

Genuine
Italian
Cusine

July 19, 2006
Wednesday

Darkly:
One
Crazy
Trip

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Middle Tennessee State University

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SIDELINES

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mtsusidelines.com

Students get help with green thumb

Greenhouse manager offers advice for maintaining houseplants

By Dana Owens
Features Editor

One of the best ways to liven up a drab apartment or dorm room is with potted plants. Though many students find maintaining plants indoors or on a small patio difficult unless they have a green thumb, Larry Sizemore, the MTSU greenhouse manager, says it can be very easy to grow plants if you take the proper steps.

"Plants need basic requirements like light, humidity and they've got to have a good soil mix," Sizemore says.

In fact, water, soil and light should be considered the Holy Trinity for keeping your plants alive.

According to Sizemore, the key to watching your plant lies in the soil, which should hold water yet allow it to drain.

Sizemore says a good way to test the soil is the "dirty diaper test." Repulsive though it sounds, this involves sticking your finger about an inch deep into the soil to test the moisture. If the soil sticks to your finger when you pull it out, the plant has plenty of moisture.

But if your finger is dry, it's time to water your plant. Or, simple probes can be bought that will measure the moisture and Ph level of the soil.

When watering plants, be sure to saturate the soil until water drains out the bottom, but do not let the plant sit in standing water. Over-watering can cause your plant to have root rot.

About once a month, Sizemore suggests putting the plant in the shower and lightly washing the leaves with cold water. Flushing water through the soil will remove salt that builds up over time as well as clean the leaves of the plant.

Warren Anderson, professor of Agribusiness and Agriscience, says the most challenging aspect of growing a houseplant is making sure it gets enough light.

"Most of your houseplants can be grown in a typical dorm as long as they have enough light," Sizemore says. An important consideration is the amount of light your window receives throughout the year.

For example, a southern exposure window will receive more light in the summer than in the winter. To ensure that your plant is getting the right amount of sunlight, adjust its distance from the window throughout the year.

Sizemore says the best way to tell if a plant is not getting enough light is that it will look spindly and unhealthy.

See News, 4



Greenhouse Manager Larry Sizemore explains how students are able to grow and maintain their own container gardens. The MTSU greenhouse grows plants to be used on campus and at special events.

Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

Bo Bo is touchstone for international students



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

By Bryan Magdal
Staff Writer

MTSU students and faculty members have discovered a unique and reasonably priced dining experience at Bo Bo Chinese restaurant, located at 1312 NW Broad Street in Murfreesboro.

The establishment, residing in a small, unassuming building next to a gas station, has been a part of the Murfreesboro scene for more than 20 years. It occupies a unique place in the community as the only authentic Asian restaurant of its kind and prides itself on the fact it is not a buffet. More importantly, it has become a meeting place, a sort of "home away from home," for international students of MTSU.

The unusual sounding name of the restaurant, "Bo Bo," derives from a Chinese word meaning "wealth" or "good fortune."

"Chinese tradition is to give a business a good name to bring good luck," said Yao Hua Lu, restaurant manager.

Yao said this is in keeping with a Chinese custom to name an establishment in a way to invite the best possibilities for all associated, from the owners and workers to the customers.

Xiang Li, a business major from China who is studying at MTSU, has a special connection to the restaurant. It has provided him an internship opportunity as assistant manager, but the connection goes deeper than that.

"More and more foreign students are coming here, many from Asia, and this place helps them feel a little less lonely," Xiang said.



Adam Casto | Photography Editor

Bo Bo Chinese restaurant occupies a unique place in the Murfreesboro area as the only authentic Asian restaurant of its kind.

He said it surprised him to learn that, even in a small town like Murfreesboro, as much as 30 percent of the restaurant's clientele was drawn from the foreign population. Many of these are students from Asian countries, including a few from Pakistan.

He said the serving style and dietary customs they observe help the students to feel a little more at home. Additionally, the restaurant is planning to expand its role in the MTSU community by offering classes in the preparation of Chinese and other Asian cuisine, Xiang said.

The restaurant's chef, Dao Yue Bi, also known as David, has some 15 years of experience in the

preparation of all styles of Chinese dishes, including Hunan, Szechuan and Mandarin. At present, a new menu is being designed to include Thai cooking as well.

A feature of the Bo Bo restaurant, unlike any other Asian restaurant in the area, is that guests can customize their orders. Each item is prepared to order; even the restaurant's special sauces can be ordered separately for carry-out.

"A lot of people like to use these with their American food at home," Xiang said.

Bo Bo also offers a specially priced menu available only to MTSU students.

For five dollars, including tax,

students can choose from a variety of complete dinners. However, this menu is only available on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. It is carry-out only and cash-only, but it could be a refreshing and more healthy alternative to the normal fare otherwise available on and around the MTSU campus, Xiang said.

He said one of the main goals of the business is to make students feel at home and understand and learn more of the culture and history of China.

"Bo Bo Chinese restaurant is not only a kind of business, but a bridge between China and the people from all over the world," he said.

LOCAL FORECAST

Thursday



HI: 98°
LO: 75°
PRECIP: 20%

Friday



HI: 97°
LO: 74°
PRECIP: 30%

Saturday



HI: 84°
LO: 66°
PRECIP: 30%

CAMPUS

National Security

A new seminar exploring the relationship between the media and national security is being offered this fall to mass communication students.

FEATURES

Italian Grill

Carrabba's Italian Grill is genuine Italian food, wonderfully prepared, without any of the unnecessary bells and whistles normally expected from most chain restaurants.

SPORTS

Nashville Storm

Nathaniel Claybrooks couldn't stay retired. And once the former MTSU first-team 1-AA All-American line-backer put on his familiar #44 jersey, he played like he was tanned, rested, and ready.

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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.

FEATURES

Real Italian flare at Carrabba's

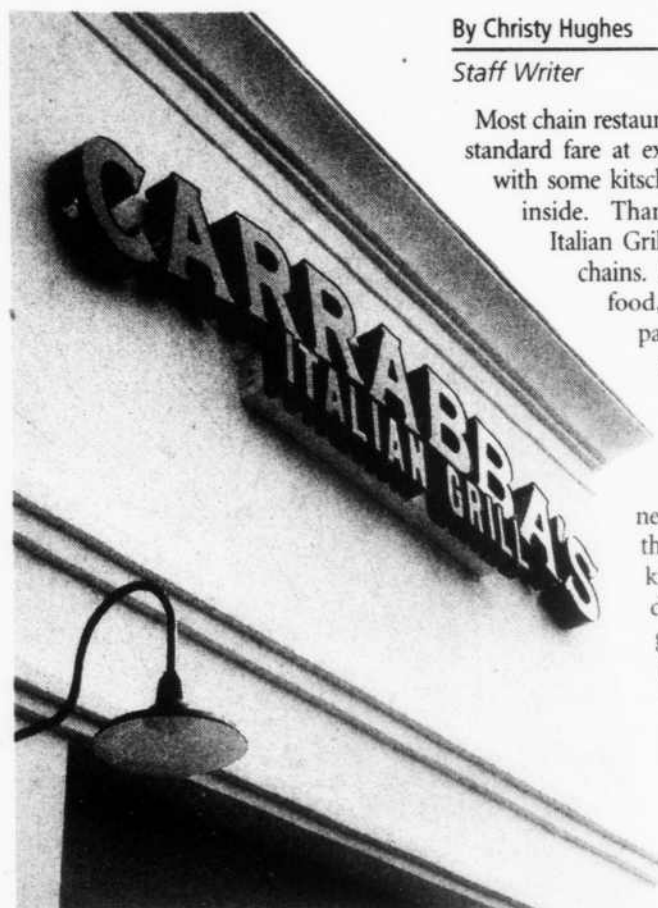


Photo by Sarah B. Gilliam | Editor

By Christy Hughes
Staff Writer

Most chain restaurants are predictable: standard fare at expected high prices, with some kitschy twist to lure you inside. Thankfully, Carrabba's Italian Grill isn't one of those chains. It's genuine Italian food, wonderfully prepared, without any of the unnecessary bells and whistles.

With cozy low lighting, the atmosphere at dinner time is perfect for that first date. The kitchen is open to the dining room, which gives you something to look at and talk about if the conversation comes to a lull. You can even learn Italian while visiting the john, in case you had the urge. Just head

my advice and make use of the call ahead seating, or you are going to be in for quite a wait.

The service is very good, and if you haven't been there before, the servers will go over the menu selections with you, highlighting the ones they like best. That way, you won't have to blunder over trying to pronounce the names of the Italian entrees, which is always a plus.

They have a decent wine selection, and if you are indecisive, like me, they will let you have a generous sample of the wines you would like to try—at least as long as they are sold by the glass.

I went with two other people and sampled from their plates. Everything I tried was excellent. The Antipasti Platter (\$9.49) consisted of fried calamari, cheese sticks and bruschetta -- rounds of garlic toast topped with a savory tomato relish. The calamari, which is one of Carrabba's signature dishes, was tender, with just enough batter. The bruschetta was perfect. The servings were plentiful as well.

There are so many entrees to choose from, it was hard to just choose one. I finally decided on the Chicken Bryan, while my two friends chose the Chicken Marsala and a pasta dish called

Mezzaluna. The Chicken Bryan (14.99) is a wood fired chicken breast topped with goat cheese and sun dried tomatoes, with a lemon basil sauce. The Chicken Marsala was a chicken breast topped with mushrooms, prociutto and a Marsala wine sauce.

Both entrees come with your choice of a salad or soup of the day and a side dish. Side dish choices include garlic mashed potatoes, a couple of different pastas and the vegetable of the day. The night that I went, the soup of the day was the delectable Italian Sausage and Lentils. The sausage was spicy and the lentils had a nice texture.

I cannot begin to tell you how good the Chicken Bryan was, but I'll try. The flavors blended perfectly. The smooth tang of the goat cheese with the earthy flavor of the sun-dried tomatoes and fresh basil blended well with the smokiness of the chicken. I swear I did a little dance in my chair with the first bite. Please, I beg you, try it!

For dessert we had the Sogno di Cioccolato or Chocolate Dream (\$5.49). A moist brownie brushed with Kahlua, layered with chocolate mousse, whipped cream and chocolate sauce. It was, in my

opinion, a chocolate lover's dream. It somehow managed to be rich and decadent yet light and airy at the same time. Save room for it!

We finished our meal with a glass of the house sangria (\$5.00), both white and red. Wine mixed with fruit and juice; what's not to like? It was refreshing and the perfect ending to a perfect meal.

Of all the new restaurants that are sprouting up in the newly developed Thompson Road area, this one definitely deserves your patronage. Go relax and have a good time, and at the end of the meal, I guarantee you will be agreeing with Carrabba's when they say, "Non c'e amore piu' sincero di quello del cibo," or "There is no love more sincere than the love of food."

Carrabba's Italian Grill
544 N. Thompson Ln. Suite E
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
(615) 890-6693

Hours of Operation

Sun: 3-5:30pm Mon-Thur: 4-10:00pm
Fri: 4-11:00 pm Sat: 3-11:00 pm

'Scanner Darkly:' director's vision for one crazy trip

By Wesley Murchison
Assistant News Editor

With this summer's collection of prepubescent comic book blockbusters, it's nice to know there is still a filmmaker willing to cater to an audience that has an emotional maturity level above 13. That's why this critic was giddy as a school girl on prom night when he heard about the adaptation of crazed sci-fi genius Philip K. Dick's "A Scanner Darkly."

What made the deal even sweeter was the fact that cult film-master Richard Linklater was going to be at the helm of the project. Linklater had already proven his worth with a cornucopia of oddities that include such delights as "Slacker," "The School of Rock," "SubUrbia" and "Waking Life." The last of which probably left many viewers feeling like the title of Linklater's ode to 1970s high school: "Dazed and Confused."

"A Scanner Darkly" is vulgar, profane and flies in the face of middle class American homogeneity. Just the way I and any of Dick and Linklater fans like it. But alas, and to my disappointment, Linklater failed to adapt the key narcotic that has become a staple of Dick's work -- concentrated paranoia.

Dick -- as many of his adoring fans know -- suffered from paranoid schizophrenia, which is probably why he was so good at making his readers feel the way he did.

Dick's other adapted work would include the 2002 blockbuster "Minority Report" that started famed couch-jumping scientist Tom Cruise and "The Imposter," which sucked. Both films had dizzying scenes of paranoia.

The failure of the film was the inadequate portrayal of the main character's affliction. You see, Bob Arctor (Keanu Reeves) has taken too much "substance D" -- a fictional, highly addictive hallucinogen that is one of a few technological advances that gives the story its science fiction-esque quality -- and has developed a particular medical condition referred to as "competition phenomenon." Basically, "substance D" causes the left and the right hemi-

spheres of the brain are competing for control.

This condition doesn't help the fact that Bob Arctor is being watched by Fred, a undercover narcotics officer-- and that Fred is actually Bob Arctor. This gives the film a 'what the heck is going on' feel.

Linklater must of racked his brain on how to deal with this complex relationship. He couldn't possibly employ Dick's use of interior monologue. It might have come off as the ultimate screenwriters' no-no -- the voiceover.

Instead, the audience was given were blank, dumb looks by Keanu Reeves, which has become typical of his limited acting repertoire. (Personally, I can't wait until Reeves receives an Oscar for his role as himself in "How the Did This Guy Ever Become An Actor?").

The major cause of the disappointment of this film was the success of "Waking Life." Besides being the cinematic predecessor to "A Scanner Darkly" (both films used rotoscoping which is a form of animation created by tracing live action film), "Waking Life" had an artistic connection with Scanner.

Linklater was able to impressively make the audience of "Waking Life" feel like they were in a lucid dream. A dream just like the one the main character was experiencing. But Linklater wasn't able to pull off the paranoia and cerebral feel of Dick's novel.

Yet even when all is said and done, the film comes into its own as a nugget of counterculture that gives interested parties yet another quotable film.

The most memorable was when Ernie Luckman, played by pilsner-pusher from the classic television series Cheers and marijuana advocate Woody Harrelson, says "Hey man, don't blame the drugs."

The film, with all its surprises and drug humor, reminds me of Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace. I kept expecting Ewan McGregor to turn to Liam Neeson with a rolled-up sleeve, tapping his vein and saying, "Maaannn, this 'force' stuff just doesn't work. For the love of Yoda, give me a hit ... just one hit."

The rotoscoping animation isn't as impressive this time around, feeling rushed at parts. At parts, the animation becomes so exaggerated that it makes the film look cartoonish, but later fades to look practically normal.

In comparison to heavier drug films like "Trainspotting" and "Requiem for a Dream," "A Scanner Darkly" is easy to watch and even funny at parts. But unlike other Dick and Linklater fans you might not want to see this movie so badly its like acid in your mouth.



Front page photo and photo (above) courtesy of Warner Bros. Entertainment © 2005 Keanu Reeves as Bob Arctor in director Richard Linklater's A Scanner Darkly, based on the Philip K. Dick novel. A Warner Independent Pictures release.

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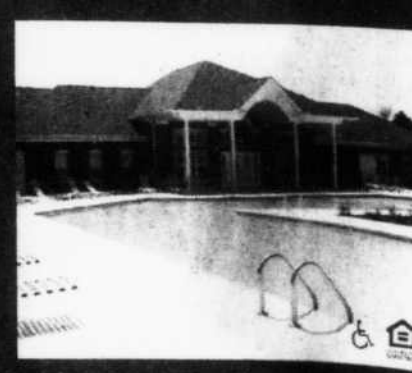


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SPORTS

Former Raider shines in Storm victory

By Bill Caldwell and Casey Brown

Contributing Writer and Sports Editor

Nathaniel Claybrooks couldn't stay retired. And once the former MTSU first-team 1-AA All-American linebacker put on his familiar #44 jersey, he played like he was tanned, rested, and ready.

Claybrooks led an impressive defensive effort with 2 1/2 tackles for losses and a sack of quarterback Darren Clarke as the Nashville Storm defeated the Asheville Grizzlies 43-6 in the NAFL regular season opener at McGavock High School in Nashville.

The former Blue Raider also batted down a Clarke pass attempt on fourth down to end a critical Asheville drive. On the other side of the ball, Storm quarterback and Tennessee State alumnus Phelipe Hall threw touchdown passes to Antonio Dilworth and Arena Football 2 veteran Gary Peete as Nashville improved to 3-1 overall and 1-0 in NAFL play.

The Storm rotated Johnathan "Bama" Carter, Monroe Simmons, Jemmel Roberts, and former Lebanon High School tailback Antwan Ross at running back, and all were effective. Roberts scored 2 touchdowns and Carter added another score in the fourth quarter as the Storm running attack garnered 138 yards on the ground.

Nashville out gained Asheville 352-218 in total offense, as the Storm defense had 11 tackles for losses for the 2nd straight game. Along with Claybrooks, defensive end Lonnie Harris had three tackles for loss to lead the Nashville defense.

The Storm scoring began with Hall's 35-yard touchdown pass to Dilworth on Nashville's second possession in the first quarter. Roberts' 1-yard run in the second

quarter gave the Storm a 14-0 lead going into halftime.

Asheville opened the second half by narrowing the Storm lead to 14-6 on Cortez Oliver's 62-yard touchdown run and appeared ready to make a competitive game of it. However, any hopes of a Grizzlies comeback were extinguished as the Storm responded quickly.

Hall's 30-yard touchdown pass to Peete capped a six-play, 65-yard drive to give the Storm a 21-6 lead. The fourth quarter saw Nashville pull away from their opponents on the strength of a three-yard Carter run and Roberts' second touchdown of the night, this one from 18 yards out.

The Storm moved Peete to quarterback late in the game, and the former Memphis Xplorer padded his stat line with a 36-yard touchdown strike to Marquis Douglas.

Nashville returns to action this coming on Saturday, July 15 as they take on the Memphis-based Tennessee Xtreme (1-1) at McGavock High School at 7 p.m. The Xtreme are a first-year NAFL franchise that will be taking the field for its first NAFL league game.

The Xtreme played two games in the preseason, defeating the Arkansas Saints 6-0 and losing to the Dallas Diesel 47-0. Storm fans may notice a familiar face in cornerback Rod Thompson, who played for the Storm from 2002-04, winning Minor League Football News All-American honors in 2004.

The gates open at 5:30 PM for Saturday's contest. Tickets are priced at \$8.00 for adult admission and \$4.00 for ages 5-14. Children under 5 are admitted free. For more information on the Nashville Storm, contact Bill Caldwell at 615-804-2117.

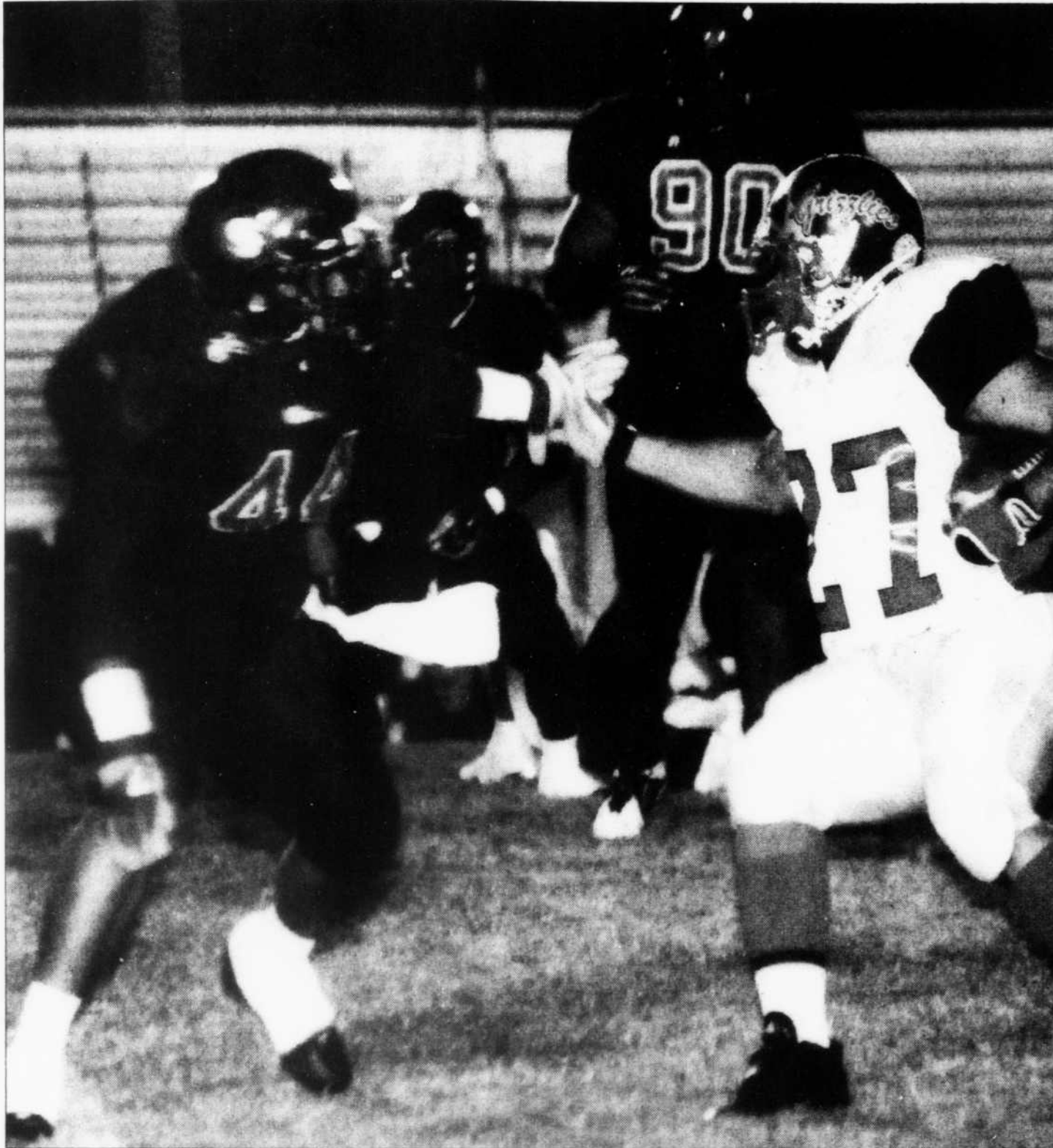


Photo courtesy of the Nashville Storm

Former Middle Tennessee All-American linebacker Nathaniel Claybrooks (left) pursues Asheville All-Star running back Cortez Oliver as Storm teammates run into the play. Claybrooks provided several key defensive plays in Nashville's 43-6 victory.



Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee



Compiled by: Casey Brown

Alumni Association planning weekend getaway to Nation's Capitol; Trip to culminate in Blue Raiders football game at Maryland

The Middle Tennessee Alumni Association is planning a weekend trip to the Nation's Capitol in September that will culminate in the Blue Raiders football game against Maryland at College Park. Reservations are now being accepted for the September 7-10 trip.

The weekend getaway includes round-trip air transportation from Nashville to Baltimore, three night's hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation, breakfast on Friday morning, lunch with congressman Bart Gordon at the library of Congress, a tour of both the White House and U.S. Capitol, and a Washington, D.C. Memorial tour. There will also be a reception for alumni in the Washington area, a tour of the Arlington National Cemetery, and a Blue Raider rally and send-off.

Tickets for the Middle Tennessee-Maryland football game are not included in the package. A full list of activities, pricing, and a trip agreement form may be found at mtalumni.com.

For more information, please contact Allison Payne in the Alumni Relations office at 615-904-8199.

Blue Raider fans can buy "Stock" in new turf

Fans will have the chance to truly put "Stock" in Middle Tennessee football as the Blue Raider Athletic Association has put together an opportunity for ownership of the new synthetic turf currently being put down in Floyd Stadium.

Sportex is installing a new state-of-the-art surface called PowerBlade, which is billed as the most durable on the market. The Blue Raiders are the first school in the country to have the PowerBlade surface put down in their stadium.

Fans can purchase shares of stock in the new turf for \$250 each from now to August 10. Each share will be numbered and issued on a first-come, first-serve basis and the BRAA encourages people to act quickly on this limited one-time offer.

Each stockholder will receive an invitation to attend a reception in August. The reception will include a chance for fans to be the first to walk on the new turf, receive a private unveiling of the new Nike uniforms, and obtain an authentic numbered stock certificate for display.

As an added bonus, each stockholder will also be issued a pregame sideline pass for the season opener on Thursday, Aug. 31 against Florida International.

"This stock offering is a way for all Blue Raider fans to invest

in our new field," said Alan Farley, Associate AD. "Each stockholder can take pride in knowing that they played a key part in upgrading our football stadium. The big treat is that each stockholder will not have to wait till gameday to see the new uniforms or the new field".

The BRAA encourages fans to take ownership in the new turf today by calling the BRAA office at 615-898-2210. Shares will not be sold after August 10.

Peck Announces Hendrichovsky as an Assistant Coach

Middle Tennessee Head Volleyball Coach Matt Peck announced, Thursday, the addition of Amy Hendrichovsky as an assistant to his staff.

"We are so excited to have Amy on board, she is a true player's coach," Peck said. "Wherever Amy has been she has been successful and I am happy to bring that kind of mentality to the team."

Hendrichovsky joins the Blue Raider coaching staff after spending five seasons as an assistant at Metro State, an NCAA Division II school in Denver, Colorado. She is no stranger to Peck and his coaching philosophy, as the Boca Raton, Florida native played for him at North Alabama. She was also a student assistant for Peck while at North Alabama, before graduating with a degree in secondary education with a specialization in mathematics.

She helped lead Metro State to four NCAA tournament bids (2002-2005) and two Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships in 2002 and 2003. As an assistant at Metro Hendrichovsky served as the recruiting coordinator and oversaw the strength and conditioning program.

"I felt I was ready to move up to Division I after being a Division II player and coach," Hendrichovsky said. "Matt and Jeff [Motlock] have been doing really well at Middle Tennessee and I wanted to come here and learn from them because eventually my goal is to become a head coach."

Peck's blog debuts at Double-A Zone

The NCAA blog site, Double-A Zone, debuted a blog by Middle Tennessee Head Volleyball Coach Matt Peck in its Coaches Corner section.

Peck, who is the first Blue Raider coach to blog for the Double-A Zone, recounts a year in the life of a Division I volleyball coach. His blog can be found at Double-AZone.com.

He joins Blue Raider softball standout as a blogger for the Double-A Zone. Middle Tennessee volleyball kicks off the season on August 25 against Radford at the Broyhill Inn Appalachian Classic in Boone, North Carolina.

Vander Lugt voted MVP and All-State; Awards mount for Washington pitcher

Middle Tennessee softball signee Lindsey Vander Lugt has been named MVP of Class 3A by The Seattle Times.

The 5-10 southpaw pitcher was also voted First Team All-State by The Seattle Times. Vander Lugt, who led Turnwater to a Class 3A State Championship in May, ended the season with a record of 24-1 with 239 strikeouts and 15 walks in 170 innings of work. The Olympia, Washington native surrendered only 10 earned runs all season and notched a total of 17 shutouts, including 11 out of her last 14 games. She closed out the year with a 0.41 ERA.

Vander Lugt will become just the second left-handed starting pitcher for the Blue Raiders in school history. She follows in the footsteps of former standout Jennifer Martinez who holds every career pitching record at Middle Tennessee.

Track inks six more for 2007 season

Head coach Dean Hayes announced the signing of six athletes to scholarship papers this week, including three distance runners from Uganda and twin jumpers from the Cayman Islands.

Sangau Zamzam, Godfrey Kabaalu and Andrew Pollando will all join the distance corps for the Blue Raider this season, while Tanesha Hill, a sprinter from Germantown, Md., and McKendree College will also join the squad. Hill was hurt during the indoor season last year and will have three indoor and four outdoor seasons of eligibility remaining. Carlos and Carl Morgan from the Cayman Islands will also be transferring to Middle Tennessee after attending Lindsey Wilson College in Kentucky.

The brothers have jumped 24-11 and 24-7 in the long jump and one recorded a mark of 206 feet in the javelin. The six join signees Brittany Cox from Glenduff High School in Nashville, Tenn., and Melyn Thompson from Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga, Tenn., for the upcoming school year.

Courtesy of MT Media Relations

National security prompts new seminar

By Tom Cheredar

Assistant News Editor

A new seminar exploring the relationship between the media and national security is being offered this fall to mass communication students.

The class of 20 students will have a better understanding of how the free press works with the government on issues of national security, according to mass communications professor Larry Burris.

"Not many young students understand what national security is about," said Burris, a former Air Force Lieutenant Colonel who has gained experience working with reporters and the media in the Pentagon, Bosnia, Somalia, and Guantanamo Bay.

Burris noted the recent New York Times story about international bank account watching and former CIA agent Valerie Plame's trial as grounds for instructing the seminar.

"I taught it once before and it worked well, and

given all the international tension it seems appropriate," said Burris.

The course will discuss the historical background of conflict between the public's right to know and the government's obligation to protect the nation.

In addition to lectures, students will be obligated to file a Freedom of Information Act request and a paper explaining a specific area of media and governmental relationship, such as the film industry's ties to the department of defense, or how a reporter is embedded into a war zone.

The class will spend time talking about the organization and coverage of the CIA, DoD, NSA and so on, "alphabet soup," according to Burris.

"But the class won't be about conspiracy theories like who shot JFK," he added.

Other subjects will include a better understanding of the Patriot Act, the Freedom of Information Act and how the media should operate in issues of national security. The class meets Mondays from 4:30 to 7:30 this fall.

CRIME BRIEFS

July 10 - 7:34 a.m.
East Main St.
Steven Creighton, 25,
Murfreesboro, Tenn., was
cited for a registration viola-
tion.

July 10 - 5:17 p.m.
Mass Comm South
Parking Lot
Jeremy Carl Holmes, 26,
Lebanon, Tenn., was arrested
for criminal trespassing and
resisting arrest.

July 11 - 5:24 p.m.
Bell St. Lot
Christina Marie Wise, 34,

Murfreesboro, Tenn., was
issued a citation for speeding
44 miles per hour in a 30
m.p.h. zone.

July 11 - 10:05 p.m.
Rutherford Blvd.
Marcus J. Ellis, 19,
Murfreesboro, Tenn., was
issued a citation under finan-
cial responsibility law.

July 12 - 2:03 p.m.
Subject came to the sta-
tion to fill out a report in re-
ference to harassing e-mail
she had received.

July 12 - 8:53 p.m.
Lyon Hall
Someone called wanting
to report their bike seat
stolen.

July 15 - 12:22 p.m.
Rutherford Parking Lot
Motor Vehicle Accident
involving a green Maxima
and a silver Buick.

July 15 - 6:31 p.m.
Sims Hall
An R.A. called and report-
ed that her husband had
poured water all over her
electronic equipment.

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News: Green Thumb

Continued from 1

Another important aspect to remember for your plants through the seasons is the amount of humidity they receive. When the heat is turned on during the summer, there is significantly less humidity in your room. Though there is more during the summer, air conditioning can also affect the humidity level. Generally, Sizemore says plants do best at 50-60 percent humidity.

Fertilizer can be helpful, but it's important not to overdo it. Plants require more fertilizer in the summer when they are growing rapidly, about once a week. During the winter, Sizemore suggests using half to a quarter of the amount you would normally use, and only once a month.

Aside from cheering up your space, plants can liven up your cooking as well.

If you have a balcony or patio that receives a good deal of sunlight, it is also possible to grow vegetables. According to Sizemore, just about any type of small vegetable will grow in a container if given proper care. Though Anderson suggests that it may be less expensive to simply buy produce from the grocery store.

If you're still brave enough to try growing produce, good varieties to try are small tomatoes, peppers, certain types of eggplant

and cucumber. Many varieties have been bred specifically for growing in containers. Vine plants such as beans and squash grow best in hanging containers if no trellis is available.

Though it may not be easy to grow vegetables, it is still possible to flavor your cooking with homegrown herbs. Herb gardens are sturdy and fairly simple to grow indoors. Sizemore recommends Basil, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme and Bay Laurel.

Fresh herbs add a great deal of flavor to cooking as opposed to dried herbs. Since the flavor is more intense, you may consider using a bit less.

If you plan on growing several kinds of plants in one container, be sure they all have similar light and watering requirements. No matter what you plant in, there must be holes in the bottom for the water to escape. For a single plant, the size of the container can greatly affect its health.

The size of the pot should match to size of the plant. If you put the plant in a container that is too large, it will not extract as much nutrients from the soil. But if you're growing a vegetable such as a tomato, which has a large root structure and will grow rapidly, the plant should start in a larger pot. Sizemore says plants should only be repotted as needed, but often, a plant

can live a very long life in the same container.

As far as the plants you choose, there are several considerations. Tropical plants will grow year-around, but not as well in the winter, while perennials must go through a cold period.

Summer annuals are best for full-sun balconies, but be sure to water them once a day or possibly move them into the shade during the hot afternoon. Flowering plants require more light and will often not flower as much or look as good as if they were growing outdoors.

Low-maintenance plants include cacti, rubber plants and Cast Iron plants, which Sizemore says could probably grow in a closet. If you can't manage to keep one of these alive, you probably should give up hopes of ever maintaining a garden, he jokes.

Finally, if your plant looks like it's suffering, it's likely that it's lacking one of its basic needs: water, light or good soil. In order to revive it, it's important to look at the history of the plant and how you have been caring for it. From there, you can work to correct it's problem.

Above all, Sizemore suggests experimenting with different plants to discover what they need and how they grow best.

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Continued from last column

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