Scholarship  
Dustin Napier  
Justin Bourdet  
Ian Hunt  
David and Janice Arnold Scholarship  
Susan Gray  
Chelsea Beaty  
Samantha Delk  
Kay Garrard Academic Leadership in Communication Disorders Award  
Nicole Payne  
Naveen "Scott" Pejaver Memorial Scholarship  
Heather Thoe  
Caroline Sanderson  
Shelley Snyder  
JC Moore  
Courtney Williams  
Karrissa Doyal  
Dale E. McGilliard Scholarship  
Daniel Joyce  
Melanie Stacy  
Clinical Excellence Award  
Clifton Hancock  
Lauren Busby  
Exemplary Student in Communications Disorders Award  
Kasey Siemmsen  
Excellence in Chorography  
Kaleena DeVar  
Outstanding Performance in Dance at American College  
Dance Festival  
Hilary Walker  
Steven Tate  
Grace Stevenson  
Jessica Cavender  
Anne Holland Dance Scholarship  
Grace Stevenson  
Faith Stevenson  
Outstanding Student in Leadership Studies  
Margaret Lewis  
Outstanding Junior in Organizational Communication  
Nicholas Palmer  
Cherise O'Connell  
Outstanding Senior in Organizational Communication  
Laura Davidson  
Cynthia Morgan  
Leigh Piper  
Laurie Lynn  
Academic Achievement Award in Organizational Communication  
Jessalynn Price  
Katherine Cook  
Brandon Palma  
Community Service in Organizational Communication  
Brecia Martin

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# Sun Belt Tennis Championships begin this weekend in Monroe

By JOHN MCELWAIN  
SBC Media Relations

Some of the nation's best tennis players will compete for the chance to call themselves Sun Belt Champions this weekend as the 2008 Sun Belt Men's and Women's Tennis Championships are scheduled for action Friday-Sunday on the campus of Louisiana-Monroe.

The event, which officially begins at 8 a.m. on Friday morning, will feature a number of nationally ranked teams and individuals.

Among the nationally ranked players in the field is #18 Adam Holmstrom who will lead No. 1 seed Denver into action in the men's competition.

Holmstrom is unbeaten in singles (18-0) and doubles (14-0) play this season and will be looking to guide DU to its first Sun Belt Men's Tennis Championship. DU, ranked 45th nationally, will face No. 8 seed Western Kentucky University in first round action on Friday.

South Alabama, ranked 60th nationally, defeated DU in last year's championship and earned the No. 2 seed in this weekend's tournament. Jack Baker, the 2007 tournament MVP and 31st ranked player in the country this season, returns to lead the Jaguars on their quest for their 18th championship. USA begins tournament play against No. 7 seed Troy in the first round.

Middle Tennessee is the No. 3 seed in the men's championship and the Blue Raiders are currently ranked 71st nationally. MT faces No. 6 seed Louisiana-Lafayette in Friday's first round action.

No. 4 seed Florida Atlantic, the nation's 73rd ranked team, will play No. 5 seed UALR in the first round.

Denver will also enter the women's tournament as the No. 1 seed. The Pioneers are 19-2 this season and are ranked 28th nationally.

Mallory Voelker, who is ranked 65th in the country, will look to lead DU to their second women's tennis championship. DU won the tournament on one previous occasion in 2004. DU will play the winner of Friday morning's match between No. 8 seed Middle Tennessee and No. 9 seed UALR.

No. 2 seed South Alabama has won 15 women's championships and will be looking for number 16 this weekend. The Jaguars, ranked 45th nationally, will play the winner of the first round contest between No. 7 Arkansas State and No. 10 Louisiana-Monroe.

#51 Florida International is the No. 3 seed in the women's tournament and the Golden Panthers have won three consecutive women's championships. They are led by Egle Petrauskaite and Liset Brito who are nationally ranked 107th and 123rd respectively. FIU will play the winner of the match-up of No. 6 seed North Texas and No. 11 seed Florida Atlantic.

Louisiana-Lafayette enters the women's tournament as the No. 4 seed and will play the winner of the first round match of No. 5 seed Troy and No. 12 seed WKU.

The tournament will take place at two sites on the first day - ULM's Heard Stadium and Forsythe Tennis Center will both be used. Heard Stadium will be the only site used for Saturday and Sunday's matches.

The championship matches will be web streamed live on the Sun Belt Conference's Web site - www.sunbeltsports.org.



## MONROE, LA

### WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP SEEDS

1. Denver (#28)
2. South Alabama (#45)
3. Florida International (#51)
4. Louisiana-Lafayette
5. Troy
6. North Texas
7. Arkansas State
8. Middle Tennessee
9. UALR
10. Louisiana-Monroe
11. Florida Atlantic
12. WKU

### WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Friday, April 18
- 8:00 a.m. - M1 - No. 8 Middle Tennessee vs. No. 9 UALR (Heard)
- 8:00 a.m. - M2 - No. 7 Arkansas State vs. No. 10 Louisiana-Monroe (Heard)
- 8:00 a.m. - M3 - No. 6 North Texas vs. No. 11 Florida Atlantic (Forsythe)
- 11:30 a.m. - M4 - No. 12 WKU vs. No. 5 Troy (Heard)
- 3:00 p.m. - M5 - No. 3 Florida International vs. Winner Match 3 (Forsythe)
- 6:30 p.m. - M6 - No. 1 Denver vs. Winner Match 1 (Heard)
- 6:30 p.m. - M7 - No. 2 South Alabama vs. Winner Match 2 (Heard)
- 6:30 p.m. - M8 - No. 4 Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Winner Match 4 (Forsythe)
- Saturday, April 19
- 1:30 p.m. - M9 - Winner Match 6 vs. Winner Match 8

1:30 p.m. - M10 - Winner Match 5 vs. Winner Match 7

Sunday, April 20

10:00 a.m. - M11 - Championship Match

10:00 a.m. - M12 - Consolation Match

### MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP SEEDS

1. Denver (#45)
2. South Alabama (#60)
3. Middle Tennessee (#71)
4. Florida Atlantic (#73)
5. UALR
6. Louisiana-Lafayette
7. Troy
8. WKU

### MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Friday, April 18
- 11:30 a.m. - M1 - No. 2 South Alabama vs. No. 7 Troy (Heard)
- 11:30 a.m. - M2 - No. 3 Middle Tennessee vs. No. 6 Louisiana-Lafayette (Forsythe)
- 3:00 p.m. - M3 - No. 1 Denver vs. No. 8 WKU (Heard)
- 3:00 p.m. - M4 - No. 4 Florida Atlantic vs. No. 5 UALR (Heard)
- Saturday, April 19
- 5:00 p.m. - M5 - Winner Match 1 vs. Winner Match 2
- 5:00 p.m. - M6 - Winner Match 3 vs. Winner Match 4
- Sunday, April 20
- 2 p.m. - M7 - Championship Match
- 2 p.m. - M8 - Consolation Match

### WNBA FROM PAGE 8

round of the 2007 WNBA draft.

When Harding returned to Duke University, her name and college career had become so recognizable that her jersey was retired. Female players such as Harding exist across the globe on various teams, which is why the

WNBA should reward these individuals equally.

The fact that women athletes are underpaid for their efforts does not sit well with the sport considering athletes may begin to stray away from the game to pursue other options such as playing overseas.

Women athletes playing overseas are paid around \$500,000, which is a huge improvement than the sala-

ries offered in the WNBA. Furthermore living in a society where money equals power, men with extraordinary talents would seek the same opportunity overseas if they were not awarded the amount they wanted upon request.

Basically, women athletes do not have a choice in the matter; therefore, they are thankful for what they receive, but the fact that they

put in the same amount of work as men and are disregarded for their efforts does not reflect well on the WNBA. Women's basketball has come a long way since 1996, but with unfair salaries being offered to its athletes, it only shows that the sport has even more progress to make.

*Tiffany Gibson is a freshman English major, and can be reached at tdgtw@mtsu.edu.*

## Woods gets surgery on wounded knee

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

The U.S. Open figured to be the closest to a sure thing for Tiger Woods this year, but maybe not anymore.

Two days after his quest for a Grand Slam fizzled at the Masters, Woods had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee for the second time in five years and will miss at least four weeks while he recovers.

The announcement, which Woods made Tuesday night on his Web site, was a surprise to everyone except those around him.

"He's been having a lot of trouble," swing coach Hank Haney said. "He doesn't talk about stuff like that. He doesn't want to use excuses, you know? I don't think it affected his play. It affected his practice a little bit."

The surgery was performed in Park City, Utah, by Thomas Rosenberg, who also operated on Woods' left knee in December 2002. Woods also had surgery in 1994 on his left knee to remove a benign tumor.

"I made the decision to deal with the pain and schedule the surgery for after the Masters," Woods said on his Web site. "The upside is that I have been through this process before and know how to handle it. I look forward to working through the rehabilitation process and getting back to action as quickly as I can."

But he will not be able to defend his title in two weeks at the Wachovia Championship. And he most likely will miss The Players Championship this week after, one of only three non-majors he has never missed since turning pro. Provided rehab goes as expected, Woods hopes to return at the Memorial on May 29.



Photo by Morry Gash, AP Photographer

**Tiger Woods finished second behind Trevor Immelman at The Masters golf tournament in Augusta, GA. He shot 5-under par.**

The U.S. Open begins June 12 at Torrey Pines, where Woods has won six times in the Buick Invitational. Such is his dominance on the Cliffs course north of San Diego that when he opened with a 67 on the South Course this year, a caddie standing behind the 18th green remarked, "He just won two tournaments with one round."

Indeed, Woods went on to an eight-shot victory in his 2007 debut, the first of his straight victories this year.

But it was not necessarily a pain-free affair.

"Tiger has been experiencing pain in his knee since the middle of last year, and when he had it looked at by his doctors, arthroscopic surgery was recommended," said Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent at IMG.

Steinberg said the surgery repaired cartilage damage. The 2002 surgery drained fluid from around the anterior cruciate ligament and

removed a benign cyst.

Woods was limping and wincing toward the end of the '02 season, and it was not surgery that kept him out two months, most of that over the holidays.

This time, it only made sense upon reviewing the past nine months.

Woods stumbled and grimaced ever so slightly at Southern Hills last August in the PGA Championship, when he chipped in for birdie behind the eighth green in the final round and backpedaled for a fist pump. In the final two PGA Tour events, in Chicago and Atlanta, he occasionally would press his left foot against a cooler, presumably to stretch his knee.

But it sure didn't affect his golf, not even at the Masters, where he finished three shots behind Trevor Immelman.

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