

Graphic by Chet Overall | Graphic Designer

Operation Helmet: A nonpartisan, charitable effort that provides upgrades for soldiers' helmets

The padded inserts fit into the helmet to provide additional support, causing a better fit on the head and decreasing the possibility of injuries.

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

A two-day competition to raise money for Operation Helmet is a way for the MTSU community and local organizations to help support troops in Iraq.

The competition on April 13 is for MTSU fraternities only, while April 14 will be open to the public.

"There is a [one] hundred dollar entry fee for a two-man team, and I was going to pay for the ammunition myself," said Tim Chrysler, a senior liberal arts major and organizer of the event.

"On Target [Indoor Shooting Range] was going to donate the weapons, the lanes, and the safety equipment and all we had to do was proper safety briefs and that was it."

The money Chrysler raises is going to Operation Helmet in order to purchase inserts for the marines in Swiss Company stationed in Norfolk, Conn. They do recon and night patrol duty.

"The goal is to raise \$1,600, and that is 16 helmets we could have put on somebody," Chrysler



Photo by Clarence Plank | Sports Editor
Deidra Stamper, employee of On Target indoor shooting range, demonstrates what a participant in the marksmanship competition will be doing.

said. "They are [one] hundred dollars a piece."

Since the competition is being held for two days, there is a possibility they can reach the goal set for the marines in Swiss Company.

"We are going to do it on two separate days," said Deidra Stamper, staff member of On Target Indoor Shooting Range.

"[Friday's competition] is for Greek life fraternities only; it's a rifle competition," Stamper said. "Each fraternity is going to submit two people, so it is going to be a team shoot."

After a process of elimination, each team will compete for a trophy. At the end of the competition, a winner will be named from the teams.

"They are not going to release the process of elimination or the style of shooting until the day of the shoot," Stamper said. "On Target is donating the facilities and the staff to help with it. On Saturday it is open to the public [to] shoot, and they are going to be individually done. We're probably going to have three lanes in it. First, second

Disturbances caused by Rec construction



Photo by Chris Barstad | Photography Editor
Some residents of Womack Lane have started a petition in response to the construction of the Rec Center, citing health problems and early work hours.

Womack Lane residents claim early construction bothering sleep, health

By Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

Recent disturbances created by the Recreation Center construction have caused some Womack Lane residents to begin a petition addressing the issues affecting them.

The affidavit states, "Heavy equipment is rattling, creating hellacious amounts of noise that permeates the thin walls of affiant's apartments."

It also states that construction starts as early as 4:30 a.m. waking up students, and the noise lasts all day long violating the "affiant's right to reasonable quiet."

Charlie Gregory, director of campus recreation, said construction was starting at 6 a.m. However, the time has been moved to 7 a.m. in the wake of student complaints.

"As soon as word came to us, we contacted the contractor and told him not to start before 7 a.m.," said Bob Bost, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for enrollment management.

The Rights and Responsibilities of Students at MTSU states residential quiet hours are from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. everyday.

"We want to do everything we can to minimize the impact [of the construction], but we cannot eliminate the impact," Glenn said.

Josh Holiday, senior entrepreneurship major, said noise is not the only result of construction that Womack Lane residents have to deal with.

He said he has not had a cold for two years until the construction started.

"Tons of carcinogenic fumes roll around those apartments,"

Center promotes ideas of feminism on campus

Staff Reports

The June Anderson Women's Center and Women for Women partnered last Wednesday to discuss the definition of feminism and how it could be related to the campus as a whole.

"[A feminist is] a person who supports the social, political, educational and economic equality of all people," said Angela Manivong and Phanita Khampakasy, members of the JAWC.

The focus of the discussion was for Manivong, Khampakasy and others to explore options for involving and informing the majority of students about feminism and deter the common stereotypes attached to the movement.

"A feminist could be anyone who believes in the equality of people," Khampakasy said. "It could be a woman, a man, a

child or anyone else. It's not the stereotype that many people believe it is."

The main concept the groups want to encourage is feminism is not about one gender being better than another but both being equal, said Nicole Payne, member of Women for Women and senior liberal arts student.

In addition to holding monthly meetings, Women for Women is also planning various activities and publications to relate feminism to both the campus and community. Some activities include volunteering at the domestic violence shelter and doing arts and crafts with kids.

"We're putting together a [magazine]," Payne said. "It will be a collection of poems, pictures, recipes and rants."

The Women for Women meets on the last Tuesday of every month in the James Union Building. ♦

Upcoming Events for the June Anderson Women's Center

Special presentation by Naomi Tatu on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. in the KUC Theater.

Gender Circles is held every Wednesday, until April 25, from 1 p.m. till 3 p.m. at the JUB room 206.



Photo courtesy of Becca Cook | Staff Writer
Women for Women and the June Anderson Women's Center partnered last Wednesday to get students more involved, including setting up an info booth in the KUC.

Campus Briefs

Meteorologist to lecture about Ph.D.'s at dinner

This Monday Eugenia Kalnay will give a presentation entitled "A Ph.D. in Science: Is it worth it?"

Kalnay is a professor of meteorology at the University of Maryland. She specializes in the impact of land use on climate. Her research has been the most frequently used in all the geosciences in the past decade, and she has been chosen by *Discovery* magazine as one of the top 100 science newsmakers.

Dinner will be served immediately following Kalnay's presentation in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. The presentation starts at 4:30 p.m. and is sponsored by the McNair Scholars Program.

In addition to dinner and the presentation, there will be a drawing for students to win one of six \$100 gift certificates redeemable at Phillips Bookstore.

Students interested in attending the presentation and dinner should RSVP to Cindy Howell at chowell@mtsu.edu.

Women's Center brown bag lunch to discuss bullying

The June Anderson Women's Center's Career and Professional Development Brown Bag Series continues on Tuesday at noon with a presentation on "Bullying in the Workplace: How to Recognize It and Tips on How to Stop It."

Gloria Hamilton, professor of psychology, and Terri Johnson, director of the June Anderson Women's Center, will speak on a subject about

which is a growing concern among employees and employers alike.

A poll released March 21 by the Employment Law Institute revealed that nearly 45 percent of American workers claim to have experienced workplace abuse. A lobbying effort to bring about legal changes claims that 12 states have introduced 26 versions of its proposed healthy workplace bill since 2003.

Hamilton notes that the American Psychology Association has created a Psychologically Healthy Workplace Program to give employers guidelines on how to create better working environments. The program offers numerous resources including a quarterly newsletter, a listing of upcoming events and articles and research abstracts.

The bring your own brown bag luncheon is free and open to the MTSU students, staff, administration, faculty, as well as the public. Sign ups are highly encouraged.

For more information contact, the June Anderson Women's Center at 898-2193.

MTSU Chamber Winds to give final performance

The MTSU Chamber Winds will perform their final concert of the season Thursday at 8 p.m. in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building.

"For the final concert of the Chamber Winds season, I have chosen two terrific works that do not receive many performances and will introduce strings into the mix for the first time," said Reed Thomas, MTSU director of bands and conductor of the group.

The group will perform "Octet" by Franz Joseph Haydn, "The Easy Winners" by Scott Joplin, with arrangement by Gunther Schuller, and "Symphony for Brass and Timpani" by Herbert Haufrecht.

The MTSU Chamber Winds is a highly select group of musicians within the McLean School of Music dedicated to the study and performance of wind literature from the Renaissance period to the latest compositions.

The concert is free and open to the public.

For more information on this and other events in the McLean School of Music call 898-2493 or visit www.mtsumusic.com.

Scholars Week 2007 slated for April 2 through 6

MTSU undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty will be able to showcase their academic work during Scholars Week.

The week will kick off on Monday at 11:30 a.m. in the Walker Library quad with a performance of salsa music. Later in the day Lee Martin will speak on "Technomics" at 2:30 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building.

Rory Kennedy, co-founder and co-president of Moxie Firecracker Films Inc., will give a lecture Thursday at 5 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall. Kennedy is one of the nation's prolific independent documentary filmmakers. Her lecture is entitled "The Camera Doesn't Lie."

Her work has tackled some of the most pressing social concerns including poverty, domestic abuse, drug addiction, human rights, AIDS and mental illness.

Scholars Week will culminate Friday by featuring the UniversityWide Poster and Multimedia Exposition in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building beginning at 12:30 p.m.

"We had more than 250 responses to the call for abstracts and have had to divide our poster presentation sessions," said Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost. The awards ceremony will be at 4 p.m.

"We are expanding our annual Scholars Day to Scholars Week," Gebert said. "This expansion reflects the increased involvement of students and faculty in a variety of scholarly and creative activities."

For more information and the schedule of events, visit www.mtsu.edu/~research/scholar-week_schedule.html.

Up 'till Dawn Committee applications available

Applications for the Up 'til Dawn Committee are now being accepted for the 2007 through 2008 Executive Board.

Available positions include executive director, associate director of marketing as well as several committee chair positions.

Applications can be obtained from the Office of Student Organizations and Community Service in room 326 of the Keathley University Center.

Applications are due Friday by 4:30 p.m.

For more information contact Jacqueline Victory, Director of Student Organizations and Community Service at 898-5812 or visit www.mtsu.edu/~campusorgs.

Construction: Students petition

Continued from 1

Holiday said. "That's going to affect people for years."

Pat Spangler, medical director of Student Health Services, said March has been unseasonably dry, causing a high pollen count and irritating people's allergies.

"Seasonal allergies cause runny nose, sneezing, and we're seeing that everywhere," Spangler said. "We've not seen any health related illnesses due to the construction site."

Gene Fitch, associate dean of Student Affairs and dean of Student Life, said when the

excavating is complete, the noise should lessen in volume because the heavier machinery will be gone.

"The construction doesn't really bother me," said Angel Byrd, junior interdisciplinary studies major and desk assistant at Womack Lane.

She said the construction has, on occasion, set off her car alarm.

"We are not going to be able to eliminate every problem [with the construction]," Glenn said. "We will aggressively go after every situation that is within our power." ♦

Sidelines

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FEATURES

‘The Country Wife’ comes to MTSU

Students don crazy costumes, fat suits to produce British play

By Becca Cook
Staff Writer

Women show cleavage and the men wear tights to off their muscular calves in MTSU's newest theater production "The Country Wife."

The plot of William Wycherley's "The Country Wife" is full of love, lust and lies.

Set in London during the Reconstructive era, London's elite are reeling from news that its most notorious playboy, Harry Horner, is back from France and rumored to be a medically certified eunuch. Consequently, husbands practically throw their wives at him, delighted they can have affairs without losing their honor.

The show has been put together under the direction of Deborah Anderson, professor of speech and theatre. Together with Tommy Macon, director of costume, she has pulled together an authentic show.

"We are extremely privileged to have Tommy Macon in our faculty," Anderson says. "He is a true professional in his field and has designed absolutely stunning costumes for our production."

Macon and his staff had the job of recreating the embellished fashion of the late 1600s, including big wigs, fancy dresses and, of course, tights.

Many of the actors are impressed by Macon's work.

"The costumes, wigs and shoes are my favorite part," says Ryan Chittaphong, a senior theatre major who plays Mr. Pinchwife. "Tommy Macon

designed amazing costumes that truly look authentic."

Although the costumes look spectacular, the play itself promises to be entertaining.

"It's hilarious," Chittaphong says, laughing. "It's a fun script to work with and fun to watch. It's different from other shows we've done."

The cast has been preparing and rehearsing since January. Women learned the language of the fan and men began ballet, the art that would help their calves become monumental.

"We had to learn how to present ourselves on stage," Chittaphong says. "We had to do movement rehearsals. We also do ballet every rehearsal. Men, back then, were big on showing off their calves."

There are many aspects of the costumes that are ridiculously funny. Justin Bourdet, a sophomore theatre major, plays Mr. Sparkish. His character's costume includes a seven-foot cane and fancy boots.

Audiences will notice that Chittaphong's character is carrying a bit of weight.

"I wear a fat-suit," he says.

The combination of costuming, set design, a hilarious script and a talented cast provide a formula which can only mean a great show.

"The Country Wife" runs at 7:30 nightly April 4 through 7 in MTSU's Tucker Theater. Tickets may be purchased at the door on evening of the performance. Prices range from \$4 to \$8. MTSU students are admitted free with a valid ID. ♦



Senior theater major Ryan Chittaphong, dressed as Mr. Pinchwife in MTSU's newest production "The Country Wife," handles the play's extravagant costumes, wigs and plot with ease. "The Country Wife" runs nightly at 7:30 April 4 through 7 in the Tucker Theater.

Cell phone carriers battle it out

By Rangebar Merani
Staff Writer

Cell phones have undeniably become a part of everyday life, and many college students just can't live without them. But with all the different cell phone services and different cell phone plans, picking the right one can prove difficult.

The four major wireless service providers, Cingular, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon, all have their perks and weaknesses. When trying to decide which service is best, it really depends on how frequently the phone is used. Some people might make a few calls a day, but others will spend nearly all their minutes in just a matter of days.

Most of the cell phone plans of each wireless service are almost identical. Cingular, Sprint and Verizon each offer a plan with 450 minutes for \$49.99, each of which is their cheapest. The Sprint and Verizon plans each include unlimited nights and weekends, but Cingular's plan is limited to 5000 night and weekend minutes. As for T-Mobile, their cheapest plan is \$39.99 for 300 minutes, and they also offer a \$49.99 plan with 600 minutes, both including free nights and weekends.

For those of you who spend a little bit more time on your cell phones, Cingular, Sprint and Verizon each have a \$59.99 plan with 900 minutes and a \$79.99 plan with 1350 minutes, all with unlimited nights and weekends. T-Mobile offers a \$59.99 plan with 1000 minutes and a \$79.99 plan with 1500 minutes, both with unlimited nights and weekends.

These plans, along with the cheaper plans, are the most

affordable plans and are a great value because of the number of minutes you get.

Not only are the numbers of minutes important to cell phone users, but the number of text messages have started to become even more important. Both Cingular and Sprint offer unlimited text messages with their plans for \$10. T-Mobile offers text messaging packages of 400 texts for \$4.99, 1000 texts for \$9.99 and unlimited text messages for \$14.99. Verizon has text messaging packages that include unlimited messaging plus 500 additional messages for \$10, unlimited IN messaging plus 1500 additional messages for \$15 and unlimited IN messaging plus 5000 additional messages for \$20. Verizon's unlimited messaging allows Verizon users to text other Verizon users for free.

Cell phone users know, when it comes to the end of the month, there's always that worry of going over minutes or texts. In many cases, cell phone users have been overcharged for no apparent reason or because there was a mistake made by the wireless service provider.

Michael Celorio, a senior public relations major, is a Cingular customer and spends about \$45 to \$50 a month on his cell phone with Cingular. "I once changed my number,

and then, my phone got turned off

because somebody forgot to turn my old number off. I was being charged for two different accounts," Celorio says. "But as soon as I called them up, they cleared it all out really quick."

"Whether you like cell phones or not, you're going to need them because everyone is online

now, and everything is wireless, so you're going to have to deal with it," Celorio says.

Melita Salazar is also a Cingular customer and has been with them for about four years. Salazar, a junior major in music business, says she spends about \$80 to \$90 a month on her cell phone service.

Salazar has also had her share of problems with her wireless service.

"They changed my plan without telling me," she says. "They took away my free nights and weekends and took away my unlimited text messages without notifying me, and that was a major problem. But they fixed it and took away the charges. There was no way I was going to pay a \$400 cell phone bill."

Tim Chrysler has been a Verizon customer for about seven years, and he spends about \$60 a month on his cell phone.

Chrysler, a senior political science major, says, "I can't stand talking on the phone. My conversations last only about 30 seconds, and if I ever have a problem with my phone, I have to take it to the store, and it takes like two hours just to talk to somebody. My wife has T-Mobile, and she has really good service. They're actually a little cheaper, and you get more for what you pay for."

Jessica Kenezis, a junior industrial organization psychology major, is also a Verizon customer and spends about \$90 a month on her cell phone.

"I think that's really expensive," she says. "I use to pay over my 40 minutes once and was charged like \$300, so now, I have one of the biggest plans and text messaging packages so I don't get overcharged again. Verizon gives me all my cell phone needs. It's expensive, and they drop my calls a lot, but I can't think of any service provider that I would choose over them."

It's inevitable that, somewhere along the line, problems will be encountered with cell phone service. Don't hesitate to check out what the other wireless service providers are offering, because there might just be something better. ♦

Tech Briefs

WASHINGTON (AP) - Dealing a significant blow to Sprint Nextel, the government on Thursday awarded the largest-ever federal telecommunications contract - a 10-year deal worth up to \$48 billion - to its rivals AT&T, Qwest Communications and Verizon.

The three contract winners will split \$525 million, but beyond that they will have to compete with each other for the business of dozens of federal agencies needing to enhance the quality and security of voice, video and data technologies, the General Services Administration announced.

Among the products federal agencies will choose from are Internet-based voice and video systems, wireless and satellite communications services and updated network infrastructure.

Earlier this year, Sprint announced thousands of job cuts amid service troubles, a dwindling customer base and difficulty assimilating Nextel Communications, which it acquired in December 2004. Sprint shares are down roughly 20 percent from a year ago and the company is forecasting near-flat operating revenue and earnings this year.

"It's terrible for Sprint," said technology consultant Warren Suss of Jenkintown, Pa. "The federal government was Sprint's first major customer since the company started."

GSA is planning in May to award a second telecommunications contract called Network Enterprise that contains fewer mandatory requirements and services in select areas across the nation.

SPRING HILL, Tenn. (AP) - General Motors Corp. launched the Saturn brand at its plant in the tiny Tennessee town of Spring Hill nearly 17 years ago.

Designed to compete with low-cost Japanese imports, Saturn prided itself on its no-haggle approach to selling cars and initially developed a cult following, which included carnival-like "homecoming" celebrations in Spring Hill for Saturn owners.

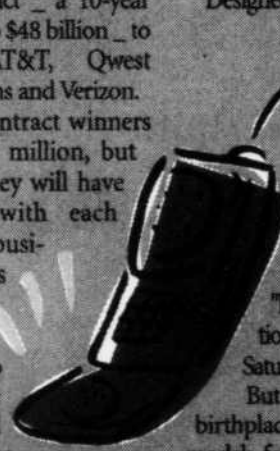
But this week, the brand's birthplace rolled out its last models for the Saturn brand as the plant gets ready to reconfigure its production lines to build new GM vehicles.

Close to 2,400 of the plant's nearly 4,700 workers are being laid off for about 18 months while the plant is remodeled, though GM has promised to bring the workers back once the facility is equipped to produce other GM vehicles.

GM executives and union officials from Detroit on Thursday met with employees at the company's plant and assured them the plant will get a new vehicle to build, said GM spokeswoman Kate Neary.

The GM officials told workers the product will be a Chevrolet crossover vehicle, according to sources familiar with the meeting who requested anonymity because the automaker hasn't yet officially announced its plans.

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen issued a statement on Thursday stating that he was "pleased by General Motors' decision to make this significant investment in the future of the Spring Hill plant and its Tennessee employees." ♦



OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

David, Goliath fail to reach common ground

A bitter battle between two foes—one side the underdog, the other, the giant. The entire situation is David and Goliath, with some residents of Womack Lane facing off against the progression of the campus and its administration. There is one major flaw in this Biblical parody: David forgot to bring a reasonable rock. Instead, a vague petition and rabble rousing are the only weapons equipped. Ranting has replaced the much-needed solution that could ultimately cause the stable compensation of both parties.

The residents of Womack Lane are well in their right to raise questions on living conditions for homes they have contracted with the university. Their inquiries should be encouraged, but solutions should also be proposed.

To be honest, MTSU may choose to ignore the petition and e-mails, because a very small percentage of students actually live in Womack. Combine the administration's lack of reason to care with no solution in sight; the battle is far from over.

Instead, the residents should propose viable solutions to the university and keep in mind that they will not get everything they want. For example, a good way for the university to offer compensation would be to lower rent due to obvious lowered standards of living endured by the endless construction boxing-in Womack.

By not proposing a viable solution which will appeal to most of the needs for both sides, the residents of Womack Lane are simply kicking up more dust than the construction.

The university should be more considerate of their students, especially since tuition helps to pay for the construction. It is not a matter of pleasing everyone, because that is simply impossible. However, MTSU's administration and construction management should be more willing to sacrifice as many comforts as those that occupy the campus apartments.

For now, it seems Goliath will stand strong and David will continue throwing complaints upon deaf ears, until one collapses, both surrender or a compromise is reached.

Include conservatives in quest for tolerance

College campuses all over the United States have become a breeding ground for liberal thought and expression. Routinely, professors from all departments and backgrounds teach overtly leftist dogma with very little resistance in the classroom. Liberal ideals are often passed off as fact with little or no basis in which to support seemingly outlandish claims.

Students are often asked to approach these new thoughts and concepts with an open mind. Professors frequently urge students to make political and religious decisions based on only liberal fodder presented in the classroom. Those few students who buck the trend and denounce liberal thought openly are usually ridiculed for their "closed-mindedness."

The apparent irony in situations such as these is that the very teacher who asks the student to be open-minded closes their own mind to opposing viewpoints. Conservative arguments in the classroom are often shouted down and denounced as neoconservative propaganda. Outside the world of Academia, this propaganda would be called "facts."

What should outrage students who do not agree with left-wing talking points is that not only do they have to sit through the lecture and go along with what is being said, but they also have to pay to hear it. Where else on earth can someone be forced to pay to hear something they do not agree with?

Not that I am trying to devalue liberalism and those who believe differently from myself, but it is necessarily fair that conservative and indifferent students are forced to listen to and accept something they either do not believe in to begin with or something they care nothing about at all?

Furthermore, is it fair that students who openly disagree with liberal indoctrination are ridiculed and belittled by the same professors who hypocritically preach open-mindedness?

I took "American Liberal Fringe Groups of the 20th Century" — Experiential HIST 2020 — a few semesters ago and realized that liberal indoctrination runs rampant at MTSU.



Hurtt Pride
Matthew Hurtt
Staff Columnist

Students were required to volunteer 20 hours to a group from a list of groups provided by the professor. For example, students could volunteer with Planned Parenthood, the Nashville Peace and Justice Center, or any number of other liberal interest groups.

Luckily, I created the short-lived Raiders for Political Awareness, and we worked to educate students about the City Council election, a uniquely non-partisan race that ruffled few feathers. Conservative and apathetic students flocked to that group for different reasons.

How can conservatives combat the constant barrage of liberal attacks on college campuses? I, for one, am tired of being labeled narrow-minded, racist, intolerant and bigoted because I believe differently than others. These words are loaded. They do not address the issue, but work to belittle the argument of the one who receives the insult.

Conservative college students must reveal the true bigots on campus: the professoriate is by and large the most bigoted group of individuals in the professional world. They routinely demean, disparage, decry and deride students who do not share their beliefs.

Not every professor, however, subscribes to liberal ideology. They should stand with their conservative students and promote traditional values and conservatism without the fear of being denigrated by their liberal co-workers.

So, whenever a professor says something that goes against conservative doctrine, it is up to the educated conservative student to debunk and clarify the misinformation. It is up to the educated conservative to be ever-vigilant in the fight against liberal and socialist tyranny.

Matthew Hurtt is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

Fake religion, real expression

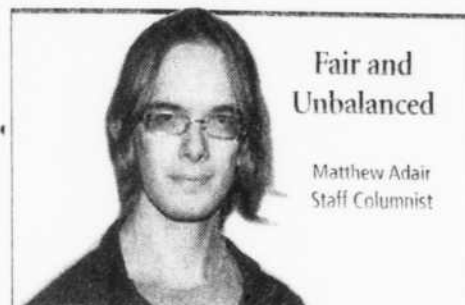
How far would you be willing to go for your religious beliefs? In ages past, some have walked hundreds of miles into exile, been fed to lions, or were cut down in bloody conflict for their faith. For one young man in North Buncombe, North Carolina, standing up for what he believes in involved getting suspended from school for a day for dressing up as a pirate.

Bryan Killian, a 16 year-old student at North Buncombe High School, insisted that his eye patch was a requirement of his belief in Pastafarianism, the faith concocted by Bobby Henderson in May 2005 as part of an argument at the time concerning the teaching of the theory of intelligent design in Kansas' schools.

Henderson insisted that, if time was going to be given to teaching intelligent design, that students should also have to listen to his theory that the world was created by the Flying Spaghetti Monster, and that the world as we see it has been manipulated by said deity's "noodly appendages" to make it seem older than it really is.

Part of the religious dress of the Pastafarians is anything and everything pirate related — hence Killian's eye patch. It's believed that the sudden decrease of the number of pirates in the world has led to an increase in the average temperature of the planet, and that by dressing as pirate, people can stop the threat of global warming.

Of course, all of this is completely absurd, and the faith's 'believers' are well aware of it. Henderson meant his religion as a joke, a farce on the educational debacle over teaching the theory of evolution. It is just as arbitrary to say that a divine being made of



Fair and Unbalanced
Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

pasta manipulates levels of radioactive carbon in rocks as it is to say that the God of Moses, Jesus and Mohammad fabricated hundreds of millions of years worth of fossil in order to make the world seem older than it is. Pastafarianism is meant to point out the gaping holes in intelligent design, and nothing more.

So, why the big deal over Killian's eye patch?

Religion is a serious topic of debate in this country, as is the right to express oneself. Nearly every U.S. citizen knows that their basic freedoms are protected under the Bill of Rights, even if few know the wording of the document itself, or even the oft-mentioned First Amendment. These rights belong to everyone, no matter where in the country they are.

Our laws are not allowed to deny us the right to speak our minds, or write what we think or believe in what we wish to believe. If we feel that something isn't right with our country and how any part of it is run, we have the right to challenge it. In fact, one could argue that it is our duty to use these rights to the fullest, in order to ensure a best possible nation for us all.

There is no legal requirement for how seriously a form of expression must be taken to be valid. In fact, we put high value on parody and mockery — after all, we do live in an era where a parody newscast, "The Daily Show," is considered a reliable information source by the generation that is beginning to come into both the workforce and into political power.

Things like these remind us to take the world with a grain of salt, to look closer and see the ridiculousness in the actions of very serious people, and call them out on it.

Pastafarianism isn't a serious religion, but it represents a serious idea, and as silly as dressing like a pirate is as part of a belief, it is still a form of expression. In a way, the administration of North Buncombe High School have made themselves look as foolish as those who support the teaching of intelligent design. The only real disruption in the school came from the decision to suspend Killian after repeatedly asking him to remove his pirate gear, and in punishing him, they've created more of a mess than if they had simply left the boy alone.

Killian has since decided that he won't wear the eye patch until he's told he can, again. The Constitution and the legal precedents of the Supreme Court, however, both say that he can. Pastafarianism may be a made-up, joke religion, but it is still a belief, and Killian has every right to express his belief, no matter how silly the method of doing so is.

Matthew Adair is a senior art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.

Sisters doing it for themselves

Ah, Spring... The birds are doing it, bees are doing it and trees seem to do it on my car.

All of society tells us that we must mate, date and spend our youth looking for a life partner for everlasting love with all the fairy tale endings. Even from our studious minds, our libidos are telling us that we must hunt for love, a life partner and plenty of sex.

It seems the warmer it gets, the more we awake like hibernating bears on forage for sex complete with nuts and berries.

The truth is that sex is dangerous business these days. The consequences of sex can affect someone's health and well-being long after temporary heartache. Student Health Services offers full STD testing and birth control options, so all you bunny rabbits should hop over there this spring and take socially responsible for yourselves and your sex partners. Sometimes after the spring break sexual Olympics, one can return home with more than just a hangover.

Some say that women and men are naturally different. Biologically, this is true, but everything else that comes with one's sex is socially created. Women are far more complex biological organism than men. We have a cycle that replenishes our most intimate being on a regular basis. Some women are



One Vagina For Lady Liberty
Liz Estes
Contributing Columnist

mysteriously even in cycle with the phases of the moon as well as their roommates.

When girls are socialized to believe that our vaginas are only for reproduction we are intentionally misinformed about the pleasurable powerhouse under our skirts. This is a threatening notion to the male-dominated sexual society and a step towards sexual liberation and equality. Men are afraid to admit it, but know that ladies can purchase the pleasure of a penis and keep it safely in their nightstand.

While a girl is growing up, she is inundated with ideologies that her vagina is the savior of purity, procreation and a biological wonder that everyone is entitled to morally regulate.

A young girl's sexual desire appears from a mysterious internal place and she often has no idea what to make of her arousal. Young girls are never told that masturbation is truest form of safe sex.

Males are simpler than females when it comes to sex. They have a dumb stick with a

mind of its own. No matter with what or which way you manipulate the penis it, only needs one basic movement. A vagina has five times the nerves and twice the pleasure points. Some women are not even sure how to manipulate all the ways of her wonder towards climax, let alone men, who are distracted by the lack of blood in their brains.

Males on the other hand, pun intended, wake up in their youth with an external force to reckon with. Females have an internal arousal that does not appear in external form. Female arousal does not show itself as obviously as an erection.

Female sexual pleasure isn't that simple to locate, it takes practice.

I have found through an informal poll that most women begin masturbating after they have already had sex. What is troubling to me about this is that she is relying on someone else to discover the pleasures of sex. Even more troubling is that according to WebMD.com, 20 percent of women in marriages are not having orgasms. Why have sex at all if both partners are not physically enjoying it? We women know that he will enjoy it no matter what — it's a dumb stick after all.

Women must take sex into their own hands and discover the ways a vagina is a power-

house of pleasure. If, this spring, a chick wants to have sex like a rabbit, I suggest she discover the pleasures of her own basket before relying on someone else to help her find it.

With the risk of STDs and the very serious rampant rates of human papillomavirus, why bother sleeping with someone if you do not know how to enjoy the very act itself?

Why risk your health if the act is not even personally rewarding? It should be quality over quantity, is my motto.

Sexual liberation isn't just sleeping with whomever, whenever. It's also being in charge and not just on top of who receives the sexual pleasure. Sexual liberation is about pleasure, the care of your self esteem and taking responsibility of your sexual health. The more a woman masturbates the less dependent she becomes emotionally and physically on others. Just as important, she will practice the safest sex possible.

This spring, I suggest all chicks to discover the pleasures of sex by taking their desires into their own hands. After all, the next time a bear comes along you can show him how to enjoy your Easter basket. Why not share the nuts and candy?

Liz Estes is a senior English major and has a B.A. in philosophy. She can be reached at cae2b@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

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Letters to the Editor

Consider historical importance, not hatred

To the Editor:

Recently my uncle, Robert Tracy McKenzie, spoke about the Nathan Bedford Forrest. He was flown in from Washington State to speak about the life of a man who had great enough influence to have our Military Science building named after him. It is vastly over looked that the man himself used to be our mascot. Where do you think the name Raiders came from? How do you think the horse came about? The mascot used to be a confederate general riding upon a horse, and the Blue Raiders were named after the raids he led. The man was, in fact, Nathan Bedford Forrest. Slowly, though political correctness, we have changed all this. The man was removed from the horse which remained, later named "Lightning."

How important is MTSU history to the students? Does it really matter where we came from? Does our past influence our history? It really comes down to how the future students of MTSU see our school as a whole. Will we lose future students because they think we are racist bigots? It is highly doubtful. The name does, however, hold significance to the past. The people who founded this forever-growing school were influenced by this man. We, and the future generations attending MTSU, stand influenced by the founders of the school. My uncle gave a very deep speech, and it was not so much about the man Forrest. His speech was more geared towards not changing the past to fit the image that we think we would like to become.

Forrest did some bad things, yet he was a man worthy to impact the founders of the school enough to make him the central figure. I know the Students Against Forrest Hall see this as a way to make a difference. Perhaps it will make the school more politically correct. Perhaps it will make one student feel like they are doing something positive in this world, but when it really comes to heart of the matter, it will not really change anything. All that will change is the name on a building, an abbreviation on campus maps and something different for the tour guides to say at Customs.

Benjamin McKenzie
Freshman, undeclared

Columnist mocks faith, conservative values

To the Editor:

I would like to reply to Brandon Bouchillion's column "Iraqi war justified with hypocrisy," printed March 29. Bouchillion made several remarks in his column that I found to be erroneous.

First of all, Bouchillion stereotypes the Republican Party. I am certain that there are Christians who are Democrats. Being Christian does not automatically make one a Republican. He also seems to forget that the Democratic Party does have flaws as well. Must we even mention former President William Clinton? Both parties have faults that can be pointed out. The way Bouchillion seems to decide which ones to mention are the ones that the media seem to be focusing on at the moment. Bouchillion asks his readers to "try making a thoughtful decision for once" when his own decisions seem to be ones provoked by the media instead of thoughtfulness.

Secondly, he mocks those who have "Support our Troops" stickers on their vehicles. He assumes that those who own these stickers are seeking glory through looking patriotic. In fact, many of these sticker-bearing people have a loved one who is currently in or has served in Iraq. I know of nothing more patriotic than giving up a son or daughter for the cause of your country. Saying that anyone who does not agree with a withdrawal from Iraq "could care less about these soldiers" is an outrage. I just wonder how many people he knows like this. I know several U.S. soldiers who have been to Iraq or are heading there in the next few months, who do not agree with a withdrawal from Iraq. Do they care about these soldiers? Of course they do. They are these soldiers. I think that Bouchillion has no grounds or qualifications to make that remark and I believe Bouchillion should publicly apologize for that hateful, indecent and thoughtless comment. The mock of the biblical phrase "blessed are the peace makers" should also be apologized for. Who are you to mock holy scripture, and who are you to decide who the blessed are?

Finally, Bouchillion forgets that not everyone shares his opinion about politics and religion. For those of us whose life is centered around religion, voting without religion is not an option. He seems to forget as well that our nation was founded on religious principles. I do not vote Republican simply because I am a Southern Baptist. I vote Republican because the party shares my opinions on the issues that are important enough to me to vote for, just as he and everyone else votes the way they do. I am allowed to have and share my opinions, just as he is, because U.S. troops are doing what they have always

done. Any of my opinions about war, abortion, ethics or anything else are made no less valid because I am a Christian than Bouchillion's because he is atheist, Jewish, Muslim or whatever religious beliefs he made hold. I would like to suggest to Bouchillion that next time a Mass Communications major decides to write on political issues, he does his research a little better and avoids stereotyping, because we all know what assuming does.

I would like to leave Bouchillion with a quote from United Kingdom Prime Minister Tony Blair when asked why he believes so much in the United States. He said, "A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want to – and how many want out." Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you, Mr. Bouchillion, Jesus Christ and the American G.I. God forgive you, for you know not what you say.

Lacey Nicole Taylor
Sophomore, college of liberal arts

Hate crime legislation hopes to outlaw Bible

To the Editor:

This letter concerns the hate crime legislation that is going back before our legislators again concerning hate speech laws.

This is legislation that will cause reading the Bible, teaching the Bible to our children and others, and distributing the Bible to become "hate speech," or a "hate crime," against homosexuals.

This same legislation was called the "Chill Bill," or Bible As Hate Literature Act in Canada, which censored the Bible, and made distributing it and teaching it illegal. This has been pushed by the liberals, and was being pushed by hatecrime.org, as they listed all the Christian Bible teachers on the Trinity Broadcasting Network as "ministers of hate," for saying homosexuality is sin. This will create the first religious prisoner in the history of the United States, and it supports "thought crime" legislation.

Spread the word for those citizens in the know to contact their leaders to keep free religious speech in the Christian churches, and the freedoms that our founding fathers supported us having – the freedom to debate any issue from a religious viewpoint, as well as a scientific viewpoint. Let us not sit back and let our legal rights to debate the issue of homosexuality be taken away from us, and let censorship of our religious worship step in. The libertarian party has a saying that, "if they take away their rights today, they will take away our rights tomorrow," and it applies here.

If they can censor the Bible and make it the first book to be banned in the United States, what book will be next? I am sure it will be banned first, just as in Nazi Germany, where politically-correct laws were passed called "good speak." This, of course led there and could lead to making the Bible illegal, and being burned in the streets.

We are on the brink of the beginning of thought crime legislation, and horrible censorship. No group will be immune to this kind of legislation if we let this Pandora's box be opened.

Carrie Scoggins
Bigsby Creek Rd, Cleveland, TN

Some still seeking substance over stereotypes

To the Editor:

I know I'm a little late on this one, but this issue has been curling up in my brain, like my cat on my lap, digging its claws in just before it settles. I'd say it's fair to assume that most people have read about the Playboy controversy that happened just down the road at Vanderbilt, so I won't waste time rehashing it. Is it flattering, or is it disgusting to have scouts come to your school year after year looking for girls to bare all? What does it say about the school? Does it shine a spotlight on a campus of unusually beautiful students, or does it lift up their shirts revealing a wound of festering amorality? Out of the thousands of girls that attend Vandy, only about 30 made it to the Playboy test shoots. Despite on-campus protests, local and – somewhat limited – national coverage, these girls still made it. Call it sexual empowerment or girls gone wild, these girls walked the gauntlet of mixed messages, where one side says it makes you more of a woman and the other says it makes you less. I can only wonder what was going through their heads. What where those girls thinking, as the news stories against them, and the pictures they wanted to be in sat side by side in their minds as they waited to be called?

A better question might be, how many of those girls looked like Lisa Loeb? It's a product of modern times where images have permeated every aspect of our lives and I'd hate to see it spread here. Who know what effect the Playboy mentality has on the girl? It seems every day, girls are wearing less and less, and fewer and fewer are wearing cat's-eye glasses. Honestly, I'm not sure that's best for the ladies or for me. While some may see this as empowerment, I'm not sure. You say I only hear

what I want to, but all I know is that Loeb managed to be pretty darned cute and stand for something without going off the deep end on either side. I walk through campus every day, and where are all the cute girls with their striped sweaters hanging off of one shoulder, strumming their acoustic guitars, looking over their thick frames to smile at me?

Listen, I understand that most boys have that poster of the two girls kissing blown up to about 60x50 and mounted to their wall. Most harbor some weird affinity for those porno girls. I'm sure at some point, everybody feels this way, but there is a sever lack of girls that look like Lisa Loeb on the MTSU campus.

Sure, different strokes for different folks, but what am I supposed to do here? I know there's a give and take; you dress and act a certain way to attract a certain type, to represent who you are, what you believe. Some people believe in having 'pink' written on their butts. Some people believe the faux hawk is the next big thing, even though they're a year and a half to late and it'll freak out the hippies when they sport it at the next DMB show. However, there are still a few of us who would pick Lisa Loeb before Jenna Jameson – even after the vaginaplasty. Specifically, one boy who is 6 foot, 2 inches, pretty handy in the kitchen and with kids and some say can run really fast. Edie Jones and Davis Cox both agree, "Any girl who looks like Lisa Loeb will be asking Jacob to stay." Davis goes on to say, "Jacob has been complaining about not being able to find a girl that looks like Lisa Loeb for years. For some reason this Vanderbilt thing just set him off. Good guy though, he can run really fast." Leading fashion analysts say that Lisa Loeb is totally cute even though she's, like, way old. They go on to say that her influence will only increase in the coming years. Analysts also see a direct correlation with this increase in popularity and the ever-picky Jacob Smith's love life.

Some boys may prefer the Playboy look, and some girls will continue lusting after that life still. However, there is still one boy looking for a firecracker to hold hands and soft-pop rock out with. Every day, our culture becomes more and more individualistic and people go to greater lengths to stand out. However, all you have to do to get this growingly frustrated boy's attention is throw on a pair of glasses, pull out that guitar and say hello.

Jacob Smith
Senior, college of mass communication

Showing intolerance protects values, rights

To the Editor:

I have been a faithful reader of *Sidelines* for all my tenure at MTSU. However, never have I been more appalled at its antics until I read the Editorial Board's "Obsession" promotes intolerance of Islam." [March 19.] It left me pondering on the mindset of the writer. Did he not watch the same movie that I did?

Two things are obviously apparent. First, it would appear that *Sidelines* has conformed to a more left-wing disposition and, in doing so has decided to bash and debase all things slightly conservative or logical. Secondly, either the writer of this piece did not do his homework or he watched the wrong movie. I am not entirely sure which.

The author discredits himself in his opening line when he says, "the screening of the film "Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West" on campus surely doesn't present any new viewpoints or any inspiration for tolerance." This is absurd.

This is the first movie that truly shows why we, as Americans, cannot give radical Islam an ounce of tolerance. I know we live in a prominently Christian society that believes in turning the other cheek, but these people want to deface anything American.

Furthermore, they are obsessed with our destruction, which they so generously demonstrate as often as possible.

Later, I was repulsed when the author argues, "Jihad has committed horrible acts, but are they truly hoping to wipe out an entire population?" Well, actually, that is exactly what they want to do.

Furthermore, they are not trying to hide it. Did the author trance out while they gleefully chant, "Death to America?"

Once again, I say we cannot show Radical Islam tolerance. Did we show Hitler tolerance? Do they not share the same goals? Did they both not want to rid the world of Jews, democracy and all societies that do not share their views?

We need to continue to show intolerance to prevent a future Holocaust, not only of Jewish Americans, but also of all Americans.

We need to continue to show intolerance to protect future generations, to protect our rights and to protect what it means to be an American.

David Culklin
Senior, college of liberal arts

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

is looking for an **EDITOR IN CHIEF**
for Summer and Fall 2007

Sidelines is looking for someone with maturity, leadership abilities, excellent time management and knowledge of all aspects of newspaper production, including budget meetings, story generation and development, enterprise journalism, news writing, feature writing, Quark and Photoshop skills, Associated Press style, copy editing, current newspaper trends, photojournalism, a commitment to ethical and legal practice and preferably experience in a professional newsroom. All editor applicants need to have a 2.5 GPA.

To Apply:

Candidates must provide a complete resume and cover letter, a selection of clips, and a completed *Sidelines* application. Please submit applications to *Sidelines* advisor Steven Chappell, ext. 2337, schappell@mtsu.edu.

Deadline is April 13

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SIDELINES is looking for an **EDITOR IN CHIEF** for Summer and Fall 2007

SGA spring elections show increase in voting

RULES

payments of OLYMPIK proportions

Herculean house debts provide students of Greek Life

SPORTS

Blue Raiders baseball wins series against ULM

Sunday, April 1
ULM 5
MTSU 11

Next Game Tennessee
Tech April 3

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

This weekend the bats were on display at Reese-Smith Field. Middle Tennessee series against featured a number of runs being scored with little pitching.

After falling Friday night 13-7, the Blue Raiders came back in a big way on Saturday, winning 21-6 and finish the series final winning 11-5.

In Friday's game, Middle Tennessee was the team getting off to the good start throwing a shutout through the first three innings from the third inning on, it was all Louisiana-Monroe.

The Warhawks pounded out nine runs in the next three innings to take the lead on the

evening. ULM hit four home-runs including two by third baseman Travis Drader.

MT's Matt Ray and Wayne Kendrick were collected three hits a piece in the loss. Adam Warren led the team with three runs-batted in.

Middle Tennessee rebounded in the Saturday game as the Blue Raiders collected 25 hits in their way to scoring 21 runs.

Two players, Myles Ervin and Adam Warren, had five hits on the game marking only the 15th and 16th time this feat has been accomplished in the history of Blue Raider baseball. Middle Tennessee got off to a fast start and never looked back as the team scored seven runs in the first two innings.

The Blue Raiders ended the scoring barrage adding six runs in the eighth inning. Middle Tennessee combined all of their hitting prowess in this game, and exploded for six homeruns.

Myles Ervin and Bishop Rawley had two homeruns a piece. Rawley has been on a tear as he continues his 18 game hitting streak, which is the longest

since 1999.

Brad Robinson picked up the win for Middle Tennessee collecting his third for the season by going seven and a third innings, allowing only four earned runs.

Coming up this week in Middle Tennessee baseball, the team will play at home and away against Tennessee Tech Tuesday and Wednesday followed by a weekend series with Arkansas State.

Tennessee Tech sports a 15-10 record on the season with a .311 team batting average. Thomas Nelson leads the team in hitting with a .400 average of the season.

Nelson is also tied for the team lead in RBI and leads the team in homeruns as well.

The Golden Eagles will bring a 4.53 ERA to Murfreesboro and feature a solid bullpen of pitchers.

Thursday's edition will feature a wrap-up of the Tennessee Tech games as well as a preview of this weekend's action.

The first pitch against Tennessee Tech is scheduled for 6 p.m. on both days. ♦



Sophomore Raulley Bishop stretches for the throw from the short stop in order to get the ULM in an easy out at first.

Photo by Greg Johnson | Staff Photographer

Michael Paul: rolling on the wheels of success

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

The crowd cheers after the other team misses the volley and the final match point goes to the doubles tennis team of Michael Paul and Kevin Green of Middle Tennessee.

It is their fourth National championship in wheelchair doubles tennis for the men of MTSU.

Michael Paul was injured in a skydiving accident on Sept. 29, 2002 and since then he has been playing wheelchair related sports.

"I started playing wheelchair basketball in Dec. 2002 and then I was introduced to wheelchair tennis in May 2003 and have been playing since then," Paul said. "I took up quite well to the sport because of my hand eye coordination, which helped me to develop my tennis skills."

Before the accident Paul had his hands in several different fields for instance he was a personal trainer, a kickboxing instructor and a massage therapist. He still does the massage therapy on the side as an extra source of income.

"I had a pretty good athletic background which has really given me the edge and ability in being a tennis player," Paul said.

Paul and Green have been dominating in wheelchair dou-

bles for the past two years and last year Paul won the singles championship.

"We've been able to dominate the whole collegiate level. We pretty much were dominating, although there are other bigger schools involved," Paul explains. "The University of Arizona is a huge school that has a great program. I think the UA thought that they were going to take the whole tournament, but we ended up coming in and dominating them and coming in first and second in singles and first in doubles."

Paul has a bachelors' degree in Mass Communication from MTSU and is currently working on his Masters from Walden University.

"I decided that I wanted to do some thing more in the non-profit public policy advocate lobbying for the disabled so my masters degree will be Public Administration," Paul said. "It will hopefully be focused on being involved with a non-profile agency or legislative in the State of Tennessee."

Paul is hoping to move up in the rankings so he can advance to the professional level if he can finish in the top five in the nation. The collegiate level runs from October to March, and the pro level begins in April and runs

through October.

"We will compete on a professional level that people not just in the United States can compete [in] and sometimes Internationally," Paul said. "Personal, I have only been to Canada and I have not been over seas. I think being at the level in the collegiate level and possible being able to compete on a national level."

The Paralympics is more competitive. The Paralympics is a multi-sports event for athletes with physical disabilities and held every four years after the Olympics.

The only two wheelchair sports that are the most competitive are basketball and tennis out. Tennis is the only sport that is working to pay their athletes prize money.

"Wheelchair tennis is one of the most competitive sports other than basketball," Paul said. "It's the only one that actually that has prize money for the athletes."

Athletes can make money while playing on the circuit and as more sponsors start to notice the popularity of wheelchair tennis more opportunities should be available for the tennis players to find a sponsor.

Paul enjoys playing tennis because of the benefits he gets

from playing the sport.

"It is good for me mentally, physically and emotionally to release those endorphins and the feeling of accomplishment and keeping me in good shape," Paul said.

Some of the wheelchair tennis players have sponsors to help pay for the entry fees and travel expenses.

Paul is sponsored by the Tennessee Wheelchair Athletic Association, and has other sponsors. If he continues to improve he could get more sponsors once he makes the top five and advance to the open division.

Wheelchair tennis plays by the same rules as regular tennis does. The only difference is the bounce rule and playing in a wheelchair.

A normal tennis player has to get the ball back over the net for a volley after one bounce, but that rule does not apply here because of the players are using wheelchairs to move around the court.

"You're allowed to have two bounces instead of one. A lot of times we don't even take two bounces," Paul said. "We'll just take the ball on one bounce. That is the only rule that is different from able-bodied tennis. It's much more difficult, because you have to hold the racquet and push your chair in order to get to the ball." ♦



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

UT against UNC reflects MT's own performance

Throughout the 06-07 season, Middle Tennessee played like a team obsessed with one statistical advantage: Turnovers, turnovers and turnovers.

In their final win of the season, a 85-47 thumping of Gonzaga, the Lady Raiders forced 37 turnovers with their full-court pressure and high-speed defense.

The 43 points netted from those turnovers were more than enough to put Gonzaga out of contention almost immediately. And while MT is not amazing at holding on to the ball themselves, their turnover to take-away ratio led them to dominate the number of possessions against almost every opponent.

A typical scenario for the Raiders would be a game where they shoot 5-10 percent worse, yet win by 20-35 points.

The other team never gets a chance to score, if they ever have the ball. Once a team dominates the tempo like that, they don't have to hit every shot.

Second chance points, fast breaks and points off of turnovers are usually the difference maker in any game.

On top of that, Chrissy Givens and Amber Holt were great at getting to the line to add another 10-15 points per game.

It's a sound philosophy that led MT to a 30-win season and a No. 17 ranking.

Unfortunately, they ran into the one team who could avoid the usual pitfalls that silenced team after team this year. Marist, their second round opponent, was the No. 1 team in the nation in the category of turnovers committed. Marist was everything short of genetically engineered to stop the Lady Raiders.

The University of Tennessee easily out-shot Marist a week later and now only four final teams remain.

One of those teams, University of North Carolina, plays a high-energy full-court game much like MT's.

If the Raiders had found a way to beat Marist, their game against UT in the second round may have looked much like Sunday nights UT-UNC match up.

MT was a slightly better scoring team – fourth in the nation, but UNC is a better rebounding team – 11.1 rebounding margin. In the end, the two teams

believe in taking away the opponent's chances of beating you by simply holding on to the ball the entire game.

However, this isn't the boring kind of ball control. To use a football analogy, avoid comparing their style to power running, ball control teams like the Steelers under head coach Bill Cowher.

Think of it being like Bill Walsh's 49ers in the 80s and 90s. The 'Niners were highly active on offensive and defense.

They took the ball away an alarming amount of the time with defensive stars like Ronnie Lott and kept from coughing it up once Montana or Young took over the offense.

Quick passes and a frenetic pace kept defenses on their heels. The 49ers didn't run out the clock once they had a lead.

They kept picking away one quick play at a time. Walsh knew if he could keep his hands on the ball and score repeatedly – a less stressed aspect of a ball control running game – his chances of winning were obviously going to be high.

Like clock, UNC doesn't run out the clock. They just run. When the UNC played UT on Dec. 3, the Tarheels forced 24 turnovers – on par for their average, and had ten more rebounds than the Lady Vols – slightly under their average.

They just outran the Vols, plain and simple, and their defensive performance led to a convincing 70-57 win in front of the Chapel Hill faithful.

Pat Summit is a smart lady. She knows that she is going to have to find a way to open up the game and give Candace Parker a chance to win.

And whether the Vols make it to yet another championship game or not she will still be the coach with the most wins in the history of history.

What has me excited is that a team that plays like MT, with slightly worse numbers, is in the Final Four. Had it not been for Marist's amazingly efficient offense, MT could be playing against UNC on Sunday. Don't forget, Rick Insell is a pretty smart fella' himself. See you next year, Pat. ♦

J. Owen Shipley is a junior English major and can be reached at myspace.com/IamSportacus

Women's tennis team fall to Alabama-Birmingham

Media Relations

Middle Tennessee won the doubles point and the first two completed singles matches but could not hang on, dropping a 4-3 decision to UAB Friday at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

MT 4-11 won all three doubles matches and the first two singles outings, with Hala Sufi and Elvira Yusupova claiming victories to give the squad a 3-0 lead. But the Blazers won the final four singles bouts, including the deciding point in three sets.

In doubles, Ann-Kristin Siljestrom and Stephanie Parkison defeated Gulsah Esen and Nischa Maier-Knapp, 8-5, at No. 2 before Sufi and Claudia Szabo won 8-6 over Annemieke Elsholz and Julia von Samson at No. 1 to claim the doubles point. At No. 3 Pooja Kommireddi and Marlene Chemin posted a 9-7 triumph against Magdalena Czernik and Antonia Nugent.

Sufi, ranked no. 72 in singles, defeated Maier-Knapp, 6-1, 6-2, at No. 1 and Yusupova won 6-1, 6-1, over Elsholz at No. 5, to give Middle Tennessee a 3-0 edge in the match.

But Samrin Tanzeem started the Blazers (11-2) comeback, taking care of Parkison, 6-1, 6-2,

UAB 4, Middle Tennessee 3 SINGLES

1. Hala Sufi (MT) def. Nischa Maier-Knapp (UAB), 6-1, 6-2
2. Gulsah Eden (UAB) def. Ann-Kristin Siljestrom (UAB), 6-3, 2-6, 6-2
3. Julia von Samson (UAB) def. Marlene Chemin (MT), 6-3, 6-4
4. Magdalena Czernik (UAB) def. Claudia Szabo (MT), 6-4, 6-3
5. Elvira Yusupova (MT) def. Annemieke Elsholz (UAB), 6-1, 6-1
6. Samrin Tanzeem (UAB) def. Stephanie Parkison (MT), 6-1, 6-2

- Order of Finish: 1,5,6,3,4,2*
- ### DOUBLES
1. Sufi-Szabo (MT) def. Elsholz-von Samson (MT), 8-6
 2. Siljestrom-Parkison (MT) def. Esen-Maier-Knapp (UAB), 8-5
 3. Pooja Kommireddi-Chemin (MT) def. Czernik-Antonia Nugent (UAB), 9-7

Order of Finish: 2,1*,3

at No. 6, and von Samson defeated Chemin, 6-3, 6-4, before Czernik won 6-4, 6-3, over Szabo at No. 4 to even the match at three. The final point came from Eden, who outlasted Siljestrom, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, at No. 2.

"This match was a little disappointing because we had some players who just didn't show up," MT head coach Alison Ojeda told MT Media Relations. "Just like against [South Alabama], we had some good things and some bad things, but we've got to be more consistent up-and-down the lineup."

MT plays ASU and Troy. ♦



Junior Claudia Szabo leaps to return the ball against UAB player.

Photo by Chris Barstad | Photo Editor

Denny McLain talks to English scholars about baseball

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

Guest speaker's highlight day dedicated to scholars' discussion on Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference.

Professors from different colleges and universities came to Middle Tennessee State for the 12th annual conference.

The special guest speakers at the luncheon was former-Detroit Tigers pitcher Denny McLain, and keynote speaker Gerald Wood addressed the scholars who came to MT to read their articles.

The conference was sponsored the MTSU Virginia Peck Foundation, Distinguished Lectures Committee, Athletics Department and College of Liberal Arts.

Pete Carino, associate professor of English and department of English chair at Indiana State, said he was happy with the transition that was made in moving the conference to MTSU.

"I wanted to get the location in the mid-west, and we did it for ten years," Carino said. For the past 10 years, the conference has been held at Indiana State before coming here in 2006.

"I had done it for about 10 years, and it is a lot of work. I certainly have other things I need to do besides the job as much as I did love it, and I thought it was about time to give it up," Carino said. "I had in mind to contact the people from Middle Tennessee because they were faithful attendees. I thought these guys are young and maybe they would like to take it over."

MT's own associate professors of English, Warren Tormey and Ronald Kates and associate professor of Speech and Theater, Crosby Hunt, were very interested in bringing the baseball conference to MTSU.

Carino said. "I had already sent out a notice that it was not going to happen that year. As soon as I thought about contacting [MTSU] I opened my e-mail, and there was an e-mail from Ron Kates, who said 'I see that your not doing this [anymore], not to step on your toes, we're not trying to steal it, but would you mind if we do it this year?' I wrote back to Ron and said 'I wouldn't mind if you did it continuously.'"

According to Carino, "They did it last year, and it worked out just fine. I'm very happy with the transition. MTSU has done a great job in the last two years with Bill Lee and Denny McLain."

Carino started the Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference, but it was not his idea. The

only thing he'll take credit for is the idea of bringing a ball player to speak at the luncheon.

"I wish I could say it was originally me, but the Cooperstown symposium [started it] probably three years before I started in 1995," Carino said. "When I started, I said, 'well the one in Arizona, people go there, and then, they go to Spring Training. The one in Cooperstown, they got the Hall of Fame. What are we going to offer them in Terra Haut, Indiana?' I got the idea about having a ball player as the luncheon speaker, and we started that tradition, [which] has continued."

Scholars come to the conference to read their articles to other scholars on different topics all relating in some form or another to baseball, whether it is a famous writer's love of the sport like Walter Whitman or the economics that are associated with baseball.

Gerald Wood, associate professor of English and the dean of Humanities at Carson-Newman College, gave the keynote address about 'Smokin' Joe Wood, who was a baseball player with the Boston Red Sox.

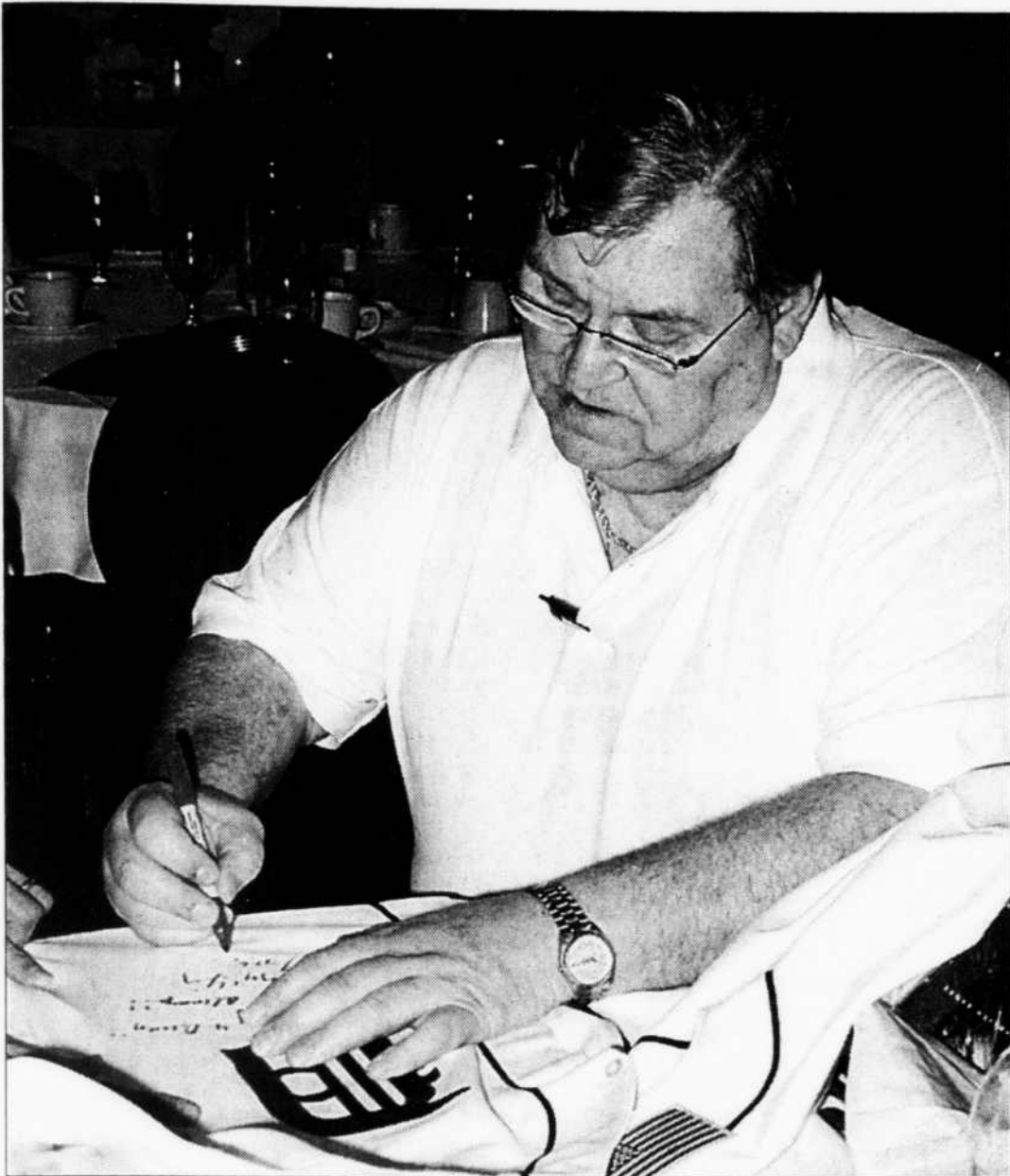
"It depends on the teacher. Most of our writers are college professors with an interest in baseball. Other people have interest in American culture or American history, and this is sort of a spin off of some of the work they are doing," Wood said. "They have similar interests. The classic example is someone who has an interest in Walt Whitman and then found out that Walt Whitman was really interested in baseball, and then, they do a study on Walt Whitman and baseball, and then, they go back to writing about Walt Whitman."

Wood used to be a baseball player at Wabash College and attends the conference on a regular basis.

"The people who run the conference-they judge the papers, and they organize the program. All the people participating have a point appropriate for the conference," Wood said. "They asked me if I would do the keynote, and I said yes because some of the work I was writing about 'Smokin' Joe Wood."

After a scholar reads their article, they take questions from the audience. Some of the scholars will need to revise their articles for publication by McFarlane Publishing Company. Professor Kates is the editor and will be contacting the scholars about their revisions.

Scholars do not get paid for the articles published by McFarlane Publishing. Kates will be paid for editing the articles for the book, but the



Former Detroit Tigers pitcher Denny McLain was the guest speaker on Friday for the Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference. McLain was the last pitcher to win 30 games in a season. He won 31 games. McLain was on the 1968 World Series Detroit Tigers team.

money he receives will go towards next year's baseball conference to help with expenses.

The baseball conference itself gives people the opportunity to talk about baseball and the different theories involved or just to talk about it. Even though there are different points of view in where this may fall in the literary world, it is not much of a concern.

"The lines are not drawn, they [are] more blurred," Wood said. "People are aware of that, but they are not doctorate or aggressive about that. Some people want to talk about their own passion for baseball or [that] sort of nostalgia."

Denny McLain address the luncheon audience, and most of the people that attended the conference went to see the Blue Raiders baseball team play against Louisiana-Monroe Friday night. The Raiders lost to the Warhawks 13-7. ♦

Shooting: Operation Helmet

Continued from 1

they want to sponsor the event and offer a prize for the competitions.

"Right now, we are working with H.H Gregg, offered to sponsor our event, but what I'm waiting for them right now is the level of participation," Chrysler said. "They said they can participate any where from a \$300 gift certificate to a large screen HDTV."

There is a possibility of some restaurants offering gift certificates, but that is still in the works Chrysler said.

For the open competition, Chrysler has been talking to other groups that might be interested in competing.

"We are going to go to the local police union and fire fighters," Chrysler said. "The chief of police in Murfreesboro-his son is a marine and is currently deployed. We're going to the EFW group and to a group called the Marine Core League, which are retired marines that live in the area, and they are willing to participate."

The price of participation is \$100 for Greeks on Friday and the open shoot is \$30. Everyone will need to bring their own ammunition for the event, but On Target Indoor Shooting Range is able to rent equipment.

"[One] hundred percent of the proceeds are going toward operation helmet. None of it is going toward administrative cost. It is all tax deductible," Chrysler said.

At press time, only one fraternity had responded to Chrysler's e-mail about attending the event. Sigma Alpha Epsilon had something else planned for that day and could not compete in the competition. ♦

Sports writers wanted, needed and deeply desired.

Come and join us every Monday at 6 p.m. for our meeting.

Sports Briefs

Softball win double-header series with ULM

Samantha Floyd allowed no runs and just three hits as the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders 18-19, 7-5 SBC clinched the series on a doubleheader sweep against the Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks 18-24, 1-8 SBC at the ULM Softball Complex in Monroe, La. on Saturday, 3-0.

Katie Mielke had all 3 RBI and both Ashley Cline and Shelby Stiner had two hits to lead to the Blue Raider attack.

Floyd (4-5) got the win for the Blue Raiders pitching a shutout and giving up just three hits while striking out two and walking three over 5.2 innings.

Lindsey Vander Lugt also pitched for the Blue Raiders, working the final 1.1 innings and retiring all but one batter. She gave up no runs or hits while walking one.

ULM starter Shanna Swillie (2-3) picked up the loss for the Warhawks, giving up two runs on five hits, while striking out three in 4.2 innings.

Lindsey Rittenhouse and Kandace Causey also pitched for Louisiana-Monroe.

Both teams played to a scoreless tie through the fourth inning as Floyd showed great command by allowing just six batters to get on base.

MT got on the board through a Katie Mielke home run in the top of the 5th inning. Her one-out,

two-run shot to left field gave the Blue Raiders a 2-0 lead.

Mielke would again be on hand in the 6th inning to add an insurance run with a single down the left field line, driving in game two's hero Ashley Cline and giving Middle Tennessee a 3-0 lead.

That is all MT would need to pick up their second straight win against the Sun Belt Conference newcomers.

The Blue Raiders return home to host in-state rival Memphis in a doubleheader on Wednesday. The first game is scheduled for 5 p.m. with second beginning at 7 p.m.

Defense dominates for football team in scrimmage

Middle Tennessee's defense dominated Saturday's full-scale scrimmage, keeping the offense out of the end zone and hauling in three interceptions.

The Blue Raider defense combined for 15 tackles for loss, seven sacks, three interceptions, and held the offense to 305 total yards on 93 plays - an average of 3.3 yards per play.

Defensive end Erik Walden has the most impressive all-around day of any Blue Raider with six tackles for loss, four sacks, and one fumble recovery to key a defensive surge that was prevalent from the outset and never relented. Chris McCoy and Sean Mosley each had two tackles for loss. Anthony Glover, Alex Suber,

and Bradley Robinson had one interception each.

Middle Tennessee's ground game was limited to 11 yards on 44 attempts (with the total including negative yardage tacked on due to the seven sacks).

Quarterback Joe Craddock led Middle Tennessee's passing game with 197 yards, while completing 19 of his 27 attempts; however, he also had three interceptions. Patrick Jackson completed 6-of-10 passes for 56 yards, and Gene Delle Donne was 3-of-7 for 14 yards. In all, the Blue Raider air attack managed just 294 yards on 30-of-49 passing.

Albert Webb was Middle Tennessee's leading rusher with 34 yards on 13 carries. Bobby Williams led the receiving corps with 80 yards on seven catches, and tight end Stephen Chicola finished with five receptions for 34 yards. Patrick Honeycutt continued to play well coming off off-season surgery with four catches for 43 yards.

While the offense had its difficulty with ball security the unit did get in position to allow the kicking game to factor and those results were positive. Matt King nailed all three of his field goal attempts, connecting from 32, 37, and 43 yards, and David DeFatta was good on two of his three attempts, hitting from 21 and 24 yards.

The Blue Raiders return to the practice field Monday as they resume spring practice with their ninth workout. The Spring Game

is set for April 14 at 2 p.m.

Men's tennis team defeats South Florida, 5-2

Morgan Richard and Marc Rocafort won the deciding doubles match in a tiebreaker and senior Andreas Siljestrom posted the deciding singles victory, as No. 45-ranked Middle Tennessee defeated South Florida, 5-2, Saturday in Tampa, Fla.

The Blue Raiders (10-11) ended a four-match losing streak and sent the homestanding Bulls (6-11) to their fifth consecutive loss.

Middle Tennessee shook up the doubles lineup, breaking up the twin towers of Siljestrom and senior Marco Born.

Born and Marc Boiron lost, 8-5, at No. 3 to Ales Svigelj and Marc Jaeger, but Siljestrom and Joao Paoliello defeated Henning Hipp and Daniel Daudt by the same score at No. 2. Richard-Rocafort then outlasted Mahmoud Hamed and Thomas Estrada, 8-6, in a tiebreaker, giving the Blue Raiders the first point of the match.

Hipp quickly tied the match, though, with a 6-3, 6-0, victory over Alex McCann at No. 5, and USF won the first set at Nos. 2, 4 and 6. But the middle of the Blue Raider lineup responded with victories to secure the team victory.

See Briefs, 8

Classifieds

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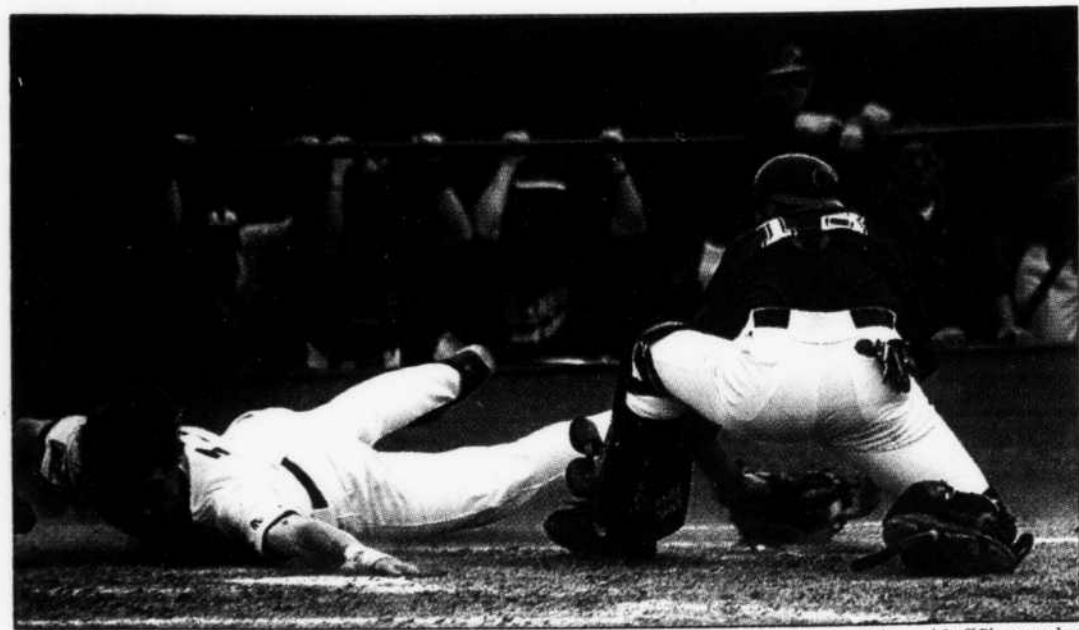


Photo by Greg Johnson | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Rawley Bishop slides into homeplate avoiding the tag from the ULM catcher. MT beat ULM 11-5 on Sunday. check-out the Baseball in Literature and Culture on page 7 and the baseball story on page 6.

Sports index

Page 6

Baseball
Michael Paul profile

Sportacus
Women's tennis

Page 7

Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference
Sports Briefs

I need reporters, please.

Room 269 Monday at 6p.m.

TUESDAY NIGHT SCORES SOFTBALL

IFC B LEAGUE 8 PM

SAE	10	PIKE (B)	12
BETA	7	Sigma Pi	8

IFC A LEAGUE 9,10 PM

Sigma Pi	14	BETA (A)	19
AGR	11	ATO	7
PIKE (A)	Win	SAE (A)	17
Angry Apes	Default	K A	5
Pi Kappa Phi	10	Sig Ep	11
TKE	5	Sigma Chi	5

MEN'S B 11 PM

Warrior Face	6	REBELS	7
The Nads	3	BTS	4

Kappa Sigma	6
Pornstar	1

TUESDAY NIGHT SCORES ARENA FOOTBALL

IFC B LEAGUE (6-7 PM)

Sig Ep	Win	SAE (B)	57
PIKE (B)	Default	BETA (B)	40

MEN'S B LEAGUE (8PM-10 PM)

Body Head Bangerz	84	Free Agents	77
The Show	75	RawDogz	60
Free Agents	90		
The Show	54		

MONDAY NIGHT SCORES SOFTBALL

WOMEN'S / SORORITY (8pm-9pm)

Free Agents	8	Kappa Delta	23
Parrotheads	5	A X O	0
A O Pi	13	Free Agents	11
The Breakneck	5	A D Pi	6
Parrotheads	10	Chi Omega	3

CO-REC (9pm-11pm)

Masterbatters	8	Granny Panties	18
Billirubin	0	Tent Pitchers	5

Killa B	8	Weedwackers	17
Oversized Balls	5	The Astronauts	3
G Blare	11	BTS	8
IM Embarrassed	8	Softballs	6

Showstoppers	12
MTSU All-Stars	6

MONDAY NIGHT SCORES ARENA FOOTBALL

MEN'S A (8pm-10pm)

Team Soul Train	92	Chelky Z	70
The Fatigued	47	Showtime @ the Apollo	37
Showtime @ the Apollo	15		

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCORES SOFTBALL

MEN'S A LEAGUE 9pm & 10pm

Fire 1804	10	University Gables	15
Ninja Turtles	1	Rawdogz	7

Blue Ballaz	9	Tightly Whites	21
No Doubt	4	Hard Hitters	4

Lions	21	Tigers	16
Army ROTC	5	Great Bambinos	12

TUESDAY NIGHT SCORES SOFTBALL

IFC B LEAGUE 8 PM

SAE	19	PIKE (B)	29
SIGMA PI	01	BETA (B)	5

IFC A LEAGUE 9,10 PM

AGR	6	KA 9	
TKE	4	PI KAPPA PHI	2

SIGMA PI	9	PIKE (A)	18
SIG EP	2	BETA (A)	5

SAE	21	SIGMA CHI	16
ANGRY APES	1	ATO	5

CO REC LEAGUE 11 PM

THE NADS	15	REBELS	8
BTS	12	KAPPA SIG	2

This is an empty space that needs to be filled with a story or two. If this had happened, someone would have been paid.

Become a reporter.

Be a sports writer

Do it.

Rm 269

Weekly meeting at 6 p.m.

Briefs: South Florida

Continued from 8

Rocafort defeated Hamed, 6-4, 6-4, at No. 3, before Born, ranked 113th nationally, winning 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, at No. 2, giving Middle Tennessee a 3-1 edge.

USF's Diego Toledo pulled the Bulls within 3-2 with a 6-4, 6-2, triumph over Paoliello at No. 6, but Siljestrom, ranked 69th nationally,

defeated Svigelj, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, at No. 1 for the deciding point. Richard won the final match, 4-6, 7-5, 10-6, over Estrada at No. 4.

Middle Tennessee travels to Lafayette, La., for the Sun Belt Shootout next weekend, with the host Ragin' Cajuns as well as South Alabama and Denver.

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