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SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

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Volume 76 No. 78

Physician's future uncertain

Officials unaware of extent of doctor's past

By Matthew Kelly
Police Reporter

Two of the university officials directly involved in bringing Dr. Jerry Slay to campus, they did not know the full extent of the doctor's state disciplinary record.

A process official involved in the process refused to say just how much he knew about Slay's past.

Slay, who was hired March 5 as the university's physician and medical director, was arrested April 16 after he was found wandering around Eagleville school disoriented and under the influence of prescription drugs.

According to state records, Slay has a history of prescription drug and alcohol abuse going back to 1981. He was first disciplined by the state in 1984 and his license to practice medicine was suspended twice — first in 1984 and again in 1990.

Slay's most recent suspension lasted from March 1990 to May 1991. His license was then restored, but was placed on probationary status until October 1996.

Psychiatric Consultant

Slay has been affiliated with the university since October 1998, when he was hired as an independent contractor to serve as psychiatric consultant for the Counseling and Testing Center.

The psychiatric consultant augments the services offered

by counseling center, said Robert Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs, who oversees both the counseling center and the Department of Health Services.

"We typically in a year will encounter a number of students whose problems are beyond the capabilities of the licensed counseling staff," Glenn said.

Such problems might include a student with a history of severe depression or a

See Slay, 4A

History of drug, alcohol abuse stems back to 1981

By Matthew Kelly
Police Reporter

University officials have said they believed Dr. Jerry Slay had conquered his addiction to prescription drugs.

By all accounts he had. His disciplinary record with the State Board of Medical Examiners had been clean since 1991 and he had successfully gone through the Impaired Physicians Program.

But a close examination of Slay's disciplinary record shows another story as well, one that goes back almost as long as Slay has been a licensed physician.

Since 1981, Slay has been battling an addiction to prescription drugs and alcohol. He has been in and out of rehab. His license has twice been suspended. He has even allegedly tried to treat patients while

See History, 5A



Photo by R. Colin Fly | Staff

Freshman Kenny Green lines up a putt at Indian Hills Golf Club. When he was six months old, his leg was amputated due to a birth defect.

Golfer plays through game of life

By R. Colin Fly
Sports Editor

Kenny Green stands and surveys the first hole on the par 4 that doglegs to the left at Indian Hills Golf Club in Murfreesboro. The tall and lanky 6-foot or so 19-year-old

approaches the blue tee box confidently and produces a fluid, powerful swing, crushing the ball over the ridge on the left side. Behind a backdrop of blue and greens in the warm afternoon sun, he puts his driver back in his bag and begins to walk down the fairway. Only

then it's noticed. Green has a prosthetic left leg. When Kenny was six months old, doctors amputated his left foot and ankle because while he was in the womb his umbilical cord had wrapped around the leg, cutting off circulation and stunting the

growth plate. Kenny plays like one. He loved playing sports growing up, especially basketball. But by his sophomore year of high school, he couldn't keep up with teammates and moved outside to the golf course.

He loved playing sports growing up, especially basketball. But by his sophomore year of high school, he couldn't keep up with teammates and moved outside to the golf course.

See Golf, 5A

Mass comm dean search down to five

By Amanda Maynard
Staff Writer

The College of Mass Communication is looking for a new dean for this fall.

Deryl Leaming, the current dean of the college, is set to retire in two weeks. MTSU officials had designed a search committee to identify and appoint a new dean.

Committee member Geoffrey Hull, professor of radio and television, said, "We're trying to make progress."

The committee met last week to narrow down the 16 applicants to just five. Though Hull said he could not disclose the five finalists, the committee will meet again this week to narrow that list even further.

The committee is composed of 14 faculty members from the college. The committee also has a student representative, Noelle Ball, a mass communications senior.

The members plan to interview the five applicants and reach a decision by the end of the summer in preparation for the new dean in August. ♦

Core courses under review

By Charlene Callier
Staff Writer

English 211. Biology 100. Foreign Language 111. History 171. Math 201. Speech 220.

To some students these courses are considered a waste of time or an evil plot to keep them in college longer while charging more money, but these courses serve a stronger purpose.

"We are trying to ensure that the courses include teaching the skills and competencies as well as the subject matter of the general studies program," said Jerry Brookshire, chair of the general studies committee.

MTSU's general studies committee is in the process of revising the mission statement of the general studies program so that it collaborates with the skills and competencies required of the program.

The purpose of the general studies program is to teach stu-

See Revise, 5A

MTSU funding lags behind peer schools

By Matthew Kelly
Police Reporter

Of MTSU's 10 peer schools, only two received less money per student than their respective states than MTSU for 1999-2000 school year.

"The single biggest dispute among schools is who their peers are," said Bob Adams, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's chief fiscal officer. "Everyone wants better peers."

Each institution in the state has 10 peers. UT Knoxville and the University of Memphis have one peer in common and nine additional individual peers. All other four-year institutions in

the state have a set of seven shared peers and three individual peers.

Peers are selected from among all universities in the 16 states that comprise the Southern Regional Education Board based on an analysis of 30 different characteristics.

A committee — comprised of THEC members, Board of Regents, representatives from the schools, members of the state's Department of Finance and Administration and the governor's budget office — makes the final decision as to each insti-

tution's peers. This committee last met in 1994 and it may soon need to meet again, said Keith Williams, THEC's director of higher education budgets.

It's not necessarily fair to compare a school to its peers this way, however, says Williams.

"States like Georgia, North Carolina, and Kentucky are pumping billions of dollars into higher education where Tennessee is just barely making ends meet," he explained. "So that tends to skew per FTE funding amounts."

State Funding

"I believe the question of peer institutions is a waste of our

time," said Duane Stucky, MTSU's vice president of Finance and Administration. "Those kind of debates are not going to change anything."

The real issue, according to Stucky, is getting the state to fully fund THEC's recommendations.

"The model that THEC uses is only funded at an 85 percent level," he said. "That means everybody is getting 15 percent less than the model prescribes." For MTSU, he added, that would mean an additional \$14 million a year.

"I may disagree with them sometimes in selection of peers," said MTSU's Interim President Eugene Smith, "but I think it's a

very fair formula." He echoes Stucky in saying that the funding level is what's most important.

"If we can get the formula fully funded it will provide some relief," Smith said.

Getting that funding is easier said than done, however.

"All we (THEC) do is come up with the recommendations," Williams said. "Then it goes to the governor who takes our recommendations and includes it in his budget which goes to the legislature. Between the three of us — and then when the final session is passed — they can chop it

See Funding, 3A

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Funding: Tennessee falls behind other states

Continued from 1

up however they want to."

Former state senator Andy Womack, D-Murfreesboro, can't remember the last time THEC's recommendation was fully funded.

"I can't recall past about the last six or eight years, but I'm positive it has not been fully funded in a number of years," he said. "This certainly has impacted every higher education institution in the state."

Elizabeth Phillips, deputy press secretary for Gov. Don Sundquist, says the governor agrees this is a problem.

"The governor believes in the importance of higher education. He has made that one of his priorities," she said. "But as you are aware, the state has been facing budget issues and there is only a certain amount of revenue."

"One of the things we're going to have to do is when we're cutting up the pie is make sure that higher education gets a bigger piece," said state Sen. Larry Trail, D-Murfreesboro.

Womack says the state has two basic options. "It will take the state either redirecting monies that are expended on something else or generating additional monies that can be spent on higher education."

The problem with redirecting existing funds is that they have to be taken from some place else.

"Any division that takes something away from one and gives to

something else is going to engender concern on the part of those who lost funds," Trail said.

Phillips notes that Sundquist has proposed a variety of tax reform proposals in the past two years and even called two special sessions of the general assembly to address the issue.

"He has said that he is open to looking at various," she added.

One of those proposals is the creation of a state lottery.

Trail co-sponsored a bill that passed in February calling for a statewide lottery referendum next year. In order to pass, at least 50 percent of those voting for governor must approve the measure.

"We're already playing a lottery in Tennessee, but the money is just going to other states," Trail said. "I want the money to go only to funding higher education — not in place of general funds but in addition to them."

Trail noted that a lottery is no guarantee of more funds for higher education, however, because there is no guarantee that a lottery would be successful. "Our position at MTSU is first let's solve the revenue problem in the state," Strucky said. "Then it would make sense to begin some debate as to the formula."

Stucky acknowledged that "there has been over the past couple years considerable discussion about drastically changing the model."

"I think the formula needs some work done on it," Womack

said. "I had encouraged them over the last few years to address their formula and I guess it just involves so many institutions and so many people that they have been, I feel, a little slow in addressing it."

"I don't think there's enough emphasis placed on performance factors in the formula," Womack added. "I feel the weights to engineering, law, and medical schools need to be updated based on what the current cost of providing for those areas of education are."

Williams said THEC's formula is "as good as anything you'd be able to find anywhere else."

"We've recently been looking at models in other states," he said, "and we can't find anything better than what we've got."

In the past, some people thought the formula was unfair simply because they were not familiar with it, Williams said.

"A few years ago the formula was a big huge secret and nobody would share it," he explained. "We've tried to get away from that and get people to understand we work with a lot of diverse interests and try to make it as equitable as possible."

SREB Comparison

While it may not be clear what's the best way to divvy up state funds or how to solve the state's revenue problems, one thing is clear: Tennessee is falling behind other southern states in its per student expenditures,

How MTSU Stacks Up to Peer Schools

Northern Kentucky University	\$4,283
Georgia State College and University	\$4,381
MTSU	\$4,506
Southwestern Oklahoma State University	\$5,022
Sam Houston State University (Texas)	\$5,574
University of North Carolina - Charlotte	\$6,483
Old Dominion University (Va.)	\$6,743
Appalachian State University (N.C.)	\$6,939
Florida Atlantic University	\$7,120*
Florida A&M University	\$8,388
Morgan State University (Md.)	\$8,666

These numbers were calculated by taking the total state appropriation and dividing it by the fall 1999 full-time equivalent enrollment of each institution. (*FY 1998 appropriation used in calculation)

according to the SREB.

SREB data that has been adjusted for inflation shows that Tennessee allocated \$6,049 per higher education student for the 1987-88 school year. Ten years later, that number — again adjusted for inflation — fell \$1479 to \$4,570 for the 1997-98 school year.

Tennessee went from being the third highest spender per student among the 16 states tracked by SREB to being the seventh highest, and its \$1479 decrease was more than any of the other states.

In terms of total operating funds per FTE enrollment, Tennessee dropped even more. Total operating funds include state allocated funds as well as other sources of revenue, such as student tuition and fees.

For the 1987-88 school year, Tennessee spent \$9,400 per student. That number dropped to

\$7,903 for the 1997-98 school year. These numbers have also been adjusted for inflation by SREB. Tennessee went from being the fourth highest spender out of the 16 states to being the fourth lowest spender 10 years later.

Again, the decrease of \$1,497 in terms of total operating funds per FTE enrollment was more than any other state. The next closest state was Virginia, where spending fell \$919. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Texas increased its per student spending by \$1,212 during the same time period.

Currently, the average SREB funding is \$11,014 per student. MTSU's total per student funding this year stands at \$7,949.

"The pie itself may not be big enough," Trail said, "but we're going to have to give higher education a bigger piece of that pie." ♦

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Slay: Officials say Slay 'best qualified' of three applicants despite history of drug abuse

Continued from 1

dent who is currently being treated — or develops the need to be treated — with psychotropic drugs, Glenn said.

Slay was hired on a contractual basis in October 1998 to fill this position.

"I was aware that he had been treated, but I wasn't aware of the specifics or the number of times (his license had been suspended)," said Jane Tipps, director of the Counseling and Testing Center.

"He just said that he had been a disciplined doctor," said Tipps, "and basically it was 10 years ago."

Tipps said that Slay had a letter stating he could practice medicine and came recommended by the program that trained him in psychiatry at East Tennessee State University.

"We talked and went through his past issues," Tipps said. "He provided me the information that it was not a problem and the he was working several other contracts."

Slay signed a contract with the university agreeing to work a minimum of six hours a week at the counseling center through June of 1999. The contract called for Slay to be paid \$2,000 a month.

Slay extended his stay at the university in July 1999, signing a new one-year contract for the same position, again agreeing to work at least six hours a week. The new contract raised Slay's pay to \$2,500 per month.

A similarly termed one-year contract was again signed by Slay in July 2000. The contract was amended in October 2000 to increase Slay's pay to \$100 an hour, with a minimum monthly payment of \$2,500, not to exceed \$4,900 per month.

Slay terminated the contract in December 2000.

Tipps said Slay was working a number of contracts throughout the state at the time.

"He said it was wearing him

out," Tipps said.

"He was trying to consolidate down to one or two (contracts) without having to travel so much," Tipps said.

During his time with the university as psychiatric consultant, officials said, he showed no signs of problems.

"His work was absolutely professional," Glenn said. "It was as solid as any work I've encountered with any psychiatrist at any university."

"Our observation was that he was good at establishing rapport with students and staff," Tipps said.

Medical Director

It was, in part, because of Slay's apparent ability to work well with students that Tipps said she recommended him for the position of medical director for Health Services.

The university had been without a full-time physician since March 1999, when the previous doctor was involuntarily terminated.

Richard Chapman, director of Health Services, said he began to advertise for the position at the end of January 2001. The position was also changed from university physician to medical director to give the doctor more of an administrative role in overseeing the medical staff, said Chapman.

There was a total of three applicants for the job, including Slay.

"We felt like we chose the best candidate for the position," Chapman said.

As for Slay's past problems, officials said they believed they were just that — in the past.

"The school and myself were aware of Dr. Slay's past history and that he had sought appropriate treatment," Chapman said. "We certainly thought that he was recovered from that problem."

"Based on our review of his recommendations and his work here at the university," Glenn

said, "we felt he was a very stable person to take."

That doesn't mean officials weren't concerned, however, Glenn said.

"Anytime you hire someone who has that in their background you have to be aware of it and be concerned about it," Glenn said, "because some people struggle with it their whole lives but other people recover."

"We felt he had the situation under control and would do an excellent job for our students based on every objective qualifier we could look at."

Chapman, who was responsible for checking Slay's references before hiring him as medical director, said he knew that Slay had previous prescription drug problems and that he had sought treatment through the Impaired Physicians Program.

Chapman repeatedly refused to answer whether or not he knew Slay's license to practice medicine had twice been suspended.

Chapman also repeatedly refused to answer whether he was familiar with the details of Slay's state disciplinary records before hiring him.

"I checked references and I'll leave it at that," Chapman said.

When asked specific questions about what he knew of Slay's disciplinary history, Chapman repeatedly said, "I'll rely on the statements I've already given you."

Glenn said he was "not personally aware" of the details of Slay's disciplinary history, including the suspensions of his medical license.

"Dr. Tipps and Rick Chapman reviewed his application in detail," Glenn said. "My review was not as in depth."

Glenn said he is trained in a counseling method where you look for patterns rather than at individual incidents and that Slay showed "a pattern of stability and a pattern of good professional judgment."

"I was aware that he had a

past situation, but that he had maintained his sobriety for a period of greater than 10 years, that he had letters of support from people who were affiliated with the Impaired Physicians Program which indicated he had met all the requirements," Glenn said. "He had his license to make prescriptions restored a long time ago."

Even if he had known about Slay's suspensions, it probably would not have affected his judgment, Glenn said.

"I probably would not have paid much attention if it was once or twice," Glenn said. "I probably would have paid more attention if it was five or six times."

The Other Applicants

There were two other applicants for the position of medical director, both of whom have been licensed doctors since 1980.

One applicant had roughly 20 years of family practice experience in the Middle Tennessee area, which included the supervision of nurse practitioners and physician assistants. He also had several years of hospital emergency room experience.

This physician stated on his employment application that salary was negotiable.

The other applicant had a wide range of jobs, including: private practice; medical director of a primary care facility; assistant commissioner with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Retardation; assistant professor at a medical college; and medical director with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

This doctor requested a salary in the range of \$95,000 to \$110,000 per year on his application.

"At the point we were making those comparisons (of the applicants) it was more what we knew about Dr. Slay than what we didn't know about the other candidates," Glenn said.

"We felt that Dr. Slay's experience in psychiatry and emergency room medicine was somewhat of a bonus," Glenn added.

Glenn said that officials hoped Slay's experience would help them expand the services offered by the health center, noting that Chapman and Slay had "extensive conversations" on the topic.

"I think he enjoyed the college environment and looked forward to the expansion of our Health Services that we had talked about," Chapman said.

Slay, who requested a salary of \$130,000 per year on his employment application, took a pay cut to come to MTSU. He listed his salary as medical director for Perspectives Health Care, the job he left to come to MTSU, at \$228,000.

Ultimately, Slay's salary as medical director at MTSU was \$115,000 a year. This exceeded the recommended salary range of \$62,000 to \$95,000, according to Doug Williams, director of News and Public Affairs.

The higher salary was approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents in February.

"I think he saw that advantage of not having to travel," Tipps said, speculating why Slay would take such a pay cut. "He was looking at the cost of traveling from East Tennessee to West Tennessee."

At MTSU, he could "stay in one place and work with a population he enjoyed," Tipps added.

Neither of the other two applicants have any disciplinary record with the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners.

"We look at that as an overall part of the application," Chapman said, "but it is not a determining factor."

"I saw nothing that would make me not want to hire him," Glenn said.

Treating Students

"It shocked pretty much

everyone," Chapman said, referring to Slay's arrest on prescription drug charges.

"I want to reiterate that at no point did students receive any subpar service from Dr. Slay," Glenn said. "We are reasonably sure that no medical decision regarding a student was compromised."

Chapman echoed Glenn's sentiments.

"I'm not aware that he didn't render anything but proper medical care," Chapman said.

After learning of Slay's arrest, Glenn said officials spoke with nurses and other staff members at the health center.

"They never saw any behavior that caused them to question what was going on," Glenn said.

Chapman said he was contacted by the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office Tuesday afternoon — the day after Slay's arrest — and informed about what had happened.

Chapman also said that Slay has contacted him since his arrest, but declined to discuss the details of their conversation.

Slay is currently on administrative leave with pay while the university decides what action to take.

"I've asked the director of the health center to find out about the incident that took place and asked for his recommendation," Glenn said.

Glenn said that he, along with Chapman and Dean of Student Services Harold Smith, will "probably be making a decision pretty soon as to what to report."

"He had an excellent rapport with both staff and students," Chapman said. "I hope he gets the help he needs."

A woman who identified herself as Slay's daughter answered the phone at his residence and said it was a "hard time for the family," but declined to comment further. Slay's resume says he has two children, both in their 20s. ♦

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History: Slay found unable to practice medicine safely in 1990

Continued from 1

impaired.

"This is an example of how, sometimes, private behavior can have a public impact," said Robert Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs.

Slay's problem with prescription drugs first surfaced in the files of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners when, from October 1981 to July 1982, he was put on the "inactive staff" at Carter County Memorial Hospital "because of his personal abuse of addicting drugs."

The records state that Slay wrote prescriptions "which indicated use by patients," but that he used the drugs himself. Some of the drugs he used included Demerol and Dilaudid.

Slay enrolled in the Impaired Physician's Program and spent several months in a facility in Smyrna, Ga., undergoing detoxification and rehabilitation.

He returned to the Carter County Memorial Hospital but was required to undergo urine tests. In October 1983, one of those tests revealed that Slay was again using a controlled substance. Slay then left the hospital staff.

In July 1984, Slay signed an agreement with the Board of Medical Examiners admitting that "he has personally used drugs in a manner as to potentially adversely affect his ability to practice medicine." He agreed to participate in a treatment and rehabilitation program with the Impaired Physician's Committee.

In January 1985, board documents state that Slay violated the 1984 agreement by "reinstating that habit and practice of ingesting intoxicants, narcotics or controlled substances."

Slay came before the board in March 1985 and signed an "Agreed Order" acknowledging that he had violated the earlier agreement. His license was then suspended.

In November 1985, the suspension of Slay's license was lifted. The board noted that Slay had "completed a program of in-patient treatment ... and is currently receiving out-patient treatment." He was ordered to continue participating in the Impaired Physician's Program and his license was placed on probationary status for five years.

Documents also indicate that while his license was suspended, Slay applied to have his DEA certificate to prescribe controlled substances reissued "in violation of state and federal law." As part of the November 1985 order, Slay agreed to "surrender" his DEA certificate and was told not to re-apply for it for three years.

In October 1987, the board allowed Slay to re-apply for his DEA certificate, but required that he submit to monthly urine tests.

In May 1989, the board lifted the probation on Slay's license, but required that he continue to participate in the Impaired Physician's Program.

On March 21, 1990, however, the board issued a "summary suspension" of Slay's license.

"A summary suspension is an

emergency action taken by the board to protect the public health, safety and welfare," said Diane Denton, public information officer for the Tennessee Department of Health.

Normally, a physician appears before the board before any action, such as a suspension, takes place. A summary suspension occurs without that step. A hearing is heard at a later date.

The summary suspension stated was issued because since at least December 1989, Slay "had not followed through on refraining from indulging in the taking of illegal substances. Nor has he been consistent in attending the treatment program which had been prescribed for him."

The board concluded that Slay was "not mentally or physically capable of practicing medicine at this time," suspended his license, and ordered him to cease the practice of medicine. A hearing was set for May 1990.

In a "Notice of Charges" the following week, the board specified the allegation against Slay:

- Slay began to miss sessions of his treatment programs.

- He began to abuse controlled substances and alcohol again.

- He failed to remain in any treatment program consistently, continued to abuse alcohol and controlled substances, and used the DEA certificate number to prescribe controlled substances, despite having given up physical control of it.

- "During this period, [Slay] was unable, due to his chemical

and alcohol dependency, to treat patients, although he continue to try to do so."

The board also stated that Slay broke the following provisions of Tennessee law:

- Unprofessional, dishonorable or unethical conduct.

- Habitual intoxication or personal misuse of any drugs or the use of intoxicating liquors, narcotics, controlled substances or other drugs or stimulants in such a manner as to adversely affect the person's ability to practice medicine.

- Engaging in the practice of medicine when mentally or physically unable to safely do so.

In May 1990, the board agreed to reschedule Slay's hearing until after the treatment program he was then enrolled in was completed.

In May 1991, Slay's license was restored in full, although he was placed on probation for five years. His authority to dispense and prescribe controlled substances was also restored.

In restoring his license, the board noted that Slay had admitted himself for treatment at the Sierra Tucson Treatment Center for his addiction, completed that program and continued his involvement with the Impaired Physician's Program.

In October 1996, Slay's license was taken off probation, although the board required Slay to keep working with the Impaired Physician's program as long as he practices medicine in Tennessee. ♦

Slay's personal history

1947: Born in Chattanooga. Attended elementary school there.

1965: Graduated from high school in Cleveland, Tenn.

1972: Married; has been for 29 years.

1975: Graduated magna cum laude from the UT-Chattanooga with a B.S. degree in psychology and premed.

1978: Graduated with M.D. degree from College of Medicine at UT-Memphis.

1978-1979: General Medical Officer, U.S. Navy, interned in surgery at San Diego Naval Hospital.

1984-1985: Emergency room physician, Middle Tennessee Medical Center

March 1980: Applied to be a licensed physician in Tennessee. Stated on his application that he had never "been addicted to narcotics or intoxicants, charged with, or convicted of violation" of any drug laws.

1981-1984: Director of Emergency Services at Sycamore Shoals Hospital in Elizabethton, Carter County, Tenn.

1985-1990: Part-owner and practitioner at Med-One of Tennessee in Bristol, Tenn.

1991-1992: Psychiatric residency, Vanderbilt University

1992-1994: Psychiatry residency, East Tennessee State University, College of Medicine

1995-1997: Additional residency training in psychiatry

1995-1997: State Medical Director for Another Chance Recovery Centers; Attending Psychiatrist and Inpatient Dual Diagnosis and Adolescent Units at Perry Community Hospital in Linden, Tenn.

1997-1998: Medical Director & part-owner of the Geriatric Care Centers of America; attending psychiatrist at five hospitals in East Tennessee

1998-2000: Geriatric Care Centers purchased by Perspectives Health Care; same duties

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Golf: Despite perceived disability, Green dabbles in golf, basketball, U.S. Supreme Court

Continued from 1

which he also played seriously during his high school days.

Of course, there were times when Kenny was obviously different.

Like the time in show and tell when he showed off his prosthetic leg, only to have some other classmates later steal the leg and play a game of keep away.

Or the times he and his friends played tricks on elementary teachers.

"Whenever we would have a substitute teacher, we used to bury it in the sand and then yell out 'Look, Johnny's buried in there' or a name of some other classmate," Green said. "We liked to freak the teachers out."

Kenny has found the sand on the first hole. As Kenny walks down the fairway, the group behind him on the golf course notices the prosthesis. But Kenny doesn't notice them. Instead, he's concentrating on his drive. He sliced it left and into the fairway bunker. A quick calculation and Kenny's drive traveled a minimum of 300 yards. Kenny's left himself about 90 yards to the pin from the sand. But, he's always liked challenges.

As the years passed in high school, Green's athletic prowess shined. His dad had played college basketball at Ball State and Kenny would likely have followed in his footsteps. But Kenny was achieving more extraordinary things.

At 16, he won the Clarksville Junior Amateur, which is composed of players 18 years old and younger. But, more than that, he won the 36-hole competition by

seven strokes. Kenny blistered his opponents, all of which had two good legs, by five strokes through the first round.

"Clarksville has had some really good junior golfers in the past," Green said. "I feel really good to be in that league."

Almost all of the previous winners moved on to play golf in college.

In the fall of 2000, Green decided to attend Mississippi State University in Starkville, Miss. To be in the golf program, he had to have an 8-handicap or lower, meaning that a player on average would have about 80 strokes to complete a round. Green's handicap is 3.2. However, to be in their golf program, there are additional hidden fees, fees Green wasn't prepared to pay. He decided to transfer to Middle Tennessee in the spring.

But something bigger than the golf team was to come for Green at Mississippi State that fall.

Green's Sunday school teacher, Greg Smith, took some of his pupils to Pinehurst, N.C., which was the site of the U.S. Open, the nation's largest golf tournament, in 1999. While they were there, Smith told Green about the ongoing court case of PGA Tour v. Casey Martin and asked if Green was interested in submitting his opinion to the Supreme Court, which was scheduled to hear oral arguments in January of 2001.

Green said yes and a few months later Smith, a lawyer, drafted an amicus curiae, or friend of the court brief, that gave Green's opinion on the matter.

It happened to be everyone who wrote that surprised every

Kenny's second shot on the first hole is crushed out into the cerulean sky. The sand kicks up and Kenny tries to divert his eyes while peeking at his shot. One hop by the stick and a toll to the fringe leaves Kenny about 11 feet away for a birdie. Things aren't always as easy as they seem.

Casey Martin is a golfer on the Buy.com tour who is seeking a ruling from the Supreme Court allowing him to use a cart due to his disability.

Martin suffers from Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber Syndrome, an extremely rare disease that hampers blood flow to his right leg, leading to nerve and muscle degeneration, which makes even walking a painful exercise, due to his badly mangled tibia. A cart would greatly help reduce his pain, which he describes as "a very deep, throbbing pain that's in my bones" in an interview in May's *Golf Digest*.

When oral arguments were heard in the Supreme Court, Martin said that he felt like Justice Antonio Scalia had "just single-handedly destroyed everything we've worked for." But Martin still feels like he has a good chance of winning his case, which he previously won in the U.S. District Court as well as the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

As the Supreme Court reviews the case in preparation for the court's opinion, due in late June or early July, Green's brief is there. However, Green didn't side with Martin.

Green, who has never met Martin, said in his brief to the court that he believes that pain is something you have to deal with as an athlete and walking is an

athletic aspect of golf.

And Kenny suffers pain when walking on the course.

"It depends on how hilly the course is," Green says. "But usually, by the 14th or 15th hole, it'll start stinging badly. Putting pressure on it hurts, but taking pressure off hurts more."

The stinging usually lasts about an hour after he plays, but can last much longer.

Even though Green has had an amputation, all of the nerve endings are still active and can be very painful.

One time, Green pinched a nerve, causing his leg to swell so large that he couldn't get his prosthesis on and ended up missing a week of school. He says he's been there ever since.

The pain on the golf course may have affected Kenny's game as Martin says it affects his. Green missed defending his Clarksville Junior Amateur championship in 1999, losing by one stroke.

In 2000, Green could have blazed his condition when he lost the same tournament in a playoff. But Green doesn't.

Green has also played in tournaments with a broken prosthetic leg several times. It's been super glued and duct taped together, but Kenny's never complained. He's been frustrated, sure. He ripped a leg off at one tournament and threw it against a tree to the terrified looks of mothers standing in the gallery.

Kenny doesn't ever see the leg as the problem, just a challenge in his game.

CNN.com, which has followed the case, saw Green's brief to the court and asked him to write a perspective for the Web

site. There he wrote that "giving Casey a cart not only gives him an advantage, but also goes against my beliefs that handicapped people are normal."

However, Green did manage to anger more than a few people with his column to CNN.com. Casey Martin's brother, Cameron rebuked Green for his perceived attack on Casey's condition.

"Obviously, Green is a tough individual and no doubt endures more pain than most," Cameron wrote. "But Casey would give anything to deal solely with Green's problems."

The elder Martin went on to write that he understood that he was emotionally involved in the matter, but that he felt like Green's comments crossed "the bounds of a reasonable debate."

Green said that he was not attacking Casey in any way, simply stating his own position that all handicapped people are normal and that the PGA should not change the rules of their organization.

In fact, Green even admires Martin for his struggle and empathizes with his more serious condition.

"He has a right to do whatever he thinks needs to be done," Green said. "If he wins, I wish him all the luck in the world, but I would like to see the PGA win because of the integrity of the game."

For more information on PGA Tour v. Casey Martin, refer to case number 00-0024 in the Supreme Court Database.

To read Kenny Green's column on CNN.com, visit http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/golf/news/2001/01/16/my_shot/.

To read Cameron Martin's rebuttal, visit http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/golf/news/2001/02/06/my_shot/.

To read Cameron Martin's rebuttal, visit http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/golf/news/2001/02/06/my_shot/.

Revise: General studies committee seeks student, faculty input on possible changes

Continued from 1

dents critical thinking skills, proficiency in oral and written communications, broad and integrated knowledge of the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities and fine arts and to use various methods of inquiry to increase their own knowledge and understanding.

These students are designed to provide students with the intellectual building blocks they will need to prepare them for society.

"This is the age of information and one thing general education does is change information into knowledge," said William Badley, director of general studies.

"We are not going to add hours but shift the hours we already have," Badley said.

The committee is focused on

strengthening the skills that students will learn from the program.

"The committee modified the mission statement and went beyond to try to define the skills and competencies that were important for the general studies program," Brookshire said.

The Brookshire Board of Regents requires that all students take general studies courses before graduating from a university.

It is up to each university to decide the courses within the five categories required by the state which include: oral and written communications, humanities and fine arts, social and behavioral sciences, natural science and mathematics, and health, physical development and recreation.

While other schools vary, the general studies program at MTSU requires that a student

take 52 hours of general education courses before graduating.

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's general education program requires 41 hours while the University of Tennessee at Memphis's general education program requires 48-51 hours before graduation.

"If students are competent in the general studies program they will become equipped for adapting to the economy," Badley said.

"It's important for students to know the basics but they need to know beyond that," said Deryl Leaming, dean of the College of Mass Communication.

Leaming said studies have shown that students are better prepared for jobs if they are broadly and liberally educated.

He met for a year and a half with focus groups compiled with professionals from various areas

of Nashville to see what they were looking for from MTSU's graduates.

The responses were similar across the board, Leaming said, because most of the professionals listed the same qualities which were the ability to solve problems, write well, good oral communication skills, an understanding of liberal arts studies, business and a good general education.

Leaming said he asked the professionals if they had to choose between hiring a student with a strong knowledge of the technical aspects of the job or a student with a basic understanding of the technology and strong liberal arts background, which would they choose.

The professionals said they would choose the latter because

they could teach the students the specifics of the job but they couldn't teach them a general education mission.

The revised mission statement has been accepted and the committee is currently working on the skills and competencies aspects of the general studies program.

"It is designed to start a dialogue across campus between faculty and students," Badley said.

"I like the general studies courses because it gave me a background for all my classes," said Missy Warren, a sophomore majoring in public relations.

"I think most of the courses were a waste of time," said Shaun McDowell, a junior majoring in computer science. "Biology is not really relevant for my major and I didn't see why I had to take

speech."

"Some of the courses are relevant because they help you become a well-rounded person while others courses are not," said Kim McCullough, a sophomore majoring in business administration. "When you are in the workplace you have to work with other people as a team and you learn this skill in classes that require you to do group assignments."

Badley said the committee listens to what students want because their participation is taken seriously.

The committee holds open forums to offer faculty and staff the opportunity to express their concerns and views on certain subject matters.

For more information on the general studies program, visit the Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~genstud. ♦

Police seek feedback tonight

By Matthew Kelly
Police Reporter

The MTSU Police Department is being paid a visit by assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies over the next few days.

CALEA is an international organization that evaluates law enforcement agencies on nearly 500 standards in the areas of policy and procedures, administration, operations and support services.

The accreditation process is a voluntary one. The MTSU Police Department, first accredited in 1993, was

OPINIONS

From the staff

It's been a great year

During this past academic year, we've been fortunate to cover a wide array of issues concerning the MTSU community as well as those that occur on a state and national level.

Although MTSU has experienced its share of struggles and tension, overall, this has been a very good year.

We had our first winning season in Division I-A football, school spirit improved tremendously with the strength of our football team and Rowdy Raider pep rallies, students came together to protest the GAP exhibit and Al Gore came here to teach.

Though some of you may not care about football, let alone school spirit, it's pretty good to see students get excited. Even if you agreed with the GAP exhibits, you have to admit, it's pretty good to see students being vocal about something other than the ongoing Greek/Non-Greek debates that often fill our opinion pages.

We realize some people didn't want Gore to come here. Maybe he did come as a publicity stunt but one thing can be certain, his presence has increased the visibility of our university, which could possibly bring more students and increase growth.

This has also been the first full academic year Greek Row has been open, which is considered by many to be a very important addition to the university. There have been other-to-be-important improvements such as the yet-to-be-finished courtyard in front of the University Library.

We've had some not-so-good moments such as the losing season our basketball team experienced, struggles within SGA and the departure of President Walker, who did many great things since he arrived here in '92. However, those things won't stop us from being progressive.

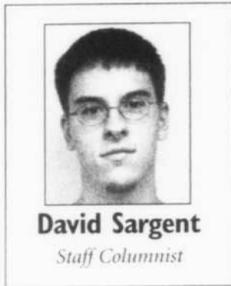
We have confidence that our basketball team will bounce back after a tough year and SGA will finally reach its potential. And with a new president almost selected, we're sure that person will take us on to those bigger better things that Walker envisioned.

No year will be without controversy and you better believe, we were there to cover every bit of it this year. But after it has all been said and done, we think it's been a very progressive.

Let's continue this success for many years to come. Good luck with finals.

FRANKLY MY DEAR

Do you like Christian Death Metal Gangsta Rap?



David Sargent
Staff Columnist

There are some things that frustrate the idea of juxtaposition so well that they could be certified poster children. One of these things is the genre of Christian rock.

It's beyond me how that style of music could ever come about. Well, I shouldn't say it's beyond me because I know exactly why, but it frustrates the living daylight out of me.

When rock 'n' roll started to hit the masses in the '40s and '50s, it was declared the devil's music. Most of the older generation (and some of the younger crowd), even in the northern states, didn't approve of this music, especially if it made you want to dance close to a member of the opposite sex without parents looking. What an idea!

Himmm! However, religious groups took special advantage of this popular phenomenon to tell everyone they were going

straight to hell.

The reaction was a typical example of that time period. To be frank, no funny business. World War II taught many people that we are evil and that, unless we teach our kids right and wrong, they will end up with a 50 millimeter round buried in their chests somewhere in France.

That sounds harsh, but I believe it to be highly true.

Then the older generation began to see that it could make them a considerable amount of

money. And since we are inherently selfish, what better way to be greedy than while listening to Chuck Berry. Of course it helped that their market was the fastest growing portion of the US population — highly impressionable and repressed teens.

It proves how "the chosen ones" of America are no more reverent than the new generation — the spawns of Satan.

Christianized '60's children and felt the need to "save" them. So they effectively sat down and said "Hmmm. That's it. We'll try to get this whole rock 'n' roll deal down and change the world around a little bit. Then we can lure them in long enough to pull the blinders even further over their eyes."

It was bad enough that the baby boomers were already on immeasurable amounts of LSD (I mean that in the most highly

respectful manner). They were also being told by fundamentalists what is good and bad based on their rock n' pray song. I can see where Phillip Morris got its strategy. It should be compared to a drunken couple getting married in Vegas.

Another issue that kills me besides the use of rock as cool propaganda is the simple fact that there is a such thing as Christian hardcore. Can I break something now? Let's get one thing straight...guys! Just because you like the screaming guitars and screaming lead singers, doesn't mean you can turn it into this misguided form of self-expression.

Hardcore, or any style of rock, jazz, or urban for that matter, has come to mean something in the last century. It's about sex, drugs, love or the lack thereof, anarchy, violence, revolution, suicide, peace, rejection, 187, poverty,

gangs, equality, ignorance and the rejection of authority.

It's not about converting, accepting or laying down the law or elitist policies. That's propaganda. There's plenty of decent traditional music that serves that purpose very nicely. Religion should not be concerned with the popular fumbling of culture anyway. Religion, generally, serves a greater purpose than that. How else are kids going to be encouraged to attend church, however, due to the non-existent parenting in America?

Christian hardcore reinforces my opinion that true religions stay with traditions while novelty religions will adopt corporate policy to find a market of followers. There's commercial faith for you. God Bless America.◆

FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE

Teenagers are tobacco's best advertising

Yes, you read that headline correctly.

I remember the first time I smoked a cigarette. It was in the ninth grade. I wasn't affected by the Marlboro Man, Joe Camel or "independent" women who've "come a long way, baby" sitting poolside with their Virginia Slims.

I did it because I wanted to.

I didn't feel any particular peer pressure, although it was probably involved at some level. I grew up around smokers and saw what smoking did to their bodies, yet I chose to do it anyway.

Groups such as thetruth.com, whose relentless assault on the tobacco industry has brought considerable attention to the industry, have inundated the media lately with anti-tobacco ads.

The way the tobacco



Jason Cox
Staff Columnist

industry covered up its research on nicotine addiction and what their product does to the human body is deplorable. However, why is there an assault on tobacco advertising now that most of the information on the dangers of smoking tobacco is out in the open?

The best advertiser for tobacco is the American teenager.

Teens start smoking for all kinds of reasons — curiosity, rebelliousness, spite, peer pressure and, in

some cases, to be able to take a break at work. When young people are in a group and one person smokes, it's almost inevitable that one day, sooner or later, another person in the group is going to try it — and the cycle continues.

Kids are subject to education on tobacco smoking in their schools and, hopefully, by their parents. Any reasonable person knows that smoking tobacco is bad for you.

So why the assault on advertising? Cigarette advertising is unique because it's probably ineffective at attracting new smokers. The government has limited tobacco companies to print and billboard advertising, which is the right thing to do. However, cigarette ads appear as if they are designed not to attract new smokers but to per-

suade existing smokers to try their brand out. They essentially say, "If you're going to kill yourself slowly with tobacco anyway, why not do it with the smooth rich taste of ... " (I'm not giving any free advertising but you get the idea.)

Anti-tobacco people say the tobacco industry intentionally markets toward teenagers. But how exactly would this be done? Does the industry hire kids in the schoolyard to smoke in front of their friends and pressure them into doing it? Would it dress them up and give them acting lessons so they look and act the epitome of "cool?"

As the Queen herself might say, not bloody likely.

People start smoking for a variety of reasons. To attack the tobacco industry for marketing its prod-

uct is, at this stage, somewhat frivolous. If the combined forces of schools, parents and those warning labels on EVERY TOBACCO PRODUCT AND ADVERTISEMENT is not enough to clue someone that smoking is bad for their health, then perhaps they shouldn't be trusted with the fire to light it in the first place.

In short, most people know the health risks of smoking. Most people who choose to smoke are making an informed decision. Don't use advertising as an excuse for bad decisions.

It's been a great pleasure writing for this publication for the last two semesters. Thanks to the readers for your responses, positive and negative alike. Good luck on finals!◆

SIDELINES

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



slopinio@mtsu.edu

Letters to the Editor

Mail your comments to Box 42, drop them off at JUB 310 or e-mail them to stupubs@mtsu.edu. Letters may be edited for length, grammar or content.

MTSU needs to be more careful who it hires

To the Editor:
I, like many of you, learned of the recent arrest of the newly appointed University physician. I must say that it troubles me that university officials hired him, in light of his previous offenses, to care for the thousands of students who walk this campus each and every day.

I am a pre-med student and believe that university health care is a must. It's the only way to combat meningitis, AIDS and other STDs. I also support a student health access fee, as suggested by university officials. However, I am vehemently against paying for services that are provided by someone who is truly in need of professional assistance.

I sincerely appreciate SIDELINES affording me the opportunity to voice my opinion on what I feel is a very serious situation/concern.

Cordially yours,
Daniel Brittain Dugger

President
Computer Solutions of Franklin
Microsoft Mobile Solutions Provider
dbdugger@bellsouth.net

Spencer needs to open his mind

To the Editor:
While Brian Spencer's subtle sarcasm was not quite as effective as any different than any other Greek-affiliated article, it proves the point that there are many non-Greek-affiliated individuals who have yet to grow into maturity.

I've been in a sorority for three years and I'm about to graduate. Having the connection that I've had with my sisters and the opportunities to explore new avenues are things I will never forget.

My time in college before I was in a sorority was nothing more than high school with longer classes. This gave me the opportunity to get involved with people both in and outside of my sorority. I have many Greek and non-Greek friends and there is no "battle" as you call it between us. It's the small-minded community of non-Greeks who attempt to continue the tension.

I suppose you are included in that group with your superficial comments and oh so amusing sarcasm. Grow up and be an adult like your fellow non-Greek peers have. You made a choice to not be a member of a fraternity. I made the choice to be a member of a sorority. It's no different than any other choice.

As for the shiny SUVs, again, grow up and open your mind. There are very few who go around and drive fancy cars.

Diversity? Yes, we are diverse. If your eyes and mind weren't so closed to the possibility that Greek people are just people like you, maybe you would see these things instead of only seeing your typ-

ical stereotype that probably fits 10 percent of the Greek community.

Please understand and learn to not be so shallow before you enter the "real world." There's no room and no need for angry deluded individuals like you.

Heather Brown

God promises a safe landing, but not a calm passage.
Heal the past; live the present; dream the future
The only way to get out is to go through.

Sidelines publishes yet another misconception

To the Editor:
I can't believe I bought it. Upon seeing the headline in the paper, "Greeks Live Up to Their Reputation," I thought we might actually be getting some good publicity from our highly esteemed campus paper. Unfortunately, as I delved deeper into the column I was disappointed as usual.

Mr. Spencer: I too remember my earlier college days and still remember my views on Greeks and their so-called system. As the years passed and I matured, my views changed and I decided to participate in rush and am now a proud and active member of one of the fraternal organizations here on campus. As I was perusing the latest edition of Sidelines, I came upon yet another disheartening editorial bashing Greeks. Upon reading your obviously "factual" (please pardon my use of sarcasm, but I figure if anyone can appreciate it you can) article, I reached a personal threshold of negativity and slander.

One of the biggest atrocities I found within your article, despite the fact that there were many to choose from, was simply the title of your column: Mind Manifestations. The word manifestation is derived from the word Manifestations. In one translation in a dictionary means to prove or be evidence of. My question to you is in two parts: What were you aiming to prove when writing this article? What proof do you have to substantiate your claims? I will do my best to shed a little light on some of the injustices you took so much time to investigate.

At first I actually stopped and wondered if this perpetual battle between Greeks and non-Greeks that your article speaks of actually exists. I then asked several members of different fraternities and sororities that I know at a recent sporting event if they disliked non-Greeks or if they felt they were at war with them. All of them said no, which I'm sure is surprising to you. There is this misconception that Greeks hate all non-Greeks and do not associate with them and vice-versa. The Greek philosophy on non-Greeks is that it's their decision to choose to be a Greek or a non-Greek. If they choose not to be a Greek, good for them and best of luck.

I will grant you that when perspective members and active members choose not to participate with us anymore we do not always break our necks to keep tabs on them. However let me turn the tables on that idea and look at it as a divorce. Would a husband really send his wife, who left him after four years, a Christmas card?

Unfortunately Mr. Spencer, due to the lack of spare time because of the emergence of finals next week, I was unable to do some research and give you approximate figures. But as for our

impeccable community service record that you say we are begrudgingly forced to participate in, I invite you to drop by the office of Greek life and speak with Victor Felts. He will happily and proudly show you how much money the various organizations in our Greek system raised this year alone. He can also show you that when organizations in Middle Tennessee need volunteer help they turn to the fraternities and sororities first because they are reliable.

In response to your alluding that we do not work hard and have mom and dad pay for our flashy SUVs: What proof do you have of that? I took the liberty to drive around Greek row and count how many SUVs and sports cars there actually are. I counted 14.

For arguments sake, (let's say that out of eight houses that consist of thirty guys, (which is 240 out of eight you didn't think we could add) only 14 of them have nice cars. Do you think the fact that less than five percent of the total members living on the row have nice cars is reason to stereotype the entire community?

What a mind manifestation you must have had when you wrote this article. I know there are those fortunate few whose parents have the economical means to support their kids through college, but that's their business. If you're upset or jealous, then make friends with one of them and maybe they'll buy you a drink if they see you out at a bar.

In regard to the issue of diversity: I think you only see what you want to.

If you choose to watch Animal House and pigeonhole us into your own biases that are either learned or developed than that's your prerogative. If you want to see diversity, I'll invite you to my house and you can hang out with my Korean, Laotian, African American, Greek or Caucasian fraternity brothers, whichever floats your boat. Or you can hang out with my blind fraternity brother who founded the MTSU wrestling program. My point, Mr. Spencer, is that you can't see diversity from the cheap seats.

Last but not least is the issue of the T-shirts, which I think is the only legitimate criticism in your article. You are right to some extent that they are, at times, cocky, conceited and, yes, even bordering on tasteless. What some people don't know is that those shirts are usually designed to brag on ourselves to other Greek organizations. Maybe that's viewed by you to be ridiculous, but we, as independent organizations, are proud of who we are and what we've accomplished and therein lies the theory behind our shirts. If you disapprove, well frankly we don't care.

I don't approve of your haircut but I'm not going to bash you in Sidelines about it (Oh wait, I just did. Maybe now you'll see how it feels).

There's no hatred between Greeks and non-Greeks. However, it's stereotypes and biases like the ones you have presented in your article that will not improve relations between the two groups any time soon. I guess what they say is true — "Ignorance is Bliss."

Let's try this: Sidelines should let a Greek get on the staff to write articles degrading the general student population. That would do wonders to promote the good reputation you are obviously striving to attain for Sidelines.

Andrew McNerlin

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Photo Provided

Local band has fashion crisis

By Phoenix Taylor
Fashion Writer

I need help and fast. I am in local alternative/pop band. The guys and I are about to have a gig in a couple of weeks. Do you know of a new and up-coming stylist that would be willing to work with us or give us a few suggestions for a contemporary look?

Desperate

Dear Desperate:

Most successful groups have someone to help them with wardrobe along the way. The person you are in need of is up and coming fashion stylist Sarah Carota, who will graduate in May from the Textiles Merchandizing and Design Department. She specializes with "fashion shows, visual merchandizing and freelancing style jobs."

Carota also works as a production assistant at the Atlanta's Apparel Retail in the fashion office where she sees the latest trends in fashion and accessories in addition she helps in their seasonal fashion shows. Recently, in Atlanta, she worked the mart and got to participate with fashion designer Calvin Klein's spring runway show that included 300 pieces. Locally, she stays busy being the associate manager of Charlotte Russe a fashion forward retail store located in Oprymills.

Carota offers some suggestions to put you in the right direction: "Most bands wish for their music to be distinct so that they may want their 'styles' represented also. You can try doing a number of things. I'd start by dressing them in a way that stand them out would be represented through their alternative/pop image." Carota continues, "Color schemes such as black, white and red are a safe bet. If you want be more daring go with all black pants and coordinate it with crazy, geometric, wild prints. If you are thinking of bringing out your pop sound, styles with an eye-catching looks such as printed tees graced with studs and rhinestones would be a crowd pleaser."

Carota goes on to say, "Skinny ties and jackets would be cool with slicked back hair, kind of a rockabilly look is appealing."

"Or you could completely stay distinctive in your own way so that everyone would stick out," says Carota. She also emphasizes how she will work with a band until they were all satisfied with their attire.

"It's nothing like hearing great music and the musician totally look uncomfortable on stage." For more info Carota can be contacted at (615)-514-5555. If you have a fashion question or emergency please send letters to Sidelines subject to Phoenix Taylor/fashion Q&A. ♦



Photo Provided

His voice lives on

'TRAM man' leaves behind a lifetime of commitment to MTSU



Photo Provided

Gillespie in his early years.

By Courtney Huckabay
Managing Editor

"Hello."
"Thanks for calling TRAM."
"Listen carefully to the menu options which follow..."

The words heard by thousands of students every year at registration time. Who is the man behind that unforgettable voice that can crush one's hopes of getting into the class they've hoped for all semester or brighten a day with the simple words, "you are enrolled in"? To access this information, press one - just kidding.

But the "TRAM man" is about to say goodbye for the last time.

George C. Gillespie, better known as Cliff, is the man behind the voice, and the man who sat behind the big desk. "Mr. MTSU," as many describe him, has left behind a 30-year legacy with admissions and enrollment upon his recent retirement.

Starting out as a student worker in the records office while finishing his undergraduate degree at MTSU in 1970 was the first step in the three-decade career to follow. After taking a full time position in enrollment, Gillespie took on a mission for admissions.

"I had an opportunity to become involved with enrollment. I was a 21-year-old who needed a job and I tried to do it as best as I could," Gillespie said. "I think that's why I kept it so long."

His co-workers and friends would agree.

"He was always good to work for," Gale Pitchford, secretary for Enrollment Management said. "He had an open door policy and was really laid back, so you could talk to him about

anything."

"Anytime I needed him to record something, he was always right there with a smile on his face, always cheerful and very willing and professional," Mary Smith, the senior systems analyst in OIT said. "He took his job seriously and wanted to be involved to make the (TRAM) system the best."

Gillespie worked his way up the admissions ladder, filling such positions as assistant director of records, director of records, acting dean of admissions and records, dean of admissions and records, dean of admissions, records and informational systems and associate vice president of enrollment management.

He committed on several boards and committees, attended many conferences and programs all to improve the way he did his job. Gillespie served on the National Collegiate Athletic Association rules panel, the ACT board of trustees and the American Association of the Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

"Cliff won lots of awards and honors from AACRAO," said his wife Gayle. "A lot of those members look up to him nationally. He did so much work on all the committees and boards he was on."

Gillespie started the TRAM registration process in 1993, after finding out about it at a conference. An implementation committee was formed and they asked him to do the recordings because he had previous experience in announcing for the Walking Horse Celebration and other shows, and they wanted someone who would be around for a long time.

The implementation of TRAM was a major improvement over the way students registered previously - by waiting in mile-long lines outside the Murphy Center.

"I think it'll (TRAM) be here a long time because it's so simple, students are used to it and it's so convenient," Gillespie predicted. He plans to continue updating the TRAM recordings for as long as he can.

Over the years, Gillespie has made quite a few memories with everyone he's worked with. He said that's what he misses most about not coming into work anymore.

Pitchford and Athletic Certification Officer Donna Victory told of the time they made a good-bye video for Gillespie, featuring all of his friends and acquaintances throughout his time here.

"We taped people from the scheduling center singing him a song and Gale and I did our own goodbye," Victory said. "We sort of took over his office one day," Pitchford added.

"I was sitting in his chair with my feet propped up on his desk," Victory

said. "We were saying that it would always be his office and that we were going to renovate it. You know, turn it into a bar with a disco ball, and we were laughing and I was leaning back real far, when all of a sudden I fell backward out of the chair and onto the floor. And it was all on video."

Jim Simpson, who he manages Phillips Bookstore, is "never too busy to talk about Cliff," recalled a fond memory.

"It's got to be about 20 years ago when this happened," Simpson said. "Cliff was real fond of electric trains and he got about eight to 10 of us hooked on them too. Well, during one Christmas break he got permission to use the dance studio in the Murphy Center to run the trains. We laid out hundreds of feet of train track in that studio and it took up about half the room. It got to be about 25 of us, down on our hands and knees, running electric trains with Cliff right there in the middle."

What people mention the most about Gillespie is how devoted he is to MTSU and his true love for the school. He got both his bachelor's and his master's from MTSU and his doctorate from Vanderbilt University. He was speaker of the House and a Kappa Sigma brother. He grew up in Nashville and graduated from Holland Ryan High School so Middle Tennessee has always been home for him and his wife.

This Middle Tennessee pride runs in the family. His oldest son Matthew graduated from MTSU and now works for TSSAA. His daughter Lauren is finishing up her undergraduate degree here and found time to intern for the White House during Clinton's administration. The younger son, Michael, graduates from Oakland High School this spring and has just accepted a scholarship to attend MTSU.

"He really wants to go back. If it weren't for his illness, he'd be at MTSU for the rest of his life. There is no greater love for an alma mater than the love Cliff Gillespie has for MTSU," Gayle Gillespie said.

"I've known him somewhere in the neighborhood of 31 years and I know that he is one of the few people around here who is MTSU," Simpson said. "He kept things lively around here, he kept us coming into work. He always had input in whatever went on. Much of the success we've had (with enrollment increase) comes from decisions he's made. He's the best recruiter because he's not just an 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. kind of guy. His license plates ought to let you know what kind of person he is. They say GO 2 MTSU!"

Gillespie's service was forever immortalized when the Kappa Sigma Fraternity bought its house after him.



Photo Provided

Gillespie in the '90s.

He was the Grand Master of Ceremonies, the adviser and secretary of the Middle Tennessee Alumni Association of Kappa Sigma from 1976-1979, the District Grand Master for Kentucky and Tennessee from 1979-1982, and he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award three times at MTSU. He has kept up with Kappa Sigma members for many generations and encouraged many of the kids' kids to come to MTSU.

Interim President R. Eugene Smith gave Gillespie the distinct honor of holding the office of Special Assistant to the President, but he only got to go in for one day. Gillespie retired in December due to the effects of an illness he has been suffering from since 1996. He suffers from a rare type of cancer that effects approximately 100 people in the country, called Carcinoid cancer. Carcinoid cancer effects one's bones and chemotherapy does not help reduce the symptoms.

He was recently recognized at MTSU's retirement reception, but his colleagues didn't need a reception to stir up good things to say about him.

"Cliff is amazing," Smith said. "He even offered to come in after he retired to record phrases for TRAM. He just can't stay away."

"He was never too busy to talk to prospective students and always told them to come back if they ever needed help. And they did come back," Victory said.

"Even though he's threatened several times to send me out to the closet and to make it my office, I have to say that he's more like a father or a member of my family," Victory said. "He is the person I most respect of everybody I've ever met." ♦

Toadies leaping back into Nashville

By Nick Mantzel
The Shorthorn (U. Texas-Arlington)

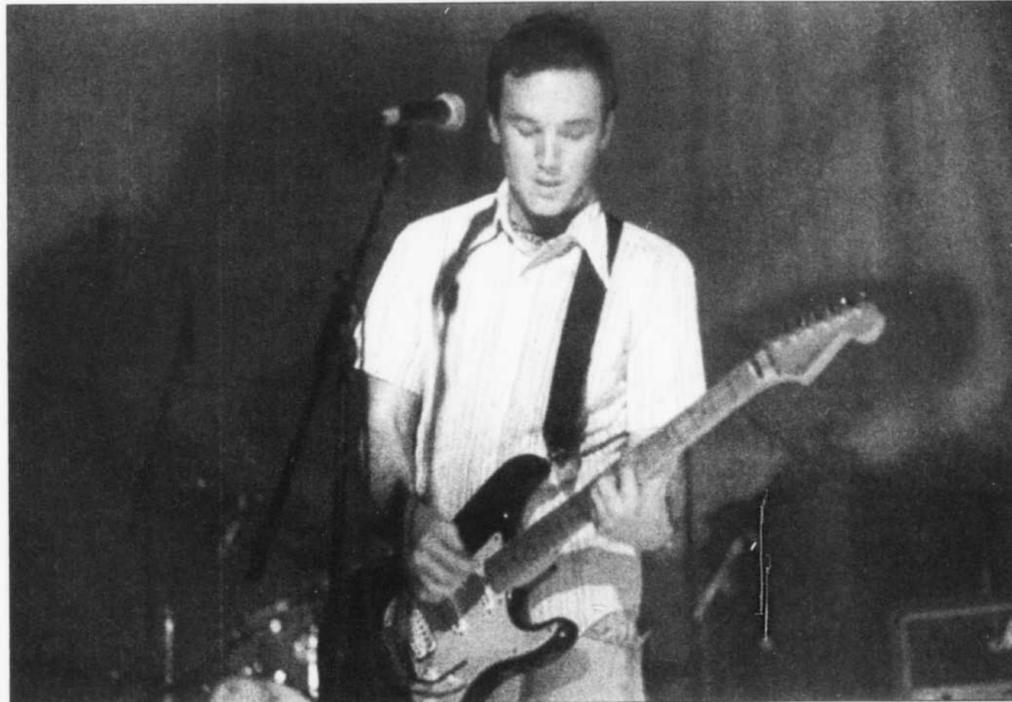
(U-WIRE) ARLINGTON, Texas - Toadies fans have been waiting for the new album for quite some time. Finally, they have their wish. The sound of Hell Below/Stars Above is something Toadies fans aren't used to because it's more polished and refined. More work was done after the initial recordings to improve the sound levels and perfect the songs.

Todd Lewis' voice and the deep-thinking lyrics make the album impressive. The new album's sound reflects more of the band's musical talents. Many ideas for songs were conceived by Lewis, but the band members played a larger role in contributing to the actual creation of the music.

This change gave the songs on the album a different sound from Rubberneck. The rock-influenced guitar and drums were still present and Lewis' sharp voice and heavy wailing break through the music even more clearly than in previous releases.

Their first hit album, Rubberneck, released August of 1994, featured rock songs written by Lewis. Many of the songs in Rubberneck were left unadjusted from the original recording, giving the album a raw music sound.

The lyrics of Hell Below/Stars Above deal with the emotional problems and moral contradictions of adulthood. Overall, the lyrics had the typical Toadies dark undertones, but



Photos Provided

The Toadies play Nashville in support of their new album May 19th.

they don't inhibit the music.

While "Heal," the first released song off the album, seems too dark and sinister, the other tracks on the album make up for it.

Some of the tracks such as "Pressed

Against the Sky" and "Jigsaw Girl" present a more romantic sentiment. "Doll Skin," the last track on the CD, stands out for its supernatural lyrics.

Throughout the album, Lewis' voice invokes sorrow and adds depth and

meaning.

Overall, this CD is great. Hell Below/Stars Above deserves its own reserved space in any rock fan's CD case. Copyright © 2000 The Shorthorn via U-Wire ♦

Congratulations to our grads

The little boy from Wisconsin who could



Keith Ryan Cartwright

Keith defines what a non-traditional student is and should aspire to be. After four weird years, Keith finally got voted off the island. We all love you and wish you well in Los Angeles. We're not f**king kidding you either.

Our Tigger-Wigger redneck

When Raymond came in the newsroom, everyone thought he was your typical red-neck from East



Raymond Hutzler

Tennessee. He turned out to be a genuine ladies man and proved to run off every editor who ever worked for him. We love you but since you're not going anywhere, we'll all just pray you get a job . . . anywhere.

Music Censorship under 'Advisory'

By Jason Gaddis
U-Wire

Music censorship is nothing new to American culture. In fact, government officials and special interest groups have been trying to censor music since before the 1950s. From Elvis' appearances on the "Ed Sullivan Show" to Marilyn Manson concerts, popular music always seems to make someone mad.

With "Parental Advisory: Music Censorship In America," author Eric Nuzum, a pop-culture critic and program director of WKSU-FM at Kent State University, details and follows the evolution of music censorship in America.

The book is divided into two sections: themes and dates. With the first section, Nuzum confronts such controversial

topics as sex, religion and drugs. With the second, Nuzum gives a year-by-year rundown of big events in the realm of music censorship.

Easily the most powerful and compelling argument Nuzum makes is the relationship he finds between race and music censorship. Nuzum finds that far more black artists are stuck with the Recording Industry Association of America's "Parental Advisory" sticker than white artists. He also brings up many cases involving discrimination in music censorship and labeling. One example Nuzum brings up is that when Eric Clapton released his cover of "I Shot the Sheriff," few even raised an eyebrow, but 18 years later, Ice-T's "Cop Killer," which featured an almost identical theme (combating police brutality), raised cries from as high

up as then-President George Bush for censorship of the song.

In "Parental Advisory," Nuzum manages to expose several conspiracies and shed light on murky topics related to music censorship. Nuzum explains the history behind the Parents Music Resource Center, founded in part by Tipper Gore. He points out that her husband, then-Senator Al Gore, took part in the Senate hearings of PMRC. That group is partially responsible for pressuring the RIAA's "Parental Advisory" sticker.

Nuzum knows how to make his argument. "Parental Advisory" is a detailed and well-researched book that is a must-read for music censorship fighters and advocates alike. ♦

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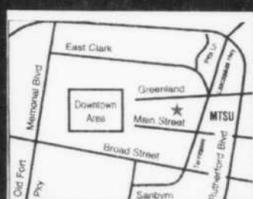
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A seventy-five year tradition capturing Blue Raider memories

On Campus

Compiled By Leslie Fike - Copy Editor

Monday, April 30

MTSU concerts presents the Vigilantes of Love with special guest The Normals at 7:30 p.m. in the JUB Tennessee Room. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 898-2551. ♦

Saturday, May 5

Raider Victory Ministries hosts an Anniversary Concert with Gotee recording artists The Katinas at the Campus School (across from the JUB) at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Andy Roller at 479-5447. ♦

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last day to fill out an application and join the Up 'Til Dawn Committee. Applications are available in KUC Rooms 306 and 122. ♦

The MTSU Martial Arts Club meets weekly on Tuesday and Thursday in the Recreation Center from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. For more information, contact Billy Colepaugh at 898-2104. ♦

Live in Franklin, Brentwood or Cool Springs and want to save time, gas and energy? Join the student carpool. E-mail your schedule, contact information and questions to frankincarpool@aol.com. ♦

Campus Crusade for Christ, an interdenominational campus ministry, invites everyone to attend CRU, the weekly fellowship and worship meeting Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the LRC Room 221. For more information, contact Mike Lipscomb at 848-6741 or Eric Rodgers at 896-2039. ♦

The final date to pay outstanding debts to MTSU to access your grades via TRAM or WEBMT and/or receive a printed grade report upon request is May 11, 2001. ♦

Student Activities

mtsu concerts presents



the normals

Monday
April 30
7:30 p.m.

JUB
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Free
and open

tonight

vigilantes of love



Photo by Matthew H. Stirling | Chief Photographer

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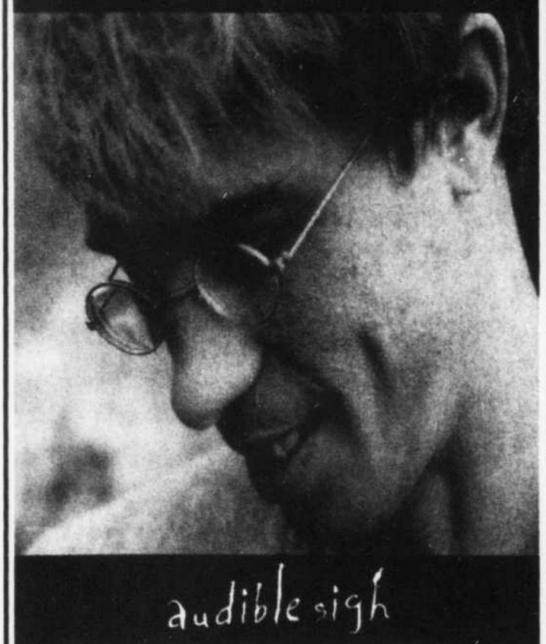
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Relay 2nd at prestigious event

MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee's track relay team of D.J. Span, Mardy Scales, Tanko Bramaih, and Godfrey Herring played second fiddle to Texas Christian University once again at the Penn Relays but still put together two incredible performances including a school record in the 4x100.

The Penn Relays, known as the most prestigious and biggest

event in the nation, attracted the top teams in the nation including TCU, the No. 1 ranked team in the country.

The Blue Raiders have finished second to the Horned Frogs on numerous occasions including a few weeks ago at the Texas Relay. On Saturday, the quartet set a school record time of 39.30 in the 400-meter relay to finish third behind TCU and Tennessee.

The relay team quickly

turned around putting together another strong performance in the 4x200 finishing second to TCU with a time of 1:21.87.

"We really looked good today," head coach Dean Hayes said. "D.J. had a great lead-off leg and we had great passes each time."

With the relay team's performances, the group is assured of qualifying for the NCAA Championships, which will be held later in the spring at the

University of Oregon.

Middle Tennessee's only other competitor at the meet was Jasper Demps, who placed sixth in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 13.95.

At the Drake Relays, Willis Heintz and Jerkita McClorin compete in the finals in the 100 and 100-meter hurdles, respectively, after qualifying on Friday as both took fourth place finishes. McClorin was also 13th in the long jump. ♦

Track Results

4x100-Meter Relay

1. TCU (38.68)
2. Tennessee (39.23)
3. MTSU (39.30*)

* School Record

4x200-Meter Relay

1. TCU (1:19.99)
2. MTSU (1:21.87)
3. South Carolina (1:22.44)

Brazelton throwing for his future

From unstable family, pitcher rises to become Strikeout King of MTSU

By Courtney Huckabay
Managing Editor

The pitcher who's putting MTSU baseball on the map doesn't just have an award-winning right arm — he's a student, a twin, a friend, and a guy facing the pressure of being picked in the first round of the amateur draft in June.

Dewon Brazelton. This name comes as no surprise to college baseball fans, coaches and players when it is uttered from others' lips or seen in print. But even those who don't follow players with the second-lowest earned run average in the nation still smile when they hear it.

"Dewon's an exceptional human being in every aspect," said senior MTSU softball player Wendy Pollack of her middle school and high school classmate. "He's still that same goofy guy I rode on the bus with to middle school basketball games."

When the 6-foot-4, 215-pound junior isn't practicing, going to class or signing autographs for the swarms of kids waiting for him after every Friday night game, he's fielding phone calls from reporters, wanna-be agents, excited family members, people claiming to be family and wanna-be girlfriends.

"It's insanity," laughed Brazelton. "Like the other day I

got this letter from a guy down in Texas. He seems to think we're cousins. So now I got a long-lost cousin that I never heard of. When I try to be normal in my dorm room, the phone rings 10 times a day with people wanting to be my agent," an exasperated Brazelton said.

"My roommate answers most of my calls because I'm not there most of the time. He's really had to adjust to everything that's been going on lately. It's been hard on him, but he understands and he helps out."

Kyle Sparkman, Brazelton's roommate of two years and teammate of three, doesn't seem to mind Brazelton's new celebrity status.

"I like answering the phone when he's not here," Sparkman revealed. "When I tell them that Dewon's not here, they'll just talk to me. When Harold Reynolds calls, he expects me to answer and I just pass the message on to Dewon. But he'll have a conversation with me first and ask how I'm doing and how school's going. He'd leave messages for both of us."

It's kind of interesting to see all the scouts coming to watch him pitch. I know he's probably going to go first round. It's going to be interesting to see how high he goes."

And high is where Brazelton wants to be. He thinks his best chances lie with the Minnesota Twins, which has the first pick,

or the Phillies with the fourth pick.

"The guy from the Phillies absolutely loves me. I don't think I'll be around after the fourth pick," Brazelton said as he knocked on the wooden table.

This action of luck isn't the only route he's taking. After suffering a knee injury while playing high school football his junior year and undergoing Tommy John surgery on his elbow from a baseball injury that same year, Brazelton prays that he won't get hurt in the remaining games of the season.

"I am terrified of getting hurt, terrified. I use the railing when I go down the stairs now, like I'm an old man. I used to drive fast but not now."

Brazelton has more than fear occupying his thoughts — his family is always on his mind. He grew up in Tullahoma, which was one of the main reasons he chose to attend MTSU.

"Since I'm a momma's boy, I didn't want to go too far away. I also wanted my family to be able to come see me play. Coming from Tullahoma to Murfreesboro doesn't have to be a big occasion for them."

He's not kidding about being a momma's boy either. Saying that he's a "several mommas' boy" would be more accurate. Brazelton's biological mother,

See Brazelton, 6B

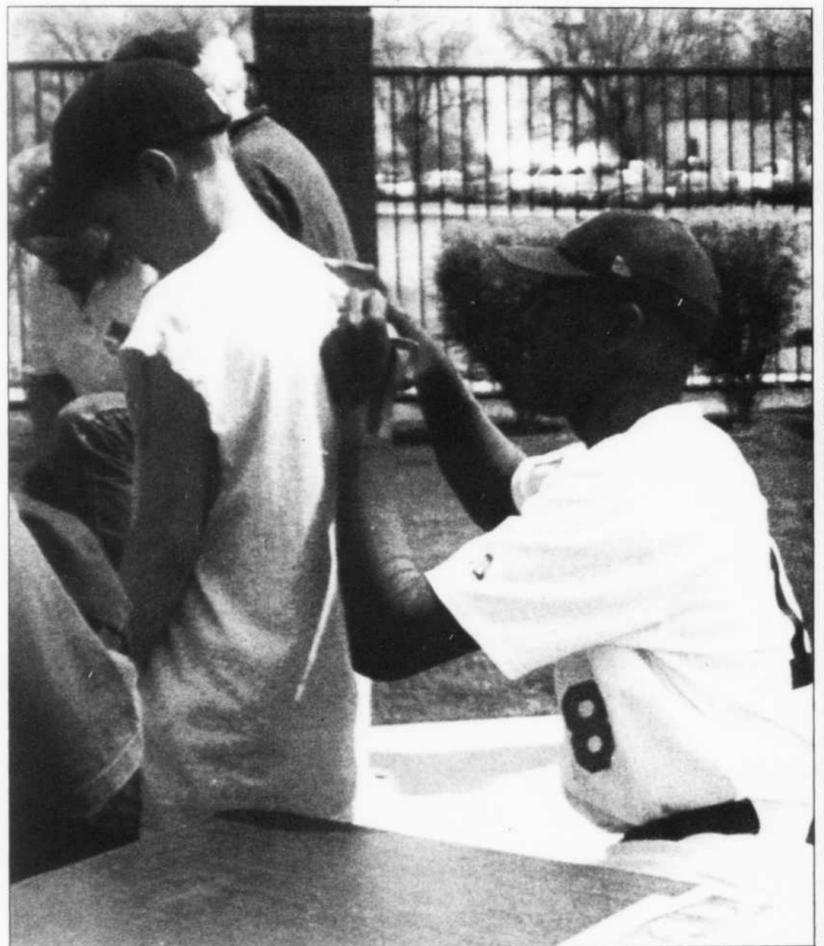


Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff

Star pitcher Dewon Brazelton signs autographs for his kid fans every time he pitches.

MT steps to the challenge in Sun Belt

View from the Top



Michael Edwards

Commentary

Successful is the word used when attempting to define the 2000-2001 year of athletics for Middle Tennessee.

For years the overall athletic success has been overlooked not just by the Nashville media, but even by the area newspapers and even by the students and faculty of the university.

Not many people realized that the men's and women's track teams dominated the Vanderbilt Invitational last week or that the Blue Raiders

have arguably the best baseball player in the country.

Not many people, unless you frequently read this newspaper, know that at one time this baseball season, the Blue Raiders were ranked in the top 25 by Collegiate Baseball America and have hovered around the top 25 all season.

They are at the top of the standings in one of the best baseball conferences in America. The Sun Belt Conference put a team in the College World Series last season, which was won by Louisiana State University.

Although the men's basketball team was plagued by an inability to win games, the women's team made a short run in the conference tournament, and played Indiana University in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament. This predicted the signing of one of

the best recruiting classes of head coach Stephanie Smith's short tenure at the university.

On the gridiron, Middle Tennessee finished with a 6-5 record, the first winning season since 1997. This included close losses to Maryland and University of Alabama at Birmingham. According to the Massey Ratings, which are used to help determine the national champion, the Blue Raiders were the second best team in the state. Football U., sometimes loosely dubbed the University of Tennessee, was first, followed by Memphis, and the Vanderbilt Commodores registered a small blip on the state football map.

All-everything tailback Dwone Hicks was chosen as the best running back among independents, which includes Notre Dame, while recently, Barry Hall was signed by the Tennessee Titans.

The men's golf team finished fourth in the Sun Belt, while the brand new women's golf team signed the best female high school golfer in the state, Amanda Harter. New head coach Kim St. John has already started the success which all Blue Raider followers will expect.

The Middle Tennessee soccer team registered some success when Jenny Cox was named to the All-Sun Belt first team, and Kenya Hickey was named to the second team. The women's tennis team lost in the semifinals of the conference championship tournament after knocking off the number 26 ranked team in the country earlier during the season. The men's team lost in the championship of the conference tournament.

I haven't mentioned the softball team, which has not completed the season. They did,

however, notch a Middle Tennessee first, when Stacy Preator added her name to a vacant list of perfect game hurlers for Middle Tennessee softball. This occurred on April 17, against Austin Peay. The Lady Raiders won 7-0.

The final team, which I will praise has been without question, the most successful team at the university the past three years, maybe longer. The Middle Tennessee track squads are the best. Perhaps, no other school in the state boasts of such a dominant unit. Both teams, the men and the women, won the Sun Belt Indoor Championships.

They are now looking to win the outdoor championships, and possibly bring home some individual national championships. The Blue Raiders put four student athletes in the Sydney Olympics.

The most frustrating thing as a Middle Tennessee student is when I hear other students talking about the MTSU athletic department as if it were third rate, and thus, viewing this university as if it were the same.

The facts just simply don't support those types of statements.

Middle Tennessee has perhaps the second most successful athletic program in the state of Tennessee. No, we don't vie for national titles in the big sports like football and men's basketball, but we do in many others.

There will be a day, when all this will change. And that day will be here soon.

Actually, that day will be August 30, when the Blue Raider football team leaves Dudley Field at Vanderbilt University with their first win of the season. ♦

7 Day Sportscast

MAY 4

Baseball

Blue Raiders at Western Kentucky
Bowling Green, Ky., 6 p.m.

Softball

Lady Raiders at Western Kentucky (DH)
Bowling Green, Ky., 5 p.m.

MAY 5

Baseball

Blue Raiders at Western Kentucky (DH)
Bowling Green, Ky., 2 p.m.

Softball

Lady Raiders at Western Kentucky (DH)
Bowling Green, Ky., 3 p.m.

MAY 8

Baseball

Blue Raiders at Vanderbilt
Nashville, Tenn., 7 p.m.

MAY 9

Baseball

Blue Raiders vs. Tennessee
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 7 p.m.

MT moves to third place despite two losses

By Colleen Cox
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders split a four-game series with Florida International this weekend to move into third place in the Sun Belt Conference.

Middle Tennessee moved into third place with the two wins and some help. New Mexico State lost four games to Louisiana at Lafayette Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Middle dropped the first game of the series against the Golden Panthers. Florida International put two runs on the board in the top of the second and shut out the Lady Raiders to pick up the victory.

Mila Nelson went the distance allowing only four hits in the shutout. Jennifer Martinez also went the distance surrendering eight hits and one earned run while striking out six in the loss.

The second game was a different story as the Lady Raiders got the offense going. Florida International scored first in the top of the fourth. Kelly Nicosia just beat out a bouncer back to the pitcher. The infield hit broke up a Stacy Preator no-hitter. With two outs, Shannon Carey doubled off the fence in right center to score Nicosia. Sabrina Smith followed with a double of her own to left-centerfield scoring Carey.

The Middle Tennessee offense answered in the bottom of the fourth. Ashlie Way singled to left-center. Liz Polfus came in to run for Way. Silva sacrificed the runner to second. Phillips tripled down the right field line to score Polfus. Lisa Sherman followed with a double to the gap in right center to tie the score at two.

Middle exploded with four more runs in the bottom of the sixth. Silva reached on an error to get things started. Phillips popped up a bunt that the third

baseman dove for and missed. Silva got to third on the play, and Phillips reached second. Sherman reached on an error allowing Silva to score. Erica Buhl blooped a single to right to score Phillips. After two strikeouts, Cormier knocked a 2 RBI double to left.

The Golden Panthers put up a run in the top of the seventh but fell short as the Lady Raiders took the 6-3 win.

Preator picked up the win allowing five hits and two earned runs while striking out six. Barnes took the loss giving up four runs on three hits in relief. Cormier finished the game 3-for-4 with 2 RBI. Phillips and Buhl each had 2-for-4 days with a RBI. Sherman was also 2-for-4 with two RBI and a run scored.

The third game of the series came down to the last at bat. In the bottom of the sixth with the Lady Raiders down two runs, Martinez singled to left-center. Lindsay Azevedo followed with a homerun to tie the game at four. In the bottom of the seventh, Silva reached on an error. Phillips sacrificed her over. Laura Brockman hit a pinch-hit single to right center to score Silva with the winning run.

"She has struggled at the plate this year," head coach Karen Green said of Brockman. "But we still have confidence in her ability, and we know she is capable. That's why we put her in those type of situations, because we know she is capable of coming through."

Martinez picked up the victory in a rematch with Nelson. She gave up 10 hits and three earned runs striking out six. She also went 2-for-2 at the plate.

The Golden Panthers took game four easily benefiting from five Lady Raider errors. Florida International scored two runs in the first and fourth innings and added a single run in the fifth.



Stacy Preator pitches a five-hit win in the second game of a four game series with Florida International Friday.

Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Chief Photographer

"We couldn't string our hits together, but I think we set the tone more with our defense," Green said. "We made five

errors which is very uncharacteristic. You dig yourself into a hole and then you put pressure on your bats to come through."

Preator took the loss giving up seven hits and two earned runs. Lindsay Azevedo went 2-for-2.

The Lady Raiders will face off with Western Kentucky May 4 and 5. ♦

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Brazelton: Pitcher cracks into big league of life

Continued from 4B

Monalisa, had Dewon and his twin brother Fewon prematurely in June 1980. Fewon barely escaped death, but developed cerebral palsy. Monalisa had the twins right out of high school and often worked 70-hour weeks to support them without their father's help. When Dewon was only 12 years old and living in the projects, his mother got into some trouble and left Dewon and his invalid brother with their grandmother. Fewon was later sent to the Bedford County Nursing Home in Shelbyville, where he is today, along with Monalisa who is a nurse's aid there.

As a teen-ager, Dewon migrated from family to family in Tullahoma, where members of his church and community took him in as their own son. He found a permanent resting place at the Darlington's.

"Dianne (Darlington) is my mom. She never once treated me any different from her kids. I was always part of the family. When we have disagreements, we both squall over it as much as real families do."

Brazelton is clearly pained

when he talks about not being able to spend as much time with his family because of all the baseball commotion he's causing and receiving. He doesn't get to see Fewon nearly as often as he'd like. He used to go to all his little "brothers' and sisters" ballgames, but this year he's only been to one.

"How do you tell someone you don't have time for them? How do I explain to someone I love that I don't even have time for me?" Brazelton asked with pleading eyes.

He had to miss the Darlington's Easter tradition of hiding eggs around the house and racing to find the most because he pitched against University of Arkansas at Little Rock that weekend.

"My Easter basket just sat there for days, waiting for me to get to it. I felt so bad."

Brazelton still has contact with his father. They talk every now and then, but it's not the relationship he would've liked to have, especially as a child.

"He never sent me a birthday card or a Christmas present or anything. But he's my father, so of course I still love him."

Being the first generation to

attend college is a point of pride for Brazelton and also another reason for him to finish school and obtain his degree in education at MTSU even if he is drafted.

"He still goes to class every day and does all his work," said second-baseman Josh Renick. "I think it means a lot to him being the first one in his family to go to college and he takes pride in that."

Baseball head coach Steve Peterson agrees. "When we talk about stuff outside of baseball, he says he wants to work with kids and teach P.E. After his career in baseball is over and he has his degree set, I would hope he has his degree from MTSU and he can do whatever he wants. He can teach or go around talking to kids to encourage them, but he would have credentials, not just a great arm. It would surprise me if he didn't get his degree."

With that expected career in baseball comes a lot of money. Brazelton seems to have a good financial head on his shoulders as he talks about what he would do with his money if drafted. The first thing he would buy is a private nurse for his twin brother.

He'd put Fewon in a house right beside his own, with 24-hour care given to him, so he wouldn't have to worry about him.

"I'd buy myself a Bentley 'cause my mom just wants my Toyota that I drive now. Then I'd get Mrs. Darlington a garage, but I don't feel like I owe my daddy anything."

After it's all said and done, Brazelton just wants "a big 'ole house with kids and a big 'ole yard." He'd like to start a program similar to the Boys and Girls Club in Tullahoma where kids of all ages, races and gender would come to after school's out and he'd "lock 'em down with tutors and sports or whatever caters to their needs."

"Sports kept me off the streets and schoolwork was always a priority for me. I want this same thing for other kids. I'd even have a little hair salon for the girls if that's what they wanted to do - they could go paint their nails and fix each other's hair, whatever."

Even though Brazelton has a hectic schedule, he still finds a little time here and there to support Blue Raider athletics. He can be seen almost every Friday

- the night he pitches - at the Lady Raiders softball field, cheering with the parents and fans. Even during winter break, he would drive from Tullahoma to watch the basketball games in Murphree Center. Coach Peterson thinks he'll be a great MTSU alumnus.

"He really loves MTSU and takes pride in this school. The shoe really fits him here. When he's not pitching, he's our biggest cheerleader. And that biggest comes from him working hard to be a good teammate, it comes from his love for the university."

His friends can attest that Brazelton can show a wild and goofy side when off the field. He looks forward to Wednesday nights at Bongo Johnny's, where he can go "wild" but not enough to make his momma worry.

"I love walking into a place and everyone knows who I am," Brazelton said with a grin. "I'm a lot more popular with the females now." This was apparent when a group of girls sitting behind us crooned, "Hey Dewon" as he looked around at the people in the restaurant.

Sparkman told of another side to Brazelton when they're

just bumming around the dorm. "Our favorite thing to do is watch BET's *Comicview* at eight o'clock every night. We sit there with our door open and just crack up the whole time. People always knock on our walls to tell us to shut up because we're laughing so loud."

After talking with Brazelton and anyone who knows him well, it's easy to see that the lanky, joke-cracking, genuine guy could make it in the big league of life - especially if he flashes that heart-warming, braces-filled smile. But on the field, it's all business. He's solemn, focused and ready to strike. ♦

Sports Update

The Blue Raider baseball team kept its Sun Belt Championship hopes alive by winning two of three from New Mexico State over the weekend. Sunday's win put MT one game behind South Alabama and in a tie with Florida International for second place.



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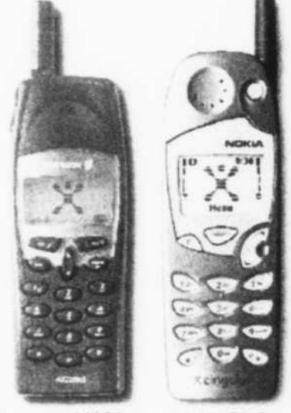
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Looking for someone to take over my lease at University Courtyard., starting on May 1st and lasting through July 31st of 2001. If you are interested, please contact Rachel Nicholson at one of the following phone numbers: 907-9813 or (615) 790-2912. I am willing to pay \$150 of the required \$300 security deposit fee.

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\$225/mo. Share a room and save(two twn bds/Rm) Why pay \$350-450 per month? It's just college, it's just temp. Make friends. Pool, tennis courts, laundry facility, weight room, tanning bed, your own terrace, 24hr security/maint. Walking distance to MTSU 506-6662. No lease reqd. Pay rent to primary lease holder. No lease required

1 female sublesor needed for 4br 2bth apt. University Courtyard. All utilities paid. Rent \$355 mthly. Needed from May to end of July. May's rent already paid. Please call Nikayla at 893-4932 or email @ Nikayla22@hotmail.com

Wanted: Female to sublease at University Courtyard beginning June 1. Spacious bedroom and private bathroom for just \$395/month(utilities included). Will pay 1/2 of security deposit. Call Stephanie@ 907-9563

Looking for a nice place to stay for the summer? 1 female sublesor needed ASAP for a 4 br 4 bth apt. MTSU. All utilities paid. Rent only \$385. Available until the end of July. Please call Lakeisha for more added bonuses @ 260-3380

Apartment for rent for June & July @ University Courtyard Apartments. 1 of 4 bed, 4 bath. I will pay for the Security Deposit. Call Matt 848-7194

ROOMMATE

\$225/mo. Share a room and save(two twn bds/Rm) Why pay \$350-450 per month? It's just college, it's just temp. Make friends. Pool, tennis courts, laundry facility, weight room, tanning bed, your own terrace, 24hr security/maint. Walking distance to MTSU 506-6662. No lease reqd. Pay rent to primary lease holder. No lease required.

Roommate needed to share 3 bdrm townhouse. 2 miles from campus. Rent is 200/month + 1/3 utilities. Stallman65@hotmail.com 848-5021

Looking for roommate to share 2br. 1 1/2 bth. townhouse on Main Street beginning in June. Rent is \$262.50 plus 1/2 utilities. Must like cats. If interested call Demetriss at 217-8349

ROOMMATE NEEDED ASAP. Rim major seeks male or female to share 2 bedroom apt. 5 min. From Campus \$130 deposit, \$230 rent + 1/2 utilities. Gary 896-2020, 491-7885

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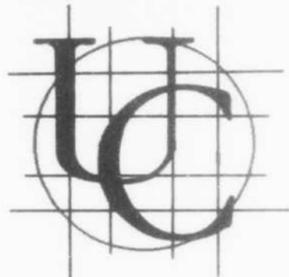
COMEDIAN

DARRELL HAMMOND

Friday, August 24, 2001
Murphy Center

Look for more details on "Fall in 2001" as soon as you return in the fall. Welcome Back festivities will begin on Friday, August 17, 2001.

**Need a place
to live Spring
semester?**



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From MTSU go north on Tennessee Boulevard. Turn right on New Lascassas Highway. University Courtyard Apartments are 1/4 mile ahead on your right.

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