

MT has their dance partner



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
Women's Basketball Head Coach Rick Insell cuts down the net after winning the Sun Belt title at the Murphy Center. They earned an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament.

By David Hunter
Sports Editor

On Monday night, Middle Tennessee fans, the band, cheerleaders, and members of the women's basketball team watched the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament selection show at a packed Fanatics. Everyone was in anticipation of where and who the Blue Raiders were dancing with in the first round.

The crowd got really loud when ESPN announced that the No. 12 seed Blue Raiders will travel to Tucson, Ariz. this Saturday for a first round showdown with the No. 5 seed University of Utah in the Albuquerque region.

"The 12 seed just shows our name is finally getting out there," MT forward Tia Stovall said. "I really don't think we were worried about where we were going to play. We were just trying to see whom we were going to play."

This will be the 10th appearance in the NCAA tournament for MT. The only other game between the two schools took place Dec. 14, 1978, with the Utes winning 82-74 at the Mississippi University for Women Christmas Tournament in Columbus, Miss.

Having a high seed is nothing new for MT. In 2004, the Blue Raiders received the No. 13 seed and knocked off No. 4 seed North Carolina 67-63 in the first round.

Last year, MT got a No. 12 seed and upset No. 5 seed North Carolina State 60-58 in the first round.

The Blue Raiders are in the NCAA tournament for the third consecutive year as the Sun Belt Conference Tournament Champions. The past two seasons they were sent home after losses to Notre Dame in 2004, and Texas Tech in 2005 in the second round.

The SBC Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, Chrissy Givens, leads MT along with SBC All-Conference Third Team members Tia Stovall and Krystle Horton. Givens is averaging 21.4 points and seven rebounds, while Horton adds 11.9 ppg and 5.8 rpg, and Stovall averages 9.9 ppg and six rpg.

Even though the Blue Raiders have been in the tournament in the past, this will be a new experience for first-year head coach Rick Insell.

Insell led Shelbyville Central High School to 10 Tennessee High School titles in his 28-year career at the school.

The Mountain West Conference Tournament Champs, Utah, comes in with a record of 24-6 and won nine of their last 10 games. They are playing in their 14th NCAA tournament. Kim Smith leads the conference and team with 19.8 points per game.

"Playing Utah is another challenge but

we are ready to go and we are ready to play," MT head coach Rick Insell. "Utah is fundamentally sound and well coached. They are much like us, they run the floor, shoot the three and play pretty good defense. As a matter of fact I think they are know for their defense and so are we. This should be a good game."

Besides having Stovall, Horton, and Givens, the Blue Raiders are experiencing a youth movement with players like Johnna Abney, Monique Martin, LaCondra Mason, Latoya Barclay, Lakira Boyd, and Starr Orr playing key roles during the season.

"They [the younger players] know that we expect a lot out of them," MT forward Krystle Horton said. "These are big games coming up, and we are going to do our best."

This will be the first tournament for Martin, Mason, and Brittany Pittman.

"I'm really excited, never really expected my first year to go to the NCAA tournament," MT guard LaCondra Mason said. "This is icing on the cake for me. I'm really excited about it, and hopefully we can do well in it."

The game will be televised on ESPN2 at noon Saturday.

The winner will face the winner of the No. 4 Arizona State/No. 13 Stephen F. Austin game on Monday.

State Senator tours campus



Photo by Sarah B. Mullen
Sen. Rosalind Kurita speaks to Kent Syler's Political Campaign Management class about what it takes to be in politics.

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

Sen. Rosalind Kurita, D-Clarksville, toured campus and spoke to nursing and political science students on March 2 as part of her campaign for the United States Senate.

Kurita, who is running for Republican Bill Frist's seat, spoke to individual students and classes about different issues, but tried to leave the same impression upon all and emphasized her notion that "I am my brother's keeper."

"I think the most important message [of the day] was that each one of us really does have an obligation to help make this world a better place," Kurita said. "For me, it's through political activity and good policy."

The senator first spoke to a political campaign management class about major issues to consider during a campaign and also her own policies.

The main message she stressed to the class was that to get involved in politics, it takes a passion to make a difference.

"The real way to get involved is

you actually care about somebody else," Kurita said.

She also said the willingness to fight and push for what you believe in is important. She said you have to have it within yourself to want to change things. For Kurita, she fought to put a lunchroom in one of her children's elementary school and ran for county commission.

"You have to want it more than life's next breath," Kurita said when speaking about running for State Senate, in which she won by a one percent margin. From there, she spent 10 years in the State Senate. She said since she is considered the underdog in the U.S. Senate race, she has to work especially hard.

"I have to get people to believe in me and to hear my message," she said.

Kurita said the most important issues she wishes to address in the Senate are health care, jobs, renewable energy and advanced education. She said this sets her apart from her opponents.

"I am the only real democrat in the race," Kurita said, referring to the other democratic candidate,

Harold Ford Jr. "I'm not D.C., I'm not a jet-setter, I'm not a beautiful person. I'm a working-class mom who has 10 years experience in the Tennessee State Senate."

Although, she is the daughter of a republican, Pearl Harbor veteran, a Katrina set herself apart as a democrat while growing up in Midland, Texas. "Bush country." She said, bringing the Democratic Party back to the working-class people is one of her goals.

Another major concern of the senator's is raising the number of people who have a college degree. She said advanced education, particularly math, science and engineering, are part of everyone's future.

"It is critical that we make sure that high school students first of all graduate from school and somehow make it more accessible for young people to attend college," Kurita said. "We have to have people go further than being a senior in high school. What we hope to accomplish is a belief that you can change your stars—that's what makes this a great country."

Kurita, who attended high school with first lady Laura Bush, said students have to believe in the American dream of controlling their own destiny. She said she believes diverting surplus money from the state lottery to scholarships for non-traditional students would aid in this dream. She also suggested using the surplus money for nursing students who would later teach nursing.

Kurita then moved to the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building where she addressed students and faculty and shared her experience as a nurse.

Having worked in different areas of nursing, Kurita said she loves public healthcare the most—she even goes to hospitals to campaign. Currently, she is the

See News, 2



Photo by Sarah B. Mullen
John Seigenthaler speaks to a group of MTSU students about his involvement with the Civil Rights Movement.

Seigenthaler speaks at MTSU

By Rhonda Kelley
Contributing Writer

Revered journalist John Seigenthaler visited campus to speak about the Civil Rights Movement on Feb. 28 in honor of Black History Month.

The seminar, "Yesterday and Today," featured Seigenthaler discussing some of his experiences during the civil rights movement and ways to improve race relations in today's society.

"As a boy, I spent time watching the counterparts of Rosa Parks struggle to the back of the bus while being taught if a woman needs a seat, stand and give it to her," said Seigenthaler, who questioned the whereabout of his head and heart during these times.

"Those of us who were white did not see and could not," Seigenthaler said. "How could we sit there and think and not know something was wrong?"

"I asked Dean Babbili why would they invite an old white man to speak about civil rights," Seigenthaler said, joking about why he was asked to speak.

He served as chief negotiator with the governor of Alabama during the Freedom Rides and also as the

assistant to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, during which he attempted to aid Freedom Riders in Montgomery, Ala., and was attacked by a mob of Klansmen.

"It took a lot of courage by the Freedom Riders to move from lunch counters city to city," Seigenthaler said. "Overcoming the Civil Rights was not a change that came easily. The revolution that actually worked was nonviolence."

He spoke highly of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his impact on the Civil Rights Movement saying that Dr. King did more to give freedom than Jefferson.

"If institutions promote diversity, it can help," Seigenthaler said in reference to race relations today.

"It was interesting to hear how a person of non-African American descent contributed to the Civil Rights Movement first hand. He was an excellent story teller and it was interesting to hear his thoughts about different events during that time," said junior television production major Shayna Steward.

Seigenthaler founded the First Amendment Center in 1991 and the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies at MTSU honors Seigenthaler's lifelong commitment to free expression values.

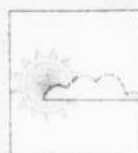
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PRECIP: 20%

Saturday



HI: 52°
LO: 32°
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Sunday



HI: 50°
LO: 36°
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NEWS

Sheriff Candidate



Johnson makes promise to MTSU student body.

OPINIONS

The "Brokeback Mountain" Effect

When the president of Taiwan compares his country's relationship with the United States to the main characters in the film "Brokeback Mountain," it is safe to say that the movie has reached well beyond its intended audience.

SPORTS

Women's Golf Wins

The Middle Tennessee Lady Raider golf team won its first match of the spring season last week at the Lady Jaguar Invitational. The victory marks the second time in as many years the Lady Raiders have won the tournament.

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

NEWS



Native American Festival

Photo by Adam Casto
Photography Editor

If the term Native American conjures up images of war paint, feathers, tipis, fires, leather moccasins, peace pipes, tomahawk-chopping and totem poles, you might be suffering from Native stereotyping.

Stereotyping of Native Americans is one reason MTSU hosts the annual American Indian festival; coordinators and participants say the event is designed to be fun, provide information and awareness they hope will lead to less stereotyping of Native Americans.



Kurita: "Tours campus"

Continued from 1

most—she even goes to hospitals to campaign. Currently, she is the only nurse on the Health Care Committee and would be the only one in the U.S. Senate.

She said her time as a nurse will transition into healthcare politics, adding that she wants real health care, not just legislation. She said she has used her experience from working hard as nurse in the State Senate.

Aside from taking smoking out of the Capitol Building, Kurita is also pushing a bill that would raise the tax on cigarettes in Tennessee to the national average. She said doing this would generate \$350 million for healthcare in Tennessee.

On her next trip to MTSU, Kurita said she will probably

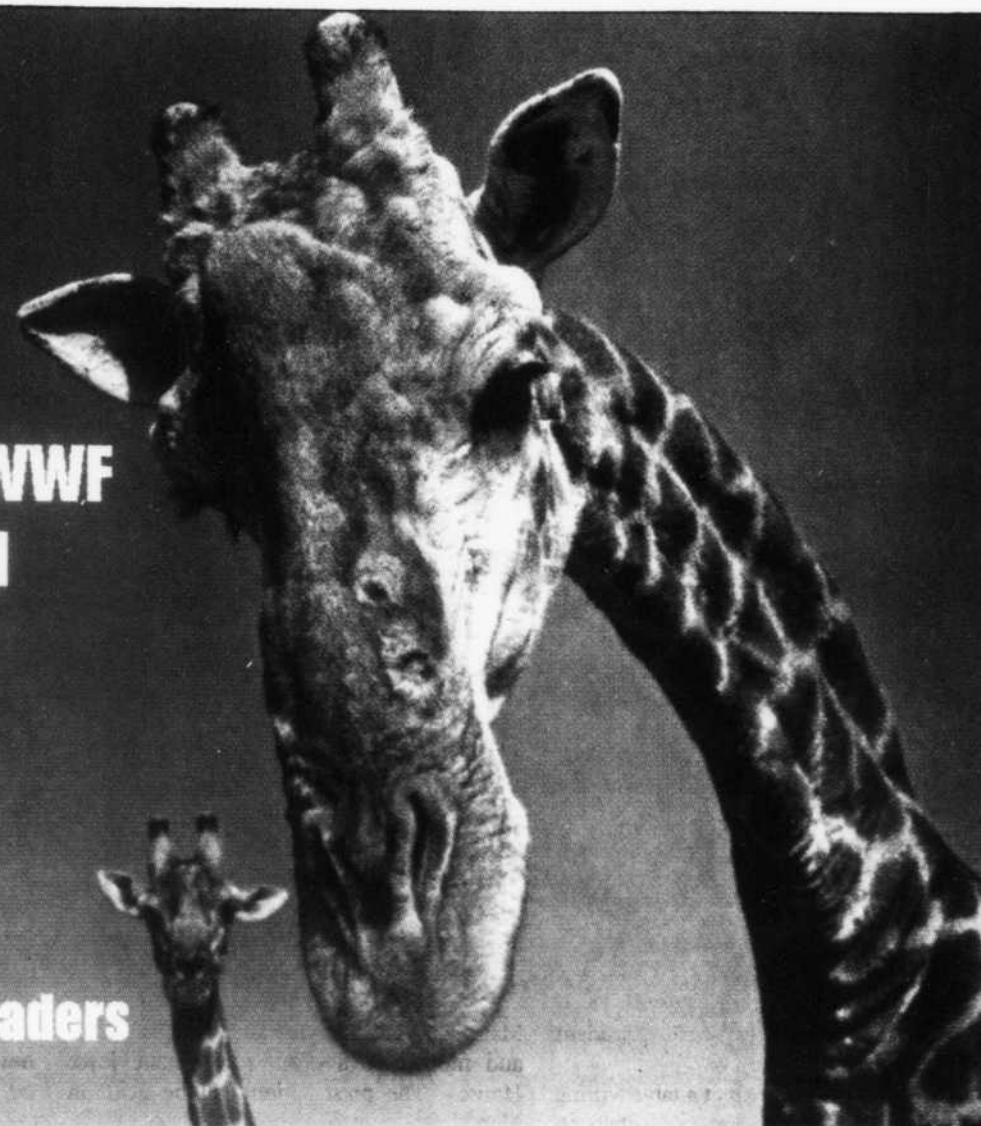
speak to more classes. She said she enjoyed speaking to the smaller classes because they could relate on an intellectual level about issues. She added that it is also important to meet with people on a large scale, such as when she talked with students in the KUC.

Kurita said she has been to MTSU many times before and even had a daughter attend the school for a short period of time. With this visit, she said her goals were to "feel the energy" and connect with students about issues, particularly healthcare.

"When you go to a higher education facility, there is always a positive energy and a willingness to look for those kind of new ideas," Kurita said, adding that MTSU is a wonderful place to be for that purpose.

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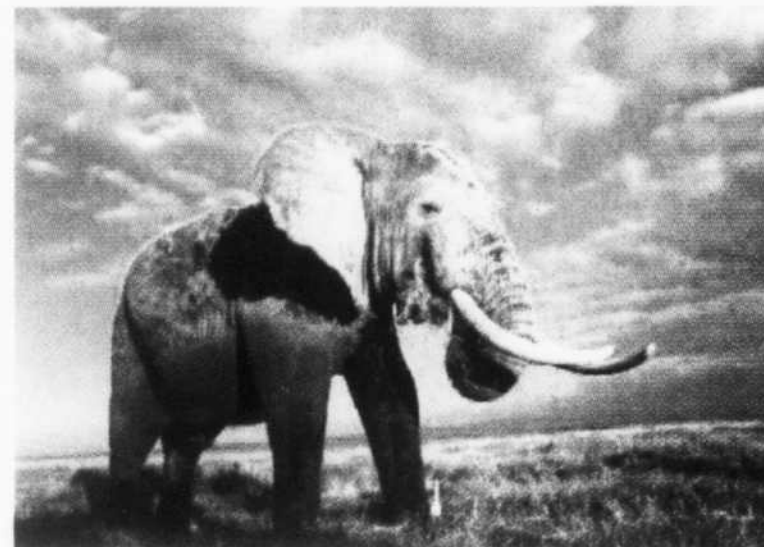
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Candidate makes promise to students if elected

By Wesley Murchison
Staff Writer

If you're an MTSU student who doesn't follow local politics, candidate Paul Johnson has a message for you: "the people on the local level have more control of [your] day-to-day lives than the president of the United States."

Johnson is running for county sheriff against incumbent Sheriff Truman Jones. He says he hopes Sheriff Jones runs on his record.

"It's a record of mismanagement and fiscal irresponsibility," he said.

In the last two years, Sheriff Jones's administration has been engaged in several lawsuits.

In 2005, Sheriff Jones sued the county because he thought it did not appropriate enough money in the county budget for the sheriff department. In 2004, two lawsuits — one for the wrongful death of a 19-year-old MTSU student and another lawsuit brought on by a Rutherford County citizen claiming police brutality and mistaken identity — were filed against the Sheriff Department.

It is these lawsuits Johnson is referring to when he speaks of a "culture of corruption" and "political malfeasance."

"I want to reorganize because the present sheriff has been there for 22 years and nothing's changed," Johnson said.

The 68-year-old Johnson has just completed eight years in office as a Rutherford County Commissioner, where he sat on the financial subcommittee. He is running on his career in the Tennessee State Highway Patrol and military experience. Johnson was appointed as colonel of the Tennessee State Highway Patrol in 1985 during Sen. Lamar Alexander's governorship. He held the position until 1987 when Ned McWherter became governor and appointed a new commissioner. During that time Johnson had a budget of \$26 million and managed 600 police officers and civilians.

He also has 14 months of military service. As part of the Army Reserves unit, he was called to active duty on President Kennedy's order during the Berlin Crisis.

"I was called in to beef-up a national guard unit," Johnson said.

It has been 20 years since he has been a part of a police department, but Johnson isn't deterred. "I feel good. This county

deserves better than what they've been doing. There are many things that need to be addressed," Johnson said.

If Johnson is elected sheriff he would have to be Peace Office Standards Training, or POST, certified.

As required by law, Johnson would have to attend the New Sheriff's School and be retrained at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy.

According to Johnson, the New Sheriff's School is approximately 40 hours of administrative education.

"I can do 40 hours standing on my head," Johnson said.

TLETA director Brian Grisham said Johnson would have also have to go through a 10-week basic training program designed for new police officer recruits.

The police academy includes a "total immersion" experience, which gives police officers the needed skills in firearms, driving school, physical discipline and education.

"It is physical. It is mental. It is practical," Grisham said about the training program.

If Johnson does not become POST certified his salary would be deducted 15 percent the first year,

20 percent the second, 25 percent the third and, finally, he would not be allowed to run for a second term until he is certified.

Johnson said that he would do what ever it takes to be the best sheriff.

"Age is only a state of mind," Johnson said. "If I didn't feel like I could fulfill the obligations of the job, I would've never started."

Grisham said that the oldest person to graduate from the academy was a 66-year-old man who had come straight out of the military.

So far, Johnson has raised \$10,000. In a press release, Johnson said he was "humbled" by the support he was receiving and believed that the contributions showed that the people "are ready for new leadership in our sheriff's department."

Johnson is running on many promises. To the MTSU students, he said that "they would be treated fairly, they would be treated firmly and impartially."

"I'm not going to sue you as a taxpayer or me as a taxpayer," Johnson said, referring to the lawsuit against the county by Sheriff Jones that was paid for by the county.

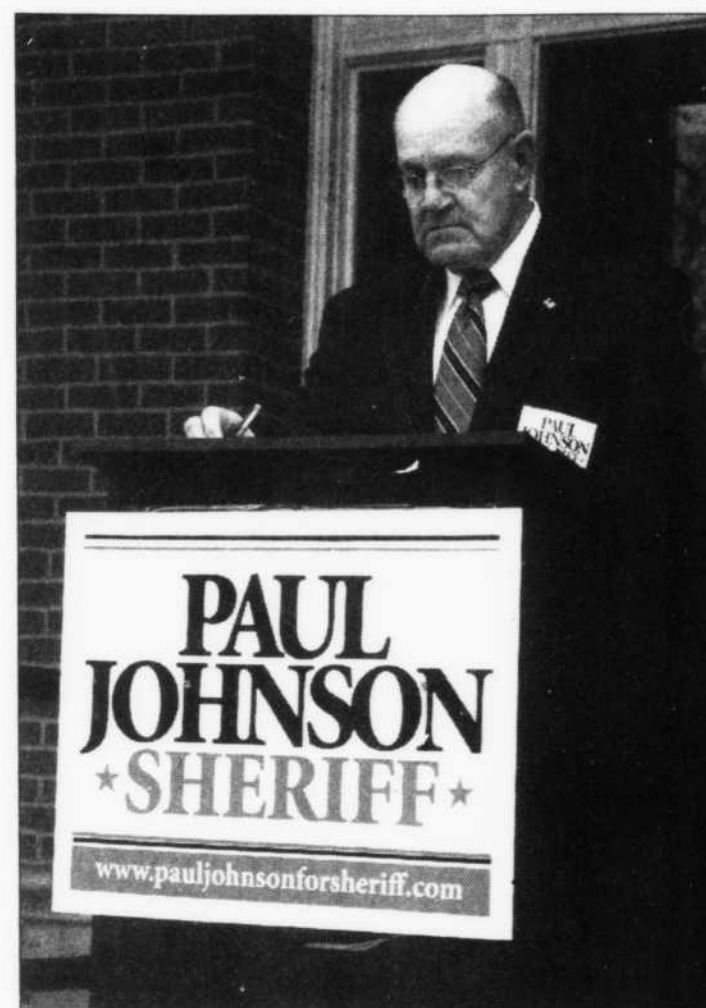


Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
Paul Johnson announced his candidacy for county sheriff at the Murfreesboro Courthouse last month.

Students sponsor write-a-thon

By Michelle Willard,
Staff Writer

A group of students sponsored a Legislative Letter Writing Lobby last week to protest injustices in Tennessee's death penalty and to educate the public on the death penalty.

The students are members of the MTSU chapter of the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing (TCASK), and they wanted to bolster support for House Bill 3895, which create a special legislative committee and place a moratorium on the death penalty in Tennessee.

"We're writing to push study legislation that will educate the legislature and citizens on the death penalty," said TCASK vice-president Ginger Eades.

Members of the group sat at a table writing letters to their representatives and others in power in support of the bill.

"It's a fun social opportunity to write our legislators and do some good at the same time," said TCASK Faculty Advisor Amy Staples.

The group provided envelopes, sample letters, addresses to local legislators and representatives, and postage for those participating in the "Write-a-thon."

This was the second time the group participated in the "Write-a-thon." Last year the group produced 50 letters in support of HB 3895. This year they are hoping for more.

TCASK will continue their consciousness-raising with a Women's History Month panel discussion. "The Death Penalty: Distinctive Women's Experiences" will focus on a variety of viewpoints against the death penalty. Panel members will include State Post-Conviction Office Representative Catherine Brockborough, spiritual advisor Linda Manning, victims' advocate Regina Hockett and mother to a death row inmate Joyce House. The presentation will be held on March 15th in the Faculty Senate Room of the James 15th Building at 12:40 p.m.

According to Staples, they also want to educate the public on several issues pertaining to the death penalty in the state, including cost to the state and social inequalities.

"The state wastes money. They could save money with life in prison," Staples said. "It costs more to execute a person than to sentence them to life," she continued. According to TCASK, a single execution can cost from \$1 to \$7 million, however the cost of life imprisonment only totals about \$500,000 per individual.

"The average sentence for a conviction of Murder-one is 51 years before parole," Staples said.

Staples added that there are many inequities in the judicial process, and that it is not as skewed toward race as it is economic status.

"Most of the inmates on death row were represented by a public defender," she said.

"Most people don't understand the bias and how unjust the system is. They're not educated in it," said TCASK president Melissa O'Flynn.

March 1 marks the 159th anniversary of Michigan being the first state to abolishing the death penalty in 1847.

Student receives national COOL award

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

Ashley Edington, a junior anthropology and Spanish major, received recognition during the 22nd Annual Campus Opportunity League (C.O.O.L) Idealist Conference at Vanderbilt University that took place March 3-5.

The "Seeds of Change" award was presented to her for her development of Café Symposium, a philosophy forum for high school students at Linebaugh Library in downtown Murfreesboro.

"I wanted to take my passion for philosophy and share it with the community," Edington said.

The award was presented to a student who demonstrated creativity, innovation and leadership in creating a community program or bringing new life to an existing program.

Aside from winning the award, Edington also gave a poster presentation and a workshop to instruct other students how to implement the Café Symposium program in their own community.

The Idealist Conference is an annual convening of thousands of students from across the country who are involved in community service and social activism. Idealist is a project of Action Without Borders that focuses on college student involvement with-in the community.

"I bonded with so many people because it's great to come together in an environment where you all share the same goals," Edington said.

Edington said she participated in the conference to explore the option of having people implement Café Symposium in their own communities all across the country. She said over 100 people expressed interest in starting the program and she is currently in the process of publishing a training manual.

Edington began Café Symposium in late 2004 as a

sophomore for a service-learning practicum with English Professor Ron Kates. Service learning is a course offered by the English Department that allows a student to apply classroom knowledge to an outside project. Edington said since she was a philosophy major at the time, she wanted to bring philosophy into local high schools where it is currently not present.

The program was designed to take place after school at Linebaugh Library and offer coffee and snacks to the students to make philosophy fun and engaging rather than scholastic and academic.

Once the weekly program began, Edington said there were about 25-45 students in each session. Using Socratic methods, they discuss questions such as 'what is beauty?' and 'what does it mean to be human?' to topics such as gay marriage and the legalization of marijuana.

"It brings from different high schools students with different background, ethnicities and ideas," she said. "It's an environment of tolerance and respect."

The students have told Edington that they crave the sort of Socratic inquiry they get in Café Symposium. She said the after school program fulfills a need for critical thinking that is currently not met in high schools.

"They enjoy it, it's crazy. I didn't know that so many students would be interested in exploring knowledge, but they really are," Edington said.

Currently in its third semester, Café Symposium meets for 7-10 weeks at the library from 6-8 p.m., but the meetings will often last longer.

As well as providing space for the Café, Linebaugh Library also donates refreshments. Edington has received help from class fundraisers at MTSU as well. The rest of the funding for Café Symposium comes from Edington's own pocket, though the expenses are minimal. She said she hopes to receive grants as



Photo Submitted

Ashley Edington is the creator of Café Symposium, a philosophy forum for local high school students. She received a national award for the program at the C.O.O.L. Idealist Conference.

the program grows

"It's such a simple program and that's what's really beautiful about it," she said. "It's not complex, it's not something that needs a lot of money, it's just people coming together."

Edington said she plans on continuing the program until she graduates next spring, at which point she would like to pass it down to one of the high school students who have been present since the beginning.

Some of Edington's students from Riverdale High School are even in the process of creating their own philosophy club.

Edington said she would like to create a program for younger kids and has also talked to Kates about expanding the program into the University 1010 class for incoming freshman.

Having an uncle who was a philosophy professor introduced Edington to philosophy at a young age. She ultimately chose to major in anthropology because it is what she called a more "hands on philosophy" that explores different cultures.

Edington said she hopes to pursue a degree in higher education

See COOL, 4

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COOL: "Edington wins award"

Continued from 3

administration in graduate school. She also hopes to explore how after school programs can be a strong supplement to education. She said she would ultimately like to get philosophy programs into high schools.

Her interest in helping the community began in high school when she won several awards for

her work in the STARS program and a project on emotional child abuse. She said she has learned a great deal about service learning and hopes to continue the practice in the future.

"I feel everyone should do some sort of service-learning project because it changes you completely as a person," she said. "I am so different than I was a year ago, I'm like a whole new person."

Location determined for new museum to honor black cultureBy Brent Newsome
Staff Writer

On Dec. 16, 2003, President Bush signed Public Law 108-184 to give consent for the establishment of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Many museums around the country commemorate black heritage and culture, but they are exclusively on the local or state level.

Although it has been two years since the passing of the Act, the location for the construction of the museum still was just recently decided on Jan. 31, 2006. Section eight of the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act, states that no later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents shall designate a site for the museum. Even though two years have passed since the signing of the Act many are still excited that the museum has found a home. Among them is Sekou Franklin who teaches for the MTSU's political science department.

"I only hope the director or curator of the museum is one who has a deep appreciation of

the African American experience," Franklin said. "I feel that the best directors from many other African American museums across the country should be chosen so that they can take into consideration the specificity of the exhibits."

One of the members of the Board of Regents is Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist who recently gave public support for the site on Madison Drive in Washington D.C.

"Its location must reflect the centrality of the African-American experience in shaping the course of our nation's history," Frist said.

Franklin, however, said that Frist is using this event for political purposes.

"I feel he (Frist) has no record that he has shown a deep appreciation of the African American culture," he said. "It is unfortunate that sometimes the case may be that someone might have a political agenda and it could potentially take away from the development and the success of the museum."

Rep. John Lewis, D-Georgia, is in strong favor of the site of the museum. Lewis was severely injured by police in Selma, Ala. where the historic march on Washington began. He

has pushed for the museum since the mid 80s, but has run into opposition from Congress.

Former Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., was against the proposed site and argued that it would lead every interest group to want a similar institution on or near the National Mall.

"I believe that a place of prominence is to be expected and has been earned," said Patrick Swygert, president of Howard University.

The museum still is not expected to open for several years. Frist said he expects the museum to draw visitors from the around the world.

"The new museum will house priceless artifacts, documents and recordings. It will bring to life the vibrant cultural contributions African Americans have made to every facet of American life," Frist said. "Visitors from around the world will learn about 400 years of struggle and of progress. They will learn that the Capital itself owes its completion to America's first black man of science, Benjamin Bannaker, who reconstructed the city's layout from memory after Pierre L'Enfant quit the project."

Alumni contributes to Black History Month with 'Cultural Millennium'By Ashley Burk
Staff Writer

MTSU graduate Shawn Whitsell is among the cast of "Cultural Millennium," a production honoring Black History Month that took place Feb. 17 at Murfreesboro's Patterson Park Community Center.

The production was also scheduled to run on Saturday, Feb. 18, but was cancelled due to inclement weather. "Cultural Millennium" will be rescheduled for the end of March.

Shawn Whitsell is the assistant artistic director and publicity director of Dream 7 Productions, the company that performed "Cultural Millennium." Dream 7 Productions is a Nashville-based black theatre company founded in 2002 by Michael L. Walker, who

also wrote and directed "Cultural Millennium." Dream 7 Productions focuses on the art of acting and telling truthful stories about the African-American experience.

"Cultural Millennium" is a type of "poetry theatre," in which each individual scene represents some aspect of the African American experience. The play depicts both struggles and triumphs of the African American past, present and future. Thought-provoking issues such as the drug and AIDS epidemics, the realities of ghetto life and family hardships are also touched upon in the production. "Cultural Millennium" also illustrates historical moments in American history such as the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, the Reconstruction era, the Civil Rights era, The Black Power Movement, the Tuskegee Experiment and the Harlem Renaissance.

"This production is significant to black history because it pays homage to a lot of great people and moments in history," Whitsell said. "It also sheds light on how such a rich history was able to be made because of hope."

"It's primarily about hope. It's about the struggles and triumphs of black people in this country. There are so many gold-

en nuggets in 'Cultural Millennium.' If the audience takes anything positive away from the show, then I'll be satisfied. As an actor, I am a messenger, so it's my job to make sure that the audience walks away with something."

MTSU 2001 graduate Reggie Thomas was one member of the audience who "walked away with something" after Friday night's performance. One particularly moving scene for Thomas was that of a boy without a father who grows up to be a less than model citizen.

After joining a gang, the young man is later shot and killed. The narrator's poignant words echoed through the theatre: "The shooter was never caught, waste of a child's potential. He lay there dying for no reason at all, other than a misplaced hope."

The father comes back only to find his dead son, and as he mourns over his child and expresses regret over his past choices, the son comes back to life and the two are reunited at the end of the scene.

"I can see a father witnessing this scene and feeling really bad about not being there and being a positive role model for his child," Thomas said. "It kind of touches young black males to have a role model and the father recognize

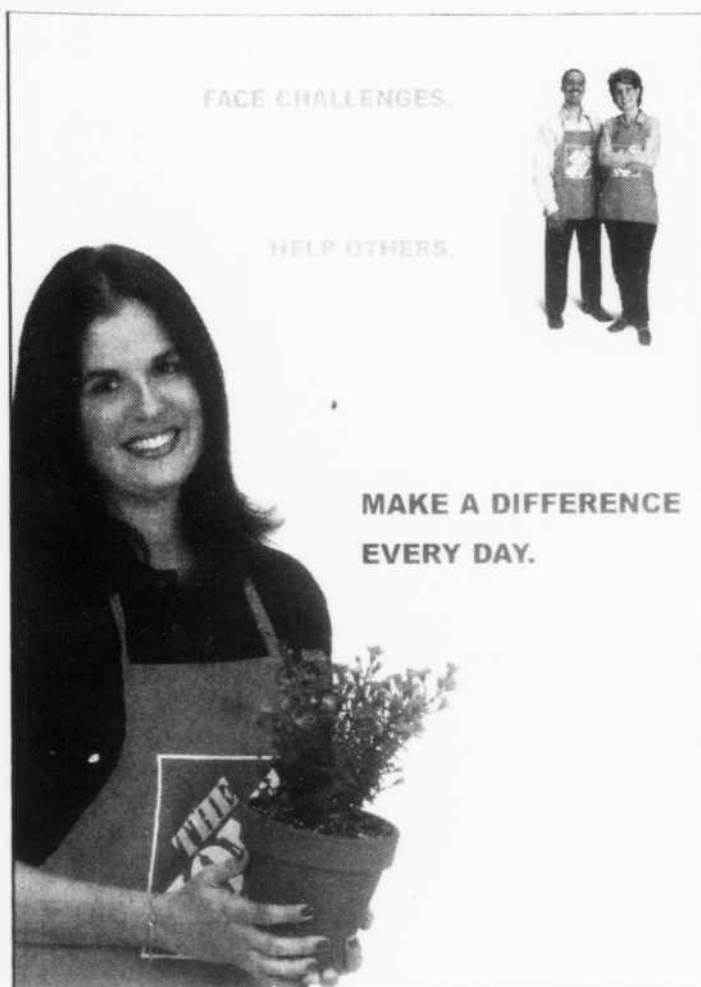
that he made a mistake and that it's time for him to try to correct those."

Thomas went on to say that "Cultural Millennium" helps capture the impact that black history has made in the past.

"We may not know where we came from and how we got here, and I think having cultural things like this in the community helps to establish a sense of belonging," Thomas said.

"Cultural Millennium" is defined in a series of monologues written by Michael Walker in which a faceless voice addressed the audience. "As we endure the millennium, this is what we perceive to be the verses of a song," the voice said, "that we now sing the notes that sometimes soar sweetly and sometimes crash sour. It's a song whose lyrics never seem to be complete. It is a song that contains some pain, yet it is a song that always carries joy. It is a song that carries hope. It is a song that has always been and will be ours alone."

Dream 7 Productions has an upcoming show called "Pulpits," which will run at the Darkhorse Theatre in Nashville the last weekend in April. For more information contact the Patterson Park Cultural Arts office at 893-7439.



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Thursday, March 16

African Video Series:

The Tide of History

Videos by Tracey Rose, Berni Searle, and Fatimah Tuggar

6:00 p.m. • Rechter Room • FREE

(Note: Some of this work contains adult content.)

College Night:

FREE music in the lobby

5:00 – 8:00 p.m. • FREE admission with college ID

Friday, March 17

African Art History Lecture Series:

African Art and The Cycle of Life, Part 2

6:30 p.m. • Auditorium • FREE

Sunday, March 19

Curator's Perspective

Preparing *Paths to Impressionism*:

Highlights, Puzzles and Surprises

2:00 p.m. • Auditorium • FREE

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**CAMPUS BRIEFS****Splish Splash Kids**

MTSU's Recreational Center will be holding an aqua-therapy class for children with challenges March 13-April 6. The class will be for children ages 2-6 and will be held from 4 to 4:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost of the eight-lesson class is \$25.

TSSAA High School Basketball Tournaments

The TSAA girls' and boys' Division I high school basketball tournaments will be held from March 15-18. The tournaments will be held in the Murphy Center, causing temporary parking changes for students, faculty and staff. During the tournament, the Greenland Drive lots will be reserved for TSSAA game ticket holders, who will pay \$5 to park.

Office Debutantes and Two-Job Wives

Dr. Jane Marcellus will give a lecture, "Office Debutantes and Two-Job Wives: Early Magazine Stereotypes of Employed Women and Why They Matter Now," on March 16. The lecture will be at 3:30 p.m. in James Union Building Room 100. This lecture will be a contribution to the Women's Studies Research Series.

The American Association of University Women

There will be a panel presentation called "'Because equity is still an issue': the American Association of University Women Then and Now" on March 16. The presentation will be at 5 p.m. in James Union Building Dining Room C in accordance with March being National Women's History Month. Participants will include the Tennessee State AAUW President and a member of the Murfreesboro Branch AAUW.

Clavierfest

The Clavierfest competition final rounds are on March 18. Seventy young pianists will compete, and 12 finalists will perform at 7 p.m. in the Wright Music Building's Hinton Hall. The performance is free and open to the public. MTSU McLean School of Music's piano faculty members Dr. Jerry Perkins and former MTSU faculty pianist Carol Jamison will select the 12 final contenders.

CPR Rally

A CPR Rally will be held at MTSU's Recreational Center on March 18. A class teaching CPR will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$11, instead of the usual \$45. Participants must be at least 14 years old and certifications will be issued on site for those who pass.

Soldiers on Stones River National Battlefield

The First Confederate Legion will conduct their annual Camp of Instruction at Stones River National Battlefield on March 18-19. The legion will display the drill of artillery, cavalry and infantry. Rangers will present brief talks about the Camps of Instruction and daily drill at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. on March 18, and 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. on March 19.

FEATURES

Danny Greene: Series continues

By Jessy Yancey
Staff Writer

When Sidelines first met Danny Greene a month ago, he explained the beginning stages of printmaking. Now we actually get to go into the darkroom.

Placing a screen coated with photo emulsion into a big piece of machinery that looks like a giant copier, Greene types "05.0" on a keypad as the glowing red digits illuminate his face in the dark. The machine lights up, emits a deafeningly loud whirring noise and the numbers decrease rapidly.

"Wait until it gets to a certain point," he says, speaking loudly over the noise. "O.K." The noise stops, and he takes the screen out, moves it to the washout booth and sprays it using a long hose.

"It burns these images and pretty much will bake the photo emulsion," Greene had explained. "The images that I made will block out the light."

The "baked" transparent areas leave the emulsion sticky and hard. As the screen is sprayed with water, the hardened emulsion dissolves and the areas not exposed to the light—Greene's images—begin to appear, seemingly out of nowhere.

"Our old machine in the other building didn't have a backlight, so you couldn't really tell," he recalls. "You'd have to spray in and look up into the ceiling." He

demonstrates, dripping water everywhere.

As the screen dries, Greene points out that this isn't his normal working environment. He prefers to be alone so he can do his "weird habits," such as printing without shoes on and listening to specific music like Stereolab and Can.

"[Bands] that have this repetitive beat, because while I'm printing it's just like this repetitive motion, and I have to get in the state of mind of doing repetitive action," he reasons.

Back in his "studio," he opens a drawer filled with completed screenprints, most of which are images of uniformed children, often lacking heads.

"The idea of being a blank slate, and you're guided one way or another," Greene says, elaborating on the gender misinterpretation he touched upon last time. "If you took away the head in children there'd really be no telling what their gender is—who they are. They don't really develop their identity until later in life."

He adds that some of the prints are "vaguely autobiographical," though not a certain moment in time.

"I'm really interested in the idea of the uniform, because that takes away identity," Greene says, adding that he attended Catholic school and wore a uniform up until he came to college. "That's

13 years of wearing the same thing every single day and seeing the same people wear the same thing every single day."

Greene points to a picture that shows a group of uniformed children gathered in a circle with their feet touching.

"I guess it's kind of me there in the middle," he admits. "I found some pictures of me as a kid, and I've been fooling with those."

Most of the images he works with came from old textbooks and parental guidance books, but in addition to his own photographs, Greene also came across some of his father's.

"I found these pictures of my dad when he was in Vietnam," he says. "They were these really beautiful images, but he looked so kick-ass in them. I don't know; I've never seen my dad look like that."

More recently, Greene's father inadvertently helped his son improve his drawing. Greene had been told if he wanted to learn how to draw, he had to draw all the time, but he was having trouble doing so, since his hands are always shaking. When his father was in the hospital, Greene returned to Knoxville to see him.

"I was just going to start drawing, because it was such an uneasy situation," he says. What came out of it was the first piece of work that Greene says he could really call his own. "I got that from just



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
Danny Greene personally demonstrates how uniformity takes away individual identity. Greene has recently sold two prints in his series.

sitting there, drawing my dad over and over and over. I was so nervous, and I was shaking, and that even added to the shaking that was [already] in my hands. I learned to totally hone in on that shaking and use it while I draw."

Drawing is what Greene loves best. He's a printmaking major because it's the only medium that allows him to draw. Greene doesn't love to draw, though, he's suc-

cessful as well—he has already sold a pair of the print series on which he has been working all semester.

"[It's] sort of groundbreaking in what I'm doing and the art that I'm making," he says. He sums it up to the importance of learning new things and the struggle that goes along with it.

"You start to understand yourself more, and you start to develop

more focus of things you're interested in," he says as he bites off a piece of masking tape, preparing for the next step of the printmaking process. "I start to understand a little bit more, and things start to flow and start to happen."

Next month, Sidelines will return to the printmaking studio to learn the process of registration—ink-filled yogurt containers and all.

SCUBA Instructor celebrates 30 years at MTSU

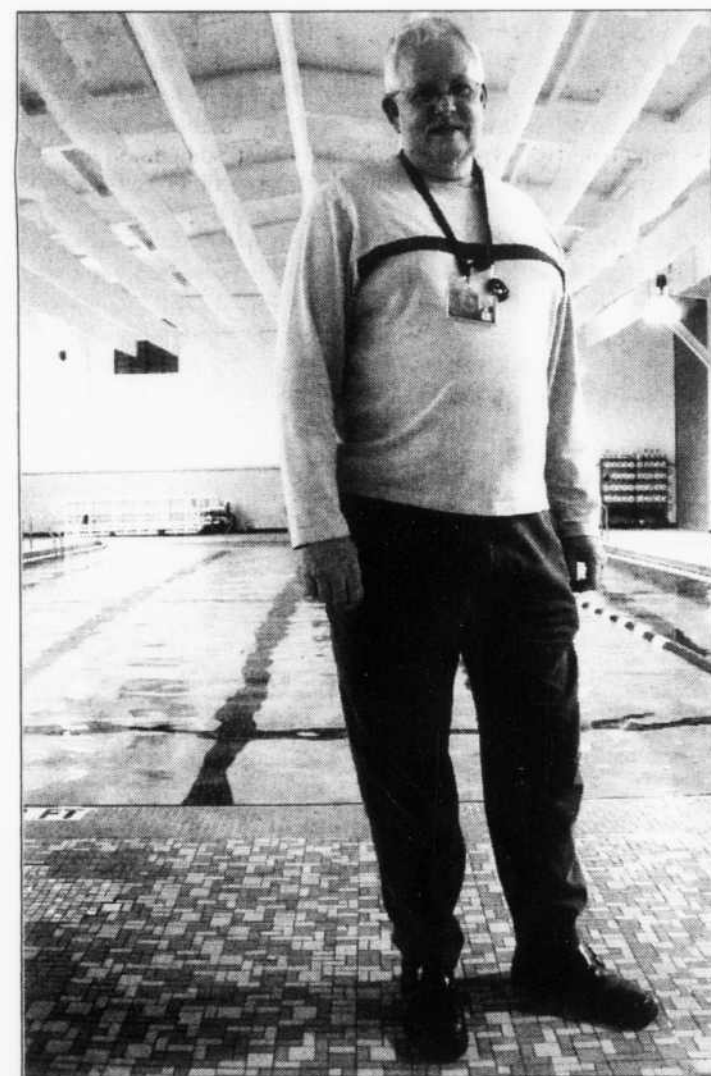


Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
Mike Nunley, MTSU's SCUBA guru, stands in front of the AMG pool.

By Mark Logan
Assistant News Editor

Mike Nunley sits up in his chair and surveys the water of the AMG pool at MTSU.

"This is a good pool," he says decidedly. "It's a good pool for teaching."

Mike has reason to feel particular about this pool, located adjacent to the Alumni Memorial Gym. This is where his father came to swim when he attended MTSU on the GI Bill after fighting in World War II, where Mike came to swim as a young child, where he swam with his own child. Mike learned to swim here.

He taught his own son how to swim here. He taught his first SCUBA class—has taught hundreds of SCUBA and swimming classes to thousands of MTSU students, often second-generation, over the course of 30 years as a SCUBA instructor—here. It's tradition—it's a legacy.

Mike went through a trying time in 2002, the toughest year of his career as a SCUBA instructor. The pool was in terrible disrepair and basically unusable. The entire aquatics program was in jeopardy—SCUBA, lifeguarding and swimming courses had to be taught off campus or at the Recreation Center.

and mud holes looking for submerged cars...guns...even bodies...while FBI investigators or county sheriffs wait anxiously on the surface for his findings. Mike has stories.

"He's got a story for everything," says Jerri Burch, who has taught SCUBA at MTSU with Mike for 15 years. Jerri says when Mike starts telling a story, everyone stops to listen, because if it's good enough for Mike to tell it, then it must be interesting.

Mike's sturdy, 6-foot, 250-pound frame might look somewhat intimidating—if not for his soft eyes, housed behind a pair of thick silver glasses; a frequent smile underneath his shortly trimmed grey mustache and a disarmingly gentle laugh that often follows one of his revered stories.

"There's an interesting story about the mustache," he says with a boyish grin. "When I was named director of the ambulance service, I was 26 years old, and I looked a lot younger than that. You have to understand that in 1972, gov-

ernments became involved in ambulance services for the first time. "They had previously been involved in public safety activities like fire and police, but then along came ambulance services, the third service supported by tax dollars. Rutherford was basically an agricultural county then, and traditionally, agriculture people are very tight-fisted with dollars. There was just a little bit of opinion that I was too young to be put in charge of an agency."

He pauses, as if holding back a secret. "The truth is I actually grew the mustache to make me look older," he says, starting to laugh. "From there it just kind of stuck."

Mike's office at the ambulance service is not quiet. Drivers constantly walk past his open door, and his two-way radio often overpowers his low, mellow voice with steady broadcasts about every emergency in Rutherford County. He does not turn the radio down as he talks, and he frequently

pauses to listen to important dispatches.

Mike says he sees a lot of correlation between directing the ambulance service and teaching SCUBA at MTSU—to the point that several of his SCUBA students have become employees at the ambulance service, and, by the same token, several of his employees at the ambulance service have taken up SCUBA. In fact, some emergency medical technicians came to Mike one day and said they wanted to form a search-and-rescue dive team.

"I said OK, but that if we're going to do this, we're going to do it the way it ought to be done," he says, "because search-and-rescue diving is the most hazardous type of diving you could possibly do—just from a purely statistical standpoint."

Mike admits he was relieved when his employees came to him because prior to that, there was no organized search-and-rescue diving team in Rutherford County. As a result, Mike was the go-to guy for anything in the water.

Mike recalls one February day when he was called to look for abandoned guns in Percy Priest Lake. By the time the dive was over, Mike found more than he expected.

"I got in the water and it was really really cold and really really dark," he says. "I was feeling around, and the first thing I felt was a big tarpaulin. I could tell it was wrapped around something. So my first thought was, this is the guns!"

He tried to pull up the tarp, but it would not budge. He came back up and told the sheriffs he had found something, but that it would have to be pulled up with a rope from the surface.

"By this time there were police cars everywhere," he continues. "I don't know where they all came from, but they just swooped in on the area. There were plenty of people there, and they started pulling. I went down to move it, and I just rode up with it. It had all

sorts of stuff tied to it like concrete blocks.

"As soon as I got to the surface, I took my mask off and put it up around my head. I smelled this awful smell. So I happened to look at the end of that tarp and there was a toe sticking out of it. It was actually a body, [which] had been weighed down with six big double-cinder blocks and two cylinder heads off of a car engine. There was no way that would have ever come up if I hadn't found it."

What Mike solved was not a murder case, but a missing-persons case. A group of people had stolen drugs from a pharmacy. When one of them overdosed, the other people in the group wrapped the body in a tarp, weighed it down and threw it in the lake.

Mike says search-and-rescue diving is not his cup of tea, and that he would much rather be swimming in tropical waters near coral reefs, looking for lobsters or arrow crabs. The biggest part of recreational SCUBA diving is slowing down, taking your time.

"One of the things beginning students tend to do is go too fast," Mike says. "As you get more experienced, you learn to slow down and look at the little things, and just kind of relax."

If relaxing is a tenant of SCUBA, then Mike's students have a head start. In fact, there is a

something he immediately points out would be a bad idea. A student coined the term during her open-water certification dive where everyone could hear it, and the saying stuck.

"The first thing that struck me about Mike was how easygoing he was," says Bill Godsey, who helped train Mike as a SCUBA instructor in 1974. "He never got excited, and he always tried to make other people feel comfortable."

Godsey recalls the rigorous training program and that one of the assignments they gave the candidates was to present a lecture to the class about a subject with which they were not familiar.

"An instructor assigned Mike to present a lecture on the medical aspects of SCUBA diving," Godsey continues. "Well, that was like throwing Brer Rabbit into the briar patch. The instructor had no idea that Mike was a nurse, and within a few seconds of the lecture everyone knew that Mike was in his element."

He has been in the field for over three decades and says he takes at least two medically-related courses every year. To Mike, training is everything.

He arrived at the scene of a car accident involving a young couple and their two young daughters. The car was heading West on I-24 and had run off the road, colliding with trees. Although the father

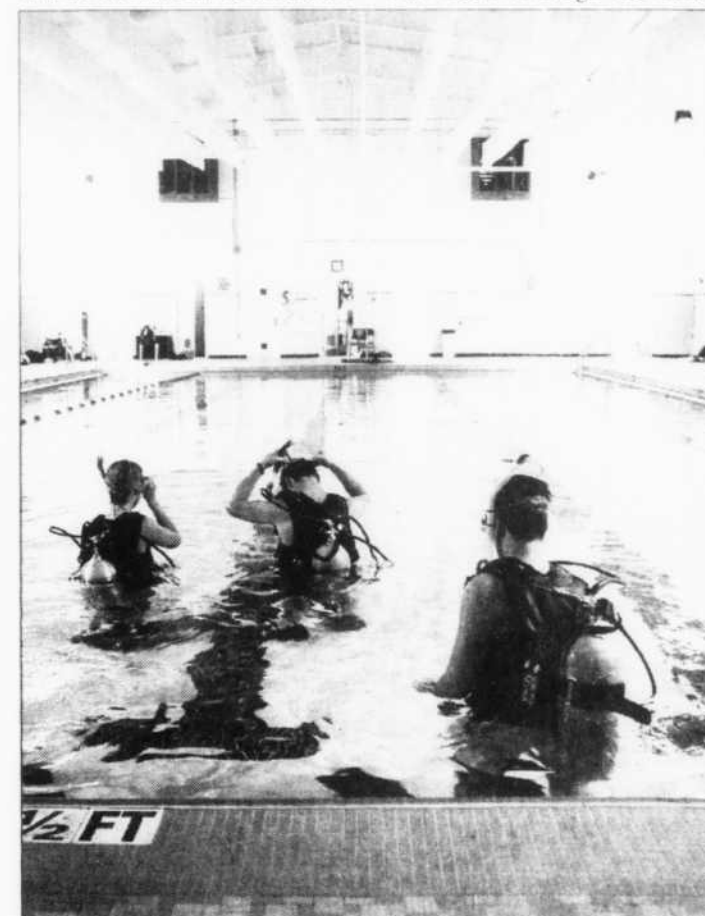


Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
MTSU students prepare to dive during a SCUBA course

colloquial saying in the SCUBA department that "diving with Mike is like diving on Vellum"—

and children sustained no See SCUBA, 6

FEATURES

Video games: Not just for kids anymore

By Rangebar Merani

Staff Writer

How times have changed. I can still remember the days playing "Super Mario Bros." on my first Nintendo Entertainment System. Now, I'm playing "Halo 2" on my Xbox over the Internet with friends.

Video games are part of daily life for many students on campus. They find time to fit in a few hours of playing in between classes, working and their social life—although some might actually consider video games a big part of their social life.

"I play video games about 25 hours a week," sophomore Wesley Frey admits. "It's just that time when I got nothing to do, and I'm just sitting with my friends. I just pick up the controller and play."

Video game systems are beginning to lose their label as just kids' toys and are now considered as entertainment for all ages by many.

AdAge.com reports, "Video gaming is the fastest-growing form of entertainment, and one-third of gamers are women. The average gamer is 29 years old, and young audiences consistently rank the Internet and video games above TV on the importance scale."

"What? The average gamer is 29 years old?" junior Adel Hemyari asks. Hemyari says he spends "about two to three hours a day" playing video games. "Video games aren't just for kids anymore. A lot of games are targeted for older gamers."

Sophomore Adnan Karim said he isn't surprised when told the older average age of gamers. "It's

because of games like 'Grand Theft Auto' and 'God of War,'" he explains. "They're violent and for mature gamers."

Technology is also getting better and video game developers are taking advantage. Video game systems just don't play games anymore. They play movies, music and can even connect players online to play.

"Everything is going to be online and wireless oriented," Frey says. "Video games are going to get better."

With the launch of the Xbox 360, the next generation console war is beginning to stir. While many students await the launches of the Playstation 3 and the Nintendo Revolution later this year, Xbox 360 owners are enjoying the next generation now.

"The Xbox 360 is pretty badass," Hemyari says. "Playing online is the best part about it."

"I'm looking forward to all the new video game systems coming out," Junior Charles Kim declares.

Trevor Hann is one of the PlayStation 3 before spending their money.

"I'm definitely waiting for the PS3 and its new online setup," he explains. "Whenever I get a chance in between class and homework, I try to get on my PS2." Hann says he plays video games about two to three hours a day.

Video games are a big part of life on campus. Campus wouldn't be the same without them. Think about it; where would some of us be without our Halo 2 LAN parties?



Photo by Sarah B.ullen

Media Rerun manager Jesse Pinkerton displays an example of his father Larry's knack for humor. Cutouts of store employees' faces randomly appear on items if he has too much time, Jesse said.

Murfreesboro store gives old media new homes

By Casey Phillips

Features Editor

In Murfreesboro, there is a place where vinyl albums, old games, cassette movies and other aging memorabilia go—not to die, but to have a second run at life.

On first glance—and maybe second—Media Rerun, Murfreesboro's "Recycled general store," has an inventory that looks like a crazy melting pot of random items—an inescapable result of dealing in the once-loved, now-traded knick knacks of pop culture.

From the incense sticks, beaded curtains and wall tapestries at one display to movie and music posters, including one of a jump-suit-clad Elvis, hanging overhead, Rerun certainly has an eclectic feel.

This haven of second-hand rock stars and super heroes, romantics and spies is primarily run by John Ludkins and the son of owners Larry and Gay Pinkerton, Jesse, whose dyed-red hair—a recent addition—stands out on his head enough that repeat customers immediately ask about it.

A large percentage of managerial duties has fallen on the younger

generation, but that doesn't mean Jesse's parents have lost their influence on the store they started to have something "that would be ours," he said.

"The headshop stuff—the beaded curtains, tapestries and incense—is my mom's influence," Jesse explained. "She's a hippy and used to be in here a lot more often. I'm glad that it's just me and John now because it's more comfortable for us, but having [my parents] here in the past has definitely set up a good report with some customers."

In the back of the shop, a raised platform holds a variety of musical instruments from guitars to banjos—his father's influence, Jesse said. Given Larry's background in music as a performer, teacher and retailer, the inclusion of the tools of his trade went without question.

"My dad has had a couple of music shops before, so that's something that definitely had to go in," Jesse said. "He used to teach anything with strings out of the first two music stores he owned. He'll think he'll do it again and make a little extra cash, but then he'll remember what it's like teaching kids who don't care enough to practice and get burnt out."

Jesse's co-manager, John, a tall, thin MTSU graduate formerly on the payroll for the kitchen staff at Demos' Steak and Spaghetti House, has since inherited the role of part-time music instructor at the store.

He said he remembers a store survive a price war with a larger, chain retailer in his hometown, McMinnville, Tenn.

"There was a place called Wizards, which was family owned," he said. "Hastings moved in and slid their prices down really low and really put a hurt on that place. As soon as Wizards closed, Hastings raised their prices back up."

John said he doesn't think the same fate will befall Media Rerun. He and Jesse both pointed to the store's flexibility and personable interactions with customers as its greatest advantages over retail outlets.

"At those kinds of places, you come in and there are all these rules—you've got specific guidelines," John said as one customer in back began playing heavy metal music on a black electric guitar. "Here, you really have to become personally involved with everyone. You have to be very adaptable and malleable to work here."

"We get so many people coming in saying they're giving up on Digital Planet because [the company is] throwing minimum wage at its employees," Jesse said. "When someone can't find a CD, they're like 'You see all those CDs? I can't look through all those. You'll just have to look yourself.'"

In addition to the everyday offerings of used CDs and DVDs, customers occasionally come in with more unique items. The TV the store uses to allow customers to try used video games before purchase looks like the factory missed a step on the assembly line.

"Somebody from the workhouse at the jail on New Salem brought it in," Jesse said, pointing to the see-through case where wires snaking around other components are easily visible. "They'll let you have a TV in your room, but it has to be clear so they can see you aren't hiding anything in it."

Although they do have a wide

variety of items for sale, Jesse said his family wants to keep the store from slipping into the realm of pawn shop dealings by taking in anything and everything. Pawn shops draw in the wrong crowd, he said.

"We don't want this cabinet here to get filled with knives and guns," he said, gesturing to the glass display currently filled with less dangerous items like a DVD player and a speakers system. "Pawn shops bring in thieves. They know that most of their customers are desperate, so they can offer a customer \$5 for a TV and they'll accept it."

One time, Jesse broke his own rule and bought a knife from a customer, although he defends himself by saying it wasn't an ordinary customer, much less an ordinary knife.

"It was a knife with a two-foot blade on it," he said, shaking his head. "I took it in mostly because I didn't think the kid who brought it in needed to have it. Yeah, that knife was made to kill someone, and that kid really didn't need to have it."

They might not want the pawn shop atmosphere, but Media Rerun has had its own, sometimes humorous, experiences with thieves. One story involving a drunk couple is one of Jesse's personal favorites—a yarn he spins with obvious relish.

"We get a lot of people coming in who've been drinking, but this couple made their entrance, falling into the door frame coming in," he said. "I turn around from the front door just in time to see the guy over by the guitars, and he's got this sunburst mandolin stuck down in his jacket with three inches with the flame top sticking out the bottom and the neck sticking out of the top."

"I walk right up to him, like two feet away, and stand there for five seconds before he even looks up at me. He looks up and immediately freaks out—turns all red. He pops that button open, reaches in and acts like he was strumming it. He was like 'I was just tryin' it out, man.'"

Jesse said he kicked them both out and then watched them stumble down to Wal-mart. "I was like, 'Well good, they'll pull that in Wal-mart and get arrested.'"

Both he and John say the store has been able to hold its own, despite its location in the same shopping center as video game retailer Rhino Video Games and Wal-mart.

If they can avoid the pitfalls of Wizards and similar outlets, Jesse said he'd like to see the store branch out to new locations in town, although he said he and his family have reservations about doing so.

"The whole deal with branching out is that our main thing here has been our attitude with people," he said. "You've got to be sure that the guy you put in charge is actually worried about being personable and not just fronting to you about helping customers."

Whether they expand or not, Murfreesboro needs a store like Media Rerun because even used copies of "Gigli" and "Spice World" might find a second home.

For more information about Media Rerun, the store is located at 2820 S. Rutherford Blvd in the shopping center next to Wells Fargo Financial and Frame Works. Information about what the store sells can be found at their Web site at <http://www.mediare-runstore.com>

Old School vs New Cool

October 1985	launch date	November 2005
\$100	launch price	\$300 (core) \$400 (premium)
17	launch games	18
around 675	total games	25 and counting
Basic processor	CPU	Three 3.2 GHz processors
Play games	functions	Play games, movie, music, view pictures, browse the internet

SCUBA: "30 years underwater"

Continued from 5

injuries, the mother suffered internal trauma and needed a surgery.

Mike pauses as he recalls the experience, adjusts himself in his chair, clears his throat and looks forward—eyes glossy behind his glasses.

"I just felt like in that instance I had done everything I could pos-

sibly do, and still watched that lady die right in front of me in the back of the ambulance," he begins, searching for the right words. "[I have] the feeling that perhaps if I'd had more training, if there was something I could have recognized sooner, then I could have done something more."

"One of the things you learn working in this business is that some injuries are just fatal

injuries. There are times when you just can't save a person."

Though Mike is now 58, he says he does not plan on retiring from either of his jobs any time soon.

"I'm happy," he says. "I have 30 years of service, but I still enjoy what I'm doing, and I still feel like there are some things I have yet to do that I want to do. When I don't like to go to work any more, that'll be my signal to retire."

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OPINIONS

Framers clear on religious freedoms

By Matthew Hutt
Hurt Pride

"Separation of church and state" is something I often hear in political discussions pertaining to religion. For the life of me, I can not recall where in the U.S. Constitution there is mention of this concept. Surely, anti-religious types could not be talking about the First Amendment, which states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

For those of you who do not know, that simply means that the government will not financially support a religion or infringe upon the rights of the religious to organize, congregate, and do whatever else necessary. When the framers of the Constitution met to finish the Constitution, they opened in prayer – to the Christian God. Why, then, would the same people mix religion and government when they wanted religion and government set apart from each other?

They didn't. The U.S. Constitution has been perverted by anti-religion-types whose sole purpose is to disrupt the religious practices of those who do believe in a higher power.

The General Assembly of the state of Tennessee has resolved this problem, I believe. Representative Donna Rowland, R.-Murfreesboro, is co-sponsoring legislation in the House that would allow for the exhibition of historical documents in government buildings.

"Each city and town is authorized to display," the bill reads, "historical documents and writings including, but not limited to, the Ten Commandments, Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Bill of

Rights, Constitution of the great state of Tennessee, and other such historically significant documents."

I wonder if, like the legislators in South Dakota, our Representatives and Senators are aware of the importance this legislation could have on the state of Tennessee.

The ACLU and other anti-religious groups who tout civil liberties will cry foul if this legislation passes, but there is a strong argument for this law. The Ten Commandments (which is what I will focus on because no one will have a problem with the Magna Carta of Mayflower Compact) is considered a historical document. No matter what moral relativists and anti-religious-types say, the Ten Commandments were – and still are – a part of Jewish law.

For those of you who want to argue that Judaism is a religion, I am aware. It also happens that there is a group of people who are Jewish. They do not all practice the religion of Judaism, but that makes them no less Jewish. They do still respect the Ten Commandments, legitimizing them as historical documents.

So if your argument is for "separation of church and state," besides the fact that it does not exist, then look at the Ten Commandments as historical documents and get over it. I am tired of my rights as a Christian being targeted on by those who feel compelled to lead a crusade against my religion – no pun intended.

And remember, most importantly, the First Amendment guarantees the "free exercise" of my religion (as well as other religions), and any infringement on that is unconstitutional—a word the liberals love to toss around.

The "Brokeback Mountain" Effect?



James H. Williams
guest faculty
columnist

When the president of Taiwan compares his country's relationship with the United States to the main characters in the film "Brokeback Mountain," it is safe to say that the movie has reached well beyond the audience that the film's makers could have imagined. Are closeted gay cowboys from thirty years ago really the best analogy?

As reported in the Taipei Times last week, President Chen Shui-bian, speaking to a banquet audience of the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei, declared, "It motivates us to understand that all of us are bound to make a difficult decision in life; yet we must strive to dispel prejudice, create trust, uphold mutual respect, and seek ways to reconcile and cooperate with one another, because only by so doing can we together reach the frontier of a 'great new world.'"

For reasons I do not entirely understand, "Brokeback Mountain" has exploded into American culture this year, appealing to a wide audience far beyond the gay or cowboy moviegoer. What I wonder, though, is whether historians ten, twenty, or more years from now will look back to 2006 and describe "the Brokeback Mountain effect" in American culture as it pertains to the status of gay and lesbian people.

I'm dubious that the film indicates a profound change in our culture. Rather, this film fits nicely into a series of mainstream films sympathetic to gay characters and appealing to mainstream audiences.

This history includes "The Birdcage" (the American version of "La Cage aux Folles") and "Philadelphia." What these films have in common with "Brokeback Mountain" is recognizable stars and storylines that allow the viewers to be sympathetic to gay men without hitting too close to home. Who didn't feel bad for Tom Hanks as a gay person with AIDS? And weren't Robin Williams and Nathan Lane hilarious as drag queens? And Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal certainly heat up the screen as cowboys in

love.

But how many Americans live next door to drag queens, go to church with persons with AIDS, or have relatives who are cowboys? Not many, which makes it safe to weep when Hanks's character dies, or laugh along with Williams, or feel the pain of Ledger's lost opportunity to embrace love.

I'm dubious about the "Brokeback Mountain" effect because Americans are so schizophrenic now about gay rights. On the one hand, ballot measures and constitutional amendments—including our own in Tennessee—to deny gay and lesbian people equal rights usually pass with large majorities. Meanwhile, Americans flock to a bumper crop of Hollywood films with gay characters and themes, including this year's multi-Oscar-nominated "Capote," "Transamerica," and "Brokeback Mountain," and straight men allow the "queer guys" to make them over on TV. Pardon me for being confused.

Should "Brokeback" win at the Oscars on Sunday, particularly best picture, Hollywood and the U.S. will pat itself on the back for being so enlightened about gay people. Ledger and Gyllenhaal will continue to make sure everyone knows they are straight and will dutifully respond to questions about kissing another man. And the rest of us will carry on in our bipolar way, of loving the fictional "sinners" while hating the real life ones in our own towns.

We'll be all for straight movie stars playing gay characters getting fair treatment while standing by while real gay people are fired from jobs, kicked out of the military, denied adoption, and excluded from the 1000 rights that come inherently with civil marriage.

I'm waiting for "Hotel Rwanda" and "Schindler's List" to put an end to genocide. "The Grapes of Wrath" didn't end poverty, nor did "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" end racism. "Brokeback" isn't the cure-all for gays, either. It takes more than movies to do that.

"Brokeback" cowboy Ennis tells Jack, his lover, "If you can't fix it, ya gotta stand it." Jack replies, in the frustration that ties together everyone who has ever worked within a civil rights movement, "For how long?" Maybe the movie will speed things along a bit, but I'm pretty sure the answer for gay and lesbian Americans is "quite awhile longer yet." I hope I'm wrong.

Williams is a professor of history at MTSU.



Photo Submitted

Gulf Coast progress steady

By Tim Hill
Opinions Editor

Before meeting up with Reformed University Fellowship's missions team in Moss Point, I was in New Orleans attending a wedding of a good friend of mine. The groom, Matt Wells, had evacuated to Austin, Texas before the hurricane. Fortunately for them, the levees also breached their rental contract in the Big Easy.

Having grown up across the street from Matt in New Orleans, there's a lot that can be said about my thoughts of the devastation. Since I used to live in New Orleans, I have a right to make fun of it. On WMTS, I played Raffi's "Baby Beluga" until it looked like a whale could no longer live within the streets of New Orleans.

In the city, I didn't see a single family on a rooftop crying for help. Nor did I have to wade through any water to get to my sister's truck that was waiting for me. In other words, Wolf Blitzer, Fox News, MSNBC and the rest were inaccurately depicting the situation on the ground in New Orleans. Rush Limbaugh said recently, "The media's pretending like it's the week after Katrina."

New Orleans East was another part of the city wiped out. As we drove by Jazzland, my mom sarcastically said, "Building that park was a brilliant decision." Something that could make anyone laugh was a leveled apartment building along I-10 that had a banner posted since before the storm. "Now Leasing" was the message, even though the roof was collapsed right behind the banner.

Algiers, where my family had lived for twenty years, did not flood like the rest of the city. Breaux Mart, the grocery store where I worked in high school, was looted badly. The owners had decided not to re-open it in the same location. A local shopping center called Aurora Village had all of its stores ransacked. In regards to "Willy Nagin," I only saw two billboards advocating his re-election effort.

But the place where there was no bitterness felt

was in Moss Point. RUF, whose campus minister is Fritz Games, brought twenty students to help the community of Helena Presbyterian Church. The church received wind and flood damage from Hurricane Katrina. Its roof was replaced a few months before we got there, so some of us enjoyed the wonderful world of painting.

Most students helped replace the roof of a 22-year-old uninsured testicular cancer patient's home. The teams removed infamous blue "FEMA" tarps from the rooftops first. I guess FEMA has been helping families affected by Katrina.

One day while we were there, the 8-year-old son of the house owner was playing war with his sister. Later on, I shared some observations with my tent-mates. "If that kid wants to start fighting a war against the students, he needs to remember that the war can only be fought within the borders of the backyard where he found them first," I said. "If he wants to fight the permission of all the residents on the street. If even one neighbor objects to the intrusion on the neighbor's property, he can't go. It wouldn't be his right to."

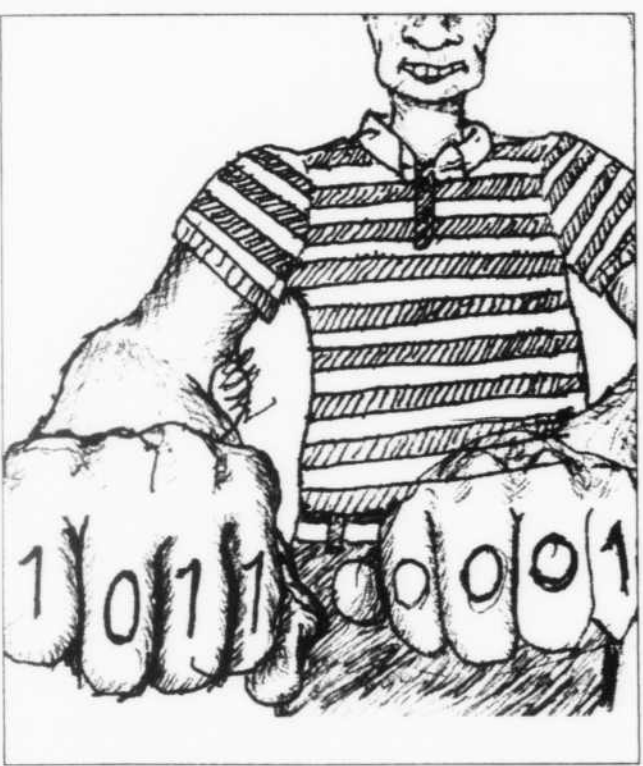
Continuing, "If Austin catches Fritz to a spider-hole, the kid better pull the pin on the paintball grenade while he has the chance to. But if Austin captures him, he has to do it right. The trial, if it happens, shouldn't take place in the street for everyone to see, but rather in a cabin in the middle of the woods where the outcome is favorable for the kid's resolve."

The best military strategy I wanted to tell the kid could help him the most. "If Austin happens to hear a student from the other yard talking to a student in his yard on their walkie-talkie, then he absolutely cannot listen in on that conversation unless he gets his family's permission first. It's just too bad if the information he would have received could have helped him in his war against the RUF students."

On a more serious note, a prayer at the end of the weekend helped to remind us of God's faithfulness. "Lord, you bring storms and you clean up after them," Fritz said.

"If Bill Gates was to get a prison tattoo..."

Cartoon by Jeremy Wyatt



SGA president says student fee increase needed

To the editor:

Blue Raiders,
I hope you all had a great spring break, and are having a great spring 2006 semester. I first off would like to congratulate the new SGA Executive Officers, Jay Cash – President, Josh McKenzie – Executive Vice President & Speaker of the Senate, Meagan Flippin – Vice President of Administration & Public Affairs, and Ben Hall – Election Commissioner. I wish them all the best of luck in the year to come.

I am writing to tell you about an

upcoming challenge which I am trying to tackle. Currently, each student taking seven hours or more is paying out \$20.00 a semester to Student Activity Fee funds. This goes to fund Distinguished Lectures, Sports Clubs, Student Organizations, Student Unions & Programming, and the Student Government Association. As you can see, there is a wide range that these fees are divvied out to. I am proposing to you, the student body at MTSU, that this fee be increased to \$36.00 a semester. Please let me explain to you why.

We often complain about, "why is there nothing to do here on the weekends?", "why is homecoming run by the Greeks?",

"why are all the sports clubs under-funded?", and "why can't we have better speakers/concerts on campus?" With the budget which I am proposing before the SGA Senate, the Tennessee Board of Regents, and the entire student body, we would be able to double the funding of sports clubs, double the funding for distinguished lecturers to come to our campus (thus we'll have better speakers), double the SGA budget (adding additional funds to homecoming, AIDS Quilt philanthropy, as well as help fund a "Lightning Leadership" camp for around 500 incoming freshman students), more than double the concert budget (which would

bring higher profile artists to campus, and cut down on student ticket expense), as well as give Student Organizations over \$50,000 more revenue a semester.

An unofficial research which I have recently performed found that schools similar in size with freshman leadership programs, a stronger student life, and better funded organizations that encourage leadership have higher graduate retention rates than universities lacking in the listed areas. MTSU is a top notch institution, and in order to keep up with our rival institutions, we must advance ourselves. Sometimes, this means we must make sacrifices. A \$16.00 sacrifice once a

semester increase is not much of a sacrifice for the wealth of knowledge, entertainment, and exquisite leadership opportunities that this funding would give us. I encourage you all to get on board with this golden opportunity and make MTSU an even better place to be!

Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Blue
Paul Bryant Fulcher,
Student Body President

SPORTS



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team strikes a pose with their 2006 Sun Belt Championship trophy. The team will face Utah on Saturday in the NCAA tournament's first round.

Three in a row

By David Hunter and Erika Davis
Sports Editor and Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team earned a spot in the Women's NCAA Tournament with an 84-73 victory over rival Western Kentucky in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament title game at the Murphy Center on March 7.

"I've never felt like this," MT head coach Rick Insell said. I just never quit believing in my young ladies. I knew when we got down 16 points that we were OK. I told the young ladies in the timeout that the game was not over and we had plenty of time to get back in this game and they believed me."

This was the third straight SBC tournament championship for the Blue Raiders. It gave them the automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament.

"It means a lot," MT forward Tia Stovall said, "It brings tears to my eyes. Words really can't describe what it means to me. I couldn't ask for a better group of girls to have won it with. I will carry this with me the rest of my life."

From 1983 to 1986, MT made it into the NCAA Tournament four consecutive times by winning the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament championship each of those years.

The Blue Raiders fell behind early with WKU jumping out to a 15-2 lead. However, MT kept chipping away and got it down to eight when Starr Orr connected on a three-pointer with 10:13 left in the opening half.

Chrissy Givens, who was named Most Outstanding Player of the SBC tourney, cut the WKU lead to one with a couple of free throws to make the contest 35-34 with 2:14 to go in the first half. Tia Stovall gave MT their first lead with a three-point play with 1:10 remaining. Both teams then traded buckets. WKU's

Krystal Gardner nailed a jumper with two seconds left to even the score, 39-39 at half time.

During the break, the coaches decided to put Monique Martin in the game. She didn't play in the first two games of the tournament. It turned out to be a good choice.

Martin began the second half by draining a jumper with just six seconds off the clock. MT never fell behind again in the game.

Martin hit another key basket with 12:38 left from downtown after WKU cut the advantage to one.

"At halftime, Coach Insell was giving us a talk about what we needed to go out and do and he called a coaches meeting," MT guard Monique Martin said. "He came back and said Monique we are going back with you. I knew then that I had to go out and do what I had to do to help my team win."

Martin finished the game with 15 points in 13 minutes of action.

The largest lead the Blue Raiders had was 15 with 6:26 to go.

Givens had her fourth double-double of the season with 24 points and 12 rebounds. Stovall added 19 and put on the All-Tournament Team. Orr had 11 points, and Krystle Horton became the fifth player in double figures with 10 points.

"It is not a secret where the offense is going," MT guard Chrissy Givens said. "Everyone knows it is going through me. I'm trying to get everybody else to pull off and stop me from getting into the paint and then dish. I got a lot of assists because everyone was pulling off and (Stovall and Krystle Horton) were getting lay-ups and ones. It was just a team effort. If you stop me it's not like I'm the only scorer."

The two other wins in tournament came on March 4th 84-58 over Louisiana-Lafayette and March 6th 90-64 over Arkansas State.

MT wins first spring event at Jaguar Invitational

By Wade Neely
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee Lady Raider golf team won its first match of the spring season last week at the Lady Jaguar Invitational. The victory marks the second time in as many years the Lady Raiders have won the tournament.

Despite a furious rally by the University of South Alabama, which hosted the tournament, the Lady Raiders kept their

composure, shooting a 592 and outlasting a Lady Jaguar total of 595. The Lady Raiders and Lady Jaguars were tied at 297 after the first round, but in the end, the Lady Raiders put a second round 295 to put the match away.

Third place went to the University of Western Carolina, but the Catamounts were no match for the Lady Raiders and Lady Jaguars, who separated from the rest of the field almost immediately.

The tournament was no doubt a huge

momentum boost for the Lady Raiders, who came into the tournament after beginning the spring season with a disappointing third place finish in the BajaMar Invitational.

"After a disappointing tournament in Mexico to begin the spring, I am very proud of the way the girls bounced back this week," Lady Raider head coach Rachael Short said to Media Relations. "This should give us a lot of momentum heading into our next tournament."

On the individual front, junior Lady Raider Maggie McGill turned in career-best second place finish, shooting a combined score of 145. Her second-round score of 71 also matched a personal best.

Freshman Leigh Wilkins was only four shots behind McGill, finishing up in a tie for sixth place overall. Wilkins finished her second round with a 73, a career best.

Right on Wilkins heels was sophomore Taryn Durham, who finished in a tie for 9th place after shooting a total of 150.

Rounding out the scoring for the Lady Raiders was freshman Mallory Bishop and sophomore Jamey Dillard, who both shot a total of 153, putting them in a tie for 21st.

"To win this tournament two years in a row is great for our program," Short said to MT Media Relations.

The Lady Raiders will rest up this week before traveling to Birmingham for the 4th Annual Samford Intercollegiate on Monday.

Last second shot knocks out MT men's basketball

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

A home tournament quickly became a disappointing home loss for Middle Tennessee in the 2006 Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

The Blue Raiders, after earning a first-round bye, were defeated in the quarterfinals by Denver 58-57 in dramatic fashion after Pioneer standout Yemi Nicholson hit a layup with :00.8 remaining to oust the Blue Raiders from the tournament.

One of the game's best matchups featured MT freshman forward Theryn Hudson against DU senior and former SBC Player of the Year Nicholson. Hudson came out strong against the 2006 SBC Defensive Player of the Year, scoring the games first six points, but the senior would have the defining moment on the last play of the game.

As was the in the regular seasons matchup, Nicholson proved to be basically unstoppable, scoring 16 of his 27 points in the second half. The game-winning shot came on a DaShawn Walker 3-point attempt which was deflected by MT's Marcus Morrison and then laid in by Nicholson on his only offensive rebound of the game.

"DaShawn took a good shot, but it was blocked and didn't go his way," Nicholson said. "I tried to anticipate where the ball was going to go when he shot it, and it went right where I thought it would and I was able to catch it and put it in the basket."

As Denver battled back for the win, the Blue Raiders did the exact opposite and struggled in the final minutes, turning the ball over on their last two possessions. MT led 57-54 on a Fats Cuyler's 3-pointer with 2:09 remaining, but would not score again.

MT actually had a chance to stop the final play before it even happened, as Denver lost control of the ball as the final seconds ticked away, but the ball wiggled through two Middle Tennessee players and out of bounds with four seconds remaining, setting up the final in-bounds play.

"It just seemed like in that minute-and-a-half, [Denver] made the plays and things kind of went their way," Head Coach Kermit Davis said.

Morrison, who played his final game as a Blue Raider, scored 15 points but watched Nicholson make the biggest basket of his career.

"I saw Walker pop free so I jumped to him," Morrison said. "I knew he was going to shoot because there were only four seconds left. I just tried to jump as high as I could without fouling him. I turned around, and Nicholson was grabbing it and putting it in."

"Denver likes the Murphy Center. I know that," Davis said. "They haven't been very good anywhere else on the road. Their only other road win was at Northern Colorado. They have two road wins in the league, and it was against us here. They have shot the ball well here."

MT track completes indoor season at NCAA meets

By David Hunter
Sports Editor

Some members of the Middle Tennessee track team competed in the NCAA Last Chance Invitational and the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships over spring break.

Juan Walker and Linnie Yarbrough represented the Blue Raiders in the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Fayetteville, Ark on March 10.

On March 4, Stephanie Tamgho, Candice Robertson, and Orlando Reid competed in the NCAA Last Chance Invitational in Ames, Iowa.

Walker became the 78th person in school history to earn All-American honors with his performance in the long jump. He finished 10th in the event with a jump of 24-6.5.

In 41 seasons as MT Track head coach, Dean Hayes has now coached 40 members of the All-

American team including the latest honor going to Walker.

"I just tried to focus this week," Walker said to MT Media Relations. "I'm happy with what I did. I didn't jump as well as I wanted to, but I accomplished one of my goals. My main goal was to get on Coach Hayes' wall with all of the other All-Americans and I accomplished that. There are a lot of greats on that wall and it feels great to be part of that."

It was a tough break for the other MT member to make the event, Yarbrough.

In the 60-meter hurdles qualifying, Yarbrough finished with the same time as Auburn's Tyrone Akins and South Carolina's Jason Richardson with a time of 7.83 for the last spot in the eight-man final.

The time was further broke down to the thousands of a second. Richardson had a time of 7.823, Yarbrough's time was 7.826, and Akins' was 7.830.

Richardson made it to the

finals, while Yarbrough and Akins missed out.

It was the second year in a row that Yarbrough finished ninth in the event.

Meanwhile in Iowa the week before, Tamgho had the best finish of all the MT track members with a 19-4.25 jump for the runner-up spot in the long jump. She also placed tied for third in the triple jump with a jump of 37-10.75.

Robertson had a personal-best time of 8.52 in the finals of the 60-meter hurdle event to finish seventh in the finals.

Reid ran in a time of 21.31 to complete the 200-meters race in eighth. However, he came up lame at the end of the race. That prevented the 4x400-meter relay team from participating in the event.

This completes the indoor season for the MT track team, but the outdoor season begins this weekend at the Alabama Relays.

Men's tennis posts mixed results over break

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

In yet another installment of what has become quite the Jekyll-and-Hyde season for Middle Tennessee men's tennis, the team posted a mixed bag of results over the break.

The Blue Raiders began with a victory over Nebraska, followed by a string of losses against Texas Tech, South Alabama and Fresno State, before wrapping up with a defeat of San Diego.

On March 2, MT claimed a 4-0 victory over 50th-ranked Nebraska in the opening round of the HEB Invitational in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The Blue Raiders began by winning two out of three matches to clinch the doubles point.

At No. 1, the second-ranked duo of

Marco Born and Andreas Siljestrom defeated NU's Jerry Posch and Mark Tate 8-4, and at No. 2 MT's Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn were 8-3 winners over Adrian Szatmary and Joerg Barthel.

The Blue Raiders' Morgan Richard and Greg Pollack fell 8-5 to Arturo Navarro and James Clow at No. 3.

MT then put on a show in singles, winning all three completed singles matches while leading two others.

Born defeated Navarro 7-5, 6-0 at No. 2, and Schledorn notched a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Szatmary at No. 3.

Pollack sent the Blue Raiders to the semifinals with a match-clinching 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Tate at No. 5.

When play was completed, Siljestrom was up 1-0 on Posch in the third set, Rishan Kuruppu led NU's Clow by the same score and Richard was down one set

but leading 5-2 in the second.

The win propelled MT to the semifinals the next day against 45th-ranked Texas Tech.

Despite winning the doubles point, the 37th-ranked Blue Raiders dropped a 4-3 decision to the Red Raiders.

In doubles, Born and Siljestrom defeated TTU's Adrian Prpic and Christian Rojmar 8-5 at No. 1, and Allan and Schledorn made short work of Dimitro Martinez and Michael Breler, winning 8-1.

When doubles play was ended MT held a 6-4 lead at No. 3, with Pollack and Richard facing Teddy DiBlasi and Sinisa Markovic of the Red Raiders.

However, Texas Tech regrouped to win three of the first four singles matches.

Siljestrom, ranked 50th nationally, was upset by Prpic 6-3, 6-3 at No. 1.

Schledorn then countered for the Blue Raiders by claiming a 7-6, 6-2 victory over Rojmar at No. 3.

The Red Raiders took the lead again when DiBlasi posted a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Pollack at No. 6 and Markovic defeated Kuruppu 6-4, 6-4 at No. 5.

Allan leveled the match at 3-3 with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win over Breler at No. 4.

With the outcome of the overall match now resting on the No. 2 singles tilt, Born jumped out to a one-set lead but eventually succumbed 5-7, 7-6, 6-1 to Martinez.

The loss snapped MT's three-match winning streak and sent the Blue Raiders into the consolation bracket to face 71st-ranked South Alabama.

That match ended in heartbreaking fashion for the Blue Raiders as well, as MT lost three straight matches to fall 4-3 to USA.

The teams split a pair of doubles matches to start, with Born and Siljestrom defeating R.J. Nagel and Monte Tucker 8-4 at No. 1, and Allan and Schledorn falling to Jack Baker and Robert Hodel 8-5 at No. 2.

With the doubles point on the line, Richard and Pollack fought to claim a 9-8 victory over Sam Huffman and Filip Kricka at No. 3.

A fast start for the Blue Raiders in singles did not prove to be enough.

Born continued his hot streak by posting a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Tucker at No. 2. Allan clawed out a three-set victory, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 at No. 3 over Marek Sramek of USA.

Nagel made quick work of Richard by a 6-1, 6-2 score at No. 6 for USA's first point

SPORTS

Blue Raiders lose seven of nine over spring break

By Russell Luna
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee baseball traveled to Austin Peay Wednesday, and will host a game against UT-Martin today and then travel to Birmingham Southern this weekend.

Spring break was not easy for the Blue Raiders, as MT lost seven of their nine games over the break.

MT allowed 60 runs in nine games, but did not notch a couple of victories against Missouri State and Southern Illinois.

The Blue Raiders had a 5-3 lead in the eighth inning of Feb. 28's contest at Belmont. However, a pinch hit by Sam Grooms and a sacrifice fly by Jon Camp helped tie the game at five. In the bottom of the ninth, an RBI single by Ben Petsch gave the Blue Raiders their first loss of the season.

The Blue Raiders then opened their home series against Missouri State. The Missouri Valley Conference member used timely hitting and solid pitching to limit the Blue Raiders to only two runs in the first game, allowing MSU to win 6-1.

The Blue Raiders would answer back with a 17 hits and 15 runs to snatch the second game, 15-2.

MSU's Tanner Mattson tallied three hits, two runs, and two RBI's to help the Bears capture the

series on Sunday March 5th with an 11-4 win.

Coach Steve Peterson's crew then continued their road trip to Memphis and Southern Illinois that included playing five games in six days.

MT will have played 14 of their first 18 games on the road before the Blue Raiders enter Sun Belt Conference play on March 24th.

Nine runs in the first two innings helped the Memphis Tigers capture an 11-5 win, their first win against MT since 2004.

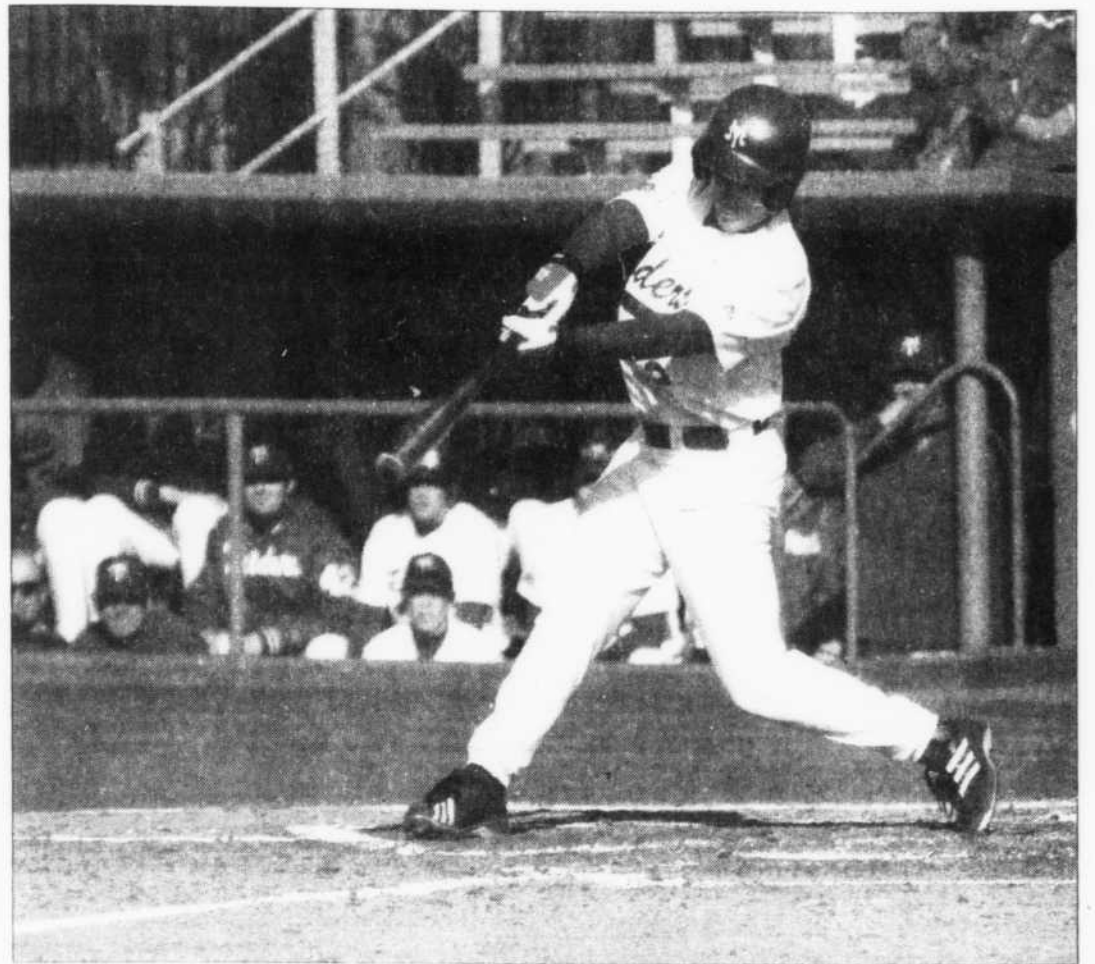
Despite having an early 2-1 lead, the Blue Raiders faltered as Memphis scored seven times in the final three innings to help take the game 8-3. The third game of the series was cancelled due to inclement weather.

MT finished its Spring Break road trip by traveling to Carbondale, Ill. to play Southern Illinois. The Salukis captured the series despite losing the 9-0 opener after an eight-inning shutout by Blue Raider Matt Scott.

The Salukis would then take advantage of Ben Maugeri's two-run single in the bottom of the tenth to capture the second game 9-8.

A single by Erik Alvarez in the bottom of the ninth would help the Saluki's capture a 7-6 win in the final game.

The loss dropped the Blue Raiders to 5-7 overall.



MT's Nathan Hines takes a cut in the team's contest with Missouri State. The Bears won two of three games in the March 3-5 series.

MT softball's Ledbetter wins SBC Player of the Week

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider softball team (7-17) kept themselves busy during spring break. There were no beaches or vacations, just softball fields and tournaments and maybe a suntan in between.

Middle Tennessee kicked off its spring break by defeating UT-Martin in the first game of a doubleheader. Muriel Ledbetter helped lead the Blue Raiders to a 6-4 win in the first game.

Ledbetter picked up her first homerun of the season, the third of her career in the first inning. After that the Blue Raiders put up five more runs. Laura Moore gave MT the lead after scoring Justine Cerda with an RBI. Ledbetter then scored again off an RBI single from Katie Mielke. Jennifer Dorais brought in Melissa Weiland off an RBI and Mielke scored off a UT-Martin error.

Ledbetter's second homerun of the game was in the top of the seventh

inning to give MT a 6-1 lead. UT-Martin managed to put three more runs on the board, but it was not enough to take the lead. Trish White forced a pop up and a ground out to secure the win. Moore got the win, going for four innings with four hits. White tossed four innings, allowing five hits and three runs.

The teams were tied at one by the seventh inning of the second game before darkness suspended the game. Ashley Katinas allowed four hits, one run and struck out three.

MT then came home for a few days to play Chattanooga and took two wins in the series. Moore tossed her first shutout of her career against Chattanooga to win 3-0. She allowed only one hit and had two strikeouts along with two walks. The game went scoreless until the bottom of the sixth when the Blue Raiders scored three runs.

The Blue Raiders got the first two runs of the second game. Chattanooga

picked up its only runs of the series in the top of the third to take a 3-2 lead. Ledbetter put up another homerun and Shelby Stiner hit a two RBI double to take the lead and the win 3-3.

MT traveled to Chattanooga for the Frost Classic where they went 1-3. The Blue Raiders dropped both games on day one to Tennessee Tech 4-1 and host Chattanooga 2-1. Moore pitched a complete game, allowing three runs and five strikeouts.

After going five scoreless innings, Chattanooga was first on the board with two runs in the second game. Michelle Wilkes hit an RBI single to pick up MT's only run of the game.

The second day of the tournament went a lot like the first. The Blue Raiders fell 7-5 to North Florida and 4-3 to Bradley University. Ledbetter hit her fourth homerun of the season in the bottom of the sixth. It was not enough to give the Blue Raiders the lead over North Florida. Katinas took the loss, giving up four runs and striking

out three.

MT kept things close in the second game against Bradley. However, Bradley took the win and Moore took the loss for the Blue Raiders allowing four runs on five hits and striking out four.

In the final day of the Classic, the Blue Raiders gave up a 5-4 loss to UT-Martin but came back in the second game to defeat Indiana 4-1. Moore took the loss against UT-Martin falling to 4-6 on the season.

Melissa Weiland hit her second homerun of the season to tie the game. UT-Martin scored two homeruns in the bottom of the seventh to take the game.

After four scoreless innings against Indiana, the Blue Raiders picked up three runs in the top of the fifth.

Ledbetter once again stepped up to the plate and connected on a homerun, her fifth of the season. Katinas went for five scoreless innings before giving up a run to Indiana in the sixth, their only one for the game. Katinas improved to 4-2 with her first win of the season.

The Blue Raiders packed their things once again and traveled to Palo Alto, Calif. for the Stanford Invitational the weekend after spring break. The Blue Raiders were handed their first shutout of the season against BYU, 4-0.

MT went on to drop its second game of the tournament 4-2 to Wisconsin. This time the Blue Raiders picked up two runs in the game to avoid another shutout. MT's game against Pacific was rained out.

In the final day of the tournament, the Blue Raiders fell to host Stanford 13-1 and then came back to defeat Miami of Ohio 7-6. Freshman Samantha Floyd got her first start on the mound as a Blue Raider against Miami of Ohio. She went one inning allowing five runs and struck out one.

Ledbetter was named Sun Belt Player of the Week after the tournament.

The Blue Raiders travel to Starkville, Mississippi to play Mississippi State today at 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis: "Ups and downs"

Continued from 8

of the match, leaving the Blue Raiders needing just one more win.

MT yet again failed to close out a match, however, as Siljestrom and Schledorn both held leads before relinquishing control. Siljestrom was defeated 1-7, 7-6, 6-2 by Baker at No. 1, and Schledorn dropped a 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 decision to Hodel at No. 4.

Kuruppu matched the Jaguars' Mark Gellard blow-for-blow but lost a tight match at No. 5, 7-5, 6-4.

The match marked the fourth time this season the Blue Raiders lost by a 4-3 margin.

A change in scenery could not help the Blue Raiders on March 8, as the losing streak extended to three with a 6-1 loss to 74th-ranked Fresno State.

The score of the contest represented the first time MT dropped a decision by more than one point this season.

The Bulldogs swept the doubles to claim an early 1-0 lead.

Charles Irie and Rudolf Siwy were 8-5 winners over Allan and Schledorn at No. 2, and Jakob Cech and Sam Tadevosian notched an 8-6 victory over Pollack and Richard at No. 3.

FSU pulled a significant upset at No. 1 doubles when the unranked team of Sam Gibbs and Sergi Modoc claimed a 9-8 (2) victory over the third-ranked duo of Born and Siljestrom.

For MT's "Twin Towers," it was their first defeat of the season.

The Blue Raiders could not rebound in singles, losing four matches in three sets.

Modoc gave the Bulldogs a 2-0 lead by defeating Born 6-4, 6-2 at No. 2.

Irie kept things rolling for FSU with a 6-4, 0-6, 7-5 win over Allan at No. 4.

The match was sealed when Tadevosian bested Pollack by a 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 margin at No. 5.

Schledorn garnered the only point of the match for MT when he outlasted Siwy 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 at No. 3.

Jordi Ballester of FSU responded with a 4-6, 6-0, 7-6 (3) victory over Kuruppu at No. 6, and Siljestrom dropped another tiebreaker decision, falling 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (6) to 74th-ranked Cech.

After the match, however, head coach Dale Short told MT Media Relations that he sensed his team was beginning to get back on track.

"The guys fought hard and I was proud of their efforts," Short said. "If we can keep the right frame of mind and keep working, we will begin to turn the corner."

Indeed, it seemed Short may have psychic abilities, because two days later, as the Blue Raiders upset 23rd-ranked San Diego 4-2.

The match snapped a three-game losing skid for MT, and perhaps more importantly for the Blue Raiders, proved the team could still win a close contest.

The win also marked the first time MT has defeated a Top 25 team since the 2002 NCAA Tournament, when the Blue Raiders ousted then 18th-ranked Alabama.

Only singles contests were played due to the threat of rain, but inclement weather did not slow down the Blue Raiders.

Born defeated Thomas Liversage of USD 6-3, 6-2 at No. 2 and Allan won 6-1, 6-2 over Mirza Koristovic at No. 4.

San Diego fired back with victories at Nos. 5 and 6, as Ryo Sekiguchi defeated Pollack 6-3, 6-4 and Jonas Mouly handled Kuruppu 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 at No. 6, respectively.

With the score knotted at 2-all, Schledorn came up big for MT against USD's Oscar Plotnik. The two split sets, then Schledorn gave up a break in the third. The junior managed to break back, however, and triumph by a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 tally.

Needing a win to secure the match at No. 1, 47th-ranked Siljestrom faced off against 45th-ranked Pierrick Ysern.

The match was a back-and-forth affair, with Siljestrom surrendering a break in the third but coming back to force a tiebreaker.

Siljestrom took a quick 6-1 lead in the tiebreaker before Ysern won the next four points. The Blue Raider junior finally closed out the match by winning the last point for a 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (5) win.

"We really needed a win like that to propel us in the right direction," Short told MT Media Relations.

"We haven't been playing up to our potential like we showed in the fall, but this is a great way to end the trip."

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Men's golf wins USF Invitational for first victory in three seasons

The next tournament for the Blue Raiders is March 27-28 at the University of Arkansas Little-Rock Invitational.

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Photo by Jenna Winstead | Staff Photographer
Western Kentucky University Guard Courtney Lee attempts to block a South Alabama shot during the SBC title game at the Murphy Center on March 7.

South Alabama wins men's championship

By Jonathan Hutton

Staff Writer

As they have done all year, South Alabama cruised through their opponents and made Hilltopper fans look in amazement as the Jaguars defeated Western Kentucky 95-70 for the Sun Belt Conference crown at Murphy Center.

South Alabama dominated opponents on the road throughout the season and that's precisely what the 2006 SBC Tournament was for them - a three game road trip. The Jaguars would not be denied the SBC Trophy and the automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament.

The Jaguars defeated Arkansas-Little Rock and Denver to match up against the heavily fan-favored Hilltoppers on Tuesday night. USA then brought one of the better games of the season to the Murphy Center, shooting 61 percent from the floor in the game and 45 percent from beyond the three-point line.

WKU was not prepared for the type of game USA played and at times looked very ill-prepared. As a team, the Hilltoppers shot a meager 33 percent from the field and SBC Player of the Year Anthony Winchester made just six of 21 shot attempts and most noticeably converted on just 2 of 11 from three point territory.

"I think as a team we did a great job of shooting from the outside," Jaguar forward Richard Law said.

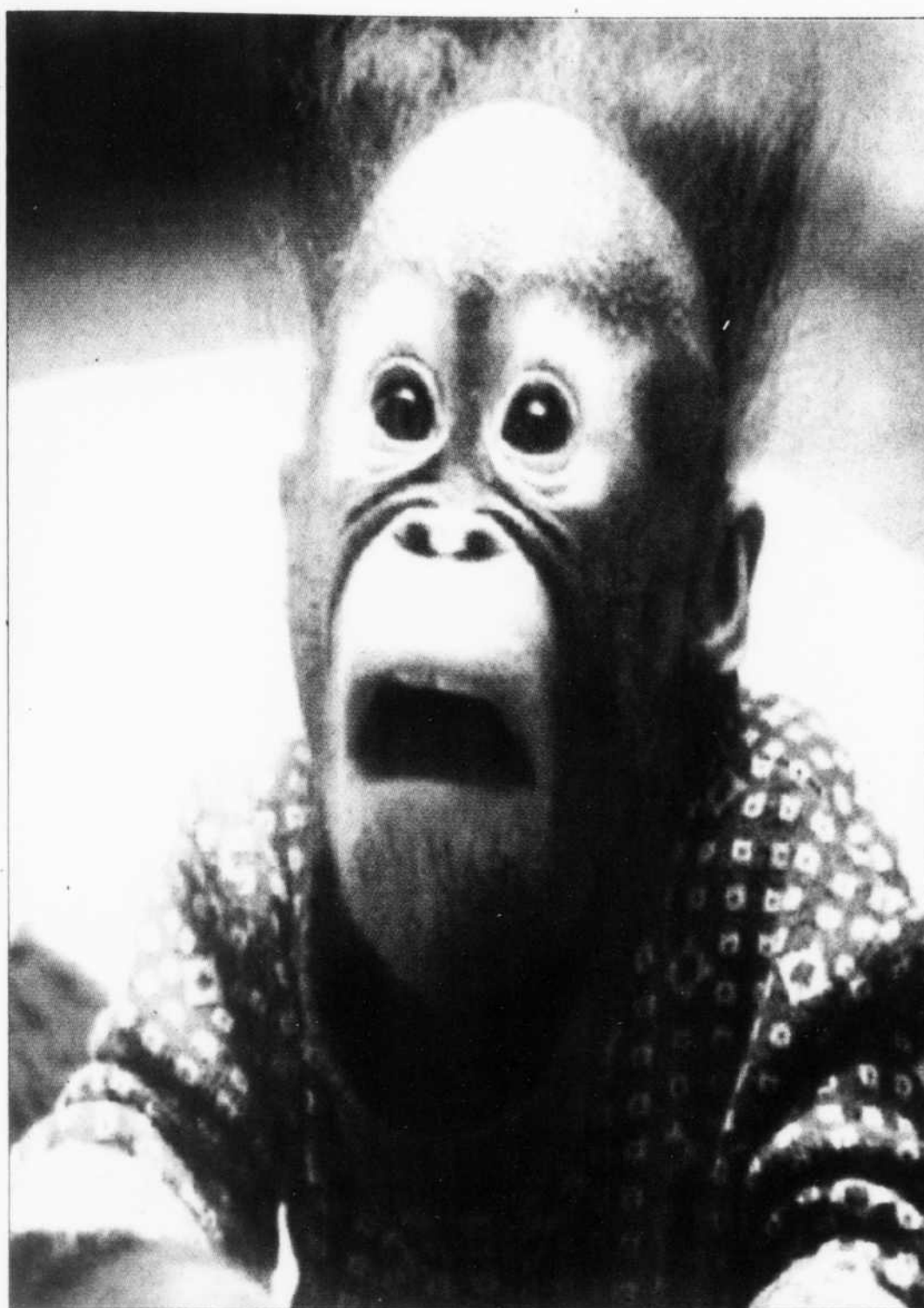
"Western Kentucky had some great open looks for them in the game but they just didn't fall for them."

Jaguar head coach John Delphrey, who was recently named the SBC Coach of the Year before the tournament began, said the championship game was the best game he had ever seen his group play. Ten of 11 players on the Jaguar roster scored at least a bucket, every player saw playing time, and more than half of the team's total points came from the bench.

"This team has been a lot of fun to coach this year," Delphrey said. "We just played great defense and I think our pressure upset Western Kentucky's rhythm. Our perimeter shooting really played a factor in the game. This was truly a team effort and all 11 guys contributed. We didn't do anything special tonight, we just played Jaguar basketball."

The win marks the first time since 1998 that the Jaguars will attend the NCAA Tournament. They will play Florida today at 1:55 p.m. in Jacksonville, Fla. in first round action.

"We suffered a tough loss earlier in the year to Western Kentucky and we felt we owed them," Player of the Game Chey Christie said. "When the game we kept our mind on that and stayed focused on our goal. It was a team effort tonight to stop Western Kentucky's [Anthony] Winchester and I think we did a good job. This is a great feeling to know we have reached our goal and are going to the NCAA Tournament."



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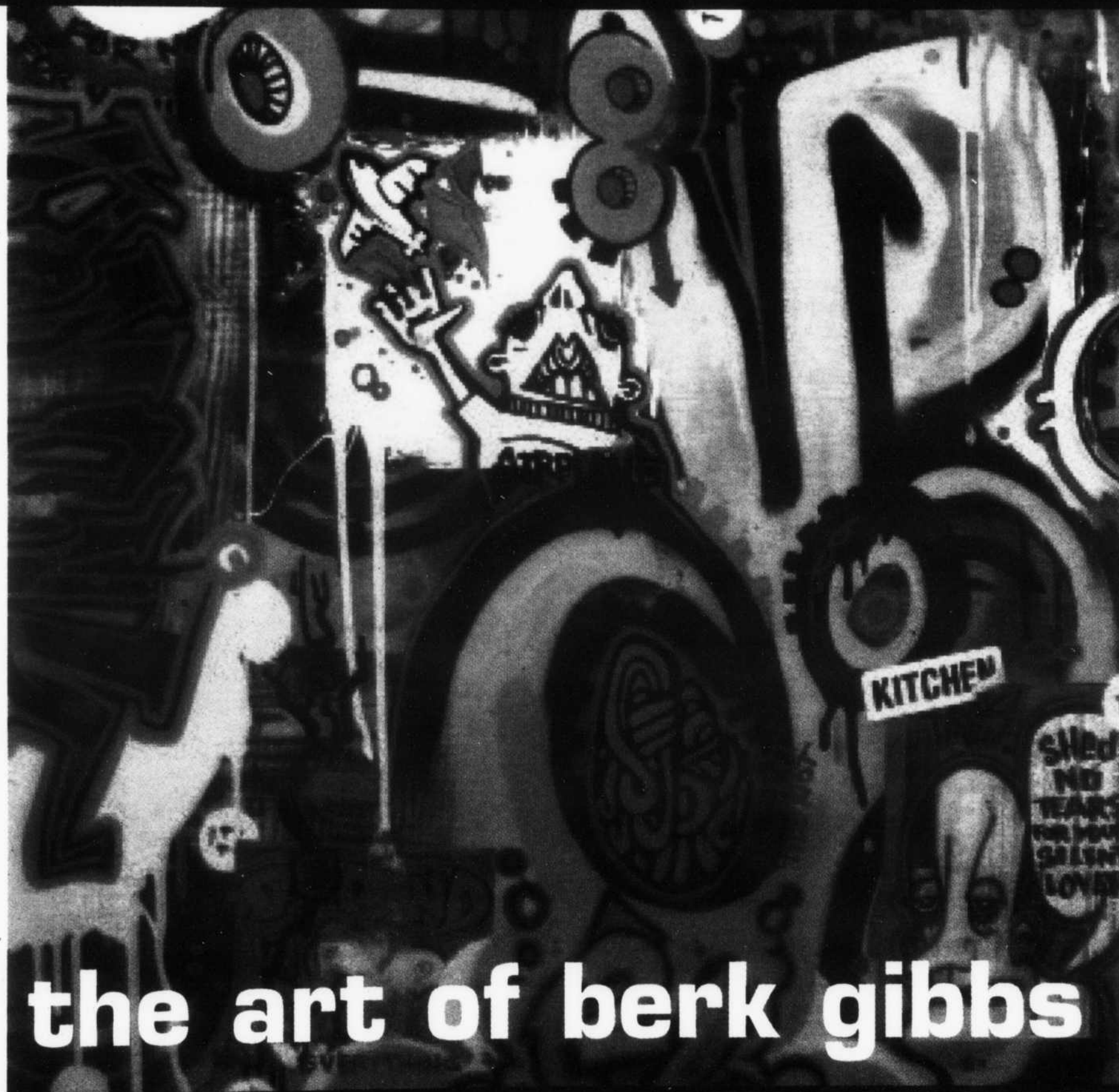
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Exposure



the art of berk gibbs

the editor medijates...



you will enjoy what you have to show to you this week.

I am very excited to present the art of Berk Gibbs on our full color pages.

I was also equally excited to feature DVST8 and Kamoshin for our WMTS DJs this week.

Although we range in our topics a lot, I feel we have a great cross-section of the Murfreesboro scene.

Sink your teeth in and enjoy! Peace.

Hola, MTSU. My brain is becoming a gelatinous mass of art, music, film, tv and cuisine. The process of filtering through all the wonderful works that have been created in Murfreesboro has left very minimal room for the rest stuff that I need to operate on a daily basis.

So that being said I hope

By Phillip C. Buck
Exposure Editor

content

page three
MTSU's Top Model

page six
"Ultraviolet"

page seven
Empty Cafe

Berk Gibbs

Look to page four for a small gallery of art by the Boro's own Berk Gibbs.

'This Man'

Hal Newman and crew bring the story of Christ to life through music and theatre.

...the staff, exposed

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

Kristen Teffeteller
Juli Shipley
Ryan Harris
Austin Bennett
Meghanne Thompson
Jessy Yancey

David Wheatley
Cameron Chiles
John Daniel
Matt Orenstein
John Hreha

'Take Me Out' comes to MTSU

By Juli Shipley
Exposure Writer

MTSU's Theatre Department brings in spring with a full swing with its production of "Take Me Out," starting March 31 at Tucker Theatre.

The play, which ended its run on Broadway in 2003, is a contemporary story about the fictional New York Empires baseball team. Directed by highly valued theater professor Deborah Anderson, "Take Me Out" features an all-male cast full of diversity.

Written by Richard Greenberg, this ensemble drama centers around baseball, but the title is a double-entendre. More specifically, this is the story of Darren Leeming and what happens when a popular baseball player surprises his fans and teammates when he

reveals during a press conference that he is gay.

Anderson is excited about this spring's production, which stars Josh Procter, Chris Ford, Ian Hunt, Jordan Turman and Will Fancher. The play is the complement to Anderson's all-female cast of Eve Ensler's "Necessary Targets" which was presented last fall.

"Take Me Out" runs March 31, April 1 and April 5-9. As with all theater productions, student tickets are free.

Dig the music scene? Want to write about it?

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MTTV Channel 10 brings you 'MTSU's next top model'

By Kristen Teffetteller
Exposure Columnist

Many people have heard of the reality shows "Runway" and "America's Next Top Model." Now, MTSU has its own reality television show on MTTV Channel 10: "MTSU's Next Top Model."

A year ago, executive producer Nicole Thompson, an electronic media communications major, was trying to think of a show for her MIDI Production class.

"I watched 'America's Next Top Model' and thought it would be a good idea," Thompson said. "It basically was a project to get me into MTTV."

Thompson sent out a request for help on PipelineMT. Josh Robbins, head booker of the Wilhelmina-Dan Agency in Nashville, heard about her

Thompson's project and offered the agency's help. The agency's expertise and industry contacts lend a professional touch to the show and they also provide a \$3000 prize package, including a one-year developmental modeling contract with Wilhelmina-Dan Agency.

The show has not gone without problems. Season one began airing on MTTV last semester and then was dropped from the channel's line-up.

"The reason was that we had one editor and we couldn't get the edits done in time," Thompson said. "[Currently] we're still editing to get it done in time to air. We need some knowledgeable, good editors."

Production on season two began later than Thompson originally anticipated. She said "the most obvious problem" was lack of help and interest during Christmas break, when she was "actually trying to get it running."

With the production experience of the first season under her belt, Thompson decided to make a few changes to the format, hence the tagline "The rules have changed!"

For example, the first season had 14 contestants, including two males. This year, nine female contestants were chosen from the application process and an open casting call. Thompson revealed that more female contestants will be added during this week's filming for a "Wild Card" episode. The judging of the contestants will also be structured more like Bravo's "Runway."

The challenges are also undergoing a makeover. Thompson said some of last year's challenges were simply fun, such as applying makeup without the aid of a mirror or a photo shoot with a ferret. Other challenges were similar to "America's Next Top Model," like a lingerie shoot held at Nashville's Coyote Ugly Saloon.

"This year, Stephanie Williams [president of Dan Agency and a judge] wants it to be more professional," Thompson said. "We're using pro photographers, hair and makeup...it will be geared more towards the real 'Top Model.'"

Filming of the second season has already begun for round one contestants. They have had three photo shoots in the Middle Tennessee area and will begin filming for round two this Saturday. With a more professional style and surprising twists and turns, "MTSU's Next Top Model" may become a new guilty pleasure for students.

"It is the most awesome show on the station, pure and simple," Thompson said.

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!

Constructive Interference

Tune in Thursdays at 8 o'clock for the illest hip-hop in Murfreesboro! DVST8 and Kamoshin spin live vinyl from the likes of Jurassic 5, The Roots, DJ Shadow, RJD2, Aesop Rock and much more. Collectively known as Fluorid Dialects, these WMTS DJs feature the best in independent hip-hop, breaks, funk, reggae, turntablism, and hip-hop instrumentals. Often bringing in local MCs like 247 and spoken word for freestyles and battles as well as DJs like Wick the Insurgator and Dectay. Joiner from the Full Flows Collective, DVST8 and Kamoshin are on the forefront of hip-hop in Middle Tennessee. Constructive Interference is a little running theme for the DJs, as they take the name of Fluorid Dialects to give a little culture, hard music and to the regulars with who want to be in the WMTS 88.3.

	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	Jammin on the One	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	AUTOMATION	Word for the Wise	RED is all the Rage Radio	Michael Gum's Personal Bubble	T.J. Quill's Morning Show	Raindrop Lounge	From the Right
10AM - NOON	AUTOMATION	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	The Badass Boro Variety	The subLeVel	Shut Up and Drive	Diff'rent Strokes
2PM - 4PM	Rebel Grrrls Radio	Synesthesia	The Bob Newhart Show	My So-Called Radio Show	Jump Jive & Jazz	The Binge	Two Dead Dames
4PM - 6PM	Captain Kirk's Smokehouse Review	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 Flack Ours Hour	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	Electric Revival	Flight 420	Willie Dynamite Presents



The Art of Berk Gibbs

By Leigh Bernstein

Exposure Columnist

Berk Gibbs, a man of many trades, entertains not only the eardrums of Murfreesboro, but also the eyeballs. Dating back to the 1980s, he's been creating intrepid artwork since he was a wee one.

Painted on canvases like scraps of wood and road signs, his art consists of a seemingly infinite amount of layers. Using the power of collage, Berk adheres little bits of here and there to his work, allowing the pieces to give off a feeling of wholeness and completion. This technique is really powerful in that most every person

will identify with at least something in the painting. Being a hip-hop producer/dj, Gibbs says that his music and art are definitely interconnected.

"I use samples ... pieces of pre-existing music to create new music ... much the same way I use elements of collage: stickers stencils and found objects in my paintings," he says. "I guess I like the way something old can be brought back to life by looking at it or listening to it differently."

Berk applies the power art to many facets of life, including schoolwork. The devout doodler admits that his

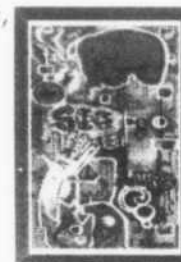
schoolbook scribbles would help him remember answers on tests.

Adding yet another dimension to the live show, Gibbs has also had the unique opportunity to create paintings onstage during performances by Sound Tribe Sector Nine, DubConscious and the Pnuma Trio. In this atmosphere, the energy of the band as well as the crowd contributes to the outcome of the work, providing the artist with inspiration as far as the eye can see and the ear can listen.

Working mostly from the shed that he calls his workshop, Bibbs admits that

painting is essential to his health and well-being. Supplying quite a visual buzz, these paintings, when peered at closely, somehow help to make some sense of the world.

Gibbs also designs merchandise and Web sites for bands such as the Pnuma Trio. Keep an eye out for his work in unexpected places or check some out online at myspace.com/berkvisual, fluentdialects.com, or spoken-nerd.com.



concert calender

thursday march 16

Liquid Smoke - DJ & Jazz

Bluesboro - WMTS
Benefit w/ The Cry
Room, The 8th Grade, and
Cottrell Gantt

Wall Street - Brothers Past

Bunganut Pig - Stereohype

friday march 17

The Boro - Party w/ Secret
Commonwealth and the Exotic Ones

Wallstreet - Bash w/ The Katies

Liquid Smoke - Anthony Wayne

Bluesboro - Burning Las Vegas

Grand Palace - Mysterious Knight, Prabir &
The Substitutes, and DJ Bawston Sean

Buganut Pig - Magnolia

saturday march 18

The Boro - The States & The Clutters

Wallstreet - Spooky Johnson

Liquid Smoke - "The GO Show"

Bluesboro - Gill Gann and Burning Las
Vegas

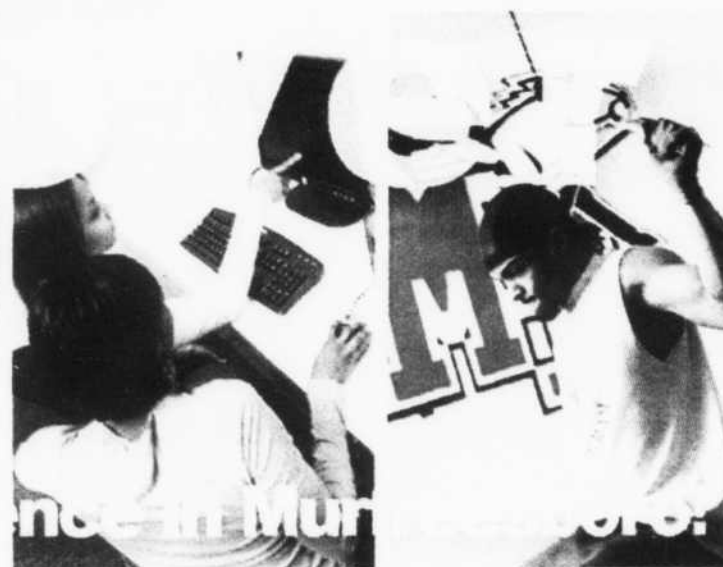
Bunganut Pig - Soul Sweep

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'Ultraviolet' poor re-hash of 'Equilibrium'

By Joseph Schmickrath
Exposure Columnist



Director and writer Kurt Wimmer's "Ultraviolet" is pure garbage, highly stylized but with little substance.

As Violet (Milla Jovovich) says, "My name is Violet, and I

was born in a world you may not understand." Yeah, and after the first 10 minutes, it

became a world I didn't care about.

Many screenwriting books say that a screenwriter must hook the audience within the first 10 minutes of a movie, but not give away the entire plot.

After the exposition was force-fed down my throat, the only reason to keep paying attention was the action. But, as I continued to watch, I kept thinking that the action, plot and tone were ripped-off from a much superior action and sci-fi movie, "Equilibrium."

Both films involve a government creating some kind of control by which to enslave the masses, both films have actor William Fichtner as a member of the resistance who helps the protagonist, both have the same style of gun-and sword-fighting and both have a climactic final scene involving the protagon-

nist fighting through a building killing thousands of people in order to get to and kill the antagonist.

If it is unclear where I am going with this, I was shocked to find out after watching "Ultraviolet" that Wimmer was also the director and writer of "Equilibrium." That was his last film, four years ago, and I'm sad to say this may be his last film for at least four more years, if not indefinitely. It is utterly incomprehensible how sad it is that he had to ruin his cult status by rehashing his previous film. I don't know why it took him four years to do that.

"Ultraviolet" tells the story of Violet, an inhabitant of the late 21st century, who is infected with a genetically engineered human disease known as hemophagia. The government cultivated the vampire disease in hopes of honing its super-strength trait but things got out of hand.

and the government is trying to stop what it started.

Violet is pissed, losing her unborn child to the disease and now forced to intercept and destroy Vice Cardinal Daxus' (Nick Chinlund) new weapon designed to kill all Hemophages. When she finds out the weapon is the antigens inside a young boy, Six (Cameron Bright), she has second thoughts, deciding to take matters in to her own hands.

The dialogue is also weak. In the climactic battle sequence, Daxus is splattered with Violet's blood making him like her. His reply, "You got hemo-blood on me—it's on." The two then fight to the death, as it must always be at the end of an action movie.

After all "Ultraviolet" had to offer, I think I'll stick with "Equilibrium" and try to forgive and forget all the mess and rubbish that is "Ultraviolet."

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Empty Cafe fills KUC with music and life

By Jessica Jones

Exposure Columnist

Imagine sweet acoustic melodies and the aroma of strong coffee floating down the corridors of the Keathley University Center. No, it's not the school's latest fundraiser but MTSU's newest music venue: The Empty Café.

"Empty Café is an ambitious attempt to host an acoustic coffee house on campus," said Film Chairman of Student Programming Will Fancher.

The café, which started as a student project within the department of Organizational Communications (ORCO), was designed to showcase local talent and give students a chance to congregate and listen to live music, said Stacey Williams, Ideas and Issues Chairwoman of Student Programming.

The Empty Café hosts its second show Friday, March 17, at 7 p.m. in the KUC lounge. Admission is free and there will also be free coffee.

Empty Café organizer John Shults said that the idea of Empty Café was to

encourage students to stay on campus.

"Belmont has the Curb Café, Vanderbilt has The Pub and MTSU doesn't have anything like that," Shults said. "There's no reason to go to Nashville to see a show."

Shults, along with a group of fellow ORCA majors, felt that MTSU was a very music centered school, but lacked music-oriented activities for students on the weekends.

At the upcoming Empty Café there will be live music performed by local acoustic artists Jeffery Joslin and Stephen Gordon. The music, which will be performed in the round, creates a great, interactive atmosphere, Shults said.

"It's not your typical overhead lighting type of place," Shults said. "It's low key, inviting and relaxed."

"Don't be surprised to hear some Irish jigs either," he said laughing. The forthcoming Empty Café just so happens to

land on Saint Patrick's Day.

In addition to the music, guests are invited and encouraged to play a selection of board and card games, drink coffee and mingle amongst the crowd, Williams said.

There will also be student artwork featured at Empty Café. The KUC lounge will be transformed into a café setting and all the current artwork will be covered with student's creations.

The previous Empty Café event was well attended, Fancher said. "Holding the Empty Café in the KUC lounge shows the appeal of the café and hopefully shows the feasibility of having a [more permanent] place for it," he said.

The possibility of Empty Café becoming a more permanent fixture at MTSU seems likely. Plans for the new University Center building include, among many other amenities, a music venue, Shults said.

Shults plans to continue Empty Café for as long as he can, but when he decides to part with it he will most likely hand the reins to another ORCA major to give more prominence to the major.

Empty Café came about from within the ORCA department as a concept that would make MTSU better. It was a semester long project that was presented to the administration as a student run organization that would provide experiential learning for those involved, Shults said.

The café would provide a creative outlet for students and promote campus involvement, according to the Empty Café official proposal.

Shults was very happy with the first

Empty Café and is looking forward to the next.

"It was surreal to be at the music venue on opening night. Seeing all the people there and knowing that we worked all semester for it. It was a blessing to see people support the idea," said Shults.

Newmans bring story of Christ to the stage

By David Wheatley

Exposure Columnist

As spring draws near, themes of rejuvenation and new beginnings tend to scurry to forethought, perhaps more at this time of year even than during New Year's celebrations.

With the flowers blossoming, the weather warming and squirrels happily breeding across campus, it's not a surprise that spring has become a time for starting over. Culturally, spring season evokes a renewed sense of purpose and hope, even though we may celebrate this with the mundane tasks of dusting the shelves, mopping the floors and weeding the garden.

For many, spring can come in the form of a yearly religious reawakening. Lent and Easter are often considered to be Christianity's most crucial celebrations of faith. True to the nature of

spring, Christians use these celebrations to reflect upon the life-after-death aspect of their faith.

This year, a group of students, along with a little help from their friends, has been hard at work on a choral production that encapsulates Jesus Christ's life story.

Rachel Newman and Hal Newman, an assistant professor in the recording industry program, wrote the production "This Man, A Musical Fable" in 2001 and, using friends and family as their choir, recorded it in 2003 with Windy Holler Music.

"After a lifetime of knowing this story, of learning it in Sunday school ... it's always been an incredible story, even aside from its religious connotations," Rachel said.

"I wanted to free this story from thousands of years of religious overlay," she continued. "It's fascinating to me to think of what it would really be like to have been this person."

The inspiration for "This Man" comes largely from the Bible's book of Matthew, but also draws inspirations from the lost Gospels and "The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ," which takes from the Akashic Records regarding the years of Jesus' life not chronicled in the Bible.

This spring marks the first time that "This Man" will be performed publicly, and since the production needed more voices for the choir, Hal and Rachel enlisted a number of MTSU recording industry students to sing.

"This group we have are committed and excited about the production,"

Rachel said.

The group also includes instrumentalists Nick Sharp on guitar, Cody Newman on bass, Rob Guidry on drums and Hal Newman on keys.

The musical style of the pieces ranges from blues to contemporary pop to ragtime to gospel. While the style is varied, the vocal arrangement allows for a sing-along feel to the production. This is mostly due to the fact that "This Man" has a stripped-down production and allows for changes depending on who is performing the piece. Rachel said that while the melody and chord changes are well defined, the performers are free to take any liberties they choose with the pieces.

"This Man, A Musical Fable" will be performed at 4 p.m., April 9 at the Theatre at Patterson Park.

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