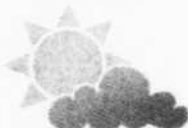


Why America should reinstate the draft.

Opinions, page 4

THURS
70°/54°



FRI
70°/47°



SAT
63°/41°



MTSU students can jump for cheap.

Features, page 5

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009

VOL. 85, NO. 22

Skydiving becomes more affordable



Page 5

Photo courtesy Nick Raines of Adventure Skydiving Tennessee

Byron Wilkes, Sidelines opinions editor, and Jeff Fincher, skydiving instructor at Adventure Skydiving Tennessee, went skydiving last Friday. Wilkes discusses the nuances of skydiving in

AfroFlow attempts to snuff out tobacco

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

The 2009 AfroFlow tour has partnered with the American Cancer Society and will be coming to MTSU next Tuesday, April 14 on the Honors College Lawn to present a unique cultural experience for students.

AfroFlow partnered with the American Cancer So-

ciety to present a central message that speaks out against tobacco advertising aimed at the youth population.

"I believe that tobacco companies are knowingly engaging in legalized genocide," Mike-E said. "It's an advertised product that can kill you if used as directed."

Mike-E said they are also

working with reputable sponsors like Pelle Pelle clothing company and Fuze beverages to get their message across.

The show will feature hip-hop, spoken word, free style, soul music, African drumming and interactive dancing. Performing artists include Mike-E, Kenny Watson, DJ Invisible and Sowandé Keita.

"The whole concept of

AfroFlow is that helps me connect with my roots in Africa," Mike-E said. "It's the root of hip-hop, R&B, soul and gospel music, so we embrace everything in the show."

Recording industry professor, Ramona DeSalvo, said this is the second year AfroFlow has performed at MTSU.

"They came here last march and we did a show on short notice," DeSalvo said. "It got an amazing response from students, so that's why we brought them back to do a bigger show this year."

DeSalvo said Mike-E works spontaneously with the crowd and even pulls people on stage to perform with him. She said anyone who wants to

participate can join in with free-style rap or poetry.

"I hope by being there, we inspire other students and artists," Mike-E said. "Hopefully we can be a good example for them and teach them how to combine their academic knowledge with their artistic talent."

AFROFLOW, PAGE 2

MTSU hosts free health fair for students

By CARTER ROUTH
Contributing Writer

Free health screenings and a variety of medical information will be available at the Health Fair, located on all three floors of the Keathley University Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today.

"This is a good opportunity for students without health insurance to get basic health screenings and information that otherwise wouldn't be available," said Brittney Glisson, a senior nursing major and Student Nurses Association president.

Vision, hemoglobin, glucose, blood pressure and body mass index screenings, as well as massage chairs, will all be available to students, faculty and staff. The ROTC will also set up a climbing wall on the lawn in front of the KUC, weather permitting.

The event will feature more than 30 different health professionals and organizations from MTSU and the surrounding area. Hosted by MTSU's chapter of the SNA in conjunction with the School of Nurs-

ing, the annual event is in its third year.

The SNA did planning for the event, raised funds, organized volunteers and found sponsors and vendors from MTSU and the surrounding community, said Judy Campbell, a School of Nursing professor.

"We have 20 to 30 volunteers from MTSU alone," Glisson said. "So I'm very proud of our nursing students."

By organizing community service projects like the Health Fair, Glisson said that the SNA has been able to build relationships with area medical professionals and organizations. It is through such a relationship that the Red Cross now holds blood drives biannually.

However, the Red Cross has canceled blood drive scheduled for today due to scheduling conflicts and decreased staffing.

The National Marrow Donor Program will also be hosting a registry drive. To register, a health information sheet must be filled out and a swab of cheek cells must be taken in order to match potential donors with

patients.

"Minorities are vastly under represented in the registry of the National Marrow Donor Program and are urged to register," said Campbell.

If a patient is without any close relatives able to donate marrow, then the closest match is usually found in someone of the same ethnic background, Campbell said.

HIV tests and information will also be available.

Tests are administered in the form of a mouth swab and yield results within 20 minutes, said registered nurse Sally Kimbrell. The same tests have been available since spring break and will continue to be offered at Student Health Services, located in the Health, Wellness and Recreation Center.

This year's Health Fair looks to be the biggest one yet in terms of sponsors, volunteers and participating health, university, and community groups, Glisson said.

"The Student Nursing Association always tries to outdo the last Health Fair, and we've worked hard to do so this year," Glisson said.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Free health fair is being offered to students in the KUC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today.

MTSU to host Black College Dance Exchange

By JESELYN JACKSON
Staff Writer

The Department of Health and Human Performance, along with MTSU Performing Arts Company is scheduled to host a national dance conference April 9-12.

The conference, entitled "The Black College Dance Exchange," was established in 1982. The BCDE is a coalition of dance companies from Historically Black Colleges and Universities with an education-based mission.

BCDE's mission is to link colleges with professional dance educators and companies with students, and to provide opportunities

for dancers to come together for learning, social and performance experiences.

MTSU is the first institution that is not a HBCU

Angela Armstrong, a health and human performance professor. "In 1989, when Fisk University hosted the conference, Anne Holland Cole took the first group

hop and other various dancing techniques. It also includes two dance performances - one performed by the conference participants and one from a nationally recognized professional ensemble.

Last year, 13 members of MPAC attended the conference at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo. While there they had the opportunity to take classes from Theo Jamison, master student of Katherine Dunham, and to audition for 11 summer scholarships with various professional companies.

"I did more than enjoy it," said Quanshell Scott, an MTSU alumna. "It was

"It was a great experience to have the opportunity to learn different genres of dance and meet other dancer and choreographers."

QUANSHELL SCOTT
MTSU ALUMNA

member to host this event.

"MTSU has participated in the festivities since 1989, when Anne Holland Cole of MTSU's health and performance faculty became involved with BCDE," said

of dancers from MTSU to BCDE. We have been participating ever since."

The BCDE is a three-day dance conference that offers classes in ballet, jazz, West African dance, hip-

Along with workshops and classes, the Black College Dance Exchange also brings the chance to see a public concert by the prestigious Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Alvin Ailey II, a universally renowned dance company.

The collegiate and professional concerts are open to the public. The collegiate concert is \$10, and the professional concert is \$25.

a great experience to have the opportunity to learn different genres of dance and meet other dancers and choreographers. I loved it, and I definitely recommend others to come."

Students and faculty at MTSU have the opportuni-

ty to attend various dance classes on campus.

Community members can also participate in the BCDE, but because they are not members of the conference, they are charged individual rates instead of member rates.



Photo courtesy AfroFlow
(From top) Mike-E and Sowande Keita, members of the group AfroFlow, will perform at MTSU on April 14.

AFROFLOW FROM PAGE 1

DeSalvo said unlike a lot of hip-hop and rap artists seen in the media, AfroFlow delivers positive messages.

"We have done our show in Miami night clubs,

"We have done our shows in Miami night clubs, and we've performed in churches. Obviously we adapt our shows, but nothing that we do is violent or profane."

MIKE-E
MEMBER OF AFROFLOW

and we've performed in churches," Mike-E said. "Obviously we adapt our shows, but nothing that we do is violent or profane."

The show will also feature an Ethiopian dance group from Nashville who will perform on stage with some of the featured art-

ists.

DeSalvo said there will also be cultural displays before the show featuring an African art display with museum quality pieces. A parade of flags will start at the Todd Hall art building and continue towards the stage in front of the Hon-

ors Building before the show starts.

"Students can learn so much from this show because it's such a rich cultural experience," DeSalvo said. "I learned a lot from it last year, and I want students to learn from it too."

OBITUARY

Anne Twinning Sloan, an educator and administrator at MTSU, died Saturday, April 4, at the age of 59 of breast cancer.

Sloan became the interim associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts in January 2001, later becoming the associate dean - a position she held until 2005.

"She was a devoted teacher and scholar who wanted to open the wider world to MTSU students," said John Vile, dean of the Honors College, who originally hired Sloan when he was chairman of the Department of Political Science. "Both her students and colleagues will miss her deeply."

Prior to her work in administration, Sloan brought the Model United Nations program to MTSU, as well as directing and designing

the global studies program in the Department of Political Science.

"When [global studies] became a minor, Anne took the lead," said J. Doug Hefington, the current director of global studies. "I'm not sure you could ask for a better mentor and colleague."

In 2006, Sloan's breast cancer had metastasized into her bones. After suffering a broken leg in 2008, Sloan needed to take a leave of absence.

"She was the bravest, most optimistic person regarding her illness," said Nancy Bertrand, a former professor in the Department of Elementary and Special Education.



Sloan

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Bill passed to stop retention bonuses

STAFF REPORT

The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to restrict executive compensation bonuses given by companies that receive federal taxpayer assistance to prevent the company from collapsing.

"It still enrages me to think that AIG received billions in taxpayers assistance and then doled out \$165 million in bonuses to employees," said Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn. "If a company is on the brink of collapse, under what logic does it make sense to reward employees for a job done poorly?"

The bill passed by the House, titled "Pay for Performance Act," would prohibit those companies from giving out any form of retention payments, bonuses or other supplemental payments, which are not directly tied to performance-based standards.

The act only includes those companies receiving assistance from the U.S. Treasury Department's Trouble Assets Relief Program.

"Companies need to understand this financial crisis is having far-ranging effects. Families, small businesses, local governments – are struggling across the country," Gordon said. "This bill will not only prohibit the AIG-type bonuses, it also goes after executive salary and compensation."

The bill will restrict companies that have received federal assistance from compensating employees in an "unreasonable or excessive" manner.

The measure requires the Treasury Department to work in consultation with Congress to establish "unreasonable or excessive" compensation standards within 30 days of the bill's enactment.

"I am confident we are going to reverse this economic downturn and return to prosperity," said Gordon. "However, in doing so, taxpayer dollars must be spent in a reasonable and transparent manner, and this bill would help to ensure that."

CURRENT EVENTS

- "Valkyrie"**
April 6-10
Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Friday, 7 p.m.
Admission: \$2
Location: KUC Theater

Town Hall Meeting with President McPhee
Thursday, April 9 at 4 p.m.
Location: KUC Theater

Health Fair
Sponsored by MTSU School of Nursing
Thursday, April 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- For more information: contact Jennifer Kirk at 615.898.5729

"Paul Blart-Mall Cop"
April 13-17
Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Friday, 7 p.m.
Admission: \$2
Location: KUC Theater

AfroFlow Festival
Starring recording artist Mike-E
Tuesday, April 14 at 4 p.m.
Location: front lawn of the Honors College
- More Information: visit afroflow.com

A night of comedy with Iliza Shlesinger
Thursday, April 16 at 7 p.m.
Admission: free
Location: JUB Tennessee Room
More Information: visit ilizashlesinger.com

9th Annual MTSU Student Film Festival
April 20-24
Visit KUC 308 for more information

Through the Sidelines' Lens



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
James Wheeler, a junior media design major, performs kick flip outside of the Mass Communication Building yesterday.

CRIME BRIEFS

- April 3, 5:41 a.m.**
Assault
Womack Lane Apartments
Gregory Taylor was arrested for domestic assault.

April 3, 4:30 p.m.
Drug Possession
Gracy Hall
Anthony Barnett was issued a state citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.
- April 3, 4:50 p.m.**
Theft
Theft of bike from campus.

April 4, 10:01 p.m.
Assault
Corlew Hall
Victim felt that he had been threatened by a student resident. The victim declined prosecution at this time and requested that Residential Life handle the matter.
- April 6, 11:16 a.m.**
Burglary
Murphy Center
Subject called and requested an officer in reference to an attempted burglary.

April 6, 5:53 p.m.
Vandalism
Greenland Drive Lot B
Complainant wished to report that her car had been keyed.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

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Steven Chappell, Sidelines Director, Box 8 or deliver applications to COMM 269

Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 24

Editor selection interviews will be held Wednesday, April 30, at 4 p.m.

Sidelines is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Summer and Fall 2009 semesters:

Managing Editor

Copy editor

News editor

Assistant editors

Sports editor

Staff writers

Features editor

Staff photographers

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Production Manager

Opinions editor

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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

Budget cuts coming soon, MTSU needs answers

President Sidney McPhee is scheduled to hold an open forum for students pertaining to budget cuts at MTSU in the Keathley University Center Theatre today at 4 p.m.

McPhee is expected to give a presentation and allow students to ask him questions afterward.

The forum, similar to the two that were held last week, is being in response to the \$19.3 million that is projected to be cut from MTSU's state appropriations by July 1, 2011.

MTSU was initially asked by the state to prepare for these cuts by the end of the current fiscal year. But thanks to \$19.66 million in stimulus funds and \$7.26 million in state resources, the university will be "quite well off for two years of one-time money," McPhee said at the second open forum on April 2.

There has been much debate at MTSU about the budget cut process throughout the past school year and two polar sides about the process have arisen:

A. The administration is being transparent and taking all suggestions into account before making its final decisions.

B. The administration is portraying itself as open as a public relations game, and it is going to make whatever cuts it sees fit regardless of what people say.

Regardless of which side, if either, students and employees take, everyone should still heed the opportunity to go to the open forum today. And if you do decide to go, do not be afraid to ask hard-hitting questions.

If you ask McPhee a question and you feel it has not been answered, don't leave the microphone. Don't let your mind have any doubts about the president's stance on particular issues.

Here are three questions the Sidelines editorially board wants to see addressed and answered by McPhee at the forum:

1. Some faculty and students say you [McPhee] and the provost are much more compliant with the Tennessee Board of Regents and its decisions concerning MTSU than past presidents and provost. Would you say you and Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost, are more likely to comply with the TBR regardless of decisional effects.

2. Are funds being set aside for the open Greek Life director position? If so, why are these funds not being used to save something else on campus, like the June Anderson Women's Center? Half of MTSU is populated by women, but only about 5 percent is involved with Greek Life. How do you explain this?

3. Why was the Office of Community Engagement moved from elimination to consolidation? Are rumors true that you started this office so Gloria Bonner would have a job after receiving a vote of "no confidence" as dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science? Do you believe that in a time when MTSU is preparing for academic cuts, this office should remain funded by the university?

Why the draft isn't so bad

President Barack Obama recently announced plans to form a new "Civilian National Security Force" to serve our country. Although he mainly wants increased civic volunteerism, Obama's speech has sparked debate about forcing people to serve their country. This, of course, brings up the issue of the draft.

Should America reinstate the draft? When most people hear this question, they panic. They conjure up images of women forced to fight on the front lines, sensitive people forced to kill and a wave of suspense and fear hanging over the country.

But, I argue, this is unfair. What a lot of people don't realize is that these images are mainly political propaganda used for various reasons. The draft can be a force for good in America.

When soldiers go abroad, they represent America. And although most members of the military are fine people, there are alarming rates of inappropriate behavior in the army. This is partly due to the fact that



Off-Center
Catharine Broemel

volunteer rates are so low that the military has resorted to recruiting high school dropouts and even allowing criminals to join the Army.

If the U.S. drafted educated, well-behaved people into the Army, they would be better cultural ambassadors for America and able to do better work. It would also revolutionize how young people participate in politics and the emotional bond they feel towards their country.

Voter turnout among young people is less than 50 percent, and political apathy

is widely reported in this demographic.

This happened for many reasons, but a major one is that college students can no longer be called upon to physically fight for our country.

Having a draft isn't such a crazy idea. It can work to make young people care about their country. Just look at Israel.

Ate age 18 in Israel, men and women must join the

shape and prepare for the journey and even report that their country's army trained them for life. And even though the work is mandatory, a person can object on moral grounds and opt out of combat.

The army provides work for everyone: cooks, drivers, nurses and other civilian jobs that are appropriate for every individual. It isn't all about toting a gun and battling on the front line.

And as for women in the Army, they've been serving in the military for years in combat and support jobs. A woman would be perfectly capable of doing a job in the armed forces.

Some say it is wrong for women to join the army since they give birth and care for children. But many



single women could join, mothers could work as secretaries or drivers, and exceptions could be made for women and men with young children.

In the end, though, I think the real reason for the draft is to make us care about the fate of America. As Obama said in his speech promoting volunteer work, "Loving your country shouldn't just mean watching fireworks on the Fourth of July. Loving your country must mean accepting your responsibility to do your part to change it." Amen, Mr. Obama.

Catharine Broemel is a liberal arts senior and can be reached at crb3f@mtsu.edu.

"Loving your country shouldn't just mean watching fireworks on the Fourth of July. Loving your country must mean accepting your responsibility to do your part to change it."

BARACK OBAMA
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

army and serve for at least three years. And, surprisingly enough, many young people report being excited about serving.

Soldiers work to get in

New iTunes prices very unwise

Apple Co. hikes prices of some songs, how will users respond to this increase?

In the digital age of iPods and other electronic media players, many consumers who aren't pirating their music from peer-to-peer programs actually prefer to purchase their music from iTunes or some other online music store. These users prefer keeping the files as a digital file on their computer or hard drive, as opposed to going to the record store or big-box retailer and spending \$10-20 on a physical compact disc.

It saves space, and it saves time. It's simply the most convenient way to store and carry your music around. And thus far, it has been reasonably priced.

Now, possibly the most popular online music and movie store, Apple's iTunes, is letting record companies set the price per song, instead of offering all songs for 99 cents like it has been doing for years. iTunes will have the song prices in three tiers: 69 cents, 99 cents and \$1.29. The higher price change has already gone into effect for some of the more popular songs.

While this may help some



The C-Word
Courtney Watson

record companies get people purchasing, it's mainly going to be those record companies that aren't greedy and offer their songs for either 69 cents or the classic 99 cents that will most likely see the most downloads, and, therefore, the most profit.

Music downloaders will appreciate the new, cheaper prices offered by some record companies, while despising the more expensive prices set forth by others.

However, the record companies that will be charging \$1.29 — and some already are — should probably expect a loss in profit. No one is going to want to spend more than \$15 for a 12 song CD when he or she used to get it for \$12 on iTunes and maybe even cheaper in the

stores.

Music shouldn't be free — I'm not saying that by any means. But with a 30 percent increase in the prices of some songs, people aren't going to want to pay. They're going to resort to getting their music for free, especially when they know that the record companies have set these prices, and ergo the record companies get the majority of the money, not the artists.

The only benefit is that, in exchange for the record company's ability to set the prices, the companies are selling the songs without the "digital rights management" technology that stops users from copying tracks or playing them on multiple computers. This may be beneficial for some users, but iTunes already had fairly lenient rules on this matter.

It will only hurt the record companies because if people are going to have to pay more, they are going to be more likely to share. And with sharing unlimited copies of the tracks, you're going to have less people

Old iTunes price:
99 cents
New iTunes prices:
69 cents
99 cents
\$1.29
Amazon.com prices:
79 cents
89 cents
Wal-Mart prices:
64 cents
94 cents
\$1.24
All prices are per song.

paying the higher price and see an ultimate loss.

The "set price" was the best part about iTunes. Now, you have to bargain shop for music, and you may buy something that you don't want to listen to as much because it will be nearly half the price.

You shouldn't have to do that just because a record company says some songs should be \$1.29 and some should be 69 cents.

Courtney Watson is a journalism senior and can be reached at cw2y@mtsu.edu.

COMICS



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

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DO YOU THINK AMERICA SHOULD REINSTATE THE DRAFT?

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FEATURES



WHAT DID YOU THINK OF "URINETOWN?"

BASED ON VOTES FROM
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Skydivers find fun by free-falling

Clarksville skydiving business offers unique experience for those brave enough to jump

By BYRON WILKES
Opinions Editor

If you've ever ridden in an airplane or helicopter, you've experienced what it's like to be miles above the surface of the earth traveling at incredible speeds. It's modern-day convenience afforded by years' worth of invention and innovation.

Yet the process of landing and taking off can be monotonous, so why not take a timesaver and simply jump out as you fly over your destination?

Dubious accessibility of this method aside, leaping out of airplanes thousands of feet above the ground remains a hobby. It exhilarates many people on a constant basis, though to call it a hobby would assuredly be depreciating what the experience really is and, vicariously, the culture and its community.

Adventure Skydiving Tennessee is an Atlanta-based company located in Clarksville, and, for a fee, you can experience what it is to throw your cares to the wind, dive into nothingness toward the face of our blue-green planet and still manage to come out alive and unharmed.

"Equipment is no longer the weakest link," says Chuck Owen, who manages the Adventure Skydiving Tennessee when he's on the ground. "People being complacent is what causes accidents to happen."

Safety is unquestionably the most crucial aspect of the extreme sport of skydiving. Instructors go to great lengths to make certain that participants comprehend everything they are doing, from the preparations they make beforehand, to the landing process. A separate



Photo courtesy Nick Raines of Adventure Skydiving Tennessee

Byron Wilkes lands softly on the grass under a tarmac after jumping from a plane three miles above the surface of the earth.

staff of jumpers takes great pain in meticulously packing parachutes into backpacks, making absolutely certain that parachutes are readied uniformly and in the proper fashion.

A one-way plane ride to the sky lets skydivers new and old glimpse the horizon before a door is opened and participants shuffle out and fall like dominoes from the small craft. Watching the plane as you fall might sound intimidating, but, as the vessel gets smaller and smaller, your fear and worries melt away into tranquility and equanimity.

The jump itself takes less than three minutes, depending on how high you are when you exit the plane and when you pull your ripcord. The plane flies to about 15,500 feet (about 3 miles) before jumpers begin their rapid descent, at which point it's far

too late to change your mind and turn around.

"To me, it's relaxation," instructor Codie Abjets says as he packs a parachute. "When I'm up there, my mind is clear. I don't worry about school or work. The plane ride up is fun, too."

Abjets' sentiments echo many of the staff's, all of whom regularly skydive and embrace the activity wholeheartedly.

"I did my first jump on my 18th birthday," says Andrew Johannis, a freshman aerospace major and member of MTSU's skydiving club. "When I got to the door I was like 'Oh God, what the hell am I do-

ing?'"

The ascension to the appropriate altitude is relaxing and seemingly effortless for the pilot, though in reality there is much more going on than it appears. The pilot has to circle until the craft is

high enough, but as he is doing this a ground team is constantly communicating with him in order to ascertain how close the plane is to a approximate target zone on the soil.

The process is actually quite difficult, so experience is vital.

The ordeal is quite jarring the first time, though, as plummeting toward the

earth at around 120 mph isn't exactly what the human body was made for.

Because of differing air pressures at different intervals in the atmosphere, the pressure changes in altitudes cause the air in your inner ear to push and pull on your eardrum, depending on whether you're traveling up or down. When you fly up in a plane, this change happens more slowly than when you're taking a shortcut straight down. However, by simply holding your nose while closing your mouth and blowing out, this discomfort can be easily assuaged.

The first time you skydive, you do so "tandem," which means you are simply attached to someone else by a harness who will pull the parachute, or rig, for the both of you. Even the novice skydiver can't be afraid of this

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Roots of Southern rock still growing

Texas-native Ricky Young, Nashville band Red White Blue create alt-Americana sound

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

Roots-rock has a new representative.

Texas-native Ricky Young is digging to keep alive a genre of a deep southern origin with the help of the sometimes-backing band Red White Blue. On March 26, Young performed with the Nashville-based band at Mercy Lounge.

At first glance, it would appear that Red White Blue is to Ricky Young what the Cardinals are to Ryan Adams. But Young refutes the notion of himself being the primary focus on stage when he performs with the band.

"It's not a me thing as much as it is a group thing," Young says. "I mean, I write a lot of songs, but they all write and we collaborate together."

The members of Red White Blue have their own collection of alt-Americana recordings, and Young describes himself as one of their biggest fans. Though Young and Red White Blue work independently of one another in music, they first joined forces in April 2008.

"They still do their own thing," Young says. "But we do this thing, and it's making a lot of sense."

Sense is one way to describe the evident chemis-

try between Young and Red White Blue on stage. There is an easiness among the band members that matches the familiarity in their music and translates well to the crowd at Mercy Lounge.

Young played a nine-song set consisting of several old and recently reworked songs like "Mexican Pain Pills" and songs drawn from his debut album titled "Learn to Steal."

It has been nearly a year since "Learn to Steal" was released, but its effect is still resonating.

Fashioned in a style comfortably fitted for Nashville, "Learn to Steal" echoes with the influences of Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Wilco and all other fathers of folk as Young digs for the essence of roots music. Like roots music tends to do, the album exudes a hot-asphalt-in-the-summertime vibe because of Young's unpretentious lyrics and meandering, rustic melodies.

"The name is a pretty important song to me and kind of summed up the whole effort," Young says, referring to the album's title track.

The very Johnny Cash-like opening line of "well I got shot down..." in "Fade to Gold" and the driving, ragtime piano melody of "Poor You" illustrate the album's faithfulness to old genres.



Photo contributed by Ricky Young

Ricky Young and the Red White Blue will be playing at the Outdoor Festival in Franklin on June 28th.

Songs like "Acoustic Guitars" hold a lyrical resemblance to contemporaries like The Volebeats or Ryan Adams in that Young can take one small detail and create a song from it.

The 10 tracks of "Learn to Steal" possess a sweet youthfulness and a common-man appeal which makes them all stand out on some level, but "Suitcase Afternoon" is gold. It also marks Young's first Nashville co-writing experience.

"My buddy Court Clement

and I had just met, and we became close really quick," Young says. "We sat down and wrote it in maybe 30 minutes. We just bounced off each other and stamped it in 45 minutes tops."

With a combination of acoustic guitar and dazed harmonica, Young tugs at a heartstring on this track the way Neil Young did with "Razor Love." Founded on slow, old-fashioned romance and Young's charming vernacularism, "Suitcase Afternoon" is the token gem on "Learn

to Steal" that epitomizes Young's laid-back brand of roots.

It can be difficult to find musicians who play folk and roots music that stays true to the original form, and it can seem as though music, like roots is taking the backburner in comparison to other genres.

"I would hope that the word 'roots' would mean that the music is firmly planted, so I don't think it's going anywhere," Young says. "I think if people would open their

ears and dig like we used to for new music and dig for good [expletive], then it's always going to be there.

"Like Red White Blue, no one knows about them except for people here, but that's still a band where you think, 'Holy [expletive], this is a great roots-music band.'"

Only a few days prior to their Mercy Lounge show, Young and Red White Blue visited Austin yet again to play South by Southwest, a music conference and festival, which Young considers to have been a success this year in terms of attendance, alcohol and sleeplessness. Playing festivals of that capacity, they're acquiring an audience of a wide age range that is catching on to their music.

"Roots music has always kind of been for more mature ears, but I mean, I have a 17-year-old brother that's listening to [expletive] like I'm listening to now because he's been digging," Young says. "But I think people want to hear what they want to hear, and they'll find us."

Ricky Young's honest lyrics and easy melodies in "Learn to Steal" can appeal to most demographics. And in the tradition of all roots-rock, his music has a tender voice and a warm soul that delivers the ultimate sound of the South.

To see footage of
Byron's skydive, visit
Sidelines

online
www.mtsusidelines.com

Film festival shows other side of China

Independent pictures from filmmaker Zhang Yimou give students perspective of China's underprivileged

By BRIAN ESTES
Staff Writer

The villains, clad in dark suits, stand poised and ready to fly into a flurry of kung-fu moves. Their hapless victim sits bound up and tied in the corner. Suddenly, Jackie Chan spins into the scene doing a windmill kick and lays out the bad guys with dominating bursts of punches and kicks.

Enough of this might convince you that cheap laughs and even cheaper thrills are all that Chinese filmmaking has to offer.

Well, hold it right there. Zhang Yimou would like to have a few words with you.

Yimou, arguably the most famous filmmaker in China, is well known for his hit U.S. films "House of Flying Daggers" and "Hero," but in his own nation, he's known for something much more. Those interested in seeing Chinese filmmaking from a different perspective will get their chance on Apr. 12 when Yimou's film "To Live" is screened in Mass Comm. Room 103 at 6 p.m.

The screening is sponsored by the Mass Communication Dean's Office and is part of a month long Chinese film festival that highlights Yimou's works. The purpose is to promote awareness of Chinese culture and to highlight the differences in filmmaking styles between Chinese and Americans, said Bob Spires, faculty sponsor for the festival.

"Our mission is to help bring the world to the college and send the college out into the world," Spires said. "To Live" is the story of a



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures
Zhang Yimou is more known for his spectacle films like "Curse of the Golden Flower" (above) than his independent films about the trials and tribulations faced by residents of rural China.

family that struggles to make a life for itself amid 30 years of political and social strife.

Spires said that one of Yimou's specialties is to create films that document the trials and ordeals of common, everyday people.

After the film, a short discussion, hosted by mass communication graduate student Xiao Liu, will take place.

"Movies we show are ones that are very popular in China," Liu said.

Liu explains any cultural differences in the film that might not make sense to Americans. She then makes a presentation regarding various themes explored in the movie and engages the audience in the discussion.

Although Yimou has experienced some international success, many of his films have not caught on in America. Spires said one reason for this is the fact that his movies aren't usually marketed very well in the U.S. He said

"To Live"
Where:
Mass
Communication
Building 103
When:
Sunday, April 12 at
6 p.m.

that films like these would usually hit the indie film circuit at some place like Green Hills Cinema, with little to no publicity, and be gone within a week.

"Most Americans who have seen one of these films in theaters or happen to order it online at Netflix," Spires said.

Americans attitudes toward China may also be a reason for the lack of attention. He said many Americans of his generation were taught in school to be apprehensive toward China and their communist background.

Yet, he also said that many younger Americans seem to possess much favorable views of China.

The Gallup poll "American's Most and Least-Favored Nations" was conducted as part of Gallup's 2008 World Affairs survey and released in March 2008. It reveals that 60 percent of Americans age 18-34 view China favorably, compared with only 38 percent in the 35-54 age bracket and 34 percent in the 55+ bracket.

Last Sunday's offering was Yimou's 1992 film, "The Story of Qiu Ju," which chronicles one woman's pursuit for justice.

The story begins when her husband is kicked in the groin by the village elder after a land dispute. Qiu Ju is outraged and approaches the village authorities to try to force the elder to apologize. When she doesn't receive the ruling she wants, she takes it to a higher authority. At each

successive level, she keeps getting the same response and each time she leaves disappointed, vowing to take her case to the next level.

In many ways, Qiu Ju can be viewed as admirable for possessing the conviction to continue her fight and to take advantage of the opportunities for appeal afforded to her by the Chinese Government. Still, some characters in the film begin to believe that she is too stubborn and obstinate.

From a visual standpoint, the film shows the Chinese countryside and city life while keeping the glitz and glamour to a minimum. From the humble wooden huts in the village to the bustle of the overcrowded city streets to the dust that flies up behind the wagon as it travels along the dirt road, the cinematography makes no effort to emulate the

styles of Hollywood mega blockbusters. But it works.

"Yimou started out as a photographer and is noted for his use of color," Spires said.

Audience members expressed a general satisfaction after having seen "The Story of Qiu Ju." Alex Bolton, a freshman criminal justice major, said that he enjoyed the exposure to Chinese culture.

"I got to see some very stubborn characters duke it out," Bolton said. "It was a matter of one stubborn character facing another stubborn character in a stubborn system."

Aman Sheel, a graduate student in Information System Management, agreed.

"The two things I got out of it was that the chief was very generous and the girl paid the price for being stubborn," Sheel said.

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SGA Bill 1-09-S

A Resolution to Increase the Number of Senators in Our SGA

WHEREAS: Middle Tennessee State University is the largest University in the State of Tennessee but we have the smallest SGA out of all state schools,

WHEREAS: Expanding the SGA will make the SGA much more visible on campus,

WHEREAS: The Executive officers are constantly asking Senators to work events for the SGA,

WHEREAS: A higher number of senators would allow the SGA to reach out to many more students,

WHEREAS: A higher number of Senators can offer more diversity to the SGA and offer more legislation ideas,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE 71ST CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

SECTION 1: Article V, Section 2, Subsection B shall read, "For each college, one (1) Senate seat shall be allocated for every five hundred (500) students enrolled in the college. If a college has between five hundred (500) and one thousand (1,000) majoring in it, it shall be appointed two (2) Senate seats, and so forth. Senators elected by college shall be elected during the spring semester."

SECTION 2: Article V, Section 2, Subsection C shall read, "Freshmen Senators and Graduate Senators shall be elected within the first two months of the fall semesters. One (1) Senate seat shall be allocated for ever five hundred (500) students enrolled with less than fifteen (15) accredited hours, and one (1) Senate seat shall be allocated for every five hundred (500) students enrolled in graduate programs.

SECTION 3: Article V, Section 2, Subsection D shall read, "There shall be seven (7) At-large Senate seats allocated. These At-large seats shall be open to all students, who otherwise meet the standards set forth in Article V, Section 3.

SECTION 4: If passed twice by the Senate, this will go in front of the student body in a special referendum on Tuesday April 21st and Wednesday April 22nd.

SECTION 5: The referendum will read:
"I support the expansion of the Student Government Association in regards to the addition of Senators"
Yes _____ No _____

SECTION 6: If passed by the MTSU student body the 2009 – 2010 SGA President shall fill the newly opened Senate seats via appointment with approval from the 2009 – 2010 Senators.

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Speaker of Senate

SGA President

VP of Student Affairs

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.

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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 organizations. 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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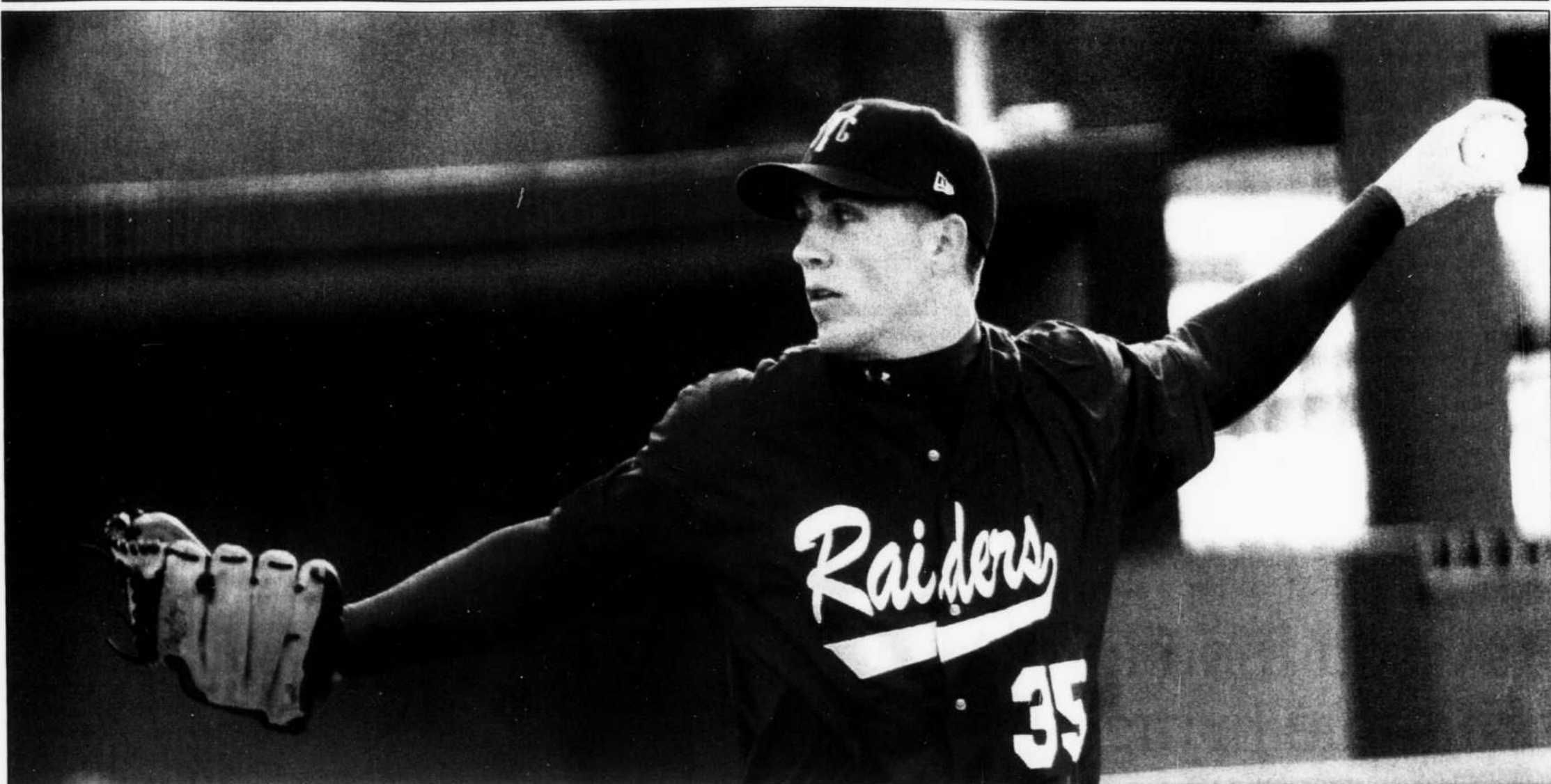


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Junior Kenneth Roberts readies a pitch in a Blue Raider home game. MT's pitching has helped lead the Blue Raiders to an 11-2 home record and a second place standing in the Sun Belt Conference this year.

Edwards, Brentz shut down Vanderbilt

Excellent pitching causes first MT shutout in six seasons, lends hand to improving Blue Raider season

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Contributing Writer

Junior pitcher Chad Edwards threw the first complete game shutout for the MT baseball team in nearly six years as the Blue Raiders cruised to an 8-0 victory over Vanderbilt University, Tuesday night.

Edwards allowed six hits through nine innings, issuing three walks and striking out three. With the shutout, the Paducah, Ky. native moves to 5-0 on the season with a 4.05 ERA.

"Being a former catcher, nothing is greater than a shutout, except for a no-hitter," head coach Steve Peterson said. "I think (junior pitcher) Drew (Robertson) did a great job with Chad calling the game."

Edward's career-defining

performance couldn't have come at a better time as the Blue Raiders were coming off a three-game losing streak supplied by the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. Before dropping the series to ULL, the Blue Raiders hadn't dropped more than one game in a row all season.

"The best way to stop a losing streak is good hitting, pitching and defense, and we got all three tonight," Peterson said.

Edward's domination of the Commodores marks the first complete-game shutout for MT since John Williams threw one in May 2004.

On the opposing side, Vanderbilt falls to 19-13 on the season, with Nick Christiani taking the loss after pitching five innings and allowing

four earned runs on seven hits. Christiani managed to strikeout seven MT batters while issuing two free passes.

Sophomore left fielder Bryce Brentz also continued his stellar season, going 4-for-4 with two home runs, two singles and five runs driven in. Brentz also showcased his speed with his third stolen base of the season in the contest.

The sophomore, who also doubles as an MT starting pitcher, increased his season stats to a team-leading 15 home runs, 37 RBIs and a batting average of .470.

Brentz's home runs came in the bottom of the fifth and seventh innings—the first being a towering shot to left field and the latter going over the right field wall.

Robertson and senior outfielder Zach Dean both had RBI singles as well, with Robertson driving in two runs in the fourth inning and Dean with the fourth in the seventh.

Senior third baseman Rawley Bishop supplied two hits, two runs and a walk to the Blue Raider offensive effort.

The Blue Raider attack was boosted even further as Vanderbilt committed an uncharacteristic four errors on defense.

The win improves the Blue Raiders' record to 22-7 and 11-4 in the SBC. MT has been almost unstoppable in the newly renovated Reese Smith Jr. Field this season with a 15-2 home record. The team is in second place in the Sun Belt Conference behind



Top Performers



P Chad Edwards #16 JR-2L
first complete game shutout by a Blue Raider since 2005
3 K's



P/OF Bryce Brentz #7 SO-1L
4-for-4, 2 home runs, 5 RBIs, 3 runs



IF Rawley Bishop #17 SR-3L
2-for-4, 2 runs, 1 double

first-place Western Kentucky University.

The Blue Raiders will return to action on Friday,

April 10 at 6 p.m. when they begin a three-game weekend series with Florida International University at home.

Tiger Woods on the comeback trail into golf fame

How does one define a successful sports career?

Is it the number of victories and dominance over all opponents? A popular public image and charity work? The number of endorsement deals?

Tiger Woods, one of the most recognizable sports heroes of our time, has achieved all of that in spades, making him an idol to golfers and non-golfers alike. With 66 PGA Tour victories, 14 major golf championships and more than \$110 million in winnings, no one is questioning that he is, without a doubt, an amazing golfer.



Mr. Irrelevant

Zach Reves

However, Woods still hasn't fully bridged the gap into sports immortality, but he has a golden opportunity with this weekend's Masters Tournament.

To me, true champions are made when they successfully undertake a comeback trail battling against an adver-

sity that threatens everything they've ever known.

Sure, Woods has seen his fair share of roadblocks in his career. He fought against raised expectations ever since he was labeled a child prodigy at the age of three. He also fought against the barriers of race in a sport that, at one time, wasn't so accepting. Woods even overcame a two-year slump in 2003-04 that saw him winless and not in typical form.

But now, Woods is looking to best something he's never experienced—something that has claimed the careers of many lesser men than himself. An anterior cruciate ligament tear, an injury

that some felt threatening to Woods' career, forced him to the sidelines and onto the operating table in the second half of 2008.

Woods, who presently claims perfect health, has never had to battle back from an injury of this magnitude. The doubt and the physical decay that can set in after taking almost a year off from the sport could really alter Woods' approach and game.

And now, with the Masters just around the corner, the stage is set for Woods to add the greatest exclamation point in sports history. Winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational with a dramatic victory on the 18th hole on

March 29 was great for Tiger Woods' comeback. But the Masters is a whole different stage.

The Championship at Augusta, one of the four major championships in professional golf, includes only the best of the best in a field of 96 different golfers. Names such as Phil Mickelson and Ernie Els and a slew of young golfers hungry for a fame-earning victory will all battle for the champion's green jacket. The competition is fierce, but it only makes winning that much more glorious to the victor.

As for Woods, he already has four green jackets, but he's only won one in his last

six attempts. If he can pull out a post-surgery victory against all the new up-and-coming golfers, then there is no doubt in my mind that Woods would become the greatest sports figure that this nation has ever seen.

I think I speak for most sports fans when I say that following Woods' post-surgery quest for victory should be as exciting as anything golf could ever provide. Personally, I hope he does well, because golf, and the U.S., would be all the better for it.

The Masters will begin today and last until the final round on Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. on ESPN and CBS.

Women's golf finds success in Florida golf tournament

By SARAH FRYAR
Contributing Writer

Not even a par 72 course named after former Miami Dolphins head coach Don Shula could intimidate the Middle Tennessee women's golf team at the Canes and Cardinal Golf Classic.

The match took place Monday and Tuesday in Miami Lakes, Fla.

Individually, after the first two rounds Monday, Senior Leigh Wilkins shot a 2-over 146 finishing second behind Erica Moston of San Jose State. Sopho-

more Morgan Hale had a combined 153, freshman Stephanie Gough shot a 156, and senior Mallory Bishop was holding steady with a 161.

Junior Clara Leathers was disqualified in the first round after hitting a shot from out of bounds territory.

The team total was 614 placing Middle Tennessee in seventh place trailing first place San Jose State by 23 strokes after the two opening rounds.

In the third and final round Tuesday, Leigh Wilkins showed her consistency as she

shot a 7-over 79 landing her a spot in the top 10.

"Leigh is doing what you

“ [Leigh] has been solid the last three events and she is playing with a great deal of confidence going into the tournament.”

CHRIS ADAMS

HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE WOMEN'S GOLF

hope seniors will do and she is playing her best golf right here at the end," MT head coach Chris Adams said. "She has been solid the last three events and she is playing with

a great deal of confidence going into the [Sun Belt] Conference Tournament."

Mallory Bishop shot the highest Blue Raider individual score of 77 finishing with combined 238 tying her for 39th.

Tying for 28th was Morgan

Hale with a 234 and Stephanie Gough totaled at 239 rounding out Middle Tennessee tying for 43rd.

After three rounds of play, the Blue Raiders shot a combined 92-over 929 finishing eighth overall. Middle Tennessee proved they could hang with the likes of Texas Tech, who shot a 925, Cincinnati (941), Maryland (942), and Boise State (948), just to name a few.

The top three finishers in this year's Classic consisted of San Jose State (887), Washington State (910), and Princ-

eton (910).

Leigh Wilkins finished in this place individually. This was her third consecutive top 10 finish. In addition, Mallory Bishop placed in the top 20 individually.

The Blue Raiders' next tournament is the Sun Belt Conference Championship at Cypresswood Golf Course in Houston, Texas April 20-22. The NCAA Regional is May 7-9 and the NCAA Division I National Championship is at Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Maryland May 19-22.

Softball looking to keep up winning ways

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

It has been a tough year for the Blue Raider softball team, but if recent games are any indication of a change, then there is a lot to look forward to.

Tomorrow, MT will face off against Florida International University in the start of a three-game series that could have conference ranking implications.

The Blue Raiders (8-25, 3-12 Sun Belt Conference) won a pivotal SBC series last weekend when they upset the University of North Texas with 1-0 and 3-2 victories. Now, MT looks to carry that momentum forward on the road for this weekend's slate against a dangerous FIU team.

The Golden Panthers (20-22, 4-8 SBC) currently hold the eighth spot in the conference, which is one slot above the Blue Raiders. With another strong showing, MT

could win the series and overtake FIU in the season standings.

MT is scheduled to compete in a doubleheader tomorrow, and the team will likely turn to six-game winner Lindsey Vander Lugt for a strong start. The junior from Olympia, Wash., is coming off a dominating performance against UNT where she compiled 25 strikeouts in three contests.

Vander Lugt, who leads the team with a 2.55 ERA, boasts a strong amount of durability and reliability as she has pitched 13 complete games in her 18 starts this year.

At the plate, the Blue Raiders will look for continued production from senior third baseman Martha Davis who leads the team with a .316 batting average. Davis has been a threat all year with the bat as she has compiled three home runs and 18 RBIs.

Sophomore center fielder

Kelsey Dortch has been a sparkplug at the top of the order for the Blue Raiders this season with her .270 season average. Dortch is a perfect 8-for-8 on stolen base attempts to go along with her three home runs.

Opposing the Blue Raiders will likely be the Golden Panther's top pitcher Kasey Barrett who boasts a 2.29 ERA and 10 wins on the season.

FIU's offense includes three players with a batting average over .300. The Golden Panther's most dangerous batter is Kim Rodriguez who has five home runs and 20 RBIs this season.

Game one against FIU is set to start at 4 p.m. followed by game two at 6 p.m. The final game will begin at noon on Saturday.

After the series with FIU, the Blue Raiders will travel to Louisville for a single-game series, Tuesday at 5 p.m.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Sophomore center fielder Kelsey Dortch checks to see if she's safe after stealing second base in an MT home game. Dortch and the rest of the Blue Raiders will look to steal more SBC wins at FIU this weekend.

Revised football schedule brings MT to national audience

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee football team is scheduled to have one of its games next season televised due to a last minute change in ESPN scheduling.

This fall, ESPN2 will air the Oct. 6 match between defending Sun Belt Conference champion Troy University and the Blue Raiders. This new schedule will coincide with the agreement made between the SBC and ESPN earlier this year.

"We are very excited about being on national television for the fourth year in a row," Director of Athletics Chris Massaro told goblueraiders.com. "You simply cannot put a price on the type of exposure this provides our entire university, and we are thrilled for the opportunity."

This will mark the eighth time since 2006 that MT has been aired nationally, the most in the SBC.

This rescheduling forced other changes in the schedule, including an away game

at North Texas on Sept. 26, as opposed to the previously scheduled open day.

On Oct. 24, the Blue Raiders playing rival Western Kentucky University instead of Arkansas State University, which moved to a Nov. 21 contest. Both games are at home.

The Florida International University game has moved from Oct. 10 to Nov. 7, but the Blue Raiders remain the host.

On Nov. 28, MT will end the 2009 regular season at the University of Louisiana-Monroe. Postseason games are not scheduled as of yet.

Game times have not been released, nor have appointments for the Homecoming 2009 and "Black-Out" games.

The new schedule comes at a timely release, as the annual Blue and White game is slated to take place Saturday, April 18.

The game is a chance for the MT football team to showcase their spring training and for fans to get a sneak peak at the fall season. The game is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.

2009 Tentative Football Schedule

Sept. 5	@ Clemson
Sept. 12	Memphis
Sept. 19	@ Maryland
Sept. 26	@ North Texas
Oct. 16	@ Troy (ESPN2)
Oct. 17	Miss. St.
Oct. 24	WKU
Oct. 31	@ FAU
Nov. 7	FIU
Nov. 14	ULL
Nov. 21	Ark. St.
Nov. 28	@ UL-Monroe

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*Our Surcharges (incl. Fed. Univ. Svc. of 11.3% of Interstate & Int'l telecom charges (varies quarterly), 7¢ Regulatory & 85¢ Administrative/line/mo. & others by area) are not taxes (details: 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes & our surcharges could add 6%-26% to your bill. Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan lines w/ 2-yr. Agmts).
IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Cust. Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee/line, up to 40¢/min. after allowance & add'l charges apply for data sent or received. Friends & Family: Only domestic landline or wireless numbers (other than directory assistance, 900 numbers or customer's own wireless or voice mail access numbers) included; all eligible lines on an account share the same Friends & Family numbers, up to account's eligibility limits; set up & manage on My Verizon. Offers & coverage, varying by svc., not available everywhere. Network details & coverage maps at vzw.com. Limited-time offers. While supplies last. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 wks. & exp. in 12 mos. © 2009 Verizon Wireless.