

Ten ways to make sure your graduation goes smoothly
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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2009

VOL. 85, NO. 28

Men's tennis receive NCAA bid



File Photo

Senior Robert McKenzie lunges to forearm a ball. McKenzie, as well as the rest of the men's tennis team, is scheduled to participate in the NCAA Tournament starting on May 8. The Blue Raiders will enter the tournament after winning the Sun Belt Championship on April 19.

TENNIS, PAGE 7



Photo courtesy of Edgard Izaguirre
Members of Alpha Tau Omega gather outside Tucker Theatre after the Greek Awards earlier this month. The fraternity is scheduled to host Alpha Jam to raise money for Challenged Athletes Playing Equally.

Alpha Jam helps children

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

Alpha Tau Omega is hosting its annual philanthropic event, "Alpha Jam" this Saturday at the Recreation Center to raise funds for the organization Challenged Athletes Playing Equally.

The fraternity adopted C.A.P.E., a local philanthropic organization, in 2007. The group provides an opportunity for children with

disabilities to participate in sports in a non-threatening environment.

The funds that C.A.P.E. collects go toward the construction of a gymnasium with special equipment that will cater to children with physical disabilities.

"The reason why we felt so close to this philanthropy was because of the children," said Edgard Izaguirre, a junior business major and member

of Alpha Tau Omega. "It's important that we empower these kids to make a difference within themselves and among other people."

Based on C.A.P.E.'s mission, the Eta Nu Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega decided to start hosting Alpha Jam, a competitive basketball tournament, two years ago.

JAM, PAGE 2

Students gear up for graduation

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Community News Editor

A record number of students are scheduled to graduate at the 97th spring commencement exercises scheduled to take place May 9.

More than 2,200 students are expected to graduate, which is the largest amount of students to ever graduate from MTSU, said Sherian Huddleston, associate vice provost for enrollment services.

The day will feature two ceremonies and speakers, beginning at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Murphy Center.

Students are setting an MTSU record by having the largest amount of candidates for graduation, Huddleston said.

"It's the largest May graduation to date," Huddleston said. "It has been for the last several years [because] each May we set a record."

Huddleston said that 2,263 students total are expected to participate in graduation.

MTSU Student Government Association President

Sondra Wilson said that she is very excited about graduation.

"It is my favorite time of the year," Wilson said. "It is the day that we all can't wait for."

In the morning, 1,119 graduation candidates from the College of Graduate Studies, Jennings A. Jones College of Business and the College of Education and Behavioral Science will receive their degrees.

For the afternoon ceremony, 1,444 students will receive their degrees in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Mass Communication and the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning.

Among those students, there are 286 masters candidates and 17 doctoral students.

Huddleston said the 17 doctoral students mark the highest amount of doctoral students to graduate in one term. In addition, there are 73 educational specialists graduating and 1,886 participants at the undergraduate level.

The ceremonies will feature guest speakers G. Edmond Clark and Brig. Gen. Terry M. "Max" Haston.

Clark, the speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony, is the president and CEO of FedEx Trade Networks Inc., which acts as a subsidiary of the Memphis-based FedEx Corporation.

As a 26-year-old employee of FedEx, Clark was made head of FedEx Trade Networks after its formation in 2000.

The 1 p.m. ceremony will feature Haston, who was appointed the adjutant general for the U.S. Army in 2008, as the guest speaker.

Before his current appointment, Haston, served as the deputy chief of staff for training and operations for the Joint Forces Headquarters in Tennessee.

Wilson said that after graduation, students would have the opportunity to showcase what they have learned at MTSU.

"After next Saturday, the world is ours and everything that we learned in our college tenure can be put to the test," Wilson said.



Photo by Michael Stone, editor in chief

Tornadoes that raged through Middle Tennessee caused severe damage to homes and businesses, like this home on Wilkonson Pike. A benefit concert is being put on in an effort to raise funds for the members of the community who experienced losses.

Concert to benefit tornado victims

By BRYCE HARMON
Staff Writer

Faculty musicians of MTSU's School of Music will hold a benefit concert for the victims of Murfreesboro's April 10 tornado strike on Wednesday, May 6 in Wright Music Building's Hinton Music Hall.

The show begins at 7:30 p.m. and a \$10 donation is requested for the concert. Proceeds go to The Heart of Tennessee's chapter of the American Red Cross to aid those affected.

Performing an array of chamber music, the ensemble, which consists of William Yelverton on guitar, Andrea Dawson on violin, Leopoldo Erice and Titus Bartos on piano, Don Aliquo on saxophone, tenor-vocalist Stephen Smith and soprano-vocalist Christine Isley-Farmer, will perform an array of chamber music to entertain and support the local men, women and children affected by the tornado.

"It hit the Sulphur Springs area [among others] pretty bad," said Bill Carey, a local Murfreesboro realtor. "Right now, they're still excavating [...] and tearing up the foundations of the houses for clean-up and reconstruction."

Jennifer Barnoud, a senior education and behavioral science major, said she recently met a lady at her work whose house had been destroyed in the storms.

"She wasn't too happy, obviously, so the benefit is a really great idea," Barnoud said. "I'll be there to support her."

One of the tornadoes that measured as an F4 had a path that covered just over 23 miles and claimed the lives of a young mother and her 9-week-old child on Sul-



Photo by Meagan McCann, staff photographer

A tractor clears out the wreckage on Tomahawk Trace after a tornado devastated the neighborhood.

phur Springs Rd., according to the Rutherford County Emergency Management Agency.

In an April 24 press release, The Rutherford County Emergency Management Agency confirmed that 845 structures were damaged. Of those, 117 were destroyed beyond repair with an estimated \$41.8 million in costs to the wrecked businesses and homes throughout the area.

"We are currently awaiting finalization of documenta-

tion by FEMA to determine if any federal assistance will be made available through possible disaster declarations," said the RCEMA's report. "The public will be notified when this occurs."

"A friend of mine suggested it'd be a good idea," said William Yelverton, MTSU professor of guitar. "We started planning it the week after [the tornadoes struck]."

Other than the School of Music's contribution, volunteers across Middle Ten-

nessee are chipping in for another benefit concert held on May 1 at the Murphy Center. Local businesses such as Family Campers, a camping gear outfitter, will offer Murfreesboro's tornado victims the store's lot to camp on.

For further information about the MTSU music faculty's concert, contact Tim Musselman of the School of Music at 615-898-2493, or find out how to help the tornado victims at www.midtenredcross.org.

JAM FROM PAGE 1

"We have done it jointly with other organizations in the past," Izaguirre said. "This year we wanted to host it ourselves."

Izaguirre said C.A.P.E. helps the children participating in the tournament train to become better athletes.

will go towards C.A.P.E.

Izaguirre said that in order to get as much advertising for the event as possible, they contacted all the Greek presidents, student organizations and Alpha Tau Omega chapters of Tennessee and surrounding states.

"We even promoted it on the marquee on Middle Tennessee Boulevard and made a

"This event is going to be a great one. When you see the kids' faces lighting up while they are playing, it leaves you speechless."

EDGARD IZAGUIRRE
MEMBER OF ALPHA TAU OMEGA

"I'm a person that loves philanthropy and community service," Izaguirre said. "When we do this project, it's a thrill for me because we are helping kids who normally don't get a chance to play competitive sports."

In the tournament, teams of five will compete against each other in the male or female division. The top teams of each division will receive a prize according to their standings.

Each team competing pays an entrance fee. However, 100 percent of the proceeds

huge banner for the front of our house on Greek Row so everyone could see," Izaguirre said.

Izaguirre said Alpha Jam will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until every team has competed. There will also be a benefit concert at Graffiti Bar in the evening and all cover charges will go towards C.A.P.E.

"This event is going to be a great one," Izaguirre said. "When you see the kids' faces lighting up while they are playing, it leaves you speechless."

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Through the *Sidelines'* Lens



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Flowers bloom on a tree near the Keathley University Center, a sign of summer to come. As the semester comes to an end, students are experiencing the warmest weather of the year.

Recession nears end as consumers begin shopping

By JEANNIENE AVERSA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers snapped back to life at the start of the year, renewing hopes the recession is losing steam. Even though the economy shrank again in the first three months — and by a lot — Americans stepped up purchases of cars, furniture and appliances. The surge in consumer spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of the economy, could set the stage for a rebound later this year. Many consumers have been fortified by fatter paychecks from tax cuts and smaller mortgage bills from refinancings. If they keep spending, their dollars could deliver a powerful punch: Businesses will need to replenish their shrunken inventories, leading factories to boost production and nourishing economic activity. Against that backdrop, many analysts think the economy is sinking less this quarter than it did from January through March. Most believe the economy could

start growing again by summer, or more likely, by the final quarter of this year. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues, in opting against further action to shore up the economy at this point, detected glimmers that the recession might be easing. “The economy has continued to contract, though, the pace of contraction appears to be somewhat slower,” Fed policymakers said in a statement Wednesday, hours after the government released its report on the economy’s first-quarter performance. On Wall Street, stocks jumped higher. The Dow Jones industrial gained nearly 170 points. To be sure, consumers are a wild card in any recovery scenario. Though Fed policymakers noted that consumer spending “has shown signs of stabilizing,” they said spending still remains “constrained” by rising unemployment, falling home values and hard-to-get credit. Those negative forces — or the emergence of new ones, like the swine flu outbreak

— could cause consumers to do an about-face and ratchet back spending, throwing the economy into another tailspin. “The recession is definitely not out of the woods yet,” said Brian Bethune, economist at IHS Global Insight. But, he added: “The good news ... is that the most severe phase of the recession is behind us.” The economy logged a worse-than-expected 6.1 percent annualized drop in the first three months of this year despite the rebound by consumers, the Commerce Department reported. The culprits behind the poor overall performance: sharp cutbacks by businesses, especially to inventories of unsold goods, and the biggest drop in U.S. exports in 40 years. The decline was nearly as sharp as in the final three months of last year. That’s when the economy shrank at a 6.3 percent pace, the worst showing in a quarter-century. The biggest pullback by consumers in 28 years figured prominently in downward spiral.

All told, the economy logged its poorest six-month performance since the late 1950s. The bleak picture underscores the damage caused by the housing, credit and financial crises — the worst since the 1930s. The recession, which began in December 2007, has battered the national economy and wiped out a net total of 5.1 million jobs. The economy totaled \$11.3 trillion in the first quarter, compared with \$11.7 trillion in the second quarter of 2008, before the economy started shrinking. Still, consumers roared back in the first quarter of this year. They boosted their spending at an annual rate of 2.2 percent, the most in two years. Gains in disposable income helped by tax refund checks like Social Security helped spur the spending gains, analysts said. Much stronger demand for “durable” goods, including cars, furniture and household appliances, led the increase. That spending rose at a 9.4 pace, the most in a

year. Consumers also boosted spending on clothing, shoes, recreation services, medical care, gasoline and other energy products. One exception was food, on which spending dipped slightly. Americans’ higher consumption, though, was swamped by deep spending cuts in virtually every other area of the economy. Businesses cut spending on home building, commercial construction, equipment and software, and inventories of goods. Sales of U.S. goods to foreign buyers sank in the face of economic troubles abroad. Even the government trimmed spending. It was the first time that’s happened since the end of 2005. Economists aren’t expecting a dramatic change next month, when the government updates its estimate of first-quarter activity. The Fed cited some of these negative forces in warning that the economy is “likely to remain weak for a time.” But the Fed said it hopes aggressive action it’s taken so far will lead to a “gradual

resumption of sustainable economic growth,” although it didn’t say when. To brace the economy, the Fed on Wednesday pledged anew to keep its key lending rate at a record low levels for an “extended period.” Economists predict the Fed will keep rates there well into next year. Even if the recession were to end this year, the economy will remain feeble and unemployment will keep climbing, government officials and analysts say. The Labor Department on Wednesday said all 372 metropolitan areas tracked saw their jobless rates rise in March from a year earlier. The national jobless rate is now at a quarter-century high of 8.5 percent and is expected to hit 10 percent by the end of this year. It will probably rise a bit higher in early 2010 before starting to slowly drift downward. Still, the Fed predicts unemployment will stay elevated into 2011. And most economists don’t think it will return to normal — around a 5 percent jobless rate — until 2013.

CURRENT EVENTS

- “Top of the Drops”**
Final event for “Jaz’s Jammies” pajama drive
Thursday, April 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Honors Building room 106

Backyard Benefit Show
Hosted by One Big Owl with Medical Center and the Echo Room
Thursday, April 30
Admission: free, donations accepted
Location: Bonhoffer’s Crosspoint Church

Chris Young & Friends
tornado Relief Benefit

- Friday, May 1 at 7 p.m.**
Admission: \$15
Location: MTSU Murphy Center
More information: visit chrisyoungcountry.com

Shiny Toy Guns
With AutoVaughn and Mike’s Pawn Shop
Friday, May 1 at 8 p.m.
Admission: \$15
Location: Exit/In
More Information: call 615.321.3340

13th Annual JazzFest
Featuring John Ellis, Percussion XS, and the Music City Swing and U.S.

- Army Jazz Guardians**
Friday, May 1 from 6 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 2 from 11 a.m. until 9:30 p.m.
Free and open to the public
Location: Town Square
More information: call 615.895.1887

Paper Route
With Brian Lee and His Orchestra and Mikky Ekko
Saturday, May 2 at 8 p.m.
Admission: \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show
Location: Exit/In
More Information: call 615.321.3340

CRIME BRIEFS

- April 23, 1:43 a.m.**
Burglary
Scarlett Commons
Report of burglary in a room at Scarlett Commons

April 23, 5:16 p.m.
Harassment
Corlew Hall
Subject requested to file a harassment report.

April 25, 8:19 p.m.
Traffic
Kaleb Coffel was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving on a suspended license.

- April 25 10:32 p.m.**
Underage Drinking
Corlew Hall
Chase Morris was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol.

April 27, 10:34 a.m.
Burglary
Greek Row
Subject requested to speak with an officer in reference to theft.

April 27, 3:43 p.m.
Traffic
MTSU Campus
Subject reported that a gray Dodge truck hit her and left the scene of the accident.

- April 27, 4:35 p.m.**
Theft
Keathley University Center
Report of a stolen backpack

April 27, 4:42 p.m.
Theft
Felder Hall
Reports of items missing from a room

April 27, 11:25 p.m.
DUI
Rutherford Parking Lot
Shanna Singh was arrested for DUI of the first offense and later charged for implied consent violation.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

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Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopino@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

OPINIONS

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

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Prepare yourself for your own graduation

The end of another semester at MTSU is approaching, and more than 2,000 students are about to become alumni of the university.

Some of the soon-to-be graduates already have jobs lined up, some of them will achieve degree-related employment soon after commencement and some will find that their college diploma isn't getting them a better job than their high school diploma.

With a down-spiraling economy and bachelor's degrees in some fields becoming a dime a dozen, the third possibility appears to be growing at alarming rate for college graduates.

Every degree can lead to employment, though, because if it didn't, the degree wouldn't be offered. But just achieving diplomas and good grades isn't always going to lead to a dream job.

Getting involved outside of the classroom can sometimes be more beneficial for students than what is taught by professors. Here are the two biggest ways to make yourself more marketable to potential employers and better prepare yourself before for the after-graduation life:

Join an organization. It's never too late, even if you're going to start your last semester in college soon.

MTSU has more than 200 organizations on campus. You don't have to just join organizations related to your major or minors. All organizations provide a chance to build friendships and connections that may someday come in handy while living in the "read world."

Also, you should consider joining a Greek social organization. Although these sometimes get stereotyped as outlets for partying, fraternities and sororities have thousands of members nationwide that could provide valuable connections.

These organizations also are a good way to get your foot in the door on and off campus.

If none of the current organizations appeal to you, you can always start up your own through the Office of Leadership and Service located in Keathley University Center room 326.

To view MTSU's organizations, visit mtsu.edu/~camporgs or mtsu.edu/~greeks.

Befriend your professors. Your instructors may seem intimidating at times, but they were in your shoes not too long ago. Many of them love to share their knowledge and experience with students, and, chances are, they have made dozens of connections in their respective fields.

When you sign up for a class, your professor is obviously going to teach the subject matter as it relates to the curriculum. But they know much more than what they have taught, so never be afraid to talk to them about their knowledge outside of the class's actual content related to a particular course.

Plan B pill should be available to all

Seventeen-year-olds will now be allowed to buy Plan B, "the morning-after" birth control pill, without a doctor's prescription, the Food and Drug Administration announced last week.

U.S. District Judge Edward Korman ruled that the Bush Administration only let women 18 and older receive the pill because the administration was more concerned with politics than science.

Plan B is an emergency contraceptive that can prevent pregnancy up to 72 hours with an 89 percent success rate after having unprotected sex. It is not an abortion pill and cannot terminate a pregnancy.

It consists of two pills and sells for anywhere between \$35 to \$60. An identification card with date of birth is needed to purchase the product.

If politicians think denying juveniles sexual contraceptives will cut down on the amount of sexually transmitted diseases or births in this country then they need to take an in-depth look at the 2008 statistics.

In July 2008, CNNhealth.



Open Mouth, Insert Foot

Tiffany Gibson

com reported that the United States pregnancy rate is up for the first time in 15 years, according to the National Institutes of Health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also found in August of 2008 the HIV epidemic is worse than before with 56,000 new cases.

Why is it so hard to comprehend that teenagers are going to have sex regardless of whether the proper contraceptives are available? Allowing a teenager to purchase Plan B and prophylactics isn't going to encourage him or her to have sex. I'm sure their peers have already influenced them way more than birth control ever could.

Promiscuity is not created because of a "morning-

after" pill. If two young adults want to have sex then they will, and if either one chooses to not use protection, then that choice might have consequences. This pill will not influence an increase in sexual activity.

Plus, the fact that a teenager is trying to be responsible when having sex is something to applaud. A 17-year-old who is well-educated about sex will be able to take precautions when engaging in intercourse because he or she will know all the risks involved.

And if a situation arises and protection is not used then at least the female will try to do the responsible thing and take "the morning-after" pill because she realizes that raising a child is something she can't financially or emotionally handle at a young age. Of course, this opens up a whole new can of worms of whether women should be willing to raise an infant if they are willing to spread their legs.

I don't think so. Women have the right to enjoy a perfectly natural pleasure without being punished by carrying a fetus for nine months. But if anyone is

going to have sex, they should be careful and use protection. If two people don't use protection, then my next recommendation would be to use Plan B. It won't protect against STDs, but it might prevent an unwanted pregnancy.

For those who think that allowing Plan B is basically a cheap and less painful form of an abortion, it is not. The FDA clearly says that the pill will not terminate a pregnancy; therefore, if someone is already pregnant then there is nothing the pill can do.

So, if anyone feels the urge to pick up poster boards and red paint at Wal-Mart and protest outside of drugstores for selling the abortion pill, feel free to do so. Just make sure you have your facts straight first.

Now that the FDA has lowered the legal age by one year, it leaves the question of whether younger teenagers should be entitled to purchase the pill. Are 15- and 16-year-olds supposed to just take the chance of becoming pregnant?

Korman is ordering the FDA to evaluate whether all age restrictions should be lifted. But where do you draw the line? Should sex-

ually active 12-year-olds be able to get the pill?

Originally, the scientific staff and outside advisers recommended that the drug be made available over-the-counter to all ages, but FDA managers refused to go along with it, according to a report on current.com.

It is important for the FDA to set a certain age limit and stick with it, but there is always going to be an age that is left out unless it is available over-the-counter to anyone.

According to current.com, the decision was made in 2003 by a panel of outside advisers, who voted 23 to 4 to recommend over-the-counter sales without age restrictions. However, top FDA officials told their subordinates that no approval could be issued at the time.

The legal age for contraceptives shouldn't be tossed up in the air just because it might upset parents or right-wing conservatives. It should be available over-the-counter to any female, despite date of birth.

Tiffany Gibson is a journalism sophomore and can be reached tdg2w@mtsu.edu.

Could aid agencies be hurting Africa?

The relief organization in countries like Africa have grown to become their subculture, affecting the lives of millions. As people clamor to join these aid agencies, they think only of the good they're doing.

Volunteers consider the individual people or groups of people in various villages and slums they go to, perhaps distributing food and water or giving medical attention to those without it.

I can't deny that these individuals are certainly helping their fellow human to



Desist! Rely! Conform!

Byron Wilkes

some degree; even helping one mother and child is better than not helping at all.

But the organizations that

make the process of traveling to other countries and volunteering human effort so seamless can only do so with the help of governments and bureaucracies that are comprised of, what else, but humans.

In a "Wall Street Journal" article, Dambisa Moyo examines debt African countries incur compared to where relief money actually goes. The article states that Africa loses \$150 billion from corruption, and that "international donors were apparently turning a blind

eye" that their money was funding graft.

Nearly every country in the world has suffered corruption in some form or fashion in at least a few members of its politicians, religious leaders, businesses chiefs and, yes, even nonprofit association organizers.

In a time when movie stars, music artists and other celebrities champion helping the poor in Africa, Asia and other countries, I urge students and others to examine where their alms really go, or what sort of work they'll be

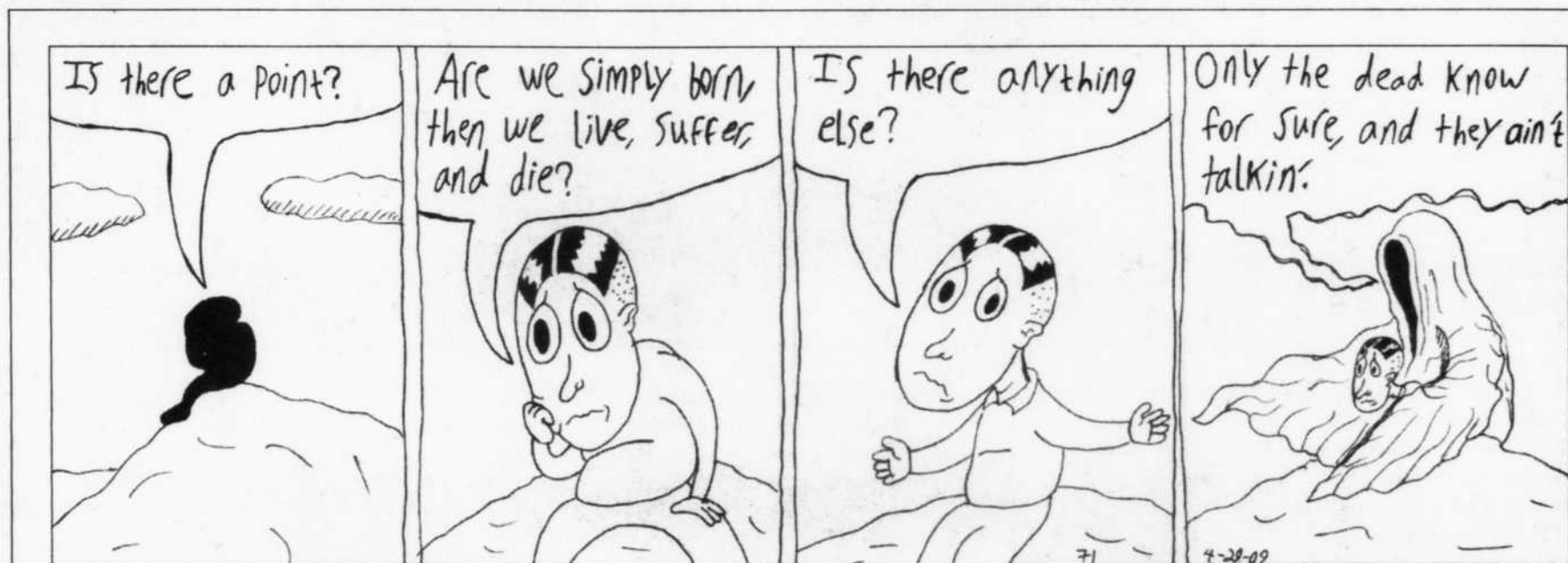
doing if they volunteer.

Developing countries rely strongly on developed ones to ameliorate, if only partially, the pains of poverty but learn as much as you can before advocating one relief group over another.

True relief stems from sweeping governmental and bureaucratic changes fueled by grassroots efforts, not blindly funneling money to faraway organizations.

Byron Wilkes is a journalism senior and can be reached at bdw3t@mtsu.edu.

COMICS



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

FACES IN THE CROWD

What are your summer plans?



Cobb

"Pretty much working at Community Care. That's about it."

Ebony Cobb, social work senior



Barksdale

"Working at a camp in North Carolina. I'm also going to Scotland for two weeks right after finals."

Tyler Barksdale, EMC sophomore



Smith

"I'm going to take all four sessions of summer school and work."

Kurtis Smith, marketing senior



Landon-Staley

"I'm taking three classes in summer so I can graduate in August and just work."

Jasmine Landon-Staley, political science senior

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FEATURES



HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU TEXTED WHILE DRIVING?

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L.A.-based band rocks Europe, Nashville

Lead singer Lindsey 'CoCo' Hames talks about The Ettes on tour, making band's latest EP album

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

Maybe it's the quirky-cute sound of the band's moniker, or the bubbly effervescence of lead singer Lindsey "CoCo" Hames, but the Los Angeles trio The Ettes has an undeniably endearing quality amid the aggression of the band's self-described "beat-punk."

Last March, The Ettes digitally released its new EP "Danger Is" before releasing the physical album earlier this month. Like The Ettes' previous endeavors, "Danger Is" possesses the same edge and spark from the music to the album name.

"I have this really old globe and there's an island near New Zealand called Danger Island, but the globe's abbreviation is 'Danger Is,'" says Hames, leading lady of The Ettes. "It got me thinking, kind of like a leading statement, 'Danger is...'"

Hames gushes with the same enthusiasm that infects "Danger Is," 2008's "Look at Life Again Soon" and the band's 2006 debut "Shake the Dust." Days after The Ettes' April 18 set at Grimey's for Record Store Day, the trio entered the studio yet again. Working with producer and renowned Memphis musician Greg Cartwright at Nashville's Bomb Shelter Recording, the band spent a quick week recording more of its trademark punk-pop.

Though The Ettes have already jumped right into the making of another album, "Danger Is" can still be considered a fairly recent release. It's one that Hames is happy



Photo courtesy The Ettes

The Ettes consists of (left to right) drummer Maria "Poni" Silver, lead singer Lindsey "CoCo" Hames and bassist Jeremy "Jem" Cohen.

with, though she expresses a particular distaste for EPs as opposed to full albums.

"I don't normally like EPs," Hames says. "I'd rather just go make another album, but that's what we're doing right now. So I thought it would be fun to kind of put some different stuff on one disc, so if you don't know the band and you pick it up, you'll get a good general idea about The Ettes."

Hames describes "Danger Is" as something of a sampler, featuring different aspects of The Ettes.

"There are two live tracks, two tracks we did with our friend Dan Auerbach from the Black Keys in his studio Akron Analog, and then one

unused track from our L.A.-LAS session," Hames says.

Recording with Auerbach was the first time The Ettes did not record strictly with Liam Watson at Toe Rag Studios. Among other firsts, the band recently played a sold-out show with Kings of Leon at the Olympia in Paris. But extensive touring seems to have little wear and tear on Hames, who prefers touring over recording.

"They both have their charms, but I would probably say I prefer touring, or, I should say, performing," she

says. "Touring is pretty grueling, and we do it a lot. I think we need to drink some water and moisturize."

For those unfamiliar with the sounds of The Ettes, Hames' pipes perfectly combine feminism and feist, complimented by Maria "Poni" Silver's simplistic but raw drumming. Jeremy "Jem" Cohen's low-toned, low-key bass is the tie that binds to make The Ettes' mix of stylized punk elements and gritty hooks.

The Ettes entire discog-

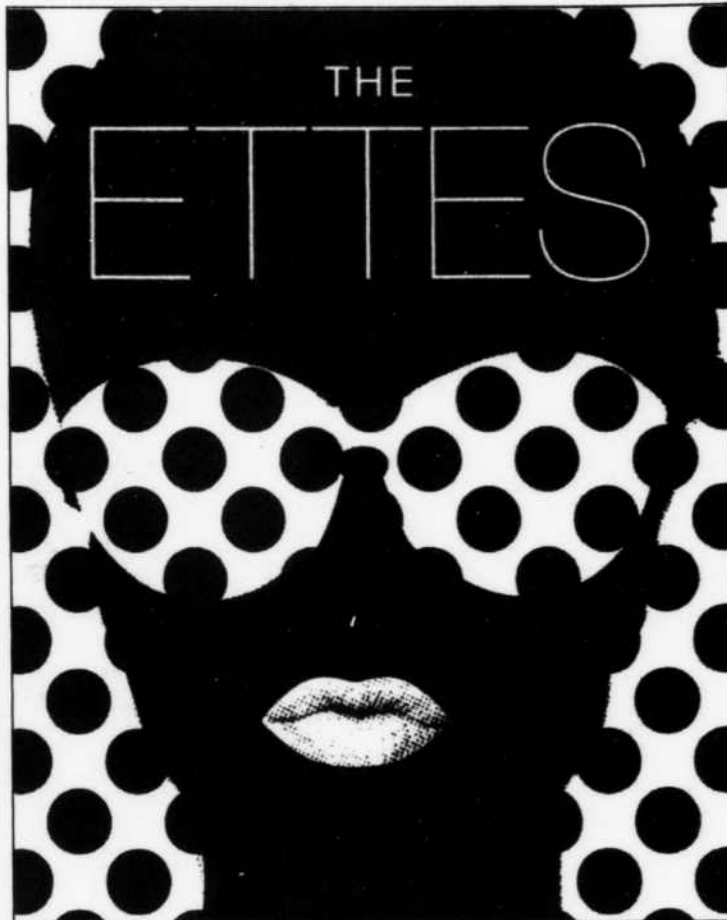


Photo courtesy The Ettes

This poster advertises The Ettes performance at the SXSW music festival in 2007. The band continues to tour the U.S. and the world.

raphy seems like a respectful ode to the predecessors of rock. Comparisons have been drawn between them and the likes of many east-coast legends like the Ramones, which leave rather large musical shoes for The Ettes to fill.

Still, Hames keeps the music her own with strong vocals, lyrics that touch on country classics, and a distinct, stylish flair that draws people to the band, though Hames claims to have no style.

"I think visually, in terms of performing, it's effective to get some sort of aesthetic element communicated with your personal style," she says. "But me person-

ally, I have no style. I am completely not interested in fashion."

"It's pretty amazing. Poni is a designer though, and she helps me out. Otherwise, I'm just in a robe or sweatpants."

Hames and Silver first met in 2004, working in retail at Miss Sixty in Los Angeles. Though Hames grew up in central Florida, she had moved to Los Angeles from New York like Silver. The two shared interests in music and eventually decided to move on from air band to real band before Silver could even play drums.

ETTES, PAGE 6

Student group volunteers for Make-A-Wish

Wishmakers organize annual Rake-a-Thon to benefit terminally ill children, their families

By JAMIE SOMMERS
Contributing Writer

It means more to them than blowing out candles on their birthday cakes, or wishing on stars. For one Tennessee boy or girl, the wish he or she has dreamt about has finally been realized.

Children across Tennessee who are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases are seeing another side of hope and goodwill from The Wishmakers, the student-run organization that directly benefits the Make-A-Wish Foundations.

Vanderbilt University's Wishmakers granted their second wish on March 26 to a young teenage boy who was diagnosed with X-Linked Lymphoproliferative Disease, a rare immunodeficiency disease that is brought upon by early childhood induced mononucleosis (mono) and other increased signs of lymphoma.

Current, the only treatment is through allogeneic stem cell transplantation. The organization has spent the past year raising money to arrange for the young boy's wish to come true.

The Wishmakers raised \$5000 to send the teenage boy to Hawaii.

"He can go snorkeling, parasail, tour Pearl Harbor and visit the Hawaiian Water Park and Seal Life Park," says Robert Falconer, vice president of The Wishmak-

ers

The Wishmakers organization was founded in April 2006 and is the first collegiate organization established in Tennessee that directly benefits the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"A few collegians and I decided to form a student organization that benefited the Make-A-Wish Foundation a few years ago, but we knew that we didn't want to simply raise money," says Cody Carroll, president of the Wishmakers. "We wanted to do something more actually help with the granting process."

The organization consists of an 11-member executive board and 230 volunteers who help with the main fundraising event, the "Rake-A-Thon." Volunteers can also choose to be county coordinators that help implement and execute Make-A-Wish programs into elementary, middle and secondary schools in Tennessee.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Middle Tennessee chooses a child whom The Wishmakers can raise money for and the organization rounds up its team of volunteers and group members to complete the yearly task of raking leaves.

"It takes four weekends total - three in November and one in December in four hour intervals throughout the day," Carroll says.

The volunteers travel

around the Nashville area and go door-to-door asking if neighbors would like their yard raked for a donation to go towards a recipient's wish. The event has brought in more than \$5,000 a year for the past two years and has covered the expenses for

dation has helped The Wishmakers in every aspect of the organization. From starting a charter, to assigning the wish recipient, the foundation has helped the students grow from a small, unknown club, to a community icon.

Make-A-Wish has also

If interested in volunteering for the Rake-A-Thon or for more information about The Wishmakers, please visit their Web site at studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/wish.

MAKE-A-WISH

To learn more about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, please visit wish.org, or the Middle Tennessee chapter at midtnwishes.org.

travel, board and activities for the recipient and his or her family.

Last April, The Wishmakers granted the wish of Jerel Kennedy, a leukemia survivor. His dream was to go on a cruise, and The Wishmakers arranged for Jerel and his family to take a week-long Caribbean cruise.

The Make-A-Wish Foun-

supported The Wishmakers through advertising in local papers and television stations. The foundation has supported the students in their endeavors to help the national and local Make-A-Wish chapters, and also to bring a restored faith into the hearts of terminally ill children, their families and the community alike.

"The community absolutely admires what we're doing and is quite impressed with our ability to do such a thing, given the busy schedule we lead as college students," Carroll says. "Some donors have even decided to help us advertise and rake next year."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation was started in 1980 and currently grants wishes every 40 minutes in the United States. More than 68 percent of funding for the program comes from volunteer contributions and donations. Make-A-Wish spends 78 percent of its funds on service programs for its wish recipients and for other fundraising events.

To be eligible to have a wish granted, nominees must be between 2-and-a-half and 18 years of age. Recipients are then selected through a referral process.

Medical professionals, children and their parents can refer someone to be a candidate. The Make-A-Wish Foundation then contacts the medical provider to further examine whether or not the child meets the selective criteria for eligibility.

The members of The Wishmakers consider themselves fortunate to be involved in such a rewarding organization. The selflessness of the organization has not only inspired the community, wish recipients and their families, but the members as well.

When reflecting on the processes and emotional rollercoasters that come with the volunteer work, many of The Wishmakers have found they experienced much personal growth.

"I enjoy the opportunity to help such a noble cause," Falconer says. "To help even one person's life become more enjoyable is amazing, and the smiles on their faces when they receive a wish is something I will always remember."

Carroll says that learning to sympathize with those enduring the pain is important.

"It has inspired me to live more freely," Carroll says.

The college students involved in the organization have not only proven themselves to be outstanding citizens and role models, but have made life-changing events happen for those who never thought it possible.

The Wishmakers say they don't see themselves slowing down anytime soon. As long as there are leaves to rake and terminally ill children who need a smile and a glimmer of hope, The Wishmakers will always be ready to take on the challenge.

The Wishmakers are working toward granting two wishes per year. The executive board is brainstorming for other possible fundraising activities raise double the money for wish recipients.

Ten tips to having a great graduation

Avoid worrying, plan ahead to make graduation day a smooth, fun celebration

By KATY COIL
Features Editor

It's official: you've made it. You're going to graduate.

You've finished all of the exams, finals, 10-page papers and group projects. You've sold back all of your textbooks, paid all of your fees and finally filed that last piece of annoying paperwork that sent you on a quest for signatures all over campus.

You've ordered your cap and gown, started moving out of your dorm or apartment and you're ready to celebrate.

Of course, one thing stands between you and that awesome graduation party your friends are throwing: the actual graduation ceremony itself.

For some, the graduation ceremony may be an outdated tradition or a seemingly endless ritual that is yet another hurdle between you and that precious degree for which you've worked so hard for.

Still, graduation is a memorable day and yet another milestone in your life. Before grabbing the diploma and hitting the road, there are a few ways to make graduation a truly memorable event.

1) Take pictures.

Take lots and lots of pictures. This is a once-in-a-lifetime moment, and you're going to want to remember it. Pictures are also a handy way of showing off the ceremony to those friends and family who cannot be there. Of course, there will be tons of cameras flashing in your face all day long, but bring your own camera to get some shots for yourself.

2) Pick out what you're going to wear ahead of time.

MTSU gets hot in the summer, and after hours of sitting in sticky polyester in the Murphy Center, the first thing you're going to want to do is take off that graduation robe when you get outside. If you're going commando, this could be a problem.

Make sure what is underneath your gown is appropriate for the weather and for being seen in public after a fancy ceremony, not just appropriate for whatever graduation party you're attending later.

3) Save the parties until after the ceremony.

You may be in a celebratory mood, but please, for the sake of the ceremony, everyone in attendance and your own reputation, don't start partying beforehand. There



Photo courtesy Morguefile.com

MTSU is expecting more than 2,200 graduating seniors to cross the stage in the Murphy Center on May 9.

is nothing more embarrassing than being the guy or girl stone-cold drunk going to receive a degree.

Graduation parties are held after the ceremony for a reason. Besides, the university is still in possession of that degree. Make sure you have the piece of paper in your hands before doing anything too crazy.

4) Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Not everyone you sent invites or announcements to will be able to come, but odds are that one or more of these people sent you some sort of

graduation money or gifts. Remember, Aunt Myrtle's cousin Fred's stepdaughter Louise's hairdresser didn't have to send you that check. Sending thank you notes is the best way to show these graduation congratulations were received and welcome.

5) How long has he been talking?

Short and sweet graduation speeches never seem to be either. Even if you find yourself looking at your watch to see how much longer the speech is going to take, be respectful. Someone agonized over writing and delivering

this speech to thousands of people. Think of graduation speeches as the last college lectures you'll ever have to go to.

6) Don't worry about tripping and falling on stage.

Tons of people worry about tripping on stage, their name being garbled and many other embarrassing incidents that can happen when they get called. No one needs to worry about this. Yes, accidents are bound to happen, but no matter what, you're still going to exit with that diploma in hand. Besides, you're better off than the guy who's going commando under his robes.

7) Don't let friends or relatives embarrass you.

Sure, parents, grandparents, significant others, friends and others might get a little rowdy with their cheers and air horn blasts. Don't let it get to you. These people are just proud to welcome a new college graduate into the family. They want to show their support and pride on your special day.

8) Worlds of possibility.

Have tons of job offers or landed your dream job right out of college? That's great for you! If not, don't be depressed when it seems like everyone else is getting the

perfect job except you. Not being hired right out of college may make you feel insecure, but that's actually one of the great things about it. You now have a world of possibility open to you. Sure, it can be scary, but that's all part of the adventure of post-college life.

9) Say goodbye but keep in contact.

It may seem depressing that this is the last time you'll get to see some of your best college buddies. You can still keep in contact through social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, but this may be the last time you can see some of your friends face-to-face.

Long, tearful farewells are not required, but at least make an effort to say goodbye to people so you won't regret not having done so later.

10) Most importantly, have fun!

Years and years of slaving away at papers, projects and studying have finally paid off and you now have that golden ticket out of college life: the diploma. You worked hard and you earned it. No matter what happens tomorrow, graduation day is your day to celebrate all of your hard work and effort and a well-earned degree.

ETTES FROM PAGE 5

Silver picked up the sticks quickly enough and she and Hames took on Cohen to play bass in spite of skepticism over inviting a boy into the band.

Now that albums are released digitally, as "Danger

Is" was in March, album releases have become so much less of an event than it used to be, and appreciation for it is changing. With a new album under way, Hames expresses the value of the physical CD.

"I think having and holding an album or a 45 is a valuable thing, and I think a lot of people agree with me,"

she says. "I've got a friend who's in high school, and he has thousands of songs on his iPod, all singles from different indie artists around the world. And that's not terribly different from when my mom was in high school and carried around a little box holding her 45s."

"I think it's pretty great that people can discover

so much music, new and old, from different eras and places. But people should respect their love of music. It's a great thing, and the best way to support artists is to contribute, whether that's buying a t-shirt at a show or an album in a record store."

But Hames says she does not claim to know a lot about the business side of

music.

"I saw a band the other day — this incredibly awful screamo band — and I thought it was a joke, but they're evidently really huge," she says. "Discovering things like that just always surprises me. It reassures me that I know nothing about the music business."

The Ettes are content to

continue hammering out up-tempo, punk-influenced rock, drawing influence generally from "just good, quality stuff" as Hames puts it.

And it is safe to say that The Ettes are producing quality material of their own with blood-pumping pop and a prominent punk backbone all around the skeletal frame of rock 'n' roll.

Up 'Til Dawn raises \$81,000 for St. Jude

Positions are open for next year's Up 'Til Dawn. Once you become part of this organization, you will receive experiences sure to add value to your resume and make you feel good about helping children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

There are many ways to get involved as a volunteer, team member, executive board member or planning committee. Within these positions are opportunities in entertainment, catering, corporate sponsorship, public relations, recruitment, finance, patient relations, logistics, fundraising and more.

Applications are in the KUC room 326-S and are due Friday, Mar. 20. For more info visit <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~uptildawn> or call 615-898-5812.



Up 'Til Dawn is a national student-led, student-run fundraising organization. Over 200 campuses participate in an Up 'Til Dawn event, but MTSU is among the best. For over 10 years, MTSU students have been leading the way in hosting this campus and community wide event, raising over \$640,000 to fight childhood cancer.

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SPORTS

Softball splits final pair of home games

Blue Raiders pull out comeback victory against non-conference foe Jacksonville State with 6-5 win in game one

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

Sometimes you win those tough close games, and sometimes, you come up short.

That was the case with the Blue Raider softball team as it split Tuesday's doubleheader against Jacksonville State University at Blue Raider Field.

MT pulled out a late comeback to win game one 6-5, but JSU returned the favor with a 9-5 comeback victory of its own in game two.

The Blue Raiders (14-32 overall, 5-16 Sun Belt Conference) showed sparks of a powerful offense, totaling 17 hits in the pair of non-conference contests as the team looked to finish the season's last home games on a high note.

MT's first game lasted a little longer than expected as the Blue Raiders went 10 innings to pull off the 6-5 victory over the Gamecocks.

Junior pitcher Lindsey Vander Lugt (11-16) earned the complete game win after allowing three runs on seven hits. Vander Lugt struck out five and walked three in her 10 innings of work.

JSU pitcher Ashley Eliasson

took the loss in her relief appearance as she gave up two runs on one hit in 4.2 innings of work.

At the plate, the Blue Raiders used a balanced attack to pull off the comeback win. Eight MT players recorded at least one hit with sophomore center fielder Kelsey Dortch and junior left fielder Caitlin Mclure compiling two a piece.

Dortch went 2-for-2 with one run scored while Mclure went 2-for-5 with one RBI and a stolen base in the Blue Raider win.

The Blue Raiders also flashed some power as freshman first baseman Kaycee Popham hammered her first home run of the season over the outfield wall for her only hit of the game.

MT was down 4-5 going into the sixth inning when sophomore second baseman Kandra Singleton came home on a wild pitch by the Gamecocks.

The Blue Raiders then dueling it out for four more innings until Mclure came up with a game-winning walk-off RBI single to left field.

However, MT wasn't able to maintain momentum going into game two as the Blue



Photos by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Sophomore outfielder Kelsey Dortch steadies her glove for a warm-up catch before the game against South Alabama. USA won the game 10-0.

Raiders fell 9-5 on a strong JSU comeback.

The Blue Raiders started the game strong with a 4-1 lead, but they could not finish as the team allowed the Gamecocks to comeback and score eight runs in the final

three innings.

Vander Lugt picked up the loss in her three inning relief appearance, giving up four runs on seven hits with only one strike out.

Sophomore Kellie Head started the game and lasted

four innings before giving way to Vander Lugt. Head gave up three earned runs on six hits in the contest.

Senior third baseman Martha Davis had a great day from the plate, going 3-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs

and two runs scored. Davis also stole a base in the losing effort.

MT will finish its regular season schedule with a three-game set at Western Kentucky University starting this Saturday at 1 p.m.

MT Campus Recreation emphasizes intramural sports

Facility offers 18 extracurricular leagues to participate in

By JESSE CLOWER
Contributing Writer

When it comes to campus activities, the Health, Wellness and Recreation Center is not short on activities for students. The Intramural Sports Division of Campus Recreation is no exception, with something to offer everyone on campus.

David Tippet, MTSU intramural sports coordinator, is enthusiastic about the positive benefits of competitive sports. Intramural sports provide students with a healthy and productive outlet to relieve stress through exercise and to provide opportunities to meet other students.

Efforts have been made to get more students involved with intramural sports and the campus' recreational facility in general.

"I really enjoy [intramural sports]," said Brandon Batts, a junior business management/recreational administration double major.

"I'm in a fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc., and we participate in it a lot. It's a great way to exercise, to be social and a good way to stay in shape."

Tippet believes that competitive sports and social interaction are very important to students.

"The biggest thing is getting out, and trying to hit as many people as we can."

E-mails and newsletters go out, but Tippet said he believes if people can simply witness and experience everything the recreation center and intramural sports have to offer, there would be a major flux in the involvement

on campus with a highly beneficial organization.

Since Tippet's arrival to the intramural department staff five years ago, the organization has added six new activities to the list of intramural sports. The staff has also managed to boost the number of student participants from fewer than 4,000 to almost 7,000 over five years.

The staff has also doubled the number of days they put in at the Keathley University Center handing out flyers in recent years and trying to get students involved with intramurals.

Advertisements can also be seen on the campus TV station, MTTV, and on signs around campus that let students know when signups are for various sports and how much it costs to have a team. The number of students par-

ticipating is steadily rising, but the Intramural Department is still attempting to recruit more.

The budget is another factor hindering Tippet and the staff from meeting their full potential. Tippet said the intramural teams get fees from the students playing, and the rest of the money comes from MTSU. But like most budgets around campus, it's hardly what they would like to have to work with, Tippet said.

Even with the funding limits, the program continues to grow. Tippet said he is already working on a golf fundraiser that he hopes will grow into a scholarship to be awarded to students. Students should also be on the lookout for bowling and tennis to be added to the list of intramurals in the near future.



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- Ultimate Frisbee Tournament
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- Sand Volleyball Tournament
- Wiffleball Tournament

For more information, contact Campus Recreation at 615-898-2104

Men's tennis earns NCAA tournament bid

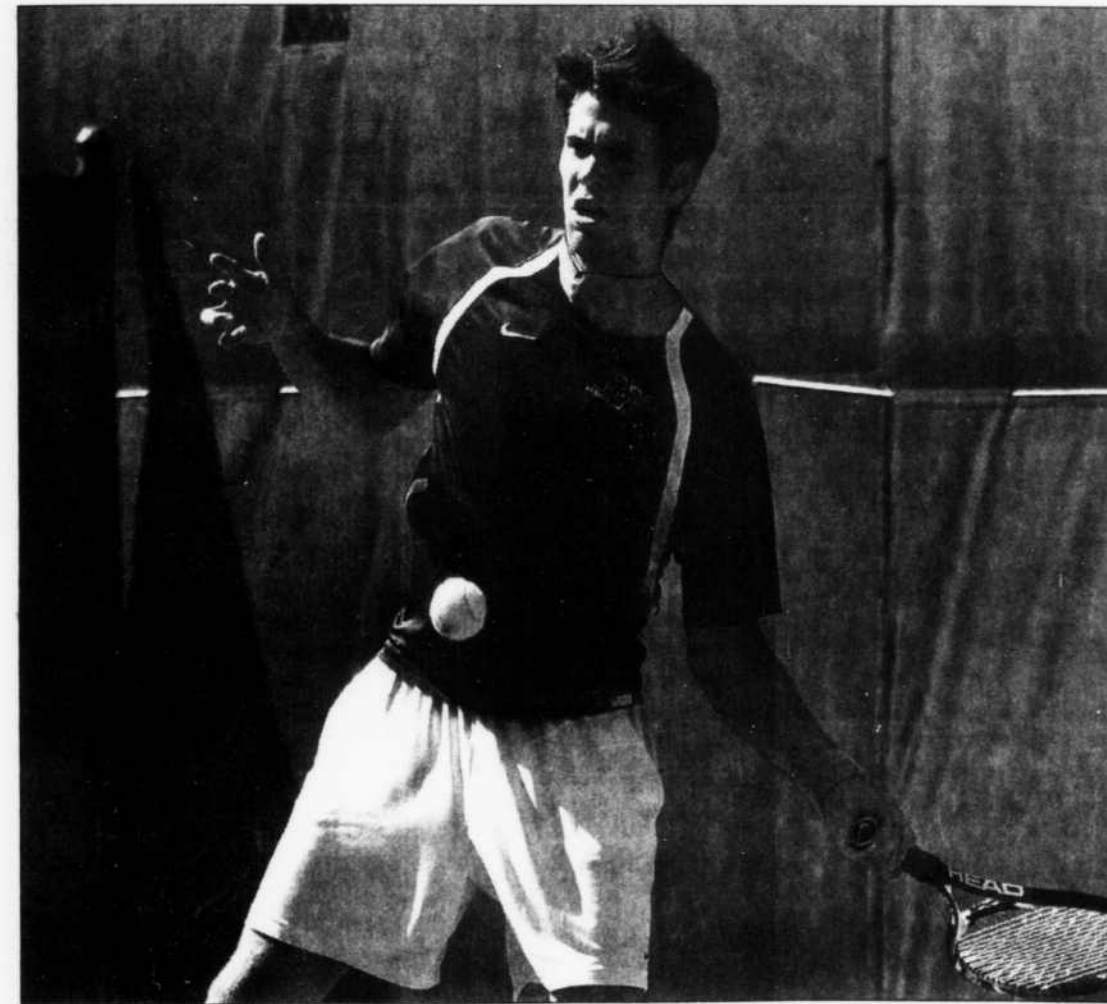


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Senior Morgan Richard aims to volley a serve back in a match against Western Kentucky University at the Sun Belt Shootout, hosted by the Blue Raiders. The men's team won 4-0 against WKU.

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The men's tennis team will continue its spectacular season at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala., as the No. 3 seed in the NCAA Tournament May 8.

The Blue Raiders first learned of their placement while watching the NCAA Selection Show on Tuesday. The team, along with dedicated fans, gathered at Toot's Restaurant to watch the show.

The 2009 Division I NCAA Tennis Championship first and second rounds will be held May 8-9 at various sites. The championship encompasses 64 qualifying teams from across the nation.

Other Sun Belt Conference teams to compete include No. 29 Florida International University and Denver University, currently ranked No. 38.

"I'm excited to have a three seed, and to be playing Boise State," head coach David McNamara said.

"Of all the draws, we

couldn't have asked for much more. Now we can get serious and focus for our weekend."

This is the first-ever NCAA tournament appearance as head coach for McNamara but his fifth overall. McNamara played for the Blue Raiders in their first NCAA trips in 1995, 1996 and 1997. He was also assistant coach on the 2005 men's team.

The team will spend the next week preparing for the match against Boise State.

"We have a young team, and most of these guys hadn't experienced the pressure of a conference tournament before this year," McNamara said. "[But we] are 57th in the country and all we want is the opportunity to play these teams."

"We have a good chance to play well against Boise State."

This marks MT's sixth NCAA Tournament appearance in the last 10 years and eighth appearance overall.

The Blue Raiders headed to the NCAA Tournament after being named Sun Belt Cham-

pions. The team played Florida Atlantic University in the Championship match at the University of North Texas on April 9. After a difficult match, senior Morgan Richard clenched the match with his 6-2, 7-5 win over FAU's Joshua Scholl.

"We put ourselves in a bad position in the tough [SBC semi-final] match against Denver," said sophomore John Peers. "Then, [with FAU, we] learned that we can get ourselves out of any situation. Even if we get down on ourselves we can still get the job done."

In addition to the team championship, Peers was named Most Outstanding Performer, and McNamara was given the honor of Sun Belt Coach of the Year.

Boise State comes to the match ranked 20th in the nation. The Broncos are fresh out of the 2009 Western Athletic Conference championship, where they were upset by the University of Hawaii 4-2.

Baseball takes 7-5 win against Belmont

Blue Raiders come from behind with two-run homer to raise record to 31-12 for season

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

Sophomore shortstop Tyler Burnett had a hot bat Tuesday as he led the Blue Raiders to a 7-5 victory over Belmont University.

Burnett finished 3-for-4 with two RBIs and three runs scored, including a two-run blast that proved to be the game winner. His shot came in the seventh inning when Belmont had just taken a 5-4 lead. An insurance run in the eighth was enough to hold the Bruins off.

"Burnett had a two-run home run to get the winning runs on the board," head coach Steve Peterson said. "We had a lot of timely hitting tonight."

"We faced a pitcher who threw a good game once he got settled in, and we got good timely hitting and had a few players step up."

The Blue Raiders finished with 12 total hits, with senior designated hitter Grant Box and third baseman Raw-

ley Bishop each notched two hits. Box drove in one run in the second inning.

Junior third baseman Ben Darlington also had two hits, including a solo home run to left field in the second inning, which tied the game at 2-2.

Senior second baseman Taylor Dennis also helped the Blue Raider cause by stealing home plate to give the Blue Raiders a temporary one-run lead in the second.

Sophomore pitcher Nick Montgomery picked up his third win of the year by working 2.1 innings and giving up two runs in relief of freshman Brett Wilson, who gave up three runs over 4.2 innings.

Junior Coty Woods picked up his 11th save of the year, tying Chase Swing's 2003 single-season save record. He gave up just one hit over two innings. Woods also leads the team in ERA with a low 2.00 following the contest. He has given up only six earned runs

in 27 innings pitched this season.

Bruins pitcher Logan Simmons was stuck with this loss after giving up six runs through 6.1 innings on nine hits. Reliever Matt Hamann finished the game allowing a run through 1.2 innings.

The Belmont (25-20) offense managed eight hits, with only one player, center fielder Dylan Craig, finishing with more than one. First baseman Derek Wiley provided a spark with a two-run shot in the seventh, which gave Belmont a one-run lead at the time.

The Blue Raiders improve to 31-12 on the season with an 18-6 SBC record. MT currently shares first place in the conference with Western Kentucky University, which is also 31-12 overall.

MT will return to action with a three-game SBC series this weekend starting on Friday at 6 p.m. at Troy University.

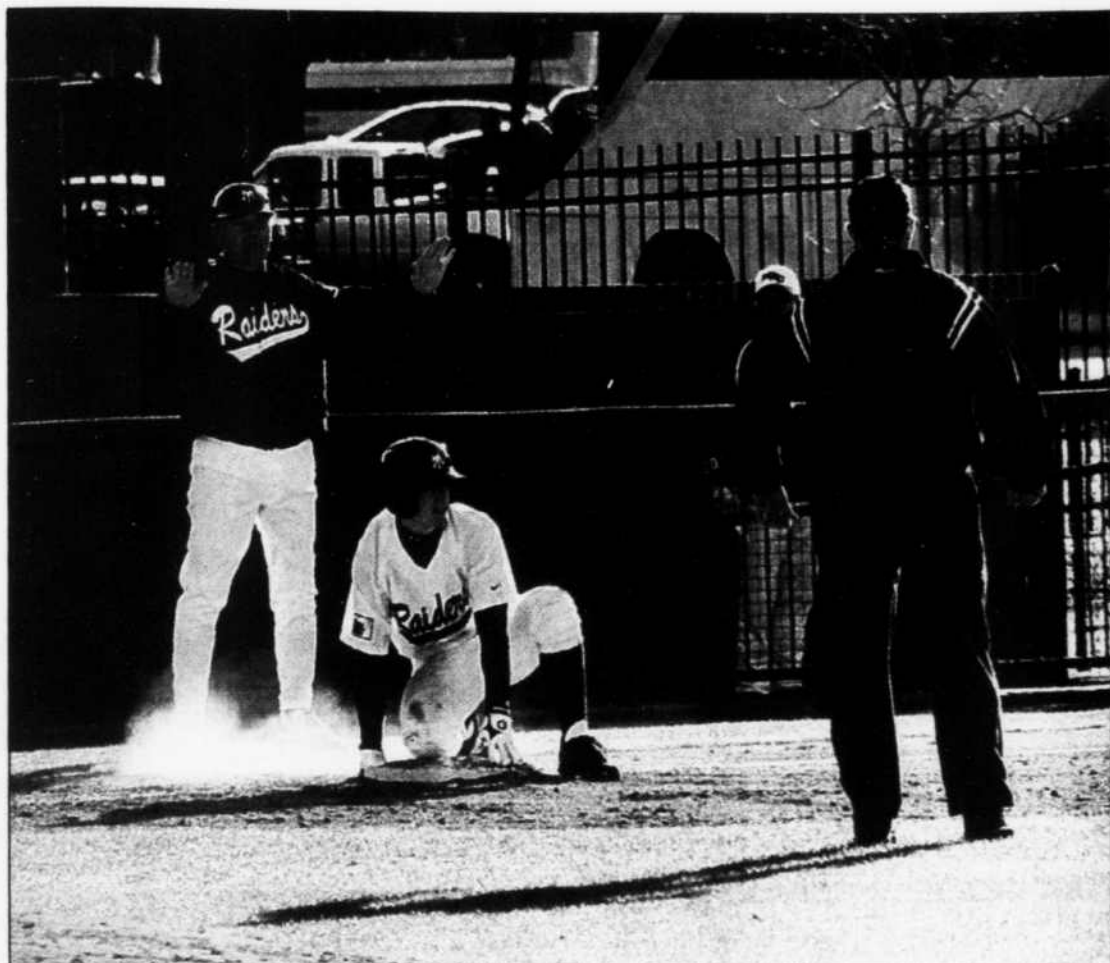


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

An MT runner hugs third base after a tough play against Missouri State on Feb. 20 at Resse Smith Jr. Field

Track, soccer stadium to sport coach's name

STAFF REPORT

The formal dedication ceremony for the naming of the Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium has been set for May 8.

Hayes has served as the head coach for the Blue Raider track and field teams since first taking the position as men's coach in 1965. The Tennessee Board of Regents approved the stadium's new name in late March.

The ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot behind the stadium located off of Greenland Drive. Former

track athlete Tommy Haynes, former Student Government Association President and Murfreesboro Councilman Shane McFarland, Director of Athletics Chris Massaro, president Sidney McPhee and Coach Hayes are all scheduled to speak.

A reception will follow the ceremony and will take place in the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame. In the event of inclement weather, the Hall of Fame will also serve as the substitute to the stadium parking lot.

During his tenure at MT,

Coach Hayes has garnered 12 Sun Belt Coach of the Year awards, 15 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year honors, inductions into the Blue Raider Hall of Fame in 1982 and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 1994, the Illinois Sports Hall of Fame in 1993, and has been a member of the Mason-Dixon Athletic Club Hall of Fame since March 2005.

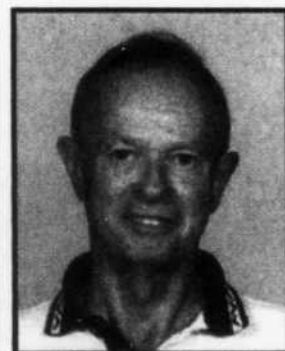
Hayes has also produced 82 All-American honors from 48 athletes, 43 total conference championships and 18 NCAA top-25 finishes.

Hayes has also coached teams that participated in the World University Games, the Pan-American Games and the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

The ceremony is being held on the same day as the Sun Belt Outdoor Track and Field Championships. This is the first time that MT has hosted the competition since joining the Sun Belt Conference in 2000-01. The Blue Raiders last hosted a league championship in 2000, while still belonging to the Ohio Valley Conference.

Dean Hayes

Head Coach, MT Track
Coach: 1965 - present



-Coach of 1988 Summer Olympic team

-Member of MT Hall of Fame since 1982

-Member of Tennessee Hall of Fame since 1994

-Sun Belt Coach of the Year 12 times



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Sophomore pitcher and Sun Belt Player of the Week Bryce Brentz stares down Florida Atlantic's pitcher.

Brentz awarded third Sun Belt Conference honor

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

Baseball is first and foremost a team sport, but that hasn't stopped individual Blue Raiders from collecting trophies for their individual performances.

On Monday, the Sun Belt Conference announced sophomore Bryce Brentz as the SBC Player of the Week. This is the second straight week that Brentz has earned this award and his third overall this season.

The Knoxville native helped lead the Blue Raiders (30-12 overall, 18-6 SBC) to a 3-2 road record against Mississippi State University and SBC-rival the University of South Alabama over the past week.

In the five contests, Brentz dominated the batters box as

he went 9-for-14 (.636) with three doubles, a pair of home runs and nine RBI. Brentz recorded an on-base percentage of .900 and a slugging percentage of 1.375 despite playing away from the friendly confines of Reese Smith Jr. Field.

"Baseball is a game of adjustments," Brentz said. "They [opposing teams] have a scouting report on me, so all I'm trying to do is pick out a good pitch, look for a certain spot and try to put a good swing on it."

Brentz also started from the mound in Friday night's game against USA, allowing three runs on seven hits in his four innings of work.

The sophomore also won the award last week after batting .667 with three home runs and six RBIs, including a game-winning double

against the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

Brentz is having a breakout season with the Blue Raiders as he leads the team with a .490 batting average and 21 home runs. He also boasts an impressive 55 RBIs for the season. He is listed among the top-10 nationally in batting average, home runs per game, home runs and slugging percentage.

This latest SBC award is the sixth such honor for the Blue Raiders this season. Brentz owns three Player of the Week awards.

Also, senior Nathan Hines, who just became the second MT player ever to hit for the cycle, received one Player of the Week honor and junior Chad Edwards was selected as the SBC Pitcher of the Week earlier this season.

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