

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008

VOL. 84 NO. 19

INSIDE

Holt named All-American



Amber Holt was named to the AP All-American team; her second honor in just two weeks.

SPORTS, 7

Dollar value makes for costly time to study abroad

With the value of the dollar declining, studying abroad is becoming more expensive for Americans.

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Hillary's plans should be focus of discussion

Her fashion sense is not up for debate. Politics are more important.

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Golf team wins fourth straight

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COMMUTE

FROM MARCH 7 - AUGUST 2008

MTSU Blvd. is closed from Rutherford Blvd. to Blue Raider Drive due to construction. Drivers will be able to enter the campus off Rutherford Blvd. at Alumni Drive (newly opened road by Greek Row). The 4-way stop at MTSU Blvd. will also be closed during construction. Please follow detour signs.

The gravel lot at the corner of MTSU Blvd. and Rutherford Blvd. will also be closed during this time. Students are advised to park in the Rutherford Blvd. lot across from Greek Row and ride the shuttle.

Science building funding possible

Proposed amendment would provide for postponed construction

By HALEY V. HARTSOOK and AMANDA HARRIS
Contributing Writers

Although MTSU's plan for a new science building has been postponed, it is the highest priority on the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's list of seven building projects that could be funded by a proposed amendment to the governor's budget.

The proposed amendment, which the Senate Education Committee approved last month, would provide \$177.7 million in bonds for higher education projects.

The annual cost of the bonds would be \$30.5 million. Funding depends on whether the state economy improves during next year.

Senator Jim Tracy of Shelbyville proposed the mo-

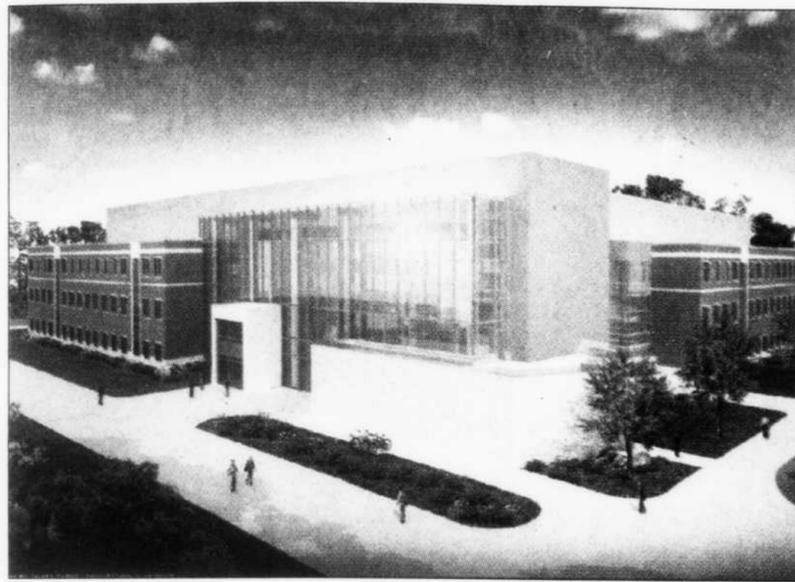


Photo courtesy George Murphy, biology department chairman
An artist's rendering of the proposed science building to be located southwest of the Quad.

tion to provide funding for higher education building projects.

"We need an up-to-date building to educate our students," Tracy said, citing MTSU's growing student population as the reason to push for funds. Accreditation requirements are also an issue.

Finance Commissioner

Dave Goetz told the *Chattanooga Times* that the Senate Education Committee had "ignored the current fiscal problem."

"This is an act of legislative irresponsibility that I don't quite remember seeing in this fashion before," Goetz said.

Tracy argued that even so, the project must proceed.

"It comes down to priorities. Education is the most important thing we do in this state," Tracy said.

Speaker of the House Ron Ramsey agreed.

"I think we need to get that one behind us this year, because it's going to create a logjam at the top of the list

BUILDING, PAGE 2

Gun scare evacuates Peck Hall

By DANIEL POTTER
Community News Editor

Rumor of a gunman on campus triggered an impromptu evacuation of Peck Hall by over 100 students Tuesday morning.

"A suspicious, early-morning e-mail message to police at MTSU stated that the sender overheard that someone was going to bring a gun to campus and 'do something to the teacher in PH,' which may allude to Peck Hall," said Tom Tozer, director of News and Public Affairs here.

No one reported actually seeing a gun on campus, Tozer said.

"At this time, no campus buildings have officially been evacuated, although some individuals and classes chose to leave Peck Hall and other buildings," he said.

Many students congregated outside Peck Hall around 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, in easy range of the rumored gunman, some noted. MTSU police were on the scene as well, but for several minutes not even the authorities seemed clear about the situation.

"I have no idea what's going on at this time," said Campus Police Officer Wayne Gentry, who was on the scene.

Marc Cox, a sophomore international relations major, said some present seemed to be enforcing the unofficial evacuation.

"I was going up the steps and an older guy dragged me down and said, 'You gotta leave, there's a gun threat in the building,'" Cox said. "I think he was staff."

Cox said at first he didn't realize the crowd outside was due to any evacuation.

"I was like, 'Wow, everyone's out here all non-chalant.'"

Shortly before 10 a.m. authorities determined there was no threat in the building and waved everyone inside.

However, by noon, English classes in the building had been cancelled for the rest of the day, or relocated to other buildings. Classes for some other departments, including psychology, proceeded as scheduled there.

"We think it could have been a hoax, much like the e-mail we received in August about the false bomb threat," said Buddy Peaster, MTSU chief of police. "It might have been sent out to cause confusion or because it was April 1. It could also turn out to be something 100 percent true."

In a situation similar to the gunman threat on Tuesday or bomb threat on Friday, Peaster said the most important concern the MTSU community can focus on is safety.

"It helps us as a community not to be controlled by fear," Peaster said. "Instead, we need to stay vigilant about our safety and take proper precautions."

As for the e-mail, Peaster said police have already contacted Yahoo.com in order to trace the e-mail account.

"If it comes down to it, to subpoena data records may take us a little while, but it would be nice to know which machine it came from," Peaster said.

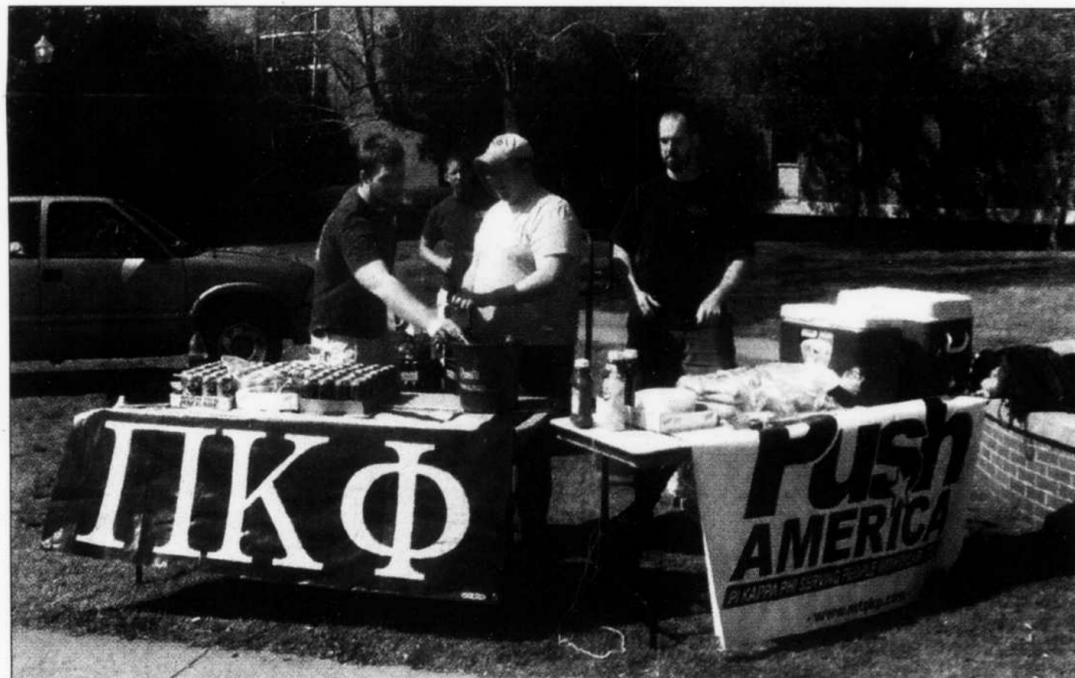


Photo by Michael Stone, Staff Photographer
Pi Kappa Phi members grill out on the KUC Knoll Wednesday to raise funds for Push America.

Event raises money for philanthropy

By MICHAEL STONE
Staff Writer

Pi Kappa Phi fraternity raised money Wednesday for Push America, its national philanthropy for people with disabilities, by selling hot dogs and drinks outside Keathley University Center.

The fraternity will continue raising money today from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. with "Pie a Pi Kapp."

"Our hot dog sale has become somewhat of a tradition in our chapter," said Nick Oliver, Pi Kappa Phi president. "This will be our third annual hot dog sale, but this will be our first time trying 'Pie a Pi Kapp.'"

Push America's purpose is to "enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities," its Web site states. Push America is the only existing philanthropy founded and run by a national fraternity.

Hot dogs and soft drinks were sold for \$1 on Wednesday, while the same amount was charged for throwing a pie at a member of the fraternity.

"There has been no actual set monetary goal," Oliver said. "We do, however, hope to make between \$500 and \$1,000 over the course of two days. Any contribution is greatly appreciated, and it all goes to helping students with disabilities."

The money will be used to fund service projects in the Middle Tennessee area. They will consist of constructing wheelchair ramps, building disabled-friendly playgrounds and other projects for people with disabilities.

"The Pi Kapp's at Middle Tennessee State have a good, strong chapter," said Rodney Clements, director of chapter services for Push America. "I'm glad that they're raising money for

Push America. They have historically been a strong chapter in terms of the philanthropy."

The fraternity members received comments from those who bought hot dogs, including Lisa Colosimo, undeclared sophomore.

"It was a convenient way between classes to grab a bite to eat," Colosimo said. "The hot dogs are really juicy and great."

The event was created and organized by Steven Elrod and Michael Foster, two members of the fraternity.

"This is really going to help out people with disabilities," Elrod said.

The fraternity is looking into other possible events for the semester to raise money for Push America.

"We are looking into doing a 48-hour scaffold sit, as well as other service projects," Oliver said.

People do not have to be in the fraternity to help out

with Push America.

"[To get involved,] simply contact our Push chairman, Matt Clyde, for information about upcoming events," said Oliver. "He can be reached at our Web site, mt-pkp.com."

The MTSU chapter of Pi Kappa Phi was chartered in 2003. Since then, the chapter has received several awards, including the Master Chapter Award.

"Recently, we were honored with the Master Chapter Award by our national headquarters for espousing the qualities chapter-wide in character, leadership, sportsmanship and service," said Chris Johnson, Pi Kappa Phi member and former president.

"This award is an honor we can all be proud of and I look forward to winning it again next year. The award currently resides in the alumni room of the chapter house."

Beta Theta Pi hosts Health and Safety Fair to educate students

By MARK BELL
Staff Writer

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity held a Health and Safety Fair and Alcohol Awareness Wednesday to educate students about the risks associated with drinking and driving.

Students wore "drunk goggles," which simulated the effects of being under the influence of alcohol, while they swerved their way through an obstacle course set up by Beta Theta Pi on the Keathley University Center Knoll.

Members of Beta Theta Pi, along with representatives from the MTSU Police Department and The President's Commission on the Status of Women, circulated materials with information on alcohol abuse, substance abuse

as it relates to sexual assault, binge drinking and the link between drinking and STDs.

Mitch Baker, Beta Theta Pi chapter president and an organizer of the event, outlined why he thought the event is important to all involved.

"This event is important because it will help educate people on the effects that alcohol has," Baker said. "Many [college students] do not realize how fatal it can be when [mixing] drinking and driving."

Baker said he hopes the event will help cut down on the amount of alcohol related accidents in the MTSU area.

"Many people do not realize how impaired they are when drinking, and this event will educate people on it and perhaps change some minds about actions taken

while drinking," Baker said.

The event is aimed at a campus where liquor law, public drunkenness and DUI violations were among the highest substance violations reported in 2007, according to statistics from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's most recent Crime on Campus report.

MTSU also ranked highest among the 19 Tennessee Board of Regents schools when comparing the number of students convicted of substance-related crimes. The statistics were even higher than the University of Memphis, which has a slightly larger overall student population in the report.

Sergeant Steve Scott of the MTSU Police Department said he was not surprised by the statistics.

"There are a number of factors that contribute to the numbers found in those statistics," Scott said. "Underreporting on the behalf of other campuses and the fact that we have younger officers that are more aggressive in their reporting of [substance] crimes are two examples."

Scott said a good way to cut back on the amount of problems associated with substance crimes, especially on Greek Row, is for presidents of those fraternities and sororities to lead by example.

"What's wrong with being the first frat on campus to not allow underage recruits to indulge in alcohol?" Scott said. "Doing so would set a higher standard for all the Greek and other student organizations, and would definitely help the organizations reputation."

BUILDING FROM PAGE 1

if we don't get it funded," Ramsey said.

"It is a huge project and that is one reason that it needs to be funded. And keep in mind, you don't fund the whole project, you just have to put in the budget 10 percent to sell the bonds and hopefully we'll be able to find that, some way, somehow, this year," Ramsey said.

Tracy said that the next step in acquiring funding for the science building is to get the finance committee to approve the amendment to the governor's budget. MTSU hopes they will reach a decision before the current legislative session ends in May.

Funding problems won't end for MTSU's science building once funding for

the initial construction is approved. Equipment will be needed for the building's four new labs as well as offices.

Stephen Wright, associate professor of biology and shepherd for the new science building, said that once the facility is completed, the top priority will be providing enough microscopes. A set of microscopes for one class costs \$50,000.

Another essential item to the science building will be fume hoods. One fume hood costs \$10,000.

Office and lab equipment for the building will have to be funded by existing department budgets, technical fees, grants, and possibly even company donations and the MTSU Foundation.

The biology department needs \$25,000 at present for new equipment in their existing teaching labs.

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

Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15

Editor selection will be held the week of April 28 and will be conducted through an interview with the University Newspaper Publications Board.

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

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Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

ROOMMATES

OPPORTUNITIES

Lost: Pair of prescription sunglasses (black frames) that was lost between James Union Building (JUB) and Alumni Memorial Gym (AMG). Kindly call Mark at 898-2812 if found. Much appreciated.

SERVICES

WEDDING PHOTOGRA-

Continued from last column

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POLICIES

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Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

Students present research projects

By **BYRON WILKES**
Contributing Writer

Students' research accomplishments will be displayed through performances and presentations during Scholars Week, which will demonstrate the various activities occurring on campus and inside the classroom.

Scholars Week and will continue until April 4 as each day a different college will host its own display of student accomplishments. Each college at MTSU has a display that is unique to itself.

"Campus-wide participation shows the vitality high quality and pervasiveness of scholarship throughout our academic community," said Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost. "The organizing committee is doing a fantastic job and we encourage everyone to mark their calendars and events on their agendas."

The College of Education and Behavioral Science will host a luncheon on Thursday entitled "Life's Major Questions" at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hazelwood Dining Room, located in the James Union Building. Tickets will cost \$5 and must be purchased in advance.

There will be a university-wide poster and multimedia exposition to bring together all of the aspects that have aligned to form the basis for Scholars Week on Friday. The exhibition will take place in the Murphy Center track area and will last from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Afterwards, there will be a brief award ceremony led by Gebert at 3 p.m.

"These activities are basic to the work of the university," said Bob Peterson, MTSU English professor and member of the Scholars Week planning committee. "But a lot of what our colleagues and students do in these areas is invisible to the rest of us."

Earlier in the week, the College of Mass Communication hosted a speech by Susan Morrison in the Keathley University Center on Monday, in which she talked about her book, "Thirty Ways of Looking at Hillary Clinton."

"[Morrison] brought up many interesting points

about people who go out of their way to ridicule or belittle Clinton's campaign," said Kristin Pritchett, senior public relations major. "It's striking to me how many of the people who complain about the Clinton actually have very similar complaints."

The College of Business also held its own session of posters and presentations in the Business and Aerospace Building. The posters concerned a wide scale of different facets of the business realm, including items addressing security within business for customers in states like Tennessee.

"Essentially, I addressed the issue liability when it comes to terms of a business and a consumer and a consumer and a consumer and a consumer or robbed in places like the business' parking lot," said Jane Tsoy, junior accounting major. "[In my project] I advise businesses to go ahead and pay for things like security cameras now instead of having to pay millions later in lawsuits."

On Wednesday, the College of Liberal Arts hosted a series of talks, panels and performances. A large variety of students' works from a wide degree of majors were included in the presentations, which were held in the Honors Building and the JUB.

Everyone was welcome to attend the events held on Wednesday according to Mark Byrne, associate dean of Liberal Arts.

"I think that a few teachers are even bringing their classes to see everything that will be on display," Byrne said.

The presentations of the Liberal Arts College were extremely varied. There were discussions on Gabonese canoe workers and historical memory by history majors, while speech and theatre majors set up a costume display from MTSU's production of "Romeo & Juliet."

Students read self-written plays, with titles such as "Cigarettes & Sex" and "Mazel Tov Cocktail." There were also various recitals by music majors with instruments varied from the clarinet to the guitar.

Scholars Week serves as a way for students and visitors to learn more about the diverse array of achievements at MTSU.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, Staff Photographer

On the catwalk

Models walk the runway during the textile merchandising department fashion show held at the Tom H. Jackson Building at 7 p.m.

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In order to be eligible for Student Activity Fee funds, you must have attend the Student Organization Software Training and be a registered student organization through the Office of Leadership & Service. In addition the organization President must have attended Presidium or the Orientation Workshop. For questions regarding Student Activity Fee allocations, please contact 898-5812.

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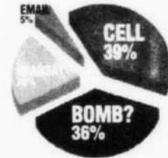
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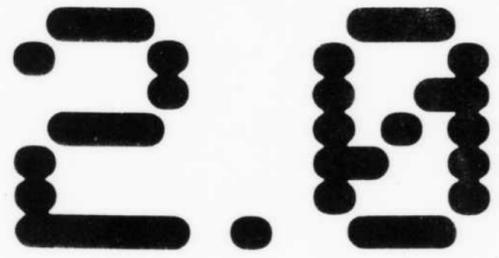
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POLITICS

YouTube, Facebook and MySpace
put a new spin on the old ritual
of electing the new presidentBy JONATHAN GANTT
Contributing Writer

In 1960, the first televised presidential debates took place, as Richard Nixon faced off against John F. Kennedy.

Until the debate, political pundits and national polls regarded Nixon as the favorite, but after he appeared tired and sickly from rigorous campaigning, the roles reversed, and Kennedy, well-rested with his appearance helped by makeup, became the favorite.

More than 80 million people watched the first debate, and despite stronger showings in the three following debates, Nixon never recovered.

The importance of television in the 1960 election marked a turning point in our country's politics. Now, with the limitless information provided by the Internet and Web 2.0 sites like YouTube, Facebook and MySpace getting involved in the elections, we may be seeing another turning point.

If computer users type in the search phrase "Presidential Election" on Google and clicks on the first result, they find themselves looking at a Wikipedia page, a site well-known to be edited by users.

But Wikipedia is not the only platform for the computer-user to voice his or her opinions and political views.

The outlets available for discussion across the Internet are countless, and bloggers and social networking users can compete with the likes of Wolf Blitzer and Bill O'Reilly to make their voices heard.

On the popular social networking site Facebook, users can add applications to their page or join groups where they can express their political views and support their favorite candidates.

Thadeous Larkin, a senior politics major at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., uses his Facebook page to endorse his favorite candidate, John McCain.

"If someone is yet to support a candidate, it sometimes spurs them to ask me why I support John McCain, and so a dialogue begins outside of Facebook," Larkin says.

McCain's campaign definitely makes use of sites like Facebook and MySpace. On his Facebook profile, users can see videos and news about McCain like other news sites, but they also can see personal information, such as his favorite mov-

ies and television shows. It seems McCain and college students, for example, might share a love for "Seinfeld."

Meanwhile, on McCain's MySpace page, he asks users to take the "MySpace Challenge" by adding him as a friend and donating their age in money to his campaign, and then asking users to tell their friends and family members to take the "MySpace Challenge," as well. In addition, he uses the page to announce endorsements from political figures like Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and actors like Sylvester Stallone.

But do the users of these sites even care that McCain and the other hopefuls are trying to reach out to them on their own turf?

"Does it have potential? Sure. It's also free, so why not utilize it more? But I don't think it's as effective as personal campaigning," Larkin says.

Certainly, Facebook and MySpace cannot have the same effect as a face-to-face conversation with the candidate, but with personal videos from the presidential hopefuls like the ones on YouTube and other sites, a virtual face-to-face is as close as some voters will get.

Lindsay Marcus, a junior journalism major at MTSU, thinks Web 2.0 sites are the best link to younger voters for candidates.

"I do think it's more effective because most of the people our age get their news, television shows and music on the Internet. Facebook is our commonly accepted way of expressing our opinions and communicating," Marcus claims.

Austin Burch, a classmate of Marcus's, agrees about the importance of Web sites aimed at his demographic.

"It's easier to find out information because I pay more attention to sites like Facebook or YouTube than I do to CNN.com," Burch says.

YouTube, known for catapulting nobodies with web-cams to Internet superstardom almost overnight, serves as an incredible asset to each candidate in their bid for the oval office. As you navigate through the official Web sites and Facebook and MySpace profiles, you find that videos play an important role in the campaign, and YouTube is the video service of choice for candidates like McCain and Hillary Clinton.

Clinton even made headlines for spoofing The Sopranos in a 2007 YouTube campaign video. That is just one

of 200 videos Clinton posted on her personal channel that YouTube created in its "Face the Candidates" section.

With "Face the Candidates," users can watch campaign ads, compare candidates' views on issues with specific videos, and even see footage of televised debates. YouTube partnered with CNN and played a huge role in the televised debates, with users sending in videos of their specific questions to the candidates.

Voters no longer just see television commercials carefully edited by candidates. Instead, they can now go straight to a specific answer on an issue from a televised debate with just a few clicks. If a candidate slips up or fumbles an answer, that clip can be viewed millions of times at any time with a site like YouTube.

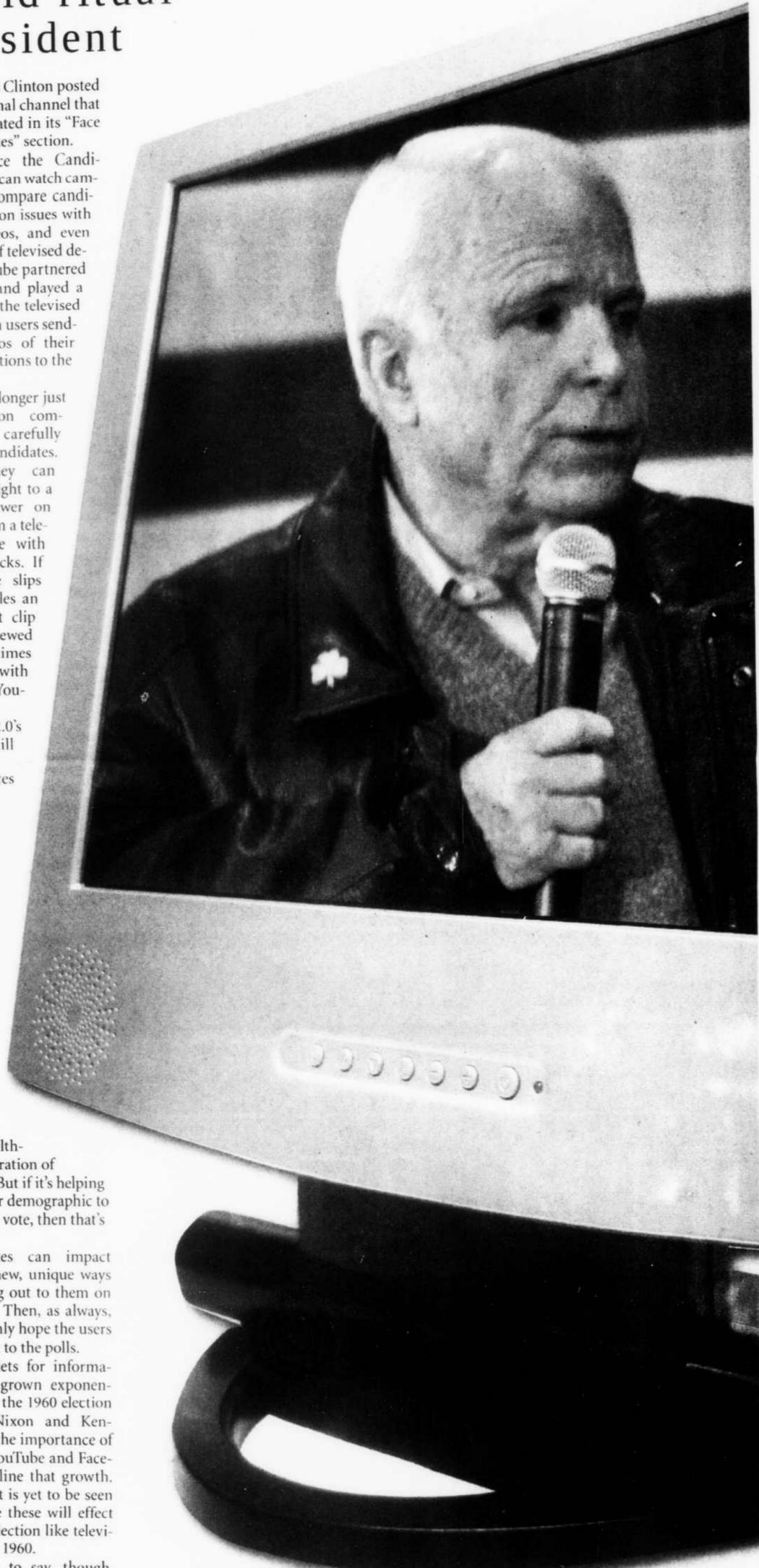
But Web 2.0's effects are still uncertain, and these sites are likely to influence younger voters more than older ones.

"Baby boomers still make the decisions," says Dave Tyree, a 30-year-old senior business surveillance analyst for Healthcare Corporation of America. "But if it's helping the younger demographic to get out and vote, then that's great."

Candidates can impact a user in new, unique ways by reaching out to them on these sites. Then, as always, they can only hope the users will get out to the polls.

The outlets for information have grown exponentially since the 1960 election between Nixon and Kennedy, and the importance of sites like YouTube and Facebook headline that growth. However, it is yet to be seen if sites like these will effect the 2008 election like television did in 1960.

Needless to say, though, Hillary Clinton certainly won't be the only candidate wearing makeup.



Graphic by Sarah Lavery; images courtesy of JohnMcCain.com and Morguefile.com

Frontrunners in the
online community

Presidential candidates can be searched through a variety of means online. You can check them out by plugging their names into your favorite search engine, or you can check out these Web sites which are dedicated to them.

Hillary Clinton

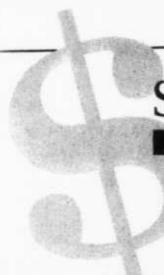
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Study abroad and the decreasing value of THE DOLLAR

By LANI LESTER
Contributing Writer

It's been said that nothing in life is free, and that includes the European experience that many students who undertake study abroad seek.

International Exchange Coordinator Brandon Fishersays that, of the destinations available, Europe receives the most interest from students.

However, study abroad trips for both students and professors have been affected by the decreasing value of the U.S. dollar against European currency. "The U.S. dollar has looked like a troubled celebrity lately," John Wasik reported in a March 25 *Boston Globe* article. "It has dropped about 7 percent against the European common currency in the past month."

According to a recent Bloomberg report, the value

of the dollar has lost one-fourth of its value over the past five years.

Fisher explained that the effects of the latest decline in value will be seen this summer when the majority of students travel abroad but program fees have already increased.

"Over the last decade, I'd say traveling to London has doubled in price," says John Dougan, an associate professor of recording industry who taught *Roots, Rock, Reggae: The Cultural Politics of British Punk Rock and Reggae Music*, a course offered in London, England, through the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad.

"To continental Europe, not quite as much, but definitely more expensive," Dougan notes. "Until the dollar recovers against the pound and euro, I don't see traveling to Europe or teaching class there anytime soon."

"You do see a decline in participation, the prices are reflected in the brochure," Fisher says.

Despite this decline, Fisher says that the majority of students who do wish to travel to Europe are aware of the value of the dollar and wish to travel despite it.

"Where they want to go, they go," Fisher says.

Stephen Allbritten, an MTSU senior, traveled to England this past summer.

"When we first arrived, the British pound was worth \$2.20, so everything was costing us double than if we were in the states," All-

britten says. "At first, this was a little nerve-wracking, thinking about just how much we were spending. After a day or two, though, I just pushed that aside in my mind and enjoyed my trip."

Paul Fischer, also a recording industry professor at MTSU, has taught *Linking British and American Popular Music: The Trans-Atlantic Call and Response* in London, England, every other year since 2001.

"On the first morning in England last summer, I bought a much-needed double espresso at the local gas station and paid 1.98 pounds for it," Fischer says. "That seemed OK, until I realized that was about \$4.25."

Fischer explains that study abroad programs often include room and board, airfare, public transportation and some "excursions" to tourist sites in the program fee that students pay.

In addition to this, "Students are expected to have money to pay for guided tours, museum admissions and such," Fischer says. "We tell them up front how much this will be and have them set it aside, or pay early."

While there is nothing that students can do to increase the value of the dollar, there is financial aid available for study abroad trips.

"I would point out here that hundreds of thousands of dollars, no exaggeration, are available to students as grants not loans, every year for study abroad," Fischer

says. The MT Abroad Office offers several scholarships through its study abroad programs.

Also, for students who receive the Pell Grant, the Gilman Scholarship is offered, as well as assistance for graduate students.

"We were lucky enough to give scholarship money this past semester. A lot are feeling relief," Fisher says.

Because students are expected to pay for incidentals, Fisher offered some money-saving tips. He advises that "\$50 to \$100 should be converted for emergencies, and I would use a check card or ATM because then you get the most up-to-date exchange rate. It's sometimes a charge but that's, like, one percent."

Fisher also says to alert your bank when one travels travel, because bank representatives can provide traveler with the most accurate information.

If dollar rates are expected to increase dramatically, Fischer advises students to convert currency ahead of time.

Despite the increased cost of traveling to Europe, the experience may be worth the cost, says Dougan, who notes that he "was in Paris this January, [and] it was expensive, but well worth the trip."

For more information, please contact the MT Abroad Office online by accessing mtsu.edu/~mtabroad/ or by calling 615-898-5179.

Photo Courtesy: Morguefile.com

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OPINIONS

Focus on Clinton's politics, not her power suits

The 2008 presidential race has an unparalleled number of firsts. We've seen the first African-American candidate reach near front-runner status. We've seen a president and congress with all-time-low approval ratings make way for a palpable eagerness demanding a fresh start.

And we've seen the arrival of Sen. Hillary Clinton, the first woman to be a serious presidential possibility; the first First Lady to try to make her way back to the White House.

These firsts have created a struggle within the media to give adequate and fair coverage to the many presidential hopefuls.

With Bill Clinton's wife and a Democrat with the middle name "Hussein" in the running, though, how much excitement can really be garnered for a flock of white, middle-aged men?

As the Democrat front-runner, Clinton is in the public eye more than her opponents.

But after looking through the vast media coverage of her and comparing it to other hopefuls, it's obvious that it has more to do with her lack of a Y chromosome.

Clinton's coverage is far from fair and balanced. Instead, the media has had a field day dissecting her every move and not so gracefully dealing with her gender.

Female politicians have long struggled with a permeating damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't attitude running in American politics.

Women in power are oft criticized or perceived as "soft" or "weak" if considered too traditionally feminine, while they are also accused of being too "hard" or "strident" if they come off as assertive and powerful — traditionally masculine attributes.

Looking through the media coverage of Clinton over the past year, it seems



KVETCH A BREAK
Sarah Lavery

that a lot of journalists just don't know what to do with a strong female candidate. Old-fashioned sexism prevails, as seen in the repeated scrutiny of her appearance and the concentration on her role in—and attitude toward—marriage and motherhood.

Here is just a sampling of the sexist coverage of Clinton over the past year: An opinion article in *The Oklahoman* wearing of dark "frequent wearing of her pants suits to conceal her bottom-heavy figure."

Political cartoonist Nick Anderson created an animated cartoon which ran on the *Houston Chronicle* Web site featuring a curvaceous Clinton being asked, "What you gonna do with all that junk? All that junk inside your trunk?"

Though this comic was clearly an opinion piece and not bona fide hard news, it is important to note that, had it been commenting on a male candidate's figure, it would have been unprecendented and shocking.

New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd (whom I usually look to for a strong feminist perspective), has written pieces denigrating Clinton such as her "Mama Hugs Iowa" column on Jan. 31.

Dowd asserts that as First Lady, Clinton showed off "a long parade of unflattering outfits and unnervingly changing hairdos."

Not only is Clinton's current wardrobe an issue for media scrutiny, but what she wore (and how she styled her

“ Journalists, collectively, need to take a stand, and remember why they got into the business in the first place.”

hair) in 1992 seems to be as well.

On Feb. 9, *Reuters* reported fashion designer Donatella Versace's advice that "Hillary Clinton should tap into her feminine side and wear dresses and skirts instead of trousers."

Florida paper *Sun-Sentinel* added insult to injury with a Feb. 16 article by Jura Koncius about Rosemarie Howe, Clinton's interior designer, and how she helped the Senator decorate her Embassy Row house in a "comfortable yet elegant" scheme of "camel and coral."

USA Today's *World Report's* Gloria Berger accused Clinton on Feb. 12 of using a "mommy strategy" to feminize her image and appeal to voters by playing up her role as a mother and wife.

"Hardball" host Chris Matthews has become, in my eyes, synonymous with sexism and Clinton.

On Dec. 19, 2006, he compared her to "a stripper saying she's flattered by the attention," and on Jan. 25 and 26 of this past year he referred to her as an "uppity woman."

Most of the aforementioned journalism came from op-ed pieces. But these are not the only outlets with permeative misogyny.

The Washington Post ran an article on July 20 entitled "Hillary Clinton's Tentative Dip Into New Neckline Territory." The article's lead: "There was cleavage on display Wednesday afternoon on C-SPAN2. It belonged to Sen. Hillary Clinton."

After briefly discussing what it was that Clinton was discussing (the burdensome cost of higher education, a worthy topic), the article divulges: "She was wearing

a rose-colored blazer over a black top. The neckline sat low on her chest and had a subtle V-shape. The cleavage registered on a quick glance. No scrunch-faced scrutiny was necessary. There wasn't an unseemly amount of cleavage showing, but there it was. Undeniable."

Unbelievable.

It is refreshing, however, that some journalists have actually been able to recognize the pervasive sexist tone of Clinton's coverage.

Salon.com's Tim Grieve writes in a Jan. 22 column that, "although national polls show that more than 90 percent of Americans say they'd be comfortable voting for a qualified, NIU political scientist Matt Streb says that a 'significant percentage of people are hiding their true feelings' because they know that opposition to a candidate based on gender alone is socially unacceptable."

Grieve goes on to assert that Clinton isn't running for "first woman president," she's "running for president, period."

USA Today's Annette Fuentes expresses a refreshing point of view in a Feb. 13 op-ed article. "Women in government stand out because of their strength, intellect and ideas — not because of their hemlines," she writes. "Yet here we are in 2007 still treating powerful women like a novelty."

Gail Dines, sociology and women's studies professor at Wheelock College in Boston, told Fuentes that women politicians are often valued more for their appearance than their ability. "To be a woman politician," Dines suggests, "you have

to strategize and work hard, and yet what matters is what designer you're wearing. It's a way to make women in power less scary. It's putting women into a comfort zone for those who are still baffled by how to treat strong women."

According to a study by the Project for Excellence in Journalism and the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy conducted on October 27, 2007, the tone of coverage of Hillary Clinton was far more negative than positive.

Clinton received the most coverage out of all of the candidates (17 percent of stories), though she can presumably thank the overwhelming and largely negative attention of conservative talk edge hosts for much of the edge.

The solution is easy. Journalists, collectively, need to take a stand, and remember why they got into the business in the first place (I would be worried if they became reporters to discuss necklines rather than actual politics).

Next time a reporter, op-ed columnist or cartoonist decides to weigh in on Clinton, they need to fight the urge to focus on her aesthetic or their own sexist notions, and listen to what the woman has to say.

Chastise her for her politics, not her "uppitiness," her "mommy-factor" or her interior decorating techniques.

Gender stratification has come a long way in the United States, but it still has a long way to go.

Women still only make 75 percent of every man's dollar, and Hillary Clinton has to worry about her cleavage getting just as many headlines as her policies.

Sarah Lavery is a senior journalism major and can be reached at slfeatur@mtsu.edu.

FACES IN THE CROWD

With the recent events of a bomb threat and a gunman, do you feel safe at MTSU?



Clarke

"For the most part. I think they should take more precautions for issues like the ones that have occurred. It would make some of my friends and I feel better about the situation."

Jennifer Clarke, junior elementary education



Tenpenny

"I feel safe, I really do. It used to be just the banks you had to worry about being at, but now it's everywhere. I don't worry about it though. I just take the Lord with me."

Delorice Tenpenny, MTSU employee



Grant

"I do, but with the way things have been going around other campuses with the shootings, the things that happen on campus have been horrible timing."

Christopher Grant, junior psychology



A-K

"I still feel safe, I would not be here if I did not feel safe."

A-K, senior business administration

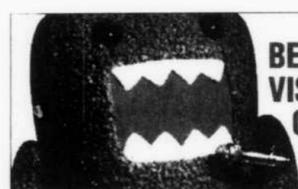
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SPORTS

Men's golf team wins MT/Aldila Intercollegiate

Team wins fourth straight heading into conference championships

By TONY STINNETT
MT Media Relations

Cheered on by friends and family and welcomed by an enthusiastic gallery, the Blue Raiders' men's golf team continued its record-setting season with a fourth consecutive team championship at the second annual Middle Tennessee/Aldila Intercollegiate Tuesday.

The Blue Raiders added to their school record for consecutive team titles with another consistent showing throughout the lineup as four Middle Tennessee players finished among the top 11 individuals, led by a career performer in junior Rick Cochran in Tuesday's final round.

Cochran tied his career low with a 5-under 67 and the Blue Raiders were even par as a team with a 288 on the way to victory in the 11-team field. Middle Tennessee shot 869 for the three-round event to finish seven shots ahead of UALR (876) and Austin Peay (876), which tied for second place.

Middle Tennessee entered the tournament ranked No. 53 nationally by Golfstat and

improved to 60-5 this spring in its final event before the Sun Belt Conference Championships in Muscle Shoals, Ala., April 21-23.

"I'm proud of the players and how they conducted themselves in this tournament," said Blue Raider first-year head coach Whit Turnbow. "As I've said before, it's more difficult to play at home because of the distractions and it is not what we are used to doing. I thought we played well throughout the lineup and we had to because the field was competitive and we had to battle both days."

The Blue Raiders actually trailed Southern Miss by three strokes after the first round but came back with a 1-under 287 to take a two-stroke lead into Tuesday's final round. Middle Tennessee's deep and consistent lineup was again a major difference.

Cochran, coming off his first career win at the Carter Plantation last week, put together a career-best tying performance to lead Middle Tennessee Tuesday. He posted a 5-under 67 that tied Texas State's Corey Roberson for the tournament's low round.

It also helped put distance between Middle Tennessee and the challengers. Cochran fired a bogey-free round that featured two birdies on the front and three on the back. He tied for third overall with a 1-under 215 for the tournament.

"Everything was working well for me for the most part today," Cochran said. "It was good to be playing in our home tournament and play well in front of the family and some of our friends. We are playing well as a team right now and we are playing with confidence and that's important, especially heading into the conference tournament in a couple of weeks."

Kent Bulle finished 10th with a 2-over 218 on the heels of Tuesday's 74 for his third Top 10 finish this season. The sophomore from Glasgow, Ky., had one of the tournament's top rounds with a 2-under 70 in the second.

Chas Narramore and Jason Millard tied for 11th with a 3-over 219 to round out the Middle Tennessee scoring. Craig Smith tied for 34th with a 226. Nick Bailes also tied for 34th for the Blue Raiders.

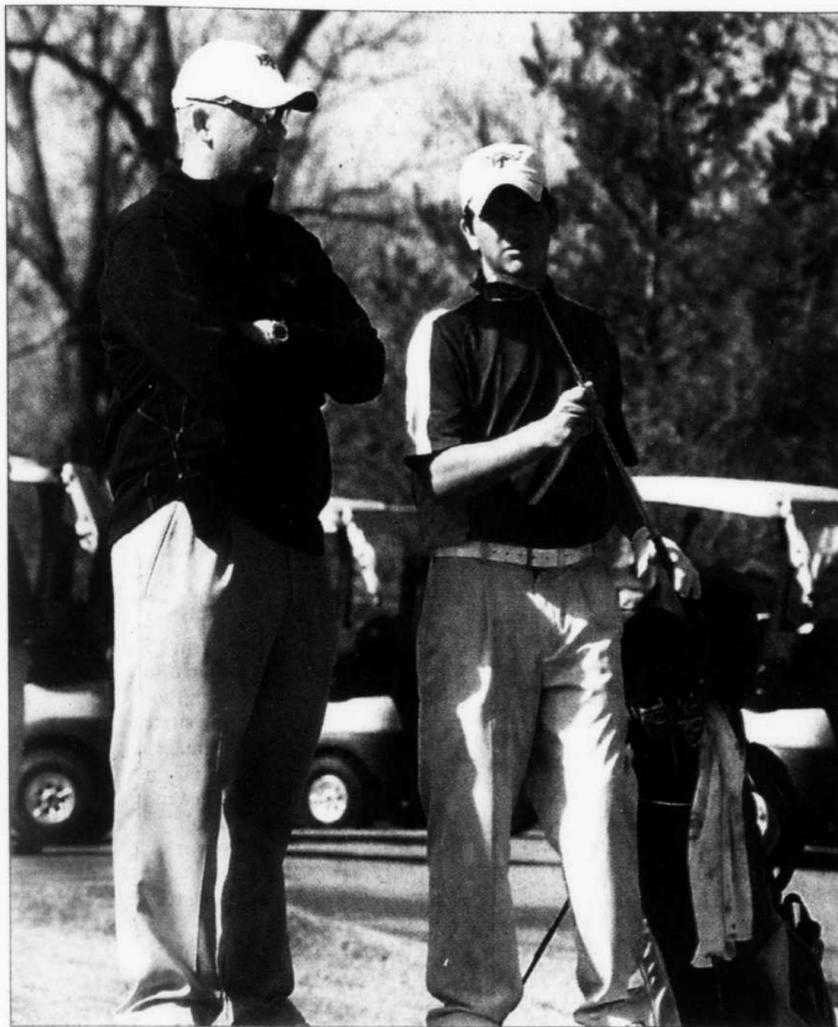


Photo Courtesy MT Media Relations
Coach Whit Turnbow talks with Jason Millard, who finished with a 3-over par for the tournament.

Holt named Third Team All-American

By JO JO FREEMAN
MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee senior Amber Holt was voted a Third Team All-American by the Associated Press on Tuesday, the program's second straight AP All-America honor and the second All-America accolade for Holt this season.

The Duluth, Ga., native earned First Team All-America honors from CBSSports.com in March, becoming the only First Team All-American in school history.

Holt finished the season with 930 points, the fifth most all-time in one season in NCAA history, and set single-season school records for points, field goals, field goal attempts, free throws, free throw attempts and 30-point games. She averaged a school-best 27.4 points per game and led the nation in scoring for the final 11 weeks of the season.

She posted 14 contests this season with 30-plus points and collected eight double-doubles. Holt is the only player in the nation this season to record two 40-point outings, including 41 points in an upset of No. 8 LSU in December and broke a 21-year-old school record for points in a game with 44 at Louisiana-Monroe in January.

"It's a great honor to be recognized as one of the best players in the country," Holt said. "Our team accomplished so much this season and played against several

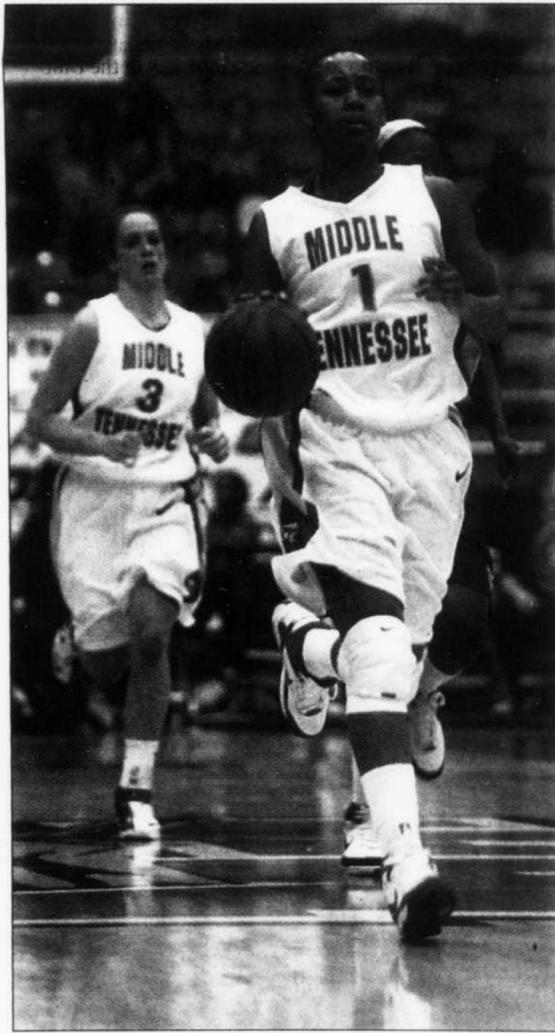


Photo by Ryan DeBooy, Photography Editor
Amber Holt (1) is MT's second AP All-American in two years.

of the others players on the team. My teammates are a big reason that I was able to win this individual honor."

Holt led the Sun Belt Conference in scoring and ranked second in FG percentage and assist-to-turnover ratio, first in steals and offensive rebounds, third in rebounding, fourth in free throw percentage, and eighth in assists.

She has won an unprecedented five Sun Belt Player of the Week awards and is a member of all three National Player of the Year award watch lists - the Wade Trophy, the Naismith Award and the Wooden Award. Holt is

also a finalist for the State Farm All-America team set to be announced next week.

She also does it on the defensive end, drawing 61 charges in 2007-08, almost twice the number the rest of the team has combined. The Meadowcreek High School product was named to the Sun Belt All-Tournament team after the Blue Raiders played in their sixth straight tourney championship game. She broke four individual tournament records, including most points (88), field goals (32), field goal attempts (63) and free throws made (24).

Games in Winchester a good way to alienate fans

Moving games to far-off county will take away team's home field advantage

Come support the Winchester, Tenn. Blue Raiders as they take on the Tennessee Volunteers on April 15 and the Mississippi State Bulldogs on May 6 through 7.

Not familiar with the Winchester Blue Raiders?

Well, most of the season they are known as the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders, but the MT Department of Athletics has decided to change the location of MT's home games against SEC competition from Reese Smith Field to Loel E. Bennett Stadium, most likely in order to offer more seats for the visiting devotees.

"We are expecting large crowds for all three games, which could present a capacity problem at Reese Smith Field due to our on-going construction," Chris Massaro, MT Director of Athletics said.

What a paradoxical quote. In order to house the expected increase in attendance, the school is moving the game 59.53 miles and one hour and 10 minutes (according to mapquest.com) away from campus.

I won't get into the whole issue of still having a stadium under construction 25 games into the season, that's another column for another time, but doesn't it seem that moving the games



OUTSIDE THE POCKET
Chris Martin

so far away might decrease attendance? Not that the Blue Raiders are filling the ledge above the nosebleeds at Floyd Stadium, anyways (that's right, spectators must either stand at the top of the football stadium and stare down or view from the open-air stairwells).

Over the past six home games, MT has brought an average of only 223.8 fans to the Floyd Stadium skyline, but the big names of SEC opponents will draw more viewers to the stadium in Winchester. What better way to alienate your diminutive fan base than to play three of your biggest remaining games more than an hour away from campus.

Now, the Department of Athletics does have its hands tied when it comes to trying to convince people to watch the games from the football stadium, but why Win-

chester? This seems like a very last resort, and if there truly was no other venue available, it did what it had to do.

However, this move will most likely further diminish MT's already minuscule home-field advantage it has enjoyed this season. If fewer than 225 fans already show up to watch the Blue Raiders play baseball at home, how many are going to make it to South Tenn.?

This is clearly a move to accommodate the UT and MSU fans—not the MT fans. So why not just play in Starkville, Miss. or Knoxville? Playing in Winchester is just going to decrease the ratio of Blue Raider supporters to Bulldog and Volunteer supporters.

Perhaps it is not all for naught. According to Massaro, there is another added bonus to playing baseball in Franklin County.

"[Playing in Winchester] is also a great opportunity to showcase Middle Tennessee athletics and engage our surrounding counties to Blue Raider baseball, particularly to the South of Murfreesboro," Massaro said.

You're welcome Winchester, enjoy the showcase.

Chris Martin is a junior journalism major and can be reached at slsports@mtsu.edu

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Blue Raiders move three home games to Winchester, Tenn.

Middle Tennessee has moved its home game with Tennessee and its two-game series with Mississippi State to the Gamble Sports Complex in Winchester, Tenn., as announced by Director of Athletics Chris Massaro.

"We are expecting large crowds for all three games which could present a capacity problem at Reese Smith Field due to our ongoing construction," said Massaro. "It is also a great opportunity to showcase Middle Tennessee athletics and engage our surrounding counties to Blue Raider baseball, particularly to the South of Murfreesboro."

Loel E. Bennett Stadium at Gamble Sports Complex was originally built for an independent minor league baseball team, the Tennessee Tomahawks, who played in Winchester from 1996 to 1998. The stadium has a seating capacity of 2,000.

"I personally thank Franklin County High School athletic director Morris Rogers and baseball coach Phillip King for extending us this invitation and adjusting their schedule," said Steve Peterson, Middle Tennessee head baseball coach. "They knew our situation and wanted to help us out anyway they could. Both guys have been a joy to work with over the last few weeks."

"I am very impressed with the facility and we are honored to bring college baseball to the Winchester community."

Middle Tennessee will play host to the Volunteers on Tuesday, April 15 at 6

p.m. The Blue Raiders will face Mississippi State three weeks later on May 6-7 with both games set for 6 p.m.

Tickets to each game will be \$10. Fans with season passes to Middle Tennessee home games will be able to use their passes at the games in Winchester.

Also, those who have already purchased single-game tickets to these contests will be able to use those tickets. Only cash will be accepted at the gate, while MT students will be admitted free with a valid student I.D.

Cox named SBC Female Field Athlete of the Week

Middle Tennessee sophomore Brittany Cox was voted the Sun Belt Female Field Athlete of the Week on Tuesday after regionally qualifying in the shot put over the weekend at the Yellowjacket Invitational.

Cox regionally qualified in the shot put in the rain-shortened Yellowjacket Invite on Saturday, placing third with a personal-best mark of 48-3.5. The mark tops the Sun Belt this season.

The Antioch, Tenn., native also ranks third in the SBC in the hammer throw with a mark of 161-1.

It is the second SBC Field Athlete of the Week accolade for the Blue Raiders in two weeks after Sarah Nambawa claimed the award on March 25. Cox is just the fourth different female to claim a Field AOW honor since Middle Tennessee joined the Sun Belt eight years ago.

The men's and women's teams will both participate in the Tiger Track Classic this weekend in Auburn, Ala.

Women's Final Four set to begin

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Sports Writer

It's hard to believe it's been four years since Connecticut was in the Final Four.

Today, though, the Huskies are one game away from another matchup with longtime rival Tennessee in the national championship game.

To get there UConn has to beat Stanford, which is making its first trip to the Final Four in 11 years. The Lady Vols have to get through Southeastern Conference rival LSU.

With six trips to the Final Four in the past nine seasons, it's hard to imagine no one on Connecticut's roster has been there before, except coach Geno Auriemma. Despite the five national championships, Auriemma couldn't be happier for this group to have made it this far.

"One more Final Four to

me doesn't change my life one bit," said Auriemma after the Huskies beat Big East rival Rutgers 66-56 on Tuesday night. "But the look on their faces and the emotion that was in their faces and in that locker room, because it's their first opportunity to do something like this, that's what makes you coach year after year, just to be able to experience that."

The Huskies aren't the only first-timers as Stanford semifinal opponent Stanford also is back for the first time since 1997.

Stanford guard Candice Wiggins didn't want her career to end without a trip to the Final Four. Wiggins scored 41 points to lead the Cardinal to a 98-87 victory over Maryland on Monday night in the Spokane Regional.

The All-America guard became the first player in tournament history with two

games of 40 points or more, following her career-best 44-point outburst against UTEP in the second round last week.

"We have had some great teams, we have had some great individual players, but I don't know that there's ever been anyone that has done more for their team than Candice does, in so many ways," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "I'm just really happy for her and really happy for our team to have this opportunity."

The other semifinal game has loads of experience with defending national champion Tennessee facing Southeastern Conference rival LSU, which has been to the Final Four five straight seasons.

"I think we're definitely excited to get to Tampa, but we're not satisfied yet, and we know we have a lot of work ahead of us," Tennes-

see's Nicky Anosike said. "You know, we've to play a great team on Sunday. But we're definitely excited. We just know that it's not the end and we have to keep pressing forward."

The Lady Vols may not be at full strength in trying to defend their crown as star Candace Parker dislocated her left shoulder twice during Tennessee's 53-45 win over Texas A&M in the Oklahoma City Regional final Tuesday night.

LSU coach Van Chancellor will have his first opportunity to experience the Final Four. The Hall of Fame coach spent 19 years at Mississippi, reaching four regional finals, but never could make it further.

He then moved on to the WNBA, where he won four titles with the Houston Comets. He also won a FIBA World championship in 2002 and Olympic gold in 2004 before a brief retirement.

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