

SIDELINES

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THURSDAY

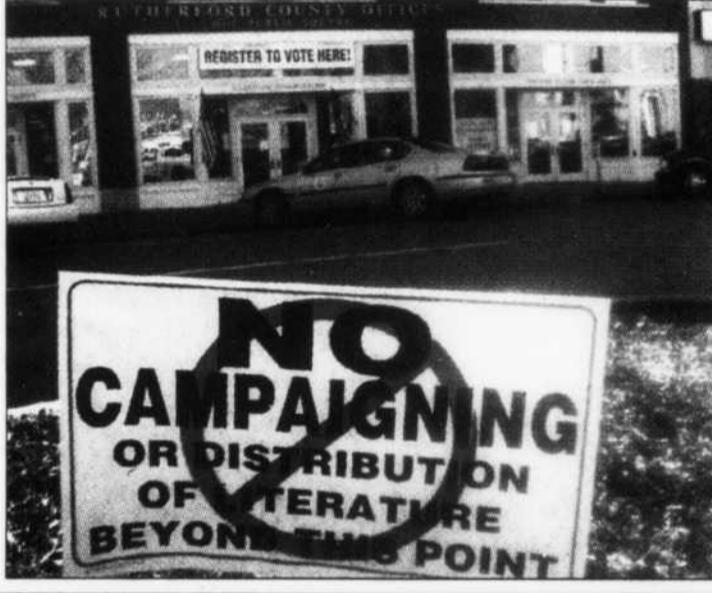
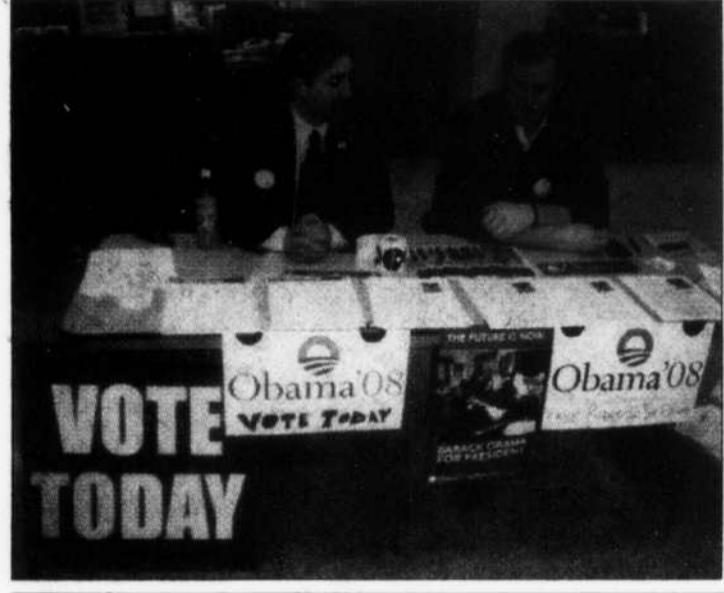
Jan. 31, 2008

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Community News



Above: Voters present their identification as others cast their ballots at the Rutherford County Election Commission, also pictured bottom right. Below, left: Zack Marshall, seated left, and Warren Isenhour distribute information in the KUC.



INSIDE

Bonnaroo 2008

With the music festival months away, students are already making their 'Roo plans.

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United States of fear

A nation living in fear cannot decide effectively. Evan Barker dissects our country's free speech violations.

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Lymon steps up for Lady Raiders

Sophomore Chelsia Lymon recovers from torn ACL and shines in starting role for MT's women's basketball team.

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Students cast early ballots for Super Tuesday

By Dan Potter

Community News Editor

Thursday is the last day of early voting in the Tennessee state primary election, which will take place Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Voters must be registered in Rutherford County to participate here, but are not required to affiliate with a specific party.

Although on Thursday voters may participate at such locations as the office of the Rutherford County Election Commission on the Square, "on election day, registered voters must vote at the precinct they are assigned," said H. Hooper Penuel, Jr., administrator of elections.

Early voting began Jan. 16, Penuel said, and as of Tuesday, some 7,280 people had voted, including absenteers.

Among those striving to get out the vote is the group Students for Barack Obama, said Steven Barnes, an advisor to a student organization on campus and a volunteer with the Obama campaign.

"In the past, so many young people, particularly the 18 to 30 age group, have felt like their involvement in the political process is meaningless," Barnes said. "But I think what we've seen in earlier primaries in this election process, the voter turnout from young people—college students in particular—has played a significant impact in the outcome."

The group is providing free transportation from campus to voting sites. Shuttles go from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and depart at the top of every hour from the Keathley University Center. Those wishing to receive a ride can sign up at the organization's table on the second floor.

Barnes noted that identification is necessary to vote, and that while it's too late to register for the primaries, there is still plenty of time before the general election in November.

"Early voting is instrumental to college students because of the ease of it," said Zach Marshall, state coordinator of Students for

See Voting, 3

Community News

Plea bargain possible for Kevin Sisco

By Dan Potter

Community News Editor

An assistant district attorney will offer a plea agreement next week to the defense attorney of Kevin Sisco, a former MTSU student who is charged with attempted murder.

Sisco was charged in September with attempted first-degree murder in the beating of Ashley Manis at Jim Cummings Hall, where she and Sisco both lived.

"The defense attorney and myself will sit down and discuss the case" on Feb. 4, said Assistant District Attorney Paul Newman. "We'll have a written offer prepared for them."

"I can't tell you what the offer would be," Newman said.

On Feb. 21, the defense will formally accept or reject the offer, or "they could ask for a continuance," Newman said. "If there was a trial set it would probably be in 60 to 90 days."

Sisco faces heavy consequences if convicted, Newman said. "Attempted first-degree murder is a class A felony" and carries a possible prison sentence of 15 to 25 years. Sisco is also charged with possession of a weapon on school property—a misdemeanor.

Murfreesboro Police Department Detective James Abbott said in a preliminary hearing in November that Sisco admitted to beating Manis, the *Daily News Journal* reported.

Manis, who suffered head trauma and several broken bones in the alleged attack, "has not completely recovered," Newman said. "I have talked to [her] father, I plan on talking to him again."

The case is set for the court of Judge Don Ash, where it is routine for the prosecution and the defense to consider a deal before trial, Newman said.

Sisco is represented by Guy Dotson Jr. The defense attorney did not return calls to his office Wednesday.

Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life, said MTSU Judicial Affairs could not comment on the case, however, "Kevin Sisco has been incarcerated, so it makes it difficult" to investigate because they do not have access to the suspect.

Newman commended local law enforcement for helping the district attorney's office prepare for the case, saying "I think that the MTSU police working with the Murfreesboro city police have done an outstanding job of putting this case together."

He also noted two MTSU criminal justice majors are serving as interns and helping collect information. "That's been of great assistance to us."

Community News



Students protest the Genocide Awareness Project in Fall, 2007.

Abortion resolution passes Senate again

By Lucas L. Johnson II

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A resolution that would change the state's constitution to allow more limits on abortion has again passed the Senate but still may face challenges in the lower chamber.

The measure sponsored by Sen. Diane Black, R-Gallatin, passed 23-9 on Wednesday. It has passed the Senate before, but repeatedly failed in a subcommittee of the Democrat-controlled House.

The measure seeks to nullify a state Supreme Court ruling that the Tennessee Constitution offers greater protection for abortion rights than the U.S. Constitution.

The proposal would say that "nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion."

However, an amendment added to the resolution would allow lawmakers to change statutes regarding abortion in cases of rape, incest or the mother's safety.

"I'm pleased with the passage," Black said. "This is a good day for the people of Tennessee; to restore to the people the power of their constitution."

Before the vote, lawmakers debated over several proposed amendments to the resolution, all of which failed or were withdrawn. One proposal by Sen. Beverly Marrero said in part that "the government shall not punish a woman for ending a pregnancy" when she is the victim of incest, rape, or to save her life.

"The majority of people in this state are not in favor of a woman carrying a baby to term that's been raped," the Memphis Democrat said before the vote on her amendment. "The majority of the people in this state are in favor of the language of this amendment."

The last time a similar resolution passed the Senate was in 2006. That same year, however, it failed in the Public Health and Family

See Abortion, 3

MT alumni earns spot in American Idol

Staff Reports

Courtney "Coko" Eason of Nashville, Tennessee may be about to be thrust into the national limelight.

The talented and studied local singer, songwriter and producer has been chosen as one of four soloist finalists to vie for the chance to appear in a national Oscar Mayer TV commercial as part of a marketing promotion with "American Idol".

If Eason wins, she will also earn a trip to the "American Idol" Season 7 finale in Los Angeles where she hopes her talents will be recognized, thus catapulting her into the professional music career she's wanted since she was a little girl growing up in Memphis.

Eason entered Oscar Mayer's annual "Sing the Jingle, Be the Star" (www.singthejingle.com) contest on a whim with low expectations that her entry would actually be picked from the thousands submitted.

Recorded wearing PJ's and no make-up she videotaped a passionate and soulful rendition of "My Bologna Has a First Name" - the classic American jingle.

In early December, she was informed that she was chosen as one of the top four finalists in the nation for the best Oscar Mayer jingle Rendition.

"My dream is to share my musical gift with the world and make a positive impact. Tyrese got his big break singing a Coke commercial so this Oscar Mayer/American Idol contest might be the break I need to make it as a singer/songwriter! Plus, I'd love to meet Simon, Paula and Randy," Eason said.

This is the second year that the Oscar Mayer promotion has been "American Idol"ized.

Being billed by the brand as "America's biggest singing competition," Oscar Mayer supports the contest with American Idol averages on 250 million packages of Oscar Mayer lunch meat, hot dogs, corn dogs and bacon.

Voting takes place Jan. 15 through Feb. 18, 2008. The judges will use those votes to help choose the three top winners: one soloist each in English and Spanish, and one group (singing in either language).

Judging will be based on overall performance, style, creativity

and suitability for an Oscar Mayer TV commercial.

To promote the contest and Eason's participation, the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile will visit Nashville on February 9 and 10.

Born Courtney K. Eason in Atlanta, GA and raised in Memphis, TN, Eason has always been exposed to the musical styles of Blues, Jazz, Gospel, R&B and Hip Hop.

At the age of 5, before she even learned how to read, she studied classical piano and later studied the art of percussion, which became her expertise.

Eason's father began to notice how easy it was for her to harmonize, adlib and play by ear at the young and tender age of 10. As well, her mother began to notice that her best grades in school came from her Creative Writing Classes. By the age of 14, Eason combined her talents of harmonizing, improvising, reciting, and creative writing and began to produce beats, write songs and compose music.

As Eason was shy about her voice, she began performing as a female rapper and only shared her vocal talent with friends and family.

However, after being accepted to Middle Tennessee State University, where she studied Music and Music Business, Eason began to pursue her talents.

While in school, Eason developed her songwriting and production skills. Every day, she wrote songs to add to her catalogue while also making beats for local artists.

Most recently, Eason was accepted into the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University where she will be studying to obtain her Masters Degree.

Eason is now devoting her time to creating great music and furthering her education while promoting her talent on MySpace and YouTube.

Her college education has influenced Eason to one day start her own music company called Band Nerd Productions, LLC.

This company will produce beats, write songs and compose music for Artists, film, television, and video games. Eason's dream is to share her gift with the world.

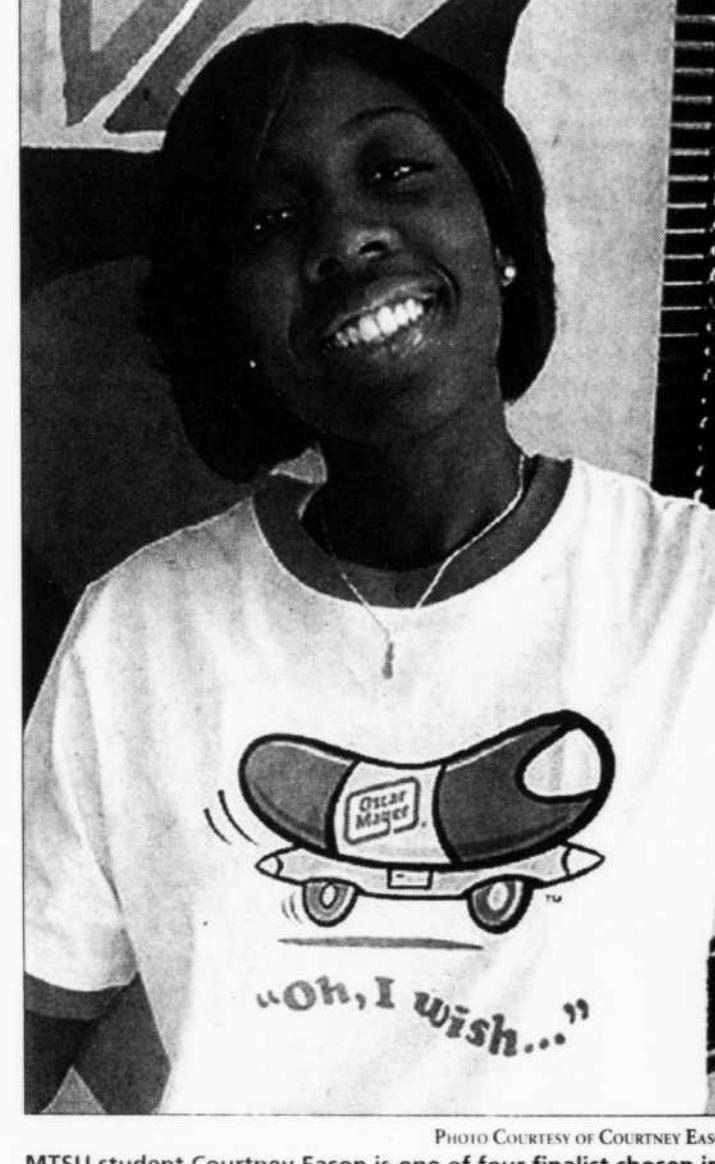


PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY EASON
MTSU student Courtney Eason is one of four finalist chosen in a contest to appear in an Oscar Mayer commercial.

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VOTING: Obama supporters

Continued from page 1

Barack Obama: "Young people are turning out to vote like never before."

Unlike other campaigns, we realize the potential of the youth vote," said Marshall, who graduated from MTSU in December with a degree in political science. "Technically, though we're an organization of students, it's not a recognized student organization."

At Smith, an organizer with the Obama campaign who was ferrying people back and forth in his Escalade on Wednesday, said he'd driven at least 30 people to vote.

Smith said he wouldn't deny people a ride based on which candidate they intend to vote for, but he favors Obama because as a disabled Vietnam veteran he feels the Democratic candidate is the most likely to serve his needs.

Working in conjunction with Students for Barack Obama were such organizations as the NAACP, College Democrats and Alpha Phi Alpha.

"We've had a diverse crowd," said James Perry of Alpha Phi Alpha. "Every race, creed and age."

With the news that John Edwards was dropping out of the race, Perry said of his supporters, "I would think that they would vote for Barack Obama."

The shuttles to the voting site aren't the only heralds of the coming election.

Raymond Mabus Jr., a former Mississippi governor and an ambassador to Saudi Arabia under the Clinton administration, will speak for Obama in room 211 of Peck Hall at 1 p.m. Friday.

Back to school-do's

Do get a great cut
Don't jack it up to heaven

Do get a professional massage
Don't nap in the mall massage-o-lounge

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Committee OKs changes to law on licenses for legal immigrants

Community Brief

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. A bill that would allow more legal immigrants to obtain temporary state identification and driver licenses was approved by the Senate Transportation Committee on Wednesday and will be considered next week by the full Senate and a House committee.

The proposed change would remove the one-year minimum period of issuance for the temporary documentation. Currently the law states the license can't be issued for less than one year or more than five years.

At the committee meeting Wednesday, senators said they've heard numerous complaints from college professors and other immigrants in Tennessee legally for less than a year, who say they have not been able to get licenses or IDs because of the law.

"This really is just a clarification to the law," said committee chairman Jim Tracy, R-Shelbyville.

The bill is now scheduled to go to the Senate floor next week. The companion House bill is expected to go before its Transportation Committee next week.

Elizabeth Merkel, legislative liaison for the Tennessee Department of Safety, told committee members the state has a number of people with one-year work permits, such as employees of Nissan and other foreign companies, doctors, au pairs, students and migrant workers.

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Evening Extended School Program Part-time Activity

Continued from last column

CRIME BRIEFS

- Jan. 22, 2:08 p.m.**
Theft
Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building
The subject came in and wanted to report a lost backpack and book.
- Jan. 22, 10:24 p.m.**
Theft
Reynolds Hall
A motorcycle was reported stolen.
- Jan. 23, 11:33 a.m.**
Theft
Nicks Hall
The subject called and requested an officer in reference to some items that were stolen from his computer bag.
- Jan. 23, 4:04 p.m.**
Drug Abuse
Judd Hall
An officer was requested to come help with a room search.
- Jan. 25, 2:54 p.m.**
Vagrancy
James E. Walker Library
Rick, a worker at the library, called advising that there were non-students looking at pornography. Both of the subjects were issued trespass warnings and escorted to Jones Field Lot to their vehicle.
- Jan. 25, 9:09 p.m.**
Alarm
Miller Horse Coloseum
A false fire alarm occurred and was reset. Everything appeared affirmative.
- Jan. 26, 8:52 p.m.**
Theft
James Union Building
The subject reported that someone had stolen an overnight bag from the second floor of the James Union Building.

CAMPUS ALERT!

Between Friday, Jan. 11 at 5:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 14 three Coca Cola vending machines were broken into on campus. Two of the machines were located on the southeast side classroom level of the Murphy Center and the third was located in the basement of Kirksey Old Main. Crime Stoppers are offering \$1000 for any information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons responsible.

A 17" Magnavox LCD television and DVD player were stolen from room 115 of Sims Hall between 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 2007 and 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 13 2008. The serial number for the television set is LL000525028903. A sum of \$300 will be rewarded for any information on the stolen television set.

A Dell LCD computer monitor was stolen from room 216 of the Davis Science Building between 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 8 and 8 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 11. A reward of \$300 is being offered to anyone that might have information on the computer monitor.

A \$1000 reward is being offered on information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who are responsible for breaking out the glass in the bus stop next to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon House, located on Greek Row. This felony was committed at approximately 12:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 8.

Between 4 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 7 and 1:50 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 11 a men's Fossil watch with a black band and a silver face was stolen from room 107 from the Photography Building. For information on the stolen watch, a cash sum of \$300 could be awarded.

If anyone has any information on the three vending machines that were burglarized please contact Crime Stoppers at 898-7867 (STOP) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. All callers will remain anonymous.

If you have any information about this crime please call the Department of Public Safety at 898-2424, or you may call Crime Stoppers at 893-STOP.

ABORTION: Sen. Black supports bill

Continued from page 1

Assistance subcommittee, which was chaired by Rep. Mary Pruitt.

The Nashville Democrat currently heads the panel and said earlier Wednesday that she's unsure about its chances this year.

"I'm waiting to see what the bill will look like when it's sent to us," she said.

Nevertheless, Black said after the vote that she's optimistic about the resolution's chances given the display of bipartisanship in the Senate.

"I'm hoping that this year will be the year given the kind of bipartisan support we had today, and I think we will have that same support over in the House," she said.

The 2000 ruling threw out state laws that required a 48-hour waiting period before abortions, that abortion clinics must provide detailed information about the procedure and that all but first-term abortions be performed in hospitals.

If the resolution were to eventually pass both chambers this session and gain two-thirds approval by lawmakers during the next two-year General Assembly, the proposed change would go before voters in the 2010 election.

Gov. Phil Bredesen, a Democrat and supporter

of abortion rights, is not required to sign proposed constitutional amendments — and he has no power to veto them.

Abortion rights advocates in general have said the measure is a stepping stone to prohibiting all abortions in Tennessee.

"Today the Senate laid the groundwork to move toward outlawing abortion in Tennessee," said Hedy Weinberg, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee. "What's additionally disturbing is that the senators chose not to protect the women of Tennessee by providing exceptions for women who were victims of rape or incest and became pregnant, or whose lives were in danger."

Sen. Roy Herron said he voted against the resolution because it lacked such protections. The Dresden Democrat is sponsoring his own legislation that calls for certain requirements before an abortion, such as a 24-hour waiting period and informed consent prior to an abortion.

"What will be interesting now is to see whether those who voted for SJR0127 allegedly to restore those protections, will vote for this bill," Herron said.

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StrangeWildernessMovie.com

IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE FEBRUARY 1

FEATURES



Bonnaroo 2008

What we hope and expect from the beloved music festival

By Nathan Perry
Contributing Writer

Picture this: a great festival celebrating the music and arts, an open expanse filled with people who love to sit and listen to music and the opportunity to experience the greatness of arts and crafts. This feeling of diversity incorporated into the entire vicinity is what encompasses this majestic event.

It's hard to actually imagine all of the ecstasy incorporated into one defined area. It's an even greater stretch to hope for such an event to happen in our home state of Tennessee.

However, if one was to doubt the last statement, they would be gravely mistaken. Tennessee is the host of one Bonnaroo, one of the greatest music and arts festivals in the world.

For everyone out there who has never heard of the epic event, which only happens once a year, you are in luck. Bonnaroo is a four day festival that is located on a 700 acre farm in the rural country side of Manchester, which is in scenic Coffee County, less than an hour drive away. The annual event happens every June and brings artists from all genres of music into one place. Instead of the normal concert atmosphere, Bonnaroo offers three stages to give it's listeners background music for their entire four days. No matter the time of day, there is always something to be heard.

There are a variety of other entertainment options besides the three stages of bands. For example, there is a comedy club, silent disco and even an on-site movie theatre. With all these events packed into one space, it keeps bringing people back each year so they can experience everything Bonnaroo has to offer.

If you have been waiting since last June to figure out what Bonnaroo '08 will hold in store for fans, then you have most likely noticed the changes recently on the event's Web site. It is now more vibrant and has an easy to navigate interface. Obviously, Superfly Presents, the company that handles Bonnaroo and owns the land it is held on, is on the move.

Soon tickets will start being sold and artists will be announced, but until that day comes there have been many rumors about who will play and headline the event this year.

Until then, one can only go off rumors, hopes and dreams of who they would like to see at the music festival this summer.

Samantha Purdie, sophomore English major, says that she would love to see Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers headline the 'Roo.

"Tom Petty is completely amazing, and I love him," she says. "It would be a dream come true if I could see him perform at Bonnaroo."

Even though Petty has headlined Bonnaroo before, there have been many bands invited back year after year to perform once more.

Another sophomore, recording industry major Kenny Torrella, said that "Wilco [will be featured] because they are one of my favorite bands and they have played the 'Roo before."

However, if one were to ask what band has been rumored to headline this year, the list shortens to four of the greatest bands of all time.

The first rumor that was announced was that Pink Floyd, one of the most loved and respected rock bands of all time, would be reuniting just to perform at Bonnaroo.

But as 2007 came to an end, the rumor dissipated into a dark void. The second major

band rumored to be the poster group for the festival was Metallica. Metallica was formed in the '80s and has been redefining rock music as a whole with each new album released.

Thirdly, a band who has been told that they could headline two nights of the extravaganza (usually a band only plays one time) is Pearl Jam. Superfly has tried to get the band to perform, but last year the band was unable to attend due to their world tour.

Last, but not least, a band that needs no introduction. They came into existence with their first live performance on Oct. 15, 1968, at the University of Surrey in Guildford, England. The band quickly rose to fame and has been called "The best band of all time" by Rolling Stone Magazine and is ranked number one on VH1's "100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock." Only one band can claim these two titles: the recently reunited Led Zeppelin.

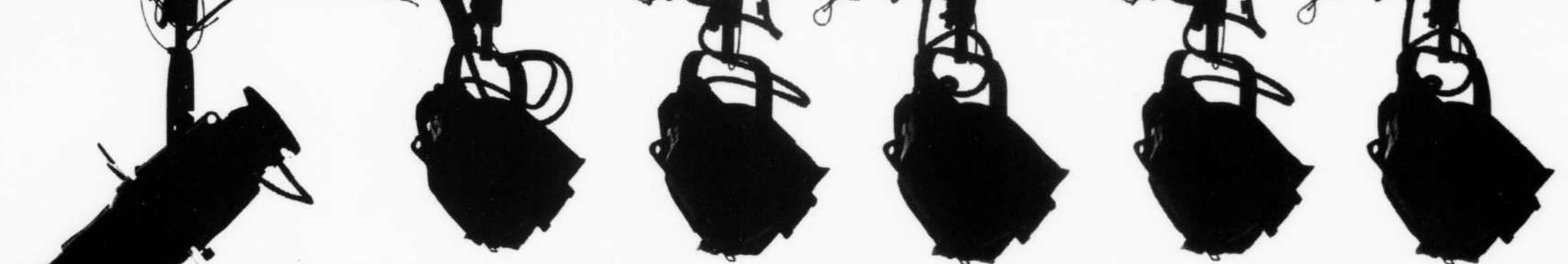
All in all, it doesn't really matter which bands will actually take the stage at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival. The 'Roo, this year will take place on June 12 through 15, and will be an amazing sight. It is suspected that Bonnaroo will only get better with each year it occurs.

Official Bonnaroo ticket sales will begin in March of 2008. At bonnaroo2007.com, however, you can reserve your tickets now. The price includes admission to all days of the Bonnaroo festival as well as parking and camping.

Ten ways to prepare for the 'Roo

1. Start taking candy from strangers.
2. Don't bathe. Recruit your friends to do the same to get used to the smell.
3. Take a stereo into your backyard, and practice sleeping with it on full-volume.
4. Work on your hemp-braiding skills.
5. When the cashier tells you your water will be \$1, give her \$10. Work on suppressing the anger.
6. Let the bed bugs bite.
7. Scream at the top of your lungs for as long as you can.
8. Buy air freshener and deodorant spray as it goes on sale.
9. Practice discovering the meaning of life.
10. Get on a treadmill.

Movie Review



'Rambo' is at it again ★★

By Dale Maxfield
Contributing Writer

If you know what to expect from a *Rambo* movie, then there will be no surprises for you in this fourth installment of the franchise. And yes, there will be carnage.

Sylvester Stallone returns as John Rambo, who is still hanging around in Southeast Asia. A group of mission workers need his help to get upstream. After everything goes wrong, he has to save the mission workers and become his true self and face his destiny and blah blah blah.

The plot is not really important in this movie. If you walk into the theater expecting some philosophical revelation, I don't know if I can help you. People watch *Rambo* to see over-the-top violence. Well, you will get that in this one.

My main problem with the film, though, is that

there simply is not enough of it. For some reason, Stallone (who directed the movie, his first direction of a *Rambo* movie) thought that it would be a good idea to spend entirely too long on an exposition that no one cares much about. Included in this hour plus exposition is some awful (although sometimes unintentionally hysterical) dialogue. The action comes way too late and does not last very long at all, and before you know it, the end credits start to roll.

It is my belief that Stallone thought that people would take this movie for something more than a mindless action flick. That mistake is usually fatal in this genre. Fortunate for Stallone, the violence at the end is so entirely ridiculous that it partly makes up for the equally senseless story line.

There is a fine line between campy and stupid. Rambo jumps back and forth across the line frequently. This leaves the audience unsure of whether to laugh at the movie or with it.

'Meet the Spartans.' Or not. ★

(out of five)

It's movies like *Meet the Spartans* that make me want to revise my star rating system and give movies zero stars.

This is, without a doubt, one of the most worthless pieces of junk I have seen in theaters since, well, *Epic Movie*.

Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer (the failures of comedy) are back with *Meet the Spartans*. They wrote (if you'd even call this a screenplay) and directed (rather poorly) this film, as they have in their other equally horrible spoof movies.

This spoof follows Leonidas (Sean Maguire) and the 300 Spartans as they battle the army of Xerxes (Ken Davitian from *Borat*) in "yo momma" jokes, "Deal or No Deal," and dance competitions.

I swear to you, I'm not making this up.

This movie is bent on grossing the audience out. The filmmakers probably invented eight new mixes for mucus to throw on the charac-

ters. Even fourteen-year-old boys are bound to be grossed out.

I almost cried during this movie. It is painful to watch, literally, every single joke crash and burn.

Friedberg and Seltzer have apparently gotten it into their heads that all you have to do in spoof movies is reference the movie being spoofed, and that automatically will make it funny.

Twenty page essays could be written on how wrong this is, but I'll use an example.

How many college students have seen the movies that *Airplane!* is spoofed? Not many. Is *Airplane!* still funny to them?

Almost always.

People who have not seen what *Meet the Spartans* is references will not find it funny.

Although, chances are, they won't find it funny anyway.

Stay Up 'Til Dawn

By Katy Coil

Assistant Features Editor

From seven Friday night until seven Saturday morning, students will gather for Up 'Til Dawn's grand finale event to help raise money for Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Up 'Til Dawn was a program started by St. Jude Children's Hospital in various college campuses across the country and is divided into a series of events that raise money for the non-profit research hospital.

"There's several different things we do," says Wil Shults, a sophomore public relations major who is in his first year of involvement with Up 'Til Dawn. "The first is a letter writing campaign. What happens is yourself and five other people start a team and you and your five other team members take 50 names and addresses and sent people pre-packaged information to those addresses. If those people donate money to St. Jude's then their money goes straight to St. Jude's."

Most of the money Up 'Til Dawn raises for St. Jude's comes from the letter writing campaigns.

Other funds are raised by corporate sponsorships from local businesses in the Murfreesboro area.

"Friday night, all the team members will wear shirts with sponsors names," Shults said.

The finale Friday night is a large event involving cooperation from several different groups in order to raise money for St. Jude's.

"Everyone is invited to come to the Rec Center, all the team members, non-members, and Murfreesboro community members, but non-members must pay \$5 to get in," Shults said. "It starts at seven. There's food, entertainment, a couple of Greek organizations will put on a small step show, inflatables, and a couple of competitions from Up 'Til Dawn team members. And there will be a few speakers from St. Jude's, children that are in remission or fully cure of cancer who will come to speak."

Last year, MTSU raised \$95,000 for St. Jude's, and this year they have a goal of \$105,000. Up 'Til Dawn will continue raising money for St. Jude after Friday night for a grand total at the end of the year, but the grand finale is the big event.

"It's a great way for students to do something little to make a big contribution to children's lives," Shults said.

Shults said that Up 'Til Dawn has helped him stay involved on campus.

"I'm trying to stay involved with organizations on campus and I had some friends in Up 'Til

Dawn," he said. "They said as a PR major, this would be a good way for me to get involved. If you're someone from Rutherford County or a student, you can get involved."

Shults also says that working to raise money for St. Jude's has made him realize the hard work that goes into putting fundraising events together. "It's given me a greater appreciation for what it takes to put up this event and organize it," he said. "Ten thousand dollars doesn't come easy. It gives you a greater appreciation of all the work that goes into it, the work that you don't see. It's a large collaboration of a lot of people's energy."

MTSU provided many organizations for students to get involved with, though Shults feels students do not always take advantage of these opportunities.

"I think, especially a large school like MTSU, there's always something to get involved in," he said. "There's always clubs, organizations, nonprofits, a lot of things to get involved in. I think it's a struggle to get students at MTSU involved because they're not always on campus a lot other than for campus."

However, he does not believe students do not want to get involved.

"There's always room for improvement," Shults said before adding, "How could you say you don't want to help?"

Shults believes it is relatively easy for students to get involved on campus.

"I think they could just spend some time on campus, paying attention to what's going on around you, going to the student activities center, going online and seeing the organizations available," he said.

Working with Up 'Til Dawn has provided Shults with what he feels is good future experience.

"Just the experience of working with a nonprofit, to work with my peers and furthermore, this is a good experience for me working with the media and getting the media involved," he said.

Shults also believes the experience working with Up 'Til Dawn has changed his outlook.

"When I get old, get married, and have kids, who's to say I won't have a kid who needs St. Jude's?" Shults said. "It gives you a greater appreciation for the things that they do. I think you'll never know how a charitable organization like St. Jude's may help you or someone you love or someone you know. When you're willing and able, you should help out when you can. It's an amazing, easy opportunity to help save lives."

Quick Facts about St. Jude

- ◆ St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, maintains 60 inpatient beds and treats about 260 patients each day, about 5,100 in active status, most of whom are treated on an outpatient basis.
- ◆ It is the first institution established for the sole purpose of conducting basic and clinical research into catastrophic childhood diseases, mainly cancer. St. Jude is the largest childhood cancer research center in the world in terms of the number of patients enrolled in research protocols and successfully treated.
- ◆ St. Jude has treated children from all 50 states and from around the world.
- ◆ Research findings at St. Jude are shared with doctors and scientists all over the world. St. Jude also enjoys a worldwide reputation as a teaching facility. The medical and scientific staff published more than 500 articles in academic journals in 2006.
- ◆ St. Jude is the only pediatric research center where families never pay for treatment not covered by insurance, and families without insurance are never asked to pay.
- ◆ St. Jude continues an extensive expansion program to bolster the hospital's research and treatment efforts, while more than doubling the size of its original campus. The expansion includes the GMP building, the nation's only pediatric research center on-site facility for production of highly specialized treatments and vaccines, and an expanded Department of Immunology. The new Chili's Care Center integrates patient care and research where rapidly evolving CT (computerized tomography) and MR (magnetic resonance) technology will keep St. Jude at the cutting edge for radiation therapy in a pediatric/adolescent setting.
- ◆ The hospital's daily operating costs are approximately \$1,267,349, which are primarily covered by public contributions.
- ◆ More than 85 cents of every dollar received by ALSAC/St. Jude has gone to the current or future needs of St. Jude.
- ◆ St. Jude pioneered a combination of chemotherapy, radiation and, when necessary, surgery to treat childhood cancers. The hospital continues to expand the use of stem cell transplantation as treatment for pediatric cancers and genetic diseases.
- ◆ Peter C. Doherty, PhD, of the St. Jude Immunology department, won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1996. He shares the award with Rolf M. Zinkernagel, MD, of the University of Zurich. Their findings have led to breakthroughs in the understanding and treatment of viral infections and cancers, and in the development of organ transplant procedures and vaccines.

stjude.org

EVENTS

Jan. 31

- ◆ Krista Brock – The Muse – 7 p.m. - \$7
- ◆ Band of Heathens Showcase – 6 p.m. – FREE
- ◆ Mike Younger with Simon Bruce and Ben Cyllus – 9 p.m. - \$5 – the Basement
- ◆ Jazz and DJ – Liquid Smoke – 9 p.m.
- ◆ Stereohype – Bluesboro – 10 p.m.
- ◆ Bunganut Pig – Ron & Flo Show
- ◆ Kirkenburts' – Kimber Cleveland
- ◆ The Alley – Open Mic Night

Feb. 1

- ◆ Incredible Heat Machine, Jesco – Wall Street – 9 p.m.
- ◆ Reign Supreme, Pound for Pound, Gorilla Warfare, Kick to the Head – the Muse – 7 p.m. to 12 p.m. - \$10
- ◆ The Basement's 3 Year Anniversary w/ Wildcard Family Revival, The Clutters, Old Ceremony, Hotpipes, Pizza Party USA, The Frolics, The Selmanaires,

Megan McCormick, Tommy and the Whale, Altered Statesmen – First 100 people get in FREE

- ◆ Fake Ass Moonlanding – the Boro – 8 p.m.
- ◆ Miller's Grocery – Bluegrass Jam

Feb. 2

- ◆ SJ and the Props – Wall Street – 9 p.m.
- ◆ Plow'd – the Boro – 8 p.m.
- ◆ Club 527 – The Compromise, New Deception, Three City Stars, Chris Love

Feb. 4

- ◆ Bluesboro – Dave's Living Room Jam

Feb. 5

- ◆ Basement's New Faces Nite w/Brett Rosenberg, Derek Hulquist, Molly Irene, Andrew Johnson, Adam Burrows, Bonnie Whitmore and Jot Tucker – the Basement – 8 p.m. - FREE

- ◆ Bluesboro - Col Bruce - 9 p.m.
- ◆ Bunganut Pig – Ron & Flo Show
- ◆ Liquid Smoke – Jazz
- ◆ The Alley – Open Mic Night

Feb. 6

- ◆ Liquid Smoke – Luke Pruitt
- ◆ The Alley – No Really

Feb. 7

- ◆ Roger K Newman: Civil Liberties, Surveillance and Terrorism - BAS State Farm Room - 7 p.m. - FREE
- ◆ Mr. Paradise - the Boro - 8 p.m.

Feb. 8

- ◆ Dan VeVivo and "Crossing Arizone" - KUC Theatre - 7 p.m.
- ◆ Ballhog w/tba – the Basement – 9 p.m. - \$7
- ◆ Old Union, Stateliner – Wallstreet – 9 p.m.
- ◆ Evervigilant – the Boro – 8 p.m.
- ◆ Mr. Paradise - The Boro Bar and Grill

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board:

Bill endangers rights for women to choose

Why would congressmen want to change the Tennessee statutes governing the conditions under which a woman can legally obtain an abortion?

Could it be out of concern for the medical rights of teenagers? Privacy rights or safety concerns perhaps?

Or could it be election-year pandering to a powerful and influential voter base – that is, fundamentalist, anti-choice Christians?

Indeed, it appears to be exactly this – part of a Christian agenda to slowly chip away Roe vs. Wade and the women's rights it entails. Although, ironically enough, Sen. Diane Black, sponsor of the bill, says this is more about power for the people. It really only gives more power to fetuses, but they're not even old enough to vote.

One of the founding principles of the American way of life is that people can disagree on almost anything they want, and no one has the right to make them believe otherwise.

Fundamentalist Christians use this argument all the time to repel science and logic where they threaten to invade the Bible's narrow purview of reality. They claim that scientists, scholars and other scum who are governed by "reason" and "facts" have no place imposing their values on others. Yet, what are the Fundamentalists doing?

Regardless, when so inclined, they readily switch gears and push the tenets of their faith on others – hence the steady encroachment by our government on abortion rights.

This, of course, seems obscured, considering Black's following statement for people power.

"This is a good day for the people of Tennessee; to restore to the people the power of their constitution."

So taking away other's rights is restoring actually the power the constitution allots to them as citizens? Not everyone believes abortion is wrong or a sin – although Black seems to think so.

In fact, the new resolution provides no protection for women who are victims of incest, rape or whose lives are in danger. Fundamentalism at its worse, because God forbid we actually let a woman have the choice to save her own life. Of course, if it is worth saving, God will be at her bedside doing the saving.

Faces in the Crowd

How do you feel about Bonnaroo? Are you going to attend?



Goings



Katz

"I went last year and I loved it, but I also think it was overpriced. I am thinking about replacing Bonnaroo with summer camp."
-Jake Goings, junior psychology major

"I think it's a fun place to go to, but it's expensive and you have to buy your tickets early. I am not going to attend this time. I would like to go one year for the experience."
-Casey Katz, junior nutrition major



Duke



Teague

"It's a great opportunity to hear new music. I have discovered a lot of bands that I listen to from there. It is a great way to meet new people and culture yourself too."
-Chad Duke, junior recording industry major

"I think we need more festivals like it. Although it is a pricey ticket, the spirit of the outdoor music festival is very positive."
-Jerry Teague, sophomore history major

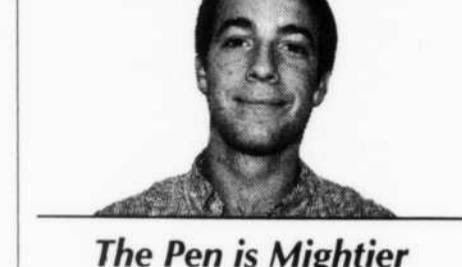
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Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. **Sidelines** will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar,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

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United States of fear



The Pen is Mightier

By Evan Barker

Staff Columnist

We are turning into a nation of whimpering slaves to Fear - fear of war, fear of poverty, fear of random terrorism, fear of getting down-sized or fired because of the plunging economy, fear of getting evicted for bad debts, or suddenly getting locked up in a military detention camp on vague charges of being a Terrorist sympathizer.

Hunter S. Thompson had a point. To those who follow the actions of the government, a long string of erosions of civil liberties have eclipsed the cause of national security for the past seven years in particular; but really for our entire history.

It's easy to overlook. It's easy to say something like "that could never happen in MY America," but it happens on our watch.

Ask the people that President John Adams imprisoned under the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798. Under these laws, anyone suspected of trying to "unlawfully combine or conspire together, with intent to oppose any measure or measures of the government of the United States" could "be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, and by imprisonment during a term not less than six months nor exceeding five years." Adams extended this act to anyone writing or speaking against his policies, including a drunk named Luther Baldwin. The owner of Baldwin's tavern overheard his comments on the President, turned him in, and caused him to be imprisoned and fined for his opinions. Merely 11 years after the signing of the Constitution, the freedoms of the press and speech were sharply curtailed by a president who squelched his opposition.

In 1801, a newly elected President Thomas Jefferson rectified this miscarriage of justice. Jefferson pardoned and reimbursed all of Adams' political prisoners.

Lest the reader think that it ended there, another Sedition Act was passed in 1918. Dissent was considered harmful to wartime morale – sound familiar? This Sedition Act went further than Adams'. In it, anyone who "when the United States is at war, shall willfully utter, print, write or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about the form of government of the United States" was subject to "a fine of not more than \$10,000 or the imprisonment for not more than twenty years, or both."

Eugene V. Debs, a socialist organizer and politician, was convicted under this law and sentenced to 10 years in prison for his veiled anti-war commentary during World War I. The presiding judge likened Debs' opinions to shouting "fire" in a crowded theater. This law was repealed in 1921, and President Warren G. Harding commuted Debs' sentence, though he had already served two years. The Sedition Act of 1918 was also used aggressively on members and organizers of labor unions, showing a clear legislated discrimination against suspected communists.

During World War II, approximately 120,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans were removed from their homes on the West Coast and sent to camps in horrible conditions in remote locations throughout the country. Yes, it happened. Worse still, most of the people interned were legitimate American citizens. Their only crime was their Japanese heritage, ostensibly making them likely to sabotage the war effort. This did not happen to people of German descent, as they were simply a larger, better-assimilated group.

In the 1950s, the "Second Red Scare" produced some frightening legislation, and

equally frightening institutions. Senator Joseph McCarthy R-Wisc. appeared before Congress with a 'list' of alleged communists working in the State Department. Hundreds of these alleged subversives were illegally imprisoned, to the resounding support of the public. Thousands more lost their jobs with little or no due process, simply for having their politics called into question, let alone undergoing any actual trial. J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI was frustrated that judges took issue with his illegal tactics. He built a secret "dirty tricks" team called COINTELPRO, whose misdeeds included burglarizing American Civil Liberties Union offices and planting forged documents to portray people as subversives.

Instead of operating legitimately, Hoover chose to conduct illegal searches and blackmail of suspected leftists. Still, the public overwhelmingly supported the underhanded tactics of COINTELPRO, in the name of fighting communism. They were afraid.

Why the laundry-list of horrendous government misdeeds? There is a popular perception that our government may have done these things in the past, and that it is more just and equitable now. Sadly, no. In part, by our blind support of a secretive government, we the citizens, enable the Powers that Be to erode our democracy on a daily basis. By continually extending the benefit of the doubt to our leaders, we are selling our own liberties cheaply.

In October 2001, a month after the attacks of Sept. 11, the USA PATRIOT Act virtually flew through Congress. As the nation reeled in shock, anger and fear, we received the worst blow to constitutionally guaranteed liberties since the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798. Our nation was so afraid that only one senator, Russ Feingold D-Wisc., had the presence of mind to challenge the law's overreaching encroachment on individual liberties. He was rewarded for his vigilance by accusations of being unpatriotic.

The PATRIOT Act gave the Federal government a virtually free pass to financial records, telephone calls, Internet records, voice mail, and snail mail, without judicial oversight. Furthermore, the Act allowed, for a time, warrantless "sneak and peek" searches - physical breaking and entering without disclosure to the suspect.

Yes, YOUR America. Yours and mine.

The easiest counter-argument against people concerned about the PATRIOT Act is the ever-popular 'if you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear.' This argument is a logical abortion. Wrongdoing is created wherever law enforcement goes. Why should a citizen forfeit their right to privacy irrevocably to a government that shows utter contempt for the rule of law?

History repeats. The rhetoric directed at doubters of the PATRIOT Act is eerily similar to McCarthy's rhetoric in the '50s.

"If you're not with us, you're against us."

No. It is possible, and patriotic, for one to support our nation while expressing disdain (or disgust) for its policies.

Henry David Thoreau was jailed in 1846 for refusing to pay his taxes. He disagreed so strongly with the Mexican-American War that he would not send his money to the government that waged it.

Again, why the sordid stories of the past?

This very week, Congress will debate whether or not to grant immunity from lawsuits to several telecommunications companies. Why is this important? If your phone provider is Verizon, AT&T or others, the government may own all of your call records, and your Internet records.

Do you know someone in another country? Do you call them on the phone? Surprise, you're under surveillance, and your phone company is barred from telling you.

"But wait," you might say, "I've done nothing wrong!" It matters not, because by not opposing Washington, you allow this. The immunity question is pressing because if the telecom companies are given it, you may not sue them for their surrender of your private information. (By the way, President Bush has threatened to veto a bill that does not grant these companies immunity.)

This applies to everyone. If you do not protest this fishing expedition of unprecedented scale, you could be caught in it. Silence is the voice of complicity. It is time for all of us to take the responsibility for our misdeeds, and push back at an overreaching cabal of the few and powerful.

The internment of our citizens during World War II happened because the rest of America did not fight a flagrant violation of civil rights. They were afraid of the war. Internment did not apply to mainstream Americans, so they allowed it to happen.

The fear-mongering war on the political left of the 1950s happened because America allowed itself to be cowed by McCarthy and the ultra-right wing. In closed-minded, white-hot fear of communism, America gave its overzealous leaders carte blanche to trample the unpopular, all in the name of patriotism and protecting our people.

Past injustices were remedied as legislation was overturned and pardons issued. Not in 2008.

Bush asks for "trust" of his McCarthy-esque methods. He wants us not to question his motives or methods. He tells us that we are unpatriotic for doing so, and that by not being "with" him, we are against our country. He pushes for legal extensions of his illegal practices: warrantless surveillance of citizens and an Orwellian super-organization of FBI, CIA, NSA and Homeland Security to scrutinize your every movement.

The cause is fear, and we are all responsible. We must own up to the fact that we gave into the fear in 2001, and that many of us continue to do so. We must resolve to no longer fear terrorism, and instead, challenge it freely and openly. The best weapon against terrorism and fascist rule is the free and open society, where ideas may be openly exchanged, and where it is safe to be unpopular.

The Constitution demands that we take the high road, not trade our civil liberties for safety, or the perception of safety. We must take responsibility for the leaders for whom we voted; the monsters we created.

The freedoms we save may be our own.

Evan Barker is a senior music major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

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Lymon gets to the “point”



PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

With the departure of Johnna Abney, Chelsia Lymon has stepped up for the Lady Raiders. She has led scoring Middle Tennessee in scoring for the past two games.

Sophomore point guard uses torn ACL as a learning experience while gaining starting role

By Richard Lowe
Sports Editor

Life-changing events can be as obvious as thunder crashing or as unnoticeable as a leaf falling to the ground. Almost a year ago during a game at Western Kentucky University, sophomore Chelsia Lymon fell to the court in what seemed to be more of a trip. Although most didn't focus on her falling, everyone in a Blue Raider jersey would feel the effect.

"I didn't notice when she fell," MT assistant head coach Allison Clark said, "but I knew when she came out of the locker room and sat beside me and started crying, I knew it was bad."

"It felt awkward," Lymon said. "When coach took me out, I was limping because it was hard to put pressure on it. I thought I would be back. Initially I was told it was a knee sprain and I would be able to finish the game."

Lymon would find out the next day that her knee sprain was a torn ACL and the injury would sideline her for the remainder of the season. "When I heard those words, it took my breath away," Lymon said. "I had heard of people close to me tearing their ACL and it was devastating to us because we would be losing a player. It was basically a shock."

An ACL tear normally sidelines athletes for 12 months but, miraculously, Lymon was able to suit up after nine months of rehab. Head coach Rick Insell credits many in helping with the rehab process of Lymon, whether it be providing workouts or just keeping her spirits up.

"We are so fortunate to have [Allison Ness, Matt Riley, and Jo Jo Freeman] be apart of this program," Insell said. "When you talk about a program, you aren't just talking about the players. You are

talking about the trainers, managers, media relations, and coaching staff. I am very happy to have good people to this program."

"Allison Ness, our trainer, did a good job with her," Clark said. "You also have to give credit to Coach Riley. Our kids are so strong and some kids are just not willing to work that hard. She put in 100% to get back."

Even with a shortened rehab schedule, Lymon still had urges to rush the process. "It was frustrating because I was stubborn and belliger and I wanted to be back on the court," Lymon said.

While being sidelined, Lymon was able to pick up tips from the coaching staff and get a better understanding of the game as a whole. "My goal was to sit on the bench and learn," Lymon said. "Me being a freshman and not being able to be out on the court helped me mature and get smarter as far as the game of basketball goes."

"It's like watching film. I was able to interpret what was taking place on the court without having to be on the court."

This year, she has vastly improved her game. She is averaging 8.7 points/game, including averaging 25.5 in the last two games. With the departure of junior point guard Johnna Abney, Chelsia has had to step up in the starting role and take on the bulk of the playing time. Even though her injury did cut her season short, she did take a positive spin to it.

"The injury changed me a lot," Lymon said. "It changed me on and off the court. It made me look back and see how much I love this game. A lot of times, players get stressed out because of practice, games and travel but when it's all taken away from you and you're left with nothing, that's when you really appreciate it. I appreciate it a lot more."

ULL tops preseason SBC softball poll, MT picked sixth

By Kelly Oravet
SBC Media Relations

Louisiana-Lafayette was picked as the early favorite to win the Sun Belt softball title, the league office announced today. The Ragin' Cajuns finished right in front of 2007 Sun Belt champions Florida Atlantic in the preseason final poll. The 2008 Preseason All-Sun Belt team was also announced.

Louisiana-Lafayette finished in first place with 80 total points and eight of the nine first place votes. In addition, the Ragin' Cajuns tied Western Kentucky for the most players on the Preseason All-Sun Belt list as three players were honored, including Holly Tankersley, who was named the Preseason Player of the Year. Joining Tankersley on the list were pitcher Brittany Cuevas and outfielder Karli Hubbard.

Florida Atlantic was picked second in the poll finishing with 70 points and one first place vote. The defending Sun Belt champions finished eight points ahead of third place finisher, Troy, who ended up with 62 points.

The Trojans also added two players to the All-Sun Belt list as senior Jessica Lyle was honored at first base and Heidi Johnson was honored in the outfield.

WCU also had three athletes honored on the preseason All-Sun Belt team with Jennifer Kemp being named the Preseason Pitcher of the Year. In addition, Rachelle Boucher was honored at catcher and Rebecca Horesky was honored at third base. The Hilltoppers were voted to finish fourth in the Sun Belt racking up 46 points in the poll, just one point ahead of fifth place finisher South Alabama.

The Jaguars finished the poll with 45 points, while also having two athletes recognized on the All-Sun Belt team. Jenny Stevens was honored at second base and Evelyn Pare was one of the four outfielders selected to the squad.

Rounding out the final four teams in sixth through ninth place were Middle Tennessee, North Texas, Florida International and ULM respectively. Middle Tennessee ended with 40 points, North Texas finished with 32 points, Florida International racked up 16 points and ULM had finished with 14 points.

Joining the other honorees on the preseason All-Sun Belt team were Katya Muller from North Texas and Kim Rodriguez from

2008 Sun Belt Conference Preseason Softball Poll

Team - Votes (First Place Votes)

Louisiana-Lafayette—80 (80)

Florida Atlantic—70 (1)

Troy—62

WKU—46

South Alabama—45

Middle Tennessee—40

North Texas—32

Florida International—16

ULM—14

MT takes down ULL

By Jo Jo Freeman
MT Media Relations

Chelsia Lymon posted a career-high for the second straight game, netting 27 points, and Amber Holt added 19, as Middle Tennessee defeated Louisiana-Lafayette, 85-66, Wednesday night at Earl K. Long Gym for the Lady Raiders fifth straight victory and the team's seventh victory in the last eight games.

Middle Tennessee started the game very slowly in the opening minutes but came alive after a Lymon steal and basket with 13:26 left in the first half. She hit a 3-pointer the next trip up the floor and the Raiders were off to the races, part of a 25-7 run in the middle of the opening half that put the visitors up double-digits.

Middle Tennessee was 14-of-43 from 3-point range in the game, season-highs in both categories, with Lymon accounting for five of the trifectas. Anne Marie Lanning hit three more of the 3-pointers and accounted for 14 points for the Blue Raiders.

Middle Tennessee forced 25 UL turnovers and turned those into 40 points.

After starting off very slowly and trailing 10-2 three-plus minutes into the game, the Blue Raiders found the range from the outside and also on the defensive end, putting together a 25-7 run over the next nine minutes. Lymon scored seven points during the stretch, as did Holt, and the Ragin' Cajuns committed eight turnovers that led to 19 Middle Tennessee points.

Brandi Brown, making her return to the lineup for the first time since December 30, hit a 3-pointer in the final minute of the half, one of seven trifectas for the Blue Raiders before the break. Lymon got a steal on UL's next trip up the floor and Starr Orr had one last look before the horn, but her 18-footer was a little short. Even still, the Raiders took a 37-24 lead to intermission.

Holt and Lymon combined for the first 11 points of the second half and UL managed just three free throws in the first four minutes, giving the Blue Raiders a 48-27 advantage.

The Cajuns answered with a 15-7 run over the next four minutes, including 3-pointers from Bronson Rodgers and Jasmine Barnes. But Middle Tennessee answered with its own 15-6 run, highlighted by trifectas from Latoya Barclay and Lymon for a 70-50 Blue Raider advantage with 7:27 remaining.

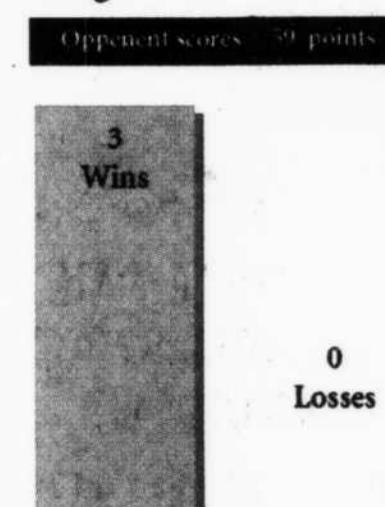
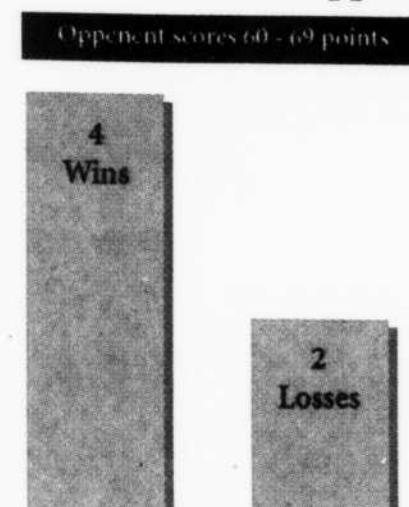
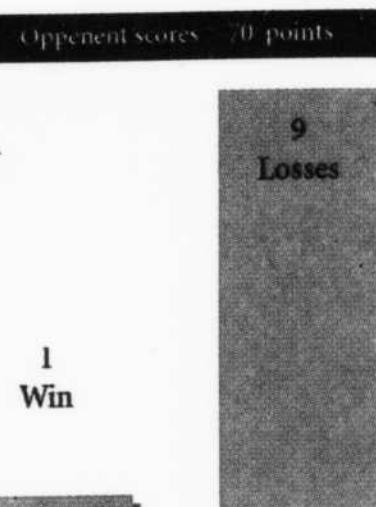
Holt had a team-high eight rebounds, four assists and six steals, contributing in other phases.

Middle Tennessee next plays on Wednesday, February 6, hosting UALR at Murphy Center at 7 p.m.

GRAPHIC DESIGNED BY CHRIS MARTIN - ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Florida International.

The Sun Belt Conference softball season begins on Feb. 8 and concludes with the 2008 Sun Belt Conference Softball Tournament on May 7-10. The tournament will be hosted by Troy University in Troy, Ala.

MT Men's Basketball record based on opponent's scoring

The Blue Raiders (8-11, 5-4 Sun Belt) are only 1-9 when they allow opponents to score 70 or more points. Their next opponent, Louisiana-Lafayette, is only averaging 67.1 points per contest.

GRAPHIC DESIGNED BY ANDY HARPER - EDITOR IN CHIEF

Bill Smith's blunder

Santana trade could haunt Minnesota Twins' new GM

I almost feel bad for Bill Smith.

The General Manager of the Minnesota Twins, who took over when longtime GM Terry Ryan stepped down in September, has already been running the Twins for five months and his legacy may already be doomed.

When Smith agreed to trade the best pitcher in baseball, Johan Santana, on Tuesday, he may have guaranteed his name will forever be written down in the baseball history books as the man who engineered the worst trade of all time.

The Twins traded the two-time Cy Young award winner to the Mets for four prospects. Unfortunately for Smith, the players he acquired aren't top prospects.

Smith banked on the longstanding rivalry between the Yankees and Red Sox to net him a big package for Santana. Since Boston and New York are always trying to outdo each other, in their effort to keep up with the Joneses, it looked as though a pretty package would be heading into Minneapolis.

However, Smith did not play his cards right and got burned in the end. He could have grabbed top pitching prospect Philip Hughes and young up-and-comer Melky Cabrera from the Yankees. He also could have netted Coco Crisp, Jon Lester and two prospects from the Sox, or gotten the same two prospects Boston was offering to go along with top prospect Jacoby Ellsbury.

Instead of making a trade for MLB-ready players, he got outfielder Carlos Gomez and pitchers Philip Humber (a former top-five draft pick), Deolis Guerra and Kevin Mulvey. Each of the players comes with his share of question marks. Gomez, the biggest piece the Twins received, is only 23, but was uninspiring in his 125 at-

SPORTS BRIEFS

Holt Named to Naismith Trophy List; Wins fourth SBC POW

Middle Tennessee senior Amber Holt has been named among 31 candidates for the 2008 Naismith Trophy presented by AT&T, the Atlanta Tipoff Club announced this week. The Naismith Trophy is one of the three national player of the year awards for women's basketball.

Holt is the nation's leading scorer, averaging 27.1 points per game heading into Wednesday's contest at Louisiana-Lafayette. She also leads the Blue Raiders with 8.0 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 2.6 steals per contest.

Holt was added to the State Farm Wade Trophy national player of the year list last week.

The women's list, which includes 31 candidates because of a tie, was voted on by the Atlanta Tipoff Club's Board of Selectors, comprised of leading basketball journalists, coaches and administrators from around the country.

The women's Naismith Trophy winner will be announced April 7 at the 2008 NCAA Final Four in Tampa, Fla.

For more information, visit www.naismithawards.com.

Holt also earned her fourth Sun Belt Women's Basketball Player of the Week award this season, as announced by the conference office.

Holt averaged 32.0 points, 8.5 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 3.5 steals per game in Middle Tennessee's two victories last week.

The senior broke a 21-year-old school record Jan. 24 at Louisiana-Monroe, scoring 44 points on 17-of-25 shooting and 10-for-13 at the foul line. She added eight rebounds and three steals in the 64-61 Blue Raider triumph.

MT men's basketball players, Sain and Hethington, suspended

Middle Tennessee freshman guard Josh Sain and junior forward Uriah Hethington have been suspended from the men's basketball team for violation of athletic department policy, according to Director of Athletics Chris Massaro.

Each player will be suspended for one game. Sain will not travel with the team to Lafayette, La., for its game at Louisiana-Lafayette on Thursday, and Hethington will be suspended for Middle Tennessee's game at Arkansas State on Monday.

"We have rules and policies set forth in our athletic department and our student-athletes are made aware of these guidelines," Massaro said. "There are also penalties when these policies are broken and that's the case with [Sain and Hethington]."

Middle Tennessee men's basketball coach Kermit Davis said he fully supported the suspension of each player.

"All of our student-athletes adhere to rules and policies within the Middle Tennessee athletic department," Davis said. "Josh [Sain] and Uriah [Hethington] violated these rules and will suffer the appropriate punishment. I fully support the athletic department's policy and our players are very familiar with the consequences for violating these policies."

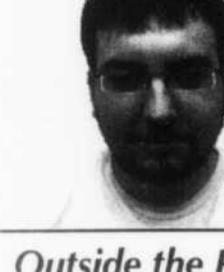
Press Conference for Football Signing Day announced

The Middle Tennessee Athletic Department will hold a press conference on Wednesday, February 6 at 2:30 p.m. to announce the 2008 football signing class. The press conference will take place in the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame building on campus.

There will also be several other sources for the general public to receive updated information on National Letter of Intent Signing Day. Fans can watch live, streaming video of Coach Rick Stockstill's press conference on GoBlueRaiders.com, and will be able to keep up with the day's activities via the Signing Day Ticker, which will display complete biographical information on each recruit. The ticker will be located on the front page of the site.

Selected quotes from Coach Stockstill's press conference will also be available on GoBlueRaiders.com later in the afternoon.

Information from this article taken from GoBlueRaiders.com



Outside the Pocket

By Chris Martin

Assistant Sports Editor

bats last season, only hitting .232.

Humber is already 25 and was average in Triple-A last year with a 4.27 ERA.

Guerra, 18, has barely played professional ball. It's always tricky when evaluating young pitchers. Guerra is just as likely to be as good as Santana as he is to never rise above the Double-A level.

Mulvey, 23, spent almost all of last season in Double-A, although he did have a 3.20 ERA.

Smith's only defense in the whole matter is the Twins' financial situation. Smith recently signed former AL-MVP first baseman Justin Morneau and starting right fielder Michael Cuddyer to ex-

tensions worth more than \$100 million. Since Minnesota is a small market team, there is just not enough money in the coffers to resign Cuddyer and Morneau and give Santana the richest contract a pitcher has ever received (rumored to be for six years, \$150 million).

That is still no excuse for the talent-sparse package the Mets gave him.

The Twins didn't even net the Mets top prospect, outfielder Feli Martinez, in the deal. How can Smith justify trading away the best pitcher in the majors without getting the Mets' top young player?

If the trade goes through, which is not a guarantee, Mets GM Omar Minaya should get the GM of the year trophy before the season begins. He has taken the most talented team in the NL East and added an arm that has struck out 1,152 batters over the past five seasons. That's an average of just over 230 per season, and he only pitched 158.1 innings in 2003.

You just can't give that kind of talent away and have virtually nothing to show for it. So, for Smith's sake I hope Humber turns into the player everyone thought he could be when he was taken No. 3 overall pick in the 2004 draft. I hope Gomez's .232 average was just him getting used to big league play. I hope Guerra doesn't blow his arm out before he gets to the majors and that Mulvey flies under the radar and becomes a good starter.

Otherwise, I'm going to feel bad for Bill Smith.

Chris Martin is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at cgm2m@mtsu.edu

- Take one or two Gen Ed Requirements during Summer Session II in Cherbourg, France
- Spend a weekend in Paris
- Visit historical sites in Normandy
- Some scholarship funds available

