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Volume 78 No. 85

Gitlin speaks on emotions, war coverage

Professor
notes profit
in feelings

By Tiffany Brown
Staff Writer

A Columbia University professor argued Thursday that the media's primary function is to offer an emotional connection — not an information — to consumers.

Todd Gitlin lectured to an overflowing audience in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building on the topic of "Media and the Emotions of War."

"I want to try to convince you that the media does not primarily offer us information," Gitlin said. "What motivates us to surround ourselves in media is our desire for feeling."

Gitlin focused his lecture on how emotions and a desire for feeling are commodities the media can profit from and use during times of war.

"It is emotions that are the glue that holds us to media," Gitlin said, referring to how

people overcome the distance between themselves and what is going on in the world.

"Emotion is the bridge that we cross in order to experience our commonality as human beings," Gitlin said, pointing out that this is a large reason why people turn to the media. People go to the media in order to feel a certain kind of experience of being human, which puts us in touch with people who are not ordinarily in our lives, he explained.

"If people are capable of identifying with others, then they are capable of thinking about the kinds of social arrangements that will improve life in general," Gitlin said. "When we read newspapers or watch television news or listen to radio, we are looking for a way to remain ourselves but to establish connection and forms of membership."

Gitlin said that the commodity for sale in the media industries is the attention of viewers, from media proprietors to advertisers.

"Our attention is valuable to advertisers. What media

See Gitlin, 2

SpringOut! event tackles Bible, gays

Baker, Caldwell
say Christianity
is for everyone

By Kristin Hall
Staff Reporter

A little support goes a long way for young men and women struggling with issues of sexuality.

However, homosexuals have little access to traditional avenues of support, such as spirituality and religion, because of words from the Bible.

Judy Shepard, the mother of Matthew Shepard, who was beaten to death in 1998 because he was gay, spoke Wednesday night as part of SpringOut!, a weeklong program aimed at the discussion of homosexual issues.

Shepard, a practicing Episcopalian, replied to students who described the despair felt when there is nowhere to turn for help.

"You think that the place where you can go for unconditional love is God's house, and the door is shut in your face," Shepard said. "It tears you apart."

Still, some homosexuals have found support in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Rev. April Baker spoke Thursday night in a lecture titled "The Bible and Homosexuality" about her experiences as both a lesbian and a Christian.

"It's hard to explain sometimes, to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people, why I stay with the church when the church has been one of the strongest perpetrators of preju-

dice against the sexual minority," Baker said.

Baker said she felt a calling to the ministry when she was young, and she spent her life in the Baptist church but was left with nowhere to turn to discuss questions of sexuality.

"During that point, I probably spent more time praying than I ever had in my whole life," Baker said.

For Baker, it was Paul's letter to the Ephesians, an appeal to all people to live out the Lord's plan for the unity of mankind, that showed her that Christianity was for all people, including homosexuals.

"What a liberating word for someone who has felt excluded from the family of God for something I had no choice about," Baker said.

While Baker found solace and explanation in the Bible, this same book serves as the evidence for the religious argument that homosexuality is a sin.

Mark Caldwell, a recently retired minister from Glendale Baptist Church, who spoke at Thursday's lecture, discussed and offered a defense for the argument that homosexuality and Christianity can co-exist.

"Generally, the orthodox or more conservative position asserts that all moral laws by which we live are eternal and unchanging," Caldwell said.

"[The Bible has] been used for centuries to condone slavery, subjugate women and girls in all areas of life, advocate polygamy and justify killing people based on their religious beliefs and lack thereof," Baker said.

A more liberal interpretation

See SpringOut!, 2

Alumni flying high



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Ross

1st Lt. Tommy Johns, Capt. Bill Maples and Capt. Bart Haynes, left to right, are currently serving in the Middle East. The three are alumni of MTSU's aerospace program and pilots in the Harrier training program.

MTSU graduates fly Harrier jets in war

By Juanita Thoun
Staff Writer

In deference to the dexterity and mental focus required of its pilots, military officials nicknamed the Harrier jet "the nastiest horse in the rodeo."

Therefore, according to former aerospace department chair Wallace Maples, it's no small matter that four of those elite pilots are MTSU aerospace graduates.

"I think it says a lot for our program," Maples said.

Maples is not only a former chair of the aerospace program, but he's also the father of one of the Harrier pilots.

Capt. Bill Maples graduated from MTSU in the mid-1990s and went straight into the Harrier training program. Today he's a member of the famed Black Sheep Unit out of Yuma, Ariz.

See War, 2



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Ross

1st Lt. Tommy Johns is currently stationed in the Persian Gulf as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

STEM programs to recruit more minorities

MTSU joins other schools in effort

By Mealand Ragland
Staff Writer

MTSU will be one of three area universities in a partnership to recruit more minority students into science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs across the state.

MTSU will join Vanderbilt University and Tennessee State University as mid-state schools involved in the recruitment process. The University of Tennessee-Knoxville, the University of Memphis and LeMoyne-Owen College will also share in the partnership. The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is funded by a grant from the National Science

Foundation.

The amount of the grant is close to \$3.5 million, according to Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

Cheatham said that the schools were likely chosen because of their willingness to work together, their interest in the grant and their minority enrollment.

"Every school in Tennessee was invited, but we were the ones who followed through," Cheatham said. "I think they [the National Science Foundation] looked for schools with a certain minority population."

In January, enrollment numbers were finalized, and MTSU's

total spring enrollment was 19,615. The overall minority population for the university is about 15 percent, Cheatham said, while the College of Basic and Applied Sciences has a minority enrollment of just 11 percent.

The grant will be used to develop programs to help recruit high school seniors as well as retain students currently enrolled in STEM disciplines. Cheatham said there are also plans to give current students opportunities to work with faculty on various research projects during the summer.

"It's in the works, but it's not definite yet," he said.

One program, the Summer Bridge Program, is already developed. Summer Bridge is designed to get graduating high

school seniors ready for college.

"If they need some academic enrichment — like math, communication skills or time management — we will give it to them," Cheatham told *The Record*. The program's first run will take place this summer, with camps at Vanderbilt, TSU and UTK. In order to attend, the students will have to be accepted to one of the schools in the consortium.

MTSU currently has 4,300 students majoring in STEM areas, but graduation and retention rates are low.

"These are tough majors," Cheatham said. Less than 70 minority students are majoring in biology, chemistry and math. STEM programs also include

See STEM, 2

MTSU students to compete in moonbuggy race

By Leah Massey
Staff Writer

A team of MTSU students will join 68 other teams this weekend in the 10th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race held at Marshall Space Center in Huntsville, Ala.

In its first year in the competition, MTSU's team will head up against teams from colleges and high schools from 19 states and Puerto Rico on Friday and Saturday.

Associate professor of engineering technology and industrial studies Saeed Foroudastan introduced students to the program in the two engineering fundamentals classes he taught last fall. The students then came up with eight different designs for the moonbuggy.

The requirements for the machine built by the students are similar to the requirements for the original Lunar Roving Vehicle that astronauts used on the moon more than 30 years ago.

The vehicle has seats for one male and one female driver and is driven like a bicycle. The craft can be constructed up to 15 inches off the ground and must be storable in a 4 feet by 4 feet box. Before the race begins, the team must assemble the buggy and have it



Photo courtesy of Saeed Foroudastan

The vehicle's design, chosen by project leader Josh Kline, is similar to the Lunar Roving Vehicle used 30 years ago.

See Lunar car, 2

War: Black Sheep unit involved in rescue

Continued from 1

The Harrier's reputation for being inherently dangerous stems from its unique ability to not only fly like a jet, but also to hover, take off and land like a helicopter.

Last year, Maples learned just how dangerous the flying machine could be. He was forced to eject from a Harrier when the aircraft simply stopped on a flight over the Pacific Ocean.

Maples said when it comes to being fearful of his son, he stays mindful of Bill's training and experience. These thoughts also comfort him now that Bill is involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Black Sheep unit is stationed in Kuwait and was recently involved in the rescue of prisoner of war Jessica Lynch. As of this writing, they are playing a crucial role in other liberation efforts.

"I'd rather have him at

home, but he's there to do his job," Maples said of his son's participation in the war.

Maples said his family hears from Bill about every two to four days via e-mail. But, despite the frequency of communication, security restrictions keep him from revealing much about the war.

"He can't say much, but so far things seem to be going well," Maples said.

Another of the four MTSU graduates who serve as Harrier pilots is 1st Lt. Tommy Johns.

Johns' home base is also in Yuma, Ariz., and he is also now involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

But Johns' outfit is stationed aboard the U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard, somewhere in the Persian Gulf.

Johns' sister, Rebecca Roth, is a full-time health instructor in MTSU's health, physical education, recreation and safety department.

Like the Maples family, Roth

is proud of MTSU's contingency of Harrier pilots, but she's especially proud of her brother being one of the few and the brave.

"If there's anybody in the world who I'd want defending me and my country, it's my brother, Tommy," Roth said.

Roth also said that while she finds Johns' exposure to the danger in Iraq troubling, she relies on her deep Christian faith to provide an internal peace.

"I just have to give [my fears] to God," Roth said.

"There are some types of evil that just cannot be dealt with peacefully."

Roth said she and her family also receive frequent communication from the war zone, though none includes information about strategic operations or progress.

Roth says her brother has referred everyone to cable news networks — like CNN — for up-to-date info. ♦

Gitlin: Use of 'coalition' in coverage debated

Continued from 1

institutions do is build on the fact that we have this propensity to feel, and they process this capacity and desire into something that is useful to advertisers," he said.

Gitlin also discussed how "infotainment" is necessary for the media to make a profit. He explained how giving stories, particularly those related to war, logistics and music is another way to build the hype of the situation. An example, he said, is "operation shock and awe."

"The conveyance of images and sounds of war has the same sort of properties as the conveyance of entertainment news," he said. "People can be made to feel bound to war in the same way that we can be

made to feel bound to the other stories that divert us from our lives."

Gitlin also discussed how the word "coalition," which is used regularly in coverage of the war, is a way to make the United States feel less alone in its efforts in Iraq.

"The U.S., the U.K., and 2,000 Australians hardly form a coalition," Gitlin said.

As far as having journalists on the front lines with the troops, Gitlin said he did not object to this, and said it isn't a new phenomenon, pointing to the Vietnam War as another example of when this type of media coverage occurred.

Another focus of Gitlin's lecture was the need for American people to look at the issues from a perspective other than that of

the U.S. media.

"Citizens need to break out of the bubble of self-enclosure that Americans keep getting stuck in," he said, adding that the Internet makes this possible.

Gitlin explained to his audience how the war with Iraq is being portrayed differently outside of the United States, and how it would be beneficial to citizens to be aware of this viewpoint.

"The American people need to take other people into account, and in order to do this, you must understand them," Gitlin said.

Gitlin spoke as part of the lecture series offered by the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies. ♦

Lunar car: Students construct vehicle

Continued from 1

evaluated for safety.

The project's leader, Josh Kline, chose the vehicle's design. Acting as his co-leader was fellow student Devlon McKinney.

"They [the students] learned a lot," Foroudastan said. "They realized it's a big difference between the theory and when you actually go and build it."

The buggy built by the MTSU team not only fits in the required storage space but literally unfolds into its working form in a matter of seconds.

In all, 15 students continued the project into the spring semester.

Students began building the vehicle in January and finished the project in only three months.

Students did most of the work in the Voorhies Industrial Studies Complex building lab and machine shop. Unlike most schools that have to send off

parts to be manufactured by companies, the students constructed almost 90 percent of the craft themselves.

The drivers, Bobbi Grey and John Elmer, will be seated side-by-side in the craft to allow for easier communication as they navigate the course.

According to Foroudastan, of 62 collegiate teams, the University of Tennessee is the only other Tennessee college represented at the race. High schools will race on Friday, while the college teams will gear up to race on Saturday.

The race track has been set up like actual moon terrain and snakes around the space center. The buggies must be able to climb over rocks and bumps, drive through sand and navigate various obstacles on the course.

Students will be judged based on how long it takes for them to finish the course.

To make sure their buggy would be able to withstand the

"lunar" track, the MTSU team drove the buggy up the Murphy Center ramp and then proceeded to drive it down the steps.

"The team's idea was that if it was going to break, let it break here so they could fix it," Fourdastan explained.

Teams will run the course one at a time and have two chances of getting the fastest speed possible.

The top three teams will be awarded prizes.

If MTSU does well in the competition, Foroudastan said he is hoping to aid area high schools that may be interested in taking part in the race next year.

The students who built the buggy this year would go to the high schools and teach them how to build their own lunar vehicles.

For more information, visit the Great Moonbuggy Race Web site at moonbuggy.msfc.nasa.gov. ♦

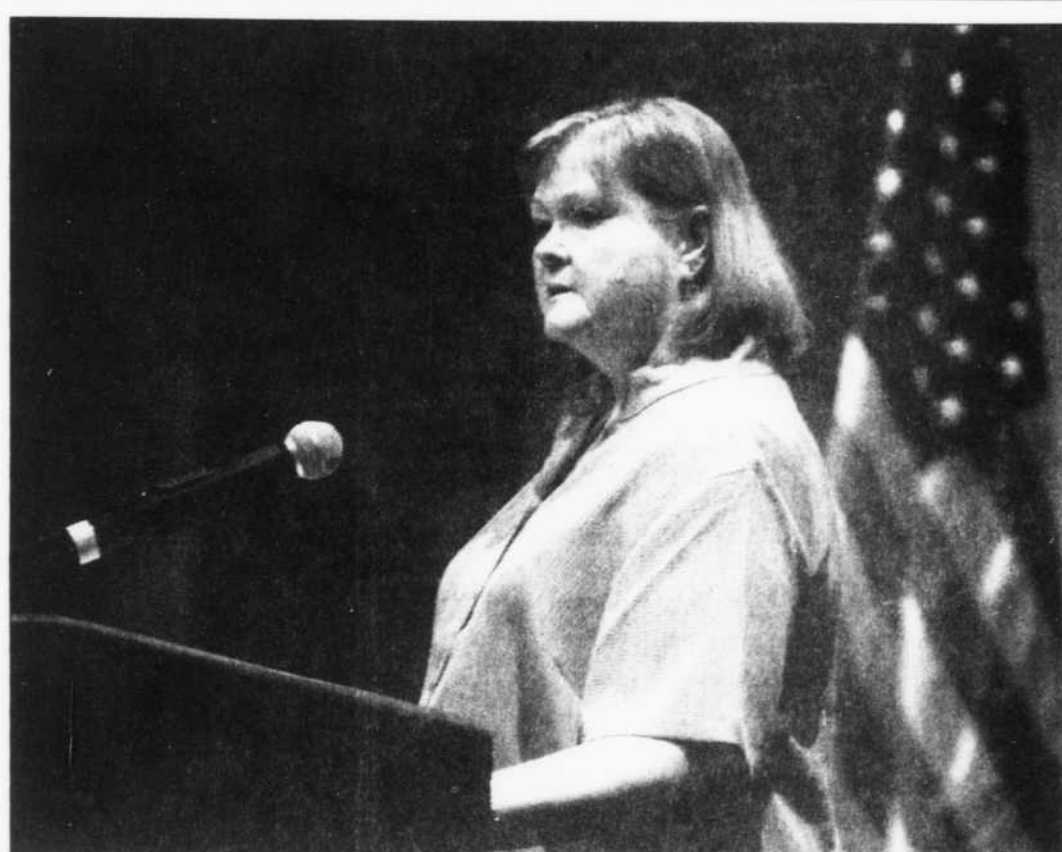


Photo by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, who died in 1998 after being brutally beaten because of his sexual orientation, speaks about her son's legacy last week.

SpringOut!: Differing interpretations cited

Continued from 1

of the Bible, Caldwell said, emphasizes that not all moral laws in the Bible are set but are changing as knowledge and experience of the world grows.

Caldwell explained that because homosexuality is described in the book of Leviticus as an abomination in addition to other negative references throughout the Bible, it can be reasoned that Christianity does not support homosexuality.

"Having said that, I do not believe the Bible knows anything about the homosexual orientation," Caldwell said.

The sin of homosexuality in the book of Leviticus is grouped together with the sin of eating pork or shellfish, the sin of sowing two different seeds in the same field and the sin of wearing clothing made out of two different fibers.

Caldwell insisted that this

passage was not adequate evidence of God's judgment of homosexuality but simply rules for ritual purity.

"It is wrong to lift these scattered references and allusions to sexual practices from their respective contexts and then lump them all together and proclaim them to be the biblical teaching about homosexuality," Caldwell said.

Audience member Brandon Farrar, an education major, said that he found Caldwell's arguments unconvincing, but that "Christians can't fly under the banner that God hates homosexuals."

Farrar emphasized the need to show understanding and love to everyone, especially those who feel lonely and confused.

"Christ died for them, too, and it's important to remember that," Farrar said.

Baker argued that it is easy to interpret the Bible strictly to

meet one's own needs.

"We can use the scriptures for our own purposes, to validate our own opinions," Baker said. "That is the easy way out."

The difficult route for any spiritual person is to constantly question his or her beliefs even when the issues become difficult or unsettling, she said.

Many Christians, Caldwell said, struggle to deal with questions for which the Bible gives no straightforward answer.

"The Bible contains the principle of its own correction," Caldwell said.

SpringOut! is sponsored by MTSU's Lambda Association in cooperation with MTSU Student Programming, the Films Committee, Student Government Association and the Campus Freethought Alliance. ♦

STEM: Officials plan two long-term goals

Continued from 1

agricultural science, computer science, physics and engineering technology.

He said that the schools have two long-range goals.

They want to offer tutoring to help retain the students they currently have.

The second goal is to double

the number of minority graduates in five years.

Only 13 minorities graduated from STEM programs at MTSU in 1998, while UTK graduated 39 and LeMoyne-Owen graduated 10.

The Tennessee consortium will hold its next meeting at MTSU on April 17.

Officials from each school

will come to discuss the possibility of adding different types of programs to current curricula.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC have agreed to fund the efforts.

For more information about possible programs, contact Cheatham at 898-2613. ♦



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OPINIONS

3 ◆ SIDELINES

Monday, April 7, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board Minority participation helps answer questions

The National Science Foundation is set to help MTSU encourage minority students to pursue futures in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Thanks to a \$3.5 million grant, a partnership has been formed among several state institutions that will focus on upping minority participation in those fields.

MTSU currently has only 70 minorities majoring in biology, chemistry and math – a small number when you consider that the total number of majors in the sciences and math is 4,300 students.

Only 13 minorities graduated from STEM programs in 1998. University officials want to double this number in five years.

The presence of minorities in the fields of science, math and technology is an important issue. *Sidelines*, along with other newspapers, has long lamented the difficult nature of recruiting and maintaining minorities in the field of journalism.

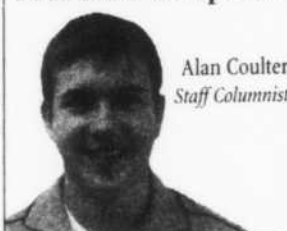
Minority voices and perspectives are needed in the sciences as well as the literary and journalistic arts. There is no such thing as completely objective science, just as there is no such thing as completely objective journalism. Some argue that one's personal perspectives should not influence science. Of course this is true, but it's somewhat unrealistic.

When a human, who is encrypted with experiences and perspectives unique to him- or herself, conducts an experiment, his or her perspective will influence the outcome, whether or not said influence was intentional.

Having more minority participation in matters of science, math and technology will ensure that as many points of view as possible are aired, allowing us to get much closer to answering the unique questions science should and must raise. ♦

Only unity will bless America

Four Shots of Espresso



Alan Coulter
Staff Columnist

The time for protests is over.

I'm not for war of any kind, but I do understand that sometimes war is necessary when all other means have been exhausted.

But, did the United States exhaust every possibility before it headed into war?

I can't fully answer that, but it seems a moot point now.

The war happened. It's still happening.

I remember seeing students protesting on the corner of Greenland Drive and witnessing the demonstration held in front of the Keathley University Center.

Was I against those displays? I wasn't. I actually

felt a sense of pride that I lived in a country where people were allowed to display views completely opposed to the governing administration. Not every country would allow such things.

However, I believe now isn't the time for protests but for patriotism.

Do I believe everyone must be for the war?

Not at all, but I do believe it is time for unity to spread in our land for the first time since Sept. 11, 2001.

The 2000 election showed how divided our country truly is, and let's face it – our grumbling and complaining is not going to stop this war.

The assaults have been launched. Bodies are being shipped home. Innocent lives are being taken.

What so many protesters feared is coming to pass. Women and children are dying. Would-be veterans are being buried.

This should not rally more protests and cause

more animosity between the American people and President George W. Bush.

I'm a self-proclaimed Democrat and the first to admit that I do not agree with George Bush on many topics.

However, he is still my president, and I stand behind our troops in the Middle East. Whether I am pro-war or anti-war, I still respect Bush for the difficult situation he continues to face.

No matter what Bush would have done, some group would have attacked him politically and pushed for his removal.

I might not have done what he did, but I'm neither in the situation nor the place to pass judgment on the man.

I must believe this has to do with more than just oil. Saddam Hussein, who may have been dead already, has (or had) a Hitler mentality, and his regime had to be stopped. It should have been stopped years ago.

But all of this doesn't matter now – Operation Iraqi Freedom has taken many lives, both American and Iraqi. Stopping the war now is out of the question, so why not have more morale for soldiers to come home to than, "We support you, but we hate what you did."

These men and women in uniform face terrorist attacks so terrorism might someday end.

If people of the United States can live up to our name and actually be united, maybe the government of this country will have enough backbone to officially call this a war instead of a military action. Our soldiers are dying in a war, not some desert camping trip, roasting marshmallows and singing campfire songs.

After this is over, I hope we keep the precedent we're setting for the rest of the world.

Countries like Colombia need our help. I pray that Bush makes it

apparent that we are not just in this war with Iraq to save face and to aid in our selfish ambition but to actually free a nation.

Columbia needs freeing and is desperately calling out for the help of the United States. Will they be next, or must they discover an oil well or some other resource before we will help them?

I know our nation has problems, but I'm convinced the good outweighs the bad. Bush is far from perfect, but I must believe he has some compassion in him. Even though I didn't vote for him, I will be praying for and supporting our nation in this horrible time.

Only when unity exists will our country be blessed, and only then will we live up to the name we've created for ourselves. ♦

Alan Coulter is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at ajc2h@mtsu.edu.

Syllabus should be mandatory

I'm Just a Girl



Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

Last week was a busy week. I had two tests Friday.

This is normally not such a big deal, except I didn't have much warning. In these two classes, the syllabus doesn't specify dates for tests.

By the time I realized on Wednesday that I had two tests on Friday, my night and the next morning were already consumed with work.

How am I supposed to study for these surprise tests?

Even one week's notice isn't enough time to ask off from work. Professors should be held to that same standard: at least two weeks' notice.

Better yet, it would be absolutely fabulous if the Student Government Association were to pass a resolution on this matter. Several universities have done the same.

If professors were required to have a date-specific syllabus and one or two weeks' notice on changes to the syllabus (such as changing a test date), I think students and professors would both fare better.

Usually, on the first day of class, the professor hands out a date-specific syllabus.

This is wonderful, as I know from day one when I'm going to have tests and when other assignments are going to be due.

I don't feel myself scrambling and cramming at the last minute because I just found out I have two tests, and I've been at work since 5:30 a.m.

I actually had to skip

class the night before in order to get a decent amount of studying done. This is bad for obvious reasons, but I couldn't very well stay up all night studying (although I didn't have an early night by any means), get up in the morning for class and then drive an hour to work until midnight. It's just not feasible.

The faculty members at MTSU have certain expectations of students, and they should. Students should do their homework, learn the material and be able to apply that material on a test. All students are expected to meet these requirements.

Students, however, also have expectations. Students expect to be taught and tested in a fair and impartial manner. Without adequate time for preparation, neither faculty members nor students can meet their expectations.

Earlier this semester, students were concerned with safety. As a result, the SGA made safety a priority throughout the semester, as did the university.

We're here for an education. We're paying for that education, and we deserve to be able to successfully complete the graduation requirements.

However, having very little time to prepare for a test or paper does not serve the students. It's time to ensure that, as students, we are able to adequately prepare for and complete the courses needed to graduate.

I hope that students and faculty alike will recognize that a date-specific syllabus is vital to the successful completion of a course. ♦

Wendy Caldwell is a sophomore math major and can be reached via e-mail at VISA717@aol.com.

Letters to the Editor

'Embedded journalism' causes anguish

To The Editor:

I agree with Wendy Caldwell's column "War Not Entertainment" (March 24).

I was watching television the other day and saw an MSNBC reporter, armed with a microphone, literally crawl across the sand to a U.S. soldier armed with some type of machine gun and ask him what he was doing – all while enemy fire raged over their heads. What was he doing? Fighting a war!

Welcome to the wonderful world of Operation Iraqi Freedom. We can expect this type of "journalism" for as long as this conflict ensues – and why not? MSNBC, Fox News and CNN are in the midst of their own war between each other for ratings and the almighty advertising dollar.

This "embedded journalism" must stop now, but it looks like it won't go away anytime soon, especially after Gen. Tommy Franks praised the experiment earlier this week.

Exactly why do we need to see this? It's only causing anguish for the families of the troops being interviewed. Imagine you have a 22-year-old son in Iraq, and you're watching MSNBC and see him lying in a bunker with bullets narrowly missing him. Wouldn't you be just a little distraught?

My feeling is this type of journalism will continue until more than one of these journalists (with absolutely no combat training, of course) is taken as a prisoner of war. No doubt, if CBS reporter John Roberts (on assignment with an Army squadron) is killed, President George W. Bush will get behind the microphone, put on his best game face and "issue regrets," but if an Iraqi military man takes him hostage, America will send in more troops (or perhaps Jesse Jackson) to try to free him. Not long after that, the military will come out with a nice press release stating the discontinuance of the "embedded journalist program."

I'm against the reasoning for this war, but I'm in full support of our military now that the conflict is engaged. I wish we could let them risk their lives without having to see a reporter ask them dumb questions to which they can't respond anyway.

Zack Bennett
Senior, mass communication

MT Poll could be unfairly interpreted, biased

To the Editor:

I'm writing in reply to the article on the recent MT poll ("Tennesseans split on issue of war," March 26). I find it difficult to accept the interpretation of the staff writer. I recommend the survey questions be outlined in the paper, along with the interpretive results, so people not included would have the benefit of examining them to see if there are any prejudices.

The importance of this is twofold: First, it demonstrates the importance of grammar and usage in the construction of poll questions, and it keeps the media from biased coverage. But, perhaps this is a revolutionary concept, and heaven forbid surveyors and editors reveal their political agendas over fair and accurate coverage.

Also, perhaps a map can be drawn in association with where the survey was conducted to reveal if the socioeconomic environment reveals any trends among the population.

Stephen Brace

Students: Get your 'butts' off McPhee's lawn

To the Editor:

Not to take away from some of the bigger issues that confront our world today, but I feel compelled to express a university environmental concern that's truly troubling to me.

Why do so many of our faculty, staff and students discard their cigarette butts randomly on the ground all over campus? Do they have such little regard for our environment and the university that they feel the need to desecrate it?

Case in point: I was riding my bike to campus this morning when I passed a "personal fitness" class walking past President McPhee's home. While I wasn't surprised, given the amazing weather we're having, I was deeply disappointed to see a student in the class flick a lit butt onto the President's nicely manicured yard. Voicing my concern to the student in passing, I thought about the many exteriors of campus buildings commonly adorned with "butt flowers."

What's up with this kind of behavior? It's bad enough that folks smoke and only add to the health care burden in Tennessee, but to each his or her own. I guess not being originally from a tobacco state, like Tennessee, I have difficulty coping with such disregard for our Earth.

While it may sound like I'm ranting about a problem most folks have little time or care to confront, it's a problem that potentially links to other more global concerns – disrespect for yourselves, others and the planet.

Eric Frauman

SIDELINES

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Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of *Sidelines* or MTSU.

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers.

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



Sidelines online poll results

Last week, we asked readers, "How will another tuition increase affect you?"

I'll probably have to get another job or apply for loans just to pay for college. (52%)

My parents will ask me to start helping them pay tuition. (15%)

It won't – compared to other schools, MTSU students still have it made. (33%)



Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "Have you ever participated in Internet file sharing?"

Celebrating student filmmakers

Film festival showcases MTSU's talent

By Kristin Hall
Staff Reporter

Great talent starts young, and with experience and passion that talent blossoms into great art.

For great directors like Spike Lee, George Lucas, Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg, their experience started with student films.

This week, the MTSU Films Committee will present seven original student films for the fourth annual Student Film Festival.

Ranging from serious dramas to dark comedies, three

minutes to 44 minutes, 24 hours' to six months of work, these films represent a variety of styles and ideas.

Brad Keaton, one of the festival coordinators, says he's seen some great films and promising students in past years at the festival.

"Last year, the top three films that won were really impressive," Keaton says. "They showed some real talent."

All seven films will play today through Thursday, starting at 7 p.m., and then the awards will be given out on Thursday night.

Films are judged by a panel of four film studies professors

from MTSU on elements such as acting, directing, editing, effects, script and story.

"This festival hopefully gives [the students] experience and the knowledge of what they did right and wrong in these films," Keaton says.

Prizes for first, second and third place winners are a Sony video camera, a pass to the Nashville Independent Film Festival in April and a \$100 gift certificate to Phillips Bookstore.

Below is a brief synopsis of each film and filmmaker.

Check Wednesday's *Sidelines* for information on the remaining three films.

MTSU's Student Film Festival will run today through Thursday in the Keathley University Center Theatre. Films will begin each night at 7. For information on showtimes, call 898-2551.

THE FILMS

'Walnut'

Directed and submitted by Michael M. Taylor

Length: 18 minutes

Technical equipment: Sony High 8 camcorder, edited on Magic Video Deluxe

Based on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls," Taylor's film is intended to be a representation of the poem through the story of a man afflicted with multiple personalities and addicted to drugs.

"There's no dialogue in the movie, so I used sound, sound

effects and the music to tell the story as well as the acting," Taylor says.

Taylor, who also plays a role in the film, says that for him the poem meant "that no matter what happens, life just keeps on going."

Originally used for a philosophy class project, Taylor managed to complete the film in

only 24 hours.

"We shot it in three hours, and I was editing it until 2 the next morning," Taylor says.

Taylor has experience with making films and won a second place prize in a student film festival at his former school, University of Tennessee at Martin.

'Parking Lot Stalkers'

Directed and submitted by Jeremy Gibson

Length: 3.5 minutes

Technical Equipment: mini digital video camera, edited on Avid

Everyone at MTSU at one point has been "stalked" in the parking lot by someone hoping to grab a parking space after he or she leaves. Gibson took this idea and added a twist to the story.

"The film tells the story of two parking lot stalkers: first, the everyday occurrence that we see all the time, and then, a not-so-normal occurrence," Gibson says.

Filmed in the parking lots

between Cummings Hall and Scarlett Commons, this comedy features Lindsay Jordan, Abby Jones, Stephanie Poorman and Gibson.

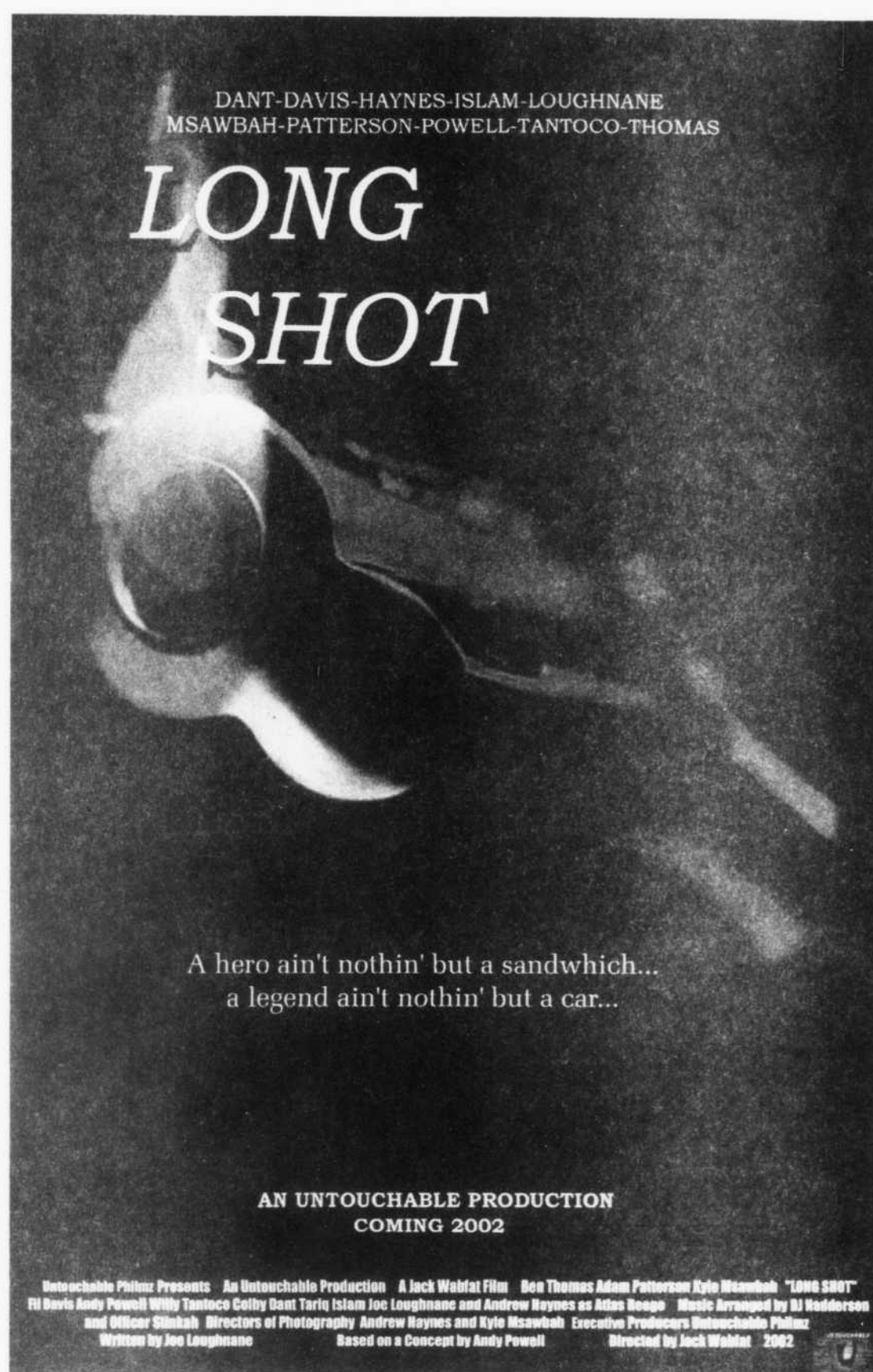


Photo provided by Adam Patterson

Long Shot, a film directed by Adam Patterson, combines comedy with drama in a look at how an antique gun affects the lives of 12 people during the duration of a day.

'Long Shot'

Directed and submitted by Adam Patterson

Length: 27 minutes

Technical equipment: a Sony Digital Video camera, edited on Vegas Video 3.0

Patterson describes this film as "both a comedic and serious look at how this antique gun affects 12 people's lives in the course of one day."

A cross between *Pulp Fiction* and *Juicy*, this film intertwines each person's story,

a technique made popular by director Quentin Tarantino.

"Personally, I'm not that big of a Tarantino fan, but a lot of my friends who worked on this film are, so I think that's why it came out that way," Patterson says.

An action movie fan himself,

Patterson shot most of the film in Washington, D.C., with friends who created a group called Untouchable Films.

"Technically, most of us don't have any formal training, but I think it turned out pretty professional," Patterson says.

'The Weedeaters'

Directed and submitted by Lennon Blake

Length: 44 minutes

Technical Equipment: JI-1 mini digital video camera, edited on Avid

As the old adage goes, bad things always come in threes, and this is the story of three guys that have three bad days. "One of them loses his job, one of them loses his girl to another guy and one of them loses his wallet," Blake says.

During the five-month shoot, Blake ran into some problems that eerily mirrored the story line. "We went through three leading ladies and finally ended up with Laura Lee," he says.

Blake, who also submitted this film to two other film festivals, and is currently working on another movie, focused a good deal on the editing.

"Editing has been reduced to just making cuts to a film, when it could be used to make something more powerful," he says.

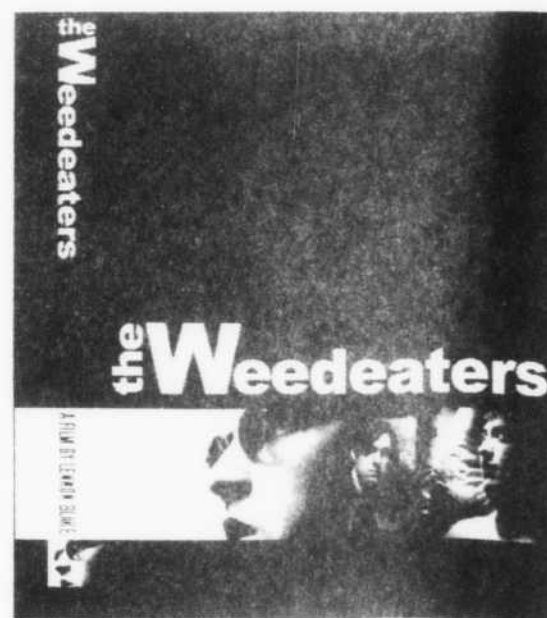


Photo provided by Lennon Blake

Derek Myers, left, former MTSU student, can be seen in *The Weedeaters*, one of the seven films that will be shown during the Student Film Festival this week.

SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, April 7, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

MT deals with highs, lows



A Blue Raider steals a base against the Panthers. The Blue Raiders toppled Florida International 6-4 on Saturday, but fell short against them on Friday in an 11-7 loss.

Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

MT splits FIU doubleheader despite late rally

By Josh Beasley
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders picked up a win Saturday but rallied too little too late Friday to split a twin bill with Sun Belt Conference foe Florida International.

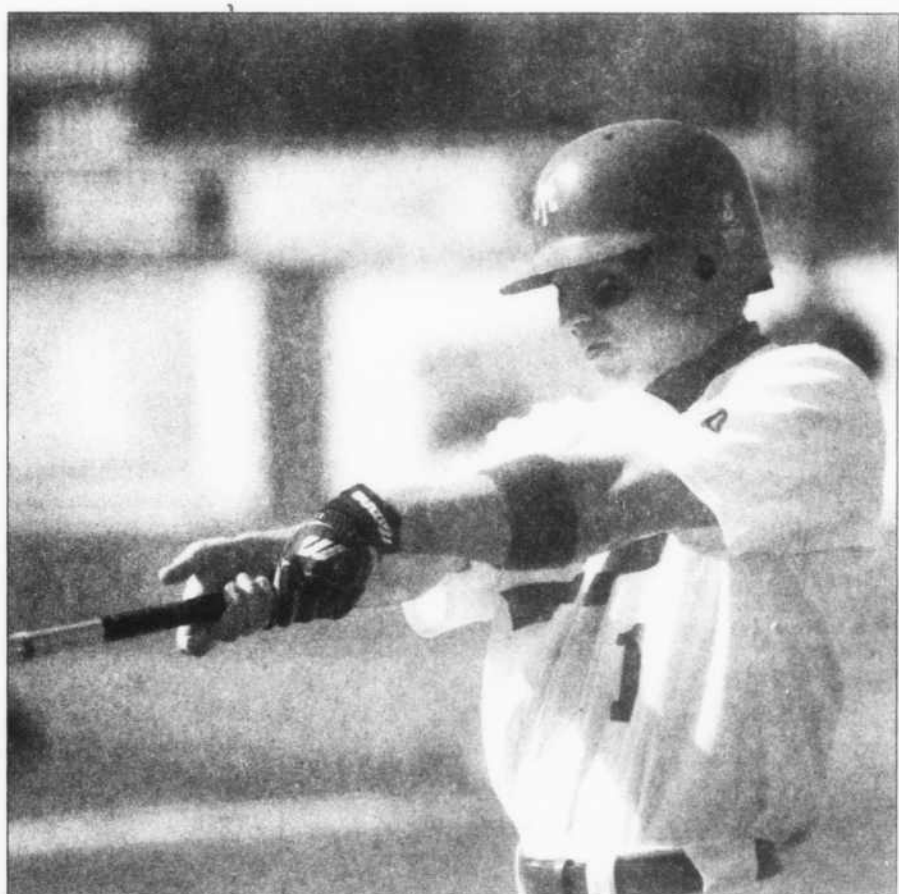
The Blue Raiders trailed 10-2 heading into their half of the eighth frame before a trio of home runs cut the lead to four. But the visiting Panthers added a run in the top of the ninth before the Blue Raiders answered back with a run in their half of the ninth, providing the final margin.

Josh Archer, Nate Jagers and Shane Kemp all homered in the eighth for the Blue Raiders, and Archer parked a solo shot in the ninth. Archer's parker in the ninth was his fourth in three games.

FIU (26-9, 5-2 SBC) got two runs in the first, added one in the second and third and plated four more runs in the fifth, chasing Blue Raider starter Steve Kline from the contest.

Panther leadoff hitter Luis Rivera set the tone with a leadoff single and later scored on Bryan Pullin's single. Ricardo Nanita drove in the second run of the contest with a sacrifice fly to left for a 2-0 FIU lead.

Middle Tennessee (12-16, 2-5) got on the board in the bottom of the inning, after Chuck Akers walked and scored on Brett Carroll's double to right



MT center Derek Phillips prepares to go to bat against the Florida International Panthers on Saturday afternoon.

Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

center.

A solo home run to left center from FIU's Skipton Adams made it, 4-1, but a Chris LeGuenec single and Jagers two bagger to left field cut the FIU lead to two for the Blue Raiders.

The Panthers' big inning came in the fifth, as eight hitters came to plate with four scoring. Rivera bunted safely to

leadoff the inning and scored on Pullin's single to center. Nanita's double off the base of the wall in center plated Pullin, and catcher Michael New drove in a pair of runs with a double just inside the third base bag off Middle Tennessee reliever Chase Swing for an

See Panthers, 8

Blue Raiders play record-setting game against AP

By Josh Beasley
Assistant Sports Editor

The basepaths resembled a revolving door Wednesday night after the Blue Raiders shelled Austin Peay's pitchers for a 16-7 beat-down at Raymond C. Hand Park in Clarksville, Tenn.

The Gobs posted runs in the first and the second and led 2-1 for a brief moment before the Blue Raiders exploded in the fourth, sending 16 hitters to the plate and scoring a dozen runs.

MT linked together four straight hits, three of which were two baggers,

off Gobs reliever Adam Muston. Chris LeGuenec led off with a Texas Leaguer before Nate Jagers, Chuck Akers and Derek Phillips followed with three straight doubles. A free pass to Marcus Taylor and a single by Chad Cooper chased the righty from the contest without getting an out.

Brett Carroll and Jeff Beachum continued the damage, adding singles, scoring runs and giving the Blue Raiders a 6-2 advantage with nobody out in the inning. Josh Archer grounded into a fielder's choice before LeGuenec singled to left, plating to more runs for an 8-2 advantage. Archer reached home off a

wild pitch, and Akers recorded his second hit of the inning and third in the contest, driving home LeGuenec.

Akers later scored in the same frame, and Cooper recorder two RBI with a single to left, increasing the Blue Raider lead to 13-2.

In the next inning, Archer parked a solo shot over the left center field wall for his fifth homerun on the year and second in as many games. The homer ended a round-tripper drought that dated back to March 2. It also extended the slugger's hitting streak to 10 games,

See Austin Peay, 8

Lady Raiders take doubleheader

By David Lawrence
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders played an amazing game this past week against the University of Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks.

Senior Stayc Preator pitched in both games of a doubleheader at Martin Wednesday, earning a save in the first game and her 10th win in the second. Middle Tennessee had a combined 21 hits in their sweep of UT-Martin. They won 4-1 in the first game and 9-0 in the second game.

Jennifer Dorais had an RBI single, sending Brandy Davis home in the third inning. Kristina Hieb hit her first triple, which plated Dorais and Erica Buhl. Courtney Mitchell hit her first triple of the season in the fourth inning. Leah Grothaus hit an RBI double to score Mitchell for the fourth run.

Valerie Swanson (1-1) won her first game at MT by pitching the first four scoreless innings, allowing only one hit and striking out four.

Tiffany Childress pitched middle relief and allowed one run and five hits in 2.2 innings of work. Stayc Preator earned her second save of the year by putting the fire out of a rally in the seventh inning of the first

game

The Lady Raiders dominated game two, which was shortened by the mercy rule, 9-0. Jennifer Dorais hit an RBI single that sent Erica Buhl home in the

third inning. Four runs were scored in the fourth inning as D a n i DeCamino, Grothaus and Buhl all singled to load the bases. Megan Chernka hit a single and DeCamino scored. Dorais got an RBI on a fielder's choice to plate a run. Buhl and Cherinka later scored due to an error by UT-Martin.

Stayc Preator allowed only two hits and struck out five in game two. The mercy rule only comes into effect when a game is ahead by at least eight runs.

After playing Louisiana-Lafayette in a two-game series on Saturday and Sunday, the Lady Raiders play next in a doubleheader against Tennessee State in Nashville on Wednesday. ♦



Preator

MT outdoor track places in tourney

By Grant Ellington
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee senior Rob Jordan won both the long and triple jump at the Yellowjacket Invitational in Atlanta, Ga., on Saturday.

It was his third win this season in the triple jump and his first in the long jump.

Jordan jumped 24 feet and 3 inches in the long jump to take victory over 15 competitors by more than a foot. The Orlando, Fla., native entered this year with only one outdoor season left in eligibility, and Jordan is making it count after battling injuries the past two seasons.

Jordan also won the triple jump at the George C. Griffin Track on the Georgia Tech campus, defeating six others with a mark of 50-9.5.

The 4x400-meter relay team of Victor Okorie, D.J. Spann, Tim Hicks and Sean Waller won with a time of 3:07.63. The 4x100 meter relay team of Spann, Brad Orr, Garland Martin and Omar Ali came in second in 40.65.

Sophomore Wesley Dupar-

Scott also had a good day in Atlanta. He took fourth in the 100 meter (10.64) and sixth in the 200 meter (21.43). His time was the day's second best in the 200 meter.

Waller, with a personal best time of 47.03 in the 400 meter, took second, while Hicks was fifth in the event with 47.79.

Ali came in sixth in the 100 meter (10.72) and seventh in the 200 meter (21.44). Former Blue Raider All-American, Christian Nsiah, placed third in the 100 meter (10.50) and second in the 200 meter (21.10).

Spann finished second in the 400 meter hurdles with a time of 56.24, and that time was enough as he finished in first place. Okorie was right behind Spann, taking third, with a time of 51.09.

See Yellowjacket, 8



Dupar-Scott

Soccer team plays close games against Hilltoppers

By Trey Porter
Staff Reporter

The Blue Raider soccer team dropped two out of three this weekend at the Western Kentucky tournament.

In the first game, Middle Tennessee started out slow but managed to pick it up in the second half, tying the game at 2-2 with little time left in the match. Western then netted the go-ahead score with a header off a corner kick. Laura Miguez scored both goals for the Blue Raiders.

Game two was high scoring and went Middle Tennessee's way in the end. Emily Carter and Miguez both netted two for the Blue Raiders as they rolled 4-3 over Lindsay Wilson in what was a much better team effort.

"A big part of it was the communication was a lot better in this game than it was in the first game, both on and off the ball," said MT's starting goalkeeper Danielle Perreault. "It also helped that we didn't panic when we had possession and didn't give the ball away as much."

The Blue Raiders lost 4-1 in their final game of the day against Western. Carter scored MT's lone goal after Miguez snuck in a nice ball behind the defense for Carter to clean up. The score does not tell the entire story, as MT had a few chances with good looks at the goal, but did not finish them.

Middle Tennessee hosted a nine vs. nine tourney two weekends ago at the Blue Raider Soccer Field, with the home team 2-0-2 mark in four matches.

Five teams participated in the one-day tournament, with matches consisting of two 20-minute halves and the field playing from 18-yard box to 18-yard box. Belmont, University of the South, Lipscomb, Alabama A&M and MT made up the field.

Middle Tennessee defeated Belmont 4-1 and Alabama A&M 4-0 and tied Lipscomb and University of the South, 0-0.

The Blue Raiders will host another tourney on Saturday at the Blue Raider soccer field on campus. ♦

Yellowjacket:

Continued from 6

Senior Levi Sybert placed sixth in the 3000m steeplechase with a time of 9:27.65, while Martin was seventh in the 110m hurdles in 14.18. Martin was the third-best competitor in the hurdles.

Sophomore Rosemary Okafor had a pair of second-place finishes, running 11.45 in the 100m and 23.62 in the 200m. Georgia Tech's Amadi Rhett won both events.

Sophomore Kishara George also had a second-place finish, running 1:00.01 in the 400m

hurdles in just her second try with the event. Freshman Kerry Barrow placed seventh in the 400m with a time of 56.09.

Teams participating at the Yellowjacket Invitational included Alabama, Arkansas-Little Rock, Arkansas State, California, Florida State, Georgia State, Georgia Tech, Michigan, Middle Tennessee, North Carolina, Troy State, Tulane, Wake Forest, Western Carolina and Wisconsin.

Both track squads will take part in the Sea Ray Relays next weekend at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. ♦

Panthers: MT to play Tigers

Continued from 6

8-2 FIU edge.

Michael Lopez plated another Panther run with a sacrifice fly in the sixth, and Yahmed Yema's solo shot in the seventh made it 10-2 FIU.

The Blue Raider efforts were too late, as they tried to chip away at the Panther lead in the seventh and once again in the ninth. MT could not hang on, dropping the contest, 11-7.

However, a four-run rally in the sixth and a pair of bombs vaulted the Blue Raiders in front to pick up the win on Saturday.

Junior John Williams had his best outing thus far, allowing four runs on eight hits and seven strike-outs. For Williams, it was his first complete game of the season and first of the season for MT.

FIU did not mess around after scoring two quick runs in the first from an Akers lead-off matched with a Marcus Taylor single. Nate Jagers received a free pass to juice the bases for Archer. Archer then delivered a single to left field to plate one run before Chris LeGuenece knocked in a run with a sacrifice fly to left.

FIU posed a threat in the fourth and sixth but could not muster up enough effort to take the lead away from the Blue Raiders. Carroll's two-run shot in the bottom half of the sixth sealed the deal for the Blue Raiders.

The Blue Raiders continue their home stand this week when they will host in-state rival, the Memphis Tigers at Reese Smith Field tomorrow at 7 p.m. ♦



Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

MT pitcher John Williams launches a fastball down the field in Saturday's game against Florida International.

Austin Peay: Blue Raiders record 19 hits in one game

Continued from 6

second-longest current hitting streak only to Chad Cooper's 14-game hitting streak.

Blue Raider hurler Shay Horseman (2-2) struggled at times but managed to work his way out of several jams.

The southpaw allowed four runs, three of which were earned, on five hits, fanning five

Governors and four walks. The lefty exited stage left and gave way to Jerry Knox, Danny Borne and Chris Mobley, all of which tossed one scoreless inning a piece.

Travis Horschel got the call from the Blue Raider bullpen to nail it down for MT to record the final three outs.

The Gobs' starter Devin Thomas allowed only one run

on two hits in three innings before Muston took to the hill. The Governor reliever was hit early and hard by the Blue Raider sluggers, giving up six runs on five hits and failed to get an out.

MT had a season high 19 hits in the game, including hat tricks by Archer, Akers and Phillips. Cooper, LeGuenece and Carroll contributed as well with two

hits a piece in the contest.

The Blue Raiders play host to Memphis tomorrow night within the friendly confines of Reese Smith Field.

It will be the third meeting between the two teams this season. The last meeting resulted in a doubleheader split at Memphis. ♦

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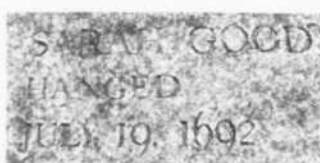
For more
information:

Dr. Jim
Williams

Peck Hall 261

jhwillia@mtsu.edu

This year's version of the course will be similar to the last time the course was taught. That syllabus is online at www.mtsu.edu/~jhwillia/312Salem.html



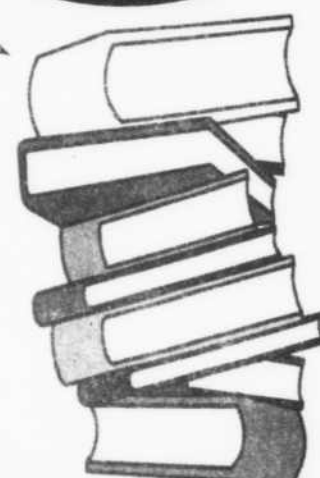
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