

# SIDELINES

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mtsusidelines.com

## Baldwin Gallery's student show

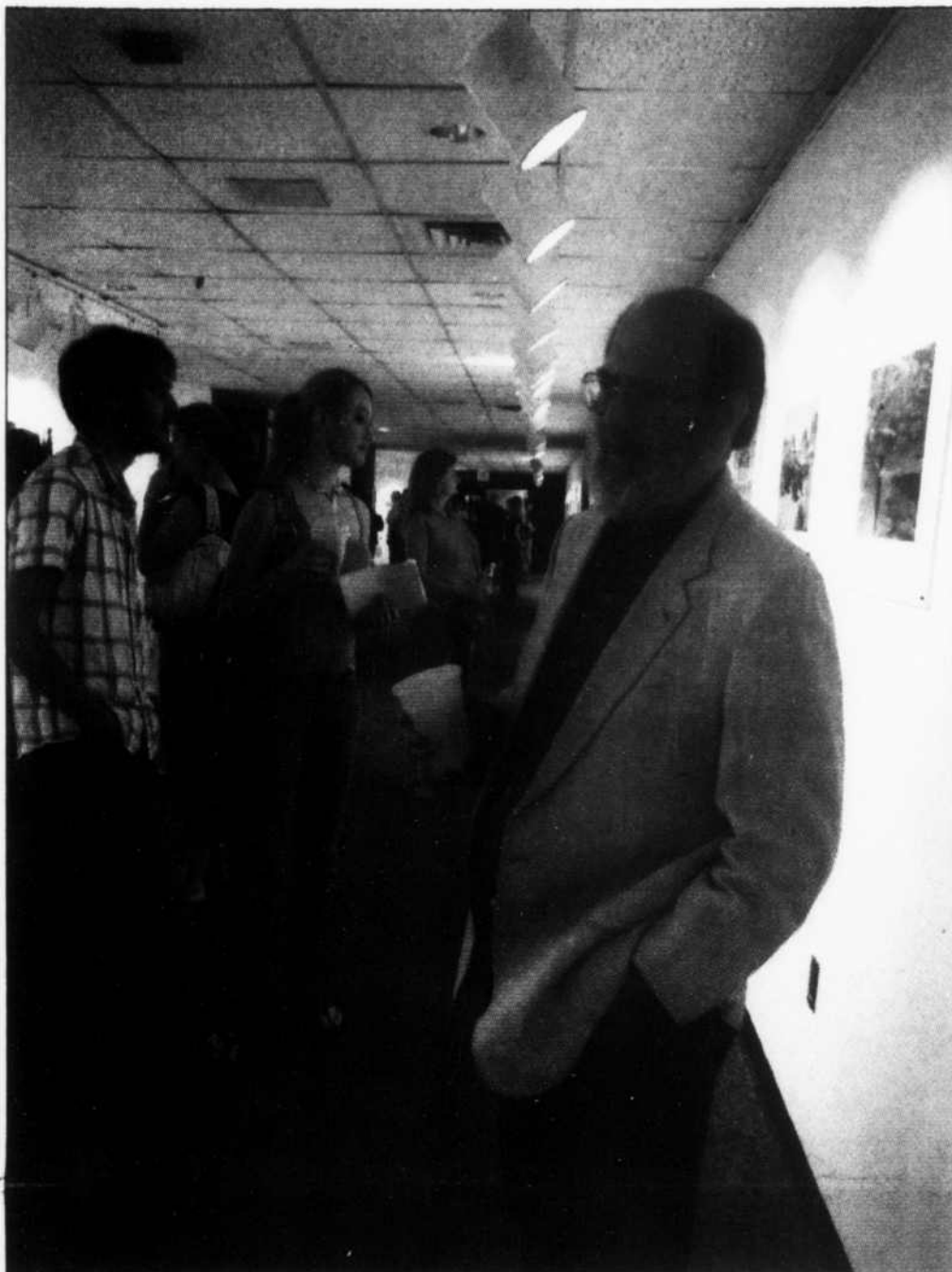


Photo by Sarah B. Mullen

Photography Professor Tom Jimison oversees the Baldwin Gallery's student show Sunday night. Twenty-five students submitted prints ranging from documentary and editorial to composite and digital. "There are a lot of pictures made out of the classroom," Photography Professor Jim Norton said. "They are doing [photography] because they want to, and it speaks well of their initiative." The Baldwin Gallery has shown artists from Ansel Adams to Sally Mann, Jimison said.

## Cash elected SGA president

Newly-elected student-body president plans to increase school spirit, de-emphasize football attendance

By Jessy Yancey  
Staff Writer

The recently-elected officers of the Student Government Association were inaugurated at the SGA Banquet in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room Tuesday evening.

The new president, Jay Cash, said he is really enjoying his position so far.

Cash, a public relations major from Fancy Farm, Ky., has been interested in running for an SGA office since coming here as a transfer student two years ago. When the opportunity arose this semester, he said he was surrounded by people encouraging him to run.

"It was not a stepping stone or a platform," Cash said. "I felt I was qualified and could do a good job representing the student body."

"Everyone," he added. "Not just the Greek one."

Cash was elected SGA president for the 2006 - 2007 school year in early March. In that election, Josh McKenzie won the office of executive vice president, Meagan Flippin was reelected vice president of administration and public affairs and Ben Hall won the office of election commissioner.

"The people working with me are extremely talented," Cash said.

The month of April has been a transitional period for Cash, during which he has shadowed the 2005-2006 president, Paul Bryant Fulcher.

"I've been going around meeting the deans and the provost," Cash said. "All the important people."

He has also experienced sitting on the President's Cabinet with MTSU President Sidney McPhee.

One of Cash's first official orders of business was to appoint the attorney general and homecoming director, which he decided last week. He selected Lora Hortert for attorney general and Shane Fortner for homecoming director.

Hortert is a nontraditional student, a 34-year-old who is married with children.

Although Cash himself is a member of a fraternity, he feels strongly about changing the way Greeks appear to run the student government.

"I feel like [appointing Hortert] brings a lot of diversity to the campus," he said. "Not everyone is Greek-oriented."

Cash doesn't believe attendance at football games should be such a high priority. He said he disagreed with spending \$30,000 to bring more people to the games.

"Everybody's always worried about how many people come to the football games," Cash said. "I couldn't care less. The new football coach should be enough of an incentive."

Although Cash is not concerned with athletics, he said he will continue traditions such as the Road Rally and the Raider Relay.

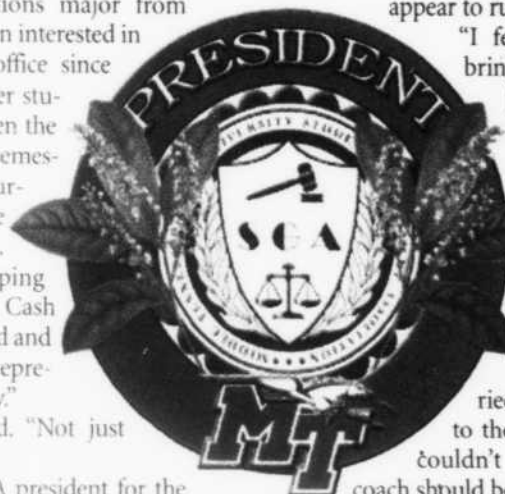
Cash plans to bring more school spirit to MTSU by reaching out to incoming students at CUSTOMS. He also stresses the importance of the SGA senators.

"Students shouldn't have to go to the senators," Cash said. "The senators should be out for the students."

Cash wants to make his own presence known, too.

"I just want to be someone that can be respected and represent the students well," he said.

Cash will officially move into office Monday, May 1.



## Communication Breakdown

MT Webmail falls behind the competition

By Dana Owens  
Staff Writer

A possible \$100,000 revamp of the campus e-mail system, along with other technology upgrades, was discussed in a computing committee last month.

"We are looking at possible new e-mail systems for the campus," said Lucinda Lea, vice president for Information Technology. "We'll be doing some pilot studies."

Tim Brown, associate vice president of Information Technology, said the proposal is nothing new.

"It is something that is constantly being investigated," Brown said. "We're always looking at e-mail technologies. We've looked at different plat-

forms this year just to make sure that what we're doing...meets not only the current needs of our university, but also the future needs."

A common complaint about the current Webmail system has to do with the lack of storage.

Assistant Journalism Professor Van Kent Flanagan said he receives a high volume of e-mail and uses many different folders, so he frequently passes the storage limit. The capacity has needed to be expanded on several occasions, he said.

"You get too much stuff in there and it locks up," Flanagan said.

Steven Cope, a senior political science and journalism double major, said he also runs into problems with the storage limit. He said he must constantly delete messages in order to receive new e-mails.

During the meeting, a committee member

brought up the point that students should be responsible for managing their space, but many students and professors have opted to simply use a different e-mail system.

Flanagan said he now sends e-mail with both the MTSU address and an alternate address to be sure students receive them. He said he stopped using Webmail entirely in one class, he said.

Aside from storage space, Flanagan said he also experiences missing and delayed mail.

"[Webmail] was a hit-and-miss proposition," he said.

Other students said they have not experienced problems with Webmail, including Brian Doyle, a senior of Computer Science.

"It's functional, it works," he said, adding that it meets all of his needs.

The Webmail system is very common for universities, Brown said. MTSU's system is run by one primary server, with another for backup. He said larger systems such as Hotmail or Yahoo use dozens of servers compared to the two used for MTSU accounts.

"With as many thousands of accounts as what we have here, there's always going to be little things going on," Brown said.

Since there is one account for every student, faculty and staff,

Brown said there are well over 30,000 accounts. He also said that additional storage can be obtained from the IT help desk.

According to Lea, the \$100,000 proposal was primarily put in place for future needs rather than an immediate overhaul of the system.

"We've made no decision, we just know that we need to look at some new possibilities," Lea said.

Brown added that it is common to look at other platforms, but he does not know of any plans to swap over.

The Administrative Computing Committee discussed information and technology proposals of more than \$50,000, which must then receive approval from Tennessee Board of Regents, the governing body for Tennessee state higher education institutes.

Other projects discussed include upgrading network technology for all the buildings, expanding wireless access, upgrading access speed from 10 megabits per second to 100 in order to increase download speed. Registration and payment fees will be made easier with faster access, and data can also be moved more quickly, Lea said.

"Every year, we're continuously upgrading equipment to provide the best and the latest access to all the systems," Lea said.

### The Competition

Here's the rundown on the four most common free e-mail services.

	price	storage	max attachment	chat	buddy list	spam
Gmail	free	2.7 Gb	10 Mb	Yes	Yes	Very low
Hotmail	free	250 Mb	10 Mb	No	No	Moderate
Yahoo! mail	free	1 Gb	10 Mb	No	Separate	Moderate
AIM mail	free	2 Gb	16 Mb	No	Separate	Low

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### CAMPUS

Mid-Tenn Conference

The Third Annual Mid-Tenn Conference on Communication Disorders will take place this coming Saturday in the State Farm Auditorium in the Business and Aerospace Building.

### FEATURES

Selling kids?

A single Wisconsin father is being charged with attempting to sell his 18-month-old daughter for \$7,000 so he could make improvements to his home.

### SPORTS

Softball beats Troy

The Blue Raiders had their first Sun Belt Conference series inside the renovated softball complex this weekend against the newest member Troy. The Blue Raiders took both games of the doubleheader on Saturday, the first 1-0, and the second 8-6 in 13 innings.

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Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the Fall and Spring and Wednesday during June and July.



# John Hiatt—Rockin' for life

By Michelle McCrary  
Staff Writer

Legendary singer/songwriter John Hiatt was introduced to a crowded lecture hall full of MTSU faculty, students and others in the community Wednesday.

"He is a magnificent storyteller who has the ability to paint everyday life," said recording industry professor Beverly Keel. She later quoted Rolling Stone's description of him as a "renaissance songwriter who is able to blend many genres of music."

Hiatt entered the room to thunderous applause wearing a blue and white pinstriped blazer, which he called "in fashion," a white collared shirt, blue jeans, tan boots, and his guitar slung over his shoulder.

"The last time I was here was in 1972 to see the Owen Brothers," Hiatt said. "The campus has changed just a bit, but I love what

**"I think Pro Tools is crap and anyone making records on it is awful. Men and women have fought to make beautiful music, using good equipment, to come to this."**

—John Hiatt  
Singer/Songwriter

you've done with the place."

Hiatt's solo career began in the 1970s with his first hit, "Sure As I'm Sitting Here," recorded by Three Dog Night, and since then he has written over 200 hits songs that have been performed by artists including B.B. King and Bob Dylan.

The sound of Hiatt's guitar and deep, raspy voice opened the night with his song "Lift Up Every Stone," before talking to the crowd about his childhood, his songwriting career and the recording industry.

"Playing my guitar is where I feel the most comfortable," he said.

"Songwriting is always done by feeling my acoustic vibrating against me; it connects with my whole being and is more of a self-contained thing; just me and my guitar," Hiatt said.

Hiatt revealed he doesn't have a favorite writing place. Songwriting is more about the music for him, he said; when he writes songs he doesn't write the lyrics first.

"I just sit down and play an acoustic or electric guitar or the piano and find a groove and a rhythm," Hiatt said. "It's an event that comes out of the music."

Hiatt answered a question from

the audience about having writer's block by responding, "I learned that the only times I have it is when I tell myself I have it. When I stopped worrying, then I started writing again."

Hiatt admitted that mainstream music is getting "very narrow."

"It sounds like one guy and one girl are singing everything," he said.

The advice to his audience was not limited to songwriting. He answered questions about a wide array of subjects, ranging from his earlier years to performing.

Hiatt admitted he is sometimes

a good judge of his work, but he still gets nervous performing new material. "I have low self esteem issues," he said.

He also discussed some issues dealing with the recording industry and the equipment used to record songs.

"I think Pro Tools is crap and anyone making records on it is awful," he said. "Men and women have fought to make beautiful music, using good equipment, to come to this."

"I was young and a late bloomer artistically and honestly I'm still figuring it out," Hiatt said.

Hiatt wrote his first song at

age 11, and said he remembers the first time he heard Bob Dylan's music.

"I was sitting in my mom's station wagon outside the drugstore, and I heard that song. I was sure that when my mom came out she wouldn't know me, because I was changed that much," Hiatt said. "From then on I tried to sound like Dylan as much as a 200 pound kid from Indiana could."

Hiatt recalled when Dylan asked him to write a few songs for him.

"He called me on the phone, and I was floored and shocked," he said with his mouth open wide. "I said, 'Yes, sir, Mr. Dylan, I'll get right on that.' I wrote five B-quality Dylan songs, and [he] recognized they were B-quality, and he recorded different songs instead."

Hiatt then spoke about what life has been like for him recently in terms of his crazy schedule.

See Hiatt, 3

**SAVEDAY 4.29.06**

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2:00-2:30	Seth Wood	Acoustic
2:45-3:45	Penguin	Rock
4:00-4:30	Trees Leave	Indie Rock/Bluegrass
4:45-5:15	Finding Steve Cunningham	Progressive Rock
5:00-6:00	Molly Mawk	Punk
6:15-6:45	Lack Luster	Rock
7:00-8:00	Crisis Apparition	Metal/Rock
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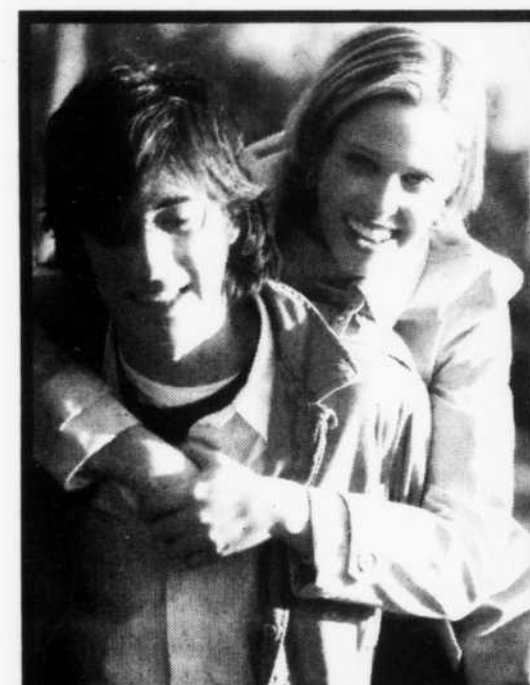
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# Theatre students get experience Off-Broadway

By Sarah Crotzer  
Staff Writer

A select group of MTSU theatre students experienced the big city lifestyle this semester after spending spring break working in New York City.

Flying Fig Theatre's production of "Shiloh Rules," that ran March 18-April 9, was produced in association with the university and its production was the second installment of a regular internship opportunity for MTSU theatre students.

"We are the only undergraduate program in the country to have an internship with an off-Broadway company," said Associate

Professor Scott Boyd, who developed the partnership between MTSU and Flying Fig Theatre.

Around five years ago, he worked off-Broadway as a freelance designer with future Flying Fig producer Heather Ondersma. They continued to work together on occasional projects, and when he went on to work at Austin Peay they developed the internship program, Boyd said.

"Right after that, I was hired by MTSU," he said, and it was "a prerequisite" that the program move with him.

As part of the internship, six theatre juniors with at least a 3.0 grade point average worked with Boyd to develop the sets and lights

for "Shiloh Rules." Then, during spring break, they traveled to New York City to put up the set. Students lived with the cast and crew, and had a chance to sit one-on-one and ask them questions about life as a theater professional in New York.

Student Amethyst Cantrell, who works regularly behind the scenes of MTSU theatrical productions, said she was "thrilled" to be part of it and would do it again "in a heartbeat."

"I've been to New York before, but I've always wanted to work up there, especially in theater," Cantrell said.

"This was my first experience with 'real' theater work outside of

the school," she said, "and it [helped me] to build some connections, so now I know people up in New York who work with theater. I got to ask questions like, 'How do you live in New York, when your career is something where you might have work this week, you might not? How do you find a job that you can have that lets you go off and do theater work?'"

Taylor Tutt, another one of the intern students, described the actual work in detail.

"Every day," Tutt said, "we got up in the morning, went to the theater, worked on the set, painted the stage, hanging drapes, set up lights and sound, everything you

could possibly think of all the way until opening night."

"It was a great opportunity to check out New York City, and to be part of the actual working environment of the city, which is where I'm planning to go when I graduate," he said. "I'm a performance major, so in that aspect it wasn't directly connected with what I plan on doing, but when I went to the first rehearsal when we got there, I ended up having to run lines with one of the actresses, so I got to see how professional actors work on memorizing lines."

"I saw how the rehearsal process works, and working with the director and producers, I got to see all the different ends of

rehearsals. Everything was helpful," he said.

Tutt said he also made some excellent contacts.

"One of the actresses and her husband were the fight directors for the show, and they get a ton of work through stunt and fight choreography and things like that, which is something that I would really like to get into."

"When I let them know that was my interest, they said, 'Hey, when you move to New York, give us a call and we might be able to get you...an apprenticeship or something.' So that was a great contact to have made, and I've been keeping in touch with them about that."

## Foundation and MTSU partner to help Honduran village

By Sarah Crotzer  
Staff Writer

Next week, representatives from news and public affairs, art, agribusiness, foreign language, social work and speech and theatre will leave to spend two weeks in Honduras, doing charitable work and conducting an exchange of cultures.

Jenny Rogers, a senior in the College of Liberal Arts, founded the KidSAKE

Foundation to bring support to the Honduran village of Cane. In 2004 she, along with theatre professors Jette Halladay and Jeff Gibson, worked to establish a partnership between KSF and MTSU. This trip is the culmination of a year's work.

"The agenda is to explore opportunities to get students involved," Rogers said. "On this trip we will be working the land and planting a garden in the school

grounds, teaching the cheesemakers how to make yogurt, assessing needs so we know how to go forward, painting the school and soup kitchen [and] performing minor repairs."

Additionally, theatre students will be remounting Mayor Moon and the Storytelling Festival, a special children's show that ran earlier this semester in the Tucker Theatre. They will perform for the school in Cane, a school in Comayagua,

and for hundreds of orphans at Soto Cono Air Force Base. The students and their director, Deborah Anderson, have worked all year to reach this goal, and have only recently incorporated several pages of Spanish lines into the show.

"It's something different that I've never done before," said junior theatre student Chris Ford. "Spending this much time on a project is tedious at some points, but it's also really exciting to me. And then there's

the charity work we'll be doing. All of that drew me to it and made me want to be part of it."

For more information on the project and the various facets of MTSU's partnership with KSF, visit the KidSAKE Foundation Web site at [www.kidsakefoundation.org](http://www.kidsakefoundation.org). You can follow the progress of the theatre students at their blog, [www.mtsuhonduras.blogspot.com](http://www.mtsuhonduras.blogspot.com).

### Hiatt: "Rockin' for life"

Continued from 2

"It's been a weird year," Hiatt said. "I've had two spinal surgeries. I did a lot of touring in January 2005, had my surgeries, and have been home ever since hanging out at the house. It's been a weird trip."

Hiatt also admitted that he listens to underground hip-hop and rap, thanks to the influence of his son, along with several other records including Miles Davis' "Birth of Cool."

"I mostly [listen] to stuff that's far off the map," Hiatt said. "Besides my son turning me onto underground hip-hop and rap, which I find the most interesting, I listen to a lot of box sets, bebop,

jazz, folk records. I'm an old folkie."

Hiatt named some of his favorite songwriters, which included writers from all different genres of music including Kanye West, Prince and Bob Dylan.

"There's so many," Hiatt said. "I love Kanye West; his stuff is brilliant. Stevie Wonder, a guy like this comes along just once. Lots of great songwriters like [John] Coltrane, Rolling Stones, Prince and Towns Van Zandt."

However, Hiatt doesn't think of himself as one of the great songwriters on the industry.

"I know it's not correct," he said, "so I just go with my life."

## Speech and hearing conference on campus

Staff Reports

The Third Annual Mid-Tenn Conference on Communication Disorders will take place this coming Saturday in the State Farm Auditorium in the Business and Aerospace Building.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast. Cost for students will be \$20, \$70 for alumni and faculty of MTSU and \$85 for professionals.

This one-day conference is sponsored by the MTSU chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association, hosted by the Department of Communication Disorders.

The conference is being held to support continuing education to update the knowledge and skills required for area speech-language pathologists and audiologists. However, the conference is open to all professions and majors.

The conference particularly welcomes individuals pursuing careers in communication disorders, nursing and education students and faculty, as well as those in the allied health professions.

The conference will feature five speakers who will discuss neurologic disorders in the adult population.

The keynote speaker will be John Duffy, chair of the Division

of Speech Pathology in the Department of Neurology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., who will speak on the diagnosis of neurologic diseases, as well as other topics.

Other speakers at the conference are researchers and professionals in the fields of speech pathology and audiology from Nashville and are speaking on topics including aphasia, swallowing disorders and hearing impairment in the elderly.

All proceeds from the conference will go to the MTSU chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association. This professional student organi-

zation provides scholarships for students majoring in communication disorders, underwrites the cost of students' participation at state, regional and national conventions, promotes public service events around the Murfreesboro community and contributes to multiple non-profit organizations benefiting speech-language-hearing disorders.

Brochures for the conference are available in the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic located on the second floor of the Boutwell Dramatic Arts building. For more information, contact Ellen Orenstein, conference coordinator, at [ee2a@mtsu.edu](mailto:ee2a@mtsu.edu).

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# OPINIONS

## Students should respect different views

By Bob Glenn

Faculty Guest Columnist

As an administrator, I also see myself as an educator. The main difference between other faculty and myself is the forum within which I have "teachable moments" with students. Teachable moments are those occasions when we have an opportunity to teach students a lesson based not on theory, but on the concrete experience we are both a part of at that instant. A teachable moment can be very powerful because we experience it in the present and in the first person. I am writing in this forum to make the campus community aware of an upcoming event, which in my view will be just such a teachable moment on our campus.

On April 24 and 25 the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform is bringing a display to our campus. This display is a part of a program called the Genocide Awareness Project. The display is being brought to the campus under the sponsorship of a number of student organizations. The display consists of a number of visual images, which have been chosen to challenge the viewpoints of passersby. The display is accompanied by a number of persons who will engage in conversation those passersby who stop to comment on the images. This is a straightforward strategy that has been used successfully over the years to influence public perception on a variety of issues.

The distinction between this display and those of the past is the subject matter of the images. The Genocide Awareness Project deals with the subject of abortion. The images displayed are images of

aborted fetuses. This will be unsettling to some people. There are also images from the Holocaust and racial lynchings. Those images will be unsettling to some people.

Whenever images are unsettling to people, they sometimes react emotionally rather than cognitively. They react to what they are feeling rather than stopping to think about why the image affects them in this manner. When that happens, problems can result. It is part of my responsibility to anticipate those problems. Since I do anticipate problems with people at opposite ends of the political spectrum engaging one another, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the expectations of the University.

I would remind you that the University is a "marketplace of ideas." That naturally implies the presence of the full range of ideas. Even ideas that are different from our own, and ideas we may find distasteful, must be present in order for this to be a true marketplace, for this to be a true University. Any censorship of viewpoint cannot be tolerated

within this community. The University takes no position on the issue, other than to state in the strongest terms that we will support the expression of all viewpoints. It is the energy of conflicting ideas that propels a university and makes it great.

At the same time, the University does place appropriate time, place and manner restrictions on the expression of viewpoints. I would specifically call your attention to the University's Statement of Community Standards of Civil Behavior. If you disagree with a viewpoint expressed in this or any other display on campus, we want to encourage you to express that difference. But the University must rely on the ability of all the members of the community to

carry on a civil discourse. The ability of persons of opposing viewpoints to disagree passionately, but civilly is a keystone concept for a university community. The concept of a civil discourse can be traced all the way back to the origins of law in the ancient Roman Empire. Although they were not the only ones to develop this concept, they were among the first. The word civil is derived from the Latin word *civilis*, which comes from *civis*, which means citizen. The concept relates to the legal rights of a citizen. The Romans believed that there were rights which belonged to the Empire and certain rights that belonged to the individual. But, these rights didn't exist in a vacuum and were not mutually exclusive. Rather, they were symbiotic in nature. The whole was greater than the sum of the parts. It was the interaction between the two that made the whole possible. This made it vital that the individual protect the rights of the greater community and equally vital that the greater community protect the rights of the individual. One cannot exist without the other.

This is never easy. When the conversation is launched by a strong reaction to an emotional stimulus, it is extremely difficult to remain civil. But civility is a key to all expressions of viewpoint. Jerry Springer is nowhere to be found on our campus. To resort to the kind of tactics one sees on this kind of stage limits all of our abilities to express our views and influence others. If we allow emotion to overpower reason, volume to outweigh rational argument, then censorship must surely follow. If you decide to respond to the arguments you encounter on this, or any other issue, then I would draw your attention to these important points from the Statement of Community Standards of Civil Behavior.

In order to engage in a civil discourse one should observe the fol-

Even ideas that are different from our own, and ideas we may find distasteful, must be present in order for this to be a true marketplace...

Bob Glenn  
Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services

lowing expectations: a positive regard for the dignity and value of each citizen in the community; respect for the individual rights and possessions of community members; and tolerance for the convictions and opinions of others, even when not in agreement with one's own beliefs.

If there are those who think the University should not allow this type of display, I would draw your attention to the University's First Amendment Statement.

"Middle Tennessee State University officers recognize the value of supporting the right of any individual to speak unpopular views and to challenge the views of the majority and of the powerful. No Middle Tennessee State University employee has the authority to intervene in the free exchange of ideas (though it should be noted that the University may regulate time, place and manner of distribution of any printed materi-

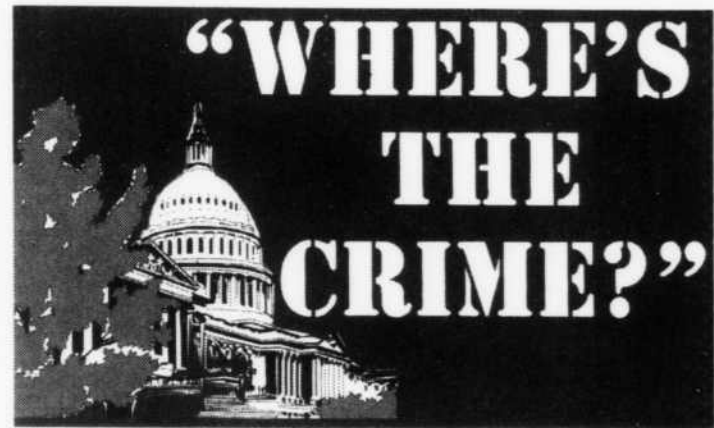
al). Thus, it would be inappropriate for any employee to engage in any prior restraint, censorship, or in any activity that would create a chilling effect on freedom of expression."

I would leave you with the words of John Kennedy.

"We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is afraid of its people."

I have confidence in the members of this community. The ongoing conversation generated by this display will be useful to our community.

Bob Glenn is MTSU's Vice President for Student Affairs & Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services, and can be reached at [rglenn@mtsu.edu](mailto:rglenn@mtsu.edu).



As promised, we take a closer look at the CIA leak case, and ask, "Where's the crime?"

State Department career official Joseph Wilson says "yes" to President Clinton's offer of an ambassadorship, knowing full well that he and his wife, Valerie, will be obligated to attend events in public, and mingle with officials from all over the nation. Since this was his second or third wife, Joe wanted to please his wife by bringing home some multinational bacon. Where is the crime here? Looks more like a reason for dismissal without prejudice, if you ask me.

If his wife was truly a covert CIA operative, sort of like Brad Pitt's character in "Spy Game," Ambassador Joe put his wife's status in clear jeopardy. At dinner parties in Washington DC, Tony Snow reported that Wilson would introduce his wife to people as, "This is my wife Valerie. She works at the CIA." A normal amount of 'ooohs and aaaaahs' would follow.

According to the media chapter in Mark Byrnes' U.S. presidency textbook, "The George W. Bush administration had a policy of allowing senior administration officials to talk to foreign correspondents for *The New York Times* after they returned to the U.S. for extra source information for their stories." One day, Lewis "Scooter" Libby gets assigned to returning Iraq war correspondent Judy Miller. They have lunch together, but do not kiss. Libby tells Miller his personal opinions about Amb. Wilson's guest column in an issue of Miller's paper. Where's the crime?

A reporter for *Time Magazine*, Viveca Novak, had a couple of beers with Karl Rove's attorney a few days before Libby's indictment by a grand jury. Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald, in demanding Ms. Novak's testimony about the meetings, sets a precedent that would eliminate the very existence of the Washington press corps. "So, now reporters aren't allowed to have a beer with their sources? How is that against the law. Where's the crime here?" people in DC ask.

Judy Miller spends 85 days in jail for contempt-of-court when she refuses to testify about her sources for her stories about Iraq's weapons programs. She spends her time at the Alexandria Detention Center, which is what Peter Gibbons of *Intech* describes as a 'white collar resort.' It's not anything like HBO's "Oz." Viewers of its Web site, [www.alexandria.gov/sheriff/jail.html](http://www.alexandria.gov/sheriff/jail.html), ask, "Where's the crime?"

Opinions Editor's note: This section takes charges against Republicans and reveals critical facts that have gone vastly unreported by the mainstream media. It is designed to open readers' eyes, make them laugh, and make them realize there may be more to these stories than 600-word articles choose to report. Some of it is satire. It's your job to figure out how much.

## Selling your own child is wrong

By DeAnn Currey

Staff Writer

A single Wisconsin father is being charged with attempting to sell his 18-month-old daughter for \$7,000 so he could make improvements to his home. A couple in Grand Chutes was willing to adopt the toddler from Danny Vu, though they turned to the cops when Vu refused to go through an adoption agency.

Vu was arrested last Wednesday as he was driving to the "adoptive" couple's home to drop off his child and collect his money. He is currently facing up to six years in prison and another three years of extended supervision.

Are you kidding me? How is a father going to sell his own flesh

and blood so he can improve the comfort of his own living? This is one of the most selfish things that I have heard about in a long time. A parent's number one priority should be their child's needs, not their own wants.

Putting your child up for adoption is one thing, but to sell off your child to a complete stranger is another. What if the couple were child molesters or murderers? There is no way to know these things unless you go through an adoption agency.

According to [www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com), Vu's lawyer, Eugene Bartman says, "[Vu] understands what's going on and thinks it's very unfair."

He thinks it's unfair that he is being punished for trying to sell his daughter? How is that fair to

the child? Basically she is being neglected by her own father because he thinks making improvements on his home is more important than taking on the responsibilities of being a father to this child.

Everyone is looking for one of two things—an easy way out or a handout from society. Vu was apparently looking for an easy way out and an easy way to make some quick money, but to sell your own daughter is a bit extreme.

It never fails to amaze me what extremes people will go through just to get what they want. They don't think about others who may be affected by the outcome of their choices. Instead, they are just concerned with themselves and

what is going to benefit them the most.

Parents need to realize the responsibility that goes along with having children. I have no sympathy for Vu. He knew what he was doing at the time; he was trying to get out of the responsibilities of being a father and it blew up in his face. The adoptive couple that was involved in the scandal still wants to adopt the little girl, but only if it is done legally.

At least the other couple is still wants to adopt the baby girl. Hopefully, she will be their number one priority if the adoption does go through.

DeAnn Currey is a junior Mass Communications major and can be reached at [jdc3v@mtsu.edu](mailto:jdc3v@mtsu.edu).

## Opinions column promotes civic duty

By Matthew Hurtt

Hurtt Pride

I first want to thank my editor, Tim Hill, and the management staff of *Sidelines* for allowing me to write for Opinions this semester. I have to say, it was quite a different experience from writing news articles in my high school newspaper.

I also want to thank all those who read my opinions—or even picked up *Sidelines* at all this semester, for that matter. A forum like newsprint where writers can present information, opinions and entertainment is an excellent example of those First Amendment rights we all hold so dear.

As this semester draws to a close, I would like to think that I accomplished what I originally set out to accomplish in my first publication with this newspaper, which was to "weekly challenge the readers of this column to get involved in politics." If you wrote a letter, e-mailed someone, or even had a discussion in the Keathley University Center about some-

thing that outraged or enlightened you, then I accomplished my goal.

While talking about my apparent bigotry or racism among your friends does not directly affect local government, it does encourage political debate, which might lead to political action of some sort. If I changed one mind or enlightened one person, then that is an alternative to what the professors offer here. (I offer suggestions, but professors indoctrinate.)

Speaking of professors, I actually received a very rude e-mail from a graduate-level professor. I find it abhorrent that the people who sent me hate mail (and there were a lot of them) could not muster enough intelligence to argue their point; instead, they lobbed insults like 5-year-olds. I do appreciate those who sent letters with valid arguments, though. I tried my best to adequately address the concerns of those who sent intelligible e-mails.

I also received an interesting e-mail from a certain U.S. Senate campaign. They asked me for an apology and retraction for something that I did not even write, thereby only implicat-

ing themselves in whatever it was they misunderstood. "The apple does not fall too far from the tree," as the saying goes.

Once again, thanks to every one of you who became involved, either directly or indirectly, because of my opinions.

In addition, I would like to congratulate Doug Young, Shane McFarland, and David Edwards on their election to the Murfreesboro City Council. I look forward to working with them locally upon my election to the County Commission this August.

Remember: the right to vote is one of the most important freedoms given to citizens of this great country. Please be sure to educate yourself on the issues, and vote in the upcoming elections: May 2 (County Primary), August 3 (County General, State Primary), and November 7 (State General).

Have a great summer!

Matthew Hurtt is a freshman history major, is not as arrogant as you think, and can be reached best at [mch2x@mtsu.edu](mailto:mch2x@mtsu.edu)

**John walks the dog.  
Jane sees John walk the dog.  
Spot listens to the new Sidelines Opinions podcast.**

**John and Jane agree Spot is a smart dog.**

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# FEATURES

## Dougan sets his sights on The Who

By Justin Dinger

Contributing Writer

Amid full bookcases and music memorabilia, MTSU Recording Industry Assistant Professor John Dougan waxes academic on popular music and his new book, *The Who Sell Out*.

Dougan is a music journalist and cultural critic. His accomplishments include reviews and essays in *Rolling Stone* and *Spin* magazine. He has contributed artist biographies and album critiques to the All Music Guide book series and Web site.

*The Who Sell Out*, is an installment in the 33 and 1/3 book series, which takes a critical look at albums in the multi-genre spectrum of popular music.

"There are two great lies in popular music," Dougan said. "One is young people saying all the great music's being made now. The other great lie is baby boomers saying that the all the great music has already been made, and they are both wrong."

"I think we have this tremendously historical notion about popular music in general, and I think the 33 and 1/3 series is great for what is does because it keeps a dialogue about popular music going."

At the height of the 1960s counter-culture movement, The Who released its third studio album, "The Who Sell Out," in 1967.

"The book is concerned with the cultural context in which the album was created," Dougan said. "More specifically, what was happening in British youth culture."

"There were some significant things happening, which are all referenced on the album. The influence of advertising, London transitioning from a mod

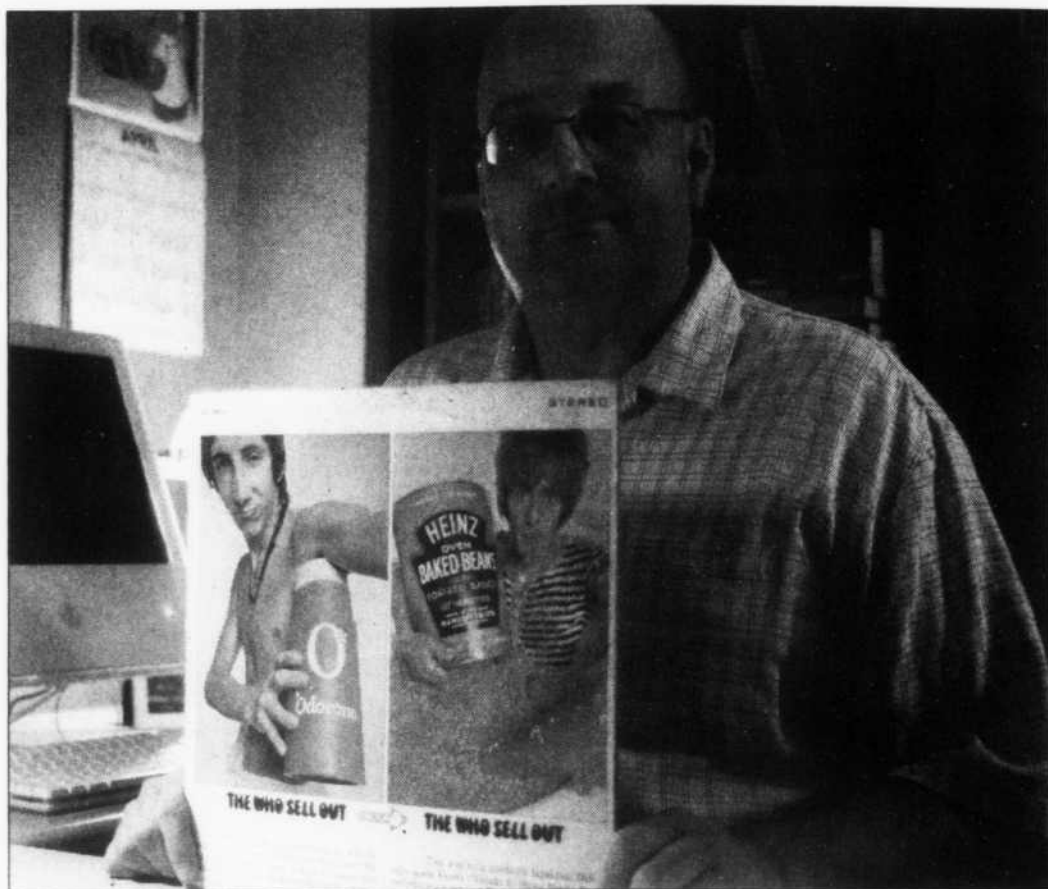


Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor  
Recording Industry Professor John Dougan holds up a copy of The Who's third album, "The Who Sell Out," which is the basis for his upcoming book of the same name.

culture to a psychedelic culture, and then there is the rise and fall of pirate radio.

"With 'The Who Sell Out,' The Who were creating an album that was supposed to be in the moment," Dougan said. "'Sell Out' was meant to mimic the popular culture of the time. It was supposed to be immediate and go away. The irony is that you can still listen to the record 40 years after its release date and it still sounds very fresh. It's an interesting collection of songs, and the concept is interesting."

Dougan's book brings more attention to the academic study of cultural industries while strengthening the esteem of MTSU's recording industry program.

"Anybody who thinks the recording industry [program] is a joke major doesn't know the faculty, doesn't know the program and doesn't know the course work," Dougan said. "This department functions on a technical and intellectual dimension. You need both because you need to learn how to run gear, but also need to know how that gear affects the way music is created or how people listen to it and consume it."

Similarly, you can't look at popular music as being created in some kind of historical vacuum that isn't informed by politics, race or gender. Popular music is not disassociated or disconnected with everything else that goes on in the world."

The Continuum International Publishing Group will release Dougan's book, *The Who Sell Out*, in late 2006. For more information, check out <http://www.continuumbooks.com> or <http://33third.blogspot.com>.

## Professor still soars despite clipped wings

By Mary Rose Fox

Staff Writer

"They beat UK in a basketball game in the NCAA playoffs on television." That's how Ronald Ferrara said he first heard of MTSU. "I just happened to wonder who they were, and then I saw a job announcement."

number of hours he has flown with a student.

He said the longest flight he has ever flown was from Somerset, Ky., to Bridgeport, Conn., which is between 800 and 900 miles.

The best flight he's ever taken was with a faculty member named Billy Cox, who interviewed Ferrara for his first job at the

For the introductory course on pro pilot flight lab, students are already learning to fly. In another introductory course, theory of flight lab, students are required to have five hours of flying accompanied by a certified flight instructor.

Students fly directly out of the Murfreesboro airport.

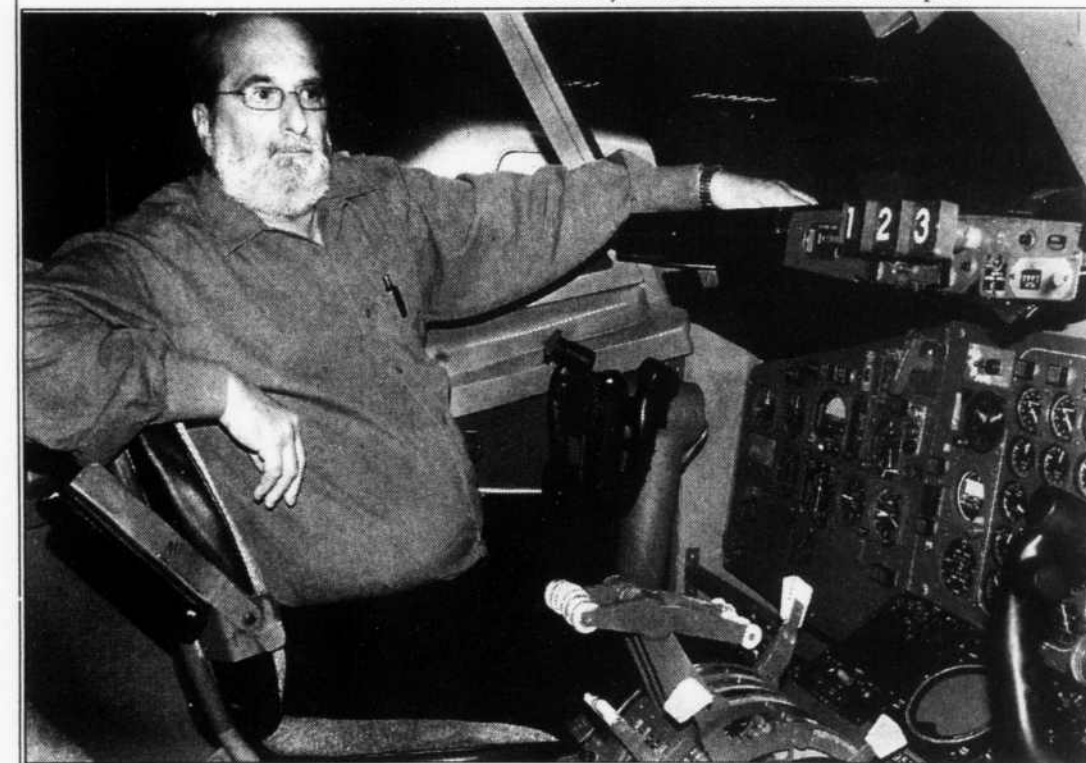


Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor  
Professor Ronald Ferrara sits in the cockpit of the Boeing 727 flight simulator in the Aerospace Flight Lab. Ferrara has logged over 1,200 hours of flight instruction time, but has been grounded lately because of an expired medical certificate.

Ferrara is originally from Meriden, Conn., and after seeing that game, he looked up MTSU, applied for a position. Now, over 20 years later, he serves as the director of the Aerospace Graduate Program.

Ferrara started flying because he signed up for the ROTC program in the 1960s. He graduated from the University of Connecticut and fulfilled his flight contract.

"I flew in the Army for four years," he said. "My military career was short but colorful."

Ferrara said he got into flying because of the excitement. He says it's one of those careers that allows a person to be responsible. As exciting as he says it is, Ferrara doesn't do much flying anymore.

"I used to fly virtually every day," he said. He has since been forced to stop. "In order to fly, you have to have an Federal Aviation Administration medical certificate and mine has expired."

During his career at MTSU, he has accumulated over 1,200 hours of flight instructor time—the

school over two decades ago. The two men went to Texas and retrieved a 1952 de Havilland Beaver to bring back to the school.

"Ironically, it's the same airplane I flew in Vietnam," he said. Ferrara did a tour of Vietnam after finishing his ROTC contract during the war in 1969.

It took MTSU students eight years to rebuild the de Havilland, and now it serves as a fixture of the department. Just pick up an MTSU Aerospace mug—it's on the backside.

Ferrara came to MTSU in 1985 and graduated from the University of Kentucky with a doctor of education in 1992. As the director of the Aerospace Graduate Program, he works with and advises graduate students.

The aerospace program currently has roughly 700 students and 30 graduate students.

"It's not just flying—that's what most people think," he said. The program also encompasses technical work, maintenance, management, flight dispatch, air traffic control and, of course, pro pilot.

"The entire north end of the Murfreesboro Airport is MTSU," Ferrara said, adding that the school's fleet is only two years old.

When students take on a major in aerospace, Ferrara said they quite often minor in business, math, computer science and foreign languages. Ferrara said the program is big compared to similar programs around the country.

"In terms of size, it's probably among the larger ones," he said, adding that it's in the top 25 percent of the largest aerospace programs in the nation.

Ferrara has written numerous articles on flight, some of which were published in aviation encyclopedias and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Although Ferrara is no longer flying himself, he's found other activities to fill his time. He's taking a cooking class at the Viking Culinary Arts Center in Nashville, and when he's not cooking or writing, he somehow manages to find time to finish up his master's in history, "just for fun."

## Campus organization thinks outside the box

By Carmen Anderson

Staff Writer

For students not looking to join an average, run-of-the-mill organization, the Raiders for Rationalism may be the group they are looking for.

Although the organization has been around for five years, it isn't widely known by most students on campus.

The group serves as a forum for discussion for skeptical, questioning students looking to explore issues that may not be accepted as traditional by society.

Two such affiliates are the Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the Center for Inquiry, said the group's vice president, Jessica Causey.

The Center for Inquiry is a group organized around the common goal of "defending reason, science and freedom of inquiry in education, and to the enhancement of freethought, skepticism, secularism, humanism, philosophical naturalism, rationalism and atheism," according to their Web site. Americans United for Separation of Church and State has a goal, which, surprisingly enough, mirrors their name.

Both of these groups challenge society's conventions and are for students who think outside the norm.

"Socialization for rationalist thinkers," Amanda Cotton said of

the group's basic function for these kinds of periphery thinkers. Cotton is a graduate psychology student and the organization's first vice president.

Last Wednesday's meeting held in Peck Hall, Room 208 led by the organization's president, Ben Neal, was the semester's final meeting, during which elections were held. Though it could easily have felt stifling, the atmosphere was not intimidating in the least but felt more like a relaxed setting among friends engaging in various discussions.

**Generate free expression of ideas.**

—Ben Neal, president of Raiders for Rationalism, in response to a question about the organization's goal

Some topics discussed focused on scientific inquiry, dogmatism, pseudo-science, Bible code, pharmacuticals, intelligent design and gay marriages. The meetings are informal and relaxed enough to where any topic for discussion is welcome.

The group also brings in guest speakers who are invited to aid and participate in discussions. Their last speaker was Sarah Jordan, a campus and community organizer for the Center for Inquiry. Jordan writes and often lectures on evolution and the

controversy of intelligent design.

Her lecture April 12 was entitled, "Is intelligent design falsifiable?"

"Generate free expression of ideas," Neal said when asked if there is a specific objective to the organization. Neal also said the organization likes to plan certain events and pet projects.

During last Wednesday's meeting, there were pizza and sodas, along with a brief period of socializing and club business.

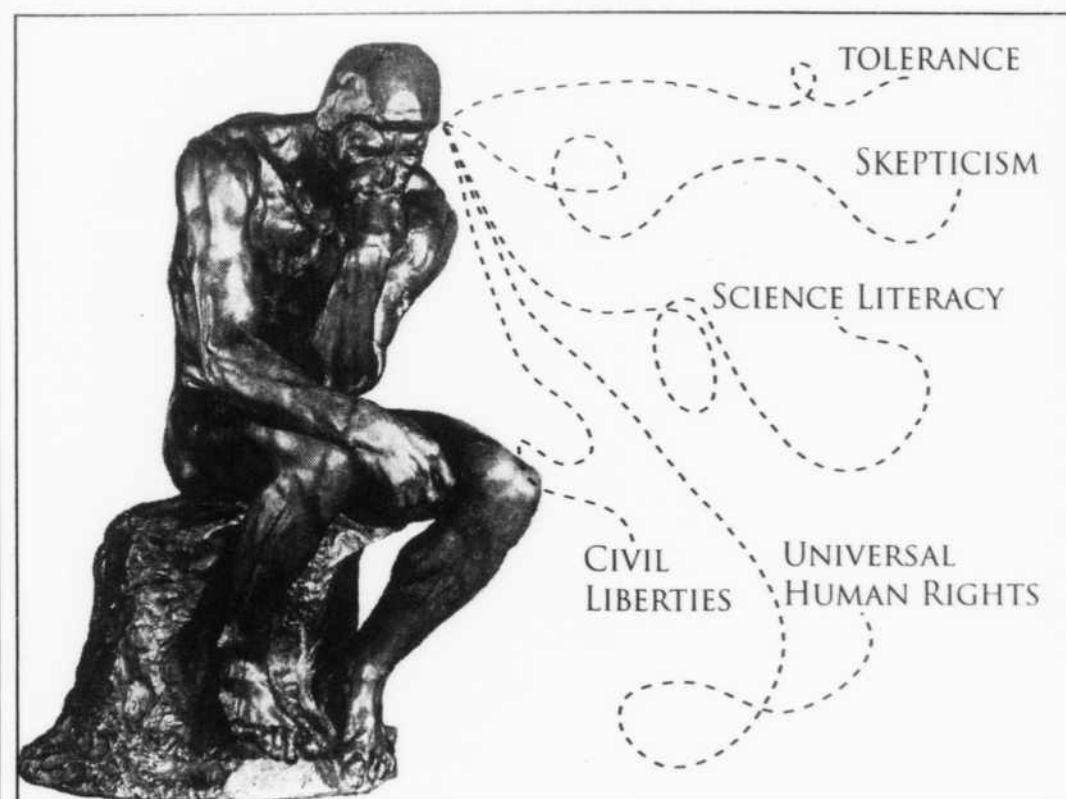
Then the meeting proceeded into elections, which weren't very tense. There were few people in attendance, although the group's faculty adviser, Associate Psychology Professor Will Langston, was able to attend.

"If we mention our meeting on Pinterest, we usually get people here," Causey said.

Elections were held for the organization's different positions, including president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and Web-master.

The meeting ended, appropriately enough, with a friendly game of Cranium and chit-chat.

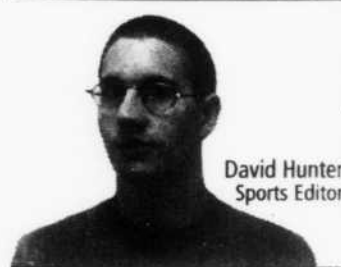
To learn more about Raiders for Rationalism, including more information about the organization and photos of guest speakers and lectures during this semester, visit their Web site at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~freethnk/>





# SPORTS

## Sports Ed. says goodbye



David Hunter  
Sports Editor

Time has run out on something I've enjoyed doing for the last five years.

During those five years, I'm covered several Middle Tennessee sports as a staff writer and, this past semester, as the sports editor. Now it is time to pass the torch to somebody since I'm graduating.

For most of you, it should be a time of celebrating since I'm leaving. Others of you are like, "Who cares?"

It has been a dream come true to be a part of this paper.

I know I wrote the same thing last spring, but I decided to come back to improve my skills. Plus, I missed this job too much.

It has been a thrill keeping you, the readers, informed. I admit it has been challenging at times, but I hope I have done a good job.

I learned a lot about how to be a successful reporter. However, I still have some improving to do.

I would not be able to do my job without the help and support of others.

First off I would like to thank our editor-in-chief, Sarah Mullen, for giving me the opportunity to do this job. I know we had disagreements during the semester, but we worked through them and put out the best sports section possible for this campus.

I just wish Sarah had let me cover auto racing and the Ultimate Fighting Championship. Instead, we covered horse riding and cheerleading. Okay I'm only kidding. And yes, those are sports.

It has been a pleasure to work for all the sports editors I have been under. They really taught me a lot about how to cover sports.

I would like to thank my writers for doing such a great job with the section. The section would have been non-existent without their hard work.

I would like to thank all the athletics and coaches that took the time out of their busy schedule to talk to the writers.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for reading the section. Your support is the reason why I loved doing this job.

It is a changing time for all the athletic teams here on campus.

Women's basketball has earned three Sun Belt Conference titles and has represented the school well in the NCAA tournament.

Volleyball might have one of the best seasons ever for an MT sport. The men's basketball team is gaining strength, and more people are coming out to see them.

The football team is moving in a new direction with Coach Stockstill and receiving field turf for their stadium. Softball just had their stadium updated. The soccer and track team complex is getting a fresh look.

The golf team has won tournaments this season, including an individual SBC championship. Men's and women's tennis has some of the best talent in the SBC. The track team keeps adding international stars.

Finally, the baseball team has won an SBC title in 2003 and is working on a new stadium.

The future is looking up for the Blue Raiders, and it has been one heck of a ride to cover all the action.

David Hunter is radio and television journalism major and will be graduating this May. He can be contacted at [dah2e@mtsu.edu](mailto:dah2e@mtsu.edu).

## Weiland hits two home runs



MT pitcher Laura Moore throws a pitch during the first game of Saturday's doubleheader. Moore did not give up a run.

By David Hunter  
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders had their first Sun Belt Conference series inside the renovated softball complex this weekend against the newest member Troy. The Blue Raiders took both games of the doubleheader on Saturday, the first 1-0, and the second 8-6 in 13 innings.

"This has been my favorite day at work since I got hired by far," MT head coach Leigh Podlesny said. "If everyday could be like this I would have the world's greatest job."

In the first game Saturday afternoon, it was a scoreless pitcher's duel between MT's Laura Moore and Troy's Laine Hartcourt.

The Blue Raiders had two chances to score in the bottom of the second, but Katie Mielke was thrown out trying to score. The Troy defense also converted a force out to end the scoring threat.

The only run of the game came in the bottom of the sixth. MT's Melissa Weiland crushed a 2-2 Hartcourt pitch over the left-field fence to break the scoreless tie. It was

her fifth homer of the season.

"I'm glad I could help my team," Weiland said. "I try to stay focused and come through when my team needed me."

It was the only run of the game as Moore shut the door on the Trojans in the top of the seventh.

Moore improved to 8-10 on the season, while Hartcourt dropped to 13-17.

The second game of the doubleheader, was another duel with the clock. The Blue Raiders won the second game in three hours and 40 minutes and in 13 innings. The game broke both MT records for longest game ever.

MT won the game in the bottom of the 13th, when Mural Ledbetter doubled off the wall in left to score Martha Davis, tying the score at six. The Blue Raiders loaded the bases when Weiland singled. Reed hit a single when the Trojans were trying to walk her. The next batter Mielke knocked home Ledbetter and Weiland for the winning runs with a base hit to left center.

"I wanted it so bad," MT first baseman Katie Mielke said.

Samantha Floyd pitched 10 innings of relief to get her first win of the season for the Blue Raiders. Angela Lopez pitched 11 2/3 innings in the loss and dropped to 10-10 on the season.

"They have been working on being consistent players through the season and they had their ups and downs," Podlesny said. "They're both kids that just don't quit and they keep fighting. They are two people I would like to have up when you have pressure on. To me, the player of the day, the unsung hero was probably Kristine Reed. She made a game-winning play, I think, in the first game when she covered third from left field. She did something I have never seen anybody do in a softball game, was to hit on an intentional walk."

MT lost the final game of the series 5-2 on Sunday.

The doubleheader sweep puts the Blue Raiders into a tie for second place in the SBC standing with a 17-32-1 record, and 5-4 inside the conference. The Blue Raiders have won five of their last six.

"We all have been playing together really

well," Mielke said. "We are just starting to come together a lot more than the beginning of the year. The pitchers are doing well. The defense is doing well."

In the top of the third, MT pitcher Trish White walked Troy's Felicia Hammer and Amanda Ragans. Then Angie Conteat got on by a fielder's choice that kept everybody safe and put the bases loaded. Heidi Johnson singled up the middle that scored Hammer and Ragans, to putting the Trojans up 2-0.

It was the first hit of the game by either team.

The Blue Raiders did not get a hit until the top of the fifth when Kristine Reed singled up the middle. However, the Troy defense got the next two outs to shut down the threat.

Troy made the score 3-0 in the top of the sixth when Brooke Powell singled to score Laurie Miller.

The lead was cut to 3-2, though, in the bottom of the inning when Blue Raider Martha Davis was hit by a pitch, and then Weiland drilled a pitch over the center field wall for a two-run shot.

It was Weiland's second homer of the day, and sixth of the season.

MT tied the game in the seventh when Reed singled and Katie Mielke was hit by a pitch. Both runners moved to second and third on a passed ball. Justine Cerda lined out to center, but Reed came home on the sacrifice fly.

In the top of the ninth, the Trojans loaded the bases with two outs, but MT pitcher Samantha Floyd got TU's Heidi Johnson to fly out to right field.

In the 10th, because of SBC tiebreaker rules, Troy got to put a runner on second at the beginning of the inning. Johnson scored on a squeeze play to make the score 4-3.

MT answered back when Floyd singled to score Mielke in the bottom half of the 10th.

Troy scored in the 12th, when a Miller single brought home Conteat.

Mielke scored in the bottom half during a run down for the Blue Raiders to make the score 5-5.

In the top of the 13th, Brooke Powell came home on a bloop single by Amanda Ragans to put the Trojans up 6-5.

The next game for the Blue Raiders is Tuesday when they travel to Chattanooga for a doubleheader starting at 4 p.m.

## MT tennis falls in championship rematch

By Casey Brown  
Assistant Sports Editor

Turnabout is fair play.

Middle Tennessee men's tennis hoped to claim the Sun Belt Conference's top prize for the second time in as many years but were thwarted in their attempt at a repeat, falling to No. 43 Louisiana-Lafayette 4-3 in the finals of the SBC Tournament Sunday at the Lubel Memorial Tennis Courts in Mobile.

Despite the loss, MT is virtually assured of an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

As the top seed, the Blue Raiders received a bye into the semifinals and then defeated Denver 4-0 at the Mobile Tennis Center on Saturday.

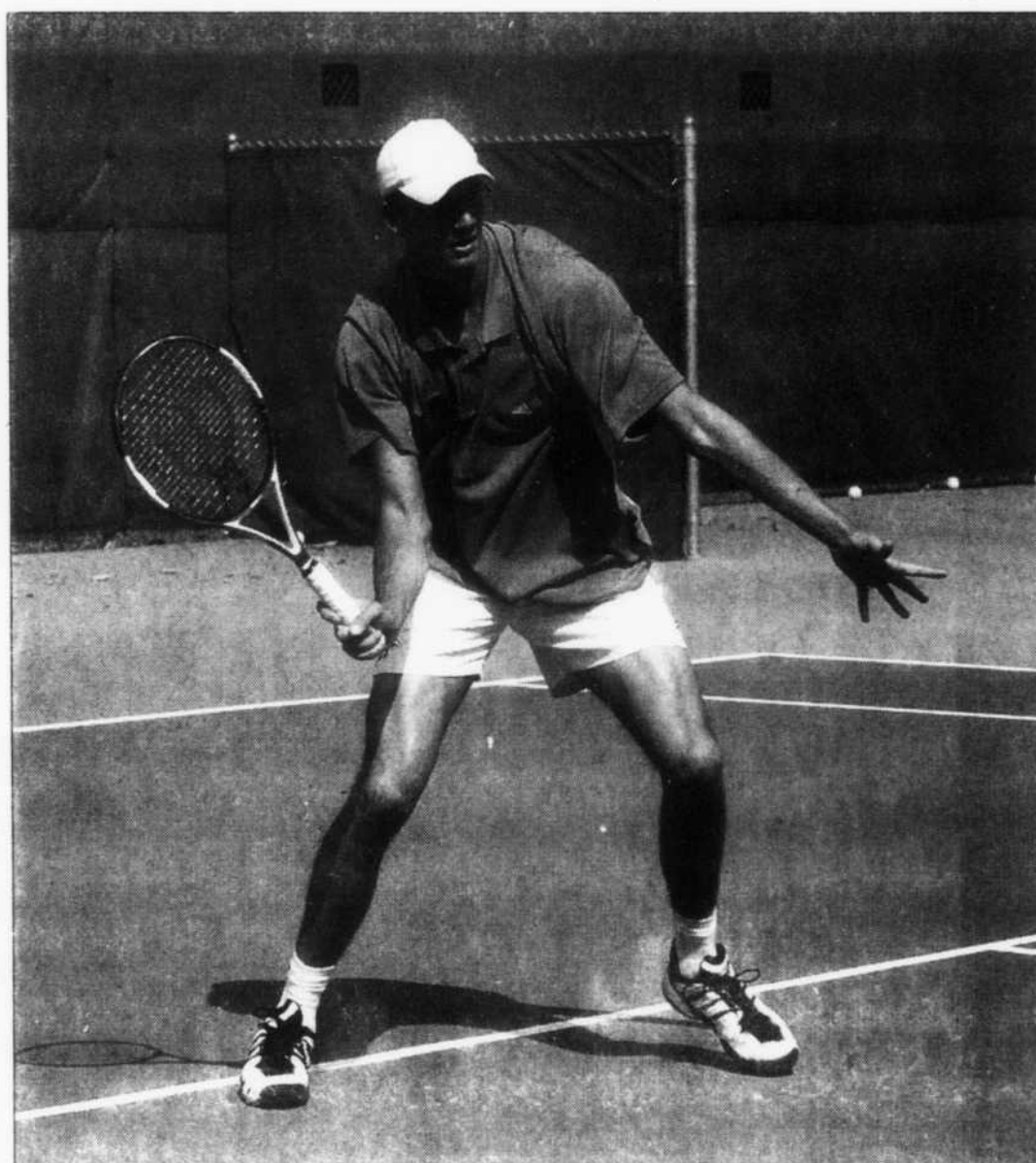
MT had little difficulty with the Pioneers, winning the doubles point and the first three completed singles matches.

At No. 3 doubles MT's Greg Pollack and Morgan Richard breezed to an 8-2 win over Denver's Aljosa Nipic and Victor Zetterholm. The Blue Raiders clinched the point when Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn defeated Steve Flaks and Neja Smole 8-3 at No. 2.

Middle Tennessee's fifth-ranked duo of Andreas Siljestrom and Marco Born were tied 6-6 with the Pioneers' Adam Holmstrom and Niklas Persson when play was stopped.

The Blue Raiders wrapped up three quick singles victories to advance to the final. Born used an aggressive approach to defeated Smole 6-2, 6-1 at No. 2.

Two seniors secured the win for MT, as Kuruppu wore out Zetterholm in a 6-1, 6-4 victory at No. 5 and Pollack followed suit in a 6-1, 6-2 triumph at No. 6. The two were forced to move up in the line-



Marco Born attempts a volley in singles action. Born defeated 95th-ranked Evghenii Corduneanu of Louisiana-Lafayette in the Sun Belt tournament finals.

up after Richard was pulled from singles action.

"Rish[an] stepped up and Greg played really solid. Both of those guys are seniors and I knew what I had with those two, so we went that route," Short told MT Media Relations.

In the other matches, Siljestrom held a 2-1 lead over Holmstrom in the third set, Allan had a 1-0 advantage over Flaks in the third and

Schledorn was down a set and tied 1-1 with Persson in the second before play was stopped.

Saturday's win set up a rematch of last year's final, which MT won 4-3 over the Ragin' Cajuns.

The 2006 edition of the rivalry had a different ending, however, as ULL won the last four matches to claim a close victory.

The Blue Raiders appeared

headed to another SBC title after winning the doubles point.

Siljestrom and Born prevailed 8-5 over Amanjot Singh and Dusan Tabak in a back-and-forth battle at No. 1, but the Ragin' Cajuns came back when Shaun Ellison and Robin Ley earned an 8-6 decision over Allan and Schledorn at No. 2.

Pollack and Richard clinched the point with a

nearly error-free performance against Evghenii Corduneanu and Arlen Domoney, winning 8-5 at No. 3.

A second championship looked even more likely when the Blue Raiders won the first two singles matches.

The senior Allan had little difficulty with Tabak, winning 6-2, 6-2 at No. 4. Born followed with a 7-5, 6-2 defeat of 95th-ranked Corduneanu at No. 2 to stretch the Blue Raider lead to 3-0.

Needing to win every remaining match for victory, ULL initiated the comeback when Ellison handled Kuruppu by a 6-2, 6-3 margin at No. 5.

Ley and Schledorn engaged in a duel at No. 3 singles, resulting in a tiebreaker and a subsequent 7-6(4), 6-2 victory for the Ragin' Cajuns.

"We won the doubles point but then lost some close first sets in singles, and I think that gave UL some hope and spirit and it really put some extra pressure on us," Short told MT Media Relations.

When Domoney defeated Pollack 6-2, 6-4 at No. 6, the match came down to No. 1 singles.

Siljestrom dropped the first set 6-4 to Singh, then battled back for a 6-4 victory in the second. The MT junior took another early break in the last set, but Singh battled back to win the last three games when Siljestrom double-faulted on match point.

"Right now I'm stunned, shocked, in disbelief," Short told Media Relations. "But I'm very proud of our team and at least we know this is not the end."

The fate of the Blue Raiders will be revealed on May 3, when the NCAA Selection Show will announce the tournament pairings.

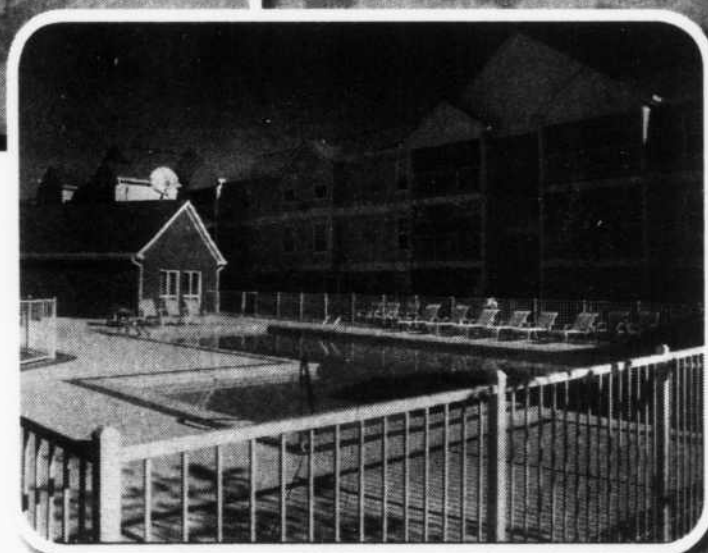


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## SPORTS



# Sports Briefs

## News from around Middle Tennessee



Compiled by: Casey Brown

### Women's Tennis Falls In SBC Tournament

In a match representative of the season as a whole, Middle Tennessee women's tennis fought hard but ultimately came up short. The Blue Raiders lost to North Texas 4-2 in the first round of the Sun Belt Tournament Friday afternoon at the Mobile Tennis Center.

MT struck first in doubles, with Pooja Kommireddi and Elvira Yusupova defeating UNT's Sara Giles and Lynley Wasson 8-5 at No. 3. The Mean Green rebounded to pick up the doubles point by winning the remaining matches. UNT's Megan Schmulbach and Sammie Moreton broke serve at 5-all to defeat Marlene Chemin and Claudia Szabo 8-6 at No. 1.

The Blue Raiders' Ann-Kristin Siljestrom and Kelly Adams held an early lead at No. 2 but Ina Wieding and Aziza Aba Butain of UNT forced a tiebreaker and held on for a 9-8(2) victory.

"We had chance after chance and you only get so many opportunities and we didn't convert," head coach Alison Ojeda told MT Media Relations.

At the start of singles play it appeared MT was on the right track, as two Blue Raiders won matches in straight sets. Siljestrom made short work of Moreton at No. 3 as the sophomore raced to a 6-1, 6-1 victory to even the team score at 1-1. Kommireddi capped a record-setting freshman season with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Aba Butain at No. 5.

With the Blue Raiders nursing a 2-1 lead, the Mean Green began to pull away. The tide started to turn when Schmulbach broke Yusupova early then held on for a 6-3, 6-4 win at No. 4. Wasson helped UNT regain the lead for good by defeating Szabo 6-2, 6-2 at No. 1. The MT sophomore played despite being injured.

"The big thing was we knew Claudia wasn't going to be able to move that well... [She] really gutted it out to make a match in both doubles and singles," Ojeda told Media Relations.

With two matches left on the court, the Mean Green sealed the win when Wieding defeated Chemin at No. 2. The first set went to a tiebreaker in which Wieding led 5-1 before holding on for an 8-6 win. The second set proved less suspenseful, as Chemin succumbed 6-1. Adams was trailing 2-4 in her third set when play was stopped.

### XOS to provide in-game instant replay for Sun Belt

XOS Technologies, a leading provider of sports technology and media solutions

to professional and collegiate teams and conferences, announced today that it has been selected by the Sun Belt Conference to provide in-game instant replay capabilities during all of its conference and non-conference football games in 2006.

The replay system designed for the Sun Belt Conference will utilize five cameras to provide replay content for all games, whether they are televised or not. Three of these cameras, one mounted high on a side of the field parallel to the fifty-yard line and two located in each of the end zones, will be provided and operated by the schools' video coordinators and staff. The remaining two cameras will be permanently installed at each goal line on the sideline opposite the fifty-yard line camera.

"Instant replay can have a major role in determining the outcome of key plays," said Bob Simmons, XOS president, coaching solutions division. "With that understanding, we set out to create a complete turnkey system for the Sun Belt Conference that incorporates our high grade technology, is user-friendly and allows game officials to make accurate calls, while not disturbing the regular flow and momentum of the game."

The Sun Belt Conference, whose teams include North Texas, Louisiana at Lafayette, Louisiana at Monroe, Arkansas State, Middle Tennessee, Florida International, Florida Atlantic and Troy, is the third NCAA Division I-A conference to adopt XOS Replay. The Big 12 Conference and Pacific-10 (Pac-10) Conference both utilized the system during the 2005 college football season. In both cases, results exceeded expectations, and the systems will be used again for the 2006 season.

### Multi-talented Johnson signs with Middle Tennessee

The rapport Middle Tennessee men's basketball coaches developed with Nigel Johnson as a prep standout at Wooddale High School in Memphis paid off two years later when the highly-regarded guard signed a scholarship agreement with the Blue Raiders Wednesday.

Johnson, a freshman at Tallahassee Community College, became the third player to sign with Middle Tennessee, joining guard Demetrius Greene (Daytona Beach Community College), and center Jay Ivey (Owensboro Catholic High School).

Johnson, who carries a 3.36 grade point average, will have three years to play for Middle Tennessee after earning his list coming out of Wooddale High School but when things didn't work out in the recruiting process he opted to

attend Tallahassee for one year rather than pursue other scholarship offers.

"Middle Tennessee recruited me in high school and that's where I wanted to go but things didn't quite work out," Johnson said. "I just figured I would go to Tallahassee for a year and then go to a good school so I'm excited to be going to Middle Tennessee now. It's a good fit for me and it's not too far from (Memphis) so my family can see me play. It's a good program and they are doing exciting things. I'm excited to be part of it."

Nigel Johnson participated in the 2005 Memphis All-Star Classic and was named to the 2005 Best of the Preps/All-Metro Class AAA Team by the Memphis Commercial Appeal. He was named MVP of the Regional playoffs and was a three-time (2003, 2004, and 2005) Tennessee All-State Honorable Mention selection by the Associated Press. Johnson, who was rated as the sixth-best shooting guard and No. 36 overall prospect in Tennessee by HoopsScoop following his senior year, also earned All-District and All-Region honors at Wooddale.

### Lightning Relief Team assists tornado victims

Middle Tennessee joined the countless thousands of volunteers who are assisting victims that were hit by the fatal tornadoes that struck the middle Tennessee region during the afternoon of April 7.

Student-athletes, coaches, administrators, support staff and Blue Raider Athletic Association (BRAA) members all took part in the relief effort. Saturday, and the Middle Tennessee athletic department encouraged all BRAA members and fans to help with the cause.

"It is very important to give back to the community during a time of need," said Chris Massaro, Middle Tennessee Director of Athletics. "Our neighbors were hit very hard. Being able to see the damage on television, you can see how much damage was done and how many people need assistance. We feel very blessed to be able to offer our assistance."

Called the "Blue Raider Lightning Relief Team" and supported by the BRAA, the group cleaned up debris in assigned neighborhoods throughout the Gallatin area.

The group departed from the Blue Raider Hall of Fame Museum Saturday at 6:30 a.m., via three Blue Raider Express Buses and a BRAA car pool, en route for the Gallatin Chamber of Commerce (next to City Hall). Once there, members of the group were assigned various neighborhoods to assist in the clean-up effort.

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# MT track sets personal best, qualify for NCAA's

By Clarence Plank  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee track team won nine events this weekend at the Vanderbilt Invitational Friday and Saturday in Nashville, Tenn.

Antranette Stringer won the 200-meter with a regional qualifying time of 23.94 in the 200-meter. Teammate Tiffany Owens finished with 24.83 and Veronia Patterson finished in of 24.90. Owens and Patterson placed fifth and eighth, respectively.

Candice Robertson qualified for the NCAA regional with a mark of 13.88 in the 100-meter hurdles and Sierra Douglas finished third in 14.59 setting a new personal record in the event. Iccca Epss finished sixth.

Stringer also competed in 100-meter, finishing in second place with a mark of 11.85. Owens finished seventh and Erika Palmer finished eighth in the event. Kerry Barrow finished in seventh in the 400-meter and Sara Lunning set a personal best in the steeplechase Friday night with a time of 11:31.47.

Stephanie Tamgho won the triple jump and finished third in the long jump. Douglas finished fourth in the triple jump and fifth long jump. She set a personal best

in the long jump with 18-6.5.

Orlando Reid finished with an NCAA regional qualifying time of 20.64 in the 200-meter. VanTonio Fraley was second and Samuel Adade was third. Fraley's time of 20.79 was a NCAA regional qualifying time and he finished second in the 100-meter with another regional qualifying time of 10.49. Adade finished fourth in the same event.

Sean Waller won the 400-meter with a qualifying time of 46.99 and teammate Tavaris Leak finished seventh. Linnie Yarbrough and Juan Walker finished one-two with NCAA qualifying times in the 100-meter hurdles, while teammate Pete Senatus finished second in the 400-meter hurdles. Yarbrough finished third in the same event.

In the 3000-meter steeplechase, Jonathan Guillou finished with a personal-best 9:18.43 for fourth place. Derek Dell and Matt Young finished 10th and 13th in the event. In the 800-meter, Ryan Hood finished 26th and Tony Carufe finished 28th, while teammate Luke Pfleger rounded out the group to place 56th. Hood and Pfleger competed in the 1500-meter and finished 38th and 47th, respectively.

The team of Walker, Reid, Daryl

Terrell and Fraley competed in the 4x100-meter relay. Despite a slight problem in the beginning with handing off the baton, they came back and won in 39.83, an NCAA regional qualifying time. The second team of Jonathan Oliver, Senatus, Jermaine Barton and Adade finished fifth in the same event.

event.

In the 4x400-meter relay, the team of Barton, Terrell, Fraley and Leak broke a record set by MT in 2002 with a time of 3:12.43. Julius Defour finished fifth in the high jump with a personal best of 6-8.

Walker won the long jump, Friday and Yarbrough and Waller

finished sixth and seventh in the event. JJ Strum finished fifth in the triple jump Saturday.

"We had some really good performances setting personal bests in a whole bunch of areas and continuing to improve," head coach Dean Hayes told MT Media Relations. "We're really setting

ourselves up for a strong conference meet in May."

This coming weekend, the team will split as they head to the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Penn. and the others go to the Western Kentucky Invitational in Bowling Green, Ky.



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Photo © Greg Johnson | Staff Photographer

MT pitcher Jeff Kasser releases the ball during a home game.

## MT baseball swept by South Alabama

By Wade Neely  
Staff Writer

Entering this weekend's series with conference foe South Alabama, the Middle Tennessee Blue Raider baseball team had been on somewhat of a tear.

Coming into the series, the Blue Raiders had won five of six, including two of three from rival Western Kentucky and a 13-8 win over Vanderbilt.

The Blue Raiders could not capitalize on their momentum, however, as the Blue Raiders lost two games on Saturday, a 1-0 "game" that lasted just one inning, and a 12-6 loss in the nightcap.

With thunderstorms swirling throughout southern Alabama Friday, the start of the series was delayed an hour and twenty minutes. After finally starting the game, neither team could find their rhythm offensively, as Blue Raider Matt Scott pitched nine shutout innings, striking out eight Jaguar hitters.

Scott was one-upped, however, by PJ Walters, who threw ten scoreless innings of his own, including 11 strikeouts.

In a true pitcher's duel, the score remained scoreless until the rain resumed in the 13th inning. After a leadoff walk to South Alabama's Jeff Morris, the game was suspended until Saturday afternoon.

On Saturday, the game that looked like it might never end ended rather quickly, as Patrick

Weaver singled up the middle, plating Morris and giving the win to the Jaguars.

After a 30-minute delay, the two teams trotted back out onto Stanky Field to take part in the second game of the series. Brett Smalley took the hill for the Blue Raiders, while Zach Piccola toed the rubber for the Jaguars.

The Blue Raiders jumped out in front in the fourth inning, scoring three runs on four hits, including an RBI single from Michael McKenry.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Jaguars scored a run of their own, but the Blue Raiders would tack on two more runs in the top of the fifth thanks to RBI singles from Wayne Kendrick and McKenry, giving the Blue Raiders a 5-1 advantage.

Just when it appeared the Blue Raiders were cruising to a series-tying victory, things fell apart in the bottom of the eighth inning.

Thanks to three walks and two errors from the Blue Raiders, the Jaguars had all the help they needed, adding five hits and scoring eight runs to put them back out in front for good, giving the Jaguars the series in the process.

"We had it right there," head coach Steve Peterson told MT Media Relations. "They gave us an insurance run but then we don't make a play on a potential double-play ball and the flood gates opened."

Sunday, the team lost 20-10 to South Alabama.



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