

It is easy to find the best comics in Murfreesboro 4

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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INSIDE

Student's life devastated



Damage from Hurricane Katrina affects one student's summer.

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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 during construction. Please follow detour signs.

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

Earth Day displays alternatives

By DANIEL POTTER
Community News Editor

Students for Environmental Action celebrated Earth Day in front of the Keathley University Center on Tuesday, along with numerous other organizations.

"It's fun to see everyone get active and passionate about the environment," said Carl Caum, a junior computer science major and SEA member.

Live musicians performed on the Knoll throughout the day as students and volunteers distributed literature on such topics as animal cruelty, cycling, alternative energy, and equal pay - in addition to Earth Day, April 22 is also Pay Equity Day, and literature on the matter was available from the American Association of University Women.

A wide variety of vehicles was also on display, showcasing various forms of alternative transportation, from a Corvette Stingray modified to run on biodiesel to a bicycle retrofitted with a 49cc two-stroke engine, said to reach speeds of 40 mph while getting up to 150 miles per gallon.

The bicycle was just one of several vehicles there belonging to Jeff Hartley, an honorary SEA member who has long held do-it-yourself ethics and alternative energy close to his heart.

The centerpiece of Hartley's collection was a Mercedes rigged to run on used vegetable oil, a subject of much interest to many pass-

ers-by. Parts for the modification cost some \$450.

"I've been slammed - I couldn't keep up with so many people interested," Hartley said, attributing much of the interest to increasing fuel prices.

Hartley said the cost of alternative fuel systems have increased over the last few years as well. "I've actually watched them go up," he said.

Even so, Hartley said it's still fairly easy to establish good relationships with restaurants to insure a steady supply of used vegetable oil to fuel such vehicles. "They're happy to get someone who will take care of it," he said.

"A lot of people were really into Jeff's cars, and the music has been great," said Kenny Torrella, a sophomore recording major and SEA member, who spent much of the day distributing literature on vegetarianism.

"We definitely got the message out about who Students for Environmental Action is," Torrella said.

Despite the noon sun, the jam and funk band Soul Syndicate attracted a fair crowd with a cover of The Allman Brothers' "In Memory of Elizabeth Reed."

Those gathered later relaxed to the beats of DJ Jacob "J. Grizzly" Spaulding, senior recording industry major. The final performance of the day was Elephant Magnet, an all-girl air-guitar band that covered Joan Jett's "Bad Reputation."

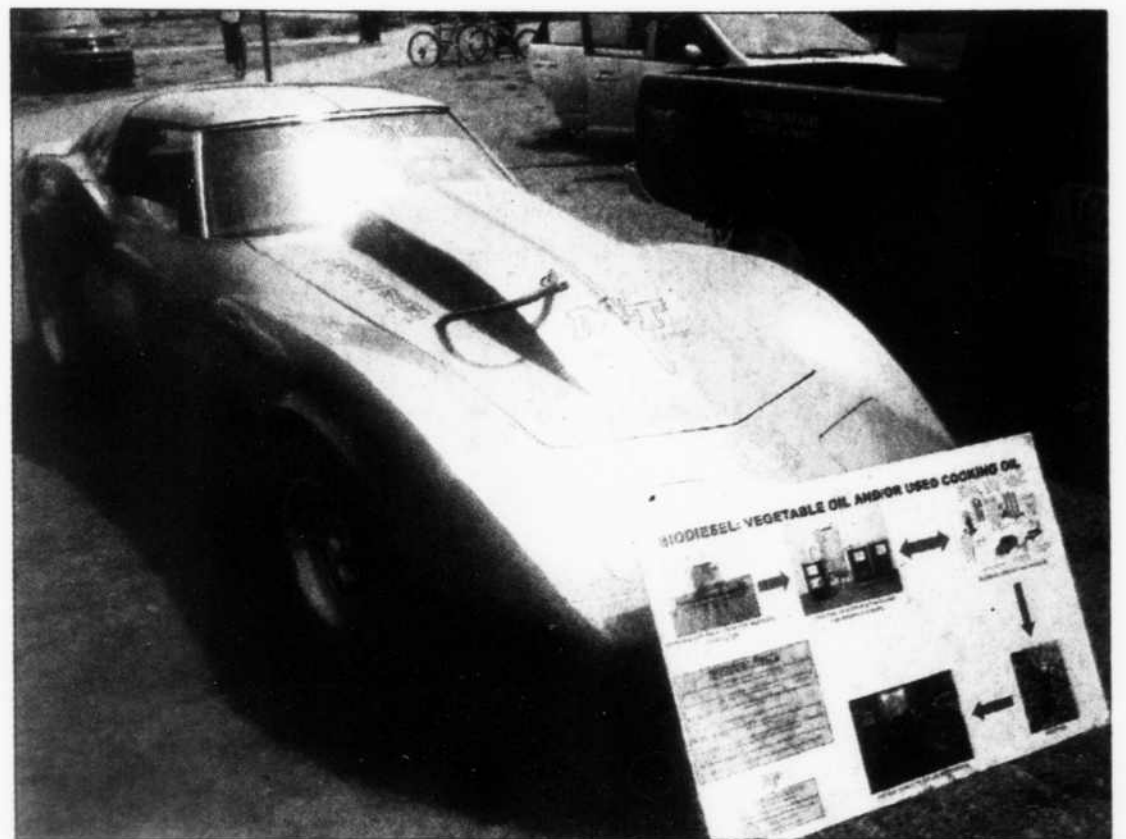


Photo By Daniel Potter, Community News Editor

A Corvette Stingray modified to run on biodiesel is displayed outside the KUC on Tuesday for Earth Day.

At 6 p.m., after the other Earth Day activities had wound down, some forty bicyclists gathered in front of Rutherford Boulevard. From there they rode to Mercury Boulevard, where they were stopped briefly by a police officer who acknowledged their right to the road but reminded them to ride safely, before the group continued on to Broad Street.

The riders then turned toward downtown on Lytle Street and raced briefly around the Square before returning to campus.

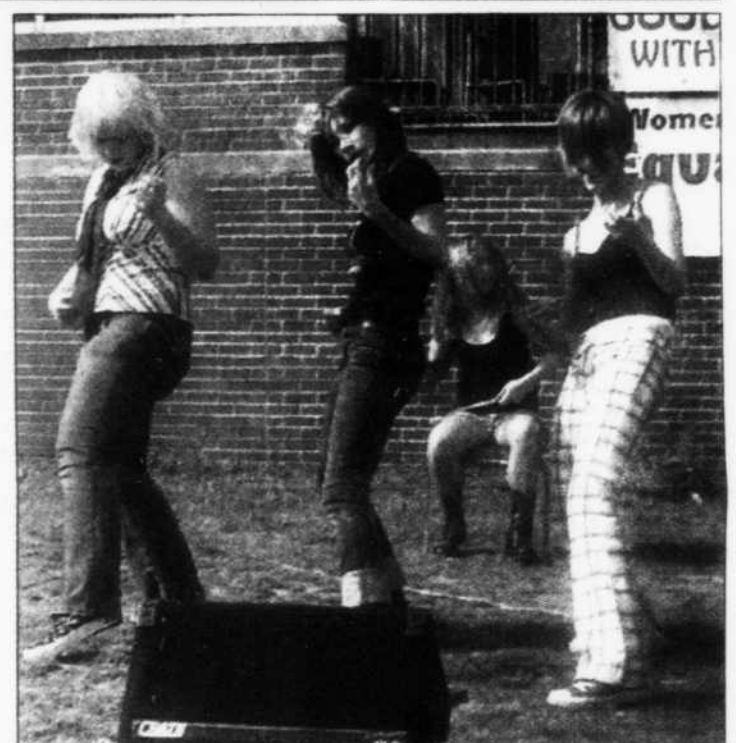


Photo By Daniel Potter, Community News Editor

Air-guitar band Elephant Magnet performs Tuesday afternoon on the Knoll.

Students dance in showcase MPAC celebrates 40th anniversary

By ALEX MOORMAN
Staff Writer

The MTSU Performing Arts Company is celebrating their 40th Anniversary this year and will be holding a dance show to showcase MTSU's talent.

The dance show is on Wednesday, April 30 and Thursday, May 1 in Tucker Theater at 7 p.m. The admission is free for all MTSU students with identification and \$5 for general admission.

"I believe we were going to have a wonderful turn out this year. I am currently pulling the dates up so that it was during school, which I think will really help with the turn out," said Cameshia Roberts, junior elementary education major and public relations person for the MTSU Performing Arts Company. "It was originally after exams were over but we decided that more people would hear about it and come if it was during school."

"We have a variety of dances from jazz, hip-hop, modern dance, lyrical to belly dancing," Roberts said. "The dances are choreographed and performed by MTSU students."

Roberts said it's a great way for dance students to show how hard they've

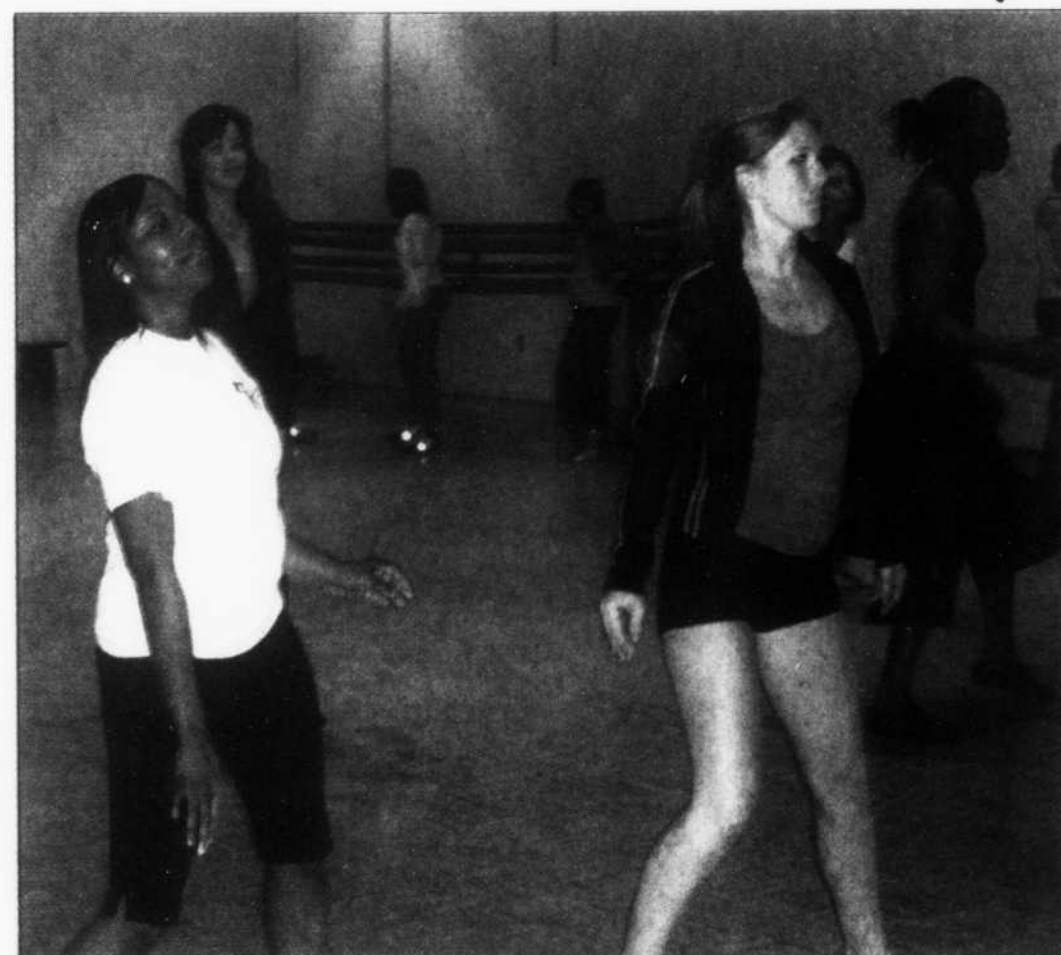


Photo By Tiffany Gibson, Staff Photographer

Cameshia Roberts and several other students practice choreography for an MPAC event.

worked over this past year.

"I think this is an amazing opportunity for dance students. I am currently minoring in dance and I'm not part of the show this year but this is one of the only times during the year that dance students actually get to perform their own routines," said Laura Blake, junior broadcast journalism major.

Roberts said that the dancers will have meetings on Tuesday nights in dance studio B at the Murphy Center.

"I think that is something that dance students really deserve. Theirs so much talent here," Blake said.

Angela Armstrong, director, dance educator and choreographer in the health and human performance

department also teaches classes, and is letting her students attend the show and write a paper as their exam.

"I got to meet a lot of awesome people through this show," said Thomas Reynolds, undeclared freshman. "I went to the show last year and it really inspired me to

Renewable energy gains steam

By DUNCAN MANSFIELD
AP Environmental Writer

Earth Day 2008 finds demand for the Southeast's largest homegrown renewable energy program growing faster than overall energy sales, driven by the greening of college and university campuses.

The Tennessee Valley Authority says its 8-year-old Green Power Switch program will hit 94 percent of capacity this year. More than 12,000 households and 500 businesses are now paying a premium to ensure some of their electricity comes from TVA's wind, solar and waste-treatment methane-gas power sources.

"They did not expect the program would move as fast as it has," said Steve Smith, executive director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

TVA, the nation's largest public utility, is now considering giving energy efficiency and renewable energy a bigger role in its power portfolio - alongside coal, nuclear and hydroelectric generation. Renewables account for about 1 percent of TVA energy sales now.

"We will be putting on more supply, hopefully," said Angela Carroll, marketing manager for the Green Power Switch program.

DANCE, PAGE 3



Photo Courtesy Pi Kappa Alpha

Pi Kappa Alpha help with Bartfield Elementary's Halloween carnival in fall of 2007.

Pi Kappa Alpha volunteer their time for kids' field day

The brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha will help with Bartfield elementary school's field day

on Thursday.

"It's a field day and we will be running some of the stations," said Ryan Oakley, freshman business administration major and public relations officer for Pi Kappa Alpha.

The event will take place at Bartfield Elementary from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Oakley said that since the fraternity has already completed its philanthropy, this is a voluntary service of the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha.

"In the fall, we helped with their Halloween carnival," Oakley said. "We're always partnered with them and it's fun helping the kids."

CRIME BRIEFS

April 17, 12:38 a.m.

Drug Abuse
MTSU BLVD
Adam Pimpkin was issued a state citation for simple possession of Marijuana, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, and underage possession of alcohol.

April 17, 3:21 a.m.

Public Intoxication
Smith Hall
Clay Howard was arrested for public intoxication.

April 18, 12:09 p.m.

Vandalism
Boutwell Dramatic Arts
Mat Miller was issued a citation for indecent exposure.

April 18, 1:14 p.m.

Vandalism
Sam Ingram Building
The subject called and reported that someone had keyed his vehicle and let the air out of his tires.

April 20, 4:41 a.m.

Alcohol
Off Campus
Mason Peters was issued a state

citation for underage consumption of alcohol.

April 21, 12:29 p.m.

Traffic
Tennessee Livestock Center
Jessica Hilber was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license.

April 21, 1:46 p.m.

Theft
Keathley University Center
The subject called and advised that their backpack was stolen.

April 21, 2:32 p.m.

Assault
Keathley University Center
The subject called and reported that they were approached in a threatening manner and feared for their physical health.

April 21, 3:15 p.m.

Theft
Peck Hall
The subject reported that her laptop was stolen out of room 109A in Peck Hall.

April 22, 12:49 p.m.

Theft
Keathley University Center
A report was filed on a stolen ring.

April 22, 3:18 p.m.

Traffic
Ezell Hall Lot
The subject's vehicle was hit in the Ezell Hall parking lot. The suspect fled the scene.

April 22, 6:11 p.m.

Theft
Smith Hall
A phone and wallet were stolen from Smith Hall.

April 23, 11:53 a.m.

Assault
Corlew Hall
Victim reported that he had been assaulted outside of Corlew Hall.

Library paper mache



Photo By Ryan DeBooy, Photography Editor

An exhibit in the James E. Walker Library calls attention to the millions of sheets of paper consumed there each year.

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Dimes to MTSU



Photo Courtesy: March of Dimes

Tamara Currin presents a check for \$16,135 to Carol Smith of the MTSU Center for Health & Human Services on behalf of the March of Dimes for the 2008 - 2009 school year.

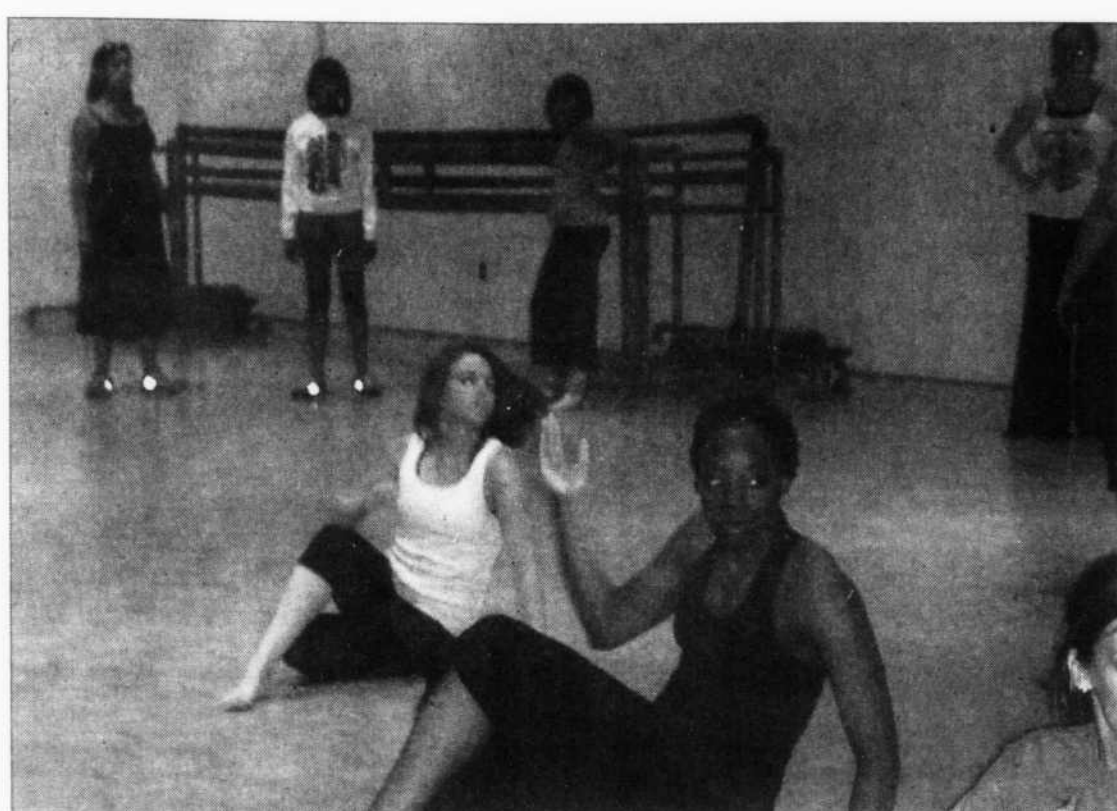


Photo By Tiffany Gibson, Staff Photographer

Members of the MTSU Performing Arts Company rehearse their showcase in the Murphy Center.

DANCE FROM PAGE 1

Angela Armstrong, director, dance educator and choreographer in the health and human performance department also teaches classes, and is letting her students attend the show and write a paper as

their exam.

"I got to meet a lot of awesome people through this show," said Thomas Reynolds, undeclared freshman. "I went to the show last year and it really inspired me to perform in it this year and honestly I think the turn out this year has a chance to be bigger than last year."

"I think it should not only benefit the dance students because they get to showcase what they love, but it also benefits the people watching because it shows another side of MTSU," Roberts said. "It lets them participate and get involved in things that are happening on campus."

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There's no place like home

A student reflects on Hurricane Katrina's lingering impact



Photo Courtesy: Morguefile.com

This picture is just a small example of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, La. Check out MTSUSidelines.com to see some of Faith Franklin's personal photos of Katrina's effects.

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Copy Editor

Summer is approaching quickly, which means that it is crunch time for most students. The library is packed, not a vacant study room in sight. In a matter of two weeks the campus will be totally dead. Students will have returned home to begin their summer vacations.

Once home, vacationing students will enter their familiar bedrooms and find most of their possessions in the places they left them. Except, that is, for the occasional missing item that can be traced back to interference from a little brother or sister.

This is the typical routine for many college students.

But I don't have this luxury. I can't go home to find

my room just as I left it. I will never be able to sit in the room in which so many of my childhood memories were created.

I can never return home, because Katrina took my home.

Katrina did not move in and take my place; she destroyed it, along with the tangible reminders of my childhood and lost loved ones.

Almost three years ago my world was turned up side down, leaving me homeless. I began my freshman year of college at Dillard University. I had things all planned out. I was going to graduate in three years and receive my master's degree by age 23.

Things changed drastically over the course of only one week. One Friday I had just finalized my classes, my

schedule was perfect. I could work, go to class and still have plenty of time to spare, or so I thought. By the next Friday, though, I did not recognize the life I was living. It was nothing like I picture, planned or ever imagined.

Hurricane Katrina entered my radar on Aug. 27, 2005. When I realized a storm was coming, my immediate thought was "vacation." I questioned my mother about where we were going. Decisions had to be made about whether to go with my Aunt Gwen and her children to Memphis or go to the usual hurricane hideaway.

That Saturday was pretty much like every other Saturday. I went to work and the atmosphere was unreal. It was like there wasn't a storm on the way. People were

shopping like it was a regular Saturday. When discussing the storm with my manager and co-worker, it was as if it wasn't going to happen. I left work early because my mom wanted to go to the store before all the shelves were empty.

That day, I distinctly remember standing in line for what seemed like an eternity and leaving with only a few items.

My brother had been staying with us, recuperating from surgery. He did not want to evacuate, he wanted to go home. Home? He could barely walk around our house, so how could he climb a flight of stairs to make it into his apartment, I wondered?

One of my aunts suggested that we go to the Superdome, which—at that time—was

offering shelter to people with "special needs" who could not leave the city. My mom did not want to leave him, so she decided we would go to her sister's house in Vacherie, La.

"We are going to go in the country," she said. "Please don't pack all of that stuff, (since) we are going to be back in a few days."

So I didn't pack the car like we were moving—something I later regretted.

And then, on Sunday morning at 7:30 we left for "the country," anticipating returning in two or three days. Unknown to us, though, it would be at least two or three months before we were allowed back into the city.

Vacherie is about 60 miles from my home in New Orleans East. It should have taken us about an hour to

get there but instead it took us two hours. We did manage to beat a lot of the traffic that many people found themselves gridlocked in for hours.

It wasn't until we met up with a lot of people on a back road that we came to a complete stop. This lasted for what seemed like an eternity, then we came to a split where most people took the road to Texas. From then on it was smooth sailing and we arrived in Vacherie at 9:30 a.m.

Most of the day was typical hurricane behavior. We had a "hurricane party" where we cooked, ate and sat around the patio most of the day. By that evening, all of my expected

KATRINA, PAGE 5

Faster than a SPEEDING BULLET

By NICHOLAS QUALLS
Contributing Writer

New to Murfreesboro? Don't know how to get your comic fix? Well, I've got some good news. Be it comic books, graphic novels, manga (Japanese comics), or whatever else that puts drawing and words together, the 'Boro has plenty of places for you.

For comic book fans looking for a classic comic shop run by those who know their comics and their customers, Murfreesboro has two good choices. First up is Outer Limits Comics on Memorial Boulevard. The other is Grand Adventures Comics and Games on Thompson

Lane.

To get the latest issues of your favorite comics the week they come out or to find a large variety of back issues, comics that are no longer printed, a comic book shop is the way to go.

Outer Limits enjoys a close proximity to MTSU, being only a couple of miles from campus. Even from the outside, you can tell Outer Limits is a comic store. Passersby can see the large name signs on the front and back of the building, accented with pictures and posters of various comic book characters like Spider-Man in the windows.

"A minus is the traffic," mentions owner Chuck Ca-

lane, "but you've got to take the good with the bad."

Walking inside can make any self-affirmed geek's jaw drop. The visitor is surrounded by various toys, figures, busts, and new comic issues adorning the walls. Wandering through the store requires navigating through various graphic novels and trade paperbacks in bookcases right in front of you, tables with long boxes of back issue comics, and an island counter in the middle for the cash register. Such a wide variety will help any fanboy or girl to find something to drool over.

Free comic day first sat in may a loose association of comic books in usa pub-

lishers provide different samples as what they got. Great way to get kids to read. Such a success. Unbelievable. Comic have matured quite a bit

Are the products the only reason to visit Outer Limits? No. There's also the people.

"Conversation is a big part of the store," Cagle says of the friendly environment. "Whatever might be going on, we try to make our customers feel welcome and at home."

Such hospitality helps breed regular customers at Outer Limits, as they can attest.

"It's partially the community," mentions Nicholas Gore, former MTSU student and regular at Outer Limits.

Shopping for comics in Murfreesboro

"Chuck [the owner] and everybody at [Outer Limits] make me feel more at home, I suppose."

Gore has a pull box at Outer Limits. Pull boxes are a service done at comic shops like Outer Limits and Grand Adventures for regular customers. Regulars get to list certain comic titles with the store that it will hold in box for a limited time whenever a new issue is

released. This gives regulars first dibs on titles and guarantees them a copy if they ever sell out.

If you like miniature figures like Warhammer and Heroclix with your comics, perhaps you would like to travel closer to the interstate and visit Grand Adventures Comics and Games on Thompson Lane. A bit more hidden from the road, you'll

COMICS, PAGE 5



Photo Courtesy of Chuck Cagle
The inside view of Outer Limits, one of Murfreesboro's favorite comic book stores.

COMICS
FROM PAGE 4

still notice the store when you pull into the parking lot because of comic-related posters in the windows. Walk inside, and the first thing to stand out will probably be the tables covered with a variety of landscapes ranging from a green and hilly setting to a ravaged battlefield. These are for the miniature figure game Warhammer; a popular game at the store that occasionally holds tournaments that can be a big draw in the South-east. According to store owner Grant Cooley, Warhammer 40k in particular barely beats out comics in sales.

Grand Adventures doesn't skimp on comics though. Cooley maintains a sizeable selection of titles for his customers. "We definitely stock both of the big guns [Marvel and DC] and their respective lines," Cooley comments. "Dark Horse and Image are definitely featured with the exception of the westernized Anime from Dark Horse and the cheesy Image

books (PVP, Savage Dragon, et cetera)." Each week's newest comic issues are on a table in the front of the store. Grand Adventures also features tables filled with long boxes of back issues, some marked just 50 cents per comic. Three or four tall bookcases just for graphic novels and trade paperbacks, new issues on the back wall, and plenty of action figures of DC Comics' characters surround the room. The front glass counter is filled with miniature figures for the popular game Heroclix, where players can take their favorite comic book characters and pit them against each other in a strategic battle. Throw in the comfy couch and the well-stocked drink machine, and you have a comfortable environment to hang out while enjoying some comics and games. Hastings on Memorial Boulevard has close proximity to campus. Walking inside, you'll first notice that it isn't a regular bookstore. That's because it's actually more of a multimedia store. You'll find books, movies, video games, music, toys, and almost everything un-

der the sun that can entertain you. Of the three chain stores mentioned, it has probably the largest selection of regular comic book issues, although they are usually a couple of weeks to a month behind the latest releases at the comic book shops. However, this store makes up for it in their collection of new and used graphic novels, trade paperbacks and manga. With its wide variety of content, Hastings is a good stop to shop. Barnes & Noble is in The Avenue, which opened last fall on Medical Center Parkway. It's the newest of the stores and has a smaller selection of graphic novels, trade paperbacks and manga. It lacks comic book issues and toys. However, it's stocked with new graphic novels, trade paperbacks and manga, so if your interests fall more toward those, it's worth a stop. With all these stores carrying a huge variety of products, anyone in Murfreesboro should be able to satisfy the comic fix. If not, ask the managers of any of these stores if they'll add your title to the shelves.

KATRINA
FROM PAGE 4

family members had arrived. My Aunt Linda's house had seemed so huge when I was a little girl. Four bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and a big front and backyard to play in suddenly seemed tiny, when sharing the space with 13 other people. Eventually, we all settled down for the night and decided no one should sleep upstairs, because we feared the wind would be too high. I did not get much sleep that night, though, and neither did anyone else in the house. The next morning, we found ourselves without power, which—to us—meant we were unable to watch the news coverage of the unfortunate events that were taking place less than 60 miles away.

The next few days began to fuse together. I remember a distinct feeling of slow-moving panic coming over the household. My cousin's fiancé was sick with worry about his family trapped in the city. My uncle was concerned for everyone's safety and my cousin expressed overwhelming compassion for the people still trapped in the city.

All of these mixed feelings got away from my emotional hotbed of stress, fear and uncertainty that left everyone in its path walking on egg shells.

One afternoon my uncle came in the house quiet; unusually quiet for him. He went straight for the hall closet and returned with two shotguns and a box of ammunition that he placed on a near by desk.

"Linda, I don't want anyone to move these bullets," he said to his wife, my aunt.

My little cousin, Tierni, feeling the tension in the room, placed her head down.

"Tierni, are you scared?" I asked. "Yes," she answered.

"If you see a gun, don't touch it, OK," I warned.

"OK," she answered, with a touch of fear lingering in her voice.

My first thought was that my uncle was overreacting. I then learned that a friend less than a mile away had been robbed and beaten. People in the area were in a panic because of the soaring gas prices, a shortage of ice and others taking the law into their own hands.

With so much stress and pressure in the house, the absence of the daily conveniences we take for granted only heightened the situation. We were without all of the comforts of home except for hot and cold running water. A main gridline broke and most of Vacherie lost power. And although we had access to the telephone, we might as well have had two tin cans and a string, because almost every time a phone call was attempted, we heard, "All circuits are busy now, please try your call again later."

Using a cell phone was an even bigger joke. If you did manage to get a signal, there was no way that you could get through, because of all the down towers in New Orleans, the Baton Rouge towers could not support all of the calls.

Fortunately, we did have access to the radio, and to this day, I can't decide whether it helped or harmed the situation. Late one afternoon via its airwaves, we heard the mayor of New Orleans addressing the nation, a grown man weeping on the air, begging for help. His plea for assistance was so heartbreaking, I began to cry too.

Later that evening, most of the family was huddled in the heat between the living room and kitchen table talking, because there was nothing to do. My older cousin, overcome with compassion for the people trapped at the Superdome and the New Orleans Convention Center, began to cry.

Her crying was contagious.

I, too, began to softly cry at the thought of my cousin, who lived on the Gulf Coast a few blocks from the beach. I had been trying to reach her for days, but all I got was "All circuits are busy now. ..."

Tierni, who had been coloring by lantern, came over to me and touched me to check to see if I was really crying. Her small gesture made us all laugh and lightened the mood, but not for long.

It was the next day when the power came back on and things began to look up, especially since my cousin's fiancé, Darrel, and his family had finally made it out of the city—with 30 people tagging along. At that point, I did not think that things could become more complicated, but they did.

My brother was hospitalized because of the heat, and after spending two hours cramped in my mother's '99 Corolla, he contracted an infection. Then, as if things could not get any worse, I learned that I could not return to Dillard for the semester.

Just as I had accepted my fate, that I would have to work—not attend school—until Dillard re-opened, my Aunt Sybil in Tennessee called to report that college students displaced by Katrina were being accepted in Tennessee.

Before I knew it, Tuesday night came and I was packing to leave. On Wednesday I was in Tennessee. On Thursday, I registered at Fisk University and Friday I began classes.

That was almost three years ago. My life has changed drastically since then, and my home in New Orleans was demolished this past summer.

Today, I am studying mass communication at MTSU, but I wouldn't be here if not for a hurricane called Katrina, who's given new meaning to the Wizard of Oz, and in particular, Dorothy's timeless observation that "There's no place like home."



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OPINIONS

NOT AS SIMPLE AS BLACK AND WHITE

MTSU still favors some races over others

By AMBER PERKINS
Guest Columnist

I would like to comment on George Yancy. While I did not attend the lecture, I have read his book *Black on Black, White on White*.

It seems that the editorial board at *Sidelines* fully supports actions such as a lecture, a program, a speech or a dialogue which rehashes the same things people other than whites have been saying for years:

racism is alive, it's real, and we want it to change.

But when it comes to actually changing some things which represent institutional racism, such as removing the name of a racist Confederate general from a military building on a campus where some of the descendants the general enslaved and was fighting to keep enslaved may actually go to school, the editorial board holds the opinion that people do it just for

“This country is founded on the principles of racism, imperialism and manifest destiny.”

attention, or that it really won't solve anything.

The editorial board says that we are immersed in a diverse and accepting atmosphere. Yes, it is accepting on the part of everybody but whites.

Many blacks feel they have no choice but to ac-

cept the pervasive, underlying institutional and overt racism that is ubiquitous at MTSU.

From the name on the building, to having to go into class and hear the teacher make statements like “W.E.B. Dubois contributed nothing signifi-

cant to sociology,” “Black psychology is not a real field of study,” or “Mexicans are the new blacks,” or having your campus employer say, “You aren't like most black people,” black people, and in general people who are not white, have to accept the fact that we are in a white institution controlled by majority white money that is very reluctant to change.

It saddens me that at place of higher education there is a lot a talk about

change, but often times it is just rhetoric, the politically correct thing to say that is empty of any real meaning.

But hey, this is America, a country founded on the principles of racism, imperialism and “manifest destiny.”

MTSU is simply a microcosm of this society, so I really shouldn't expect more.

Amber Perkins is an MTSU alumna.

Perceived injustice is not always true

There is no doubt that racism is still alive and well in our country. It is hard to know that people continue to judge others based on the color of their skin, no matter what color that may be.

I am white, and therefore will never presume to know the battles fought by people of other races. I, for one, do not tolerate racism, and I would hope that others would not presume differently of me.

Racism is something that can manifest itself in many ways. Just like sexism, ageism, and issues of sexual preference, it is always dangerous to assume that we can speak for an entire group of people.

While I would never go so far as to say that most white people are not racists, I would never think it right for anyone – black or white – to assume that I am, or that everyone at our university is racist.

There are those people who fight genuine racism, and there are those who act as if the world is out to get them. It is not up to me to say who is wrong or right, but I certainly do believe that when people are quick to lash out against every perceived injustice, they actually cause more harm than good.

Life is full of struggles and conflicts. Black, white or other, we all face challenges that we must ei-



GRAMMAR GAL SCHOOLS YOU

Jessica Laven

ther give in to or overcome. We must, as Faith Franklin states, choose our battles.

We must also make sure that we know of what we speak. Perceived injustice is not the same as legitimate injustice. We have all said things that were taken out of context or misunderstood; it is human nature. It is not a reason to assume things about a person's character.

We're not there yet. There is still work to be done to combat racism, but it does not fall on any one particular race. By focusing our energy on the “bigger fish to fry,” we can continue to work collectively toward a society that not only tolerates each other, but accepts each other.

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

Education is the only way to combat today's racism

It has been said that when a person is born, he or she is born into an ongoing conversation. A major part of that conversation here in the United States has been dedicated to an idea that has beset this country for a significant part of its existence.

It's a considered “hot topic” that is sometimes avoided in formal settings for fear of an argument. The idea of racism plagues this great nation.

Racism is something that countless people, educated and uneducated, have talked to death. Yet, it keeps rising from the dead. Many say that racism will never die.

That is possibly true; racism cannot die with the perpetual system promoting it which operates in this country every day.

Many have acknowledged that racism is a huge issue that needs to be addressed.

A lot of people feel that ignoring it like a “pink elephant” in the room will cause it to magically disappear.

Being a New Orleans native, I challenge anyone to deny the fact that racism still exists and at times can't and won't be ignored.

I was around during Hurricane Katrina and noticed the darker faces that were stranded, waiting for days, trapped in inhumane conditions while the government sat by and watched mostly black people suffer.

Katrina showed the nation, which has often been called a “melting pot,” just how the



TRUTH SPEAK

Faith Franklin

American government feels about “some” of its citizens.

Growing up in Louisiana also affords me an inside look into the Jena 6 situation. It is a well-known fact that in a lot of areas of Northern Louisiana there is an enormous presence of racism.

However, one must pick his or her battles. Hurricane Katrina and the Jena 6 were definitely battles that needed to be fought. The national exposure they received was a wake up call to the entire country.

It is unfortunate that it seems to take a national tragedy or a huge miscarriage of justice for some to come out of their boxes and speak on racial issues.

However, there is a daily opportunity that passes by most people: that of education. Education as a part of the solution is often brushed to the side.

Oftentimes people underestimate the power of ignorance. Ignorance is what keeps people in their boxes, fearing stereotypes about others that are not

real.

But if we would take the time to educate each other, there would be a lot less actions taken by everyday people to avoid a certain group based on their race.

Amber Perkins, in a letter to the editor, addressed the editorial board's opinion on George Yancy's lecture on campus. Perkins does make some valid points, however I do not agree with her feelings about the editorial board.

When the editorial board discussed Yancy's visit I was asked to sit in on the discussion, because the five members of *Sidelines* realized, no matter how open-minded they were, they needed a black person to effectively talk about issues of race.

I firmly stand behind the editorial board's opinion that education will help to combat racism.

Those who choose to promote racism are huge fans of education. Education is one of the main reasons why racism has perpetuated itself so long.

Racists educate their children and all of the people around them. They teach their children to hate and it becomes a family tradition that continues to travel though American society.

Through education, we can improve racial conditions for future generations.

Faith Franklin is a junior journalism major and can be reached at fef2d@mtsu.edu.



TELL US HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT RACISM ON CAMPUS.
WWW.MTSUSIDELINES.COM

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Campus does well, but more work remains

Another Earth Day has come and gone. Another day where people parade around, singing praises to the environment and promoting a greener, more planet-friendly lifestyle.

But what happens after the recyclable tickertape is packed away for another year? It may be a cliché, but shouldn't every day be treated like Earth Day?

Luckily, it seems MTSU is on a decent track toward accomplishing that goal of a

greener, more planet-friendly, Earth-Day-everyday attitude. But like any attempt in trying to clean up a large area, the process is slow and, at times, can feel nonexistent.

The campus does a great job of encouraging people to recycle by placing large trash receptacles intended for computer paper, bins for aluminum cans and working with students by providing a Clean Energy Fund. One of the most

notable efforts by MTSU is the Walker Library's mission to reduce paper waste.

Still, even with all the progressive steps MTSU is taking towards a more environmentally friendly campus, there are a few, simple things that could further our green goal. For example, students who live in dorms could find it hard to recycle, being that the nearest recycling centers for aluminum and paper are on

Greenland Drive, and walking to drop off glass and plastic is out of the question.

MTSU could designate a site on campus, solely allocated for receptacles of recyclable materials. The campus could shut down internal lights in buildings that close down each night, like the library or Keathley University Center. Instead of using common, bulk cleaners, we could use some funds from the Clean Energy Fund to pur-

chase Earth friendly, ammonia free cleaning products for our maintenance staff.

Unfortunately, aside from the few students avidly dedicated to actively and continuously pushing for a cleaner lifestyle, the majority of us haphazardly wonder around in a cloud of apathy. Becoming environmentally friendly is not an addition to our lives, but an alteration.

It takes work to seek out the

trashcans specified for aluminum cans, when a regular trashcan might be within a few feet. Energy-efficient light bulbs can cost twice, sometimes three times the amount of a regular light bulb, and college students are notoriously poor.

Still, we expect these changes will prove ultimately worthwhile in the long run. After all what is more precious than the planet we all share?

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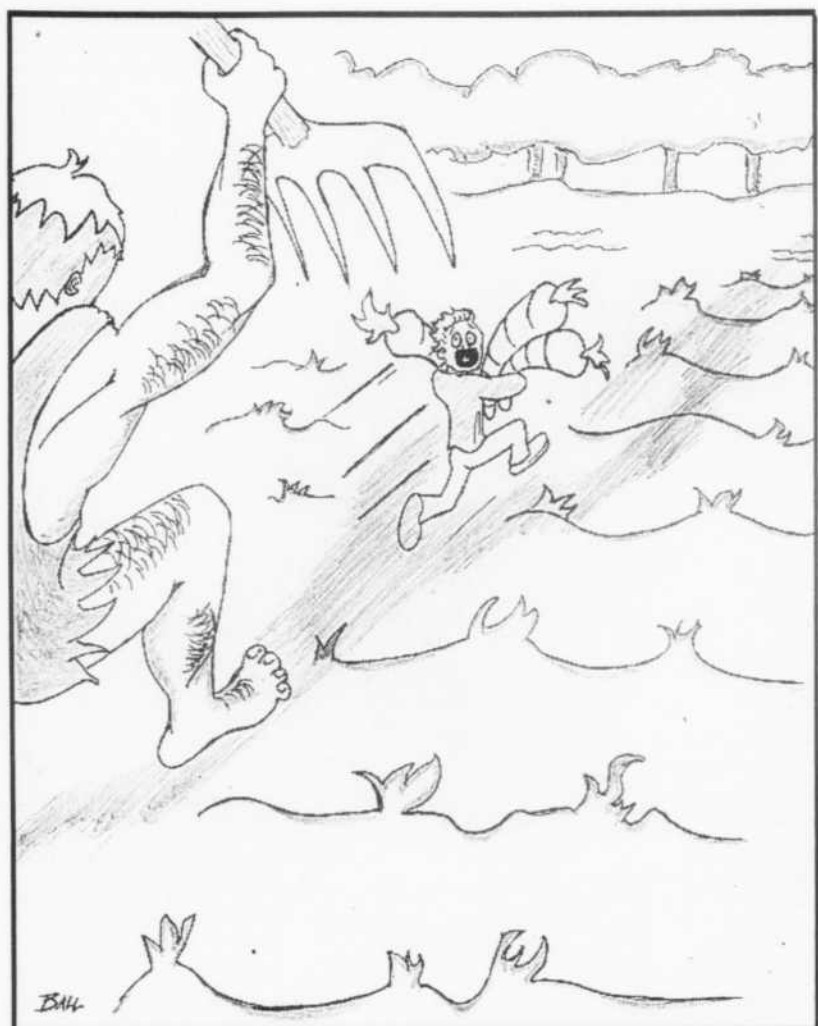


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The finer things...

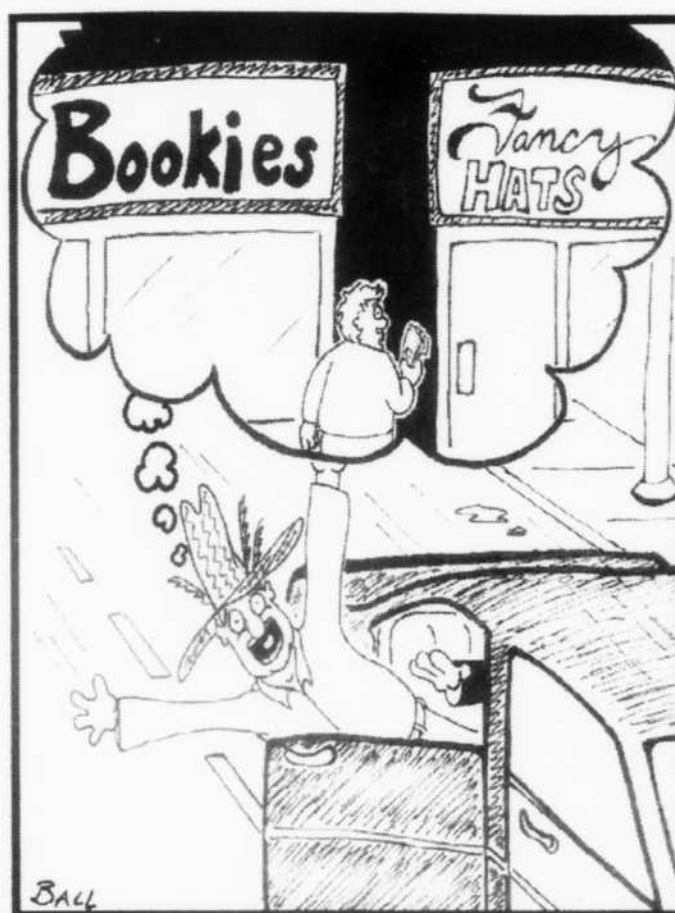


Stealing vegetables from the not-so-jolly red giant

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Jeremy Ball

The finer things...



While being thrown from the speeding car, Jake realized his decision earlier may have been the wrong one

TheFiinerThingsComics@yahoo.com

Jeremy Ball

FACES IN THE CROWD

What are your summer plans?



Stevenson

"To work and attend training for Campus Crusade for Christ."

Faith Stevenson, junior theater



Patel

"I'm taking a speech class and trying to get a second job. I have to go home to take care of the household."

Ami Patel, junior clinical psychology



Vo

"I will work two jobs and go to the Middle Tennessee Anime convention."

John Vo, senior computer engineering

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SPORTS

MT softball sweeps Tennessee Tech in doubleheader

By DAVID POWELL
MT Media Relations

The Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (20-25, 9-8 Sun Belt) went behind early but rode another tremendous pitching performance from Lindsey Vander Lugt to a 3-2 win in the second game of a non-conference doubleheader and complete the sweep over the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles (23-27, 7-9 Ohio Valley) at Tech Softball Field on Wednesday.

Vander Lugt (14-16) picked up her second straight start

and victory of the doubleheader. She gave up two earned runs on just three hits, while striking out two and walking none, in the complete game.

TTU starter Maddie Schmissrauter (8-10) got the loss for the home team. She gave up two earned run on four hits, while striking out six and walking four, in seven innings.

Tennessee Tech took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Beth Boden singled

up the middle and into the diving glove of Ashley Cline before Stephanie Fischer hit a two-run homerun to left-center field.

MT cut the lead to 2-1 when Justine Cerda nailed her second homerun of the season with a solo shot off the scoreboard in centerfield. The Blue Raiders threatened to score more with Whitney Darlington on third base, but Kelsey Dortch's drive to centerfield was grabbed out of the air by a jumping Golden

Eagle second baseman Lacie Coquerille for the final out of the inning.

The Blue Raiders tied the game at two runs apiece in the top of the third inning following some stellar baserunning by freshman Brittney Banania. Banania started things off with a walk before Martha Davis reached on a throwing error by first baseman Kerilyn Mongar, bringing up Justine Cerda. On the next play, Martha Davis was caught in a rundown between

first and second base for what could have been the third out of the inning, but the defense failed to see Banania stealing home.

MT took a 3-2 lead in the top of the fifth inning. Dortch walked and Cline beat out a throw on the attempted sacrifice bunt before Banania walked to load the bases. Corrie Abel's powerful liner deflected off the pitcher's glove and to the TTU second baseman, allowing Dortch to cross the plate.

MT allowed just one baserunner over the final two innings and Martha Davis saved a potential game-tying hit with a highlight-reel catch in right field as the Blue Raiders reached the 20 win plateau for the second straight season.

MT returns to action in a three-game series against the Florida Atlantic Owls in Boca Raton, Fla. on Saturday at 5 p.m.

Women's golf finish fourth in Sun Belt

By TONY STINNETT
MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee women's golf team put together a strong team effort that concluded with a tie for fourth at the Sun Belt Conference Championships Wednesday. The fourth-place finish was just one spot off the team's highest finish in the league.

The Blue Raiders' strong close enabled the team to finish near the top of the standings under first-year coach Chris Adams, whose team played the final five holes under par and closed the third round at 305 - the third-best round of the spring.

"When you look at the scores we really played well down the stretch and I'm very proud of the girls," Adams said. "We had a triple on 18 or we would have had a shot at an even higher finish. We had a little struggle in the middle of the round today but the players really battled back and I'm proud of that and how they performed overall."

Denver won the tournament going away with an 8-over 872, finishing 42 shots ahead of second-place UALR. Senior Taryn Durham was named to the All-SBC team for the fourth time in her illustrious career.

"I can't say enough about Taryn Durham and Jamey Dillard and the senior leadership they provided this spring," Adams said. "I'm glad I had the opportunity to coach them and get to know them this spring because as good as they are in golf, they are even better people. They are both such hard workers."

Junior Leigh Wilkins, a Murfreesboro native who prepped at Oakland High School, was outstanding in the tournament and was the team's highest finisher.

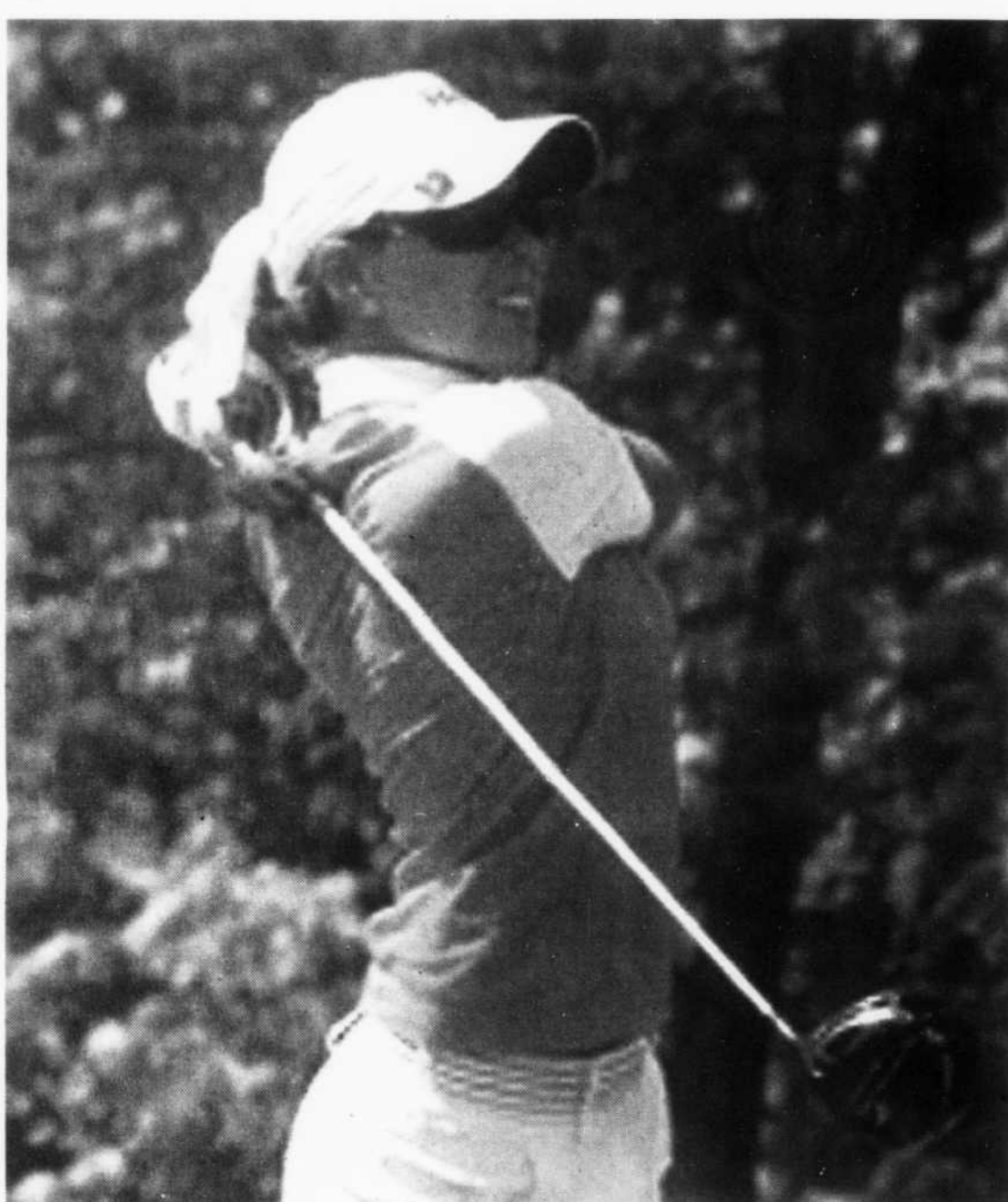


Photo Courtesy: Merguile.com
Power plants such as this one can possibly begin to dump its waste in Tennessee.

Wilkins concluded the tournament with an eighth-place finish at 10-over 226 - her highest finish in three conference tournaments. After shooting 5-over 77 in Monday's first round, Wilkins played the next two rounds at a combined 5-over-par.

"I think I could have played a little better but overall I am pleased," Wilkins said. "This is a good finish and something positive to build on going into my senior year. I think we played well as a

team at the end and probably did better than people would have thought coming into the tournament."

Durham finished 13th in her final tournament as a Blue Raider with a 13-over 229, followed by freshman Morgan Hale who tied for 19th with a 233. Sophomore Clara Leathers was tied for 29th with a 236 and Dillard closed with a 237. All five Blue Raider golfers were among the top half of the field.

"I believe the future is

bright and the girls are more comfortable with me now and we can build on this with some talented players coming back," Adams said. "I'm already looking forward to next year and the possibilities we have as a program. We are never going to be satisfied with being fourth at Middle Tennessee but I'm pleased that we made a good run at the end of the spring and have three of the players back that were in the lineup at the end."

Blue Raiders lose in extra innings

Down by seven going into the bottom of the ninth, team could not take lead

By JESSICA STAUFFACHER
MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee came back from a seven-run deficit in the bottom of the ninth to tie the game at 11 but could pull ahead as Memphis took a 17-11 win in 14 innings.

Trailing 11-4 in the bottom of the ninth, sophomore Ben Darlington stepped to the plate in the with one out and runners at first and second and hit a shot to left field cutting the Tigers (16-25) lead to four. Then junior Zach Dean had a pinch hit single allowing freshman Bryce Brentz to score from third and cut the lead to one. Freshman Justin Jones tied the game at 11 for the Blue Raiders (21-18-1) with his pinch hit three-run home run to left field.

The Blue Raiders ended the bottom of the ninth scoring seven runs on six hits.

Wiedman had a two-RBI single in the top of the 14th with no outs to break the tie and take a 13-11 lead. Farrell then doubled scoring runners from second and third to take a four run lead.

Memphis ended the top of the 14th scoring six runs on five hits for the win 17-11.

Middle Tennessee posted 16 hits with two errors leaving 16 on base in the 5 hour and 22 minute game, its longest of the season. Jones ended the game 1 for 1 with three RBI and his second career home run to force extra innings for the Blue Raiders.

At the plate, the Blue Raiders were led by Brentz and senior Zach Barrett who were each 3 for 5 with one RBI.

Brentz also scored a run. Junior Rawley Bishop ended the night 2 for 4 with two RBI, a home run and scored one run.

Middle Tennessee used eight pitchers in the game with senior Brad Robinson (2-5) taking the loss as he allowed six runs on five hits in one and two-thirds innings of work. Freshman PJ Francescon received the start going two and two-thirds innings allowing five runs on five hits. Freshman Michael Adamson and sophomore Tyler Hyde each pitch three and two-thirds with Adamson allowing just one hit and Hyde two runs on one hit.

The Blue Raiders will be back in action April 25-27 when it plays host to South Alabama for a three-game series at Reese Smith Field. First pitch on Friday is set for 6 p.m.

Sun Belt players worth the gamble for GMs in NFL Draft

By ANDREW McNAMARA
Contributing Columnist

Ante up. The cards are shuffled; the dealer's ready. But at this high roller's table the bets aren't in Benjamins but rather in Matt, Chris and Glenn.

This weekend's NFL draft has general managers and coaches across the league donning their best poker faces as they hedge their championship bets on the hope of a good hand of prospects. But at this table, a pair of aces early i.e. Akili Smith in 1999 and Peter Warrick in 2000 can make a scout team look like jokers, while a pair of sixes, such as Tom Brady and Terrell Davis turn out to be the jackpot makers.

In the last 20 years of this

poker draft drama, teams have had close to 5,400 players from the 628 NCAA institutions in their hands waiting to be played, according to the NFL official Web site. And while some conferences like the SEC and the ACC have had the most cards laid on the table, athletes from the Sun Belt Conference are starting to be shuffled into the fold more and more.

Since the Sun Belt opened up to football in 2001, 15 players have been drafted with the number of prospects growing nearly every year.

In 2005, the Sun Belt had its first, first round pick in DeMarcus Ware and this year two Sun Belt standouts, Troy's Leodis McKelvin and Arkansas State's Tyrell Johnson could hear their phones ring

within the first 31 picks.

Middle Tennessee offensive lineman Franklin Dunbar could be drafted in the sixth round, while defensive lineman Erick Walden and running back DeMarco McNair could sign as free agents, MT Head Coach Rick Stockstill said.

"More and more high scholars are seeing they can come in (the Sun Belt) and compete and get the coaching to play at the next level," Stockstill said.

The level of competition that Sun Belt teams have played has also served as a factor in teams getting recognized for their competitiveness. For in recent years, MT has played Oklahoma, LSU and Louisville. And some teams such as Florida Atlantic, Louisiana-Monroe

and Troy have notched wins against teams from the BCS conference schools.

"There's no doubt that when they play a tough out-of-conference schedule and play the whose who of college football it is going to attract some of the best players and get you some more exposure," Stockstill said.

The coaching quality has been vital to the conference's early success as programs try to shake the small-school stigma, Conference Commissioner Wright Waters said.

"I really like our coaching," Waters said. "Our league absolutely has some quality guys that really go after it and teach the right fundamentals."

The NFL will find any player with talent and potential, and that is why it comes down

to coaching, he said.

"I've had one friend who's a NFL scout say to me about [McKelvin] 'He's got skills that SEC guys don't have,'" Waters said. "The coaches know how to teach like a pro and it gives our guys a jump start to the next level."

But if the players' talent and commitment weren't there then the teaching would be moot, he said.

"You also got to give the players a ton of credit as they have worked and made the most of it," Waters said.

Whether they are kings or deuces the SBC being flush with athletes in a NFL team's high hand could be credited with the expansion of the league.

According to Scouts.com there are six talent rich states

to recruit players from: California, Louisiana, Texas, Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The Sun Belt has schools in half of those areas and with the inclusion of Western Kentucky in two years the talent from Ohio and Pennsylvania could filter its way into the conference.

By all means, being drafted doesn't guarantee success as evident by the more than 1,000 draft picks since 1988 that never stepped on the game field according to NFL.com. But a team's stacked deck tends to lead to the vindication of a hand well played and the reward of a super Sunday.

Andrew McNamara is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at ahm2k@mtsu.edu

Adade and Morgan earn SBC Athlete of the Week honors

By JO JO FREEMAN,
MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee's Samuel Adade and Carl Morgan were both voted Sun Belt Athletes of the Week after their performances at last week's Vanderbilt Invitational.

Adade placed second in the 200-meters in an NCAA regional qualifying time and was fourth in the 100-meters

at Vandy over the weekend. The junior was the top collegian in the 200 on Friday, behind only former Blue Raider All-American Marty Scales. Adade finished in an NCAA regional mark of 21.21, tying for the second fastest mark in the SBC this season. The time ranks 58th on the NCAA Descending Order List this week.

On Saturday Adade finished fourth in the 100 in 10.78. Adade owns the best 100 mark in the SBC this season at 10.16, also an NCAA regional time, and the mark ranks 36th in the nation.

Adade earned the first Track AOW award for the Blue Raiders this outdoor season and the 74st for the MT men since joining the SBC.

Morgan finished second in the long jump, fourth in the

javelin and fifth in the triple jump over the weekend.

The junior posted an NCAA regional qualifying mark in the long jump, placing second with a mark of 25-2.75, second best in the SBC this season. The mark also ranks 17th in the nation this week.

He placed fourth in the javelin with a mark of 178-0, and was fifth in the triple jump with a mark of 48-1.75. Morgan owns the second best triple jump mark in the SBC this season.

Morgan garnered the first Field AOW accolade for the Blue Raider men this outdoor season and the third for MT after Sarah Nambawa and Brittany Cox claimed the honor for the women. Morgan earned the sixth Field AOW honor for the men since

joining the SBC.

His brother Carlos Morgan's NCAA regional qualifying mark of 24-07.25 in the long jump ranks fourth on the NCAA Descending Order List. Sophomore DeRay Sloss posted an NCAA regional qualifying mark of 14.29 in the 110-meter hurdles over the weekend as well, a time that ranks 80th on the NCAA Descending Order List.

Men's golf hopes for automatic berth after placing seventh

By TONY STINNETT
MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee's tournament winning streak ended at four at the Sun Belt Conference Men's Golf Championships Wednesday after the No. 51-ranked Blue Raiders concluded the event with a seventh-place finish.

Although the Blue Raiders entered the tournament as the favorite as the highest-ranked team in the field, they failed to perform up to expectations on the Fighting Joe Course at the Robert Trent Jones at the Shoals facility and ended with a 5-over 869.

Denver won the team title with an 11-under 853, edging New Orleans by one stroke. South Alabama's Johnny Caldwell won the individual championship with an 11-under 205.

Even though the Blue Raiders failed to capture the league's automatic berth into a NCAA Golf Regional, first-year head coach Whit Turnbow believes his team has done enough to secure an at-large berth into the postseason event.

"The streak had to end sometime and we are all

disappointed in the way we played here at this tournament," said Turnbow, who was voted the SBC's Coach of the Year. "This is a small setback in what has been a phenomenal year and there is no way we are going to let this get us down because we have a lot of golf yet to be played."

"We set a goal before the start of the season to put ourselves in position not to have to win this tournament to get in a regional and we have done that. This is why we played the schedule we did. We look forward to getting into a regional and showcasing our game at the national level."

Blue Raider junior standout Chas Narramore was named first-team All-Sun Belt for the second straight season after another outstanding season. Rick Cochran also earned first-team All-Sun Belt honors after a strong tournament. Narramore finished 1-under 215 after shooting a 1-under 71 Wednesday and concluded the tournament tied for 14th. He was the only Blue Raider to shoot under par Wednesday.

"I don't think any of us really played as well as we are

capable here this week but that happens. We just had it happen at the wrong time," Narramore said. "We have had a great season and we have worked hard to put ourselves in position where we could get an at-large even if we did not win the Sun Belt. I hope the committee values our body of work because we believe we have done enough. We just didn't put it together as a team for these three days and you have to be at your best to win the conference championship."

Cochran won 1-over 73 Wednesday and 2-under 74 for the tournament to finish tied for 12th. His strong season and subsequent play at the SBC Championships earned him all-SBC for the first time in his collegiate career. Jason Bailes and Rick Cochran also earned first-team All-Sun Belt honors. Bailes finished 3-over 221, followed by a 6-over 222. After a tough start that saw him finish 9-over 81 Monday, Bailes rallied and finished 11-over 227 for the tournament.

The NCAA Regional participants will be announced May 5.



Photo by Bradley Lambert, MT Media Relations

Kent Bulle tries to escape a hazard at the SBC Championships. Bulle shot a 5-over 221.

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