

In-town contest boasts MT spirit

By Faith Franklin
Staff Writer

Marquee Madness has hit Murfreesboro and local businesses are showing their support for MTSU Athletics by promoting school spirit on their marquees.

"Marquee Madness is a way for the community to support our athletic program by using their marquee signage," said Brad Smith, assistant manager for marketing sales broadcasting.

The contest is another form of advertisement and a play on words of March Madness, according to Smith.



Beginning Feb. 26, the MTSU marketing staff sent out an invitation for all local business in the Murfreesboro area to participate and show their support for the MTSU Lady Raider's basketball team. The contest began at the start of March.

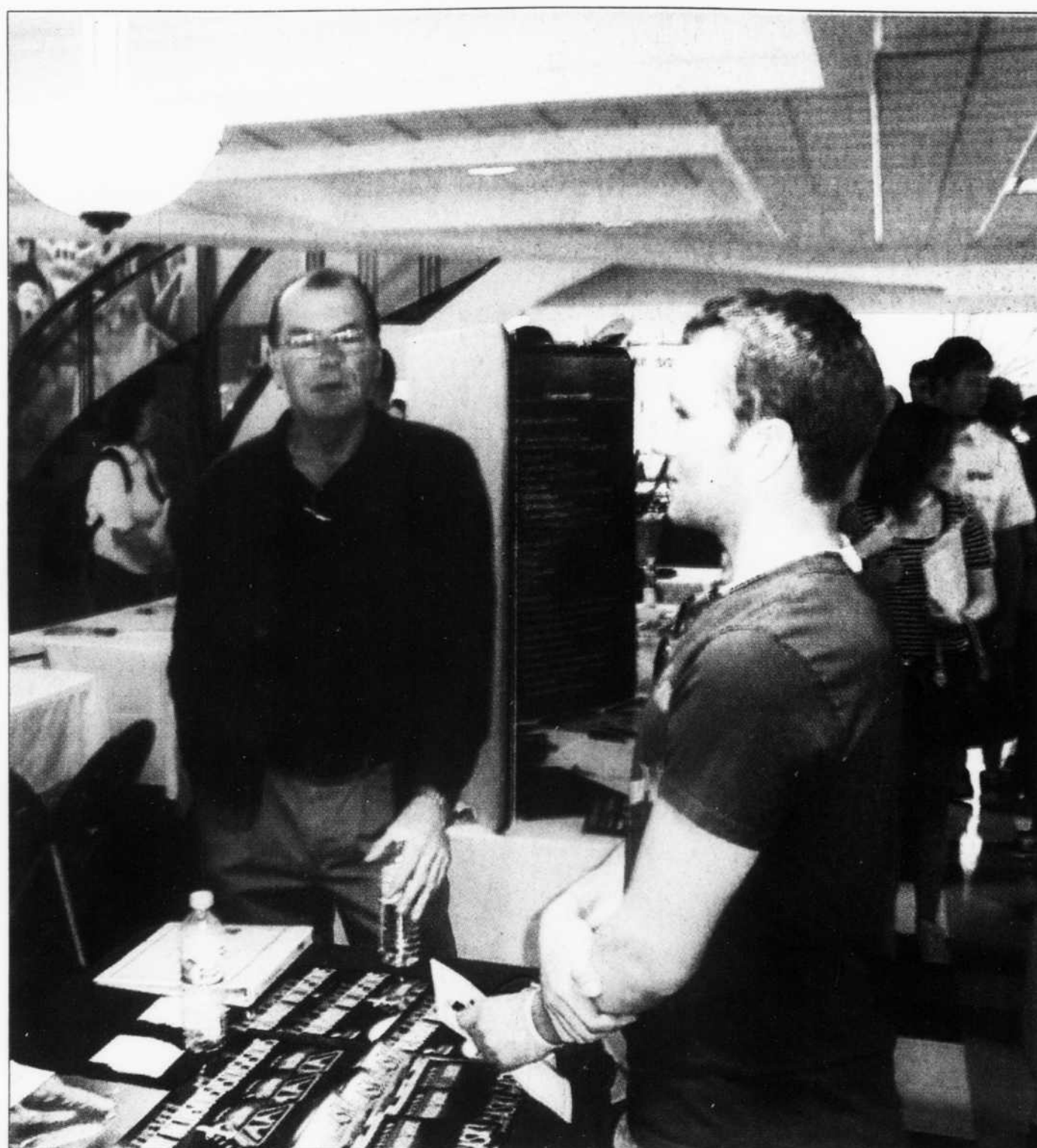
An active participant throughout the contest has been the Blue Raider Bookstore, with creative slogans such as "We nevr ment to cause you any pain blue reign and we only want to win the game blue reign."

Blue Raider Bookstore decided to participate in the contest because "it sounded like fun and [is] a great way to support the team," said Jessica Reed, BRB general merchandise manager.

Business have been asked to fax their slogan to the MTSU marketing staff each week, and the staff chooses a winner. Afterward, a picture of the winning marquee is taken and placed on the Blue Raiders Web site, along with the business' contact information.

Other businesses have shown their support by placing slogans

See Marquee, 2



Tim Tipton, freshman aerospace major (right), speaks with Ron Pierce of Serco (left). Serco is a non-government company that is a provider of air traffic services.

Aerospace hosts first career fair

Fair for the MTSU aerospace department provides pilots with opprotunities, on-spot interviews with major airline companies

By Andy Harper

Campus News Editor

The Future Airport Executives presented their first Aerospace Career Fair Wednesday in the Business and Aerospace Building.

The fair featured 15 companies, consulting firms and fix-based operators including American Eagle, Pinnacle and Southwest Airlines. MTSU Career Services also attended the fair.

"We are very pleased with the turn out for students and companies, especially for the first fair," said Daniel Prather, faculty advisor for the FAE and professor of airline management.

Organization for the fair started in November by contacting companies. Due to the success of Wednesday's fair, the FAE is planning to have another next spring.

"It was great, we had companies interviewing students for jobs and hiring right here," said Pam Barber, aerospace graduate student and president of coordination for the fair. "To hire grads out of the aerospace program is great for the department and the school."

In addition to the contacts made by students, the fair also provided opportunities to the aerospace department.

"We are also setting up bridge programs between the university and some of the companies," Barber said.

Plans for next year's career fair, include increasing the number of participating businesses and student involvement, Prather said.

"There were a lot more companies and people than I had originally thought," said Tony Weaver, senior aerospace major.

Weaver, the captain for the MTSU flight team, attended the fair to look for a job after his graduation.

"This was a great opportunity," Weaver said. "I talked to one company and they gave me details and a time frame for their application process. Also, I was able to know companies I had never heard of."

According to Barber, the date for next year's fair has not been announced.

Tennessee senator charged with DUI

February accident in Rutherford County

By Michelle McCrary
Assistant News Editor

State senator Jerry Cooper, D-Morrison, was charged Monday with driving under the influence and speeding in Rutherford County.

His arrest warrant stated that Cooper's blood alcohol level was 0.18. The legal limit for Tennessee is 0.08.



Cooper

Cooper was involved in a single-vehicle accident Feb. 7 on Interstate 24 after attending several legislative receptions in Nashville where alcohol was served. According to the warrant Cooper lost control while traveling eastbound on Interstate 24, where his vehicle went into the median and overturned several times before entering the west-bound lanes of traffic.

Witnesses said Cooper's SUV flipped four or five times.

Cooper was taken to Vanderbilt University Medical Center where, according to his doctor, he suffered a concussion, rib fractures, bruises and "an extensive degloving injury of the left forearm and hand." Medical references describe a degloving injury as skin peeled back to reveal muscle, tissue and bone.

Cooper's doctor said that he will need months to heal and will require around-the-clock narcotics for pain relief.

Return telephone messages seeking comment, but he said in a statement that he has little memory of the crash.

"I remember something about a big truck, and the next thing I know, I'm waking up at Vanderbilt with my wife and a doctor standing next to me."

See DUI, 2

Students explore over spring break

Global studies students spend spring break visiting New Mexico for class

By Casey Brown

Contributing Writer

If you ask Doug Heffington, sometimes the best classroom is not even a classroom.

Heffington, professor of geography and director of the relatively new global studies program, recently returned from New Mexico with a group of students who spent spring break exploring another culture.

The group traveled to several different locales of cultural and historical significance, receiving class credit in an unconventional way. Heffington feels that the trip offered a unique opportunity for exposure to an area that many inhabitants of the Southeast have never seen.

"For global studies students it provided an opportunity to experience cross-culturalism with the different cultures of North Central New Mexico - the

Native Americans at places like Jemez Pueblo and the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe, the Hispanics in places like Truchas and Santa Fe and the Anglos scattered throughout," Heffington said.

After a 21-hour van ride, the group arrived in Albuquerque, which would serve as the base for the week's activities. Heffington and his students spent the first full day exploring Santa Fe, the state's capital and hub of cultural activity. Students then witnessed the sunset at 11,000 feet on top of Sandia Crest.

The trip was full of memorable moments for the group, but Heffington does not find it difficult to recall some of the best.

"The highlights were visits to Chaco Canyon [National Historic Park] and Bandelier [National Monument], and to

Jemez Pueblo," Heffington said. "The geography students could see the cultural continuity on the landscape, and the global studies kids could see the places of the ancestors of living Native American cultures," Heffington said. "It was a cultural continuum."

To complete the experience, the group spent the final night of the trip in Truchas, a small mountainside village with a unique culture and a striking view.

While the trip may have been a once-in-a-lifetime experience for his students, traveling is nothing new to Heffington, who will be taking another group to Costa Rica to study abroad in the summer.

Heffington will teach two courses for interested students in a country with which he

See Global, 3



Over spring break, a group of global studies students travelled to North Central New Mexico, studying local culture and history. Above, the students explore a cave in one of the many New Mexican stops.

University celebrates international students

Office of International Programs plans their annual cultural week with food, entertainment

By Andy Harper

Campus News Editor

The Office of International Programs is preparing for their annual International Culture Week, which will feature food and entertainment from the various cultures represented by MTSU exchange students.

This year will be the 21st for the International Program's Culture Week, said Michelle Burton, secretary for the International Program Office.

"We are have a full week of great activities for all of our students, leading up to the banquet on Saturday," Burton said.

Events include movie night, bowling, an open house and a cookout. While all activities offered by the office are for their exchange students, the banquet is open to MTSU students and the community.

"The banquet is always well attended and is one

of the best parts of the week," Burton said.

This year, the banquet will feature both international cuisine and entertainment, including Irish fiddle band Def Leprechaun, harp-player Svetlana Yatskaya and Japanese drummer Junko Tanaka.

"Also, Tango Nashville and Socrates Garcia, an MTSU who plays guitar, will also be performing on Saturday," Burton said. "The entertainment and the food are really the best parts of the week."

In addition to food and entertainment, exhibits of different countries will also be on display. Guests will be able to browse and socialize with the various foreign exchange students.

"There are about 59 countries represented at MTSU," Burton said. "A lot of them are well represented, India being the largest, with China, Japan and Korea all following a close second."

Tickets for the banquet are now available at the Office of International Programs, Keathley University Center Room 124. ♦



Photo contributed by Ken Robinson

MTSU faculty, staff and students enjoy the International Banquet in April of 2004. This year, the banquet will take place March 31, tickets are \$16 dollars for community members and \$10 for MTSU students.

International Culture Week:

When: March 26 – 29 and banquet March 31

Cost: Banquet: \$16 adults and \$10 MTSU student

Contact: International Programs and Services, KUC 124 or 898-2238

Marquee: Showing support

Continued from 1

on their marquee in celebration of MTSU's Lady Raiders appearance in the 2007 NCAA Tournament.

The Storage House Self Storage marquee reads, "The reign of terror continues. 'March' on Lady Raiders!"

"We wanted to support the efforts of the university," said Sherry Blocker, manger for the Storage House Self Storage. "We always change what is on the marquee to keep up with current

events and the efforts [of the] Lady Raiders."

An office effort at Advantage Mini Storage resulted in the marquee slogan "Go MTSU basketball marching on to March Madness," in which the owners are MTSU alumni and wanted to show community support.

The businesses all plan to show their support for next year's Marquee Madness Contest.

This year's contest will run through the end of March Madness. ♦

DUI: Cooper faces jail time

Continued from 1

did not say how fast Cooper was driving when he wrecked.

A hearing is set for May 11 at 8 a.m.

If convicted of DUI, Cooper could face 11 months and 29 days in jail. The minimum penalty is 48 hours in custody, with 24 hours on a litter collection assignment, a \$350 dollar fine and one-year driver's license suspension.

Cooper is currently facing trial on federal fraud charges. He is

accused of using a fraudulent appraisal and political influence to help an Alabama businessman borrow \$1.7 million for the 1999 purchase of Cooper's lumber mill in Warren County.

However, his injuries prompted a Chattanooga judge to delay his land fraud trial three months to June 4.

Some information taken from Associated Press reports. ♦



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Via PipelineMT

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CRIME BRIEFS

March 13 – 11:49 p.m.
James E. Walker Library
Theft under \$500
A backpack was stolen from the library.

March 14 – 1:05 a.m.
Gracy Hall
Assault
A father called advising his daughter had been assaulted by her boyfriend. The assault occurred in Scarlett Commons 721 and then escalated into the parking lot.

March 14 – 1:24 a.m.
Jim Cummings Hall
Vagrancy
Timothy Flanigan of Lyles was arrested for criminal trespassing and active warrants.

March 14 – 1:22 p.m.
Fairview Building
Theft under \$500
There was a theft of property from the building.

March 14 – 2:30 p.m.
Murphy Center
Assistance
There was a medical emergency at the Domino's Pizza trailer.

March 14 – 3:29 p.m.
Corlew Hall
Drug Abuse
Subject called and requested an officer in reference to possession of drugs. Subject attempted to make contact with area coordinator and left a message. The resident director was enroute instead. Ernest Zealy of Antioch was issued a state citation for simple possession of marijuana and was also issued a dean's citation.

March 14 – 7:54 p.m.
Keathley University Center
Theft under \$500
A wallet was reported lost.

March 14 – 9:15 p.m.
Jones Hall Lot
Miscellaneous
Subject called to advise a wind-

shield was broken on campus.
March 14 – 11:15 p.m.
Scarlett Commons Apt. 1
Assault
Subjects called and advised they were assaulted at Scarlett Commons.

March 15 – 1:58 a.m.
MTSU Blvd.
Traffic
Daniel Speicher of Hixson and Robert Jackson of Kimball were issued state citations for failure to obey traffic control devices.

March 15 – 4:17 a.m.
Rutherford Blvd.
Traffic
Dillon Atkisson of Murfreesboro was arrested for driving on a suspended driver's license, third offense.

March 15 – 9:19 a.m.
Scarlett Commons Apt. 9
Assistance
Subject called and advised that they had received a call from

Scarlett Commons advising that someone may have caffeine poisoning.

March 15 – 5:18 p.m.
Jones Field Lot
Theft under \$500
Officer was flagged down in reference to two men charging people to park in a teacher's lot.

March 15 – 11:01 p.m.
Baird Lane
Drunkenness
A white male in a blue shirt and baseball cap was drunk in public and was afraid for his safety.

March 16 – 7:46 a.m.
Murphy Center
Assault
A subject called and requested to speak to an officer in reference to an employment related confrontation.

March 17 – 1:21 a.m.
Jim Cummings Hall
Drug Abuse
Sean McKeighen of Murfreesboro was issued a state citation for simple possession of marijuana.

March 17 – 3:53 a.m.
Off Campus
Warrant
Michael Minnis of Murfreesboro was arrested on an outstanding warrant for violation of probation. Amy Bush of Murfreesboro was issued a state citation for driving on a suspended license.

March 17 – 8:52 p.m.
MTSU Campus
Assault
A report from a unit of a possible assault in progress in one of the parking lots on Crestland Avenue. Two subjects were kicking a third subject who was on the ground.

March 18 – 1:52 a.m.
Off Campus
Traffic
William Holmes Jr. of Murfreesboro had a registration violation for which he is financially responsible.

March 19 – 2:00 a.m.
Pi Kappa Alpha house
Alarm fire
A unit advised that there was a tree with toilet paper in it that had been set on fire. Terry Logan

was notified. A unit used the fire extinguisher to put out some of the fire. There was no damage to anything in the surrounding area. The fire department checked out the scene.

March 19 – 2:37 p.m.
Smith Hall
Burglary
Subject called and requested an officer in reference to some items that were stolen from his room.

March 19 – 7:11 p.m.
Scarlett Commons Apt. 7
Harassment
There was a harassment report.

March 19 – 7:13 p.m.
Keathley University Center
Theft
A book was stolen from the Keathley University Center.

March 20 – 1:39 a.m.
Old Main Ct.
Alcohol
Tyler C. Dunn of Murfreesboro was charged with underage possession of alcohol.

Career fair gives women more options in clubs

By Josh Daughtery

Staff Writer

Tuesday's organization fair gave women the opportunity to see different clubs, groups and programs available to them on campus.

The Women Make a Difference Fair, sponsored by the president's commission on the status of women showcased several organizations on campus, which encourage female members.

The fair was held for women already involved to see what other programs are doing, said Carol Ann Bailey, director of the Adult Services Center. The fair also gave

women who are not involved in an organization a chance to see what is available to them at MTSU.

"There are probably 100 organizations that have a large number of women or are exclusively for women," Bailey said.

Some of the organizations at the fair were the ROTC, Evening Extended School program, Women in Science and Concrete Management.

The ROTC was there to inform women about the program and answer any questions, which they had regarding the ROTC, said 2nd Lt. Jonathan Hawk, a 2006 Aerospace graduate and ROTC recruiter.

He said they wanted to show women the types of jobs available in the military for

females, "which is just about everything."

Hawk said there are five graduating women becoming lieutenants this semester.

"It varies, but the female population is going up in the military," he said.

Another program featured at the fair was the Evening Extended School program.

EES provides childcare for students and faculty who are taking or teaching night classes, said Kim Floyd-Tune, executive aid for EES.

"It allows a lot of single parents or both parents who are going back to school afternoon and evening childcare," Floyd-Tune said.

Some of the science groups represented at the fair were Girls Raised in Tennessee Science or GRITS, and Women in Science and Engineering.

GRITS is an organization designed to encourage girls to stay in the math and science fields, said Karen Claud, assistant director for GRITS. The group also makes presentations for science, technology, engineering and math [or STEM] careers and education.

Women in Science and Engineering are an organization for women with interests in those subjects.

The organization does activities, volunteer work and invites people in the engineering and science field to speak to them,

said Alexis Schaible, sophomore Chemistry major.

"You don't have to be an engineering or science major to come. You can just come to the meetings," Schaible said. "A big part of the group is to get women interested in science and engineering."

The Women Make a Difference Fair could become an annual event if there is a good response in the evaluations, Bailey said. An evaluation will be sent via e-mail to the approximately 70 students who participated.

"Everyone thought it was interesting and learned something," She said. "And that's what we wanted." ♦

Gore appears before Congress to promote environment

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Al Gore made an emotional return to Congress Wednesday to plead with lawmakers to fight global warming with moral courage while revealing nothing about whether he'll join the 2008 presidential race.

The former vice president is a Democratic favorite for the presidential nomination even though he says he's not running. Fresh off a triumphant Hollywood appearance in which his climate-change documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," won two Oscars, Gore drew overflow crowds as he testified before House and Senate panels about a "true planetary emergency."

He said the issue should not be partisan or political, but Gore faced skeptical Republicans who questioned his personal commitment to

reducing energy usage and the science behind his film.

"You're not just off a little, you're totally wrong," said Texas Rep. Joe Barton, the leading Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, as he challenged Gore's conclusion that carbon dioxide emissions cause rising global temperatures. Barton and Gore's exchange grew testy at one point — Barton demanding that Gore get to the point and Gore responding that he would like time to answer without being interrupted.

"Global warming science is uneven and evolving," Barton said. Gore insisted that the link is beyond dispute and is the source of broad agreement in the scientific community.

"The planet has a fever," Gore said. "If your baby has a fever, you

go to the doctor. If the doctor says you need to intervene here, you don't say, 'Well, I read a science fiction novel that told me it's not a problem.' If the crib's on fire, you don't speculate that the baby is flame retardant. You take action."

Gore's congressional testimony marked the first time he had been to Capitol Hill since January 2001, when he was the defeated Democratic presidential nominee still presiding over the Senate in his role as vice president. It comes 20 years after Gore, then a congressman from Tennessee, held the first hearings in Congress on global warming.

It also brought him face-to-face with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who could have her front-runner status threatened if Gore decided to challenge her for the party nomination.

But there was no political firestorm between them at the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing.

Clinton said she found some of Gore's ideas "extremely intriguing" and asked for more details on proposals such as a carbon-based tax, a cap-and-trade system and a carbon neutral-trade association.

In a day of testimony, Gore first appeared before a joint hearing by two House committees, with his wife, Tipper, sitting behind him and a stack of boxes beside him containing hundreds of thousands of messages asking Congress to act on global warming. Later, he testified before the Senate panel where partisan bickering grew even louder.

Gore said he hopes whoever is elected president in 2008 "can use his or her political chips" to lead the

world toward a new global climate treaty to replace the 1997 Kyoto protocol that requires 35 industrial nations to cut greenhouse gases. The Bush administration argues Kyoto would hurt the U.S. economy and objects that high-polluting developing nations like China and India are not required to reduce emissions.

"I fully understand that Kyoto, as a brand if you will, has been demonized," Gore said.

Gore was warmly welcomed back by some of his critics, such as Rep. Ralph Hall, R-Texas, who remembered bantering with Gore's father and savoring with Gore about an evening boat ride they took together. "You're dear to us, but I just don't agree with you on this," Hall said.

Gore advised lawmakers to cut

carbon dioxide and other warming gases 90 percent by 2050 to avoid a crisis. Doing that, he said, will require a ban on any new coal-burning power plants—a major source of industrial carbon dioxide—that lack state-of-the-art controls to capture the gases.

He said he foresees a revolution in small-scale electricity producers for replacing coal, likening the development to what the Internet has done for the exchange of information.

"There is a sense of hope in this country that this United States Congress will rise to the solution and present meaningful actions to this crisis," Gore said. "Our world faces a true planetary emergency. I know the phrase sounds shrill, and I know it's a challenge to the moral imagination." ♦



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Applications will be due to KUC 208 by 4:30 p.m. on March 27. Applicants will be able to sign up for an interview time upon submitting an application. For questions, please call 898-2870.

Global: Students adventure

Continued from 1

seems to have a special affinity.

"The student will be exposed to the rich natural and cultural diversity of the jewel of Middle America," Heffington said.

An anthropology class on cultural ecology and a geography class on the developing world will

be offered, and Costa Rica is used as a case study for both. It is important to note, however, that the classes will be based primarily in the field.

"We don't just see Costa Rica," Heffington said, "we 'do' Costa Rica by using the country as our classroom." ♦



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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Binge drinking creates chaos, stupid behavior

Most high schoolers don't have the opportunity to drink regularly, so when students enter their freshman year of college, they go buck wild. As stated in the MTSU police Web site, almost half the crimes committed on campus in 2005 were by freshmen.

We all know that in Tennessee and in most states the legal drinking age is 21, but some freshmen still find themselves at a party, staring dumbly at a police officer as he makes them pour out the contents of their cups and fines them for underage consumption.

Underage drinking is taboo, but many sneak around to do it. What's so great about drinking? Maybe students feel the need to be "bad" after being told all their childhood that alcohol is evil. It's like your parents telling you that you were never supposed to look in their closet. You don't know what's in there, but you feel compelled by dirty curiosity to peek in when your parents aren't home.

Or maybe people need to excessively drown out the monotony of their pathetic lives. Even better, maybe people just enjoy wasting valuable time, youth and vigor.

But one terrifying trend among college students is binge drinking. There are even games that promote bingeing, like "Power Hour," in which a person celebrates their twenty-first birthday by drinking 21 shots of alcohol in an hour. This kills. There has been legislation pushed in some states, like Minnesota, to try to make it illegal to drink until 8 a.m. on one's twenty-first birthday.

Even though alcohol can be dangerous, the legal drinking age can infuriate citizens. People can be drafted, vote and get married at the age of 18. They can make life-altering decisions straight out of high school, but a mainly victimless hobby such as drinking requires three more years of life experience. By the time alcohol becomes readily available, all those years of anticipation explode into drunken misbehavior and seemingly inexplicable rage. Bottoms up.

Letter to the Editor

Aramark employee resigns due to bad policies

To the Editor:

After reading the article about Aramark, "Aramark refutes claims of sub-par food quality," on March 7, I thought you would like to know what happen to me.

To whom it may concern; After seeking trusted advice and counsel, I feel I must inform you of my situation surrounding my wrongful termination of employment from the dining hall on the campus of MTSU. I strongly urge a proper investigation in order to reverse this decision. On Feb. 14, I was called in by the Keathley University Center Dining Hall manager Robin Day, because she wanted to check food coupons received by all cashiers. After counting, Robin wanted to know why my register's coupons did not add up. I had 3 coupons at the end of my shift, and my register recorded 8 coupons. My response to Robin is that I allowed two students through because two had a legitimate complaint about the food received the day prior, and the other because this student didn't have all the money to cover the purchase. The other ones, I don't know why. I used the coupon key to record these purchases and followed what is a common practice among employees and management that we refer to as "coupon-ing them out."

After explaining both situations, Robin said that she would have to go get the director of Aramark, Russell Doyle, involved. Without hesitation, I said ok. I didn't, and still don't, feel as if I violated any rule or procedure not practiced before by others, to include my leaders. After explaining the same circumstances to Doyle, he followed by indicating that he now questioned the inventory. In response, I said Robin told me to take these simple matters in my own hands and not bother her with trivial situations. However, Robin denies this. Doyle continued to look back several weeks and wanted to know why I had used the coupon key on a given day and my response was you tell me why. Doyle has forgotten this situation, but on that day he informed us that the student government had issued coupons during a blood drive. However, Doyle claims he didn't remember this situation. Doyle looked back even further and asked me why I had used the coupon key and I told him again, I don't know why. I worked in the largest dining facility on campus with the capacity of serving 500 students, and recalling information about a few individual coupons that far back is simply impossible to remember.

However, I do think it is important to mention that at the beginning of the school year, Doyle made a blanket statement to all cashiers saying that there would be a few students whose ID cards would probably fail, and to let them through using the coupon key, but to tell the student to be sure to check with the ID card office to correct their situation. Doyle also denies these instructions.

When hired six years ago, the director at that time told me that at Aramark, a student never goes away unhappy or goes away hungry. Not once in six years have I ever received an unfavorable evaluation. Not once in six years have my register history or the training of other cashiers ever been questioned. My hard work and dedication created an environment where I was respected enough to receive a promotion as Cashier Supervisor. Simply put - I do not lie, cheat or steal.

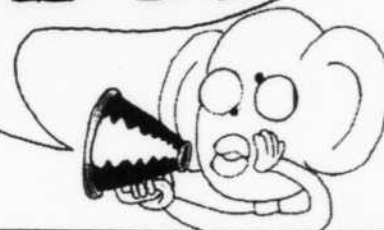
However, there are strong rumors bouncing all around the workplace that Doyle is under pressure, convincing me, and others I know, to believe that I was somehow made the scapegoat. The office manager is responsible for deposits and register history. But this person was never asked by management for their input on this matter. It appears strange that the person directly in receipt of all register information never questioned my register practices. When I signed my termination paper I made a comment that remains true today - I didn't do anything wrong.

It is, therefore, with conviction, that I strongly urge and respectfully request that a legitimate investigation occur. I remain convinced that a proper investigation will reveal that I used and carried out the training I received and practices mimicked by management as I took care of students - our customers.

Linda Cox
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

VAGINA!

Hey, I have to generate
Hate mail somehow.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

Dress code limits, solves nothing

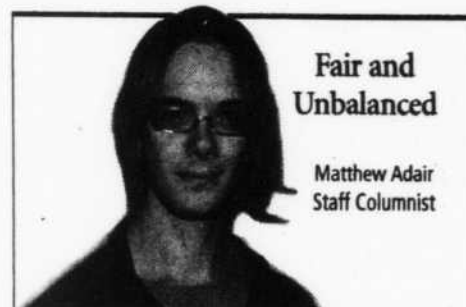
Winnie the Pooh has done a fair amount of damage in his long lifetime, mostly to the young boy he was created for, but I don't recall the famous stuffed animal inspiring children to have "attitude problems" at school.

Nonetheless, administrators at Redwood Middle School in Napa Valley, Calif. came to this conclusion around a year ago when they suspended 14-year-old Toni Kay Scott for breaking her school's dress code when she wore socks with pictures of Tigger, from the previously mentioned books and movies, on them, as well as a denim skirt and brown and pink shirt. According to the KESQ television network in Palm Springs, Calif., five other students followed suit with Scott in protest of the school's dress code.

Scott's outfit doesn't seem very too out-there, until one takes a look at the dress code in question. Redwood students are limited to wearing solid colors, including blue, white, green, yellow, khaki, gray, brown and black. Only cotton twill, corduroy and chino are permissible as fabrics - no denim allowed inside the schoolhouse.

Which means that the teenager wasn't going all that far out of bounds - the bouncing, orange cartoon character on her long socks probably got the most attention. Scott herself even told the press that she didn't want to go to extremes, or suggest that students should wear revealing or otherwise inappropriate clothing. Her behavior hardly seems to call for being sent to a program called "Students With Attitude Problems", which is the argument of the American Civil Liberties Union.

I can't help but agree. At the center of the students', parents' and ACLU's argument is that the middle school's suspension of Scott is in violation of section 48950 of the California Education Code, which states that the students' first amendment rights don't go away when they enter the classroom. Section 35183, which gives schools the right to establish a dress code, says that any dress code must meet the approval of the school's principal, staff and the stu-



Fair and
Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

dents' parents. Clearly, it failed on the third count.

No one has been able to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that requiring a dress code, or a school uniform, does anything to reduce or eliminate bullying, peer-pressure or assault between students. There may be a benefit, but with little to no hard research on the topic, all there is to go on are anecdotal stories from schools, which often time put in place large-scale changes in policy when they implement uniforms or a dress code, making it difficult to say what change had what effect.

It is also worth noting that children, teenagers in particular, are more clever than adults sometimes give them credit for. This is especially true when it comes to any sort of social behavior, from gang symbols to the age-old story of the rich kicking around the poor. Take away differences in clothing, and students will find something else to divide themselves by, even things as trivial as notebooks or backpacks.

Most importantly of all, however, is that uniforms are an unrealistic way of dealing with the symptoms of very real social problems. If we are concerned about students harassing one another on the basis of how their clothing reflects their family's income, putting students in a uniform does nothing to address the problem that a number of people in this country work in low-paying jobs in service and retail positions where meaningful advancement is rare without an education that these people can't afford. If we are concerned with gangs and their presence in our cities and schools, prohibiting

students from wearing clothing associated with those gangs does nothing to address the needs and desires that drive young people to join gangs. If we are interested in preventing violence in school, banning baggy pants and trenchcoats fails to uncover why some students feel the need to fire a spray of bullets into their classmates at lunchtime.

Scott and her fellow students may or may not have thought about all of these issues. They were aware, however, that as U.S. citizens and students in a school within the state of California, they have the legally guaranteed right to individual expression, both in school and out. The ACLU has made the case to Redwood Middle School that the responsibility of balancing the desire to promote school unity and protect the students' constitutional rights falls with them.

We in college know that life has no uniform and no dress code. We are sometimes asked by our employers to dress to a certain standard, but outside of that, we are forced to contend with our differences, whatever they may be. If we wish for our younger siblings, as well as future generations of children, to develop the maturity to see beyond rich and poor, beyond cliques and gangs, beyond social labels of all kinds to understand the person wearing those labels, then we cannot rely on a dress code to solve our problems. As Scott and her friends have managed to, we must encourage children to reason with their own minds what is best for both themselves and those around them.

Redwood Middle School should be open to working with their students, especially when students' complaints are shared with their parents. If students have a problem with a policy, they shouldn't be punished for calling a rule into question. After all, we all know that dissent is what teenagers do best.

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

Journalism killed to make room for profit

The King is dead - or, in this case, journalism is the one that is six feet under. Journalism was originally the way that the masses received their education. It was the beautiful, shining beacon of truth in a dark and treacherous world. The news was the only way for the uninformed to receive the totally unbiased truth from people who had no other agenda than to keep the people enlightened.

This is no longer the case. For starters, newspapers are a dying breed. All information can be seen on the internet. The information superhighway, though expedient and cheap, can also be tampered with and rewritten by anyone with malicious enough intent and the "Dummy's Guide to Computer Hacking."

Secondly, the newspapers and programs still in existence all have agenda. The agenda is no longer to provide information, but to have interesting enough content to sell copies.

Take for instance the several



A Rough Trick
Named Jim

Christin Pepple
Staff Columnist

cases in which a Pulitzer Prize has been awarded to journalists who have entirely made up their stories. This has happened on numerous occasions and to what purpose were these false stories written?

They were written in hopes of selling newspapers by promoting content which the average person might find compelling. Truth is no longer enough to get people to want to read the news.

Thirdly, how many times has CNN or Fox news accused of being biased towards one political party or the other? Journalists with agendas have taken control of the media. Media is no longer a way to come by the truth; it is a means

to come to understand the truth in a way the media wishes to convey it. Every form of media has an angle.

Their angles and agendas have corrupted truth and information to such a massive degree that the same story can be told in two different ways-again I defer to CNN and Fox news.

The news media is an arena of cheap magic tricks used to mislead millions of people from seeing the uncut and unedited news. Take for instance the fact that any broadcaster that can be seen on television has an attractive appearance or a paternal image. They all have pleasing voices that calm and soothe while horrible news and shocking information come out of surgically enhanced smiles.

All media is a circus with so many clowns hoping out of one car, that you can't keep up with how many there are. Then comes the lion tamer with the six o' clock news! "The Iraq War! George W. Bush! Hilary Clinton! Kidnap! Murder! What

are you really eating at McDonalds!? Now back to Cindy for the weather!"

True journalism is dead. It has been buried beneath an avalanche of nonsense and is directed and composed not of truths and information, but powerful suits with promotional deals and advertisements for a political party.

It is biased, edited, cut, smoothed and polished for an audience that has no idea that they are being misled and swindled on a daily basis.

The media has become an unstoppable force that can make the general public believe whatever it wishes them to believe. It is a crooked monarch that rules its kingdom without hardly any question from the public. As with any absolute power, it has been corrupted absolutely.

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FEATURES

Alcohol an ancient, important part of culture

By Andy Harper
Campus News Editor

Frank Sinatra once said, "I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day." To the stereotypical college student, feeling good is a part of life.

Games like "beer pong," "ring of fire" and "circle of death" are a few of the commonly known drinking games. Internet sites boasting new games and bookstores selling text titled "The Complete Book of Beer Drinking Games, Revised Edition" are just a few of the many outlets available to complicate the task of alcohol consumption.

This, however, is not a new trend in the world of drinking. According to Robert Thompson, a professor at Cambridge University, the earliest mention of what could be called a drinking game was in Plato's "Symposium."

The game consists of filling a bowl of wine, drinking and passing it to the next person. Almost like a game of shots.

In a paper by Mark Keller, written on the historical aspects of power, Keller jests that alcohol discovery was more likely an accident made by a fermented "mishmash" which made the inventor feel a sense of "wow!"

He writes, "I suggest that the first plant man cultivated deliberately was Vitis, the grapevine, because as the legend tells us, its fruit provided food that could be eaten both moist (as grapes) and dry (as raisens), and with little effort could be converted into a drink of magical properties and potency — one that relieved fatigue and assuaged pain, evoked gaiety, enhanced bravery, promoted friendship, and even facilitated communion with the invisible spirits that seemed to control mankind's fate."

These magical properties of enhancing the human mind, body and spirit have seemed to also increase human creativity, eventually leading to more interesting ways of bolstering



Popular drinking games like "quarters," "circle of death" and "beer pong" are common college campuses. Drinking may be a big part of collegiate life, but combining entertainment and alcohol is not a recent invention.

the enhancement to include an entertaining edge.

"It seems that in past years, the task of drinking has become over complicated with the popular culture of incorporating drinking with entertainment," says Tradd Staecker, junior business major.

"It is unfortunately and sometimes unfairly associated with younger generations," Staecker says. "It is especially stereotyped with various groups, like fraternities or

sports teams, but really, everyone does it."

In response to the consumerism of entertaining drinking, a number of Web sites like "In the know zone" and "Thesite" have been established to alert the public to the increase in binge drinking, sometimes connected with drinking games.

"In the know," in their statistics of binge drinking, notes that on college campus, 70 percent or more of the student body participates in binge drinking and the percentage to drink is far higher in groups than individuals drinking alone.

"A lot of people know incidents that get out of hand, and many times it has to do with drinking games and binge drinking," Staecker says. "It's a huge part of student life, almost like a right of passage."

"Peer pressure in large groups, especially white males or underage people, is where the predisposition for binge drinking lurks," Staecker says. It seems that as these people reach the legal age, however, they become more responsible, unfortunately from trial and error.

Like Staecker, Ethan Perkins, a senior electronic media communications major, says the act of drinking has become a novelty, but compared to other

schools, MTSU is on the lower end of the extreme.

"I personally like drinking the old fashion way without complicated rules," Perkins says jokingly. "It is a big problem, but for our campus, I just don't see people partying hard enough."

In the MTSU Public Safety 2005 annual report, 21 people were arrested on campus for driving under the influence, 13 for drunkenness and 72 for liquor law violations.

Of all the violations listed on the report including the previously mentioned three, 49.7 percent were listed as freshmen.

While drinking seems to be fast, fun and for the young, Staecker feels that it is not just a generational phenomenon that started recently or will end soon.

"This is not just 'our' culture, it is not contemporary or even isolated to America. Drinking games, binge drinking and the rest is a part of human culture. It is dangerous and harmful, but it'll hopefully be kept in check." ♦

Concrete major lucrative, exciting

Concrete career not as boring as one might think

By Becca Cook
Staff Writer

Concrete. It doesn't exactly frequent typical conversations of college students. In fact, discussion of the Concrete Industry Management Program at MTSU usually elicits raised eyebrows and exclamations of "why would anyone major in that?"

But they probably don't know that graduates from the Concrete Industry Management Program can start out making between \$40,000 and \$60,000 a year.

Jenna Burnworth recently graduated from MTSU with a CIM degree and now works for the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association in Silver Spring, Md. According to Burnworth, the CIM program is a specialized business degree with courses covering all areas of the concrete industry.

"The NRMCA represents about 1350 ready mixed concrete producers," Burnworth says. "We provide training, education, publication, marketing/promotion, engineering and advocacy services."

Burnworth chose concrete out of pure interest. "I was impressed at CIM's distinction as the only program of its kind in the world, at the time," she says. "I was also intrigued at this relatively new and unknown program. I was told how rapidly the concrete industry was growing and the [great] availability of jobs all over the country."

For Burnworth, getting a job after graduation was easy. Almost too easy.

"I interned at the NRMCA (internships are a requirement for graduation) and enjoyed the experience so much that I contacted them when I was about to graduate," she says. "I was offered a job and began working a month after graduation."

Getting a job in the concrete industry may be easy, but the idea of a job in the field doesn't have a reputation for sounding exciting.

"At first, I worked as the Government Relations Coordinator," Burnworth says. "I



MTSU concrete industry management graduate Jenna Burnworth and colleague Phil Kresge take a break at the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association's annual Concrete Technology Forum in Silver Spring, Md.

researched bills dealing with our industry, some positive some negative. I made trips to Capitol Hill with our lobbyists to speak with our congressional staffers about issues the concrete industry faces."

Burnworth is now the Promotion Research Coordinator. "I'm still doing a lot of research, but now it deals with how to get concrete to become the building material of choice," she says. "I update sections of our website and continue to generate weekly marketing reports. I most recently created a presentation on how to promote pervious concrete. Pervious concrete is a relatively new concrete we are the spreading the word about."

This new program is beginning to take root. The CIM program's website says that since its founding in 1996, it has produced over 250 graduates for the concrete industry. CIM graduates hold management and leadership positions throughout the concrete industry, including production, material supply, contracting and manufacturing. The alumni list on the program's website is full of former students holding prominent jobs in the industry,

from project managers in California, plant managers in Florida and company vice-presidents in Tennessee.

"Recently, three more CIM programs have been started at California State University at Chico, Arizona State University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology," Burnworth says.

Burnworth's experience in college has proven pertinent in the workforce.

"The basic knowledge I gained in the CIM program is very helpful in my job," she says. "All of the research methods I learned at MTSU have proven very useful too."

The friends Burnworth made during her college years have been helpful in her career as well. "There is always a classmate I can call when I need help or the answer to a question," she says. "That's the best part of the program. It's small enough for the students to really get to know each other and maintain those relationships into their careers."

Concrete may sound like a dry subject, but once you get your feet wet, it can be a very rewarding job. ♦

Nearly horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 19
Make sure not to tell anyone your wish after you blow out your birthday candles in the upcoming month. Well, truth be told, there's not much science can do about your receding hair line.

Taurus
April 20 - May 20
You'll wake up tomorrow feeling refreshed and invigorated after crying yourself to sleep at a much more reasonable hour.

Gemini
May 21 - June 21
Bored? Lame? Sober? It will stay that way. No matter how many phone calls and texts you make, they will not be returned. You will have to turn to alternative hobbies, such as flame throwing or skeet shooting.

Cancer
June 22 - July 22
A panel of 12 jurors will soon find you guilty of a crime you didn't commit. Or maybe you did commit it, but just not with very much skill.

Leo
July 23 - Aug. 22
Drop out of whatever major you're currently in and enroll right away in the Concrete Industry Management Program. The concept might seem a little dull at first, but you'll soon understand the many subtle layers and depths of concrete.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Have you been keeping tabs on your toothbrush lately? That yellow buildup ... it isn't plaque.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 23
Take a cue from Anna Nicole Smith's situation—when you get pregnant, make an official statement with the details of your procreation to avoid confusion.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 21
Britney Spears got out of rehab! Hooray! Please, don't let that be the highlight of your week.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
You'll be showing all your friends strange sores on interesting parts of your body. Don't worry about them, your friends know what they are but don't have the heart to tell you. Just go see a doctor.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
Now that the warm weather is here, you will be inspired to bare some skin and throw on some shorts and a tanktop. But don't.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
You know that creepy uncle of yours that puts his hand just a little too low on your back? Ew.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20
You often ponder who comes up with all this crazy-nonsense-that-is-digging-our-society-into-a-deep-hole, but that will all change tomorrow when you're elected the president of crazy-nonsense-that-is-digging-our-society-into-a-hole.

SPORTS

Middle Tennessee ends dream season

Monday, March 19

Marist 73

MTSU 59

End of season

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

In one of the most surreal events in recent memory for Blue Raider fans Middle Tennessee lost their second round match up in NCAA tournament.

The Marist Red Foxes defeated the Lady Raiders 73-59. Marist used hot shooting and tough defense to upset the Lady Raiders, and advance to the Sweet Sixteen for the first time in their school's history.

Middle Tennessee's 3-point shooting struggles went a long way in contributing to the loss for the Lady Raiders.

The Lady Red Foxes had little problem breaking Middle Tennessee's press and essentially were able to get the shots they wanted.

Marist shot 47 percent from the field on the game which allowed for them to coast to an early first half lead of 40 to 29.

Couple that stat with the fact the Lady Raiders could not find their stroke shooting at 38 percent game.

The Lady Red Foxes defense set the tempo, and Middle Tennessee had to adjust their press as well. Marist was able to break almost at will. Marist had 12 turnovers against the the Lady Raiders defense.

Middle Tennessee did not capitalize on its offensive opportunities and were not able to complete the comeback in the second half.

The Lady Raiders cut it as close to two points, but could not get over the hump.

Though Middle Tennessee challenged throughout the second half, Marist was able to fend off the Lady Raiders' full court pressure and survive the game with the victory.

Seniors Krystle Horton and Chrissy Givens were the only Raiders in double digits leading the way against Marist.

Givens in her final game as a Lady Raider had 16 points and scored single digits in the second half.

Givens was 4-of-16 the 3-point line.

Jackie Pickel hit three 3-pointers during the game and Brandi Brown was right behind her with two.

The team struggled as a whole to get uncontested shots against the Lady Red Foxes.

This season was record setting for the Lady Raiders, and the team had a lot of success that they hope to build on for next season.

With 30 wins on the season the team set a school record.

The team will lose Givens and Horton, but a strong recruiting class could return Middle Tennessee to the NCAA tournament.

The team finished 21-0 against Sun Belt conference opponents.

The loss ended the consecutive wins for Middle Tennessee with 27.

MT finishes the season with a 30-4 record after making their fourth appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

The Lady Raiders have won three games out of four in the first round. ♦



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
The Lady Raiders swept conference foe Louisiana-Lafayette and other opponents in the Sun Belt Conference. After a dream season of going undefeated and winning the SBC the Lady Raiders fell to Marist 73-59 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Martial Arts Club raises money for Project Help

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

The Martial Arts club held a fundraiser on Tuesday for Project Help over in the Grill at Keathley University Center.

Kacey King, vice president of the Martial Arts club and others were selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts to students or taking donations for Project Help.

People have been donating more money than buying doughnuts," King said. "We are going to close up at four and probably around five we should know [how much we raised]."

The final count was \$200 dollars and all of the money will be going to Project Help, which is here on campus. Project Help is a daycare that takes care of mentally challenged children.

This is King's second time helping raise money with a doughnut fundraiser, but the club has been doing it for four years now.

The Martial Arts club got involved with this group because it is located on campus, and the members enjoy helping the community.



Photo by Chris Barstad | Photo Editor
Vice president Kacey King and fellow Martial Arts Club student Julian Chatham-Tombs raised \$200 dollars for Project Help in the Krispy Kreme Fundraiser.

The Martial Arts club is involved in some other charities other than Project Help.

The club will be putting on a Spring tournament Friday April 20, which is free for the public to watch. They will be

accepting donations for Saint Jude's Children's Hospital.

Last year they helped out the Murfreesboro Police Department and fire department by collecting teddy bears for children.

Starting in April they will be holding a self-defense class for women. The classes correspond with their club meetings on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 8:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. ♦

James Thomas: Master of the hammer throw

By Brendon Henson

Staff Writer

Going into his final outdoor season in track and field, senior thrower James Thomas has earned numerous awards and broken several school records along the way.

But the Knoxville, Tenn., native is one who refuses to let individual accomplishments take precedence over team results.

"Individual stuff doesn't matter as much to me," Thomas said. "If I don't score in my events, that puts pressure on the rest of the guys and I let them down because those are points we need."

Due to the school work load he had to bow out of football.

"I didn't do football, mainly because of time restraints, with the course load I had," Thomas said. "I didn't feel it would be best for my academic career."

The former football player enjoys the challenge of events such as the weight throw, shot put and hammer throw.

"It's all about the atmosphere of competition," said Thomas. "My best throws are when I've had other athletes pushing me to be better. I didn't do football, mainly because of time restraints and with the course load I had, I didn't feel it would be best for my academic career."

Thomas is slated to graduate at the end of the spring semester, and head coach Dean Hayes is not looking forward to losing his consistent thrower.

"I'd keep James around if I could. He's solid as a person and as a competitor," Hayes said. "You know you're always going to get a good performance out of him."

Last year's Most Outstanding Performer has juggling a rigorous academic schedule at Middle Tennessee on top of a year-round track commitment, and found success in both fields.

"I've already applied to graduate school at the University of Tennessee Space Institute and I got accepted for their aviation systems grad program," Thomas said.

His future track plans are reliant on his academic career, as well as how he develops in his personal favorite event, the hammer throw.

"It depends on how I'm progressing with the hammer," said Thomas. "My theory is pretty much that if I can hit about 200 feet or 60 meters in the hammer, then I'll continue with it and enter meets unattached and maybe pursue it professionally."

Coach Hayes also acknowledges his thrower's commitment to excellence in both fields.

"The first year he came here he

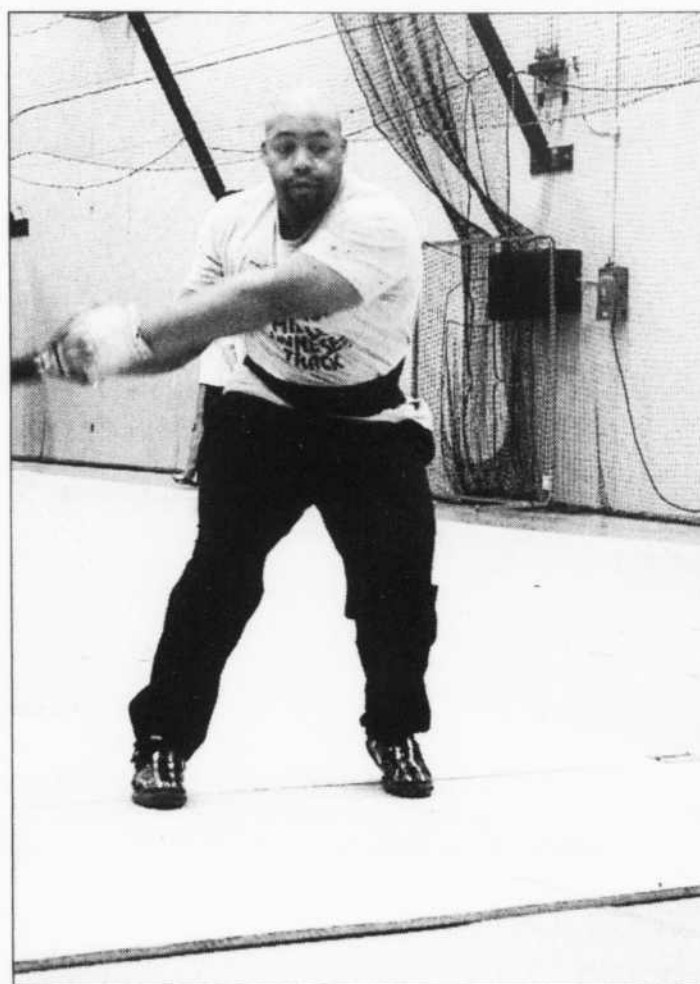


Photo by Megan Allender | Staff Photographer
Senior James Thomas winds up for the hammer throw. James has broken many records during his track and field career.

wasn't eligible," Hayes said. "Since he's been here, he's posted a 3.0 GPA and has been successful in academics throughout his college

career. He works hard in both academics and athletics."

Thomas and the Blue Raiders head to Alabama for the relays ♦

I Am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

The party is over for our Lady Raiders' loyal fans

Somewhere an underpaid janitor is sweeping up confetti while a BRAA official puts an unopened bag of party hats back into the supply closet.

The fans have all left Stanford's campus for hotel rooms, sports bars, and late-night traffic jams.

The second round of Women's basketball is over, but for a handful of girls in white and blue tracksuits this night will last the rest of their lives.

I hate to admit it sports fans, but the party is over. The last four days have been a blur.

My first real March Madness experience has ended in a lesson in pain, humility, and mid-major reality.

In the last two days I have gone from being on top of the world covering a team that ESPN's Graham Hays was calling "America's Team" to a bored single guy with a sad, sad story to write.

I am at the Boro for perhaps the last time this March trying to out-coffee my sinking mood and wondering how much harder this night will be for Chrissy Givens and company.

Sure, Givens is headed to the WNBA and is probably going to be the CEO of whatever company she decides to run some day, but that is all too intangible right now to mean anything to her.

It has to be. As I type, interns are erasing all mention of the Lady Raiders from ESPN's tournament coverage and the Red Foxes are celebrating their improbable run to the Sweet 16.

They are "America's Team" now. By tomorrow it will be as if MTSU's amazing season never happened.

But it did happen. MTSU coach Rick Insell's second season as head coach of the Raiders included a 27 game winning streak and the school's fourth straight conference championship.

Chrissy Givens put up Hall of Fame numbers, while Amber Holt emerged as the next superstar in the world of Sun Belt Conference basketball.

And I did fall in love with a group of women that will never take the court again.

Next year's team will be a new opportunity to celebrate college basketball at the

Murphy Center and nearly the entire team will return, but the Givens-to-Horton fast break is now a thing of the past.

I do not need to cloud my column with stats that just how MTSU was beat at their own game.

They just were. The Red Foxes refused to be another statistic.

I should be happy for them. They played a complete game.

Their star player, Alisa Kresge, looked like Steve Nash with prettier hair as she completely controlled the game racking up assist after assist.

The coach of the Red Foxes, Brian Giorgis, is the only coach in New York high school history to lead a team to the state Final Four in four different sports.

Apparently the guy can coach any body to do anything. I should be inspired.

I should be happy for him too, I guess. I am just not.

I would not care if their 4,000 student campus back in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. doubled as a home for abused children.

I would not care if Alisa Kresge became so motivated by this victory that she cured cancer and became the first female president.

All I know is I broke the number one rule of sports writing and I got burned for it.

Never care about a team you are covering. I heard that over and over when I first started.

Just watch the game and record what happened. That is what everyone told me, but I could not help, get excited by Rick Stockstill's first season as head coach of MTSU's revitalized football program.

I could not help be excited by the way the Lady Raiders played through the SBC and slowly earned the spotlight.

And even if the party is over, I promise all you Raiders fans that I will continue to care for as long as I write for this paper.

Whether I get paid or not. Because that is the only reason the last year has felt like a party to me. Go Raiders. ♦

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

Volleyball team set for spring tournament

By Wesley Mize
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider volleyball team will host their spring tournament on Saturday March 24.

This is the first action for the Raiders since reaching the second round of the NCAA Tournament last season.

"We're excited to get back into playing," said head coach Matt Peck. "We've been practicing for eight weeks prior to this and I think we're getting tired of playing against each other. Our girls can't wait to see some other teams."

The tournament consists of 13 teams including three other NCAA Tournament teams from last season.

Area teams including Tennessee, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech, Tennessee-Chattanooga, and Memphis will take part in the tournament.

At the heart of the roster is still intact for the defending Sun Belt Conference Champions heading into the upcoming season.

Most of the players were freshmen and sophomores last season which means the 2007 season will add more experience and

leadership to the Raiders roster. "Our team is more experienced but we're still young," Peck said. "We've got freshman and sophomores that we're heavily depending on but I think they can handle it. We've got all but one of our players from last season coming back for this year so we should be fine."

The Raiders hope to win the tournament and look at player development and improvement.

"I'm not necessarily worried about wins and losses since this is a spring tournament, but by no means do I want to lose a game," Peck said. "We have the highest national ranking of all the teams in this tournament. I think the other teams will be coming after us and that's exactly what we expect."

The Blue Raiders are returning four first team players from last season.

Ashley Adams is the most decorated returning player as she was an All-American last season.

"We have several impact players," said Peck. "The good thing is that they know what to do when they're on the court. They all have incredible composure to [so] along with talent and heart. I

feel confident that they, along with our new freshmen, will be able to work together and take us to another successful season."

The format for this weekend's tournament is set up for pool play.

There will be five pools of three teams. Each team inside a pool will compete against each other with the winner of the pool moving on to the gold round.

The pool winners will then compete against each other to determine a tournament winner.

The second and third place pool teams will compete for silver and bronze.

The pools will be held inside the AMG as well as the Murphy Center.

The playoffs and finals will be held inside the Alumni Memorial Gym.

Middle Tennessee will play at 9 a.m. Saturday in the first game of pool play.

The second pool match will be held at 11:30 a.m. The times of the following games for MTSU will be determined based on pool play performance. Every Blue Raider game will be inside the AMG. ♦

It has been a heartbreaking week, with MTSU falling to Marist in the second round of the tournament.

It's nearly the end of the Spring semester and pretty soon a lot of the different sporting events will come to an end.

Get them while you can, with pen in hand.

Come draw your sword and become a sports writer.

Mass Comm room 269.
Meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday

Thank you Lady Raiders basketball team for a great season.

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Men's A	Don Thava Team
Men's B	Nu Boyz
IFC A	Felder 1st Floor
IFC A	Angry Apes
IFC B	PIKE (A)
IFC B	PIKE (B)
Sorority	PIKE (B)
Women's	A D P
Women's	A D P
Co-Rec A	High School Alum
Co-Rec B	Showtime @ the Apollo
	Efina All-Stars

MONDAY NIGHT SCORES SOFTBALL

WOMEN'S / SORORITY 8-9 p.m.

The Breakneck11	A O P 17
A X O 10	A D P 4
Kappa Delta 6	
Chi Omega 1	

CO-REC 9-11 p.m.

Tent Pitchers 6	BTS 10
Softballs 2	Oversized Balls7
Granny Panties 23	Killa B 9
The Astronauts 5	G Blare 8
Masterbatters 6	MTSU All-Stars 14
Showstoppers 3	IM Embarrassed 2
Weedwackers 6	
Blirubin 4	

Women's tennis to play homestand

By Wesley Mize
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider women's tennis team will be hosting nationally ranked teams this weekend at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

Middle Tennessee takes on No. 59 Indiana State Saturday, and then will host No. 49 South Alabama on Monday.

The Blue Raiders have yet to beat a ranked opponent this season, but head coach Alison Ojeda feels her team has improved throughout the season.

"Our team has been very competitive for most of the season," Ojeda said. "We are fit and we looked pretty good as of late. I'm proud of our team's

improvement since the beginning, but there is always work to be done."

Both ISU and USA have similar playing styles according to Ojeda.

Their style of play tends to differ from other top-ranked teams.

"These teams are both ball strikers," Ojeda said. "Most of the top teams we've played have tried to beat us on the sixth shot. These teams aim to beat us in the second or third shot. They want to jump on us early and not let us get into a rally."

Jennifer Migan leads ISU coming into Saturday's match. Migan, the Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Week, has a record of 9-2 and has won four out of her last five

matches.

South Alabama is a rapidly improving team having jumped 15 spots to No. 49 in the overall school rankings. The Jags are led by junior Adrianna Solarova, who is ranked No. 47 in singles player with a record of 18-4.

The two games this weekend will be the second and third games of a six game home stand.

The Raiders have traveled most of the season and are relieved to have a nice home stretch.

"I think the girls were tired of traveling all of the time," said Ojeda. "We can be at home and practice and do our strength and conditioning program like we normally do. It gives us a chance to relax a bit and

prepare to play in front of our home crowd."

According to Ojeda a player to look out for this weekend is Ann-Kristin Siljestrom.

Her intensity and overall level of play have been on the rise over the last week of practice.

"She took out our top player in practice and did so with relative ease," Ojeda said. "That's given her confidence and it shows in her practices now."

Saturday's match against Indiana State will begin at 11 a.m. as will Monday's match against South Alabama.

Both games will be at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center on the Middle Tennessee campus. ♦

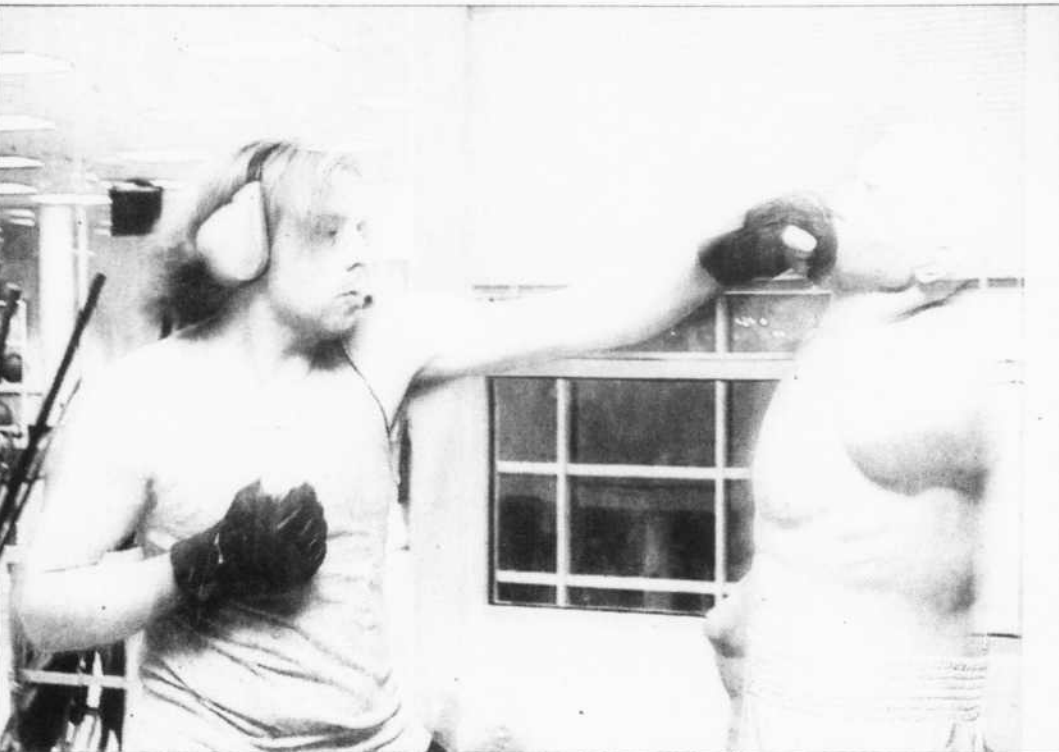


Photo by Chris Barstad | Photo Editor

Sophomore Michael Trimble boxes with the dummy in the Martial Arts Club over at the Rec Center. The MAC held a Krispy Kreme Fundraiser for Project Help on Tuesday. Look for the story on page 6 for further details.

"A wickedly entertaining show"

- Tom Shales, *The Washington Post*



COURTENEY COX

dirt

TUESDAYS 10



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