

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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Wing Fling fights against child abuse

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

Kappa Delta held its sixth annual "Wing Fling" Saturday on the Murphy Center Lawn to raise money for the organization Prevent Child Abuse in America.

Hundreds of members of the MTSU community came to try wings made by local restaurants, fraternities and sororities who participated in the contest on Saturday.

"Last year there were about 15,000 people coming in and out," said Grace Janoski, a junior liberal arts major and member of Kappa Delta who is in charge of Wing Fling. "We raised over \$18,000 for Prevent Child Abuse America."

Janoski said this year the Wing Fling was the biggest it has ever been thanks to the addition of a live band and a larger silent auction.

"This event takes about three to four months to plan," Janoski said. "Members of the Kappa Delta Chapter have been here since about six in the morning just trying to get everything set up and in order."

Danny Kelley, dean of Student Life, Vincent Windrow, director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs and Dustin Barner, a chef from Miller's Café served as contest judges.

"What I'm going to be looking for in the wings is the crispiness," Barner said. "If somebody smoked them or found a new method to cook them, then they could definitely win on originality."

Fraternities and sorori-

ties showed their support for Kappa Delta by cooking their own wings in hopes of winning the judge's choice or people's choice for best tasting wings.

"As far as philanthropic work goes, this is the biggest event," said Cole Merrick, a senior basic and applied sciences major and member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. "It's great because everyone gets a full belly and the money goes to charity."

Greg German, a junior business major and member of Sigma Chi, said they won the contest two years ago and were aiming to bring the trophy home again.

"This is a great event because [Kappa Delta] raises more money than any other sorority or fraternity on this campus," German said. "It's a good way to get the community involved, and I'm just glad to be apart of it."

Kappa Alpha won for the judge's best fraternity wings and Alpha Chi Omega won for the judge's best sorority wings. The people's choice winners were Chicken Shack for best restaurant, as well as Alpha Tau Omega and Alpha Omicron Pi for best fraternity and sorority wings, respectively.

"We have won people's choice for the past four years," said Haley Wilder, a freshman education and behavioral science major and member of Alpha Omicron Pi. "We have a different sauce this year but it's even better than before."

WINGS, PAGE 3

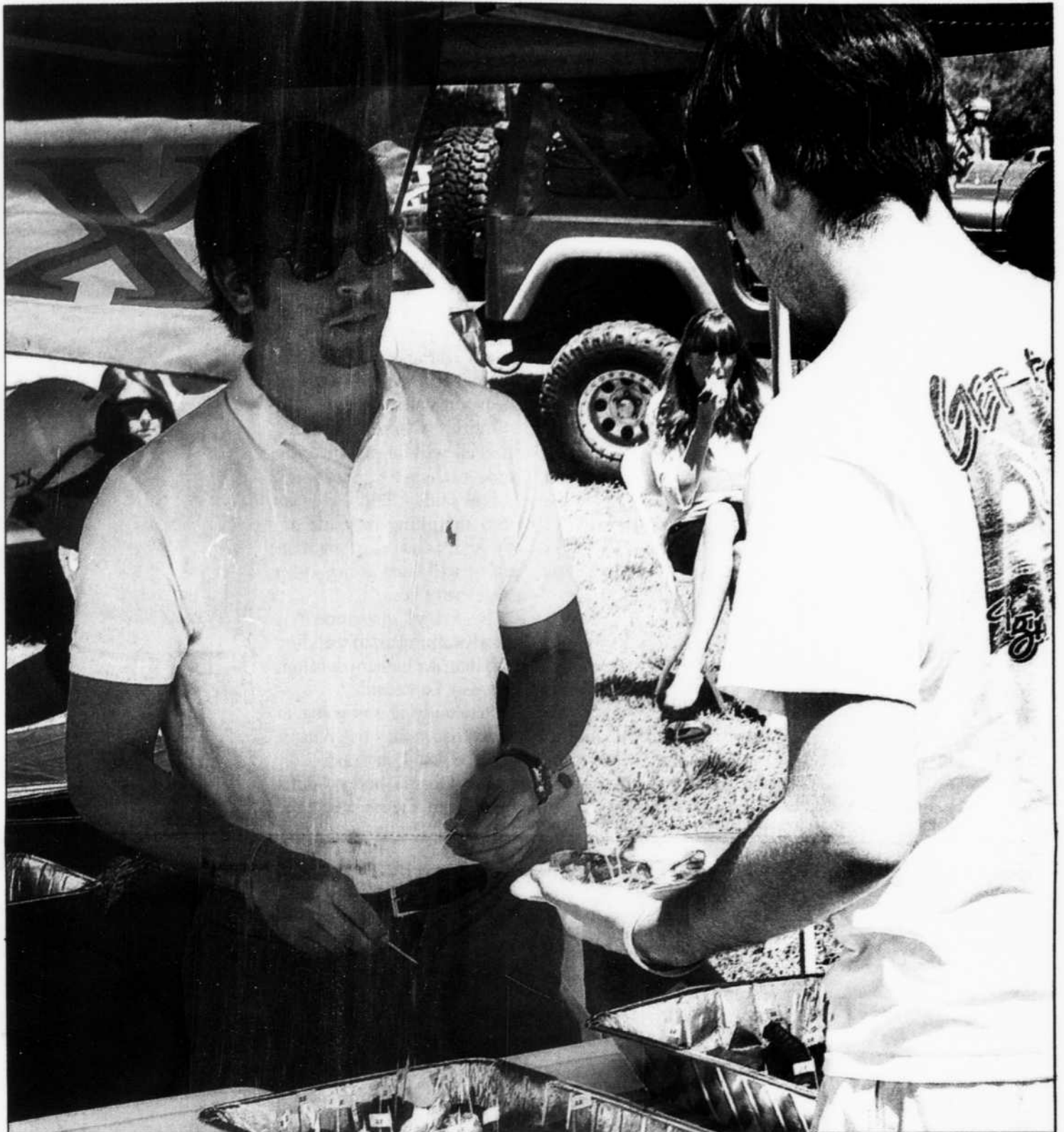


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Greg German (left) serves Jonathan Secrest hot wings on Saturday during Kappa Delta's sixth annual Wing Fling.

Students to vote on increase in SGA senators

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

Students will be able to vote on a special referendum Tuesday and Wednesday on whether or not to increase the number of senators in the Student Government Association.

Members of the SGA voted in favor of passing the bill to allow students to vote on it after reaching an agreement

that having more senators would allow SGA to have an immediate and bigger impact on campus.

"Students want their voice to be heard," said Brandon McNary, SGA executive vice president. "With more senators we will be able to reach many more students and bring in many more fresh ideas to the SGA."

McNary said that by increasing the number of sena-

“Students want their voice to be heard.”

BRANDON MCNARY
SGA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

tors, SGA will be able to reach out to more students, have more people to debate important issues, offer different view points and host more events for students.

McNary said there is cur-

rently one senator for every 750 students, and if the referendum were to pass, there would be one senator for every 500 students.

"One senator for every 500 students is a much more

manageable number," McNary said. "We would be able to accomplish a lot more with more senators."

If students vote in favor of the bill, the senate seats will be available for students to run for in the fall elections that correspond with homecoming court and freshmen senator elections.

McNary said that normally the SGA president would appoint the open seats, but

as the future president, he decided it would be better if students ran for their seats and get elected by their peers.

"This way, more of the student body has a chance to serve instead of me filling every empty seat," McNary said.

The referendum will be sent to students through their e-mail Tuesday allowing them to vote.

Health insurance rises for smoking MTSU employees

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Production Manager

Members of the MTSU faculty, staff and administration will undergo a massive increase in the premium of their health care if they do not quit smoking by the first of July.

Tennessee passed the Tobacco Use Surcharge and Quitter's Refund program that will go into effect on January 1, 2010. Any state employee who is considered a smoker during open-enrollment next October, which is an employee who has not quit by July, will be assessed \$50 a month on top of their current premium.

"Essentially, we all save in

the long run," said Pat Spangler, the medical director for MTSU Health Services. "We save in the number of diseases and in the number of early deaths and we save money; it's a win-win all the way around."

Karen Milstead, the benefits specialist for the MTSU Department of Human Resources, said during the open enrollment that each employee will have to sign a form that certifies whether they are a smoker or a non-smoker. The smoker's will be charged the Tobacco Use Surcharge.

"The state will also be assessing penalties for perjury," Milstead said. "Those who certify non-smoker when they do smoke are also im-

mediately liable for a \$300 penalty."

The MTSU Human Resources Web site stated that the additional \$300 penalty was due to the perjury breaching the employee contract with the state. According to the Web site that while human resources has not decided on randomized testing, the university reserves the right to issue a saliva test for cotinine levels.

"The certified smokers will have the ability to get back at least six months of the surcharge," Milstead said. "If they remain tobacco free for six months, they will receive a refund for the \$300."

Spangler said that if an employee quits smoking they

would not only save \$50 a month, the estimated savings would be "in the billions."

"The biggest incentive is the long term health of the individual," Spangler said. "If you continue smoking, your risk of emphysema, COPD [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease], and lung cancer goes up – so the idea here is that if we can lower the number of people of smoking, we can lower the number of long term diseases, therefore lowering our premiums."

Spangler said that in the big picture, many smokers end up uninsured, and the burden of their hospital bills fall upon the tax-

SMOKING, PAGE 2



Photo Illustration by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Health insurance for state employees is set to increase for smokers.

Obama fights for students

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Community News Editor

More college students in Tennessee could receive a federal Pell Grant if bank subsidy lending programs are ended, according to a report released by the Campaign for America's Future.

"The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain postbaccalaureate students to promote access to post-secondary education," the FPG Web site states.

President Barack Obama's budget would eliminate the Federal Family Education Loan Program, which would directly raise the number of Pell recipients by 5,225.

"His budget says that we are going to end the bank subsidizing lending program and redirect those funds to the students," said Eric Lotke, research director for Campaign for America's Future.

The average cost of tuition at public institutions has risen 29 percent nationally from 2000 to 2007. In Tennessee, it rose 34 percent from 2000 to 2008, including a 7 percent increase since 2006.

Obama's budget is calling for cuts in lender subsidies to increase the efficiency of the financial aid system.

These cuts could provide an average Pell Grant of \$3,400 to about 108,770 students in Tennessee, the report states.

The report also states that banks and lenders have been historically involved in the federal student loan program.

"When the loan program began, students looked like

poor financial risks," the report states. "Young in age, with little credit history and few personal assets, students were not attractive candidates for private-sector lending – certainly not for large sums needed to finance a college education."

In 1966, the federal government got involved to help students and banks at the same time, giving them incentives by creating the federal FFELP.

"FFELP guarantees lenders a higher interest rate than the base market rate, ensuring a healthy profit on monies loaned [to students]," the re-

because the old system already used the government to guarantee defaults."

Obama's budget calls for more support to be put behind the FPG Program. The support given to the FPG program will address immediate higher education financial concerns while putting in place a system for its future success.

Currently, the FPG program appropriates around \$12 million in support annually. With Obama's budget proposal, it is expected to rise around \$5 billion.

"In 2010-11, \$5 billion would be cut from the banks and lenders and invested in the students instead," the report states.

"Redirecting the bank subsidies toward Pell Grants would solidify the grant program as the premier source of assistance for low income students."

The Pell Grant maximum would increase from \$5,350 to \$5,550.

The average Pell Grant in 1977 covered 77 percent of public education costs. Currently, it is down to 35 percent, the report states.

"With Obama's plans, the Pell will be put into the budget in a permanent way," Lotke said. "The Pell has been shrinking in value every year, [and] starting next year it will start going up in value every year."

The federal government is already committed to spending \$5 billion on higher education next year, Lotke said.

"Previously it was going to spend that money by giving it to the banks," Lotke said.

"The Obama budget shifts funds from the banks to the students."

"The Obama budget shifts funds from the banks to the students."

ERIC LOTKE
RESEARCH DIRECTOR FOR CAMPAIGN

port states. "On top of that, the government guarantees payment of principle and interest in case of default."

The report states that this was a "win-win situation" for the banks, because they were guaranteed higher interest rates without a real risk.

"Over time, the students proved to be really good credit risks," Lotke said. "The default rates are really low, [and] the students pay back reliably."

By 1990, the need for banks to continue subsidizing was questioned when the Department of Education created a Federal Direct Loan program in 1993, the report states.

"The FDL program lends money to students at low [interest] rates available only to the U.S. Treasury," the report states. "The loans reduced payments for students and did not increase the government's risk

SMOKING FROM PAGE 1

Richard Chapman, the director of MTSU Student Health Services, said with the new financial constraints, many people will be forced to quit.

"This is coupled with the SCHIP tax in order to fund the children's health insurance program at the federal level," Chapman said. "They put a 60 cent per pack tax increase, that has made cigarettes that much more expensive, so a lot of people are going to give them up anyway."

The Human Resources Web site provides MTSU employees with a list of smoking cessation aids that will be offered in May at a low \$5 co-pay, including Chantix and Bupropion.

Spangler said that the withdrawal symptoms for tobacco addicts vary from person to person, but generally last for a few months.

"It is in our benefit to pay \$150-200 a month for three

by the new law, however, they respectfully declined to mention their names.

Chapman said that this trend in legislation is showing benefits to private companies as well, and the fi-

"Essentially, we all save in the long run. We save in the number of diseases and in the number of early deaths and we save money; it's a win-win all the way around."

PAT SPANGLER
MEDICAL DIRECTOR AT HEALTH SERVICES

months, rather than having to pay for hospitalization, for pneumonia, lung cancer, emphysema, breathing machines and oxygen for this person's life," Spangler said.

Many smoking faculty and staff said that they felt singled out and segregated

financial incentive may cause more companies to adopt similar policies.

For more information on the Tobacco Use Surcharge, the Quitter's Refund program and smoking cessation aids, you can visit: hrs.web.mtsu.edu.

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SUMMER 2009

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY



Registration is now open for all sessions!

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Take online classes and earn credit wherever you are.

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Summer 2009 Session Dates

- Full Term 1 (13 weeks): May 11 - August 7
- May Term S1 (3 weeks): May 11 - May 29
- June Term S2 (5 weeks): June 1 - July 2
- July Term S3 (5 weeks): July 6 - August 7
- June/July Term S4 (10 weeks): June 1 - August 7
- RODP Term R (10 weeks): June 1 - August 7

Don't Wait...Register Today!

If you have any questions or just want to talk about summer possibilities, please feel free to contact us.

Web: www.mtsu.edu/summer
Email: summer@mtsu.edu
Voice: 615-898-5783

MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents university, is an equal opportunity, nonracially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.

Up 'Til Dawn raises \$81,000 for St. Jude

Positions are open for next year's Up 'Til Dawn. Once you become part of this organization, you will receive experiences sure to add value to your resume and make you feel good about helping children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

There are many ways to get involved as a volunteer, team member, executive board member or planning committee. Within these positions are opportunities in entertainment, catering, corporate sponsorship, public relations, recruitment, finance, patient relations, logistics, fundraising and more.

Applications are in the KUC room 326-S and are due Friday, Mar. 20. For more info visit <http://stjudetmtdn.com/> -uptildawn or call 615-898-5812.



Up 'Til Dawn is a national student-led, student-run fundraising organization. Over 200 campuses participate in an Up 'Til Dawn event, but MTSU is among the best. For over 10 years, MTSU students have been leading the way in hosting this campus and community wide event raising over \$640,000 to fight childhood cancer.



UP 'TIL DAWN
ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

CURRENT EVENTS

9th Annual MTSU Student Film Festival
April 20-24
Visit KUC 308 for more information

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Sponsored by the June Anderson Women's Center

Clothesline Project
April 20-22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Keathley University Center Knoll

Film: "I Never Thought It was Rape"
April 20 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Location: KUC Theatre

Free self-defense class
April 20 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Location: James Union Building Room C

"Take Back the Night/ Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" showing
April 21 at 6 p.m.
Location: KUC Knoll

Referendum vote to increase number of SGA senators
April 21-22
Ballots will be sent to student e-mails

Earth Day Events
Geology 4000 class will conduct free water sample tests
April 22 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Location: KOM 325

April 22 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Location: KOM 308



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
(From left to right) Jillian King, Taylor Rubright and Betsy Jo Culbreath sell tickets on Saturday for sixth annual "Wing Fling."



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Jessica Bewley (left) and Paul Schoen serve wings in Alpha Omicron Pi's tent at the Kappa Delta "Wing Fling" on Saturday.

Service Award for Liberal Arts Faculty
25 Years
Virginia Donnell, *Speech & Theatre*
Kay Garrard, *Speech & Theatre*
Sharon Smith, *Speech & Theatre*
15 Years
Gaylord Brewer, *English*
Deana Raffo, *Speech & Theatre*
Theodore Sherman, *English*
Nuria Novella, *Foreign Languages & Literatures*
Loren McGwaters, *History*
Mary Magada-Ward, *Philosophy*
Lisa Langenbach, *Political Science*

Outstanding Advisors for the College of Liberal Arts
Karen Petersen, *Political Science*
Stephen Shearon, *School of Music*
Kenneth Lancaster, *Social Work*
Jackie Eller, *Sociology & Anthropology*

Provost Award
Ryan Darrow

Robert C LaLance, Jr. Achievement Award
Tiffany Hughes

College of Liberal Arts Honor Students
Elizabeth Andela
Rachel Anderson
Nicholas Armes
Meaghan Baker
Adam Bennet
Rachel Bevels
Laura Blair
Lynnaye Blythe
Leah Brooks
Melissa Buchanan
Joshua Busman
Jason Caldwell
Leslie Canter
Nemanja Cavlovic
Jon Cowart
Renee Davis
Emily Deakins
Samantha Delk
Karissa Doyal
Rachel Elkins
Jonathon Feaster
Eric Fields
Joshua Fitzpatrick
Melissa Fuqua
Matthew Galloway
Christa Gates
Stephany Gleadall
Catherine Domez
Maria Gomez
Jordan Graw
Susan Gray
Nathaniel Greene
Ragan Greer
Desiree J. Hayden
Daria Hight
Elizabeth Hunt
Kaitlyn Jones
Joseph Jordan
Daniel Joyce
Natalia Kowalsky
Miranda Lewis
Jessica M. Lindner
Kerri Lorigan
Adrian Mackie
Bryon McQuain
Valerie Meek
Elizabeth Miller
Lucy Miller

Rachel Morris
Heather Moulder
Lauren Norris
Tara Ptacek
Randy Purcell
Kathryn Reeves
Stephen Roberson
Ashlee Sadler
Negin Samadian
April Sanders
Timothy Savage
Kimberly Senter
Tashanna Shilling
Dana Shotwell
Hannah Smith
Grace Stevenson
Jodi Stewart
Kelly Stewart
Lauren Street
Kristen Sweeney
Kelley Tarwater
Cindy Trail
Hsiao Tseng
Joshua Wagner
Elizabeth Walsh
Nicole Wass
Jessica Webb
Erin Westerman
Christopher Wright

Phi Alpha Honor Society
Saret Vit
Melissa Wright
Cindy Trail
Dorothea Thompson
TaShanna Shilling
Sheila Rhodes
Melissa O'Flinn
Caretia Merriweather
Lindsey Brook McDaniel
Lauren Lowry
Rose Leach
Anthony King
Lisa Keasling
Susan Jones
William Cody Howard
Samantha Hovies
Johnsie Hayes
Elizabeth Gowing
Stephany Gleadall
Jessica Eubanks
Christian Davenport
April Dalton
Amber Chick
J'ree Charles
Enisa Ceranic
Tony Carter
Amy Brown
Lauren Beasley-Segroves
Sharry Bain
Brooke Anderson
Samantha Amacher

Phi Alpha Theta, Phi Sigma Chapter
Spring 2009 initiates
Laura Bradley
Matthew Clark
Lara Helton
Sarah Lee
Ben Malone
Rachel Morris
Mary Nevel
Rebekah Weiler

Homer Pittard Scholarship in Creative Writing
Sara Butterfield
Kara Cortner

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS
Art
Charles and Ola Massey Memorial Art Scholarship
Christine Peterson
Danielle E. Burns
David G. LeDoux Scholarship
John Neuhooff
Charles M. Brandon Scholarship
Sara M. Biolaczyc
Art Scholar for Rising Art Major
Alexis M. Thompson
Heather M. Moulder
Danny McClain
Jerry's Artarama Art Supply Scholarship
Sarah Goodwin
Evan Britt
Hester Rogers Ray Scholarship
Rosa L. Devoe

English
Virginia Derryberry Memorial Scholarship
Lacy Welker
Donna Jackson
William R. Wolfe Graduate Writing Awards
Brett Hudson
Brad Walker
Schuy R. Weishaar

Foreign Languages & Literatures
June Hall McCash Excellence in French
Melissa Buchanan
Outstanding Student in Spanish
Desiree Hayden
Jennifer Reeves
Wera Howard Outstanding Student in French
Andrea Lane
Ortrun Gilbert Outstanding Student in German
Nicholas David
Luke Bauer

Geosciences
Outstanding Geography Student Award
Anna Tegarden
Beverly Gamble
Joleen Keen
William Kohlhand Award
Aaron Mayfield
Estwing Rock Hammer Award
Miller Wylie
Gem and Mineral Museum Award
Eric Coburn
Will Carpenter

History
Ernest Hooper Award
Sarah E. Lee
Keith P. Schumann
Thelma Jennings Award
Carolyn Powell
Barl McCash Award
Elizabeth Goetsch
Tennessee Historical Commission Award to an Outstanding Student in History
Bradley W. Craig

School of Music
Outstanding Achievement in Woodwind Performance
Jennifer Reeves, bassoon
Jessica Harris, clarinet
Abigail Coffey, flute
Outstanding Achievement in String Performance
Lauren Norris, violin
Claire Whitcomb, viola
Matt Nelson, cello
Outstanding Achievement in Piano
Justin Worley
Outstanding Achievement in Voice Performance
Derek Meler
Outstanding Achievement in Music Education
John McDonald, vocal/general music education
Sarah Panjehpour, instrumental music education
Outstanding Achievement in Music History
Karla Grove
Kira King
Outstanding Achievement in Jazz Studies
Josh Philpott, guitar
Josh Dunlap, saxophone

Outstanding Achievement in Musical Composition
Christopher Hallum
Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Studies
Joseph Walker

Political Science
C.C. Sims Award
Ragan D. Greer
Norman L. Parks Award
Brandon Joel Wright
John W. Burgess Award
Kourtney Lace Hennard
Jack Justin Turner Award
Andrew Charles Sullivan
Meritorious Service Award
Nicholas H. Armes

Social Work
Dale Seime Scholarship
Daniel Simpkins
Marian Clark Scholarship
Enisa Ceranic
Heather Rollins
April Dalton
Peggy Ruhl
Stephanie Hartoon
TaShanna Shilling
William Cody Howard
Daniel Simpkins
Lauren Lowry
Ashton Smith
Abbie Minor
Cindy Trail
Janay Moreland

Sociology & Anthropology
Clayton James Scholarship
Amber Flankey
Marian Clark Scholarship
Amber Flankey
Zachary Craft
Tara Lee
Lauren Norman

Speech & Theatre
Outstanding Student in Leadership Studies
Brian Walsh
Outstanding Seniors in Organizational Communication
Andrew Holt
Nicole Langford
Clint Adcock
Jennifer Gibson
Outstanding Juniors in Organizational Communication
Nicole Brady
Brittany Heights
Academic Achievement in Organizational Communication
Lindsey Lovelace
Patrick Watkins
Community Service in Organizational Communication
Sonya Leak
Melanie Stacy Award for Clinical Excellence
Communication Disorders
Mallory Boehler
Laneisha Rabb
Bertha Smith Clark Exemplary Student Award
Communication Disorders
Samantha Delk
Janice & David Arnold Scholarship
Brittany Stewart
Kay Garrard Academic Leadership Award
Communication Disorders
Carman Berryman
Noveen Scott Pejaver Memorial Debate Scholarship
Eric Covington
De'Antwaine Moye
Chelsea Norman
Dmitry Terekhov
Heather Thoe
David & Sandra Walker Scholarship
Eric Covington
De'Antwaine Moye
Chelsea Norman
Dmitry Terekhov
Heather Thoe
Dorothe Tucker Scholarship
Matthew Frazier-Smith
Daniel Joyce
Allison Scott
Clayton Hawes Scholarship
Jaclyn Kane
Robert Ade Memorial Scholarship
Ada Langley
Steven Tate
Jesse Cannady
Richie Smith Memorial Scholarship
Leah Fincher
Jesse Cannady

“This philanthropy was one of the reasons why I liked Kappa Delta so much. This is such a good cause and it definitely raises the most money.”

LYNDSI WADEL
SENIOR EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE MAJOR

WINGS FROM PAGE 1

Local restaurants participating in the event included the Chicken Shack, Hooters, Kirkenburts and Zaxby's. Arabee Mateen, an MTSU alumna and chef at Zaxby's, said this is the first time he's been at Wing Fling, but that Zaxby's has participated in the event every year. "We won the trophy for best tent last year," Mateen said. "I knew kids who were abused growing up, so I'm all for anything that can help abused children." Brandon McNary, student government association executive vice president and a senior education and behavioral science major, said he has attended the Wing Fling since he was a freshman. "The girls from Kappa Delta do an amazing job with this every year," McNary said. "They get a lot of support from the Greek

organizations and the university." Lyndsi Wadel, a senior education and behavioral science major and member of Kappa Delta, said members went out and found items from local businesses or family members who had things they were willing to donate to the silent auction. "This philanthropy was one of the reasons why I liked Kappa Delta so much," Wadel said. "This is such a good cause and it definitely raises the most money." Wadel said this is her third year helping out with the Wing Fling and that she has watched the event grow and raise more money every year. "This is my first year participating," said Charley Talley, a sophomore liberal arts member. "I didn't know what to expect, but seeing the turn out now makes me have pride in my sorority knowing all the proceeds go to a wonderful philanthropy."

CRIME BRIEFS

April 15, 2:29 a.m.
Theft
Reynolds Hall
Subject called wanting to report that she had a pillow and blanket estimated at \$50 value stolen from her room.

April 16, 9:11 p.m.
Theft
Mary Hall
Subject reported their bike had been stolen on campus.

April 16, 12:10 a.m.
Unlawful Entry
Womack Lane Apartments
Subject called and reported that her apartment door was open and that some items had been stolen.

April 17, 2:50 a.m.
DUI
Rutherford Boulevard
John MacDonald was arrested for DUI first offense.

College of Liberal Arts
AWARDS RECEPTION
Monday, April 20, 2009
at 2:30 in the afternoon
Tennessee Room
James Union Building
Middle Tennessee State University

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopino@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Obama makes good on campaign promises

During the 2008 presidential elections, many of the candidates made promises, which is typical of most politicians. However, President Barack Obama is actually making an effort to keep his promises, and not a few months before re-election.

Obama ran on a platform that attracted a lot of students. Obama promised to improve the state of higher education and he has begun to address some of its issues, according to a report released by the Campaign for America's Future.

The report entitled "Obama's Budget Support Students not Banks," focuses on how Obama's budget is calling for the elimination of the Federal Family Education Loan Program. The FFEL Program is made up of four components including Stafford Loans, Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Loans and Federal Consolidation Loans.

Most students who are not fortunate enough to have a scholarship, or private funding rely on these loan programs to pay for school.

Currently the FFEL Program guarantees banks a higher interest rate on the money that each student borrows. This makes a ton of money for the banks and does nothing for students.

Obama wants the money to work for the students and not the banks. The government has already allocated a certain amount of money for higher education, and it is great that Obama wants the money to directly benefit the ones who need it the most.

During the current higher education budget crisis students in Tennessee can use all the extra funds they can get. The report states that under Obama's budget 5,225 more students could have the opportunity to receive federal funds to attend college.

Although college tuition is on the rise every little bit helps, and Obama is doing his part to help the students who helped get him elected. Many individual expect him to turn the current economic situation around overnight. We did not get into the financial mess that we are in overnight and we cannot get out of it overnight either.

It will take time and we need to give him the time he needs to make a difference in our country. Obama is clearly showing his support of the students, allocating a specific amount of money in the budget.

Essentially Obama is trying to transform the federal financial aid system that students and their families rely on to pay for college.

MTSU doesn't need SGA

Some senators push for action, most don't, leaving students in dark

As someone who has been involved both in the Student Government Association and local, state and even federal politics, it has become overwhelmingly apparent that we have a problem at MTSU.

Having served two semesters as an SGA senator, in addition to serving as a candidate for the Rutherford County Commission, a political consultant and in various other capacities, I feel that these qualifications give me a unique insight into politics that many college students have not experienced. Moreover, I feel I have the responsibility to relay these concerns to the student body because I am fairly certain that no one else will.

The problem we face is that the SGA is wholly unrepresentative of the people it was sworn to represent: the students.

Every Thursday, these representatives gather in the Keathley University Center and debate many issues about which few of us know anything. Many issues are trivial, and



Hurtt Pride

Matt Hurtt

oftentimes there is minimal debate over any given issue. On many occasions, senate meetings offer an opportunity to just hang out with other members of an organization.

It should be noted that there are some students who take

their hard work because they often face staunch opposition within SGA. It should also be noted that some legislation the SGA debates is serious, and it affects the whole student body. More often, frivolous legislation passes overwhelmingly, leaving students asking, "What on earth do they do in there?"

When SGA said "yes" to an activity fee increase last semester, the student body resoundingly responded "no."

When SGA attempted to push another fee increase on the student body this semester, the student body pushed back, once again telling SGA "no."

If everything

When the SGA should be charting a new course for the student body, it is all too often taking directions from the people in power.

When the SGA should be leaving a mark on campus, it is all too often just a rubber stamp for previously approved policies. And when the SGA should be fighting against the status quo, it is all too often defending it.

More students should be outraged by the apparent lack of representation within the SGA, but at the same time, I understand why students just do not care.

In the last SGA election, many seats were left open and all senators ran unopposed. This is essentially a reflection of our society. Many Americans are apathetic when it comes to being involved in the decision-making process. It's just easier for others to make our decisions for us with or without our consent.

Perhaps the student body should go without a student government for a few years so that students might understand just how important



our voice is when it comes to campus issues.

Or maybe a more direct approach to governing is in order—how about concerned students propose issues and the campus vote on them as a whole, rather than leaving the important task up to a handful of students?

The current format doesn't seem to work. Concerned students should rise up and wrest control of student government away from those who seek to occupy their time with just another activity.

Matthew Hurtt is a senior history and political science major. He can be reached at Matt.Hurtt@gmail.com

“When the SGA should be leaving a mark on campus, it is all too often just a rubber stamp for previously approved policies. And when the SGA should be fighting against the status quo, it is all too often defending it.”

their responsibilities within the SGA seriously. Not every SGA member should be criticized. And while those students are often few and far between, they should be commended for

tion would zoom through the process.

When the SGA should be asking questions, it is all too often taking answers from administrators.

Somalia's pirates present real threat

On April 8, right before dawn, a band of pirates took the merchant ship Maersk Alabama's 20-member crew hostage and demanded the captain hand himself over for ransom.

After a three-to-five hour battle involving gunfire and a sea chase, Capt. Richard Phillips went willingly to save his crew and the pirates held him hostage until April 12.

What happened then seemed straight out of a movie: three Navy SEALs snipers shot and killed three pirates as others negotiated for ransom on board the U.S. ship. Another pirate is in custody and awaiting trial.

Although Phillips is now safe at home and no other U.S. ships are in imminent danger, this episode should not be forgotten. If there's one thing we should take from this crisis, it's to remember how dangerous these pirates are and deal with them accordingly.

These aren't poor, starving



Off-Center

Catharine Broemel

men forced to turn to piracy for sustenance—they are dangerous criminals with a sophisticated network that rakes in millions of dollars a year.

These pirates have lifeboats equipped with satellite phones and GPS systems and operate off of nearby mother ships. They are armed with automatic weapons, anti-tank rocket launchers and grenades. Many times after capturing a ship, hostages are taken to

Eyl, a Somali city specially equipped to provide room and board for them.

The pirates then open lines of communication. Their team contacts the ship's lawyers and demands ransom money. The BBC estimates that pirates made about \$52 million in only one year.

Since January, there have been 66 attacks. Fourteen ships have been captured successfully and 260 crew-

pressure hoses on them. Crewmembers are not allowed to have weapons so they cannot mutiny on the captain. But ships cannot retain this law with such a dangerously armed and clever adversary.

The Alabama's crew was able to withstand attack and capture a pirate without weapons but had to give in eventually to the enemy's AK-47s. An approaching U.S. rescue ship

Clinton has taken action by calling for armed crew members, freezing pirates' assets and more aid to the country of Somalia. Let's hope this helps. Granted, we don't want to get into another war like the Barbary pirate wars America fought in its early days. But this international problem is here to stay unless decisive action is taken. Giving in to pirates' demands is only aggravating the problem. More money equals more greed and attacks.

One pirate, Abdullahi Ahmed, has promised to kill the next American or French hostage out of revenge for the pirates' death.

He also claimed the attack on the Liberty Sun was planned as revenge. This may be a bluff, but we as a nation can't afford to ignore it.

Catharine Broemel is a senior in liberal arts and can be reached at crb3f@mtsu.edu.

“These aren't poor, starving men forced to turn to piracy for sustenance—they are dangerous criminals with a sophisticated network that rakes in millions of dollars a year.”

members are still being held for ransom.

Yet current laws tie the hands of these ships' crews. Merchant ships like the Maersk Alabama are not allowed to fire on attacking pirates—they can only use

had to retreat after pirates fired on it, and they couldn't fire back. Even President Barack Obama did not authorize violence unless Phillips' life was in danger.

Secretary of State Hillary

COMICS



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

Matching makes for better economy

Breaking news – the economy sucks.
OK, it isn't breaking news. The majority of us have seen and felt the effects of our country's financial downturn. Even as college students, the prospect of graduating and going into the real world is a frightening concept, frightening because we worked hard for our degrees and still might end up waiting tables or working a drive-thru.

But not all industries are suffering in this dismal economic state. Guns, tobacco and alcohol are doing increasingly well, which begs the question of how the average American prioritizes

their spending.
Pardon the "Thank You for Smoking" reference, but the MOD – Merchants of Death – aren't the only ones prospering. An interesting article caught my attention on CNN.com today. Another industry is doing surprisingly well – matchmaking.

The basic gist of the piece is that in hard times, people need to lean on other people. Apparently, this can prove somewhat challenging to single people.

Ann Robbins is the founder and CEO of LifeWorks Matchmaking in Florida. In the article, she says her clientele has nearly doubled during the first quarter of 2009.

"People shift their focus in times of economic uncertainty to the things that are sustainable and the things that get them through, and I think that always comes down to relationships," Robbins said to CNN.

One of the biggest stressors on a relationship – especially an intimate companionship – is money. And if finances are so important to couples, wouldn't attempting to form a relationship in order to feel better about a dismal financial situation only make a dismal relationship?

Not so according to Beatrice Gruss, founder of Traditional Matchmaking in Atlanta. She said each client is intensely interviewed so there are "no surprises" when a person is matched.

"You know already if they've been married -- once, never or 15 times. You know whether they have kids, are smokers, what their religious background is."

Registering with a matchmaker can cost anywhere from a couple hundred to thousands of dollars. Some matchmakers, like "The Millionaire Matchmaker" Patti Stanger, have specific markets to which they cater. In the case of Stanger, to become a client you need a minimum seven-figure net worth.

Other matchmakers, like host of VH1's *Tough Love* Steven Ward, cater to broken women unable to find, maintain and sustain a decent relationship. Ward is the son



Yeah, Whatever

Andy Harper

of matchmaker JoAnn Ward, who is chairman and founder of Master Matchmakers in Philadelphia.

Whatever the market, whoever the clients, matchmaking is definitely experiencing an economic boom. The article also mentions online-dating services like Match.com and eHarmony.com.

According to eHarmony CEO Greg Waldorf, the company experienced a 20 percent growth from September 2008 to January 2009. And, at least in our area, there is definitely an increase in online-dating ads on television, radio and in newspapers.

But the point that I'm meticulously circling around is why. Something about an economic slump isn't enough of an answer to justify an increase in putting the trust of our relationships in the hands of strangers.

Why is there such an appeal to pay someone else to do the work for you – especially when money is so tight these days? Is it out of laziness, fear or boredom with booty calls?

Ah yes, the infamous "booty-call" Web sites and phone lines. We all see them and we all know that the scantily clad, busty blonde women and ripped, Chippendalesque men are not really available.

In Murfreesboro alone, Sunday's tally on Craigslist was up to 38 casual encounters by 4:30 p.m. – and evening church services haven't even finished up.

A sample of today's Craigslist reading includes a "Men for Women" ad from "Movie and Cuddle ;) lol - 23 (murfreesboro)."

"Hey whats up, i am home.. just got in from a long day at work. The title says all i wanna do

tonight.
maybe a few drinks but idk

if ur intrested, reply w/ pic and i'll do the same lol

In the subject of ur email.. put something Unique so i know ur a real person lol Ttyl"

This ad is one of thousands that appear daily on Web sites like Craigslist. And despite the atrocious misuse of the English language and absurd amount of "LOLs," I wonder if this supports the theories of Nadine Kaslow, a professor at Emory University School of Medicine and chief psychologist at Grady Health Systems in Atlanta.

Kaslow told CNN that in tough economic times, being in a relationship can act as a "coping mechanism" by garnering social support. But Kaslow also warned about the dangers of rushing into relationships.

"When people are really stressed, sometimes their judgment isn't as good as it should be. Sometimes they think something is better than nothing but they don't really think about the pros and cons of the something."

Kaslow advises against immediately seeking a matchmaker and instead, looking at "who is available in your social world already."

So is it really responsible for single people to jump into a relationship in such a harsh economic climate? Is it necessary to have a significant other to survive financial stressors? Do we really need to partner up to be happier individuals?

Matchmakers like Robbins, Gruss, Stanger and Ward say yes – most likely because their businesses are thriving.

Psychiatrists like Kaslow say maybe – but tread cautiously lest we find ourselves in sticky situations bound by romance and complicated by finances.

One thing is for sure: if meeting your match fills your heart with too much love, you can always carry around the excess in your empty wallet.

Andy Harper is a journalism senior and can be reached at sah3u@mtsu.edu.

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Steven Chappell, Sidelines Director, Box 8
or deliver applications to COMM 269

Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 24

Editor selection interviews will be held Wednesday, April 30, at 4 p.m.

Sidelines is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Summer and Fall 2009 semesters:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Managing Editor | Copy editor |
| News editor | Assistant editors |
| Sports editor | Staff writers |
| Features editor | Staff photographers |
| Photo editor | Production Manager |
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CORRECTION

In last Thursday's edition of *Sidelines*, two names were misspelled. Brad Periino should have been Brad Perling, and Stephen Tsauo should have been Stephen Tesauo.

Sidelines regrets this error.

If you notice any corrections, please send an e-mail to slopinio@mtsu.edu or sleditor@mtsu.edu.

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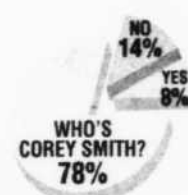
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Iliza Shlesinger brings comedy to MTSU

Comedian and winner of NBC's 'Last Comic Standing' talks about reality TV competition

By BRIAN ESTES
Staff Writer

I sit in the classroom with a notepad in hand while the pretty blond girl sits across from me. In between questions, she texts on her phone just like many average college students do. It sounds like a normal academic setting, but it isn't.

The pretty blond girl I'm interviewing is not exactly your typical college girl, though she has made stops on college campuses, including the University of Georgia and Stonehill College in Easton, Mass., in the past week.

She's also been featured on "The Howard Stern Show" and blogs on Myspace about less than typical things, such as being ripped off by a Dungeons and Dragons type role playing game called "Street Wars" and being contacted by Tyra Banks.

Oh, and one other little thing.

Her name is Iliza Shlesinger, and she's the first female winner of NBC's "Last Comic Standing."

Shlesinger rocked the James Union Building at MTSU last Thursday as part of an event hosted by Student Programming.

Shlesinger was part of the sixth season of "Last Comic Standing." The show hosts talent searches that span the globe, which culminated with Shlesinger being crowned "Last Comic Standing" on the show's finale in August 2008.

Some of her competition included Jim Tavaré, a British comedian known for incorporating his giant cello into his act, God's Pottery, a musical comedy duo that deal with religious issues, and "Last Comic Standing" runner-up Marcus, who was noted for impressions of various celebrities, including Christopher Walken and Eddie Vedder, the lead singer of Pearl Jam.

Her set at MTSU covered an array of topics, including general dating experiences, gender interactions and even the university's mascot, Lightning.

Shlesinger made many efforts to get the audience involved. At one point, she even stepped into the audience to interview couples about their experiences. One of those couples was Geoff Holtom and Amy Radley.

"I was trying to think of something to say, but I wasn't



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
"Last Comic Standing" winner Iliza Shlesinger delivered an animated performance at the James Union Building on Thursday. The event was hosted by Student Programming.

exactly sure," Holtom says.

Since appearing on "Last Comic Standing," Shlesinger says she has simply been working as a stand-up comedian and has been booked for many shows this year.

However, when it comes to her favorite part of being on the show, Shlesinger isn't mum.

"Winning, that's it," she says. "Winning the challenges. You have to be constantly on guard when you're competing against other people. It feels good to prove yourself and be validated."

One of the show's plot points revolved around Shlesinger and castmate Esther Ku. However, she denied there was any tension between the two.

"[The producers] made it look like there was," Shlesinger said. "Let's just say that I was never afraid I'd lose to her."

And why is that?

"Just watch her and watch me," Shlesinger says.

She also has a Myspace profile where she blogs about her random day-to-day thoughts and happenings. One post involved a game called "Street Wars," a game where participants shoot targets with water pistols. In her post, she explains that she was led to a U-Haul van in a dark alley to meet with the "Supreme Commander" who explains the rules of the game.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Among the comedic topics of Shlesinger's performance were dating, her appearance on "The Tyra Banks Show" and MTSU's mascot, Lightning.

However, the "Supreme Commander" lost her information and was unable to refund Shlesinger her money.

"I remember I signed up and they lost my stuff," Shlesinger says. "The only tool I had was my Myspace blog to try to get somebody to side with me."

Another blog post, titled "Tyra Banks thinks I'm ugly" reveals an incident when she was contacted by the "Tyra Banks Show."

"Her show was search-

ing for girls looking for makeovers," Shlesinger said. "They were looking for girls who were cute but not bombshells. Who calls people in the middle of the day and says, 'hey, you're ugly?'"

Since the end of "Last Comic Standing," she says she hasn't had a chance to see many of the comics with whom she was on the show.

"I haven't gotten to see a lot of them because most of those comics don't live in L.A.," she says. "But Sean Cul-



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Shlesinger says she hopes to one day take on acting roles and produce her own television show.

len, I really liked him. God's Pottery were pretty cool guys too."

Shlesinger says that her "Last Comic Standing" win has greatly accelerated the pace at which her career has moved forward.

"I would still be a working stand-up comedian, but I wouldn't have gotten to where I am as fast," Shlesinger says. "I would still be a feature instead of a headliner. A lot less people would hate me."

It seems impossible that

anyone would hate the comedienne.

"People get mad because I won and they lost," she says. "As comedians, we're like athletes without the sport. It's just one of those things where you find out who your friends are."

Shlesinger says her hopes for the future involve exploring the field of comedy further. She says she would like to pursue acting roles and to someday produce her own show.

CALENDAR

movies, music, nightlife and more

MUSIC

April 20
Dan Fester @ Blue Rooster - 8 p.m.

Johnzo West w/ Leroy Powell and Bonnie Whitmore @ The Basement - 8 p.m. - \$5

Perpetual Grove w/ The Heavy Pets @ Exit/In - 9 p.m. - \$15

April 21
Blues Jam @ Club 527 - 8 p.m. - \$5

The Rockstar Show

w/ Chris Gregory @ Graffiti Bar - 9 p.m.

New Faces Nite @ The Basement - 8 p.m. - FREE

Manchester Orchestra w/ Fun, Audrey Sessions, Winston Audio @ Exit/In - 7 p.m. - \$13

April 22
DJ Cluffy D and DJ MiQeyQoolaid @ Club 527 - 8 p.m. - \$5

Derrek Herman @ Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

Funkwrench w/ Victor Krauss @ The Basement - 9 p.m. - \$5

Hed PE w/ The Dirtball, Mower, and DGAF @

Exit/In - 9 p.m. - \$12

April 23
Starroy @ Wall Street - 9 p.m.

Joe Harvey Band @ Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

Destroy Destroy w/ Voodoo Prophet and Waste and Regret @ Club 527 - 10 p.m. - \$8

The Highlife @ Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

Jerry Joseph and the Jackmormons @ The Basement - 9 p.m. - \$10

Peelander-Z @ Exit/In - 9 p.m. - \$8

April 24

Dixie Whiskey w/ THB @ Wallstreet - 9 p.m.

Burning Las Vegas @ Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

The Incredible Heat Machine w/ Starroy @ Club 527 - 8 p.m.

The Highlife @ Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

Jerry Joseph and the Jackmormons @ The Basement - 9 p.m. - \$10

Very Disco w/ Immuzika-tion @ Exit/In - 9 p.m. - \$10

April 25

Music City Blues All City Jam @ Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

The Leonard Brothers Band w/ Fuel to the Fire @ Club 527 - 9 p.m. - \$7

NightHawk @ Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

Damien Jurdao w/ Laura Gibson @ The Basement - 9 p.m. - \$10

Chronicles of Land-squid @ Exit/In - 11 p.m. - \$10

April 26
Benefit for Murfreesboro Tornado Victims - Graffiti Bar - 2 p.m.

Chris Velan @ The Basement - 8 p.m.

David Vandervelde w/

The War on Drugs @ Exit/In - 9 p.m. - \$8

OTHER

April 20

Joker's Poker @ The Graffiti Bar - 7 p.m.

April 21

Karaoke @ Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

Karaoke @ Graffiti Bar - 9 p.m.

April 22

Live Trivia @ Wall Street - 8 p.m.

Tip of Your Tongue Trivia @ Blue Rooster - 7 p.m.

Compiled by Malarie Woods

Baseball will play
at MSU on Wed.
at 6:30 p.m.

#18 Ben Darlington



SPORTS

#8 Caitlin McLure



Softball will
play at TSU on
Wed. at 4 p.m.

Last minute RBI clenches perfect streak

Bishop swings for new home run record, assists MT in three game series against Louisiana Monroe

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

Senior third baseman Rawley Bishop's solo home run in game three Saturday made him the career home run leader at Middle Tennessee, and aided the Blue Raiders in a sweep of Louisiana Monroe.

Bishop's 45th shot came in the second inning of the later game of the doubleheader, breaking the previous record of 44 held by Josh Pride, who played at Middle Tennessee from 1997-2000.

In addition to Bishop's record setting day, the Blue Raiders finished off a sweep of the Warhawks with 13-3, 8-6, and 5-4 wins over the weekend, finishing game three in dramatic fashion with an RBI single by junior catcher Drew Robertson in the bottom of the ninth.

The Blue Raider offense was clicking in game one Friday, hammering ULM starter Don Williams for eight runs over four innings of work. Warhawks relievers Blake Jones, Josh Turner, and Devin Pourciau combined for an additional five earned runs over the next four innings before the mercy rule was applied.

Leading the offensive ex-

plosion was shortstop Tyler Burnett, going 3-for-5 with four RBIs.

Sophomore pitcher Bryce Brentz was credited with the win, allowing only three runs over eight innings of work.

A run in each of the seventh and eighth innings gave the Blue Raiders a close win in game two of the series Saturday.

Junior pitcher Kenneth Roberts struggled at times, giving up five runs on eight hits in six innings. Junior Brett Smalley got the win, throwing one and a third scoreless innings in relief. Junior Coty Woods picked up the save.

Bryce Brentz carried the MTSU offense, going 3-for-3 with two RBIs and a walk.

ULM pitcher Drew Graham was stuck with the loss after giving up the go-ahead run in his 2.2 innings of work after starter Justin Anderson couldn't get out of the sixth inning.

Robertson played hero in game three Saturday when his single in the bottom of the ninth gave the Blue Raiders a dramatic 5-4 win.

Coty Woods was credited with the win, throwing 1.1

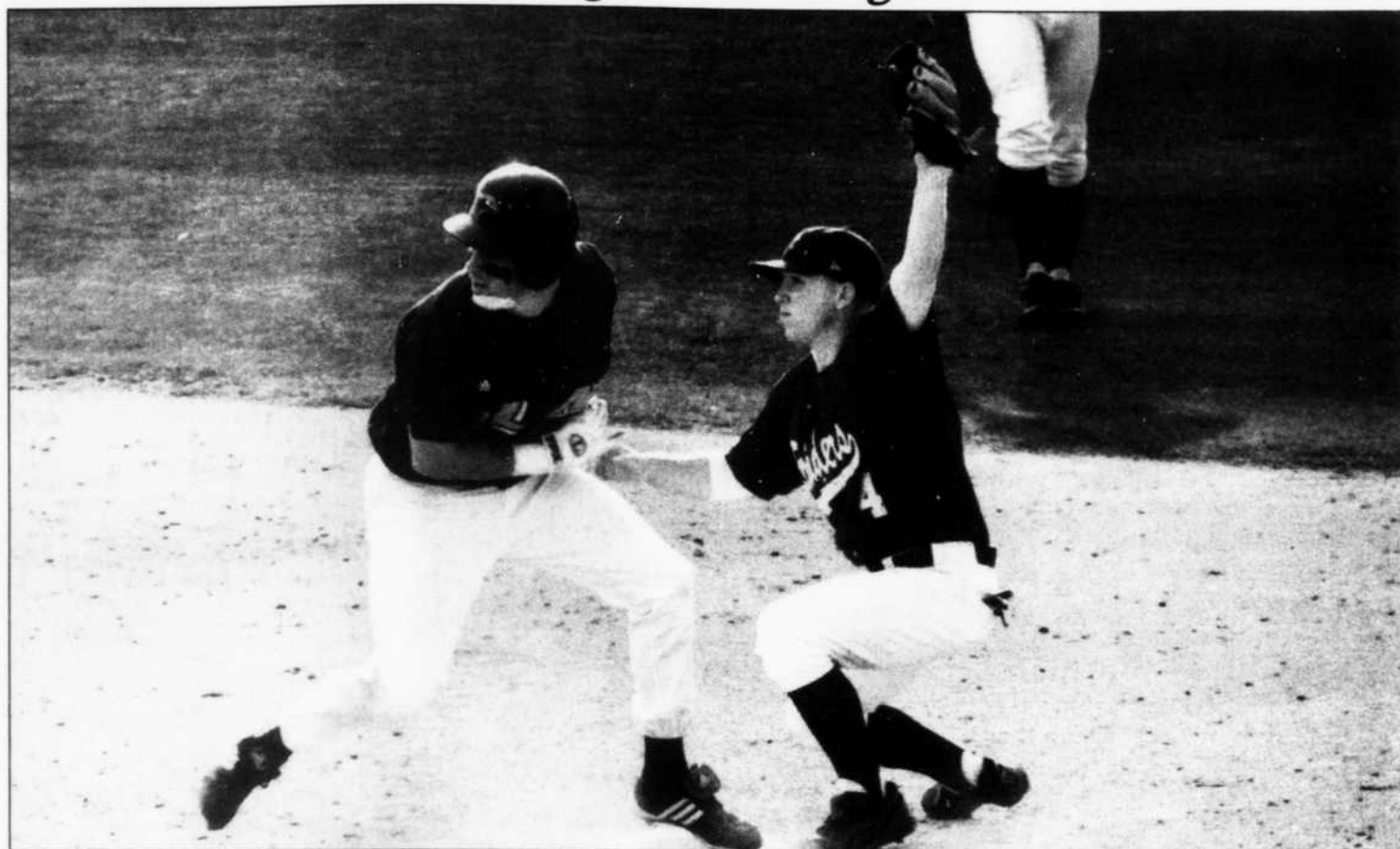


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Taylor Dennis reaches for the catch to beat the run back in the second game of the series against Louisiana Monroe Saturday night.

scoreless innings. Brett Wilson started the game, but only worked one inning, giving up a run on four hits. Relievers Nick Montgomery and Jud Stoltz also made appearances, combining for three earned runs over 6.2 innings.

"It was a great, great

weekend winning all three games," Head Coach Steve Peterson said. "This is a game that pitching obviously kept us in the game especially the bullpen. Brett Wilson was roughed up early and we went to the bullpen and the defense backed him up. Throughout

the day it was difficult to put things together but we had a number of big hits at the right time. I have to say congratulations to Rawley (Bishop) for setting the home run record. It couldn't have happened to a better player on the team and he is very deserving."

The Blue Raiders improve to 27-10 with the wins, while the Warhawks fall to 22-16.

The next action for MTSU will be a two-game series at Mississippi State Tuesday and Wednesday before traveling to Mobile for a weekend series against South Alabama.

Blue-White game showcases MT strengths

By RYLEE PATRICK
Staff Writer

The MT football team concluded spring drills with the annual Blue-White Spring Game Saturday in Floyd Stadium. For the fourth consecutive year, the White Team clench the victory as it beat the Blue Team 35-17.

Following the next team meeting, the winning squad will be rewarded for its win by being treated to a steak dinner, while the losing team will receive hot dogs and hamburgers.

"It was a very entertaining spring game and a great day for Middle Tennessee football," head coach Rick Stockstill said. "I saw a lot of positives out there, but we still have a lot of work to do. This is a solid beginning."

The White Team, coached this year by graduate assistant Mike Polly, has now won all four of the spring games under Stockstill. The Blue Team, coached by graduate assistant Zach Johnson, has yet to put a win on the board.

Sophomore quarterback Dwight Dasher completed 17-of-23 attempts for 144 yards with one interception



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Craig Heyward sneaks a run past the Blue Team defense during Saturday's annual Blue-White spring game. The White Team won 35-17.

for the White Team, while freshman Brent Burnette played quarterback for the Blue Team and connected on 18-of-27 for a game-high 157

yards and two touchdowns.

Returning freshmen Zeke Anderson and Barry Cunningham, along with returning senior Nicholas Coleman,

combined for 10-of-17 with one score and three picks for both teams.

Rising sophomore running back Marquise Branton was the leading ball carrier of the game with 23 yards on seven attempts, while Dasher and senior running back Phillip Tanner each added 21 yards for the White Team.

Returningsophomore Wesley Hale led the Blue Team in rushing with 20 yards on five rushes, and D.D. Kyles had a game-high eight attempts for 19 yards.

On the White Team, rising senior wide receiver Patrick Honeycutt pulled in 72 yards on five receptions. Senior wide receiver Chris McClover garnered 69 yards and a score on a game-high 10 passes.

Returning sophomore Andrew Banks had seven catches for the Blue Team, while junior wide receiver Wes Caldwell topped all the players with 81 yards on four receptions.

Junior defensive end Jamari Lattimore led the defense for the White Team with eight solo stops, including four tackles for a loss of 22 yards and three sacks for

a loss of 21 yards. Adding to his success, Lattimore also had an interception during the fourth quarter, which he returned 40 yards for a touchdown.

Senior linebacker Cam Robinson and returning freshman safety Denzell Guerra each added seven tackles for the White Team.

On the Blue Team's side of the ball, returning senior safety Josh Gregory had a game-high 13 stops, including five solo stops and one-and-a-half tackles for loss.

Sophomore cornerback Jawan Carson, returning freshman linebacker Daniel Waller and sophomore line-

backer Gorby Loreus each had five tackles for the Blue Team.

"We have to improve in every area and every position between now and Sept. 5, but I like the improvement I have seen," Stockstill said. "Defensively, we really have to concentrate on consistency at the linebacker position, and on the offense we need to get some guys back healthy on the offensive line."

The Blue Raiders will have the first chance to put their training to the test on Sept. 5, when the team is scheduled to travel to Clemson, S.C. to play the Clemson Tigers. Game times have yet to be announced.



RB Marquise Branton #34 r-So.

DE Jamari Lattimore #11 Jr.

QB Brent Burnette #10 r-Fr.

QB Dwight Dasher #9 Jr.

Blue Raider track continues winning weekend ways



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

TraMayne Gillyard sprints ahead of her competitors at the Valentine Invitational on Feb. 14.

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raider track teams continued its run at MT records and national recognition with its successful showing at the War Eagle Invitational at Auburn University this weekend.

In the fifth outdoor meet of the spring season, the Blue Raiders added six more NCAA Regional Marks, with each mark qualifying the person for the NCAA Midwest Regional Meet in Louisville, Ky., in May. For the season, MT has earned 16 qualifiers.

"Overall, it was a good meet," head coach Dean Hayes said, who is finishing his last season with the Blue

Raiders. "We had a handful of athletes earn NCAA Regional Marks and almost all had improved times."

Sophomore Festus Chemaoui topped his best time and set an MT school record in the 800 meters with a time of 1 minute, 49.48 seconds. The time just edged out alumni Jerry Singleton's 1969 record time of 1:49.6. Chemaoui's finished in second at the meet earning him an NCAA Regional Mark.

Senior Carl Morgan had a successful meet after returning from an injury he suffered in the indoor season, as he captured his first two Regional Qualifiers of the season. Morgan scored a 7.65 meters in the long jump and a 15.39m leap in the triple

jump to earn a spot in the May meet.

"It was great to have Carl back," Hayes said. "He really performed well today."

The last men's Regional Mark came in the 4x100 meter relay when the team placed fourth overall with a time of 40.22.

On the women's team, junior Brittany Cox continued her dominance of the outdoor season by adding two more NCAA Qualifiers at the meet. Cox placed second overall in both the shot put and the discus throw. Her discus throw of 49.01m was a personal best.

The Blue Raiders are scheduled to next compete at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia on Wednesday.

Golf teams prepare for tough SBC Championships

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

Both the Blue Raider men's and women's golf teams will hit the links today in the first round of the Sun Belt Golf Championships at Cypresswood Golf Club in Houston, Texas.

The event, which awards an automatic NCAA qualifier to the two championship squads, lasts three rounds with the winners to be crowned on Wednesday.

Both MT squads stand a good chance of walking away with the gold.

During both the spring and fall seasons, the men's team achieved a lot of success against national competition. The Blue Raiders have recorded six top-five finish-

es against some of the best teams in the country, prior to today's competition.

The men's team boasts four players in the top 11 of the SBC's individual rankings. Sophomore Jason Millard leads the group with a sixth-place ranking with an average score of 72.5. Just behind him in seventh place is senior Rick Cochran who averages 72.65 strokes per round.

"I'm proud of these guys," head coach Whit Turnbow said. "I'm glad our guys represent the folks back home they way they do, and we look forward to putting up some successful rounds [at the SBC Championship]."

The Blue Raider men's team hopes to build off last year's surge of success when it finished

No. 15 in the NCAA Division I National Championships. In its way are the defending champs, Denver University. The Pioneers are the favorites because they have the top two players, Daniel Wax and Espen Kofstad, in the SBC.

The women's team also has high hopes for a SBC title as it has six top-10 finishes this year.

In the individual rankings, MT boasts four players in the top 25 of the SBC, including No. 11 senior Leigh Wilkins, who averages 77.56 strokes a round. Wilkins is holding a hot club going into the championship as she posted an eighth-place finish at the Canes and Cardinals Classic on April 7.

"Leigh is doing what you hope seniors will do, and she is playing her best golf right here

at the end," head coach Chris Adams said. "She is playing with a great deal of confidence going into the tournament."

Just behind Wilkins is fresh-

man Stephanie Gough, who is No. 13 in the SBC rankings. Gough leads the team with the lowest single-round total this season with 70.

If either MT team wins, it will earn a bid in the NCAA Tournament Championships that will be held in Toledo, Ohio on May 27.

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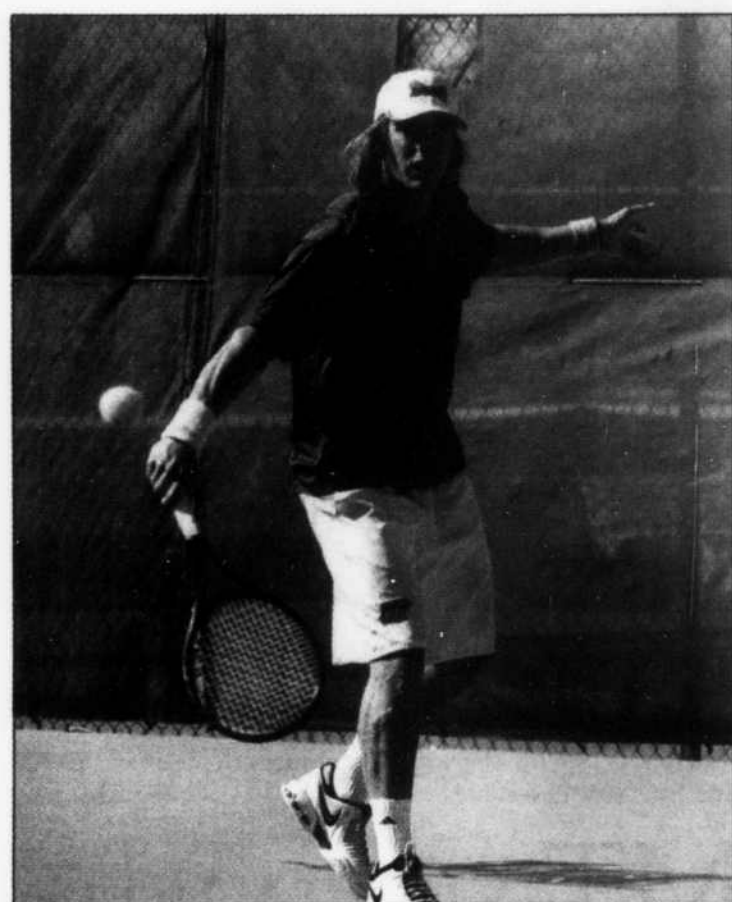


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Robert McKenzie aims for the return. No. 96 McKenzie came out on top of a 6-0, 6-3 victory against Denver on Saturday.

Tennis stands strong at SBC championship

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider tennis teams made their way to Denton, Texas on Saturday to participate in the Sun Belt Championships, hosted by the University of North Texas.

The women's team entered into the championships as the No. 8 seed competitors. The Blue Raiders took on the University of New Orleans Friday morning, and gained a spot in the second round by coming out on top with a 4-2 victory.

Junior Natalie Araya and freshman Taylor Coffey teamed up to defeat UNO 8-2. Senior Marlene Chemin and junior Anna Djananova would clench the doubles game for MT, taking the 8-5 win in their own match.

Singles play fared also fared well, as Djananova finished off UNO's Ceara Howey 6-1, 6-1. Araya joined her teammate in the win column, finishing with a 6-4, 6-3 victory.

But the women could not maintain their success, falling to No. 34 Denver 4-1 in the second round.

Denver swept the doubles matches. Freshman Taylor Coffey was the sole savior for the Blue Raiders, garnering the only win when her opponent retired due to injury.

The MT women's tennis squad ends the season with a 9-14 overall record, and went 3-3 against Sun Belt opponents.

The MT men's team headed in to the contest ranked 60th nationally, and earned the top spot on the men's side after garnering a 13-8 overall record.

The men started things off with a success, defeating

eighth-seeded Western Kentucky 4-0 on Saturday.

Senior Morgan Richard and senior Robert McKenzie began the doubles matches by taking the win over Hilltoppers Currie Martin and Priyank Gangadharan.

The team of sophomore John Peers and junior Victor Melo continued the theme and defeated WKU's Thomas Krug and Andy True 8-4, giving MT the doubles game.

Peers, ranked 104 in the nation, took his singles match against WKU's True 6-2, 6-2. No. 96 McKenzie followed, 6-2, 4-1, leaving the match unfinished. Sophomore Kyle Wishing clenched the match for the Blue Raiders, finishing off singles play with his 6-1, 6-0 win over Quinn Saine.

The men continued their success, taking on Denver for a close 4-3 win in a match spanning four hours. Melo's talents were highlighted as he defeated Benny Althaus 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 to give MT the win.

Denver took the doubles match 2-1, with the Peers/Melo team garnering MT's only doubles win.

Singles play turned in MT's favor, with McKenzie and Peers both taking initial wins. Richard followed by defeating Yannick Weihs 6-2, 6-1.

The Blue Raiders lost the No. 5 and 6 singles, setting up Melo for the dramatic ending. Melo won his three set bout, giving MT a seat for the championships.

The Blue Raiders faced Florida Atlantic in the championships late yesterday. The results for the championship are slated for release later today. Check mtsusidelines.com for results.

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