



One university's trash might be a hobo's home

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Donnelly picked to lead men's basketball team

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Accuracy when convenient

SIDEWAYS

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

Volume 77 No. 30

McPhee moves GTAs to stalls in horse barn

GTAs to install plumbing, use fecal samples for research

By Patrick Chinnery
Opinions Editor

After almost a month of confusion, misunderstanding and bickering, it was announced last week that MTSU's biology graduate teaching assistants have been given new homes – stalls in the old barn next to the Art Barn.

Though the stables had never been seen as a reasonable option by the GTAs, now that one has been promised to them, the idea of having a permanent home outweighs petty considerations such as shelter from the cold, wind and precipitation and respect from their peers in

other colleges.

"At first, I hated the idea of sharing an office with horses, cows and their feces," said Jimmy Schwaner, a second-year biology GTA. "But now I love the idea. Cultures of bacterial specimens can be gathered literally outside our door. Or gate. Whatever that wooden-planked thing is called."

The GTAs were forced to look for new homes after university President Sidney McPhee ordered the immediate removal of the modulars next to the McWherter Learning Resources Center. They were barred from moving back to their old offices in the Todd

Library, and space in the James E. Walker Library quickly ran out. The lack of space forced McPhee to get creative in his planning.

"Well, I knew something had to be done about this situation," he said.

"I just hate it when people are mad at me. I thought about placing the GTAs in Jones Hall, but the ceiling was condemned, and the fuddy-duddies at the state board of health wouldn't let me open up Ezell and Abernathy halls. I didn't want to tarnish the Recreation Center, so the barn was it," McPhee explained.

In their new offices in the barn, the GTAs will still have access to the modular conveniences they had in the modulars, like electricity (provided they purchase an extension

cord) and running water (once they install plumbing themselves).

One aspect of their lives that will improve dramatically is their proximity to nature and all of its wonders, such as flies, bacteria and fecal matter.

GTA Angie Barton is eagerly anticipating the move.

"Now, I can decide once and for all if the theory of spontaneous generation is valid – does poop give rise to flies? I can see my Nobel Prize now. ..."

One group that isn't excited about the new arrangement is the horses. A palmetto, wishing to simply be known as "Mr. Horse," issued a statement in Morse Code by tapping his hooves.

"I'm tired of being shuttled around, treated like an animal," he said.

"Me and the guys, we're going on strike if they try to make us move. Frankly, we're a little surprised the humans haven't thought of that idea."

While it is not yet clear if horses will be displaced because of the move, one thing is for sure – the battle between the administration and the GTAs is far from over. ♦



Photo by Pam Hudgens | Staff

Office space was finally found last week for the graduate teaching assistants in the barn adjacent to the Art Barn.

Officials eliminate on-campus parking

By Amber Bryant
Staff Writer

MTSU is attempting to solve campus parking problems by eliminating the program altogether and adopting the new "Fend for Your Stinkin' Self" policy.

This decision, which has been dubbed "the most nauseating act since the invention of cottage cheese" according to a student poll, was the brainchild of President Sidney McPhee and the Parking and Transportation Services executive committee.

"The number one complaint from students has been that we have too many parking spaces," McPhee said. "Or maybe it was too few. ... I don't know. Ever since I got a Sony Playstation in my office, I haven't been paying much attention to anything else."

Former plans included building a parking garage or more surface lots, but those notions have since been abandoned.

Connie Hagberg, director of Parking and Transportation Services, said she thinks the discontinuation of such ideas is for the best.

"We fear that, after building

See Parking, 2

Students love fountain-less quad



Photo illustration by Pam Hudgens and Lindsey Turner | Staff

Inspired by one of the many profound quotes etched into the bricks surrounding the university seal, these elated students frolic joyfully around the new Quadrangle.

By Patrick Chinnery
Opinions Editor

MTSU students have voiced their opinion almost unanimously: the Quadrangle is the best \$1.4 million the university has ever spent.

A new poll conducted by journalism professors utilizing student slave labor revealed that almost 97 percent of students believe never has there been a better way to spend \$1.4 million dollars than to build a giant concrete bull's-eye between two of the campus' newest, most expensive buildings – the James Walker Library and the Business and Aerospace Building.

"I used to think that working air conditioning and deadbolt locks were good ways to spend money," sophomore recording industry major J.J. Ramsey said. "Now I know nothing says, 'We're a world-class institution,' better than a metric ton of concrete and four cast-iron lamp poles."

Comments like Ramsey's are proverbial music to the administration's ears. The attainment of world-class university status, as measured by People Who Matter, is a goal for which campus administrations past and present have strived.

"The Quadrangle, which I can only wish I had authorized, clearly demonstrates to anyone who knows anything what an impressive university MTSU is," university President Sidney McPhee said.

"We can't wait for the time when PWM will notice and acknowledge what a great school we are. After all, the only thing that should concern an administration is PWM. And their pocketbooks," he added with a wink.

The results of the poll were surprising to a few students, who erroneously believed that their peers wanted the money used to purchase so-called "educational enhancement tools," like books for the library or chalk for Peck Hall.

After careful thought and consideration, though, most of the 3 percent of dissenters changed their minds.

"I have a hard time dealing with reality, I suppose," junior English major Zak Handey said. "Who am I to think that the knowledge gleaned from reading a copy of Voltaire's *Candide* or watching a teacher demonstrate a calculus problem on a chalkboard could ever compare to attending a university with a court-

See Quad, 2

State to fund all MTSU endeavors

By Lindsey Turner
Managing Editor

In an unforeseen move last week, the Tennessee legislature voted to fully fund all MTSU endeavors, resulting in a limitless plethora of activities, programs and projects now available to the university.

The unanimous House and Senate votes came after MTSU and Tennessee Board of Regents officials complained that they weren't receiving enough funds to adequately fertilize the odoriferous shrubs scattered throughout campus. The complaint was heard by the right people, apparently, and now the university will have the financial muscle to flex when it decides to fertilize shrubs or install new lampposts, or a number of other projects the university has been needing to get around to.

"We felt it was high time we allowed MTSU to catch up to its reputation and all

those claims it makes in those brochures," said Larry Trail, D-Murfreesboro, a member of the Senate Education Committee. "What other way could they do that unless they were allowed to beautify that hideously flat campus with limitless funds? Oh yeah, and they can raise teacher pay and whatnot, too."

University President Sidney McPhee has had a difficult time accepting the legislature's decision.

"The support we have seen from the state, until this point, has been nil," McPhee said. "In fact, this must be some kind of joke. What did you get in my office?"

Duane Stucky, vice president for Business and Finance, is skeptical of the state's decision as well.

"What? Funding? We've scratched that word from our handbook," he said as he pounded his head against his desk. "Why do they keep toying with our emotions? Look

at me! I'm a wreck!"

TBR officials, not expecting such a huge endorsement from the state, have expressed concern over the source of the money.

"We know what happened with the tobacco money," said TBR Communications Director Mary Morgan, "so when will we find out what dirty money is being handed to us?"

Trail said he is confident the funds are secure and, in fact, not dirty.

"We are right on the brink of suing ourselves for mismanagement of funds and incompetence," he said. "The state will have to come up with the money somehow, right? Don't that make sense? Well, at least that's what Donna Rowland told me."

Trail also said the state's funding would not be limited to traditionally mandated areas, such as funding faculty pay, building

See Funding, 2

McPhee does his part, downsizes filing cabinet

By Jason Cox
Staff Writer

Distinguished Professor Barbara Haskew

MTSU President Sidney McPhee reannounced plans for his office reorganization today, including consolidating filing cabinets and changes in office procedure.

The recent discovery of a three-drawer file cabinet in the Todd Building prompted McPhee to re-evaluate his filing cabinet needs, he said. Two two-drawer filing cabinets in his office, one of which contained only "Hicks for Heisman" merchandise, will be distributed to selected offices that have filed requests, one of which being

"I think this is an example of simple streamlining and cost-effectiveness," McPhee said. "These cabinets will be available to our faculty at no cost to the university's increasingly tight budget."

"Dr. McPhee is setting the pace for all of us here," said Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs. "His work is a big step toward our goal of becoming a truly student-oriented campus."

McPhee said the cabinets' combined retail value is \$110,

See Office, 2

Recording industry program closing doors

Officials cite lack of RIM job availability as major reason

By Chasity Brown
Nonexistent Staff Writer

The MTSU recording industry department announced Friday that they will be shutting down their program effective May 11.

Due to overwhelming number of MTSU RI graduates not getting jobs upon graduation, the university finds it in the students' and school's best interest to close the program.

According to recording industry Chair Christian Haseleu, only 2 percent of graduates actually get jobs in the field.

Of those, half remain in entry-level positions for more than three years.

"It just seems like a waste of our time and the students," Haseleu said. "If they are going to end up working in retail the rest of their lives, they might as well get a business degree."

Students currently enrolled in the music business or production technology fields will be moved to a mass communication general major.

Information sessions will be held during finals week for students to meet with advisers and ensure they get all of their credits transferred correctly.

After consultations with many professions in the industry, MTSU President Sidney McPhee agrees with the decision to shut down the program.

"Although the program is one of the top in the nation," McPhee said, "we still have the concrete industry major to

draw students from across the country."

Students and faculty alike were shocked at the decision.

Sophomore production major Russ Hanberry was surprised with the decision but said he realizes the school is looking out for the best interests of the students.

"I would have probably ended up working at McDonald's after graduation anyway," Hanberry said. "This



Haseleu

way I can just drop out of school and start now. By the time I would have graduated, I can already be a shift manager."

RI professor Paul Fischer is not happy with the decision. Having left the industry years ago and settled his family in the area so he could pursue a career as a professor, Fischer isn't sure what he will do next.

"#&@^ *%&^\$ #&@^%\$ %\$!&%#@," Fischer said. "%&#^ \$*^@^# &#*^@^&\$ %&#& (*#."

Fischer added that he will be filing as many illegal MP3s as he can off the campus network between now and May

11. He said he also will use the department's copy machines to make copies of his resume, assuming he wishes to seek another job.

As for his future with the university, Haseleu is content. He has been chosen as the new dean of the College of Mass Communication.

"With only Radio-Television and Journalism," Haseleu said, "my job is going to be really easy."

The first advising session for current RI students will be May 6 from 3 to 3:30 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building's State Farm Room. ♦

Helms, Falwell to join Affirmative Action Committee

By Patrick Chinnery
Opinions Editor

The MTSU Affirmative Action Committee will have two new faces come August: Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and the Rev. Jerry Falwell.

The career change for both men is the fruition of efforts on both of their parts to be seen as more "minority friendly" after years of persecution of everyone in America who isn't white, Anglo-Saxon and protestant.

Convincing two nationally known figures to take posts at MTSU was no easy task, MTSU President Sidney McPhee admitted in an interview last week.

"The hardest part was evading their armed guards," McPhee said. "There was some mix-up - they thought I was going to rob them. But they both had the same explanation - neither gentleman receives

many black visitors, and both had assumed that since I was president of a university, I must be white. Once they realized who I was and after they had locked their wives and daughters away, we got down to business. All I had to do was show them how working for our university has helped Al Gore mend fences - both literally and figuratively - and they both jumped at the chance."

Falwell will end his 15-year



Falwell



Helms

affiliation with Bob Jones University in South Carolina before joining the MTSU committee.

He also will retire from his decades in the Lord's service as a Baptist minister. He plans on devoting all his time to reviewing position applications for potential minority discrimination.

The only issue for Falwell in accepting the position were rumors of a lack of office space. These rumors were quickly dispelled in his meeting with McPhee, however.

"President McPhee has told me that he has arranged for seven biology GTAs to be expelled at the end of this semester," Falwell said. "That, I'm told, will free up an office for me to use. Once the question of where I would work was cleared up, I jumped at the chance to work for an exciting university like MTSU."

Helms will not receive an office until he works at the university full time, which will be in January 2003, after his current Senate term expires.

"I'm tired of the national spotlight," he explained. "I'm ready to make peace with all the colored folk. I just don't want anyone in Washington, D.C., to know that I've changed my ways. They might revoke my membership in the Good Ole Boys Club."

The MTSU Affirmative Action Committee is responsible for reviewing candidate lists for all job openings at MTSU to ensure that minorities have a fair chance of obtaining employment at the university.

The two openings to be filled by Helms and Falwell are a result of the mysterious disappearance of two other members (see "AAC members mysteriously disappear," *Sideways*, Feb. 30, 2002). ♦

Quad: Centerpiece controversy continues: fountain or seal?

Continued from 1
yard?"

Students on the Knoll provided another demonstration of how popular the courtyard is when freshman Kati Francis began asking questions regarding the fact that the seal of the

university was the centerpiece, not a fountain.

While no students had a straight answer for Francis, several vocally opposed her questioning of the university's methods, to the point where Francis ran away crying.

"I know the administration

has everything planned out, and there must be a logical, economical reason for not having a fountain," said senior John Valtini. "It's not like [Vice President for Business and Finance Duane] Stucky just doesn't like fountains. How dare you question authority, fresh-

man?"

The courtyard, brainchild of former MTSU President James Walker, will have its official ribbon cutting ceremony April 19 during McPhee's inauguration ceremony. ♦

Parking: Campus needs more horse fields, Stucky says

Continued from 1

the Quadrangle, the use of any more excessive amounts of concrete will cause this university to inevitably sink into the earth's core," she said.

Hagberg recommends students who travel long distances either lobby for interstate bike lanes or do chores for nearby merchants in exchange for a parking space within walking distance from campus.

"It'll be just like the under-the-table barter and trade system used by the people of the former Soviet Union," she said.

Students will continue to pay parking fees each semester to fund the remodeling of current lots into more useful amenities. Ideas include a final resting place for impotent computers, such as those utilized by the *Sidelines* staff on a daily basis, a building full of fire and brimstone where "bad" students go and an even bigger football stadium, because radically expensive structures are known to evoke otherwise absent school spirit.

"If this campus needs anything, it's more potentially unusable buildings and randomly placed horse fields," said Duane Stucky, vice president for Business and Finance. "All that asphalt takes us away from what really matters - foolish purchases."

McPhee expects students will need time and patience to adapt to the new arrangement.

"I'm sure with a little bit of perseverance and tolerance, students and faculty will learn to cope as well as they have all those other countless times." ♦



Photo by Pam Hudgens | Staff

This empty parking space illustrates the fact that, at any given time on campus, there is one empty parking space. University officials now have abolished all campus parking.

Office: Fern moved closer to window to cut fertilization costs

Continued from 1

which has been appropriated to the Student Government Association.

John Marshall, SGA president, said the money would be used to fund the SGA's continuing effort to fight the International Olympic Committee's ruling that a flag found in the rubble of the World Trade Center could not be flown as the U.S. official flag in the 2002 Winter Olympic opening ceremonies.

When reminded that the Olympics have already occurred, Marshall said the metaphorical battle is still to be won and that the SGA will continue to focus its efforts on the matter.

The contents of the cabinet are scheduled to be combined next week, with maintenance crews to remove the cabinets within the next month. They should be in the selected offices by June. The cost of labor and transportation for the cabinets is approximately \$450.

Despite the fact that both numbers were reduced by the university, McPhee said the difference in the costs is little more than an illusion.

"While the cost of moving the cabinets will technically be more than the cost of new cabinets," McPhee said, "I believe that the cabinet will be more than made up for by the consolidation, which will save me nearly two minutes a month. It is common knowledge that human cost is directly correlated with actual cost."

McPhee denied rumors that he awarded a cabinet to Haskew as a means of smoothing over her recent demotion, calling the rumors "disingenuous." However, recent transactions in Haskew's 401K account include at \$55 withdrawal for "miscellaneous costs."

McPhee declined comment on the withdrawal.

In addition, McPhee has established the university's first Paper Usage Efficiency Committee, which will do an intensive

review of text sizes used in university correspondence as well as whether using both sides of legal pad paper is worth the hassle of having to flip the pad to write on the other side.

"Certainly, we are interested in paper efficiency, but we should also consider the best way to minimize stress on our eyes and wrists," McPhee said. "I think the common student forgets how difficult it is to consistently read 10-point type and flip note pads."

The committee is scheduled to release its findings by May of 2003.

McPhee also has decided to move a fern plant closer to a window, which he said will save nearly \$10 a year in fertilization costs.

"I was informed by a member of the biology department that plants gain energy by a process called photosynthesis," McPhee said, "which, in part, requires sunlight. By moving the plant closer to the window, we will be able to use less fertilizer and let the natural wonder of Ra do its magic." ♦

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Funding: State to cater to every MTSU whim, fantasy

Continued from 1

dormitories and other academic buildings.

With the state's new attitude toward funding, anything MTSU desires - such as a new student union, a ferris wheel or even a university donkey for game-day university rides for children - will be eligible for state funds.

"We've decided to just waive all the laws that say we can only fund certain kinds of things for the school," Trail said. "Laws are only made to be broken, right?" he chuckled.

McPhee said he is unsure what MTSU will do with the now-accessible unlimited funds.

"Unlimited funding?" he said. "Is that even legal? I mean, are you for real?"

Stucky has some ideas for the usage of the money.

"First, I'm going to renew my Paxil prescription," he said. "You wouldn't believe what looking at this school's budget can do to your faith in humanity."

Beyond that, he said, where the money will go is anyone's guess. ♦

Uncle Sam wants you ...



to put down your hash pipe

This ad did not influence any editorial content, especially not Jason Cox's column against the evils of drug use.

APRIL FOOL'S!!

OUTLANDISH OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Monday, April 1, 2002

SIDEWAYS ♦ 3

Editorial Students just a waste of legislature's time, money

We hate to say it, but the state's decision to fully fund this university is a travesty.

It serves as an excellent example of how the legislature just keeps making hasty, stubborn decisions only in their best interests.

Think about it: These political punks are handing over the keys to a limitless myriad of resources to some 20,000-odd students who will just squander the opportunity out of apathy, laziness and a penchant for living off of their rich parents. And they're doing it so they can feel all warm and cozy inside, like they just sponsored both a whale and an Ethiopian child.

Well, the legislature should be warned of the evils of students. If given an inch, we'll take a mile. Ergo, if given limitless funds, we'll milk them for all they're worth, somehow managing to not get anything more out of our education than we would have if we were at Podunk Community College.

Even with enough money to have adequate classroom space and resources, qualified professors and a comfortable, attractive, affordable campus, we still won't learn anything any faster or better. Money has absolutely nothing to do with the value of an institution and the degree it issues to its graduates. The University of Tennessee-Martin and Yale are in the same academic ballpark because of their impeccable commitment to a quality education, not because of their ever-flowing tributaries of resources.

But wait. On second thought, why are we even here? None of us really enjoy studying at midnight when there's a party raging on the floor below us. None of us cherish getting ripped off by ARAMARK (since when does a 6-inch sub and a bag of chips cost \$18?) or having to move in and out of our dorm rooms three times within a year for holidays.

So, to save the state some money, we should all just drop out and go snatch one of those attractive jobs at the local lumberyard or the sanitation department. There's really no need for us to spend five years (face it – four years is becoming a big, fat myth) in college learning physics and essay composition just to use those skills in a Tennessee economy that only has room for us to be servers. Let's be realistic. After all, if a college degree isn't good enough for almost 90 percent of Tennessee's lawmakers, why should it be good enough for us? ♦

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sideways'
occasional
watch for
mutton-heads.

Three weeks ago, Texas high school junior Taylor Hess left a bread knife in the bed of pickup truck and drove to school. As soon as officials saw the knife, they confiscated it, had Hess arrested and police beat him until he whimpered.

OK, we made the arrest and beating part up. But it should have happened. A guy can dream, can't he? Hess was suspended after the confiscation of the knife and faces life in alternative school until the end of the year, a punishment he obviously deserves.

What moron brings a knife to school nowadays? Hess claims that the bread knife, which he also claims cannot cut anything except bread and butter, was left in the bed of his truck by mistake after he and his father had moved and sold many of his grandmother's possessions to Goodwill.

A likely story. Obviously, he was going to try and re-enact a scene of school violence like our beleaguered nation already sees 12 times a day. A bread knife can be a very scary thing, what with its many dull teeth and intimidating flexibility. We at *Sideways* know we'd run like Frenchmen if a 16-year-old, 5-foot-7-inch, scrawny honors student came lumbering at us with a bread knife.

The Texas Education Agency, which provides the guidelines upon which school district codes are based, is trying to give leniency to this hardened-criminal-in-disguise by saying that the education code doesn't actually contain the words "zero tolerance" and that local school districts do have some discretion in how to punish students.

Horse-honkey. Everyone knows that the best leadership only comes from the top. It's a good thing the local school board has enough sense to destroy the academic career of this young lad, or else his immature violent tendencies may give way to contraband letter openers being snuck into school. It's time to draw a line in the sand in the battle of zero tolerance. ♦

Sassy, cheeky Ann Coulter for president

Out of Leftist Field



Lindsey
Turner
Managing
Editor

Being a *Sidelines* columnist opens my e-mail inbox up to countless letters, many of which are forwarded syndicated columns – most of the time conservative ones – my readers want me to take a look at, ostensibly in the hopes that I might see the error of my bleeding-heart ways. It is through this ingenious method of spreading the gospel that I have come to know and love one of the most insightful humans roaming this Earth – Ann Coulter.

Coulter, a syndicated columnist and author of *High Crimes and Misdemeanors: The Case Against Bill Clinton*, is one of those rare conservatives with true wit and insight. Derived from her difficult life as a thin, blond, white female, she comes loaded with lessons for the rest of us peasants to learn.

Coulter has always erred on the side of freedom and equality, especially since the Sept. 11 attacks.

"This is no time to be precious about locating the exact individuals directly involved in this particular terrorist attack," Coulter urged in her Sept. 13 column on Frontpagemag.com.

"We should invade their country, kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity," she said.

Ah, spoken like a true American patriot. Coulter has always had a history of believing in truth and equality – a history that began with her graduation from Cornell University and the University of Michigan Law School and her subsequent stint as an attorney at the Center for Individual Rights.

There, she learned who deserves individual rights and who doesn't – like Muslim Americans and immigrants from countries we're at war with, who she feels should be deported for the safety of our nation.

She insists that it's unfair but necessary to protect precious American lives. After all, "Not all

Muslims may be terrorists, but all terrorists are Muslims" (Frontpagemag.com, Sept. 27, 2001).

Coulter also discovered that women are, for all intensive purposes, whiny, useless dead weight, mooching on this great country and its great men.

While men are cleaning up post-Sept. 11 America, (she likens it to an automobile breakdown – is that brilliant or what?) women are waiting, arms crossed and squawking in the local diner, wondering what's going on.

In her Nov. 1 column for Frontpagemag.com, Coulter urged us ladies to, "Just pipe down! The men are working as fast as they can." Coulter went on to say that, "Women ... have no capacity to solve problems, so instead they fret. You just stay warm, girls ... the men are fixing the car."

Coulter's insight into the childish workings of the female brain is exceptional.

She couldn't be more patriotic when she insists, "I think [women] should be armed but should not [be allowed to] vote," like she proclaimed on *Politically Incorrect* with Bill Maher in February.

Coulter should be commended for refusing to give into the media hype of the Catholic Church's problem with pedophilia (which, percentage-wise, is a non-issue, she says).

Just last week, in yet another column for Frontpagemag.com, she uncovered the astounding data that revealed that Yale (which had one faculty member convicted of child molestation) has a worse problem with perverts than the Catholic Church. Oh, happy day!

Coulter has had the courage to speak out against the evil environmentalists: "God gave us the earth," she said in *Hannity & Colmes* in June of 2001. "We have dominion over the plants, the animals, the trees. God said, 'Earth is yours. Take it. Rape it. It's yours.'"

She has been insightful enough to see the value of those kids and children: "If those kids had been carrying guns, they would have gunned down this one [child] gunman," she told *Politically Incorrect* host Bill Maher in 1997, in reaction to the shootings of Columbine High School.

And time and time again, she has illustrated a

straightforward, cheeky disregard for senseless, knee-jerk compassion, like she did following Princess Diana's death in 1997: "Her children knew she's sleeping with all these men," she said on MSNBC. "That just seems to me, it's the definition of 'not a good mother.'"

Coulter has been recognized by The Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute "for her unfailing dedication to truth, freedom and conservative values and for being an exemplar, in word and deed, of what a true leader is."

Indeed, Coulter is the epitome of the freedom fighter, a brilliant Joan of Arc crusading against polite PC pap. Too bad she doesn't feel women should have the right to vote, or she would have had my ballot for president in 2004. ♦

Lindsey Turner is a *sophomore journalism major who is deathly afraid that people will take this column seriously, much like they did her column regarding the purported evils of Robert Downey Jr. To be perfectly clear, she hates prohibition, and she hates Ann Coulter.*

Russia, leave Canada's geography alone. Please?

Canadian Bacon



Patrick
Chinnery
Opinions
Editor

Once again, Russians are trying to steal things from North American countries. This time, however, it's worse than nuclear launch codes, the recipe for Mrs. Smith's Dutch apple pie and the hope that the Boston Red Sox will win the Series (well, it has to go somewhere, just go with it).

No, my continental brothers and sisters, the Russians are trying to steal the magnetic north pole.

In a report issued two weeks ago by Larry Newitt of the Geographical Survey of Canada, he reported that the north pole, a fixture of all time for sailors

and boy scouts and other people who use compasses, is moving at an annual pace of more than 30 kilometers a year. Newitt predicts that the pole could land in Russia as early as 2004.

Newitt, trying to maintain the politeness that is a Canadian hallmark, made a few excuses for the Russians, saying things like, "Its speed has increased considerably during the past 25 years, and it could just as easily decrease a few years from now" and "Please don't be mad at me, the Americans told me to say this."

As a Canadian, I am sick and tired of my native land getting pushed around by other countries just because they're "bigger" or "stronger" or "have hotter girls." It's time Canadians stood up for themselves.

When I was in New

York two weeks ago, I had a little chat with an old pal of mine, Jon Stewart. Actually, it wasn't much of a chat. In true Canadian fashion, I sat there while he poked fun at my country.

"You know what the problem with Canadians is, don't you?" he asked me. "They ordered the BLT and got the tuna sandwich. And instead of sending it back, they just shrugged and mumbled, 'Well, tuna's OK, too.' You people have to stand up for yourselves every once in a while."

"Look at how you protested the gold medal in the Olympics. Hey, judges, we, um, we were pretty good, too. Could we have a gold medal? If it's not too much bother. ..."

It was then that I decided Jon was right. Canadians do roll over too often. A couple years ago, there was a disputed island on the Minnesota/

Canadian border. Canada proclaimed loudly that it was theirs, but as soon as Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura threatened to send in the Minnesota National Guard, the Canadians backed off.

The Minnesota National Guard – if they struck fear into the heart of Prime Minister Chretien, I'd hate to see what happens if the street gangs of Detroit ever decided to organize and invade. Bedlam would be everywhere, and Canada would have to implement Ebonics as its third official language.

At least the country had the decency to finally win a gold medal in what it considers to be its national pastime, hockey. Call me crazy, but when you go 50 years between gold medals, I'm not sure you qualify as a powerhouse (please note the humble Canadian tone

while I tried to make an assertion).

I digress. Russia needs to be taught a lesson – you can't take for yourself what is rightfully Canada's. We lost out by having to share the figure skating medal, but the magnetic north pole is not something to be replicated. I make a plea to Russia: the north pole was yours first, so please stop using your scientific magnetic north pole theft device and let us keep this one bit of geographical glory. Or we'll be forced to have the Americans come beat you up. ♦

Patrick Chinnery is not only *Middle Tennessee's smartest Canadian under the age of 20, but is also the commanding officer of the Canadian Liberation Army that will soon enslave the midstate region and turn it into the 11th province of Canada.*

Letters to the Editor

Liberal spin equals less credibility

To the Editor:

I just needed to vent and complain about your poor, unethical, misguided, unprincipled, immoral, deviant and, dare I say, Communist plot to pollute the minds of MTSU's students with your liberal propaganda claptrap.

I have watched with disgust since the beginning of fall 2001 the leftist spin your newspaper (and I use that term loosely) manages to put on every issue.

For example, in the Wednesday, Oct. 11 issue of *Sidelines*, a story by Lindsey Turner and Patrick Chinnery, "Elevator project hits snag," makes excuses for shoddy workmanship instead of blaming someone directly.

Need more proof? On Nov. 29, 2001, Renee Stevens wrote an article titled, "Indecent exposure 'not a big problem' on campus." The headline alone tells the whole story – your publication has no sexual morals.

I was too disgusted with the headline to even read the story. Who knows what evil porn demon lurked between its lines.

Sidelines, get some credibility. Do whatever you need to, just stop polluting the minds of America's youth.

I suggest watching FOX News until you learn what real "fair and balanced" coverage is.

A concerned reader,
Kelsey Francis

Right-wing bias offends true journalists

To the Editor:

I am horrified by your obvious desire to brainwash the readers of *Sidelines* with your ridiculous conservative bias. You're journalists, for Pete's sake. Where's the government bashing and the denouncing of all things corporate?

For instance, what's with the March 4 article "Home ownership explored in lecture?" I have never seen a story so clearly aimed at money-grubbing Republicans. Those of us compassionate liberals who will spend the rest of our lives working for practically nothing just to ensure that self-consumed, right-wing Nazis don't take over the world don't appreciate the constant rub at our less-than-luxurious lifestyles.

I thought I had finally found a source to fight for the philosophy of the left in Lindsey Turner, author of "Out of Leftist Field." Yet, when I got to the end of her potentially leftist column "Put down that Prozac – you're supporting terrorism," I found a link to the speech President Bush gave before signing the Drug-free Communities Act reauthorization bill. Could you possibly cram your right-wing rhetoric any farther down our throats? You actually provide an instantaneous link to the inane dribble Mr. Republican himself.

I expect better of a college newspaper. You kids should still be young enough to uphold the idealism of the left.

A fellow journalist,
Angelina Brown

Know your role in America's new war on terrorism

For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox
Staff
Columnist

As America digs deeper into the war on terrorism, we citizens are being called upon for our own tour of duty.

We are all soldiers in this new war, whether we are on the

battlefield in a rogue nation, on a city street, in an airport or 'chasing the dragon' in a quagmire of depravity somewhere. The only word to describe America at this point is "disaffected." We did our obligatory moment of shock and horror on Sept. 11 and quickly went on our sinful, carefree way.

I, however, feel that we all have a role in this new war. President Bush told us (and I believe him) that we need to watch our personal habits so

that we don't become supporters of the war our tax money is trying to fight. He also said we need to be aware of the people and things around us. A turban, for example, is an exotic head-dress created for the elite Arab community. Osama bin Laden himself likes to wear these. So, if you see a turban, you cannot assume that the wearer is a peaceful citizen. This is why profiling is necessary.

Sept. 11 happened because we have not cast enough suspi-

cion on those who are or look different from us. Like Congress and their midnight pay raises, they thrive on ordinary people like us not paying attention, buying the tolerance and equal rights arguments fed to us by the liberal jackasses now running the media and the world. We have cast our borders wide open and our eyes wide shut, and look where it got us.

A darker side to this war are those who not only ignore their government's call to action, but

insist on contributing to terrorism by using drugs. Those of you who love the puppy or keep your hash pipe burning are likely contributing to a future terrorist attack, just like the ads during the Super Bowl said.

While there is no way to prove that drug use definitively finances terrorism, why shouldn't we believe our president? We have no reason to disbelieve such a good, Christian straight-shooter like George W. Bush. I felt sorry for the authors in

that commercial, knowing they had to portray enemies of the state. These people, in the loosest sense of the word, have shot America the bird by continuing their activities, and we must curb their usage by any means necessary, including implementing the death penalty for repeat drug offenders.

We can't expect to sit back and have our battles fought for us in this war. Only by casting a suspicious eye can we truly fight terrorism at home. ♦

Campus Club Spotlight – Pepsi Drinkers Anonymous

Pepsi drinkers unite to fight for soda freedom

By Pam Hudgens
Editor in Chief

A determined group of students have joined together to fight Coke's takeover of MTSU.

"We will not let them win," said Sarah Smith, whose name has been changed for her protection from Coke. "We will succeed in our crusade against the domination of Coca Cola."

Smith formed the club Pepsi Drinkers Anonymous in January as a last resort to gain freedom of soft drink choice. For years, soda drinkers on this campus have been forced to drink solely Coke products. Their freedoms have been stripped of them in the name of big-dollar donations and contractual obligations.

"This wasn't the students' choice," exclaimed Julie Jenkins, a PDA member whose name has been changed for her protection from Coke. "This decision was made by people in power, by people whose power should have been used for the good of the students, not to their detriment."

The 14 members of PDA are waging a war against the exclusion of all things Pepsi on campus. They received a crushing blow last week when freshman Will Smith, 24, was expelled from MTSU after he showed up at his biology class wearing a T-shirt that proclaimed "Make 7-Up Yours."

"We will recover from this loss," Smith declared.

PDA has been in anonymous negotiations with President Sidney McPhee for several weeks now. They are asking for the right to bring Pepsi merchandise on campus and to



Photo illustration

Pepsi Drinkers Anonymous crusade for the right to freedom of soft drink choice.

drink Pepsi with their cafeteria meals. However, they are concerned that McPhee will be swayed by Coke's generous contributions to his upcoming coronation April 19.

Coke and ARAMARK are the donors making this event possible, and some members of PDA question McPhee's objectivity when it comes to soft drink choices.

"How can he sustain his faithful, unwavering, steadfast commitment to protect students' interests above all else when Coke's got him in their pockets?" asked Roger Richards, a mem-

ber of PDA whose name has been changed for his protection from Coke.

"I am absolutely, completely shocked and stunned that McPhee has apparently decided to side with the interests of a corporation that is ensuring his coronation, excuse me, inauguration will be a grand occasion instead of siding with students who don't give him any money and will probably just sleep in instead of going to his 10 a.m. ceremony."

McPhee, however, denies all claims that Coke's donation has influenced his actions.

How to join

Pepsi Drinkers Anonymous meets every Sunday at 9 p.m. in the Keathley University Center, Room 318. Attendees are encouraged to come incognito and to bring their favorite Pepsi products. Those attending should be aware of the risk involved in attending the meeting.

"They didn't even give me enough money to have ice sculptures carved in my image or buy doves to be released as I'm officially declared president," McPhee explained.

But PDA members won't be satisfied until they can safely drink Coke on campus.

"The rights of Coke drinkers should not be held in higher esteem than those of Pepsi drinkers," Richards said.

"We will not be satisfied until there is a Pepsi machine beside every Coke machine on campus." ♦

Cornell, Brooks band to make stop in 'Boro

By Justin Ward
Staff Writer

Ex-Soundgarden frontman Chris Cornell announced yesterday that he will be teaming up to tour with Garth Brooks with their new band, Gut Bucket.

The tour is scheduled to begin in Murfreesboro April 31 at the Red Rose Café.

Cornell and Brooks have titled their style of music "banjo core," blending rock and country/bluegrass differently from the Nashville cowpunk scene bands like Bare Jr.

"I've been fascinated by the banjo ever since I saw the movie *Deliverance*," Cornell said. "The scene with the back hills Georgia kid dueling on his banjo with the guitar just screamed out rock to me and inspired me to incorporate the banjo in my music."

Brooks has always held rock close to his heart, which was evident when he released his recent album as Chris Gaines. This new collaboration with Cornell gives Brooks a chance to explore his love of rock and country together.

"I grew up loving rock," Brooks said. "It was more a part of my life than country music ever was. Some people say that I'm not keeping true to the tradition of country music. With all of the millions of records I've sold, I guess I'm creating my own tradition. It's the tradition of music that I love to make and love to perform, and that's what I'm continuing to do with Chris – make music that I love."

Cornell has been involved in a variety of projects since the disbanding of Soundgarden in 1997.

He released a solo album in 1999 titled *Euphoria Morning*.

Polk biography hits No. 1 at Amazon.com

By Patrick Chinnery
Staff Writer

A biography of the 11th U.S. president written by MTSU political science professor Mark E. Byrnes has become the top selling book at online retailer Amazon.com.

James K. Polk: A Biographical Companion has been the life's work of Byrnes for the past two-and-a-half years. For Byrnes, the writing replaced POG collecting and trading as a way to

and the recent Gut Bucket collaboration has come on the heels of a project with members of Rage Against the Machine.

Cornell walked out on the band last week, and no reason was given for why he left. While the group was together, they recorded more than 20 songs that Epic is still planning to release sometime this year. The group was also set to do the Ozzfest 2002 tour this summer.

Cornell's new project with Brooks seems to be the reason for the departure from his involvement with the Rage Against the Machine members.

Murfreesboro city officials have announced that they will block off College Street when the group comes to town to perform April 31. The coffee shop does not have the capacity for the crowd that the group is expected to draw. They plan to set up a very large screen outside the Red Rose to project the show from inside the cafe, and the crowd will be able to sprawl all up and down College Street to view it.

Only people with VIP passes will be allowed inside the cafe. The city also will shut down the town square for extra parking.

The group decided to make a stop in Murfreesboro because it's the heart of Tennessee and just down the street from Country Music USA – Nashville. Uncle Dave Macon, a famous banjo player from the Grand Ole Opry, is a native of Murfreesboro, and Cornell thought it appropriate that the tour start off in such a significant town.

Tickets go on sale today. Ticketmaster has the tickets for \$4,000. They are also available at the Red Rose Café for only \$20 without all the Ticketmaster charges. ♦

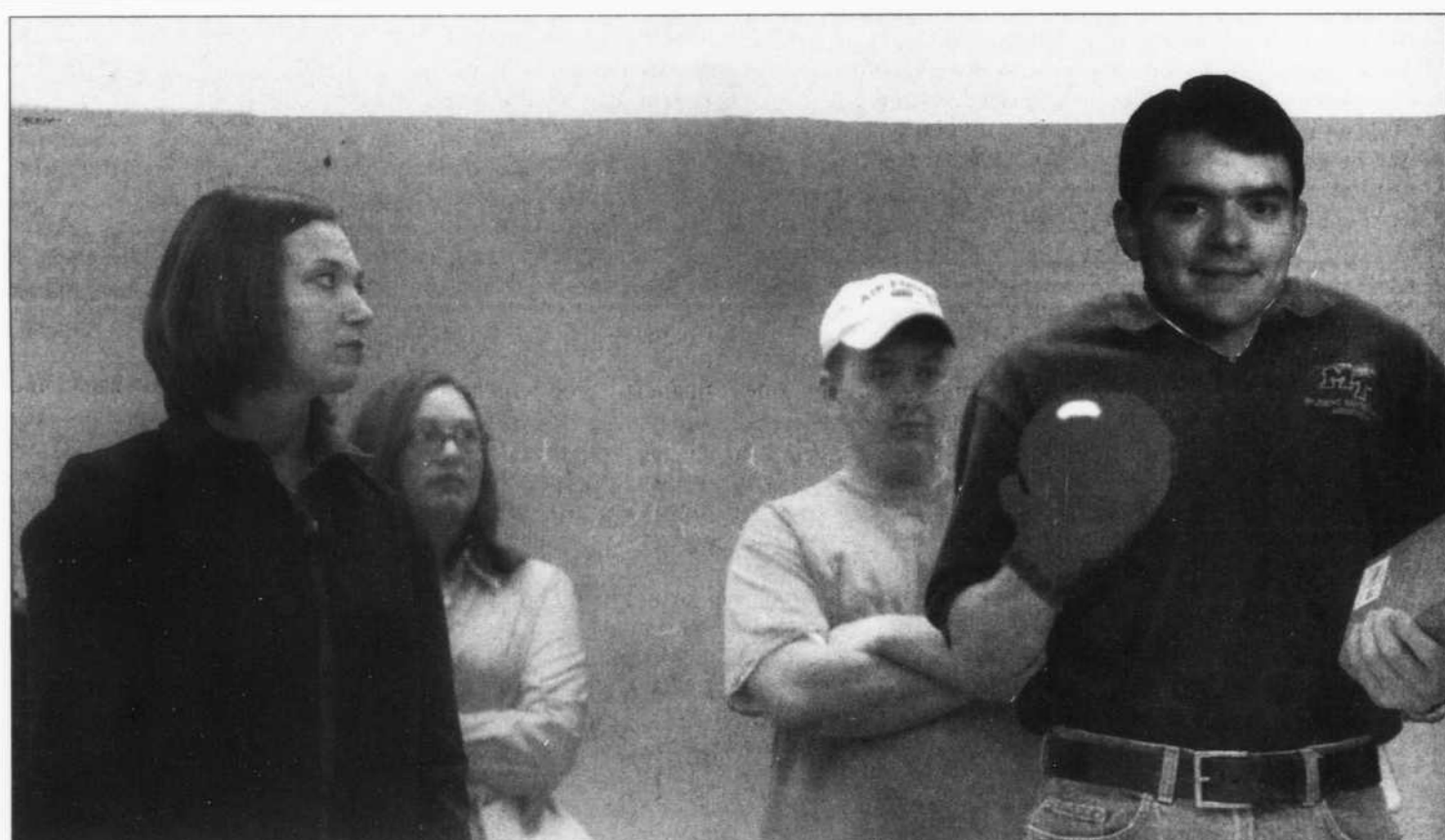


Photo illustration by Lindsey Turner | Staff

Susan Wilson (left) glares at John Marshall (right) during last week's announcement of their upcoming fund-raising boxing match. Co-trainers Jamie Burns (rear left) and Daryn Thornbury (rear right) look on as their fighters-in-training get psyched for the match, to be held in the Murphy Center April 20.

Wilson, Marshall to rumble in the ring for fund-raiser

By Lindsey Turner
Managing Editor

Two Student Government Association officers will duke it out in the name of fund-raising this weekend in the first-ever SGA boxing match.

John Marshall, SGA president, and Susan Wilson, vice president and speaker of the Senate, will face off Saturday morning to raise money for Homecoming 2004, which is in the final stages of planning now.

"We felt that, with all the controversy that has sort of surrounded us this year, it would be a nice gesture to beat the crap out of each other for a greater good – Homecoming," Wilson said during a press conference the week before Spring Break.

Taking a cue from FOX Broadcasting's recent telecast of "Celebrity Boxing," the SGA voted to employ the same techniques to raise both public opinion of itself, as well as funds for Homecoming 2004.

"With all the critical acclaim 'Celebrity Boxing' received," Marshall said, "SGA boxing is a shoe-in for the most important thing we've done all year."

Wilson said she and Marshall began a rigorous training schedule in January, almost

immediately after impeachment charges against Marshall were dropped by a committee appointed to investigate claims brought against him in November.

"It's kind of weird," Wilson said, laughing lightly. "We began training for the fight even before we found out the SGA wanted us to be in the official SGA boxing match."

Marshall said he is confident the event will have a positive outcome, though no other officers or senators would agree to participate in the match.

"There's no way I'm getting involved in anything like this until I at least try to do something about the parking situation," said president-elect Brandon Robbins, who will take office this summer. "I want to build a parking garage, but if that fails, maybe me and [Parking manager] Connie Hagerberg can hash it out the same way."

Marshall is looking forward to the catharsis the match promises.

"We have so much pent-up aggression left over from the year," he said. "What better way to resolve our differences than by pummeling each other in front of legions of horrified yet

enthralled students?"

Wilson agrees and recognizes the fund-raising potential of the event.

"It promises to be a great fund-raiser, since everyone loves a good fight," she said. "This will be so much more than mud-slinging."

Marshall said his training regimen consists of light weightlifting and with shadowboxing. Wilson said her routine includes cardio-kick-boxing and several Billy Blanks Tae-bo workout tapes. With funds from the student activity fee, both have been provided personal trainers until May.

The match will be refereed by Vice President for Student Affairs Bob Glenn. A panel of judges, including university President Sidney McPhee, Associate Dean of Student Life Gene Fitch and Athletics Director Boots Donnelly, will provide the fighters' final scores.



File photo

More balloons like this one will be possible after the SGA's fund-raising event.

The winner of the fight will receive a check to reimburse him or her for any dignity sacrificed for the match.

The SGA boxing match will be held April 20 at 10 a.m. in the Murphy Center as part of the events surrounding McPhee's inauguration. Tickets are \$30 in advance in the SGA office and \$42.50 at the door. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of a larger bouncy balloon among other items for Homecoming 2004. ♦

One university's trash might be a hobo's home



Photo by Lindsey Turner and G. Wesley Bush | Staff
Ralph Murphy catches some Zs as he waits for university officials to unlock the door to his new home in Abernathy Hall, granted as part of the new Assisted Living program.

G. Wesley Bush
Copy Editor

When 30-year-old Ralph "The Wart" Murphy came to Tennessee, he had no place to call home. The train he rode for three days from North Carolina, spray painted with gang signs and rusty, was the longest he'd stayed in one place in months.

Awaken from his sleep and chased from the empty boxcar at three in the morning, Murphy had to leave behind his favorite bed – a Dell computer monitor box with holes in the side that made it easy to carry. The future simply did not look bright.

Unsure of where to turn, he saw a sign pointing to Middle Tennessee State University. "Perfect," Murphy said to himself. "I'll just get a student loan."

The trek to campus was unforgiving. Nine miles of Murfreesboro traffic light crossings nearly brought him to tears. Occasionally, he would stop and take a hit from the crack pipe given to him by his abusive step-father when he was 18. Blistering his lips from the extended inhale, Murphy gave up and continued on his journey.

Two hours later, the down-and-out beggar found his way to the Cope Administration Building. Luckily, it was the first office he tried.

"The bad news," the financial aid assistant behind the counter told him, "is that you won't be

able to receive this money for several months." Visibly upset with the report, Murphy lowered his head and began to leave the office.

"Wait," she said, almost beaming in her tone. "Don't you want to hear the good news?" Unaffected, Murphy shook his head as she continued. "The good news is that you qualify for Assisted Living."

"Assisted Living?" he asked. "What in the hell is that?"

A New Captain

In March of 1999, MTSU students were evacuated from Ezell and Abernathy halls because of the deterioration of concrete used in its 1974 construction. Three years later, the school still struggled with options of what to do about the dilapidated dormitory.

Some pushed for a total demolition to make room for more parking. Others urged for a slightly more expensive reconstructive facelift to enable offices or possibly return students to the rooms. But because the university was in a transition period between multiple interim presidents, no one gained enough support to bring the ideas into fruition.

That is, until Sidney McPhee took the helm.

Ever since he backed the executive moving van into the presidential mansion driveway in July 2001, McPhee has set out an agenda so aggressive that it rivals former President James

Walker's "if you build it, they will come" policies.

Beginning with publicly executing the producers of MTTV-Channel 10 and taking over the broadcast to include such shows as "Open Mic Battle with McPhee" and "Don't Knock it 'Til You've Tried it," the new president systematically aired his ultimate agenda – to help the less fortunate in society.

"I don't really care about the homeless," he said. "I'm just doing what my PR agent tells me to do. ..."

"I mean, I do care."

Whatever his intent, McPhee has taken advantage of several recent Supreme Court rulings to not only change the mission of the university, but also to alter the use of its housing units and facilities.

One such case in particular was *U.S. vs. Rogers*, which gave states the option to receive federal tax deductions for housing the homeless.

Chief Justice William Rhenquist said that educating bodies possesses a certain responsibility to accommodate those who fail to meet the financial requirements of a school.

"It's simply not fair to allow drunken teen-agers to spend four years in a state-funded entity when there are plenty of drunken bums who have just as much right to be there," he said in his opinion statement.

The unanimous verdict makes it illegal for a public

higher education institution to deny applicants enrollment for the sole reason of not having a permanent address.

The High Court went further in its judgment and added an incentive for post-secondary educators to recruit the homeless.

Pivoting on a long-overlooked clause buried in the U.S. Constitution, the Court found that "providing a home for a man shall take precedence over educating another, if the aforementioned cannot provide shelter for himself."

McPhee said that what this means to MTSU students depends on how much they're willing to pay for tuition.

"Given that the tax break for housing the down-and-out is more than the university currently nets from ordinary students," he said, "there's really no motivation on our part to continue letting regular students register for class."

McPhee said the school could earn \$50 million per semester if every student qualified for Assisted Living, nearly twice the amount raised by fees and tuition.

"Sure, most of them won't be able to read," McPhee said. "But at least they'll make it to the basketball games."

Home Sweet Dorm

Carrying a trash bag full of assorted clothes, blankets, beer cans and his pet air conditioner into his new room, Murphy is elated. Two more trips to the Kwik Sak Dumpster and he'll have everything he needs – and four walls.

"When I first heard of (Assisted Living)," he said, "I thought it would be a joke. I thought they would put us in a dump. This place is pimp."

MTSU, with the help of volunteer contractors and engineers, has made several improvements to Ezell and Abernathy in preparation of the vagabond move-in. Bike racks, typically a staple in university dormitories, have been adapted to accommodate the new tenants.

"We found some old shopping cart return cages on Ebay," McPhee said. "That will be more practical for them than

anything else."

Connie Hagberg, director of Parking and Transportation Services, said this might be cause for additional parking rules and fines.

"Since the shopping carts have four wheels," she said, "naturally they require permits."

Hagberg said no price has yet been issued, but it will probably cost around \$85 with potential tickets ranging from \$5 to \$975.

As the number of homeless enrollees increases, McPhee said the dorms will be able to house up to 25 people.

"Ordinarily, 25 people in a quad would be inhumane," he said. "But what do they care? At least we put a frickin' roof over their lice-infested heads."

Charles Wesfestenhousen, Rutherford County fire chief, said overpopulation would not be a problem.

"According to the fire code," Wesfestenhousen said, "that many people cannot live in the allotted space. But there's so

much asbestos in those buildings, you couldn't burn them down with napalm air strikes."

But don't expect Murphy to complain about a little asbestos in his air. In fact, he enjoys the cancer-causing insulation cascading down the walls. He says it will hopefully bring an early end to his meaningless existence.

University officials, however, have qualms about the carcinogen.

Plans have already been drawn to construct a wall surrounding the two buildings so loose asbestos won't waft to "important areas" such as the neighboring Walker Library, Recreation Center and Greek Row.

"Just think," Murphy said, "last week I was living in a box. Now I'm living in a bigger box made of concrete. I never thought I'd be the first in my family to go to college."

"If only I knew who my father was so he could see me now!" ♦



Photo by Lindsey Turner and G. Wesley Bush | Staff
Ralph Murphy drags his pet air conditioner toward his new home in Abernathy Hall, Room 112.

Programming to sponsor porn fest

Staff Reports

The art of pornography will be celebrated this week as Student Programming presents the MTSU Porn Festival.

"We felt that it was high time the artistic nature of pornography was showcased," said Student Programming Media Director Kimmie Kamel. "And we also thought, what better way to do that than on a highly mature, respectable college campus like ours?"

Among the featured films

will be the classic *Debbie Does Dallas*, the popular *Muffy the Vampire Layer* and the controversial *Malcom XXX*.

Several campus groups have expressed concern about the potentially offensive nature of the film festival.

"I'm not sure they can legally play pornography in a campus theater," said Trevor Winans, a member of the Campus Crusade to Stop Self Sex. "There is no way we can win the evil body against self gratification if our university is

allowing it to happen on campus in our sacred theater."

Kamel said those offended should not attend the festival.

"What we're asking is that students look at these films for their artistic value," she said, "not for their arousal value. There's art in everything, or so I've been told."

The films will cost \$5 each, the extra \$3 going toward the heightened janitorial services the theater will receive.

For a listing of showtimes, visit www.mtsu.edu/~sucker. ♦

Polk: Quick rise to No. 1 has raised concern

Continued from 4

turned to my other love, writing. Oh, and my wife. She was there, too," Byrnes said at a celebratory press conference hosted in Room 212 of Peck Hall last week.

The announcement of the new rankings came as a relief to Byrnes, who no longer has to spend his class time making excuses as to why the book's ranking was stagnant at 1,126,500 for the past two months, though it was initially ranked 2,030,167 when it was listed for sale Dec. 1 of last year.

"Tee-hee. Now I can stop using lame excuses like 'the book is meant for libraries, not normal consumers,'" Byrnes said. "I told [*Sideways* staff writer Patrick] Chinnery that my day of glory would come some day. Now that I know the public loves my book, I don't have to keep hidden the Polk shrine I've created inside my filing cabinets," he said.

According to the editorial description of the work, as found at Amazon.com, the book is the "first scholarly treatment of Polk in recent years." Some readers may assume that

is because no one cares about past presidents from Tennessee. Byrnes violently disagrees.

"How could anyone not like the man? He had gallstones removed without anesthesia, for crying out loud," he said.

While there aren't many pictures, and the type is tiny, there are other uses for *James K. Polk* besides a doorstop or kindling. The 350-page, 80.81 cubic-inch-thick book is quite helpful for students who are in need of easy-access reference material for term papers discussing presidents born in North Carolina who also practiced law in Nashville.

Important for many college students, Byrnes uses very few big words because he authored the work under the assumption that there might not be widespread acceptance of it, and he knew he should write for his audience.

While the book does have many uses, unlike a Leatherman tool it is quite expensive – \$55 for the average reader, and \$75 if a reader is particularly gullible.

Its recent rise to the No. 1 sales slot has consequently raised some eyebrows.

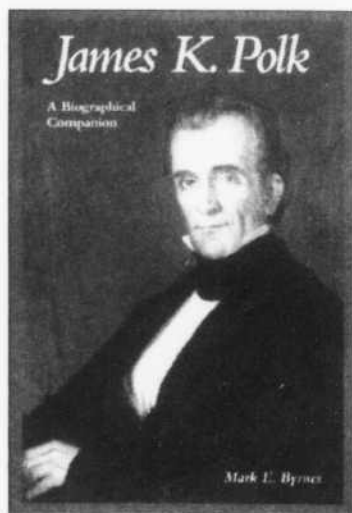


Photo provided by Amazon.com

In particular, the order of 764,486 copies by a Mr. Bark Myrnes has caused some commotion in the Office of Bibliophiles, the government agency that measures book sales in order to compile prestigious lists.

Byrnes had only one comment about the investigation. "I don't see what the problem is," he said.

"Obviously, this man has excellent taste in literature. The matter should be dropped. I'm number one now. Just leave me, I mean him, be." ♦

Dear Fannie

Sharing more than just love

Dear Fannie,

I recently hooked up with a girl at a party. To make a long story short, we woke up beside each other and shared a very uncomfortable silence. Being the modern man I am, I hauled myself to the free clinic that day and found that my one-night Cinderella gave me more than a good time.

The big problem is, my girlfriend knows nothing of the affair, and wouldn't even suspect that I had contracted a venereal disease. I mean, I am a youth minister at a local Presbyterian church, and I read to dyslexic children on weekends. I have cheated on her before, but this time I feel awful about what I did and about what pain and anguish it will cause my relationship.

What should I do?

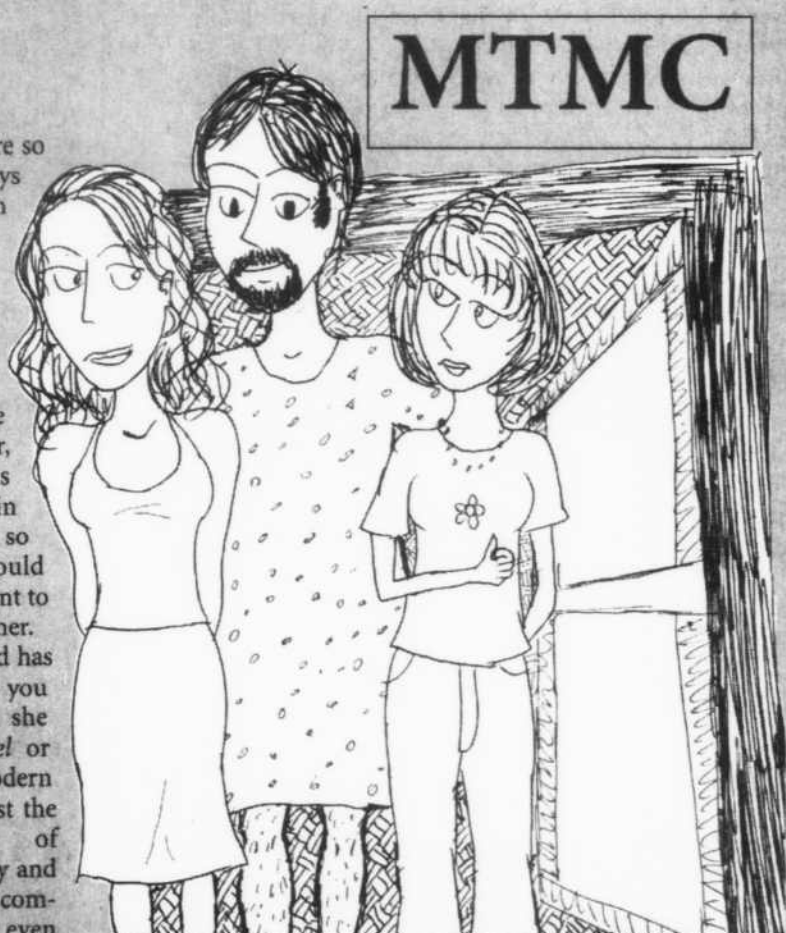
– Germ boy

Dear Germ boy,

Venereal diseases are so common these days they're not really worth worrying about, so don't fret. With the proper maintenance and a little Valtrex, you can have your family jewels sparkling like they're virus-free. Remember, commitment means making sacrifices, in sickness and health, so your girlfriend should appreciate that you want to share your strife with her.

Also, your girlfriend has no right to be mad at you for cheating. Hasn't she seen *The Fifth Wheel* or *Change of Heart*? Modern dating has evolved past the traditional bounds of monogamy and loyalty and has begun to embrace community love and – even more importantly – community sex. Think of it as the new sexual revolution, like the one in the 1960s, only self-centered and hedonistic this time. You should call up that one-night vixen of yours and invite her into a three-way with you and your lady. Girlfriends love it when their guys take initiative like that. You know, the girl you were with sounds like a blast. Do you think I could get her number? And hey, how about making it a foursome?

Send your questions to Dear Fannie at babydoll69@skankmail.com.



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<p>Monday, April 1 Special Event for International Students</p> <p>Tuesday, April 2 Chinese Brush Art Exhibit Cope Administration Building - lobby Paintings by Nashville area children under the instruction of Dr. Guanping Zheng Free and open to the public</p> <p>Wednesday, April 3 International Student Coffee Hour 4 p.m. - 5p.m., JUB Hazlewood Dining Room Free and open to the public</p>	<p>Thursday, April 4 Cookout 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., Recreation Center Sundeck Free and open to the public</p> <p>Friday, April 5 Origami Sessions (30 minutes each) 1 p.m., 1:45 p.m., and 2:30 p.m., KUC 324 Free and open to the public</p> <p>Saturday, April 6 International Banquet JUB, Tennessee Room Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for cultural exhibits Dinner begins promptly at 5:30 p.m.</p>
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International Banquet Menu

<p>Main Dishes Chicken Curry - Asia Tamale Pie - Mexico Beef Sauerbraten - Germany</p> <p>Vegetables Ratatouille - France Stir Fry Vegetables - China Rotkohl - Germany Saffron Rice - Asia</p> <p>Entertainment Ukrainian Dancers of Milwaukee Serenatta Romantic Latin Ensemble</p>	<p>Salad Asian Cole Slaw German Potato Salad Mediterranean Pasta and Pesto Salad</p> <p>Desserts Tiramisu - Italy Chocolate Honey Mousse - France Ghent Cheesecake - Belgium</p> <p>Bread Roll and Baguette Bread Display</p> <p>Student Performances African Dance Indian Dance Polynesian Dance</p>
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Tickets
\$12 adults
\$10 children 12 and under
\$10 non-MTSU students with college ID
\$6 MTSU students with college ID

For more information, contact International Programs and Services at 898-2238



Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Monday, April 1, 2002

SIDEWAYS ♦ 7

Dennehey picked to lead men's basketball team

By Patrick Chinnery
Opinions Editor

MT athletics has found a new men's basketball coach in the unlikelyst of places.

While students were on Spring Break, MT Athletics Director Boots Donnelly hired actor Brian Dennehey to replace coach Randy Wiel, who resigned March 12.

While Dennehey has no prior athletic or coaching experience, his most recent feature film was *A Season on the Brink*, about the 1985-86 NCAA basketball champion Indiana Hoosiers.

In the made-for-television movie, Dennehey portrayed one of collegiate basketball's most infamous and talented coaches, Bobby Knight, currently of the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

"I can't wait to get back out on the court," Dennehey said in a press conference last week announcing the signing.

"Posing as Bobby Knight in an ESPN movie made me real-

ize that I've ignored my true calling for all of my life. I was meant to be a foul-mouthed, hot-headed basketball coach, not an overweight, heart attack-prone actor."

A Season on the Brink aired on ESPN, the cable sports network, March 10, two nights before Wiel resigned from his post. Based on the book of the same name by John Feinstein, the movie, the first out of ESPN's studios, focused on the intense demands Knight placed on his players as they moved closer and closer to the national championship game.

Dennehey was quick to point out that he learned enough about basketball while making the movie to successfully coach a team.

"Bobby Knight is one of the greatest basketball minds ever, and I played him," he said. "I'm sure George Clooney could run a surgery after *ER*, and I'm sure I can run this team."

Fearing that his first major hire since becoming athletics director might come under fire,

Donnelly was quick to point out Dennehey's natural flare for the job.

"Did you see *Season on the Brink*? It was a masterful job," he said. "Of course Brian has the skills necessary to coach a basketball program. After all, it couldn't get much worse than it has been for the past two seasons, right? If nothing else, more students will come to the game to see the old fat guy who acted with Chris Farley in *Tommy Boy*. He's almost like a real celebrity. It's yet another reason why MT athletics are better than UTK's. So support us. Please. We're really trying to get better, I promise,"



Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

Brian Dennehey's superior coaching qualities showcased in *A Season on the Brink* made him the front-runner in the race to the basketball coach's seat.

Donnelly sobbed.

Showing true leadership skills, Dennehey immediately

See Coach, 8

Donnelly turns to 'DNJ' poll for advice on right choice for coach

By Lindsey Turner
Managing Editor

Arms crossed, chin in hand, Athletics Director Boots Donnelly peers at a wall in his office with a dozen pictures and resumes tacked to it. He sighs.

"I just didn't know," he says, flustered. "How was one person supposed to make that decision? Sheesh."

The wall is decorated with the faces and names of twelve once-potential Blue Raider basketball coaches to take the place of former coach Randy Wiel, who left in mid-March. In his first major decision as athletics director, Donnelly had to choose the future leader of the Blue Raider basketball team.

"I can't believe no one was willing to help me pick the new coach," Donnelly says as he reads over the credentials of one of the candidates. "[President

Sidney] McPhee ran screaming from this decision, since he was real busy at the time with his inauguration and all. Everybody else around here is sick of finding new coaches, so it was all up to me."

To aid him in selecting a new coach, Donnelly let the readership of Murfreesboro's *Daily News Journal* determine the selection via their weekly online poll at www.dnj.com.

The newspaper's readers selected Dennehey, and Donnelly is taking their advice and hiring him.

"The people of Murfreesboro are always so eager to help and make decisions that really have nothing to do with them," he says. "And besides, the readers of the *DNJ* are so exceptionally informed and qualified to help make this

See DNJ, 8

UTK's quarterback turns blue

By Amy Jones
Chief Photographer

Football at Middle Tennessee got a little interesting Thursday after the 11 a.m. announcement of the transfer of the University of Tennessee's sophomore quarterback standout Casey Clausen.

Clausen has joined the Blue Raiders in spring practice and will take the starting quarterback position this fall.

"MT is absolutely stoked about the transfer," said MT head coach Andy McCollum. "I think we have a chance to bring a NCAA National Championship home to Murfreesboro. No one is going to be able to handle the Blue Raiders, let me tell you. Not even the Mean Green!"

Athletics Director Boots Donnelly was also excited about the transfer.

"I told you when I was named athletics director earlier this year that I would bring the attendance numbers up at home football games," Donnelly said. "I told you I had something up my sleeve. So, because of me, we are going to have a championship."

"I feel it."

Donnelly said he is the reason for Clausen's transfer to the MT program.

"I simply offered him free pizza and he came running," Donnelly said.

Many rumors are flying about the sudden transfer of

one of America's greatest quarterbacks.

ESPN reported that Clausen transferred so he could be closer to home.

"One thing I had to consider is how far I was from home," Clausen said. "Being from California, which is like a million miles away, I will be closer to home when I become a Blue Raider."

Sports Illustrated announced that his transfer was because of medical reasons.

"My doctor said that blue is such a soothing color compared to orange," Clausen said. "I can relax when I play at MT. Seeing 110,000 people in orange is just really bad on the eyes and the brain, and I need to think about myself for once and relax."

Another reason for the departure from Knoxville is simply stage fright, Clausen said.

"Growing up, I was a very shy child, and playing in front of 110,000 people makes me sick to my stomach," he said. "I will not be as nervous in front of the small crowd of 15,000 at the MT games because face it - MT will never have a UT crowd. Plus, everyone will be wearing blue."

Clausen's final reason for his sudden transfer is the Wal-Mart.

"It's the biggest Wal-Mart in Tennessee, and I like to go to Wal-Mart," he said. "It's my favorite!"

While at Tennessee, Clausen put up very impressive marks. During the 2001 season, he played in 12-of-13 games and contributed to an 11-2 season. Clausen passed for 22 touchdowns and threw for 2,969

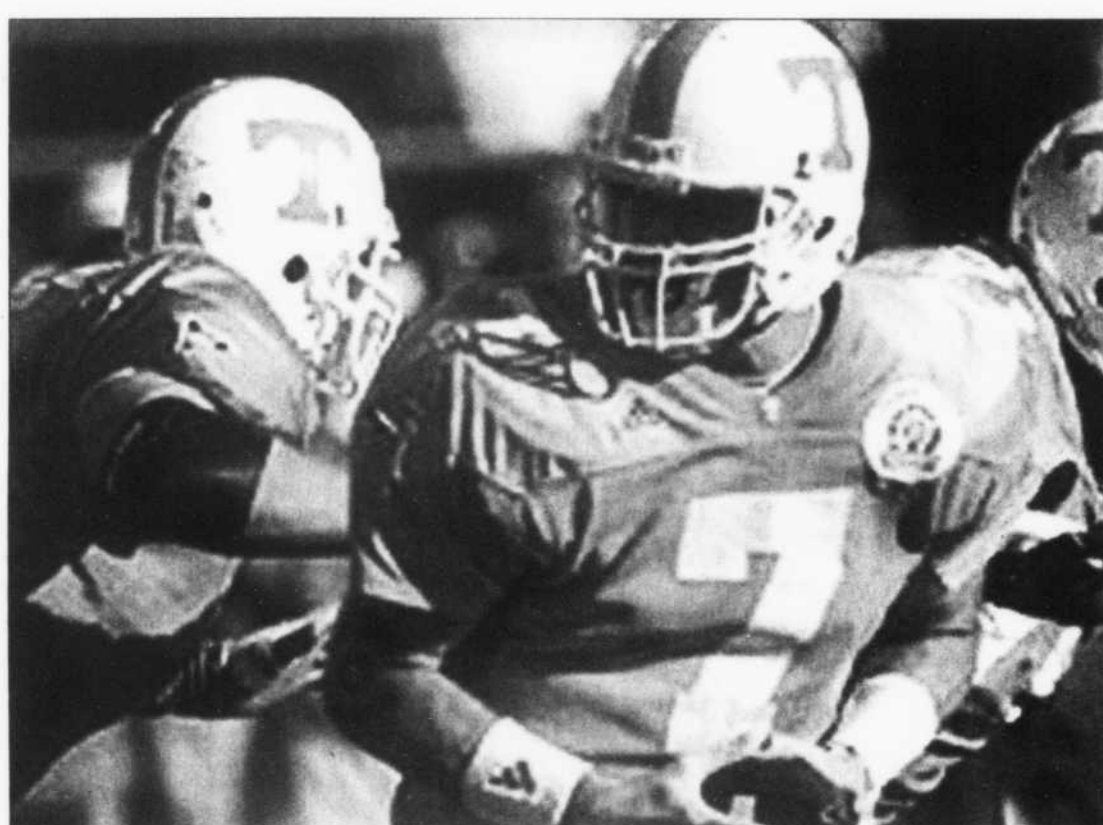


Photo provided

UT's Casey Clausen will join the Blue Raider squad this fall to be closer to home.

yards and averaged 244.4 yards per game. He threw 354 passes and completed 227 of them. He threw only 9 interceptions.

MT has come up with a few ways to make Clausen feel at home.

The Band of Blue will form the shape of a "T" so he can run through it before the game. The shape of "MT" was suggested, but coaches were afraid he would get tired or may even get lost before he made it to the end.

The Band of Blue will also adopt "Rocky Top" as the school song to be played over and over and over and over when the Blue Raiders score. Fans can

find the words to "Rocky Top" in the game-day pamphlets or the great service of www.goblueraiders.com currently has the words in a downloadable format.

Lightning, the mascot, also will learn to howl like Smokey, UT's faithful mascot. Over the past two years, Clausen has become very attached to "that dog."

"Of course, the university is very disappointed, but there is not much we can do," UT head coach Phillip Fulmer said. "We have a replacement in mind. Billy Bob Smith, a quarterback from a small 1-A school close to Knoxville, looks like the guy

who will fill Clausen's shoes this fall. Billy Bob is a little chubby, but he has a hell of an arm. It's just sad that Casey would waste a God-given talent and transfer to a Sun Belt school."

Clausen hopes to play in an arena football league one day and get his jersey placed in the new \$1 million Blue Raider hall of fame in the works.

Clausen will get the chance to play four SEC games this fall, with the second game of the season on the road against the UT Volunteers.

Come out and support the new star but please, per his request, wear blue and don't cheer too loud. ♦

MT gets invite to join Big Ten

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee football program has been invited to join the Big Ten Conference, starting with the 2002 season.

After a highly successful season in which the Blue Raiders shared a Sun Belt championship and pulled off an upset victory over Vanderbilt, the team has elicited offers from several higher conferences.

"The Sun Belt just isn't a strong conference," Athletics Director Boots Donnelly said. "It is in the best interest of our program to move to the Big Ten."

The Sun Belt has been noted as the weakest football conference, and new Division I guidelines likely will eliminate the conference in due time. The Big Ten, on the other hand, is seen as a powerful football conference and top teams participate in Bowl Championship Series bowl games as opposed to the New Orleans Bowl.

The move cuts some travel expenses as the football team no longer has to travel to Idaho and New Mexico. However, because the Big Ten is composed of mostly northern schools, the team will travel to Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

The Blue Raiders' schedule, which already includes four Southeastern Conference teams, now includes Penn State University, University of Wisconsin, University of Michigan and Michigan State University. These teams will replace Louisiana-Monroe, Idaho, New Mexico State and Arkansas State. MT has chosen to keep North Texas on the schedule due to the rivalry caused over the New Orleans Bowl last season. With this move, MT's strength of schedule has shot up from the low 90s to the top 10.

"The move to the Big Ten puts MT football on the map," Blue Raider head coach Andy McCollum said. "This allows our team the opportunity to be seen and make it to a BCS bowl."

Big Ten officials are ecstatic to secure a program with the early Division I success of the Blue Raiders. McCollum adds another high profile coach to the conference, and Dwone Hicks is a star running back who could compete for the Heisman Trophy.

See Big Ten, 8

Men's tennis team lands Boeing 747 for road trips

By Rebecca Pickering
Assistant Sports Editor

With a generous donation from the President's Office and funds from student parking fees, the MT men's tennis team will be flying high next fall in their very own Boeing 747.

The plane, currently used by the President's Office to entertain guests to the university, is being donated to the team Aug. 1. The university will be using state funds to purchase a new 737 for the President's Office.

"I couldn't think of a better way to make use of the old (1999 model) plane," MTSU President Sidney McPhee said. "Those boys tied a school record this year and are really getting us national attention by traveling around."

The team opened their spring season with a match in Hawaii and played a spring break match in Miami, Fla. With the new plane, travel will be much cheaper for the team.

With the recent change in parking regulations for students, Parking Services is providing a \$1.2 million grant to the team to renovate the plane to their tastes.

"We are all very excited," head coach Dale Short said. "I've decided to let all of the guys help pick pieces of the decor so they will feel at home."

Short said he is already planning on having a six-person hot tub installed to help himself and the guys relax between matches.

Freshmen Greg Pollack and Rishan Kuruppu requested a big screen television with an Xbox gaming system.

Michael Staniak and Trevor Short will be getting a full-sized, portable ping-pong table that will retract into the wall of the plane when not in use.

Oliver Foreman and Robert Gustafsson agreed on a king-size feather bed for resting during flights.

No. 1 seed Daniel Klemetz will be getting his very own

baby grand piano. Klemetz, who played piano and sang in Sweden, is thrilled.

"I am extremely pleased to have the opportunity to get back into my music," Klemetz said. "Now I'll probably spend most of my free time at the MTSU airport on the plane during the week."

Most of his teammates agreed that they, too, will spend all of their free time on the plane. Per the team's request, coach Short is trying to get ARAMARK on as the official food provider for Blue Raider tennis. That way, the guys will feel right at home with their very own mini-McCallie dining hall wherever they are in the world.

Athletics Director Boots Donnelly couldn't be more pleased with the way the guys are spending the university funds.

"This will bring tons of attention to the MT Athletics Department," Donnelly said.



Photo illustration by Lindsey Turner | Staff

The tennis team will inherit this Boeing 747 in August.

"We plan on using the plane for more than just matches though."

With many of the team members living out of the country, Donnelly plans to use the plane to fly the team home for visits on off weekends.

"Being so far away from home, the players tend to get homesick, thus hindering their performance," Donnelly said.

"This way, they can alleviate that pain, and we can also fly their parents to Tennessee to support their kids in matches."

Melbourne, Australia, native Staniak is thrilled at the idea. Generally only going home at Christmas time, Staniak spends hundreds of dollars in phone bills per month.

See Jet, 8

Pitching prodigy to return to MT mound

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

Major League Baseball has enacted a new rule that will allow one of Middle Tennessee's biggest stars to return to the Blue Raider baseball team for his senior season.

The rule states that as long as a player has not taken the field in a regular season major league game, he can return to college without losing most of the money agreed upon in the contract signed with the team.

MT star pitcher Dewon Brazelton announced his decision to return to the Blue Raiders under this new rule Friday.

"I want to lead the Blue Raiders to the college World Series," Brazelton said. "The team has been struggling lately and this is the only thing I have yet to accomplish. I told the Tampa Bay Devil Rays management I wanted to get the college ring and then focus on leading my professional team to the World Series."

Coach Steve Peterson and his team appeared overjoyed that their No. 1 pitcher chose to return.

"Dewon is a great kid and a fantastic pitcher," Peterson said. "He should secure us a Sun Belt championship and lead us to victory in the College World Series. He is a huge asset, and I am excited he chose to become a Blue Raider again."

Brazelton will take over his No. 1 spot, moving All-American John Williams into



the No. 2 spot.

"I'm just excited to pitch with someone of Dewon's caliber," Williams said. "He was the number 3 draft pick, and I am honored to pitch after him in the rotation."

Brazelton competed for the No. 5 spot in the pitching rotation but faced the possibility of

"I hate losing."

— Dewon Brazelton,
former Tampa Bay Devil Ray

returning to the minor leagues or worse, losing every start for the worst team in baseball. Instead, Brazelton chose to pitch for MT and win for one more season.

"I hate losing, and besides, I'm too good to be pitching in the fifth spot for the worst team in baseball," Brazelton said. "I would much rather pitch for coach Pete and remain a winner."

Devil Rays' management expressed disappointment at the decision but believe Brazelton can gain more experi-

ence in the college game then in their farm system.

"The minor leagues are not as strong as they once were, and our farm club is rather poor," Devil Rays Manager Hal McRae said. "Brazelton can learn more pitching for a quality program like the one at Middle Tennessee."

Brazelton keeps his signing bonus from the Devil Rays. The signing bonus made up the majority of the \$4.8 million contract Brazelton received as the No. 3 pick in the 2001 Amateur Draft.

Upon his return to the Devil Rays, Brazelton can work out a better contract that will void the amount remaining after the signing bonus in his current contract.

"I hope the Devil Rays will see my talent not only as a pitcher but as a leader in the clubhouse and will reward me with a much better contract



Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations

Dewon Brazelton announced his decision to return to MT baseball during a press conference Friday, where he said the Tampa Bay Devil Rays lacked the desire to win.

then I received as the third pick," Brazelton said.

To satisfy Brazelton's desire to win, the Devil Rays must obtain pitchers to follow Brazelton in the rotation and hitters who can score runs.

Otherwise, Brazelton could find a loophole and get out of his contract.

"I really want to be a Devil Ray," Brazelton said, "but I am a winner, and I want to be on a team that can win. The Devil

Rays must prove their desire to win or I'll find a way out."

Brazelton makes his first start for the Blue Raiders today, coincidentally opening day for Major League Baseball. ♦

Coach: Dennehey stresses more fan support, hot dogs

Continued from 7

stepped in and took over the press conference, challenging reporters to quiz him on his knowledge of basketball.

When asked if he knew what a pick and roll consisted of, Dennehey answered, "That's what I do when I go to the bakery. Can we stick to basketball please?"

The next question was an inquiry into how Dennehey planned on reducing the number of double dribble violations the team received last season.

"Double dribble? That's

when I have to wipe food off both my chins, right?" he said. "I didn't realize the whole team was that fat. I guess we'll have to all join Jenny Craig together. I bet we'll get a group discount."

Details of Dennehey's deal were not released, but *Sideways*, with the help of a lonely janitor and a bottle of Jack Daniels, managed to get a copy from the AD office. Because of the current higher education financial woes, Dennehey's contract will be low compared to contracts of other Sun Belt Conference coaches. His five-year contract calls for him to receive \$25,000

for every win, \$10,000 for every loss, two free, ARAMARK-provided hot dogs per game and 10 percent of all home game ticket receipts. Based on last season's numbers, Dennehey would receive \$500,000 salary, 14 hot dogs and \$64.56 in gate receipts.

Laying the groundwork for what he feels will be a season "full of growing pains," Dennehey stressed that he would like to see increased support from paying fans.

"Just because we may lose 10, 15, 28 games next season, well, that doesn't mean you shouldn't come watch us, people of

Murfreesboro. I have to eat, and a man can't live on \$280,000 and 14 hot dogs. Besides, it makes the team feel less like the junior league Estonian team and more like American high schoolers when more than 12 people attend a game."

Dennehey's predecessor, Randy Wiel, posted an 84-90 record over the past six seasons, including a 14-15 outing last year. When told of the new hiring, Wiel laughed.

"Well, they told me that anyone could coach the team better than I did. I guess now we'll find out," he said. ♦

DNJ: Dennehey chosen

Continued from 7

decision, they might as well have my job."

Donnelly mentioned a recent DNJ online poll that asked readers whether Wiel should be fired from his post as head men's basketball coach.

The readers' response was loud and clear: yes.

Luckily for the readers, and Donnelly himself, Wiel resigned a week or so later and relieved the MT Athletics Department of the trouble it would have taken to fire him.

"Any time we can avoid con-

flict, we like to," wrote Media Relations Director Mark Owens in a lily-scented, calligraphed letter.

"We are non-confrontational people."

Back in his own office, Donnelly plucks Dennehey's application, resume and photo from his wall and stares at it, dumbfounded.

"Look at this guy," he says, pointing to the star of *A Season on the Brink*.

"How could I have ever had any idea he would be the next coach to carry on the MTSU powerhouse dynasty?" ♦

Jet: Boeing will allow for trips home, parental visits, total and complete relaxation

Continued from 7

"This will be great," Staniak said. "Now I can use the money to buy new DVDs to watch on the plane."

While all seems well in this venture, the team has run into one problem. Already spending their allotted \$1.2 million, the team forgot to hire a pilot.

The aerospace department, recognizing the need, has made special arrangements for the Blue Raiders.

Short and assistant coach Mark Pellerin will enroll in aerospace classes all summer and, according to Paul Craig, chair of the aerospace department, will be ready to pilot by the fall.

"We'll just give them a crash course in piloting," Craig said. "They always have the radio to call for help if they need it until they get the hang of it."

Pellerin, who graduated last year with a degree in accounting, thinks this might be a turn

in his career path.

"I always wanted to be a pilot as a child," Pellerin said. "This could be my opportunity to make my dream come true."

Pellerin hopes that, after piloting the team for a couple years, he can get on at a commercial airline and increase his income by 500 percent.

With most of the kinks now worked out, there is still some opposition from other university departments. Head football coach Andy McCollum said he

feels the football team should have their own private transportation, too.

"Our boys get up at 5 a.m. every morning and work harder than anyone else at this university," McCollum said. "We need our own private transportation if anyone expects us to succeed."

Both Donnelly and McPhee agree that the team works hard and deserves its own transportation. McPhee was able to work a trade with Rutherford County Schools to get the foot-

ball team 10 old Blue Bird buses that were about to be put out of commission. In return, McPhee is going to allow the members of the Rutherford County School Board to use the university's new jet to take them to their vacation destinations.

McCollum was outraged when he heard they were only getting buses. However, because he was vague in his request and the deal has already been made, nothing can be done.

"Perhaps we can arrange

something when the football team is ranked in the top 25," Donnelly said.

The tennis team plans to have an open house in early September once they get settled in.

They also plan to take one lucky MT student along with them on all road matches next season.

To become eligible, one must attend all remaining men's tennis matches at Buck Bouldin Tennis Center. ♦

Big Ten: Mascot must be changed to ensure acceptance

Continued from 7

"Middle Tennessee is a great program," a Big Ten official said. "They could be in the top 25 by the end of the season. Hicks is a great back who has a legitimate shot at the Heisman also."

The Big Ten just has one stipulation on MT being a member. The Blue Raiders must

change their mascot. The mascot must be a fierce animal or at least an animal that strikes fear into the hearts of opponents. Fans can vote on their choice for the new mascot at www.goblueraiders.com.

"The current Middle Tennessee mascot is a joke," Penn State head coach Joe Paterno said. "They need a mascot that exemplifies their fierce competitive nature."

The Blue Raiders and their fans have high expectations for 2002. The team believes it can win every game and legitimately be a top 25 team.

"We're going to go down to Birmingham and get a victory," said President Sidney McPhee, referring to MT's opening game against the University of Alabama. ♦



SIDEWAYS

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