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Aerospace to research with NASA

By Melissa Bowman
Associate News Editor

The MTSU Aerospace department is making history.

During the next year, the aerospace program will be conducting research for NASA using a state-of-the-art flight simulator, according to department chair Paul Craig.

The simulator is currently the only one of its kind in the country, Craig said. MTSU will be researching its use in training situations.

"We're trying to observe how this makes the training easier, what problems have students had that this might eliminate and we're trying to find out what new problems it [will] bring up," he said.

The simulator will be an exact replica of the planes MTSU currently uses for training, a Diamond DA-40.

"NASA wants us to come up with a list of best practices - how do you do this in this new environment to make it more safe?" Craig said.

"Right now we're the only ones doing it," he said.

The simulator will also benefit students.

Some of the required flight time for aerospace majors will now be able to be completed in this simulator.

Senior professional pilot major Jason Wilkerson said he believes students will definitely benefit from the simulator.

"If you can get training for students in a simulator and save them money, then I think it's a good idea," he said.

Craig said he hopes students will be able to complete two of the five hours required for Theory of Flight, the department's core course, in the simulator, which may save

students about \$125. Currently, the cost for the class is about \$600.

"Every pilot I know sees [simulator time] as an advantage," sophomore professional pilot major Tyler Babb said.

Students will also be able to experience things they wouldn't be able to experience in a real plane.

"We can do stuff that would be too dangerous in an airplane," Craig said. "In this simulator, you can simulate what would happen if an engine failed or what would happen if you had a fire. You're not going to go up in a real airplane and start a fire."

The simulator will allow students to simulate flying anywhere in middle or west Tennessee, and the wrap-around screens will give them the images they would see if they were really flying in a particular location.

There will be an area in the simulator where the instructor can control flying conditions such as weather or other potential problems.

The current simulators are also technologically behind the planes students use for training, Craig said, so now the airplanes and simulators will be the same.

Craig said the source of funding for the \$500,000 simulator is the "best part."

"I knew we weren't going to be able to afford this new, cool stuff, but at the same time, our students really needed to have it, because our students go to work in the industry, and larger airplanes already do have some of this technology," Craig said.

See Simulator, 2



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

The new flight simulator will be identical to the cockpit of this Diamond DA-40, the plane MTSU's aerospace students currently use for training.

Hay Daze promotes safety on the farm

By Katie Garland
Staff Writer

Members of the fraternity Alpha Gamma Rho hope to raise \$2,000 for an organization that raises awareness about farm safety for children in their third annual Hay Daze.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, AGR's philanthropy, provides resources and training necessary to educating farming communities of hazards for children on the farm as well as information on ways to maintain a safe and healthy environment on a farm.

Hay Daze began yesterday and will last through tomorrow.

The Cowgirl Olympics, which took place at the Livestock Center last night, kicked off the series of events.

In the Cowgirl Olympics, campus organizations had the opportunity to put a team of girls together to compete in a series of contests including a hay bale toss and a roping contest.

Tomorrow night will be the Hay Daze Pageant, which gives the ladies of MTSU a chance to compete for the title of AGR's Sweetheart.

Each girl that competes will be required to pay an entry fee, which will benefit the philanthropy.

The culmination of Hay Daze will take place at Stampede Dance Hall and Saloon at 8 p.m. tomorrow, located on Thompson Lane. The cost is \$3 for an advance

See Hay, 2

Crosswalks cause safety concerns on campus

By Erica Rodefer
Campus News Editor

Carelessness and a lack of courtesy may be contributing to frustrations and safety concerns for both pedestrians and motorists on campus, according to campus police.

Numerous complaints about hazardous driving and lackadaisical walking in crosswalks have alarmed campus police to an issue on campus that interim campus police chief Roy Brewer said he believes could easily be remedied through raised awareness.

"The courtesy that can be shown in those situations will decrease the frustrations," Brewer said.

The rising student population has magnified already apparent frustrations on crowded campus roads.

"The campus population has increased, the motor vehicle traffic is going to increase and it's going to get more intense," Brewer said. "We're fortunate there hasn't been anyone seriously injured... but it's a matter of time."

When weather permits, there are typically two officers on bicycles patrolling campus to look for these safety hazards, Brewer said. However, it is impossible to watch all the crosswalks on campus all the

See Crosswalks, 2



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Campus police officials advise pedestrians and motorists to be more aware when crossing the street.

'Halo 2' tournament to benefit St. Jude

By DeAnn Currey
Staff Writer

Alpha Tau Omega fraternity will be hosting a "Halo 2" tournament to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The tournament will be held Saturday at noon and is open to the public.

The tournament will be held on the third floor of the Business and Aerospace Building and will be played via projectors.

Participants will need to bring their own controllers.

The registration fee is \$10 per person and can be paid the

day of the tournament. Please make checks payable to Alpha Tau Omega.

Pre-registration will also be available this week in the Keathley University Center.

No refunds will be given to those who do not show up to the tournament.

Alpha Tau Omega member Chris Sullivan is in charge of organizing the event.

He has been working on it for several months.

Several have been placed on campus and at local stores promoting the tournament.

See Halo, 2



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Sekou Franklin examines the juvenile justice system in Monday's honors lecture.

Juvenile justice system filled with problems

By Erika Decker
Staff Writer

Assistant Political Science Professor Sekou Franklin discussed the problems within the American juvenile justice system at Monday's honors lecture, "Policing and Protesting Juvenile Justice Inequities."

Franklin said that in many instances juvenile justice system today is plagued with beatings, rapes, gang violence and disproportionate minority numbers.

"Since the 1970s, America's juvenile justice system has taken

a spiral downward and has become deeply polarized along racial lines," Franklin said.

Franklin said there are many complicated reasons the juvenile justice system has to deal with the number of children that it does and parts of the system have so many problems.

"There are explanations which social scientists always look to: the deindustrialization of American cities which costs cities thousands of jobs, the loss of social welfare programs, the fact that urban cities have become areas of unemploy-

ment," he said.

Franklin also cited the change in the structure of the juvenile justice system as a cause for its ineffectiveness.

"Since the 1960s the juvenile justice system has transitioned from a rehabilitative agency to a punitive one," Franklin said.

Another factor Franklin addressed was the drug culture and the violence that comes with it. He said drugs have become such a large industry in America that in low-income areas many youth become involved with illegal drug activity as a means of

making up for the lack of jobs.

"As most people know, what fuels the drug culture," he said. "In the fact the drug culture has become an economy of its own... similar to the car industry, the computer industry, steel and lumber, etc. When one mixes in deindustrialization in American cities and the loss of manufacturing jobs, one gets a violent mix."

Franklin stressed the importance of understanding the problems in American society in

See Juvenile, 2



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com

Do you agree with embryonic
stem cell research?

Blowing off some steam

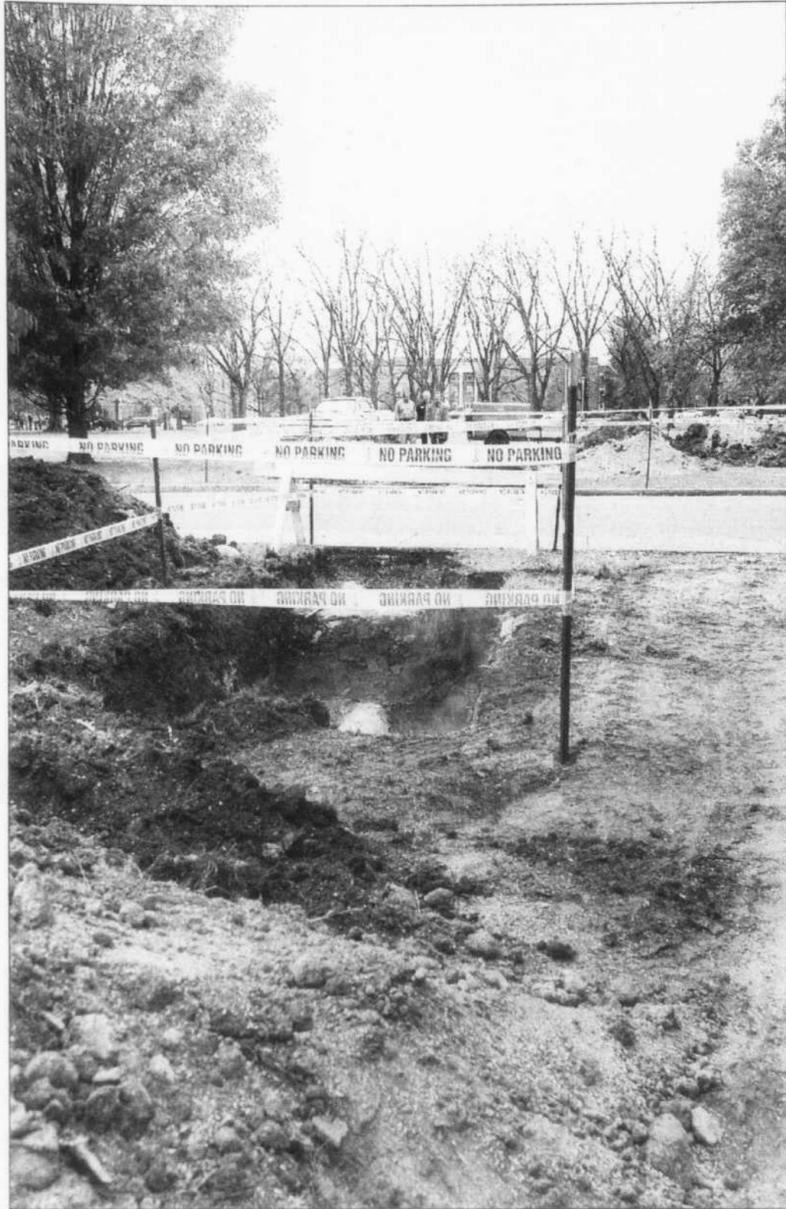


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer
An underground steam line between Peck Hall and the Davis Science Building was being repaired yesterday. Steam heats most of MTSU's buildings.

Juvenile: Law enforcement unfair

Continued from 1

order to really understand the problems in the juvenile justice system.

"What I'm really getting at is that it's tougher to understand the inequities in the juvenile justice system... without understanding what goes on outside the walls of the facilities," he said.

Franklin then described the cycle that begins with children in low-income areas who are then ushered into the juvenile justice system.

"Many of these youth are born into poor and uneducated

communities and are captured by the drug culture and drug violence. They are targeted by law enforcement agencies, fairly in some cases but unfairly in others, and they are also the targets of an industry that we call the juvenile justice system," he said.

"They are then dropped down, not into rehabilitative institutions, but modern-day, American-style Abu Ghraib," Franklin said. "When they come out, they are back where they started. In many cases they are worse off than when they went in prison."

Franklin then made sugges-

tions as to the best way to address the problems in the juvenile justice system. He said advocacy groups should become more involved in coming up with innovative alternatives to sending children into juvenile institutions.

Franklin also said that the systems nationwide should follow the example of a model in Missouri where the number of individuals in each institution has decreased.

When the numbers in the facilities decreased, rapes, fights and gang violence also decreased. ♦

Simulator: New learning tool saves students money

Continued from 1

The department is getting a \$200,000 loan from the university, which must be paid back within five years.

"My feeling is that we'll pay it back sooner than that," Craig said. "Since this is going to save the students money, they'll take great advantage of it."

NASA agreed to provide \$100,000 for the simulator from the SATS (Small Aircraft Transportation System)

Aerospace Flight Education Research grant.

The company building the simulator agreed to help out with the project by donating the remaining cost of the simulator.

Craig said that although the simulator costs about \$300,000 more than the airplane it simulates, the operating costs are much lower, so it will pay for itself quickly.

"The simulator will cost how much money it costs for the electricity to run the computer

equipment, which is hardly anything," he said.

The long-term effects of this research are what make Craig the most excited, though.

"The FAA director said that what we are doing is going to affect flight training at least for the next 10 years, maybe longer," he said.

"It's fun to be the one that everybody's looking to to set the standard," Craig said. ♦

Crosswalks: Recreational transportation problematic

Continued from 1

time.

"Depending on whether you're the pedestrian being crowded by cars while you're crossing the street or you're in your vehicle trying to negotiate the pedestrians in or out of the crosswalks," Brewer said, "everyone seems to be preoccupied with cell phones or just trying to get from one place to another."

According to the campus Traffic and Parking Regulations Handbook, motorists must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, but there is no law that says motorists have to yield to pedestrians who are crossing the street illegally, Brewer pointed out.

Though there is no administrative jaywalking law on cam-

pus, pedestrians should not hold up traffic.

"The pedestrian has a responsibility to slow up or speed up to allow for the vehicle to get through - that's state law," Brewer said.

Those drivers caught violating the will be issued a campus citation, but if the offense is serious enough a state citation can be issued.

There are at least four recorded incidents where pedestrians were almost hit in campus crosswalks, in the streets or parking lots since April.

Several of these complaints have been cases where a motorist failed to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk and of pedestrians carelessly crossing the street in unauthorized areas.

"Occasionally, the pedestrian

will get the tag number of the car, and in that case we go and try to locate the car," Brewer said. "If we see it, we stop the car and issue them a citation for either driving too fast or failure to yield to the crosswalk."

Those issued campus citations will have to pay a fine, while those who receive state citations will have to pay court costs and fines.

Skateboarders and in-line skaters are also posing a problem on campus, Brewer said.

"It's a coexisting problem," Brewer said. "You get these skateboarders [and in-line skaters] going too fast or in areas where they shouldn't be. They don't have a purpose in those facilities or in any facilities." ♦

Hay: Event benefits farm safety

Continued from 1

ticket or \$5 for a ticket at the door.

The main event of Thursday night's celebration will be a bull-riding contest. The contest is also open to the public with a \$5 entry fee in addition to the cover charge.

In the past two years com-

bined, AGR has raised between \$3,000 and \$4,000 for their philanthropy through the Hay Daze events.

This year is intended to be just as successful.

"Our goal for this year is to raise \$2,000 after expenses are recouped," said Steven Helton, AGR executive committee member.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids is a non-profit organization based in Iowa and serves both the United States and Canada.

The mission of the group is "to promote a safe farm environment to prevent health hazards, injuries, and fatalities to children and youth," according to Farm Safety 4 Just Kids' Web site. ♦

Halo: Gaming competition open to public

Continued from 1

"I hope that the tournament will raise at least \$1,000 for St. Jude Children's Hospital," Sullivan said.

The tournament will consist of two different formats, a free-for-all and a four-man team competition. Both competitions be based on a point system, with the top scores advancing to the next round.

No one person may play on more than one team.

Also, each team must pick a captain to represent their team. It will be the captain's responsibility to make sure the team is ready to play at their assigned time and to keep up with the scoring.

Prizes will be awarded to the top players. Prizes include free movie rentals and free pizza from Domino's.

Food and drinks will also be available to purchase at a discount for those who attend the event.

To download an application or to learn more about the tournament visit the Web site at www.vfxdesign.net/halo2/ or contact Chris Sullivan at halo2_tournament@yahoo.com. ♦

Need to let the campus know about an event your group is sponsoring?

Sidelines' Campus Events calendar can help.

Clip the form below, fill it out and return it to the Mass Comm Building, Room 269.

Campus Events

The following guidelines apply to all:

1. Forms must be submitted by deadline to be considered for publication. Campus Events run each Monday in the Living section, so forms should be submitted by Saturday night.
2. Every attempt will be made to run your announcement as often as possible, but priority will be given to events with the most immediacy.
3. We reserve the right to limit announcements to campus events only.
4. Sidelines does not guarantee placement of any submission.

Name of person placing this notice _____ Date _____

Organization _____ Event _____

Date of event _____ Time _____ Location _____

Contact name _____ Phone no. _____

Notes _____

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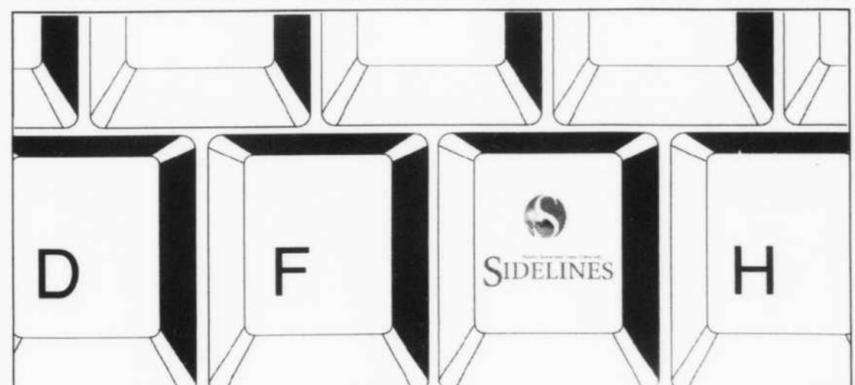
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Fraud targeted by Department of Revenue

Staff Reports

The Tennessee Department of Revenue is cracking down on vehicle and boat fraud on registration. The largest area of fraud is the underreporting of the sales price of automobiles and boats to local county clerks, and underreporting on the transfers of vehicles and boats between individuals.

Tax and fees not paid on these items result in lost money to state and local governments.

A recent case involved a boat that cost \$118,000. It was reported to the local county clerk as being purchased for \$1,000.

"The Department of Revenue takes fraudulent tax activity seriously and will continue to investigate such cases and collect all taxes due the state of Tennessee," said Revenue Commissioner Loren L. Chumley in a press release. "We need auto and boat owners and county clerks' assistance to ensure this tax is administered equally and fairly."

County clerks are required to collect tax on the amount listed on the bill of sale using the fair market value of boats and motor vehicles.

The clerk's office is expected to use the National Automobile Dealers Association guide to determine if the taxpayer is reg-

istering and paying the applicable tax on at least 75 percent of the fair market value of the automobile or boat. County clerks can be held liable on their bond for the amount of proper taxes not received plus a 15 percent penalty.

When a boat or car is transferred from one individual for less than the fair market value, the application filed with the local county clerk is sent to the Department of Revenue for review.

The case is turned over for criminal investigation if necessary and could be prosecuted.

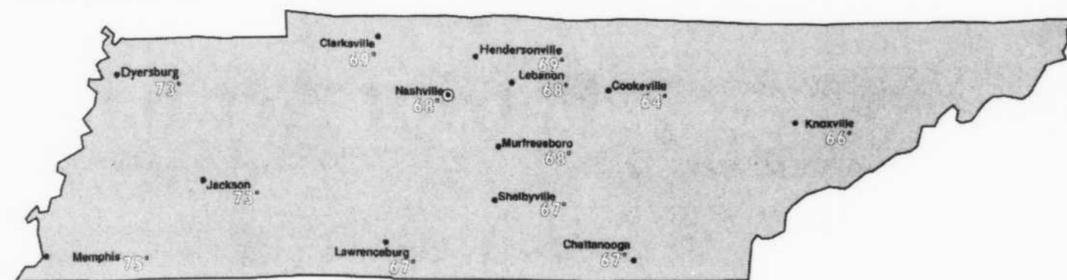
If the department determines the failure to report and pay the total tax due is fraud-related, 100 percent penalty is assessed on the underpayment of tax. In the past month, about 15 cases have been referred to Revenue's Special Investigations Section.

The Department of Revenue collects approximately 92 percent of total state tax revenue. During the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the department collected \$9.1 billion in state taxes and fees.

In addition to collecting state taxes, \$1.6 billion of local sales tax was collected by the department for local governments during the 2003-2004 fiscal year. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Wednesday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
71° ▲ 54°	68° ▲ 54°	68° ▲ 53°	61° ▲ 43°	55° ▲ 37°

Governor scrutinizes TennCare advocates' plan

By Matt Gouras
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — State lawyers huddled with advocates for TennCare enrollees Tuesday, determining whether a cease fire offer in the court battle really will let Gov. Phil Bredesen move forward with his reform plan.

The governor told his Cabinet that a decision was coming soon on whether the offer holds hope for some 430,000 people who would lose coverage if TennCare is scrapped in favor of a basic Medicaid plan.

Bredesen said he wants to make sure the advocates haven't left language in the court documents that will allow more of the lawsuits that have saddled the expanded Medicaid program. He said he essentially wants a guarantee that Tennessee Justice Center and attorney Gordon Bonnyman won't stop his reform plan.

"This is just the time for plain talk," he said. "If in fact they're saying, 'We'll let you go and ahead and do what this reform is about,' then I think it's wonderful and I'm going to roll

up my sleeves and go ahead."

Bredesen, who announced last week he intended to dismantle TennCare, said he's worried about a part of the proposal offered by the Tennessee Justice Center and attorney Gordon Bonnyman that says the state still must comply with the Constitution.

Bredesen pointed out that the advocates have already said in court that the state's overhaul is unconstitutional and worries they really won't stand down from the lawsuits.

On Monday, the Justice Center asked a federal judge to suspend court orders over TennCare for two years. Bonnyman said in a press conference that the move would give Bredesen time to implement his reforms to control sharply rising costs.

"The documents that we were presented were much vaguer than the statements in the press conference," Bredesen said. "Obviously it's my responsibility to understand exactly what's being offered here."

Another sticking point, Bredesen said, is whether the agreement might require the state to expand enrollment

again, beyond the 1.3 million people already on the plan.

"I will do anything remotely reasonable to try and preserve this program," the governor said. "I mean, I do not want to preside over asking 400,000 people to figure out ways to get health care — some of whom would not be able to do so."

Bredesen said other hurdles would need to be cleared even if he gets the assurances he wants from Bonnyman. For instance, others could decide to sue the state, or federal regulators could deny it since TennCare operates under a waiver granted by the federal government during the Clinton administration, he said.

The federal government pays two-thirds of its cost.

Bonnyman has said all along that he doesn't think the consent decrees in his case against the state are the real problem and thinks Bredesen has just been using him as a scapegoat to cover for a failed reform plan.

Bonnyman said the offer he made Monday mirrored one suggested by former Gov. Ned McWherter, who created TennCare in the 1990s.

McWherter said Tuesday he would have launched TennCare

reform if he were in Bredesen's place and hoped the deal would move ahead.

"I think it's an opportunity to do what needs to be done for two years, give the governor the opportunity to make whatever changes and reforms he wants to make and needs to make," McWherter said. "With no disrespect to the profession, lawyering can get in the way of this."

TennCare as it currently exists is expected to cost the state \$3.2 billion in 2005-2006. Basic Medicaid, the governor said, would cost the same as his reform plan, about \$2.5 billion.

Bredesen's reform plan aims to limit some enrollees to 12 doctor visits a year, 45 days in the hospital each year, eight outpatient hospital visits a year, 10 lab procedures or X-rays a year, and six prescriptions a month.

It would also specify lower cost prescription drugs and impose co-payments for some enrollees.

The exact coverage offered under a return to basic Medicaid hasn't been determined yet, state officials have said. ♦

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Controversial pill safe enough to remain on market

By Diedra Henderson
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — The abortion pill RU-486 is safe enough to remain on the market with strengthened warnings, the government said Tuesday despite a third death after the drug's use.

Critics said scrutiny of the drug would only increase. "I think you'll see the opposition, but not just from people who are pro-life," said Wendy Wright, senior policy director at Concerned Women for America. "This is a dangerous drug."

An abortion rights advocate hoped the expanded black box warning would not discourage women.

"It is my hope that women will not be afraid" to use mifepristone, originally known as RU-486, to induce abortion, said Vanessa Cullins, vice president for medical affairs at Planned Parenthood of America. "All of us need to understand that no procedure, no medication is risk-free."

The federation uses the abortion pill at 222 of its 845 clinics.

The Food and Drug Administration said its decision to bolster safety warnings was triggered by a third death after RU-486 use.

"There was absolutely no political pressure," Dr. Steven Galson, acting director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said when asked if the Bush administration had weighed in. "This was a science-based decision."

At least three women who took the pill in the United States have died, although the FDA says it has not definitively tied any death to use of the pill.

Those three deaths were among 676 adverse events reported through Nov. 5 by women who used the abortion pill. The problems included sickness and dizziness as well as more serious illnesses that required hospitalization, according to the FDA. Seventeen women used RU-486 even though they had tubal pregnancies; the drug is not to

be used by women with suspected or confirmed ectopic pregnancies, in which the fertilized egg has implanted outside the uterus.

Another 72 women bled so heavily after using the abortion pill that they required blood transfusions. Seven women suffered serious bacterial infections, including sepsis.

"We are concerned about any drug that is related to serious medical complications and, certainly, death," Galson told reporters.

Still, infection, bleeding and death can accompany abortion, whether accomplished by surgery or medication. The same events can happen during childbirth.

"We feel that the safety profile of this drug, along with the steps that we're taking ... are adequate to allow the drug to be used safely," Galson said.

An attorney who represented the estate of a Tennessee woman who died in 2001 said the agency could do more. The FDA could prohibit RU-486 use until doctors rule out tubal pregnancies, difficult to detect in the first five weeks, said the attorney, Hoyt Samples.

Brenda Vise, a 38-year-old former nurse, died in the hospital where she once worked after a ruptured tubal pregnancy. In eight to 10 calls over two days to the clinic that gave her RU-486, she was told the severe pain and cramps she felt were normal.

"The real problem is the use of this drug masks symptoms of ectopic pregnancies," Samples said.

The FDA approved Mifeprex — Danco Laboratories' trademark for mifepristone — in 2000 to terminate pregnancy up to 49 days after the beginning of the last menstrual cycle. The drug blocks progesterone, a hormone required to sustain a pregnancy. When followed by another medicine, misoprostol, Mifeprex terminates the preg-

nancy. Mifeprex already carries a black box warning, the agency's most strident alert, to highlight other safety concerns. The FDA said Monday it was expanding the drug's black box warning.

Serious bacterial infection may happen silently, without typical signs of infection like fever or tenderness, the label warns. Doctors should remain alert to the possibility a patient has undiagnosed tubal pregnancy, since symptoms are similar, the label says.

Women who take the pill must sign a patient agreement pledging to contact a doctor immediately if they have fever higher than 100.4 degrees that lasts more than four hours or severe abdominal pain. The women are also warned to soak two thick, full-sized sanitary pads per hour for two consecutive hours — in reason to contact a doctor. According to Danco, 360,000 American women have used the pill since it was approved by the FDA.

"The drug is safe. It's effective. And it provides another option for women to end early pregnancy," said Danco spokeswoman Cynthia Summers.

Monty Patterson, father of a teenager who died after taking RU-486, says the government's new safety warnings aren't enough.

Patterson's 18-year-old daughter, Holly, died Sept. 17, 2003, of septic shock caused by inflammation of the uterus. The teen took RU-486 on Sept. 10 to terminate an unplanned pregnancy, Patterson said.

Now that three women have died, he said, the FDA should bar sales of the abortion pill.

"How many more deaths is it going to take before the FDA takes action to remove this drug from the market?" said Patterson, 51, of Livermore, Calif. ♦

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From the Editorial Board

Join us for a ride on MTSU's friendly skies

We are thrilled to see that NASA has taken an interest in our humble university. NASA's partnership with MTSU to research flight training will be beneficial to both students and the school as a whole.

The most immediate benefit is, of course, the lower cost to students.

Professional pilot majors usually spend around \$25,000 for flight time above regular tuition costs.

Time in this simulator will cost about half of what a real airplane costs.

And although students must still do most of their hours in the real airplane, any student would be thankful for a financial break anywhere he or she can get it.

And even \$1,000 out of \$25,000 can make a big difference to a poor college kid.

Not only will it benefit students by decreasing the cost of their education but it will also further establish MTSU as a well-known aerospace school.

The school is already of high rank nationally, but a partnership with NASA can only increase the department's visibility.

When a graduate enters the workforce, seeing MTSU on a resume will mean something to an employer, giving the applicant an edge on the competition. Who wouldn't want that?

Doing research for NASA also provides the opportunity to create a lasting, profitable relationship with the most prestigious aeronautics group in the country. If this research is successful, perhaps NASA will ask us to participate in future projects. Where our university lacks in tuition funds, it can make up with these type of grants, which will benefit everyone even if you're not an aerospace major.

The fact that the company building the simulator is donating nearly half the cost of it says a lot about our department's reputation nationally. If we were some no-name school begging for a handout, chances are they would have just laughed at us.

But in the department of aerospace, we're bringing in students from all across the country and with this new simulator, we have no reason not to consider this department top-tier.

The *Sidelines* editorial board would also like to offer our services to "test" the simulator. We would be glad to spend some time in it to ... make sure everything works properly. ◆

From the Opinions Editor

Revering ridiculousness: or, finding hope in humor

Miracles come in unexpected places. Like sandwiches, for example.

Internet auction giant eBay was, until yesterday, arguing with Diana Duyser of Hollywood, Calif. over a grilled cheese sandwich that Duyser claims bears the image of the Virgin Mary.

The company had yanked the item from its Web site, citing its rule prohibiting the posting of joke auctions, until Duyser insisted that she wasn't joking at all and that she really did see the face of Christianity's most famous woman in her lunch. Her unfinished meal went back on the auction block for the whole world to marvel at.

This would simply be an isolated story of Internet foolishness, if not for the fact that it has now spread like wildfire across the auction Web site.

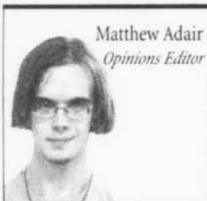
Listings advertising everything from grilled cheese sandwiches on the Virgin Mary, to images of Elvis Presley, Yasser Arafat and Kobe Bryant on assorted food items, to kits showing how you too can make your very own grilled cheese sandwich bearing the likeness of the virgin mother of Jesus of Nazareth have appeared on eBay have appeared in a flood of parody entries.

It's only a matter of time before eBay's administrators pull out machete and torch to weed out all of the gag postings. In the meantime though, the absurdity of this venture into online culture is a truly entertaining diversion from a world that seems to be falling apart at the seams. Because while claiming to have seen the face of the Virgin Mary in a can of Spam might be a slightly blasphemous as far as jokes go, it's also slightly less insane than accusations of electoral fraud or war crimes.

The modern world is sorely in need of levity. People need something to laugh at, to remind them that the world is more than just catastrophe and disaster. Duyser's sandwich might not actually be a sign from any sort of heavenly power, but it's a little miraculous in its own right.

After all, a bit of laughter is quite divine. ◆

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Patriot Act hardly patriotic at all

Freedom is an idea that we as Americans should greatly appreciate, since most of the world will never know it as we do. Freedom was the major inspiration for the foundation of our country; the free will to make your own choices, so long as they're not hurting anyone else.

But what happens when this free will begins to be taken away? What happens when our liberty is impeded while we're told what's best for us by the ruling class?

An act called the USA Patriot Act, short for "United and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism," is currently hampering these rights we've all inherited; rights that were so hard-earned by those who've fought and died before us.

This Patriot Act was created to give the government more power, specifically power to bring terrorists to justice, albeit through extended clout for government agencies and less rights for U.S. citizens. The Act's major purpose



Skeptical Overtones

Brandon Bouchillon
Staff Columnist

is to hinder the kind of terrorism that threatens American lives.

Nevertheless, it gives the Federal Bureau of Investigation the unchecked search powers to investigate any American without their consent or even their knowledge. So it's possible for any citizen to be considered a terrorist without them even knowing it.

Under the Patriot Act, there's no need for government branches to obtain any judicial permission to watch, pursue or even wiretap any American.

The average resident can also be served with what is called an "order for disclosure," where he or she must reveal some piece of information, no matter how embarrassing or long forgotten, to

the authorities.

Such undermining of our founding father's original design is entirely un-American, and likens more to an Orwellian novel from half a century ago.

Even worse than the original Patriot Act was the concept for Patriot 2, an act which the government claimed "filled in the holes" of the original. Under this new act, Americans could be spied on by our own government, not for its purposes, but on behalf of a foreign country.

Legal, permanent residents could be instantly deported with no need for a reason beyond the Attorney General's impulse of their danger to national security. The DNA information of American citizens who committed crimes would also be compiled into a massive database, so the government could know all about you "just in case."

Luckily, part two of the Patriot Act was leaked to the press before it was voted upon, and the media outrage that ensued forced those in power to quickly dismiss the

idea for the act's instatement.

It's a scary thought that our government is trying to enforce such civil injustice upon all of its citizens, not just the terrorists who threaten those citizen's lives.

A slippery slope is a dangerous thing, and it is my opinion that we, as a country, have taken our first step down it with existence of the Patriot Act.

If Americans can't live our lives the way we choose, without interference from those who're supposed to protect us, then the idea of the United States of America is farther gone than anyone could've imagined.

Some provisions of this Patriot Act are set to expire in 2005 and then must be renewed by Congress; so as Americans it's our duty to do something - anything - because this democracy we so cherish is quickly becoming a dystopia we will despise. ◆

Brandon Bouchillon is a sophomore journalism student and can be reached at bab2t@mtsu.edu.

Wave of reality television slowly rotting our minds

Something has gone terribly, terribly wrong here.

The best way to measure a society is to look at the people that said society chooses to celebrate. Our celebrities are the people that we have chosen to elevate to the highest levels, bordering on fanatic praise. We watch their movies, we watch their shows, and we watch shows about their movies and shows. We read their magazines and hunt for the nipple shots in the tabloids.

These are normal people. They are just like you and me, except that they have cameras pointed at them. There is nothing special about them. There is no reason to watch them. In fact, the very act of watching them has spawned a market that every single television station has filled with ridiculous shows such as "The Apprentice," all of the "Survivors," most of VH1's programming schedule and every other reality show or "celebrity" show.

If you feel a little vindicated every time that you see the "bad girl" on "The Real World" finally get hers or you feel happy to see that "The Bachelor" finally chose the "right" girl, then I feel sympathy for you.

You should be getting to know the people in your life a little bit better, or maybe caring for someone that needs you. It's not just the time spent watching these shows that we waste, but also the time you spend thinking about it and discussing it with other people, not to mention the energy you waste getting emotionally involved with people that you will never meet or interact with.

Famous people are famous only because we have somehow all agreed to idolize them. I'm not talking about legitimate actors who really do have talent and work on their craft. I'm talking about Paris Hilton, "Celebrities Uncensored" and every single "star" from a reality show.

Also, who really cares how drunk these people get in L.A.'s hottest new nightclub? Why in the name of Jesus-tap dancing-Christ would you allow this kind of information into your life? Why do I have to watch the woman who ruined a great John Cougar Mellencamp song sit on a couch and come to the inescapable logical con-

You Should Know This Already



Carter Fort
Staff Columnist

clusion that Chicken of the Sea Tuna, because of its name, must be part chicken?

By the way, I know that I can change the channel or turn the television off. This is not about that. It is about the utmost disrespect that the creators of these shows have for us, the audience. It's about the fact that they may not be wrong in disrespecting us.

Maybe we don't deserve their respect because we are willing to put up with, and even celebrate, the tripe that they shovel upon us. It's about the fact that if you are able to sit and watch an hour of reality television and not feel slightly dumber, then you are already too dumb to realize that you deserve better. You have probably also bought something from an infomercial.

We must demand smarter television. We must refuse to allow media moguls to sell us the idea of people who are famous just because they are rich or were on a mainstream television show. We must become more concerned with people who are real to us and not care about whom Britney Spears married this particular weekend.

If you buy a copy of the *National Inquirer*, then you are responsible for this. You are to blame, and you alone. These media outlets are not creating this stuff because they want to make us stupid. They make it because you are willing to put \$3.50 down for an issue of their rag.

We are the audience. We create the market. Stand up and demand better. Or maybe pick up a book instead. Either way, take responsibility and maybe we can affect some change. ◆

Carter Fort is a senior digital animation major and can be reached at ctf2b@mtsu.edu.

Stick around, make college life fun for you

By Katie Peek
Guest Columnist

Ahhh, the college years. The glory days. Kids fresh out of high school are just ready to bust down the door to get their National Lampoon's "Animal House" experience.

Not so much. Sadly enough, when the time comes for the same kids to receive their diploma at 18 years old, they decide college just isn't for them. My question is: How would you know if it's for you if you have never been there?

I understand that college isn't exactly what you would call cheap, but it is affordable after loans, scholarships or grants. It would be well worth putting the extra effort toward good grades if you get that premium job post-graduation. And whatever happened to part-time or summer jobs? Save the money - it doesn't have to be strictly an alcohol fund.

After all, what do these people think will happen right out of high school? Maybe they'll run off to California, work as extras in a hot new TV series and then they will hit the big-time. Nice idea, but hardly realistic.

Even with careers and jobs aside, growing up has to be a priority sometime. If I had not moved out of my parents' home when I was 18, I would still be waltzing through life inside the head of an 18-year-old. Pretty scary, huh?

I wish people knew what college could really be like. Whether it's joining a club or organization for their major or going Greek or jumping on the political bandwagon on campus, the opportunities in college are really unlimited. Besides that, you are networking and creating relationships that could last you for the rest of your life.

Hey, maybe if people figured out that they are allowed to stay in Murfreesboro for the weekend and not pack up and head back to Mom, Dad and significant other, they would realize that college really is a cool place.

Instead, they are giving every high school senior the idea that college sucks and maybe it's better to stay in the "safe place." I truly believe that college has the building blocks for the rest of a person's life. Sometimes things (and people) just don't stay the same. Why does everyone automatically assume that change is so bad?

Now, I'm not knocking all of those people out there who did not go to college and have made wonderful careers and lives for themselves, but I really do wonder if they are fulfilled - or at least as fulfilled as they could have been if they would have at least given the college lifestyle a genuine shot.

Even after a year or so of college, students still have the tendency to give up on furthering their education. A 19-year-old kid may say, "Well, I tried the college thing out and didn't like it. I'd be better off getting a job and making money."

Here is my problem with this scenario: Maybe you stuck college out for a year. But what did you do? Sometimes go to class, sit in your dorm room throughout the week and drive home on the weekends? Yeah, college would suck if that were the way to deal with it.

So what is the moral of the story, you may be asking. Well, the way I figure it, you are going to get out of life what you put into it. And this goes for furthering your education, relationships or anything else you choose to do with your time, or in this case, what you don't do. ◆

Katie Peek is a senior mass communications major and can be reached at kcp2c@mtsu.edu.

Got that column you need to submit for class?

Time's running out...

slopinio@mtsu.edu

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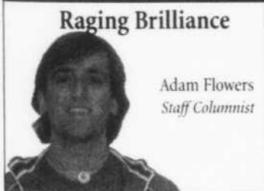
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Bubba's coolest BBQ place in town



Raging Brilliance

Adam Flowers
Staff Columnist

"Come in, my brother," says a friendly voice as you enter Bubba's Bar-B-Cue in Manchester, Tenn. The voice belongs to a man with a big smile, an even bigger belly and quite a few tattoos.

This is Bubba Penington, the owner and the cook.

Bubba's Bar-B-Cue is the type of restaurant that there aren't enough of anymore. The menu consists of BBQ sandwiches, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, fries and drinks, and you eat your food off of styrofoam plates with plastic knives and forks.

On the back wall hangs a stained-glass window that says "Bubba's" in the middle, with a pig to one side and a cow to the other.

Bubba and his wife Brenda have been in business here for 12 years now, but the place hasn't always been a burger joint. It was originally a pool hall, and the only food served was sub sandwiches.

It was Bubba's brother David Penington who convinced Bubba to buy a grill and fryer.

David owns Jiffy Burger, which is just down the street. You might think that with two brothers both owning restaurants within a block of each other, a form of sibling rivalry may affect business.

"No way," Brenda asserts. "It's all the same money n' all the same family," Bubba adds.

For instance, if a customer comes to Jiffy Burger at breakfast time, David will point them to Bubba, who serves breakfast from 10 a.m. to noon. Or if a customer comes to Bubba's after 2 p.m. when he closes shop, he'll send them down the street to Jiffy Burger.

A friend of mine from Manchester told me about Bubba's Bar-B-Cue. Big hamburgers were the topic of discussion, and I was bragging about eating a 1-pound hamburger on a few occasions. She told me of a place in her hometown that served 5-pound burgers. My mission was clear.

We didn't know what to expect at this place, and we almost drove right past it. Even in a small town like Manchester, you almost have to be looking for Bubba's Bar-B-Cue to notice it from the road.

When we walked in and heard that kind voice welcoming us, "Come in my little brothers," we felt right at home. We asked for the biggest burger they had. The Bubba Burger is what we got.

The Bubba Burger was a glorious sight to behold, both absurd and beautiful at once. It's advertised as a 5-pounder, but once it's cooked and dressed up, it tips the scales at around 6.5 pounds, depending on how many toppings and condiments you like.

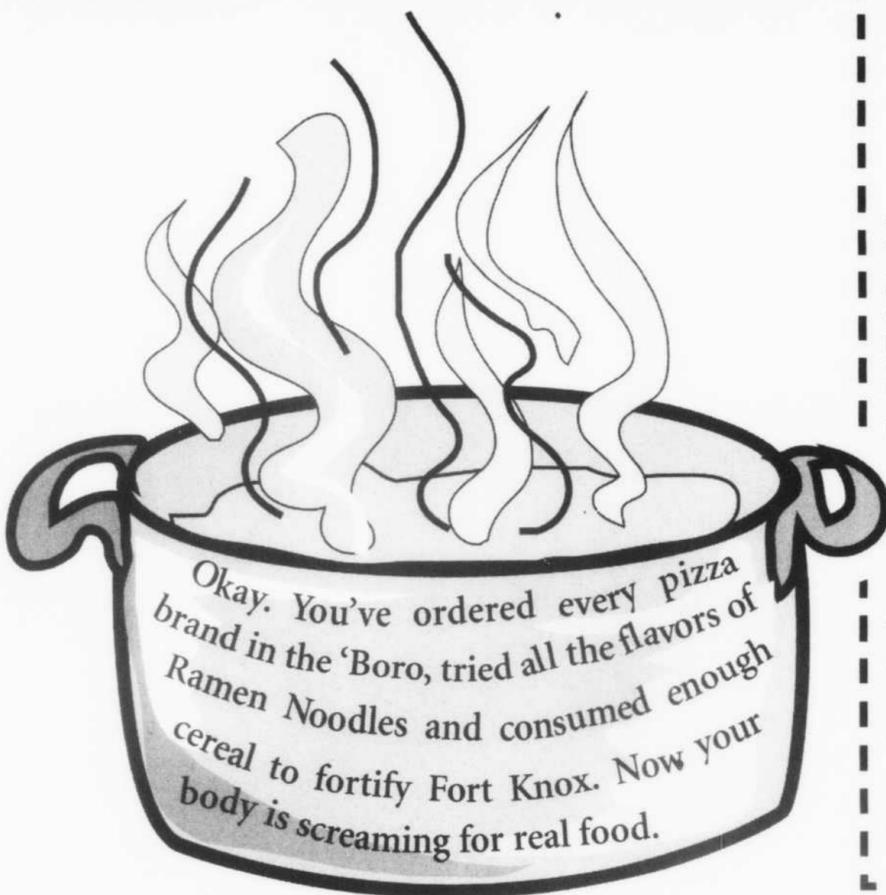
Unfortunately, though, the Bubba Burger is currently not being served. The burger was so large that the buns had to be specially made to hold it by a close friend of Bubba and Brenda's named Lynn, who recently passed away.

But those folks with an appetite for excessively large servings of food can still come to Bubba's during breakfast hours. Bubba will happily cook a pizza-pan-sized pancake or a 24-egg omelet. He's one of the few grill masters who can flip something so big without cracking it.

Whether it's massive servings of food, Southern hospitality, or simply a true taste of southern culture that brings you to Bubba's Bar-B-Cue, you will not be disappointed. Bubba is there six days a week from open to close, and when you leave, he leaves you with some kind words.

"Thank you, my brother." ♦

Finally... some real food



As a nontraditional student who's spent a lot of years feeding five hungry people, I bring you the cooking column for busy, cash-strapped college students.

Cooking 101 will feature a recipe and some mom-tested cooking tips. I'll also answer any (legitimate) questions you send to my e-mail account.

Gather your textbook and a highlighter, and get ready to make good use of those moments when you're standing in the kitchen waiting for something to boil.

This week the focus is chicken.

Juanita

Send your cooking question to: juanitathouin@hotmail.com ♦

Go rocks the 'Boro

By Adam Flowers
Staff Writer

It's around 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10, on the first floor of the Learning Resources Center people are scuffling about setting up for the Murfreesboro After Dark show on MTTV.

Countering all the hurried activity are the members of the band Go, who have an air of chill about them.

For the last four weeks Go has been providing the music for the show, and the band's funky-bluesy up-tempo style has been a nice addition.

Bassist Phillip Buck sits on a table, slurping on a Red Bull Icee, as he hands the night's set list to drummer John Daniel.

"Here's the set list, what do you think?" Buck asks.

"...I dig," Daniel says as he walks to set up his drum set for the show.

The other two members of the band, and trumpeter Chris Nicotera, guitarist Dave Benedict, triumphantly arrive a few minutes later with a speaker that had been left at home.

Go formed in February of 2002 and played a single show under their original name, Clods of Dirt, before changing the name to Go. After playing local bars in their hometown of Memphis, Go built a strong local following. Often times in

Murfreesboro, Go has had as many fans from Memphis as from Murfreesboro in the crowd.

Looking back on it, Buck admits that Clods of Dirt "is probably the worst name I can imagine a band having," but Go has suited them nicely. So nicely in fact that Buck has even gotten a traffic signal with a green light tattooed on his wrist.

Go arrived in Murfreesboro as a trio, which was difficult with the type of music they were playing. But the recent addition of Dave Benedict on the trumpet has brought their sound to a new level, adding a stronger rhythm section, and has freed up Nicotera to play more rhythm than lead guitar.

To get an idea of Go's sound, all you'll need to do is listen to the first song they ever learned to play together: "Chameleon" by Herbie Hancock.

"Chameleon" is a funk staple with a jazzy feel and a heavy Sly Stone influence, with a glorious breakdown in the middle.

Although Go draws their influences from bands such as the Funky Meters and Umphrey's McGee, and has attended countless Phish and Widespread Panic shows between them, they are a bit hesitant to call themselves a jam band.

Like many bands that get tossed into this musical category, Go draws their influences

from an eclectic range of styles, from jazz and blues to funk and rock.

But like many jam bands, Go is in their top gear when playing live. The guys enjoy the spontaneity of live shows, as they demonstrated at Liquid Smoke on Oct. 30. Benedict was blasting the trumpet while Buck was playing a saxophone and Nicotera strapping a bass drum on, and the miniature marching band strolled all around Murfreesboro's town square.

Go has been able to do numerous recording sessions in recent months, and a demo is forthcoming, but the band feels more in their element live.

As Nicotera says, "I'd rather someone come see us once than buy an album and listen to it a hundred times."

Go has played local shows at the Boro and a fraternal party or two, and their next show will be Dec. 3 at Liquid Smoke. For more information about the band, upcoming shows and photos, check out their Web site at www.gomusic.cjb.net.

In the meantime, the guys are doing a few recording sessions, tightening up their sound, and playing on Murfreesboro After Dark each week.

Nicotera puts it best when he says, "The goal right now is to keep playing as long as possible." ♦



Cooking 101

Juanita Thouin
Staff Columnist

Creamed Chicken Over Rice

One large boneless chicken breast
One can (14 oz.) Swanson chicken broth
One can Campbell's cream of celery soup
Milk
Water
One and two-thirds cup instant rice
Salt (or garlic salt) and pepper to taste

Clean chicken breast by rinsing under cold water. Place meat in a small saucepot. Sprinkle with pepper. Pour chicken broth over the meat, cover with a lid and bring to a boil. As soon as the broth is boiling, reduce the heat. Simmer - that's a very soft boil - for 30 minutes. Test the chicken for doneness by trying to pull off a bite with a fork. If the meat pulls off easily, taste to confirm the meat is done. Otherwise, continue boiling and checking the meat every three to four minutes.

Remove the chicken and place it on a plate. Pour chicken broth into a heat-proof bowl or measuring cup, and save it for later use. Remove saucepan from the heat.

Empty the can of soup into the saucepan. Add two tablespoons of the reserved chicken broth and stir. Add two tablespoons of milk and stir. Continue alternating broth and milk until the mixture is smooth and creamy, but not soupy.

Measure remaining broth and add water to equal one and a half cups of liquid. Pour into a one and a half quart microwave-safe casserole dish. Heat on high until the liquid comes to a boil. Remove from microwave. Add instant rice, stir, cover with a lid and allow to steam for five minutes.

While rice is steaming, cut the chicken breast into bite-size pieces and add to the cream mixture. Warm on low heat.

Add salt or garlic salt, if desired. Serve the creamed chicken over a bed of rice. Recipe makes two generous servings. Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container. For a balanced meal, include a tossed salad.

Cost: about \$4.50. Preparation time 45 minutes.

Tip: While they are cheaper, store brands or off-brands of chicken broth and soup almost always contain a lot more sodium than do brand name products.

Tip: Shop for chicken during the day, when the butcher is there. Ask the butcher to sell you just one chicken breast. If you must purchase more than one chicken breast at a time, freeze the extra pieces in individual freezer bags for use at a later point in time.

Tip: Buy a roll of half-inch masking tape. Keep it and a pen in the silverware drawer. When storing leftovers, write the preparation date on a piece of masking tape and affix tape to the storage container. Refrigerated leftovers made with the above ingredients can safely be eaten for seven days after original preparation date.



Von

Students unaware of ticket charges

Sports commentary



David Hunter
Staff Columnist

The National Invitational Tournament is one of the best preseason basketball tournaments in the nation.

For students that attend one of the participating schools this season, however, it should be renamed the Not Invited Tournament.

At last Friday's WNIT game between the Lady Raiders and the University of South Florida, some MTSU students expecting to get in free as usual were told they had to buy tickets. Some were told \$3, others \$7.

I understand that the ticket office and the athletic department had nothing to do with the ticket prices because this was a tournament game. In that case, none of the blame for changing ticket prices should go toward them.

People are always talking about how MTSU students should get more involved with the athletic events. This is one example of why some students turn away from games.

The problem was not that students had to pay for the tickets; it was that they did not know about it until they got to the ticket gate.

Somebody should have let the students know they would be charged before they got up to the ticket gate.

There were some students I know who try to go to every basketball game. Those students simply walked away Friday night after being told they would have to pay \$7, which was incorrect to begin with. Current MTSU students with a valid ID should have been allowed in the door for \$3.

The aforementioned students just come to watch their teams play. They do it all the time, not just when a special guest is coming. They put the team first, not the guest — unlike some students.

This game was one of the most highly-anticipated games for the Lady Raiders, especially considering all the preseason rankings they earned in several college basketball magazines.

Also, with the prestige of playing in the signature preseason women's college basketball tournament, the performance could have helped the Lady Raiders grab more of the nation's attention.

After they put themselves on the map with their performance in last season's NCAA Tournament, the Lady Raiders had a shot to play against Duke at Cameron Indoor Stadium, which is known for having the ultimate home-court advantage in all of college basketball.

Unfortunately, the Lady Raiders fell to South Florida 70-62 in front of a sparse crowd.

It was sad that more people that wanted to attend could not. At the same time, I do not want to take anything away from the 450 fans who went to the game to show their support for the Lady Raiders.

Hopefully, the next time one of the teams plays in a preseason or postseason tournament, students will know ahead of time what is going on. ◆

David Hunter is a junior mass communication major and can be reached at dah2c@mtsu.edu.

MT hopes to secure Palladium, winning season

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

After defeating Louisiana-Monroe this past Saturday, the Blue Raiders have a chance to accomplish something they have not done since 2001.

With a win against Troy University this weekend, Middle Tennessee can have a winning season.

MT head coach Andy McCollum spoke at Monday's press conference explaining what the Blue Raiders approach will be on Saturday in Troy. "We want to play well and finish strong," McCollum said. "I want us to have a good week of work, knowing we are playing a very good football team at their place and we want to be good on that day. That's what we are preparing for this week."

The Trojans defeated Missouri earlier in the year, and

lost to LSU by only four points, proving it can play with anyone in the country.

"It's a team our kids have a lot of respect for," McCollum said. "Troy has played very well all year."

The Troy defense will be a challenge for the Blue Raiders, where the Trojan defensive front has 39 sacks on the year and their secondary has 22 interceptions.

"Defensively, [Troy's defense] is probably the best we have seen this year, and that includes Florida," McCollum said. "They have a lot of older kids, a lot of seniors, and a lot of quality players who have played in a lot of big games. They are one of the top defenses in the country, period, and that's regardless of conference or anything else. They are the best we've seen."

MT will hope to bring a healthier team on the road after being banged up the past few

weeks.

"We have guys playing through injuries right now," McCollum said. "Jeff Littlejohn is playing through a tough injury. Eugene Gross is battling injuries. Jonathon Harris, maybe we will get him back. I don't know the status of Darren Mustin and Jerry Vanderpool or whether we will get them back." Despite these injuries, the Blue Raiders will take pride and leadership into a game where they are picked to lose by two touchdowns.

"[Troy] has played in big games and has a lot of good people over the years," McCollum said, "but our team is growing up and we are going to prepare to do the best we can against a quality opponent this week."

The teams' history of close games and the proximity of the



Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

MT freshman Terry Jackson ran for 82 yards last week.

See Football, 8

Holmes back to lead Lady Raiders

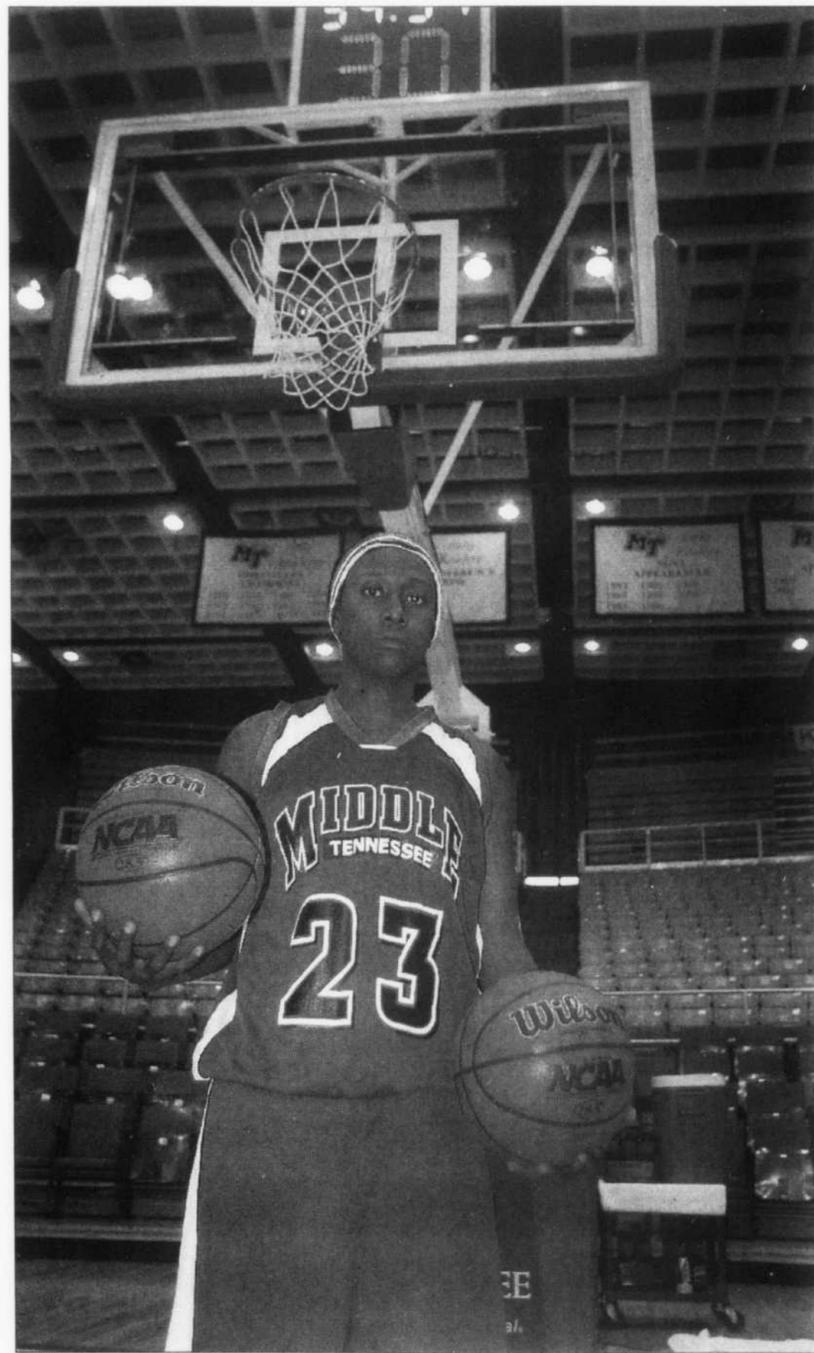


Photo by Kevin Lane | Staff Photographer

MT senior Patrice Holmes is ready for a second trip to the NCAA Tournament.

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee veteran women's basketball player Patrice Holmes has already set school records and made history for the Lady Raiders.

Now, she is ready to continue the success.

"I think it's great to be a part of this program. Since my freshman year things have grown tremendously," Holmes said.

In Holmes' freshman year, she was named 2002's Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the year. Holmes also was the only player to start all 29 games, ranking second on the team in scoring with an average of 12.6 points per game.

Then, in Holmes' sophomore campaign, she started all 30 games and was named the SBC Tournament's Most Outstanding Player after scoring 74 total points in the tournament.

Also in Holmes' sophomore year, she broke the school record for most steals in a season with 92, a record that was later broken by Keisha McClinic.

For her efforts as a sophomore, Holmes was named Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year and First Team All-Conference, which got her voted to the Wildcat Classic All-Tournament team.

Holmes kept the achievements coming during her junior year.

She was named to the Tennessee Sports Writers Association All-State Team, was again voted the Sun Belt Tournament Most Outstanding Player and was a first team All-SBC selection.

She led the Lady Raiders in scoring with 15.7 points per game, and reached the 1,000

point plateau for her career with a 31-point night against Tennessee State.

Despite her success, she still feels that there are many more accomplishments on the way.

"Hopefully I can have a better year by winning the Sun Belt Player of the year, and I will also try to get the MVP of the year," Holmes said.

Obviously, it was Holmes' work ethic and goals that earned her the ability to play college basketball.

Born in Bishopville, S.C., Holmes took on the love for the game at an early age.

"In South Carolina all I did was play basketball right after school, do homework, eat, and then go to sleep," Holmes said. "Basketball is my first love besides my family. Everybody in my family played basketball, so it's like second nature."

At Lee Central High School, Holmes was a four-year starter and earned All-Region and All-State honors. She averaged 24.8 points per game and led her team to a 30-0 record and state championship as a senior.

Holmes was also Miss Basketball in South Carolina. When college came around, Holmes felt right at home in her visit to MTSU.

"The reason why I came here was because of the family atmosphere. It felt like a home away from home," said Holmes.

Holmes is really appreciated for her hard work, and head coach Steph Smith is proud to have number 23 on her team.

"It takes way too many words to describe my feelings about Patrice Holmes," Smith said. "The things she has brought to this program are too enormous to name." ◆

Blue Raiders win final regular season match 3-2

By Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team finished regular season play on Sunday with a 3-2 victory over the Louisiana-Lafayette Lady Cajuns in Earl K. Long Gym.

Despite a huge difference in total team blocks (13 to 5) and a hitting percentage of only .206 during the first four games, MT defeated the Lady Cajuns in the final tune-up for this weekend's Sun Belt Conference tournament.

The loss moved the Ragin' Cajuns to 7-23 overall and 3-12 in the conference while marking their tenth loss at home this sea-

son.

"Several of our leaders just lost their focus," ULL head coach Becky Madden told ULL Media Relations.

"They let a few balls drop, had a couple of missed serves and then it was a domino effect from that point on."

This domino effect began early on, as the Blue Raiders won Game 1 by the score of 32-30, as senior Keke Deckard closed out the game with a kill and a service ace.

In Game 2, however, the Blue Raiders committed several costly errors and dropped the game by the score of 28-30.

The team committed seven

errors and 17 kills for only a .222 hitting percentage.

In Game 3, the Blue Raiders' hitting percentage worsened, as the team had eight errors and only 14 kills for a hitting percentage of .140.

In Game 4, MT's hitting percentage did not improve, but the Lady Cajuns also struggled.

Eventually, the Blue Raiders came away with a 30-28 win after a kill from Dara McLean, who finished the match with 15 total kills.

Then, the Blue Raiders exploded in the final game by outscoring ULL 9-3 to capture the 15-6 win.

Both Deckard and sopho-

more Andressa Lyra had double-doubles in the match.

Deckard tallied 26 kills and 19 kills, while Lyra added 17 kills and 16 digs.

Megan Sumrell led the team with 64 assists, while Alicia Lemau'u had 18 digs.

No player for ULL had a double-double in the match, but Kim Rodgers did have a game-high six blocks.

Elina Salomaki led the team with 22 kills and also had nine digs, while Tami Harvey had 59 assists and nine digs.

Erika Castro had 13 digs and nine kills in the match, and Courtney Zimmer had 18 digs.

The win marks the 17th of the

season for the Blue Raiders, which matches the team's total for 2002.

A victory in the SBC tournament will give the team the most wins since 1995.

The loss marks the end of the season for the Ragin' Cajuns, but Madden feels like the team is headed in the right direction.

"Our program is still growing," Madden said. "We are still in the building phase and I am looking forward to next year."

The Blue Raiders, who have the No. 4 seed, will take on the No. 5 seed and host in the SBC tournament in New Orleans on this Thursday. ◆

Davis looks for best season yet from Raiders

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

The 2003-2004 men's basketball season was the team's second consecutive winning season since 1998 and brought the Blue Raiders within four points of a shot at the Sun Belt Conference Tournament title.

Though MT suffered the graduation of four seniors, including first-team All Sun Belt guard

Tommy Gunn, the team and staff are anything but nervous about the 2004-2005 season.

MT has four out of the five former starters returning, including senior guards Mike Dean and Michael Cuffee.

"Mike Cuffee's been our most steady guy," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "He's been our hardest, most consistent player day in and day out."

Though Cuffee's performance was commendable throughout the year, the six-foot five-inch Philadelphia native really turned heads at the end of the season by scoring double figures in the last 14 of 15 games.

Despite a hand injury that sidelined him before the season, Cuffee also emerged as a vital part of the MT dynamics, earning second-team All Sun Belt in his first year of eligibility with the Blue Raiders.

With an average of 16.2 points per game, Dean was MT's top shooter and the SBC's No. 3 leading scorer for 2004.

After fulfilling NCAA transfer guidelines, fellow senior Steve Thomas will be joining Cuffee and Dean on the court in December. Thomas started in all 20 games he played in for the University of Georgia from 2000-2003.

"The three seniors - Thomas, Cuffee, and Dean - have been through it," sophomore point guard Brian Smithson said. "They've been in some tough programs, so we all look to them for leadership."

Other returning players are sophomore starters Smithson and forward Kyle Young. Smithson and Young got plenty of experience last year, both starting in every Sun Belt Conference game of the season.

Young attracted some buzz at the North Alabama exhibition game last Thursday when he landed the team's first dunk of the season, a big switch from the somewhat timid player the public saw last season.

"A lot of guys had really good offseasons," Davis said. "But Kyle Young has improved a lot in the offseason with his strength and his weight."

MT's only returning junior is forward Darrio Scott, who was injured in January and was out for the rest of the season.

"We hope Darrio stays injury-free this year," Davis explained. "He can be a very versatile forward in our offense this season."

Other returning Blue Raiders are sophomore forward Keith Christmas and sophomore guard Wes Durrant.

MT gained six new eligible players this season: junior guards Fats Cuyler, L.T. Lockett, Jonathon Loe and Marcus Morrison; junior forward Clint Feher and freshmen forward Brian Lake.

"Brian Lake looks like he'll be a rising star," Cuffee said. "He's got a good work ethic and he's just got a nose for the ball."

In his first game with MT last Thursday, Lake netted 14 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

"Brian Lake has been a real pleasant surprise," Davis said. "He started for us in the exhibition game and played really well."

Other newcomers who saw lengthy playing time at the exhibition game were Morrison, Loe, Christmas and Cuyler.

And don't let Fats Cuyler's first name fit you - this six-foot, 180-pound Florida native is fit and fast. Cuyler earned First-Team All Conference and Second-Team All Region honors after averaging 18.2 points per game at Cowley County Junior College.

Though the 2004-2005 MT team has many new faces, the team doesn't lack in experience or leadership.

"I think everyone here is a standout player," Smithson said. "It's pretty much a team game. Anyone could have a big night on any given game."

The Blue Raiders begin regular-season play this Friday at Murphy Center against Lambuth University at 7:30 p.m. ♦



File Photo

MT head coach Kermit Davis is 33-26 in two seasons with the Blue Raiders.

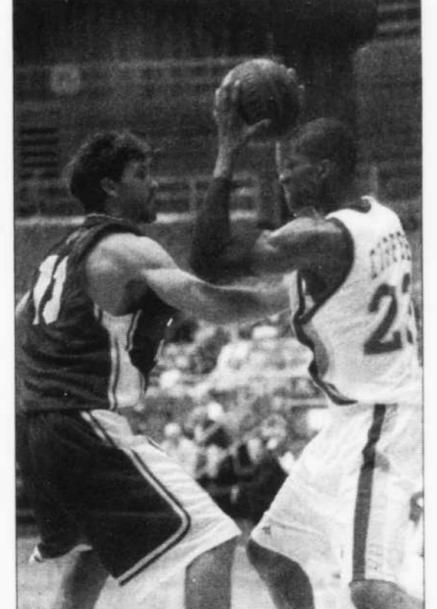


Photo by Kevin Lane | Staff Photographer

MT senior forward Michael Cuffee had 18 points and 13 rebounds against UNA.

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931-334-0985 for more information.

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Male, non-smoker roommate wanted to share 3 bd/2ba with female. 20 minutes from campus. Must sign 6 months or 1 year lease. \$350 plus 1/2 utilities. \$100 deposit required. Call Lisa 615-415-9302-leave msg.

Subleaser

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Subleaser needed to share 3 BR apt. November rent paid. Will only have to pay for December - August 2005. Rent is \$439/mo. includes all utilities and the apartment is fully furnished. If interested please e-mail becmarsh@bellsouth.net or phone 423-842-6452 collect.

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Sun Belt Conference Men's Basketball Overview

By **Cody Gibson**
Staff Writer

Going into the 2004-2005 Sun Belt basketball season, one thing is common: parity.

The conference coaches' preseason predictions have MT and Louisiana-Lafayette as the early favorites, but the season looks to be the most competitive ever.

Teams are listed in alphabetic order with last year's finish in parentheses:



Florida International (5-22, 1-13; 5th in SBC East)

Florida International enters the season looking for new direction and it starts with a new coach, Sergio Rouco. FIU enters the season with four returning starters, including Junior Matias, who is the leading returning scorer with 14.8 ppg.



Louisiana-Lafayette (20-9, 12-3; 1st in SBC West; lost to NC State 61-52 in first round of NCAA Tournament)

Louisiana Lafayette has only two returning starters from the only 20-win team in the conference, but they make up for their lack of experience with sheer talent. They have a large list of newcomers, including ETSU transfer Tiras Wade, who is an exceptional player on both ends of the floor. The Cajuns should compete for another NCAA Tournament berth.



Middle Tennessee (17-12, 8-6; 2nd in SBC East): The Blue Raiders boast the most balanced lineup they've seen under head coach Kermit Davis, with senior Mike Dean and point guard Bryan Smithson returning.

The Blue Raiders also had an influx of recruits and depth which creates playing opportunities up and down the bench. For more, see the full preview on page 7.



New Mexico State (13-14, 6-9; 5th in SBC West)

New Mexico State enters the 2004-2005 season as coach Lou Henson's 42nd as a head coach (17th with NMSU). The Aggies should have a solid perimeter game with Mike Mitchell at point and Duane John at guard. Along with key newcomers Josh Jenkins and Delbert Simpson, the Aggies should have a formidable lineup.



New Orleans (17-14, 9-6; 2nd in SBC West)

New Orleans's season will go as far as sophomore Bo McCaleb will take them. McCaleb possibly could be the Player of the Year in the Sun Belt and is a strong candidate for an NBA lottery pick. After losing four starters, New Orleans has a lot of work to do if they wish to return to the finals of the Sun Belt tourney.



North Texas (13-15, 8-7; 3rd in SBC West)

North Texas is anticipating a breakout season during the 2004-2005 year. With a backcourt of Isaac Hines and Leonard Hopkins, the Mean Green look to improve on their win total again this year and break .500.



South Alabama (6-9, 12-16; 6th in SBC West)

South Alabama boasts a number of highly touted recruits and transfers. Former Ole Miss signee Mario Jinter leads an impressive list of weapons that coach John Pelphrey believes could be their best team to date. Richard Law, who averaged 8.8 points per game last season, is the top returning scorer for the Jaguars.



Western Kentucky (15-13, 8-6; 3rd in SBC East)

Western Kentucky is coming off their most disappointing season in recent memory, including a first-round exit from the SBC Tournament at the hands of MT. The Hilltoppers do have many key returning players, including Antonio Haynes and Anthony Winchester, who are both excellent shooters and should give WKU a strong offense. ♦



Arkansas-Little Rock (17-12, 9-5; 1st in SBC East)

UALR head coach Steve Shields leads an Arkansas-Little Rock team that finished first in the east division last year. They return four starters to the floor, including powerful guard Brandon Freeman. Senior Zach Graber, who led the Sun Belt in assist-to-turnover ratio, also returns.



Arkansas State (17-11, 7-7; 4th in SBC East)

ASU comes into the season overshadowed by MT and Lafayette. They have the talent and depth to challenge for the Sun Belt title. The Indians have a dynamic duo in the back court of Dewarick Spencer and J.J. Montgomery, who were 1-2 respectively in the Sun Belt in the floor. With newcomer Isaac Wells, ASU will have balance all over the floor.



Denver (14-13, 6-9; 4th in SBC West)

The Denver backcourt of Erik Benzel and Rodney Billups both return. Billups, the younger brother of NBA player Chauncey, led the Sun Belt in steals last season and figures to be a defensive force again this season. Benzel looks to improve his scoring average of 13 ppg last season.

Football: Winner gets statue

Continued from 8

two schools makes this game a perfect rivalry – in fact, the game now has been dubbed the "Battle for the Palladium."

In Greek religion, the Palladium was a sacred image kept in the temple of Athena at Troy. The figure was either an image of Athena or Pallas, a child friend of Athena whom she accidentally killed.

The Student Government Association has prepared another Road Rally and is chartering buses to take students to the game.

"It's two teams located close

to each other; two teams that recruit a lot of the same players," McCollum said. "Two teams that, I think, have a lot of respect for one another."

Troy head coach Larry Blakeney seemed a little more excited about the rivalry.

"I don't care if a Palladium is a trophy, a yearbook, or a T-shirt – we need to win it," Blakeney said. "Middle Tennessee has their way of doing things and we have our way of doing ours, and they are not the same." ♦

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