

A family finds strength to cope with multiple deaths 4

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

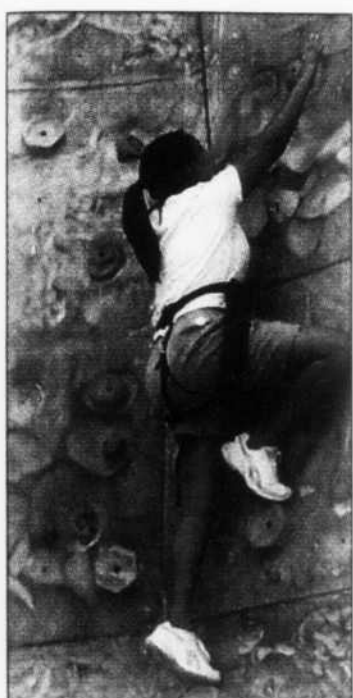
EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008

VOL. 84 NO. 26

INSIDE

Living a healthy lifestyle



Exercise and proper diet is difficult sometimes, but with expert advice, the road to health is easy.

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Check out this week's comics

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OPINIONS

It's time to move along, Mrs. Clinton

Clinton's maneuvering are not enough to save her from losing the race.

OPINIONS, 3

Blue Raiders cap historical season in finals

MT's Golf team successfully placed 15th in the nation at the Division 1 National Championships.

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COMMUTE

The intersection at Blue Raider Drive and MTSU Boulevard will be closed May 5 through August 20 for construction of a roundabout. The temporary detour by the Honors Building will be active for those who are traveling north on Blue Raider Drive.

There will also be a detour just past the Greenhouse for those who are traveling east on Blue Raider Drive. Detour signs will be posted.

For those who ride the Raider Xpress, please check mtsu.edu, under "Transportation" for the temporary changes to the routes.

Study Abroad director transfers

By TIFFANY GIBSON
News Editor

Jennifer Campbell, MT Study Abroad director, left on May 30 to assume the position of Study Abroad director at her alma mater, Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida.

Campbell was born in Nashville, but went to college at Tennessee roughly six years ago.

"I had just graduated with an international degree and was in Murfreesboro when I saw an ad for an international clerk," Campbell said. "I was lucky because they had one more slot open for the typing test, so I took it and got the job."

Since Campbell's first year at MTSU, she has managed to more than triple the amount of students that study abroad each year.

"I think she has done a really good job considering she started out in a one person office, and for the past few years our numbers are steadily increasing," said Brandon Fisher, MTSU graduate. "I think we've done a really good job at getting the news out there that we have a study abroad program out there and students are taking the bait."

Fisher will replace Campbell as an interim director over the summer, but he will



Photo Courtesy of Photographic Services

Jennifer Campbell points to her new job position as Study Abroad Director at Rollins College in Florida.

be leaving in August to teach English in France.

"I am going to be doing an assistantship for the administrative education in France, so I will leave for France for one academic year," Fisher said. "Basically I'll have the job of a school's assistant."

MTSU has sent more col-

lege students abroad than any other Tennessee Board of Regents institution under Campbell's direction.

"I think she has progressed quite a bit as an administrator," said Anne Sloan, assistant to the Executive Vice President and Provost for International Education. "She

has some definite strengths and like everybody else she has some weaknesses, but her strengths are her ability to organize things."

With a beginning budget of \$4,000 and only a \$1,000 for travel, Campbell has helped send more students abroad by obtaining more

aid for students interested in gaining worldwide experience.

"If you look at where things started when the office became independent and she was housed in a former closet over in the Keathley Univer-

DIRECTOR, PAGE 2

1 million Tennesseans register for organ and tissue donation

By TIFFANY GIBSON
News Editor

"Donate Life Tennessee," a new awareness campaign supported by the Tennessee Department of Safety, has registered over 1 million Tennesseans for organ and tissue donation.

The campaign began in 2008, but picked up recognition during National Donate Life month in April.

The campaign is taking place at TDOS Driver License Service Centers and County Clerk Offices.

"The campaign in April with the TDOS was just the beginning of our effort to promote the new registry," said Janet Jarrard, senior public education coordinator and media specialist of the Tennessee Donor Services. "The public education efforts at TDOS are now completely focused on motivating people to document their decision to donate."

The Tennessee County Clerks Organ Donation Awareness Foundation contributed funds to help create and launch the Donate Life Tennessee organ and tissue donor registry.

Jarrard said that the events during the campaign proved to be so successful that she plans to do more of them next April, including developing a brochure to distribute in driver license centers.

As of now one-third of 99,000 Americans are waiting for life saving organs

Top Percentages for Licensed Drivers Registered for Organ Donation



Graphic By Sara Catlett

transplants. Jarrard along with Tennessee Donor Services and Mid-South Transplant are determined to save lives by increasing the number of Tennessee donors.

A national goal for the Department of Health and Human Services and Donate Life America is to reach 100 million registrants by July 1, 2010.

Jarrard said she has a personal connection with donation because of her husband's kidney transplant.

"Early in our marriage, I watched with horror as he courageously endured hemodialysis while he waited patiently for a kidney," Jarrard said. "Dialysis sustains life, but it's a physically and emotionally painful process no one should have to experience."

Currently, two-thirds of the people awaiting transplants are waiting on kid-

neys, and many of them have been waiting for over five years.

"John was fortunate that his kidney came in time, but he passed away seven years ago," Jarrard said. "A compassionate donor gave him eleven years that he and I wouldn't have had together."

"I believe that everyone who can be saved by a transplant deserves to receive the gift of life," Jarrard said.

Jarrard said people usually decline to become a donor based on their misunderstanding of the donation process, which is displayed incorrectly in the media.

"The entertainment media create a lot of misinformation about donation, and often sensationalize it or distort it when using it as a story line," Jarrard said. "I've seen some ridiculous treatments of donation and transplants on television shows

like 'ER' and 'House'."

Jarrard also said that most people don't like to think about their own death; therefore, they forget about the preparation process.

According to a national survey in 2004, 90 percent of Americans support donation, but only 20 percent of adults have actually registered.

In addition to the survey, only two to three percent of all deaths meet the medical criteria required for organ donation.

"If you have just one organ that is working properly then it can go to someone," said Megan Price, senior business education major.

Price became a volunteer at TDS after having witnessed her friend, Ashley Tollett, suffer from a rare disease called lymphangio-

Budget cutbacks planned for TN colleges

By TIFFANY GIBSON
News Editor

Governor Phil Bredesen revised budget plan for the 2008-2009 school year by cutting 55.8 million from higher education institutions within Tennessee.

The state appropriation funding for Tennessee higher education is being cut by \$6,156,000, which made up six percent of out 2007-2008 state appropriation.

"We are making cuts to make up for the 6 million cut from state appropriation," said John Cothorn, senior vice president. "With a new tuition increase of six percent, we might recover, but we won't recover to the same level of total revenue because of fixed cost increases like utilities, faculty increases and fringed benefits."

The tuition increase has not been confirmed, but Cothorn said it is currently in serious consideration.

In order to prevent budget cuts from being made to MTSU's academic programs, each college, department and division have been asked to come up with possible five percent budget

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BUDGET, PAGE 2

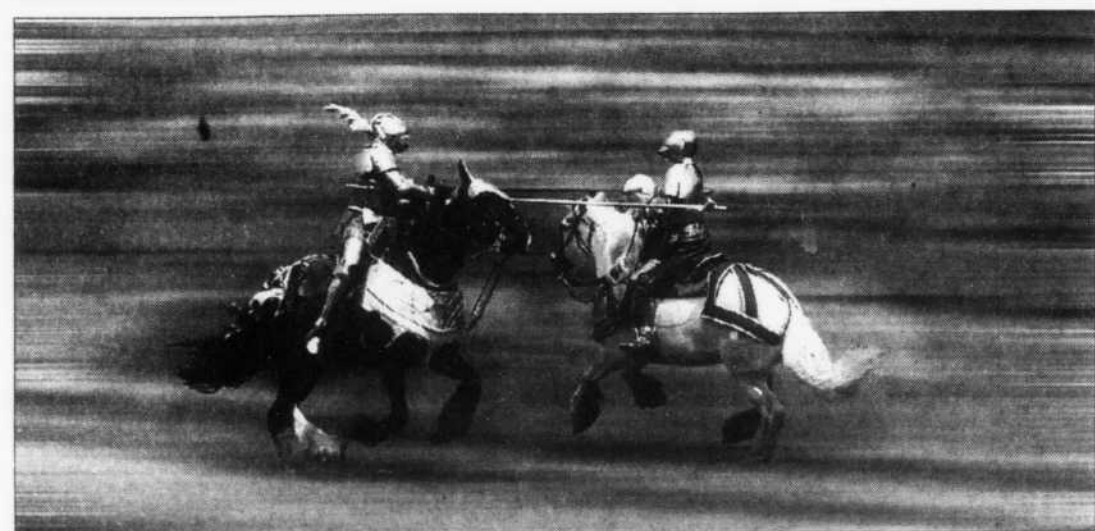


Photo Courtesy of tnenfest.com

Renaissance Festival held in Nashville

Cast members perform jousting and other activities during the Tennessee Renaissance Festival at Castle Gwynn. Cast members dress in pageantry of costumed villagers, artisan and musicians to reenact the renaissance time period.

DIRECTOR FROM PAGE 1

sity Center and where things are now, you can tell there has been quite a bit positive change," Sloan said.

Campbell also made studying abroad more accessible by organizing the 250 programs available to students.

"I did not do this alone," Campbell said. "I appreciate everyone's support and

especially the faculty's support."

Sloan said Campbell would be one of the people to admit that a lot of the ideas that she launched were not hers in the beginning.

"The pathway packets were a suggestion from a former study abroad student who then interned in their office, but Jennifer was the one who took it from a suggestion into moving it into a very useful tool that students could access to do

this," Sloan said.

Campbell said the next person to fill the position will take the growth to an even higher level.

"As an undergraduate someone changed my life when I went to China, and I saw American from another perspective since I was on the outside looking in," Campbell said. "Students are saying they want we want worldwide experience, and I wish MTSU the best with future endeavors."

BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

cut plans.

"I have proposed to make cuts in such a way that affect students in the minimum way," said Philip Mathis, dean of Paul W. Martin, Senior Honors College. "We are not cutting courses; our scholarship budget, student help budget and salary budgets will be left untouched as well."

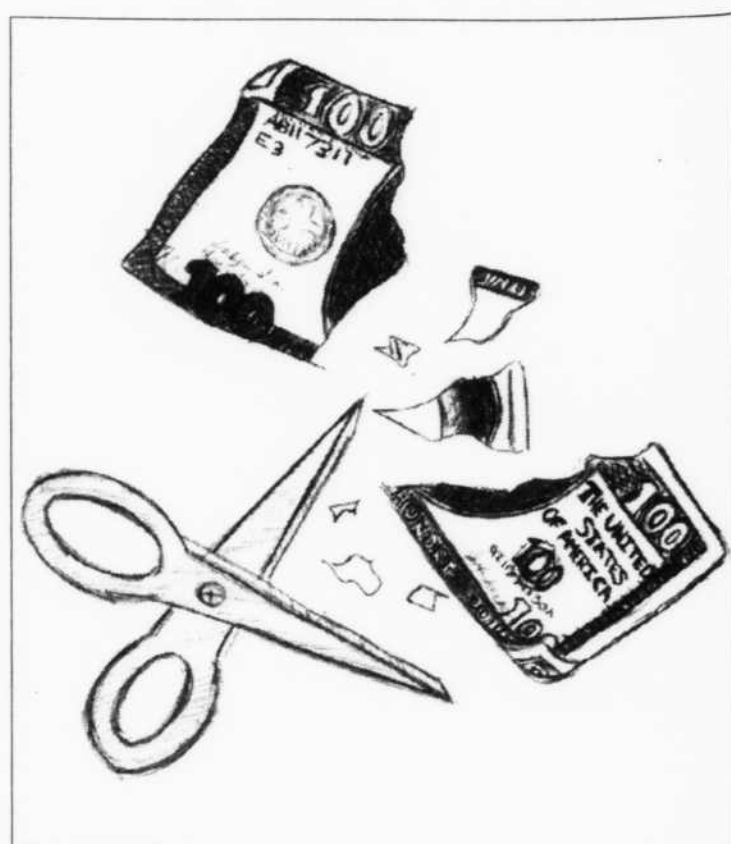
Mathis said the Honors College has a functioning budget of \$500,000, but plans to make cuts within the operating budget for office equipment and supplies as an attempt to affect the students as little as possible.

"All of our planned reductions will come out of our operating budget," Mathis said. "If we have to make these reductions then we want to decrease 21 percent in our operating budget."

With an academic budget making up 76 percent of MTSU's budget, there will have to be cuts made to students' education.

Even though cuts will have to be made, Wayne Dornan, Interim Department Chair of the Aerospace Department, said that he doesn't think that the cuts will affect the quality of the programs.

"Even though it will have a significant impact on us,



Graphic by Chelsea Garrett

it's not going to decrease the quality of the program in any way because we'll adapt," Dornan said. "We are a very creative department with a very supportive dean, and we are going to be able to work with these budget cuts."

In addition to budget cuts, faculty members and employees will receive a one-time, flat-rate salary bonus of \$400.

"No one will be getting a raise this year," Cothorn said. "The governor has in his budget for all regular employees

that have had three years of service as of Oct. 1, 2008 will get a flat rate of \$400."

Mathis said that he thinks the bonus is being given because the state has to make some gesture that they value the faculty.

"I think we're all suffering and we're all trying to get through this collectively, but we're not going to go belly up," Dornan said. "We're going to be creative and continue the reputation of this school as being one of the best schools in the state."

DONATION FROM PAGE 1

leimyomatosis that causes deterioration of the lungs.

Tollett received her transplant three months after seeing the Transplant Team at Vanderbilt, and has made a full recovery since the operation.

"It's really important [to donate] because it saved her life," Price said. "Without the transplant she would have

died at 19 years old."

Price said on average most young people are encouraged to become donors because they have the highest risk of being killed in car accidents.

When someone chooses to become a donor, a small red heart will be placed in the upper right hand corner of the driver's license to confirm to each state ID holder that they have checked yes to donating their organs or tissues. It will also allow their secure information to be added into the

registry online database.

"I would not be here today without someone's generous gift of organ donation," Tollett said. "Everyone wants to make a difference in the world and this, to me, is the utmost way to make a difference in someone's life."

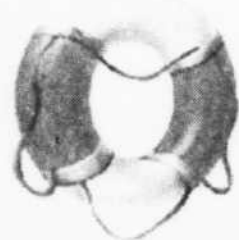
Anyone interested in becoming an organ and tissue donor can register online at tndonorregistry.org or can contact the Tennessee Donor Services at 1-888-234-4440

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board Goodbye education, hello new baseball field

Recently Governor Phil Bredesen constructed a budget cut plan that will take away 6 million dollars from higher education universities.

MTSU was asked to come up with a five percent budget cut plan within each college, department and division.

Although the administration has vowed not to take away funding from academic programs, this could have been prevented in the first place.

It's noble of them to try not to affect students, but it will regardless. Teacher's curriculum will have to change if they are not able to print handouts because of five percent being cut from office supplies.

With all of the funding for academic programs being cut, we have to wonder why it is that construction has become more important than education on our campus. We are spending millions of dollars on a new recreation center when our budget has just taken a plunge.

Other activities that are also unnecessary and a waste of cash are the efforts put into CUS-TOMS and homecoming.

Most of these programs de-

pend on enrollment and tuition. Therefore, they build student unions before science buildings.

Another fear is that the quality of faculty will decline. Even though there are no salary docks, fear remains that the leaders of our universities will seek opportunities elsewhere. Several faculty members have already relocated and more are sure to follow.

On the other hand, faculty that remain might have to fight in order to teach certain classes. Apparently the university wants to be well-rounded students, but continues to cut classes with small enrollment.

We are beginning to lose the reason for college in the first place. Its purpose is to educate, but instead has become mainly about turning a profit. A baseball field was completed just in time to hold tournaments that will create revenue for the university.

Overall, the university focuses on quantity rather than quality, so basically we are paying more for a worst education. Quality depends on money, but unfortunately quantity is the only way to make money.

Letters to the Editor

Ethanol vs. U.S. Drilling

In the war over the answer to high gas prices, the choice of making ethanol as opposed to drilling in the United States is not a wise decision. Both come with environmental hazards, only the end result of the ethanol choice is less priced.

This has raised prices of food, and made it more difficult for those in third world nations to survive due to lack of funds. Gas should not be more important than the availability of food in poorer countries.

Growing more grains to cover the ethanol need would cause more damage to our environment than would drilling in suggested areas such as Alaska, because of the sheer amount of trees that would have to be cut down across the globe in order to begin grain production.

Environmentalists that disagree have not considered the future problems that comes with making ethanol. Some have planned to introduce the climate control act, which

would add more taxes per gallon, and speculated to raise gas costs to that of the European, which are at least eight dollars per gallon. This is only going to worsen the situation of the gas supply problem, and further environmental hazards from making the demand for ethanol even greater. Americans will not be forced into giving up their traveling, and trying to force this on them, thinking that they are helping the environment, will only end in seeing a further depletion of our trees and algae supply.

We need wisdom and foresight at this juncture in our history.

Those that choose ethanol over drilling have not used foresight into the environmental costs, and those trying to further legislate it are only raising costs of the price per gallon due to taxes which end in a vicious circle of creating a greater demand for more ethanol.

Carrie Geren Scoggins
Cleveland, TN

The full version of this letter can be seen online.

Letters Policy

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

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 the individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

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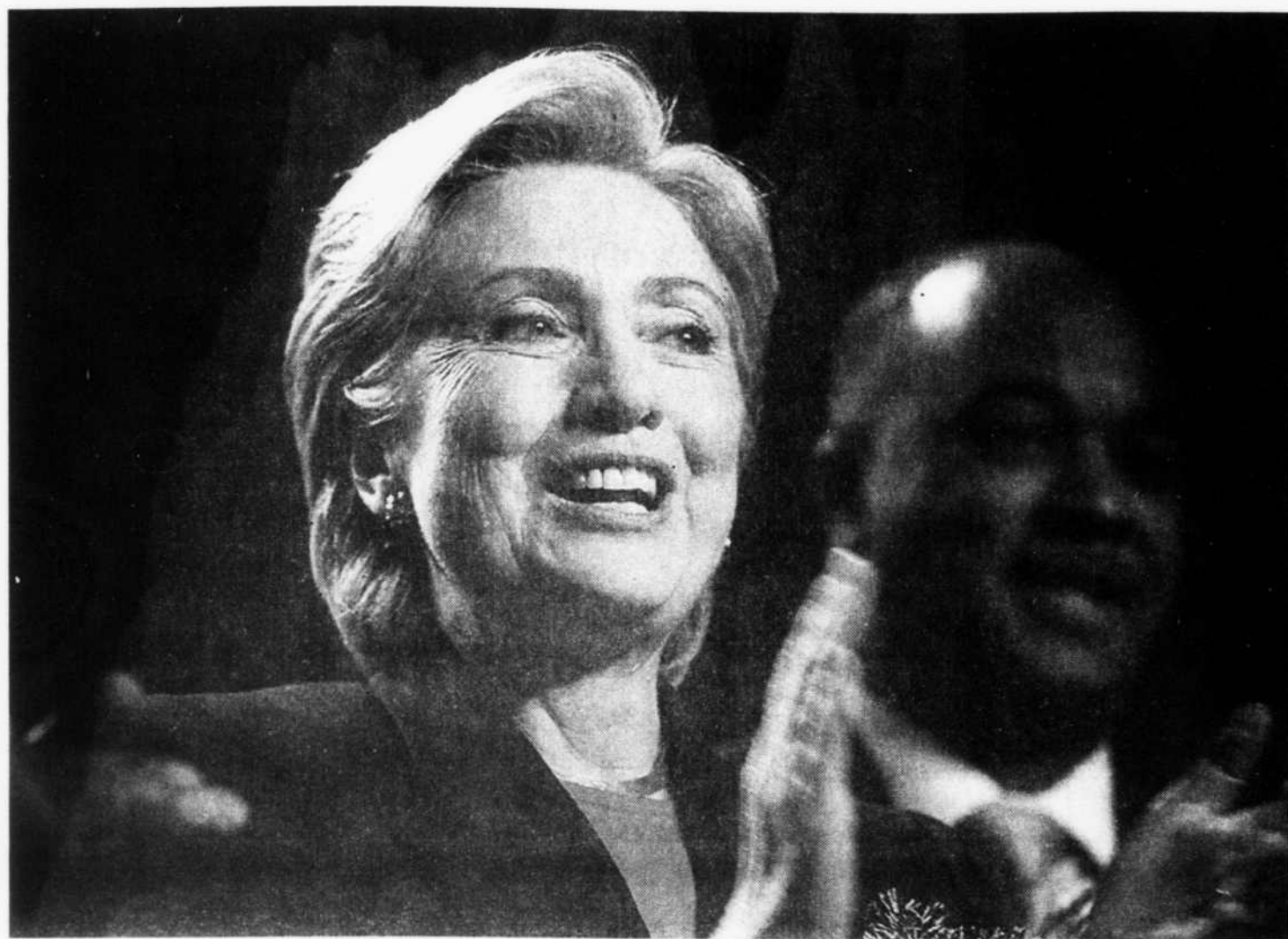


Photo courtesy of Flickr.com

It's time to move along Clinton's maneuvering not enough to seize position

Is it wrong that I want presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to hurry up and let me start feeling sorry for her?

She would probably answer "yes," that is if she wasn't so busy undermining her own credibility.

Don't get me wrong; until recently I would've been glad to vote for her in November. Or Obama.

I'm not picky when it comes to historical presidential candidates who favor health care and oppose the war.

Thing is, Clinton has been blowing it lately. The satirical newspaper *The Onion* joked that her signature issue is "Becoming President of the United States."

That hardly seems like a joke anymore.

Take the "gas-tax holiday" that came up last month. It would've temporarily suspended federal gas taxes so consumers could save a few cents on every gallon at the pump this summer. As one might predict, many people thought that sounded great.

Thanks, pandering – you put up results!

Trouble is, the average driver's savings for the summer added up to a paltry \$30,



PUTTIN' UP RESULTS

Dan Potter

while critical infrastructure would be deprived of billions in lost revenue.

Not only could Clinton name precisely zero economists who supported the idea, she could hardly contain her rancor at anyone who dared to remark upon its absurdity.

I might be way off here, but aren't Democrats somewhat favored in this election precisely because America is sick of seeing illogical policies buttressed by nothing but ad hominem attacks?

I thought so.

After that came the recent shenanigans over whether the party would count primary votes from Florida and Michigan. Last year the two states ignored warnings from

the party and scheduled their primaries earlier than permitted, rendering their votes irrelevant.

I forget why they wanted to vote so early – something about wanting to matter in the election at least as much as a handful of jerk corn farmers – but that's beside the point, at least for this column.

The bottom line is, Clinton and Obama both agreed with the party to factor the two states out of their primary campaigns. Then Clinton left her name on ballots conspicuously absent of Obama's.

Later, with the primary season underway, when it became clear every last delegate matters to clinch this nomination, Clinton suddenly became a spirited crusader for those uncouted votes, which happened to overwhelmingly favor her.

Suspect? Maybe!

Her lust for political expedience in the banner of righteous integrity.

And after eight years of George W. Bush, let me tell you, I am sick of that.

Now, please, don't misunderstand me. If I am faced with the choice of Clinton

or John McCain in the fall, I will choose Clinton.

Because, really, what can you say about John McCain? A veteran himself, he recently opposed providing college educations to veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Supposedly the man appeals to hawks, but it's hard to see why. Isn't this the opposite of supporting the troops?

Still, it's time for the Democratic party to move on and get the general election season underway.

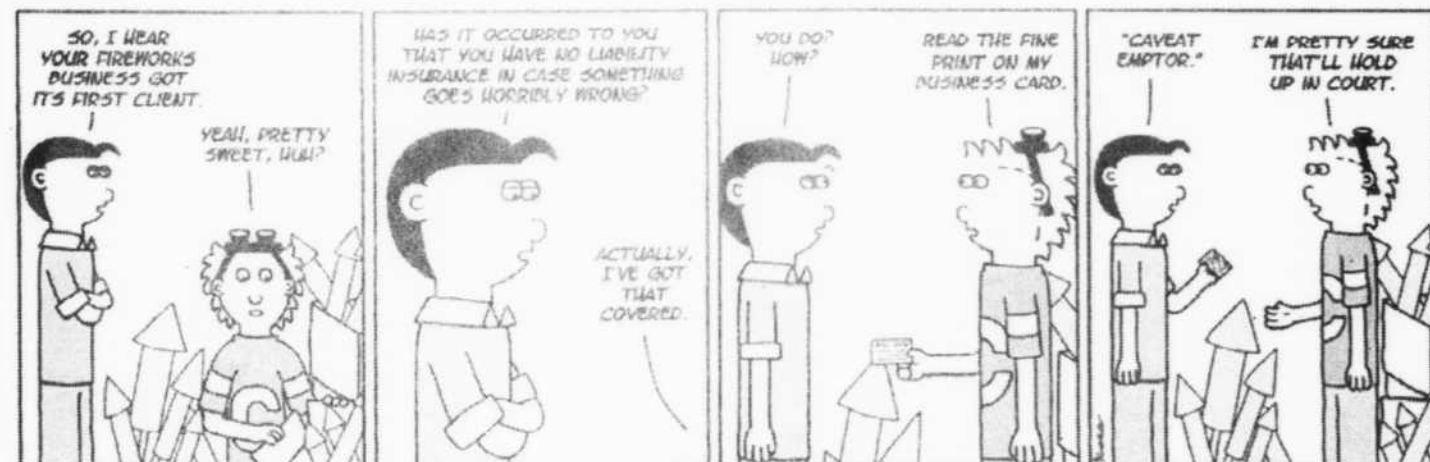
And while people have been saying Hillary should bow out gracefully for what feels like forever now, it's still better late than never – or August.

Of course that's sad for Hillary. And I sympathize with the lady – it must be tough losing the nomination almost everyone thought was hers a year ago.

But with her recent maneuvering essentially amounting to an insult to voters' intelligence, it's hard to imagine feeling sorry for long.

Dan Potter is a senior journalism and Spanish major and can be reached at daniel.g.potter@gmail.com

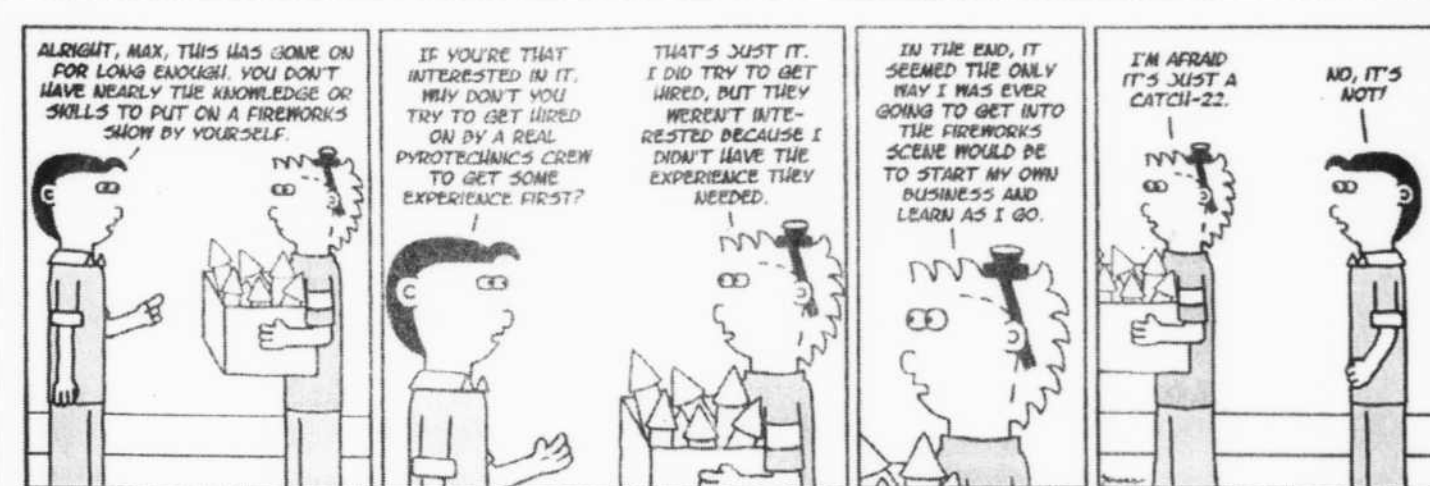
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STUDENTS STAYING IN SHAPE

MTSU health and wellness officials give advice on looking fit and eating right

By BRIAN ESTES
Staff Writer

After slogging through classes, many MTSU students make their way to the cafeteria in the Keathley University Center and enjoy a quick meal while settling into the plush – and sometimes somewhat plush – booths.

But wait, how healthy is that meal you're being served?

Sometimes, that meal can be as simple as grabbing a pizza from Pizza Hut, but that may not be the best way to avoid unwanted weight. Would you like to avoid unwanted weight or the infamous Freshman 15? Would you like to feel better about yourself? The following words could be very important.

If you want to stay fit, where do you begin? The campus recreation center is a good starting place. Jerry Langham, fitness director at the recreation center, says self-motivation is the biggest key to success. There are guidelines for those who may not be in a regular workout routine.

"It would definitely help them to try to get a personal trainer," Langham says. "A fitness assessment is done to identify people who don't work hard enough or who work too hard to make sure they don't hurt themselves."

Activities the recreation center offers include racketball, soccer, basketball, weight lifting and swimming.

Another activity that's popular among many students is climbing the rock wall. You get tethered in and attached to a rope so you can start scaling the approximately 30-foot-tall wall safely. For those who have never tried it, climbing the wall is very physically demanding, and will test your upper body strength while also presenting many psychological challenges.

As you climb, you'll find the footholds along the face of the wall aren't always po-



Photo By Michael Stone, Features Editor

Andrew Banks picks out a salad for his lunch from a cooler at the Keathley University Center cafeteria.

sitioned in the most convenient places. This means you'll have to decide whether you've got a good enough grip on the handholds to shift your weight as you move your leg from one foothold to the next. And not all the footholds will afford you an equal level of balance.

Just remember to be careful and not to look down. If you're inexperienced, you may become detached from the wall at least once, but it's okay because the climbing wall staff will be there at the end of the rope to make sure you don't fall.

After finishing your first climb, you may experience severely sore forearms and a solid layer of sweat formed

across your forehead. But hey, it's not that bad for only about a 20-minute workout.

If you can manage to get into a regular exercise routine, you're doing a great job and on the right track to staying in shape.

But what about eating healthy? Fortunately, confining in a diet of carrots and celery isn't necessary. There are ways of gradually breaking into healthier eating habits right on campus.

Richard Chapman, director of Student Health Services, offers a few suggestions.

As a general rule, it's important to eat three meals per day, Chapman says. Often, students may skip meals in order to get to a class, finish a

paper or do whatever else.

"An iced coffee is not a substitute for breakfast," Chapman says. "It's okay to grab smaller meals throughout the day, such as maybe eating a banana or a bowl of cereal between classes."

Portion control is also important, Chapman says. It's okay to have a hamburger, but don't have five in a week. If there's leftover pizza in your dorm refrigerator, grab one piece and leave the other two or three behind.

"Doing as many things as you can to stay active is just as, if not more, important than eating three meals and portion control," says Chapman. "Taking the stairs instead of the elevator, riding

your bike across campus, and parking at the back of the parking lot to give yourself a longer walk are all examples of good ways to stay active."

Still, many people have a hard time sticking to a diet plan. But why is this?

"If I knew the answer to that, I'd be rich!" Chapman jokes. "It often comes from bad habits from family. If they aren't reinforced by people around them, it becomes hard to stick with it over time."

He adds that some students are unable to develop healthy habits because of over scheduling when it comes to classes or work. He says this can take away from a student's time to work out and to eat healthy.

Practicing these dieting tips can help students avoid the infamous freshman 15, and can help prevent conditions that typically develop later in life, such as high blood pressure, vascular disease and diabetes.

Once you've made these practices into habits, is it possible to eat healthy at the KUC cafeteria?

With more than 2,500 students being served there a day, it's an important question. Chapman says he thinks you can still eat healthy at the KUC. And their management points out that many healthy options are offered.

HEALTH, PAGE 5

The philosophy of fate

How a family decided to stick together in life and in death

By CHRISTOPHER BARKLEY
Contributing Writer

My best friend died eight years ago, at the age of 23. The circumstances around his death rocked me. His life's journey compels me to question my beliefs.

This is the story of my time with Robert Sweeny.

The year was 1988 and I was newcomer to the South Nashville neighborhood where Robby lived. He was the first to embrace me as his friend and it wasn't long before we started spending hours upon hours together. I was 10 years old at the time.

We were inseparable, and in the summertime we would

walk down to the creek that ran behind his duplex and talk. We would take our shoes and socks off and dip our feet in the shallow, cool water of the creek.

We'd talk the afternoons away at the creek. We talked about football and model cars, nude magazines and pellet guns. Robby was very opinionated for his age, and believed in the ideas of war, same race marriage, and raising dogs to fight.

I had always looked up to Robby, but it was strange that we'd be friends considering I had come from a biracial household and would much rather teach my dog to catch a Frisbee than to raise

him to fight to the death in bloody rinks.

As we grew together, I came to find that many of Robby's ideologies were nothing more than the spoon-fed frustrations of his father. His father was a mechanic and part-time dog fighter. In his youth he dreamed of racing the NASCAR circuit, and once attempted to be a member of the Ku Klux Klan, Robby had confessed to me.

His father once told me that I was the only "colored he liked." I was too young to understand how offensive that was. I thought of it as a compliment.

It felt good to be liked by a man that had spent so much

of his life's energy on hate.

Often Robby and I would skip school and "play war" with our pellet guns in the woods nearby. We were a good team. I was his Marilyn Monroe, and he was my Norma Jean.

One day Robby and I decided we'd skip school, as we did on a fairly regular basis. The plan was to walk to our friends' house that morning and, once there, we would play Nintendo, eat potato chips and drink his father's broad selection of spirits.

However, on the way to our friends' house, a truancy officer spotted us walking down the street. He stopped us, questioned us, and in no time we were in the back seat of his undercover police car on our way to juvenile detention.

I kept my head about me. However, Robby was hysterical, he started babbling excuses and begging. He even went as far as trying to bribe

the officer into letting us go.

Then he lost his composure altogether. He began to weep. This wasn't a ploy for sympathy; it was real.

Robby was the strongest person I'd known, and he was crying like a hungry infant.

I understood.

I understood that juvenile detention was the least of his worries. He'd mentioned in so many words that his dad drank too much from time to time and could get abusive. When I thought about it, I'd never seen his dad without a beer in his hand. I didn't want to imagine what was going to happen to him when he got home.

After that day I didn't see Robby for a full week. Once I did finally see him, it was as if, after years of friendship, we'd grown apart in only a week. We were never the same.

Years passed and Robby had begun work as a mechanic in town. I ran into him once at

the local shopping center and he had a bright looking young woman on his arm and said proudly, "Chris, I want you to meet somebody, this is my fiancée, Christy."

Robby beamed as he introduced her to me and rubbed my shoulder with a proud grasp. Christy and I shook hands. I couldn't remember seeing Robby this happy and, over the next couple of weeks, Robby and I caught up on lost time. He was a new man.

He'd grown out of believing everything his father had taught him and acknowledged how asinine his thinking was as a youth.

Things weren't the same as before, and we only talked about once a week, but the important thing was that we talked. We were finally able to have proper closure on our past and remove the void that stood between us.

FATE, PAGE 5



Photo By Michael Stone, Features Editor

Ashley Smith ascends the climbing wall at the recreation center as staff member Chris Brown makes sure she doesn't fall.

HEALTH FROM PAGE 4

Stacey Clevenger, retail operations manager for the KUC grill, says there's an even split between healthier and less healthy choices offered at the KUC. However, he notes that the healthier items comprise only about a fourth of the overall sales.

He says there are fresh fruits, yogurts, parfaits and The Zoca - a taco salad which can be made with a choice of

beef, chicken or portabella mushrooms. Grab-and-go salads and char broiled chicken sandwiches from Chik-Fil-A are also healthy food suggestions.

"As we move to offer more healthy options, we like to take suggestions from the students on things they'd like to see," Clevenger says.

"They are welcome to make appointments to speak with a manager or resident district manager. To do so, students should make an appointment in Room 204 of

the KUC."

John Tate, the resident district manager, adds, "I would say [the biggest obstacles preventing students from eating healthy] is their home training. You have to have a mindset. We have a tendency to do what we've always done in the past."

Many health professionals say ultimately one of the biggest keys to being healthy and staying fit is to have self-motivation.

Jerry Langham echoed this logic by saying the goal

is to make a pact with yourself and promise you will follow through with what you intend to do. But the important thing is to never quit and to not become so discouraged that you give up.

Sometimes the road to being fit and eating nutritious foods can be a lot like the rock wall. You might lose your grip, but if you happen to slip, just swing back over and keep climbing. If you stick with it, eventually the peak will come into view.

Older students return to school

Young students do not deter non-traditional adults from returning to the university

By BRITTANY CARDEN
Contributing Writer

Like a large number of college students these days, Terri Sparks does not fit the college student stereotype.

Sparks is a non-traditional college student, and like most other adult students, Sparks went back to school to earn her bachelor's degree, in order to open up more job opportunities.

Non-traditional students, also known as adult students, are becoming more common at many colleges and universities. Non-traditional students are typically female, with ages ranging from twenty-five to sixty-nine. While most females are going back for their first degree, men are typically going back to update their skills and furthering their career options.

The majority of adult students are going back for the same reason - money. People with a bachelor's degree make at least twice as much more than those with just a high school diploma, and people with a master's degree or doctorate earn up to three times the amount of only high school graduates.

There are several reasons why adult students might not earn their college degree right out of high school. Examples include being involved in the military, not having the money to pay for school or working full time right out of high school.

Some of the responsibilities that non-traditional students face are marriage, children and 40 or more hours of work. MTSU provides housing for families on campus at Womack Lane Apartments, though the residents don't have to have a family.

The commitment and time needed to earn any type of degree is a challenge for anyone, especially adult students.

With only two more semesters until her bachelor's degree is finished, Sparks still faces some challenges. These challenges include completing a lengthy internship and working a full-time job.

Despite all of her at-home responsibilities, Sparks sees the light at the end of the tunnel and can't wait to see all of the job opportunities her bachelor's degree will open up for her.

FATE

FROM PAGE 4

In one of our talks, Robby told me that his uncle had killed himself because his family found out that he was gay.

He also mentioned that his father was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver.

A month later, I got the call that his father had died. It was hardest on his mother Judy, who'd stayed by her husband's side faithfully through thick and thin. After his death, she asked for a month off work. She stayed in her small square room, in the modest duplex at the end of the street, for the entire month.

She didn't eat, make phone calls or talk to friends and family. On day 30 of her "vacation," Judy was found dead in her bedroom, with no apparent cause of death.

"She died of a broken heart," Robby proclaimed shakily.

The talk around town was about how odd it was that three members of Robby's close family had passed away in less than a month. There were rumors of curses and urban legends. Some said they were all so close that they lived together and died together.

Despite the loss, Robby somehow remained optimis-

tic about the future. He and Christy had recently purchased a house together and planned to move within the week.

The loss of both parents was nothing less than catastrophic for him, but Robby was strong and resilient. He saw his new life with Christy as the next chapter in the Sweeney legacy.

It was a warm and breezy afternoon, and I was in the drive-thru line at Taco Bell when my cell phone rang. I never expected such a devastating call, I was absolutely blindsided.

A friend explained that the night before Robby had died in a car accident moving the last load of furniture to his new house. He was on the Interstate when his trailer began to fish tail causing his pick-up truck to flip. Robby wasn't wearing his seat belt, which was never in his personality to do. He was tossed out the open window and was rolled underneath his truck.

Suddenly, I was the one weeping, babbling excuses, and I even tried to bribe God.

At the funeral I stared at a picture of him his brother had provided. I concentrated on the image as if to burn the contour of his face into my memory.

Robert Sweeny, the strongest person I've known.



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SPORTS

Blue Raiders cap historical season in event's final round

By TONY STINNETT
MT Media Relations

One of the most successful seasons for any Middle Tennessee team culminated when the Blue Raider men's golf team made the cut at the NCAA Division I Men's National Championship and eventually finished No. 15 after Saturday's final round.

The Blue Raiders, which won a school-record five tournaments in 2007-08, including four in succession, became the only team in program history (Division I era) to play on the final day of its respective sports' national championship. Middle Tennessee accomplished this feat after earning the program's first at-large berth in the NCAA East Region and subsequently reaching the Division I National Championship for the first time.

Once there, Middle Tennessee's players proved their worth among the nation's top 30 teams and made the cut to reach the final round.

"I knew this group was special at the beginning of the season and I knew they could do special things," first-year Head Coach Whit Turnbow said. "I really believed we could get into a regional this year and see what happens. Did I expect to be playing in the final round of the National Championships this year? We believed we could get here but to make the cut was even more special. Our kids proved they belonged and I am so proud of them and

their accomplishments. They worked hard for it and they received the rewards that go along with sacrifice and commitment. This group is why you enjoy coaching young men. I have some of the best you could ask for and that's in all aspects of their lives."

The Blue Raiders had to sweat out their final destiny overnight and into the morning after play was suspended due to inclement weather during Friday's second round. When play resumed Saturday morning Auburn owned a four-stroke lead on Middle Tennessee but shot 5-over on the dreadful No. 18 to fall one shot back and off the cut line, moving the Blue Raiders into 15th.

The drama was not over. Texas had pulled to within one shot of Middle Tennessee on the front but the Longhorns ran into trouble on their closing holes and couldn't overtake the Blue Raiders. Next on the list was Indiana, which had also pulled to within one shot but the Hoosiers also were doomed on No. 18.

"The wait was tough and then being at the course this morning and seeing all of it unfold made for some nervous moments," said junior Chas Narramore, who finished strong at 3-over on a day when the course was at its toughest due to extremely strong crosswinds. "Once we knew we had made the cut it was pretty exciting. To know you are playing on the final day of the National Championship is something you al-



Photo Courtesy of MT Media Relations

(Above) Jason Millard, freshman, helps MT's Golf Team place 15th in the nation, the highest in MT Athletic Department history.

ways will remember. We were standing with the nation's best on the final day, that's pretty good."

Freshman Jason Millard came up strong on the national stage, turning in a Top 20 finish with a 12-over 300 - tied for 18th individually. He had moved to as high as sixth during one point in the final round.

"I played pretty consistent this week but I think I could have finished a little stronger," Millard said. "This has been a great experience for all of us. We knew we were good enough to get to the National Championships and we hung in there well for the most part this week. We had a chance to finish higher but this is something we can build on

for next year."

Rick Cochran finished at 22-over 310 for the tournament and amongst the top half of the field, tied for 55th. Narramore overcame a tough week with his strong final round and was 23-over for the tournament, good for a tie for 60th.

Sophomore Kent Bulle tied for 69th at 26-over, and senior

Nick Bailes concluded his career in style with his 5-over 77 counting on the final day of the National Championships. He was 28-over for the tournament and tied for 71st. His even-par 72 in the second round tied for Middle Tennessee's low round of the tournament.

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CRIME BRIEFS

May 14, 12:12 p.m.

Theft

Floyd Stadium

An Officer was flagged down to take a report on a stolen book from a faculty member that occurred last June.

May 14, 1:01 p.m.

Vandalism

Keathley University Center

Subject called and reported that their golf carts had been vandalized.

May 14, 10:16 a.m.

Trespassing

Rutherford Blvd.

Jamille Yvonne Watts was cited for criminal trespassing.

May 11, 1:32 p.m.

Vagrancy

COPE Administration Building

Lot WEST
Officer out with two juveniles with a bicycle in the treeline between Monahan Hall and the CAB. Juveniles trespassed from campus.

May 11, 4:54 p.m.

Theft

Nicks Hall

Subject came to the station to fill out report in reference to his wallet being taken from his vehicle over the weekend.

May 12, 3:36 p.m.

Theft

Keathley University Center

Complainant came in lobby requesting to file a report on a stolen bicycle.

May 13, 8:10 a.m.

Traffic

Blue Raider Dr.

Travis Lawson was arrested for driving on a revoked license.

May 13, 5:11 p.m.

Traffic

Middle Tennessee Blvd.

Rajesh Barnwal was cited for an expired registration.

May 16, 3:24 p.m.

Traffic

Greenland Dr.

Sassalete N. Ginger was cited for Financial Responsibility or driving without insurance.

May 16, 8: 51 p.m.

DUI

East Main St.

Howard O. Walls was arrested and charged with DUI, simple possession of Marijuana and refusal of implied consent.

May 17, 10:45 a.m.

Assault

MTSU Warehouse

Officer dispatched MTMC ER in reference to an alleged assault which was said to have occurred Friday night on campus.

May 17, 7:27 p.m.

Theft

Woodfin Lot

Theft of property from motor vehicle in the Woodfin Lot. Comp advised a CD player was stolen from her blue Oldsmobile Intrigue.

May 17, 10:40 p.m.

Theft

Greenland Drive Lot B

Theft of license plate from a gray Dodge Ram while it was parked by the Stadium.

May 19, 6:02 a.m.

Traffic

Rutherford Blvd.

Mr. Scottie Ray Pendergrast was issued a state citation for drivers without a license and failure to have financial responsibility.

May 23, 11:08 a.m.

Theft

Peck Hall

Subject called advising that her bike had been stolen from Peck Hall.

May 25, 3:41 a.m.

Vandalism

Sigma Chi House-Greek Row

Subject called advising that someone threw a concrete flower-pot through their window.

May 26, 11:24 p.m.

Traffic

Old Main Cr.

Samantha Rosas was cited for driving on a suspended license.

May 29, 9:23 a.m.

Theft

Off Campus

Subject called and said that a building that had the campus purchased has had all the copper wire and pipes removed and is requesting a report.

May 29, 3:41 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building

After officers arrival at the nursing building because thumb drives had been stolen out of the lost and found drawer.

May 31, 5:06 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Keathley University Center

Subject lost purse while at the KUC.

June 2, 9:39 a.m.

Traffic

Alumni Dr.

Officer said it looks like over the weekend on Alumni Dr. and Rutherford there was a light pole with extensive damage.



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