

SIDELINES

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Dept. chair, student charged after sexual assault

By Tom Cheredar
Assistant News Editor

A counselor for MTSU's "In Flight" aerospace camp was arrested for statutory rape. Paul Craig, chairman of aerospace, was also arrested for failure to report the crime to the university.

MTSU student Norman Lewis Jr. was charged with statutory rape, sexual battery and sexual battery by an authoritative figure after MTSU police investigated allegations of misconduct between him and a female high school student who attended the camp the first week of June, according to police.

Police are currently investigating sexual misconduct allegations against a second counselor, but no arrest has been made, according to Tom Tozer, director of news and public affairs for the university.

Lewis withdrew from all summer term courses, but is currently still enrolled for the fall semester, according to a Daily News Journal report.

The week-long "In Flight" camp is an aerospace camp offered to African-American high school juniors and seniors who are interested in piloting airplanes. It is run by the university's aerospace department.

Craig was charged with a misdemeanor for failure to report a crime, but will not be terminated, according to administration officials.

"We investigated the allegations and issued a letter of reprimand to Dr. Craig," said Kaylene A. Gebert, Executive Vice President and Provost.

The reprimand will mean no raises or bonuses for Craig for a year. He is also required to attend a seminar related to reporting harassment, said Gebert.

"University Employees have a responsibility to report allegations about misconduct so that they can be investigated," she said.

Craig declined to be interviewed, but provided a written statement:

"With sincere respect for the young lady and her family, I have great empathy for their situation. On the advice of counsel, I am sure your readers will understand that I cannot comment until this has all been resolved."

Sidelines will continue to follow this story when publication resumes in the fall 2006 semester.



Photo by Sarah B. Gilliam | Editor

Work is nearly complete on the Rutherford Boulevard entrance into MTSU's campus. The construction is part of a four-phase project scheduled to be completed in late 2008, which will enable busses to complete an entire loop on campus in a dedicated bus lane.

Rutherford part of bigger picture

By Sarah B. Gilliam

Editor

The days of hunting for parking places and constant traffic congestion on MTSU's campus could be a thing of the past, according to the Campus Planning project calendar.

Slated to be completed by the end of August, the Rutherford Boulevard entrance and parking lot is only one part of a four-phase project the university is working on to improve transportation and parking, said Arthur Reed, project manager for Campus Planning.

"We are trying to gradually move parking out of the core of campus, but in order to do that you have to work on transportation," he said. "But it's not like the parking lots are going to disappear overnight."

The entire four-phase project, scheduled to be completed in late 2008, will enable busses to complete an entire loop on campus in a dedicated bus lane. Buses will be able to go through the parking lot, pick students up and go without getting caught up in traffic — drive in an individual bus lane. The improvements will shorten transportation time to the extent that people will want to take the bus, Reed said.

When construction is completed on the Rutherford Boulevard entrance and parking, the project will shift to widening roads, he said. First, Alumni Drive will be connected to Rutherford Boulevard from Homecoming

Court, south of the Womack apartments.

The next project will be to fix the awkward intersection at the Cope Administration Building and Blue Raider Drive, widening it to three lanes, one of which will be used as a mandatory bus lane.

While the intersection is being renovated, Middle Tennessee Boulevard will be closed and widened to two lanes with a dedicated bus and bike lane. Traffic will be rerouted to Alumni and Rutherford Boulevards, Reed said.

"We'll try to sequence it so it will minimize the impact, but like any other traffic project it will affect traffic," Reed said. "You can't make an omelet without breaking an egg."

If there is money left over from the project, Reed said there will be a two-lane road with a bus lane roundabout that will connect Middle Tennessee Boulevard to Blue Raider to the core of campus.

"As a part of the road-widening, trees and decorative plants will line the road, and there will be a median," Reed said. "It will make the whole campus nicer as well."

With construction projects all over campus, MTSU continues to look to the future, and to the needs of its students. For the past year, MTSU has researched about a dozen universities to use as a model for a student union building.

"We're looking about \$40-45 million project," said Gene Fitch, vice president of Student

Affairs. "We will need the support of the students because it is likely that the student senate will be discussing the construction of the new student union building and we will go to the student body for a referendum to raise student fees," he said.

"Every student who has come before you has faced similar decisions — a brand new recreation center with an expansion that will break ground in November, an expanded athletic facility and additional health services," he said.

The proposed building would be used to house many offices currently located in the Keathley University Center, he said.

"We are wrapping up the programming phase, and once that is done you move into the design phase where you see concepts of what has been discussed," he said. "We have talked about moving the bookstore there, a food court with branded items ... and a copy center."

The committee responsible for discussing the design, the Master Plan Committee, has proposed the building be the new home of Sidelines, WMTS, Student Life, CUSTOMS and possibly a non-alcoholic pub, like Western Kentucky's "Red Zone." The "Red Zone" is a western-themed student hangout that serves

See Construction, 2

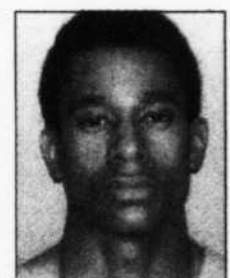
Student charged after 7 stabbed

By Sarah B. Gilliam

Editor

An MTSU student, who allegedly stabbed eight co-workers

Friday, remained in the Shelby County Jail Tuesday on a \$1 million bond.



Ingram

Elartrice "Marcell" Ingram, 21, of Cordova, was arrested about 9:40 a.m. after he attacked several people at Schnucks grocery store, said Memphis Police Lt. Mark Miller.

Miller said officers were dispatched to Schnucks grocery store on Highway 64 in Memphis and a citizen had Ingram in custody.

Witnesses told police that Ingram, who worked in the meat department of the store, had several knives when he began his alleged attack.

Four of the eight employees were transported to The Regional Medical Center at Memphis (MED) in critical condition and four were transported to various other hospitals with non-life threatening injuries, Miller said.

Ingram was also transported to MED after complaining of chest pains. He was released at 3 p.m. and transported to the Memphis Police Department, Miller said.

A ninth victim suffered from heart-related symptoms, Miller said.

Ingram is charged with nine counts of attempted first-degree murder.

Sidelines will continue to follow this story when publication resumes in the fall 2006 semester.

Football players face gun, alcohol charges

Party at the Elk's Lodge ends with fighting and gunfire

By Tom Cheredar

Assistant News Editor

Two MTSU football players were arrested and charged for possession of a handgun and underage drinking after a fight broke out at a party being held in the Elk's Lodge early Sunday morning.

Rutherford County Sheriff's Deputy W. Lebew found a

loaded .40-caliber handgun on the passenger side floorboard of the car that was occupied by MT offensive linemen Franklin Dunbar Jr., Darrell Howard and former football player Terrance McAbay.

After hearing gun shots fired, the three men fled the Elk's Lodge parking lot to Neely's market where they were apprehended and charged at 3:04 a.m. after refusing to tell the sheriff's officials whom the handgun belonged to.

"[The gun] wasn't the drivers and it wasn't mine but nobody owned up to it so we all ended up in the holding cell," said Howard.

The police report stated that Dunbar was additionally charged with disorderly conduct after not complying to the

deputies' requests.

Howard said the fight broke out as a result of "local people" who started the fight with one of his teammates.

"It was kind of wild, people throwing chairs," said Howard, who stated that he and Dunbar were hit, prompting him to retaliate.

A crowd of spectators at the Elk's Lodge rushed out the door after hearing gun shots, according to MTSU student Soulichith Lunammachack, who attended the party.



Dunbar



Howard



McAbay

"One guy went out to his trunk and then started shooting up in the air of the parking lot," said Lunammachack. "Everybody just took off running to their cars. It was pretty much one of those panic situations."

The sheriff's report stated witnesses saw a black male walking to the trunk of a white compact car before the shooting occurred.

Some of the gunfire hit a red Jeep Grand Cherokee belonging to Thomas Tapley, who was among those who fled the park-

ing lot. Three bullets entered the vehicle before the engine failed in the parking lot of Neely's Market.

The sheriff's report identified a black male, 5'7" and 185 lbs., wearing a white tank top tee shirt and blue jeans as a possible suspect who fired the gun. The case is still under investigation, officials said.

Sidelines will continue to follow this story when publication resumes in the fall 2006 semester.

LOCAL FORECAST

Thursday



HI: 84°
LO: 70°
PRECIP: 40%

Friday



HI: 85°
LO: 69°
PRECIP: 30%

Saturday



HI: 86°
LO: 70°
PRECIP: 30%

CAMPUS

Studies help MT commuters

For students who commute to MTSU from Nashville, especially for afternoon or night classes, the only thing worse than finding a parking space is actually getting to campus.

FEATURES

Summer video game review

Most of you gamers out there should already know that summer isn't the best season for videogames. While there are a few big hits, most of the popular video games come out later in the year near the holiday season.

SPORTS

Women's Rugby finds camaraderie

Channing Hatmaker is the president of the Middle Tennessee women's rugby team, known as the Lady Moose. The squad is about 20 girls strong and their game is tough, gritty and loud.

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

Studies underway may help MT commuters

By Michaela Jackson
Managing Editor

For students who commute to MTSU from Nashville, especially for afternoon or night classes, the only thing worse than finding a parking space is actually getting to campus. While there may not be a solution for current students, future generations of blue-blooded commuters could well spend less time en route.

The Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is currently exploring options to improve the 30-mile commute. The Southeast Corridor High Performance Transit Alternatives Study is a very long name for a study looking for faster ways to get between Nashville and Murfreesboro.

The study has been in progress since July 2004 and three options have emerged as the top contenders, said Jim McAteer, the plan-

ning organization's project manager for the Southeast Corridor.

Option one is Bus Rapid Transit service along Interstate 24, which would allow buses to drive in strictly enforced HOV lanes, McAteer said. With this option, the buses would make several stops in Murfreesboro and Nashville collecting passengers, but most buses would drive the interstate portion of the commute straight through. This option is estimated to cost \$220 million.

Option two is BRT service along Murfreesboro Road. This option would require the construction of a new lane on Murfreesboro Road, and would include more stations along the way. As such, the cost would be greater, estimated at \$430 million, according to McAteer.

Option three is using the existing CSX rail lines that run along Interstate 24 to commence passenger rail service between

Nashville and its burgeoning southeasterly neighbor. The commuter rail would incorporate passenger rail between the current freight traffic, build an entirely new track to run alongside the existing track, or possibly employ a combination of new and old track. This option would cost between \$230 and \$330 million, McAteer said.

He said drivers could be looking at these options in the next five-seven years. The Planning Organization is seeking to obtain federal money for the project, but that requires additional studies, months and traffic congestion.

The Planning Organization has been hosting community meetings to give residents the opportunity to sound off as part of their decided community outreach, McAteer said.

"The biggest benefit is being able to grow as a community without over-burdening the current highway or roadway system,"

he said. "One of the things mass transit does is provide people with options. If they don't want to get in the car or are unable to, it provides them with the option to get to their destination without having to drive."

Anna Fitzgerald, a senior in the college of Liberal Arts and the former co-chair of Students for Environmental Action, said the mass transit options are beneficial from a number of standpoints, including the environmental one.

"If you think about how many cars are on the road that go back and forth every single day, plus the bumper to bumper [traffic], it's got to have an impact [on the air quality]," she said.

Fitzgerald has Metro Planning Organization to speak at SEA events, describing the effects of mass transit on pollution levels.

Aside from her concern for

mother earth, though, Fitzgerald thinks mass transit would be a great resource. She lived in Murfreesboro without a car for four years, and said she missed out on a lot of cultural and research opportunities during that time.

"Experiencing Tennessee culture was a real challenge for me," she said. "Being actively involved as a citizen in Tennessee, there was no way I could talk to legislators if I couldn't get to Nashville."

"But what choice do we have?"

Similar projects are underway in other parts of the Metro area. Commuter rail service between Nashville and Lebanon begins this fall, and a study of mass transit options between Nashville and Gallatin is beginning to take shape.

The southeast corridor study is scheduled to wrap up no later than December.

Community meets to discuss historic preservation

By Steven Webb
Staff Writer

A meeting was held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church Friday afternoon to discuss the formation of a historical preservation foundation in Rutherford County. Lorne McWatters, professor of history, was the meeting's moderator. He described it as an opportunity to "channel frustrations into positives" and to "have a conversation" with the community.

The meeting came after the City of Murfreesboro demolished the historic Hiram Jenkins house on Gresham Lane on June 10. According to the Tennessee Preservation Trust, the house, which dated back to 1853, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1989.

Now historic conservationists are shifting their concerns to the McCulloch house on River Rock Blvd., not far from the intersection of Old Fort Parkway and I-24. The privately-owned property makes up part of the Stones River National Battlefield. According to the Daily News Journal,

Howard Wilson, owner of the McCulloch house, has given local groups 30 days to raise \$500,000 to purchase the house.

While some historic preservation groups currently exist, they are not united under any one group with common goals. There is "no structure" for historic preservation in Rutherford County, McWatters said. There are also no laws in place to save historic properties, or provide any incentives for owners of these properties, such as tax breaks.

The only places with historical protection in the county are the historic districts of Maney Street and Main Street in Murfreesboro, he said. These two districts are also on the National Register of Historic Places.

McWatters opened the meeting by listing reasons for preserving local historic places, saying that "keeping places people love special and unique" and "shaping the way new places grow" were important to the sense of uniqueness of the community.

"You show your friends the courthouses, not fast food restaurants," he said.

The meeting featured three main experts on

historic preservation: Nancy Tinker, Program Officer for National Trust for Historic Preservation's Southern Office; McIntyre; and Mary Pearce, Melinda Haines of Historic Downtown Murfreesboro acted as facilitator.

Historic Murfreesboro is not just a case of nostalgia, the panelists agreed, but a case of history, identity, and community. Even more importantly, they say historic preservation is "an enormous economic engine."

Tennessee is one of the top ten states in heritage tourism. He estimated that as many as 190 thousand people visit Stones River Battlefield each year, according to Patrick McIntyre, TPT's Executive Director.

If Rutherford County had more historic attractions to offer, those same people would stay here longer and spend more, he said. He also pointed out that those sites will still be here raking in tourism dollars while strip malls and chain stores may wither up and vanish in as little as 20-25 years.

Executive Director of The Heritage Foundation of Frankfort and Williamson County Mary Pearce talked extensively about what Rutherford County

should do to help educate the public on the benefits of heritage tourism. Drawing on her years from successful historical preservation and heritage tourism in nearby Franklin, she offered many ideas, such as mentioning the destruction of the Jenkins house as an example of what could have been saved, but wasn't. "Be a good victim," she said, "Don't ever let them forget what happened."

She also encouraged quick registration of individual properties in Rutherford County and the compilation of a top ten list of endangered historic properties (a statewide list can already be found on TPT's website, tennesseepreservationtrust.org). Pearce also encouraged bus tours of the areas and putting up markers of historic sites.

A new meeting is scheduled for the evening Monday, August 21, where Nancy Tinker promised that action would take place, positions will be appointed, and an organization will be, well, organized. "It will not be an exercise in futility," she said.

For more information, visit tennesseepreservationtrust.org.

Class brings KISS tribute band to Bluesboro

By William C. Fancher
Staff Writer

KISS Army, a nationally touring KISS tribute band, will perform at Bluesboro Rhythm & Blues Co. on August 9 at 8 p.m. The concert is sponsored by Textbook Brokers and organized by an advanced concert promotions class in the RIM department.

The 11-student summer class put the concert together, from booking the band to recording TV advertisements.

"From the very start of class we just brainstormed on what kind of show we wanted to do," said Emily Hoener, a senior in the recording industry management program. "The consensus of the entire class was, 'Let's do a tribute band,' because that'll be fun and we can play that up. It'd be easy to sell, basically."

KISS Army performed on campus last September in the KUC Theater. Hoener said her class felt they were "probably going to be the most fun" tribute band available.

"Even if you're not a KISS fan, chances are you might come out to the show just to see and have a good time with your friends," she said.

The advanced concert promotion project is about ten years old,

but this is the first concert organized by a summer class, said Richard Barnet, recording industry professor, who teaches the course.

"Instead of 15 weeks of a regular semester, they have to do it in really about four weeks," said Barnet. "It's more stressful, but this is what [the students] have been waiting for. It's more real life."

"You can sit in a class for four years, but as soon as you step out of these doors of MTSU, if you don't have the experience, it's going to be hard to get a start," agreed Hoener. "It's definitely important to us to get experience. And we want to have fun with this."

Barnet credited Bluesboro owner Rob Fortney with helping to guide the project and provide a venue.

"Rob has just been a godsend," he said. "When the class had to record TV spots for the concert, he helped them through every step of the way."

In addition to Bluesboro, Textbook Brokers is the concert's other main sponsor. Owner Robert Bachelor knew Emily Hoener and became involved through her.

"It's a three-way partnership, involved not just in teaching a



KISS Army, a national touring KISS tribute band, played last September at the KUC Theater. They return August 9 to Bluesboro for the "Tribute to the Troops" concert.

to anyone with a military ID.

"It's just a way of saying, 'You've fought for us and you've given us our freedom, here's something special for you,'" she said.

She said the concert will have a "carnival theme," complete with snow cones, candy, and popcorn available for purchase.

"We're going to have all the

News: Construction

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chicken fingers and hamburgers, Fitch said.

"The committee has also talked about meeting space, and having a facility that is large enough to seat 1,000 people for banquets," he said. "That is a large space when you think about it, in addition to all the offices that would be moved and housed there. Remember, these are all discussions, nothing is definite."

The older intramural fields are a possible location, but Fitch said there will be more information about the location in a couple of weeks. He said architects have met with the officials in the records office, financial aid, housing and residential life about moving into the KUC.

There are several other projects in the design stage, according to Tom Tozer of the News and Public Affairs office.

Tozer said upcoming projects include the Student Health and Wellness Center – an extension of the recreation center – underground electrical work, several projects in conjunction with the Americans with Disabilities Act, re-roofing of Kirksey Old Main, the Boutwell Dramatic Arts building and Todd Hall, and heating and cooling upgrades to Peck Hall.

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Continued from last column

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OPINIONS

Bush gives nation the finger

By Ian Skotte

3rd Moderate From the Sun

President Bush returned last week to the U.S. after the all-important G-8 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia. The only news that seemed newsworthy to any of the media were Bush's comments to British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The first of Bush's comments on the "hot" microphone was about a "trade thingy" Blair said was going on. Some of Bush's comments shifted to the current state of Lebanon when he used an exple-

tive in getting his point across.

Bravo, Mr. President! That's more like it.

But besides these comments, Bush was put into an awkward situation when Vladimir Putin told reporters that Russia's democracy is nothing like Iraq's.

"I talked about my desire to promote institutional change...like Iraq," President Bush said.

Putin replied by saying, "We certainly would not want to have the same kind of democracy as they have in Iraq, I will tell you quite honestly."

Even with the embarrassment of the war in Iraq and a majority of the country opting to get us out, the President signed his first veto last week striking down research of embryonic stem cells. Talk about kicking the country while we're down.

It was not just any veto. This veto went against a majority of the country, over three-fourths of our population. Yet, the Bush Administration continues to thumb its nose at everyone else but themselves.

Why should they care that these cells could cure Parkinson's disease or

Alzheimer's? Maybe one day, the cells could be used to help save the lives of men like the late Christopher Reeve.

This administration and the religious-right continue to live in la-la land basically telling the rest of us, "We don't care what America thinks. We run the country, so deal with it."

I believe they should get their bearings straight—especially with all the diseases we've cured in the past ten years. Aids, Cancer and MS (the disease, not the poor abbreviated state) will be left off that list for a while.

This first veto, of course, is not a good thing for the country. I guess the rest of us are forced to wait two years before we get somebody in the White House with half an idea of how the country needs to be run. Until that time we'll just have to take it.

I'm not one to quote the president on a regular basis, but "shit."

Ian Skotte is a senior journalism major and can be reached best at ias2a@mtsu.edu.

Student's activism reveals coal's woes as energy source

By Eric Blevins

Student Guest Columnist

On Monday, July 10, me and about eighty other "Earth First!" activists blockaded American Electric Power's (AEP) coal-fired Clinch River plant in Carbo, Virginia. We held the blockade for over five hours. No one got arrested. When we left, there was still a coal truck with flat tires and over thirty police vehicles blocking the entrance to the plant.

We took this direct action because coal is currently destroying Appalachia. The extraction, processing, transportation, and the burning of the coal are all extremely detrimental to the environment, people, economy and culture of these mountains.

Extraction of coal is now being done by a process called mountaintop removal (MTR), which turns mountains into moonscapes. Instead of digging into the mountain to get the coal, they simply blow up the mountains with explosives to expose the coal seams. This process reduces the height of mountains by up to 800 feet or more and leaves a flattened, barren landscape useless for wildlife and development.

The former mountains, or "overburden" (as coal companies call it), is pushed into adjacent valleys, burying the streams

below. This pollutes water supplies and causes many flash floods due to the fact that all the plants that drank the rain are now dead.

Over 400,000 acres of forests have been destroyed by MTR in West Virginia alone. Over 1,200 miles of streams have been buried. This is also happening in Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky at a growing rate.

After the companies get the coal, it has to be processed, or "cleaned." The leftovers from the processing are toxic waste referred to as slurry or sludge. This sludge is then either injected underground, a process that has been turning people's well water black, or it is stored in huge ponds held by dams in the mountains. Many of these dams hold billions of gallons of this sludge, some over nine billion.

Sometimes these dams fail and flood the community below. In October of 2000 in Martin County Kentucky, a pond spilled 306 million gallons of coal sludge into Coldwater Creek and Wolf Creek. That spill was 25 times greater than the Exxon Valdez spill. The soil there is still polluted from the spill.

Coal is transported in overweight coal trucks (usually 120,000 pounds on average), which destroys roads quickly and

makes losing control easy. Since 2000, at least thirteen people have been killed by coal trucks in West Virginia.

And as any intelligent person knows, coal burning is a major contributor to global warming and respiratory problems like asthma. Asthma is the number one cause of hospitalizations and school absences in children, and Knoxville and Memphis are the worst cities in the country for asthma sufferers.

We are poisoning our children and our planet and it has to stop if we want our civilization to continue. Over half the electricity in the U.S. is generated from coal burning. We need to start using much less electricity and use green power like solar and wind energy if we want our planet to keep sustaining our lives.

Corporate greed has blinded people to the fact that we depend on the earth for sustenance. We take our water and air for granted and place more importance on electricity and money. We already have to pay for clean water, and much of the world has no clean water. I don't want the air to get that way before people wake up.

Eric Blevins is a senior here at MTSU and can be reached best at erb2t@mtsu.edu.



Unbuckling the Beltway

July 26, 2006

1.) A new CNN/Gallup Poll showed that 94% of evangelical conservatives approved of President Bush's use of an expletive at the G-8 Summit. Follow-up questions and answers revealed stunning findings. 98% of respondents believed that Bush should use the phrase "G.D. Mexicans" in regard to immigration; 99% believed Bush should use the phrase "F---g liberals" when describing Democratic opponents; and 100%, up 6% since April, believed that Bush should refer to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-New York, as "The Bitch."

2.) A Bush advisor has been urging the administration to "beef up" the White House Counsel's office in advance of a likely Democratic take-over of either the House or Senate in January 2007. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid replied, "It's nice to know the administration is shaking in their boots for once."

3.) Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist is claiming victory on the "nuclear option" debate, according to an interview he did for the Knoxville News-Sentinel. Frist has apparently forgotten that it was his fault that the nuclear option wasn't invoked on the filibuster issue. Frist, who sets the Executive Calendar, foolishly scheduled four days of debate on then-filibustered nominee Patricia Owens, which allowed John McCain and 13 other Senators to rally behind closed doors and negotiate the so-called 11th-hour compromise. The Senate's first action after "returning to do its job" was voting to filibuster (for the second time) the confirmation of John Bolton, Bush's nominee for ambassador to the United Nations.

Opinions Editor's note: This section takes the news and exaggerates it, or makes it up completely. Outside of this box, you're free to think for yourself.

Tenets of feminism now guide student

By Sarah Lavery

Student Guest Columnist

"I didn't fit in with the brazen new world of hard-charging feminists," writes Maureen Dowd. "I was more of a fun-loving (if chaste) type who would decades later come to life in Sarah Jessica Parker's Carrie Bradshaw. I hated the grubby, unisex jeans and no-makeup look and drugs that zoned you out. . . . In the universe of Eros, I longed for style and wit."

I grew up without a notion of gender inequality. It wasn't until my middle teens when I suddenly had the epiphany that I would, inevitably, be a victim of gender stratification. This notion was nevertheless put on the backburner for the remainder of my high school years. Once in college, though, women's studies seemed the most enjoyable and beneficial choice for my humanities requirement.

I had no idea what to expect of my first day last semester. I nervously sat down in a room as diverse as any of my other classes thus far (with the exception of the female to male ratio).

After the hurdle of the unexpected, I anxiously anticipated every Wednesday night for impassioned discussion with a group of

intelligent and inspired females—some were lesbians, some were heterosexuals, some black, white, or Asian, some butch, while some girly as can be. By the end of the semester, I suddenly realized what it meant to be a feminist, and from that general elective, a new passion was born inside of me.

But what at once seemed like an ingenious idea (a women's studies minor and a dedication to focus my future career on the subject) has suddenly started to become polluted with preconceived notions of what it means to be a feminist. Suddenly, I feel as if my motives and maturity are constantly being tested and second-guessed.

How can I be a hard-core feminist if I'd rather wear heels than Birkenstocks, makeup rather than no make-up, polished hair rather than unkempt hair that makes a blatant statement of "I don't care!"

I'd be lying if I said I didn't care. We all care. Everyone has their unique style that makes them feel comfortable with themselves. It's more about personal choice. It's about dressing to make yourself smile. Isn't that what the feminist movement was all about—not being judged or punished by a womanly-exterior or a lack of the Y chromosome?

Sometimes, I feel unwelcome

in the feminist club. I feel as if, to truly be accepted within this group, I am going to have to give up something that has always been very near and dear to my heart—fashion. I feel as if I am seen as a feminist imposter.

Surely, Andrea Dworkin would snuff her nose at my trendy clothes and Betty Freidan would shake her head in disappointment at my three-inch tall heels.

"What I didn't like at the start of the feminist movement was that young women were dressing alike, looking alike and thinking alike," again writes Maureen Dowd. "They were supposed to be liberated, but it just seemed like stifling conformity." Just as the plastic-surgery epidemic has created a mass of plastic-like aspiring actresses and singers and trophy-wives, being selective in who can label themselves as "feminist" does the same thing.

Radical action is needed, however, to make all females understand our cause, no matter what their personal style. We are not an army of anti-femininity. Rather, we are an army of anti-gender inequities.

Sarah Lavery is a sophomore mass communications major and can be reached best at scl2s@mtsu.edu.



White House photo by Eric Draper

President George W. Bush, seen here, listens in on the phone calls of 59 million domestic terror suspects. White House Press Secretary Tony Snow later said that it was "a total coincidence" that the total number of calls equaled the same number of people who voted for Sen. John Kerry in 2004. (This was not a real quote)

Break the chain on Myspace

This chain mail message was received and responded to on my Myspace page

By Jeremy Wyatt

Explosive in Moderation

RE: i cried
If you love your MOM, repost this bulletin saying "i cried" if you don't... then u obviously don't care if your mom dies

I love my mother, really.
But with this statement, I want to stike at the heart of this beast, this cancer. Our confessional booth: "The Myspace Bulletin."

I don't believe people have been paying any attention to the psychology of Myspace users sending and receiving chain messages like this.

Overall, this message is written in second person, addressing the audience in a supplicative manner. Meaning it is as if the person sending the message where asking the receiver a question. That, in effect, puts it into the personal realm of being in a conversation. But do not be fooled! It is an avenue of mass media.

Bulletin messages aren't received by each individual like it was a private conversation. No,

bulletins become more by being sent down their chains through the internet community. It is a disembodied voice of the media; dangerous in that it degrades our sensibilities to the subjects presented by the manner in which they are displayed.

And, by the nature of the Myspace, your friends all know

// i
beliVe
we cud
tLk betr
thn this
//

Jeremy Wyatt
senior mass communications major

you received the message. Whether or not to respond is not an option because it would tell them what it says above: "obviously don't care if your mom." It is like being checked in chess. Make a move or you're dead.

I see it as an insult, being intentionally cornered with this deadly question which is publicly broad-

casted not just to the person who addressed me, but all of our friends as well.

The chain method could be used to pass along ideas that become refined in through each mind it passes, becoming a true, unmediated message of the community's thoughts about something important to the community.

Und i beliVe we cud tLk betr thn this, even if we were not trying to pass a message of importance. We are not Jim from "Adventures of Huckleberry". Why should we talk to our peers as if we were?

The message above contains 8 errors. If you were addressing, say, 276 of your friends all at the same time, you would be embarrassed to make that many mistakes. No question.

And since using all capital letters in literature is the equivalent of screaming at them, I doubt you'll get your point across effectively. Like "mom" in the message (I didn't use the capitals to spare your visual ears).

Poor english is an allowance of the medium that should be noticed and quickly reprimanded before it lowers the value of communication. If all Myspace users are of an age to be in high school and above, why can't they grasp basic english skills?

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FEATURES

Summer video game reviews

By Rangebar Meranir

Staff Writer

Most of you gamers out there should already know that summer isn't the best season for videogames. While there are a few big hits, most of the popular video games come out later in the year near the holiday season. For this review, I chose four games that I thought could appeal to different types of gamers:

NCAA Football 07 (Xbox 360), *Prey* (Xbox 360), *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Legend of Jack Sparrow* (PS2) and *New Super Mario Bros.* (Nintendo DS).

For all those sports junkies who can't wait for *Madden 07* to get their football fix, *NCAA Football 07* should give them their pigskin a month earlier. *NCAA 07* plays solidly and is the best looking *NCAA* game yet. Every game of *NCAA 07* looks great on the Xbox 360, but it's hard not to look at the many features on the current-generation versions — monster playbooks, Campus Legend mode, trick plays, special team tweaks — and wonder why *NCAA 07* on 360 doesn't have what you'll find on the PS2 or Xbox.

Along with the multi-player and online modes, there is now a 60-year dynasty mode — complete with in-season recruiting — and mini-games, such as the Option Dash. The biggest gameplay change-up for *07* is the new momentum meter that's supposed to give you more opportunities for making big plays, but it might as well not exist because you can't ever tell if it's really working.

NCAA 07 plays a good game of ball with its solid controls and great visuals. Even with the lack of a few features, *NCAA 07* is still my favorite football game on the 360 — well, at least until *Madden 07* comes out.

Those of you who are looking for a real summer blockbuster should definitely check out *Prey* for the Xbox 360. Developed using the *Doom 3* engine, *Prey* is a straightforward first-person shooter with a little twist from the norm. You play as Tommy, a Cherokee Indian, who doesn't really care about his heritage and is eventually abducted by aliens along with his girlfriend and her grandfather. This eventually leads you to an arsenal of weapons for you to mow down the aliens and save the

world. Sounds familiar, huh? Maybe, but you may be surprised.

The one thing that is different about this first-person shooter is that the story actually matters. Your struggle to free your girl and get the hell off the ship stays relevant all the way to the end. The difference lies more in the telling than the plot itself. Everything happens around you; there's no stopping to read random chunks of narrative lying around. The designers do a great job of putting all the parts of the story together, and surprisingly, wrapping it up with a pretty solid ending.

Besides the basic find and shoot gameplay of all first-person shooters, *Prey* adds a few unique twists to the game. The two things that seem meant to separate *Prey* are the game's use of portals that bring you from place to place and a bag of gravity tricks that are meant to keep you wondering which way is up.

The portals are open and let you see and fire weapons through to the other side.

They lend themselves to a couple of neat tricks, including one where you see yourself entering a portal on the other side of the portal. Just try to resist the urge to shoot yourself in the back of the head.

Playing around with gravity is a much more interesting part of *Prey*. You'll encounter powered walkways that let you walk up walls and onto ceilings. In a few other cases, you'll be able to shoot objects to change gravity, which forces your view to rotate as you fall to another surface. These segments of the game serve as the majority of its puzzles, but they aren't difficult to figure out.

Prey supports multiplayer for up to eight players in two modes: deathmatch and team deathmatch. Also, it's worth noting that multiplayer modes can only be played via system link or Xbox Live. There's no option for split-screen play.

Although *Prey* won't take too long and the multiplayer mode might not be as in-depth as most first-person shooters, fans of the genre should find the actions and environments interesting enough to make playing through the game worthwhile.

For those of you who just saw the new *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie, or if you just love Johnny Depp, you might just be the only ones who want to play this next game. *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Legend of Jack Sparrow* for the Playstation 2 is a decent game with a horde of problems.

Pirates is full of gameplay bugs, including frozen enemies and having your hero come back to life stuck in a ship's mast. The problems don't stop there. Repetitive combat, occasionally stupid enemies and half-hearted boss battles are also major issues.

The game does compensate with a decent amount of enjoyable and almost relaxing missions. I thought it was nice not to really worry about my character's health and what weapons I needed to use, but instead enjoy a pirate's life of looting hidden treasure and kicking enemies when their down. The controls are easy to learn and the storyline is easy to keep up with.

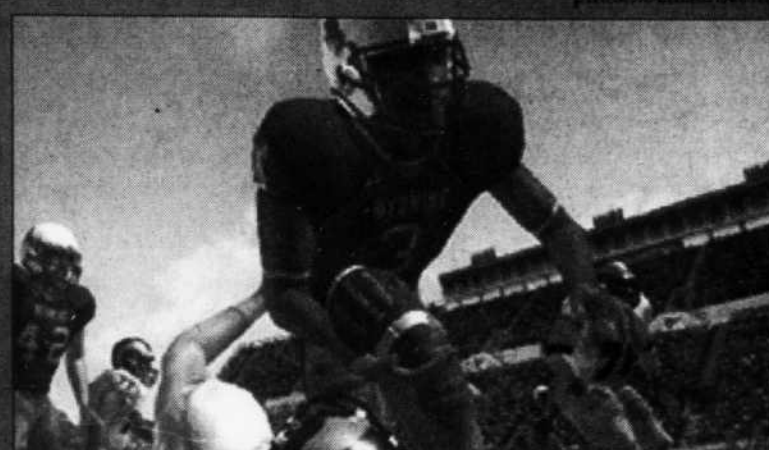
Sad to say, though, probably the best thing about the game is the voice acting of Johnny Depp as Jack Sparrow. Fans of the movie may want to check it out, but I'd say it's a rental rather than a purchase.

For all those old-school gamers out there, *New Super Mario Bros.* on the Nintendo DS

SCREENSHOTS



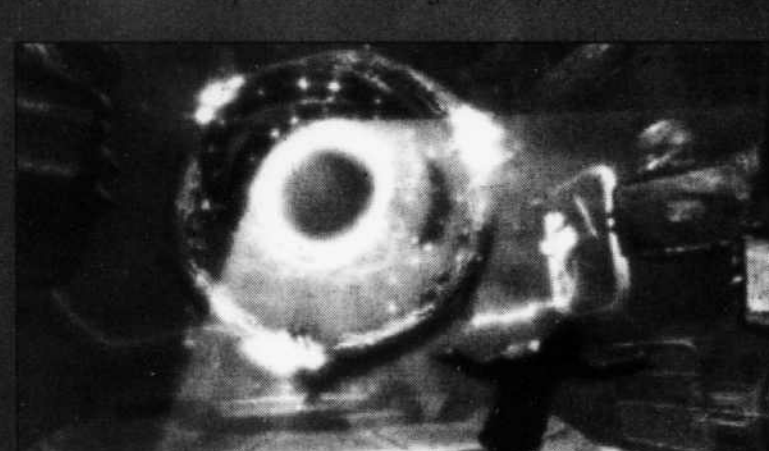
Pirates of the Caribbean: The Legend of Jack Sparrow images courtesy of pirates.bethsoft.com



NCAA Football 07 images courtesy of www.esports.com



Super Mario Bros. images courtesy of www.nintendo.com



Prey images courtesy of www.2games.com

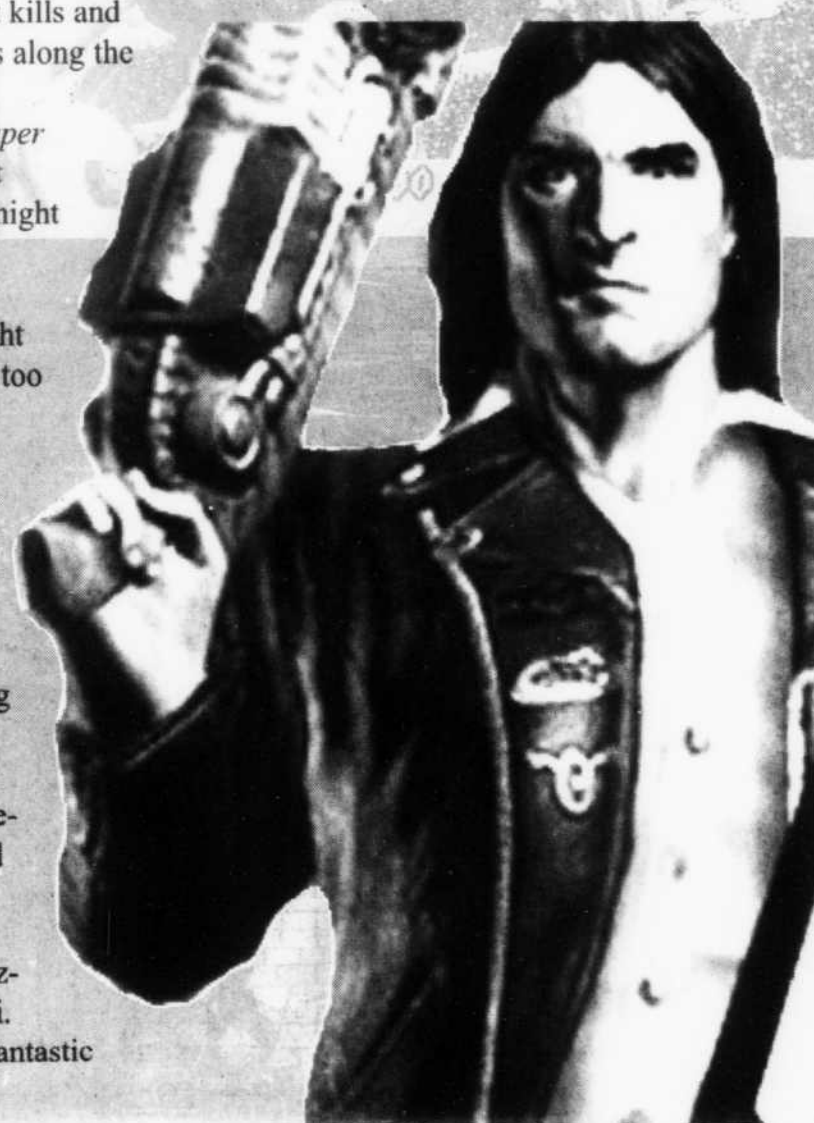
is just the reminder that it's perfectly okay to run from the left to the right.

The gameplay is identical to *Super Mario Bros. 3* on the NES, but with a few additional moves such as the triple jump, butt stomp and wall jump. There are also new power-ups like mushrooms that make you tiny or huge, as well as a koopa suit. The absence of a flying power-up is kind of lame, but at least the game's brilliant stages never disappoint. Expect a serious challenge with plenty of one-hit kills and dreadfully hard jumps along the way.

While *New Super Mario Bros.* is a great game, some gamers might feel too comfortable with it. In going old-school, Nintendo might have played it a little too safe. The worlds and challenges feel much too familiar, and could have used a little more creativity. But you've also got to give it up to Nintendo for bundling over 25 Wi-Fi multiplayer mini-games with a fabulous single-player game. You and up to three buddies can play various action, racing and puzzle contests via Wi-Fi. It's like getting two fantastic games in one.

Although I acknowledge that the 3-D Mario games (*Super Mario Sunshine* and *Super Mario 64*) are fantastic games, they don't compare to the old 2-D wonders.

New Super Mario Bros. is purely a fun test of skill, just like its predecessors. Whether you're a die hard Mario fan, or just looking for a great game to pick up and play, *New Super Mario Bros.* is definitely a game anyone can pick up and play.



SPORTS

Girls find camaraderie in rugby

By Sarah Crotzer
News Editor

"Once you get a taste of it, it's something you absolutely cannot put down," says Channing Hatmaker. "It's addictive."

Hatmaker is the president of the Middle Tennessee women's rugby team known as the Lady Moose. The squad is about 20 girls strong and their game is tough, gritty and loud. You might not know who they are, but you may have seen them practice at the intramural field by Cummings Hall and wondered what sport they're playing.

"It's a growing sport," says Hatmaker, "but we aren't as publicized as some of the teams."

Most students have heard of rugby, but they might think of it as high-octane soccer or a variant of American football. In reality, the game millions of Americans watch on Super Bowl Sunday is descended from rugby, which officially debuted at Rugby School in England in the mid-19th century.

"American football is a watered-down version of rugby," says Elizabeth Collins, who arranges the matches for the team.

"They cleaned it up and stopped the play and added pads. When the ball hits the ground [in rugby], play doesn't stop. Teams fight for the ball."

Rugby first arrived on American soil in the 1870s, and one hundred years later women's rugby entered the scene. Although it is a growing sport, women's rugby teams and clubs are still sporadic throughout the nation.

At MTSU women's rugby is classified as a club sport, and receives its funding through Campus Recreation. The squad plays other club teams from across the nation, including many from Tennessee. UT-Knoxville, Lee University and Vanderbilt are among the opponents of the Lady Moose. In the

spring, they compete at the collegiate level, but fall is seen as their training season.

"There is no age bracket for club teams," says Hatmaker. "You can have rookies that come in at 18, with players up to 35 or 36 years old. If we play collegiately in the spring, all of us have to be full-

time students, but in the fall...they don't have to go to school, they don't have to be a certain age. We just have to register them with USA Rugby and they're ready to go."

"It takes a special girl to play rugby," says Collins, because it "is a very physically and mentally

demanding sport." However, one of her teammates stresses that women's rugby players can't be categorized.

"There isn't a certain type of girl who plays rugby," said Chelsi Hudson, team treasurer. "Everybody comes from different backgrounds. I was a cheerleader for eleven years before I started and I love it. There's not a 'type' of person you ask to join. You just get everybody and anybody out there."

"It's like there's a gene," says Hatmaker. "All of us are completely different people and on completely different paths, but we all have this little cavewoman streak." She laughs, "It's the most primitive thing you could ever imagine."

Collins, relating how she

became involved with women's rugby, says she encourages all interested girls to give it a try. "I've played since I was a freshman," she says. "I was looking for a way to make friends and find something to do. One of my friends said, 'Hey, let's check this out.' I said, 'I'm just going to watch,' but the rugby captain said, 'No, come practice with us.'"

"You can go anywhere, and there will be rugby girls there," says Collins. "It's just such a community...it is hard to get girls to play it and to get the word out, but when you meet other girls who play it and love it as much as you do, it's an automatic connection."

The women's rugby team starts practicing a week before fall semester begins. Their games, held on Saturdays at the field on East Main St. across from the Circle K, will start in early September. If you're interested in becoming part of the women's rugby team, or for more information, please visit the Campus Recreation Center or e-mail Channing Hatmaker at csh2s@mtsu.edu.



MTSU's women's rugby engages in a scrumdown to gain possession of the ball against Central Michigan at the annual NashBash tournament in March. The Lady Moose will open the 2006 season in early September.

Submitted Photo

MTSU tennis courts get new look



Photo by Sarah B. Gilliam | Editor

Workers apply a second coat of royal blue on Court 1 at the Buck Boldin Tennis Center yesterday afternoon. Six varsity courts have already been completed, and eight public-use courts are being resurfaced and repainted as part of a remodeling project for the Middle Tennessee tennis team. The public courts, previously painted shades of green, will now feature school colors and MT logos. The team is also installing new windscreens. According to men's tennis head coach Dale Short, the project will cost about \$50,000, all of which was raised by the team. Workers are expected to complete the remodeling within the next three weeks, and the courts are tentatively scheduled to be open for the beginning of fall semester.

Ninety men's trash, one man's treasure



By Casey Brown
Sports Editor

Life really does have a way of throwing things at you.

In this case, "life" literally means the Middle Tennessee football team, and those things include used jockstraps.

I could scarcely have predicted the adventure that was to take place outside Murphy Center when I staggered out of the bedroom this morning.

The Blue Raider football team has recently shifted sponsorships from Reebok to Nike, and when various boxes of Swooshed apparel come in, something has to give.

And give it did, as dozens of boxes of team equipment were discarded on the east side of the Big Glass House on Monday. Upon receiving a tip, I drive across campus to attain a feel for the situation.

When I arrive at the scene, I

painstakingly try to appear as inconspicuous as possible as I peer into the trio of massive green trash receptacles. Inside are practice jerseys, pants, cleats, game balls, pullovers and socks in varying degrees of wear.

Ranging in quality from "still wrapped in plastic" down to "wouldn't touch it with a ten-foot pole," there is enough swag inside to make John Madden jealous.

As I envision myself hopping in and rummaging around, a large, official-looking sort of fellow in an MT polo shirt asks in a brusque voice if I can be helped with anything. I stammer out a response about my assignment and attempt to appear important and unimpressed.

My explanation seems to appease him, and he departs with bigger fish to fry. As I continue to stand there figuring out my next move, I am joined by Liz Davis, current graduate assistant and former standout for MT softball.

Obviously not the shy type, she asks, "You going in there?" "I don't know. You?" I respond cleverly.

As it turns out, there is nothing either of us wants more at that moment than to embark on a treasure hunt, and all we need for backup is each other.

We tentatively dig in initially, Liz searching for a pair of cleats to use for flag football. Me? I only hope I won't come across the box

labeled "compression shorts" or "athletic supporters."

After a few minutes, she throws caution (along with any concerns of sanitation) to the wind and dives in. I hang back, recalling the piece I had read on the recent rash of staph infections in locker rooms.

Now it's official; we are Dumpster Divers with no remorse, with only our goal of pilfering school paraphernalia in mind.

While Liz valiantly pillages for a pair of 9 1/2s, the rest of the hour becomes a revolving door of Blue Raider luminaries. Women's tennis coach Alison Ojeda flashes a puzzled look as she walks by.

A few minutes later a series of football players, including running back Eugene Gross and offensive lineman Darrell Howard, apparently feeling a sense of instant nostalgia for their recently discarded gear, request that we toss them some sweats.

Members of the women's volleyball jog past, apparently too winded to care about our little expedition. But wait, someone's turning around.

"Hey, I know you," senior defensive specialist Theresa Slovick says, "You're Coach Insell's, no, Coach Stockstill's son."

"Nope," I reply, again demonstrating the conversational skills possessed only by those in the upper echelons of journalism.

More athletes and students stream by, some stopping to check things out. I'm just waiting for Chris Massaro to swing by in search of a windbreaker or towel.

"Why didn't they give this stuff to charity?" is the refrain from many of the onlookers, and I wonder the same.

According to an MT football assistant, since the gear is state property it can't be given away to an organization like Goodwill or the Salvation Army. Being from the school of thought that never throws out anything with a tag still attached, I find this puzzling. Still, the search continues.

Liz and I return to the task at hand, where we are now joined by St. Rose Middle School Athletic Director Ronnie Francescon. She is elated to find jerseys and pants for her team to use in practice.

After loading her finds into her vehicle and picking up stray turf shoes, I assess my newly claimed property. A few sweatshirts, a couple of pairs of cleats, and a deflated Wilson football. Liz has found a suitable pair of kicks, and all seems right with the world.

No longer am I simply Casey Brown, Sports Editor. Today I have become Casey Brown, Dumpster Diver and Scavenger of Sport.

Now I don't feel so bad about paying those pesky student fees.

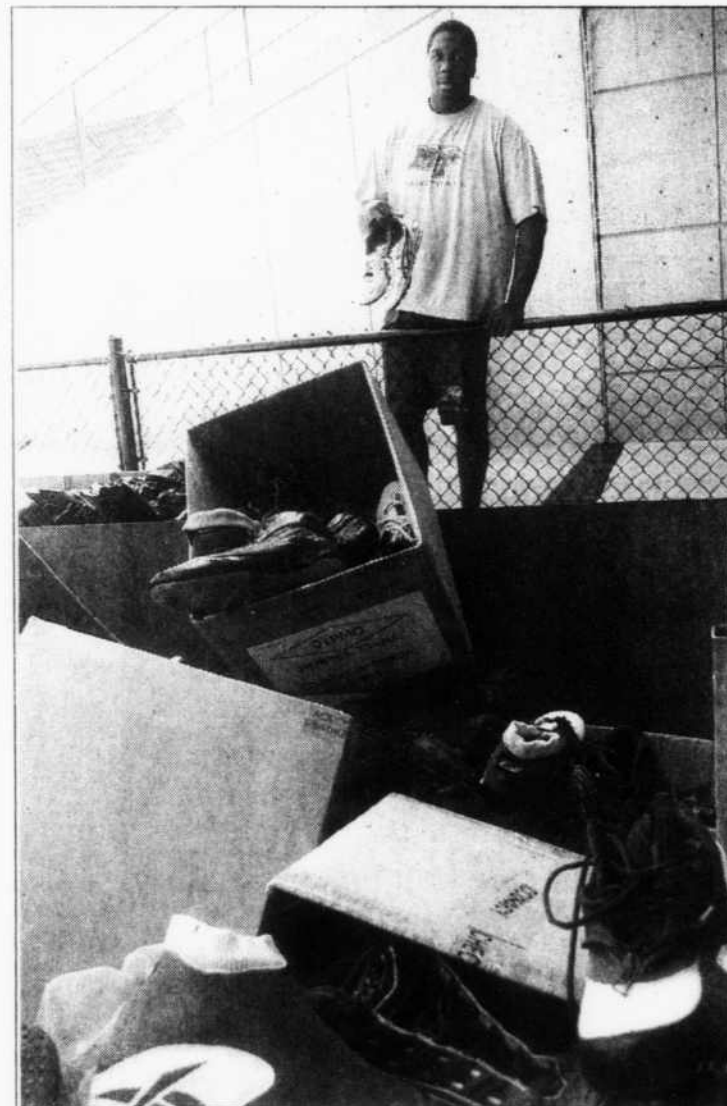


Photo by Sarah B. Gilliam | Editor

Middle Tennessee football player Chris McCoy prepares to toss a pair of shoes into a trash receptacle outside of Murphy Center. The Blue Raiders are dumping all Reebok equipment after recently signing a contract with Nike.



Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee

Compiled by: Casey Brown



Durham falls in playoff at Kentucky Women's Open

Middle Tennessee women's golfer Taryn Durham, the 2006 Sun Belt Conference Champion, came up just short today at the Kentucky Women's Open. The rising junior lost in a playoff with champion Laura Anderson and Amanda Henry.

Durham posted a 147 total after firing a round of 74 on Wednesday, but her second shot on the playoff hole landed on the back of the green and forced a difficult putt. The Glasgow, Ky., native three putted, along with Henry, to miss a chance at advancing to the next hole.

"Taryn played very consistent and did not make a lot of mistakes today," said Head Coach Rachael Short. "She was pleased with the way she performed but she just could not get a lot of putts to fall."

Blue Raider teammate Maggie McGill shot a 75 to finish with a 151 total and tie for ninth place overall out of 58 golfers.

Bailes ties for 10th at Southern Amateur

Middle Tennessee golf standout Nick Bailes finished in a tie for 10th at the 100th Southern Amateur Championship at The Country Club of Birmingham. Bailes fired a 73 in the final round on Saturday to complete the 72-hole tournament with a -1 under par total.

Bailes, who hails from Cleveland, Tenn., owned a one-stroke lead over Clemson's Kyle Stanley heading into Friday's third round but carded a 74-73 over the final 36 holes to slip to 10th. Bailes had a career-best 66, 5-under-par on the demanding course in the first round and followed that up with a 1-under 70 in the second.

Bailes recorded a total of 283 to finish eight strokes back of winner Stanley.

Women's Basketball Has Largest Attendance Increase in the Nation

In figures released by the NCAA on Thursday, Middle Tennessee women's basketball had the largest average attendance increase in the nation for 2005-06.

The Blue Raiders averaged 2,699 in attendance for the 2005-06 season and had an average of 695 in 2004-05. That is a positive

increase of 2,004 in comparison between the two seasons.

Also Middle Tennessee ended the season ranked 42nd in the nation in overall attendance. The Blue Raider's had a total attendance for the year of 43,189. The University of Tennessee, whom Middle Tennessee will be playing in the upcoming season, topped the list averaging 15,356.

The Sun Belt Conference ranked 10th on the list of 31 conferences, averaging 1,220 for the 2005-06 season. The Big 12 led the list averaging 4,980.

Middle Tennessee broke the single-game attendance record in the finals of the Sun Belt Tournament on March 7. There were 4,813 fans on hand to watch the Blue Raiders defeat Western Kentucky for its third straight Sun Belt Tournament title.

Bulle sees stellar run end in match play at U.S. Junior Amateur

Incoming freshman golfer Kent Bulle is making quite a name for himself at the 2006 U.S. Junior Amateur. Bulle, out of Glasgow, Ky., was one of 3,267 entries into the field and was one of 64 left standing before falling in match play Wednesday.

There were 30 qualifying sites throughout the country and Bulle shot a 68-72=140 at the Bowling Green Country Club. That score was good enough to send him to the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club as one of 152 players in the U.S. Junior Amateur field.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, Bulle played 36 holes of stroke play and shot a 75-75=150 to advance to match round play along with 63 other golfers.

"It is a great honor just to make the field at the USGA, but he was one of the final 64 which is incredible," said assistant golf coach Whit Turnbow. "He was just three matches away from doing what Tiger Woods did in his amateur career. Kent has truly established himself as one of the top juniors in the country."

Bulle, who was named Mr. Golf in the state of Kentucky in October, fell to Wesley Graham 3 and 2 in his first match Wednesday to end his stellar run.

Middle Tennessee picked sixth at Sun Belt Media Days

Three Middle Tennessee football players were honored today as preseason first team All-Sun Belt selections as announced by the league office at its annual Football Media Days. Offensive lineman Germayle Franklin, linebacker J.K. Sabb, and punter Colby Smith were all voted to the first team by the league's eight head coaches and selected media members.

As a team, the Blue Raiders were picked to finish sixth in the league as voted by the Sun Belt's eight head coaches. Louisiana-Lafayette was selected to represent the league in the New Orleans Bowl on Dec. 22, while Arkansas State was picked to finish second.

"This is a nice accomplishment by these players but it is not the ultimate prize," said Head Coach Rick Stockstill. "Each player would tell you they would prefer to be conference champions in November rather than have individual honors."

Franklin, a senior out of Waycross, Ga., was an all-conference pick in 2005 and enters the 2006 campaign having started in 28 straight games. The Blue Raiders' right tackle led all MT linemen last year with 764 snaps played while collecting a team and career-best 118 knockdowns.

Sabb, a senior from Augusta, Ga., was also an all-conference pick in 2005 after leading the Blue Raiders with 71 tackles and 13 tackles for lost yardage. A junior college transfer, Sabb started in 10 of 11 games and set the school record with five tackles for loss against North Texas.

Smith, who handles both punting and field goal kicking for Middle Tennessee, is a local product and former walk-on from nearby Franklin, Tenn. The senior was an all-conference place-kicker in 2004 and an all-league pick as a punter in 2005. Smith averaged a career-best 42.1 yards a kick last season while placing a personal-high 19 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

The Blue Raiders report to camp on August 3 to begin preparing for the season opener against conference foe Florida International on August 31. Kickoff is set for 6 PM at Floyd Stadium and the game will be televised by ESPN Regional.

Courtesy of MT Media Relations

STUDENT LIVING DONE RIGHT



NEW UPDATED AMENITIES FOR FALL 2006

NEW updated clubhouse with new billiards and foosball tables

NEW flatscreen televisions and video game systems

NEW tanning bed

NEW pool furniture

NEW outdoor sound system

NEW computers in business center

NEW upgraded high-speed internet



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