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# SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

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## University to consider adding benefits to contracts

By Matt Anderson  
Campus News Editor

University officials said they would consider making a benefits package for outsourced custodial workers a part of the request for proposals set to go out next month.

About 42 percent of custodial services are outsourced, and while companies are only bidding on the space currently

cleaned by Aramark, Vice President for Business and Finance John Cothorn said the university will have an option to contract out more space.

He said when new buildings came online, such as the addition to the nursing building, they would likely be outsourced. He also said that while there would still be a day staff in Murphy Center, event cleaning could be outsourced.

"We may, depending on price, let [private contractors] do some event cleaning, and that way we don't work our people to death," Cothorn said.

The Faculty Senate held a meeting Monday to discuss the issue with Cothorn, representatives from facilities services and the Tennessee State Employees Association. Aramark representatives were invited but declined to attend.

Members of the Faculty Senate have expressed concern over outsourcing because state-employed custodians receive benefits and free education, but Aramark employees do not receive either.

Cothorn said the university saves about \$1 million through outsourcing, or about \$1 per square foot. The cost for a pri-

See Aramark, 2

## Group petitions against outsourcing

By Matt Anderson  
Campus News Editor

Middle Tennessee Solidarity has begun circulating a petition to oppose the outsourcing of custodial services.

Faculty advisor Michael Principe said the petitions are circulating at the group's anti-week events and estimated

they had a couple hundred signatures.

President Ryan Husak said students are concerned about the wages of university employees.

"The impression I got at the table yesterday was that custodians deserve to make better than minimum wage," he said.

## Saying goodbye to a Lady Raider legend

Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Photo Editor

Middle Tennessee women's basketball head coach Stephany Smith honored senior Patrice Holmes at a team celebration at Broad Street yesterday.



## Cigarette tax hike fails in committee

By Jason Cox  
Capitol Bureau Chief

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU - A miscounted vote resulted in the failure of a proposed cigarette tax addition in the Senate Finance, Ways and Means committee - but the bill is not dead, either.

The vote was five voting yea, two voting nay and four members abstaining. Bills must have more than half the committee members' approval for passage. However, the thin margin, as well as the fact that the bill was not defeated outright, suggests that the bill could be brought back up later.

Sen. Rosalind Kurita, D-Clarksville, said her bill, which would raise state taxes from 10 mills (one cent) per cigarette to three cents or from 20 to 60 cents per 20-cigarette pack, is designed to prevent smoking by children.

As amended yesterday, the revenues, which Kurita estimates at \$210 million in the first year, would not be earmarked and would be placed into the general fund to be used however legislators see fit.

"My cigarette tax is a bill designed to raise the cost of cig-

See Cigarettes, 3

## College tuition continues to rise

By Esparanda Waller  
Staff Writer

Like many students, Christopher Meidel, who is a communication studies major, uses loans to pay for his tuition.

Climbing tuition rates frustrate Treidel.

"I borrow the maximum amount per semester for a junior, which is about \$2,550," he said. "I don't understand why they're increasing tuition."

"Tuition increases cause students to borrow more money. I work at McCallie's, but I'll have to find a better paying job to pay the difference of my tuition," he said.

According to William Ford, economics and finance professor and member of the Tennessee Lottery Commission, tuition has gone up for the past 13 years and has increased faster than inflation.

"Tuition has risen by an

average of 5 to 10 percent per year, which is more [than inflation]. Economists call this the real cost of tuition," he said. "If inflation goes up by 2 percent, prices go up by 2 percent. You're getting it for the same amount."

According to information about tuition rates from the Bursar's Office, between 1994 and 1995 undergraduate tuition was \$896 for in-state undergraduate students and out-of-state undergraduate tuition was \$2,863. The current amount for undergraduate in-state tuition is \$2,115 and \$6,309 for out-of-state students.

The cost of living has also gone up at MTSU. According to the MTSU Fact Book from the Office of Institutional Research, a private room in a residence hall costs between \$1,568 and \$3,043 per semester. A shared room costs between \$1,288 and

See Tuition, 2

## Concerts on the knoll scheduled for April

### Afternoon shows to entice passers-by

By Courtney Gundry  
Staff Writer

Magic, music and more - the Concert Committee is hosting free concerts on the knoll this April.

The concerts will be held outside the Keathley University Center on April 7, 14 and 21. The pre-shows will begin at noon, with concerts at 1:30 or 2 p.m. (depending on setup time). Each group is scheduled to perform between one and

one-and-a-half hours, with the events wrapping up at 6:30 p.m.

The goal of the committee is to "provide students with free entertainment. It's an alternative to music they already know," said Mark Baker, president of the committee. "We want to spread the word about good artists you've never heard."

Baker feels there is a great lineup of entertainment with a little bit of something for everyone.

On April 7, an illusion show will be featured first. De Novo Dahl and Popular Genius, two local bands, will follow.

April 14 will feature a Blue Monkey Sideshow, which is a carnival-type show. The One Guy, the solo artist who invented his own instrument, the "Magic Pipe," and Kaki King, an acoustic guitarist.

"One of the best in the world right now," Baker said.

On April 21, MTSU band The Kary Boys will perform. Miekka Pauley, a singer and guitar soloist, and Mosquitos, an

indie-rock, bossanova blend, will round out the entertainment.

"[It is] happy, fun music for spring," Baker said.

Free caricatures will also be available during the shows.

The attendance depends on the weather, Baker said.

"The better the weather, the better the turnout," she said. In case of rain, the concerts will be held in the KUC theater.

Baker expects 100 to 150 people just "watching for a bit" as they pass by. "The KUC is the

See Concerts, 2

## House approves funds to expand Greenway in Murfreesboro, Smyrna, LaVergne

By Sandi Van Orden  
Staff Writer

The U.S. House has appropriated money to expand the Murfreesboro, Smyrna and LaVergne greenways with the passage of a federal transportation bill.

The Murfreesboro Greenway will double in size with the \$9 million in federal funds slated to expand it.

The Greenway project began in 1995 as a way to connect cultural and historical sites through a series of trails.

The expansion will take four years to complete and take the Greenway from the Overall Street trailhead through Old Fort Park behind the Kid's Castle.



Gordon

It will connect the west fork of the Stones River and follow it to Barfield Crescent Park, according to

Angela Jackson, program coordinator for the Greenway and wetlands for the Murfreesboro parks and recreation department.

There are four phases of construction. The first two phases will take two years to complete, according to Jackson.

"Construction will begin soon," Jackson said. "We are coordinating with the water and sewer department. We

want them to put the sewer in before the construction of the Greenway."

"I would love to see it become a web throughout the city," she said.

Jackson said the Greenway will eventually connect to walkways in other cities.

"The goal is to provide alternate forms of transportation," Jackson said.

The transportation act approved in the House also allocates \$3 million for Smyrna, and \$1.5 million for LaVergne, allowing the two cities to connect their greenways, according to U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon.

"Ultimately [the Greenway] will go to Long Hunter State Park," Gordon said.

He also said it will connect with the Nashville downtown that goes to downtown Nashville, according to Gordon.

The bill includes \$500,000 in funds to improve North Tennessee Boulevard.

"Ultimately MTSU will connect directly to the Greenway system," Gordon said.

Gordon said it is important to protect areas like the Greenway because Murfreesboro is growing quickly.

"It has its own environment," Gordon said.

Gordon said that those on the Greenway are friendly and talk to each other.

The bill has not yet been voted on by the Senate.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Photo Editor

The Murfreesboro greenway attracts joggers, dog-walkers and nature lovers during the warmer months.



This week's poll question at  
www.mtsusidelines.com

Are you getting shortchanged  
by the compressed semester?

Opinions 4 • Living 5 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7



## Tuition: Rate hikes affect students with financial aid

Continued from 1

\$1,404.

"It's cheaper to live off campus. In Area Two, the average student would pay about \$432 per month to live on campus. But if they live off campus at Sterling University [apartments], they only have to pay \$379 per month," Treidel said.

Reuben Kyle, a professor in the economics and finance department, said legislators are willing to shift the higher price of education from taxpayers to students because college students are willing to pay.

"One thing that's true about today's generation of college students that's less true in the past generation is today's generation will have a lot more debt," Kyle said.

"It's a lot more common for students to borrow money and leave school with more debt. To some extent, legislators see this as further evidence that students are willing to pay," he said.

Robert Adkisson received his bachelor's degree in business management last August. He said he didn't have to use student loans, but he said the tuition increase still affected him when he was a student.

"I received a minority scholarship and a scholarship from my church, but my parents had to pay the difference. They had to pay more money," he said.

"The scholarships didn't fluctuate with the tuition increase."

Kyle said state legislatures have discovered they can cut back on their funding to institutions of higher learning, allowing students to pay more of the cost.

"As a result, the contributions by state appropriations have been going down and also the share of total revenues for public colleges and universities," Kyle said.

"It's true in Tennessee and everywhere. It's been a result of budget problems the state governments have faced. In the last few years their problems have been worse, and this causes tuition to go up," he said.

According to Ford, tuition will continue to rise because the governor has so many budget problems, especially with TennCare.

"The governor is threatening to cut the money they send to us. Therefore, tuition has to go up to make up for that," Ford said.

Reasons for the rising tuition costs are an increase in enrollment and higher operating expenses.

According to the fall 2004 Student Profile Book from the Office of Institutional Research, 22,322 students are enrolled at MTSU. In 2000 there were only 19,121 students. There were 5,729 new students in fall 2004.

Kyle cited two reasons for the enrollment increase.

"The high-school-age population has increased. In addition, the premium income that college graduates earn is also going up," Kyle said.

Kyle noted that there are factors on the cost side of economics that cause tuition to increase.

When universities provide computers to faculty and students, the university must absorb that expense.

"Every college faculty in the country has at least one computer in [his or her] office. Students have computers in their dorms, and access to the electronic media is expensive," Kyle said.

"An economist would describe this as the factors on the supply and demand side that increases the cost of tuition," he said.

A larger portion of the university's entire budget is from students and their families. Students take out more loans when tuition increases.

"Other sources of income for our university are shrinking as a percent. Taxpayers are giving us less of each student's cost, so students have to pay more," Ford said.

"The good news is we introduced the Tennessee Lottery scholarships," Ford said. "I was on the lottery scholarship commission. [The scholarships] are a huge help to students who receive them because they receive between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per year," Ford said.

"Students can receive an extra \$1,000 if their family earns less than \$36,000. This helps less wealthy families," he said.

"Some scholarships are need-based and others are ability based. Students who don't qualify for scholarships are hurt by it. Those who borrow more money end up with more debt."

According to Ford, Sen. Stephen Cohen, one of the sponsors of the Tennessee Lottery scholarship program, wants to increase the amount of the individual scholarships because there is plenty of money generated by the lottery. Ford said the Tennessee Lottery has more money than it needs to pay for this year's scholarships.

Ford also said a positive effect of the increased tuition is the reduction in the required graduation hours. Most programs only require 120 hours rather than 132.

"That's one semester less to pay tuition," he said. "Reducing the required number of hours helps some students but not others. In the education department, they still require 132 hours."

The budget office won't know the exact amount of the next tuition increase until July 1. ♦

## Art Barn wreckage



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

The demolition of the Art Barn got underway on Monday morning. Now that the art department occupies the Todd Building, the soon-to-be vacant lot will be converted to parking spaces.

## Young entrepreneur alarms students

By Stephanie Hill  
Staff Writer

It's 6:59 a.m. and you are all snuggled up in your warm bed, dreaming about sweet nothings. Suddenly, a loud beeping noise jolts you from your sleep.

The annoying sound is the first thing you hear when you get up for class in the morning. Ahh, the beginnings of a brand new day start off with the high-pitched squeal of an alarm clock.

Sound familiar? If so, Awakenz, a wake-up call service, may be able to relieve your beeping stress.

In its first month of operation, Awakenz, which is owned and created by Jeremy Hays, is a concept unique to Murfreesboro.

"I have not seen this concept anywhere else," Hays said.

The business offers many different packages to gently wake clients from their slumbers. The basic package includes a wake-up call in the morning, five days a week for a fee of \$14.95 per month.

The fee for the 7-day plan is \$17.95 a month. There is also an additional snooze option where customers can pay an additional \$5 a month to get a second

within minutes of their first call.

Hays came up with the idea for the wake-up call service about five years ago. He was working for *The Tennessean* and had to get up early to deliver papers, he said.

"I would set my alarm clock to go off, however, once it did, I would get up and hit snooze for that extra amount of sleep," Hays said. "I would finally get up when my boss would call me on the phone."

Hays said he believes that it is a lot easier for someone to get up and reset his or her alarm clock for some extra snooze time than if they have to physi-

cally get up and answer the phone because it is ringing.

"We feel more compelled to get up and answer the phone when it rings," he said.

Currently a real person is performing all of the calls, but Hays said he hopes to have an automated system in place very soon.

He is operating the service from his home now but said he wants to move into an office as soon as possible.

Hayes said he has advertised Awakenz in the *Daily News Journal* and on the MTSU campus. ♦

## Concerts: Student Programming planning outdoor events

Continued from 1

most traveled part of campus," he said. "I don't know anyone that doesn't walk by at some point in the day."

The Concert Committee is a subunit of Student Programming's Special Events Committee.

In addition to concerts on the Knoll, the organization will

be hosting two other main events.

Medeski, Martin and Wood will be performing at Tucker Theatre April 13 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

Bill Cosby will be on campus April 8. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$35 for the general public. Floor seats are sold out, but bleachers are still available. ♦

## Aramark: Donations create conflict of interest, Carroll says

Continued from 1

vate company to provide fringe benefits could erode that savings, he said.

Alfred Lutz, a senator from the English department, said the cost for benefits should come out of the private company's profit margin.

"If it's a competitive bidding process, I don't see why we couldn't ask them, whoever gets the contract, to provide a little bit more for our workers," Lutz said. "What we want is for them to make less profit."

"If we don't go into negotiations with the interests of our laborers in mind, their interests

are not going to be considered," he said.

"We're not going to get in a situation of telling Aramark what benefits to give their employees," Cothorn said.

He later said the university would consider making benefits part of the contract, but that it may not be fair to other contractors.

"If we did it for one, we'd have to do it with all of them, and I'm not ready to do that," Cothorn said.

He said the cost would likely be passed on to the university, and that it would either be at the expense of another department or that cleaning could be less

frequent.

"The thing you can do is start increasing fees," Cothorn said.

"I hate to say it this way, but it's going to come down to a business decision."

TSEA representative Terry Carroll said there was a conflict of interest in the bidding process because Aramark is one of the university's top donors.

The university loses control over cleaning services, he said, because a private company controls equipment once owned by the university.

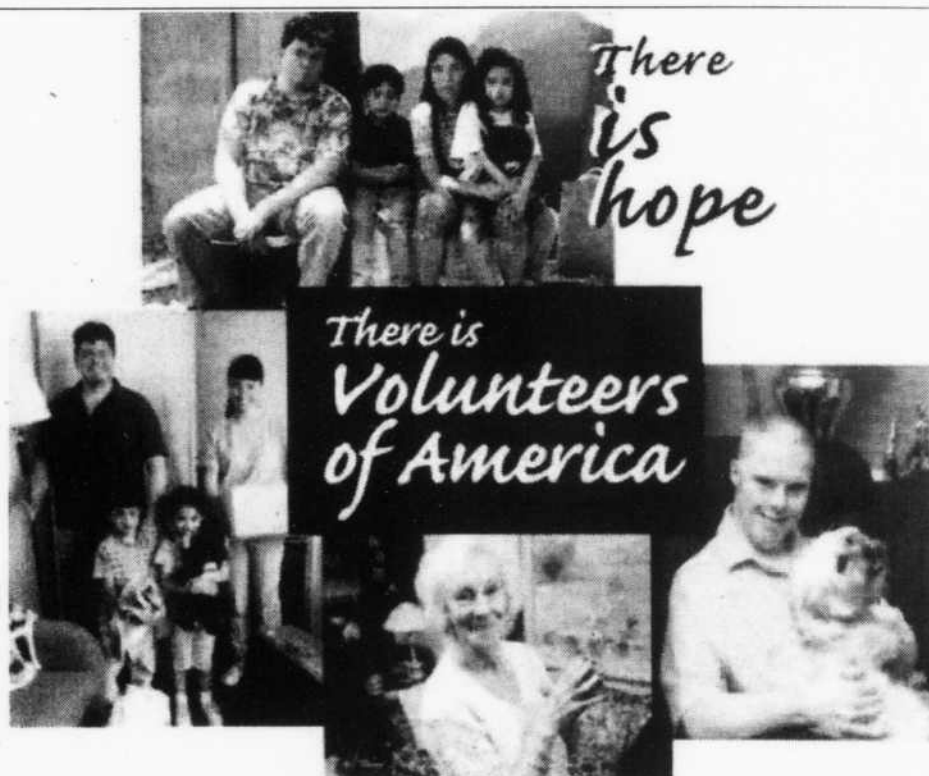
"They want them to be dependent on them, so they have control," Carroll said.

Carroll also questioned whether Aramark hired undocumented workers, but Facilities Services Director David Gray said he submits a monthly report to Public Safety with names and Social Security numbers for Aramark's employees.

History department senator Jim Williams said if MTSU doesn't pay the cost of health care for its employees, the state might end up paying it through another program.

"Do we shift it somewhere else, because these people are going to get health care somewhere?" Williams said. "It's an ethical question." ♦

### Got a hot news tip?

E-mail us at [slnews@mtsu.edu](mailto:slnews@mtsu.edu)

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On Thursday 24 March 2005, Captain Herschelman (Marine Aviator) USMC, will be hosting free scheduled flights from 8am-5pm in a King Air aircraft at the MTSU Municipal Airport in Murfreesboro, to create an awareness of USMC aviation capabilities and opportunities for both male and female college students interested in military aviation. Transportation to and from the airport can be arranged.

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## From the Editorial Board

### Ethics bill no real reform, consulting should be cut

The Ethics Reform Bill being pushed through the General Assembly sounds like it would prohibit the type of ethical dealings that Sen. John Ford of Memphis is now famous for.

However, a closer look indicates that this bill, sponsored by House Majority Leader Kim McMillian, wouldn't stop any legislator from taking consulting jobs like Ford has.

This bill nothing more than a smokescreen for legislators to continue taking consulting fees as long as they disclose the amount, who paid and when.

Apparently "reform" means little more than adjustment to the freedom that legislators already enjoy.

According to the Center for Public Integrity, a nonprofit organization that conducts research on public policy issues, Tennessee's current financial disclosure laws rank an embarrassing low 44 out of all 50 states.

Constituents should not have to force their representatives to be truthful, especially when special interest groups and private businesses essentially enjoy a back door into the state's pocketbooks.

There is a reason why there are campaign finance laws that strictly regulate who can contribute to a candidate and how much.

Consulting jobs, such as Ford's with Managed Care Services Group (now tied to TennCare), can net legislators unlimited amounts of money and essentially they are not being held accountable.

Just revealing major sources of income does not ensure constituents that their representatives aren't making secret deals with those who are paying consulting fees.

The only true reform for Tennessee legislators would be to prohibit consulting jobs completely. This is a bill without any teeth and it needs to be taken back to the drawing board.

If lawmakers are afraid they would lose substantial income if consulting fees were cut, perhaps they should rethink what they are doing in the public service sector in the first place.

We elected these people to represent us and there is virtually no way for us to be sure they are doing this when consulting jobs are distracting their attention away from their ethical obligations. ♦

## Erring 'on the side of life' right

*Editor's note: Miller's column was written prior to the Supreme Court's refusal to hear a challenge to the president's judicial appointment to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.*

Should people be able to decide if and when their lives come to an end, in the event of a terminal disease or a vegetative state?

This is essentially the decision that the top tiers of our government are now determining.

Fifteen years ago, Terri Schiavo collapsed and suffered severe brain damage. Since then, she has been in a persistent vegetative state. Essentially, she is in a coma with her eyes open. Schiavo was fed daily by a feeding tube, without which she would die.

On Friday, a Florida judge ordered the tube removed by the request of her husband, who says that his wife expressed to him before she fell ill that she did not want to be kept alive under such circumstances.

Schiavo's parents are desperately trying to explore every avenue to try to keep their daughter alive. Undoubtedly, there had to sympathize with their plight.

The question now becomes

### Yesterday's Tomorrow



John Miller  
Staff Columnist

who should have the final say in the life of Schiavo: her family or her husband? In addition, will this decision coincide with Schiavo's wishes for her own life before she entered a comatose state?

Congress met on March 21 in order to try to pave way for her family to be able to file suit in Federal Court to have the tube reinstated. The Supreme Court has already turned down the case previously, after the feeding tube was removed. It later reinstated by court order.

Congress, however, may be overstepping their jurisdiction as defined by the Constitution. Congress, for ideological reasons, is ignoring the separations of power written into the Constitution.

Many believe that Republicans are using this issue to gain political capital with their religious base.

Sometimes maverick and always inspiring Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said it best, "I hope we're not ... making this human tragedy a political issue." Although this may be viewed as a worthy cause, it could set a dangerous precedent. Be that as it may, this issue does need to be finally resolved once and for all.

The Democratic whip, Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said his office was informing members, who are now on their two week Easter Vacation, of the vote on Monday. But he said the party was not counting votes and was telling members to vote their conscience on the issue.

Undoubtedly this vote has to be one of the most difficult for lawmakers. Deciding the fate of another human being is a daunting task. Although I rarely agree with Republicans, I think that Schiavo's family should be given the benefit of the doubt. As White House Spokesperson Scott McClellan put it, "We ought to err on the side of life in a case like this."

While her husband, although with great difficulty, can move on and later remarry, the family has

one daughter. They should be able to decide her fate. At the same time, had Schiavo had a living will stating that she did not wish to be kept alive artificially under such circumstances, Schiavo should have the final say.

I fear that this case could be used in an effort to try to overturn some state's right-to-die laws. A terminally ill person, or someone who has said in writing that they do not wish to live in a comatose state, should have the right to make that choice.

It is not our right as a society, nor that of our law makers, to make that decision. A person's life is exactly that, their life. They should be able to decide their ultimate fate.

For that reason, it is imperative for people to place in righting their final wishes and to inform their family of their choice. Thus, they are saved the grief of having to make the decision, or worse yet, waiting for someone else to decide the issue. ♦

*John Miller is a senior political science and French double major and can be reached at bigharf@comcast.net.*

## Arctic oil issue needs debate

Staff Editorial  
The Daily Campus

(U-WIRE) Storrs, Conn. – The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is filled with all sorts of cute, cuddly endangered species. Their fate wouldn't be in question except for their ulterior motives to being cute and cuddly; apparently the animals are using their cuddly nature to gain sympathy. This sympathy is then directly translated into a tool of political mobilization that the aforementioned cute cuddly animals utilize in their primary mission: Protecting the oil they sit on.

Tired of ANWR misinformation from both the democrats and the republicans, so called "green" groups and seemingly all sides of the debate? Join the club, the debate has truly elevated to the point of absurdity.

For an entertaining diversion, go to news.google.com and type in ANWR. Within the first 10 results you'll find such diverse headlines as "ANWR oil: Every barrel helps," "Drilling in ANWR the wrong choice," "DRILL WE MUST," "The Top Ten Conservative Idiots" and "ANWR oil may create area jobs." However, along with all of these biased reports, you'll find very little news – most of the writing is hot air spewed by the army of useless polemical pundits employed by the major news networks.

Every side in the debate has some sort of valid point in their argument either for or against the opening of ANWR to oil drilling (though drilling is far too politically neutral a word; if it were the democrats it would be oil exploitation, the republicans would say harmless utilization). But any valid point put forward by any side is immediately filtered through the polarizing lenses of modern politics.

All sides in the debate are afraid to concede anything at all for fear it would be perceived by the public and the not-so-small army of network pundits as a sign of weakness. In effect, the extremist partisanship of the whole issue has rendered debate useless. It has come down to simply who can muster more votes – partisanship has thrown logic out the window.

This issue requires a political detente – a cooling off period. Republicans: Just because the caribou population thrives doesn't mean the ecosystem is wonderful, when one species thrives another dies out. Don't attempt to pretend drilling for oil is environmentally sound. Democrats: ANWR is not the end of the environment as we know it.

All sides need to come back toward the center on not only this issue, but all issues. Intelligent debate is so vital to ensuring the general interest of the people is met. The trends of partisanship in modern politics are damaging and useless. ♦

## Letters to the Editor

### New taxes hurt business, workers

To the Editor:

As a local realtor, I must take issue with your premises that realtors control growth in this area and that Nancy Allen's proposed tax on new development will help our quality of life.

First, Ms. Allen wants Nissan, Verizon, State Farm and MTSU all to grow. This means that new auto workers, office staff and professors are moving to Murfreesboro. Realtors simply find houses for their families. We do not create their jobs. I understand that Ms. Allen and Dr. Sidney McPhee want new programs at MTSU. Great! But this means more faculty and students to house and more traffic to congest our streets. Should these new instructors and students be especially taxed for coming to MTSU? More importantly, do we welcome MTSU students staying in Murfreesboro after graduation ... or do we send them elsewhere because we chased out their potential employers?

Secondly, the charge that a few are getting wealthy from new development is much too narrow. I observe that every industry – automotive, insurance, politics, telecom and academia – has its leaders. If they lead well, they are rewarded. If not, then MTSU graduates should take their places by doing a better job!

I would appeal to students at MTSU to work with both faculty and alumni to find creative and non-discriminatory ways to address our community's needs. In the eyes of the nation, Rutherford County has many enviable problems to solve.

Todd Jackson,  
Bob Parks Realty

### New president calls for leadership

I am writing to inform you of two powerful and influential positions on our campus that no one has applied for. The applications are due tomorrow at 3 p.m. for the Homecoming and AIDS Quilt Director positions.

I am excited and thrilled to be your newly elected student body president, and am ready to take office in May, but I am going to need your help!

MTSU Homecoming is one of the most prideful annual events that takes place at our university. The Student Director of Homecoming is in charge of all Homecoming events, including Fight Song, the Homecoming Parade, and many other weekly festivities.

Two years ago, AIDS Quilt was adopted to be the SGA's official philanthropy event. Over the past two years, we have raised thousands of dollars that have been donated to help find a cure to present the disease. The AIDS Quilt director position oversees all AIDS Quilt functions, including the 5k Walk for the Cure, the showing of the actual AIDS Quilt, and many other events.

I am writing you as a fellow student encouraging you to get active on campus. If you don't, who will? MTSU is a great university, and I look forward to representing the voice of the students on this campus. I challenge anyone who is at all interested in taking a step up, and representing our university in such capacity to do so. You can make a difference and now is the time.

Paul Bryant Fulcher  
Student Body President-Elect

## Public turning Jackson case into witch trial

Three hundred years ago, it was common for a person to be tried in the court of public opinion before being tried by a jury of his or her peers. In 1692, 19 people in Salem, Mass. were convicted of witchcraft and executed, mostly based on circumstantial evidence and the fact that they had done something to offend the conformity of the community. Today, it's shameful to see how short a distance we've come.

The vast majority of America, apparently, has decided that Michael Jackson doesn't deserve due process of law, based, not on any actual evidence, but rather, entirely on their own personal prejudices. The public and the media, having judged him as a "freak," are coming at Jackson with pitchforks in hand, just as they might have done in the 17th century.

I can find far bigger "freaks" than Jackson in the rock music community on any given day. There are popular musicians who spew garbage that is filled with sex, profanity and violence, and who preach hatred for America and all traditional values.

Jackson is a Christian who has always produced music that was family-oriented, fun and rooted in love and tolerance. Twenty years ago, when Jackson was still "cool," the accusations he's facing now would have been dismissed as tabloid trash. But since then, Jackson has taken wild animals as pets, bleached his skin to erase the effects of vitiligo, grabbed his crotch to disrespect the Klu Klux Klan, and, due to excessive media scrutiny, taken himself and his children into seclusion.

All this somehow, in most Americans' minds, makes Jackson dangerous enough to be a child molester. If we can't understand it, it's evil and must be destroyed; open-mindedness or tolerance is superfluous and unnecessary in the face of circumstantial evidence and rumor.

The public's treatment of Jackson makes a mockery of American justice. His accusers' story is inconsistent and incoherent, and the mother of the boy in question has a known history of suing people for money. Furthermore, Jackson himself doesn't fit the profile of a child molester; this is a man who has donated millions of dollars to helping poor and disabled children around the world, and who created the Neverland Ranch as a place where these children could escape to find happiness and fun. "You don't hurt something that you love," Jackson said once in an interview. "I would slit my wrists before hurting a child."

Michael Jackson is a decent, gentle and compassionate man with a huge heart and a pure, magnanimous soul. But his guilt is not even considered a controversy in America: a USA Today poll found that only 17 percent of people believe he is innocent. The number of people – both liberal and conservative – who believe that Jackson should not be locked up for no provable reason is smaller than the numbers who believe that gay marriage, pornography and narcotics should be legalized and that a woman has the right to kill her unborn child.

Where is America's tolerance for diversity now? If a court somehow finds Michael Jackson guilty of the absurd accusations made against him, it will be one of the greatest travesties of justice since the Salem Witch Trials. Nevertheless, then, and only then, does anyone have the right to say that he deserves to go to prison. Until then, the sophists in the media and the public need to give Jackson the chance at justice he deserves. Surely, as Americans, we can afford this "freak" even that much. ♦

*Anthony Davis is a junior electronic media communications major and can be reached at ald3d@mtsu.edu.*

## SIDELINES

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## ROCK YOUR REFUND (dot com)

### Web site makes filing taxes a breeze for Generation Y

By Brandi Fleck  
Staff Writer

It's tax time again and refunds should be pouring in shouldn't they? Of course, if you are a member of Generation Y, also known as the Millennial Generation, odds are you are new to filing or pretty close to it, so the idea of filing taxes may be stressful.

Intuit, a company based out of California, produces software called TurboTax. TurboTax has been around for 21 years, been online for seven years and since January, has been available to first time or fairly new filers in an easy-to-navigate Web site called RockYourRefund.com.

"My dad would do [my taxes] and I would check it over and file, but when I started using the software I was amazed. It really makes taxes fun, if you can believe it, because you can see the number in the corner going up and up," Colleen Ferrin, Intuit spokesperson says.

Extensive research conducted for Intuit found that there are 18.4 million taxpayers in the 18 to 24 age bracket, yet there is little to no guidance on the

Internet for the group about how to file or where to even start.

Of the 90 percent of filers in the 18 to 24 age bracket that get a refund, the average amount is \$939, Ferrin says.

Business professor Marsha O. Smith, who is researching Generation Y for an article and to implement new teaching strategies, says marketers are very interested in researching Generation Y because members are now emerging as a new, lucrative consumer force.

"Generation X will use technology, whereas Generation Y assumes technology. Generation X will multi-task, but Generation Y will multi-task faster," Smith explains.

She says that usually anyone born between 1980 and 1998 are classified as the Millennial Generation, but some books say the generation starts as far back as '76 or '77. Either way, members have grown up with access to e-mail, fast food, cell phones, PDAs and ATMs, which are examples of methods of providing instant gratification.

Generation Y likes experiential learning and is open to new approaches to learning.

Members respond well to self-paced software, interactive CDs and products that provide them with structure and control, Smith reiterates.

Behaviors and attitudes of 300 people in the 18 to 24 age group were observed so that the Web site could be designed with a very clean, straight-forward feel that offers quick access to information and discounts geared mostly toward electronics that the Millennials like to buy.

The site also lets a filer start and stop at any time, so there's plenty of time to get questions answered before clicking the submit button.

"I like [the site] because it looks good and has a clear, simple navigation and interface. More importantly, the information is also clear, simple and understandable. I even learned a little after only a few minutes of scanning," senior electronic media major Dan Beauchamp says.

Even with massive marketing research results supporting sites like RockYourRefund.com, generational lines still blur because knowing people is not an exact science.



Illustration by Alan Laidlaw | Staff Illustrator

Junior computer information systems major, Rachael Rothschild, 20, says the site is "decent" because it offers basic information, but she wants more in-depth details. At a glance, she was also left wondering if TurboTax was a sponsor or if it was being promoted.

"I thought that it was a site that offered a tax service, but they just send you to TurboTax. I have already filed my taxes, but I really don't think I would use this site. I would go straight to TurboTax," Rothschild says.

Rothschild mentions that she has friends who would enjoy the discounts on vacations, computers and MP3 players, but she plans on saving her tax refund.

Spokesperson Ferrin emphasizes that the site is available to anyone, but for those that don't need a fresh start, it might not be so appealing.

RockYourRefund.com doesn't make a filer choose which software to use. This is a feature that makes the Web site easier to use.

If a new filer went straight to TurboTax, Ferrin fears the information would be overwhelming. She says TurboTax is suitable for a more complicated return.

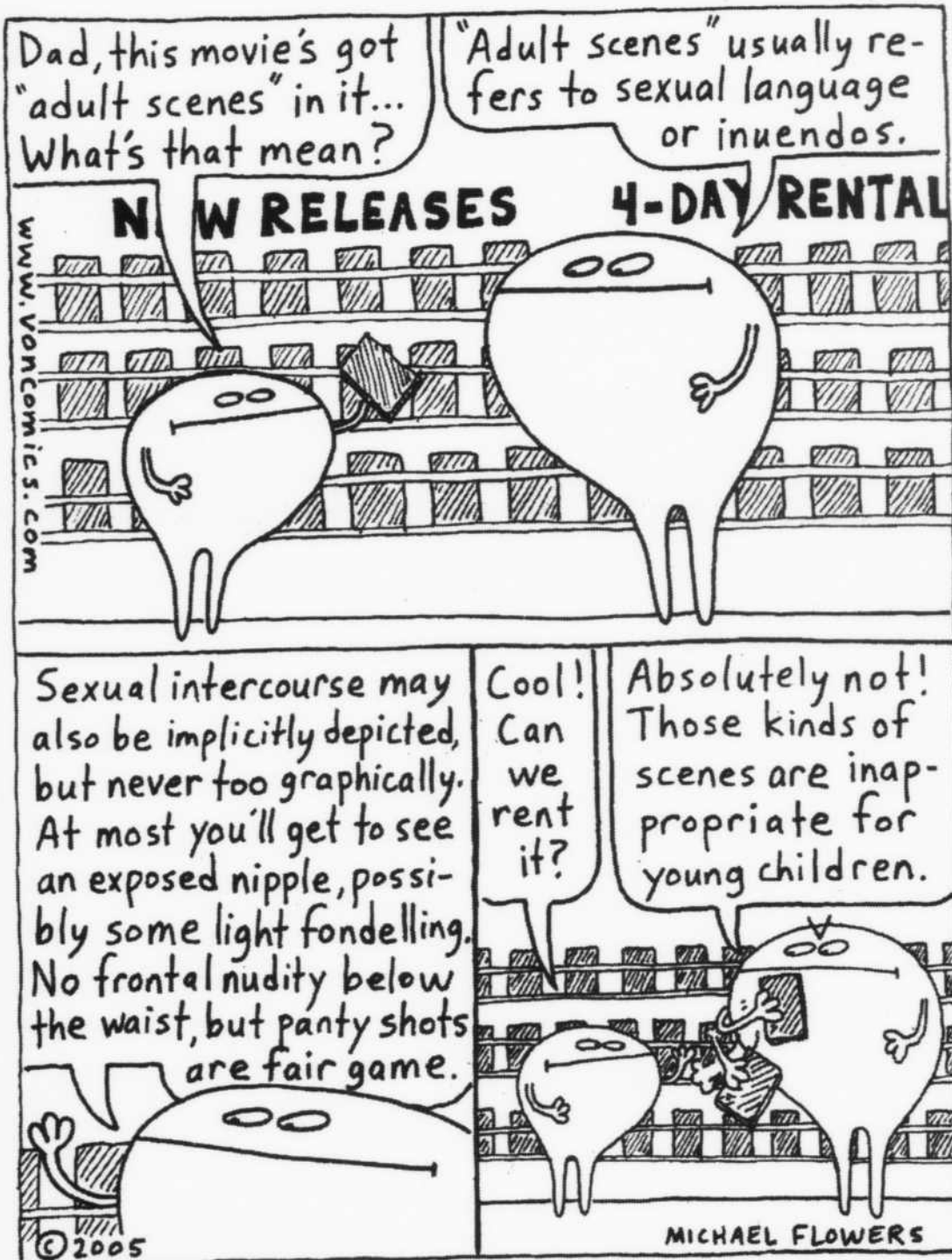
Despite the site's being in its early stages, teams at Intuit are already looking into expansion for next year through parents and employers. Ferrin says that

word of mouth is very important to the 18 to 24 age group, and information like the site provides needs to come from a trustworthy source.

While still undecided on whether or not to use the site, Beauchamp learned about student loan interest as a possible deduction from the site after just a few minutes.

If anything, Ferrin suggests that students should check on student interests, credits and deductions because those are a large part of the refund. She also says to e-file because you get the refund within 10 days, as opposed to six weeks. ♦

## Von



## Cowboy mounted shooting encourages family togetherness

By Mary Anne Dunavant  
Staff Writer

What happened to family night, when parents would get together with their children, just to spend time together?

What better way to get the entire family together than a cowboy mounted shooting competition?

"It just has a nice, down-home feel," says Frank Turben, President of the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association. "Many people have started a cowboy church on Sunday mornings during events, and sometimes we have potluck meals. People want to get back to family values, and that's what we offer."

Started in 1995 by Jim Rodgers, cowboy mounted shooting is an equine sport in which people dress in late-1800s apparel and participate in barrel racing competitions while shooting at balloon targets. People of all ages are allowed to compete.

Because guns and horses are involved in the competition, safety is a definite concern, but the sport is surprisingly safe.

"The horses are probably the more dangerous of the two," Turben says. "The ammunition has been certified and tested, and it is provided at the competition. People cannot bring their own."

According to the association's Web site, participants use .45-caliber revolvers like those

used in the late 1800s. Only single-action revolvers are used because they are most relevant to the time period.

"We have very strict rules and guidelines for setting up courses," Turben explains. "Range masters watch the competitions and check for safety factors before the run ever happens."

The majority of the competitions are mounted shooting, but there are other types as well.

"There is a rifle competition that is very exciting, and we also have a cavalry class, where people dress in Civil War uniforms," Turben says.

Dress code is a very important part of the competition because it helps keep the competitors in the spirit of the time period it honors.

The most important aspect of the competition is that it honors family values, and since the mounted shooting community emphasizes this above all else, all ages are allowed to participate.

"This is a family sport, with mothers, fathers, kids, grandmothers and grandfathers," says Rock Clark, the 2004 Eastern United States champion. "You get to spend time with the family instead of the kids spending every weekend with their friends."

"Wranglers, ages 12 and below, ride the course without a gun," Turben says. "The earliest age I've seen participate is 6."

In addition to all ages, all breeds of horses are allowed to be involved in the competition.

"We have everything you can think of — mares, quarter horses, Arabians — you name it," Turben says.

Many prizes are awarded to winners of the different events in the competition.

"At our international championship, we are offering about \$80,000 worth of prizes," Turben says. "On the local level, many get buckles and cash prizes."

The community is always open to new participants, and they will go out of their way to help others become involved.

"One thing that makes [the event] unique is that if you came to a practice and were interested, you could feel free to walk up to anyone and let them know you're interested," Clark says. "People are always willing to let you borrow their equipment and try it out."

Upcoming events will be taking place on April 30 and May 1 in Cookeville at the Hyder-Burke Arena, and the Eastern United States Shooting Championship will be held at Miller Coliseum in Murfreesboro. All events are free.

For information about how to become involved in cowboy mounted shooting, visit [www.cowboymountedshooting.com](http://www.cowboymountedshooting.com), and click on the "find a club near you" link. ♦



## Smithson leaves basketball squad after talking to Davis

By Colby Sledge  
Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee sophomore point guard Bryan Smithson has decided to leave the team and look to transfer to another school.

Smithson approached head coach Kermit Davis and informed Davis that he was unhappy with his playing time and might transfer. Davis spoke with Smithson, and the two agreed to part ways.

"He came in to visit with me after Spring Break and just said he had some thoughts about what his role was going to be next year, and we just started talking," Davis said. "I like Bryan, but I think it's in his best interest and the best interests of our program that he goes to another school. We wish him nothing but the best."

Smithson averaged 6.9 points per game and led the team in assists with 98 this season. Smithson's playing time

decreased, however, as he began to share time at the point guard position with junior transfer Fats Cuyler.

Smithson started in 20 of 31 games this season after starting in 28 of 29 games last year.

Davis also addressed rumors that junior forward Keith Christmas was also considering leaving the team.

"He's working out with our team and going to study hall," Davis said. "Right now for sure we expect Keith Christmas back on our team."

With Smithson's departure, Davis now has three scholarships to offer for next season. The basketball late signing period begins April 13. ◆



Smithson

## Smith deserves recognition, reward from administration

With the Lady Raiders' most recent upset of a Tobacco Road school, much has been made of how the team will cope without departing senior Patrice Holmes.

Here's a bigger question: How would Middle Tennessee cope without Stephany Smith?

The women's head coach has quietly compiled a .634 winning percentage in eight seasons, which ties for the third-longest tenure of any MT basketball head coach, men's or women's. Lewis Bivens, Smith's predecessor, stayed for 10 seasons at MTSU before retiring.

But a quick look at the numbers reveals that Smith isn't being paid nearly what she's worth.

According to the 2004-05 July MTSU budget, Smith is making just more than \$85,000 this season, including benefits. In comparison, the average salary for Division I women's basketball head coaches in 2002-03 (the most recent season such statistics are available) was \$118,300. See the difference?

Now consider a simple search that revealed at least nine head coaching positions have opened in the past month around the country. Those vacancies include the Clemson job, which former MT head coach Jim Davis held until Saturday, when he took an assistant athletic director position with the Tigers staff.

Davis was making at least \$105,000 per season, according to an extension he signed in 1999. Davis signed another extension last year before being coerced into taking an administrative position.

Those aforementioned openings also include the Alabama job, which came open after Rick Moody retired at the end of this season. Moody was making \$150,000 per season.

See the problem? Davis and Moody were the most successful coaches in their

### Sports commentary



Colby Sledge  
Sports Editor

respective programs' histories, but both coaches struggled in recent seasons. Clemson finished 8-20 last season, and Alabama had suffered three straight losing seasons under Moody.

Both programs will likely be looking for a fresh approach from a coach with proven success. Smith fits the bill.

To her credit, Smith hasn't even intimated she would look at offers from other schools. She has even spoken about life after Holmes and how the program will continue to thrive.

But if the administration is smart – and it appears they are, if early indications from the athletic department prove true – they won't let the speculation begin. They'll present Smith with an offer she can't refuse, whether she would want to or not. They'll give her an extension and a raise worthy of her efforts.

And if Smith is smart – which she has to be – she'll stay at Middle Tennessee. Smith has the potential to build a powerful program that brings high-profile schools to Murfreesboro. Recruits are willing to come to MTSU, and although the Sun Belt is somewhat weak, the Lady Raiders' rivalry with Western Kentucky has only intensified.

Smith's reward shouldn't be an issue. Here's hoping the athletic department ensures it doesn't become one. ◆

Colby Sledge is a junior mass communication major. He can be reached at pcs2a@mtsu.edu.

## NO. 4 TEXAS TECH 80, NO. 12 MIDDLE TENNESSEE 69 Texas Tech overpowers MT



Associated Press

Texas Tech center Cisti Greenwalt blocks MT's Patrice Holmes in the Lady Raiders' 80-69 loss on Monday.

By Jori Rice  
Staff Writer

After Monday's night game the Lady Raiders had to say goodbye to their 2004-2005 season because of an 80-69 loss to Texas Tech at the Reunion Arena in Dallas, Texas.

TTU jumped out to a 17-9 lead in the first half and led 46-29 at halftime. TTU (24-7) appeared to have taken command in the first half by out-rebounding the Lady Raiders 20-11 and shooting 63 percent from the field.

Alesha Robertson for TTU scored 15 points in the half and Cisti Greenwalt scored 12 before going into the locker room. "Alesha was open on the backside wing," TTU head coach Marsh Sharp told usatoday.com. "We tried to find ways to get the basketball to her before the defense could recover."

Robertson hit back-to-back three-pointers in the first half to give TTU an extended lead. However, MT's Patrice Holmes added 13 points in the half to keep the Lady Raiders close.

The No. 12 seed Lady Raiders tried to make a comeback when they went on a 9-0 run in the second half, but it was not enough. The most MT did was cut the lead to 10 points.

"I'm proud of our kids for what they accomplished this season," MT head coach Stephany Smith told The Associated Press. "We're not happy with tonight, but we have a lot to be proud of."

It was the last game and the season finale for MT seniors Ditte Jakobsen, Ciara Gray and Holmes.

"This is harder to swallow than 12 months ago," Smith told usatoday.com. "We felt like we were prepared ... for whatever

reason in the first half, we weren't as aggressive as we had been all season."

Last season, MT (24-9) fell short in the second round of the NCAA to Notre Dame.

"We expended so much energy defending on the inside, they got a lot of open looks, as you could see by the impressive display of three-point shots," Smith told usatoday.com.

Robertson ended the game with 25 points and five three-pointers.

"Usually I haven't been seeing those open shots," Robertson told usatoday.com. "They did concentrate on post play. That gave me a lot of looks on the outside. One of my jobs is to put the ball in the hole."

Greenwalt finished with 19 points for TTU, and La Tonya Davis had 11 points. For the Lady Raiders, Holmes scored 25 points. Krystle Horton had 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Chrissy Givens added 14 points. ◆

## Blue Raiders drop fifth straight in 9-5 loss to Lipscomb

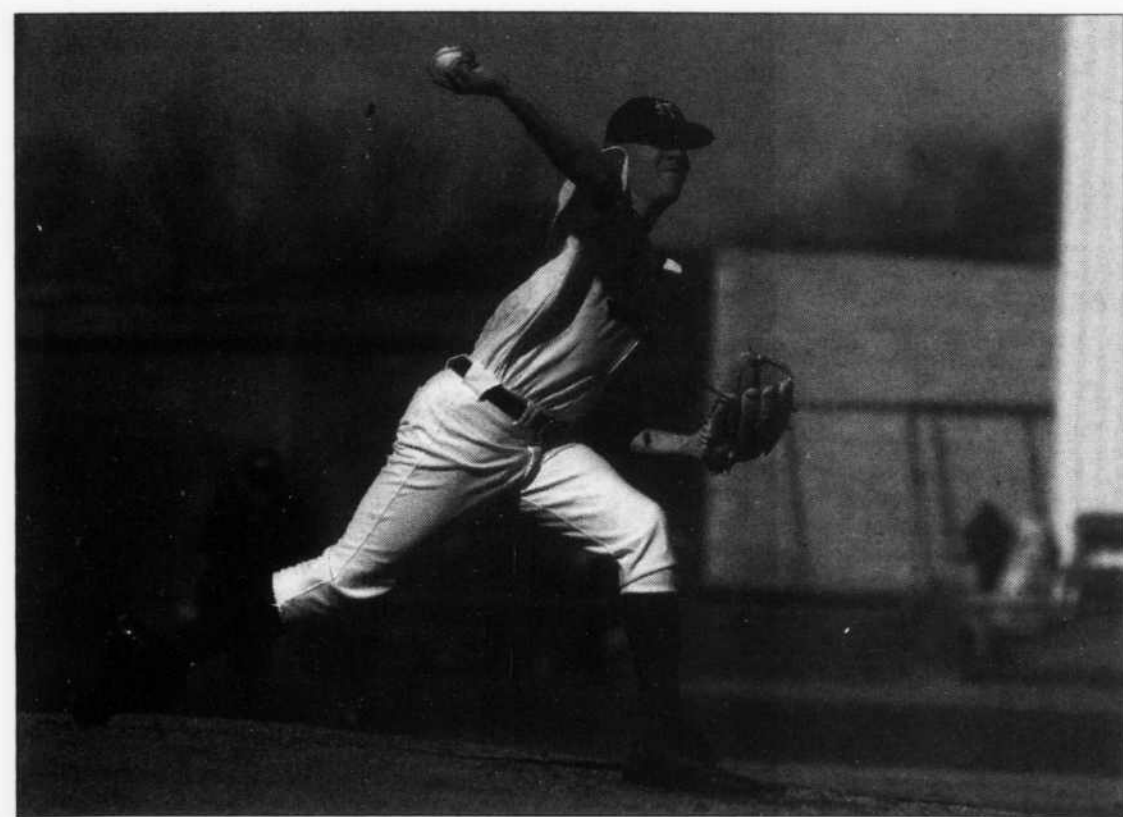


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Eric Blevins allowed one run in a 3-2 loss to Southwest Missouri State on Sunday.

By Jon Leffew  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee baseball team dropped its fifth straight and seventh of nine games last night. The Blue Raiders were defeated 9-5 by the Lipscomb Bisons.

This losing streak, the longest the team has been on this season, marks the longest streak the team has been on since May 14-23, 2002, when the team lost six straight.

MT led the contest by two runs after three innings of play, but the Bisons used a two run rally in both the fourth and fifth and a three-run spurt in the sixth to take control.

MT did add two runs in the seventh, but the Bisons countered with two of their own to clinch the victory.

Lipscomb's Adam Blackwell

picked up the win despite giving up ten hits in six innings of work.

Blackwell gave up five runs, three of which were earned, while striking out one and walking only two.

After Blackwell exited, Lipscomb's Cody Gossett, Brett McCullough, Alan Tungate and Seth Kuwik combined for three innings of scoreless relief. The pitchers allowed just two hits while striking out three.

Tyler Copeland was saddled with the loss for MT. The sophomore hurler surrendered six hits and seven runs in five innings of work. Only three of these runs were earned, however, as Copeland was hindered by four Blue Raider errors and four walks.

Patrick O'Rourke led the Bisons offensively. The third baseman had two hits, one of

<b>Lipscomb</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>MT</b>	<b>5</b>
Next Game: Friday at Arkansas-Little Rock	
● Eric McNamee fulfills Blue Raider dream, p. 7	

which was a double, and four runs batted in on the evening.

In addition to O'Rourke, Nick Bruning was a perfect 3-for-3 with three RBIs.

Eric McNamee, Jeff Beachum and Nate Jagers had two hits apiece for the Blue Raiders, and Marcus Taylor hit a home run, his first since May 29 of last season, a 20-game stretch.

The Blue Raiders will return to action on Friday, beginning a series at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. ◆



# McNamee fulfills dream, looks forward to future

By Jill Davis  
Staff Writer

He was just a little boy who grew up around Middle Tennessee baseball with a dream that most little boys have when they are young: playing professional baseball. For senior McNamee, that dream is not too far away.

McNamee came to Middle Tennessee last year after playing for Columbia State Community College, where he was voted Western Conference Player of the Year.

For his first year as a Blue Raider, McNamee accomplished more than anyone thought possible. He was selected as First-Team All-Sun Belt after batting .364, 86 hits, 71 runs scored, 24 RBIs and breaking the school record with 50 walks.

He is a leader on and off the field and an obstacle to his teammates. A studious student in the classroom and an effective leader in baseball, McNamee is living out his all-time dream.

As a boy who grew up watching MT baseball and always wanted to play for the Blue Raiders, McNamee passed up opportunities from big-name schools such as Tennessee and Vanderbilt, showing his dedication of wearing an MT blue and white uniform.

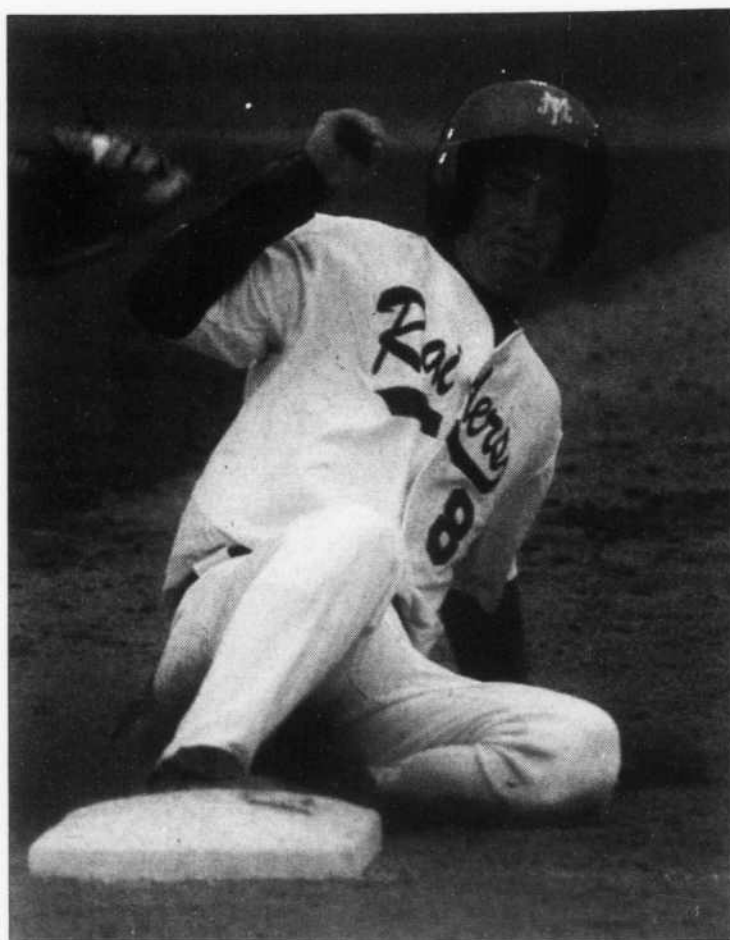
Baseball has been in his blood since he was 4 years old, he said. He has continued to play throughout his life.

"I started when I was 4 and kind of kept going," McNamee said. "And then when you get to the chance to go play college, of course it's a more exciting experience. It's a really huge accomplishment and fun to do."

Instead of focusing on individual goals, his attention is directed toward the team's goals.

"Anything really does not mean anything if we don't win," McNamee said.

McNamee also mentioned that the team's first goal, as with every start of a season, is to win



File Photo

Eric McNamee leads the team with four stolen bases.

a championship, then win that title. Peterson also commented on McNamee's skills. McNamee is in his second year, and the most important statistic Peterson is looking for is his on-base percentage.

McNamee flirted with a .400 average until he cracked his ribs on the right side with only two or three weeks left in the season. Because the injury was on his right side, the ball was always getting thrown in that direction.

Although his performance dropped, McNamee knew it was going to be tough, both physically and mentally, but it was merely an obstacle to overcome.

Head coach Steve Peterson praises McNamee for the leadership and outstanding playing he showed last season.

With the start of the 2005 season, he was hoping to see McNamee continue these contributions in his drive to becoming a professional baseball player as he finishes getting his degree.

Peterson mentioned there are

many teams already looking at McNamee.

Peterson also commented on McNamee's skills. McNamee is in his second year, and the most important statistic Peterson is looking for is his on-base percentage.

"I think he is a good teammate," Peterson said. "I think he works at being a teammate. He is a senior who does not put himself above freshmen. He is not a rah-rah kind of guy."

So far this season, McNamee has managed a .304 batting average, picking up 13 runs and 21 hits as well as six RBIs.

As a student, leader and player, McNamee is only one season away from fulfilling his dream of becoming a professional baseball player.

He is not a little boy anymore aspiring to play for the Blue Raiders.

He is a Blue Raider. ♦



## MT Golf Update



### Weather prematurely ends tournament

#### Staff Reports

Inclement weather has become a theme for the Lady Raider golf team in their last two tournaments.

The Samford Intercollegiate in Calera, Ala., was cancelled yesterday due to inclement weather and the Lady Raiders in third place.

Middle Tennessee (302) was two strokes behind Jacksonville State (300) and seven strokes behind Campbell (295).

Grace Holmes and Jamey Dillard both shot 74s to lead the way for MT. Taryn Durham and Kristin Lynch tallied 77s, and Jenny Kim rounded out the scoring with a 79.

Last week, winds swirled and scores climbed as the Lady Raiders continued their strong play in Hawaii.

The Lady Raiders participated in the Dennis Thompson Invitational, which was hosted by the University of Hawaii. The trip marked the first trip the golf team has taken

### Blue Raiders finish sixth in Alabama

#### Staff Reports

The Blue Raider golf team finished in sixth place yesterday in the Homewood Suites Intercollegiate in Mobile, Ala.

Mississippi State came from second place to take the team title with a 2-under 862, five strokes better than host South Alabama. Austin Peay and Louisiana Tech tied for third at 871.

South Alabama went into the final day with a three-stroke lead, but saw their first-place hopes disappear with after a final-round 296.

"I really thought the guys played well this week," South Alabama men's golf head coach Ben Hannan told USA Media Relations. "Unfortunately, it was not in the cards for us to get the victory, but hopefully we can use this performance to build on."

The Blue Raiders finished in a tie with South Florida for sixth after shooting a final-round 304. Middle Tennessee also entered the

outside of the continental United States.

After two days MT was firmly entrenched in second place after the team encountered gusts of up to 50 miles per hour during play.

The Lady Raiders finished fourth overall in the 12-team tournament with a four-day score of 1004 (+140). No. 22 Washington State won the competition with a 976 (+112).

Maggie McGill led the Lady Raiders with a total of 245 (+29) to finish fifth overall, and Taryn Durnham rounded out the top 10 with a tally of 251.

Kristin Lynch had a strong final day, shooting an 81 that led all scores and ended in 13th place. Jenny Kim played good enough for 15th place and Jamey Dillard finished 35th.

Kim Welch of Washington State finished one stroke better than teammate Jay Lee Longbottom and South Florida's Joan M. Shimozaaki with a score of 235 (+19).

The Lady Raiders' next tournament, the Southern Miss Invitational, begins play April 4. ♦

third day in sixth place.

"I was really pleased with our play on Monday," MT head coach Johnny Moore told MT Media Relations. "We left a couple of shots out there that we could have had, but overall I was happy with the effort. We seem to be improving with each round we play."

The Blue Raiders opened with a 291 and followed with a 289.

Josh Nelms led MT with a three-day total of 219, which was good for a tie for 16th. Kenny Green, who was tied for seventh after 36 holes, shot a 7-over 78 on the final day to finish tied for 22nd with a 220.

Nick Bailes finished tied for 29th with a 222, Blake Bivens shot a 227 to finish tied for 48, and Patrick McLennan shot a 229 to finish tied for 53rd.

The Blue Raiders next head to the UALR Collegiate Golf Tournament on Mar. 28-29 in Little Rock, Ark. ♦



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Condo near MTSU for rent. 2 bedrooms left. 4 bed/3.5 bath for lease. Washer and dryer in Unit. 3,000 sq. feet. \$330.00 + 1/4 utilities per month. Valerie at 943-8274 or 904-1871.

Female roommates to occupy new 2BR 1BA cottage, private entrance, 2 blocks from MTSU. \$365 each per month includes heat and air, water, electricity, cable and internet. \$500 deposit, 1 year lease, no pets. 615-364-1004.

### Miscellaneous

#### Reward!

Lost Wedding/Anniversary Ring belonging to my deceased mother. Ring is 3 attached parts with diamond in the center of a rose and the anniversary band. If found, call

615-423-6897.

**AVOID FORECLOSURE** - Save your credit and get out of that house payment. I buy houses. Call Skyye Medley 615-596-8912

### STEEL BUILDINGS

Leftover Steel from 2004 that MUST be sold!!! Fast and Easy Assembly means your building can be up by spring! Call ASAP!!!! 1-800-405-7501

MTSU graduate student needs wives of deployed soldiers for a focus group. Wives will be discussing family changes in war times. The purpose of this focus group is to help educate future military wives and make a significant contribution to the current literature on military families. For further info please contact Jenni Davis 615-217-0265, [jtd2r@mtsu.edu](mailto:jtd2r@mtsu.edu) or Dr. Catherine Stogner at 615-898-5522, [cstogner@mtsu.edu](mailto:cstogner@mtsu.edu).

### Opportunities

100% paid tuition to MTSU. Work only one weekend/month. \$6,000 & \$10,000 bonuses available. Call or stop by to schedule a no obligation appointment. SGT. Brian Stacy Forrest Hall Military Science Department. 494-7682 or [bstacy@mtsu.edu](mailto:bstacy@mtsu.edu).

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girl's Rock Flash show in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. Undergraduate research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit [www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair](http://www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair) for qualifying criteria.

### Pets

### Roommates

Female roommate wanted to share 2 bd. 2 bath. 495 (including utilities) a month. 5 minutes from campus. Fully furnished, Free cable internet, washer/dryer. Must be friendly, clean no smoking, and little drinking. Call Jessica @ 615-525-6752.

Male or female needed. 2 bd 1 bath. 297/month + 1/2 utl. Needed by April 30. 275-9075.

Female Roommate Wanted: 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$300/mo includes all utilities. Call: 615-893-7755.

1 roommate needed for 3 bedroom 3 bath apartment at Campus Crossings. Fully furnished. Workout center, highspeed internet, pool. \$439/mo. utilities included. Call: 615-482-3796.

### Sales

New football table for sale, real wood, dark finish. Granite players. \$600 OBO. Call 931-801-4417.

Portable 7" DVD player w/ accessories, Initial IDM 1731, brand new, unopened box, \$150. [jrv2f@mtsu.edu](mailto:jrv2f@mtsu.edu) or 615-217-3883.

2004 Trek 4900 Alpha Aluminum Mtn. Bike. Bought in Jan and only ridden once. Excellent condition. Paid \$575 will settle for \$400. Adam 615-668-3822.

For Sale: Futon \$150, Full Mattress \$100, 13" TV \$50 [mjw2k@mtsu.edu](mailto:mjw2k@mtsu.edu)  
7 ft. green checkered couch, good condition, very comfortable. We just got a new couch and have no room. \$75 obo. Tim or Joe 615-893-1293.

Guitars, Amps and drums for sale. Peavey, Yamaha, Schecter, B.C. Rich, m Traven, Zildjian, Sabian, Sonor, etc. Music World & Drummers Den 893-4242, 2762 S. Church St. (located across from Indian Hills).

House for sale, walk to MTSU, hardwood floors, move-in condition, rented attic apartment pays \$350/month. \$114,500. 614-571-2291 or [oliverkleban@hotmail.com](mailto:oliverkleban@hotmail.com).

Two Cheap Computer desks. One desk type with cabinets overhead. One is a stand type with 1 drawer, no cabinets. \$30 for both. Email: [deb\\_mtsu@yahoo.com](mailto:deb_mtsu@yahoo.com). Call 615-563-4488 after 5:30.

**ATTORNEY**  
Christine Barrett  
890-1300  
320 West Main St. Suite 121 Murfreesboro, TN 37130 Visa/MasterCard Accepted.

### Sublease

Sterling 3335. Pool view, fast internet service, great roommates, needed for May-July. Great for summer school cheap housing. Candice 901-351-9915.

Female, non-smoker needed to sublease apt at Campus Crossing ASAP. Nice clean large

bdm with a private bath, in 3 bdrm apt. Utilities, cable, internet included. \$439 monthly. Jessica 351-4935, [jla2i@mtsu.edu](mailto:jla2i@mtsu.edu).

Need a place to stay this summer? 1br/1bt available at the Woods May 15th-August 15th. Rent is \$300 and includes all utilities with cable and high speed internet. Please call 407-375-4994 for more info.

Subleaser needed to take over lease through August. 2 bed/2 bath apt. rent includes half water. 1st month rent free! only mins from campus. Call Tara @ 615-418-6919.

Looking for a subleaser for a 2 bedroom apt at Campus Crossings for the months of May-August. If interested call 931-237-1318.

1 Roommate needed or 3 bed 3 bath apt. Campus Crossing. Fully furnished. Workout center, highspeed internet, pool. 439/month. Utilities included. call 615-482-3796.

Subleaser needed for a 2bd 2 ba apt. @ University Courtyard, all utilities included. Male or female because there is no other occupant as of right now and probably won't be until lease is up. Rent is discounted \$30 from \$525 to \$495. March rent has been paid! Lease ends in July. Move in ASAP! For more info call 313-433-8427 or email: [Hnp2b@mtsu.edu](mailto:Hnp2b@mtsu.edu)

**SUMMER SUBLEASER NEEDED**  
Female subleaser needed for a 1BD in a 4BD/4BA at Campus Crossings Apartments. LR, DR, Kitchen, Wash/Dryer, utilities and cable, high speed internet, pool, workout. \$400/mo includes all of the above. 3 other roommates periodically gone for the summer. Mid May until Fall Semester. Call Carrie: 865-740-9133 or Steve: 865-405-4833

### Travel

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Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Room 269, or faxed to (615) 904-8193. For more information call (615) 904-8154 are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.



# MT Club Teams enjoying successful year

By Chase Williams  
Staff Writer

Most MTSU students know that the Blue Raiders compete at the highest level of NCAA athletics. What those same students may not know about, however, are the many regionally and nationally competitive club teams and organizations on campus.

There are currently 27 active athletic clubs based out of the Campus Recreation Center with another possible four on the way this semester. They are overseen by Wendy Windsor, director for clubs and intramurals at Campus Rec.

"A lot of people do not know how good some of our athletics are. I like to think of some of our clubs and organizations as MT's hidden secret," Windsor said.

She noted that many of the best club teams on campus started simply with a few students who were interested in playing sports, like rugby, hockey or lacrosse who took the initiative to come to the Rec Center and look in to starting teams. Windsor said students interested in starting athletic clubs must first show they have enough willing athletes and then go through the Student Affairs office to look into funding. The clubs are funded through student fees, membership fees and scholarships.

Several clubs have excelled recently on the courts, mats, fields, ice and even



Photo provided by Michael Paul

MT's wheelchair tennis team won the singles and doubles titles at the national title earlier this month.

the air for the Blue Raiders.

One such squad this year was the hockey team. Started in 2003-04, MT finished its second campaign with an impressive 37-2-1 record. The Blue Raiders compete in Division 3 of the American Collegiate Hockey Association's Central region. Though the team played its home games in Franklin, the team averaged around 200 fans a game. Team member Brad Peterson led Division 3 in goals (87) and assists (92) on his way to 179

points, which was a hundred points better than second-place finisher and teammate Ryan Cammisa. MT hopes to move up to Division 1 in the next few years.

The Blue Raider rugby squad is a perennial top finisher in USA Rugby's Division 1 South Union. The program actually recruits some players, and it shows as MT collected the South Union title in 1999, 2000, and 2002.

"We finished 3-2 this season, and we were kind of disappointed, but we were

kind of young. We look forward to playing together in the off-season with the goal of getting to the Sweet 16 next year," team member Cameron Parnell said.

The wrestling club consists of about 25 members and competes in the Mid-Atlantic Conference of the National Collegiate Wrestling Association. The Blue Raiders sent eight wrestlers to the national tournament in Dallas, where 157-pounder Angelo Giasante placed sixth.

The MT wheelchair tennis squad hosted the national tournament earlier this month. Though the team has existed for two years, MT's Russell Rodriguez collected first place in singles, and teammate Kevin Green finished second. The two then teamed up to capture their second straight doubles title. Rodriguez and Green are undefeated in two years of competition. Team members said the need for easier accessible courts in order for the program to continue to grow.

Perhaps the craziest organization is the skydiving club. About 30 members strong, this club is only a year old. Diver Jeffrey Mullins recently competed in the National Collegiate Parachuting championships in Lake Wells, Fla. Mullins, who regularly jumps at West Tennessee Skydiving in Bolivar, competed with a team from Georgia Tech and won the national title in the two-way formation. His team also earned second in sport accuracy technique and third in the four-way formation.

Other clubs Windsor noted were the women's soccer and volleyball, men's lacrosse, racquetball, paintball, cricket and football clubs.

"We just want to let our school know that we are here, and we are successful. It used to be that we would show up and people would say 'Who's Middle Tennessee? Now people are saying, 'Here comes Middle.' We are just very proud to represent MTSU." ♦

## Blue Raiders start outdoors with wins

By Clarence Plank  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's Kishara George won the 400-meter hurdles event on Saturday in the Alabama Invitational Relays to start the outdoor season for the Blue Raiders.

George barely won in the hurdles event with a two-second lead over Alabama-Birmingham's Adrienne Duke. George is the current defending Sun Belt Outdoor hurdles champion.

"Kishara came out of the blocks like a bullet," head coach Dean Hayes told MT Media Relations. "It was the fourth fastest time of her career, and she did a good job considering the chilly conditions."

This was the first outdoor event for the Middle Tennessee of the season down in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The Blue Raiders had a great day with a number of athletes placing in the top five of the events. Junior sprinter Van Fraley came in second in the 100 meters.

"Van had a good start to the race," Hayes told MT Media Relations. "He had a good performance for his first outdoor meet."

In the 400-meter hurdles Linnie Yarbrough placed second and logged a personal best with a time of 53.09, while Mamadu Kone came in third in the 800 meters.

"Linnie ran the race really well," Hayes told MT Media Relations. "He was solid to start the race and finished strong but has to work on his focus in the middle of the race."

In the field events, Lindsay Sims placed second in the javelin toss, while in women's shot put Lady Raider Laetitia Florimond placed fourth in her first outdoor meet.

On Sunday, the Blue Raiders had an excellent meet to net them nine points for the men to finish eighth, while the Lady Raiders finished with 10 points and ended their meet with a 10th place finish.

MT's Alex Pruitt had a great day in the high jump. He placed fourth, while James Thomas heaved himself into fifth place in the weight throw.

MT placed third in the shuttle hurdle relay, while the 400-meter relay team came in fifth with a time of 45.91.

MT's next track and field outdoor event is this Saturday in the Clemson Classic in Clemson, S.C. ♦

## Bonds blames media for mental stress

By Ken Peters  
AP Sports Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Coming off knee surgery and caught up in baseball's steroids scandal, Barry Bonds said he may not play at all this season — despite standing on the doorstep of the sport's most hallowed record.

The San Francisco Giants slugger also said he was physically and mentally "done," and blamed the media for at least part of his troubles.

"I'm tired of my kids crying. You wanted me to jump off a bridge, I finally did," Bonds told reporters Tuesday, shortly after returning to training camp. "You finally brought me and my family down. ... So now go pick a different person."

Bonds, whose 703 career homers are 11 short of Babe Ruth's total and 52 behind Hank Aaron's record, was back in camp following last week's arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

Sitting at a picnic table outside the Giants' clubhouse with his 15-year-old son, Nikolai, at his side, Bonds said, "My son and I are just going to enjoy our lives. You guys wanted to hurt me bad enough, you finally got me."

Bonds said he was tired and disappointed following a winter in which he was accused of steroid use, his grand jury testimony was leaked and he had two knee operations.

Leaning his head on a crutch and repeatedly saying he was tired, Bonds spoke after a 1 1/2-

hour session with Giants trainer Stan Conte.

"Right now I'm just going to try to rehab myself to get back to, I don't know, hopefully next season, hopefully the middle of the season," Bonds said. "I don't know. Right now I'm just going to take things slow."

"I'm 40 years old, not 20, 30."

Bonds, who set the single-season record with 73 home runs in 2001, underwent a similar operation on the same knee on Jan. 31, but had a setback after workouts in camp earlier this month.

He returned to the Bay Area on March 16 and had surgery last Thursday to repair cartilage. Conte said last Thursday the second operation put Bonds back at "square one."

Conte said Bonds went through a "normal rehab six days out of surgery" on Tuesday, and that his knee looked as expected.

"I expect he'll progress as knee patients go," the trainer said, offering no prediction of when the seven-time NL MVP might be able to play again.

After Bonds' first operation this winter, Conte had said Bonds was expected to be sidelined for six weeks. All the trainer would say after the second surgery was that Bonds was unlikely to be ready for the season opener.

Teammate Moises Alou, who has come back from five surgeries, said Bonds probably was just having a bad day.

"Maybe today he was not very optimistic. I think it was one of those rehab days where you just caught him on one of the bad days," Alou said. "It's not fun when you come to

the ballpark, then have to go to the training room to get taped and get treatment.

"It's not as fun as when you are young and wild and doing things, especially when you are the man."

New York Yankees manager Joe Torre understood Bonds' mindset.

"When you don't feel good, there are a lot of things that take on a different perspective. If it's not fun for him, I don't think the record will be as satisfying," Torre said in Tampa, Fla. "Probably when he starts feeling better, I think maybe he'll change his thinking."

Giants pitcher Jason Christiansen, who had to come back from reconstructive elbow surgery, knows that rehab can be a bit depressing.

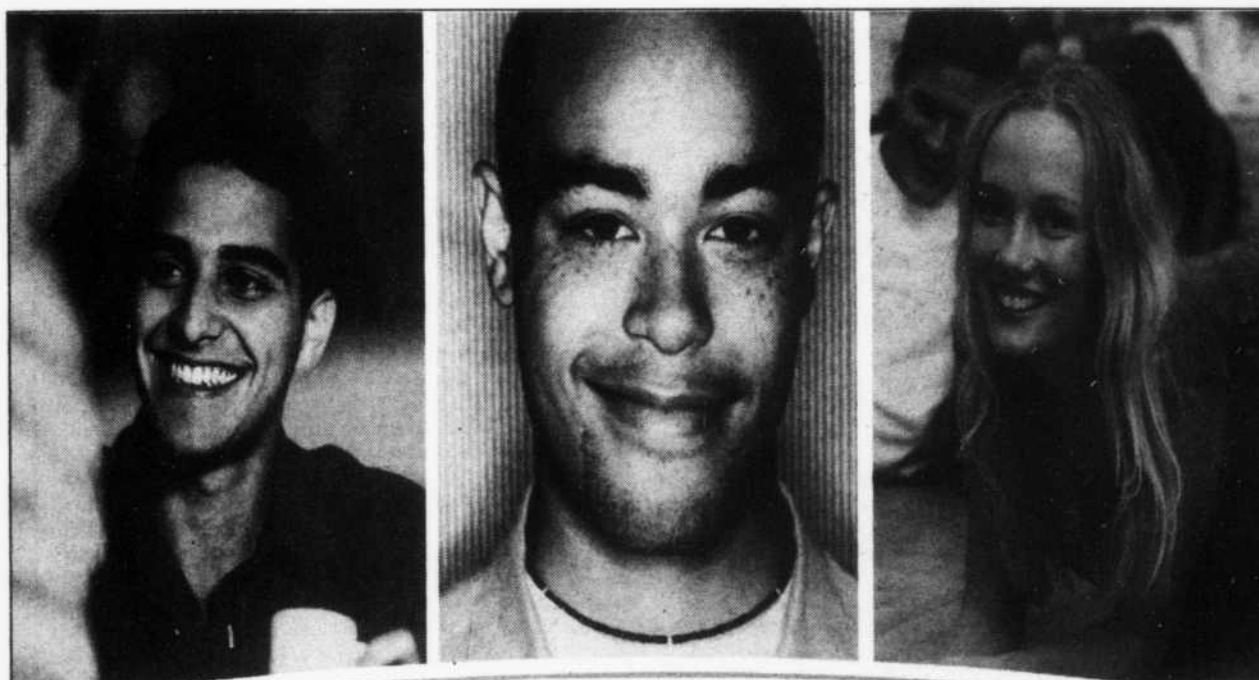
"There have been five or six times I've come in and said, 'I don't need this heartache any more.' It's a series of peaks and valleys," Christiansen said. "A week from now, Barry could turn around and say he'll be ready by April 5."

Christiansen realizes there's considerably more focus on Bonds.

"I couldn't imagine what he goes through on a daily basis, reading some of the stuff and hearing what people say about him. It's pretty much a circus," Christiansen said.

Last September, the Giants dropped a provision that would have allowed them to void Bonds' \$18 million salary in 2006 if he failed to reach 500 plate appearances this year or 1,500 combined from 2003 to 2005, including at least 400 this year. ♦

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