



This week's poll question at  
www.mtsusidelines.com  
Was Public Safety justified in  
spraying pepper spray at the  
Alpha Phi Alpha probate?



## Students and alumni return to the 16th century

In Living, page 4

An editorially  
independent  
newspaper

Volume 79 No. 2

### Campus Briefs

#### Relay for Life runs Saturday and Sunday

The Rutherford County Relay for Life will be held on the old intramural field from 5 p.m. June 14 to 5 a.m. June 15. The event is part of the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life national fund-raiser. This year, MTSU's Administrative Services team of 23 members hopes to raise \$12,000. Several other MTSU teams are also expected to compete.

For more information, contact Brenda Wunder at 904-8240.

#### Freshman Customs session takes place

A Customs session will be held this week for incoming freshmen on June 11 and June 12. Customs is MTSU's optional orientation program for new students, which registers freshmen for classes, tours the residence halls and meets with academic advisers.

For more information on Customs, contact Gina Poff, director of student development, at 898-2454 or via e-mail at ghpoff@mtsu.edu.

#### MTSU offers program for Spanish instructors

Through June 13, MTSU's Summer Language Institute will be held daily at the Alumni Center from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The program uses the Total Response Storytelling method, which incorporates movement to stimulate the brain, and aims at preparing instructors to teach Spanish in their classrooms. The guest instructor for the SLI will be Blaine Ray.

For more information, contact Shelley Thomas, event director, at 308-3204.

#### Campus committee to sponsor blood drive

In recognition of June as Donor Appreciation Month, a blood drive for the Red Cross will be held on campus June 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The drive will take place in Room 324 of the Keathley University Center and is sponsored by the Business and Finance Image Committee.

For more information on the blood drive or to make an appointment, contact Chris Anderson at 898-8112.

#### Application deadline for fall semester nears

New and re-enrolling undergraduate students who plan to attend MTSU in the fall must have their applications submitted or postmarked by July 1.

According to admissions officials, the university may cease accepting applications prior to July 1 dependent upon the enrollment maximum.

Dec. 15 is the deadline to apply for undergraduate admission for the spring semester. For more information, call 898-2111, or visit the admissions home page at [www.mtsu.edu/~admissn](http://www.mtsu.edu/~admissn).

# Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

## Public Safety stops Greek probate

By Wesley Murchison  
Staff Writer

MTSU Public Safety and the Murfreesboro Police Department ended an unauthorized gathering of Alpha Phi Alpha members on April 24.

The incident occurred at a probate in the Orchard parking lot near Scarlett Commons campus apartments.

The probate was an annual celebration of the end of the

school year when the fraternity initiated new members and set off fireworks.

According to an e-mail sent to *Sidelines* by Andrea Keith, a sophomore at the probate, a female MTSU officer arrived at 9:20 p.m.

"It was an unauthorized Greek gathering without prior notification of MTSU officials as is required for all functions," Officer Vergena Forbes wrote in the police report. Forbes was the

first officer to arrive at the scene.

"She couldn't see what was going on in the middle. She might have thought it was a fight," Keith said.

According to Forbes' report, she "sprayed pepper spray on the ground in an attempt to get the crowd to move, which it did not."

Forbes declined any interview or statement regarding the incident.

On behalf of Forbes, Tom Tozer, director of media relations for MTSU, said Forbes was in her legal right as an officer.

"When there's more than 50 or 100 people, they [the group] have to get an OK, some kind of an assemble notification," Tozer said.

In the police report, Forbes estimated the crowd to be 400, but Jimmie Wilson, president of Alpha Phi Alpha, said there were only 200 to 250 people

present.

Tozer said students were standing on top of cars and added that the use of fireworks on campus violates university policy.

"She [Forbes] was asking them to disperse, and they wouldn't heed her, so that's when she called for backup and started spraying Mace on the ground, not in anybody's face,"

See Probate, 2

## TSSAA remains at MTSU until 2007

By Kristin Hall  
News Editor

The MTSU campus has been the home for the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association basketball state tournaments since 1989 and will continue to host both the boys and girls tournaments until 2007.

Competing against the cities of Chattanooga and Memphis, Murfreesboro was announced as the victor early Thursday morning by the TSSAA Board of Control.

Murfreesboro already had the contract to host the tournaments until 2005.

"We were concerned that we would not get the contract [through 2007]," said Mona Vaughan, tourism director for the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, "because we knew it was something that the city had been looking at for a long time and wanting to host."

Still, MTSU Athletics Director Boots Donnelly, who joined representatives from the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce to give presentations to the TSSAA governing board, felt assured Murfreesboro and MTSU gave a solid proposal.

"We felt very comfortable with the bid. Regardless of whether we would have gotten it or not, we thought we had made the right bid," Donnelly said.

MTSU has hosted the girls tournament since 1975, adding the boys tournament in 1989. This history with the event was considered the main selling

See Tournament, 2

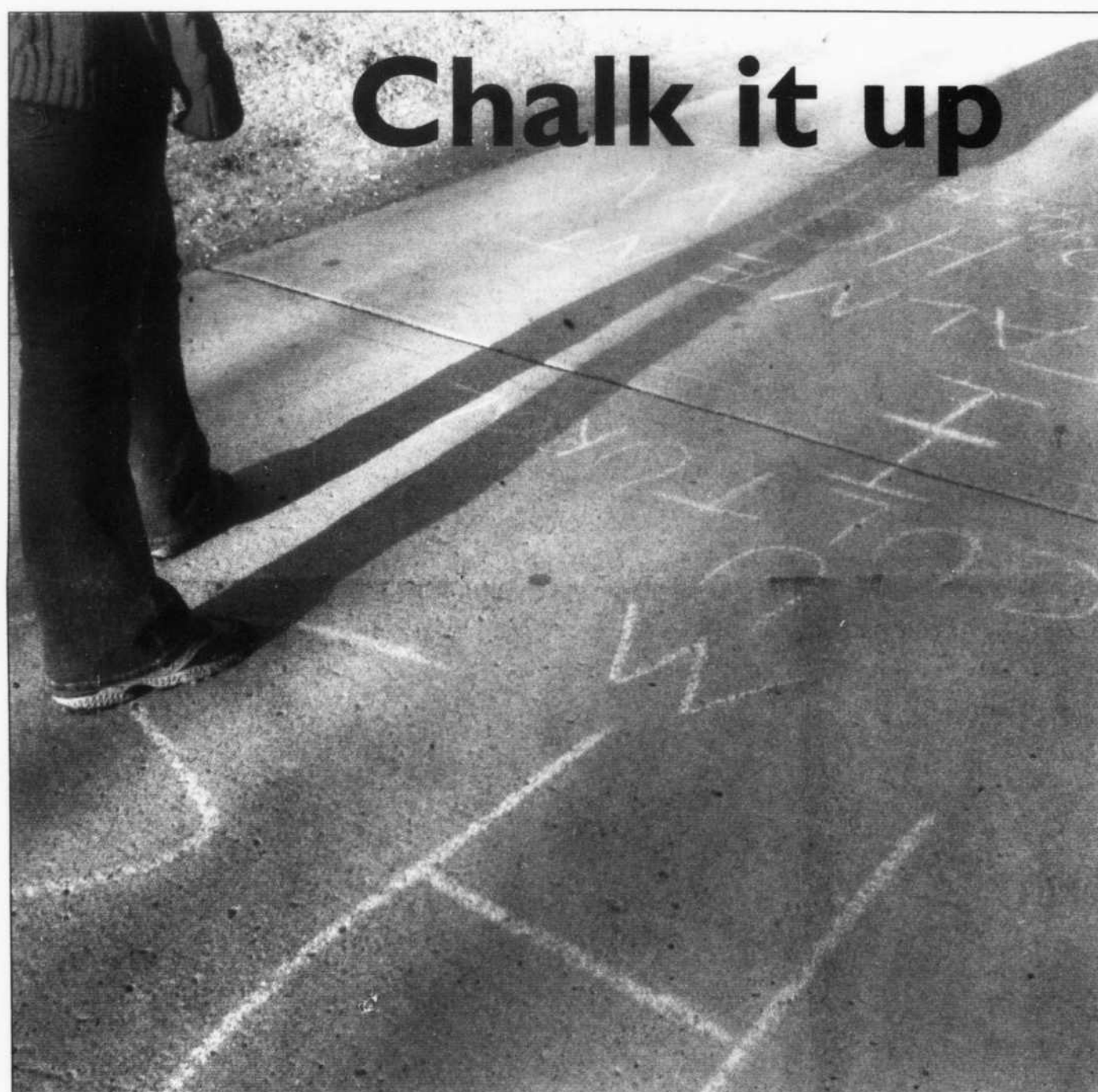


Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Campus organizations use chalking as a primary means of advertising to the MTSU student population. Campus officials are looking to limit the amount of chalking done by local businesses.

## Officials examine limiting chalk advertising at MTSU

By Mealand Ragland  
Staff Writer

The brightly colored chalk adorning the sidewalks around campus serves as a bulletin board in order to notify students of events on or off campus.

Announcements in chalk

along the university's high-traffic walkways and buildings advertise everything from club meetings to shows at local clubs and bars.

Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs, said the university does not want to ban the act of chalking altogether, but reserve it for stu-

dents and campus organizations who may have a message to post.

Glenn said the university's current policy on chalking allows students to write announcements on sidewalks, but the outsiders, specifically bands and bar owners, are not entitled to that same privilege.

For MTSU, the practice has become a problem within the past 10 years. Glenn explained this was around the

time bars realized buying a bucket of chalk was a cheaper form of advertising than printing 2,000 fliers.

"Because of the type of campus we have, it's a target for all kinds of folks to get to our students," he said.

Michael Mullins, a manager at Red Rose Coffee House and Bistro, said that his establishment does not practice chalking as a form of

See Chalking, 2

## SGA announces new activity fee for summer students

By Tiffani Fahit  
Staff Writer

Every fall and spring semester, the Student Government Association charges a \$20 activity fee.

"Most don't even notice [the fee] unless they pay close attention [to their bill]," SGA President Michele Butler said.

Previously, students taking summer classes had not been charged this fee. At the end of Session II, the 2003 summer school students will see this addition to their bill.

Students enrolled in seven hours or more by the end of Session II will be charged the \$20

fee. "[The fee is] because of the larger summer enrollment and more SGA summer activities," Butler said.

According to Butler, the fee will go toward "improving sports and lecture opportunities for students." The majority of students will not be affected by the fee due to the number of hours most summer students take, according to Butler.

The \$20 is distributed just like the activity fees received during the fall and spring semesters, with half of the money going to student organizations and the rest being split between the SGA, student programming, sports clubs and distinguished lectures. ♦

### Breakdown of the fee

According to Gene Fitch, the \$20 student activity fee will be broken down into the following categories:

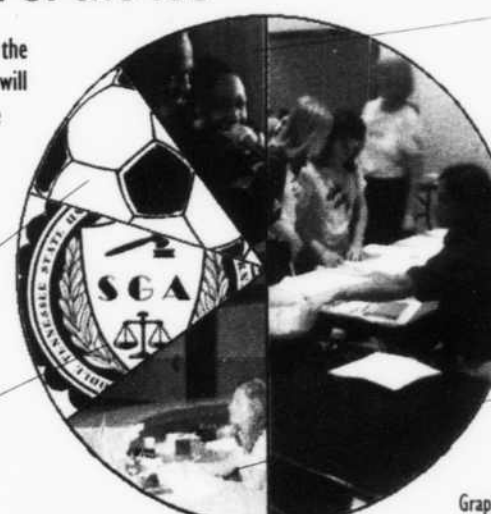
Sports clubs  
\$2 or 10%

Student Government Association  
\$3 or 15%

Distinguished lecturers  
\$2 or 10%

Student groups  
\$10 or 50%

Student unions, programming  
\$3 or 15%



Graphic by Brandon Morrison | Staff



# Phillips, Blue Raider unaffected by online shopping

## Students surf Web for cheaper textbooks

By Jesse Lee Campbell  
Contributor

Although Blue Raider Bookstore and Phillips Bookstore receive the majority of MTSU student textbook purchases, increasing numbers of students are purchasing texts online.

MTSU junior Nate Meyers found a way to make a profit off the buying and selling of textbooks that bookstores reject.

"I have saved hundreds of dollars by buying my books off the Amazon's Half.com and selling the book[s] back to Phillips or Blue Raider," Meyers said.

*Forbes Magazine* reports that a full-time student will spend between \$100 and \$400 per semester on textbooks.

Since the Internet has evolved into a commercial medium, students now have the option to buy and sell practically anything on Web sites like Amazon.com and ebay.com.

Internet prices range anywhere between \$2 and \$75 less than Phillips and Blue Raider prices.

For example, the biology textbook required for Biology 1110, a general requirement for

most degrees, sold for \$82 at Half.com.

Blue Raider sells the new book for \$114, and Phillips sells it for \$117.

There was a big difference between prices of the book *Advertising and Promotion* used by promotion classes. Half.com sells the book new for \$35, but Blue Raider and Phillips both had the new book priced at \$111.

*Accounting Principles* sold new on Half.com for \$70, while Blue Raider priced it at \$110, and Phillips priced the book at \$110.50.

Every semester MTSU marketing professor Jeanie Hill asks how many of her students have ever purchased a textbook online, and she said the number increases each time.

However, Phillips and Blue Raider aren't suffering from students who chose to buy and sell online.

"We estimate that only 10 percent of MTSU textbook sales go to the Internet," said April Graves, manager of Blue Raider Bookstore.

Phillips Bookstore Director Earl Harris said they have not experienced a drop in book sales.

"Every year our textbook sales increase right along with the number of classes and students," Harris said.

Blue Raider sells books anywhere from 30 cents to three dollars cheaper than Phillips when the price varied.

Graves said that students can buy older books for less on the



Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer  
**Junior Alisha Hooker does inventory at the end of June. Hooker works as a book clerk at Phillips Bookstore.**

Internet, and bookstores make most of their textbook profit by selling older books.

The bookstore only has to pay the publisher one time for the initial buy. All other sales after that are profit for the store.

Harris said many times the bookstore is seen as unfair when it comes to buying back textbooks.

"We are at a disadvantage because the faculty turns in textbook request[s] for every

semester to us, and no matter how much the book cost[s], we have to sell it," Harris said.

Based upon the number of students per class, Phillips and Blue Raider can determine how many students need to purchase the assigned textbook from their store.

Professors ultimately decide which text to use in class. From year to year, many decide to change textbooks because the publisher offers a newer edition.

"When the teacher decides to change the book, we hear the frustrations from students when we cannot buy back their \$100 book," Harris said.

Both bookstores said they buy back as many books as they can if they know it will be used again.

Despite price differences, buying books via the Internet comes with complications that students don't encounter at Phillips or Blue Raider.

Many Web sites accept payments through credit card only, there may be shipping charges and return policies can sometimes be very costly and complicated.

Most students return books because professors changed the texts, students don't see a significant need for the texts and, more often, students buy the "wrong books."

Used book prices online vary depending on the condition of the book. Conditions are described as like new, very good, good and acceptable, each giving a description of the degree of highlighting and

underlining.

Phillips and Blue Raider both have set used book costs, regardless of how many times the book has been written in or highlighted.

"Students like to see the used books so they can pick out the one they like and so they can see if there is excessive highlighting and et cetera," Harris said.

Price markups at both stores range from 20 percent to 40 percent. The typical markup for new books is 40 percent to 50 percent at most retail bookstores.

If a student finds a book priced lower at Phillips than Blue Raider, Blue Raider will match the lower price. Phillips will not match prices.

Typically, freshmen shop at Phillips more often than Blue Raider because it is more convenient for students who do not have a car and for those who live on campus.

"We attract the older students who are aware that we are here," Graves said of the Blue Raider store.

Meyers said that he expects to make more than \$200 this semester when he sells his books back to the bookstore.

"Most of the money I make from selling my books back goes to pay for the books I'll need next semester," he said.

Phillips Bookstore is located on the first floor of the Keathley University Center.

Blue Raider Book and Supply Inc. is located at 1321 Greenland Dr. ♦

## Tournament: Thousands of fans expected

Continued from 1

point for Murfreesboro's bid, as well as its location as the geographical center of Tennessee.

"I think our past history, their comfort level with MTSU and Murfreesboro, the fact that we have done such a good job over the past years and the fact that we have a professional staff that runs the tournaments [creates] a good comfort level at MTSU," Vaughan said.

"Being there for so many years, it's almost like home for us," said Matthew Gillespie of TSSAA's media relations department.

"TSSAA weighed all the factors," said John Cothorn, vice president for business and finance.

"It all comes down to location."

While Memphis bid for the boys tournament only and Chattanooga bid for either or both events, Murfreesboro wanted both the boys and girls events or nothing at all.

"We just felt that it was equally important to host both boys and girls," Vaughan said.

"We didn't want they should be split up, and we felt strongly

about that."

Donnelly said that Murfreesboro's request for both events showed the community's dedication to the tournament and helped to secure the contract.

Chattanooga's bid for the tournament was a proposed sponsorship of \$60,000 and 1,000 complimentary hotel rooms paid for by the city.

Memphis guaranteed TSSAA \$250,000 for the boys tournament as well as free hotel rooms for staff and meals for the teams.

"They were really willing to step up to the plate and pull out the big dollars to get the tournament away from Murfreesboro," Vaughan said.

The university's offer of the use of Murphy Center and other services at a reduced price, as well as what the hotel and lodging association and the Chamber of Commerce offered, combined for a bid between \$350,000 to \$400,000 for both events.

The contract for the tournaments is a highly-valued prize for these cities because of the huge numbers of visitors that attend the games.

According to a June 6 article in *The Tennessean*, last March's TSSAA tournaments drew a combined 57,000 fans to Murfreesboro for both the boys and girls events.

"We figure that between both tournaments it is about a \$3 million dollar impact [on the city]," Vaughan said.

MTSU also makes money off the tournaments through concession sales at the games. Cothorn estimated the amount to be \$65,000 to \$70,000 this year. ♦

## Chalking: Bands use fliers for advertising

Continued from 1

advertisement.

"Most of the bands come in from out of town, and they put up fliers," he said.

Marianne Dedmon, a bartender at The Boro Bar, said that she has seen some chalking on campus from time to time, but the management leaves advertising to the discretion of the band members.

"We ask them to put fliers up on bulletin boards," she said.

According to Glenn, MTSU, unlike other colleges and uni-

versities across the country, does not encounter many students writing protest messages in chalk.

He described the majority of the student body as "conservative and middle-of-the-road."

"There is nothing wrong with people chalking as an avenue of expression, as long as people remember some fundamental rules," Glenn said.

"There must be . . . tolerance for the expression of ideas, and it should be understood that even the most offensive ideas don't call for the curbing of free

speech; they call out for more speech," Glenn continued.

Glenn added that the First Amendment is labor intensive, meaning that everyone wants to express his or her opinion but restricts the opinion of others.

Glenn stressed that the university is not trying to limit their right to free speech, just the manner in how they go about it.

"Ideally, we want to limit chalking to the student body, but I don't know that we can," Glenn said. ♦

## Probate: Fraternity placed on probation until January

Continued from 1

Tozer said.

Wilson confirmed the officer sprayed the ground but said several members inhaled the pepper spray. Wilson said he didn't know if anyone was standing on cars.

"The first thing we noticed was the officer step into the crowd, and she just began to spray Mace," Wilson said.

"Now she said she allegedly warned us to disperse the crowd. We never heard that."

Wilson said that he and other members of Alpha Phi Alpha asked those who were not members of the fraternity to leave. Alpha Phi Alpha continued the probate with 21 members in front of the James E. Walker library.

Wilson said he was unaware of the prohibition of fireworks on campus.

"We always set off fireworks. We've never had problems before," Wilson said.

John Dickerson, assistant

dean for judicial affairs and mediation, reviewed the incident and charged the fraternity with four offenses.

The offenses include: conduct dangerous to others, disorderly conduct, use of explosives, fireworks and flammable materials and violation of general rules and regulations.

Dickerson placed the fraternity on disciplinary probation until January 2004 and development probation until Kim Godwin, director of Greek life, determines that the fraternity has met all the requirements.

Terry Logan, instructor of environmental health and safety, will give a presentation on the dangers of fireworks to at least 75 percent of the Alpha Phi Alpha.

"I don't blame her [Forbes] because we have to give officers respect, but there could have been other things she could have done to disperse the crowd before she sprayed the Mace," Wilson said. ♦

Need to let the campus know  
about an event your group is sponsoring?

Sidelines' Campus Events calendar can help.

Clip the form below, fill it out and return it to  
the James Union Building, Room 310.

### Campus Events

The following guidelines apply to all:

1. Forms must be submitted by deadline to be considered for publication. Campus Events run each Monday in the Living section, so forms should be submitted by Saturday night.
2. Every attempt will be made to run your announcement as often as possible, but priority will be given to events with the most immediacy.
3. We reserve the right to limit announcements to campus events only.
4. *Sidelines* does not guarantee placement of any submission.

Name of person placing this notice \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date of event \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to Sidelines, MTSU Box 8, or bring to James Union Building, Room 310

Join the *Sidelines* news team and get  
valuable experience for your  
future journalism career.

Call us at 898-2336 or come by JUB 310 to apply.



## From the Editorial Board Unauthorized probate caused peppery ruckus

If you're going to bring 400 of your closest friends together on campus for fun, fireworks and other forms of debauchery, be sure to let the university know.

Alpha Phi Alpha learned their lesson the hard way.

On April 24, Campus Police officer Vergena Forbes came upon an unauthorized gathering near Scarlett Commons. Alpha Phi Alpha members were holding a probate, or an annual celebration where fraternities initiate new members. The group allegedly had fireworks, which are illegal to possess on campus.

According to police reports, when Forbes had trouble dispersing the large crowd, she and other officers started spraying pepper spray at the ground. Police reports indicate that up to 400 students were at the probate. Fraternity members claimed the number to be closer to 250. Either way, there were a lot of them in comparison to the number of officers.

Every campus organization should adhere to the rules laid out by the administration and Public Safety was justified in their choice to disperse the crowd, but we don't think spraying pepper spray was the best method. An officer's frustration is no reason to use a painful chemical against non-violent partygoers. Besides, Alpha Phi Alpha is now on probation until 2004, which seems punishment enough for their transgressions.

Unfortunately, some of the fraternity members are claiming racism to be a factor. We doubt it. It was more likely as simple as the young and the restless encountering the older and more responsible. While the officers overreacted a bit, Alpha Phi Alpha broke the rules. Hopefully, everyone involved has learned a lesson and will take responsibility without making unnecessary accusations. ♦

## From the Opinions Editor Weapons in Iraq? Only time will tell



Jason Cox  
Opinions  
Editor

Now that we've knocked off Iraq, where are the weapons of mass destruction?

As we went to war, the Bush administration swore we would find terrible chemical and biological agents and perhaps even nuclear production facilities.

Other than two mobile labs that could have been used for weapons production, there is scant evidence that the claims of WMDs were valid. The administration is backtracking a bit now, claiming we will find some sort of evidence rather than the real deal.

A statement from the Department of Defense said the intelligence gathered lacks signs of actual weapons (which liberals, pacifists and Bush-haters have jumped all over). The next part of the report, however, notes Iraq's munitions movements.

So, what has happened? Was it an intelligence failure similar to those that have cost us in the past? Did any of Saddam's henchmen

destroy, hide or sell the weapons when the coalition began to advance, or were the weapons Saddam had and used in the past destroyed long ago? Have we simply not found them yet?

Most importantly, did the Bush administration lie outright about the evidence in garnering support for the war?

A growing number seem to think so. Forget the conspiracy theorists and people on the outermost fringe of political orbit – Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) has openly accused the administration of fabricating evidence presented to the United Nations and the American people.

Maybe Bush was lying; we'll find out soon enough. In the meantime, the anti-war crowd that complained that U.N. weapons inspectors should be allowed ample time to inspect an area the size of Texas (including myself) should wait to cast stones. However, it's time for someone besides the coalition to thoroughly bag Iraq and be cynical of potential evidence. ♦

Jason Cox is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at jrc2r@mtsu.edu.

## Ashcroft plays party pooper again



Callie Elizabeth  
Butler  
Staff Columnist

Many organizations across the country will be holding meetings and celebrations in observance of Gay Pride Month, but if you're one of the more than 200 gay and lesbian employees of the Department of Justice's DOJ Pride organization, put away your party hat.

Last week, DOJ Pride President Marina Colby was informed that the group would not be allowed to hold their annual June meeting in the department's Great Hall, the meeting's location for

the past several years, due to a change in policy from the office of Attorney General John Ashcroft. The change stated that in order to commemorate such an event, a presidential proclamation must support it. While former President Bill Clinton designated a gay pride month during his tenure, President George W. Bush has yet to do so – and it's safe to say that Bush isn't likely to stride to a podium and declare a celebration.

During Ashcroft's confirmation hearing, however, Ashcroft was directly asked the question of whether he would allow the DOJ Pride annual meeting to continue on the premises, to which he responded, "It would be my intention not to discriminate against any

group that appropriately constituted in the Department of Justice."

But, like many other statements made in the past, it must have slipped Ashcroft's shaky memory.

Many human rights groups and politicians have spoken against the decision, noting its discriminatory and unlawful nature.

"We find it shocking that the agency responsible for protecting the civil rights for all Americans has chosen to single out one group for inequitable treatment, and it sends a chilling message to gay and lesbian employees of the Justice Department that they are not valued," Human Rights Campaign spokesman David Smith told *The Associated Press*.

This decision is clearly

unjust and sends more than a message of under-value in the workplace. It's a statement that representatives in our government – in place to protect the rights of all citizens regardless of race, creed, gender, religious preference, ethnicity, handicap, and yes, even sexual orientation – are turning a blind eye to an important group of American citizens.

By simply not caring, which seems to be the position of the powers-that-be at the Justice Department, they fail to represent a large portion of Americans, 200 of which work in their own department.

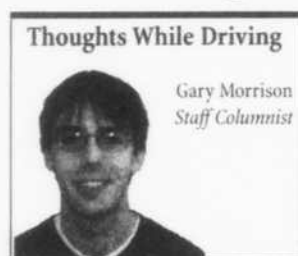
Does that mission statement exclude anyone who might happen to be attracted to the same sex? Why should we allow a

governing body reigning over us to commit such acts against the people they claim to serve and protect? Gays and lesbians – as well as bisexual and transgendered Americans – are important citizens in our national community. Are the rights of these citizens, even as a minority, not worth protecting?

Living in a country that claims to be "the land of the free" means extending rights to everyone, not simply a majority. The government should not be given an "OK" when attempting to deny basic rights to any group because who could come next? Maybe you? ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a senior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

## Special motorcyclist rules endanger everyone on road



Gary Morrison  
Staff Columnist

As of July 1, motorcyclists will be legally allowed to run red lights in Tennessee. Yep, you read right. But before you celebrate, or curse, let me explain.

Perhaps the term "run" is misleading (though accurate). Motorcyclists will be required to come to a complete stop and then proceed with due caution. So, I guess it's not like they will be racing through traffic signals at full speed, but they will be going through intersections when the light is red.

I couldn't believe it when I first heard about this law. What could prompt such a change? Apparently, detectors at some intersections work by detecting metal or an electromagnetic force (I'm not sure which) that can easily detect automobiles but not motorcycles, resulting in marathon waits for unlucky bikers.

The purpose of the new law is to allow motorcyclists the convenience of not being unduly delayed at traffic signals with this type of control system. Apparently, we have such a huge problem in Tennessee with motorcyclists stranded at red lights all over town that we needed legislators to rewrite traffic safety laws to overcome this problem.

Do you detect a note of sarcasm in my words?

You should; here's why. This law is a joke. You

see, the traffic signals in question technically don't work on motorcycles since they don't detect motorcycles. The signals are then considered inoperable and should be treated as a stop sign – that is, one should come to a complete stop and proceed with caution. That sounds logical, but I can't believe it will be so cut and dry in practice. I picture motorcycles stopping and proceeding through all red lights regardless of the light's method of control. And, the stopping part is a best-case scenario.

I also picture rolling stops through intersections. Is that so difficult to imagine?

I see rolling stops at stop signs, and that is what red lights have just become for motorcyclists.

I have no doubt that this law was well-intentioned, but I can't believe that the agreed upon solution is in the best interest of all users of the public roads. When you get down to it, the heart of the issue is convenience – rather, the inconvenience of motorcyclists having an extended wait at a few particular intersections. Convenience is a stupid reason to change a law based on safety.

If red lights can be considered stop signs for motorcycles, then why not for automobiles?

Why should I not be allowed to proceed through a red light in my car if I come to a complete stop and proceed with caution? Why should you not be able to do the same thing? I think it is an inherent safety issue that everyone should stop at red lights.

Traffic signals are designed to safely control traffic. They seem like an inconvenience to everyone at times, but they sure beat four-way stops where the traffic is backed up for blocks. Ever been backed up at a stop sign because people can't seem to decide whose turn it is? Annoying, isn't it?

Traffic lights regulate the flow of traffic, allowing everyone a fair turn and taking human judgment out of the equation (except for the running the yellow light bit).

Making red lights into stop signs merely puts human judgment back into an otherwise orderly equation.

What about the motorcyclist who determines that he or she can safely cross between you and the car in front of you as you pass through the green light at an intersection? The motorcyclist may think there is plenty of time and distance, but that is purely a judgment call that can – and sometimes will – be horribly wrong.

It would be very distressing for you to hit a motorcyclist, but even more distressing for the motorcyclist who just got struck down by a car.

I don't mean to be a doomsdayer and a naysayer, but I can't see the overall good of this law.

I see this new law as an unfortunate change that will have a negative impact on your safety, my safety and the safety of motorcyclists who decide to proceed through red lights. ♦

Gary Morrison is a graduate student in English and can be reached via e-mail at gwm2c@mtsu.edu.

## WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

*Sidelines'*  
occasional  
watch for  
mutton-heads.

What is it with Mike Tyson?

Assaults, batteries of children – this guy is more than a little screwed up. His latest comments, however, have pushed him out of the malevolently eccentric category and into the unforgivable violent-psychopath area.

A recent Greta Van Susteren interview with Iron Mike aired on FOX News. It's hard to imagine that the bastion of morality would stoop to an interview with a washed-up boxer for ratings pull, but it aired nonetheless. With it came a gem of a quote.

"I just hate her guts. She put me in that state, where I don't know," Tyson said.

"I really wish I did now. But now I really do want to rape her."

The "her" in question is Desiree Washington, who claimed that Tyson raped her in 1991. He was convicted in 1992 and sentenced to 6 years in prison.

He served three years before being released on parole.

Since he was released, Tyson has repeatedly denied the charges that he raped Washington. The proper question at this time, however, is why would Tyson say he



wants to rape her now?"

Answer No. 1: Everyone in the country heard the interview incorrectly. He actually said he hates her "nuts" (he prefers Planters) and that he really does want to "date" her.

Answer No. 2: He's obviously insane, a threat to society and should be locked away for everyone else's protection.

Here's a hint – it's not answer no. 1.

Tyson contributes nothing to the advancement of society. He's not even worth his weight as a boxer anymore.

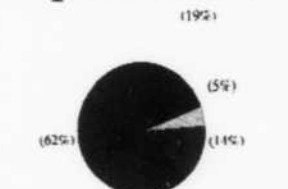
Of course, we don't want to meet him in a ring but, then again, we don't want to meet him period.

At a time when our country is looking for heroes, Tyson has once again demonstrated he is not one to be admired. Unfortunately, sportswriters have been quick to forgive errant superstars of their transgressions.

We hope, though, that this is one blow that Iron Mike can't bounce back from. ♦

## Sidelines online poll results

Last week, we asked readers, "After three armed robberies on campus this year, do you still feel safe at MTSU?"



Yes – officials are working hard to keep campus crime free (20%)

No – campus security seems much more lax than ever before (60%)

Yes – three armed robberies are not a big deal (5%)

No – but I don't feel safe anywhere I go (15%)

Visit [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com) to answer this week's poll question, "Was Public Safety justified in spraying pepper spray at the Alpha Phi Alpha probate?"

## SIDELINES

P.O. Box 8  
Murfreesboro, TN  
37132  
Editorial: 898-2337  
Advertising: 898-2533  
Fax: 904-8193  
[www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)

Editor in Chief  
Managing Editor  
Production Manager  
News Editor  
Assistant News Editor  
Opinions Editor/Design  
Features Editor  
Sports Editor  
Online Editor, News/Sports Design  
Photo Editor  
Copy Editors  
Features Design

Patrick Chinnery\*  
Amber Bryant\*  
Brandon Morrison  
Kristin Hall\*  
Wendy Caldwell  
Jason Cox\*  
Juanita Thouin  
Amy Jones\*  
Lindsey Turner  
Brandon Morrison  
Wendy Caldwell, Jason Cox,  
Anna Marie Patrick, Mealand Ragland  
Amy Clark

Advertising Manager  
Ad Design Manager  
Advertising Representatives  
Sidelines Adviser

Rebecca Pickering  
Justin Ward  
Erin Pauls, Rachel Moore  
Wendell Rawls

\*denotes member of editorial board

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

**Letters Policy**  
*Sidelines* welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. E-mail letters to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto: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.



## Students and alumni return to the 16th century

### MTSU students and alumni perform at the Tennessee Renaissance Festival

By Melissa Coker  
Staff  
Reporter

Ariel Norwood-Smith, a junior public relations major, put her belly dancing skills to work last month.

Norwood-Smith was just one of the many MTSU students who serve as actors, technicians and directors of the Tennessee Renaissance Festival.

Each year during the month of May, festival-goers are transported back to 16th-century England where they can witness jousting competitions, birds of prey that fly overhead in the "Birds of the Gauntlet" presentation, a living chess match, comedy shows, games, a maze, a fire-eater/jokester, storytelling and much more.

Norwood-Smith has participated in the festival for seven years now — since she began at the age of 14. In addition to belly dancing, this time around she was also the director of costuming and one of the company trainers for the local cast members. In this position, she assisted with improv and acting skills.

Norwood-Smith nor has similar roles in upcoming shows. She believes it's a great acting experience, albeit a different kind. In past presentations, she has played a gypsy, a noblewoman and a shepherdess.

Although Norwood-Smith's major is public relations, she has also taken her fair share of theatre costuming classes.

"I have been acting since I was a freshman in high school. It's in my blood. Both of my parents were actors. I have a dramatic family," she said with a smile.



Photo by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer

Laylia Wright belly dances at the 2003 Tennessee Renaissance Festival.

MTSU alumni Ginger Muse, who graduated with a degree in theatre in 1988, served as assistant entertainment director for the Renaissance Festival. She began selling tickets and has been involved in some way for 16 years. Over the years, she has played a washer wench, apprentice thief, a duchess and a gypsy. She has also been a trainer and a fighter in the chess match.

Junior John Kessler also worked at the festival as a sound engineer.

All of the MTSU students and alumni who participated say being a part of the festival is a good way to express their creative sides.

"I love the creative outlet that the festival gives me. It offers a chance to perform theatrically in

a challenging and fascinating way. Street theatre and improv is complex, entertaining and personally rewarding. I adore seeing this huge production start with nothing but a small group of everyday people and develop week by week.

Costumes are donned, accents perfected, and before you know it, a family of performers is created," Muse said.

Muse claims the performances and talking with new people are among her favorite features of the event.

"If you see one of the participants walking along the street at the festival, don't be afraid to talk to them," she shares.

The event is the only renaissance festival held on the grounds of an actual castle.

In addition to the fun, many of the staged scenes are straight out of the history books.

The festival often covers a 20-year time period in its month-long run. Norwood-Smith describes this as "history in fast forward."

Although the 18th annual Tennessee Renaissance Festival has come to a close, don't be blue if you didn't get the chance to attend. The show runs annually throughout every full weekend in the month of May, as well as on Memorial Day. A bonus fifth week performance has been added for the 2004 event.

You can find the festival in Arrington-Triune, Tenn., right off of Highway 96 or Interstate 840.

So, mark your calendars!

For more information, y shall fare well to log online at [www.tnrenfest.com](http://www.tnrenfest.com). ♦

## Local punk-rockers Simon Brawl jam at any club they can

By Rachel Wyer  
Contributor

We live in a town where everyone is in a band, or so it seems. You may even be one of those musicians. If you're not in a band, chances are you know someone who is.

MTSU has one of the best recording industry programs in the country, so hundreds of aspiring musicians are drawn to our campus. Two members of local punk-rock group Simon Brawl are no different. Like many of you, they came here to work in the music business.

You've seen their stickers around campus. You've seen the fliers for their shows.

But have you seen them?

The three-member band consists of Garson Combs on lead vocals and guitar, Todd Sherwood on drums and Brian Byrd on vocals and bass. Combs and Sherwood are recording industry majors.

"We've been together as Simon Brawl since January of 2002," Combs said.

"Todd and I were in Von Garson before we formed Simon Brawl. That only lasted about eight months."

Simon Brawl has already surpassed the life of Von Garson. Their first show was a little more than a year ago at the Red Rose Cafe in Murfreesboro. According to Sherwood, that 20-minute set was rough, to say the least.

"That first show wasn't very good because we'd only been playing together for a few months and you could tell," Sherwood said. The good news is they've improved — so say their friends.

Greg Phipps has been a follower of the group since the very beginning.

"The band's gotten a lot better, and their new songs rock," Phipps said.

Lisa Schapira, another fan, agrees.

"This is a group of down-to-earth guys who really know how to play music," she said.

"When you attend a live show, you can't help but be impressed by their musical talent. They play their hearts out."

"The best part about a live show, and I've just recently noticed this, is when I look into the crowd and see people singing along with our songs. Seeing people enjoying our music is the best feeling and my favorite part of performing," Combs said.

Combs has been playing guitar for 10 years and singing even longer. While most artists look to famous people for inspiration, Combs looked elsewhere.

"Probably my biggest influence, as far as music is concerned, was my choir director in high school. His name was David Davies, and he taught me to be good in music and to really appreciate it," Combs said.

Sherwood has also been involved with music for a long time. "I got my first drum set when I was in the seventh grade," Sherwood said.

The three members met at MTSU. They came to Murfreesboro from different parts of the country. Combs is originally from Kentucky, Byrd is from Alabama and Sherwood is from Maryland.

What began as a friendship soon led to a band that has reached surprising milestones.

"We've already made it a lot farther than I thought we would. We've done a lot of things I never imagined," Combs said.

The band recently recorded four tracks that are now in the mastering stage and will be released in September.

"It sounds really good," he says with a smile.

In addition to growing as musicians, the band members and fans say their songwriting skills have also improved.

"Usually I come up with a guitar riff while I'm at home, and then take it to practice," Combs reveals.

"If we can't come up with anything from that riff within a half hour, we usually give up on it because it's not gonna happen."

Fortunately, a lot of those riffs have worked: The Simon Brawl catalog consists of about 20 songs.

Cat Pinkerton was at the very first Simon Brawl show and was also at a recent show at Sebastian's.

"Their songs have gotten a lot better over the last year. The longer they are together, the better their writing gets. Their new songs are really good," Pinkerton said.

Other fans are starting to enjoy the new songs, as well as the old ones.

Judging by the crowd at their most recent performance, the fan favorite would be "Crash the Party." Combs is most proud of "Needle and Thread."

Their live shows are quite a contrast to the relatively quiet members of Simon Brawl. The shows are loud and rowdy, but that goes hand in hand with the music.

"Our shows are about people enjoying the music and having a good time," Combs explains.

The big question is: Where does Simon Brawl go from here?

Combs graduated this past semester and Sherwood graduates in August. Does the band plan to pursue this music thing any farther?

"I'd love to stay together and be involved in the music business, but that depends on what jobs come our way after graduation. It's hard being in a band and always getting along. It's a lot like having two girlfriends," Combs says with a laugh.

"It's tough, but in the end it's worth it."

Right now, it definitely appears to be worth it; their gigs consistently draw a good crowd and they're playing shows with other well-known local bands.

The *Nashville Scene* even gave the band a Critic's Pick in an issue last year, writing, "These Murfreesboro garage-rockers play punk rock 'n' roll with punch and enthusiasm."

Not bad for a local band who hasn't been together long.

Maybe they aren't the next Nirvana, but they definitely have the drive, talent and potential to be a major force in the business. Like many people who come to MTSU, they have dreams of one day making it in the business.

If you haven't heard their music yet you can visit [mp3.com](http://mp3.com) and download some of their songs. Other information about the band is available on their Web site, [www.simonbrawl.com](http://www.simonbrawl.com). ♦

"These Murfreesboro garage-rockers play punk rock 'n' roll with punch and enthusiasm."

— Todd Anderson  
Nashville Scene writer



Photo by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer

Carl Fox, one of the performers at the 18th annual Tennessee Renaissance Festival, draws portraits of attendees.



# Drive-in theaters still equal summertime fun

By Laura Beth Jackson  
Staff Writer

If you thought drive-in theaters died out with blue-suede shoes, greasy hair, lower gas prices and the good ol' days, you can guess again.

In the small towns of Lewisburg and Watertown, Tenn. (populations 10,413 and 1,305, respectively), drive-in movies have made a comeback.

Hi-Way 50 Drive-in, owned by Gary and June Douglas, continues strong in its ninth season under their management, while Watertown looks forward to August and the grand opening of Stardust Drive-in, owned by Barry and Dawn Floyd.

There are about 400 drive-in theaters across the country, with drive-in owners staying in touch through the Web site dedicated to the industry, <http://www.driveintheater.com>.

According to Barry Floyd, while drive-ins declined with the invention of VCRs and home entertainment systems in the 1970s and '80s, the business is by no means dying out. He cites family values as the reason for their continued existence.

"I think people are looking for family values. They want to get away from reality. They want to go to a wonderland. And that's what movies do," Floyd said.

For the Douglasses, drive-ins are a large part of their history. According to June Douglas, Hi-Way 50 originally opened in 1946 or '47 and was owned by the Hawkins family of Lewisburg, Tenn. Gary Douglas ran the projector.

The theater closed for a time during the 1980s but reopened in 1992 under the new ownership of Thomas Clark. Clark attempted to revive the drive-in, but ended up reselling.

That's when the Douglasses stepped forward.

"At the time, we owned a restaurant and we thought it [running the theater] wasn't going to work," June Douglas said.

"But it was a fit, and nine years later, the drive-in draws in business from across the state as well as from Alabama and Kentucky."

Both Floyd and Douglas noted the economic advantage of drive-ins. Douglas commented that people, especially families, enjoy coming to drive-ins for the relaxed atmosphere and lower prices.

"People say that they can bring their families here and get supper without it costing them an arm and a leg. You don't have to dress up, people can bring their kids and not have to worry if they get a little rowdy. Of course you don't want them to get too rowdy even at a drive-in, but still it's more relaxed," she said.

Hi-Way-50 drive-in is open only on weekends, with the first movie beginning at dusk, or 8 p.m. Tickets for ages 13 and up are \$5, ages 6-12 \$2, and children five and under get in free. All prices pay for a double feature.

The theater offers full-service concessions, shows first runs, and some movies that have been out for a couple of weeks.

"We try to pick family oriented ones," said Douglas.

Hi-way 50's season runs from March to November, depending upon weather conditions and patronage.

"Business stays pretty consistent. The summer gets pretty busy," Douglas said.

"When business stops, we stop. There's a minimum you have to make for a theater, and when you can't make that, it's time to close up," she said with a laugh.

For the Floyds, their vision



Barry Floyd discusses construction of the Stardust Drive-In being built in Watertown.

Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

for starting their own drive-in theater came five years ago when they took their nieces to a drive-in for the first time. Barry remembers how poorly the theater was run and how unkempt it was. That, he noted, caused him and Dawn to start pondering the idea of drive-in ownership.

"We started thinking about it, how we would do things if we owned a theater," he said.

"We started asking, 'What about this?' and 'What about that?' We just started playing around with the idea."

The hunt for good, clean fun has always been a part of Floyd's life. For nearly 18 years he, and later his wife, worked in entertainment as disc jockeys for

weddings and parties.

Floyd has been hard at work using his enthusiasm and creativity to make sure his new theater will be a success. He hopes the drive-in, which broke ground February 12 in Watertown Industrial Park, will benefit Watertown both economically and socially by drawing patronage from surrounding counties and making it an event to be enjoyed by local residents.

"We want to take what we did at the DJ business — we had fun doing that — and combine it with the movies and put it in family setting," Floyd said.

"It [will be] more of an event night than it is a movie night."

He plans to have pre-movie

games and contests which bestow upon the winner the best parking spot — front and center — and free movie passes.

According to Floyd, Stardust theater will open in August. The lot will hold 250-275 cars. Future plans call for the building of a second screen which will increase capacity to nearly 500 cars. The theater will show first-run movies, with double features every night of the week.

Floyd's enthusiasm for the theater is shared by local and national interest. Locally, cars line up in the street for a little rubbernecking as people anxiously check up on the theater's construction process. On the national scale, Floyd said he has received requests for music

videos to be made on the site when the theater is built.

But Floyd's excitement revolves around not simply personal gain, but in doing something good for the community of Watertown.

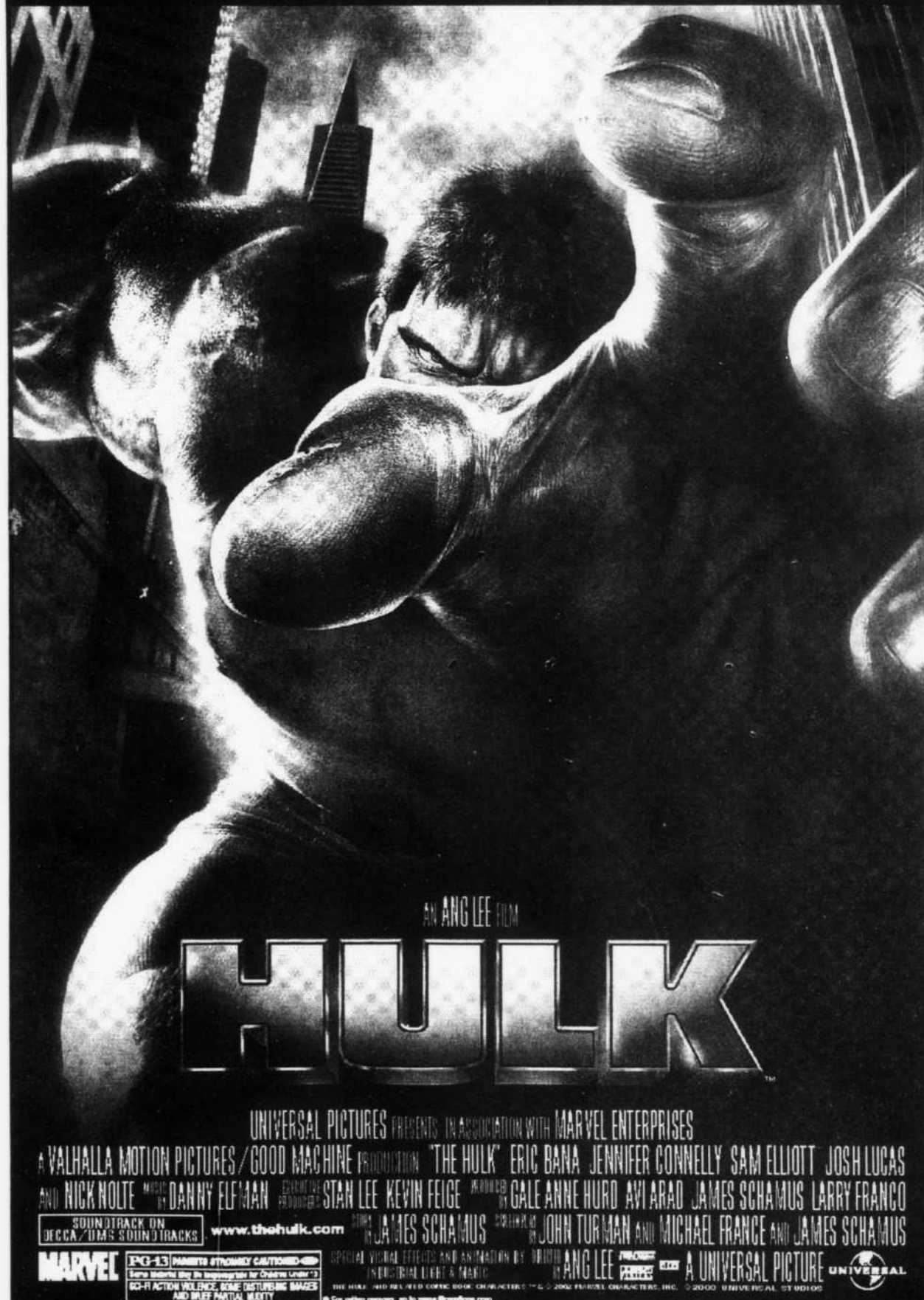
"Anything to promote Watertown and promote the theater," he said.

More details on the theaters can be found on their respective Web sites — [www.hiway50drivein.com](http://www.hiway50drivein.com) and [www.stardust-drivein.com](http://www.stardust-drivein.com).

The sites show movie listings, concession menus, directions and information on other events held at the theaters. Stardust offers a link for e-mail updates on the theater's opening. ♦

[www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)

## COMPLIMENTARY MOVIE PASSES



## SIDELINES

Invites you to stop by  
**JUB 310**

to pick up your  
complimentary movie pass

Advance screening will be  
**Tuesday, June 17th**  
**at Hollywood 27**  
**7:30 p.m.**

(Next to 100 Oaks Mall)

Limited supplies. First  
come, first served. Pass  
does not guarantee  
admission and seating is  
limited.

No purchase necessary.  
One pass per person.

**IN THEATERS FRIDAY, June 20th**



# SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Golf tourney raises money for MT baseball

By Josh Beasley  
Assistant Sports Editor

Despite the Middle Tennessee baseball season coming to a close after a visit to the NCAA Regional Tournament, a new set of swimmers took their cuts to benefit Blue Raider baseball. On June 3, members of the community participated in the eighth annual Chuck Taylor Invitational, held at the Indian Hills Golf Club.

The tournament has been a key contributor in the past to keeping the program as one of the best. It has helped construct top notch facilities such as the Stephen B. Smith Indoor

Training Facilities and has contributed to other improvements that have helped the ball club reach the NCAA post season three of the last four years.

"The tournament is not so much for this year's team as it is for the entire program as a whole," head coach Steve Peterson said.

"We had a great season with a championship team, but it's time to build. The university can only do so much, and the community comes in as our lifeblood."

Tommy Wheeler, director of the tournament since its existence, has been the man behind the curtain and one of the peo-

ple who has made the event such a success over the years.

"This tournament has been very important for MTSU baseball," Wheeler said.

"I love the ball team and the university. As long as they are willing to put this tournament on, I'm willing to be behind it 100 percent."

"This tournament may not be the biggest around, but we



Peterson

provide our golfers with some of the best prizes a tournament can offer," Wheeler added.

In addition to the support over the years from the community and volunteers, Peterson devotes a lot of the credit to Indian Hills and their ability to run a quality event.

"This is a first-class staff event ran by a first class staff at Indian Hills," Peterson said.

"Dave Normand [Indian Hills Golf Pro] and the administration have been wonderful here. To do what we want to do takes extra support from the community and the volunteers, and they help make this possible."

"We're not looking to be the biggest golf tournament by any means, but the best tournament," Peterson continued.

The tournament will continue to lift MT baseball, providing the program with opportunities to continue the success it has endured, helping the team to expand on its already remarkable 11 trips to the NCAA Tournament.

"It's been a very good fundraiser for us," Peterson said.

"The Murfreesboro and Rutherford County community has been supportive of us, and it is something that the community wants."

The tournament followed a

four-person scramble format, and Don Witherspoon and his crew of strikers, which includes Will Hannah, Taylor Bowers and Kelvin Burgin, carded a combined round total of 20-under-par, more than enough to walk away with top honors. Witherspoon won the longest drive on No. 18 and Dickie Thomas out-drove the senior division for the crown.

Will Hannah, Rachael Moore, Eddie Crosslin and Taylor Bowers edged out the rest of the field with the closest-to-the-hole accolades while Rick Gilbreath took home the \$100 prize in the putting contest. ♦

## College teams head to Omaha

By David Hunter  
Senior Staff Reporter

This past weekend, eight of the best teams in college baseball earned a trip to the NCAA College World Series by winning their way through the Super Regional. The CWS starts this Friday with eight teams fighting for the 2003 national baseball title in Omaha, Neb.

This year's field had to defeat an opponent in a best two of three series in the Super Regional. Most of the teams have a history of playing in the CWS, while Southwest Missouri State will be making their first ever trip.

In the Super Regional, the University of Texas and Florida State University, made history in the 6-5 victory that sent Texas to the CWS for the chance to repeat as national champions.

Texas head coach Augie Garrido won his 1,428th game, which places him first in all-time wins in college baseball history, passing Cliff Gustafson, who also coached at Texas.

Garrido has won four national titles, including a victory last year with the Longhorns, and three while at Cal State-Fullerton. Texas won the series over FSU two games to none. Garrido's former game Cal St.-Fullerton advanced for the 12th time to the CWS by ending Arizona State's season with a 7-1 victory on Sunday. The Titans won two of the three games in the series.

SMS will make their first appearance in Omaha after beating Ohio State on their home field 13-7 to end the series with a two-game sweep of the Buckeyes.

"You don't think about what has or hasn't happened in the past that much. You try to think



See NCAA, 7



Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

Scott Riggs (10) and David Green (37) fight for the lead during the Trace Adkins Chrome 300 Saturday in Nashville.

## Riggs leads 160 laps to take win

By David Hunter  
Senior Staff Reporter

Scott Riggs turned the Nashville Superspeedway into his own personal concrete playground last Saturday night by winning his second Busch Series race and third overall at the track in the Trace Adkins Chrome 300.

Riggs was in control of the race. He led five times for 160 of the 225 laps, which was a new race record. Riggs took his final lead after a pit stop on lap 150 and led the rest of the way for the win. His previous win was on May 10 at Gateway International Raceway.

With seven laps remaining in the race, David Stremme and Johnny Sauter were battling for second coming into the front stretch.

Stremme tapped Sauter from behind, spinning Sauter into the wall. The race was then red flagged and stopped, so that the race would end under a green flag. There were a total of 11 cautions for 42 laps in the race.

After the cleanup from the crash was completed, the green flag flew with four laps to go with Riggs in the lead and David Green in second place. Green was hoping for the same magic

he had in April when he passed Sauter for the top spot on the final lap to win that Busch Series race in Nashville.

This time it was not to be, as Riggs pulled away from Green to take home the victory by .536 seconds. Stremme was able to finish the race in third after the incident with Sauter seven laps earlier. Randy Lajoie was fourth, and Nashville's Bobby Hamilton Jr. was fifth. Ashton Lewis Jr. finished sixth, then Stanton Barrett, Scott Wimmer, Jay Sauter and Brian Vickers rounded out the top 10.

After the completion of the race, Sauter wanted to confront Stremme about the incident, but NASCAR officials stepped in to prevent any further action between the two drivers. Sauter was credited with an 11th-place finish and led 21 laps. Stremme took the blame for the accident.

"It's something, you know. I went in a little easy. I was going to turn to try to get up underneath him. The spotter said I had some room, and I took the air right off. It's something I learned. We'll sit down and talk about it. We're friends, and I hope we're still friends," Stremme said following the race.



Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

David Green (37) took a second place victory Saturday.

One of the keys that helped Riggs win the race was the work of his pit crew that had fast stops for Riggs to keep him in position to take home his fourth career Busch Series victory.

"What won this race today was pure perseverance on all the guys' parts. They have been working awful hard on their pit stops this year; it showed up today. Every time I came in the pits, no matter if I came in leading, or came in third or fourth, every time we left leading the race. We were the

first ones out of the pits every time, and that is what it takes to be in victory lane. That is what it takes to be a championship caliber team, and what I feel like we are right now," Riggs said.

Riggs won his first career Busch Series race last season at Nashville Superspeedway on April 13, 2002, and won the his first-ever NASCAR Truck Series race a year earlier. Riggs has a collection of three Gibson guitars,

See Race, 7



Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations  
Mardy Scales fights for first at a home track meet.

## Middle Tennessee well represented at NCAA Championships

By Nate Rau  
MT Media Relations

After an impressive showing at last week's NCAA Regional in Columbus, Ohio, the Middle Tennessee track team takes its show to Sacramento, Calif., for the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships, which begin today and run through Saturday at Hornet Stadium on the Cal-State Sacramento campus.

"At Ohio State, I think we made people realize what a quality program we have here," head coach Dean Hayes said.

"We got our name announced a lot, and we had a lot of people in the finals. To do as well as we did and run as well as we ran I think says a great

deal about Middle Tennessee track and field."

Junior Mardy Scales, a two-time indoor All-American, will be make his first trip to the Outdoor Championships.

Scales qualified by winning the 100-meters at the Ohio State Regional with a school record of 10.21 seconds in the preliminaries and then a wind-aided time of 10.02 to win the finals. Scales' time in the prelims is the eighth fastest in the country this season.

The Franklin, Tenn., junior is

also a member of the team's 400 meter relay squad, which currently owns the country's 11th-fastest time (39.60). Seniors DJ Spann and Brad Orr and sophomore anchor Pedro Holiday round out the team.

"Last week, Mardy finished first at Ohio State and ran times that were both school records," Hayes said.

"Obviously, we feel he has a chance to place well this week."

Hayes said Scales' experience running at the Indoor Championships will aid him this week as well.

"The biggest thing is that you know what it's like at the NCAA and you know what it's like to compete on a championship level," Hayes said.

Victor Okorie followed suit

last week at OSU, breaking a school record in the 400-meter hurdles (50.01) and finishing second at Ohio State. Okorie heads into the Championships with the 12th-fastest time in the nation in the intermediate hurdles.

"Victor is ranked really high, and there's no reason to think he couldn't place higher," Hayes said.

"That's what we tell our kids, that it isn't just about how you time, it's more about how you place. We feel we have a chance to place really well this week."

Rosemary Okafor rounds out the MT contingent heading to Sacramento. She, too, broke a school record in the 400-meters this season, clocking a time of 52.16 at the Vanderbilt

Invitational, and heads to the Championships with the fifth-fastest time in the country.

Hayes is also very excited about this group for one other reason: Everyone heading to the Championships minus Spann and Orr are underclassmen.

"Obviously, it's always good [to have underclassmen go to the Championships] because it means you're going to have a talented team returning," Hayes said.

"It's great that this bunch did so well and gets to close out their year like this. It's been a long, tough year, and all of these people have really run well, worked hard, given constant effort and been lucky enough to avoid injury. They all deserve to be there, no doubt." ♦



# Sports Briefs

Compiled by Amy Jones  
Sports Editor

## Peterson inks pair of signees

Middle Tennessee head baseball coach Steve Peterson announced the signing of Eric Blevins and Eric McNamee, both Tennessee junior college players, this week, completing the Blue Raiders 2003 signing class. The duo joins Farragut High School product Michael McHenry in the signing class.

Blevins, a right-handed pitcher who posted a 10-3 mark in 2003 for Walters State Community College, helped the Senators to a third-place finish in the recently completed NJCAA World Series in Grand Junction, Colo.

Blevins had a 2.59 ERA this season, with 78 strikeouts and 18 walks in 97.1 innings pitched. The Sullivan East High School product also had 11 wins as a freshman and was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles out of high school.

McNamee has played the last two seasons at Columbia State Community College, posting a .375 batting average and .960 fielding percentage in earning Western Conference Player of the Year honors as a freshman in 2002. The Father Ryan High School product batted .350 this season and was among the league leaders in several offensive categories.

McNamee batted more than .400 as a three-year starter at Father Ryan before moving on to play for coach Jim Painter the past two seasons at Columbia State.

## MT to appear on ESPN Regional twice

The MT football team will appear two times this season on the Sun Belt Conference/ESPN Regional football television package. The Blue Raiders' home game against North Texas on October 25 and the final regular season contest at Arkansas State on November 20 will both be shown live on the SBC/ESPN package.

The North Texas game will kick off at 7 p.m. CST, while the ASU contest was moved to a Thursday night and will get underway at 7 p.m. CST. All games will be shown locally on Comcast cable channel 27.

The Blue Raiders, who played a school record six televised games in 2002, could gain an additional game on ESPN Regional, but it will not be known until a later date.

## NCAA: Road to Omaha paved for finals

Continued from 6

about the present. We have played on the last day of the Super Regional before and have never had the pitching to advance," SMS head coach Keith Guttin said to ncaasports.com.

Earlier this season, the Bears swept Middle Tennessee in a three-game series in March.

The University of Miami advanced for the 20th time to the CWS by beating North Carolina State 11-5 in extra innings to win that series two games to none.

The Hurricanes needed a game winning home run in the bottom of the ninth by Ryan Braun to win game one, 10-9. In game two, a grand slam by Erick San Pedro broke the game wide open in the 11th inning to win

the series.

"I got my foot down early and saw it real big and hit it as hard as I could," San Pedro said to ncaasports.com. "I knew it was gone when I hit it. I didn't even feel it come off the bat. I was trying to enjoy every minute. I can't even remember ever hitting a grand slam, especially in a situation like this."

Stanford defeated Long Beach State Saturday, 4-2, to go to the CWS for the fifth straight year and are looking for their first national title since 1988. Stanford won the series two games to none.

Last year's runner-up, South Carolina, earned a return trip to Omaha with a 14-4 victory over North Carolina Saturday. The Gamecocks won the three game series two games to none.

## Race: Riggs takes points lead in Busch Series

Continued from 6

that are given to each winner of a race at the Nashville Superspeedway.

Riggs victory moved him to the top spot in the Busch Series points standings for the first time in his career, with 2,056 points.

That puts him ahead of Green, who is 18 points behind. There are 19 races left this season.

Todd Bodine, Ron Hornaday Jr. and Brian Vickers complete the top five in the point standings. The lead changed nine times with five drivers leading at least one lap.

The next race for the Busch Series is this Saturday night at Kentucky Speedway with the Meijer 300.

The next race for the Nashville Superspeedway is July 19 with the Indy Racing League making its annual trip for the Firestone Indy 200. ♦

## Campus offers summer intramurals

MTSU Campus Recreation is offering summer intramurals for the first time ever. This summer the following sports will be offered:

### • 3 on 3 Basketball

Registration Deadline: June 11, Play Begins: June 16, Captain's Meeting: June 12, at 5:00 p.m. (Recreation Center Gym Storage), Fee: \$45, Contact: Chewey Lam, 898-2104 or [imsports@mtsu.edu](mailto:imsports@mtsu.edu)

### • Sand Volleyball

Registration Deadline: June 11, Play Begins: June 16, Captain's Meeting: June 12 at 6:00 p.m. (Recreation Center Gym Storage), Fee: \$45

Contact: Rodger Hardiman, 898-2104 or [imsports@mtsu.edu](mailto:imsports@mtsu.edu)

Events are open to everyone and you do not have to be an MTSU student or staff member. Teams are guaranteed four weeks of play, and the top two teams from each division will advance to the playoffs. Winners from each playoff bracket will receive trophies and T-shirts.

Registration packets and more information is available in the office of Campus Recreation Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Denver wins SBC Academic Award

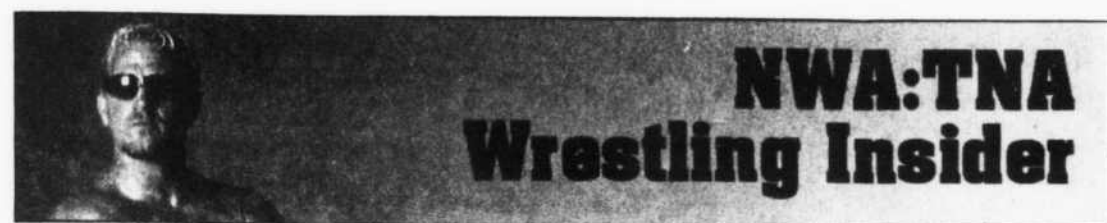
For the fourth straight year, the University of Denver has won the Sun Belt Conference Graduation Rate Award.

Denver is the only school to win the Sun Belt award since its inception in 2000. The Pioneers graduated 70 percent of their student athletes in the latest findings, which were released by the NCAA.

Among female student athletes, the Pioneers graduated an astounding 86 percent. The national average for female student-athletes is 69 percent.

New Mexico State, meanwhile, was second among SBC schools. The Aggies graduated 63 percent of their student athletes, including 67 percent of its male student athletes. The national average among male student-athletes is 54 percent.

Only student athletes receiving athletics aid are included in the graduation reports. ♦



By David Lawrence  
Staff Columnist

Change can be many different things, but when Vince Russo is involved, change may not be a good thing.

The show itself started off on a good note, with a six-man tag team match between CM Punk, Matt Stryker and Frankie Kazarian versus Kid Romeo, Johnny Swinger and Damien.

A lot of nice high spots by everyone, although the match became a bit muddled as most of the wrestlers left the ring to fight on the outside, leaving Kazarian and Damien as the two legal men.

Frazarian ended the match with an inverse DDT on Damien to pocket the win.

Sonny Siaki battled a mystery opponent in the new Hard 10 Battle. In the match the first wrestler to earn 10 points wins. Weapons are placed around the area along with tables, with the weapons counting as one point and the tables five.

Sonny, along with the rest of the crowd, was not impressed to see his opponent would be Vampire Warrior, formally known as Gangrel in the WWE. The match was standard garbage wrestling, but the point system does a good job of making the chaos in the ring seem orderly.

Then, once the barbed wire had been taken down and the blood mostly removed, Ron Killings and Don Harris teamed up to fight Tracy and David Young. Although "team-up" might not be the best choice of words, Don made it quite clear that he wouldn't team with Killings' "kind," so the Truth was left to find for himself.

The match was pretty bad, and the ending had Killings being pinned after a nurse at ringside punched him in the crotch.

The move shocked some and left most feeling pretty indifferent. Chris Harris and James Storm reunited to take on BG

James and Konnan.

America's Most Wanted defeated James and Konnan, but it was only after the Harris brothers H-bombed Konnan when the referee was distracted.

The Kid Kash versus Trinity feud had seemingly cooled, as Trinity was seen acting in a subservient way while Kash made plenty of lesbian jokes.

I'd normally say something witty about this and Russo, but I just can't bring myself to care anymore.

Although Eric Watts rushing in to smack Kash around was nice, the whole episode was about as tasteful as watching a midget fight in a nude boxing match with Mike Tyson.

Watts, who seems to be slowly morphing into the Rock, earned some of the biggest pops of the night when he E-bombed Kash. Watts' character transformation has really impressed me. Instead of simply copying the Rock's physical traits and catch phrases, Watts has taken on the Rock's ability to shift between good and bad and makes himself the almost perfect tweener persona.

He can go from being cheered of one minute to being booed to being cheered despite a limited move set.

Thankfully, the best match on the night happened next as D-Lo Drown and AJ Styles fought to determine who the number one contender to the World Heavyweight title would be.

It was an amazing match that

managed to wash away the funk of the previous matches by not ending in a run in.

Raven rushed the ring and knocked both men out, leaving the winner undecided.

Glen Gilberti and Jeff Jarrett made up for the last match by putting on what was perhaps the best match of Gilberti's career.

Move after amazing move, Russo thankfully showed up to put an end to all this wrestling nonsense so the audience could enjoy a good old-fashioned swerve.

Just when it seemed the now clean-shaven Russo would knock Jarrett out with a baseball bat, Russo laid Gilberti out.

And what about Raven? Aside from interfering, that was about it.

His soliloquy about the comparisons between Jeff Jarrett and David Hasselhoff was the best promo of the night.

If you want to see the show in person, then all you have to do is drive to the Nashville State Fairgrounds this Wednesday night.

The gate opens at 6:30 p.m., and general admission is \$10. Ringside seating is \$15.

If you can't make to the fairgrounds, then you can see the action on In Demand cable, Direct TV or call your local cable company and request the show.

The show starts at 7 p.m. and the price is \$10. ♦

## Aldo's Restaurant

223 W. Main Street

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Catering service and party set up available

Discounts for groups, churches and schools

Stop by or call for delivery: 896-7010

(Present MTSU ID and receive 10% discount)

xInt \$\$  
gr8 benefits  
:) co-workers  
we'll train u  
hcit?

Begin your professional career as a Customer Service Representative at America's wireless leader. We have exceptional opportunities available at our Murfreesboro, TN call center. We offer outstanding benefits that begin on DAY ONE.

Learn more and submit your resume online:

[verizonwireless.com/c4urself](http://verizonwireless.com/c4urself)

We are an equal opportunity employer. m/ld/v

### Customer Service Representatives

Be the driving force in our 24/7, state-of-the-art call center as you handle a high volume of inbound and outbound customer calls; research and resolve customer inquiries, including web-based issues; explain products and services; troubleshoot service and equipment issues; evaluate customer concerns and ensure timely problem resolution. You'll also perform needs assessments; make recommendations; resolve escalated customer issues; and clearly communicate information, procedures and expectations to customers and internal employees.

To qualify, you must have an associate's degree (or equivalent work experience) and related experience, including online customer contact. Excellent oral/written communication, problem-solving, keyboard data entry, analytical and troubleshooting skills are essential, as is computer proficiency using Microsoft and Web-based applications. Flexibility is key as evening, weekend and holiday hours are required. Shift differentials are available.



verizonwireless  
The value begins with you... Join in.

Got something  
to shout about?

# Sound off!



SIDELINES ONLINE  
THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Visit the message boards at  
[www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com).





**MULTIPLAYER INTERNET GAMING - PLAY AGAINST EACH OTHER  
LOCALLY OR WITH MILLIONS ONLINE - NEW RELEASES AND CLASSIC  
FAVORITES - VIP MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES WITH SPECIAL RATES  
AMD ATHLON XP BARTON 2500+ COMPUTERS WITH  
NVIDIA GeForce FX5800 VIDEO CARDS AND 19" MONITORS  
HEAD-TO-HEAD XBOX ACTION ON 36" TVs  
BAWLS BEVERAGE DISTRIBUTOR - HACKERTHEADS RETAILER -  
COOL, LAID-BACK ATMOSPHERE WITH PLENTY  
OF COMFORTABLE SEATING**



HALF-LIFE: COUNTER-STRIKE - BLUE SHIFT - OPPOSING FORCE  
BATTLEFIELD 1942: DESERT COMBAT - UNREAL TOURNAMENT 2003  
STAR WARS JEDI KNIGHT II: JEDI OUTCAST - THE SIMS - PLANETSIDE  
CLASSIC TITLES LIKE PAC MAN, DIG DUG AND POLE POSITION

XBOX TITLES AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!



## GRAND OPENING SPECIALS

**EVERY SUNDAY IS  
BUY 2 HOURS, GET  
ONE FREE**  
(LIMIT 3)

**BUY A STANDARD MEMBERSHIP  
AND RECIEVE 2 HOURS FREE**

**BUY A VIP MEMBERSHIP AND  
RECEIVE 3 HOURS FREE**

**BULK BONUSES  
BUY 4, GET 1 FREE  
BUY 6, GET 2 FREE  
BUY 8, GET 3 FREE**

**MONDAY - THURSDAY 11 AM - 11 PM  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 11 AM - 2AM  
SUNDAY 1PM - 9PM**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Sales

Books for Sale!! Most general requirement books, including Geo 1030, Bio 1030, CSCI 1150, ENG 2030, Harbrace handbook and many more! Contact 631-1805 for more information.

'91 Topaz needs engine work. Good body and transmission. \$550, OBO. 615-579-3019

Bass amp for sale. Peasy TNT 115. Good Condition. \$175, OBO. Call 615-293-3702.

STEEL BUILDINGS. 50% off on Factory Seconds, Freight Damaged, Repos 25X36, 30X44, Americas Largest 800-222-6335, Financing.

Selmer Signet Tenor Saxophone, early 1970s model, new pads, horn in excellent condition. Bought for \$1,100, will consider all offers. Call 615-473-0420.

## Employment

New Club in Smyrna needs waitresses. Must be 18 or older. Understand Spanish a plus, not required. Call Alisa 596-3091.

## Opportunities

Want that dream vacation, dream car, dream house or dream bank account? You can have it! Visit [www.globalsuccess2000.com/fin](http://www.globalsuccess2000.com/fin) anciallyset to get you on the right path.

## Roommate

2 Rooms for rent, no lease or deposit. \$250 a month plus 1/4 utilities. Conveniently located

within walking distance of campus. Call Tony or Jamie @ 867-3088.

## For Rent

**Duplex for rent. 2210 Patriot Drive, near Oakland High School. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, central gas heat/electric air. Approx. 1,800 square feet with W/D hookups, appliances include stove, dishwasher, disposal and refrigerator. No Pets. \$950 Rent/\$950 Deposit. One year lease. Call Steve at 890-5776.**

Walk to MTSU from this beautiful house on Greenlanc Drive. This house is ready for your New and Exciting 2003-2004 Academic Year at MTSU. Move in after 7/20/2003. Fantastic Location, Quiet Environment, Spacious rooms for 4 students, Female students preferred. \$300 (\$350, Master BR) a month/student + 1/4 utilities \$350 security deposit. Circle drive, patio, 2-car carport, Hardwood floors, new carpets, new roof, Refrigerator, built-in oven, Washer & Dryer, Dish Washer, Central Heat and Air, Fireplace, Gas Logs, Call 898-2005.

## 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 James Union Building room 310, or faxed to 904-8193. For more information call 904-8154. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free to students.

**Classifieds are free to students. Stop by JUB 310 to fill out a form!**

## Services

## Services

### Premiere Pet Sitting

Murfreesboro's Finest In-Home Pet Sitting Service  
Vacation Visits, Mid-Day Visits, Dog Walks, Overnight House/Pet Sitting  
[www.premierepetsitting.net](http://www.premierepetsitting.net) 904-2498



## Outraged?

**Write a letter to the editor!**

**[slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu)**



*Sidelines* is the editorially independent student newspaper of MTSU.

**Advertise with us  
and reach the  
population of  
more than  
20,000 students.  
*Sidelines* also  
distributes  
off campus.**

**Call the Sidelines  
advertising department  
at (615) 898-5240, or  
come by the Sidelines  
office in the James Union  
Building, Room 310.**