

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 85, NO. 18

Beta Theta Pi rape charges dropped

By ALEX MOORMAN
Campus News Editor

The investigation of the alleged sexual assault of a female MTSU student reported on March 6 at the Beta Theta Pi house has come to a dead end due to lack of evidence, said campus police Chief Buddy Peaster.

"We have talked with the young woman who was first reported to be a victim of sexual assault, and we have talked with a number

ther investigation, no suspects turned up.

"We talked to the victim a couple of different times and gave her the opportunity to come in and help us gather more information. At this point, she has evidently decided that she does not want to pursue prosecution," Peaster said.

"Based on the evidence, we don't feel like we have any suspects.

Alcohol is prohibited on Greek Row where the Beta Theta Pi house is located,

"We just really don't have enough evidence to go forward with the investigation."

BUDDY PEASTER
CAMPUS POLICE CHIEF

of people who are either in the fraternity or associated with them," Peaster said. "We just really don't have enough evidence to go forward with the investigation, so the case is probably going to be closed out without an arrest being made."

The MTSU Police Station received a call around 4 a.m. on March 6 with reports that a young woman had been sexually assaulted. Peaster said, upon fur-

but Peaster said alcoholic beverages were present at the gathering.

"It was a gathering not approved by the university, and there was alcohol that was there," Peaster said. "We don't know if it was provided by the fraternity or brought by other people, but whether they will be punished is up to Judicial Affairs."

Judicial Affairs could not be reached for comment.

Court date set for alleged arsonist

By ALEX MOORMAN
Campus News Editor

The MTSU student responsible for setting fires and sending threatening e-mails on Oct. 9, 2008 has been charged with one count of terrorism and three counts of aggravated arson.

Justin Jamal "Jay" Davis' discussion date is set for April 9, which will give Davis' attorney time to speak with the judge following this date. A plea date has been set for April 26, and if no plea is given, then a trial will be set for a later date.

"We are hoping for a guilty

"Taking him out of our environment at a time where he could have been very destructive was important in maintaining the safety net around the university."

BUDDY PEASTER
CAMPUS POLICE CHIEF

plea or for him to be found guilty," campus police Chief Buddy Peaster said. "It is important for people to understand that our main goal is keeping this campus safe and that people who do not abide by that will not get off easily."

Davis, 19, of Antioch, was accused of writing threatening e-mails that according to police reports said "All students and faculty would be

cause disruption, widespread concern and actual damage to the university and possible people too.

"Taking him out of our environment at a time where he could have been very destructive was very important in maintaining the safety net around the university and to insure he did not cause any real damage or destruction," Peaster said.



Davis

Alleged gunmen in KUC released

By ALEX MOORMAN
Campus News Editor

Two suspects apprehended in the investigation of the alleged gunman on MTSU's campus have been released from custody, according to campus police Chief Buddy Peaster.

"We did have a suspect down here last night that we interviewed and he indicated that he and our second suspect did actually know these two victims ahead of time, and they planned to jump these guys," Peaster said.

Peaster said that when they went to get a warrant for the arrest of the suspects, he was turned down by the Judicial Commissioners Office.

The suspects are thought to be the instigators of an on-campus fight starting at Corlew Resident Hall. Between four and six males were involved in an altercation outside of the dormitory, which led to one of the suspects patting his pocket and saying he had a gun. When the police arrived at the scene, the two suspects bolted into the Keathley University Center, which led to the evacuation of the building.

"The suspect gave us enough information to give us reason to arrest them, but when we went to obtain warrants for both of our suspects, the Judicial Commissioners Office would not is-



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

A Murfreesboro police officer gets into his squad car after securing the area on Wednesday.

sue them to us," Peaster said. "They felt like we didn't have enough probable cause to arrest them, so we had no choice but to let our suspect that we had go."

Peaster said that even with-

out the warrants, the police station is going to continue the investigation and try to find more evidence to receive a warrant.

"We are going to try and get a hold of the second sus-

pect and interview him," Peaster said. "We feel like we would not seek a warrant if we didn't have enough evidence not only to arrest, but also to convict, especially in a case like this."

Bell Hooks catches students' attention

By BRYCE HARMON
Staff Writer

Author and social activist Bell Hooks conducted an open forum discussion pertaining to the feminist movement entitled "Feminism Forever: Continuing the Struggle," with the intentions of sharing her social views to an almost packed house.

Terry Johnson, director of the Women's Center in Murfreesboro, introduced the author and explained her appearance was on behalf of the center and Women's Awareness Month, adding, "She taught us all how to talk back."

Bell Hooks has written numerous notable books, including "Ain't I a Woman: Black Women Feminism," which she began at the age of 19, "All About Love: New Visions" and "We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity."

After the approximately hour-long speech, the floor was opened up to the audience, who were willing to take advantage of the situation and asked Hooks' opinion on a variety of feminist topics, ranging from past experiences all the way to "The Vagina Monologues."

Audience member Shannon Taylor asked Hooks about her own work.

"I write feminist theory. Not black-feminist theory," replied Hooks. "I don't conceptualize myself as 'the other.' We [all] need a feminist



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

Bell Hooks signs one of her books after giving a speech entitled "Feminism Forever: Continuing the Struggle" for MTSU students Tuesday.

and leftist movement to take back the home because for females, globally, these are dangerous times."

Hooks concluded the Q & A portion and moved on to a book-signing where her works were sold and autographed.

"Bell Hooks influenced my feminist theory and brought in my understanding of the patriarchy and capitalistic effects on women and men in society," said Hudson Wilkins, a student who attended the forum. "Bell Hooks doesn't use her name to illustrate her marginalized position in society, being a black lesbian, and her insights into the male-centricity of society are an inspiration to the marginalized, voiceless masses. I was excited to see her."



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

Hooks speaks to students in the KUC about women's struggles.

Nashville organization challenges fraternity stereotypes

By DUSTIN EVANS
Staff Writer

The Nashville Sexual Assault Center is hosting the 2009 Walk in Their Shoes 5K on Saturday, to promote awareness of sexual violence.

The event targets participation amongst local fraternities to "break the stereotypes" associated with sexual assault.

"Thanks to decades of zany movies and TV shows that depict fraternities as dens of sex drugs and alcohol, those who make a difference in Greek life on college campuses have a tough time being taken seriously or even getting noticed," said Joe Bass, a volunteer at the SAC in a recent press release.

Bass said that many fraternity members are taking a stand against sexual violence and is urging their fellow members to join the cause.

The event is scheduled for 8:15 a.m. at the foot of

the Shelby Street Pedestrian Bridge in the LP Field's parking lot. The walk is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

Rachel Lang, who works in the development and marketing department for the SAC said that the run will feature host guest speakers, music and refreshments.

"The run will not be all heavy discussion," Lang said. "It is a lot of fun, and it educates the community."

Lang said that there were numerous male participants in last year's run, and it is not uncommon for male participants to show an interest in the prevention of sexual violence.

"It gets a significant number of participants—around 750 participants so far," Lang said. "Anyone who participates has a commitment to end sexual violence, definitely making an impact on the community."

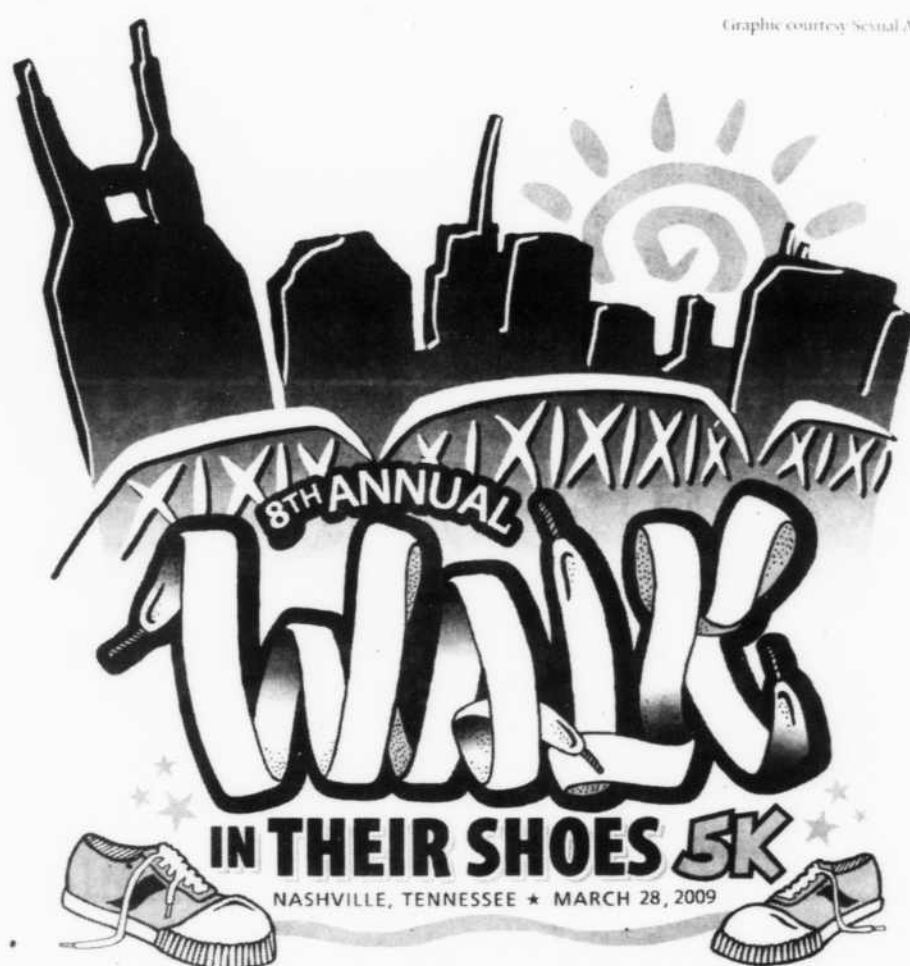
According to the National

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network every two minutes, someone is sexually assaulted. RAINN said that one in six women and one in 33 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime, and that college age women are four times as likely to be sexually assaulted, RAINN states on its Web site rainn.org.

"The effects of sexual violence are pervasive regardless of what age a person is when they are violated," Lang said. "It is serious and can have long lasting effects."

The Nashville Sexual Assault Center has been providing sexual assault services since 1978 and has counseled more than 17,000 children and adults, according to sa-center.org. It also offers a toll free crisis line, 800-879-1999.

"I envision a world where you don't have to suffer—where women, children and men don't have to suffer," Lang said.



Graphic courtesy Sexual Assault Center

Student Government Association set up for 'Big Event'

The Big Event

March 28, 2009
Murphy Center Parking Lot
Sign-ups in KUC 208
For information, contact
sgaphil@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2464

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
"One Big Day. One Big Thanks. One Big Event."
Student Government Association

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

The Student Government Association is hosting "The Big Event," the largest nationwide community service project in the country, this Saturday.

Registration for The Big Event begins at 9 a.m. in the Murphy Center Lot.

MTSU students are invited to participate in the event, which includes completing service projects on campus and in the surrounding areas.

"SGA wanted MTSU to have a tradition," said Jessica Putman, SGA philanthropic coordinator and a senior mass communications major. "We learned about this event and thought it would be a great way to give back to the community."

The Big Event originated at Texas A&M University in 1982 and has been part of the school's tradition ever since. This will be the first year The Big Event will take place at MTSU.

SGA President Sondra Wilson said when she took office in June The Big Event was something that she wanted to have here at MTSU. The Big Event is a way for the students to establish a working relationship with the residents that live in Murfreesboro Wilson added.

"The whole purpose of The Big Event is to say thank you to the city of Murfreesboro," Wilson said. "It would mean a lot to them for us to say thank you by doing a community service project."

"We contacted Texas A&M and realized how great it would be to host the event here," Putman said. "We've had campus beautification projects in the past, but nothing this big."

More than 300 students have signed up to participate in the one-day service project. Putman said she expects even more to show up on Saturday to help.

"We've been putting out a lot of flyers to promote it so students can see it and want to get involved," Putman said. "Whoever wants to come is more than welcome to participate."

Putman said various groups will be assigned particular jobs, such as raking leaves,

picking up trash and painting. SGA has also contacted maintenance on campus to see if any help is needed Putman added.

"We will be helping people in the community with jobs that they need help with or can't do themselves," Putman said.

Putman said that if everything goes well, SGA hopes to continue The Big Event every year.

"We would love to see it grow and become an MTSU tradition," Putman said. "We would love to have people in the community expect students to come out to help them every year."

Wilson said that she hopes that SGA continues to hold The Big Event annually.

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McPhee suggests reconstructing colleges

By JESSICA HASTON
Copy Editor



McPhee

Restructuring of the university's eight colleges could be in MTSU's future, according to President Sidney McPhee's response to the Steering Committee's report.

McPhee's response suggested the restructuring of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences; the College of Educational and Behavioral Science; and the College of Liberal Arts into the College of Arts and Sciences; the College of Education and Teacher Preparation; and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

This proposal would redistribute the art, English, foreign languages, geosciences, history, music, philosophy, political science, and speech and theatre from College of Liberal Arts into the College of Arts and

ors College, the College of Graduate Studies and the College of Continuing Education and Distance

Learning would not be reconstructed.

"At this point, it's rather early to try to assess any real impact on the particular departments," said Dean of the College of Liberal Arts John McDaniel.

McDaniel said that the idea of an arts and science college is not unusual, and other institutions like the University of Memphis, the University of Tennessee, Tennessee Tech and East Tennessee State University have such an arrangement.

"It can make for some interesting complications in distribution of funding

"If the department is not going to be completely switched, just moved administratively but nothing else changes, I'd be happy."

DEAN ANDREWS
SENIOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Sciences. Sociology and anthropology would become part of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The Jennings A. Jones College of Business, the College of Mass Communication, the University Hon-

since the sciences often have more access and more need for funding, either from the university or from outside sources, as do humanities, fine arts and social sciences," McDaniel said. "But it's perfectly workable, and it



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

Blake Campsey, a junior graphic design major, paints in an art class. President Sidney McPhee suggests that arts and sciences combine into one college.

could be a positive synergistic for some departments."

Department of English Chair Tom Strawman said the restructuring might provide difficulties in that some areas could find themselves a bit de-emphasized in the overall structure of the college.

"We're afraid that the humanities vision and the humanities values will get lost in the much vaster ma-

terial and equipment needs of the sciences, that the temptation will be to buy machines and buy research equipment and whatever's newest and latest to compete with other science programs, and the humanities will be lost sight of," Strawman said.

Senior political science major Dean Andrews said his reaction depends on what the restructuring would entail if implement-

ed. "If the department is not going to be completely switched, just moved administratively but nothing else changes, I'd be happy," Andrews said. "But if it's more than that, if that means a much larger change, I'd be very upset with the current process as it is."

Strawman said that he disagrees with the consolidation of many dissimilar departments.

"Supersizing anything is probably not a good idea because that goes against the organic principles of nature where things have a natural rhythm of growth, and they grow in certain ways for reasons that are responsible to the entire organism," Strawman said. "To impose a huge organizational entity on dissimilar functions in the university doesn't seem to make good sense at this time."

MTSU students teach business to elementary school

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Community News Editor

MTSU's Students in Free Enterprise is scheduled to compete in a SIFE regional competition in Chicago next week for the work completed at Hobgood Elementary School this semester.

SIFE is a student-run organization that helps individuals based on six principles:

market success, personal skills, entrepreneurship skills, business ethics, financial literacy and environmental sustainability.

Members of SIFE began teaching business principles that could be applied to Hobgood's greenhouse in mid-February in order to raise funds.

"We broke the students into groups of three and four and taught them the four P's of

The SIFE team helped the sixth graders plant ferns, petunia and geraniums.

"I can see from watching the students interact with the [sixth graders], they really love the fact that college students are teaching them," said Laura Buckner, a faculty advisor for SIFE. "They weren't their everyday teachers."

The members of SIFE can Buckner said the project was a good opportunity to work with people close by.

"We could have done any project for our competition, but this is one that we felt passionate about and really wanted to get involved in," said Kristi Turner, a senior business administration major and member of SIFE.

This year, SIFE has worked with college students, sixth

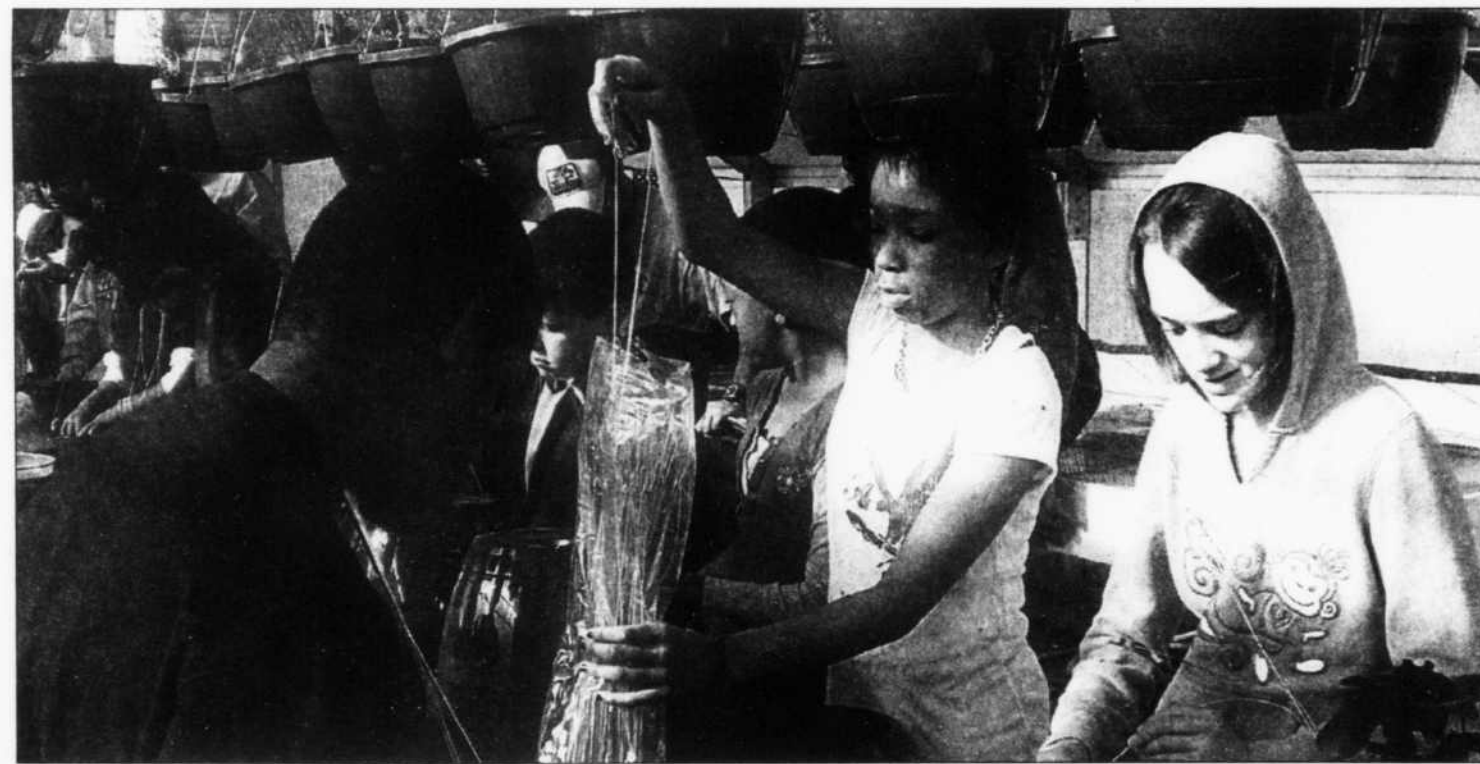


Photo submitted

Students at Hobgood Elementary School work with MTSU students to learn about the business and marketing side of running a greenhouse.

"The whole idea behind SIFE is to change the world, and sometimes the best way to change the world is to start in your own backyard."

LAURA BUCKNER
FACULTY ADVISOR FOR SIFE

marketing product, price, place and promotion," said Kerri Cookston, a senior marketing major and member of SIFE.

Hobgood is a NASA Explorer school and the money raised will help pay for the students trip to visit U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

"The students are really excited about their business, even though the money is not going directly in their pockets," Cookston said.

graders and a small business, Buckner said.

"We have had different audiences that we aim these projects at," Buckner said.

The students offered job readiness skills to college students, which would fall under personal success skills, Buckner said. They also promoted, supported and attended a resume workshop. SIFE also supplied financial support to hold an etiquette lun-

cheon.

SIFE is working on the Employment Opportunities Exchange, which is scheduled to take place March 31.

The EOE is a networking opportunity for students interested in pursuing careers in sales marketing and management.

"The whole idea behind SIFE is to change the world, and sometimes the best way to change the world is to start in your own backyard," Buckner said. "SIFE is about helping people, whether it's to find their first job, teaching sixth graders accountability and pride in running a business."

SIFE is open to students of all majors

"The SIFE slogan is give me a fish and I will eat for a day, teach me to fish and I will eat for a lifetime," Cookston said.

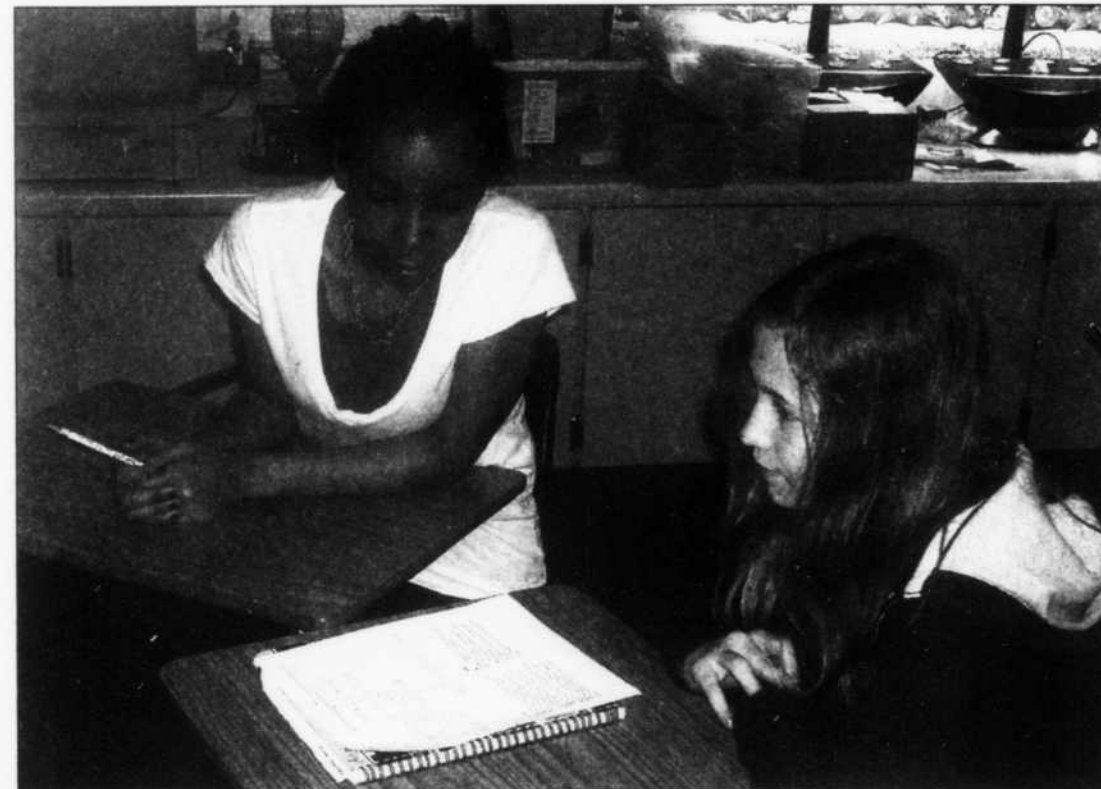


Photo submitted

Elementary school students study business plans for their new project.

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Through the *Sidelines'* Lens



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Two friends share an umbrella outside of the James E. Walker Library on a rainy Wednesday.

CRIME BRIEFS

March 19, 6:01 p.m.

Theft

Midgett Business Building
Theft of a tan Gary Fisher bike.

March 19, 8:21 p.m.

Theft

Library Quad
Report of a missing wallet.

March 20, 10:20 a.m.

Vandalism

Gore/ Clement Lot
Subject called and requested an officer in reference to vandalism done to his 1998 Blazer.

March 20, 11:21 a.m.

Theft

Murphy Center
Subject called and requested an officer in reference to her purse being stolen.

March 20, 2:17 p.m.

Theft

Greenhouse Lot
Officer checked on a student who was having problems with his vehicle and noticed that the catalytic converter was missing. Student stated that the

vehicle was fine when he parked that morning; theft report filed.

March 20, 4:22 p.m.

Warrant

Woodfins Lot
Wanda Barnett was arrested for outstanding warrant.

March 20, 9:45 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Womack Lane
Report of possible shots fired in an area of Womack apartments. Onsite witness confirmed fireworks caused noise.

March 21, 2:53 a.m.

Theft

Gracy Hall
Subject reported his bicycle stolen from bike rack in front of Gracy Hall.

March 21, 4:38 a.m.

Assault

Greek Row
A student walked into station and said he needed to report an assault that occurred at the Sigma Nu house earlier in the morning on this date.

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CURRENT EVENTS

The Tale of Despereaux

March 23-27
Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Friday, 7 p.m.
Admission: \$2
Location: KUC Theater

Diversity Workshop

For administration, faculty and staff
Thursday, March 26 at 1 p.m.
Admission: Free
Location: Tom Jackson Building

To Have & To Hold: The Debate Over Gay Marriage

Presented by the MTSU Ideas and Issues Committee
Thursday, March 26 at 5 p.m.
Admission: Free
Location: BAS State Farm Room

WMTS 88.3 FM Spring Benefit Show

Featuring Parachute Musical, Harrison Hudson, Ribbonpigeon, and Mike Anderson & the

Deputies

Thursday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Admission: \$8
Location: Club 527 Mainstreet

Free Legal Clinic

Hosted by the June Anderson Women's Center
March 26 and April 30 from 7 to 9 p.m.
Location: JUB room 206
More Information: visit <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~jawc/programs.htm#legal>

"Murder on the French Riviera"

Delta Omicron's 2nd annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre
Friday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Admission: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, \$14 for couples
Location: Wright Music Building

The BIG Event hosted by the Student Government Association

March 28, 10 a.m. to 2

p.m.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the Murphy Center Parking Lot
For more information: visit <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~sga/bigevent.htm>

Yes Man

March 30- April 2
Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Friday, 7 p.m.
Admission: \$2
Location: KUC Theater

Coming to See Privilege Systems

Diversity Workshop
Tuesday, March 31 at 4 p.m.
Admission: Free
Location: BAS State Farm Room

"Positioning the University for the Future"

Open Forums for Faculty, Staff, and Administrators
Wednesday, April 1 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 2 from 3 to 4 p.m.
Location: Tucker Theatre

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

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

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

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



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

Classifieds located



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Letters Policy

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

OPINIONS

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

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Rape victims need haven, resources on campus

On March 6, campus police arrived at the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house on Greek Row to investigate a case of sexual assault. According to the report, a party advised police around 4 a.m. that a female MTSU student had been assaulted.

At first, the alleged victim decided to cooperate with the police to ensure the conviction of her alleged assailants, but soon changed her mind and decided not to press charges.

It always seems to happen that cases are settled outside of court. Is it because women are targeted and ridiculed if they speak out? Or is it because they feel somewhat responsible for the act?

In fall of 2008, another alleged female victim said a member of Alpha Tau Omega raped her. After initially helping police with the investigation and providing them with evidence from a rape kit performed at Middle Tennessee Medical Center, she dropped the charges.

Campus police Chief Buddy Peaster even said that there was a great deal of evidence to actually convict the alleged assailant of the crime. Yet, the case was dropped despite the evidence.

In January of 2008, an alleged female victim tried to commit suicide after attending a party at the Kappa Alpha house where she said she was raped. At first, she didn't go to the police because she was intoxicated and didn't remember the events that had taken place. Instead of going to the police the victim kept quiet, but not for long. She finally spilled the beans after ending up in the Middle Tennessee Medical Center Emergency Room from taking an excessive amount of pills.

It seems a lot of women, not only at MTSU, but at other universities and in general, feel that sexual assault is their fault. They try to deal with it, but some have trouble doing so. People around them might make comments that they asked for it by drinking too much or wearing skimpy outfits.

Just because some choose to express themselves freely in clothing doesn't mean they are sporting a sign on their forehead that says, "rape me," and according to Peaster, it doesn't matter if someone is intoxicated at the time they have intercourse. If a person is not conscious or in the right state of mind to say 'no' then it's considered rape.

At MTSU, the June Anderson Women's Center is the only place women can go to talk freely about sexual experiences and assault—too bad it's about to be eliminated because of budget cuts.

The JAWC is not only a place that holds gender circles and events like "Take Back The Night," but it embodies communication and support for women who are dealing with sexual or domestic abuse.

Women have a hard enough time having a voice after being sexually assaulted, but by eliminating this center, women might not have a place to turn to at all.

It's good to know that the university has its priorities straight. Community engagement is way more important than sexual assault victims.

Why MTSU should cut McPhee



From a Social Work Professor

John Sanborn

This past Sunday evening I listened to some online audio clips that I had learned about over the MTSU subscribers listserve. These were clips of the president of this university, Sidney McPhee, responding to some questions about the process that MTSU has recently gone through entitled "Positioning the University for the Future."

As I listened, it became clear to me that this whole restructuring procedure has been unnecessarily harmful to this place where I have spent the last 35 years teaching. I had already heard a great deal that made me worry that this "positioning" was damaging morale and our ability to function as an effective academic institution.

Faculty and staff were concerned about losing their jobs at a time when finding new ones is problematic.

Students had been demonstrating because of the possibility that their majors or facilities that support their instruction would be eliminated. These fears are consuming a great deal of the energy that we should be investing in teaching and learning.

As I thought about the events of the past several years and of the direction that McPhee has taken in his administration of MTSU, I became acutely aware of many bad decisions and few good ones. This seemed very different from my memory of the improvements and growth

we experienced under previous presidents, especially the dynamic leadership provided by James Walker, McPhee's predecessor. I realized it was time for me to express my opinion about the present situation.

So I sent an e-mail to the subscribers listserve, thinking that it was an opportunity to say what I needed to say.

I started that posting, "In response to the way in which McPhee has handled this budgetary crisis that we are experiencing, I would like to express my opinion, and the opinion of many who have spoken to me on campus, that McPhee has acted very poorly."

Because of my perception that this has been only one in a series of decisions and actions by McPhee that have damaged this university, I ended my e-mail by saying, "In short, MTSU is a university in need of a new leader." What has been most inter-

esting is the response I have received from this message.

As I was walking across campus today at a little after 4:30 p.m., two staff members hailed me and said, "Nice e-mail, John. We agree with you all the way." This is generally the reaction that I have received.

When I posted the first message on the subscribers listserve Sunday evening, I expected that I would receive a variety of responses, some in agreement, some saying that they disagreed. Monday morning I had a few responses, so I decided to keep a record. So far I have received direct feedback about my idea from twenty people, mostly faculty, but also including one retired faculty, five staff,

colleagues have told me that they have heard from many people who agreed with me. In short, I have been impressed that there are a number of people connected with MTSU who agree that we need a new president.

An example of the e-mail that I have received demonstrating this support follows:

"I am an MTSU alumna and am very thankful for your courage to speak out about the way President McPhee has handled affairs at MTSU both past and present. You touched on points that need to be addressed. I find it very concerning that the president choose to pit employees and departments against each other instead of unifying the university with an effort to save every-

one's job and every department. This could have been an opportunity for the university to face adversity and come out on top.

There are many employees who are not able to say what you did because they are administrative and do not have the security that the faculty and staff have. I think you said what many people want to say."

There seems to be a number of people who would like McPhee to be replaced. They have different reasons for their dissatisfaction. I have heard mention of the attempt to close the Campus

School (a full elementary K-6 school), of his refusal to discuss selling his private jet or of the significant expansion in the number of high-level administrative positions. There seem to be many reasons and many opinions.

My sense of it is that McPhee is just not providing the leadership that MTSU needs.

One of the things that bothers me the most is the man's arrogance. He seems to enjoy this process that is threatening people's jobs and the academic integrity of this university. He responded to a letter from the President of the Faculty Senate in a critical and dismissive way.

He scolded students for demonstrating when they were peacefully making their opinions known.

He seemed to scoff at the suggestion that he might set an example and take a salary cut or reduce his entertainment expenses.

There may be more people in the MTSU community who want McPhee to stay than there are those of us who would like him to be replaced. I do not know, but from the response I have received so far I have the impression that it may well be time for him to go. I would like others to express themselves so we have a real sense of what this community of students, teachers, staff, administrators and alumni think.

John Sanborn is an associate professor of social work and can be reached at jsanborn@mtsu.edu.

"In short, I have been impressed that there are a number of people connected with MTSU who agree that we need a new president."

Women must stand up against ideals of beauty

Housing and Residential Life recently sponsored an educational event tackling the issues of eating disorders and how they affect us all. The event was held for the ladies of Smith Hall, and Jessica Samford Conley from the Renfrew Center of Tennessee was the guest speaker.

Conley pointed out that those who are uncomfortable in their bodies typically develop body-image problems, which in turn leads to dysfunctional eating habits if the emotional issues are not handled early.

Everyone jokes about the "freshman 15," but sometimes the reasons people gain or lose weight in their college years are a real cause for concern.

Some of the issues plaguing young women today are depression, anxiety, loneli-



Straight Talk

Lauren Collins

ness, perfectionism and low self-esteem; the list goes on.

The transition to college can be very stressful, and in many cases these issues become magnified in communities like college campuses because people initially tend to feel disconnected from family and friends.

The coping mechanisms they develop to deal with their emotional distress usually begin in a limited manner, but after a certain period

of time, people end up with an illness that they need help to overcome.

Eating disorders are commonly broken down into three categories: anorexia, bulimia, and "not otherwise specified."

The "not otherwise specified" category refers to those who emotionally overeat on a frequent basis.

The health complications associated with eating disorders are legion, including, but not limited to, cardiac problems, kidney problems, dental erosion or loss, fainting and a downy soft furry covering of the body called lanugo, which is the body's response to prolonged mal-

nutrition.

Current statistics show that 78 percent of teenage girls are dissatisfied with their appearance. A staggering 85 percent of women wake up each day at odds with their weight and size.

"I look forward to the day when women empower themselves and reject what society deems perfect and acceptable."

Sadly, these statistics are not surprising given the society in which we live. On magazine covers and billboards, the media continually promotes the image of flawless beauty. The constant message that there is only one definition of beauty has contributed to this problem.

I look forward to the day when women empower

themselves and reject what society deems perfect and acceptable.

The grossly disproportionate ratio of women suffering from eating disorders to men highlights the fact there is tremendous pressure on women to live up to an ideal image propped up by society.

Women need to have courage to confront these illnesses head on, whether it is you, your mother, sister, friend or roommate.

These illnesses are often silent and discreet, and as women, we need to no longer let ourselves or our loved ones suffer in silence.

Lauren Collins is a RIM junior and can be reached at lhc2c@mtsu.edu.

COMICS



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

SHOULD CAMPUS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED DURING KUC GUNMAN INCIDENT?

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FEATURES



ARE YOU PLEASED WITH MCPHEE'S BUDGET CUT RECOMMENDATIONS?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM

Experimentation helps Weatherspoon find identity

Despite rough starts, personal losses, Nashville band manages to find its way

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

For the Nashville-based band Weatherspoon, the regularity of playing music is derived from a friends-first code of conduct that has been present as long as the members have been a band.

In the 15 years that guitarist and lead vocalist Brian Hoppes, lead guitarist Josh Lowe, bassist Seth Waltenbaugh and drummer Justin Lowe have jammed together, they have experienced all the struggles of growing up. The band is a common catharsis for all the members, which is why more than a decade has gone by and all of the original members are still a part of Weatherspoon.

Josh Lowe says he doesn't know where the name "Weatherspoon" came from.

In 1995, the band was nameless and recording an album. The members needed a name for copyright purposes and chose "Weatherspoon," a moniker in threat of being changed for two years until it had officially stuck. But why Weatherspoon itself began playing is less of a mystery.

All four guys lived in close range of one another in the suburbs of northern Nashville. Cousins Justin and Josh Lowe came from musical families

and joined up with Waltenbaugh, who lived a few doors down. Hoppes, slightly set apart from the rest of the group and dubbed a "prep" at the time by his bandmates, would repeatedly ask Justin about coming over to sing for the band.

"I just kept telling him 'Whatever, man,'" Justin laughs.

Eventually he relented, and when the band discovered Hoppes could sing, the other three members invited him back to play every Sunday.

Those Sundays became the ritual jam night for Weatherspoon and would be for years down the line. Between Pearl Jam, Black Crowes and Foo Fighters covers, the young band searched for its sound in the early '90s primarily through long-winded, trippy jam sessions.

"We were all into experimentation, Justin says. 'I don't think we had anything under four minutes.'



Photo courtesy of Myspace.com
(From left to right) Seth Waltenbaugh, Brian Hoppes, Justin Lowe and Josh Lowe make up the band Weatherspoon.

to stop absorbing trends and shed the "terrible lyrics" and "little structure" that Justin says plagued the band in its early stages.

Change really is the foundation of Weatherspoon's jangly, upbeat '60s pop and classic-rock soup. The band has definitely seen its share of change in the past 15 years through maturing from kids in a garage band, to college students, to adults with families and careers.

"Growing up is a recurring

theme," Justin says. "The end of high school, then college age, having a job, three of us have kids—we've been a band longer than anything."

All the while, renowned Nashville music publications helped push Weatherspoon's music onto the scene. An article by Robert Orman in *Music Row* scored the band recognition and praise, and an unexpected interest that legendary pianist Floyd Cramer took in Weatherspoon created connections on a national level.

Cramer, an inductee of the Rock and Roll Music Hall of Fame who had worked with

names like Elvis Presley and Patsy Cline, took Weatherspoon under his wing. He gave the band its first gig at his granddaughter's birthday party.

Hoppes also recollects going into a music store with Cramer, and the pianist telling the young musician that he could get whatever he wanted. He bought the band a PA system, which Weatherspoon still uses to this day.

Needless to say, it was beyond tragic for the band when Cramer passed away from cancer in 1997. Weatherspoon had lost both a

mentor and friend who had supported them greatly.

Justin says that when Cramer's desk was cleared out, an envelope full of Weatherspoon memorabilia was found.

"You wonder what his influence could have done for us," Hoppes says.

As it turned out, Weatherspoon fared well on its own. In 2003, the band released an energetic rock album "Til the Neighbors Call Again" and a more mature 2007 EP "Even Though It Looks Like Rain."

Music for Weatherspoon, regardless of how it was received by the industry or the public, remains a constant. When band members dealt with deaths and illnesses within their families, the band proved to be a more crucial outlet than ever.

"The band was something I needed for myself," Hoppes says. "You have to do things to keep yourself in a good place mentally."

The band says that the balance it has between music and the normalcy the members derived from. Having families and regular lives is what often sparks the most inspiration and creativity, the guys say. That balance means the differences between records and variation in songwriting that would not be there otherwise.

"Besides friendship, what keeps us into it is creative juices," Hoppes says. "It's never, 'we don't have material.'"

BAND OF THE WEEK

So it went — as grunge was on its way out, Weatherspoon was making an effort

Professor brings cross-cultural identity to MTSU

Sanjay Asthana gives unique, global perspective to College of Mass Communication

By SHANNON GOOSTREE
Contributing Writer

Standing in front of John Bragg Mass Communication Room 104, Sanjay Asthana, a media design professor, is preparing to start his lecture on media design and visual language.

His appearance is simple, with a collared shirt tucked into slacks, and his hair neatly parted. But don't be fooled because Asthana is much more than a simple professor.

Asthana joined MTSU's Mass Communication College as an assistant professor in 2003.

"One thing I really like about MTSU's College of Mass Communication is the clear distinction of various programs," Asthana says.

Asthana has worked extremely hard to get where he is today. He holds a doctorate in journalism and mass communication from the University of Minnesota and has been involved with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization on media education projects worldwide. He has a resume of published works and has served as a featured speaker at several prominent conferences.

Born and raised in India, it was only natural to start his higher education there. In 1985, Asthana completed a bachelor's degree in natural sciences. This degree seems to be a far stretch from being an educator of mass communication today. However in 1988, his path changed when he took

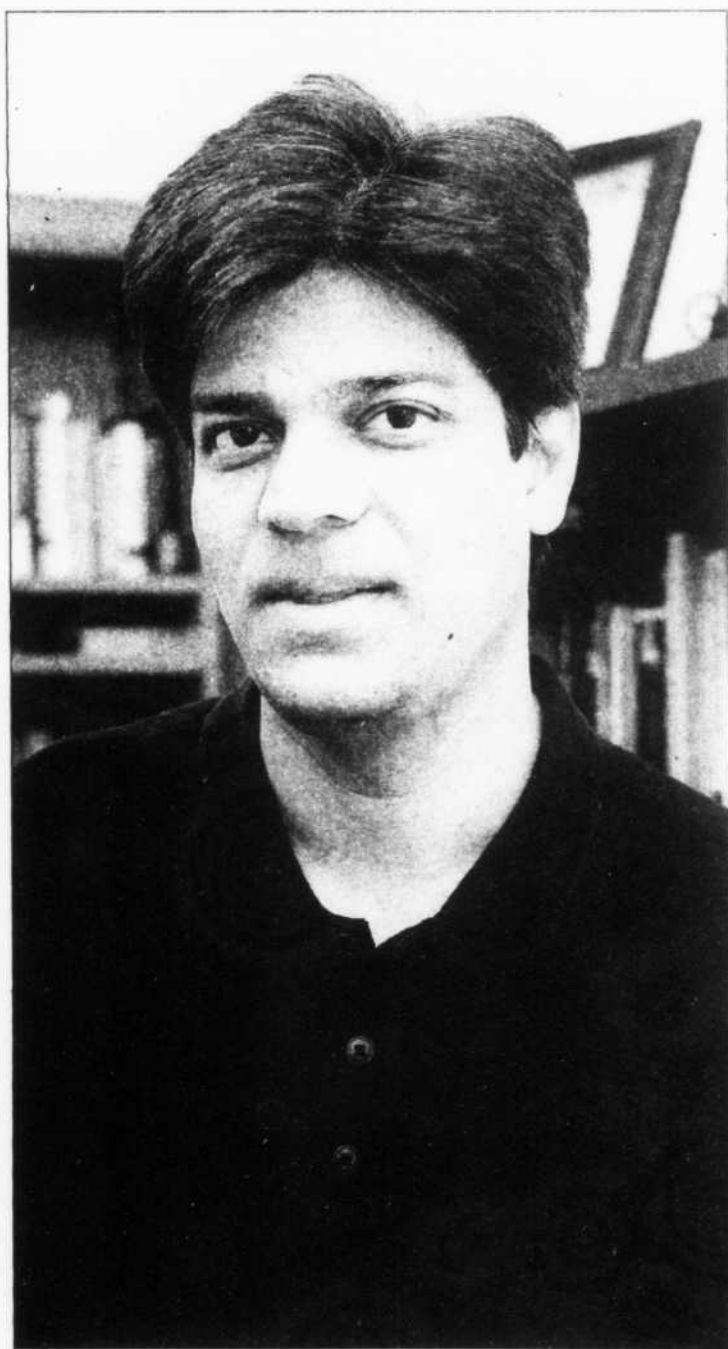


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Sanjay Asthana began teaching at MTSU in 2003 and brings an international perspective to the College of Mass Communication.

a job working for the youth radio on the state-regulated radio station called All India Radio.

From 1988-91, he produced and scripted documentaries and plays, conducted interviews and group discussions, and

hosted music sessions for All India Radio in Hyderabad, India.

Asthana continued as a freelancer while pursuing a master's degree in communication and a master of philosophy degree from the University of Hyderabad

in India.

Shortly after, he was selected as a lecturer, teaching communication theory, communication research methods, writing for radio and TV, and international communication.

Although he was building a career for himself in India, he wanted to pursue a doctorate in the United States.

"I grew up reading American philosophy and watching Hollywood movies, but being careful not to judge America through these filmic representations," Asthana reveals.

Asthana set off to the University of Minnesota where he enrolled into a Ph.D. program. He faced little trouble coming to the United States from India.

"I worked hard and obtained full fellowship while at the University of Minnesota," he says.

Again, the classes he assisted with were geared around mass communication, but many of them had an international focus. He became an instructor for the University of Minnesota in 1999, teaching many of the courses he had previously assisted with. He completed his doctorate in journalism and mass communication in 2003.

During his first year at MTSU, Asthana received an invitation to join UNESCO because of a proposal he had written while in Minnesota. The international organization is a leader in social communication and media education, among other themes. A term Ast-

hana uses to describe his work with UNESCO is "media pedagogy."

"[Asthana] brings a strong background and interest in international communication to MTSU," says Roy Moore, dean of the College of Mass Communication. "It's clear to me that he's establishing himself as an expert in international research."

In 2006, one of Asthana's UNESCO projects, "Innovative Practices of Youth Participation in Media," was published as a book. The project included initiatives from Ghana, Haiti, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Vietnam and Zambia as case studies in which young people, typically ages 12-18. These children are directly involved in creating, designing and producing media content such as radio broadcasts, television and video production, newspaper graphics work and page design.

"It is intriguing working with young people in these various countries and seeing how they impact the media in their own ways," Asthana says.

He's actively involved with UNESCO and recently attended a meeting in Paris to discuss upcoming projects.

"[His presence at the conference] means MTSU is becoming a subject of conversation internationally," says John Omachonu, associate dean of the College of Mass Communication. "It's exciting to see what

he brings back to MTSU and can share with the faculty about what's going on overseas."

Last month Asthana was invited to Doha Qatar to present research on the youth media Israel and Palestine.

"I think [Asthana's international presence] is good because it will open up more possibilities for MTSU globally," says Nikki Patterson, a junior mass communication major.

"Asthana is making a name for himself off campus, [and] such work for national and international organizations brings attention to the university," says Edward Applegate, a journalism professor. "In short, others around the world learn about our faculty and our programs."

Asthana is devoted to his research and studies on communication, and he plans to continue research in journalism and media education with a focus on cross-cultural issues.

"I feel I bring a cross-cultural identity to MTSU," Asthana explains.

"[Asthana] has a good personality, is very polite and friendly, and a good colleague," Omachonu says. "He's an overall asset to MTSU as a scholar, a teacher and a mentor."

"I've only known Dr. Asthana for a few weeks now, but he's already one of my favorite professors," says James Hockett, a sophomore mass communication major. "He really takes an interest in his students."

SPORTS

Cinderella team receives gold in Golden State

Men's golf comes from behind for impressive championship victory over nationally ranked opponents

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Cinderella story of the 2009 Callaway Collegiate Match Play Championship culminated in a title-capture Tuesday.

The Middle Tennessee men's golf team drove past top-seeded Indiana 4-1 for the championship.

MT won after holding off No. 30-ranked San Diego State and No. 22 Florida State on Monday.

This was the Blue Raiders' first title of the season, coming to them after a pivotal and high-profile event that included 14 of the nation's top 50 teams.

After teeing-off Sunday, the team earned a No. 7 seed and a spot in the championship bracket. MT blew past the top three seeds for the title.

The Blue Raiders entered the tournament ranked No. 73, according to the Golfstat rankings. The squad ousted No. 2-seed San Diego State in the quarterfinals, winning the match 3-2-0.

Junior Craig Smith cemented MT's spot in the semifinals with his final two holes of the match.

The Blue Raiders continued to dominate with their match against Florida State. The squad prolonged their championship trail with a 4-1 victory. Strong play from the entire

team helped the Blue Raiders seal the deal. Junior Kent Bulle won his match against FSU's Cameron Knight, 2-1.

Teammates Chas Narramore and Rick Cochran, both seniors, also took both of their matches, giving MT the early lead.

The team's efforts solidified its championship hopes, giving the Blue Raiders their first championship bid.

"Not a one of my players are surprised we are in this position," head coach Whit Turnbow said. "We came here to win, and we always expect to win, but we play a game that is difficult to win all the time."

But when the Blue Raiders took the course on Tuesday, all bets were off.

MT won a close match where every drive counted. Indiana would not go down without a fight.

Cochran lost his round, giving Indiana an early lead. Cochran's 3-2 defeat would mean an uphill climb for the rest of the MT squad.

Next up was Narramore, who defeated Indiana's Alex Martin 1-up.

"It was something else," Turnbow said. "It's what you dream about as a golfer."

"[Narramore] is on 18, has that 5-footer for the win, everybody watching and he nails it."

Turnbow said it was great to see the emotion.

"These young men worked hard and they have earned this feeling," Turnbow said.

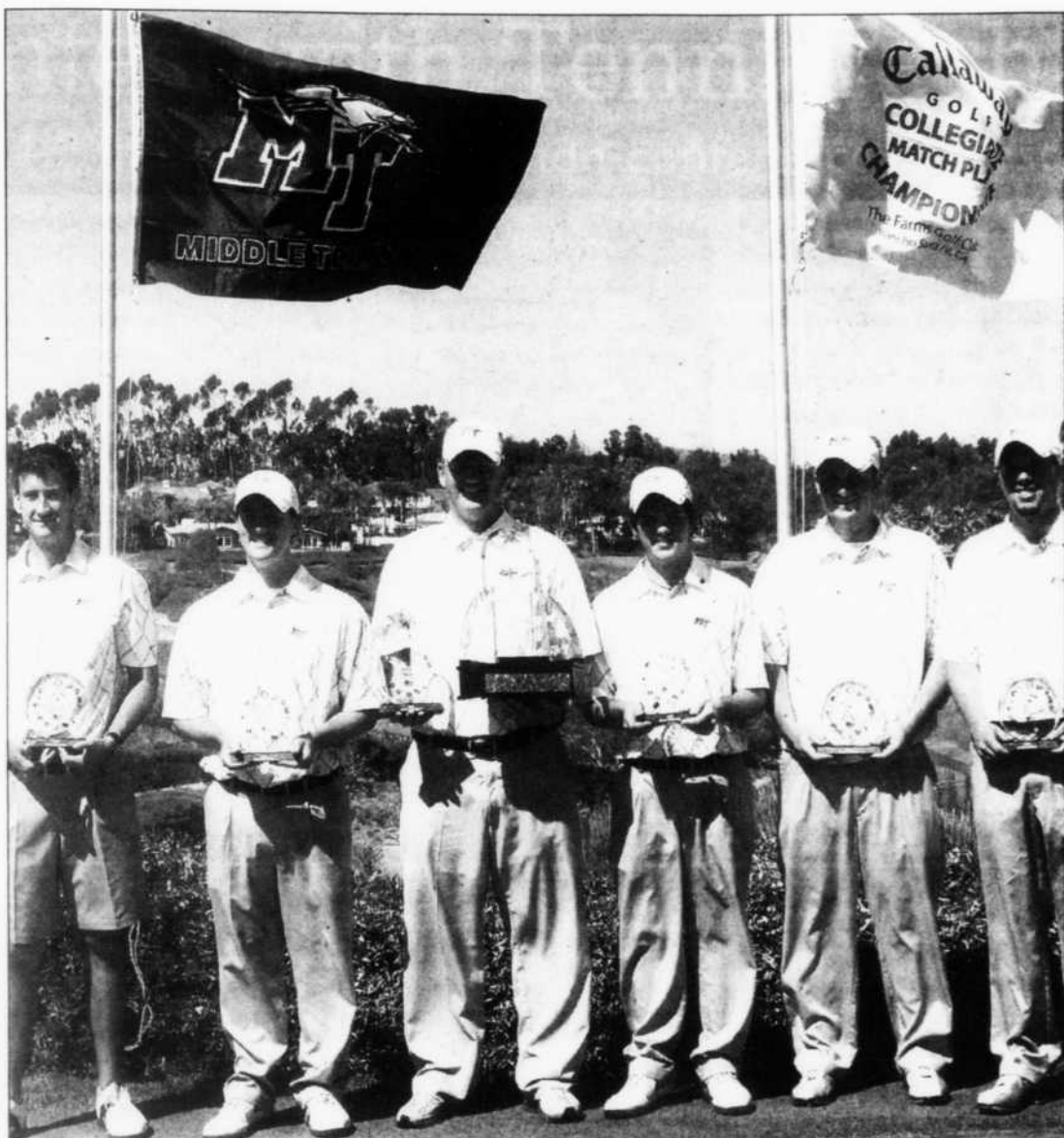


Photo courtesy MT Media Relations
The Middle Tennessee men's golf team captured the Callaway Collegiate Match Play Championship Tuesday.



GOLF Top Performers



Craig Smith
Junior
vs. FSU: 3 and 2
vs. Indiana: 1-up



Chas Narramore
Senior
vs. FSU: 7 and 6
vs. Indiana: 1-up



Kent Bulle
Junior
vs. FSU: 2 and 1
vs. Indiana: 2-up



Rick Cochran
Senior
vs. FSU: 4 and 3
vs. Indiana: LOSS, 3 and 2

Sophomore Jason Millard would follow suit, beating Seth Brandon of Indiana 2-1.

Smith, who won his match against Drew Allenspach 1-up, would never trail throughout his turn. Bulle would close out the win for the Blue Raiders with his 2-up defeat of David

Erdy.

"It's amazing, and it's a great feeling," Smith said. "Everyone contributed, and this proves what coach has always said about the quality of players we have and the depth in our lineup."

"It showed during this tour-

namment, [and] I'm proud of the team and what we accomplished here this week."

The MT men's golf team will play next at the Robert Kepler Intercollegiate, hosted by Ohio State. The event will take place in Columbus, Ohio, April 11 and 12.

Softball drops close contest with Tenn. Tech

Blue Raiders can't hold onto lead, fall at home, 4-3 in extra innings in non-conference contest

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

The Lady Raider softball team dropped a 4-3 heartbreaker to Tennessee Tech Tuesday, as the extra innings failed to record a clutch hit in the final frame.

Trailing by one, MT (6-18) had runners on second and third base with one out in the bottom of the eighth, but two subsequent outs ended the Blue Raiders' hopes of a comeback win.

The non-conference loss was particularly harsh as MT carried a 3-2 lead going into the seventh and final inning of the game, but the girls in blue couldn't hold onto the lead. TTU's right fielder, Kaleigh Gates, crushed a home run over the left-field fence in the top of the seventh to tie the game 3-3 and to send it into extra innings.

In the top of the eighth, the Golden Eagles manufactured the winning run with a sacrifice bunt followed by an RBI single toward the shortstop.

Sophomore Kellie Head (2-2) took the loss, as she pitched four and a third innings in relief. Head gave up one earned run on three hits while compiling three strikeouts and walking only one batter.

Junior Lindsey Vander Lugt started the game and pitched three and two-thirds innings with only one earned run on three hits. She also struck out six while issuing one free pass.

Junior first baseman Jessica Ives led the Blue Raider attack, going 2-for-4 with a solo home run, her first of the season.

The Blue Raiders started in the right direction with a double by junior left fielder Caitlin McClure in the bot-

tom of the first that eventually turned into the game's first run on freshman Katy Jutson's RBI single up the middle.

MT scored again in the bottom of the second on a BTU throwing error to give the Blue Raiders a 2-0 lead.

The Golden Eagles came to life by scoring two runs in the top of the fourth. First baseman Whitney Cummings hit a solo home run for the first run of the inning. TTU plated another runner on a MT fielding error, tying the game 2-2.

The Blue Raiders struck back immediately with Ives' solo home run in the bottom of the fourth that gave MT the lead up until TTU's comeback in the top of the seventh.

MT will return to Sun Belt Conference action on the road with a three-game series against Louisiana-Monroe that starts at 4 p.m. Saturday.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Junior Jessica Ives takes a swing at last Saturday's game against South Alabama. MT lost the contest 10-0.

Paintball racks up Southeast Conference wins

Blue Reign paintball, ranked in top 25 nationally and fourth in conference, represents MT



Photo courtesy of the Blue Reign paintball team
Nationally ranked MTSU Blue Reign takes second place at the Clemson Open.

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee Blue Reign may not be one of the most well-known teams on campus, but they are certainly one of the most successful.

The Campus Recreation Center, in cooperation with various other groups including Red Bull Energy Drink and KEE Action Sports, sponsors the Blue Reign, MT's own paintball sport club.

Thus far, the Blue Reign has been wildly successful, taking their tournament team to some of the most prestigious events in the paintball world.

The Blue Reign competes

in the National Collegiate Paintball Association, Class AA format. This means it's composed of a five-person team. The Reign is also a member of the Southeast Conference.

The SEC's paintball division consists of more than 15 schools, including Virginia Tech, East Tennessee State University, Ole Miss, Tennessee, Clemson and Florida State University.

The SEC is reputed to be the toughest division in college paintball. Four SEC teams finished in the Top 10 at the National Championships last year.

Starting off its season, the Reign participated in the

Southeast Open in Beckley, W. Va. Hosted by Virginia Tech, the tournament brought in 18 of the South's collegiate paintball teams. The Blue Reign placed fifth.

The Tennessee Open, where the Reign placed fifth out of 16, in Chattanooga, Tenn., was equally as prestigious.

When the University of Georgia opted to host its own tournament, the UGA Open in Winder, Ga., the Blue Reign showed up in force. MT's team placed second of 14.

The team has been ranked as high as sixth, and is currently ranked inside the Top 25 nationally.

The team is currently ranked fourth in the conference.

Joe Hibbets, president and participant, said that despite the great assistance the team gets, the players supply all of their own gear.

"The guns and most of the gear are self-bought," Hibbets said. "But still, we have some of the best sponsors we could ask for."

"A lot of schools will just allow the team and that would be it, but MT has helped us out a lot."

The team plans to compete in the MidSouth Paintball Xball League Event 1. The event will take place in Clarksville, Tenn., at Gateway Action Sports. The team will be vying for a chance at conference leadership.

Blue Raider baseball comes up short

Baseball team ends winning streak with disappointing, last-minute 9-7 loss at Lipscomb Tuesday

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders' four-game win streak came to an end Tuesday night with a 9-7 loss at Lipscomb University.

MT had the game tied at 5-5 until the Bisons put up four runs in the bottom of the eighth, edging the game in favor of the home team.

Junior Tyler Hyde received the loss in the non-conference game, as he pitched the eighth inning that saw Lipscomb pull away. He pitched one-and-two-thirds innings allowing four runs on two hits to go along with three strikeouts. The junior pitcher also allowed a two-run home run in the eighth.

"We weren't very good out of the bullpen tonight," head coach Steve Peterson said. "We didn't get a lot of support out of our defense either."

Freshman Brett Wilson started for the Blue Raiders (17-4) and worked four innings, allowing five runs on six hits. Wilson also recorded four strikeouts on the night.

MT was able to get on base consistently all night, but the boys in blue couldn't find key hits when they needed them most. At the end of the night, the Blue Raiders totaled 13 hits but stranded 10 runners on base for the game.

"A lot of the time, it was all about match-ups," Peterson said. "At many points, it was their pitcher being a bit better than our hitters, and that was the game."

Sophomore outfielder Bryce Brentz and senior centerfielder Nathan Hines led the Blue Raiders from the plate with three hits each in the game.

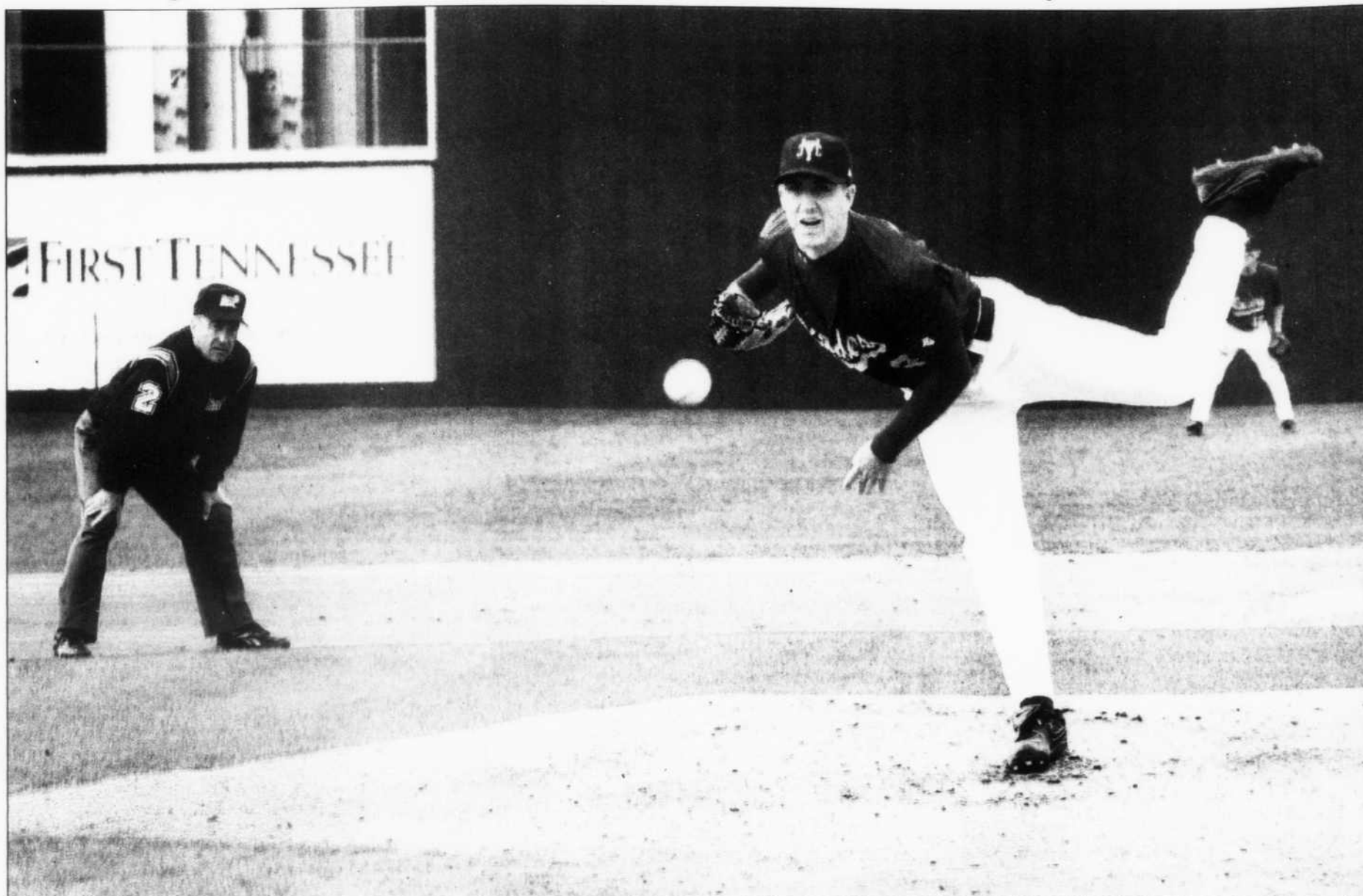


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Junior Kenneth Roberts throws a pitch at the game against Florida Atlantic last Saturday. The next home game for the Blue Raider baseball team is April 7 against Vanderbilt.

Brentz contributed a solo home run in the seventh and Hines, the Sun Belt Player of the Week last week, scored two runs in the losing effort.

Lipscomb (12-10) drew first blood in the contest in the bottom of the second with a single that scored a runner from second base.

"It wasn't a great game for us defensively," Peterson said. "We didn't make much effort on the ground balls, especially those that got through up

the middle."

The Blue Raiders got on the board and took the lead in the fourth inning by scoring a pair of runs to make the score 2-1. After being walked, Bishop stole second and reached third on a Bison throwing error.

Hines then hit an RBI double to centerfield that brought Bishop home. Junior infielder Stuart Meinhart followed with a single that plated Hines and gave MT a one-run lead.

Lipscomb came back in the fifth with an RBI single that tied the game at two a piece. But the Bisons weren't content with just evening the score. First baseman Justin Sanders cracked a three-run home run to leftfield to give Lipscomb a 5-2 lead in the bottom of the fifth.

In the top of the sixth, junior outfielder Blake McDade answered right back with his own two-run home run over the right field wall. The blast

put MT within one run of tying the game.

However, the Bisons would not stop their powerful offensive production as they came back to score four runs in the eighth with two outs. Utility man Antonio Butler recorded a two RBI double to raise the Bison lead to three.

To make matters worse, Andrew Nickerson followed that up with a two-run home run to give Lipscomb nine runs for the night. The Bi-

sons only had two hits in the inning, but they were clutch shots that gave Lipscomb the win.

The Blue Raiders attempted a comeback in the top of the ninth by scoring two runs, but the team ultimately fell short.

The Blue Raiders will continue their road-trip Friday with a three-game series against Sun Belt Conference rival Arkansas-Little Rock at 6 p.m.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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