

SIDELINES

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MURFREESBORO, TN

ACLU President to talk about gender

By Mark Logan

Assistant News Editor

The president of the American Civil Liberties Union, Nadine Strossen, will deliver a speech today on "Gender, Sexuality and Civil Liberties" at 4 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business Aerospace Building.

Strossen's speech is sponsored by the National Women's History Committee, which has organized several events on campus to celebrate Women's History Month.

Greg Simerly, who directs the Speech

and Theatre department and is co-chair of the NWHM committee, said that Strossen's visit at this time is very appropriate.

"She's one of the brightest minds in our public discussion of civil liberties," Simerly said.

"She will address some current threats to civil liberties since that's such an issue



Strossen

right now. And she will also address those threats to civil liberties that affect women."

Simerly added that Strossen is a "fascinating speaker with new, fresh ideas."

Throughout Strossen's career, she has been a lawyer, author, professor and speaker. When Strossen was selected to be president of the ACLU in 1991, she was the first female to hold the position and was also the youngest president in the ACLU's history.

Strossen was a professor of law at New York Law School before joining the ACLU. In 1998, Vanity Fair named her

one of America's 200 most influential women. Then, in 1999, Ladies Home Journal chose Strossen for its list of America's 100 most important women.

The ACLU is a New-York based non-profit organization founded in 1920 and is funded by more than 400,000 members and supporters. It is America's largest and oldest civil liberties organization.

"We're living in a time when there is a strong concern about civil liberties, so Strossen is coming to campus at a good time," said John Vile, chair of the MTSU Department of Political Science.

Vile, who is currently editing an ency-

clopedia of the First Amendment, said that Strossen should bring an authoritative voice to the discussion of civil liberties, and that the question-and-answer period should be particularly interesting.

Strossen has authored approximately 250 published works, and many of them have appeared in scholarly publications. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard College in 1972 and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1975. Strossen also practiced for nine years as a lawyer in her hometown of Minneapolis and in New York City.



Gore addresses a full State Farm room on Monday night. He spoke on environment issues facing the planet.

Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

Gore speaks on global warming

By Dana Owens

Staff Writer

Former Vice President Al Gore spoke to students Monday about drastic changes in the environment in recent years due to human negligence.

"We have radically transformed the relationship between humankind on one hand and the environment on the other," Gore said.

In his lecture sponsored by Students for Environmental Action, Gore said people have long had the notion that a human's size relative to the planet have translated into an apathy toward the environment and the belief that people can do no harm. Gore said this is not so any longer and people must start to pay attention before reaching a "point of no return" which he said could be as soon as 10 years.

"Now that we have reach this discontinuity in our relationship with our planet, we no longer have the luxury of sitting on our hands and hoping things will work out on their own, because they won't," Gore said. "We have to take affirmative steps."

Gore also answered a question regarding whether he would consider running for president once more, he said he is "not planning on being in a campaign again."

"I'm enjoying what I'm doing and I haven't reached a point in my life where I'm ready to say never in the future will I ever consider something like that again," Gore said. "I do not expect to do it again."

See Gore, 2

Murfreesboro residents concerned about campus expansion

By Tom Cheredar

News Editor

A recent revision to MTSU's campus expansion map caused a public outcry Tuesday when the plan was changed to include historically zoned areas.

The revised map shows a new MTSU boundary line for possible land acquisition that includes a portion of Main Street located around the former Middle Tennessee Baptist church and the old Bed and Breakfast beside it.

"Traditionally, the campus has never crossed Tennessee Blvd and that's always been the cut off," said Star Acre, a Murfreesboro resident who helped organize a neighborhood meeting to confront the university.

Acre, who is a resident of Cherry Lane, said she saw the map a few weeks ago but was never contacted of the changes, something she and her community were very upset about.

"This has been a part of the community for almost a hundred years and it could be changed over night, with out

any thought," Acre said.

According to Murfreesboro Planning Commission member Robert Lewis, the university does not have any obligation to notify the city what it plans to do with its property because they are a part of the state, which means they out rank the city's decision-making power.

"The university is in a different category than everyone else," Lewis said. "They have sovereignty over the land they use and do not have to go by regulations if they do not see fit."

"But, they've been a good neighbor and showed us their plans as a courtesy," he said.

The city has restrictions to houses in historically zoned areas that concern only the outside appearance, but have no control over the interior or who purchases the property unless a new building was going to be built, Lewis said.

The university has no immediate plans to take over the two new blocks that board Tennessee Blvd. and Main Street that were added to the campus expansion's map, said John Cothorn,

Senior Vice President of Business and Finance.

According to Cothorn, the map outlines a 10 to 20 year area the university may acquire if the student population and program growth require it, but does not mean it will definitely buy the property.

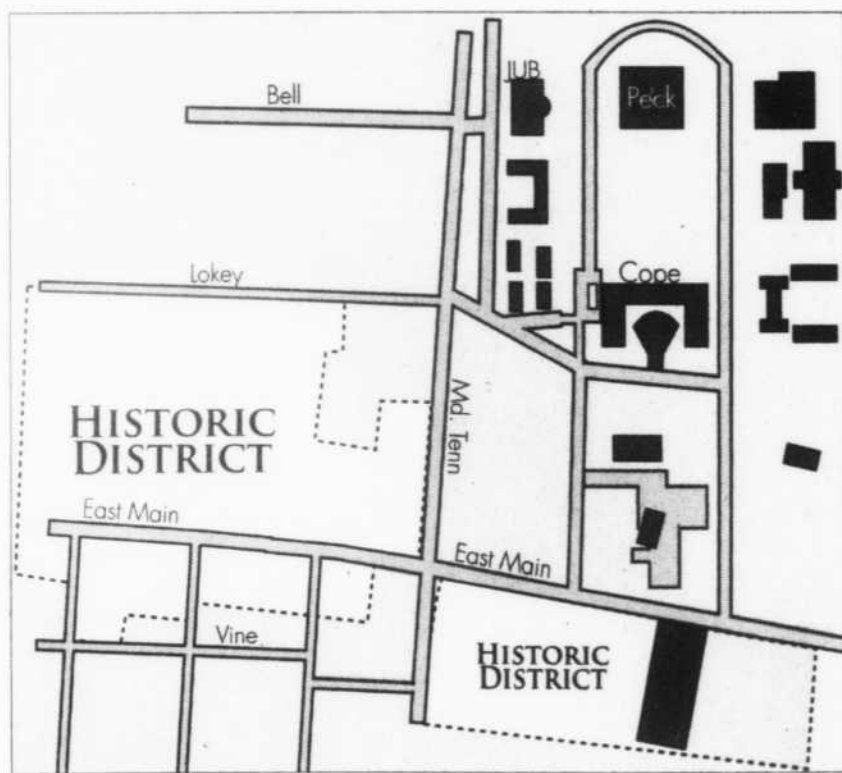
"Ninety-nine percent of the time they contact us, but we don't always buy it," Cothorn said. He cites the condos built on East Main Street across from the university last summer as an example.

Cothorn said property owners usually come to the university with an offer to buy, but after reviewing it, decided it was not an immediate need of the school.

"Our goal is not to disturb the historic part of Murfreesboro," Cothorn said at the public meeting. "The intent is to maintain the area, which is what we had in mind when renovating the former bed and breakfast."

Cothorn said the old bed and break-

See Expansion, 3



Graphic: John Hrehla

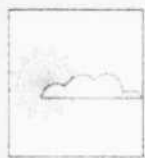
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PRECIP: 10%

Saturday



HI: 51°
LO: 29°
PRECIP: 20%

Sunday



HI: 57°
LO: 36°
PRECIP: 20%

CAMPUS

Trash to treasure

For most students, the recycling bins scattered across campus have faded into the background, situated inconspicuously next to computer printers and vending machines that rarely receive a second glance.

FEATURES

90-year mystery

Outside of the world's shooting ranges and galleries, finding an empty bullet casing without a story to tell is a rare thing.

SPORTS

Wheelchair tennis

The term "National Champions" is something seldomheard on the MTSU campus. For the Wheelchair Tennis duo of Michael Paul and Kevin Green this phrase fits them perfectly because they are.

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NEWS

Longhorns at Livestock Center

By Emily Cavender
Staff Writer

The best of the once almost extinct breed of Texas Longhorn will compete this weekend at the Tennessee Valley Texas Longhorn Breeders' World Qualifying Show in the Tennessee Livestock Center.

The show lasts from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and is free to the public.

Over twenty breeders from the southeast will attend, with over one hundred total entries. The cattle will be judged in 25 different classes, and within each class the cattle are judged on conformation, or the way they are built, and the size and shape of their horns.

The Champion and Reserve Champion Longhorns from each class will continue on to the World show in Ft. Worth Texas in June. The World show is put on by the Texas Longhorn Breeders' Association of America.

The Tennessee Valley Texas Longhorn Breeders' Association puts on this show every year. According to President Roger Townsend, members of the association do not have to own cattle.

"We now have affiliates from Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee," Townsend said. A membership costs \$20.

The TVTLBA hosts several events throughout the

year including a Field Day held on Memorial Day Weekend. The Field Day includes a heifer raffle, where they raffle off female longhorns and have live music and food.

"The Longhorn breed was actually the original breed of beef cattle," Townsend said. They were brought from Spain and roamed wild in the southern United States for over 500 years before European cattle were brought over in the early 1800s and bred to the wild cattle. According to Townsend the breed of Longhorn that exists today is about 80 percent wild Spanish cattle and 20 percent European cattle.

Townsend also said that the Longhorns were almost wiped out in the early 1800s as other breeds of cattle such as Hereford and Shorthorn were bred into the herds. Seven purebred herds were set aside to save the breed, including one in Oklahoma that the government saved because they feared extinction. Almost all of today's registered Longhorns came from those seven herds.

There are now over a quarter of a million longhorns registered through the association.

This is the third year the world qualifying show has been held at the Tennessee Livestock Center.

For more information on the Texas Longhorn Breeders' Association of America visit their Web site at www.tlbaa.org.



Photo © Greg Johnson

Project H.E.L.P. teachers Kara Daniello and Kelly Durcholz picnic with their students in front of the James E. Walker library. The group recently visited the library in celebration of Dr. Seuss month.

Safety training and Quiz Bowl

The Three "C's" of Copyright

Geoff Hull, a recording industry professor, will give a lecture, "The Three 'C's' of Copyright: Creator, Consumer, and Commerce," on March 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. at the Seminar Room in the Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors College Building. The informal lecture will be a contribution to the lecture series "Perspectives on

Popular Music."

National Women's History Month Keynote Address

Nadine Strosser, President of the American Civil Liberties Union, will be presenting the National Women's History Month Keynote Address on March 28. The lecture will be at 4 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall in the Business and Aerospace Building Room S102.

Safety Training Course for Swim Coaches

The American Red Cross is offering a safety-training course on March 25 for any current or future swim coaches. The course will cost \$25 and will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are no prerequisites to participate, but a community first aid certification is recommended.

Marx, Class, and Revolution

Michael Principe, a professor of philosophy, will be presenting a lecture, "Marx, Class, and Revolution," on March 27. The lecture will be a part of the Honors lecture series and will be from 3 to 3:50 p.m. in Honors Building Room 106.

William and Westy Windham Lecture

Scholar and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Dr. Edward J. Larson will be presenting an open lecture on March 25 for the William and Westy Windham Lecture in Liberal Arts. The lecture will be at 5 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. The lecture will focus on the historic Scopes "Monkey" Trial of 1925.

High-Level S&P Analyst to Speak

Stephen Biggar, director of U.S. Equity Research for Standard & Poor's U.S. Equity Research, will present a speech on March 28 at 6 p.m. in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building. Biggar manages the daily research processes of S&P's equity research analysts, and the speech will focus on the U.S. economy.

Quiz Bowl

The 2006 MTSU Quiz Bowl will be on MTSU 28 at 5:30 p.m. in the TV Studio of the LRC. Teams of four will compete against each other in the quiz bowl, and it costs \$30 for each team to enter. The first place prize will be \$175, second place gets \$75, third place gets \$50, and fourth place will have

the chance of winning \$50 just for entering.

Two by Two

The Wesley Foundation will be presenting the musical "Two by Two" from March 29 to April 2. The musical is a comedy by Richard Rodgers based on the story of Noah's Ark. The tickets are \$3.

Women's Poetry Reading

The Fourteenth Annual International Women's Poetry Reading will be held on March 29 at 3:30 p.m. at the Alumni Building. The poetry reading will be in accordance with National Women's History Month.

Representations of Self and Identity in American Pop Music

Tom Brinthaup, psychology professor, will perform his lecture, "Representations of Self and Identity in American Popular Music," on March 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. in the Seminar Room in the Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors College Building. The informal lecture will be a contribution to the lecture series "Perspectives on Popular Music."

Gore: "Speaks on environment"

Continued from 1

According to Brendan Martian, the faculty advisor for SEA, Gore's lecture kicked off a week of films and lectures, which includes today, to bring awareness to mountain-top mining.

"We want to bring visibility to environmental issues ... and with the person who is probably the most famous environmental speaker in the last generation, we thought this was a great way to do that," said Martian, who is also a history professor.

During his lecture, Gore discussed three major factors that have contributed to the alteration of the Earth's environment.

He said human population has risen so drastically in the past century that it has had a significant impact on the environment.

In 50 years alone, the population has increased from two billion to about 6.5 billion and is projected to rise to about nine million in coming generations.

An increase in technology along with the greater number of people using that technology has also contributed to the problem. As more people use technology that can pollute, such as automobiles, the damage adds up.

"[Technology] gives us power to do damage we don't even pay attention to," Gore said.

The third problem Gore cited was a change in the way people think regarding recycling. He said in the past, the notion of recycling was a daily way of life of reuse and being more economical. Gore said the new, modern way of thinking has the assumption that there are no consequences.

Gore touch on many of the studies that have been conducted in the past six months that have contributed to the "picture scientists have been painting."

He said the atmosphere is so thin that it does not take much to affect it.

"The molecules of pollution compete with the natural makeup of the atmosphere and changes it," Gore said.

When the holes in the ozone became evident, the composition of chlorine atoms, a trace gas in the atmosphere, had been changed by 600 percent. He said the impact people can have on the atmosphere and environment.

"[The ozone hole] illustrated for the first time the vulnerability of the atmosphere to what we're

doing," Gore said.

If the trends of pollution continue, the thickening of green house gasses in the atmosphere will have a drastic affect on the environment, namely global warming. The occurrence have caused a multitude of problems including the gradual melting of the polar icecaps, sea levels rising and a "scrambling" of the seasons.

Gore also discussed the level of carbon dioxide gasses in the oceans, which is just as high as in the atmosphere. He said a new study shows that the volume of CO2 in oceans is now so great, that sea creatures are producing weaker shells. This is because the carbonic acid dissolves the calcium carbonate used to produce shells and skeletons.

"We really have to look at the dangers we're facing and it's not just in the atmosphere, but in the ocean," Gore said.

Gore managed to put an optimistic spin on the lecture when he said crisis also brings opportunity.

"In order to get at the opportunity, we have to face down the danger," he said.

He said many people believe the warnings are "just hype" and are skeptical of evidence reported in the media. He said since the facts that support global warming are typically complicated, people are not willing to invest time to understand the information.

But Gore said the evidence for the changes our environment has gone through are evident, such as hurricane Katrina and the outbreak of tropical diseases in the United States.

"This is the most serious crisis we've ever faced," Gore said. "The consequences of ignoring these warnings would be unimaginable."

Despite this, Gore says he is an optimist and believes the problems will be successfully solved.

"We as Americans represent a shared determination that things have to change," he said.

"We are on the verge of a tipping point, but we have to be a part of it."

He said along with solving the environmental problems, there is also the opportunity to create new jobs and technology.

"In order to face up to the danger and seize the opportunity, we need to act," Gore said. "We have within our grasp everything we need, save perhaps political will. But in America, political will is a renewable resource."



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more information.

By Michaela Jackson
Managing Editor

"It's a major thing going on, and most people don't even realize it," said Linda Hardyman.

In addition to paper and aluminum, the Center for Energy Efficiency also recycles fluores-

Between June 2002 and March 2005, the program collected \$32,512, according to Matt Elrod-Erickson, a biology professor who acted as one of the program's coordinators before the Center for Energy Efficiency took it over last spring.

In May, the recycling program was moved from the biology

The recyclables are collected largely by student workers, Hardymon said. Work studies students work roughly 15 hours per week, based on their sched-

"[The program] is fun in its own way—it's different," Elrod-Erickson said. "I didn't do this because it's fun, though, but because it is environmentally sound and it sets a good example. Plus, it was doing a lot of good for biology students."

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

Candidates must provide three letters of recommendation, no more than five samples of published work presented in a clean professional format, an "editor's philosophy statement", and a completed Sidelines application. Official transcripts from all institutions of higher education attended must be included in the application package. One of the letters of recommendation must be from a faculty member or journalism professional. Questions should be directed to Sidelines Advisor Fern Greenbank, School of Journalism, ext. 2205, mgreenba@mt-u.edu

Editor-in-Chief

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FEATURES

MTSU Prof. solves 90-year mystery

By Casey Phillips
Features Editor

Outside of the world's shooting ranges and galleries, finding an empty bullet casing without a story to tell is a rare thing.

When that same casing is corroded, speckled with dirt and rust from lying nearly 90 years in the mud of the French countryside—its deadly contents expelled during one of World War I's greatest acts of heroism—the story is bound to be worth retelling.

Until recently, a nearly nine-decade discrepancy had endured surrounding the exact location where Cpl. Alvin York—who was later immortalized by Gary Cooper as Sgt. York in a film of the same name—and seven survivors of his 17-man patrol captured a German company of more than 130 men during October 1918.

Thomas Nolan, a professor of geosciences and the director of the R.O. Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology, led a five-man interdisciplinary research team to Châtel-Cheréry in the Argonne Forest of Northeastern France over spring break to uncover truth behind the mystery. There he employed a combination of various geographic technologies bridging archaeology and history to zero in on the site.

"One of the things I was interested in was using geography, specifically geographic information systems, to integrate the historical and archaeological records in a holistic way," Nolan said, while working to build a 3-D digital model of the site on his computer. He expressed a long-standing interest in this combination of fields, having worked on several previous projects mapping out Civil War-era locations in Tennessee in the past, including the Battle of Stones River and the Civil War Engagement at Liberty Gap.

"We had the written accounts and historic maps [of the area], and we used those to relate to the modern terrain," he explained. His references included World War I-era German and French regional contour maps, the latter of which he described as "grossly inaccurate." "We then used global positioning systems to navigate to where we thought the event took place and were able to verify that with our metal detectors."

Their search proved successful—despite the inaccurate reference materials. They found many empty casings, and many untold stories. York, who began the war proclaiming pacifism as grounds for conscientious objection, utilized his shooting prowess—a byproduct of frequently hunting near his home in Pall Mall, Tenn.—to deadly effect. In addition to 162 spent rounds from the Model 08 German water-cooled machine guns that fired down on his party, killing six and wounding two, Nolan's team uncovered 12 of the 15 casings from the Enfield 1917 rifle the 31-year-old corporal used to silence the men manning those same guns.

Those shells will be donated to the Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Site in Pall Mall, Tenn., and the team is working to have them matched to York's rifle, which is currently displayed at the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville. Nolan expressed surprise at finding as many cartridges as his team did, citing a common practice of local towns to scavenge for metal at battlesites.

"We found out that, in the 1950s, the French citizens in that village were in need of employment and income to the point that they were willing to go through the woods and look for spent cartridges," Nolan said.

Rounds from the .45-caliber Colt Model 1911 pistol York used to kill six German soldiers bearing

down on him have eluded the team thus far, Nolan said. Although the team's findings are highly conclusive, he suggested that finding those cartridges would make their discovery definitive.

"[Our conclusion] is highly probable, but nothing is 100 percent certain," Nolan explained. "We were only in the field for four days the first time.

"We felt like it was something important to do, and if we had to wait on somebody else to fund it, it might not ever have happened."

Nolan said he hopes to fund future work at the site through donations and an as-yet-untitled documentary currently being worked on by the team's videographer, David Curry, the executive director

War I has never been completely told. There are a lot of different perspectives, and there's never been a documentary form within the context in which things happened. I think there's something to the story of Tennesseans going back to World War I Europe to tell the story of another Tennessean."

The results of the team's work weren't limited to decaying ammunition and film interviews with locals. Nolan's office in Kirksey Old Main has several plastic bags filled with assorted artifacts of World War I the team recovered, including a heavily rusted muzzle cover for a German Mauser infantry rifle and a piece of a leather carrying harness that was standard on German uniforms of the period.

In addition to solving the long-standing mystery surrounding York's act, the team had a separate objective: helping to improve the lackluster local economy.

"There's not much infrastructure for tourism in that part of France," Nolan said. "We wanted to encourage the development of tourism by developing some of the World War I historic sites that relate to the American presence there. [The French] are actually interested in building a monument and establishing a park there."

An aluminum mess kit riddled with small holes due to exposure to the elements was recovered by the French and given to Nolan's team—one of many examples of the coordination and support the locals provided the researchers during their four days of field work.

"[The soldier's] name and where he was from were etched in the back," Curry said. "A

Frenchman found it and gave it to us to see if we could locate the man's family. I think the French feel a lot of gratitude [toward Americans]—York is seen as much as a French hero as an American hero over there."

York's commendations for his act included the French Croix de Guerre and Legion of Honor, the Italian Croce di Guerra and the American Medal of Honor. He is considered by many to be the greatest hero of World War I and this is why his story continues to hold public interest, Nolan and Curry said.

"I think, in some ways, he already is a timeless hero," Curry said. "He was an ordinary individual thrown into extraordinary circumstances, and he overcame."

If an empty shell lying in the dirt of the Argonne Forest had been better aimed, however, the tale of the hero from Fentress County might have had a tragically different ending.

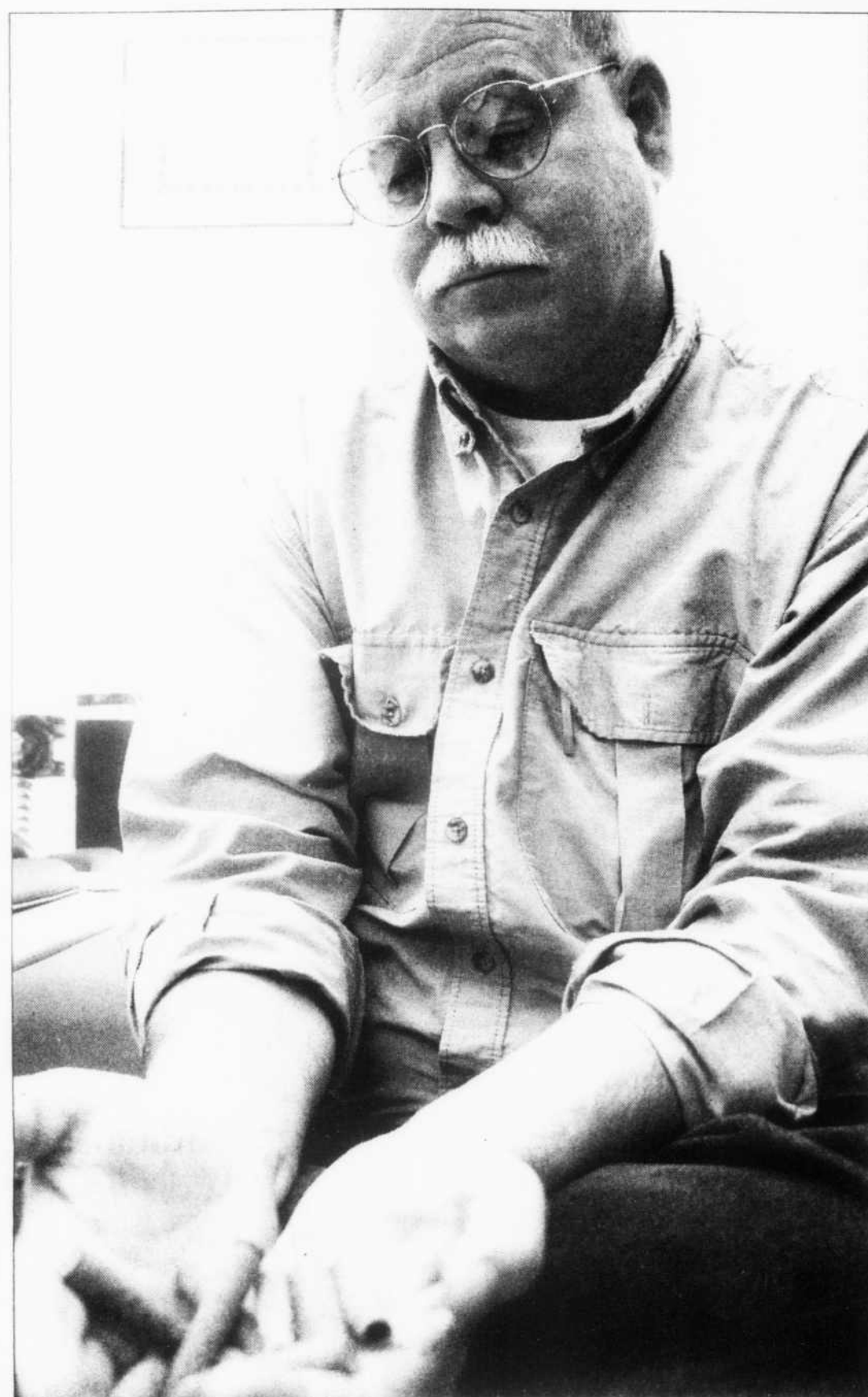


Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
Geosciences Professor Tom Nolan displays some of the spoils of war he returned with from his research trip to the Argonne Forest in France.

We're fairly confident, but it would take more field work to make it definite."

Nolan, who funded the majority of the expedition out of his own pocket, said he hopes publicity generated by his finding will help defray the cost of future field work at the site.

"We paid for our own way over there," he said.

of Traveller's Rest Plantation and Museum in Nashville. Curry said he sees value in telling the story of contemporary Americans tracing the paths and deeds of older generations during the Great War.

"I think [York's story] is extremely significant," he said. "I think the real story of York in World

I think, in some ways, [York] already is a timeless hero. He was an ordinary individual thrown into extraordinary circumstances, and he overcame.

David Curry
Executive director of
Traveller's Rest Plantation
and Museum

Pistole: Smoker, world traveler, Irishman



By Jessy Yancey
Staff Writer

Every college campus, including MTSU, has a few recognizable faces everyone knows. There's the dark-haired woman at the Bistro in the Mass Comm building who always strikes up a conversation; the guy who jogs the same route every Tuesday and Thursday around Peck Hall; and then there's Mr. Neal Pistole.

You may have given him books to check out, argued with him about library fines or just seen him outside of the building smoking a cigarette on his break. The lanky man in his uniform of jeans and a T-shirt has long, straight hair that curls slightly at the ends, an even longer, graying beard and faded blue eyes—that look as if he's seen the whole world.

He's only seen most of it. Lloyd Neal Pistole has visited and lived in more countries than most of us could dream of, but one place will always be closest to his heart: Ireland.

His mother's family is from the North of Ireland, and for the past 20 years, he has visited the country multiple times. He finds many similarities between Ireland and Middle Tennessee and is probably the only person whose cubicle has cutout head of Jim Varney as Ernest attached to a giant red, white and green Irish flag.

"Everybody thinks that they

have a separate culture down here in the South, that Southern hospitality is just something that sprang up in the South," he says. "But it has more to do with where the people in the South came from. A lot of those people are Irish and Scotch-Irish, and they brought that hospitality with them."

He adds that Ireland is an easy place for Americans to move around in.

"It's very natural, at least for Southerners, you know. It feels real comfortable," he says, taking a drag of his cigarette. "The pace is slow, the people are friendly."

He also compares the music, claiming that it links the two cultures together: "Irish music is similar to bluegrass, you know—same roots."

Bluegrass is Pistole's favorite type of music, although he doesn't play.

"I can't even play a radio," he jokes.

Still, his favorite type of bluegrass is instrumental. "Without the caterwauling that goes with it," he says in his low baritone voice.

Although Pistole sounds like a true southerner, he didn't move to Tennessee until he was six. A born traveler, he lived on naval bases all over the world.

"You have to bear in mind that when I was born, my father was in Korea on an aircraft carrier," he says, adding that he and his mom, brother and sister lived in California while his father was fighting in the Korean War.

His ancestors have lived in Tennessee since as early as 1636, but his parents broke the trend, living in the Philippine Islands before moving back to their home state.

"I was a little bit confused as a child," he says, recalling the move from the islands to McMinnville, Tenn.

"I couldn't find a beach anywhere."

In the decades since, Pistole has found much more than beaches as he traveled the world.

"Most of Western Europe I've been to," he says. "I've been to all of the British Isles." He adds several more countries to his list—France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Austria and all over the Far East.

"Well, not all over the Far East," he corrects himself, "but I've been around it."

The former U.S. Army soldier also enjoys Irish history and runs a side business selling various types of Irish militaria.

"There's some things dating back long before the Civil War, when the Irish units were the British army," he says, adding that his historical pieces date back to the 1700s. "I'm still interested in the modern Irish military, which, of course, is very small but has served a peacekeeping role all over the world."

"At one time, I dealt mostly in French stuff," he adds, as Paris is one of the many cities in which he has lived. While there, he lived on a cargo boat.

"Pretty pleasant way to spend the days, you know, sitting in the heart of Paris," he remembers. "The American tourists would go by in a boat, pointing at you and saying, 'There's a typical Frenchman!'"

Of course, Pistole wasn't a real "Frenchman," but he does have a bachelor's degree in French and worked on his master's until his father became ill. Then, he stopped concentrating on his degree, deciding to focus his attentions closer to home.

"Never finished the paper," he says, adding that it would have been on European history, the French revolution and the Napoleonic era. "When he died, I just kind of dropped everything for a while,

About every year or two I get that urge; it's time to break free, time to get on the airplane and go somewhere.

—Neal Pistole

Submitted Photo
Neal Pistole celebrates St. Patrick's day during a festival in Cork, Ireland.

See Pistole, 5

Late-night show: Neil Diamonds are forever



Photo by Cameron Chiles

Elizabeth Jenkins runs her show, Galaxy Cannibalism, Friday mornings from midnight to 2 a.m.

By Cameron Chiles
Staff Writer

About halfway down an otherwise blank hallway in the second floor of the LRC, an off-white, back-lit sign with red lettering reads "WMTS ON AIR." The sign isn't on, but it's also after midnight and the building is nearly empty.

Inside the first room next to the light, posters and stickers overlap each other on the walls and doors. The two rooms of the WMTS studio in the Learning Resources Center look like the ideal music-geek hang-out, complete with shelves full of vinyl albums and CDs, worn-in, non-matching furniture and a Nintendo Entertainment System with a cracked hatch.

"It still works," said Elizabeth Jenkins, aka DJ Elbee, from behind the broadcast equipment.

Elbee was putting on her weekly show, Galaxy Cannibalism, Friday morning from midnight to 2 a.m.

Her show sounds like you might guess from the title: sometimes spacey, sometimes goofy, always epic. She spoke after her musical selections with a brightness and clarity that didn't seem natural at such an hour, injecting enthusiasm

into the concert calendar.

"I try to get excited about the concert calendar because no one else does," she said.

Jenkins said that her roommate occasionally joins her on the air, but for the most part, her job at WMTS entails sitting by herself, pressing buttons, speaking after every fifth or sixth song and listening to music.

"It's kind of strange, being alone in here so late at night," she said. "You feel like you're talking to yourself sometimes."

Tonight, Elbee's play list included selections from Cursive, Autolux, Death From Above 1979, Weezer and the legendary Neil Diamond, whose relatively new song sounded something like a sea chantey. With such a wide range of styles featured on her show, one might wonder what the concept behind her show is. Elbee says Galaxy Cannibalism is made with atmosphere in mind.

"I try to pick songs that will put my listeners in a certain mood, and also songs that reflect my own mood," she said.

Jenkins is a sophomore and a journalism major, so one might wonder why she chose WMTS as a creative outlet.

"Really, I do it for myself. I'm a

music control-freak. I like dictating what's played."

After seeing an ad for WMTS in the paper last Summer, Jenkins decided to look further into MTSU's radio program. Her show began this semester.

"I haven't listened to myself yet, but I would if I had the chance," she said.

Though Elbee's show hasn't been around long, she said she occasionally gets calls from listeners—despite how late she works.

"That's been the most rewarding thing, to know that people listen to my show on their way home or something," she said. "I get some requests, too. Somebody requested My Chemical Romance once, but ... I don't do that."

Elbee cited lack of creative control at most radio stations as the reason why she remains unsure about pursuing a career in DJing, but she stills considers the experience valuable.

"The program really teaches you something about broadcast. I would recommend it to anybody, especially to other music control freaks."

Additional information on DJ Elbee and Galaxy Cannibalism can be found at <http://galaxycannibalism.tk>

Pistole: A familiar face

Continued from 4

turned away from it. Not to say it couldn't be picked back up, [but] these things get harder to pick back up as the years go by."

A devoted father, Pistole tries to spend as much time with his children as he can. Currently, he is helping his 16-year-old son, Niles, become an Eagle Scout.

"I joined Cub Scouts in 1959, at the age of eight, when everybody joins the Cub Scouts," he says in his easygoing tone. "I've done something with Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts ever since. There have been spells of a few years where I didn't work with them—when I was burnt out—but I always go back."

Pistole also has a 14-year-old daughter, Nealy.

"My ex-wife insisted on it," he

says, referring to her name, which is his with a 'y.'

Revealing that he's "happily divorced," Pistole grins. "I traded her in for a cat," he says matter-of-factly. "Best deal I ever made."

Pistole spends his days working in the circulation department of the library. He worked at the old Todd Library for seven years and has been at the new library for a little more than six.

"It's a beautiful structure," he says of his workplace. "The first time I saw it, I was just..."—he pauses, his words hanging in the air—"awed by it. It's like a cruise ship in there."

Other than creating artwork and building miniature models, Pistole loves to sleep away his time outside of work.

"I figure I'm probably 10 or 12

years behind on sleep throughout the course of my life," he says.

"I'm kind of hopin' when I die they just let me sleep for a few years."

Although he's one of those people students see in or around the library almost every day, Pistole has seen and experienced more of the world than most of us ever will.

"That probably reflects kind of how I was brought up, you know, moving around a lot," he explains. "About every year or two I get that urge; it's time to break free, time to get on the airplane and go somewhere."

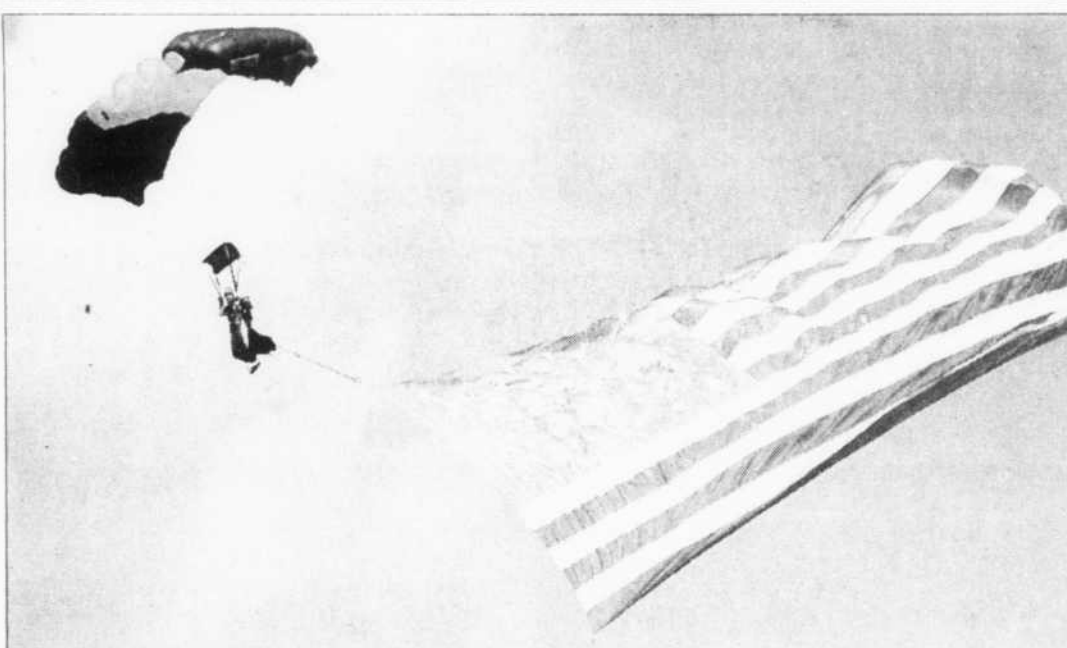
He pauses for a moment, as if remembering some faraway place. "That's the carrot I keep dangling in front of myself to keep going."

News Tip

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© Photo by Gregory O. Johnson

Marci Johnson of the women's skydiving group "Misty Blues" jumps with a flag in the recent air show.

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OPINIONS

'World's fastest growing religion' confuses Hollywood film stars

By DeAnn Currey
Staff Writer

Celebrities swear by it. Some even go as far to claim that by believing in and practicing it made their careers. But is that really the case?

Celebrities are flocking to Scientology by the dozens. Hollywood "A-listers" such as Tom Cruise, John Travolta, Jenna Elfman and Kristie Alley all swear by this so-called religion whose main goal is to find meaning in the world.

The religion began in 1954 by L. Ron Hubbard. He began the religion in hope of helping people with their problems. The religion has become very popular over the past several years, especially with celebrities. Currently there are more than 8 million scientologists worldwide and in 2005 it was the fastest growing religion.

The word scientology itself comes from the Latin word "scio" and the Greek word "logos." When translated the word itself means "from the truth."

I don't understand how a person can follow this religion since it was made up by a person. Basically Hubbard sat down and made up a religion that he thought others would be intrigued by. He made up the rules and he wrote all the books that followers are expected to live by. He may have had good intentions but I think the basis of his religion is non-sense, especially since part of the reli-

gion is based on aliens.

To me it seems Hubbard was playing God or maybe he just wanted to have the power that God has by followers. Whether or not you are a religious person, I do not feel that is a good idea to be something that you are not. A person should not get praise for making up a religion off the top of their heads.

There are more than 15,000 pages of scripture that followers live their life by. In order to be an active follower of scientology, one must participate in trainings; I personally believe this is just a way to make money. To me this religion seems like a cult or maybe it only appeals to the people that have thousands and thousands of dollars to spend on their religions.

Followers of the religion are quick to stand up for their beliefs. For example, just last week, "South Park" cast member Isaac Hayes quit his job on the show because of the show poking fun of Scientology.

I am all about a person supporting their religion and each person has the right and freedom to decide what religion they want to follow and practice. I personally think, however, that Scientology has gotten out of hand. Celebrities are going crazy over this religion. To a point, Scientology seems to be turning the celebrity followers even wilder than they previously were. Think Tom Cruise, need I say more?

Tom Cruise is most definitely one person who is constantly

defending Scientology to fans, other celebrities and reporters. According to NBC's "Dateline," Cruise claims he has been involved with Scientology for 17 years.

Actress Jenna Elfman claims that she intends to make

Scientology as accessible to as many people as possible. "It's my duty to clear the planet by helping people get rid of negative thoughts and emotions," Elfman said on ABC News' website.

Some of the beliefs that are

held by Scientologists aren't so out there. For example, they believe that man is basically good, not evil. This seems normal enough to me, but it's when they start believing in aliens that I tend to question the reliability of this religion.

I guess the old saying, "Each to their own," is definitely true, especially when dealing with religion.

DeAnn Currey is a junior Mass Communications major and can be reached at jdc3v@mtsu.edu.

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IN MEMORIAM



TOM DASCHLE
1987 - 2005

Sixty Second Interview on the Grassy Knoll

This week's compelling question was: How do you feel about Issac Hayes quitting as the voice of Chef on "South Park?"

Senior Recording Industry major Robert Hassel, "I think his reasons are dumb. They make fun of other religions enough he should have realized they would make fun of his."

Sophomore Journalism major Ashlee Ramey said, "I think it sucks for 'South Park,' but I really don't watch it."

Jeremy Davis, a sophomore Electronic Media Production major, said with a casual shrug, "It doesn't affect me. I don't watch 'South Park.'"

Joe Quarles, a Pre-Nursing major said, "I had heard that there was conflict between him and the writers. He didn't say anything when they made fun of Christianity but he had a problem when they poked fun at Scientology. As a former science major, I can say that Scientology is a load of bunk. You can take apart its belief system so easily. He's a hypocrite to blow a gasket when they made fun of his belief system."

Senior Katie Lancaster a Child Development and Family Studies major simple said, "I don't watch 'South Park.'"

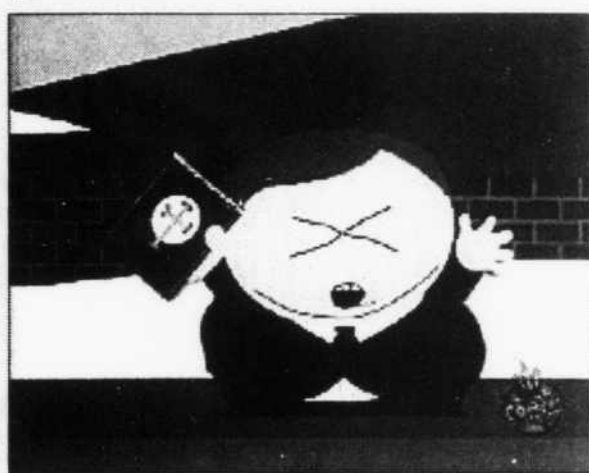


Photo © Comedy Central
One wonders what 'South Park' schoolboy Cartman would have to say about Chef's desertion.

Liberal influence keeps Bush's ratings down

By Tim Hill
Opinions Editor

Professional journalistic standards are keeping me from writing what I really want to say today. However, I'll do my best to convince all of you of the dangers the Bush administration is facing as the war on terrorism rages on.

I've been catching all of the headlines about the death penalty trial of Zacarias Moussawi. He is the on-again, off-again admitted member of Al Qaeda. Zac, as I'll now call him, was training to fly. He wanted to use that training to eventually hijack an airliner to attack the White House. Because he pled guilty, the federal government is pushing for the death penalty. They shouldn't be.

I know it has been our long-standing position to always pursue the death penalty against terrorists—with the lone exception of certain plea bargain arrangements. Moussawi had a history of outbursts in court during his first so-called trial. He also enjoyed firing and replacing his defense lawyers. The Constitution is not on Zac's side here because it was not written for non-citizens. I know this sounds un-Christianlike, but it is a fact.

The Justice Department has its own challenges to face during this death penalty phase of Zac's trial. Since Zac was kind enough

to plead guilty and thereby save Americans millions of dollars at trial, the harshest penalty Bush should push for is life imprisonment without the possibility of "Dateline" interviews—or parole. Moussawi's only chance of release should be a likely pardon by a future Democratic president on her last day in office.

Zac may have made a mistake in pleading guilty outside the creation of any plea bargain agreement. Death penality like me want the death penality to be used as a deterrent to crime. Some Republicans, unlike myself, will "cheer" when the death penalty is carried out regardless of whether the person was a terrorist.

As I've watched this phase of Zac's trial, I can't help but be upset about how indirectly liberals have been influencing the outcome. The federal judge presiding over the death penalty phase of Zac's trial was appointed by former President Bill Clinton in October 1993. It's likely that this judge has severe ideological differences with President Bush over the very definition of the war on terrorism. So do conservatives, for that matter.

The only thing worse than a Clinton-appointed judge presiding over this trial would be a Carter-appointed judge. By now, Zac would have had all of his original charges thrown out on

the condition he simply apologizes to the nation and the FAA for making their jobs harder.

There are other ways that liberal judges tend to deal major blows to the Bush administration. Even though President Bush and the GOP tend to promote policies where the wealthy have the advantage, it doesn't mean they don't care about securities fraud. After Enron went bust, the President proposed pension reform and also had then-SEC Chairman Harvey Pitt "pop a cap" in the corporate world. However, as CEOs and other law-breakers got indicted, Democratic-appointed judges tended to preside over some of the biggest cases.

Don't get me wrong. Liberals don't want another attack to occur and kill thousands of Americans. All liberals do not want the federal government to take over industry, in their ideal world. However, when Democratic-appointed judges have presided over the trials of terrorists and CEOs (not to be confused), terrorists find their defenses helped, and CEOs find themselves catching a tee time after their congressional visits.

Tim Hill is the Opinions Editor, a rich conservative pig, and can be reached at stlopinio@mtsu.edu.

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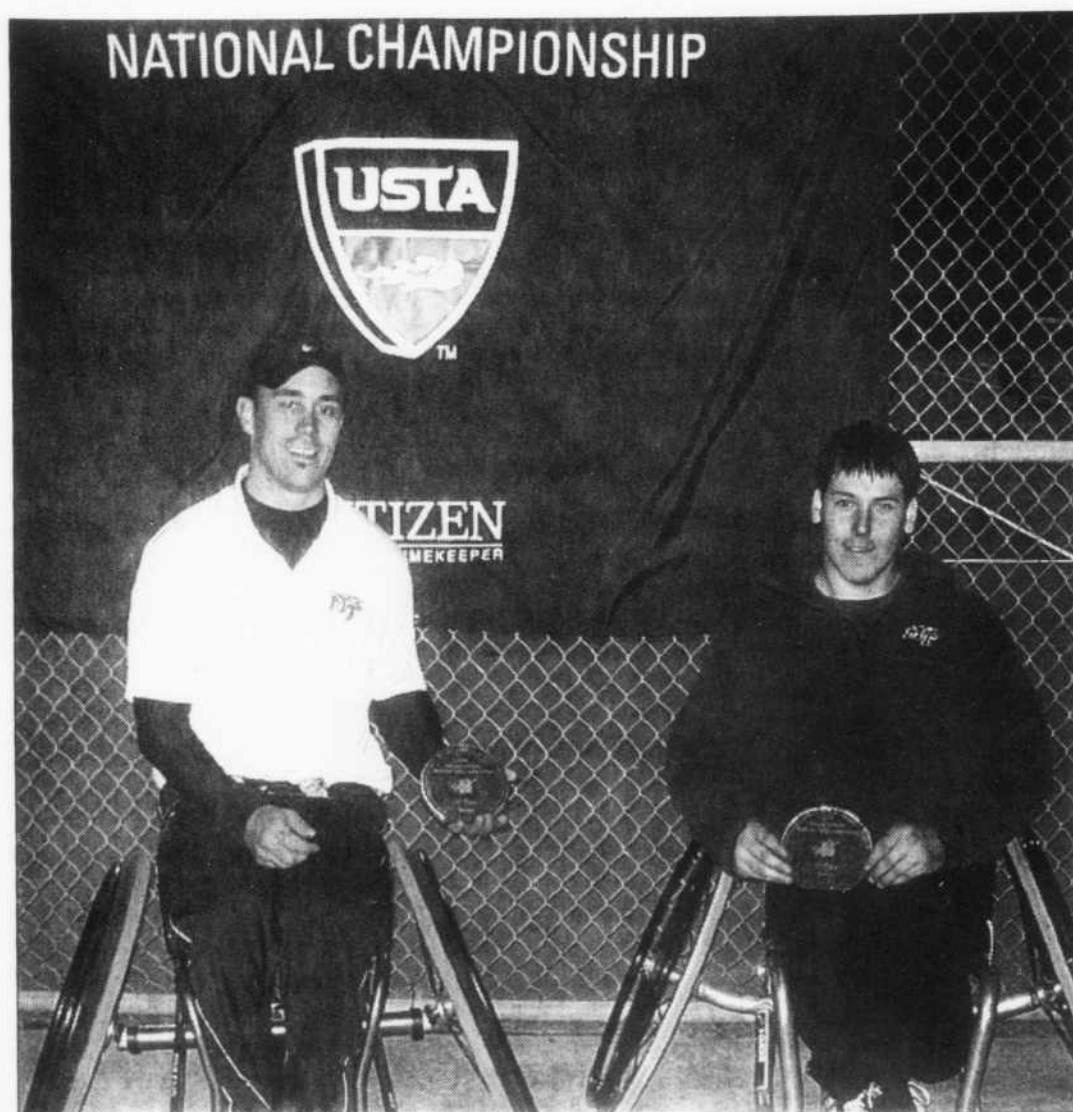
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SPORTS



Michael Paul and Kevin Green pose with their awards after winning the title this weekend.

National champs on wheelchair tennis team

By David Hunter
Sports Editor

The term "National Champions" is something seldom heard on the MTSU campus. For the Wheelchair Tennis duo of Michael Paul and Kevin Green this phrase fits them perfectly because they are.

On the campus of Northwestern State University, just outside the city of Shreveport, La., the duo competed at the Wheelchair Tennis National Championships last weekend winning the doubles title.

The team had to deal with adversity, as the weather was less than ideal and Paul battled the flu.

Rain was moving through the area, and NSU does not have indoor courts. The team had to wait for a break in the weather. The weather cleared on Saturday night and the tournament finally started.

In the round-robin format, the duo won their first match, 8-2. During the match Paul and Green tried to keep themselves warm and hydrated despite the cold weather.

At about 1:30 a.m. Sunday morning, MT's goal was reached with an 8-6 win over a duo from

Northwestern State, Matt Burroughs and Denver Metro State's Charles Burns.

"By winning the championship it will possibly lead to more support from our university and help funding our program," Paul said.

The win was meaningful to Paul personally as well. "I was hoping to win a national championship myself, because I'm a senior and I won't be able to participate next year," he said.

The win marked the third consecutive national title for Green, who won the previous two with partner Russell Rodriguez.

"It [winning] is great; one the main reasons I came to college is to get better at tennis," Green said. "This year was more of a challenge, just because me and the other guy hadn't played that much together. It was nice to have another undefeated season."

In singles play, Green finished second, losing to LSU's Shane Theroitt in the finals. Paul lost to Theroitt in the opening round of the tournament.

Last month, Green and Paul won the doubles at the MTSU tournament. They also played each other in the finals of the singles with Paul winning the match 7-5, 6-3.

Blue Raiders begin spring football practice

Stockstill, Blue Raiders prepare for annual spring game

After an eventful offseason that has seen several players graduate or move on, the Middle Tennessee football team began their much anticipated spring drills March 14.

New Head Coach Rick Stockstill and his staff saw a lot of positives and negatives during the first week of practice, during which the team donned t-shirts and shorts.

The team began its first workout with fundamentals and concluded the session with the Blue Raider offense going against the defense.

Stockstill and his staff expressed their pleasure with the team's effort and enthusiasm during their first week of work to gob-lueraiders.com.

On Saturday, March 18, the team wore full pads for the first time.

The practice was arguably a typical Spring practice, complete with several mistakes and a few exciting performances.

Currently, the offense has looked impressive after strong practices from tailbacks Eugene Gross and DeMarco McNair and tight end Stephen Chicola.

However, questions remain about the transition of quarterback Clint Marks to receiving snaps from under center.

Defensively, Bradley Robinson performed well in the secondary, but the Blue Raiders still have several holes to fill up front after the loss of defensive tackles Quinton Staton and Devarick Scandrett.

After practicing four days a week during the next two weeks, the team will cap off Spring practice with the annual Blue-White spring game on Saturday, April 8.

Former MT player honored by National Football Foundation

Former Middle Tennessee football player Devarick Scandrett was honored March 9 at the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame's annual banquet at the Millennium Maxwell House.

Scandrett earned the Coach Bill Pace University Scholar-Athlete award, which is presented each year to the top university football scholar-athlete in the Middle Tennessee area.

The award is based on scholarship, sportsmanship, and value to the team. Scandrett is the first MT player to win the Bill Pace award.

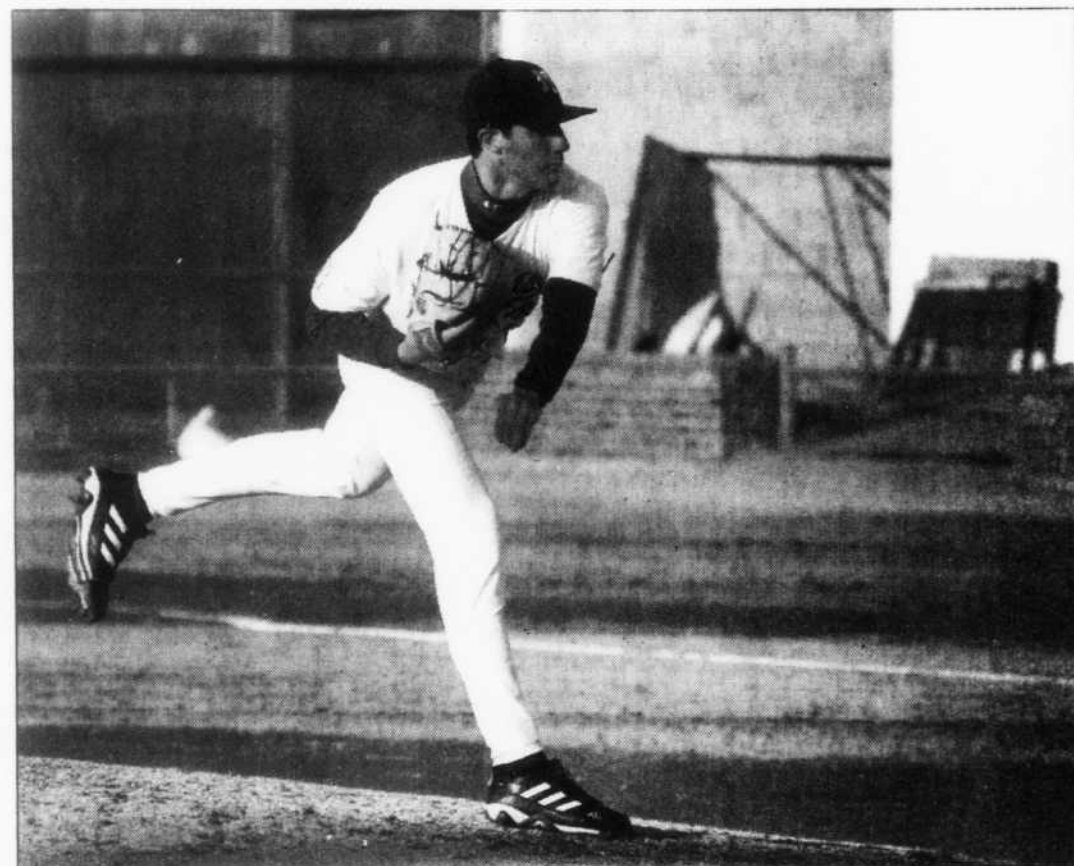
Scandrett adds this honor to another prestigious one, as he was also the recipient of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete award as one of seven college players honored from the Middle Tennessee region.

This award is based on academic accomplishments and success on the football field.

The former Blue Raider defensive lineman joins last year's winner Thomas Johnson and 2004 winner Joey Montalbano as the only Blue Raiders to win the scholar-athlete award.

Scandrett, who has a 3.3 GPA, started all 11 games last year and totaled a career-best 33 tackles, three sacks, five quarterback hurries, and 5.5 tackles for loss.

Scandrett ended his career with 95 total tackles, 12 sacks, and 16.5 tackles for loss. He played in a total of 46 games during his Blue Raider career and started 19 times.



File Photo

MT pitcher Shay Horseman throws the ball during the Missouri State series during the weekend of March 3-5. The Blue Raiders faces Arkansas-Little Rock this weekend.

Baseball opens SBC play

By Russell Luna
Staff Writer

The cliché there is no place like home is a perfect fit for the road-weary Middle Tennessee baseball team. Last weekend's series at Birmingham-Southern, ended a stretch of 13 road games out of 17 for the Blue Raiders. Middle Tennessee will look to start over this weekend after dropping 10 games out of their last 13, during this weekend's opener of the 2006 Sun Belt Conference schedule against Arkansas-Little Rock.

Middle Tennessee's struggles have resulted mainly from driving runners in. The Blue Raiders are batting .312, but the team has only knocked in 58 runs out of 184 chances. At last weekend's series against Birmingham Southern, which resulted in two losses, the Blue Raiders were a combined two for nine in runs batted in.

Matt Scott and Tyler Copeland

are slated to be the Friday and Saturday starters for this weekend's contest against UALR. Scott has picked up two wins, including an inning 9-0 shutout against Southern Illinois on March 10th. Copeland received his first loss of the season last Friday after pitching 3 1/3 innings allowing six hits, eight runs (two of those earned), while fanning four. Jeff Kasser or Brett Reilly could be named the starter for Sunday's contest.

Arkansas-Little Rock enters SBC play with an overall record of 17-9, which is third best in the conference. Middle Tennessee (6-10) is the only team in the SBC to have a losing record, as they trail the 11-10 Arkansas State Indians. The Trojans have won seven out of their last eight games and are coming into conference play as one of the best teams, after outscoring their opponents 28 to 17. Jacob Stover, Matt King and Ryan Gotcher lead the Trojans

with a combined nine homeruns, 57 runs batted in and 99 hits.

Pitcher Trevor Clay (4-0, 4.17) will most likely get a start this weekend against Middle Tennessee after tossing a complete game and getting a 2-1 victory over Texas-Pan American Saturday. Junior Dustin Turner (4-1, 1.65 ERA) will get Friday's start after pitching a solid 27 1/3 innings allowing only seven runs and fanning 20. Adam Miller will be slated for a Saturday start, as Miller has made 11 appearances and accumulated four wins and one loss, with a 2.22 ERA.

The Blue Raiders will open up play tomorrow, weather permitting. Five games for the 2006 season have been cancelled due to inclement weather. The Blue Raiders will play Friday and Saturday's game at 7 p.m., while completing the three game series on Sunday at 2 p.m.

MT Women's Softball prepares for Louisville Classic tournament

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

After spring break Middle Tennessee softball (7-19-1) came back preparing itself for games last weekend against Mississippi State and Southeast Missouri State. Inclement weather postponed both games, though now the team is preparing for their next challenge—the Louisville Classic this weekend.

The top player of the tournament for the Blue Raiders is recent Sun Belt Player of the Week Muriel Ledbetter. Coaches and players are hoping to see a repeat of her performance from the Trust Classic and Stanford Tournament.

The junior infielder from Collierville, Tenn. now has five home runs and a .339 bat-

ting average.

"She's hitting against good pitching, not just weak pitchers," MT softball head coach Leigh Podlesny said. "So I'd be happy if she'd just be consistent through the year."

As the team prepares for the upcoming tournament, the players Podlesny would like to see step up to the mound, not only in this tournament but throughout the season, are the pitchers.

"I would like to see [the pitchers] continuing to improve on their control and their ability to move the ball and to minimize mistakes that they can control such as walks and keeping the ball in the ballpark," Podlesny said.

Freshman Laura Moore and junior Trish White have kept the momentum up in the past few tournaments. Moore, who has

pitched the most games this season, is 5-8 and White is 1-6.

MT is coming off a 1-3 record at the Stanford Tournament March 9-11. They won the last game against Miami of Ohio 7-6 March 11. Yesterday, MT played a double-header against Southeast Missouri State (7-17-1).

The Blue Raiders will take on the host school, Louisville on Friday at 1:30 p.m. The Cardinals are ranked No. 21 in the nation and have a 17-2 record on the season.

UL swept the University of Missouri over the weekend, 2-0, 7-6 and 4-0. The Cardinals have won seven games in a row coming into the classic.

The leading pitcher on the team is Catherine Bishop, who is 10-1 with a .58 ERA. The leading hitter is outfielder/infield-

er Leslie Garland with a .385 batting average.

In the second game, MT faces the Eastern Michigan University Eagles at 10 a.m. on Saturday. The team comes in with a 6-14 record on the season. EMU played in the Kansas Jayhawk Classic March 10-12 and finished with a 1-3 record. The Eagles are 0-5 this season against the Top 25.

Their leading hitter is shortstop Lauren Clark with a .388 batting average. Their leading pitcher is Kelly Tomczak, who is 1-1 with a 3.06 ERA.

After playing Eastern Michigan, MT will take on the defending national champions, University of Michigan, at 4 p.m.

UM is 13-9 on the season with a No. 9 ranking as of March 13. Last weekend, the Wolverines finished the Judi Garman Classic with a 2-3 record. Two of those losses came

in extra innings, 3-2 in 10 innings to No. 10 Louisiana-Lafayette and 3-2 to Utah in eight innings.

UM is lead by center fielder Alessandra Giampaolo with a .348 batting average. Their leading pitcher, Jennie Ritter, is 7-4 with a .96 ERA.

MT's final game is Sunday against the University of Toledo at 12 p.m. The Rockets are 7-12 on the season. March 8, 10, and 11 they played in the Rebel Spring Games, going 2-4.

Their leading hitter is pitcher/utility infielder Lindsey Greer, who has a .667 batting average. Pitcher Andrea Wabot leads the team with an ERA of 4.50.

MT lost to Southeast Missouri State yesterday, 12-3, 11-0.

SPORTS

Four wins for Blue Raider track

By Clarence Plank
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee track team opened the outdoor weekend at the 2006 schedule last weekend at the Alabama Relays on the campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

James Thomas set a new record and Linnie Yarbrough grabbed his first career victory in 110-meter hurdles.

Thomas broke his school record in the hammer throw by one foot and six inches this weekend in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Thomas

set his new record with a distance of 164-8. Willie Parker also set a career-best with a distance of 155-0. Parker's mark was good enough for a ninth place finish.

Fellow teammate Yarbrough also had a career best when he won the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.05. This was Yarbrough's first victory at the Alabama Relays and a personal best for the senior Yarbrough who finished second and third-place as a freshman and sophomore while competing in this event.

VanTonio Fraley won the 200-meters with a time of 21.35, and he finished third

in the 100-meters. Derek Dell finished fifth in the 5000-meters.

Sean Waller, Daryl Terrell and Jermaine Barton finished fourth, fifth and sixth in the 400-meters respectively.

Juan Walker finished fourth in the 110-meter hurdles and placed fifth in the 400-meter hurdles. He also placed sixth in the long jump.

The team of Walker, Fraley, Yarbrough and Terrell won the 4x100-meter relay beating out a tough Mississippi State team. Another team of Jeremy Turner, Pete Senatus, Walker and Yarbrough fin-

ished second in the men's shuttle hurdle relay.

On the women's side, Candice Robertson finished the 100-meter hurdles with a NCAA regional qualifying time of 13.83, for third place. Shanna Kay Campbell placed seventh in the 200-meters.

Erika Palmer, Sierra Douglas, Antraette Stringer and Tiffany Owens finished eighth in the 4x100-meter relay.

The Blue Raiders did not compete in some of the relays last Sunday because of weather issues at the site.

The men's team finished tied for fifth in the overall standings with 18 points. Alabama won the event for the eighth consecutive time with 58 points.

On the women's side, Western Michigan won the event with a total of 55 points.

For more results of the relays go to www.cfpitiming.com.

This weekend the Blue Raiders continue their outdoor season as they head to Clemson, S.C. for the Clemson Relays on March 24-25.

Women's golf place fourth at Samford tourney

By Wade Neely
Staff Writer

For the Middle Tennessee Lady Raider golf team, a trip to the Samford Intercollegiate at Timberline Golf Course was met with mixed results.

The Lady Raiders finished fourth in the tournament a two-day total of 629.

The tournament host, Birmingham Southern University, finished in first place with a total of 602. Second place went to the Jacksonville State Gamecocks, who finished up with a total of 616.

Weather allowed the Lady Raiders to play only 16 holes on Monday, shortening the tournament to 36 holes in the process. The weather was also a factor on Tuesday, as cool temperatures and swirling winds badgered the Lady Raiders all day long.

Despite their hardships, the Lady Raiders posted their second consecutive top-four finish. The Lady Raiders were three shots behind third-place McNeese State University.

MT player Maggie McGill was forced to withdraw from the tournament on Tuesday due to a virus.

Last week McGill was instrumental in the Lady

Raiders victory at the Lady Jaguar Invitational, when she tied a career-best second place finish with a two-day total of 145.

"It was tough losing Maggie but I am proud of the way our girls competed," head coach Rachael Short told MT Media Relations.

Individually, Taryn Durham and Mallory Bishop led the way, tying for fifth place with a total of 133. Durham started off well, shooting a 74 in her first round, while Bishop struggled early, shooting a 78 after 18 holes. The next round would be a different story, however, as Durham struggled on her second

round, posting a 79 to Bishop's 75.

Rounding out the individual scores for the Lady Raiders were Jamey Dillard and Leigh Watkins, who finished up with a 159 and 164, respectively.

The tournament host, Birmingham Southern University, finished in first place with a 602 total. Second place went to the Jacksonville State Gamecocks, who finished up with a total of 616.

The Lady Raiders will be in action again next Monday and Tuesday, when they travel to Texas for the North Texas/Arkansas-Little Rock Golf Classic.

NCAA Men's Tournament gets ready for the Sweet 16

By Jim O'Connell
AP Sports Writer

(AP) - A look at Thursday and Friday's matchups in the NCAA tournament's round of 16 (seedings in parentheses):

Thursday's Games

ATLANTA REGIONAL

Duke (1) vs. LSU (4): The Blue Devils relied heavily on senior stars J.J. Redick and Shelden Williams — they scored 58 of the 70 points — to win the opener against Southern, then had freshmen Josh McRoberts and Greg Paulus make big contributions in the victory over George Washington. There will have to be help again, this time on the boards for Williams as he faces the young frontline of Glen Davis and Tyrus Thomas. When Williams has to sit because of foul trouble, Duke just isn't the same so McRoberts and senior Lee Melchionni will have to help up front to keep him on the court. LSU outrebounds opponents

by almost nine per game and Duke averages almost three less than its opponents, so this will be the statistical key.

West Virginia (6) vs. Texas (2): These teams met in November and LaMarcus Aldridge was a force inside for Texas in a 76-75 win, but the Mountaineers still think there was a foul when he blocked Mike Gansey's last-second shot. Aldridge (15.0 points, 9.0 rebounds) and P.J. Tucker (16.3 points, 9.3 rebounds) are still an impressive force inside for the Longhorns. West Virginia, on the other hand, wants to stay outside. The Mountaineers are one of the worst rebounding teams in the country at nine less per game than their opponents. They take almost as many 3-point attempts as 2s, and 6-foot-11 Kevin Pittsnogle leads the way going 86-for-218 (39.4 percent) from beyond the arc.

OAKLAND REGIONAL

Memphis (1) vs. Bradley (13): If this

were a first-round matchup the clever remarks about how Memphis would dominate would be flying. But, Bradley's wins over Kansas and Pittsburgh suddenly have stopped that and turned the focus to the matchups on the court.

Gonzaga (3) vs. UCLA (2): Adam Morrison, the nation's leading scorer with a 28.6 average, had 35 points in leading Gonzaga to a nail-biting opening win over Xavier, then the rest of the Bulldogs picked him up when he had 14 in the second-round victory over Indiana.

UCLA's backcourt of Jordan Farmar (13.6) and Arron Affalo (16.3) are being picked out as one of the best in the country but Luc Richard Mbah a Moute has been the key up front, averaging 9.0 points and 8.1 rebounds while shooting 59 percent from the field. UCLA is going to try and keep it in the 60s, while Gonzaga wants to see a score in the 80s.

Friday's Games

WASHINGTON REGIONAL

Connecticut (1) vs. Washington (5): These teams are so close in most statistical categories that it makes sense they share the mid-name Huskies as well. Connecticut is considered the most talented team in the field but it certainly hasn't looked that way in two less-than-impressive wins over Albany and Kentucky.

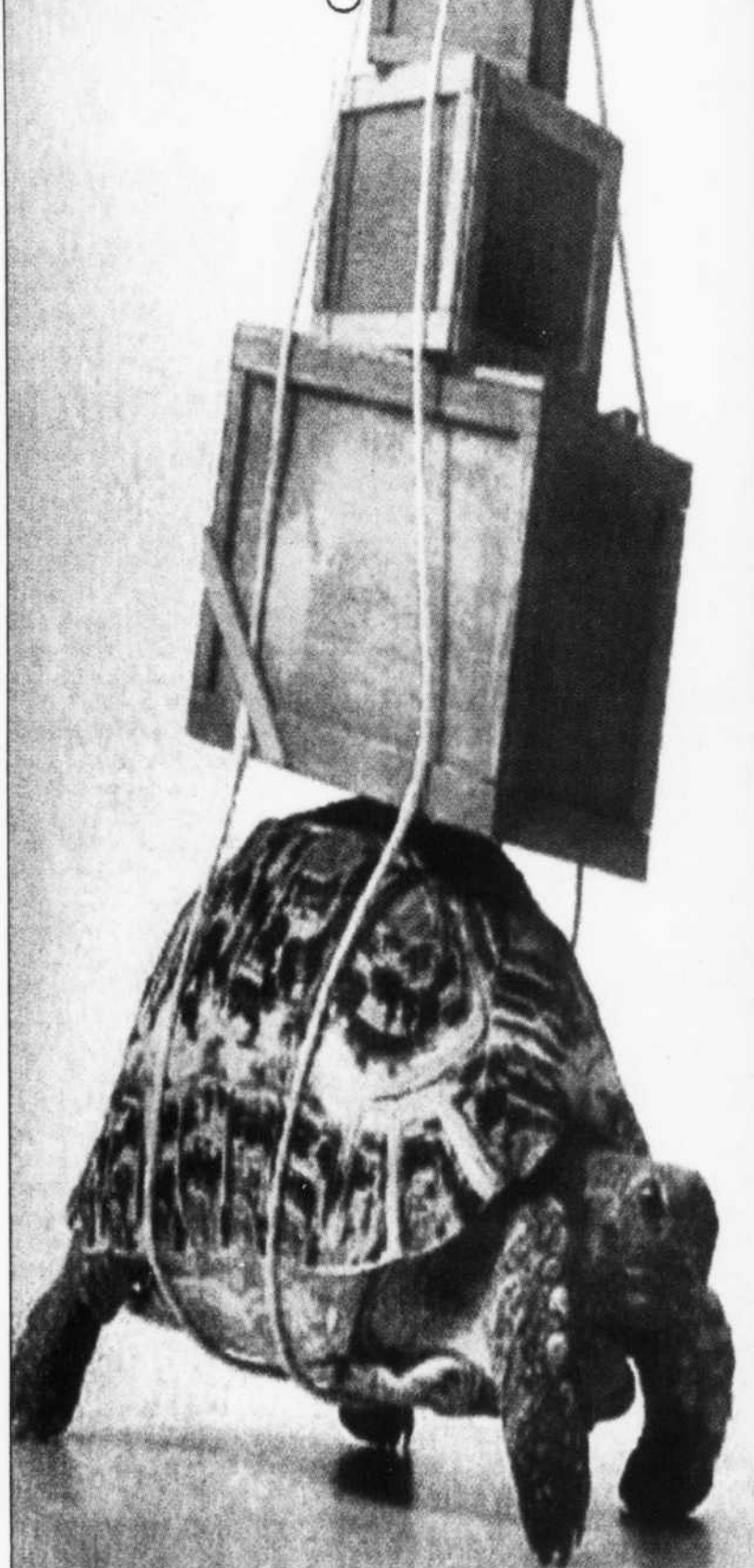
George Mason (11) vs. Wichita State (7): This is the "Bracket Buster" game for two reasons. Obviously, there weren't many people who had these two moving deep into the tournament when they filled out the bracket sheet. And, these teams met Feb. 18, in one of ESPN's Bracket Buster games and George Mason won 70-67 at Wichita State. George Mason's NCAA path is the more impressive — via wins over Michigan State and North Carolina, half of last year's Final Four.

MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL

Villanova (1) vs. Boston College (4): No names are necessary for this one considering they were both Big East powers in recent years until Boston College left after last season for the Atlantic Coast Conference. This will be a meeting of contrasting styles with Villanova's four guards going against the inside power of Boston College.

Florida (3) vs. Georgetown (7): Florida, a team dominated by sophomores, should try to win this game by trying to run to get points before the Hoyas have a chance to set up their defense and use their size advantage. The Gators average almost 80 points per game, shoot 51 percent from the field and have two players (Taurean Green and Corey Brewer) who have hit more than 80 3-pointers this season. Al Horford (7.3) and Joakim Noah (6.1) will have to come up big on the boards.

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Exposure



Grand Palace rocks St. Patty's Day

INSIDE:

V for Vendetta
Firewall
C.S.A.

Chad Riden unites
Nashville's comedy

+Mysterious Knight
+Wee the People
+Cadence

the editor translates...



Como estas? Muy Bien! Thats right, Exposure is doing great. We're back on the beat and taking things straight off the street.

Its seems that our reach is going further than before and incorporating more of the news from Nashville. But I knew that eventually this would happen.

While the giant sister city to the west of us has so much to offer, eventually we were bound to find we had reached the bot-

tom of the Murfreesboro barrel.

Thus I am forced to issue a challenge to you of the Boro. Bring us your art, your food, your music. Bring us what we need to expose. Bring us some money too. No just kidding, but some cookies and milk would be nice. Or some gummy bears, or maybe some graham crackers and those little marshmallows and we'll make some s'mores. And water, lots of water, gotta have water. Oh yeah, and what was that stuff ya'll used to eat back in the day....

By Phillip C. Buckck
Exposure Editor

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I hate, you hate, we all hate Cadence

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Advertising, just for you

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acoustic at the liquid
smoke

ear candy

grand palace brings
st. patty's day to the
next level

green blur

chad riden unites
nashville's comedians

comedy

...the staff, exposed

Phillip Buck
Joseph Schmickrath
Lauren Tingle
David Benedict
Niles T. Maddox
Leigh Bernstein

Kristen Teffeteller
Juli Shipley
K.C. Hunter
Ryan Harris
Austin Bennett
Meghanne Thompson

Jessy Yancey
David Wheatley
Cameron Chiles
John Daniel
Matt Orenstein
John Hreha



concert calender

thursday march 23

Liquid Smoke - DJ & Jazz

The Boro - Colossal Head &
Money Pants

Bunganut Pig - Stereohype

friday march 24

The Boro - Finding Steve Cunningham,
Ethan Swim, Murphey, & Espaso

Wallstreet - Death Comes to Mattison

Liquid Smoke - Mike Palmer

Bluesboro - Nick & Seth, Tyrone Smith

Buganut Pig - Skyline Drive

saturday march 25

The Boro - Ghostfinger

Wallstreet - Tony Danza's Tap Dance
Extravaganza

Liquid Smoke - Wee the People

Bluesboro - Cold Truth

Bunganut Pig - Stretta

I Hate Cadence? Ya Right!!!

By K. C. Hunter

Exposure Columnist

Matthew Lehman (aka Cadence) has been in the recording game for over six years now and it seems his hard work hasn't been in vain.

Cadence is signed to indie label Paperweight Records, owned and operated by his brother Brett Elam. Brett has played a big part in his brother's career as an executive producer and co-writer of some of the tracks on "Songs of Vice and Virtue."

Cadence is hard to compare to any other artist that is already on the scene. This cat has his own style: smooth and poetic hip-hop lyrics over an R&B groove. The CD is so outrageous, it would make some of the other male R&B and Hip Hop entertainers check themselves at the door.

There is a blazing live band in the background that complements Cadence's lyrics and style, which are sexy, funky, and real.

Cadence's CD definitely screams "realness." His lyrics and words bleed out his life experiences, beliefs, and "going hard" when its

time to party.

March 21 marks the release of Cadence's third CD, but "Songs of Vice and Virtue" is the first one to go nationwide.

There will be an autograph signing on March 25 at FYI in Rivergate Mall from 5:00-7:00 p.m. For more info about this artist go to www.cadenceonline.com.



WMTS 88.3 SHOW SCHEDULE

We are proud to list the show schedule for MTSU's student run radio station, WMTS 88.3. Each week our staff will focus on a different show in hopes of enlightening our readers on what this station has to offer. STAY TUNED!



Bum Ditty

Wednesday from 4:00-6:00 PM, Emilee Warner aka DJ Emilee brings listeners a taste of bluegrass, old-time, Americana, folk and traditional Irish music. Bum Ditty's playlist includes a very wide range of musicians from Bela Fleck to Del McCrary to Ricky Scaggs to Yonder Mountain String Band. The playlists go on and on, digging very deep into the treasure chest of these genres. DJ Emilee is always open to requests, so give her a ring at 898-5051.

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MID - 2AM	Ziggity Pow	Love, God, Murder	Organized Chaos	Droppin' Knowledge	Electronically Confused	Galaxy Cannibalism	The Ron Show
2AM - 4AM	AUTOMATION	Country Nights	Audio Mutiny	Leisure Room	Simply Beautiful	Spilled Milk Factory	Yanana's Meatmarket and Cafe Girlfriend
4AM - 6AM	AUTOMATION	AUTOMATION	AUTOMATION	AUTOMATION	AUTOMATION	AUTOMATION	AUTOMATION
6AM - 8AM	AUTOMATION	Wake Up Bitches!!!	The Best Medicine	Remember This Jankis	The Morning Rock Show	Guy's House	AUTOMATION
8AM - 10AM	Satellite of Love	Word for the Wise	RED is all the Rage Radio	Michael Gum's Personal Bubble	T.J. Quill's Morning Show	Raindrop Lounge	The FTR Morning Show
10AM - NOON	Two-Tone Boner Show	Spread Tha Word	Slow Education	Couch Potatoes Radio	First Church of Crunk	Eclectic Cuts	Zombie Nation
NOON - 2PM	Old Time Radio	Tin Omen	Your Favorite Mix-Tape	AUTOMATION	The subLeVel	Shut Up and Drive	Diff'rent Strokes
2PM - 4PM	Energy	Snap, Crackle, Pop	The Bob Newhart Show	My So-Called Radio Show	Jump Jive & Jazz	The Binge	Two Dead Dames
4PM - 6PM	Rebel Grrrls Radio!	Sorry 'Bout Your Roommate	Jive Talkin	Bum Ditty	Sunlight Lounge	Divinyl Intervention	The Drew Radio Show
6PM - 8PM	Gentle Ben	Danse Macabre	Lagniappe	Red Velvet Couch	Mermaid Cafe	The Release	Necropolis
8PM - 10PM	Fascination Street	Maximum Overdrive	Doki Doki Panic	In the Hands of the Half Asian	Constructive Interference	Just Listen	Dabbadadoin' Around
10PM - MID	Joe Informs the World	The Heathen Forest	The Adventures of Team D.I.N.O.S.A.U.R.	Acid Living Room	Blazin in the Boro	Flight 420	Willie Dynamite Presents



Blast from the past: July 19, 1980

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Above: from left Clara Oman, Peter Schleutner, Shawn Anfinson.
Bottom: Shawn Anfinson by his lonesome.

Wee the People, acoustic show at Liquid Smoke

By Kristen Teffetteller

Exposure Columnist

Wee the People, a relatively new band from Nashville, will play at Liquid Smoke on Saturday, March 25. The show will be an acoustic set and is scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. with bluegrass music from The Felt Shims.

Wee the People tagged itself as "music for the people," which Anfinson said fits their musical ethic. He described their sound as a "folk ethic with [a] pop-rock groove" and cannot give specific influences as the band is influenced by "everything."

Although the band has been together approximately a year, founder Shawn Anfinson began as a singer/songwriter in Nashville's live music venues.

"I moved to Nashville to sing and play music," said Anfinson, lead singer and guitarist. "The group was started because I felt like the city has a better reception to bands rather than another singer/songwriter."

Anfinson joined forces with Clara Oman (bass and vocals) and Peter Schleutner (lead/rhythm guitars and vocals) to form Wee the People in 2005. Anfinson met Oman and Schleutner, who are siblings, through mutual acquaintances.

The band uses drum programming for their recordings but Chris Farney provides the beat for live shows.

Unlike most local bands, the members do not attend MTSU but they do have a link to the school.

"I took one class there as a graduate student," Anfinson said. "My wife [Erin Anfinson] teaches in the art department, though."

Saturday's show is acoustic because Farney will be out of town, but the set-up serves the band's purposes as well. The band is conscientious of the space at Liquid Smoke and does not want to overwhelm the audience, according to Anfinson.

"We want people to be able to hear the music, but carry on a conversation as well," he said.

Wee the People are currently recording for their debut EP, *Weeincarnation*, due for release later this spring. Five tracks are available for streaming on their website, www.weethepeople.us, and will be included on the EP. Anfinson said two or three more tracks will be added before it is released on the band's own label Popaganda Records.

The green blur, Grand Palace style

By Cameron Chiles

Exposure Columnist

A cross the street from Liquid Smoke on the square, an inconspicuous glass door leads to what is becoming an indispensable cog in the machinery of Murfreesboro's music scene. The Grand Palace is, among other things, a record store, recording studio, screen-printing shop and music venue.

Up the stairs, the Grand Palace looks like most other downtown lofts, —high ceilings, rustic light fixtures and cracked paint— only cooler. The offices, which could have been previously used by seedy P.I.s, are filled with multiple workstations and original, and fantastic, work from the print shop.

Observing the surroundings and the large amounts of blazers and Converse amongst the crowd and band members, it seems that the Grand Palace is a place that embraces the current years, as well as the fifty preceding it.

The performance area is painted a deep red, and barely held the crowd that gathered there last Friday.

St. Patrick's Day, better known as the blurry spot between last Thursday and Saturday, was one of the Grand Palace's relatively infrequent show dates.

Mysterious Knight started off the live music with raucous blues-rock. This local four-piece came together to sound something like a rusted-out truck about to rattle apart on the interstate. They made the St. Paddy's experience complete with their song "Don't Worry, Ma, It's Only St. Patrick's Day." If only Ma could have seen the empty bottles and tallboy cans multiplying in the garbage cans and along the walls. The drummer, who had just been given a vocal mic, introduced their last number by saying, "The guy who wrote this song can't sing ... and neither can I. Here goes."

In between the sets, DJ Bawston Sean played old, jangly tunes like "The Beat Goes On," and "These Boots Were Made for Walkin'."

"They don't call me the 'house DJ' or anything, but I usually spin records whenever there's a show," he said.

The second and final band of the night was Pabrir and the Substitutes, a quartet from Richmond, Va. Throughout their set, P&S mixed four part harmonies, handclaps and tambourines with windmill guitar strums and other Who-ish stage-antics. The drummer contributed to the old-school vibe by playing his vintage kit with Moon/Mitchell-esque bent-wrist ferociousness. The singer looked something like a well-tanned Rivers Cuomo wearing a Mary Tyler Moore wig.

The songs, and consequently the sets, were fairly short, but contained more than enough energy for the night.



Rick Kramark



Linwood Regensburg

'V for Vendetta:' Fascism never looked so good

By Joseph Schmickrath

Exposure Columnist

Director James McTeigue's debut film "V for Vendetta" is filled with wit, action and drama, getting the whole George Orwell future right for a change. While "V for Vendetta" might not have that oomph to push it towards greatness, it is rather satisfying.

"V for Vendetta" is based on the graphic novel created by Alan Moore and David Lloyd that was first published in 1988. The screenplay for the movie is written by The Wachowski Brothers, the acclaimed directors of "The Matrix" trilogy. While the original material was heavily based on British society, The Wachowski Brothers' screenplay shapes it in to more of a cautionary tale for Americans.

That message revolves around the fact that a nation must be careful not to let their emotions, entangled in fear, allow the government to acquire too much power. For the government may eventually abuse that power to the detriment of society. Also, "V for Vendetta" questions who a terrorist actually is. A freedom fighter may be a terrorist; it depends on whom you ask. Though preachy at times, the messages do add that extra intellectual layer

to the film, making for nice debate afterwards.

William Rookwood (Hugo Weaving), code-name V, is hell-bent on bringing about a revolution, starting on the 5 of November with the bombing of the Old

Bailey and culminating with the destruction of Parliament a year later. Adam Sutler (John Hurt), the "Big Brother" figure, must find a way to stop V before his power of fear is vanquished.

Along the way V meets Evey (Natalie Portman). She is out past curfew one night when government agents confront her. While they are assigned to detain and imprison

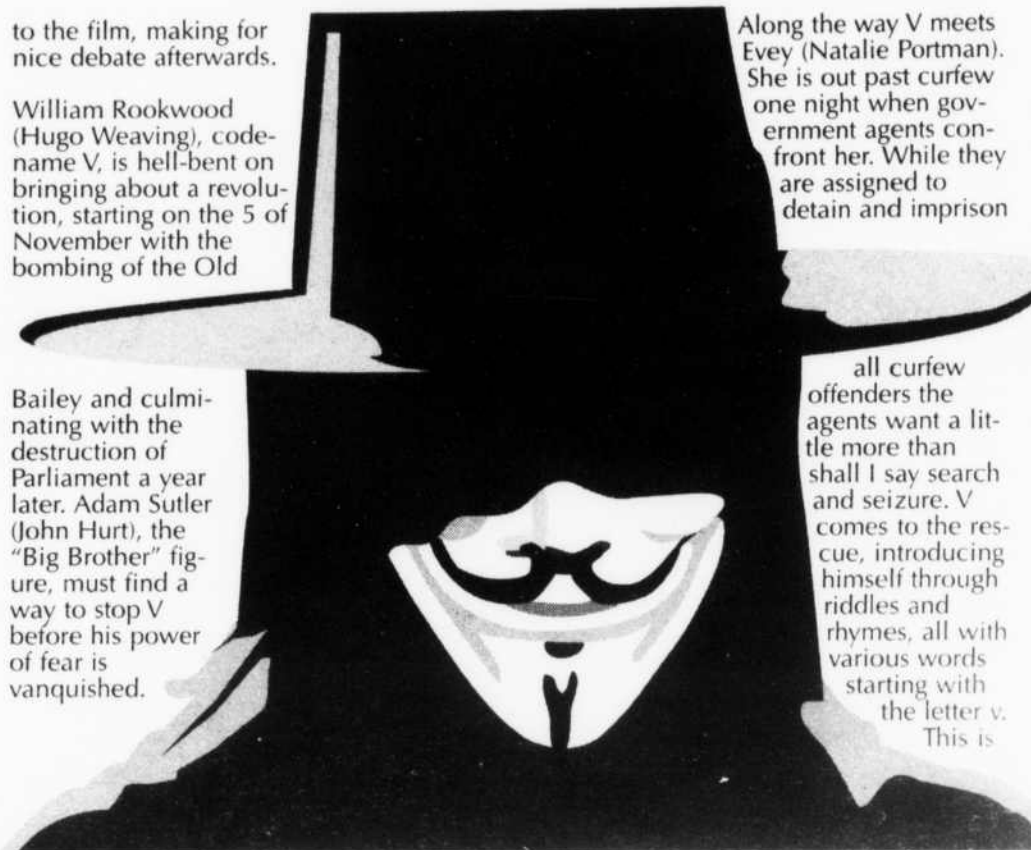
all curfew offenders the agents want a little more than shall I say search and seizure. V comes to the rescue, introducing himself through riddles and rhymes, all with various words starting with the letter v. This is

my favorite scene, due remarkably to Weaving's impeccable oratory skills and physical humor. This makes the man behind the mask believable.

Portman also adds depth to "V for Vendetta," with a gut-wrenching scene involving V putting her through a test to see if she is worthy of helping him with the revolution. She breaks down crying, gasping for oxygen. It's truly amazing. If her acting wasn't enough, she goes to great lengths for her craft, allowing her head to be shaved. It's refreshing to see such a beautiful actress concerned more with her work than her vanity.

There are some complaints, mainly involving the second act, that involve the film needing some editing. A montage towards the end of the movie sums up that whole second act as though the creative team is concerned with the second act's ambiguity, as well they should be.

All complaints aside, "V for Vendetta" is entertaining and one of the first good films of 2006.



Han Solo, its time to hang up your blaster...

By Casey Phillips

Sidelines Features Editor

Audiences will probably leave director Richard Loncraine's new bank-heist thriller "Firewall," starring an aging Harrison Ford and Paul Bettany ("A Beautiful Mind," "Wimbledon"), wondering why Ford doesn't just steal Danny Glover's signature phrase from "Lethal Weapon" and admit he's "gettin' too old for this shit."

Writer Joe Forte's story follows Jack Stanfield (Ford), the vice president of security for a small Seattle banking chain, as he works to save his family from a group of kidnappers led by the ruthlessly efficient Bill Cox (Bettany). To do this, Jack must use his knowledge of his own system to hack into the bank's security network and help Cox and his crew relieve the chain of \$100 million from its 10,000 wealthiest accounts.

With the star power involved, "Firewall" might have had a shot at being a solid, though perhaps not revolutionary, criminal thriller. Despite its potential, the film feels like the incessantly rainy Seattle weather in the film turned the script into a soggy, uninspired mess.

The film's main draw and, to some extent, its weakness, is its overt display of technology. At times, the amount of techno babble flying around can become overwhelm-

ing, and some audience members may leave the theater wishing they could have Forte come "unlock my analog brain," as one character put it.

If Ford's acting performance is any indication, he seems to have developed acute multiple-personality disorder while filming. He just can't seem to leave behind the gritty, down-and-dirty roles of the common hero he honed in the "Indiana Jones" series, "The Fugitive" and "Six Days and Seven Nights." Even worse, his attempts to emulate his younger days as a rough-and-tumble actor just feel pathetic. Han Solo might consider retiring his blaster after this outing.

Bettany's role as Bill Cox feels much more convincing. He manages to execute a remarkably "real" performance as a criminal mastermind, although the story of how he and his team came together isn't really explored. The depth to which he is willing to sink becomes deeper and deeper as the film progresses. When his original plans start crashing down around his ears, Cox doesn't hesitate to do whatever is necessary to complete the robbery, even if that means "thinning the herd" among his own crew. Bettany's delivery has a quiet, commanding air tinged with menace. He's not scary because he waves a gun around; he's

scary because he doesn't have to.

If Bettany is among the best-cast members of "Firewall," the award for worst goes to the members of Jack's family, whose stiff performances evoke little sympathy and deserve little praise. Virginia Madsen ("Sideways") gives a lackluster performance as Jack's wife, Beth. Their marriage isn't fleshed out—the two are rarely together on screen—and their occasional interplay just feels strained.

At times, she might hush the children and tell them not to be scared—she even sleeps in the same bed with them—but, in the end, the gene for maternal instinct seems to have broken off Stanfield's DNA strand. The Stanfields' dog, Macguffin, evokes more emotion than most of this family's ordeal. Perhaps the best way to sum up their performances comes from one of Cox's rougher accomplices, Liam (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau), during a brief conversation with Sarah:

"Why do you hate us so much?" she asks, following a gruff request.

"I don't hate you," he responds, "I just don't care about you."

One of the film's saving graces is Mary

Lynn Rajskub ("Sweet Home Alabama," "Punch-Drunk Love") in a supporting role as Jack's fiery secretary, Janet Stone. Rajskub adds a feeling of energy to her scenes and provides much-needed comedic relief to the film, particularly during encounters with Ford. Her conversations with Jack provoke humorous, often insubordinate, responses. When faced with his seemingly unfounded decision to let her go, she responds to his request to "pack up your s--- and leave" by telling him to go screw himself. The fact that she's got the outward appearance of a demure executive assistant makes these outbursts all the more outrageous and, occasionally, ironic. As he prepares to enter another bank while trying to avoid the police, Janet tells a disheveled Jack: "Hold on, you look like a bank robber."

"It's unlikely that this film will be career-defining for anyone in the credits. The whole movie feels like leftovers from last summer's stable of blockbusters and falls squarely in the unfortunate category of post-Oscar forgettable might-have-been's. Given better scripting and acting, this movie might have gone places, but as it stands now, "Firewall" is like a dumb blonde—all style and no substance.

Comedians Unite! Nashvillestandup.com

By Casey Phillips

Sidelines Features Editor

"I arrived in Nashville Sunday, July 23, 2000 with only a guitar on my back and a gleam in my eye. I got a gig singing Johnny Cash songs in one of the Honky-Tonks on Music Row - only to have my audience of four elderly women bash my face in with tire irons."

It may not be the beginning of your typical Nashville rags to Rhinestones story, but aspiring comedian Chad Riden isn't your typical Nashville performer.

With his sandy hair, wire framed glasses and black, over sized t-shirt, this 20-something looks like your average know-it-all in computer science 1010. But Riden is part of growing wave of standup comedians in middle Tennessee looking for a little stage time, a lot of laughs or just a good excuse to quit their day jobs.

"Nashville is unique, in that every place you go there's a stage," Riden said. "A lot of clubs are looking for everything besides music, just to break the monotony."

In six years, Chad Riden's material has run the gamut, from jokes ripped from the CNN news ticker to bits on marijuana. With a new wife and baby in his life, Riden's current material has taken a surprisingly domestic turn.

"Raising a ten month old child is exactly the same thing as trying to take care of a buddy of yours who is way too drunk to be in public. Neither of them can walk very well and they're both vomiting occasionally with no warning," Riden said at a Comedy Zone performance in Knoxville.

Riden is the Webmaster of NashvilleStandup.com, which allows local comedians to share headshots, resumes, and personal websites. The site is currently home to over fifty middle Tennessee comics trying to establish an audience.

"There's a bunch of comedians in the area, so I figure if we can look good as a group then we'll all look good individually," said Riden. "The idea behind it was to further us all ... and me," Riden said.

Riden has been pursuing comedy in Nashville since he moved into the area in six years ago. The former Knoxville decided to start down the comedy road when he realized he was just plain bad at keeping a day job.

"Every job I've had I've been fired from, except my current one," Riden said. "I just have these times where I say smart comments to the wrong people and it seems to get me in trouble. After beating my head against the wall I decided maybe it wasn't working. I knew I needed to find a job where being a smart-ass was accepted and necessary."

Though he does have a job besides comedy, Riden mostly works with computers, since they usually don't mind "smart" comments as much as human co-workers tend to. But by night, Riden spends at least one week out of every month on stage working on his routine.



Chad Riden, local Nashville comedian and webmaster of Nashvillestandup.com

Riden is one of the fortunate comics in Nashville because in addition to performing around the area at bars, MTSU and open mic nights, he has established himself at Zanies, the primary comedy show place in middle Tennessee.

Brian Dorfman, owner of the Nashville location and South Chicago Zanies location, explained that just because it may be easy for some people to get a laugh, it's not so easy finding a place in front of the brick wall.

"It's really a numbers game," Dorfman said. "I get 20 calls a day, that's 100 calls a week of comics that want to work for me. It's impossible for me to see them all."

In addition, if an aspiring comic does make Dorfman laugh, this doesn't guarantee an opening spot in front of Jerry Seinfeld or Wanda Sykes.

"If I like them, I have to figure out what flies with what. You can't have someone with filthy material before someone that's clean," Dorfman said.

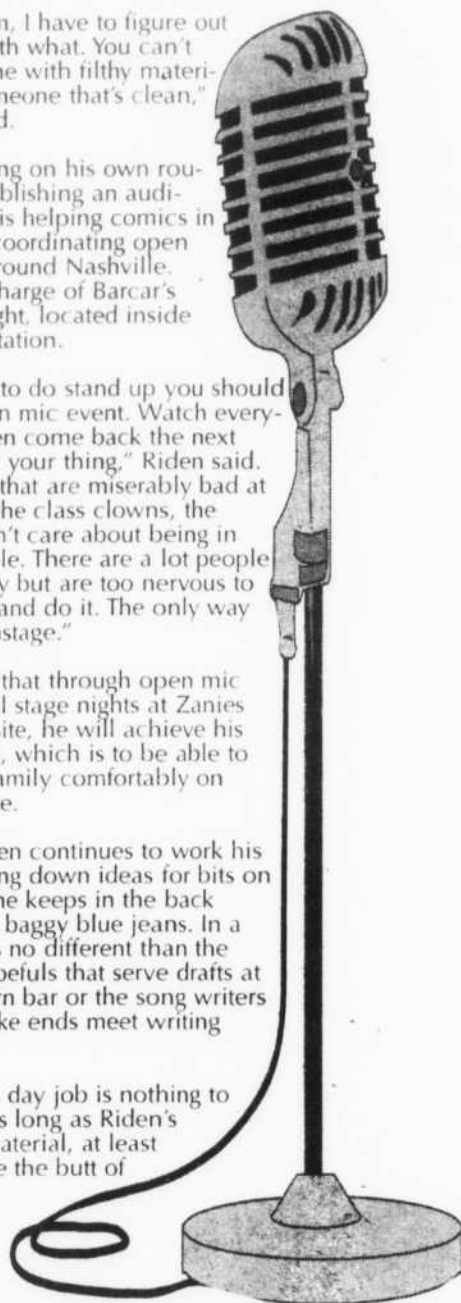
While working on his own routine and establishing an audience, Riden is helping comics in the area by coordinating open mic nights around Nashville. Riden is in charge of Barcar's open mic night, located inside Cummings Station.

"If you want to do stand up you should go to an open mic event. Watch everybody and then come back the next week and try your thing," Riden said. "The people that are miserably bad at standup are the class clowns, the ones that don't care about being in front of people. There are a lot of people that are funny but are too nervous to get up there and do it. The only way to learn is onstage."

Riden hopes that through open mic nights, formal stage nights at Zanies and his website, he will achieve his ultimate goal, which is to be able to support his family comfortably on comedy alone.

For now, Riden continues to work his day job, jotting down ideas for bits on scrap paper he keeps in the back pocket of his baggy blue jeans. In a way, Riden is no different than the Faith Hill hopefuls that serve drafts at the Long Horn bar or the song writers forced to make ends meet writing radio jingles.

But while his day job is nothing to sing about, as long as Riden's writing his material, at least he'll never be the butt of the joke.



Belcourt Beat: C.S.A

By Juli Shipley

Exposure Columnist

If you are easily offended, do not go see this movie. If you have any semblance of compassion for women's rights, civil rights—hell, human rights in general—this may not be the film for you. A farce like this takes a unique sense of humor that I'm not even sure I possess and mine is twisted.

The satirical mockumentary "Confederate States of America" is writer/director Kevin Willmott's take on what this country would be like had the South won the Civil War. Complete with commercials, the film has the style of a PBS-ish documentary and is "presented" by the phony British Broadcasting Service.

Using authentic American historical figures, old movie clips and vintage news footage, "CSA" creates an alternate country that is close enough to our own to be both frighteningly realistic and incredibly disturbing.

The film follows the history of the country from Reconstruction through the Great Depression and the World Wars to the present. This is an America where slavery is not only accepted but encouraged by tax breaks, and Manifest Destiny has been transformed into a "divinely-ordained quest for world domination." Jefferson Davis takes over the presidency and Abraham Lincoln is banished from the country.

In fact, poor Abe has to make his escape through Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad in black-face only to be caught in this embarrassing situation and put on trial for war crimes against the South.

And what of those pesky abolitionists? They head to Canada to help it become an influential center of international culture, eh. Susan B. Anthony helps get Canadian women the right to vote and Elvis blows their minds with his "black" music. With the influx of freed slaves, Canadian sports become well-respected and their Olympic team repeatedly beats the CSA and others around the world.

Given America's history of prejudice against its own people, this is not an easy film to watch. The focus is on slavery and what has

become a worldwide slave trade as "Americans" turn against the Native Americans, Jews (who've been banished to Long Island, N.Y.), Asians, and anyone else who may be "light, bright, damn sure ain't white."

None of this is too far removed from our authentic American history and it's scary to consider how close we could have actually been to this existence, with the South winning the Civil War by just one crucial battle.

This provocative film definitely gives Americans something to think about and discuss. Opening that channel of communication is certainly a good thing, but what else does a film like this bring to society? Sure, most of it is meant to be ironic but much of the laughter seems displaced. The commercials are clever, especially the one for a "Cops"-inspired show called "Runaway," but some of the material is just plain offensive.

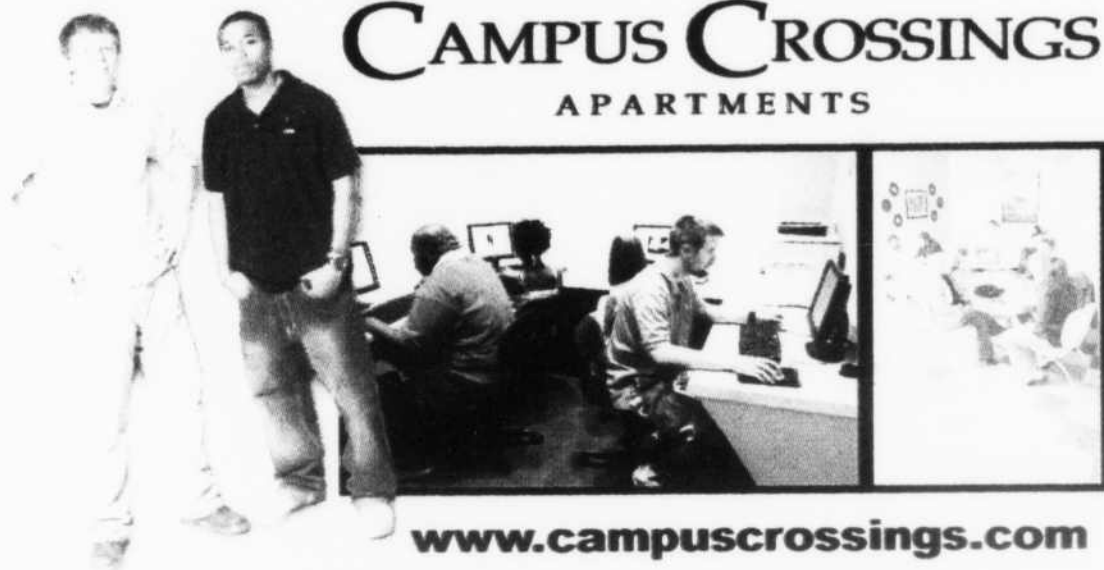
Maybe I'm just sensitive to the topic of civil rights, because it can't be too objectionable for Spike Lee to attach his name as presenter. Then again, that's the same man that made equally-repellent "Bamboozled."

First-time filmmaker Willmott, film professor at University of Kansas in Lawrence, has assembled a no-name cast of actors that legitimize the grainy footage and elementary school filmstrip feel of the movie.

Willmott will be on-hand for the Belcourt Theatre's Monday presentation of the film beginning at 7 p.m. and a talkback session after the viewing. Maybe you can go and ask him what he was trying to convey, because I left the cinema feeling a little confused and disoriented. In fact, I might just go and ask him myself.

Tickets are available at the Belcourt box office or online at www.belcourt.org. Pay \$10.50 and get into Monday night's screening with your student id. As always, all films at the Belcourt are \$3.75 for students on Tuesday nights.

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