

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Vol. 84 No.10

MONDAY
Feb. 18, 2008

MTSUSIDELINES.com

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

Lady Raiders 'Think Pink' for breast cancer

By Tiffany Gibson

Assistant News Editor

The Lady Raiders participated in Think Pink to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer while basking in their victory over Western Kentucky University.

The game took place on Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. with the Lady Raiders displaying pink uniforms as a closing to the Think Pink week of 2008, which began on Feb. 8.

The pink uniforms were donated by Tommy and Dean Hodges and were auctioned off after the game to raise money for breast cancer research.

The Women's Basketball Coaches Association established the concept for Think Pink in 2007 to focus on the awareness of breast cancer in athletics and communities.

"We are just glad to be able to do our part [to raise awareness]," said Head Coach Rick Insell. "We are only one of 600 schools that are participating this year in order to raise funds."

In 2007, only 120 schools participated in the "Think Pink" campaign; however, as of now over 600 basketball teams have come together for the cause.

In attendance, fans wore pink to honor breast cancer survivors and support the WBCA and Kay Yow Cancer Fund. Actual members of the audience were recognized during halftime, along with a special video clip displayed on the scoreboard

screens, presenting three breast cancer survivors.

"I am so pleased with the crowd and the excitement they brought to support our women's team and raise awareness for breast cancer," said President Sidney McPhee.

In addition to support, freshman guard Anne Marie Lanning and sophomore forward Brandi Brown both have family members that were diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I think it's good because it's helping a good cause and I feel like we're supporting something special," Lanning said.

After the game, each player's jersey was auctioned off with the proceeds going to the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, as well as the Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

"Everyone has just been more involved, and by coming out to see the game and the auction of the jerseys, everyone will be more aware that it can happen to them," Brown said.

Overall, Think Pink was a success with an attendance of 6,968 fans and an incredible \$5,000 raised for sophomore guard Chelsia Lymon's pink jersey, which was ultimately the highest amount.

"I would love to see this as an annual tradition to continue to raise awareness for any kind of cancer including breast cancer," McPhee said.

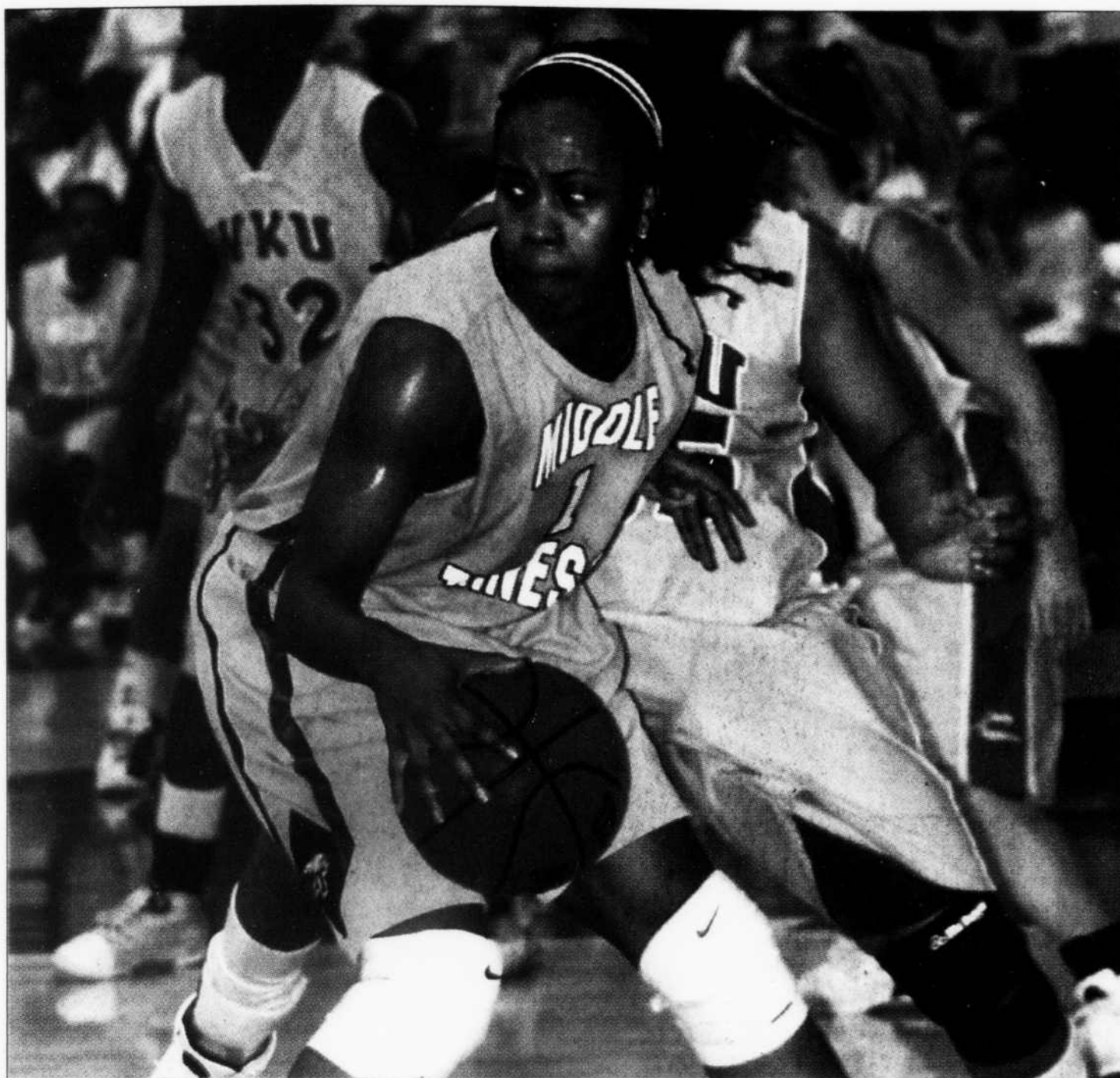


PHOTO BY ALEX BLACKWELDER - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Amber Holt, along with her teammates, wore pink jerseys in Sunday's game against Sun Belt Conference rival Western Kentucky University. This game was part of the WBCA's "Think Pink" campaign, which promoted breast cancer awareness.

INSIDE

Stimulus Package

Responsible spending will be key to
SUCCESS.

See **OPINIONS**, 4

New Orleans

Getting back to normal after
Katrina has taken years, and it's
far from complete.

See **FEATURES**, 6

Lady Raiders hold off Lady Toppers



Senior Amber Holt lead all scorers with
28 points as Middle Tennessee defeated
Western Kentucky, 68-60.

See **SPORTS**, 8

Local Forecast

Monday



HI: 42
LO: 23

Tuesday



HI: 39
LO: 32

Wednesday



HI: 56
LO: 43

Thursday



HI: 59
LO: 49

Index

National Women's History Month	3
Editorial Board	4
Faces in the crowd	4
Comics	5
Letters to the Editor	5

Campus News

Movie questions electoral fraud

By Alex Moorman

Contributing Writer

With the recent international wave of disputed elections, and the presidential contest approaching, many Americans are wondering how they can be certain their vote will count this November.

David Earnhardt raises the same issue in his new film "Uncounted," which the MTSU Film Guild will screen Tuesday at 7:45 in room 221 of the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center.

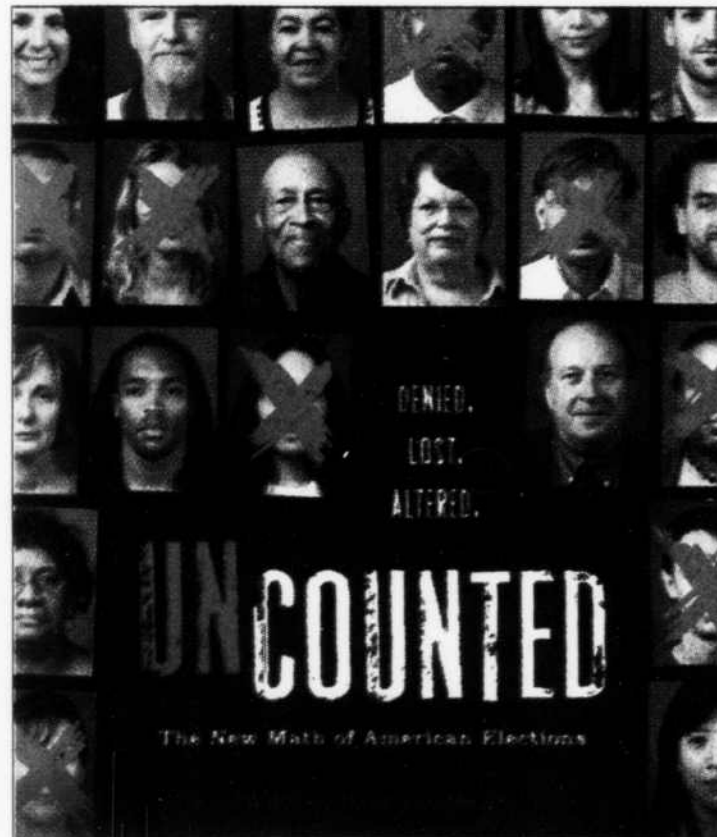
Earnhardt, the film's writer, producer and director, will be on hand after the film to answer questions, along with Hooper Penuel, the administrator of Rutherford County elections, and Donna Yates, president of the Tennessee Association of Election Officials.

Earnhardt is an Emmy-winning producer and director, and has produced documentaries, entertainment programs and educational videos.

"College students are looking for a cause, so we, the Film Guild, are trying to get them involved in something that affects all Americans," said Justin Stokes, president of the MTSU Film Guild and sophomore electronic media production major.

"Uncounted" argues that election fraud changed the outcome of 2004's election, leading to further fraud in 2006 and threatening

See **UNCOUNTED**, 3



King, Malcolm X meet in play

By Daniel Potter

Community News Editor

The disparate views of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X will meet head-on tonight in the Studio Theatre of the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building.

"The Meeting," a one-act play by Jeff Stetson, will depict an encounter between the two men at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Tuesday night. Admission is free.

The performance is directed by Crosby Hunt, associate professor of speech and theatre. King is played by Alex Clayborn, undeclared freshman, while Malcolm X is played by Henry Mullins, a senior in theatre.

"We want people to leave with a different perspective," said stage manager Alexis Smith, senior theatre major. The play encourages empathy with both characters, Smith said. "It's short, but it's very to the point."

Mullins, said King and Malcolm X "were both working for the same message. They were both working" to strengthen and unify "blacks as a people."

The dynamic between the two "wasn't a competition." Malcolm X is often viewed negatively for advocating black nationalism in contrast to King's goal of black integration, Mullins said, but "you

can't have one without the other."

Mullins, who helped orchestrate MTSU's production of the play from its inception, first read about "The Meeting" while researching Malcolm X.

When Luther Buie, interim director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs, looked to sponsor an event for Black History Month, "he was the one who pushed me to start this play [here]," Mullins said.

Planning for the production began in October, and because the theatre department's budget was already set for the year, funding instead came from Intercultural and Diversity Affairs.

Mullins said he hopes "a different type of audience sees this play" — those curious about its politics, as well as fans of pure theatre.

Mullins also expects the play will stir interest in the two men. "You're going to want to know more about these two historical characters," he said. "Malcolm X isn't talked about."

"Malcolm X needs to be read about. Malcolm X needs to be talked about."

Still, the play is fictional. Both men "do some things that are uncharacteristic of their nature," Mullins said. "I wish they would've

See **PREVIEW**, 2

Faculty member Lucas wins John Pleas award

By Faith Franklin
Staff Writer

This year's recipient of the John Pleas Faculty Award is Marva Lucas, director for academic enrichment and associate professor for the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

Upon learning that she won the award Lucas felt "humbled." This is the second year Lucas has been nominated for the award.

"In my opinion the people in the past who have been recipients of the award have been outstanding individuals," Lucas said. "For me to be named in that group was humbling to me."

Lucas was notified about the award three weeks ago by last year's recipient, Connie Jones, chairperson for elementary and special education.

"Dr. Lucas was selected because of her service to students that was above the requirements of a faculty member and department chairman, Jones said. "We are all pleased about her award and feel it is well deserved."

Prior to becoming the director for academic enrichment Lucas was the chair of the developmental studies department from 2002 to 2006.

Lucas also oversees the University Seminar Program, which provides assistance to aid freshmen and transfer students in making the transition to the university. The University Seminar Program has proven to boost graduation and retention rates.

tention rates.

Lucas has also received numerous grants including one that has provided ACT preparation workshops for ethnic minority students.

Most recently she was awarded a Tennessee Board Regions Access and Diversity grant which provided academic support for students enrolled in the Scholars Academy and funds for additional graduate assistantships for deserving students.

Lucas enjoys interactions with students. "My focus has always been on working with students who have been admitted to the university, but perhaps need additional academic assistance to enhance their chances of successfully achieving their goals."

Receiving the award has inspired Lucas, "I have always worked on behalf of students, sometimes you run into challenges, [but this award] inspires you to keep going," she said.

The John Pleas Faculty Award was established in 1997 in honor of John Pleas, MTSU Professor of Psychology, who retired in the spring of 2004.

The award is presented annually to a minority faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, research and service.

Nominees of the award should have a record of outstanding service and have completed five or more years of service at MTSU.

Lucas received her award Feb. 13 at a ceremony, which was held in the Tom Jackson Building from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

MEETING: King and Malcolm X converse in play

Continued from page 1

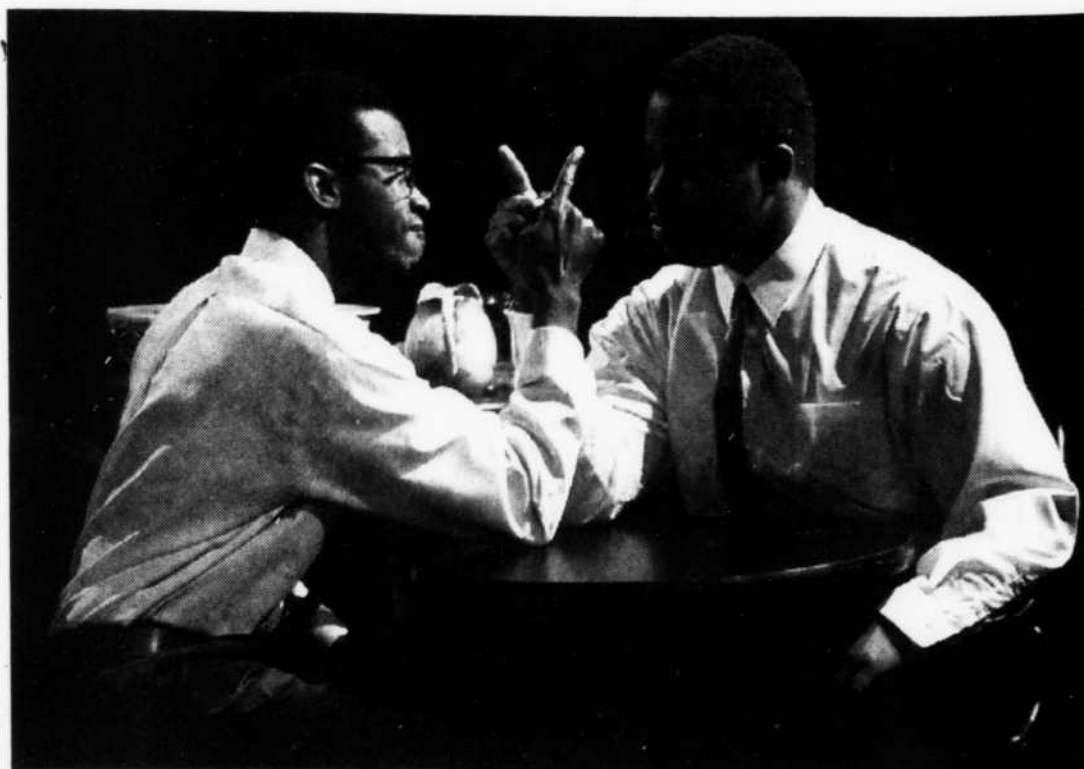


PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Henry Mullins plays Malcolm X, left, in "The Meeting." Alex Clayborn, right, plays Martin Luther King Jr. in the play, which runs at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Tuesday in the BDA Studio Theatre.

met more."

The play is set on Valentine's Day, 1965—a week before Malcolm X's assassination.

"I think it's Malcolm's play," Hunt said. The character changes during the play. "He was beginning to soften some of his stances."

"There's a lot of discussion," Hunt said, but the play consists of more than just two men shouting their philosophies. "We worked hard to keep on

pace," he said.

To that end, the play contains various stage directions to signify thematic elements and help break up the dialogue.

Gary Brown, a senior science major, plays the bodyguard Rashad. "Even though it's a fictional event, the thought of the two men meeting and the conversation" that ensues is "very thought-provoking," he said.



I'm here to save you money.

Get a free rate quote today.

GEICO
geico.com
1-800-947-AUTO
or call your local office.

Come visit us at Spring Break in Panama City Beach, FL
& South Padre Island, TX.

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. GEICO auto insurance is not available in Mass. Government Employees Insurance Co. • GEICO General Insurance Co. GEICO Indemnity Co. • GEICO Casualty Co. These companies are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. The GEICO gecko image © GEICO 1999 - 2007. GEICO, Washington, DC 20076. © 2006-2008 GEICO



Business. Class.

Why go economy when you can travel first class?

Choose the degree that powers your career aspirations - the MBA from Embry-Riddle. Attend class in the comfort of your home or office as all course work is delivered online in a technology enabled format that goes wherever life takes you.

Study the issues making news in today's aviation and aerospace industries from the experienced faculty of the College of Business, Daytona Beach. The MBA shares the same performance and curriculum expectations as the resident program and is accredited by ACBSP.

For information on your ticket to a business-class career, either the on-line or residential MBA from Embry Riddle, see

www.erau.edu/mba-am

EMBRY-RIDDLE
AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY
DAYTONA BEACH • PRESCOTT • WORLDWIDE

(800) 388-3728 • (386) 226-6176
graduate.admissions@erau.edu

Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

EMPLOYMENT

PT WORK Good pay, flex scheds, sales/svc, no exp nec—we train, all ages 18+, condition apply, 832-8448
CollegeIncome.com

Now Hiring Cashiers and Stockers
GFS Marketplace
www.gfsmarketplace.com

Job Fair February 27 to 28, 9am to 6pm: Holiday Inn Murfreesboro 2227 Old Fort Parkway

FOR RENT

2 BLOCKS FROM MTSU. Beautiful 4BR/2BA with appliances including washer/dryer. Wood floors

in common area. Water included. No pets. \$895
615-758-9298.

FOR LEASE

FOR SALE

Silver 2003 Honda Civic EX Coupe, 58,000 miles, 35

mpg, almost new. Asking \$10,900, bring all serious offers. Call Jacob at 619-602-5350 or jacob.bendersd@hotmail.com.

Why rent? Own your own home! Newly renovated townhome w/ large yard and all appliances included, priced under \$120k. Call 615-480-0001

ROOMMATES

OPPORTUNITIES

Get Paid to do Research! Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Committee (UR-SCA) Proposal Deadline March 18, 2008. For more

info visit: http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/sca_ursc.shtml.

BAND LOOKING FOR BASSIST; please call Kyle at 615-294-3006 or Scott at 615-509-8094.

SERVICES

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

PHY - \$650. Julie Lampley Photography offers wedding packages starting at \$650. Servicing the Greater Nashville Area, contact us at (615) 799-9618 or julie.lampley@gmail.com and see galleries at pbase.com/jlampley

POLICIES

Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted

on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.

University celebrates women's history

By Andy Harper
Editor in Chief

The June Anderson Women's Center strives to unite MTSU men and women with its semester long celebration of Women's History Month.

"It is wonderful to see men and women working together and supporting the history of women," said Terri Johnson, director for the JAWC. "This year is so rich in what it offers, there is something for everyone."

The theme for the month is "Feminist Now." Johnson said the theme was chosen to represent the whole college generation and to bring feminism to the future.

"We want people to feel like they can be a part of women's history," Johnson said. "So far the student involvement has been amazing. We've had a good amount of people coming in."

Johnson also said she has seen more men

coming to the center, inquiring about the month.

"I haven't heard the question, 'Can men come in?' all semester."

According to the Web site for the National Women's History Project, the NWHP petitioned Congress in 1987 to expand the previously denoted Women's History Week to expand the entire month of March.

Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been continually approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

Although the official Women's History Month is March, Johnson said the celebration of women's history should be viewed as a yearlong event.

"Women's history is happening all the time. We can continuously learn about women through the study of history, science, math, English, any subject really."

The semester will culminate with Rebecca Walker, the featured keynote speaker, on March 11. Walker is the daughter of Alice Walker, black feminist and author of "The Color Purple."

Like her mother, Rebecca Walker is also an author and activist. She has written numerous books, including "To Be Real: Telling the Truth and Changing the Face of Feminism" and "Black, White, and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self."

After graduating from Yale University in 1992, Walker co-founded the Third Wave Foundation, a nonprofit group that works to support young women working towards gender, racial, economic and social justice.

"We are so excited about Rebecca," Johnson said. "To see what she has done for women and feminism is amazing."

For more information on Women's History Month, please visit the June Anderson Women's Center in the James Union Building.

Middle Tennessee State University NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2008

February 21, 7 p.m.

Nikki Giovanni
"Race in the 21st century"

February 25, 7 p.m.

"A conversation with Middle Tennessee women in medicine about balancing science and family and other life issues"

February 26th 7: 30 p.m.

"Geri Allen guest lecture/recital"

February 27, 7 p.m.

Miss Universal Woman Scholarship Pageant

March 10 and 11, Time TBA

"This is What a Feminist Looks Like!"

March 11, 4 p.m.

Rebecca Walker
"Third Wave Rising: The Role of Feminism in a Rapidly Changing World"

March 12, 6:30 p.m.

Diane Wilson
"An Unreasonable Woman: Diane versus Goliath: Taking on Politicians and Corporations to Protect Family and the Environment"

March 12, 12 p.m.

International Women's Day Luncheon

March 13, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Nancy Rupprecht

March 13, 7 p.m.

Donna Dean
"Networking and Mentoring: Keys to Success in Science"

March 18, 3 p.m.

"Feminist Views of the Self"

March 19, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Women's Health Update
Leigh Ann McInnis, Lita Warise and Suzanne Prevost

March 20, 7 p.m.

Janet Bryant
"A Multidisciplinary Approach to Science and Engineering at a National Lab (a/k/a: The Life and Times of the 'Bunny Slipper Bandit'"

March 24, 6 p.m.

Vernice G. Armour

March 26, 3:30 p.m.

Sixteenth Annual Women's International Poetry Readings

April 2, 2 p.m.

(Rain date: April 4)
Health & Safety Fair

April 9, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Second Annual Women in Concrete Luncheon

April 14-17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Clothesline Project

April 15, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

(Rain date: April 16)
Take Back the Night

April 22, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pay Equity Day

A more detailed event guide can be found online at mtsusidelines.com

UNCOUNTED: Documentary

Continued from page 1

the outcome of 2008's election.

Eyewitness accounts from whistleblowers are backed up by election experts in revealing the coalescence of Jim Crow tactics, electronic voting machine security breaches, vote count manipulation, and illegal behavior by a major voting machine manufacturer, the film's distributors said.

Robert James Pondillo, an associate professor at MTSU teaching electronic media communication, is responsible for bringing the three speakers to campus.

"It is great that they are showing the film to such a large audience because usually they just have house parties," Pondillo said. "Earnhardt usually just goes house to house to show the film. It's a very grassroots effort."

Stokes said the Film Guild had put up posters and distributed postcards, as well as publicizing via WMTS student radio and MTV. Stokes said he considers it a great opportunity for students to learn about the status of our democracy.

The Film Guild believes it is "the feeling against the federal government that made this a great time to show this movie," Stokes said. "It's going to be motivating [students] for a cause."

Both Pondillo and Stokes expect the film to make students uncomfortable. Pondillo said he hopes the film will stimulate interest and strong public reaction.

If Americans don't carefully examine the voting system here, Pondillo said, we could easily see an Orange Revolution similar to the one in Ukraine in 2005.

Stokes said the Film Guild aims to energize students to act.

"We have to get them off the couch, we have to give them a difference to fight for and today this is one where they can really make a difference," Stokes said. "We as students can make a difference."

In the story "MT disabled students offered help," the contributing writer's name should have been printed as Alex Moorman.

Sidelines regrets this error.

Matt Groening.
Kurt Vonnegut.
Ernest Hemingway.

Chuck Palahniuk.
Bram Stoker.
George Orwell.

And you.

Get started at *Sidelines*.

slnews@mtsu.edu slstate@mtsu.edu

GETS THE ADRENALINE GOING.
YOURS AND WHOEVER READS ABOUT
IT ON YOUR RESUME.



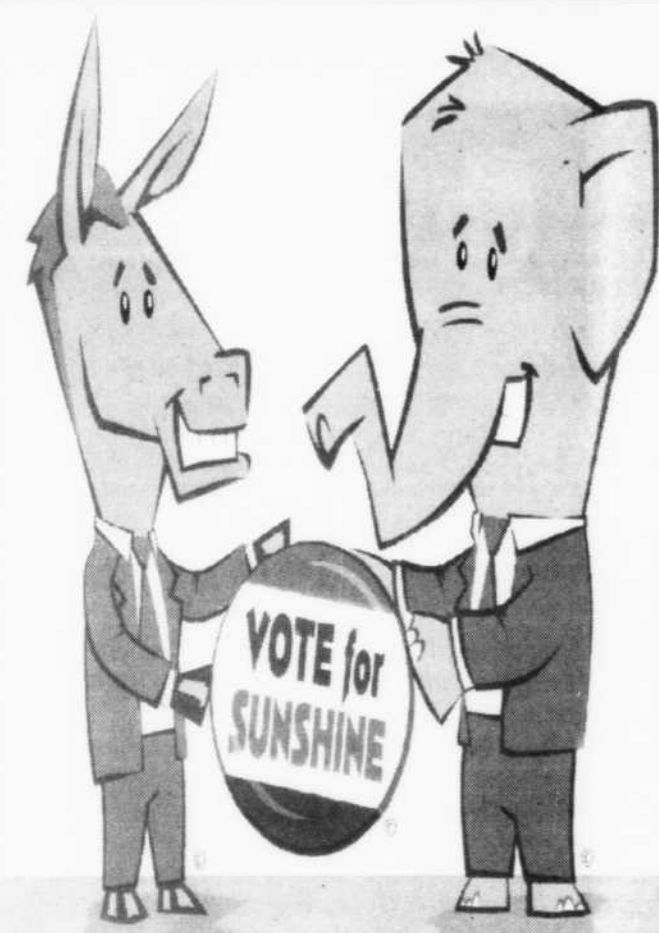
The Army ROTC Leader's Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience that marks the beginning of your career as an Officer, a leader of the U.S. Army.

**ENROLL IN ARMY ROTC
BECOME AN ARMY OFFICER**



For more information, contact Major Giles at 898-2470 or cgiles@mtsu.edu or visit www.mtsu.edu/arotc1/

Government Access Is For Everyone



At the core of our system of government is the unwavering belief that democracy can succeed only with an informed, participatory electorate — truly a government of, by and for the people.

Sunshine Week engages people in conversations about open government and why it must be nurtured and protected to preserve our rights and liberties.

Reminding candidates that access to information is important to people makes the issue vital not just during election season, but hopefully during the administrations of those elected.

Whether it's a general statement of principle, or a more specific query about something in your community, find out what the people who want to represent you think about your right to know what they're doing.



**SUNSHINE
WEEK**
YOUR RIGHT
TO KNOW

sunshineweek.org

OPINIONS

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.

From the Editorial Board:

Katrina continues to affect lives; media needs to acknowledge this

Media mention of it is about as rare as Osama bin Laden. What ever happened to that guy anyway?

"It" is the infamous Hurricane Katrina. You know, that devastating storm in August 2005 that caused more than \$82 billion in damages and claimed more than 1,800 lives?

The same storm also destroyed everything except the physical life of Aaron Wibright, but what about the lives of all the other survivors of Katrina?

Who gave these people relief? What about families torn apart? When can people return to their homes? Where did they go? How is the reconstruction going?

Why aren't the major news corporations covering this?

Wibright is not the only person with a story of loss. There are thousands of people who, years after the event are still affected and still struggling to survive. And it isn't just people, its also cities and homes and years of memories that have been pushed aside by media corporations who want to air clips of yet another Clinton-Obama debate.

The only thing that has a relatively strong pulse in the wake of Katrina is the tourism industry. It seems kind of tragic that a state would be far more concerned with how much money they can make from Hawaiian-shirt wearing, Crocs-sporting, fifty-something bald guys than building homes for their citizens. Now that would be an interesting story.

Even here in Tennessee, relief still continues for those devastated by the tornados, but how goes the relief? It sure would be nice to know, even if it boils down to a five-minute clip on the 10 o'clock news.

Now there's no use in beating a dead horse. But then again, you can't really ignore the elephant in the room either. Animal clichés aside, lack of media coverage of the Katrina aftermath is hurting recovery, because no one really knows how bad it is or how to help.

We, as mass media consumers, never got answers to the questions posed in news coverage. The matter was simply washed away.

The irony of this is we, as an editorial board of a newspaper, are complaining about lack of media coverage. Then again, it should be noted that we try to do the best we can, but just simply cannot afford the high-tech and in-depth coverage. But you, the reader, probably already knew that.

Faces in the Crowd

How do you feel about the city of Murfreesboro's plan to install red-light cameras at major intersections this summer?



Elsey

"I would not see any problem with it. I am not sure what they would use the cameras for besides traffic, but I think it's a good idea."

-Nathan Elsey, junior digital animation



Olivo

"If that's going to free up the police to do other jobs, then that will be a bonus to the community. I'd be more agreeable if you pay the fine and it not go on your record."

-Katherine Olivo, senior business economics



Larson

"I think it's a good thing. It will definitely make Murfreesboro safer. People should control the urge to run a red light."

-Brad Larson, sophomore aerospace



Fendley

"It will be good for roads especially like Rutherford Blvd. It should make trips to campus a lot safer."

-Paul Fendley, sophomore basic and applied sciences

Package unlikely to stimulate economy

The economy is slowing, so much so that Congress recently approved a stimulus package in order to alleviate the possibility of a recession. The slowdown has been provided by a game that spawned the "sub-prime" mortgage crisis, which is essentially Orwellian newspeak for "stuff that needed to be illegal in the first place."

It is important to understand that the type of market economy codified by Adam Smith, the one on which our model is based, allowed for government, i.e. "the people," to oversee conduct in the private sector. The idea that the doctrine of laissez-faire gives the right of the government to regulate business with an eye towards corruption, such as externalizing costs in the form of pollution, exploiting labor for all its worth, consumer fraud, collusion and manipulating the books is a myth propagated by capitalist greed-mongers in order to snow-job an ill-informed public into surrendering its rights.

President George W. Bush has said, and continues to say, that the United States' economy is fundamentally sound. (Arguably, this requires a willful suspension of disbelief; the kind that can be supported by intellectual contortions and voodoo-accounting, but doesn't hold up too well in the cold light of common sense.) The monster budget deficit, trade deficit, and the tanking dollar are the only evidence I need to support my position. The housing crisis is merely a symptom, rather than an underlying cause, of our deeper economic woes fueled by a culture of greed and complacency.

Some may argue that debt is justified because it will be offset by economic expansion. While that may be true in some cases, that does not mean that it is wise to assume that it will be necessarily true in all cases. The Great Depression happened.

Wealth and value can be produced in basically three ways: either by performing the labor necessary to convert raw materials into goods, providing services, or by creating ways to improve the human condition, for example, innovating technology that increases the efficiency of human labor. The stimulus package can accomplish none of these. While it may succeed in providing a job-creation boost by injecting capital into the system, any perceived increase in prosperity will likely be temporary.



Philosophers and Ploughmen

By Benjamin Harris
Staff Columnist

What to do with a stressed system that is over-capitalized? Inject more capital/liquidity. For example: when investors panic, the Federal Reserve banks cut interest rates, encouraging dollar liquidity. The Dow Jones industrial average then shoots up. Has more value and wealth been added to the market? More likely, inflation is biting back from the supply side. For example, if one's dollar-denominated portfolio gains 5 percent, but the dollar loses 10 percent, you have more dollars, but you have less wealth. Of course, the government doesn't figure food and energy into its "official" core inflation data. Oh well, who needs food and energy anyway?

This sort of monetary policy is comparable to providing a fix for an addict. It's quick relief, but there is a substantial risk of negative consequences.

So, who is to blame for this mess? There certainly is a lot of finger-pointing going on. Is it the Bush Administration? Arguably the Bush Administration has done more to exacerbate the problem in a shorter period of time than any government in U.S. history, but it would be an oversimplification to lay all of the blame there. Is it corporate greed? Corruption in big business and banking is a factor. Is it the welfare state, or a lack of personal responsibility? Rich people aren't the only ones capable of being greedy.

The idea that people have the right to live above their means hits the core of the problems that must be addressed.

Capital liquidity is no substitute for finding ways to cultivate our human resources more effectively. America was, at one time, the leader in innovation and productivity. That is no longer the case, as evidenced by the trade deficit. In spite of this, Americans have maintained a sense of entitlement that has caused us to become overly complacent in the technological age. We will eventually be forced to abandon our state of denial, but we would be better off if we did so willingly in order to get down to some much needed problem solving sooner rather than later.

However, the prevailing climate of opposing hard-line ideologies whether they are economic, religious or political, is poisonous to the type of communication and cooperation that will be necessary to right the ship.

Unfortunately, if the history of empire is any indication, the odds are stacked against us.

Benjamin Harris is a senior guitar performance major and can be reached at bmh2q@mtsu.edu.



Bonnaroo line-up divides fans

Presence of Metallica leads some to believe that the festival has gone too far; others welcome departure from "the norm"

By Gregory Rudy
Guest Columnist

The initial lineup for this year's Bonnaroo Music and Arts festival was released on Wednesday Feb. 6 to both cheers and jeers from would-be Rooers. Once considered by many to lead the pack of summer jamband festivals, Bonnaroo has moved in a markedly different direction. Seattle-based grunge rockers Pearl Jam and metal icons Metallica will occupy two of the three coveted headliner spots this June 12-15 in Manchester.

Gauging from the buzz on Internet message boards and social networking sites, some people think the change is too drastic a departure from the 7 year-old festival's roots. Music fans haven't forgotten Metallica's Napster fiasco in 2000, and they still haven't completely shaken off the image of the band that sued their own fans. On the official Bonnaroo message board, where members were asked who they wanted to see most out of the initial lineup, only 1 of 13

responders listed Metallica as one of their top choices. 7 listed Pearl Jam and other popular mentions included Willie Nelson, The Allman Bros. Band, Robert Plant & Alison Krauss, Lupe Fiasco and Broken Social Scene. None of them mentioned controversial rapper Kanye West.

Electronica, bluegrass, country, hip-hop, jazz, folk, gospel, and rock music in myriad forms have all been well represented in Bonnaroo's past. In order to offer the kind of eclectic lineup that fits the festival's mission, they have to continue to reach outward and book artists that previously would have never been thought of. The recent trend of booking heavier rock bands like Clutch, Tool and Mastodon is a refreshing change from when metal went unrepresented at the granddaddy of all summer music festivals.

This year will be my seventh Bonnaroo experience. I've seen it change firsthand over its entire history, and seen different traditions stay constant, drop off and emerge. The traffic and camping amenities have constantly improved over the years,

attendance has swelled, shrunk and leveled out; but the main reason for the festival's existence has changed.

Sure, you can always count on mainstays like the Silent Disco, The Art of Such n' Such and the giant mushroom-shaped fountain being there. A handful of faithful returning bands like Umphrey's McGee and Grateful Dead bassist Phil Lesh will be there to keep the jamband fans satisfied, but what started as a festival dominated by one genre has evolved into a purposefully diverse lineup so expect a different experience from years past. Yes, corporate sponsorship has been invited in to what started as a grassroots event. Has it changed our state's biggest and best music festival for the worse? I'm glad it has changed as much as it has. I keep going back every summer because I enjoy seeing it change and have a different experience each time.

Gregory Rudy is a junior digital animation major and can be reached at gwr2d@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Editorial: (615) 904-8357 Advertising:
(615) 898-2533 Fax: (615) 904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
Andy Harper*
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Features
Sarah Lavery
sfeature@mtsu.edu

Photography
Ryan DeBooy
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Managing Editor
Mary Rose Fox*
sidelinesmanager@gmail.com

Sports
Richard Lowe
slsports@mtsu.edu

Production
Amy Jones
slads@mtsu.edu

Campus News
Christin Pepple*
slnews@mtsu.edu

Assist. News
Tiffany Gibson
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Online
Bryan Law
slonline@mtsu.edu

Comm. News
Dan Potter*
slstate@mtsu.edu

Assist. Features
Katelyn Coil
slflash@mtsu.edu

Adviser
Steven Chappell
schappell@mtsu.edu

Opinions
Jessica Laven*
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Assist. Sports
Chris Martin
slsports@mtsu.edu

Advertising
Jeri Lamb
jlamb@mtsu.edu

*denotes member of editorial board
Business
Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

From the Student Government:



SGA update

By Chassen Haynes
Guest Columnist

Last week, we were saddened to hear of the catastrophe that occurred across our state. It hit closer to home when a fellow institution of higher education was badly damaged. Union University was very fortunate in that there were no student casualties. In speaking with Union SGA President Stephen Lynch after he had observed the damage, he said, "With all of the damage that was done, someone should have died."

MTSU has various student groups attempting to get things together to assist Union students in their time of need. One key area that has been brought to my attention that the students are in immediate need of is school supplies. Therefore, the MTSU Student Government Association will be coordinating with other higher education institutions across the state to help gather these supplies.

Over the next two weeks, we will be collecting school supplies to include the following: pens, pencils, calculators, notebooks, notebook paper, scissors, highlighters, tape, staplers, staples, book bags, white-out, etc. MTSU students will be traveling to Union to deliver these goods over the next two weekends and to assist them with their efforts to start classes as soon as possible.

We would be much appreciative to have support throughout the Murfreesboro area in our efforts to assist a fellow Tennessee community in their time of need. Currently, there are drop-off areas designated in Philips Bookstore (MTSU Keathley University Center), Blue Raider Bookstore (Greenland Dr.), and Office Depot (Memorial Blvd). We will be adding drop-off areas the further into the process we go. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Chassen M. Haynes
S.G.A. President



"Lighten Up!" Katherine Lawn, guest comic

Learn about elders while there's time

By Caroline Ruse
Red and Black

My Grandpa was known in my family as "The Grump."

He earned the nickname because he was always telling us kids to "keep it down."

"For crying out loud!" he'd bellow, when something really annoyed him.

But he wasn't always grumpy. He watched The Price is Right religiously for as long as I can remember. He loved margaritas, and when he got drunk, he'd wave his hands around to make a point.

Recently, I went home for the weekend to see my Grandpa, knowing that his health was getting worse.

My brother and I planned to visit my dad's apartment, where my Grandpa lived, around 10 Saturday morning to spend the day with him. We got the call just a few minutes before leaving the house.

He had died early that morning.

It was hard to believe. Just months ago, in September, he was taking shots of tequila with his four grandchildren on his 90th birthday.

On Christmas Day, we had eaten popcorn, exchanged jokes and opened presents.

When I arrived the day of his death, I could see the empty hospital bed through the open door of my Grandpa's room. They had brought in the bed just a few days earlier so he could sit up comfortably.

Now the blankets and sheets were folded neatly at its foot.

"He was only in that bed for

three nights," my dad and his sister kept saying.

"He didn't have to suffer. He was lucky," they said.

Yes, he was lucky, but I was not.

I had never had the courage to ask him more about himself.

I wanted to hear about his adventures as a pilot in World War II, about his plane going down in China.

I wanted to know where he had traveled in the world as an international pilot.

I wanted to know how he met my grandmother.

But I can't tell these stories, because I never heard them. I never asked.

Since his death, I have found out more about my grandfather than I knew during his life. For starters, his real name was Jack Stiles Ruse, not John Charles Ruse, as my family always had known him. Why he changed his name is just another question I'll never get to ask.

I know I'm not the only student at the University who has lost a special grandparent, but if yours are still alive and healthy, I urge you to ask yourselves: How much do you know about your grandparents?

I know they sometimes can be boring, old-fashioned and hard of hearing.

Maybe they are even grumps.

But I hope you will find the patience and the courage now to find out who they are.

Don't make my mistake and wait until they're gone to find out who they were.

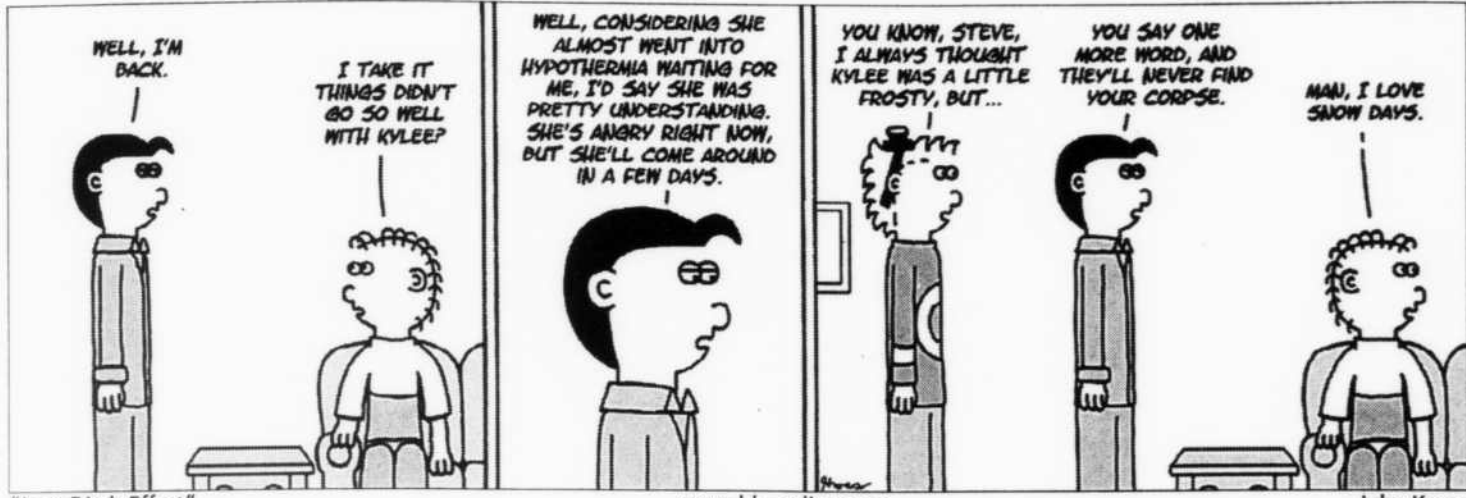
Red and Black is the University of Georgia's independent student newspaper.



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

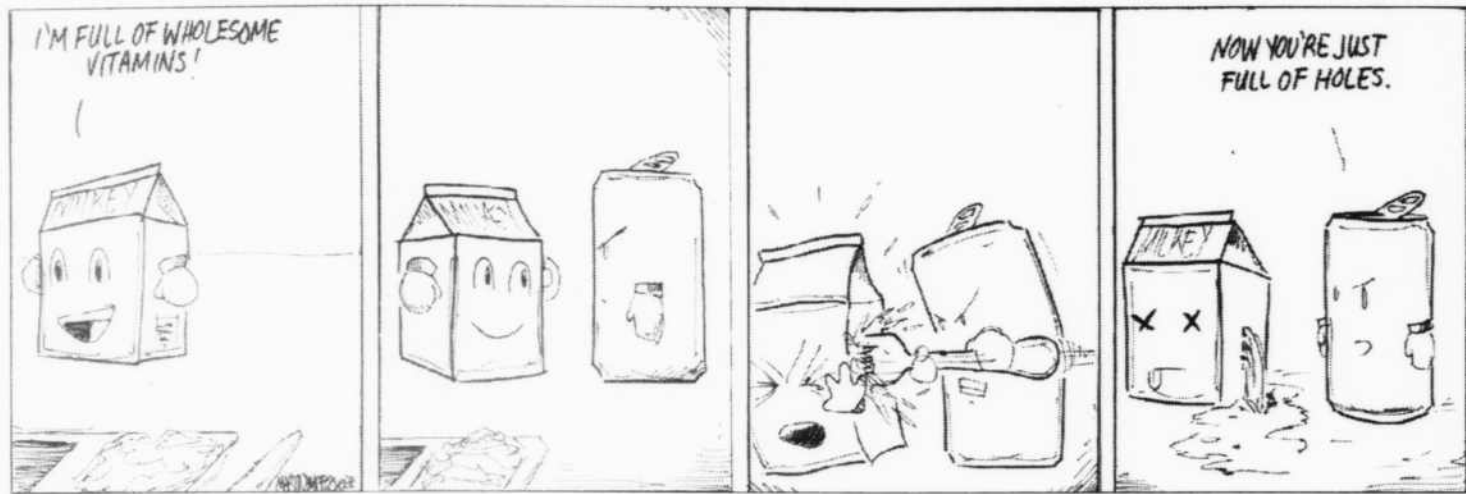
Frank Hasenmueller



"Last-Ditch Effort"

www.lde-online.com

John Kroes



"Lunchtime"

patrickthebeaver@yahoo.com

Martin Fox

Letters to the Editor

Student gives opinion about going to class

Like many people on *Sidelines'* staff, particularly the Opinion writers, I have received scathing e-mails from Dr. Louie Haas. If you haven't yet received one and you write for *Sidelines*, then you haven't made it. Haas has a point, though. I routinely drag myself out of bed at five in the morning to make it to my German class at 8 a.m. in the BDA - certainly not my favorite thing to do in the morning, but I'm trudging right along. We get sick sometimes, yes. It's our responsibility, however, to be mature adults. You can't miss three days in a week and expect leniency. Seriously. So, suck it up and go to class. If I have to, the rest of you should, too. This is one time when I can honestly say I agree with Dr. Haas.

-Matthew Hurtt, junior liberal studies

Professor compares past attendance policies

I found the editorial on absence policies to be of interest, not because I agree with it or disagree with it, but rather because it pretty much sums up the worst of the thinking on the topic-with not so much as a nod to nuanced perspective.

I've been at MTSU nearly 10 years and have experimented with attendance policies quite a bit (having them versus not having them), and would like to offer a few additional thoughts on the matter. For my first seven or eight years at MTSU I had a fairly "typical" (i.e. demanding) attendance policy. Then I started experi-

menting to see what would really happen if I didn't have one. I mean, what would really happen? Would my classes decay into chaos? Would I be a party of one keeping myself company in a vast, empty classroom? Would student grades improve? Would they slump? I had to know.

What I have found is interesting, and always pretty much the same. Here is what happens in a course with no attendance policy at all:

1) Most students attend class every day. This shouldn't be too surprising. All it means is that the majority of students feel that money has value. Missing class is expensive regardless of the reason and most students know it should be kept to a minimum.

2) A few students-maybe four students in a class of 20-almost never attend class. It makes sense, since I would think that 20 percent of any group might not be able to stand me. So I would prefer that students who aren't interested in my boring old self would go find something truly interesting to do, and that chronically sick students would stay home and get well. I mean this sincerely.

3) The few students who never attend class have the most far-fetched expectations of the course, and of me. These few usually interpret the lack of an attendance policy as a basis for expecting near-infinite "slack" in other areas. They are genuinely stricken when I tell them that since they missed their privately-scheduled exam retake (for which I made a special trip to campus, they don't get another chance. This is the toughest part for me. And if they simply don't care, then it comes out in class in the form of cluelessness that causes everything to grind to a halt, literally, while they "catch up" on the class' time.

4) All student grades are generally lower. Particularly the students' who don't attend, but also-get this-everyone else's as well. Yes, when the classroom scenery constantly changes (because of student absence), all students seem not to perform as well. A student's presence or absence in class actually affects, for better or for worse, the achievement of the class overall.

My purpose here is to show that there are both good and bad things about having open classroom attendance, though in my experience, mostly bad. Here is an inconvenient truth: that having a low-tolerance attendance policy may have nothing to do with being "un-adult" and forcing students to attend class under pain of whatever, and everything to do with providing the classroom environment most conducive to student achievement overall.

Remember, as a professor, that's one of the things I get graded on.

-Ric Morris, professor of foreign language

Rec Center parking lot needs to be fixed

I agree with the person who wrote in with regards to the Rec Center parking lot. The parking lot is a joke. It is unbelievable that this is so out of control at such a big university. Not only do we have trouble parking close to classes, now we have to navigate through craters to get to a space. It really is unacceptable.

-Taylor Dugger, senior educational and behavioral sciences

You Decide

Sidelines wants to hear your voices about the important issues. About the issues that span from our campus to our government. We are currently looking for compelling guest columns about the following topics.

Candidate Profiles:

Hillary Clinton
Barack Obama
Mike Huckabee
John McCain
Ron Paul

Issues:

Global warming
War in Iraq
Gay marriage
National debt
Campaign funding

Student Government:

Who do you support for president?
What student issues are important?
How should SGA help MTSU?
How should the SGA handle funds?

Send your guest columns to slopinio@mtsu.edu. Please include your name, major and class.

Get Involved

FEATURES

Do you think Hurricane Katrina's effect is still an issue?

- Definitely.
- Sort of.
- Hurricane who?

Go to mtsusidelines.com to answer

Getting back to normal

Three years after Hurricane Katrina, Aaron Wibright wants to feel at home By Mark Bell

When Aaron Wibright moved into his new home in New Orleans as an adolescent, he was ecstatic. After all, his father had built this home for Aaron and his family from the ground up. Aaron, now 23, says he saw the home as a new beginning for his life and his family.

He spent his early childhood living in an apartment in New Orleans but had always dreamed of the day his family would have a place to call home. When that day finally came, Aaron says he recalls the joy he felt at the time.

"I remember thinkin' my family is gonna grow old in this house," Aaron says, "and one day, when me and my sisters go off to college or get married or whatever we do, we are gonna be comin' back home to this house in New Orleans."

Then came Katrina.

It was the third most devastating storm to ever hit the United States and resulted in more than 1,800 deaths and \$82.1 billion in damage.

Aaron and his family heard news of Katrina as it made its way across Florida as a relatively weak Category 1 hurricane. It would be a Category 3 by the time it made landfall in New Orleans on Aug. 29, 2005.

"We started packin' up the Sunday before the storm hit," Aaron recalls. "We got four days worth of clothes thinkin' and hopin' we'd be comin' back soon."

The traffic Aaron and his family faced getting out of New Orleans was just the beginning of a series of chaotic problems that would shape how they would live the rest of their lives.

Lane reversal plans, meant to get more people out of New Orleans quicker, would do little to hasten the evacuation of families. Chaos spread, and some families who left late worried they would be caught in the worst of the storm.

Four and a half hours after this, Aaron arrived at his uncle's house in Mississippi (the drive normally took an hour and a half). All he and his family could do there was wait out the storm in anguish.

Aaron recalls sitting by the television waiting for news.

"We were all worried

about things back home, and I was so sick watchin' the stories on television," he says.

The day after the storm hit, he found out from the numerous news programs reporting on Katrina that the levees had broken. That's also the day he and his family came to the realization that they wouldn't be going home for much longer than the four days they'd originally estimated.

After staying at his uncle's house for a little less than a week, Aaron and his family evacuated to Smyrna, Tenn. to stay with yet another uncle. He would live in Smyrna and wait for six weeks before being allowed to go back to see his home.

But nothing could brace Aaron for what was to come.

"I opened the door to my house, and the stagnant smell of raw sewage and what seemed like a mix of dead animals took my breath away and caused me to gag," Aaron says.

A thick cake-like layer of mud and grit was the second thing to catch Aaron's attention. The muck covered the floors, counters and chairs in the once lovely home. The bar, which once held beautifully polished glass, was in shambles and covered with mold and mildew. A thick line on the walls of all the rooms downstairs revealed how high the water level had risen.

"It was just crazy seein' this," Aaron remembers. "It's one thing to see it on television, but to see it with your eyes and feel it in your heart is somethin' completely different."

I just felt like, damn, this is crazy."

Then began the process of trying

to salvage whatever possible from the wreckage. Picking up the pieces is hard when there's a danger of breathing in high levels of mold and mildew. A photo of Aaron's father shows him wearing a protective face mask and rubber boots while clearing personal belongings, which is now simply debris, from the home.

"The worst of it all was the sentimental items we lost," Aaron points out. "All the possessions just weren't that important."

Family pictures of dead relatives, Aaron's own baby shoes and his mother's wedding dress had been washed away by the storm.

"Some pictures I'd find and I'd get all excited, but when I went to pick them up and brush them off, half would be missing," Aaron says. "It's hard to lose your memories like that."

Aaron's family documented their losses using photos that were taken before and after the storm. This would later allow them to apply and be accepted for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Aaron received treasury checks for \$2,000 and \$2,300. He also received a \$5,300 grant because he wasn't eligible for a Small Business Administration loan like the ones his parents received. This money was necessary for Aaron to get items like clothing and food that he would need to get by.

"I didn't go out and abuse the money, getting Prada shoes and clothes like a lot of these other people did," Aaron says. "I got things I needed to live."

Getting the FEMA aid, according to Aaron, involved a long drawn out process. He had to send in a paper that documented everything he owned

and then wait weeks while a FEMA representative added everything up and compared numbers. Finally, after weeks of waiting, FEMA gave the amount of money to Aaron that the agency thought was appropriate.

"To be honest, FEMA did me right," Aaron says. "There were a lot of people who were worse off than me who didn't get any aid."

What really got to Aaron, he says, was the response by the Bush Administration.

"They weren't on top of things," he says angrily. "This wasn't the reaction of a country that is suppose to be No. 1 in the world."

Now Aaron is living in Murfreesboro with his family while working at Publix, a big change from his days in construction before Katrina.

He plans to attend MTSU when his financial situation is more stable.

While things are getting back to normal for him, he wants people to remember that others are still hurting because of Katrina.

"All the damage is done," Aaron says. "People have given their money, and the world goes on. But a lot of people are still hurting psychologically from Katrina."

"That's something we can't fix," he says. "It's about the individual now and how they're gonna deal with it in their own head."

There are some ways to help, however. One of the best ways, and what is becoming one of the most popular thanks to shows like HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, is taking victims of Katrina into your own home.

Many agencies exist to help displaced families find a place to stay, such as the Open Your Home company (www.openyourhome.com).

"Homes are the things that these people miss the most. I miss a lot of things about home. I miss waking up and going into my kitchen, seeing my grass growing out in the front yard," Aaron says with a heavy heart. "I miss going outside and seeing my neighbors and riding down the street about a mile and half to see my grandma."

"This was suppose to be the home I grew up in."

PHOTO BY SARAH LAVERY - FEATURES EDITOR

St. Louis Cathedral, located in New Orleans' French Quarter, stands triumphant years after Hurricane Katrina's wrath.

'Baby the Musical' 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 through 23 at Tucker Theatre

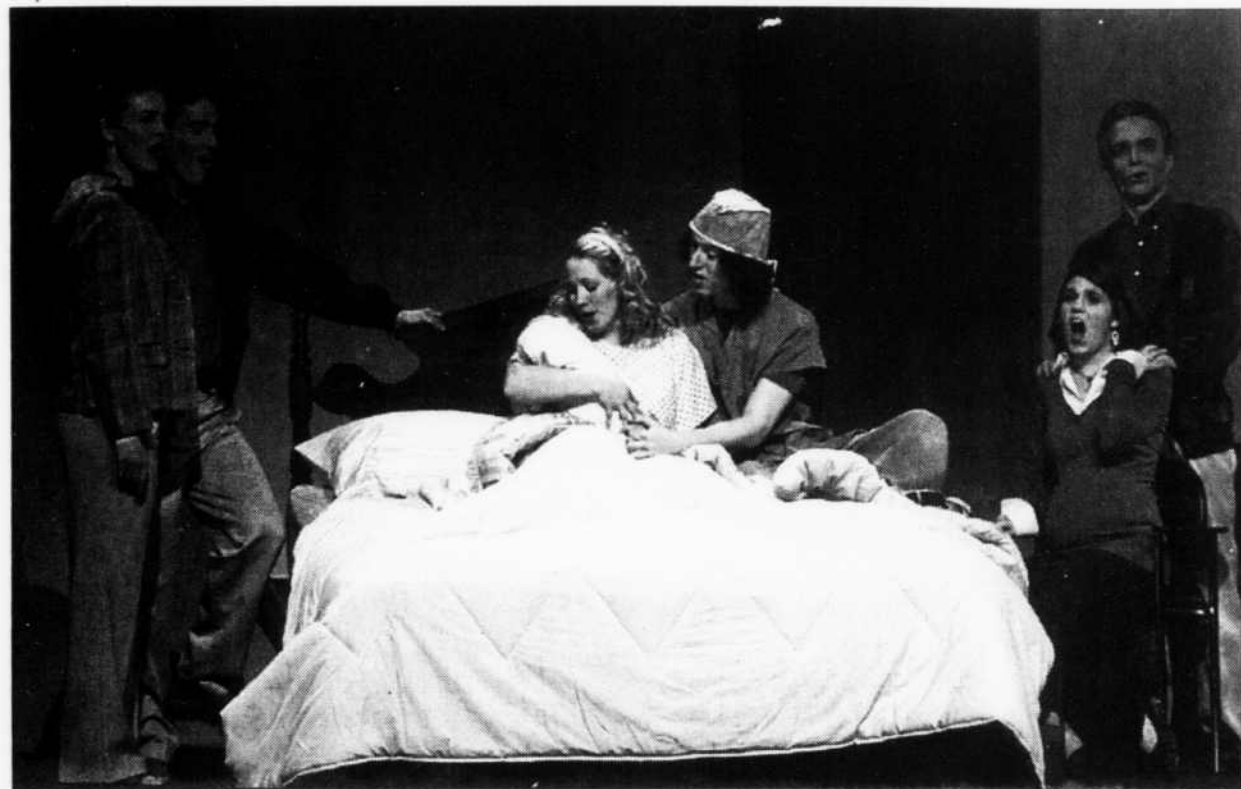


PHOTO BY ALEX BLACKWELDER - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The cast of MTSU's "Baby the Musical" performs on opening night. The play is running Feb. 20 through 23.

By Rachel Nutt
Staff writer

Before going to see "Baby The Musical," I knew virtually nothing of the plot. I simply knew it was a comedic musical about couples having babies. Knowing so little, I had no real expectations for the show.

Waiting for the play to begin, I chose a seat and began scanning over the program. And then it happened. The worst coughing attack I have ever experienced took over my body. There I was, practically convulsing, tears streaming down my face, and waiting to watch a college musical on a Friday night. This performance was going to have to be amazing to brighten my memory of the night.

And, finally, the play began. But, unlike most plays, this one didn't start with action from the characters. In fact, the stage was completely empty as the story began. Lights cast words like "It's a boy!" or "It's a girl!" on the walls of the theatre. Colorful lights danced onstage. A piano melody floated, or rather soared, in the air.

Then a voice offstage began narrating the physical process of conceiving a child—reminiscent of the opening scene in the 1989 film "Look Who's Talking." This beginning piqued my interest, and parts of it, peppered with humor, left the audience laughing.

The story marched on as we were introduced to three different couples. First, we met Lizzie, played by Tonya Pewitt and Danny, played by Patrick Benneyworth, a young, unmarried couple in college.

Then, a bed, which represented their basement apartment, was moved to center stage and Nick, played by Daniel Joyce and Pam, played by Angela Calcaterra, came onstage. Both Nick and Pam were gym teachers and a young, happily married couple. And then the bed was moved a final time as we were introduced to Alan, played by Alan Smith, and Arlene, played by Tiffany Kelley. This couple, the upper-middle class type, already had three children who had moved out of their home.

See FEATURES, 7

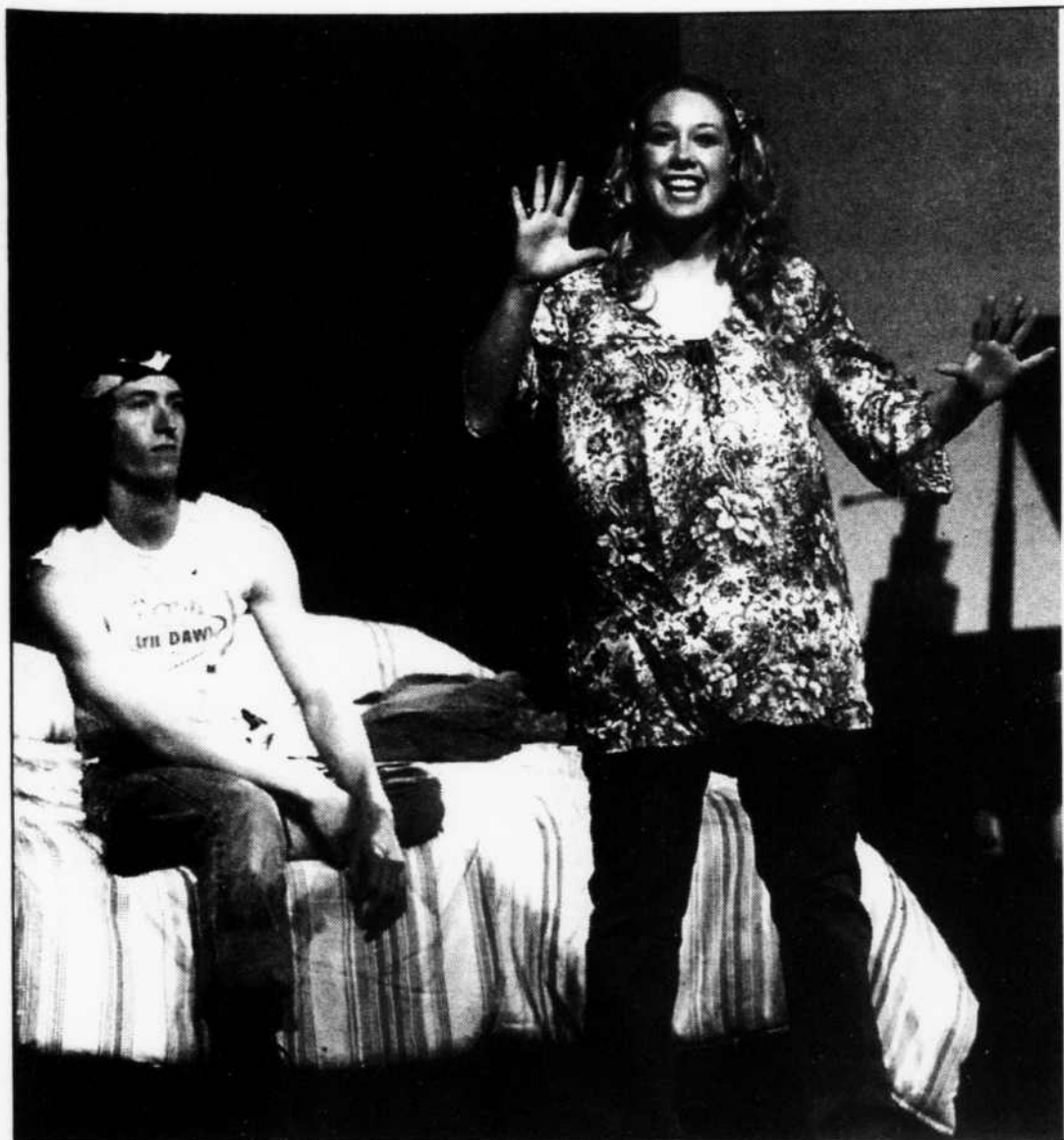


PHOTO BY ALEX BLACKWELDER - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Patrick Benneyworth and Tonya Pewitt perform as one of the musical's couples, Lizzie and Danny.

FEATURES: 'Baby the Musical'

Continued from page 6

Soon it was discovered that each couple was expecting a baby. The play revolved around the three different situations of the couples, and how they would handle the challenge that lay before each of them. The play, while handling issues like abortion, unwed parents, and difficulty in conception, remained overall lighthearted and quite humorous.

Each set of actors was amazingly well-cast. Pewitt and Benneyworth as Lizzie and Danny were one of the more humorous couples. Benneyworth, as the struggling musician, was particularly amazing. He even sported a colorful Mohawk for a portion of the play.

Nick and Pam were ideal as the almost-annoyingly in love young couple. Their characters were deepened by the ironic fact that they, as the young, healthy, in-love couple who actually wanted children, were the ones who had difficulties conceiving. Joyce and Calcaterra portrayed their characters believably, helping portray a main theme of the play: that things are not always what they seem.

Smith and Kelley as Alan and Arlene were, first of all, made to look the part. Their stage makeup was amazingly-applied, converting them from young people into uptight, middle-aged parents. Their role as the aging couple was perfect.

And a fundamental quality was, thankfully, possessed by all of the actors. Each had an outstanding voice. I actually enjoyed listening to them sing, as opposed to gritting my teeth until the end came, like everyone has been forced to do while watching some musicals.

The offstage band, composed of Tina Haynes on piano, Hannah Durgin on keyboards and Mark Voeltzki on bass, is what held the entire show together. One standout song, both on piano and thanks to Pewitt's songbird voice, was "The Story Goes On." This song, right before the intermission, was one of the more serious parts of the play, balancing out the crazy bits.

The most outlandish number was definitely "The Ladies Singing Their Song," as Lizzie complained about all the strangers who talked about their own experiences with pregnancy every time she went in public. The "ladies" played by members of the ensemble, each paraded around the stage in bizarre costumes, singing their parts before freezing into a funny position while the next person sang. The audience loved this scene; it was the type of scene that everyone can relate to, and is also so humorous that everyone feels united by a common appreciation for good comedy.

An extensive set was not needed to enrich this experience at all. Most of the scenes contained only a bed and perhaps a few extra personal props. But I was left desiring nothing, and not just because I have an active imagination. The actors' descriptive songs, colorful costumes and zany choreography were all the enhancement needed.

Not only is the story interesting and a little unusual, but the cast succeeds in making the audience feel sad, laugh and actually care about what happens to the characters. They made me go from a coughing cynic to a complete optimist. I highly suggest this play.

Oakland Apartments

CALL FOR OUR SPECIALS!!

615-904-2544

1203 Old Lascassas Pike

Murfreesboro, TN 37128

CENTURY 21

CD'S * RECORDS

TAPES * JEWELRY

New & Used CD's - Records

125 Lasseter Dr.

Murfreesboro, TN 37130

OPEN MON-SAT 11-7



AM B A S S A D O R '08 '09

The
Middle Tennessee State University

National Alumni Association

announces ...



We are now accepting applications for our newest group of Student Ambassadors, the official hosts of the University.

Applications are available at the MTSU Alumni House and at the KUC information desk.

The deadline to apply is February 29, 2008.

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**

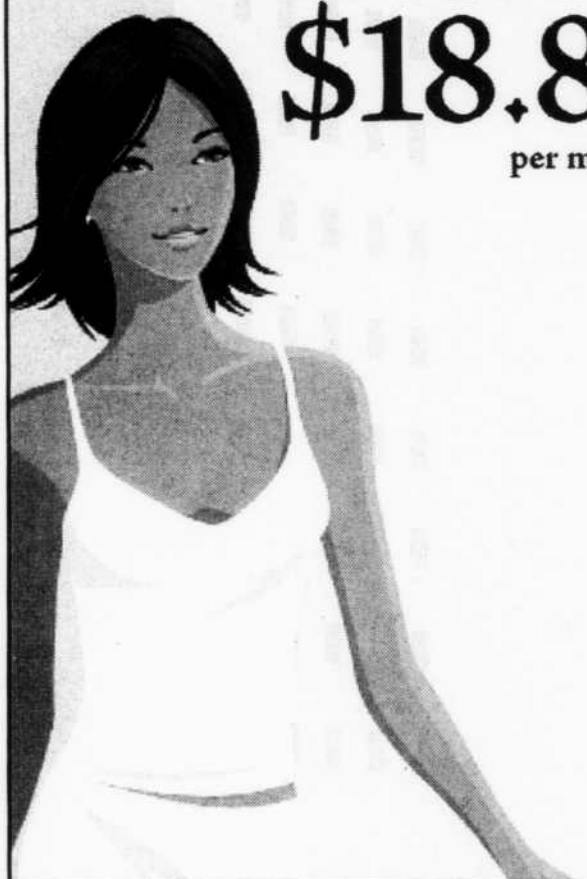
STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Please call 898-2923 or visit mtaumni.com for details.

UNLIMITED TANNING

\$18.88
per month*



Cutting-Edge Beds • Knowledgeable Staff
Inviting Environment • Money-Saving Memberships

SUN TAN CITY
INSTANT TAN CENTERS

Let yourself shine.

3 Murfreesboro Locations and Growing. www.sumtancity.com

*Some restrictions apply.

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

Up-til-Dawn

**\$71,000 Raised for St.
Jude Hospital**

SPORTS

Rick Insell Live tonight 6 p.m. 88.3 FM WMTS

Kermit Davis Radio Show tonight 7 p.m. 106.7 FM WFAN



Freshman forward Emily Queen scored seven points and pulled down five boards in MT's victory over Sun Belt Conference-leading Western Kentucky. The Lady Raiders are 8-1 at home. PHOTO BY ALEX BLACKWELDER - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lady Raiders take down WKU 68-60

Holt, Lymon lead MT past SBC-leading Hilltoppers for second win in a row

By J. Owen Shipley
Staff Writer

When asked on Thursday night about how she felt when the Lady Raiders ended their two-game losing skid by defeating South Alabama 66-46, senior Amber Holt replied in a brief manner.

"It's over. I never stopped being confident."

Holt and the Lady Raiders certainly looked confident heading into Sunday's contest. They held an eight-point lead over the Hilltoppers at the end of the first half. In the opening 20 minutes, Holt scored 18 points, shooting 89 percent from the field. The second half was another story. MT struggled for 18 minutes to put the game away before a handful of thrilling plays by Emily Queen and Holt put MT up for good.

The two swapped big plays in the closing minute to keep WKU from regaining the lead. A big defensive rebound by Queen to Holt would have been the tying goal gave MT the ball with a chance to run down the clock. After a time out, Holt converted a quick jump shot that put the Lady Raiders up by four. Two completed free throws later, it was Queen's turn again. Another key rebound

and a fast break layup with 3.2 seconds remaining gave MT their final score of 68.

Still, it was far from an easy win for the Lady Raiders. Despite their share of early fouls, WKU opened the second half with an 18 to 7 run, reminding the nearly 7,000 in attendance that it, not the Lady Raiders, were the No. 1 ranked team in the Sun Belt. The Lady Raiders' second half shooting woes seemed to return at the worst possible time as Amber Holt's field goal percentage plummeted to 29 percent.

WKU managed to fight its way back into the game without the aid of a single 3-pointer. They shot 0-2 in the second half and just 2-14 for the game. Ball control, solid passing and quick points in the paint helped them keep the game close.

A WKU layup and a foul by Holt with 14:59 remaining gave the Hilltoppers their first lead in more than 20 minutes. MT reclaimed the lead exactly one minute later after Holt picked up two more points inside the paint to put MT up by one. The remaining 13 minutes of play saw nine consecutive lead changes.

What started out as a fast pace shooting game quickly turned into a defensive struggle in the second half with some possessions lasting as long as two minutes without a single point.

With 2:18 remaining MT secured the first two-possession lead in over ten minutes after a Chelsia Lymon 3-pointer.

"Chelsia's always had that range, much like Johnna [Abney] had and she just hasn't been using it," MT head coach Rick Insell said after the game.

After Holt briefly went cold in the second half it was Lymon who kept the Raiders in the game. It seemed she was there to make a play every time WKU started gaining momentum.

"Chelsia played a tremendous game," Insell said. "Seven rebounds from the point guard position, two steals and 18 points. That's a tremendous game against a team like WKU."

Holt was also quick to give credit to Lymon for her second-half play. "I wasn't worried. Chels [Lymon] came in and played her best and that's what we needed, somebody else to step up."

MT's win split the series at 1-1 on the year, but Holt said there was a good chance for that final best-of-three game.

"We could have beat them the first time, but we beat them this time and hopefully we'll see them again in the Sun Belt Championship."

Blue Raiders can't knock off Hilltoppers to pull off second big upset in three days

By Chris Martin
Assistant Sports Editor

They put forth a valiant effort, but the Blue Raiders were denied a chance to topple the two best teams in the Sun Belt Conference on Saturday when they lost 71-66 to Western Kentucky.

Middle Tennessee (12-13, 9-6 SBC) was coming off a 76-70 upset of South Alabama on Thursday. Before the loss, USA was tied with WKU (21-5, 13-1 SBC) for the best record in the conference. MT was trying to do something no team in the SBC has managed to do—hold a victory over both WKU and USA.

The Blue Raiders didn't let the Hilltoppers leave the Murphy Center with an easy victory, though. WKU's Courtney Lee, who ranks second in the league in scoring, scored 18 points, but did so on six of 16 shooting while committing six turnovers.

"If someone would have told me that we'd hold Western [Kentucky] to 40 percent [shooting], we shoot 47 [percent], out-rebound them by one and Courtney [Lee] goes six for 16 to get 18 points, I'd have bet a lot of money that we were going to win the game," MT head coach Kermit Davis said.

The crowd of 5,307 saw the Blue Raiders give the Hilltoppers all they could handle. The lead changed hands 10 times in the game and was tied 11 times.

The turning point in the game came when, with six seconds left in the contest, MT junior guard Nigel Johnson drove to the basket to try to trim the 69-66 WKU lead. When he got in the paint, WKU sophomore A.J. Slaughter stripped the ball from Johnson. Johnson immediately fouled Slaughter, but Slaughter made both his free throws, sealing the victory for the Hilltoppers.

"I think it's huge," WKU head coach Darin Horn said when asked about the importance of role players making plays. "When Courtney Lee is six for 16, still ends up with 18, but maybe isn't his absolute best, I have A.J. Slaughter come in and make big free throws late...I think that really helps our team play with a lot more confidence."

The game was rife with fouls. Combined, both teams committed 47 fouls and shot a total of 65 free throws.

"I wish there wouldn't have been as many free throws shot in that game, and that the game would have had a better flow," Davis said. "I thought the [fans] deserved better. It was just kind of stopping and starting the whole time."

Leading the way for WKU was senior guard Tyrone Brazelton, who scored 20 points on six of 11 shooting and also contributed four assists and three steals.

"The player of the game was Brazelton," Davis said. "He's developing, in my opinion, into the best point guard in our league."

Redshirt junior forward Demetrius Green led all scorers with 22 points. Green also put in four steals and four rebounds. On top of all that, Green was charged with guarding Lee throughout most of the contest.

"I thought Demetrius Green did a great job on Courtney Lee," Davis said.

Desmond Yates, who was named SBC player of the week for the games from Feb. 4 through 10, gave the Blue Raiders 17 points, five rebounds and a couple of steals.

Johnson was third on the team in scoring with 10 points. He also had four assists and three rebounds, but he did turn the ball over eight times.

After playing their past two games in the Murphy Center, the Blue Raiders will start a two-game road stretch starting with SBC West Division leading Denver (11-13, 7-6 SBC) on Thursday.

That game is set to begin at 8:30 p.m.



On the heels of a 76-70 upset victory over South Alabama, the Blue Raiders were unable to topple the SBC's other top team. PHOTO BY BRADLEY LAMBERT - MT MEDIA RELATIONS

MT Baseball ready for season, stadium not

By Dean Holden

Contributing Writer

Steve Peterson believes MTSU has a complete baseball team this year. All he needs now is a complete baseball field.

While Head Coach Peterson and the Blue Raiders may be nearly ready for the 2008 baseball season to begin, their home venue is not. Reese Smith Field is undergoing major renovations, which are not expected to be completed until late in the season. Some of the team's home games may have to be played at alternate locations, such as local college or high school fields.

Since the stands at Smith Field are gone, one proposed solution is to add temporary bleachers next to Floyd Stadium, overlooking the left side, so that the team can still play its games at MTSU.

Despite this distraction, the team continues to practice, and Peterson is preparing for his 20th season as head coach of the MT baseball team. His aspirations for the season are simple.

"We always have one goal, and that's to win a championship," Peterson said.

In 2007, the Blue Raiders finished 32-28, and 16-14 in the Sun Belt play, good for second place in the conference. Peterson describes last year's squad as the "best defensive team" he has coached with the Blue Raiders, particularly his infield.

However, this is an infield that will be missing 2007 standouts Wayne Kendrick and Matt Ray.

Kendrick was a leader for the Blue Raiders last season, batting a team leading .405 on the year, and also leading the team in runs scored, doubles, triples and on-base percentage. He is currently playing for the Sarasota Reds, the Florida League affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds.

Ray, now playing for the Vancouver Canadians, the Northwest League affiliate of the Oakland A's led the team in stolen bases with 24 in 2007, and was third in batting average, on-base percentage and runs scored.

Peterson admits the team will miss the presence of his middle infielders, but he does not see the team as rebuilding. "We never rebuild, we reload," Peterson said.

Returning first baseman Rawley Bishop is one reason for Peterson's confidence. Bishop had a breakout 2007 season in which he led the team with 17 home runs and 65 RBIs. Bishop will be the cleanup batter to start the 2008 season, according to Peterson, who calls the hard-hitting junior a "prototypical first base-type."

Peterson hopes this will be a year the fans will remember; both for the construction of the new field and his teams play on it.



PHOTO BY ANDY HARPER - EDITOR IN CHIEF

Even though the baseball season starts Friday, renovations of Reese Smith Field are incomplete.

The Blue Raider open the season Feb. 22 at Jacksonville State. Their home opener is Feb. 29 against Toledo. The arena for this three-game series has yet to be announced.

Dwight Howard flies to title in All-Star dunk contest

Magic star impresses fans enough to defeat defending-champion, Gerald Green

By Tom Withers

AP Sports Writer

Look, up in the sky! It's a bird. It's a plane. It's Dwight Howard — super slam dunk champion.

A red cape trailing behind him, Orlando's man of steel made like Superman and won perhaps the best dunk contest, definitely the most creative, in NBA history to close a memorable All-Star Saturday.

Using a variety of props as well as teammate Jameer Nelson, Howard scored perfect 50s from judges on his first two dunks before the contest was turned over to fan voting for the first time in the final round.

Fans, too, picked the 6-foot-11 Howard, who dispelled an old dunking myth: Big men can fly high.

"It's really for the big men," Howard said. "Everybody always says, big men can't jump and big men don't look good dunking. I just tried to add a little bit of my personality. With me being so tall, I knew it was going to be tough. I tried to play to the crowd and have fun."

In any other year, Minnesota's Gerald Green would have easily walked away with his second straight dunking crown, but he was upstaged by the amazingly athletic Howard, whose performance has to rank up there with anything Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant,

Vince Carter or even tiny Spud Webb ever did above the basket.

The dunk contest, bland for so many years as the game's high risers seemed to run out of ideas, was freshened up by some of the most creative aerial assaults in memory.

Howard, Green, Toronto's Jamario Moon and Memphis' Rudy Gay all used tape, ladders, teammates and even a tasty dessert to show their stuff.

"I think the dunk contest is back," said Howard, who was disappointed when he failed to make it out of the first round last year. "I don't think people want to see the same old dunks. They want to see something else, see some spice."

Howard started things off with a dunk he has been practicing for two years. Standing on the baseline, he tossed the ball off the reverse side of the backboard, caught it with both hands, and after peering through the glass at the rim, dunked left-handed.

The crowd roared and a celebrity panel of judges including Magic Johnson, Karl Malone as well as Dominique Wilkins, Julius Erving and Darryl Dawkins — three of the game's most famed dunkers — all gave him perfect 10s.

Not to be outdone, Green tried to blow the field away. Literally.

After Timberwolves teammate Rashad McCants climbed up and placed a cupcake with a single candle in it on the back of the rim, Green soared in and puffed out the flame before throwing down a nasty left-hander.

"At first I thought he was going to take the cupcake, eat it and then dunk it," Howard said. "I thought he would have won with that."

In the second round, McCants sat on the top step of the ladder and handed the ball off to a rising Green, who crushed another dunk.

That's when Howard stripped off his blue Magic jersey to reveal an "S" on his chest. As the crowd stood, he tied the cape around his massive shoulders.

"I didn't have time to get the telephone booth," he quipped.

Nelson placed a piece of tape to mark Howard's take-off spot, and after a running start from near mid-court, the Magic's main man took off just inside the free-throw line and fired down the ball with authority.

In the final round, Green performed two acrobatic dunks, one in only green socks after removing his sneakers. But neither of those could top Howard's last two efforts.

First, Howard bounced the ball off the floor, tapped it left-handed off the backboard and dunked with his right hand. For Howard's finale, Nelson affixed a miniature Orlando backboard next to the rim and balanced a ball on it.

Howard flew in from the right side, picked the ball off cleanly and slammed it in. He then only had to wait for fans to text message a result that seemed to be a no-brainer. Howard won in a landslide, receiving 78 percent of the vote.

Graduate COUNSELING Programs

Opening Doors ... Changing Lives.

COUNSELING.LIPSCOMB.EDU • 615.966.5906

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

A 61-hour curriculum designed to meet the academic requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor with Mental Health Service Provider designation (LPC MHSP).

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY

Students choose from a variety of electives in this 36-hour program designed for graduate students who desire to enhance their career opportunities in fields such as education, ministry, social work, health care and business.

CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

This 15-hour certificate program provides graduate-level training for individuals who could benefit from training in counseling to strengthen them in their non-counseling professions.

PopularMusic
and the
Distinguished Lecture Committee
at MTSU present

The BROCK McGUIRE band

Direct from Ireland!
Their only Tennessee appearance!

"Irish Traditional Music in America—The Golden Era"
Lecture 3:00 p.m. and Concert 7:30 p.m.

Monday, February 25, 2008
State Farm Lecture Room,
Business and Aerospace Building

Free and open
to the public

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

Tennessee's Best

**Free and open
to the public**

Sun Belt Men's Basketball Eastern Division Standings

#1  Western Kentucky 13-1	#2  South Alabama 13-2	#3  Middle Tennessee 9-6
#4  Florida Atlantic 6-8	#5  Florida International 5-9	#6  Troy 3-12

Sun Belt Women's Basketball Eastern Division Standings

#1  Western Kentucky 13-2	#2  Middle Tennessee 11-4	#3  Florida International 8-6
#4  South Alabama 8-7	#5  Troy 3-12	#6  Florida Atlantic 1-13

Hot deals. Hot colors.

verizonwireless

Rock on!
Exclusive
Verizon Wireless
music phone
\$49.99
after rebate
LG VX8350: \$99.99 2-yr. price
- \$50 mail-in rebate. With
new 2-yr. activation.

Show your style!
Gleam™ by Samsung
\$99.99
after rebate
\$149.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in
rebate. With new 2-yr. activation.

Txt your thumbs off!
enV™ by LG
\$79.99
after rebate
Orange, Green or Silver
\$129.99 2-yr. price
- \$50 mail-in rebate.
With new 2-yr. activation.

Work hard, look good!
BlackBerry® Pearl™ Pink or Silver
\$99.99
after rebate
\$249.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate and \$100
Advanced Device Credit. With new 2 yr. activation
on Nationwide Email Plan \$79.99 or higher.

Shoot hi-res pix & flix!
FlipShot™ by Samsung with 3 Megapixel camera
\$149.99
after rebate
\$199.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate.
With new 2-yr. activation.

**RED HOT
DEAL DAYS!**

Switch to America's Most Reliable Wireless Network.™

Free Shipping: Call 1.888.640.8776 Click verizonwireless.com Visit any store

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES

Open Sundays. Technicians available at select locations.

ANTIOCH
5325 Hickory
Hollow Ln.
615-731-1055

BRENTWOOD
Maryland Farms
615-832-2355

COLUMBIA
375 S. James
Campbell Blvd.
931-381-0898

DICKSON
100 Lowe's Dr.
615-446-2355

FRANKLIN
420 Cool Springs Blvd.
615-771-6448
Cool Springs Galleria
615-771-7971

GALLATIN
1152 Nashville Pike
615-452-7800

GOODLETTSVILLE
Rivergate Mall
615-859-2355

LEBANON
1424 W. Main St.
615-443-2355

MT. JULIET
401 S. Mt. Juliet Rd.
615-773-1900

MURFREESBORO
1965 Old Fort Pkwy.
615-896-2355

NASHVILLE
4044 Hillsboro Pike
615-385-1910

SMYRNA
480 Sam Ridley Pkwy. W.
615-355-6560

THE VERIZON
WIRELESS
STORE
INSIDE

BUSINESS
CUSTOMERS
PLEASE CALL
1.800.VZW.4BIZ
(899.4249)

Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan® lines w/ 2-yr. Agmts).

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agmt., Calling Plan, rebate form and credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee/line & other charges. Offers and coverage, varying by service, not available everywhere. Rebates take up to 6 weeks. Limited-time offers. While supplies last. Shipping charges may apply. Device capabilities: Add'l charges & conditions apply. Network details and coverage maps at verizonwireless.com. ©2008 Verizon Wireless

Basketball is for lovers



I am Sportacus

By J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

I'm sitting courtside at one of the best women's basketball games I've ever seen and I just can't seem to enjoy it. One consistent and nagging thought keeps running through my head and preventing me from relaxing.

"I wish she was here."

By "she" I mean my girlfriend, who happened to be out of town this weekend. Contrary to popular belief, an obsession with sports doesn't have to be a source of contention in a relationship. In fact, the Miami Heat, Pittsburgh Steelers and a hatred for both the Michigan Wolverines and the New England Patriots have made us a much closer couple than I ever imagined possible.

When we first moved back to Murfreesboro from California and the Cadillac was failing, it was a Miami Heat playoff game that kept us smiling as a shade-tree mechanic struggled to diagnose the problem with the '92 Deville.

This has been something I have always known, but recent events have truly conspired to put the preacher back in my column. To spread the faith about not only the joy of sharing sports, but the joy of sharing in general. If you have fun doing something, share it with the ones you love. After all, it's fun to have fun, but it's even more fun to watch the people you care about having fun.

(Sportacus note: if you enjoy something illegal or wholly immoral like grave robbing, stick to sharing sports and seek help.)

Last Monday, your faithful sports editor Richard Lowe Jr. wrote a touching article in an attempt to convince more couples to spend St. Valentine's Day at the Murphy Center.

I immediately knew that destiny had brought this game my way. After spending all of Thursday morning purchasing shiny new MT gear, me and the lady made the short walk to the Glass House to prepare for a thrilling double header of basketball.

While the game didn't disappoint, I can certainly admit that Sunday's thriller against WKU

was an easier sell than Thursday's shellacking of Southern Alabama. Unfortunately, despite the much better courtside seat and free soda, I just couldn't enjoy it as much alone. As a sports writer, I have spent entirely too many games segregated with other sports writers and separate from the people who matter: the fans.

The combination of Lowe's article, the beauty of watching a live sports game with the future mother of my children in a crowded student stadium, and the fact that it all happened on Valentine's Day, made for a life changing event.

I am here, right now, to tell all of you that basketball is for lovers. Football too. Even rock climbing. Sports are about fun, they are about rooting and cheering and if you are in a relationship that doesn't support such good times, perhaps you should rethink it.

Now, I'm not telling all 400,000 of my readers (give or take 399,000) to go home and break up with your other. I am merely proposing that you try a little harder to include them in any activity that you enjoy as much as I do sports.

Saturday night's record-breaking NBA slam dunk contest, Sunday's amazing game and yes, even the best Super Bowl of all time, were hollow because the person I love most wasn't there to share my joy.

Discovering that she was in Knoxville feeling the same way only solidified my position. And I know it's going to be a hard sell for some of you, but for the sake of your well-being I implore you find a way to share the things you love with those you love.

There is nothing better than the moment when a guy, such as myself, arrogantly leans over to explain a rule to his girlfriend and is corrected by her about it's application to the current play. Once the student becomes the master, the game, my friends, is truly on.

J. Owen Shipley is a senior, English major and can be reached at owenshipley@gmail.com.