

LOCAL FORECAST

Wednesday **Thursday** **Friday**

Hi: 97°
Lo: 67°

Hi: 91°
Lo: 68°

Hi: 89°
Lo: 70°



Summer block-busters more than temporary phase

page 3



Unique student band has political sound

page 3

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

Vol. 82 No. 58
www.mtsusidelines.com

Wednesday, June 27, 2007
Editorially independent

MTSU to host Fourth of July

By Andy Harper
News Editor

MTSU will once again host Rutherford County's Fourth of July celebration on the upcoming Wednesday on the intramural field.

The Rutherford County festival, called "Celebration Under the Stars," has been held at MTSU for the past 10 years. The festival will begin at 5 p.m. and will feature games, crafts and promotional giveaways.

"Traffic is not too bad," said Tom Tozer, director of News and Public Affairs. "It's summer, so it won't be too inconvenient for campus. We've done this event so much, it's like clockwork."

Campus guests will be entering from Faulkinberry Drive, off Middle Tennessee Boulevard, as well as from Greenland Drive. All entrances and parking lots along Rutherford Boulevard will be closed.

In addition to both Rutherford lots, the Recreation Center lot will be closed for MTSU police and personnel assisting with parking. Local police and firefighters will also be assisting in safety measures throughout the event.

"We want people to use common sense," Tozer said. "There is a lot of people gathered in one area and, obviously, we want people to be sensitive to others' space. We don't want people to bring their own fireworks. We don't want pets either because we don't know how animals would respond to the fireworks."

To ensure safety, Rutherford will be closed during the fireworks display, which will begin at 9 p.m. The street will re-open about 20 minutes after the event is completed and the area cleared.

"It's a heck of a good partnership with city-county and MTSU," Tozer said. "Parks and Recreation and MTSU work great and we are happy to do it and we will do it as long as we have the space. However, in another year or two, with the continuing construction projects, we might be exploring other venues."

Sponsoring the festival is a variety of local groups and businesses. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will be donating free American flags to festival-goers and the Wal-Mart on Old Fort Parkway is providing refreshments for the celebration.

"We highly appreciate the time and material donated," Tozer said. "This kind of event takes a lot of folks pitching in and giving their time and equipment. We really help one another and support each other, which is needed to pull off this event."

At 8 p.m., the Murfreesboro Fire Department's Color Guard will present the color, after which, a tribute to the armed forces and the singing of the national anthem will occur.

Following the presentation of colors and anthem, the Tennessee Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra will perform a variety of patriotic and classical pieces. Raphael Bundage, professor of music at MTSU, will conduct the symphony.

"[Bundage] is an interim director of the symphony," Tozer said. "He will be conducting a number of rousing patriotic tunes. We are delighted the symphony will be joining us and the show is always enjoyable." ♦

Check out *Sidelines* online for a detailed schedule of the day's events.



"Rocky Top Rocket" flies from the Red Bull stage at Riverfront Park Saturday afternoon. The machine, created by the team "Band of Brothers" from Kentucky, set the farthest U.S. Flugtag flying distance. Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Locals take flight with Flugtag

Red Bull holds flying-machine competition at Nashville's Riverfront Park

By Andy Harper
News Editor

The record for farthest-flight-to-date at a United States Flugtag was accomplished this past Saturday in Nashville at the Red Bull sponsored competition.

The record for the farthest flight stands at 195 feet during a Flugtag in Austria. However, the U.S. record was set by the "Rocky Top Rocket," designed by a team of five from Graham, Ky.

Flugtag is a contest of flying machines sponsored by the energy drink company Red Bull. According to the official Web site, Flugtag began in 1991 in Vienna, Austria.

"I heard about the Nashville Flugtag from a bunch of commercials and decided it would be a lot of fun to go," said Zach Wilkinson, sophomore business administration major.

Wilkinson and three other MTSU students attended

the festival held at Riverfront Park.

"It was really fun to watch all the people pushing their flying contraptions and doing weird, crazy presentations," Wilkinson said. "It was odd, but fun."

Second place in the competition was "No. 1 Lucky Flyer" designed by five Nashville natives. Nashville natives Laurel Creech, Carla Stephenson, Mike Stephenson, Mike Rogers and Bryan Tuttle took third place with the creation "Yellow Submarine."

The "Yellow Submarine," known as "Team Green," is an outdoor adventure club, Creech said in a biography

about "Yellow Submarine" on the Flugtag Web site.

"We create adventures that connect our community to the great outdoors, whether it's at our backdoor or across the world," Creech said. "We hope that by engaging in outdoor activities, we'll instill respect for the environment, a desire to explore new adventures and a craving for challenge outside the normal boundaries."

One of the best parts of the event was watching the crashes, said Steven Dahl, sophomore business administration major.

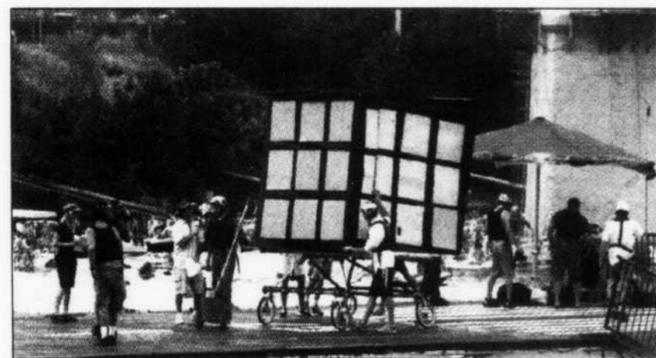
"I would definitely go back again," Dahl said. "Anytime you get to see huge floats being pushed into the river is great. It looked like it hurt every time people fell in."

The only problem was the lack of promotional goods, Dahl said.

"I was a little surprised that they weren't offering free merchandise, or at least free Red Bull," Dahl said. ♦

Anytime you get to see huge floats being pushed into the river is great. It looked like it hurt every time people fell in.

—Steven Dahl



"Rubik's Revenge" (left) and "Walrus of Mass Destruction" (right) were two of 27 teams that competed in the Flugtag competition. The event features competing flying machines and is held internationally. Teams are judged on distance, creativity and showmanship of their inventions.

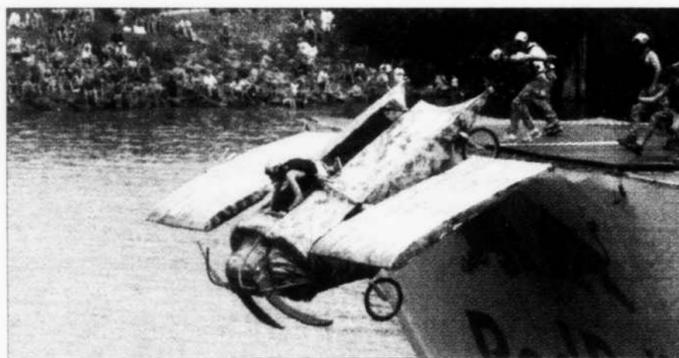


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Inline Hockey Club sets goal of qualify in region

Team continues momentum from new season

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

Driving through the city of St. Louis, many people enjoy the sights and sounds of the "Show Me State" have to offer those who visit there.

The St. Louis Arch greets the travelers heading west and if your arch is a fan of inline roller hockey then this is the place.

The Middle Tennessee Inline Hockey Club plays all of their games in Missouri in the Great Plains Collegiate Inline Hockey League.

"I like playing inline hockey as a sport," President of the Inline Hockey Club Adam Leatham said. Leatham came to MTSU in 2005 and has been playing for two years with the club.

"Our main goal for next year is qualify for the nationals," Leatham said. "It's really tough region. It's really competitive and struggle just to qualify."

The League consists of big and small schools such as Illinois University, Lindenwood University, Illinois State University.

The Blue Raiders have to finish in the top two spots in order to be in the playoffs.

The club was started 10 years ago, though then, the club's main focus was more on street hockey. Since then they have been competing in a very competitive region in Division I-A.

Things began improving for the club in the second half of the 2006-2007 season, even though the team finished 0-16-2 and were short handed for most of the remainder of the year.

A tough game against University of Missouri-Rolla was the turning point, with Rolla having a 4-1 lead on MT until late in the closing minutes of the game. The game ended in a 4-4 tie.

"Our last goal was scored in 10 seconds," Leatham said. "We couldn't have been any better. We tied them. Everyone knows we're not the greatest team. They're from Tennessee they don't know hockey."

This fall will be the second season under new head coach John Kromm, the team's former travel coach.

A rising Brazilian star named Leandro Garcia Silvia joined the team a couple of years ago. Recently, Silvia won a gold medal with the IIHF Inline Hockey World Championships in the 2007 tournament.

As of right now, the Blue Raiders are the only hockey club in Tennessee, but another club is starting up in Knoxville. MT plans to do a fundraiser and some recruiting there in the fall.

See Inline Hockey, 4



Senior Adam Leatham and Inline Hockey Club president play in the Great Plains Collegiate Inline Hockey League in St. Louis. Photo courtesy of the Inline Hockey Club

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board:

Plague of sequels showcase problems with film industry

On August 10, the red carpets will roll out yet again for Jackie Chan and his indelibly grating friend, Chris Tucker. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent, even more will be earned and a little more of Hollywood's integrity will be lost.

"Rush Hour 3" will probably introduce some new, high-pitched Tucker-quote into the pop culture lexicon. Aside from that and stuffing a few more million dollar bills in some Hollywood pockets, the film won't contribute much to the American film market.

With the threat of internet downloads and the new, more commonly accepted realization that spending \$20 at the movies is silly when you could wait a few months and watch it at home, the industry knows that the hay-day of the cinema is quickly ending.

So, naturally, the movies that are pushed the hardest into consumers' faces are the ones with big, pretty, explosions, edge-of-the-seat thrillers, movies that will look like nothing special on a TV. These are the films that make the money in theaters.

And as much fun as action movies can be, hundreds of thought-provoking, heart-wrenching and side-splittingly funny movies come out every year and barely see a profit.

It seems easy to come up with a sweeping solution to this dissolution of American cinema. Perhaps the film industry could limit the amount of sequels or spend more time funding and advertising indy, original films over big-budget, action-packed ones.

But it isn't that easy. What is considered a load-of-crap to some is art to another; what sounds like a strangled mouse speaking to one moviegoer – ahem, Chris Tucker – might sound like music to the person next to them.

It's not the film industry's responsibility to create masterpieces. It is their responsibility, as a thriving business, to make money. And their doing a helluva job at it.

Instead, the answer rests in the people. The consumers. The person who takes a chance on a movie that might make them think rather than one that just looks cool.

The movie industry is just giving the people what they want. Unfortunately, right now, it looks like we just want to see some more "Rush Hour."

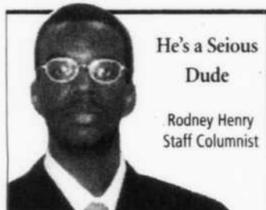
Why ignore cheaper cleaner fuel choices?

In the 1960s, the dream was to put a man on the moon and, lo and behold, it was done. In the 80s, technology began as the underdog, only to see its enormous growth in the 90s. Now, it's 2007, and, though the United States has done great things up until this point, for some reason, we cannot seem to be able to muster up the courage to become energy independent.

Yes, energy independence is the craze these days. Well that is, it is crazy to some and necessary to others. The United States remains at a standstill in this area, while other countries realize the future of new energies and are moving forward. Why has the United States not progressed with the times in this area? That question remains unanswered and places yet another at the forefront, what will happen if the United States does not become energy independent in the near future?

As the gas prices increase, so do the profits of major corporations that lead this industry, but, as we all know, an industry's movement is always related to the movement of other industries. Companies like General Motors are moving forward at a slow pace, but have said that they plan to be producing half of their annual vehicles with E85 or bio-diesel energy by 2012. E85 ethanol is a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline, which can be made mainly by corn. Another new fuel source is fuel-free propulsion, which is an electric vehicle. Lastly, hybrids, which are become more common today, are a form of a hydrogen fuel system. It's great that GM, along with other auto makers, are pushing forward to new heights in energy independence, but the question remains: why has the United States not taken this seriously?

Think about it. Say that we



He's a Seious Dude

Rodney Henry
Staff Columnist

don't need to go this route to new fuel systems and that our government decides to remain using only gasoline. What will happen to transportation, as the price of gas increases what seems to be every minute?

Will people just stop driving all together, thus purchasing fewer vehicles? Use less gasoline? Make no more road trips, and form a new way of life in this tourist driven society? What is the real effect of not being energy independent?

Now, look at the other choice. Total energy independence.

Where vehicles using more hydrogen, E85 and electric sources producing less toxic in the air and no more need for trips to the Middle East fighting for better deals on gasoline. It is as simple as knowing when to throw in the towel and go in a different direction. If new sources will be used to fuel vehicles, starting off in the middle by using E85 ethanol, maybe the agricultural industry can survive for a couple more years. The blueprint will be created to allow the United States to join in with countries in South America, Europe and Asia and begin using several sources of fuel will be one of simple evaluation.

At its core, it is deciding if the United States wants to support itself or rely on others to do what it should have been doing for more than 10 years. In fewer words; go green.

Rodney Henry is a senior marketing major and can be reached at rmh2n@mtsu.edu.

Why hate responsible sex?

Last week, Trojan brand condoms started a new "evolve" campaign, which features a commercial of pigs in a bar trying to pick-up women, but to no avail.

Only when one of the pigs visits the restrooms and purchases a Trojan condom, does he transform into a good-looking, 20-something and is able to catch the eye of a cute, martini-sipping blonde.

The commercial is pure genius, metaphorically speaking. Any man without the sense to properly equip himself for a safe, happy and healthy sex life is nothing more than a sloppy, sexually irresponsible pig.

Trojan does not use their name, only their picture logo, and the commercial phrase that appears at the end of the one-minute slot reads, "Evolve. Use a condom every time."

Two major media corporations have refused to run this advertisement: Fox and CBS. The companies rejected the advertisement, although previous Trojan ads have appeared on both.

According to *The New York Times*, both CBS and Fox declined comment, however, both wrote letters to Trojan informing the condom manufacturer of the decision to decline running the ad and provided a vague explanation.

"While we understand and appreciate the humor of this creative, we do not find it appropriate for our network even with late-night-only restrictions," wrote CBS.

"Contraceptive advertising must stress health-related uses rather than the prevention of pregnancy," wrote Fox.

Something to note about both television companies: both air ads promoting products for erectile dysfunction.

Wouldn't it be better to put the safety on the gun before loading the bullets? Rather, wouldn't it be better to ensure protection before target practice?

Proper condom use, first and foremost, should be the responsibility of a male. This is not to say women shouldn't know about proper condom usage, but women have other concerns.



Yeah, Whatever

Andy Harper
Staff Columnist

A condom is one of the very few forms of "male" contraception: the basic principle being, 'roll it over and ride on in.' Women, however, have to deal with birth control, diaphragms and spermicide.

Men: when was the last time you had to inject yourself with a drug to alter the chemical balance of your body in order to have a safe, sexual experience? Taking responsibility for both the safety of yourself and your partner does not make a lesser man, but a better person.

It seems the real problem the broadcast companies have is the lack of metaphorical comprehension and the inability to look past men being portrayed "literally" as pigs.

In our society, music, movies and the Internet cater to a populous with a right-now, face-value attitude. So it makes perfect sense that channels like CBS and Fox, which show graphic violence and strong sexual content, would stifle creative commercials which address the less pleasurable side of sexual health issues.

God forbid we consider using proper protection during a hot, steamy reality television show. Who has time for a condom? Not the drunk, horny teenagers.

Carol Carrozza, vice president of marketing for Ansell Healthcare, the company that produces LifeStyle condoms, was quoted in *The New York Times* article as saying, "We always find it funny that you can use sex to sell jewelry and cars, but you can't use sex to sell condoms."

The issue of disease prevention, as Fox pointed out, becomes null and void if the cause is not noted, the cause being unsafe

sexual practices, which mean the necessity of referring to sex.

Anyone offended by references to sex in condom commercial are missing the point. A company wouldn't advertise an energy drink without referring to the wonderful things one could accomplish if consuming their product.

A condom commercial without sex is like an Allstate commercial without car accidents. Neither concentrates solely on the actions, rather both the Trojan and Allstate primary message is they can offer you a reasonable amount of insurance.

The New York Times article also contained research statistics by the Trojan company. Apparently, only one in four sexual acts involve a condom.

These results may or may not take into account other contraception usage or the nature of the sexual relationship. However, the old proverb still remains: it's better to be safe than sorry.

Of the statistic, Jim Daniels, vice president for marketing at Trojan, said, "That's dramatically below usage rates in other developed countries. Our goal is to dramatically increase usage."

With a 75 percent corner on the condom market, Trojan, with the new "Evolve" campaign, is more interested in increasing condom use than marketing their brand. While no one can deny that the company wants consumers using their product, it is still a notable noble effort on Trojan's part to safely equip society.

With that, Trojan deserves some well earned "cheers" for their new campaign.

Fox and CBS get the "jeers" for being close-minded and oppressive of an informative and entertaining ad.

Perhaps, one day, condoms and contraceptives will no longer be a topic of controversy, or at the least embarrassment. Maybe one day – when pigs fly.

Andy Harper is a junior journalism major and can be reached at sah3u@mtsu.edu.

Immaturity not protected speech

On Monday, June 25, the Supreme Court ruled against Joseph Frederick in his freedom of speech case that has been active for five years.

Frederick posted a banner in 2002 that read "Bong Hits 4 Jesus" at a school-sponsored event. He refused to take it down when asked and the principal of the school suspended him for 10 days. Frederick sued and the case landed in the Supreme Courts lap.

Frederick sputtered and raged about how his rights were infringed for posting a harmless banner that was meant as a joke. He later even admitted that he did it to purposefully provoke his principal. Frederick was completely aware of the Zero Tolerance policy his school enforced regarding drug paraphernalia, which included his banner promoting bong hits. Yet, he thought his rights were stolen from him.

How this kid was ever taken seriously, the world will never know. He was not crusading for legalization of marijuana or for State versus Church separation or anything of even the most minor importance.



A Rough Trick Named Jim

Chris Pepple
Staff Columnist

No, this idiot just slapped some meaningless words on a poster board to get attention and the Supreme Court had to waste its time confirming what all of us already knew: that this is not a case of freedom of speech infringement.

If every disgruntled child with a Sharpie marker and a piece of paper scribbled nonsense and then demanded freedom from oppression because of being censored, we would be up to our ears in court cases.

I take direct issue with this man-child who used freedom of speech as a façade to get his face on camera.

There are so many important issues and cases that never make it to the Supreme Court.

There are people in this country who are truly oppressed and denied rights.

Gleefully insulting banners

do not count in this category, surprise, surprise.

Yet this kid has the gall to go ballistic about a juvenile stunt that was clearly not of great importance to him and sue his school system. What a contribution to the legal system this imbecile has made!

The Supreme Court ruled that his rights were not denied to him because he broke a rule that he was aware the school enforced. He was baiting a hungry alligator and then sued the alligator when his leg was bitten off; what a genuine hero.

Censorship is a sin.

It is a crime and its victims are innumerable. This arrogant man was not censored. There is a major difference between crying wolf and actually seeing one. He was not oppressed or beaten to a bloody pulp in his attempts to defend his honor and perhaps save the honor of those to come.

All he accomplished was to give more ammunition to the opposition who threaten liberal freedoms like being able to speak and write and live without fear of retribution. He is a poster boy for the parties who

believe that students should be kept in a box where there is no original thought or ability to express oneself.

He just added a few more bits and pieces to the arguments that students are agitators and thoughtless, mindless, rabble-rousers who crusade for meaningless campaigns just for the sake of having something to crusade about.

So thank you, Joseph Frederick.

Thanks for enforcing the opinion that high school students have no valuable thoughts.

Thanks for taking tax payer money to fund your boredom and your ignorance.

Thanks for taking a big, steaming dump on those of the American people who actually battle with censorship.

Thanks for indulging yourself and for enforcing more students to be oppressed like you never were.

Thanks for nothing Joseph Frederick.

Chris Pepple is a sophomore journalism major and can be reached at cmp4e@mtsu.edu.

There was something you needed to tell us?

(We got that thing you sent us, by the way. We just need your name.)

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An editorially independent newspaper

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

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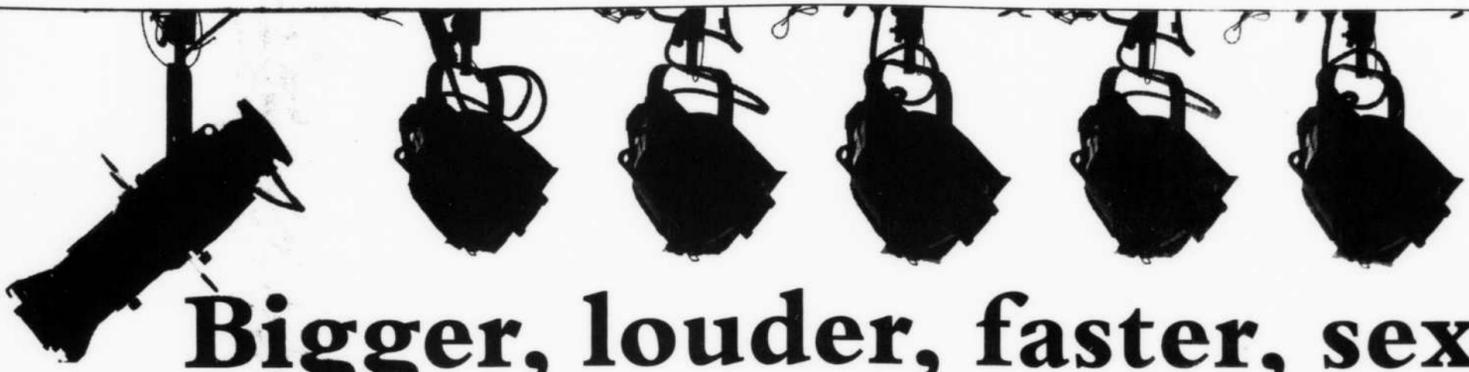
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FEATURES



Bigger, louder, faster, sexier

When the weather gets hot, the entertainment industry booms

By Neil McCormack
Contributing Writer

There is an indescribable feeling that comes over the cinema world each year from early May to late August.

Movies seem to be bigger, louder, faster, sexier and downright ballsier in this brief but bountiful period of the year. Inflated budgets and over-the-top advertising bring these films to fruition and audiences can't seem to get enough.

It's hard to remember a time when the summer blockbuster didn't exist.

Before 1975, however, this beloved cinematic pastime had never been realized. Enter Steven Spielberg and his man-eating mega-hit, "Jaws." The film brought moviegoers from the coast to the cinema, and the cash was soon to follow. The film went on to gross over \$100 million, the first to ever achieve such a feat.

The summer blockbuster was born.

George Lucas, a close friend of Spielberg's, would further redefine the summer blockbuster and change the film industry forever. His May 1977 smash hit "Star Wars" remains, to this day, the second-highest domestic grossing film of all time, earning a whopping \$460 million.

Apart from creating a cultural phenomenon, Lucas set the standard for big budget movies with stunning special effects and an epic storyline. These would become standard expectations for all summer blockbusters that would follow. It also further solidified studio faith in the financial viability of these major summer releases.

The two would continue to dominate the summer box office with each chapter of the "Star Wars" saga, "Indiana Jones," "E.T." and "Jurassic Park," just to name a few. And America couldn't get enough.

Thirty years later, the power and financial success of these summer hits has become blatantly clear.

Nineteen of the top 25 highest domestic grossing films were all released between May 1 and August 31 of their respective years. During this period, many studios can recuperate losses from unsuccessful films released prior to the summer season. These big-budget behemoths can be a financial savior for the entire industry. But with these great rewards comes a high cost and an even higher risk of major financial woes.

In July of 2001, the video game-based CGI flop "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" effectively bankrupted Square Pictures, the production company behind the making of the film. Earning a measly \$32 million domestically from a \$137 million budget, this revolutionary movie did little to wow the box office.

A forgettable late-summer flick takes the cake for the biggest summer bomb. Eddie Murphy's 2002 disaster, "The Adventures of Pluto Nash," has, to date, incurred the largest financial loss of any film in absolute dollars. Making a measly \$4.41 million in the United States, its budget clocked in at \$100 million. Total losses were estimated at over \$95 million. Though this debacle didn't destroy any studios, Eddie Murphy suffered a major blow. After multiple other box office bombs, "Daddy Day Care" would be his first financially successful film following his slump.

Yes, I said "Daddy Day Care." Though Hollywood has received the occasional black eye from these financial faux pas, the majority of these big-budget bonanzas are extremely successful. Moviegoers can't seem to stay away.

So we have to ask ourselves, just what makes the summer cin-

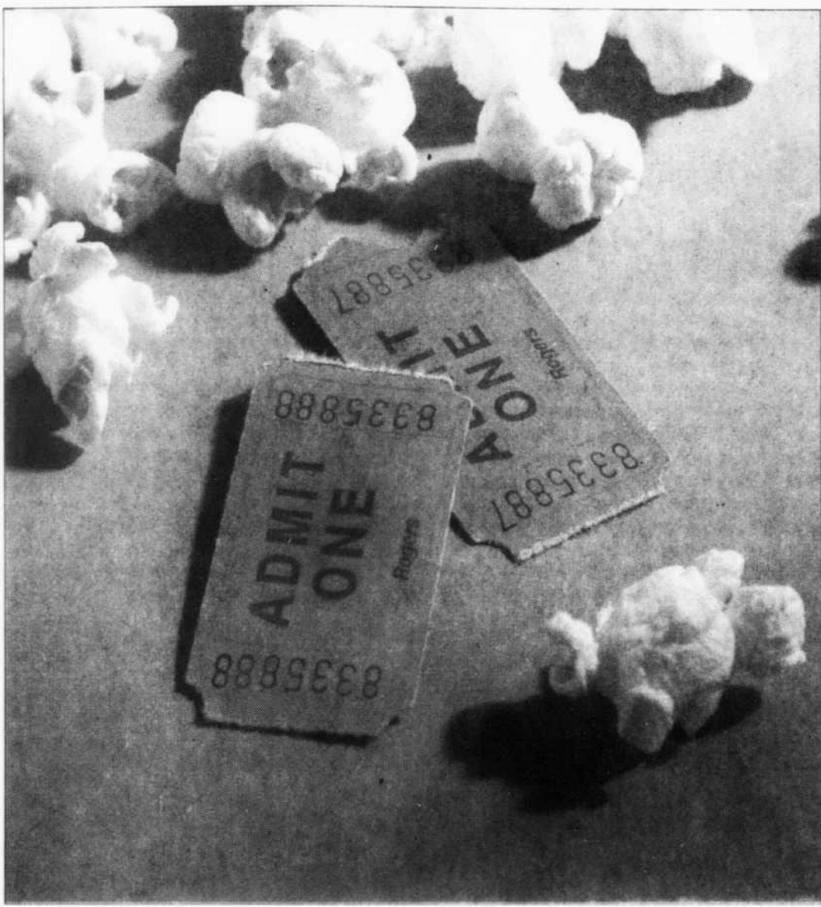


Photo illustrations courtesy of Morguefile.com

ema different?

It may come down to the marketing. Summer blockbusters are advertised early, often and hard.

We are inundated with trailers, TV spots, merchandise, web ads and whatever else they can think of. The simple answer could be that we are advertised to see these films, and the advertising build up to the release successfully has the public anticipating "the motion picture event of the summer."

Or maybe it's the weather. It's hot outside, and it's cool in that theater. There's no better way to

beat the dog days of summer than with a trip to see a mega-awesome explosion-filled action packed thrill ride, likely starring Bruce Willis.

Or, perhaps, it goes all the way back to your childhood when your existence revolved around the last day of school and the beginning of summer. There was (and is) and unmatched joy surrounding that day, and everything following seems to be pure euphoria. That feeling wouldn't end at the doors of the multiplex and would undoubtedly spill into

your movie-going experience.

It is likely, however, that we are just simply blown away by the high-dollar action sequences, top of the line special effects, rousing music scores and larger than life characters akin to these films.

Whatever the reason, big budget blockbusters are as synonymous with summer as backyard barbecues and ice-cold lemonade.

So get out of the heat, go catch a summer flick and enjoy this magical time in the cinematic year. ♦

Put these on your calendar:

'License to Wed': July 4
Why you should be excited: The guy from 'The Office' (Robert Krasinski) and Robin Williams? Has potential.

'Stardust': Aug. 10
Why you should be excited: Because Robert De Niro plays a clean-cut pirate and Michelle Pfeiffer plays an ugly witch. Instant classic.

'Live Free or Die Hard': June 27
Why you should be excited: Because the iconic everyman hero is out to battle terrorism. And cars explode and stuff.

'The Simpsons Movie': July 27
Why you should be excited: Um, because it's a movie about "The Simpsons"?

'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix': July 13
Why you should be excited: It's Harry-frikkin'-Potter!

'Ratatouille': June 29
Why you should be excited: Well, it's a Pixar film and it's about a rat that cooks. Bon appetit!

The Bourne Ultimatum': Aug. 3
Why you should be excited: Because Matt Damon will probably be involved in some sort of car chase.

My Son the Astronaut: political insight into music

By Colin Hill
Contributing Writer

Lex Bearden pulled away the packing tape on the ceiling, releasing LED light-filled balloons, resembling stars, and, as they cascaded across the living room, the crowd joined in, "One, two, three, four!" And the band started to play.

Hailing from Georgia and Tennessee, the members of the band My Son the Astronaut say they first met through mutual friends while attending MTSU—but that was before they had the aforementioned visions of interstellar wonder.

"Lex and I knew of each other through this girl that we both dated," says junior recording

industry major Mitchell Hardage, guitarist. "We sort of bumped into each other at a party and realized that we were way cooler than her."

My Son the Astronaut chose senior philosophy major Bearden's home as the best location for its first show. Not because the bandmates didn't want to play a venue, but because a home allows for more creative freedom.

"I'm a huge advocate of house shows," says Bearden, the lead singer. "There is a greater sense of community. Everyone is there to see music, but the vibe facilitates drinking and dialogue much better than a venue ever could."

Instead of trying

to force its sound into a foreign venue, the band monickered their venue at Bearden's home "Wolf Castle," where pounding floorboards and shaking walls helped My Son the Astronaut bring its home to life.

"We imagined a clan of Vikings that had just pillaged," Bearden jokes. "Eventually, we were the Vikings, we had pillaged and we were Wolf Castle!"

Creating a venue was the first step in developing a theme for the band, says Hardage, who adds, "I thought we should have theatrical elements."

With a mini-organ, toy flutes and megaphones complementing the post-punk quintet, theatrical elements were abundant for the players.

Subsequently, the regional and musically different styles between the group's members collide in haunting harmonies. And with influences such as The Pixies, At the Drive-In, The Get-up Kids, Les Savy Fav and Broken Social Scene, there is plenty of inspiration to go around.

"We try to think what would sound best here," Bearden says. "The structure of the songs and the keys we use are supposed to reflect the point of the story. It's about a college kid on the verge of joining the workforce and being scared. This is the foundation we wrote all our stories around. We have a storyline going, and I'm trying to make the plot come alive."

Being the lyricist of the band, Bearden admits there's a "healthy amount of

political theory" shot through the music.

"The music explores the impact that one individual can make on (his or her) environment, and in that sense relates to questions of free will," he explains. "You could compare the struggle in the story to the Monroe Doctrine, the Bush Doctrine, Nat Turner's Slave Rebellion, the American Revolution. It's a struggle for freedom."

My Son the Astronaut plans to release an independent compact disc by the end of the summer. In the meantime, you can check out samples from some of their songs on the band's Web site:

<http://www.myspace.com/theREALmysontheastronaut> ♦



Photo courtesy of Lex Bearden
Band members Luke Schell, Ben Taylor, Lex Bearden, Jay Howell and Mitchell Hardage represent My Son the Astronaut by proclaiming to "Beware evil-doers wherever you are."

CRIME BRIEFS - CRIME STOPPERS

Crime Briefs

June 19, 2:44 p.m.
Theft from building \$500
Davis Science Building
Subject walked in to the police department and advised her textbook was stolen from the second floor women's bathroom.

June 19, 4:07 p.m.
Vandalism \$500
Alma Matter Drive
Subject called and advised that someone had popped out her side mirrors on her vehicle.

June 20, 12:51 a.m.
Fire alarm call
Voorhies Industrial Studies
Unites 10-6 at Midgett Lot, u62 reports smell of smoke in the area.

June 20, 6:22 a.m.
Theft over \$500
Womack Lane Apt. L
Safety officer Terry Logan advised someone had taken a large amount of copper wire and aluminum items sometime over the weekend.

June 20, 8:35 p.m.
Public Drunkeness
Rutherford Blvd.
William H. Spencer

June 21, 10:34 a.m.
Harassment
Keathley University Center
Subject receiving harassing messages on cell phone.

June 22, 12:53 a.m.
Miscellaneous
Scarlett Commons Apt. 1
Report of a fight in progress in the parking lot.

June 22, 7:47
Traffic
Bell Street
Lester Hayes driving on revoked license.

June 22, 11:55 p.m.
False report of felon
Business Aerospace Building

Benjamin Cumberland arrested for filing false police report.

June 23, 3:29 a.m.
DUI
Off campus
Bran Sutier arrested for DUI first offense.

June 24, 2:58 a.m.
DUI
Off campus
Sarrah Potter arrested for DUI first offense, driving on suspended license and violation of open container law.

June 24, 5:28 a.m.
Public Drunkeness
Homecoming Circle
Underage consumption and public intoxications charges filed with Matthew Botschner.

June 25, 3:47 a.m.
Vandalism over \$500
Scarlett Commons Club House
Vandalism to a vehicle reported at building three.

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$300 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who took \$30 in cash from the Lost and Found in the KUC room 210D. This crime was committed sometime between Wednesday, April 6 and Sunday, May 27.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$300 for information that leads to the arrest of the person who took a woman's wallet and a Cingular flip phone from an unlocked locker in the Women's Locker Room of the Student Recreational Center. This crime was committed sometime between 8 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, June 6.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who unlawfully entered and took a boom-box CD player containing a Justin Timberlake CD from Room 326G of the Keathley University Center. This felony was com-

mitted sometime between 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29 and 8 a.m. the next day.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who unlawfully entered Scarlett Commons apartment 813 and sprayed a fire extinguisher throughout the apartment. This felony was committed sometime between 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 3 and 8 a.m. on Monday, June 4.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who unlawfully entered and burglarized a green 2000 Mazda Miata parked in the Murphy Center Parking Lot. The burglar(s) took a dark brown men's wallet from the trunk of the car. This felony was committed sometime between 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 31.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who unlawfully entered and burglarized a green 2000 Mazda Miata parked in the MTSU parking lot at the Murfreesboro Airport. Stolen items included an iPod and a green MTSU parking tag (A12787.) This felony was committed between 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 4.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who took a framed photograph from office G099 of the Murphy Center. This photograph, of the 2006 Women's Basketball Camp, is in a 24" by 36" aluminum frame and has a plastic cover. It was stolen sometime between 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 1 and 7:30 a.m. on Monday, June 4.

If you know who committed these crimes or have any information about these crimes, please call Crime Stoppers at 615-893-7867 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. All callers will remain anonymous and if your information leads to an arrest you will be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000.



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

What's wrong with the NFL?

Stop me if you've heard this joke before. Adam 'Pacman' Jones, Tank Johnson and Michael Vick walked into a bar. Nothing happens, but the second they leave, someone "else" starts shooting, fighting dogs or buying AK-47s.

The only "Entourage" I trust is on HBO, but unfortunately that makes too much sense for the "defendants."

I've been racking my brain trying to figure out what it is these three have in common. Of course, the answer is simple. Money. How much they have, how much they think they are worth and how it makes them feel. All three of these players grew up in the world of hip-hop commercialism. In that world, money exists to be made and then flaunted.

NFL players use their six-month vacations (the longest in sports) doing whatever it takes to live like a Puff Daddy/P-Diddy/Diddy video. As a quick side note, I'm really looking forward to Mr. Combs next incarnation as Diddy Kong and the ensuing battle with Nintendo. It's not enough to have the kind of money that rappers pretend to have, no, they have to live that imaginary lifestyle every chance they get.

Their salaries range from Vick's \$167 million deal to Johnson's meager base salary. That might seem to separate them, but to me, the differences in their contracts completely explain their behavior. Those numbers led to three personality types. The under-appreciated, the pretender, and the untouchable.

Lets start with Tank Johnson. He's the under-appreciated middle child of this dysfunctional family. When you're only set to earn 548,000 this year, it's hard to pretend you are any kind of Diddy. Especially if Sean Combs' driver makes more than you.

After only 63 tackles, and 9 sacks in three years, that is all he is really worth this early in his career. Still, Johnson knew his contract was expiring soon. His "Baller" money was coming and he knew it. Under appreciated and angry about it, Johnson fortified his home with so many illegal weapons it would make an Afghani tribal leader blush. All in advance for the Fort Knox he felt he deserved.

Pacman's story is more complicated. His \$30 million deal is definitely not pretend. It's real. But coming from one of the toughest projects in Atlanta, he has a lot of a past to buy away. Growing up, Jones heard over and over that he was the real deal. His friends began sucking up to

him early on, knowing he was their ticket to the highlife. He promised them he would "make it rain" and he certainly did. Jones' problem isn't that he wants Vick's money, it's that he wants to be Vick.

His contract doesn't live up to the lifetime of hype that preceded his tenure in the NFL. According to his friends, he is a superstar and always has been. Now, because of them, he never will be.

And since most of his retirement money ended up in g-strings, he better get ready for the MC Hammer wake up call that he is due.

Vick, on the other hand, is the highest paid athlete in the NFL and the third highest paid sports figure in North America, period. I mean, he's Michael friggin' Vick. Unfortunately, he knows it. And it makes him untouchable.

Take Pacman's entourage, give them anchor desks at ESPN, and you'll have maybe half of the hype machine that's been building up Vick.

He had major character issues coming out of college, yet, he was rewarded with an absolutely massive contract.

It was like being told, definitively, that being good on the field makes up for any amount of bad off of it.

As an untouchable, Vick got used to getting anything he wanted when he wanted it and if Michael Vick wants to bet \$40,000 while two poor animals tear each other to pieces, well, who are we to judge? He's Michael Vick. He's got the contract to prove it.

Unfortunately for Vick, there are two groups in the United States [PETA and the FBI] with just as much money and way more clout than him. He just pissed off both of them. Any team that starts him - if he stays out of jail or is allowed to play - will face nationwide boycotting and protesting unlike anything ever before seen.

And then there's bill HR-137. Weeks before allegations surfaced, resolution 137 was passed, making it a felony to participate, host, or bet on dog fighting regardless of state law.

So now Vick and Jones might be on their way to jail, and Johnson is a player without a team. Their different obsessions with the size of their contracts will undoubtedly lead to the same outcome: a lot less stripper/gun/dog-fight money in '08.

J. Owen Shipley is a junior English major and can be reached at myspace.com/IamSportacus.

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Inline Hockey: Momentum

Continued from 1

The club is very involved helping out the community or raising money for charities. If one becomes available, they jump on the opportunity to help those in need.

In the fall, the club will be holding practice sessions in LaVergne at the Veteran's Memorial Park.

Some of the sessions will be closed to the public as the travel teams practice.

Leetham said that anyone that has experience playing ice or street hockey would welcome to tryout for the club.

Last season, the Inline Hockey Club played a scrimmage game with Western Kentucky and beat them 8-0 and 3-1. The club also

played a team from people from Tennessee Tech and won.

Over the summer, the club has been doing some recruiting and have another player coming in from Brazil and one from a professional inline hockey league.

These welcome additions will help a team that has been worn out by the lack of depth in the roster last season and with new desire to continue where they left off in the spring they have a chance to enter the fall 2007 season with momentum.

Tryouts will be held in the fall at the Veteran's Memorial Park. For more information, contact Adam Leetham at 898-3864 or e-mail him at tillyrid-er247@hotmail.com.

DON'T WASTE TIME THIS SUMMER!

Sidelines is looking for distributors to deliver our newspaper across MTSU. Applicants must have a driver's license and proof of insurance. If interested, or if you have questions, please call Steven Chappell or Eileen Corl, extension 5111.

Sidelines is also seeking an Opinions Editor, Photo Editor, and copy editors for the summer and fall semesters. If interested, please visit COMM 269 or call 904-8357.

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Contact Jeri Linder at the Sidelines advertising office

Classifieds

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