

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORALLY INDEPENDENT

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FROM
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MTSU Blvd. is closed from Rutherford Blvd. to Blue Raider Drive due to construction. Drivers will be able to enter the campus off Rutherford Blvd. at Alumni Drive (newly opened road by Greek Row). The 4-way stop at MTSU Blvd. will also be closed during construction. Please follow detour signs.

The gravel lot at the corner of MTSU Blvd. and Rutherford Blvd. will also be closed during this time. Students are advised to park in the Rutherford Blvd. lot across from Greek Row and ride the shuttle.



Photo By Andy Harper, Editor in Chief
Murfreesboro Police Department and Fire Department respond to the bomb threat directed at the BAS on Friday.

BAS receives bomb threat

By ANDY HARPER and
TIFFANY GIBSON
Editor in Chief and
Campus News Editor

The MTSU community faced potential danger after a bomb threat was directed at the Business and Aerospace building on Friday.

According to Murfreesboro Police Department, no suspect has been apprehended.

The bomb threat was received from the Kangaroo convenience store at the corner of Rutherford Boulevard and Broad Street in Murfreesboro, MTSU police said.

The call was made to the Murfreesboro police around 11 a.m. that morning. Af-

ter receiving the call, the Murfreesboro police immediately notified the MTSU Department of Public Safety.

Video surveillance cameras at the store revealed a male subject getting into a white two-door vehicle, possibly a Nissan Pathfinder or Jeep Cherokee, and driving off.

"We were in the middle of a test when students began getting text messages from the alert system," said John Labonte, junior management major. "It was great how quick the warning was. I like that, but they could be more specific on where the threat was made."

Police declared an all-clear for the BAS at 3:05 on Friday after searching the BAS with bomb-sniffing dogs.

"I was in class, taking a communication test when I got a text message about a bomb threat," said James Denning, junior computer information systems major.

"I saw everyone going down the hall, so I'm pretty sure everyone else had gotten the alert message," he said. "I [didn't] think there [was] actually a bomb, but the [text messaging] system was definitely faster."

Students, faculty and staff were alerted to the threat via text message. The message instructed individuals to

evacuate and stay away from the building.

After evacuating individuals within the building, police roped off all pathways around the exterior of the building until the threat was lifted.

All classes and events held Friday in the BAS were cancelled for the remainder of the day. Saturday classes and events were held as scheduled.

Students were allowed to return to the building to recover their belongings Friday afternoon, but the BAS remained under temporary lockdown. Faculty and staff with keys were permitted to access the building.

U-Sale turns trash to treasure for charity

By ALEX MOORMAN
Staff Writer

The second annual U-Sale, a campus-wide yard sale to raise funds to fight world hunger, will take place April 2 and 3 in front of the Keathley University Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"We're trying to make a difference, a kind of 'one person's trash is another person's treasure,'" said Jessie Enslinger, senior social work major and founder of U-Sale.

The idea for U-Sale came from a class requiring Enslinger to draw up a plan to make a difference. Enslinger said that she decided to take the assignment much further than the other students, and she and three other girls decided this was just the thing for MTSU.

"We've gotten some crazy stuff but people really do buy it. We couldn't believe some of the things people wanted," said Enslinger, who collects everything from clothing to figurines of Star Wars characters. They then sell the items in a campus-wide yard sale and all of the proceeds go straight to charity.

The girls plan to pick a different charity each year, this year selecting, which aims

U-SALE, PAGE 6

Guest speakers discuss Internet, First Amendment

By SARAH LAVERY
Features Editor

Iconic journalist John Seigenthaler and Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales may have disagreed about emerging forms of Internet communication in the past, but they both seem to agree on one thing.

While Wikipedia—and other forms of online-media—may have a way to go to ensure credibility and accuracy, it should still be regarded as a vital exercise in American democracy.

Seigenthaler, Wales and former Vice-President Al Gore participated in a roundtable discussion at MTSU on March 27 as part of a day-long event on the First Amendment and the Internet.

Though they had previously spoken over the phone and been featured together on television, the occasion marked the first time Seigenthaler and Wales appeared together on stage.

And Gore surely had a chance to employ his Nobel Peace Prize, sitting between the two and interjecting with his own questions and experiences.

In a professional lecture before the roundtable discussion, Gore tracked the evolution of communication from humans' migration from out of Africa to the invention

of Google, saying that the future of American democracy depends on the Internet's freedom.

Gore said he believes the challenge that lies before the Internet is ensuring integrity while "supporting a media ecology that reinvigorates that democracy."

"There are real threats to it that could constrict that flow of information," he said. "But the [Internet] represents a source of great hope."

Gore said the vital function of media is in supporting a meritocracy of ideas, something he said that Wikipedia could help reinvigorate.

Access and credibility

While it was actually a cordial exchange between Wales and Seigenthaler, several concerns about Wikipedia were discussed.

"I won't feel good about Wikipedia's potential until there is the same passion for credibility as there is for access," Seigenthaler said. "There's such an excitement, a thrill about the wonderful world of Wikipedia. I'm worried that there is no commitment to credibility."

Seigenthaler's Wikipedia biography—now monitored for precision—once falsely linked him with the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy. In 2005, Seigenthaler reported the malicious information to the

Wiki powers-that-be.

Seigenthaler called the ordeal "unpleasant."

"Particularly," he said, "when there is nothing you can do about it except hurt."

But Wales noted the journalist's vigilant support of the First Amendment, commending him for never suggesting that Wikipedia be shut down.

"One problem in democracy is the idea that political debate is about radical people screaming at each other," Wales said. "But it shouldn't just be to say, 'Hey, let's fight!' Instead, it [should be], 'Let's talk about this.' And this is what democracy is about."

During his speech, Wales didn't ignore the problems that his new form of media faces. Instead, he noted several future steps to ensure credibility and accuracy in the Wiki-world, including the removal of un-sourced material without waiting for prior discussion and a new procedure called "flagging," in which online revisions would first have to be approved.

"Look at the walls in public bathrooms," he said. "If they're cleaner, it's not as socially appropriate to put graffiti on them ... In an online culture, there must be a balance like in the rest of society. It can't be a police state, but we also don't want old ladies to just get mugged



Archive Photo
Al Gore spoke on the Web's role in communication's evolution.

in the park."

Wales and Gore frequently referred to the democratizing impulse of the Internet.

Wales said that for information to survive on Wikipedia, it must be "written for the enemy." He said that radical ideas will quickly be corrected by another user in disagreement, leaving only neutral information remaining.

"In Wiki-editing, he said,

"there is a mutually-assured destruction."

Gore, who also called Wikipedia "an incredible advance in the aggregation of wisdom," noted the self-correcting feature of the Internet—the tendency for "bloggers" to want to set the record straight.

MTSU students are no strangers to Wikipedia.

INTERNET, PAGE 2

Tibetans protest Chinese abuse

By Mark Bell
STAFF WRITER

A crowd of approximately 200 Nashvillians, Tibetans and Burmans rallied for Tibetan freedom and global human rights Sunday outside of the Metro Courthouse.

The protesters, including robed monks and a Tibetan exile, demanded that the abuses by the Chinese government on Tibet and Burma stop immediately, and called for all American citizens to boycott the 2008 Olympic Games set to take place in Beijing Aug. 8 through Aug. 24.

One monk held a sign which read, "Torture is not an Olympic sport!"

The event, called "One Human Race Justice" was sponsored by the International Campaign for Tibet, and Students for a Free Tibet.

The rally follows an incident, which took place outside of Jokhang Temple last week when government-escorted journalists were allowed into Lhasa, according to Ngawang Losel, a Tibetan exile now living in Nashville. All other journalists have been expelled from the country.

"On Thursday, monks in Jokhang Temple pushed through security lines to tell journalists that the cadres [military personnel qualified to train other units] and the army killed more than 100 Tibetans, to tell them more than 1,000 Tibetans have been arrested, and to decry Tibetans have no freedom," Losel said. "The free must now speak for the unfree and the silenced."

"Due to government policy encouraging migration to Tibet, Han Chinese now outnumber Tibetans in many areas," Losel said. "And Tibetans are often treated as second-class citizens in their own land."

"Monks, nuns and school

children are routinely forced to publicly denounce their exiled spiritual leader," said Losel, referring to the Dalai Lama. "His photo, as well as the Tibetan flag are illegal in Tibet and possessing one can lead to imprisonment, and even torture."

Losel also spoke briefly of his family, who he hasn't seen or heard from since leaving Tibet, before telling the audience about a Burman friend who feared the Chinese government too much to speak out.

"One Burman that we asked to speak today was too afraid to do so," Losel said. "He is afraid that his family, who still live in Burma, will be punished for his words."

Protesters also urged Americans to avoid buying goods made in China and to avoid Wal-Mart—the superstore known for its cheaply priced goods often made in China—altogether.

"I go to Wal-Mart everyday," said Professor Peter Li, a Taiwan native now teaching at Tennessee Tech University. "So I visit China everyday."

It was reported last week in Dharamshala exiled Tibetans have decided to boycott the use of Chinese goods as a part of their struggle for freedom from Chinese suppression.

During the two and a half hour event, one of the nine speakers at the rally asked everyone in the crowd to put one hand behind [ones] back and to put the free hand over [ones] mouth. After holding that pose for a minute she told everyone to stop. Then she said, "for the people in Burma this never stops," referring to the human rights abuses and the quieting of religious freedoms.

The rally ended at 2:30 p.m. with the crowd joining hands to make a circle around the courtyard in front of the Metro Courthouse to pray for Tibet's freedom.

without stumbling upon a Wikipedia page.

"They seem to have a monopoly on Google," he said. "But I try not to use it for educational research."

For all that has been said about Seigenthaler's dissatisfaction over Wikipedia's inaccuracies, his exchange with Wales and Gore showed a new perspective.

"To have [Wales] here, to be able to discuss this with him," Seigenthaler said, "I hope the students [at MTSU] know just how phenomenal it really is what he does."



Photo By Michael Stone Staff Photographer
Sigma Phi Epsilon member pours a glass of water for Alpha Delta Pi sorority sister at an etiquette dinner held on March 26.

Sigma Phi Epsilon teaches etiquette

By Michael Stone
STAFF WRITER

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity will host etiquette dinners for National Panhellenic Council sororities to obtain proper dining techniques, poise and social skills for their future professions.

The first of six dinners Sigma Phi Epsilon is hosting was held for Alpha Delta Pi sorority on March 26.

The event was orchestrated by faculty advisor and alumna to the chapter, Adrian Edsall.

"What we're trying to create with this is a proper dinner between a male and a female with proper etiquette and proper poise," Edsall said. "It also demonstrates how two organizations can blossom and interact, while at the same time, develop social skills that will help in their professional lives."

The dinner was catered by the fraternity, and prepared primarily by member Travis Kernodle.

"I took some pork chops and added a little seasoning, and sautéed some asparagus," Kernodle said.

Before the meal was served, Edsall led a prayer, as well as instructed attendees on proper dining etiquette. He demonstrated how to show a lady to her seat, remove

her jacket, stand when a lady leaves the table and perform numerous other dining techniques.

The meal itself received praise from all in attendance, including Alpha Delta Pi member Mallory Sykes.

"The pork chops tasted just like Chop House," Sykes said.

When the meal was over, Edsall showed both the men and women the proper way to tie a tie.

"I have never been shown how to tie a tie before," said Lauren Still, member of Alpha Delta Pi. "Sometimes guys don't know how to tie a tie, so it's good to know."

Attendees, like Sigma Phi Epsilon member Sam Brown, found the evening to be both enjoyable and educational.

"(The dinner) was educational," Brown said. "I met some very nice young ladies too."

Most of the members of

both organizations already were acquainted with one another before the dinner.

"We were homecoming partners last year," said Gretchen Jenkins member of Alpha Delta Pi and vice president of Student Government Association. "They were very accommodating and made us feel welcome."

All members of the sorority, including Sondra Wilson, SGA president, appreciated the dinner.

"Alpha Delta Pi truly appreciates Sig Ep's generosity," Wilson said. "It shows us how much they really appreciate Panhellenic. They always go above and beyond to show their kindness."

Besides etiquette dinners, Sigma Phi Epsilon has been involved in other activities this semester, including community service.

"We helped Greenhouse Ministries redo flooring for a family, worked with Habi-

tat for Humanity and helped out with Rockin' for a Cure," said Bob Zignego, president of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

"Rockin' for a Cure" was a cancer benefit concert hosted by Club 527 earlier this semester. Each member of the fraternity was required to help out at least five hours with the event.

"The event was primarily for Melissa Coen," Zignego said. "A lot of the guys are friends with her daughter, so when we found out that her mom had cancer, it really hit home."

The MTSU chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon has a long history at the university, having been chartered here in 1977.

"Being a brother at Sig Ep to me has done so much for me," said Brad Perling. "Not only is it about virtue, diligence and brotherly love, but it's also about being apart of something bigger than myself."

INTERNET FROM PAGE 1

Many said they have been explicitly told to stay away from using it for research in classes.

"I use [Wikipedia] as a middle agent," said Stacey Williams, senior journalism and global studies major. "It's an idealistic concept, but it still has a way to go. It could be something great."

Pre-med Junior Philip Milam noted the prolificacy of the Web site, saying that he can't search for anything

Classifieds

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FIGHTING FOR A TRUE DEMOCRACY

One new campus organization organizes anti-war protest



Photo by Michael Stone

Members of MTSU's Students for a Democratic Society gather for an anti-war protest March 20 on the KUC Knoll. SDS organized the event just two days after being made an official organization.

By MICHAEL STONE
Staff Writer

SDS has no membership fees. SDS has no authoritative positions like president, vice president or sergeant-at-arms. Doesn't sound like a typical organization, does it?

Students for a Democratic Society does have something in common with all organizations, though. And that commonality is purpose.

"[We have a] very genuine passion for social and economic justice," SDS member Katy Palmer explains. "[That passion] is combined with our search for an organization capable of mobilizing politically alienated youth and providing a...space for egalitarian mutual aid and solidarity."

Basically, the organization wants youth to become more active in their community and be "watchdogs" for social justice.

The original organization

“ SDS hopes to build a political movement among students that will make actions like [protests] more common.”

ERIC FIELDS
SDS Member

started in 1960 and gained momentum throughout the following decade. SDS was founded by students who were concerned with social activism and democracy.

It would become the largest student group against the Vietnam War.

One of the most notable actions of the original SDS was the "Ten Days of Resistance." These 10 days during the spring of 1968 consisted of marches, rallies, sit-ins and a one-day strike where 1 million students across the country protested by not going to class.

Several organizations have

come into existence with similar purposes, but none have had the impact that the original SDS had.

In 2006, SDS was reformed by a small amount of high school and college students who wanted a strong student movement, like the one of the original SDS. Some may have heard the saying, "Stop the war, yes we can, SDS is back again."

Since then, the national organization has grown to 245 chapters strong, including the one at MTSU.

"Some actions were being done under the SDS name last year," SDS member Eric

Fields notes. "However, the chapter as it exists now started at the beginning of this semester."

The chapter was recognized by MTSU as an official campus organization on March 18.

Little time was wasted in using that recognition to carry out a protest on campus. Two days after being recognized as an official organization, SDS members held their anti-war signs high in front of Keathley University Center.

"We planned the demo [in a] 48 hour rush of super-sonic-style democracy and radical arts and crafts," Palmer says. "We began planning for it within three hours of being approved as a student organization."

The protest, aptly named "Funk the War: More Dancing, Less Death," took place on the fifth anniversary of the Iraq War. It was the first

anti-war protest on campus since 2003.

"Maybe [it was the first protest since 2003] because people feel their voice doesn't matter," Fields suggests. "SDS hopes to build a political movement among students that will make actions like this more common."

The theme of the protest was "Student power dance party against empire." Hundreds of other SDS chapters across the nation danced to express their opposition to the war on the same day.

The chapter had their weekly meeting the night before the protest.

The discussion consisted mostly of what the organization was permitted and wasn't permitted to do, as well as the schedule of the protest.

It was evident that all the members of SDS present in that living room off of Diana Street were ready to dance

their opposition towards the Iraq War.

"Tomorrow, we need to be as loud and vocal as possible," one member suggested.

The next day, members of SDS were indeed very vocal.

The protest was very eventful as well, and some unexpected incidents happened.

Phi Beta Sigma fraternity also had a permit to be in front of the KUC that day.

They played their music louder.

But all it did was make the protestors dance harder and wave their signs higher.

Many military personnel walked by in camouflaged uniforms.

"We want you to stay home where it's nice and safe," an SDS member told one military man as he walked by.

Later in the day, a group of people brought signs of their own, only theirs were to pro-

SDS, PAGE 4



Photo illustration by Sarah Lavery

Most students have suffered the consequences of a parking ticket. But what if it's not fair?

The wonderful world of parking tickets

Students express concerns, dissatisfaction with ticketing and appeal procedures

By AARON CAMMARN
Staff Writer

It's hard to find a student who has not received a parking ticket since starting at MTSU. Parking is practically a competitive sport, and some might argue it can become borderline dangerous.

Upon finding a bright yellow envelope tucked under your car's windshield wiper, feelings of anger and betrayal probably cloud your mind.

Would you be surprised to learn that your misfortune was determined by a fellow student?

Of course, there has to be some sort of parking regulations on campus. Like every other institution with an ever-growing student population, this campus must have established rules and guide-

lines to maintain proper order in regards to traffic.

Without rules, parking would be chaotic and anything but safe.

That said, some students still cannot help but feel that the majority of tickets received are anything but fair and often complain that they are unfounded.

Sophomore Abbey Martin received a ticket because a Hawaiian lei hanging from her car's rearview mirror had partially covered her parking decal.

"It was obvious that it was an MTSU decal and that it was current," says Martin, who paid the fine to avoid the hassle of appealing.

So who are these students that some see as "attacking their own?"

Nancy Weatherly, manager

of parking and transportation on campus, set forth the following standard operating procedures and some little known facts about these "ticketers":

Ticketers are almost all currently enrolled students who are paid hourly, she said. They are also not part of the work for study program, but rather employed by the Parking and Transportation office.

They have no "quota" to meet and are not pressured to give tickets. (In fact, their unsung motto states: "If in doubt, don't write," according to Weatherly.)

New employees receive two weeks of training before the authority to ticket. And, after training, would-be ticketers are required to pass an

TICKETS, PAGE 4

SDS FROM PAGE 3

test the protest.
"We're doing it because it's funny," one anti-protestor explained.

Their signs said things like "Drug Free for Satan," "Satanists for Truck Drivers" and "Apathy, The Anti-protest."

"If they're so apathetic, then why did they make those signs?" SDS member Colin Hill noted.

"I don't have a problem with the protest of the war, but if I wasn't in the military, I would kick [the anti-protestors rear-ends] right now," one military man having lunch outside the KUC admitted.

SDS members shouted chants like "Drop bomb ass beats, not beat ass bombs" and "1-2-3-4 we don't want your [freaking] war, 5-6-7-8 organize and smash the state."

At noon, all the war protestors performed a "die-in" where they all laid silent and face-up on the ground. This was to symbolize the horrible reality of the death that comes with war.

The protest ended at about four in the afternoon.

"It went well considering we had to deal with loud music across from us," SDS member Jase Short points out. "Also, we had only just been approved [as an organization] and there were a small number of people able to participate [because of] class and work schedules, so it went great."

The war protest is not the only activity SDS has been involved in lately.

"MT SDS has organized an anti-nuclear weapons contingent in Oak Ridge, Tenn.,



Photo by Michael Stone

Students for a Democratic Society member Katy Palmer participates in the anti-war protest on March 20.

traveled to Washington D.C. for the National Young Women's Leadership Conference [and] National Conference on Organized Resistance, rallied and marched in Nashville against the Iraq war, and had the 'Dance for a Democratic Society' fundraiser, courtesy of Lex Bearden," Palmer says.

Anyone wanting to become involved in the organization shouldn't feel nervous about coming to a meeting, members explained. Everyone is an equal, even if it is your first meeting or your hundredth.

"Contact us and join up," Short says. "You can sign up on newsds.org as a member of SDS. But as for getting involved, simply come to a meeting on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. on the fourth floor of the library. From there, we can work together."

SDS member Tim Pickering recently became active in the organization.

"I felt really comfortable, even at the first meeting I attended," Pickering notes.

The activism never stops for SDS, so the organization is always looking toward the

future.

"We have a lot in the works including action on free speech issues, environmental issues, women's rights and more," Fields says.

The organization has about 30 consistent members currently participating in these activities, but the members would like to see the chapter grow in number.

"I hope [the chapter] grows and continues to increase its influence and make positive change in the world and especially in the local community," Fields says.

TICKETS FROM PAGE 3

examination.

And, finally, at all times ticketers carry a walkie-talkie to communicate with a supervisor for guidance.

One of the major problems students have with parking tickets is the appeal process.

Many students on campus have appealed tickets without reply.

So who is responsible for student appeals? Who is to blame when a student contests a ticket and never receives a reply?

Again, the answer may surprise you.

"We do not hear any appeals," says Weatherly. In fact, "there is a student court to handle all student appeals, [which] is run by the Student Government Association."

So once again, it is fellow students who are responsible for deciding a parking ticket's fate.

After receiving a ticket, students have seven days to bring the ticket to the parking office if they feel that it was given in error.

If you receive a ticket for not having your parking decal visible because it had fallen under your seat, for example, you could then take your decal in to the parking office, and they will delete the ticket for you without having to appeal.

However, if you receive a ticket for something like parking in a no-parking zone, you must appeal the ticket to the SGA and wait for a verdict from the student court.

This is where the problems start. Students' ap-

peals are not being answered, causing them to pay \$25 and \$30 for tickets, which, for most college students, is a lot of money to part with due to neglect by the student court.

Senior Rebecca Johnson received a ticket for parking in an unauthorized parking spot, which she did not agree with.

"My financial aide paid for [the ticket] before I was given a chance to appeal," says Johnson, citing that the lack of improper paint markings was the cause of her violation.

Yet another contention among students are the ticket fees themselves. For many, it does not make sense to pay \$10 for a parking ticket in downtown Nashville but pay \$25 on a college campus.

Not only that, but the fees for speeding tickets are less than citations for parking. A speeding ticket on campus costs \$20, and students are left confused as to why something as unsafe as speeding in a pedestrian filled parking lot is less of an offense as parking on the grass.

As much as students would like to blame the "powers-that-be" at the parking and transportation office, the blame is not theirs. The parking office is not funded by the state and relies largely on monies collected from citations.

Ticket money "is what we use to run the shuttle buses, purchase new buses, pay bus driver salaries and paint campus parking lots," says Weatherly.

In this way, students are indirectly helping the university and thus themselves, albeit involuntarily.

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Advertising insulting to intelligence

How can you tell if a television commercial is trying to deceive you?

Answer: if it's on the air.

What am I supposed to think when I hear this drivel spewing forth from the whiney speaker on my 12 inch tube: "Car buying should not be a hassle; at CarMax we agree!" Okay, so you agree with — yourself?

The fact that these people feel the need to stress that point seems peculiar enough to raise concerns regarding their respect for my intelligence as a customer. Of



PHILOSOPHERS AND PLOUGHMEN
Benjamin Harris

course, they are car salesmen, so I feel fairly assured in operating on the premise that they never had any re-

spect for my intelligence in the first place.

I still can't help but be a little offended that they are so comfortable in flaunting it. You would think they would want to put more effort into trying to trick me into believing that they see me as an intelligent, informed consumer prepared to make a sensible decision regarding a major life event such as the purchase of an automobile, not just another sucker.

Without television advertisement, I would never be able to understand that I

need to trade in a solid, well-taken-care-of used automobile that is paid for in order to take on a huge debt in the form of a new car? Well, I guess I need to just come on down — down to "Idiotville" that is. Oh, wait, I forgot I need the new car in order to prove to everyone how rich, hip or cool I am — not!

"Head On, apply directly to the forehead."

"Head On, apply directly to the forehead."

"Head On, apply directly to the forehead."

Apply what directly to the

forehead? Not medicine, that's for sure. Let me get this straight: these people want me to believe that I am going to fix something going on inside my skull by applying Head On directly to my forehead?

How about this: I can cure your headache by applying one hard kick directly to your groin. Okay, you'll still have the headache, but you just won't be noticing it for a while.

The worst types of decep-

ADVERTISING, PAGE 6

FACES IN THE CROWD

A bomb threat forced the evacuation of the BAS building Friday around noon. Students were notified by text message. No bomb was found. What is your response?



Jones

"I don't have Friday classes, so I did not know about it. I have previously tried to sign up for the text message system, but now that this has happened, I am going to try again."

Kyle Jones, junior graphic design



Stiel

"The first thing that comes to mind is the student who called the bomb threat did not want to take a test that day or some other odd reason. I think that shutting down any educational opportunity was not necessary."

Katie Stiel, freshman psychology



Ma

"Whoever said they were going to do it, they should have just done it."

Susan Ma, freshman recording industry

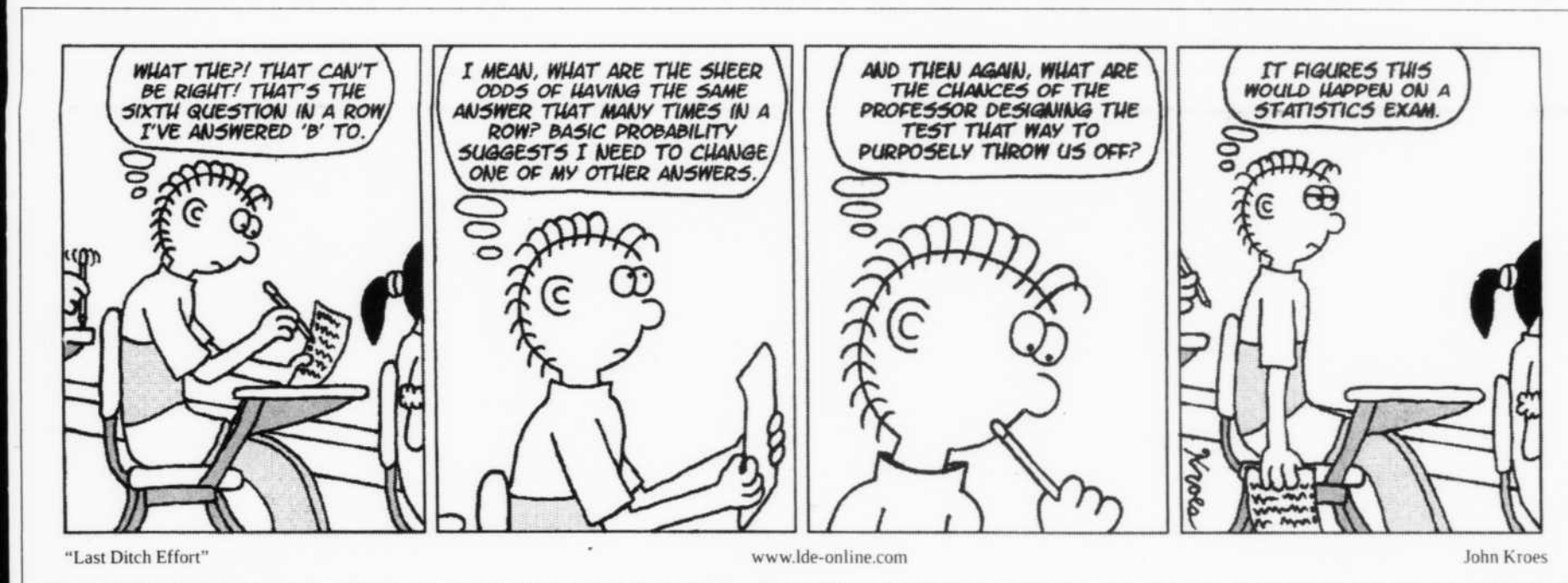


Tusky

"It's pretty immature. If you didn't study for a test, that is not the way to go about it."

Brandon Tusky, freshman concrete industry

COMICS



FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Bomb threat demonstrates MTSU readiness

There was a bomb threat on campus midday Friday. Murfreesboro Police Department said that someone called in from a Kangaroo convenience store in town and reported that there was a bomb in the Business and Aerospace Building.

Within an hour, an alert was sent via text message to students and faculty, some of whom were in the BAS.

This is an example of the text-message alert system working, a system of which *Sidelines* was very skeptical when it was implemented last year. Students interviewed on Friday were glad to receive the message, as it helped to keep

“Do people that are actually determined to blow things up even offer specific warnings beforehand...?”

them up to date and know which building to evacuate.

Indeed, the messages are “an important component” to campus safety in general, according to Buddy Peaster, chief of Campus Police.

However, one student was concerned and thought the message should have been more specific. He said that he was in the BAS when he received the alert, but his girlfriend was in class on the other side of the building. He would have liked to know

where the bomb “was,” and from which side it would be safest to evacuate.

Regardless, who would really call in a bomb threat on a Friday? Many students don't have classes on Friday, and even more are gone by noon. Do people that are actually determined to blow things up even offer specific warnings beforehand, outside of Bruce Willis movies?

Amazingly, there were rumors that the bomb threat was contrived by a student

who didn't want to take an exam, but still hoped to be excused.

Would a student really be desperate enough to avoid an exam that he or she would call in a bomb threat? Isn't it a criminal offense to do that in the age after Sept. 11? Such charges probably mar one's transcript much more seriously than a failed midterm.

If the person responsible was a student, at the very least the individual should be expelled immediately. If it was anyone else, they'd do well to quit distracting students and get a life.

Still, it seems that many tragedies happen this time

of year; both the Columbine and Virginia Tech massacres occurred in April. Mentally ill people who have withdrawn during winter may emerge violently during the subsequent thaw, Peaster said.

Regrettably, schools are no longer as safe as one would prefer, and with its open campus and massive student body, there's only so much authorities here can do to secure our surroundings. We'd be fools to believe this will be the last time MTSU will be threatened with violence.

Still, here's hoping.

THREAT, PAGE 6

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University
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SGA UPDATE

The Student Government Association is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 appointed positions.

Applications for homecoming director, attorney general, philanthropic coordinator and senate positions are all available.

You can access them online at www.mtsu.edu/~sga or you can obtain a hard copy in KUC 208. All Applications will be due on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 no later than 4:00pm in KUC 208.

Below are the eligibility requirements and summaries for each position.

Eligibility for Senators:
Minimum of 2.30 GPA
Eligibility for Executive Branch Officers/Appointed Positions:
Be a full or part-time student;

Have accumulated a minimum of forty-five (45) credit hours from any accredited institution, or be a graduate student at the time of the candidacy;

Have completed at least two (2) consecutive semesters in attendance as a full or part-time student at Middle Tennessee State University, excluding Summer sessions, and;

Have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average at the time of the candidacy and maintain such average throughout the term of office.

Attorney General

Responsible for overseeing the process of student parking citation appeals.

Works with the Associate Dean of Student Life to oversee the appeal process.

When necessary, assists with the certification of candidates for SGA Elections.

Shall represent the SGA in matters before the Student Judicial Board and/or Election Commission.

Shall appoint, with approval by a simple majority of the Senate, members to serve on the Court of Traffic Appeals

Homecoming Director

Shall work with the director of Student Organizations and other necessary offices to coordinate MTSU Homecoming activities.

At their discretion, shall



SGA UPDATE

Ashley DeSabetino

appoint a homecoming committee to assist in performing the duties of the office.

Philanthropic Coordinator

Responsible for coordinating all philanthropic programs sponsored by the Student Government Association.

Responsible for appointing AIDS Awareness Director and Habitat for Humanity Director

Shall be the Student Government Association Liaison on the Up 'til Dawn Executive Board.

Responsible for coordinating "Make-A-Difference Week"

AIDS Awareness Director (Appointed by Philanthropic Coordinator)

Responsible for coordinating programs to raise funds for AIDS Quilt.

Coordinates marketing efforts with the Philanthropic Coordinator and the Vice President for administration and Public Affairs to promote all events and/or activities.

Habitat Blitz Build Director (Appointed by Philanthropic Coordinator)

Responsible for working closely with a representative from the office of Student Organizations and Community Service in order to coordinate programs to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity.

Responsible for working closely with a representative from the office of Student Organizations and Community Service in order to coordinate with Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build efforts.

Coordinates marketing efforts with the Philanthropic Coordinator and the Vice President for Administration and Public Affairs to promote all events and/or activities.

U-SALE FROM PAGE 1

to help end world hunger by giving families a source of food rather than short-term relief.

"Anything will be exciting but we'd love to double what we made last year or well, I guess at least make what we made last year," said Ensminger. Last year the U-Sale brought in around \$1,700.

Working along with Ensminger are three other MTSU students: Sarah

Branscom, junior organizational communications major, Megan Dipillo, senior liberal arts major, and Megan Imboden, senior biology major.

The girls had several drop-off days last week in the student parking lot across from Greek Row.

"If [people] still have something they want to give us we'd be happy to come pick it up or they could just bring it to the U-Sale on Wednesday or Thursday," said Ensminger.

Companies all over

Murfreesboro who helped out with the U-Sale last year were eager to participate again this year. Storage House of Murfreesboro donated a storage unit free of charge for all of the goods collected.

Dry-cleaners all over town donated hangers for clothes; U-Haul rented out a truck to the girls for half price and *The Daily News Journal* included the event in their community calendar.

"Last year we had a lot of people turn out and it went really well but this

year we're going to have live music, some local bands and artists and we hope to draw people's attentions from that angle as well," said Ensminger.

"We plan to give what is left over to Goodwill or The Salvation Army; we're hoping most of it will sell, but if not that is also a good way to help out people," said Ensminger.

Ensminger, who graduates in December, hopes others will step forward to carry the U-Sale torch next year.

ADVERTISING FROM PAGE 5

tion aren't those that misrepresent the product, however. The most common deception is the misrepresentation of the value the product offers in the form of fulfilling a need or enhancement of quality of life.

"McDonald's: I'm lovin' it." Loving what, exactly? The high cholesterol? The excess pounds? The clogged arteries? Diabetes?

"A set of rabbit ears for my

old 12-inch television: \$20."

"Digital converter box so I can still get reception after February 2009: \$40 with government coupon."

"TiVo box so I can skip this bogus commercial: priceless."

Credit cards are the worst. Citibank encourages us to "Live richly." Live richly with their help? Right, that's what I need: a debt that will take me thirty years to pay off at a gazillion percent annual rate.

Did I mention that I love late fees and penalties? Oh,

wait, that's Citibank that loves late fees and penalties. I wonder why they don't include that information in their advertisements.

Take Elizabeth Warren, for example. In an interview with Terry Gross on National Public Radio, she claimed that she couldn't clearly understand her credit card contract. Well, anyone that's ever tried to read through his or her contract knows that only a Harvard law scholar would be qualified to decipher it, right? Wrong. Elizabeth Warren IS a Harvard law scholar.

Why do we let banks borrow at 1% and lend at 30%? I don't know but I do know this: liberty and justice cannot exist when criminals make the laws.

Madison Avenue puppetmasters have perfected the art of using mass media to turn us into a population of model consumers. They bombard us with their propaganda from the cradle to the grave. I can envision them reading this column and cackling diabolically, "resistance is futile, prepare to be assimilated."

We need help bulldozing the competition.

AND WE WANT YOU!

Come to Mass Comm 269 to apply or e-mail us at slopinio@mtsu.edu

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Scholar Week

The Scholar Week Kick Off will take place at the Library Quadrangle on Monday, March 31 at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The College of Business will hold a poster session in the lobby Aerospace Building Lobby at 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. The College of Mass Communication will host, "Thirty Ways of Looking at Hillary Clinton" by Susan Morrison. The event will be held in the Keathley University Center Theatre at 12:40 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.

The College of Basic and Applied Sciences will be holding the Hands-On Learning Showcase from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the KUC Knoll on Tuesday, Apr. 1. Talks, panels, and performances will be held on Wednesday, Apr. 2 from the College of Liberal Arts.

The College of Educational and Behavioral Sciences will host the Life's Major Questions Luncheon on Thursday, Apr. 3 at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hazelwood Dining Room. The cost for advanced tickets is \$5.

The University wide Poster and Multimedia Exposition will be held in the Murphy

Center Track area on Friday, Apr. 4 at 12:40 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

A ceremony of presentation awards and will take place on Friday, Apr. 4 at 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Murphy Center Track area.

"Walk Hard" at the KUC Theatre

Walk Hard will be playing in the Keathley University Center theatre at Monday, March 31 through Friday, Apr. 4. Show times will be at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday 7 p.m. only. Admission will be \$2.

Health and Safety Fair

The Campus Police Department and Beta Theta Pi fraternity is sponsoring the Health and Safety Fair/Alcohol Awareness Event that will take place on Wednesday, Apr. 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thanks to our Sponsors!
Student Programming, MT.
Dining, Beat the Bookstore,
Textbook Brokers, Preferred
Entertainment, MT. Parents Association, Campus Rec., Papa Johns, Bob Parks Realty, Sidelines, and Coca-Cola

Up-Til-Dawn

\$71,000 Raised for St. Jude Hospital

SPORTS

ESPN analyst Orestes Destrade speaks on campus

By CHRIS MARTIN
Assistant Sports Editor

ESPN analyst and former Major League Baseball player Orestes Destrade gave a speech in the James Union Building in conjunction with the 13th annual Baseball in Culture and Literature Conference, Friday.

Destrade talked about many topics including his experiences playing professional baseball in both Japan and the United States, the importance of education, the sport's ability to persevere

through controversy and the effect the recently published Mitchell Report has had on current players.

"They still talk about it," said the former first baseman. "I have been to spring training this year and it's a tough thing."

He also addressed the reasons he believes baseball has been able to remain popular despite the scandals that have plagued the sport's history.

"One of the things is that the game of baseball is still loved," Destrade said. "You can't taint Little League base-

ball and the smelling of the grass. Baseball is very fortunate to have that [more] than any other sport. The fans tend to come back. Even after no World Series in 1994, the Black Sox scandal and so forth."

When a member of the audience asked Destrade why he thinks baseball has been able to regain its prominence in the national spotlight following the work stoppage in 1994, whereas the NHL has struggled to regain its prestige following its strike during the 2004-05 season, he

responded, "Do you remember the first time you ever put on your skates when you were three years-old or four years-old?"

When the audience member said, "I don't play hockey," Destrade said, "That's the answer right there. But you probably remember the first time you went out in the grass and threw the ball around with your friends or a family member."

"[Hockey] lost them. They made a great mistake and they thought they could stand firm and they lost them. Be-

cause I don't think it's ever going to really come back to what it was."

Destrade cited his mother as a big influence when it came to balancing athletics and education. He said his mother has been teaching for more than 44 years.

"She would never let me go play any sport, and I played them all, before I did my homework and make sure that was done, and it's one of the things I'm most thankful for because the career you think is it for a professional athlete," Destrade said.

Destrade also spoke about his family's defection from Cuba in 1968.

"I was born in Santiago de Cuba in 1962," Destrade said. "We came over [to the United States] in 1968. We snuck out through Mexico—fake visas, the whole nine."

"You've got to realize that I was born in a very tumultuous time here in the Western Hemisphere when Castro had just taken over roughly three or four years before that in '59. My father wanted a bet-

DESTRADE, PAGE 8

Appreciate the small things



The Lowdown Richard Lowe

As I stood and watched spring practice for MT's football team this past Friday, a smile spread across my face. Many people liken the feeling that arose to memories of high school football and, yes, they did creep into my mind. The explanation, however, is simpler.

I have been motivated to appreciate the small things in life. I have lost friends in my life to early death or bad decisions but one thing remains constant. You can't take everything in life so seriously.

Although this is a lesson for everybody, the best teachers of this are sports fans. They range from the New York Yankees fan that stands in line at Yankee Stadium to grab bleacher seats for the Red Sox series to the Chicago Cubs fans that, no matter the record, will pack Wrigley Field from the front row to the rooftops. They understand the meaning of living for today and taking the time out to do something enjoyable.

This doesn't just stop at baseball. There are fans of Kentucky and Indiana basketball that are over the age of 60 and have never been to a game. The excuse of ticket cost can only work for so long. If you truly desire to be there, you will find a way to get there. It may mean you have to pay a pretty penny, but in the end, the price won't matter.

I can take you back to two weeks ago when you printed out your NCAA Tournament bracket and saw nothing but potential. The thought of "this could be the year" goes through everybody's mind as you try to cement your genius status. Then after the first weekend, you rip your bracket in half and just enjoy the games. To some, it may seem as a waste of time but to others it is an annual tradition that couldn't be traded for anything.

To me, life is about the buzzer beaters, walk-off

SMALL THINGS, PAGE 8

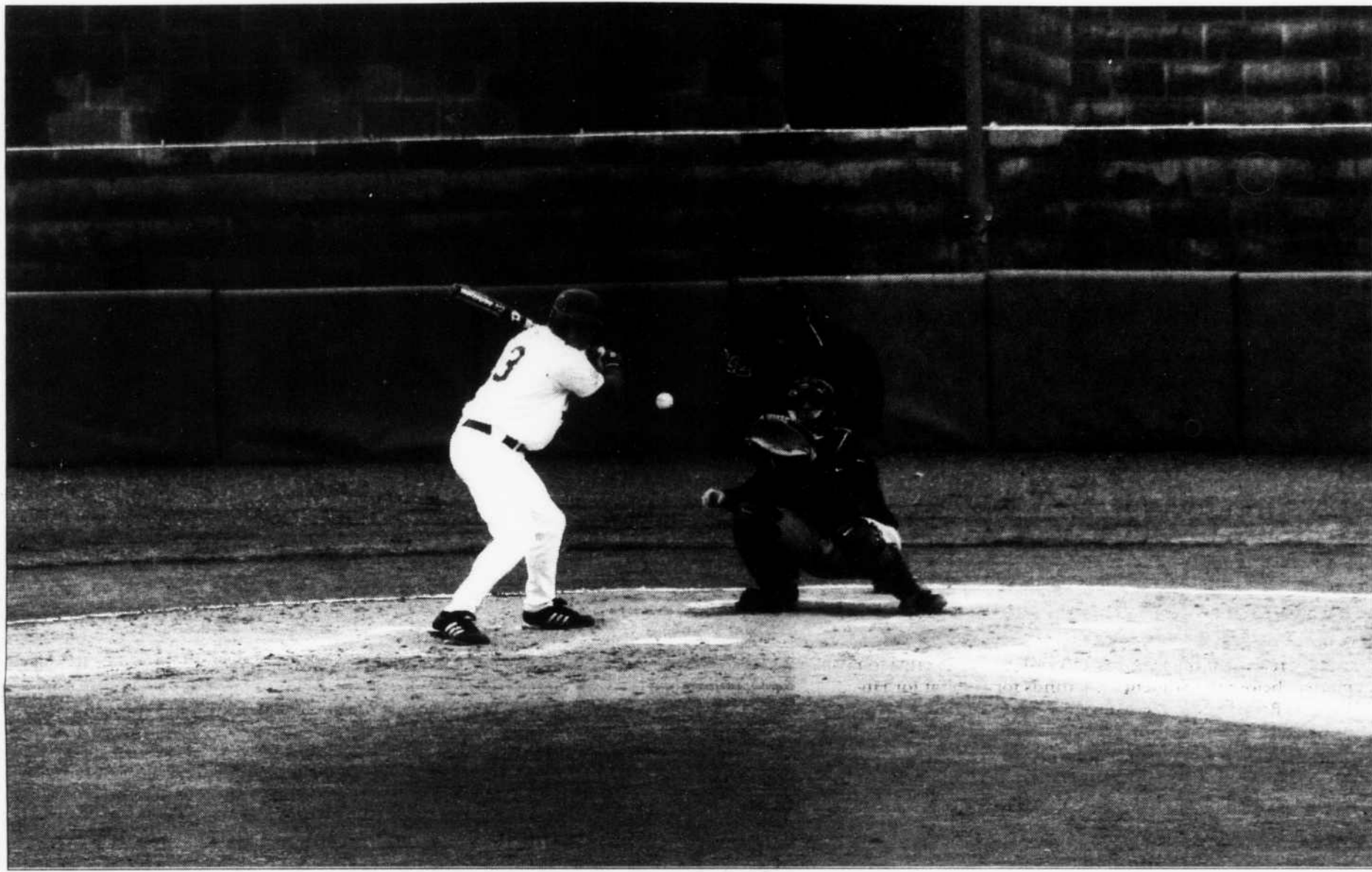


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, Staff Photographer

Freshman Tyler Burnett scored three runs in MT's record-setting performance against UALR on Saturday. He was one of 13 Blue Raiders to cross home plate,

Trojans feel the sting of MT's bats

Blue Raiders scoring, hitting records in 34-8 win over UALR

By JESSICA STAUFFACHER
MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee set new records for runs and hits in a single game in a 34-8 win over Arkansas-Little Rock on Sunday in a game that was suspended 10-1, due to rain, in the bottom of the third on Saturday.

Play resumed at 11:01 a.m. as MT (12-9-1, 5-5) had a double and a base on balls leaving two on base but not before putting five runs on the board. To begin the bottom of the third, the Blue Raiders scored two runs on a double by freshman Bryce Brentz and a single by sophomore Grant Box. While it was still raining, freshman Justin Miller then hit a three-run home run to left field as MT took a 10-1 lead.

The weather delay did not affect the Blue Raiders at all as they added three more runs in the bottom of the fourth on a shot to left field by junior Taylor Dennis, his first homer of the season padding the lead 13-1. Sophomore Blake McDade added another run to the board as his double to right field scored senior Zach Barrett from first. The Blue Raiders took a 16-run lead as junior Zach Dean had a three-run double and then added two more making it 19-1 as Brentz hit a two-run home run to right field. The Blue Raiders ended the in-

ning with 11 runs on nine hits taking a 21-1 lead over the Trojans (4-19, 1-8).

Senior Doug Birkofer's single to left field in the top of the ninth set the new hits in a single game record giving the Blue Raiders 29 hits. The previous record was set in 2001 against Liscomb when the Blue Raiders had 28 hits.

MT kept scoring in the bottom of the fifth with nine runs on five hits setting a new record for runs in a single game while taking a 30-3 lead. The most runs previously scored by a MT team was 29 in 1989 against Tennessee Tech.

Junior Rawely Bishop led Middle Tennessee at the plate as he was three for six with six RBI and five runs. Box ended the day four for five with three RBI and four runs.

Sophomore Kenneth Roberts improved to 3-2 on the season as he allowed three runs on four hits in five innings of work.

UALR put a run on the board in the top of the first inning as Kroll scored from third on a double play groundball to Miller taking a 1-0 lead.

Bishop hit his second grand slam in four games to give the lead and then some to the Blue Raiders pushing to score to 4-1.

The Blue Raiders added another run in the bottom of the second and Dennis scored from third on a dou-

ble by McDade.

In the final game of its series with UALR, MT lost 15-8.

Senior Brad Robinson took the loss on the mound as he allowed six runs, five earned on seven hits in four and a third inning of work.

"It is difficult to beat a team three times and as many runs as we scored throughout the day and the series it comes down to pitching," said MT head coach Steve Peterson. "We had good pitching the first two games. The bullpen was a little sloppy the second game and we didn't get a good start in the third game. Their guy was really good today and once he got his rhythm going he had some big outs in big situations and just shut down our club who had been doing very well."

Barrett led MT at the plate as he ended the day three for five with a home run and two runs. Junior Nathan Hines also performed well as he was two for four with two RBI.

The Blue Raiders hit two home runs in the game including a three-run shot by junior Zach Dean. MT ended the day with 12 hits including three doubles.

UALR hit a three-run home run to left field to take an early 3-0 lead in the top of the first.

MT responded with a home run of its own in the bottom of the second as Dean hit one

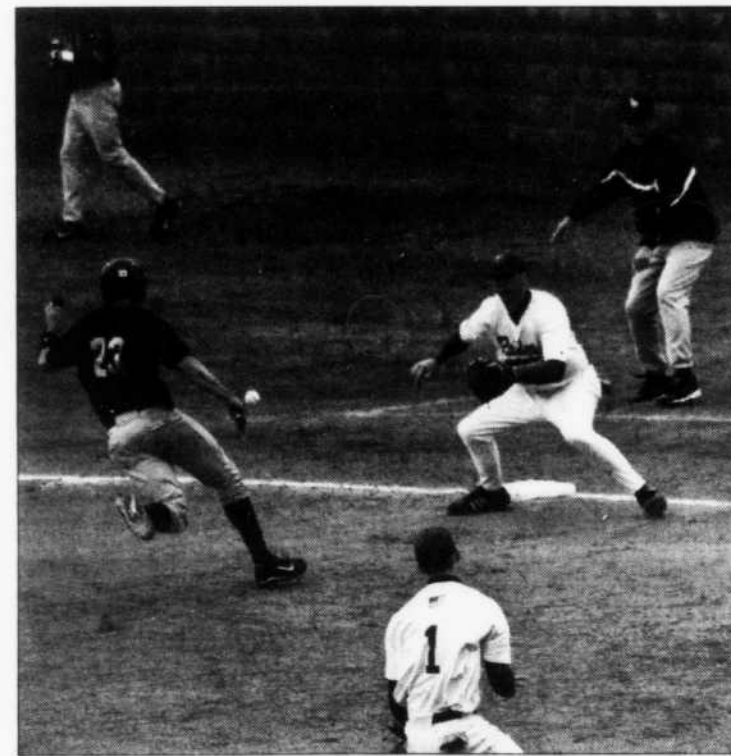


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, Staff Photographer

UALR's Eric Hanlon (23) attempts to beat Justin Miller's throw to third. MT won the first two in its series against the Trojans.

to left field to close the gap to one as UALR tied 3-2.

McDade led the game at three in the bottom of the third with his double to left field.

In the top of the fifth, UALR scored three runs after a triple and a home run to break the tie and take a 6-3 lead.

The Blue Raiders had an answer as Hines singled to score McDade from second to close the gap to two.

UALR added two more in the sixth on a double by Matt Apfel with runners at second and third. The next batter,

Robert Taylor hit a home run to centerfield to extend the Trojans' lead. One more would score in the inning on an error by shortstop Miller as UALR took an 11-4 lead.

In the top of the eighth, the Trojans scored three runs on five hits to extend their lead 14-5.

Tyler Burnett responded for Middle Tennessee in the bottom of the eighth with his solo home run to right field to cut the lead to nine.

MT will be back in action on Tuesday, April 1 when it travels to Nashville, Tenn., to face Lipscomb at 6 p.m.

Four No. 1 teams, one good history lesson on tap at Final Four

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

John Wooden gave us the basics of modern-day coaching. Dean Smith refined 'em. James Naismith, well, he simply invented basketball.

Now the schools these greats once coached, 'Ai UCLA, North Carolina and Kansas, 'Ai are in the Final Four, a once-in-a-generation convergence of three of college basketball's most storied programs on the sport's biggest stage.

March Madness? This is more like Hoops History 101 getting ready to be played out in an oversized classroom called the Alamodome, starting Saturday in San Antonio.

UCLA, the team that won 10 titles in the '60s and '70s under the guidance of Wooden, 'Ai that rolled-up sheaf of game notes always in hand, 'Ai will play Memphis, a team that also has a colorful and successful history, though not nearly that of the other three.

The "Wizard of Westwood" is now 97 and recovering from a broken collarbone and wrist, but almost sure to watch his beloved Bruins, in their record 18th Final Four, on TV from home.

In Saturday's other semifinal, it will be Kansas against North Carolina, a perfect matchup with a perfect story line, that of North Carolina coach Roy Williams going against Kansas, the program he left in 2003 amid shouts that he was a traitor for leaving his adopted school to return to his alma mater.

Carolina is in its 17th Final Four, and Kansas its 13th.

"They gave me a chance when I was not exactly a household name. I was barely a name in my own house," Williams said of Kansas. "I have no idea what my emotions will be. I'm just ecstatic for this club right now."

And speaking of perfect: This is the first time since the NCAA started seeding teams in 1979 that all four top teams, 'Ai from the South, Midwest, East and West regionals, advanced to the Final Four.

"This is one of those years where it appears from the Day One, people said there are four teams that are a little bit better than every-



body else," Memphis coach John Calipari said Sunday after his team's 85-67 win over Texas. "That's what they said. We happen to be one of those teams."

The early betting pick among these four power programs is North Carolina, listed as a 9-5 favorite at the Las Vegas Hilton Race and Sports Book. Memphis was the long shot at 3-1.

Those who can't get money down in Nevada certainly might have action in one of those millions of office pools around the country. Those who picked all the favorites in their brackets are looking good. But does anyone really do that anymore?

A big part of the uber-popularity of the NCAA tourna-

ment is the idea that the little guys really do have a chance to shock the world during these three magical weeks in March (and April). Two years ago, it was George Mason, the commuter school in northern Virginia, coming from nowhere to crash the Final Four party.

This year's George Mason was nearly 10th-seeded Davidson, which might be about the 10th-best-known school in the state of North Carolina, but still gave Kansas a heck of a run Sunday before falling 59-57.

The Jayhawks held their breath while Davidson's Jason Richards launched a 3-pointer at the buzzer that would have won it. It missed and KU prevailed to official-

ly make it a Final Four for big boys, only.

These are the programs that were established in the 1890s, 1910s, 1920s, the ones that sell great players on their schools not only because of gleaming gyms and awesome weight rooms, but because it gives them a chance to wear the same uniforms as guys named Alcindor and Walton, Chamberlain and Manning, Jordan and Worthy.

Which new name might become household in the next week?

Maybe Tyler Hansbrough of North Carolina, the guy with the nickname "Psycho T," whose iconic picture is one of him bleeding with a broken nose after receiving a bone-rattling elbow in a

game against archrival Duke last season.

Or Kevin Love, the sensational freshman who has fit into a veteran lineup at UCLA that is making its third straight trip to the Final Four.

Or Brandon Rush, the guard who has led Kansas in scoring all of his three years in college but has finally helped himself and his long-suffering coach, Bill Self, to the Final Four.

Or Derrick Rose, the Chicago kid who went to Memphis, chose jersey No. 23 and reminds many of the Windy City's most famous hoopster, Michael Jordan himself.

"It's little ol' Memphis against all these prestigious programs," Tigers guard

Chris Douglas-Roberts said. "That's what it is, just little ol' Memphis."

Not so little, though.

The Tigers, at 37-1, need one more win to set the single-season record for victories by an NCAA Division I team.

They picked up most of those wins in Conference USA, a so-called "mid-major" conference that doesn't command the respect of the Big 12, Pac-10 or Atlantic Coast Conferences, where the other teams come from.

Indeed, this Final Four is as much about where they come from as where they're going.

These teams have history on their side, and a chance to make some more.



AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Thursday, March 27

Softball

Centenary 7, Louisiana-Monroe 1

Baseball

Austin Peay 9, Western Kentucky 3

Friday, March 28

Baseball

Arkansas-Little Rock 0, Middle Tennessee 6
Florida International 9, Louisiana-Lafayette 1
Florida Atlantic 6, Louisiana-Monroe 7
Arkansas State 9, South Alabama 17
New Orleans 6, Troy 1

Saturday, March 29

Softball

North Texas 5, Florida International 3 (Game 1)
North Texas 8, Florida International 11 (Game 2)
Troy 7, Western Kentucky 3 (Game 1)
Troy 5, Western Kentucky 1 (Game 2)
South Alabama 2, Florida Atlantic 4 (Game 1)
South Alabama 1, Florida Atlantic 3 (Game 2)

Baseball

Youngstown State 10, Western Kentucky 20 (Game 1)
Youngstown State 2, Western Kentucky 5 (Game 2)
Florida International 2, Louisiana-Lafayette 5
Florida Atlantic 2, Louisiana-Monroe 3
New Orleans 12, Troy 3
Arkansas State 4, South Alabama 10

Sunday, March 30

Softball

Louisiana-Monroe 1, Middle Tennessee 2 (Game 1)
Louisiana-Monroe 5, Middle Tennessee 4 (Game 2)
Louisiana-Monroe 11, Middle Tennessee 3 (Game 3)
South Alabama 1, Florida Atlantic 6
North Texas 4, Florida International 7
Troy 10, Western Kentucky 9

Baseball

Arkansas-Little Rock 8, Middle Tennessee 34 (Game 1)
Arkansas-Little Rock 15, Middle Tennessee 8 (Game 2)
Florida Atlantic 5, Louisiana-Monroe 13
Florida International 8, Louisiana-Lafayette 4
New Orleans 7, Troy 11
Youngstown State 0, Western Kentucky 9
Arkansas State 7, South Alabama 8

SMALL THINGS FROM PAGE 7

home runs and overtime touchdowns. When the game starts, you don't anticipate it going down to the final play, but when the moment arrives, you can't help but to hold your breath. After I witnessed Ty Rogers send Western Kentucky to the second round of the NCAA Tournament, I saw Brandi Brown give the Lady Raiders a fighting chance by hitting a last second three pointer that brought a gym full of Kentucky fans to silence and about 200 Blue Raider fans singing an a cappella version of our fight song.

I remember listening to Charlie McAlexander's broadcast of MT's football

game against Louisiana-Monroe while cooking with my girlfriend at my apartment. With one, the frowns of MT fans turned into excitement. The obvious reason to be excited was the fact that MT had defeated ULM on a last minute kickoff returned for a touchdown by Bradley Robinson.

The story most people didn't hear was Robinson was in that position because players were injured and he asked to do it. He never practiced it before the game and he felt the need to step up and help his team. All he did was ask, and Coach Rick Stockstill said yes.

In the end, sports make you appreciate the small things because they remind you that the game

is not as big as the impact it has on life. It can divide a city (Los Angeles Lakers and Clippers) as well as unite one (Memphis basketball). It can make you feel on top of the world (Music City Miracle) and just a few weeks later make you feel lower than dirt (Super Bowl XXXIV). It can help heal a city going through tough times (New Orleans Saints) and help heal a nation looking for a positive (World Series after 9/11). But to put it in a simple form, it can make you laugh (Shaquille O'Neal's press conferences) and it can make you cry (Brett Favre's retirement).

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DESTRADE FROM PAGE 7

ter life for my brother, Albert, and I, and he was able to pay off some people, get fake visas, [we] left everything we had [behind]."

Destrade played four seasons in the MLB with the New York Yankees, Pittsburgh Pirates and Florida Marlins. He was the starting first baseman for the Marlins in 1993, the team's

inaugural season. He also played five seasons in Japan for the Seibu Lions where he developed into a power hitter. He briefly discussed the differences between American and Japanese professional baseball.

"The Major Leagues is its own animal," Destrade said. "When I came back from Japan to the Marlins, I was a leader on the team, but I wasn't going to make the clubhouse Japanese. I have

had the best of both worlds. Japan tends to be too non-individualistic, while America tends to be all about individual betterment."

Destrade currently serves as an analyst for the ESPN program "Baseball Tonight." He also co-hosts "Sportsnation" on ESPN Radio with John Seibel, and provided color commentary for the broadcasts of the 2006 World Baseball Classic.