

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORALLY INDEPENDENT

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INSIDE

Art professor Ron Nuell remembered



Nuell led a very inspiring life in the school and community. *Sidelines* honors the professor who touched many student's lives.

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SPORTS

MTSU Men invited to CBI Tournament

MTSU men's basketball has been invited to play in the inaugural tournament.

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MTSU student receive honors for activism

Dedicated volunteer is praised for her continuing work with youth, HIV/AIDS awareness

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COMMUTE

FROM MARCH 7 - AUGUST 2008

MTSU Blvd. is closed from Rutherford Blvd. to Blue Raider Drive due to construction. Drivers will be able to enter the campus off Rutherford Blvd. at Alumni Drive (newly opened road by Greek Row). The 4-way stop at MTSU Blvd. will also be closed for construction. Please follow detour signs.

The gravel lot at the corner of Rutherford Blvd. and MTSU Blvd. will also be closed during this time. Students are recommended to park in the Rutherford Blvd. lot across from Greek Row and ride the shuttle.

MTSU hosts guitar festival

By Tiffany Gibson
Campus News Editor

Various guitarists will visit and perform at MTSU for the 2008 Tennessee Guitar Festival this week.

The festival is being held in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building until March 20.

Throughout the six-day festival, various performers such as William Yelverton, Roger Hudson, David Pruett, Randy Reed, Valerie Hartzell, Duo Firenze, Robert Trent, Pamela Trent, Christopher Berg, John Johns and Matt Palmer will take the stage for free concerts at 8 p.m. nightly.

"It's a collection of very talented guitarists that hail from different parts of the country," said Randy Reed, guitarist, professor and performer from Duke University.

All of the performers are paid, but travel at their own expense to attend the festival, said Yelverton, an MTSU professor of music, director of the Tennessee Guitar Festival and director of the guitar studies program on campus.

"We have performers from Texas, South Carolina and Virginia," Yelverton said. "The major funding for this festival comes from the Tennessee ABC Grant."

The Arts Builds Communities program is funded by the Tennessee General Assembly and administered in cooperation with the Tennessee Arts Commission and The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

The event was also made possible by a grant from D'Addario Music Foundation with support from D'Addario & Company.

"It's good to have faculty members that are so entrepreneurial," said George Riordan, chairperson for the music department. "To make things happen like this they have to find the resources that can enrich

GUITAR, PAGE 2

Fire DESTROYS rental house



Debris litters the hallway of a house on Middle Tennessee Boulevard in the wake of Sunday's fire. The cause is currently unknown.

Photo by Justin Keonin

Professors' property rendered 'unlivable'

By DANIEL POTTER
Community News Editor

A rental house on Middle Tennessee Boulevard caught fire at 2:30 a.m. Sunday morning.

No one was injured in the fire, but "the house is not livable," said Carlie Brantley, a junior music-education major who lived there along with several others. Brantley visited the house Sunday afternoon to salvage what belongings she could.

The fire "started in the basement," Brantley said; the cause "could be electrical," but is undetermined.

As Brantley entered, the sight and smell of the blaze were evident. "Yeah, that's my house," Brantley said, hold-

ing back tears before adding, "At least we're all safe."

Brantley, an aspiring choral conductor, had just arrived home Sunday morning when the blaze started, which she considered fortunate. "If we had been asleep, Lord knows," she said.

Inside the house, the walls and ceiling were blackened from smoke, and debris littered the floor, some evidence of chaotic college life but most the aftermath of the fire.

"Careful sweetie, there's a smoke detector," Brantley said, pointing to a dried pool of melted plastic, fused to the carpet with a circuit board sticking out. Brantley's room appeared more damaged by smoke than fire; she hopes

it will be possible to remove the smell of smoke from her wardrobe.

Brantley did not have renter's insurance. "None of us did," she said.

Brantley, whose family lives in Franklin, said several people have already offered places to stay. "I've had offers from families through the church, friends," etc., she said. "People are seeing a need and responding."

'A shock'

The house is a rental property of Judy and J.C. Hankins of Woodbury. Judy is a professor of computer science at MTSU; J.C. was a professor of actuarial science here until

FIRE, PAGE 2

Teacher dies of heart attack

By Tiffany Gibson
Campus News Editor

David Walker, an MTSU professor, died March 13 after a heart attack in his Franklin home earlier that morning.

The 69-year-old professor taught speech and theater for nearly 43 years at MTSU. Walker is survived by his wife, Sandra Barnes Walker, one son and three daughters. He was preceded in death by his sister, Patricia McGehee.

"David Walker's career spanned more than 30 years at MTSU, and the lives of those whom he touched have been enriched and changed," said Sidney McPhee. "He was a solid shoulder to lean on for colleagues who served in interim-chair positions and gained immeasurable from his wise counsel and guidance."

Walker graduated summa cum laude from Lipscomb University in 1960 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He acquired his master's degree in 1961 at the University of Florida, where he taught as an instructor from 1963 until 1965.

After becoming a professor at MTSU in 1974, Walker began designing and teaching courses in political communication, religious communication, great American speakers, parliamentary procedure and directing forensics.

In addition to designing and teaching courses, Walker served as the director of Department Self Study for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools twice. Walker was also an active chair member of the Speech and Theatre Department from the summer of 1984 until the fall of 1990, after serving as president of the Faculty Senate a year before.

"Both David and I have served as president of the Faculty Senate and as chair," said Rebecca Fischer, chairperson of the Speech and Theatre Department. "As I assumed each position, David dropped by to give me some advice and was always helpful with suggestions for being chair."

Since 1954, Walker served

WALKER, PAGE 2

'Peak Week' to help philanthropy

By Tiffany Gibson
Campus News Editor

Sororities will compete this week to win \$1000 for their chapter philanthropy.

The competition is in conjunction with Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Peak Week 2008.

"This week is all about how 140 years ago, six men came up with an idea for a fraternity," said Sam Metz, sophomore undeclared and vice president of Pi Kappa Alpha.

"Their idea of scholars, leaders, athletes and gentle-

men has turned into a way of life for all the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha, not only here at MTSU, but nation wide."

Sororities competing in Peak Week 2008 for funding of their philanthropy are Chi Omega, Alpha Chi Omega, Zeta Tau Alpha, Kappa Delta, Alpha Delta Pi and Alpha Omicron Pi.

Pi Kappa Alpha raised the \$1,000 through donations made by local establishments such as a City Café and Chris Rolland Bonding, as well Pi Kappa Alpha parents, who

PEAK, PAGE 2



Photo Courtesy of Facebook

Pi Kappa Alpha brothers wash cars in front of their house during the Peak Week 2007 competition.

Student recognized for volunteer work

By TIM HODGE
Contributing Writer

An MTSU student received two awards for outstanding volunteer work.

Crystal Griffey, senior communication disorders and global studies major, is a member of the National Society for Collegiate Scholars, an honors society which presents the award as part of their yearly recognition for volunteer service in the community.

Griffey was awarded the Scholar of Promise Award, by NSCS, which is given to members who complete 50 hours of youth-based community service in a 12 month period.

"I got the chance to work

directly with students at Central Middle School who have behavioral and learning problems," Griffey said. "And as a result, the group I was with was able to help a student pass and move up into high school."

In addition to the Scholar of Promise Award, Griffey also received the President's Volunteer Service Award, which is given to members who complete 100 hours of community service in one year.

Griffey, likes the fact that she is being recognized for her work, but does not feel the awards are the true reward for volunteering.

"It's nice to be rewarded for things...but this is stuff

that I would be doing anyways," Griffey said.

"Crystal is the only NSCS member at MTSU... (and) the only member from Tennessee to win this year," said Mishri Someshwar, coordinator of outreach-communication for the NSCS said that

Among other activities, Crystal dedicated her time to HIV/AIDS awareness on campus, at a St. Jude Children's Research Hospital fundraiser and also participated in the "Angel Tree" project says Someshwar.

"I feel it is very important (to volunteer) because to be a true leader you must be giving of yourself," Griffey said. "Doing service projects is just who I am as a leader."

PEAK FROM PAGE 1

also made donations.

Throughout the week, sorority members will compete in events such as a spirit competition, car wash and a roast.

The spirit competition began at 12:01 a.m. on March 16 as sororities began to decorate the Pi Kappa Alpha house with their letters on various things from carpets to ceilings.

In addition to decorating, Peak Week shirt order forms were also completed and paid for by 11 p.m.; therefore, forms were counted and points were awarded to the highest number of shirts ordered per sorority.

On March 18 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Pi Kappa Alpha members will provide a faculty appreciation breakfast in the Suntrust Room of the Business and Aerospace Building. Also at 8 p.m. a crawfish cookout will be held at the Pi Kappa Alpha house on Greek Row.

The sorority car wash will occur on March 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pi Kappa Alpha house. Sorority members are encouraged to bring their cars for Pi Kappa

Alpha members to watch. For every sorority girl's car that is washed, the sorority will receive points.

The Pike Roast will begin at 10 p.m. on March 19 with Aaron Seldon hosting. The roast will consist of volunteers such as Steven Giles, Jay Slaughter and Michael Barney, who will be presented to the crowd as the audience then proceeds to humiliate or "roast" them. This event is based off of the "Comedy Central's Roast" of comedians and celebrities.

Sororities are also encouraged to nominate a girl to be roasted as a last attempt to earn points in the competition.

As Peak Week 2008 comes to a close, a rave party will be held at the Pi Kappa Alpha house on March 20 at 10 p.m.

The rave will take place in the social room, which will be decorated with black lights, neon markers and smoke machines. Food and soft drinks will be available but no alcohol is permitted on the premise.

During the party, the winners of Peak Week 2008 will be announced and awarded \$1,000 for their philanthropy.



Walker

WALKER FROM PAGE 1

as a minister for many Church of Christ congregations. He attended Woodmont Hills Church of Christ and was a former member of North Boulevard Church of Christ.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 2 p.m. in the Woodfin Memorial Chapel located at 1488 Lascassas Pike in Murfreesboro, Tenn. After the ceremony, burial will proceed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Donations can be made to the David Walker Debate Scholarship Fund at MTSU or the Church of Christ Disaster Relief Fund. For more information on the Church of Christ Disaster Relief Fund call 1-888-541-2848.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder / Staff

Roger Hudson serenades the crowd with a piece from his column in *Fingerstyle* magazine.

GUITAR FROM PAGE 1

the students and community."

In addition to the festival, guitar master classes will also be held in the Wright Building throughout the festival. The Randy Reed master class will occur on March 17 at 11:15 a.m. Christopher Berg will host a master class on March 19 at 2:45 p.m., and Matt Palmer will have a master class session on March 20 at 10:30 a.m.

"Master classes are open to the public and are free," Yelverton said. "MTSU guitar students are chosen to perform in the master classes in front of the audience."

The festival began on March 15 at 8 p.m. with an introduction performance by Yelverton, who organized the event and serenaded the crowd with diverse pieces including "Las Abejas" by Agustin Barrios.

Rodger Hudson, guest soloist with the Nashville Chamber Orchestra at Nashville's new Schermerhorn Symphony Center, took the stage to perform five short pieces from his column in *Fingerstyle* Guitar Magazine entitled *Fingerstyle Basics*.

The piece entitled "Elegy

for a Surfer" was written in memory of Hudson's cousin, who died in a surfing accident.

In conclusion of the event, David Pruett, MTSU music instructor, accompanied Hudson on stage to perform seven more pieces. Pruett coincided his darbuka, tar, rain stick and finger cymbals with Hudson's oud.

"It was cool to see the renaissance piece and the drum part was awesome," said Anna Smolen, freshman business and finance major. "I liked the large variety of sounds."

On March 16, Randy Reed will perform at 8 p.m. in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Building.

Reed will be performing 20 concert studies by Fernando Sor, which will last approximately 36 minutes and serve as the first public performance of these works in one sitting.

"This event is important because due to the new technology, people are bombarded with all these sounds, and this event is a nice oasis from random noise," Reed said. "There is nothing more beautiful than the sound of a guitar."

Reed will dedicate the song "Alm for the Love of God" by

Austin Barrios to Eve Carson, University North Carolina student body president that was murdered at Chapel Hill earlier this month.

Following Reed's performance, Valerie Hartzell, creator and director of the "Classical Minds" Guitar Festival at Moores School of Music at University of Houston, will perform "Rosita" a polka piece along with several other selections.

Duo Firenze, an ensemble made up of Pamela Trent and Robert Trent, will perform on March 17 at 8 p.m. in Hinton Hall of the Wright Building. Duo Firenze were nominated for the Virginia Awards for the Arts and have released their debut CD entitled "Italian Nocturnes: Early Romantic Music for fortepiano and guitar."

Christopher Berg, who made his debut concert at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1981 and was praised by the New York Times for his sensitive performance, will be performing on March 18 at 8 p.m.

As described by the New York Times, "first-rate performer with sure fingers and a firm technique", John Johns, along with classical guitarist, Matt Palmer, will perform on March 19 at 8 p.m.

FIRE FROM PAGE 1

health problems forced him to step down in 2004. The family lives in Woodbury.

"It's a shock. We're just glad nobody's hurt," said Justin Hankins, son of the professors and a 2007 graduate of MTSU in actuarial science.

The fire started in the downstairs area, where four boys lived, and spread upward into the girls' living area despite the efforts of Murfreesboro Fire Department.

"It gutted the second floor and half the first floor," Justin Hankins said.

J.C. had rented the house to MTSU students for years, but doubts it can be restored. "It'd be a major task," he said.

Administrators for the Murfreesboro Fire Department could not be reached Sunday, nor could the spokesman for the Murfreesboro Police Department.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Campus Recreation

- Campus Recreation will host outdoor soccer intramurals on March 24. Registration will occur on March 18 with a \$30 fee. A mandatory captain's meeting will be held on March 20 at 5 p.m.
- Registration for Arena Football will take place on March 19 with an entry fee of \$30. Play will begin on March 24 with a mandatory captain's meeting on March 20 at 6 p.m.
- A rock-climbing trip to King's Bluff in Clarksville will take place on March 22. Cost varies between \$10 and \$20 with a limit of 10 people eligible to attend.

For more information about Campus Recreation activities visit mtsu.edu/~camprec or call 898-2104.

Dramatic Arts

- Claire Whitcomb Jr. viola recital will be held in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall

- of the Wright Building on March 17 at 6 p.m.
- Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia American Music Recital will be held on March 18 at 6 p.m.
- Linday Kuhn senior flute recital will occur on March 19 at 6 p.m. in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Building.
- On March 20, Jazz Combos will take place at 7:30 p.m. Questions or concerns regarding these events should be directed Tim Musselman at tmussel@mtsu.edu or call (615) 898-2493.

American Red Cross Blood Drives

- The Rutherford County Courthouse located on Public Square in Murfreesboro will host a blood drive from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- On March 18 at Middle Tennessee Medical Center located at 400 North Highland Avenue in Murfreesboro, a blood drive will take place from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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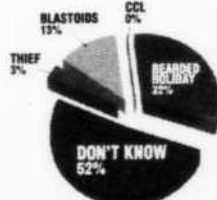
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FEATURES

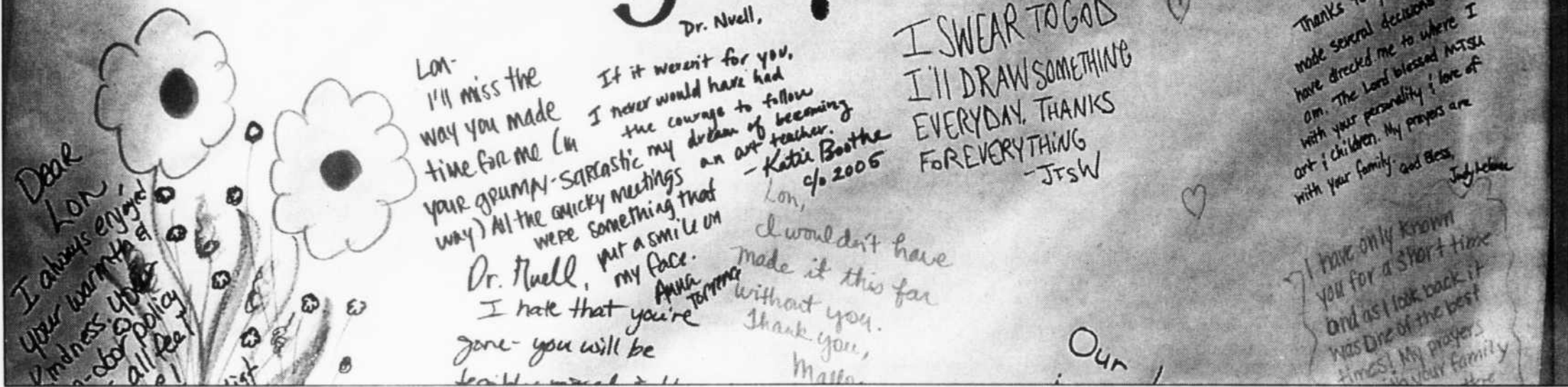


WHO DO YOU THINK SHOULD WIN LAST BAND ROCKING?
BASED ON VOTES FROM
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Remembering

DR. Lon Nuell

We miss you!



Students, friends and family leave notes on Professor Lon Nuell's office door. Nuell was the chair of the art department, the faculty advisor for Hillel and a member of the school board.

Students speak out on the death of Professor Lon Nuell, who died unexpectedly this past Wednesday

By SARAH LAVERY
Features Editor

At a Passover Seder years ago, I brought along a friend who wasn't Jewish. She knew some of the other Jewish community members—we went to school with Lon Nuell's son—but she was still nervous about participating in an unfamiliar ritual.

She met Lon beforehand, who welcomed her—as he always did—with open arms. And during the Seder, Lon called on her to read aloud from the prayer book. She did, giggling at her mispronunciation of the Hebrew words, and Lon smiled back at her. And every year after that, she asked to come along.

Lon Nuell was the backbone of Murfreesboro's Jewish community. We're a small group, but Lon never failed to make us feel like we had a voice. With his guidance, the Jewish population of Murfreesboro didn't feel so slight.

At Lon's funeral Sunday, every chair at Congregation Michah was filled with a person who loved him. People who were touched by him. Helped by him. Taught by him.

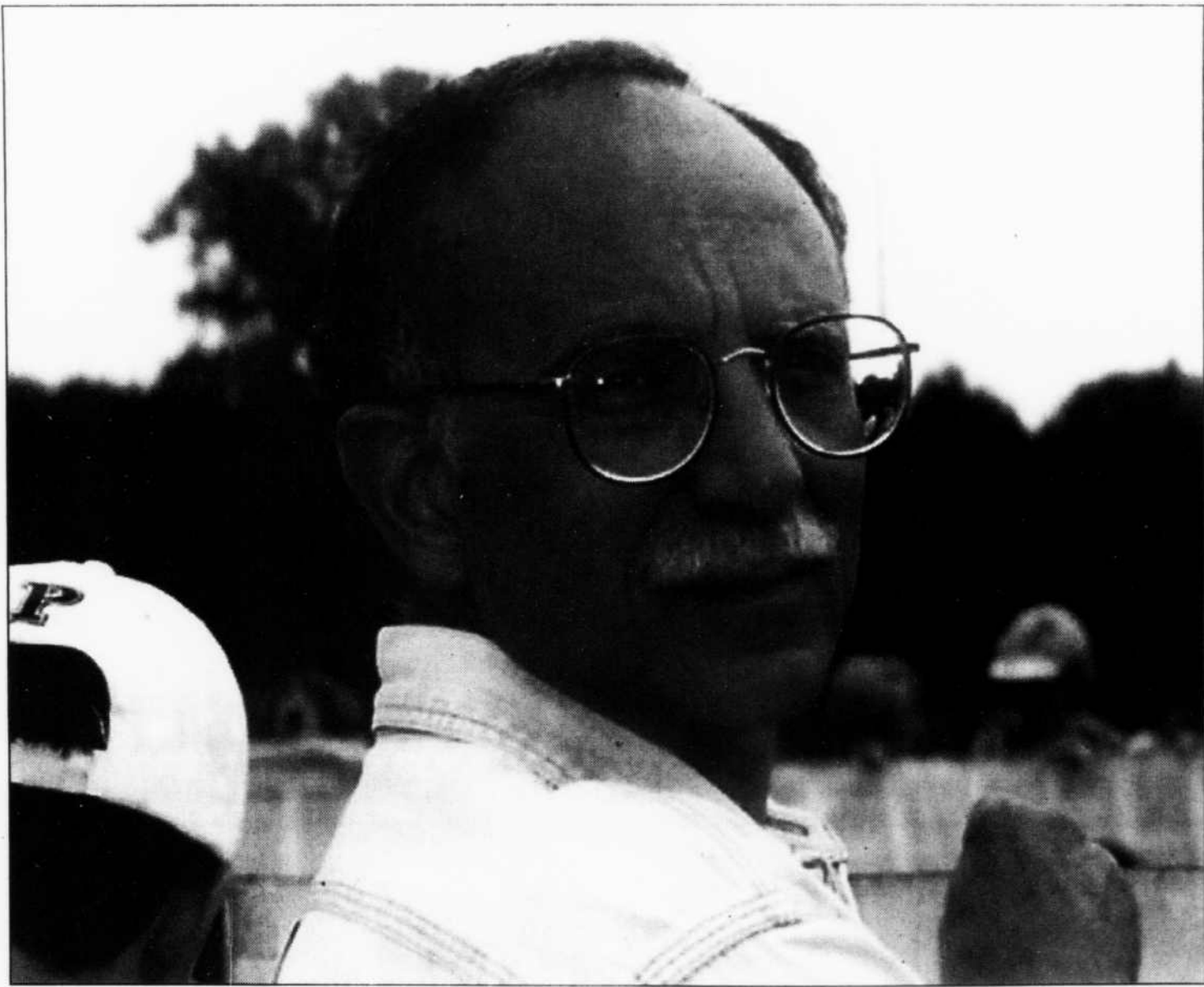
Because of Lon, there is now an art teacher in each local school. Because of his help advocating children's nutrition, the Murfreesboro School Board has received numerous national recognitions for its School Nutrition Program.

During the funeral, the floor was opened up to anyone who wanted to share a story about his or her relationship with Lon.

John McDaniel, the dean of MTSU's Liberal Arts College, was among those who spoke.

McDaniel called Lon a "fixer," claiming that he never ceased to find something that needed improvement.

Anyone that knew Lon knew that he always had a project underway. He had the capability, it seems, to look so closely and compassionately



Lon Nuell, who died unexpectedly this past Wednesday, made a lasting impression on many members of the MTSU and Murfreesboro community.

at his community that he couldn't help but see something that needed attention.

Lon's legacy in Murfreesboro will be mighty. Through his commitment to building inter-faith relationships, he instilled in us a vision of hope. Through his work with the school board, he instilled in us a desire to make the community's schools the best they can be. Through his presence in the community, he instilled in us the idea that we can do more. We can always do more.

Lon Nuell will be missed terribly by all who loved him. But if his death infuses even a fraction of his benevolence into those who miss him, I can't even imagine the lasting influence he will have.

Lon Nuell was one of the most vibrant and passionate people I've ever had the opportunity to meet.

My memories of Lon all revolve around the care and concern that he had for anyone with whom he was involved. He was always there to listen or give advice.

I remember the excitement he always showed about Hillel. He understood the importance of having a Jewish community for the Jewish students on campus, and he did all he could to instill that value in us, too. Organizing events on campus or at his home, Lon was always working to make sure that that community was a reality. He pushed us to become better

than what we were, because he always saw the potential that we all had and have.

Lon was in a place to push us, because he lived his own life with dedication and strength.

Lon will be sorely missed by myself and by all who had the chance to know him and be involved with him.

-Zachary Roe
I didn't know Lon long, but he made a long, lasting impression. He was always upbeat and ready with new jokes. I will definitely miss him.

Lon was a great man.

-Laurie Thaler
Lon was one of the liveliest people I've known since I came to MTSU.

I would see him randomly

in the Todd Building, and he'd always have something cheerful and funny to say.

I remember once, earlier this school year, when I was having a bad day and he invited me into his office to talk and cheer me up.

We all loved having him at Hillel events. He was just such an amazing and delightful person to be around. He will be very missed, and I hope he knew how much we appreciated him.

-K.R.

Lon was someone that people could always talk to. Anyone that needed guidance could always go to Lon's office and he would always take time out of his day to talk to you.

I don't think there is anyone

in the entire world that could have disliked him.

Lon was a model human being. Having him as an advisor and a friend was a great privilege. He will be dearly missed by everyone who has ever had the pleasure of meeting him.

We will all miss you, Lon.

-Ryan Steckbeck

I will always remember Lon Nuell as a caring teacher, advisor and friend.

I first met him in 2004 as my transfer advisor, and later he became my art education advisor.

It was at his urging that I decided to pursue art education, and without his direction, I'm not sure where I would be. You could always count on his office door being open, and him to be sitting behind his desk with a smile on his face and a witty comment or funny story. I couldn't set foot into his office without Lon jokingly asking me what I had gotten myself into now.

I introduced my sister to him when she needed advising help, and she immediately fell in love with his character. So I guess it can be said, to know him is to love him.

I was lucky to have him as a teacher for my last art education class. Everyday, he would sit and talk to us, allowing us to ask him questions about everything else we had not learned in our previous classes. He pushed us just enough without overwhelming us. And at the end of the semester, when I could not be present on exam day because I was in labor with my daughter, there were never any questions asked.

He embodied everything that I hope to one day be as an art educator. As another fellow student, Becca Rodgers, put it, "My fellow students and I will always carry a piece of Lon Nuell with us wherever we go and become the best that we can be as art educators, because of his inspiration."

-Lauren Samons

OPINIONS

HPV needs to be explained by parents

If you found out that your daughter and her close friends were going to get cancer someday, but you could prevent it, would you?

This is a question many parents have been asking themselves recently, in light of the "One Less" campaign designed to spread the word about the Human Papillomavirus, or HPV.

The dangerous reality of this particular sexually transmitted infection was highlighted earlier this week, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released statistics from a recent study showing that 1 in 4 teenage girls has an STI, with HPV affecting the most.

This statistic alone is proof positive that we have an epidemic on our hands, and while most people will not deny this, their ideas on what to do about it differ greatly.

One of the common misconceptions about HPV is that it is contracted through intercourse alone, and that the use of condoms would prevent infection.

Many teenagers do not engage in the actual act of sex and, not being aware that HPV, and other STIs, for that matter, can, in fact, be trans-

mitted in other ways, think they are safe—that these diseases cannot affect them.

The recent development and promotion of the HPV vaccine are being advertised in the hopes that widespread vaccination will stop not only HPV, but also some types of cervical cancer, which can be caused by HPV.

Some groups are adamantly opposed to the vaccine. They fear it will give girls a false sense of security, and therefore promote promiscuity.

This is grasping at straws. When I got a tetanus vaccine, did I go out and step on the first rusty nail I could find? Of course not. Why? Because I had, first of all, the intelligence to know better, and second, the parents to educate me and guide me.

This is where things get tricky. There's no doubt that sex is a difficult subject to broach with one's children.

It is necessary and important, though, and this vaccination would be a good place to start.

Some parents seem to think that ignoring the subject of sex will mean that their child will not know anything about it, when the opposite is usually true.



Grammar Gal
Schools You
Jessica Laven

The same kid that told all of his classmates that there was no Santa Claus has gotten older, and is now sharing his vast knowledge of sex. Ask yourself: Who do I want my child to get his or her information from—me, or a 13-year-old boy?

Another thing that parents need to consider is that children are not all rebellious. By approaching the subject with candor and patience, and not getting upset or embarrassed, parents encourage their children and to feel comfortable with them, thus increasing the likelihood that they'll come to their parents with questions, rather than that know-it-all classmate (who most likely knows nothing).

It's about communication.

The vaccine prevents many types of HPV, but not other STIs. By explaining the dangers of other diseases, and telling adolescents that this vaccine only prevents one of them, a parent can effectively open up the lines of communication with his or her child, and alert them to the seriousness of not only STIs, but the possible ramifications involved with sex in general.

Any parent who thinks that his or her child is somehow going to be worse off with an HPV vaccine has far more serious things to worry about than his or her child possibly having sex.

The whole era of parents saying "I just can't control my child! I just don't know what's going on!" is ineffective and harmful in today's world.

Parents need to stop coddling their children and start teaching them that there is a world out there that will not pander to naivety, rather than trying to raise them in a bubble where everything is sunshine and flowers.

This means that parents should arm their children with the tools they'll need to make smart choices, and also have a relationship with

their children that promotes communication no matter which types of situations their child might find themselves confronting.

The idea that cervical cancer is being used as a scare tactic by some groups to keep girls from becoming sexually active is a direct result of a government that still mistakenly subscribes to the notion that abstinence-only sex education works best.

While tongues are wagging and fingers are pointing, girls are contracting HPV at an alarming rate. What may be best in the long-term is not as important as what is best now, and that is to stop this epidemic. We have an effective solution, and it needs to be used.

In the end, we come back to my initial question. What if your daughter contracts cervical cancer when she is 25 or 30, and you realize that you had the power to prevent it, if only you had insisted that she get the vaccine? Will you be comfortable knowing that you chose your perceived morality over your daughter's life?

Jessica Laven is in the graduate education program and can be reached at jcl2w@mtsu.edu.

FACES IN THE CROWD

Professor Nuell and Professor Walker both lost their lives this last week. How do you feel about their passing?



Holt

"It is sad. I did not know them personally, but I have heard of them. It is sad when a professor dies, but at least they lived a life of meaning."

Mason Holt, sophomore psychology and philosophy



White

"Death is a horrible part of life, but it happens to everyone at some point. It is a little different when it hits close to home."

Dominick White, junior voice performance



Alldredge

It is sad of course. My condolences go out to their family, friends, students, and MTSU staff.

Allison Alldredge, junior electronic media communication



Noles

"I think it's sad that they both died. It is kind of creepy they died right after each other."

Michelle Noles, freshman undeclared

Job fairs help with after-graduation employment

By LAUREN PRICE
GUEST COLUMNIST

During those long, sleepless nights spent cramming for exams and writing 10-page papers that were unfortunately kept for the last minute, the sliver of hope that gets each student through is "this too shall pass" as graduation and a lucrative career will be the bold and shining light at the end of the tunnel.

As each student walks across the stage to accept the degree he or she has spent years working towards, delusions of career grandeur in each mind, it is easy to assume that the perfect job is waiting with each graduate's name on it.

If you still believe this to be true, you're not alone. It's as if college students are living in self-imposed denial; still believing high school teachers who promised the dream career to every student who attended college.

However, if you have realized the truth, hopefully you're preparing yourself for a job after graduation and telling your friends to do the same.

The process of prepping and looking for a job while still in school is even more important than after graduation.

Long gone are the days where college was for the rich and privileged. With more people earning a degree, each graduate must set themselves apart from the competition.

Because of the growing number of college grads, businesses are demanding not necessarily the top GPA, but experience and skills in the field of desired employment. It would be extremely difficult to find a job in which an interviewer was willing to give a fresh graduate a chance without even a smidge of experience.

Hopefully you are reading this in enough time to attain a job or internship in

your field before graduation. Though if you're a senior, don't fret, it's never too late.

So that brings each member of a generation dubbed "GenMe," apparently named because we are focused solely on ourselves, to a conundrum. If you can't get a job without experience and if all jobs require experience to get the job, how will you ever gain experience?

Assume you will have to take a first job that perhaps you feel is beneath you. Maybe the pay isn't great or the position low in the job hierarchy, but invaluable skills will be gained. Though it never hurts to shoot for the stars, aim a little lower too. You can always move up in the company.

When preparing to look for a job, the resume that is sent out is the first impression to all future employers.

Create a cover sheet and resume that is professional and impressive. Have someone proof it for errors. Use

action words when describing yourself. If the employer posted an ad for applicants, promote your skills in a way that conveys you have what they are looking for. Make yourself a commodity.

Be professional when preparing for your interview. Don't fear overdressing; wear the tie or skirt.

Know the background information on the company. No interviewer will hire someone that doesn't know about the company he or she is asking to work for.

Think about what you are going to say. An interviewer will ask the hard-hitting questions. Why should they hire you? What skills set you apart from someone else? What are your strengths and weaknesses?

Afterwards, you can turn the interview around and ask questions of your own. Ask about benefits or possibility for advancement.

Have a secret weapon. Make sure you set yourself

apart from every other applicant. You only have a few minutes to make an impression, so make sure it's a positive one.

Above all express how much you want the job.

The importance of being positive and friendly even to the interns or secretary cannot be stressed enough. People will talk about you when you leave, and you want them to speak well of you.

Don't be discouraged even if you don't get the second interview. Eventually a job will become available.

MTSU is hosting a job fair before the end of the semester. The Employment Opportunities Exchange will be held on April 2 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Visit www.mtsu.edu/recruiting.com for more information.

Lauren Price is a junior mass communications major and can be reached at lap22@mtsu.edu.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

We can support our troops without supporting the war

This week marks the fifth anniversary of America's invasion of Iraq. A candlelight vigil will take place Wednesday night on the Square downtown to commemorate, both by honoring those that have sacrificed for our country and by advocating a quick end to the war.

It seems clear that whatever anyone thinks of the occupation in Iraq, our troops still deserve all the support

we can muster.

It is equally clear that, at this point, the occupation is not accomplishing much of use. Last year's surge has apparently failed in its stated goal. "No one feels that there has been sufficient progress by any means in the area of national reconciliation," General David Petraeus recently said.

The cost of the war is now up to three trillion dollars,

according to prominent economist Joseph Stiglitz. As our economy weakens, indeed, whether we want to end the war or not may become irrelevant as the overriding issue becomes our apparent inability to afford it.

American casualties are approaching 4,000. Lamentably, figures are harder to find for Iraqi casualties, but they almost certainly approach 100 thousand, with many more displaced by the violence there.

It's hard to feel good about the prospect of withdrawing overnight. How much less

stable would Iraq be without 100 thousand American soldiers over there keeping the peace? Further, would neighboring Iran seize our withdrawal as an opportunity to further complicate matters in Iraq?

Still, it's equally hard to feel good about continuing the war when we hear about American soldiers dealing with high rates of divorce and suicide, as well as mental health problems — which plague many Iraqi refugees as well.

Journalists have been drawing comparisons be-

tween Iraq and Vietnam for years now, but it's also interesting to note the way the two wars differ. No one on the editorial board was alive during the Vietnam War so it's hard to judge accurately, but it seems opposition to the war was much more vocal and open then.

Perhaps people are more apathetic now because it's gotten easier to tune out what we don't want to hear. Maybe the trillions of dollars of debt are easier to swallow because debt means nothing

TROOPS, PAGE 5

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
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SGA UPDATE



By ASHLEY DESABATINO
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Each year, the Student Government Association honors individuals for their continued commitment and outstanding service to MTSU. The three awards that are sponsored by the SGA are: the Bob Womack Distinguished Faculty Award, the John T. Bragg, Sr. Distinguished Service Award, and the Johnna L. Pearcy Distinguished Community Service Award. The Bob Womack Distinguished Faculty Award honors an MTSU faculty member who has made a significant contribution in the classroom. The recipient of this award will have \$1,000 in books donated in their name to the James E. Walker Library. The John T. Bragg,

Sr. Distinguished Service Award honors a faculty or staff member who has made a significant contribution in service to MTSU. The Johnna L. Pearcy Distinguished Community Service Award honors a student who has been involved on MTSU's campus and has made significant contributions in the area of community service. Students may nominate faculty members for the Womack award, faculty and/or staff members for the Bragg award, and students may nominate themselves or other students for the Pearcy award. Applications are attached. The SGA is encouraging each student organization to make at least one nomination for each of the awards. All applications are due by March 19 at KUC 208. The recipients for each award will be honored at the SGA banquet on April 21, 2008. The applications are available on at www.mtsu.edu/~sga. Your organization will be notified if your nomination is selected as a recipient for these awards. Thank you for your help!

Letters to the Editor

Enough about Paul already

Now let me go ahead and say that, as a liberal, I have never agreed with most of Ron Paul's platform and never would have dreamed of voting for him to begin with. I have nothing against the people who do support him. But enough is enough. An article like "Fighting for a 'revolution'" would have been appropriate in late January/early February before the primaries. But now Tennessee's primaries and McCain is the Republican candidate with a whopping 1,207 pledged delegates (according to CNN.com). It's over. Give it a rest. **Molly Gaddy, freshman business**

Pay more attention with golf carts

I guess it had to happen. After years of dodging MTSU golf carts on sidewalks and in pedestrian crosswalks, today (Thursday, March 13) I was very nearly run down by one. The incident took place at the corner of Faulkinberry and Champion Way, outside BDA, at 8:45 a.m. in a pedestrian crosswalk, no less. The driver, a young man in a blue MTSU polo shirt, took the corner very fast while looking only to the left (but not to the right for pedestrians)

traffic) and breezed between me and the curb while I was in the street, with only a few inches to spare on either side. As he drove past he gave me a look that suggested he had no idea what he had just done. Please. I know that golf carts are a part of MTSU's scenery and have learned to live with them. Yet I seldom witness anything but verging-on-joyride maneuvers. They drive on the sidewalks but very seldom yield to pedestrian traffic, instead forcing pedestrians to step off the pathways and onto the grass. If not, they swerve around pedestrians and tear up the grass. Unless I'm mistaken, pedestrians still have the right of way on pathways and in crosswalks on campus, and for a good reason. Why does there seem to be a loophole (blind spot?) for golf carts? I urge the various departments that use golf carts as a part of their routine comings-and-goings on campus to a) consider whether the use of golf carts is really safe on this relatively small, compact campus, b) decide whether drivers are adequately briefed on the fundamentals of safety and courtesy, and c) decide how drivers can be held accountable to the pedestrian public for reckless use. **Ric Morris, Associate professor of Spanish, linguistics**

TROOPS FROM PAGE 4

to our generation – After all, everyone is in debt, right? How many zeroes are in a trillion, anyway? Countless commentators have bemoaned our nation's policymakers for failing to heed Vietnam's lessons about quagmires and clear nothing for victory, but if nothing else, we've done well to

avoid taking our anger out on soldiers when our elected officials rightfully deserve the preponderance of the blame. Regrettably, much remains to be done when it comes to taking proper care of our soldiers when they return home – where Vietnam vets were often hated, Iraq war veterans are instead ignored. They deserve both, as do the people of both the United States and Iraq.

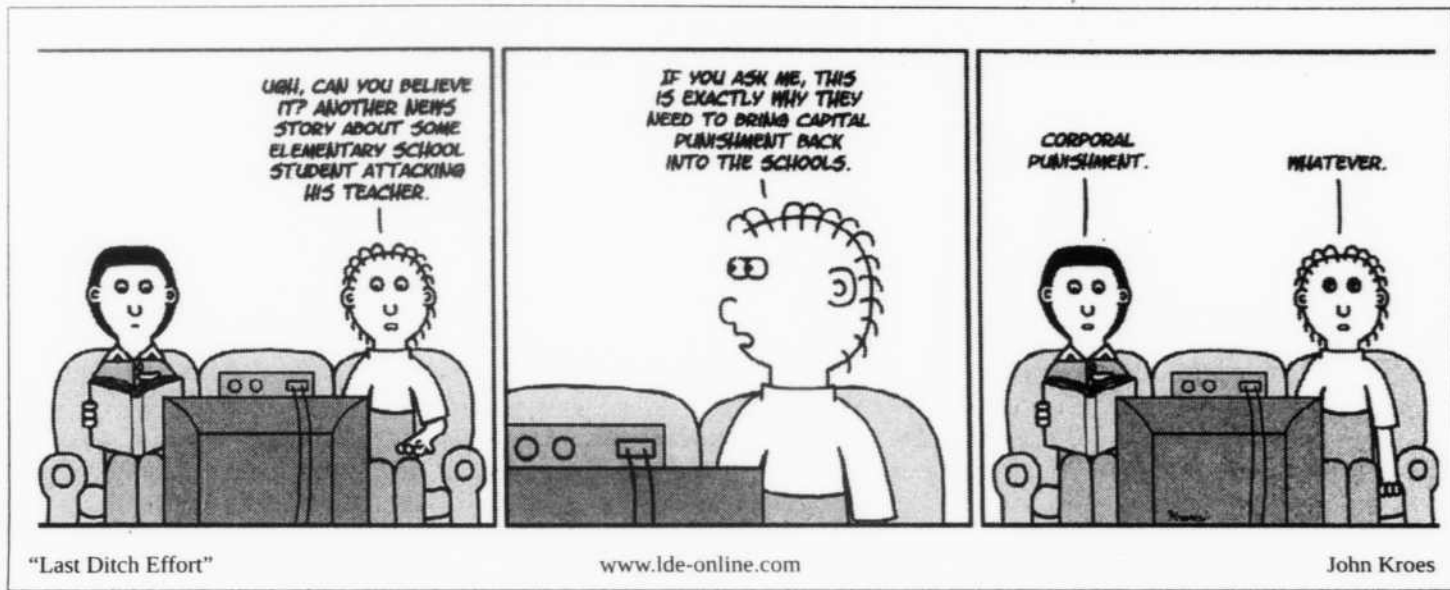
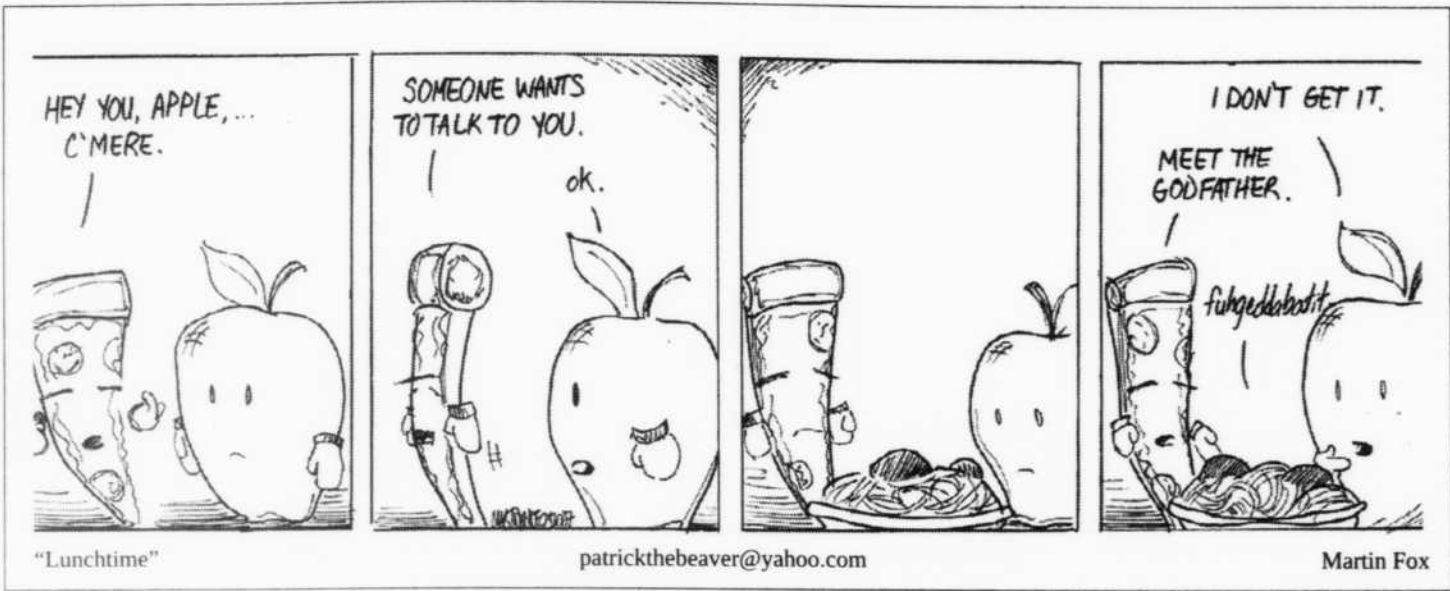
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Tell us what you think online by visiting www.mtsusidelines.com

COMICS



Entertainment compromises journalism
More about glamor than passion for the craft of reporting

By MICHAEL STONE
GUEST COLUMNIST

What is journalism? It is writing about what Britney Spears does with a new love interest? Is it appearing on a "crossfire" show like "Crossfire" to argue with someone who has taken a polar-opposite stance on an issue? The vast majority of journalists would say that these activities, and others similar to them, aren't true acts of journalism. They are, rather, attracting more readers and viewers by merging journalism with entertainment. This ethical issue of convergence of journalism and entertainment is what James Fallows is making light of in his book "Breaking the News." The book also discusses politics and journalism going hand-in-hand, thus turning politics into entertainment to a degree. Before the days of television, radio and the Internet, print journalism was how Americans found out about the world around them. That world could be as close as a local man accused of robbery, or it could be as distant as a war between Spain and France. People relied on print journalism to help keep the world in perspective. But as technologies like radio and television began to emerge, print journalism became more and more archaic. People began listening to a news report on the radio or watching the evening news on the television. Unfortunately for journalism, emerging technologies did more harm than good. These same technologies

that added new facets of journalism also gained America's attention with flashy celebrities and the glamorous lifestyles they led. Celebrities were, and still are, the figureheads of the entertainment that America fell in love with. Slowly, the country became apathetic towards the "real" world around them, and became more concerned with the "fake" world that entertainment put into the American psyche. Journalism had to do something to get America's attention back. Informative and newsworthy stories didn't catch the average American's eye anymore. So journalism began to implement entertainment into the industry. If stories didn't have a conflict or some kind of drama between two opposing sides, it wasn't received well by the general public because it wasn't entertaining enough. For example, if country A was to form a treaty with country B that would impact both nations for the good, it might be on page 13 of the news section. But if country A was to invade country B, it would be on front pages all across the country. Happenings external to the journalism industry are more appreciated when drama is involved, but this is also true for happenings internal to the industry. Internal drama in journalism is much worse than external drama, though. At least when focus is facing out, the public gets some view of what is going on in the world around them. But when the focus is facing in, the objective third party becomes the star, and the "news" is now

about the person who is supposed to be bringing the news. Talk show "journalism" is a good example of drama being created within the industry. Imagine two people on a news talk show who know a great deal about capital punishment. The program would consist of a discussion using factual information, and even if they do disagree on certain aspects of the subject, they would most likely agree on some things. But if two people are brought on the show that know basically nothing about capital punishment, but have different opinions, 30 minutes of uninformative entertainment is shown in the form of yelling and arguing. The first instance is of knowledgeable people having an informative discussion that is actually worth viewing. The second instance is of "journalists" who appeared on television for their own profit rather than for actually caring about the death penalty. Celebrity journalists like the ones that appear on "news" talk shows set a bad example for what journalists should be striving for. Like all people of all crafts, journalists aspire to become the best at their trade. But when they are told the best is becoming a "talking head" on a news network, it corrupts the whole industry. Journalists aren't the only people being turned into celebrities because of modern-day journalism. Politicians are also an example of this. For example, think of a movie star like Brad Pitt and how a movie he was in was edited together to make a fi-

nal product. The majority of people only care about Brad Pitt, not how a computer-savvy editor he was in. The same is true of saturated-journalism politics. Imagine a politician running for an office on his firm stance against poverty. Modern-day journalists don't ask the "how" questions like how the politician will go about combating poverty, but rather "what" questions like what that stance will do to help the politician get elected. Just like Brad Pitt, the politician becomes more of a celebrity than a politician, and no one cares about the implementation of anti-poverty legislation. The journalists of old would be asking the "how" questions, not the "what" questions. The "how" questions, though, don't sell as well, are harder to obtain, and don't propagate our politicians into a celebrity status that entertains. Just like Fallows states in his book, journalism will never catch up to "true" entertainment. If people want entertainment, they'll watch a movie, not "Crossfire." So even though the convergence of journalism and entertainment is keeping the industry afloat for now, it won't last forever. Raising the price of advertisement space will only last while there are subscribers. But when Americans can get their "news" from "Entertainment Tonight," what's the point in subscribing to a newspaper? Michael Stone is a junior business major and can be reached at mjs3v@mtsus.edu.

SPORTS

MT takes SBC win on Barrett's home run

By Jessica Stauffacher
MT MEDIA RELATIONS

Senior Zach Barrett hit a solo home run down the left field line with one out in the top of the 10th inning to clinch a 7-6 win for Middle Tennessee over Arkansas State and the series.

Barrett's third home run of the season gave Middle Tennessee (10-4-1, 3-2 SBC) its first lead in its first extra inning on Sunday. Barrett ended the day 3 for 6 with two RBI and scored two runs.

"Zach is swinging the bat

well. He has learned how to become a better and better hitter and works on it," head coach Steve Peterson said. "It was a huge win for the ball club. We used a lot of players and it was just a big, big win for us. When Zach Dean got in the line-up our line-up got going. I thought our hitters at times had tense bats. Blake's sacrifice fly, he went up there with the idea to hit the first opportunity he had and get the run in."

On the mound, junior Jordan Alvis pitched four innings allowing five runs on

six hits in the start

"It was a great comeback. I have got to tip my hat to the pitching staff. Five runs in the first inning but then Jordan settled down and got through four innings. The bull pen came in and didn't look great at times but pitched very well," Peterson said.

Junior Brett Smalley took the win over the Indians (11-7, 4-2 SBC) as he pitched two and a third innings in relief allowing no runs or hits with three strikeouts. Smalley struck out the last batter for Arkansas State to seal the

deal for the Blue Raiders.

"In this ball game when I went to the pen I didn't have time to let them get a feel for the game. They had to come in, show me what you and be right but I didn't want to take a chance on losing momentum. Smalley was the guy. He came in, he was going after it and he was not going to make the mistake of what happened to their pitcher leaving a slider over the plate for Barrett to hit out. It was a great outing for him," Peterson said.

On the mound, Middle Tennessee used five pitchers

and allowed just three hits and one run after Alvis left the game.

Freshman Bryce Brentz also guided the Blue Raiders at the plate as he went 2 for 4 with two RBI, one home run and scored a run. Junior Nathan Hines, who's hitting streak ended on Saturday, added assistance as he went 3 for 6 scoring one run with a double.

Junior Zach Dean entered the game in relief and ended the day 2 for 2 with two RBI and a double.

As a team, Middle Ten-

nessee posted 12 hits as four Blue Raiders had multiple hit games on Sunday.

Arkansas State's Derrick Coleman hit a home run to center field on Alvis' first pitch of the game to take an early 1-0 lead. The Indians added another run on a sacrifice fly to right field by Guy Brown which scored Ryan Hudgins from third base. Drew Benes singled to right field to drive in two more runs and Lawson Hipps added one more with his single to left field to

HOME RUN, PAGE 8

Future looks bright for Blue Raiders



Outside the Pocket
Chris Martin

As the bracket for the NCAA tournament was revealed on Sunday, many Middle Tennessee fans watched with the disappointing knowledge that the Blue Raiders were one win away from the big dance.

MT hasn't set foot on the big stage in nearly 20 years, and the loss to Western Kentucky in the Sun Belt Championship means, once again, that Blue Raider supporters will have to "wait 'til next year."

The only difference is next year should be MT's year.

Normally, I don't put much stock in the belief that the way a team finishes a season is indicative of how it will play the following season, but I'm making an exception this year.

The Blue Raiders currently have—a 17-15 record, but over their last 15 games, they went 10-5 with two wins over regular season champ South Alabama. The reason why there's a chance MT will be able to carry some of that late-season momentum into next season—there are no seniors on the team.

That means that All-SBC first team selection Desmond Yates is coming back with his 16 points and 4.4 rebounds a game. Also returning are junior center Theryn Hudson (9.1 points, 5.4 rebounds), redshirt junior forward Demetrius Green (12.5 points, 4.6 rebounds) and junior guard Kevin Kanaskie (11.7 points, four rebounds, 3.3 assists).

But that's not all. Not only is every player returning, but MT will also be adding some players. Among those joining MT is junior guard Calvin O'Neil, one of the Blue Raiders' best perimeter defenders. O'Neil played in only one game this season due to injury. Before getting hurt, O'Neil was a starter and getting him back will provide some much needed

NEXT YEAR, PAGE 7

MT BLACK HISTORY



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENNON SPORTS HALL OF FAME

J.W. Harper (87) was the first African-American to play football at Middle Tennessee. Harper started out as a walk-on and eventually became the Blue Raiders' starting tight end

Tackling racial issues on the gridiron

By Dwayne Douglas
STAFF WRITER

After the track team set the tone for African American athletes at MT, the basketball team came along and shot down a few barriers. Next, it was time for the football team to do its part by stepping up and tackling racial issues as well.

The first player to snap the chinstrap and alter the look of MT's football program was J.W. Harper. Harper enrolled at MT in June 1968. He had previously been at the college in what was considered an experimental group of students for Upward Bound, a pre-college program.

Since Harper was famil-

iar with the campus and had met the football coaches, he decided to enroll at MT once he completed high school.

After arriving on campus as a college student, he ignored the advice of others and walked on to the football team. "Some blacks on campus told me how bad it would be, but I didn't care about that. Once you cross that line, the only color was football," Harper said.

Harper also had to ignore the advice when other students and players told him who to watch out for. "The players I was told to look out for, was the ones looking out for me," Harper said.

His decision to walk on

was a good one. He made the team and received the opportunity to practice and run scout team as a freshman. However, he was not able to be with his teammates at all times. "I couldn't dress with the team. I had to dress in the basement," Harper said. In addition, he had to stay in the dorm with one of the black basketball players as his roommate.

With the exception of being separate for dressing and living purposes, Harper says he was not treated different from white players.

By spring of 1969, Harper had moved up from a walk-on practice player to the starting tight end. This tran-

sition didn't sit too well with a particular white football player. "The starting tight end was messing up by missing and coming late. Coach decided to put me ahead of him. When he came and saw I was the starter, he said that no nigger will play ahead of me. He took off his helmet, threw it down and left," Harper said.

While Harper went on to have a good spring game and was well accepted, the other tight end never returned.

At the end of the season, Harper was offered a scholarship. He declined because he was receiving financial aid and was a work-study participant. Harper was able to

work and receive more money by not taking the scholarship. His job was to wash the football equipment. A job his teammates didn't know he was doing for them.

Harper also helped the school with the recruitment of blacks. He may have been the first black to put on a pair of MT shoulder pads, but by no means was he going to be the last.

MT allowed him to go to schools, houses, and other places to help recruit other football players. Harper said, "the school gave me a chance to go get the players and to show them around Murfreesboro. I did that until I graduated."

Lady Raiders wait for selection committee's decision

By Richard Lowe
SPORTS EDITOR

So the question for MT fans today is "where do we go from here?" It has been five years since the Lady Raiders have ended their season without a conference championship trophy on the bus ride home. This time, they have left Mobile with a trophy, but it belongs to the runner-up instead.

The question that is being asked does not refer to the

common issues of athletic teams of today. Coach Insell's job is secure and none of the eight players are worried about injuries or low grades. Instead, every person involved with MT's women's basketball program is sitting in college basketball purgatory until Monday.

That will be the day when the NCAA Selection Committee announces the 64 teams that will be taking part in their championship tournament and the 40 teams

that will be taking part in the Women's National Invitational Tournament, or the WNIT for short.

Most times when a Sun Belt team loses in the conference tournament, they can clean out their lockers and safely assume that their season is complete. But if you go 21-11 while defeating then eighth-ranked LSU and hang tough with the likes of Old Dominion, Maryland, and Tennessee, you are guaranteed at least one thing — hope.

A season of shortcomings The Lady Raiders came off of the 2006-2007 season with a school record 30 wins, an all-American in Chrissy Givens and signature victories over the University of Georgia, Old Dominion, and Gonzaga to go along with their undefeated conference record and tournament championship.

This year, they were not able to sustain the same amount of success. Although the victory over then eighth-ranked

LSU will mark as one of the greatest home victories in this program's history, losses to Western Carolina, Chattanooga, and several conference opponents put a dent in the armor of the team.

Wins and losses seemed to be the least of their troubles. Heading into the conference tournament, the ladies were left with eight eligible players. Jasmine Duffey, Morgan Boyd, Angelique Burttis and

SELECTION, PAGE 7

2008 Men's Basketball CBI Tournament



SPORTS BRIEFS

MT loses to No. 17 Louisiana-Lafayette

By DAVID POWELL
MT Media Relations

Corrie Abel was 1-for-3 with a homerun but the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (7-14, 2-3) gave up 10 runs in the final three innings in a 12-1 loss to the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (19-5, 2-0) in the second game of a doubleheader at Blue Raider Field on Sunday.

MT was on the losing end of a 8-1 defeat in the first game earlier in the day. Justine Cerda went 1-for-3 with an RBI in the loss.

Kellie Head (3-6) got the start and the loss for the Blue Raiders. The righty gave up nine earned runs on 16 hits, while striking out one and walking two in 5.2 innings.

Lindsey Vander Lugt faced the final batter of the game in the relief appearance.

Ashley Brignac (12-3) worked 3.2 innings and picked up her second win of the day for ULL. She struck out five and walked one.

Brittany Cuevas started for the visitors but faced just

three batters before being replaced by Brignac. Donna Bourgeois worked the final 2.0 innings, giving up one hit and striking out three in relief.

The Ragin' Cajuns opened the scoring in the 2nd inning when pinch runner Courtney Trahan scored off a Vander Lugt wild pitch.

They added another run in the 3rd inning to make it 2-0. Holly Tankersley led off with a double to left center field before Melissa Verde drove in Tankersley with a sacrifice fly to left field.

The Blue Raiders cut the lead in half in their half of the inning when Abel crushed a 3-2 pitch over the left field fence for a solo homerun. However, that was all the offense the Blue Raiders would have as the final three innings belonged to ULL in which they added 10 more runs to make it 12-1.

The Blue Raiders return to action when they face local rival Tennessee State in a doubleheader at Blue Raider Field on Wednesday.

Next Year

FROM PAGE 6

backcourt depth. Also joining the team will be freshman Antwaun Boyd, a highly-touted scorer who sat out this year due to eligibility issues. On top of getting some players on the court that were expected to play this past year, MT will also be adding two recruits.

Next season, the Blue Raiders should be the beneficiaries without seniors Demetric Bennett and Daon Merritt. WKU loses conference player of the year Courtney Lee as well as All-SBC second team selection Tyrone Brazelton. The SBC's all-time leading scorer, Bo McCalebb, has exhausted his eligibility at New Orleans, as has Troy's Darrien Bassett.

There will be plenty of teams that will provide difficult challenges for MT. Florida Atlantic will get Carlos Monroe, who should be the early favorite to win conference player of the year, back next year. North Texas returns two All-SBC second team performers in guards Collin Dennis and Josh White, and UALR has only two seniors on the squad that won the SBC's west division.

One area in which MT will have to improve if it wants to contend for the SBC title next year is rebounding. MT is a guard-oriented team and while Kanaskie and Nigel Johnson battled valiantly for rebounds this season (each averaged four a game), MT's big men are going to have to be more tenacious on the boards. For instance, despite the fact Yates is one of the taller players on the team at 6-7, he only averaged 4.4 rebounds. Ideally, a team would prefer a starting forward to average more than .4 rebounds a game more than the starting point guard.

In the same vein, MT's bigs need to improve. The inside

game was exposed in the SBC championship game when Jeremy Evans completely dominated the Blue Raiders. Hudson has shown flashes, but he needs to cut down on his fouls. He can be a prominent presence in the middle, but in order to show his skill, he's going to have to be on the court—not sitting on the bench with five fouls. Hudson's inconsistency can often be directly linked to his number of fouls.

At the end of the day, the Blue Raiders get everybody back from a team that finished with the third-best record in the conference, and since the two teams ahead of MT, South Alabama and WKU, are suffering heavy personnel losses, the Blue Raiders should be in good shape to take the Sun Belt crown and engage in March Madness beyond the conference tournament.

I sure can't wait 'til next year.

Chris Martin is a junior journalism major and can be reached at slsports@mtsu.edu

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SELECTION

FROM PAGE 6

Johnna Abney were all looked to to contribute to the team but were not in uniform by the season's end.

Games against Troy and UALR were close but MT was able to pull away with the victory. However, when the Lady Raiders took the court against Western Kentucky in the finals of the conference tournament, they were not able to walk away with the victory. Senior Latoya Barclay recounted her feelings after the game.

"I was heartbroken," Barclay said. "I felt like it was something we needed [after what we had gone through]. There was a woman in the crowd that yelled 'you can't win them all.' I just have to learn to accept that."

"I tried to put it past me but I still feel it. But you can't just show everybody it hurts."

The waiting game Since the ladies returned to Murfreesboro, there have been minimal workouts. This has been a time for the

team to catch up on homework and relax for the days ahead. In the four years prior to this, MT knew what was coming in their future. When the clock hit zero in the Mitchell Center, the Lady Raiders began the waiting game. The women's basketball postseason tournaments select the teams that will play for the right to be called WNIT champion or NCAA national champion.

Since they lost the conference tournament, the Lady Raiders are not guaranteed a spot in either tournament. Many prognosticators have selected MT to be in one tournament or the other but they still doesn't calm the nerves of the team. The question in their mind is "What if they don't make it?"

Orr and Barclay have no clue if they have played their final game in a Lady Raider uniform but have pointed to the positives of this season.

"I felt like I could do more," Barclay said. "I wouldn't hold my head down though. I feel great about what we have achieved but if we don't make it, I wouldn't be ashamed of it."

"I think we had a good season," Orr said. "We beat some teams no one thought we could and we lost games we shouldn't have lost."

The band of sisters With everything that was taking place with the team this season, they were forced to look to each other for support in these tough times.

port in these tough times.

"I am closer to this team than I have ever been since I have been at MT," Orr said. "I don't have family here so when I need someone to talk to, I go to my teammates."

Some of the team's players have had to go to this season for guidance is head coach Rick Insell. In his third season at MT, he had to deal with the same challenges as his players.

"I never focus on the negative," Insell said. "You're going to have mountains that you're going to have to climb. You can't sit around and worry. You have to just take what you have been given."

"Coach Insell is a real good coach on and off the court and he will help you the best way he can," Orr said. "With all of this going on, any other coach would have probably just given up on us. He never gave up on us."

One thing is certain in the mind of Coach Rick Insell. The legacies of Orr and Barclay have not been ruined by their Sun Belt Conference finals defeat. In fact, he believes there is still more to see from the two.

"It never entered my mind that their legacy had been tarnished [by losing in the conference tournament]," Insell said. "What they have done for Middle Tennessee I will always appreciate, but we're not through yet."

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NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament

FIRST ROUND
March 20-21

SECOND ROUND
March 22-23

REGIONALS
March 27-28

REGIONALS
March 29-30

SEMIFINALS
April 5

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

SEMIFINALS
April 5

REGIONALS
March 29-30

REGIONALS
March 27-28

SECOND ROUND
March 22-23

FIRST ROUND
March 20-21

Division I Men's Bracket

Opening Round Game - March 18

Coppin St. vs. Mt. St. Mary's

North Carolina 1

Playin Winner 16

Indiana 8

Arkansas 9

Notre Dame 5

George Mason 12

Washington St. 4

Winthrop 13

Oldham 6

Saint Joseph's 11

Louisville 3

Boise St. 14

Butler 7

South Alabama 10

Tennessee 2

American 15

Kansas 1

Portland St. 16

UNLV 8

Kent St. 9

Clemson 5

Villanova 12

Vanderbilt 4

Siena 13

USC 6

Kansas St. 11

Wisconsin 3

CS Fullerton 14

Gonzaga 7

Davidson 10

Georgetown 2

UMBC 15

Memphis 1

UT-Arlington 16

Mississippi St. 8

Oregon 9

Michigan St. 5

Temple 12

Pittsburgh 4

Oral Roberts 13

Marquette 6

Kentucky 11

Stanford 3

Cornell 14

Miami (Fla.) 7

St. Mary's (Ca.) 10

Texas 2

Austin Peay 15

UCLA 1

Mississippi Val. 16

BYU 8

Texas A&M 9

Drake 5

Western Ky. 12

Connecticut 4

San Diego 13

Purdue 6

Baylor 11

Xavier 3

Georgia 14

West Virginia 7

Arizona 10

Duke 2

Belmont 15

East Charlotte

San Antonio April 5

San Antonio April 7

National Champion

San Antonio April 5

South Houston

West Phoenix

NIT

MasterCard NIT Men's Basketball Tournament

First Round
March 18 & 19

Second Round
March 20, 21, 22 & 24

Quarterfinals
March 25, 26 & 27**

Semifinal
April 1

Championship
April 3

Semifinal
April 1

Quarterfinals
March 25, 26 & 27**

Second Round
March 20, 21, 22 & 24

First Round
March 18 & 19

*Ohio St. 19-13 1

March 18, 7 PM - ESPN2

UNC Asheville 23-9 8

*Cal 16 - 15 4

March 19, 11 PM - ESPN2

New Mexico 24-8 5

*Dayton 21 - 10 3

March 19, 6 PM - ESPN2

Cleveland St. 21-12 6

*Illinois St. 24 - 9 2

March 19, 10 PM - ESPN2

Utah St. 24 - 10 7

*Va. Tech 19 - 12 1

March 19, 7 PM - ESPN Classic

Morgan St. 21 - 10 8

*VCU 24 - 7 4

March 19, 7 PM - ESPN2

UAB 22 - 10 5

*Nebraska 19-12 3

March 19, 9 PM - ESPN Classic

Charlotte 20-13 6

*Mississippi 21-10 2

March 19, 8 PM - ESPN2

Cal Santa Barbara 7

*Arizona St. 19-12 1

March 18, 11 PM - ESPN2

Alabama St. 20-10 8

*Southern Ill 17-14 4

March 18, 9 PM - ESPN2

Ok State 17-15 5

*Creighton 21-10 3

March 18, 10 PM - ESPN2

Rhode Island 21-11 6

*Florida 21-11 2

March 19, 9 PM - ESPN2

San Diego St. 20-12 7

*Syracuse 19-13 1

March 18, 8 PM - ESPN2

Robert Morris 26-7 8

*Minnesota 20-12 4

March 18, 9:30 PM - ESPN

Maryland 18-14 5

*Florida St. 19-14 3

March 18, 9 PM - ESPN Classic

Akron 23-9 6

*UMass 21-10 2

March 18, 6 PM - ESPN2

Stephen F. Austin 7

@ Madison Square Garden
April 1, 7 or 9 PM
ESPN2

@ MSG
April 3, 7 PM
ESPN

@ Madison Square Garden
April 1, 7 or 9 PM
ESPN2

Home run
FROM PAGE 6

bring in Benes from second, 5-0 ASU.

Brentz hit a home run to right field on the first pitch he saw in the top of the second inning. Sophomore Blake McDade, who received a base on balls to reach base, scored

on a fielder's choice by the short stop on a hit by Barrett to cut the Indians lead to three, 5-2.

The Blue Raiders cut the lead to one, 5-4 in the top of the seventh on a double by Dean. Dean's hit, who pinch hit for junior Rawley Bishop, brought in Barrett and Hines from first and second.

Arkansas State ended its

scoring drought as Eller doubled in the bottom of the eighth to bring in Coleman, who reached on an error by junior Joe Craddock at second base 6-4 ASU.

Middle Tennessee responded in the top of the ninth as Craddock scored from third on a single to centerfield by Brentz. The Blue Raiders then tied the game, 6-6, on

a sacrifice fly to left field by McDade. McDade's fly ball scored sophomore Zach Hudson, who was a pinch runner for Dean who singled.

Middle Tennessee will be back in action on Wednesday, March 19 when it travels to Clarksville, Tenn., to play Austin Peay at 6 p.m.

FRIENDS OF AMY SPAIN
SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Amy Spain Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$500, will be awarded this spring to a graduating senior planning on attending law school this fall. Amy Spain was an alumnus of Middle Tennessee State University and an active Alpha Delta Pi from 1982-1986. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree she went on to graduate with honors from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Amy obtained a position as an Assistant United States Attorney in Memphis. She held this position until a tragic automobile accident ended her exceptional life.

To continue Amy's legacy, some of her friends and family have established this scholarship. The Memorial Fund will be used to further the education of an MTSU Greek female who plans to attend Law School. Candidates must demonstrate the leadership, dedication, commitment, and integrity which characterized and described Amy.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please obtain an application from Susan Thornton in the Dean of Student Life Office, Keathley University Center, Room 128.

Deadline for applications is Friday, March 28, 2008.

MTSU Student Affairs announces the
2008 DEAN JUDY SMITH
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Dean Judy Smith Scholarship Award is given to a student who is an active participant in one or more of the following areas of Campus Life: social sorority or fraternity, cheerleading squad, Student Programming/Special Events, Student Government Association (executive, legislative, or judicial branch), or CUS-TOMS (new student orientation). This student must have completed at least 30 hours credit in residence at MTSU and have a cumulative minimum grade point average of 3.000. (Because of the terms of this award, graduating seniors are ineligible.)

Applications are available now in the Office of Dean of Student Life, KUC Room 128.

Application Deadline: March 28, 2008

If you have any questions about the application process or the scholarship award, please contact Susan Thornton in the Dean of Student Life Office at 898-2750.

Get on the ball!

Write for Sidelines sports section. Come to the Mass Comm building, room 269 to apply.

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