

SIDELINES

Event to bring noted journalists to campus

Carl Bernstein, Al Gore and John Seigenthaler among speakers

By Michelle McCrary
Staff Writer

Beginning Tuesday, April 4 MTSU will host "Self-inflicted Wounds: Journalism's Lost Credibility," a conference featuring many prominent celebrity journalists.

This three-day event will showcase several panel discussions on topics including fabrication and plagiarism in the newsroom, ethical issues facing journalists, and the use of confidential sources.



Bernstein

"I think that it's an important for anyone in the Mass Communications department to attend," said Journalism professor Jane Marcellus. "This is an amazing event."

Marcellus plans to take advantage of the event by integrating it into her Media History class' curriculum.

"As students of journalism, which is all of us in the mass communications department, there is a need to always be vigilant of Journalism, and living up to its reputation that people like John Seigenthaler and Carl Bernstein created," Marcellus said.

Wednesday night's screening of the film "All the President's Men" will be prefaced by a lecture from former Washington Post reporter Carl Bernstein who with Bob Woodward helped to break the Watergate scandal that led to Nixon's resignation.

"It's incredible to be able to hear someone involved with Watergate speak before this film," said Electronic Media Communications professor Robert Kalwinsky. "I'm interested to know the questions that will be asked and where the focus will be."

Kalwinsky recalls watching All the President's Men when it was originally released.

"I remember it was shocking for a lot of people," Kalwinsky said. "It was interesting to see Watergate in a

visual form that was so well crafted." The conference will show several movies at the Keathley University Center Theater including Oscar nominated "Good Night, and Good Luck" and the Oscar winning film "Capote."

"Ethics in Journalism has always been questioned; I've seen quite a few films in the past years dealing with the newsroom," Kalwinsky said.

He added said students attending the event should see all the films because "it's going to give every one a common arena for discussion."

The conference will boost people's interest in Journalism said mass communications professor Edward Kimbrell, who holds the John Seigenthaler chair for first Amendment studies.

"The conference will make people more aware of the challenges in the field," Kimbrell said. "People need to realize challenges the journalism field faces are serious and of a big concern."

Other prominent figures that will be speaking at the conference include former Vice President Al Gore, John Seigenthaler, and Mary Mapes.

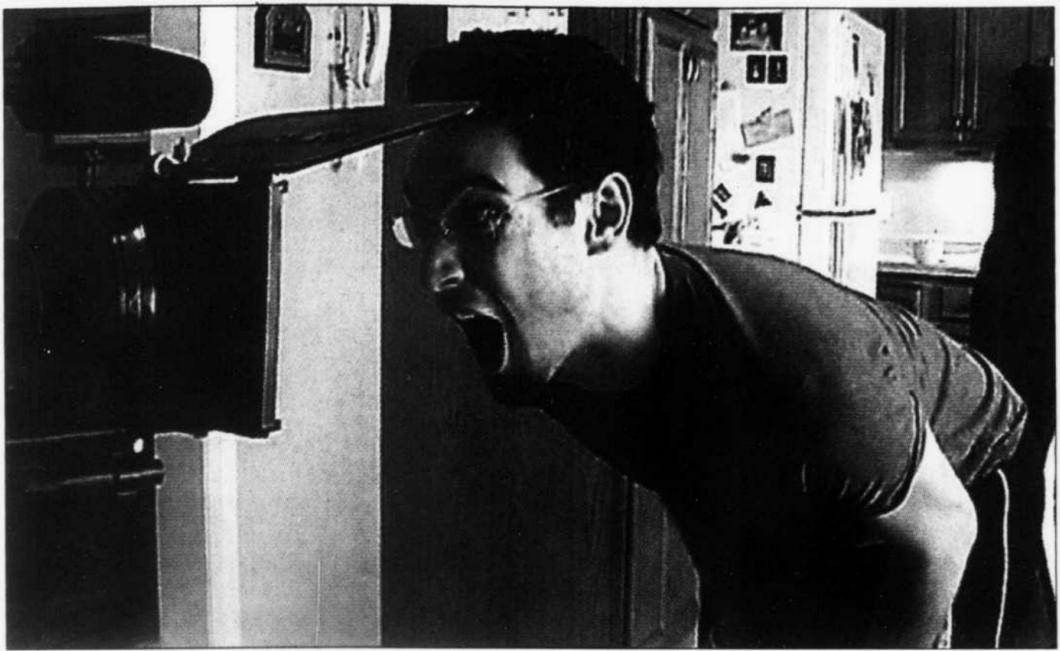
Mapes, formerly of CBS News and Producer for the "CBS Evening News" and "60 Minutes II" found herself at the center of a public scandal with her colleague Dan Rather over a story that criticized President Bush's National Guard service, which resulted in the retirement of Rather in March of 2005.

Issues of ethics and credibility are constantly being reviewed with the new technology, such as the blogosphere, showing up in the newsroom.

Robert Spires, professor of Electronic Media Communications believes that the blogosphere has had a significant impact on Journalism.

"The blogosphere has made other types of Journalism more accountable to one another," Spires said. "It's watching what other media outlets are doing and reporting on, and then taking that a step further."

Spires believes that blogs have a place in the newsroom, however they must be accurate in order to remain credible to their readers.



Tarkan Dospil plays the character "Denny" in Bob Pondillo's film, "Would You Cry If I Died?"

Photo submitted

Professor, alumni collaborate on film

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

Professor Bob Pondillo faces an 800 pound gorilla with former MTSU students in his film, "Would You Cry If I Died?," which has won several awards in recent film festivals.

The short film, which was shown by News Channel 5 last week, was written, produced and co-directed by Pondillo, an Electronic Media Communication associate professor, with a cast and crew made up entirely of his former students.

"I thought, I've got this script, I know these guys, there's an opportunity, why don't we give it a shot?" Pondillo said.

The film has been entered in over 60 film festivals and has so far won awards at the 2006 Southern Fried Flicks Film Festival, the 2006 Pune International Film Festival in India and the 2006 Broadcast Educators Association.

The black and white film was also designated as one of the 30 "official selections" out of 600 films in the San Fernando Valley International Film Festival in Los Angeles. Pondillo said his film "stood up" to the other short films that were featured.

Though he did not know what to expect, Pondillo said the awards and recognition have since surprised him.

"It's really taken on a life of its own, it just does what it does," Pondillo said.

The plot explores the committed relationship of a young married couple when the wife "Peggy" poses the question to her hus-



MTSU alumna Cara Francis shown in a scene with Dospil.

Photo submitted

band, "Would you cry if I died?" "Death is sort of like an 800 pound gorilla in the room and you've got to deal with it eventually," Pondillo said.

Pondillo, who has been married twice, said the film really speaks to those who have been in a relationship such as a marriage. He said younger people in his other classes did not grasp the concept of a committed relationship and death the same as a more mature audience.

The script was originally written by Pondillo for television in 1979 and was later expanded for the Milwaukee, Wis. Festival of Ten Minute Plays.

"The movie, I think, is really the best of everything because it provides movement, dialog, paths and all that stuff you need to make a good movie," Pondillo said.

The project was reborn when Pondillo

collaborated with his former students Matthew and Scott Pessoni as production designer and photography director, respectively.

"I always loved what they did, they made beautiful pictures," he said.

Pondillo also had two students in his broadcasting class that were especially good actors, Tarkan Dospil and Cara Francis. Mark Duvall, a Recording Industry graduate, did the sound design and mixing for the film. The only outside help on the project was for the music, which was a tune created by a single piano.

The entire film was shot in one day over 17 hours in January of 2005 and is released of only six scenes. It was then released after September of 2005.

See Pondillo, 3

Alcohol Awareness speaker scheduled to visit MTSU

By Ashley Burk
Staff Writer

In recognition of Alcohol Awareness Week, keynote speaker Carolyn Cornelison will address MTSU students and faculty on Thursday, April 13 at 6:15 p.m. at KUC Theater.

"I kinda tell my own story about coming to college as a novice drinker and becoming out of control," Cornelison said. "I'm not big into statistics, and I'm not going to quote a lot of them. We're all affected by this; we all know someone who has a drinking problem."

In her program entitled "Courage to Care," Cornelison will emphasize the

power of positive influence. She will also discuss how to recognize warning signs of out-of-control drinking and ways to help friends who may be developing unhealthy drinking habits. Her presentation will address issues such as personal responsibility, positive lifestyle choices, recognizing alcohol abuse and positive peer influence.

According to Cornelison, she uses her own experiences about "partying"



Cornelison

too much in college to reach her audience. Her message is the power of friendship and "looking out" for each other. She also discusses the dangers of alcohol poisoning and how students can protect themselves against it.

Cornelison said she tries to use humor and her own experiences to reach her audiences. A part of her speech will be devoted to telling a story about how her drunken perception of something that happened was entirely different from the police report and their version of the incident.

"My personal goal is to make students uncomfortable to the point that they immediately recognize if they or someone they know has a drinking

problem," said Cornelison. "There is nothing we can say wrong to someone who needs help. It's about planting seeds."

After receiving her doctorate in Physical Education from Florida State University in 1991, Cornelison worked with Student Activities on campus. When the dean asked her to begin working with Alcohol Experiences, Cornelison said yes and has been traveling to different universities and organizations ever since. She has presented more than 1,500 programs since that time and has been to over 500 college campuses.

Alcohol Awareness Week, April 10-14, is sponsored

by MTSU organizations such Health Services, Student Affairs and Multicultural Affairs. Anheuser-Busch provided MTSU with a grant to bring Cornelison to MTSU as part of their education budget.

"We felt like her message was most appropriate to MTSU students," said Richard Chapman, Director of MTSU Health Services. "We really want to educate students how to be a friend, how to help your buddy and say, 'hey you've had too much,' take away the keys and give them a ride home."

According to Chapman, there will also be door prizes given away at

See Alcohol, 3

LOCAL FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
HI: 64° LO: 37° PRECIP: 20%	HI: 69° LO: 49° PRECIP: 20%	HI: 75° LO: 58° PRECIP: 20%

CAMPUS

Sports Complex

Construction for MTSU's new Sports Club Complex is set to begin next month. After 30 days of bidding, Olympus Construction won the contract for the project at a priced cost of \$2.2 million—a bid \$300,000 less than the projected cost.

OPINIONS

April Fools

Saturday morning's presidential pardons of Karl Rove, Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Judy Miller and Matt Cooper were all long overdue. We feel that President George W. Bush made the right decision by issuing these pardons.

SPORTS

Equestrian Team

Next weekend, ten members of the team will be competing at Zones, the final competition before the national championship at Georgia Southern University in Brooklet, Ga. on the Evermore Farm.



LETTERS POLICY

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please email letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your contact information for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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

Spring has sprung



Students take advantage of time between classes to enjoy the sunshine and Spring-like weather near the KUC. Photo © Greg Johnson

Coming Soon: Sports Club Complex

By Wesley Murchison
Staff Writer

Construction for MTSU's new Sports Club Complex is set to begin next month. After 30 days of bidding, Olympus Construction won the contract for the project at a praised cost of \$2.2 million—a bid \$300,000 less than the projected cost.

The complex will include three game fields, a scoreboard, bleachers, field house and a jogging track, and will be located on the Paschal property, which includes the old Faces club building and the 14 acres of land behind it.

The contract comes on the heels of a failed bid last semester for the Recreation Center expansion project, which included the development of the Paschal property. Since then, the Sports Club project was separated from the Recreation

Center expansion.

This separation was partly due to the need of sports clubs to have their place to practice and hold games.

"We received a lot of complaints about the quality of those fields over there," Charles Gregory, director of the Rec Center, said about the Paschal property.

Since the property was purchased, MTSU has done little more than mow the grass, leaving the land uneven.

"The field has a lot of dips and pot holes and uneven grass," said Megan Allender, president of the women's soccer team. "It is easy to turn your ankle."

The other reason for the fields' priority is because of the fear that the land might be taken away to meet other university needs.

"There was a real fear that it would be used for something else," Gregory said.

Olympus Construction and

MTSU are close to finalizing the contract. After that, the Tennessee Board of Regents will need to approve the contract.

As for the Recreation Center expansion, a search for a construction manager to assist in the new design is on the way.

"We have to go back and look at what we might be able to cut," Dean of Student Affairs Genn Fitch said.

The hope is that working with a construction manager will help cut the cost of the expansion before it goes out for bid again. As of now, it is uncertain when it will be ready for bidding.

The construction for the Sports Club Complex is scheduled to take 300 days and will be opened to all students. Once completed, sports clubs will have a place for themselves.

"Right now, we have to schedule around other teams," Allender said. "It would be a big improvement."

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Photo submitted
Kappa Delta sorority is putting on this year's Wing Fling

Annual Wing Fling to challenge child

Staff reports

Kappa Delta Sorority is holding their third annual Wing Fling for the prevention of child abuse on April 8 from 12 to 3 p.m. on the MTSU campus.

Members of the community will vote for their favorite wings from nine restaurants, 13 fraternities, and three sororities. The winner of the vote will receive the title of "Best Wings in the Boro." Kappa Delta will also be serving drinks and desserts. Music, a silent auction, children's games and a wing-eating contest will also provide entertainment.

Tickets are \$7 if purchased before the event, and \$10 at the event. Children's tickets are \$5. Tickets can be purchased from any Kappa Delta

member, in the Keathley University Center, or by calling 931-212-7163.

Most of the proceeds will remain in Rutherford County. Eighty percent will go to the Family Center in Murfreesboro. The remaining 20 percent will benefit Prevent Child Abuse America for national public awareness programs.

Last year, the Wing Fling raised more than \$11,000 for abused children. The goal this year is to raise \$15,000.

Kappa Delta Sorority will also be merging with MTSU Athletics for the blue and white scrimmage during the Wing Fling. The game is at 1 p.m., and the sorority will be sending members to and from each event.



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Honors lecture breaks stereotypes of Marx

By Sarah Crotzer
Staff Writer

Almost everything people think they know about Karl Marx is wrong, said philosophy professor Michael Principe, speaking Monday in the University Honors College.

Principe's lecture, "Marx, Class and Revolution," was presented as part of the Spring 2006 Honors Lecture series, "Paradigm Shifts: Ideas that Changed the World," and was intended to introduce students to Karl Marx, as well as to dispel myths about his philosophy.

Principe presented a view in which Marxism is an ongoing practice, inspiring a life led by activism and pursuit of change.

"The value underlying Marx is freedom," Principe said. Capitalism undermines freedom by restricting what everyday people do with their lives, he said. Most daily energy is spent satisfying workplace requirements instead of pursuing projects ultimately leading to a better world.

Principe serves as the faculty advisor for Middle Tennessee Solidarity, a campus political organization.

"Since I was in high school, I've been involved in politics, and in radical politics, though that's meant different things to me over the years as I've educated myself," Principe said. "When I did my Ph.D. in Philosophy I did my dissertation on Marx, so I came here with that as an area of specialization."

Some students felt that the lecture, while enjoyable, was

restrained in scope by the limited time available.

"I'm doing research on Marxist anthropology, so it was good to get a philosopher's point of view," said student Claire Marshall. "You could tell he had a lot more to say. I'd like to talk to him more about his ideas."

"I liked his ideas of freedom, but as with all these things, it's hard to talk about," student Alan Laidlaw said. "Even Marx's idea of freedom is probably different from the modern idea of individualism."

Casey Dailey, another student, felt the audience was too uninformed for the lecture to have much impact, citing some of the questions asked toward the end of the presentation.

"The floor may not even have been right for such a mild introduction," Dailey said. "Dr. Principe has been thinking, writing and lecturing on these subjects his whole career. There are things that you'd think he had to lay out rest a lot of caricatures."

Principe took a more relaxed view.

"Though I alluded to all the things people say about Marx that are wrong," he said, "there's a way in which the misinformation about Marx has quieted down since the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Soviet Union. Students who are undergraduates now have been exposed to much less of a Cold War ideology. I've been teaching Marxism classes here for quite a while now, and people seem to recognize themselves in these texts."

"I think we live in a world in which most people can say, 'Something's wrong,' maybe even 'Something's fundamentally wrong,'" Principe said. "They don't know what to do with that. There are other things to do with that than Marx, but I think Marxism does provide a kind of framework for thinking about some of the things that are really wrong. I think a lot of people are, at least, interested. I think that was

going on [at the lecture]. There were several people who were a little skeptical, but I felt like most of the room was saying, 'This is something worth thinking about. This is resonating with me and my experience of the world.'"

The "Paradigm Shifts" Honors Lecture Series continues throughout the rest of April, every Thursday at 3:00 p.m. in HONR 106.

Pondillo: "Wins award"

Continued from 1

"Together, we were Steven Spielberg," Pondillo said about the collaboration.

Francis, who graduated in 2004 as a Radio/TV major, said she was very excited to be approached by Pondillo to play the role of "Peggy."

"It definitely gives a sense of accomplishment," Francis said of the awards the film has won. Francis is currently touring the southwest for several shows.

Pondillo said the film will serve as a "calling card" for other producers and investors for his new production company, Honey Bee Hill Films.

Currently, Pondillo plans on producing another short film and is working on a feature-length screenplay. He has even approached the Recording Industry and Electronic Media Departments about creating the film.

Pondillo, who had 33 years of broadcast experience in television and radio, said he has not perused any like the film in over 10 years. He said the project made him realize why he liked writing in the first place.

"You want to make people feel things, that's the most important thing," Pondillo said. "Make them laugh, make them cry, or both if you can."

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Alcohol: "Awareness for MTSU"

Continued from 1

Cornelison's speech, including 3 to 4 iPods. Students must be present to win. There will also be information tables set up outside of the KUC Knoll on Thursday, April 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. promoting Alcohol Awareness Week.

The Rutherford County Rescue Squad will also be visit-

ing the KUC knoll for a Jaws of Life demonstration, and "drunk goggles" will also be available for students to try. There will also be an Xbox driving simulator for students to experience the dangers of drunk driving. Prizes such as backpacks and key chains will be given away, as well. The show is free and open to the public.

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OPINIONS

Opinions Editor: 'Good job, Mr. President'

By Tim Hill
Opinions Editor

Saturday morning's presidential pardons of Karl Rove, Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Judy Miller and Matt Cooper were all long overdue. We feel that President George W. Bush made the right decision by issuing these pardons.

The president's approval ratings among his base have suffered up until this point. Now, conservatives cannot hold the appeasement of the left in pre-war planning, the ignoring of all the G.D. Mexicans coming across our borders and the unbelievable hand-out of government money to 900,000 fraudulent Hurricane Katrina victims—against the president.

The issue of whether the president should have pardoned anyone in this CIA leak case was met by different answers from both sides of the aisle.

Democrats, such as former Ambassador Joseph Charles Wilson IV, were completely against any constitutional exercise of presidential pardon power. "People need to know that their president is not above the law," he said on MSNBC's "Hardball" with Chris Matthews.

Elsewhere, RNC Chairman Ken Mehlman said, "I've been telling the President to do this everyday. I've sent him text messages, instant messages, Facebook messages, Myspace messages and even old-fashioned telegrams. He finally has listened to me."

This editorial board knows because we looked up his profile in the Walker Library's 2002, 2003 and 2004 editions of "Who's Who In America?"

We found out his wife's name exactly the way syndicated columnist Bob Novak said he did. However, when we called two senior administration officials to confirm some rumors for us, Karl Rove said, "Yes, I've heard that Amb. Wilson sucks at 'Golden-eye' on Nintendo 64, too." He didn't elaborate.

We were so excited to get through to Mr. Rove that we forgot to ask him about Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame. We apologize.

We have long believed, and when we say "we," we mean our opinions editor, that Karl Rove and Lewis Libby should be pardoned and promoted—in that order. With a new White House Chief of Staff on the way in, Mr. Bolten has a chance to shake-up

the beltway with a bang (No Vice-Presidential pun intended).

The facts of the entire CIA leak case are irrelevant. What matters is that President Bush told the Democrats to go to Hades.

He has clearly stopped apologizing for winning the election.

If this keeps up, we may see leaflets dropping over Iranian cities, and democracy spreading around the world.

Perhaps Ronald Reagan was right when he said that, "Every foreign capitol city needs a McDonald's."

Happy April Fool's Day, readers.

Tim Hill is a junior liberal arts major, the Opinions Editor, and wishes you enjoyed this really cool satirical editorial. It wasn't real, so emailing slopinio@mtsu.edu with grammatical mistakes and run-ons will only cause the staff to laugh out loud. We may even run them in the next issue, if you are a professor approaching tenure. The real column on this page today was our fashion piece by Ms. Amy Jones.

IN HIS OWN WORDS

BY JOSHUA ARONSON

"IRAQ HAS MADE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO BUY ... ALUMINUM TUBES USED TO ENRICH URANIUM FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPON." [9/12/2002]

"WHAT'S THAT SMELL?"

"[THE STATE DEPARTMENT] AND [DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY] BELIEVE THAT THE TUBES MORE LIKELY ARE INTENDED FOR CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS USES ..."

"MOST LIKELY THE PRODUCTION OF ARTILLERY ROCKETS."

[PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY, 10/2002]

"I'VE NOT MADE UP OUR MIND ABOUT MILITARY ACTION. HOPEFULLY, THIS CAN BE DONE PEACEFULLY." [3/6/03]

"IT'S LIKE BURNING HAIR"

"THE START DATE FOR THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN WAS NOW PENCILLED IN FOR 10 MARCH ..."

"THIS WAS WHEN THE BOMBING WOULD BEGIN."

[BUSH, BLAIR MEETING, 1/31/03]

"WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO AVOID WAR IN IRAQ." [3/8/03]

"THE U.S. WAS THINKING OF FLYING U2 RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT WITH FIGHTER COVER OVER IRAQ, PAINTED IN U.N. COLOURS ..."

"IF SADDAM FIRED ON THEM, HE WOULD BE IN BREACH."

[BUSH, BLAIR MEETING, 1/31/03]

"JESUS CHRIST! OK OK - CALM DOWN, JUST ACT NATURAL ..."

IMPEACH BUSH.

Spring fashion is here

By Amy Jones

Fashion Columnist

"This is a real column today"

Spring break, warm weather, flowers blooming, everyone standing in the courtyard talking, laughing and enjoying themselves; these are all signs that the spring season is back and in full effect!

Along with the New Year and change of seasons from winter to spring come the new fashion trends. The most fashionable colors for the spring season are pastels combined to look like ice cream sherbet. The colors include French vanilla, cameo pink, lily green, sand dollar, blue tint, sky-way blue, ultramarine blue and melon.

These colors should be combined with neutrals, blacks and whites to achieve a classic dressy look. The hot colors for sportswear this season are deep browns and neutrals.

What's hot and what's definitely not?! Beautiful new garments for this spring are the Japanese

Kimono, and platforms shoes (especially those with the wooden heel). In a nutshell, all things with an Asian print or design are hot this season.

Pantsuits and shirtdresses are making a come back sort of like a blast from the past. High waist pants for ladies with bold belts are in. Therefore, ladies it is a must that you let go of low-rise pants. They are out of style. Along with cleaning out your closets and ridding yourself of those pants, those tennis shoe heels that were worn with the sporty jersey dress need to go, too.

On the other hand, men's style for the spring season can go in various directions, depending on the look that you are trying to pull off. For the suave and debonair man who is ready to get his "Grown man" on, these looks force women do a double take. Ladies might even bite their bottom lip and smile as you walk by.

The desert look requires the color neutral blending with the two-button jackets and slacks that are versatile are in style. I know, many of you out there fear pastel colors, especially Easter pink. I've

got news for you. It's okay for men to wear them—so just stop and embrace it.

Plain patterned, bright springy pastel colors in the form of button-ups, unlined blazers, and loafers are in this season. For the relaxed guy, graphic tees, retro shoes and aviator glasses are all must haves.

Finally, for the relaxed urban man, I decided to ask several men what is hot in their closets. They told me they like to wear mostly polos, button-ups, jeans, dickeres, and long tees all with Air Force Ones, New Balances, Steve Maddens, Tims, Nikes, and Reeboks.

Be sure that you choose a color that works well with your skin tone. Remember this is just a guideline for both men and women. If you use this advice for revamping your spring wardrobe, you will definitely be turning heads.

Amy Jones is our new fashion columnist, and can be reached at babyphat8271@yahoo.com.

FAKE NATIONAL BRIEFS

Rove testifies again in leak probe case

Deputy White House Chief of Staff Karl Rove testified today in regard to his role in the leaking of Quail Man's wife, Patty Mayonnaise. In July 2003, syndicated columnist Robert Novak revealed that superhero Quail Man had a covert identity as "Doug Funny," and that he was even married to long-time crush Patty Mayonnaise. Novak quoted "two senior administration officials" who reaffirmed the leak. It is not against the law to reveal the identity of a superhero, but Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald believes that the leak could have jeopardized the national security of the nation's suburbs that Quail Man protects. "Americans love their suburbs, and now terrorists like Bin Laden have a target to use in order to blackmail the United States. If Patty gets kidnapped, then it's all over," Fitzgerald said.

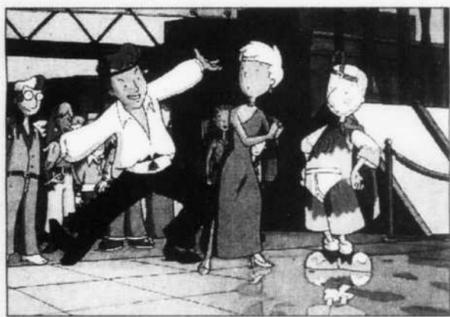


Photo © Nickelodeon

Doug Funny, a.k.a. Quail Man, is seen here with his wife, Patty Mayonnaise, at a Washington DC dinner party in 1998.

Secret GOP-commissioned poll results published inadvertently by New York Times

A poll that was secretly commissioned and funded by the Republican National Committee sheds important, and yet confusing, light on the thoughts of Republicans regarding the upcoming 2008 presidential race. The results were published in Sunday's edition of The New York Times. The pollsters asked husbands and wives of "strong GOP households" questions about New York's junior Senator, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

How do you refer to Hillary Rodham Clinton—as Sen. Clinton, the former First Lady, or The Bitch?

HUSBANDS

- 92% - "The Bitch"
- 4% - "Sen. Clinton"
- 4% - "the former First Lady."

WIVES

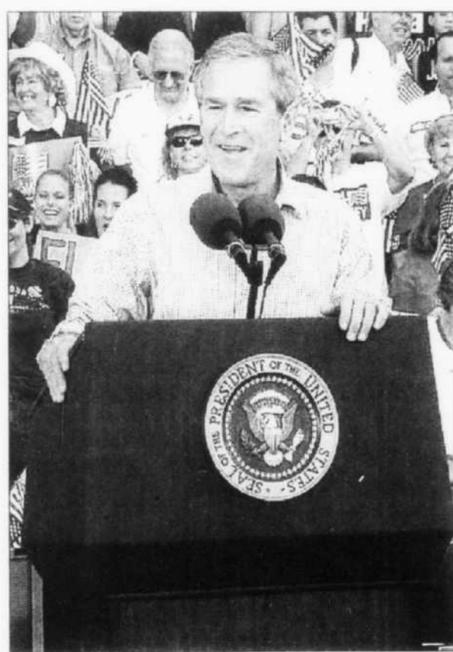
- 97% - "The Bitch"
- 2% - "Sen. Clinton"
- 1% - "The former First Lady"

The poll, oddly enough, has no margin of error.

First Lady Laura Bush announces bid for Governor of Texas; calls Gov. Perry, 'an unfortunate example of what happens when Republicans convert Democrats'

Following a kind of precedent, First Lady Laura Bush announced her intentions to run in the Republican primary for Texas Governor. Asked why she abandoned her literacy programs, Mrs. Bush said, "Politics has rejected literacy from the start. It's part of the reason why this country is messed up today." The First Lady clearly becomes the early front-runner, having already raised more than \$17 million from an internet site called "Draft Laura." Mrs. Bush plans to run on a platform of strengthening education, establishing a flat tax for Texas residents, and placing troops on what she calls "our GD borders." Her website address is www.laura-THXas.com - an obvious reference to people calling her a robot.

(This news is fake)



Bush photo courtesy of Wikipedia.com

"If there's one person we should clone, it's Jack Bauer," President George W. Bush said during a recent speech. (This was not a real quote)

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Editorial: 898.2337
Advertising: 898.5240
Fax 904.8193

FEATURES

Scudder: Mass Comm's canine



By Mary Rose Fox
Staff Writer

Imagine a scud missile speeding through the upstairs hallway of the Bragg Mass Communications Building, veering into faculty offices just long enough to gather fuel before racing out again.

This "missile" is actually a sandy haired poodle named Scudder, owned by Electronic Media Communications Professor Bob Kalwinsky. He read aloud the actual definition of scud, from which her name originated. "The way a rabbit runs through the woods... and that's what she does. She can run like that," he said.

Why does Scudder get free reign in Bragg Mass Communication Building two to three times a week? She actually functions as Kalwinsky's service dog. He only brings her to campus Mondays, Wednesdays and sometimes Thursdays because he doesn't want to keep her cooped up in his office all the time.

Kalwinsky said service dogs can assist more than just the blind and the deaf. They are used to help people with varied disabilities and limits, such as people with lupus, multiple sclerosis and epilepsy. Kalwinsky still deals with complications due to a case of severe meningitis, a condition where the membranes over the brain and spinal cord become inflamed, when he was younger.

He had never used a service dog before Scudder. "My doctor thought it was a good idea," he said. Now, she lets him know beforehand that he needs help. "There are really subtle things I must go through that she recognizes. When I'm having trouble, she lets me know ahead of time so I can take, you know, appropriate action," he said. Sometimes she even lets him know when he needs to take medicine.

Usually, dogs begin their training to be service dogs when they are eight weeks old. Scudder didn't begin training until she was 3-and-a-half years old. By this age, she was too old to be trained to lead the blind, but her trainers in Kentucky picked her because of her intelligence.

Scudder, now 7, has grown very attached to her owner. Irma Melton, executive aid for electronic

media, said that Scudder is not as confident without Kalwinsky. "The only time you ever hear her bark is if she's [feeling] invaded by someone," Melton said.

Scudder is so skittish because she was abused as a puppy and has never fully recovered. "When he first got her, she was afraid of everyone," said Gail Sneed, executive aid for electronic communication. But people who know her agree she has come very far in the three years that Kalwinsky has had her.

When Kalwinsky is giving a lecture or running an errand and doesn't take Scudder with him, he leaves her in his office where she waits patiently at her place under his desk. Sometimes he does take her on errands, and she's well known at certain places on campus.

Although she is timid, it is very easy to see that Scudder is smart. Kalwinsky said she has learned to do things like open the gate to his house without his prompting. She also learned to open the shutters while he was out one day. "I came home and thought, 'what are these doing open?'"

Shelly Graham, executive aid to Dean Anantha Babbili, is close to Scudder. Graham,

along with others down the hall, has a bag of doggy treats on her desk, waiting for Scudder to come through. "She knows who's got the cookies around here," Graham said.

When Graham isn't in the office, Scudder knows to nudge the dean's other aid, Lisa McCann, until she gets up, goes over to Graham's desk, and gives the treat to her. Nudging aside, Scudder is very polite, and will only take the treat when it is given to her.

"She knows who is going to talk to her," Graham said. "She's good about not pushing herself on people who don't know her."

Graham lives only a few blocks away from Kalwinsky. Sometimes he brings Scudder over to exercise with her dog Lucy. "She just tears around the backyard," she said. "Lucy gives out first." Graham knows how intelligent Scudder is. "She knew almost right off the bat that she could get Lucy running in circles. She sized up my dog in a minute."

Very positive feelings have been expressed by the faculty in the Bragg Mass Communication Building. Graham said Scudder brightens up the day. "She's a joy to have around."

She knows who's got the cookies around here.

—Shelly Graham, executive aid to Dean Anantha Babbili

Photo by Sarah B. Muller
Professor Bob Kalwinsky sits with his companion and service dog, Scudder, near her customary place under his desk.

Sink holes invade campus, ponds abound

By Carmen Anderson
Staff Writer

Most students on campus have been there. Minutes before class, the alarm rings and just outside the door, campus looks like a swamp invaded overnight, and the rest of the day is spent with damp clothes and damper spirits.

Certain areas around Peck Hall, Cummings Hall, the Bell Street Parking lot and others look like a boat is needed to get anywhere.

Despite a number of inquiries into the problem, Campus Planning has said this may be a problem campus has to live with for a while. Arthur Reed of Campus Planning said one of the reasons MTSU has such poor drainage is because it is on a flat surface.

He said this poses a problem for construction on campus because of certain areas that flood more than others. It's a vicious cycle. Reed said construction can also increase the problem of drainage because it takes away the layer of topsoil that normally prevents water from running off.

"Drainage is always a consideration when you are siting a building," Reed explained.

MTSU has a very large storm drainage pipe that collects the water after it rains. The pipe runs all the way to a detention pond. The water typically doesn't drain very fast, and the detention pond can sometimes

back up, but he said that rarely happens.

Geology professor Albert Ogden helped design the new parking lot at MTSU with rain and flooding problems in mind.

"We have a lot of very shallow sink holes," he said. Because of the sink holes on campus, miniature ponds appear from time to time at various locations on campus. "[The sink holes] have clay in them, and won't drain."

"Sink holes are depressions in the surface of the land and often occur in low-lying areas. Ogden said there are possible solutions for the problem. One way would be to drill shallow wells in the bottom of the sink holes for the water to collect. There are environmental concerns associated with sink holes, including the potential pollution of ground water sources.

Some potential solutions to poor drainage problems are hindered by prohibitively high costs. Geology Professor Alan Brown said.

Brown said urbanization is a key factor that increases poor drainage. In less-developed areas, the ground will soak up a large amount of water, while in the more-developed areas with roads and buildings, very little water is soaked up, he explained.

"Downspots on buildings, storm sewer drains and ditches tend to concentrate water into small areas," he said. "If these small areas get backed up, it can



Photo Illustration by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
After heavy rain, deep puddles of standing water appear all over campus. Officials say the problem isn't likely to be corrected soon.

create a huge problem. The county is relatively flat so water does not have a lot of places to go, it is natural for many areas to flood as response to large raining events."

Brown suggested a possible solution that would include increasing the storm sewer pipes under the university, which would take time and money. Another possibility

would be to create an artificial flood plain—a large, open field, or possibly several, that would collect the flood water and let it soak in naturally. Few people would be willing to set aside

that much undeveloped land, says Brown.

Until something is done, however, students will continue walking to class with wet socks.

Applications now being accepted for Editor-in-Chief for Fall 2006 Deadline April 15

We are looking for someone with maturity, leadership abilities, excellent time-management and knowledge of all aspects of newspaper production including budget meetings, story generation and development, enterprise journalism, news writing, feature writing, Quark and

Photoshop skills, Associated Press style, copy editing, current newspaper trends, photojournalism, a commitment to ethical and legal practice and preferable experience in a professional newsroom. All editor applicants need to have a 2.5 GPA. Candidates must provide three let-

ters of recommendation, no more than five samples of published work presented in clean professional format, an "editor's philosophy statement," and a completed Sidelines application. Official transcripts from all institutions of higher education must be included in the application

package. One of the letters of recommendation must be from a faculty member or journalism professional. Questions should be directed to Sidelines Advisor Fern Greenbank, School of Journalism, ext. 2205, mgreenba@mtsu.edu

SPORTS

Equestrian team in the zone

By David Hunter
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee State University Equestrian Team will be "in the zone", next weekend.

Next weekend, ten members of the team will be competing at Zones, the final competition before the national championship at Georgia Southern University in Brooklet, Ga. on the Evermore Farm.

The contest is broken up into two events, Western, and Hunter Seat. MTSU will be sending a five individuals in the Western event, and four will be representing the school in the Hunter Seat.

Saturday, Amy Snoderly, Whitney Herron, Brittani Wright and Shelby Clark will be in the Hunter Seat individual event. This event focuses on the horses completing jumps. There are eight different divisions of this event, and the higher the division is the harder the course.

The Western teams will take the course, Sunday. In this event, the riders will be controlling the size, shape and speed of the horse going in a circle and in a straight line. There are six different divisions in this event with one rider per division.

This contest is different from the others in which the riders draw the horses.

"We don't ride our own horses," said MTSU Equestrian Team coach Anne Brzezicki, who has been the coach since 1989. "The

host school provides the horses. The riders draw a horse, and they get no warm-up time. They have to be able to figure that horse out immediately."

One of the things that the team works on is communication with many types of horses for this type of event. The riders practice riding four times a week and they exercise regularly. The riders work on being strong, flexible, and having balance.

"That is a really important challenge for our students, because that's going to prepare them to be real professional horsemen in the future," Brzezicki said. "They are going to be able to get on horses they never been on before, and figure them out really quickly."

For the fourth consecutive year, MTSU had the High Point Team in the Stock Seat during the regular season with 240 points. Snoderly, Nikki Klein Whitney Herron, Sarah McKee, and Elaine Gray make up this team. There is also an individual contest with Klein, Snoderly, Jaclyn Ohman, Lori Puckett, and Michael Hunsinger competing.

There are nine different zones that make up the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. MTSU is in Zone 5, which is made up of schools from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina, Arkansas and Southern Kentucky.

That zone is broken up into three different regions. MTSU is in Region 1 with Maryville



Jaclyn Ohman, Coach Anne Brzezicki, and Nikki Klein pose with ribbons. Klein was Regional High Point Rider this season.

College, Mississippi State, Murray State, Rhodes College, Tennessee Tech, University of the South, Tennessee, Tennessee-Martin, Vanderbilt and Western Kentucky.

To make to the National Championship in Harrisburg, Pa. on May 4-7 the riders have to finish as one of the top two teams or

top two individuals at Zones. At least one rider has represented MTSU in the nationals every year except one since 1989.

Men's tennis team wins three in a row

By David Hunter
Sports Editor

The No. 31-ranked Middle Tennessee men's tennis team made it three wins in a row and five of them last six with a tough 6-1 victory against a short-handed University of South Florida Friday afternoon.

"I think we hit a low point when we played at Fresno about three weeks ago," MT head coach Dale Short said. "What happened was we went from the indoor season to the outdoor season with out any practice outdoors. We went to the HEB tournament in Texas and lost two out of

three to teams that we felt like we were probably were more talented than them, but we weren't used to being outside and playing in the elements.

"We kind of lost a little confidence, and that carried over the Fresno match. We had some team meetings and addressed some issues that needed to be addressed, and the team bounced back and had one of their best wins of the season, beating San Diego, and we really haven't looked back since then."

The match was supposed to take place outdoors at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center, but rain forced the match indoors to the Racquet Club.

It does not matter where they play their home matches, because after Friday's win MT is now 7-0 at home this season and moves to 11-6 overall.

The Blue Raiders picked up two points without playing a match, when injuries caused USF to pull out of the No. 5 and No. 6 singles and No. 3 doubles.

The Bulls pushed MT to the limit in the doubles matches. In the No.1 doubles match, the fifth ranked team in the nation, Andreas Siljestrom and Marco Born pulled off a 9-7 win over Marc Jager and Dillon Brozyna. In the No. 2 doubles match, Brandon Allano and Kal Schledorn knocked off Federico Barton and Mark

Gattiker 8-6 to get the point.

In the singles, the No. 1 and No. 2 match went to a tiebreaker. MT's 55th-ranked Siljestrom took care of Barton 7-6 (3), 6-4 in the No. 1 match. In the No. 2 match, Schledorn defeated Jager 7-6 (3), 6-2. Both members won a doubles and singles match in the victory.

However, the first singles match to end was the No. 3 match with the Sun Belt Player of the Week, MT's Morgan Richard beating Barragan 6-4, 6-3.

The key to their recent success has been the play of the bottom of the lineup.

"We've seen a big improvement at No. 2 and No. 3 doubles, and we've seen a big

improvement at No. 4, 5, 6 singles," Short said.

Since the March 10 4-2 win over San Diego, the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles have a combined record of 6-2, while the No. 4, 5, and 6 singles have a combined record of 10-6.

The only loss for the Blue Raiders was in No. 4 singles with Rishan Kuruppu losing to Gattiker 6-4, 2-6, 10-5.

The next match for the Blue Raiders is Wednesday, when they travel to Vanderbilt. MT will be looking to end an eight-match losing streak against the Commodores beginning at 3 p.m.



MT Senior quarterback Clint Marks runs the ball up field during last year's game against North Texas.

Strong defense in football scrimmage

By Russell Luna
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's Football head coach Rick Stockstill said he was pleased with his team's improvement during Saturday morning's 91 play scrimmage.

"Coming into it I told them we were looking for some leadership," Stockstill said. "Looking into it, I thought we had some guys who made a couple plays. Pierre Ingram made some plays."

The Blue Raider defense awoke,

early shutting down the offense by forcing them to only one scoring possession in the offense's first nine possessions. The Blue Raider defense capitalized on five sacks (out of seven for the game), tackled three for a loss and broke up three passing opportunities.

"We just came out and tried to run the blitzes that were called, get lined up, and just do our job," said J.K. Sabb, who led the Blue Raiders defensively with three sacks and two broken passes "Coach [Manny] Diaz put me in a

good position and was blitzing me, so when he calls my number I have to make the plays."

Later in the scrimmage, the struggling Blue Raider offense picked up under senior's Clint Marks and Eugene Gross. Marks, the quarterback threw 15 completions for 165 yards and two touchdowns. Gross broke away from the defense and used his 15 rushing attempts to accumulate a total of 100 yards.

Taron Henry led the Blue Raider receiver with five catches

for 48 yards and one touchdown. Pierre Ingram, Rod Taylor and Dale Galvin all had four receptions each to accumulate a total of 145 yards.

"We looked good today and it seems like we brought it together," Marks said. "In the past, maybe the quarterback wasn't making a good pass or maybe it was a good throw and the receiver dropped it, but today it seemed like everyone did their job for the most part and

See Scrimmage, 7

MT track and field gaining momentum for upcoming events

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's Track and Field team took three events at Saturday's Yellowjacket Invitational in Atlanta, Ga.

Juan Walker finished in the top spot the long jump with a mark of 24-7 and freshman Tavaris Leak finished third with 23-7.5.

In the 3000-meter steeplechase, Jonathan Guillou won with a time of 9:42.90.

The team of TraMayne Gillyard, Tiffany Owens, Shanna-Kay Campbell and Veronia Patterson took the women's 4x400 meter relay with a NCAA regional qualifying time of 3:41.93.

Pete Senatus, Orlando Reid and VanTonio Fraley competed in the 100-meter. Reid placed second and had an NCAA regional qualifying time of 10:41, while Senatus finished sixth with a time of 10:67. Also Fraley finished seventh with a time of 10:71.

In the 200-meter, Fraley placed sixth with a 21.51 and teammate Daryl Terrell came in the eighth in the 400-meter with 47.28. Senior Derek Dell finished third in the 5000-meter with a time of 15:17.31.

Linnie Yarbrough placed fifth in the 110-meter hurdles with an NCAA regional qualifying time of 13.99. Walker finished in eighth place with a personal-best 14.09, which is also an

NCAA qualifying mark.

Meanwhile, in the 400-meter hurdles, Walker finished fourth with a time of 52.45, which is also an NCAA qualifying time. In the high jump, senior Julius Defour finished ninth and marked 6-6.75. In the triple jump JJ Strum finished in fifth, which is his personal-best, with 48-3.5.

Friday night, James Thomas broke his own school record when he finished in the eighth spot in the hammer throw with a mark of 168-0. Then on Saturday, Thomas finished fourth in the javelin with a mark of 134-5.

Thomas also finished eighth in the discus with a mark of 154-7. Nick Diel finished in the fifth spot with a mark of 126-8 and Willie Parker placed eighth with 49-9.25.

Three MT relay teams finished in the top nine in the 4x100-meter relay and two teams finished in the top nine in the 4x400-meter relay.

Walker, Fraley, Yarbrough and Terrell, the "A" team, were fourth. The "B" team of Jonathan Oliver, Reid, Jermaine Barton and Sean Waller finished sixth. The "C" group of Derek Carey, Samuel Adade, Senatus and Jeremy Turner completed the race in ninth.

The "A" squad of Terrell, Waller, Reid and Barton placed runner-up in the 4x400-meter relay. The

See Track, 7

Women's tennis lost two matches

By Wade Neely
Staff Writer

For the MT Lady Raider tennis team, Saturday's match against host Arkansas-Little Rock was one part success two parts frustration as the Lady Raiders dropped the contest 5-2 to the Trojans.

The Lady Raiders knew after the first singles match that it would be an uphill climb. They were without two key players, Kelly Adams and Marlene Chemin. Adams absence was somewhat expected after having treatment done on her back earlier in the week. Chemin, however, was forced to withdraw from the tournament after her first set at the No. 1 against Jenna Hirdle. Chemin, who won the first set 7-6, had to pull out after becoming dehydrated. Hirdle won the match by default after Chemin's withdrawal.

The Trojans also received a point at the No. 6 by default in Adams absence.

The Lady Raiders dropped their next two singles matches when Claudia Szabo fell to Outi Jarvinen at the No. 2 1-6, 6-4, 10-4. The No. 3 point would go to the Lady Trojans,

as well, as Elvira Yusupova dropped to Bindya Parekh in straight sets, 6-0, 6-1.

Ann-Kristin Siljestrom would defeat Ellie Vicary in a tightly contested singles point at the No. 4 position, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 10-4. The Lady Raiders used the momentum to also claim the No. 5 when Pooja Kommireddi defeated Lactitia Bourgeon 6-2, 3-6, 6-0.

On the doubles side, Chemin and Szabo teamed up before Chemin's withdrawal to defeat the tandem of Bourgeon and Hollie Robinson, 8-7 (3). That was the only doubles point for the Lady Raiders, however, as Kommireddi and Siljestrom fell to Rosario Negrete and Bindya Parekh, 8-4 in the only other doubles match played. The final doubles match point went to Jarvinen and Vicary by default.

Yesterday, the Lady Raiders fell to Arkansas State, 5-2.

The losses put the Lady Raiders at 6-12 on the season. The next match for MT is Saturday, when they travel to UAB. The match starts at 11 a.m.

The following day they play at Memphis beginning at 10 a.m.

MT second most liked college football team

By Wade Neely
Staff Writer

It is generally understood that in the South, football is king.

Now, thanks to the MT Management and Marketing Department Sports Affinity Survey, this has been somewhat proven. In a random survey conducted among residents from Rutherford surrounding counties, football was top of the heap in terms of both familiarity and the participants liking of the sport and teams.

Don Roy, the Sports Business Studies Coordinator, oversaw the survey, which measured the participants' knowledge and love of sports, particularly football.

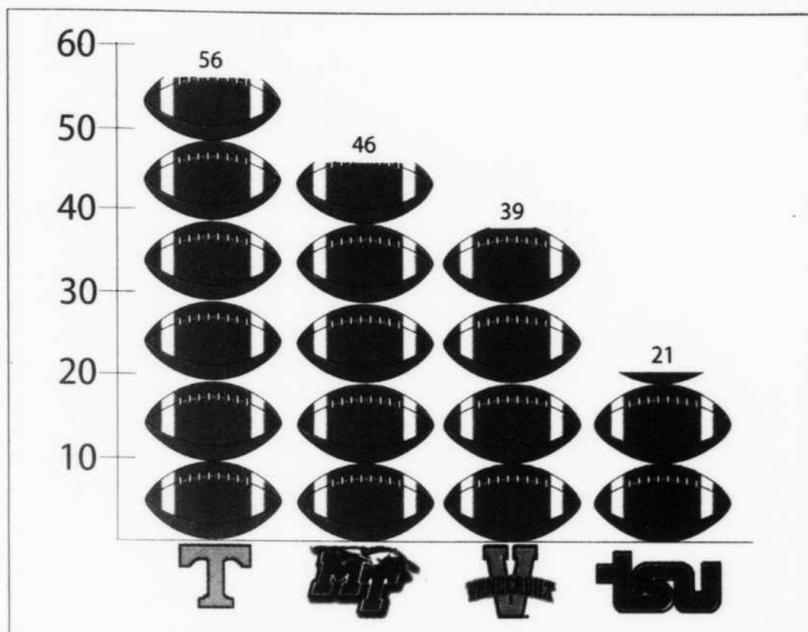
"We began the survey because there are a lot of sports properties in Tennessee," Roy said. "There has always been a belief that this area is a football area, and we believe the results show that."

The survey, which questioned 251 random adults from Davidson, Rutherford and Williamson counties, asked participants how familiar they are with a particular sport as well as their liking of a particular league or team. The survey, conducted for the first time last fall, will continue in a similar fashion each spring and fall.

Trying to debunk an old myth, the survey divided professional and collegiate teams into two separate categories to see if the results would follow the area's reputation as being a collegiate sports market.

The results of the survey show that even though more participants had heard of professional football, college football was the more popular of the two. The National Football League (NFL) received a 94 percent familiarity rating, notching an affinity score of 62 in the process. College football was heard of in 90 percent of households questioned, but had an affinity score of 71.

One of the more interesting



Graphic by Blake Arnold | Graphic Designer

This graph shows the affinity score for the four local college football teams according to the survey.

figures of the survey, however, shows that professional baseball is the second most-liked pro sport, despite the fact that Tennessee does not even have a major league team. With an overall affinity score of 47, Major League Baseball (MLB) ranked fourth in both professional and collegiate sports. The only non-football sport more well-received was men's NCAA basketball, which had an affinity score of 49.

In professional sports, the most popular team was the Tennessee Titans, who had an affinity score of 70, good enough for highest among all teams, both professional and collegiate.

Despite a playoff berth and a franchise-best season in the works, the Nashville Predators still lagged behind the Titans, only scoring a 47 on their affinity ranking. The Predators also finished behind the Nashville Sounds, who have stirred up enthusiasm after working on

plans for a new stadium downtown as well as winning the Pacific Coast League Championship. Although they finished third among pro teams, the Predators are in a virtual dead heat with the Sounds when the margin of error involved in the survey is accounted for.

"Another result that really surprised us was the affinity score for the Sounds because the survey was conducted out of season," Roy said. "We also felt like that our results might provide some support for the Sounds effort to build a new stadium."

The survey also brings good news to those affiliated with MT football. The Blue Raiders ranked as the second most popular collegiate team in Tennessee, trailing only the two-time national champion Tennessee Volunteers. In a surprising statistic, the Vanderbilt Commodores were more well-known among participants, but the Blue Raiders actually scored

higher on their affinity ranking.

Behind the NFL and MLB were NASCAR and the NHL. NASCAR, which has shown to be wildly popular across the country, not just in the South, has taken off in terms of popularity, garnering a familiarity response of 86 percent. Next was minor league baseball, followed closely by the PGA Tour and NBA. Major League Soccer, IRL racing, PGA and Arena Football all round out the bottom half of the survey.

Out of the major professional teams in Tennessee, the Nashville Kats and the Memphis Grizzlies finished in the worst position. Although the Grizzlies appear to be headed to the playoffs as well, they had the worst affinity score of all teams, finishing four points behind the next lowest team, Tennessee State football.

Results from the spring survey, which is already underway, are expected to be published in the next few weeks.

Scrimmage: "Looking for leaders"

Continued from 6

we were consistent."

Despite having a successful scrimmage, first-year coach Stockstill said he realizes there still must be improvement after three weeks of practices and scrimmages.

"I still think we have to work on finishing plays, finishing drives and ultimately finish the game," Stockstill said, after the Blue Raider offensive

didn't commit a turnover. "Offensively, we came out and drove down to the 15 or 20, but we can't punch it in and that's a credit to the defense. They gave up some big chunks early but they got down there and bowed their neck and stuffed the offense pretty good."

MT will wrap up spring practice this week with three more sessions of drills and practices before the Blue-White spring game Saturday at 1 p.m. in Floyd Stadium.

Track: "Team takes three events"

Continued from 6

"B" group of Leak, Turner, Carey, and Fraley placed ninth.

In the women's 100-meters Owens finished 10th. In the women's 400-meter, Campbell, Patterson and Gillyard finished back-to-back-to-back in fourth, fifth and sixth.

In the 110-meter hurdles, Robertson finished in seventh with 14.09. Sara Lunning placed in third in the 3000-meter steeplechase with

12:44.59.

In the women's 4x100-meter relay the team of Erika Palmer, Robertson, Antranette Stringer and Owens all came in fourth place with a time of 46.34.

In the long jump, Stephanie Tamgho placed fourth with a mark of 19-0.75. In the triple jump, Sierra Douglas finished in sixth with a mark of 38-9.75.

The Blue Raiders will compete at the Texas Relays and the Mississippi Invitational, next weekend.

Dream ends for George Mason in Final Four

By Paul Newberry
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Live as the longshot. Die by the long shot.

Florida's 3-point shooting brought George Mason's improbable Final Four run to a jarring end Saturday night. The Gators made a dozen shots from outside the 3-point arc on the way to a 73-58 victory over the feel-good Patriots, who simply couldn't handle an immensely talented team that has arrived at the cusp of the school's first national title a year ahead of schedule.

The youthful Gators (32-6) will face UCLA in Monday night's title game, the second in their history. Florida lost to Michigan State for the 2000 championship, also held in Indianapolis.

Lee Humphrey led the way by hitting 6-of-12 from 3-point range and scoring 19 points. He was joined in the outside barrage by Corey Brewer and Taureen Green, who hit three treys apiece for a team that went 12-of-25 beyond the stripe. By comparison, George Mason missed its first nine 3s and finished 2-of-11—both of them coming too late to make any difference.

"I felt good tonight," Humphrey said. "My teammates did a good job of moving the ball around. I got some good looks."

It was way too much for George Mason, the charming little commuter school from suburbs of northern Virginia. The 11th-seeded Patriots (27-8) knocked off half of last year's Final Four and the last two national champions on their march to Indy, but they were overwhelmed by a team that hasn't been seriously challenged in the tournament.

"We came into the game feeling good about ourselves and feeling good about our chances," said George Mason coach Jim Larranaga, who tried to inspire his team with a pre-game poem. "For some reason, we were never really able to establish our rhythm, either offensively or defensively. And Florida's ability to get so many sec-

ond shots really hurt us."

Florida built a 10-point lead in the first half and withstood a couple of George Mason runs for a 31-26 lead at halftime. Appropriately enough, Green closed the opening period with a couple of 3s.

Humphrey took over in the first two minutes of the second half. The sharp-shooting guard made three straight from outside the arc, pushing the margin to 40-28. The Gators

got their lead as high as 19 points and the Patriots never got any closer than nine the rest of the way.

"George Mason has been playing great," Florida coach Billy Donovan said. "But I thought the key to the game was the 3-point line. That was one thing missing from what people were talking about."

Tony Skinn and Jai Lewis scored 13 points apiece for the Patriots, who missed countless layups and

easy shots in the lane that might have gotten them in position to pull off another stunner.

George Mason's only lead was 2-0. Florida dominated the boards on the way to a 16-6 edge before the game was 7 minutes old.

"What they've been able to do this year is great for basketball," Donovan said. "Most teams don't get a chance to experience what they've been able to experience. In

this tournament, they were able to inspire a lot of people. There was no resentment on our team for feeling like they got all the attention or we got slighted."

The Patriots tried mightily to get back into it. Florida went cold in the first half, missing six straight shots during a scoring drought of nearly five minutes. George Mason went on an 11-2 spurt, closing within one point of the Southeastern

Conference team.

But Florida stubbornly held the lead the rest of the half despite hitting only 11 of 32 shots (34 percent). George Mason wasn't much better, missing several layups and managing just 38 percent shooting (11-of-29) from the field.

Before the final seconds ticked away, Larranaga pulled out his starters so they could get one final ovation from the crowd.

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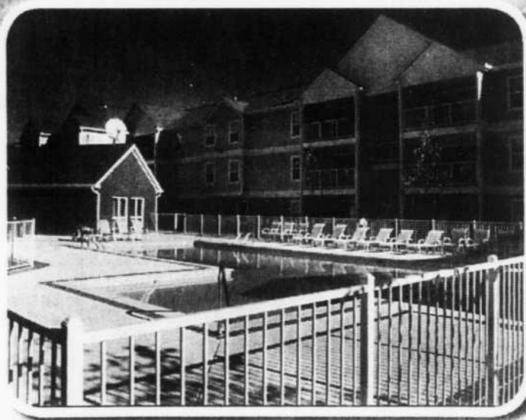


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