



Students attend summit

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Middle Tennessee State University

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Bernstein critical of media

By Michaela Jackson
Managing Editor

Carl Bernstein, the journalist credited in part with exposing the Nixon administration during the Watergate investigations of the 1970s, spoke on the role of anonymous sources in journalism last night as part of the Seigenthaler Symposium.

"Whether you quote an anonymous source or use them as an informing presence in your mind, they are absolutely essential," he told the audience of students, faculty and local professionals.

Bernstein strongly emphasized the importance of assessing context when using anonymous sources, and warned of using sources vulnerable to bias, such as political aids during elections, without contextualizing their role in the story.

Bernstein drew from his own experience as a reporter for The Washington Post during the era of the Watergate ordeal.

"There is no way our reporting in Watergate could have been done without anonymous sources," Bernstein said. "Only a few of those stories were based on information that came from Deep Throat."

The identity of William Mark Felt,

Sr., Deep Throat, was kept confidential until last May when he revealed himself. Until then, the only people other than himself, who knew his identity were Bernstein, his fellow reporter Bob Woodward and Bill Bradley, their editor at The Washington Post.

"Both Woodward and I were smart enough not to tell our first wives who he was," Bernstein said. "That would have been it [in] both cases."

"You don't give up your sources," he said. "What you have is an obligation to do is look at their motivation and consider it."

The goal of reporting is the "best obtainable version of the truth," Bernstein said.

"When the system of government has failed to respond to the excesses of those in power...it has been the press...that has changed government, changed the way people think," Bernstein said. "Their obligation is a very simple one: what is good reporting? The best obtainable version of the truth."

This goal has been the standard of the industry since Bernstein began his career in journalism 46 years ago at The Washington Star, he said.

"It remains the goal today," Bernstein said. "It's endangered perhaps today; it's perhaps less the stan-

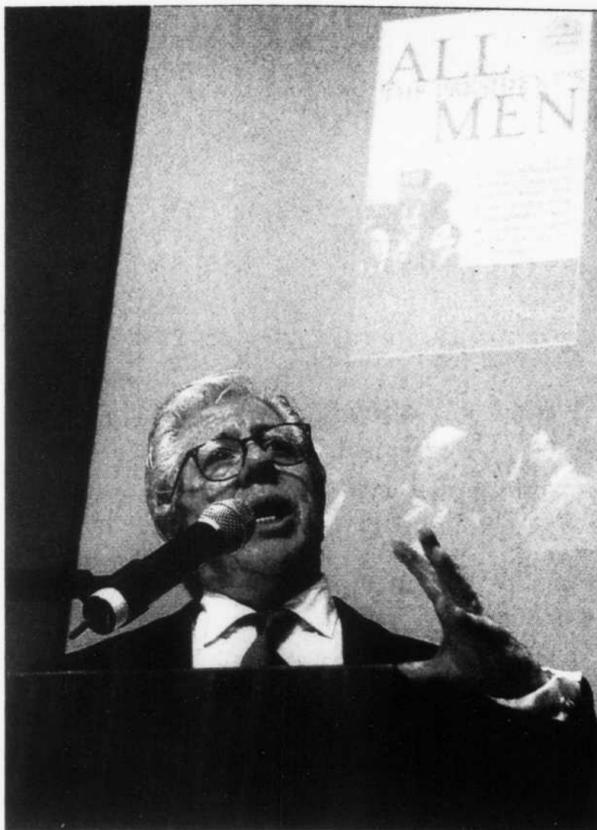


Photo by Sarah B. Wullen

Carl Bernstein spoke on campus Wednesday night.

dard today.

Bernstein was critical of today's journalistic and political culture, and said that today's media consumers are rightfully more cynical of the information they receive.

"It's obvious that our system to a large extent is not working, neither political nor journalistic, and you can't separate the two," he said. "The dysfunction is connected."

"Increasingly the picture of our

society as rendered by our media is illusionary and delusionary, ... a cacophony of shouting, name-calling, easy answers to tough questions in the most difficult of times."

Bernstein was also critical of the Bush administration, specifically, drawing parallels between President George W. Bush in his current situation and former President Nixon dur-

See Bernstein, 2

Gore addresses flaws of TV

By Sarah Crozter
Staff Writer

"Democracy is a conversation," said former Vice President Al Gore, speaking Tuesday in the James Union Building, but in the present domination of television news media, "some extremely important elements of news democracy have been pushed to the sidelines."

Gore's address, "Media and Democracy," opened this week's Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence lecture series, "Self-Inflicted Wounds: Journalism's Lost Credibility."

Gore, a frequent speaker on the MTSU campus, chose to focus his presentation on television's one-way dispersal of news to the public, and the now-apparent flaws of the form.

"Americans now watch television an average of four hours and 39 minutes per day," Gore said. Despite every other medium, including the Internet, "it is television that still completely dominates the flow of information in modern America."

Unlike the printed and person-to-person news distribution of the past, television does not lend itself to the concept of a "public forum" where the audience has influence on the content they receive, he said.

Instead, the news media is forced to broadcast the most commercial content to satisfy its advertisers.

"It is difficult to overstate the extent to which modern pervasive electronic advertising has reshaped our public forum," he said. "Instead of the easy and free access individuals had to participate freely and fully...by means of the printed word, the world of television makes it virtually impossible for individuals to take part in what passes for a national conversation today."

In addition, Gore said, "our public discourse has recently taken on a quality of strangeness that is no longer possible to ignore."

The current government is oppressive to the freedom of the press, and between political restrictions and commercial interests there has been "virtually no meaningful debate" in times when it was most necessary, including the eve of the Iraq war.

Gore said that the devastation brought by Hurricane Katrina offered a brief, missed window of opportunity.

"For a short time [there was] a quality of vividness and clarity of focus in our public discourse, that reminded some Americans, including some journalists, that vividness and clarity used to be far more common in the way we talk to one another about the problems and the choices that we face," he said. "But then, like a passing summer storm, the moment faded."

"The public forum," he said, "has been grossly distorted and restructured beyond all recognition. It is the destruction of that...marketplace of ideas that accounts for the quality of strangeness that now continually haunts our efforts to reason together about the choices we must make as a nation."

Gore said that he sees an independently owned television network, accepting specialized news content from amateur, on-the-spot journalists, as one possible solution to the problem.

He also views the Internet as a positive avenue for video-based journalism, envisioning a situation where individuals could both submit and select content to fit their interests. However, he said, it must be safeguarded to ensure such two-way journalism isn't blocked by the need for commercialization.

Following the address, Gore took additional time to meet and answer a number of questions from his audience. When asked what measures can be taken to change the kind of television news that viewers receive, he said, "I think the kind of important dialogue taking place at this forum, among journalists, is one of the ways...to try to get the upper hand once again for journalistic standards."

The Seigenthaler lecture series "Self-Inflicted Wounds" continues throughout today on the MTSU campus.

To listen to the audio version of Gore's address, please subscribe to the Sidelines podcast at www.mstusidelines.com/podcasts.

Bredesen to visit campus today

Governor to collect check from students' fundraising efforts

By Tom Cheredar
News Editor

Gov. Phil Bredesen will be on campus today at 11 a.m. in the James E. Walker Library to read "The Little Engine That Could" and receive a check from MTSU that will help fund a child literacy program.

The money was raised through efforts between the university and Bredesen to fund Rutherford Books From Birth, a program sponsored by the governor and Dolly Parton's Imagination library that gives children one book a month until they are five years old.

The university pledged to raise \$27,000, which is just half of the total money needed, by holding fundraisers such as yesterday's Pie in the Face event.

"There was a push from the university for each division on campus to get involved," said Student Life Director Jackie Victory.

Victory, along with student intern Rachel Edington, called on various members of the MTSU community to help out.

Student Government Association President Paul Bryant Fulcher was the first of many to be hit in the face with a pie.

Fulcher, whose mother is a teacher, said he was glad to participate because he realizes the value of the Books From Birth program.

"It's great that the Governor is so proactive in the state's education department," Fulcher said.



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

New head football coach, Rick Stockstill eats some humble pie. The money raised during the pie throwing event will go towards helping fund "Books From Birth" literacy program.

"When you're going to get into shape when it's needed."

Others who participated were Director of Student Programming Rick Kirshaw, director of Alison Ojeda, baseball coach Steve Petersen and new football coach Rick Stockstill.

"I said I'd do this to help the students and the students at this university," Stockstill said.

Stockstill showed he was a good sport and held true to his statement by letting student Reggie Doucet, an MTSU cornerback, hit him in the face with a pie.

"I love it, that's my head coach," Doucet said.

In addition to the Pie in the Face event, MTSU's Panhellenic council put on a night of reading to young children in the community.

Members of MTSU's sororities also put on reenactments of their favorite children's stories and dressed up as some popular characters.

Panhellenic president Jessica Reeves wore a Madeline costume to greet children and their parents walking up.

"Dressing up made it feel special, like it was something for them," Reeves said. "The other night it would have just been a bunch of college girls hanging out."

LOCAL FORECAST

Friday



Hi: 74°
LO: 55°
PRECIP: 50%

Saturday



Hi: 62°
LO: 39°
PRECIP: 30%

Sunday



Hi: 65°
LO: 41°
PRECIP: 20%

CAMPUS

Arabic and Hebrew

The University Curriculum Committee approved courses in first-year Arabic and Hebrew to be offered for the first time at MTSU in the fall.

FEATURES

Mountain Tops

Larry Gibson and the other residents of the mining towns of the Coal River Valley in Southern West Virginia have voiced that same question over and over again as they watch men and explosives accomplish in months what nature and glaciers took geologic ages to do—lower the horizon, one mountain at a time.

SPORTS

Brandon Allan

For the last four years Brandon Allan has covered the court for the Middle Tennessee men's tennis team, compiling a successful record while giving so-called "conventional tennis" a swift backhand in the rear.

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Online today



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LETTERS POLICY

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please email letters to slipinio@mstus.edu, and include your contact information for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the Fall and Spring and Wednesday during June and July.

Portraits of poetry

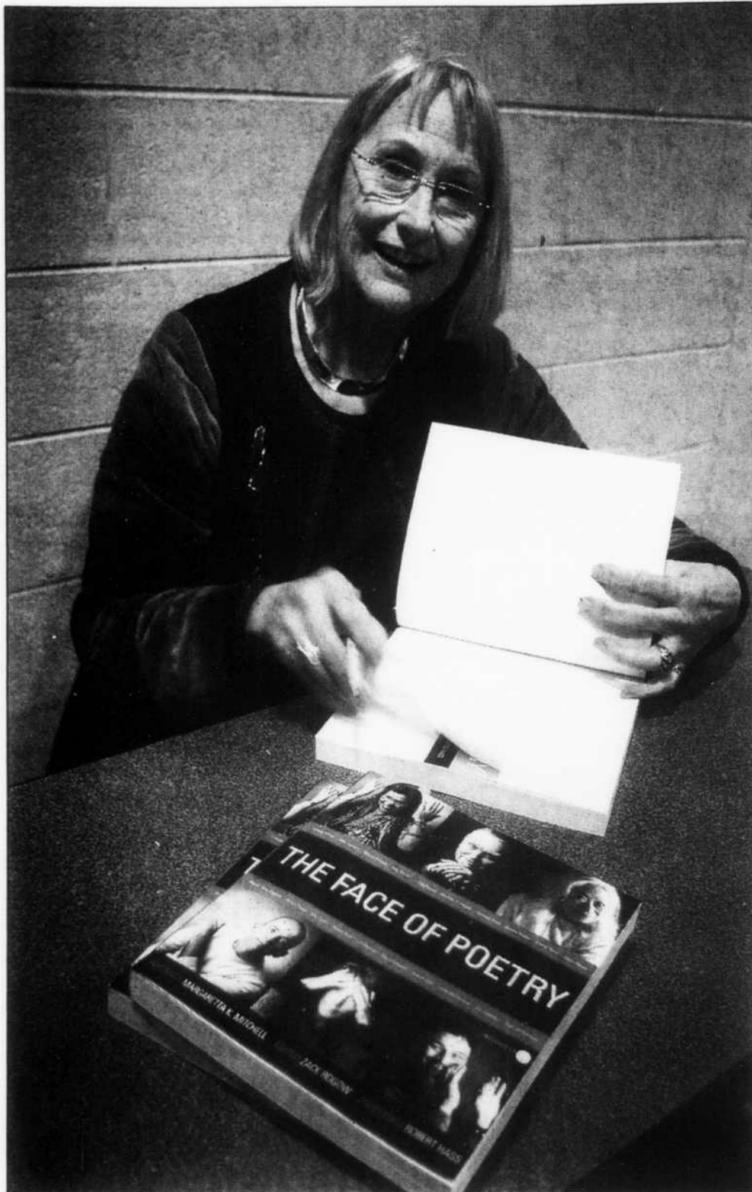


Photo by Sarah B. Mullen

Margaretta Mitchell signs copies of her book, "Faces of Poetry," at the Baldwin Gallery opening Tuesday evening. Mitchell's exhibition coincided with National Women's History Month activities on campus and showcased portraits of 47 poets and illustrated the influence of women in the arts. Now in her 60s, Mitchell first conceived of the idea to create a series of black-and-white images displaying the connection between poetry and pictures after regularly attending the "Lunch Poems Reading Series" at the University of California, Berkeley.



Arabic and Hebrew offered for Fall 2006

By Jack Barrett
Contributing Writer

The University Curriculum Committee approved courses in first-year Arabic and Hebrew to be offered for the first time at MTSU in the fall.

Both scheduled for one slot during the semester, Arabic 1010 will be taught by a Fulbright teaching assistant from an Arab country, and Hebrew 1010 will be taught by Dr. Sonja Hedgepeth of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

"Students will begin to learn modern Hebrew as it is used in Israel today," Hedgepeth said. "One can only truly enter a culture through at least some study of the language of a particular country."

These two courses are part of a proposed 18-hour minor in Middle East Studies that will require six hours of a Middle Eastern language, as well as an introductory course, Introduction to Middle East Studies. The minor is part of a larger initiative to establish a Middle East Center at MTSU, which arose from university-wide discussions and planning over the past year, said Allen Hibbard, the chair of the MTSU Middle East Center Steering Committee.

The proposed center would promote research by both faculty and graduate students to further develop courses for the minor. It would also be the first of its kind in Tennessee.

According to the most recent data from the Modern Language Association, enrollment in Arabic courses nationwide jumped from 5,500 in 1998 to 10,600 2002. Despite this growing interest, only 10 percent of U.S. colleges offer Arabic courses.

"The national need for programs in Middle East Studies, especially foreign language training, should be abundantly clear," Hibbard said. "At a time when U.S. involvement in the Middle East is greater than it has ever been, public knowledge of the complexities of the region and its cultures remains remarkably incomplete and even distorted."

Members of the steering committee developed contacts with other universities that have established similar programs, such as Georgetown University and Georgia State University. Surveys of the MTSU faculty showed there are a total of 20 faculty members, representing all five colleges, who have either graduate training or professional experience in Middle East studies.

"These initiatives to build a Middle East program enjoy support at all levels of the administration and a great many faculty from a range of disciplines have been involved in developing these plans and setting goals," Hibbard said. "We commonly use the metaphor of a seed being planted, and we can only hope that it comes up."

Bernstein: "Critical of media"

Continued from 1

ing the Watergate incident.

"[Bush shows] an almost Orwellian disregard for words: 'I did not condone or authorize torture [at Abu Ghraib prison]," Bernstein said, quoting President Bush.

"We aren't going to know [what really happened] unless the press persists," Bernstein said. "When the press persists, there comes a tipping point."

Bernstein was introduced by John Seigenthaler, Sr. for whom MTSU's Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies was founded.

"[Bernstein] is a celebrated

journalist among journalists," Seigenthaler said in his lauding introduction.

"Those 10 vital years, in a very real sense, changed the direction of our government," Seigenthaler said of Bernstein's stint at The Washington Post. "You can't think about Watergate without relating to Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein."

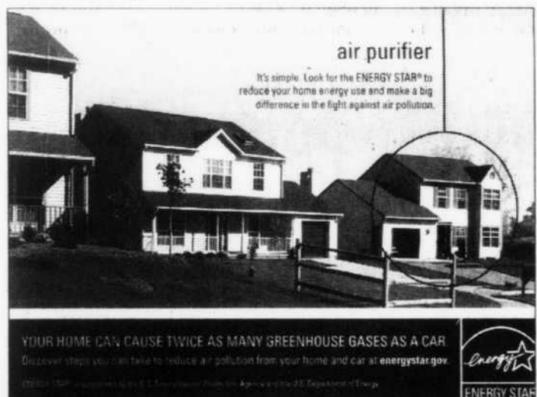
"They knew where the true mark on the compass was and they knew how to get there."

The symposium, entitled "Self-inflicted Wounds: Journalism's Lost Credibility," brings together journalism professionals from across the country in lectures, panel discussions and film screen-

ings to discuss and educate regarding the craft of journalism.

Bernstein's lecture preceded a screening of "All the President's Men," the movie based on his experience reporting Watergate. The movie and the lecture were in the Business and Aerospace Building State Farm Auditorium beginning at 7 p.m.

Today, Capote will air at 11 a.m. in Tucker Theatre, at 2:40 p.m. there will be a panel discussion on confidential sources at the State Farm Auditorium in the BAS, and in the same room, there will be a panel discussion of "In Cold Blood Revisited" at 4:30 p.m., which will conclude the symposium.



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Bill calls for clean energy on campus, if passed

By Tori Harris
Staff Writer

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Gene Fitch, associate Vice President for student affairs and

largest cleanest energy purchaser in the state of Tennessee and one of the biggest in the Southwest, said Brenden Martin, faculty advisor for SEA.

On the fall SGA ballot, students where able to vote for or against the act, and 90 percent of students voted yes, said Brenden Martin, faculty advisor for SEA.

The ultimate decision will be up to the Tennessee Board of Regents, SGA President Paul Fulcher said.

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ting the Clean Energy Act to go through for his school.

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MT students sweep guitar contest

By Ashley Burk
Staff Writer

Students enrolled in MTSU's guitar studies program swept the 29th annual Beethoven Club Young Artist Competition in Memphis on March 4.

MTSU student Silviu Ciulei won first place in the competition; Erol Ozsever took second place, and Kip Minton won third.

This year marks the third time MTSU students have won all of the guitar awards in the competition, which was established in 1888 and is one of the oldest private music clubs in America. In the past 13 years, MTSU guitar students have won nine prizes and eight second prizes, which is more prize winners than from any other college or university guitar program.

Open to anyone under 30, the competition consists of performing three pieces, each of a different style and period. Contestants are not allowed to hear their competitors perform,

and when it is their turns to perform, they sit alone in a room with a judge.

"This was my first competition, so it felt great to hear that I had won 3rd place," said Minton. "I knew my main competition was from my MTSU peers, and they took first and second, which they deserved."

Vigorous practice is also involved when competing in this type of competition.

"You can ask my neighbors," said Ozsever, who has won the second prize twice. "I practiced a ridiculous number of hours to prepare for this competition. The weekend before the competition, I practiced 11 hours in one day."

Dr. William Yelverton, a professor in the MTSU guitar studies program, credits the latest victories to a more selective audition process with the program.

"I am striving to build a studio of high quality, not merely a big studio," Yelverton said.

Ozsever said Yelverton is a great teacher and deals with his students on a more personal level.

"He is always available for questions and is willing to help students go the extra mile," Ozsever said. "He keeps his students active by helping them arrange performances. The experiences that I've had have helped me overcome my performance anxiety."

The MTSU guitar studies program offers majors in classical and jazz guitar and offers classes in guitar literature, guitar performance and guitar pedagogy.

Students from around the U.S., Europe and Latin America have enrolled in the program, and both private and class instruction is offered.

MTSU graduates have continued to doctoral degree programs at major universities, as well as careers in performing and teaching.

The faculty consists of Dr. Yelverton, composer/guitarist Roger Hudson, guitarist/singer Salome Sandoval and Graduate Assistant Josh Tannehill.

Primary senate candidate, Corker, to visit

Staff Reports

Former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker is stopping by MTSU to speak with students about his bid for Republican candidacy in this year's mid-term senate election.

The visit is being hosted by Raider Republicans and MTSU Economics Club, both of which are MTSU student organizations. As part of the clubs' polit-

ical and economic positions, Corker will be speaking about his policies on small government, low taxes, federal spending and market freedom.

Corker, during his 2001-2005 term as mayor for Chattanooga, eliminated 250 government positions and keep his city budget low while courting private companies to invest and develop the city.

"I'll take this same approach

to Washington and work with other conservatives to reexamine our spending priorities, eliminate waste, reduce the size of government,"



Corker

Corker said in a press release sent to Sidelines.

The speech will be held this Thursday at 3:00 pm in the Business and Aerospace Building Room 272 South.

Corker is competing against two Republican primary candidates former Reps. Van Hillary and Ed Bryant, and leading Democratic front-runner Rep. Harold Ford Jr.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

The Dialogue of the Carmelites

The McLean School of Music in Opera Workshop will present Francis Poulenc's religious opera-drama, The Dialogue of the Carmelites, on April 7 in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building. The play is set in the French Revolution's Reign of Terror in 1794.

Amazing Race

MTSU will be holding its own Amazing Race on April 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. The race will take place during "Make a Difference Week" and will raise money for Habitat for Humanity. It costs \$60 for each team of 6 to participate. The teams will participate in various events, and the winner receives a trophy. Forms are located in Student Life Office Keathley University Center, Room 5326.

Two Feminisms

Dr. Noelle McAfee will deliver a lecture, "Two Feminisms," on April 7 at 3:30 p.m. in the James Union Building, Room 304. The lecture focuses on feminism's relationship to democracy and political power. It will be free and a part of the 2006 Applies Philosophy Lyceum.

College of Mass Communication's Board of Visitors

Twenty-seven of the nation's best communicators will be providing advice, observations and guidance on programs and development on April 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Bragg Mass Communication Building's TV Studio. The Board of Visitors includes renowned journalist John Seigenthaler and professionals from the journalism, electronic media, public relations and recording industries.

First Friday Star Party

Dr. Chuck Higgins, physics and astronomy professor, will be performing a lecture, "What About the Dark Matter?" at 6:30 p.m. in the Wiser-Patten Science Hall, Room 102. The lecture will be a part of the First Friday Star Party series and will be free.

Best Wings in the 'Boro

Kappa Delta Sorority will hold their third annual Wing Fling on April 8 from 12 to 3 p.m. Nine restaurants, 13 fraternities and three sororities will compete for the title, "Best Wings in the Boro." The event is open to the community, and the tickets are \$7 before the event, and \$5 for children and \$10 at the door. Tickets are available from any Kappa Delta member or by calling 931-212-7163.

MTSU Jazz Festival

Renowned saxophonist Phil Woods will perform with the MTSU Jazz Ensemble I in the MTSU Festival Concert Series and the MTSU Jazz Artist Series on April 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall of the Wright Music Building. The admission is \$12. The concert will be the culmination of the daylong MTSU Jazz Festival.

International Banquet

The 2006 International Banquet will be held on April 8 at 5 p.m. in the JUB Tennessee Room. The admission will be \$8 for MTSU students, \$15 for high school, 12 and under and other college students. The banquet is part of the campus' International Culture week.

Sun Belt Shootout

MTSU's Men's Tennis will be holding the "Sun Belt Shootout" on April 8 and 9. The match times vary, but they all will be held in the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

Violin-Piano Duo

Florida State University music professors Karen Clarke, on violin, and Seth Beckman, on piano, will perform a free public concert on April 9 at 3 p.m. in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall in the Wright Music Building. The duo will perform Beethoven's Sonata in A Major, Op. 12 No. 2, the Duo Concertante by Igor Stravinsky, and the Sonata in G Major, Op. 78 by Johannes Brahms.

Golden Dragon Acrobats

The Goldeh Dragon Acrobats will be performing in the Tucker Theatre on April 11 at 7 p.m. The tickets will be \$5. The Golden Dragon Acrobats is a Chinese troupe that has been performing and touring for 25 years.

Cultural Event

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority is hosting a cultural event, "Amor Paz y Mas" on April 13 at 7 p.m. The event will be in the Tucker Theatre.

Alcohol Awareness Event

An alcohol awareness event will be held on April 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Keathley University Center Knoll. The event is to promote responsible drinking. Anheuser-Busch will be sponsoring keynote speaker Carolyn Cornelison at 6 p.m. in the KUC Theater.



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By Tori Harris
Staff Writer

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Gene Fitch, associate Vice President for student affairs and

dean of student life said that the raised fee was brought up in a recent meeting.

During the meeting, a decision was made that a committee will research and present the information at a later date.

"It may be mid-fall or mid-spring until something is done," Fitch said.

"The proposal has been tabled for further research, but upon passage by the Senate it will become a referendum for students to vote in the fall," said Megan Flippin, Vice President for Administration and Public Affairs.

If approved, MTSU will be the

largest cleanest energy purchaser in the state of Tennessee and one of the biggest in the Southwest, said Brenden Martin, faculty advisor for SEA.

On the fall SGA ballot, students where able to vote for or against the act, and 90 percent of students voted yes, said Brenden Martin, faculty advisor for SEA.

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MTSU student Silviu Ciulei won first place in the competition; Erol Ozsever took second place, and Kip Minton won third.

This year marks the third time MTSU students have won all of the guitar awards in the competition, which was established in 1888 and is one of the oldest private music clubs in America. In the past 13 years, MTSU guitar students have won nine first prizes and eight second prizes, which is more prize winners than from any other college or university guitar program.

Open to anyone under 30, the competition consists of performing three pieces, each of a different style and period. Contestants are not allowed to hear their competitors perform,

and when it is their turns to perform, they sit alone in a room with a judge.

"This was my first competition, so it felt great to hear that I had won 3rd place," said Minton. "I knew my main competition was from my MTSU peers, and they took first and second, which they deserved."

Vigorous practice is also involved when competing in this type of competition.

"You can ask my neighbors," said Ozsever, who has won the second prize twice. "I practiced a ridiculous number of hours to prepare for this competition. The weekend before the competition, I practiced 11 hours in one day."

Dr. William Yelverton, a professor in the MTSU guitar studies program, credits the latest victories to a more selective audition process with the program.

"I am trying to build a studio of high quality, not merely a big studio," Yelverton said.

Ozsever said Yelverton is a great teacher and deals with his students on a more personal level.

"He is always available for questions and is willing to help students go the extra mile," Ozsever said. "He keeps his students active by helping them arrange performances. The experiences that I've had have helped me overcome my performance anxiety."

The MTSU guitar studies program offers majors in classical and jazz guitar and offers classes in guitar literature, guitar performance and guitar pedagogy.

Students from around the U.S., Europe and Latin America have enrolled in the program, and both private and class instruction is offered.

MTSU graduates have continued to doctoral degree programs at major universities, as well as careers in performing and teaching.

The faculty consists of Dr. Yelverton, composer/guitarist Roger Hudson, guitarist/singer Salome Sandoval and Graduate Assistant Josh Tannehill.

Primary senate candidate, Corker, to visit

Staff Reports

Former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker is stopping by MTSU to speak with students about his bid for Republican candidacy in this year's mid-term Senate election.

The visit is being hosted by Raider Republicans and MTSU Economics Club, both of which are MTSU student organizations. As part of the clubs' polit-

ical and economic positions, Corker will be speaking about his policies on small government, low taxes, federal spending and market freedom.

Corker, during his 2001-2005 term as mayor for Chattanooga, eliminated 250 government positions and keep his city budget low while courting private companies to invest and develop the city.

"I'll take this same approach

to Washington and work with other conservatives to reexamine our spending priorities, eliminate waste, reduce the size of government,"



Corker

Corker said in a press release sent to Sidelines.

The speech will be held this Thursday at 3:00 pm in the Business and Aerospace Building Room 272 South.

Corker is competing against two Republican primary candidates former Reps. Van Hillary and Ed Bryant, and leading Democratic front-runner Rep. Harold Ford Jr.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

The Dialogue of the Carmelites

The McLean School of Music in Opera Workshop will present Francis Poulenc's religious opera-drama, *The Dialogue of the Carmelites*, on April 7 in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building. The play is set in the French Revolution's Reign of Terror in 1794.

Amazing Race

MTSU will be holding its own Amazing Race on April 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. The race will take place during "Make a Difference Week" and will raise money for Habitat for Humanity. It costs \$60 for each team of 6 to participate. The teams will participate in various events, and the winner receives a trophy. Forms are located in Student Life Office Keathley University Center, Room 5326.

Two Feminisms

Dr. Noelle McAfee will deliver a lecture, "Two Feminisms," on April 7 at 3:30 p.m. in the James Union Building, Room 304. The lecture focuses on feminism's relationship to democracy and political power. It will be free and a part of the 2006 Applies Philosophy Lyceum.

College of Mass Communication's Board of Visitors

Twenty-seven of the nation's best communicators will be providing advice, observations and guidance on programs and development on April 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Bragg Mass Communication Building's TV Studio. The Board of Visitors includes renowned journalist John Seigenthaler and professionals from the journalism, electronic media, public relations and recording industries.

First Friday Star Party

Dr. Chuck Higgins, physics and astronomy professor, will be performing a lecture, "What About the Dark Matter?" at 6:30 p.m. in the Wiser-Patten Science Hall, Room 102. The lecture will be a part of the First Friday Star Party series and will be free.

Best Wings in the 'Boro

Kappa Delta Sorority will hold their third annual Wing Fling on April 8 from 12 to 3 p.m. Nine restaurants, 13 fraternities and three sororities will compete for the title, "Best Wings in the Boro." The event is open to the community, and the tickets are \$7 before the event, and \$5 for children and \$10 at the door. Tickets are available from any Kappa Delta member or by calling 931-212-7163.

MTSU Jazz Festival

Renowned saxophonist Phil Woods will perform with the MTSU Jazz Ensemble I in the MTSU Presidential Concert Series and the MTSU Jazz Artist Series on April 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall of the Wright Music Building. The admission is \$12. The concert will be the culmination of the daylong MTSU Jazz Festival.

International Banquet

The 2006 International Banquet will be held on April 8 at 5 p.m. in the JUB Tennessee Room. The admission will be \$8 for MTSU students, \$15 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under and other college students. The banquet is part of the campus' International Culture week.

Sun Belt Shootout

MTSU's Men's Tennis will be holding the "Sun Belt Shootout" on April 8 and 9. The match times vary, but they all will be held in the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

Violin-Piano Duo

Florida State University music professors Karen Clarke, on violin, and Seth Beckman, on piano, will perform a free public concert on April 9 at 3 p.m. in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall in the Wright Music Building. The duo will perform Beethoven's Sonata in A Major, Op. 12 No. 2, the Duo Concertante by Igor Stravinsky, and the Sonata in G Major, Op. 78 by Johannes Brahms.

Golden Dragon Acrobats

The Golden Dragon Acrobats will be performing in the Tucker Theatre on April 11 at 7 p.m. The tickets will be \$5. The Golden Dragon Acrobats is a Chinese troupe that has been performing and touring for 25 years.

Cultural Event

Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority is hosting a cultural event, "Amor Paz y Mas" on April 13 at 7 p.m. The event will be in the Tucker Theatre.

Alcohol Awareness Event

An alcohol awareness event will be held on April 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Keathley University Center Knoll. The event is to promote responsible drinking. Anheuser-Busch will be sponsoring keynote speaker Carolyn Cornelison at 6 p.m. in the KUC Theater.



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OPINIONS

Sedition act will protect America

By Jacqueline Willison

Attack of the Friendly Capitalist

I couldn't help but squeal with glee in a recent U.S. History class when my professor went over the Alien and Sedition Act of the Adams administration. "What a great idea!" I thought with my eyes, no doubt, shining.

Though the alien part is uninteresting to me, the sedition part immensely intrigued me. In today's America, opinion columnists can verbally flog the President of the United States, and his administration. They can even trash talk all of their local government officials if they want.

Citizens in today's America can be

members of organizations that meet to mock and work against our current leaders. In fact, dissenters can do everything short of causing mass violence and dialing bomb threats. All of this is horribly wrong.

It is wrong thinking that leads to violence against a nation. We must nip these crimes in the bud of where they start.

This country was not made for the voices of contrary dissonance, but rather, made for the complacency of the people united in total trust of the leadership.

I think I can say with full confidence that our forefathers would frown strongly on our current leaders who allow those citizens who disagree and mock them to

walk free. They would also, most likely, point and laugh at their inability to punish or inhibit opposing opinions.

Modern government's attitude of allowing different opinions to air their complaints is harming our country. This attitude is dividing America.

What today's America needs are leaders that look less kindly on wayward behavior and thought, and will instead treat its citizens with an iron fist, if you will.

Today's America needs a new sedition act.

We need a new sedition act because nobody should be allowed to publish criticism of our leaders. For example, if someone believes that our President is a

draft-dodging unintelligent frat boy, and they pollute others' minds with such treasonous language, they deserve to be imprisoned and thrown out of the country.

It wouldn't be the first time that we enacted a new sedition act. In 1918, one was carefully included in an Espionage Act to guard against the "Red Menace." This was a great idea introduced in an effort to send those Communists packing!

Another bonus to this legislation would be that 90 percent of Hollywood would either be forced to leave the country, be imprisoned or just to shut their mouths. Everybody wins! (Except self-

important thespians.)

I urge all readers of this publication to write to their congressmen and encourage them to draft new legislation to punish those who commit such treasonous thought-crime.

Blind trust is the foundation of a quiet citizenry. Remember, if France had followed this philosophy, they would not have riots in their streets.

After all, if we are not bound together with identical opinions, then how can we ever coexist peacefully?

Jacqueline Willison is a junior psychology and pre-pharmacy major. She can be reached at jmw2u@mtsu.edu.

Conservative, liberal minds don't think alike

By Matthew Hurtt

Hurtt Pride

The difference between liberalism and conservatism is liberals do what they want with little regard for others – conservatives do what is right for the whole.

That is just one thing that popped into my head the other day as I was thinking about the fundamental differences between the Left and the Right. In fact, after thinking about it for a good part of the day, I devised several common sense statements about the current American situation. I have decided to these statements with the "open-minded" individuals on campus and abroad (even Japan!):

Faith in God is instrumental. So instrumental, in fact, that our country was founded on it.

Illegal immigration is illegal. What doesn't the Left (and President Bush) get about that? If you do not want to contribute to the improvement of this country legally, then go back home.

"Political Correctness is the liberal version of fascism." – Phil Valentine

New Orleans residents who think the government should rebuild are conditioned for failure. New Orleans should abandon those who do not think it is their responsibility to help rebuild.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony thought abortion was an abomination. They were pioneers in the Women's Suffrage movement. Why have feminists distorted that thought? Where is the baby's choice?

Capital punishment solves the problem: it elimi-

nates the person who committed the crime.

To relate the last two, abortion is wrong because it kills the innocent, capital punishment is reasonable because it kills the guilty. There is now no reason to argue the "hypocrisy" of Conservatives who are against abortion, yet support capital punishment.

"Progressive" taxes are not progressive at all – they restrict entrepreneurship and scold determination. Georgia Congressman George Linder supports the FairTax, and so should you.

A progressive income tax was just one of Marx's communist goals.

Over-taxation leads to big government. Government is given its power by the people, and the people have the right to take that power away.

Most unions are now useless. I'd like to especially single out teachers' unions, which tend to hurt the education of the students. Trust me, I know. On a related note, a free and public education was also a goal of the early communists.

Charter schools are worth looking into.

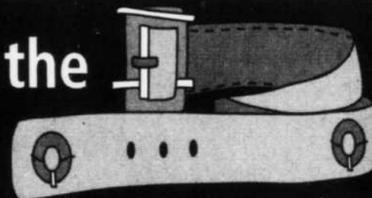
Marriage is not a man-made institution, it is a gift from God; therefore, man cannot change marriage. Period.

I hope this cleared up any confusion as to what most conservatives believe. I must admit that I am a little tougher than some conservatives are.

Unless we truly fight for what we believe in, then what point is there to fight at all?

Matthew Hurtt is a freshman History major and can be reached at Matt.Hurtt@gmail.com.

Unbuckling the Beltway



Below the belt questions for this week's journalism conference speakers:

"Mr. Bernstein, do you charge by the word or by the hour for character assassination?"

"Mr. Vice President, why haven't you mentioned anything about the Iraqi Liberation Act of 1998 in all your talk about Iraq? Isn't that the very kind of fact omission you say is wrong with journalism today?"

"Mrs. Mapes, are you still insisting that those documents are real? Conan O'Brien would say that you deserve to be visited by the Christmas Ghost of Don't You Ever Learn?"

"Mr. Seigenthaler, why did you spy for the Russians? One follow-up. Please, sir. Ok. Why did you accept money from Jack Abramoff?"

"What's so wrong with the goal of wanting to sell papers by any and all means necessary?"

Opinions editor's note: This section takes the news and exaggerates it, or makes it up completely. Outside of this box, you're free to think for yourself. We'd really like to thank all of the speakers for coming to MTSU this week. Remember the code of ethics: Limit harm [to incumbent liberals].

Letter to the Editor: America is better than opponents think

To the editor:

I am a reader of Sidelines, and I would first of all like to thank you all for a stellar job in running Sidelines. I do, however, have something that I'd like to point out.

I feel that it is overwhelming the amount of negativity towards our government, military, and President in your paper.

If our government is so bad, why is our country the most prosperous in the world?

If people are so adamant about impeaching our President and so upset about his performance concerning the war, there are many countries that would receive them with open arms.

If someone wants to whine about how crappy things are, I challenge them to spend time overseas in third-world countries. I have traveled extensively throughout the world. From my perspective, we have it incredibly good.

There is no room for people to whine about how terrible it is in the United States. Go to the Dominican Republic, go to Haiti, Jamaica, Romania, and on and on. And you want to talk about a crappy president? Haitians have been ripped apart through political turmoil, as have dozens of other countries.

By the way, those people don't even have the right to challenge their government, much less impeach their leader.

Why do you think Mexicans and Cubans FLOCK to American borders? It is not because they think we are such a terrible country, and have Satan as a president.

I find it so ironic that liberals verbally attack the very force that gives them the right to attack it. It reminds me of the post-Vietnam era. When troops were arriving home from combat, as the soldiers walked off the planes, liberal protesters were there to spit in their faces. That's how we welcomed them.

"Thanks for your service to our country, here's some saliva and mucus to welcome you back!"

Nothing positive comes out of a negative attitude. Positivity BREEDS positivity. The readers of Sidelines are very impressionable. They are young, and, for the most part, will believe whatever you print.

Print the truth, but don't dwell on how much it sucks.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chandler Hasemeyer

Freshman, College of Applied Sciences

Cch2s@mtsu.edu



Photo provided by Whitehouse.gov

"The best part about the report we wrote on the federal response to Katrina is that it's the first-ever pop-up federal report. If this catches on, we might try it with the budget," – President George W. Bush said in February. (This was not a real quote)

Opinions Editor: April Fool's Day made week-long

By Tim Hill

Opinions Editor

TO THE READERS:

My good friend, Darrell Jones, does not celebrate his birthday. On the contrary, he celebrates his birthday week.

In Opinions, we are giving April's Fool Day a week-long celebration. For us, that counts as two issues. We're going to try to make it worthwhile.

Today, you can read and identify with Jacqueline Willison's call for a new sedition act to be passed by Congress. Now, liberals, I know what you're thinking. "Isn't it called the PATRIOT Act?"

No, it isn't. Although conservatives usually believe terrorists and liberals are one in the same, there is one key difference between the two bills. A new sedition act would not have a sunset provision, thus lifting the burden of President Bush having to barnstorm the nation, calling on Congress to, "Make the Sedition Act of 2006 permanent."

We do have a couple of things that aren't satire. Matthew Hurtt's generalizations about conservative ideals offer a glimpse into how he thinks—even though some of you believe he doesn't. Another student sent in a letter to the editor and made some good points that I thought were worth publishing.

This semester, I've tried to keep the readers

informed, educated and entertained. My friend Ethan told me he only likes to read my columns. He said, "I'll be honest with you, Tim. Nobody else is worth reading." Ethan also broke up with a girl because she was allergic to onions, so I don't know about his judgment in this matter. Yes, Ethan, onions are indeed everywhere.

But, getting back on point, I wanted to just encourage you studs and muffins to enjoy and embrace this newspaper. It makes more than just emergency toilet paper.

We've got an award-winning staff, and as such, we all know that we're slightly better than you are.

Letters to the Editor
Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please email letters to:
SLopinio@mtsu.edu

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FEATURES

Lost peaks, lost treasures?

By Casey Phillips
Features Editor

"Why would you take a picture of the mountains? They're supposed to be there forever."

Larry Gibson and the other residents of the mining towns of the Coal River Valley in Southern West Virginia have voiced that same question over and over again as they watch men and explosives accomplish in months what nature and glaciers took geologic ages to do—lower the horizon, one mountain at a time.

From March 24 to 27, five members of MTSU's Students for Environmental Action carpooled to the Southeast Student Mountaintop Removal Convergence near Whitesville, W.Va., to listen to locals' stories about the effects destructive mining practices.

What they discovered was that mountaintop removal mining is to strip mining as blowing up a cherry bomb is to lighting a sparkler—it's all a matter of scale. MTSU alumnus and SEA member Brandon Armstrong said that when it comes to experiencing this level of destruction, pictures don't even come close to the real thing.

"In strip mining, they peel a mountain like an apple," Armstrong said. "With mountaintop removal, they just blow up the entire mountain. They actually lower the mountain a thousand feet so there's nothing but bedrock left.

"[Miners] used to go in horizontally and bring the coal out that way. Now, they blow up the top so they have a flat layer of coal to scrape off. Then they lower it again and scrape it again."

Just like with people, first impressions, not second-hand accounts, usually have the strongest impact when it comes to understanding environmental destruction. As the members of SEA stood on Gibson's 50-acre property, which is now surrounded on all sides by 3,000 acres of land owned and mined by Massey Coal Company, their collective impression was pretty strong.

"He used to stand there and look up 700 feet of a mountain, and now you're looking down into just—moonscape," Armstrong said. Gibson's family have lived on this land for more than 200 years, Armstrong explained, and now, after 10 years of fighting Massey off, the neighborhood looks like the war wasn't just a financial one. "It looked like the Grand Canyon—a miniature Grand Canyon in the middle of the Appalachians."

The constant explosions tearing the mountains down around Gibson's oasis—some little more than 300 feet from two family cemeteries on his property—have shaken both the mountain and the family tree.

"We talked to a guy who used to work for the cemetery company who said there are no bodies underneath those headstones," Armstrong said. "They've all fallen down into cracks. He said he would just fill them back up with hay bales and new dirt and pretend that they're still there.

"This is good for the coal company, though, because if they crack his foundation, then they can condemn his property and buy it for what it's appraised at."

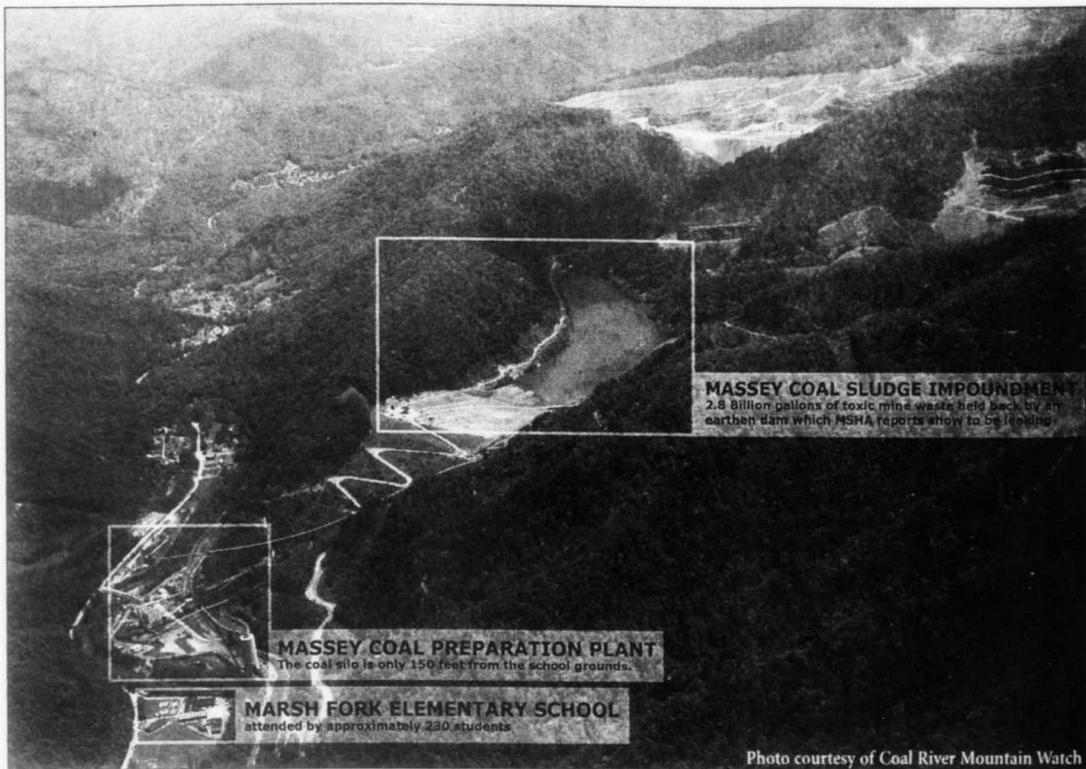
Armstrong and fellow SEA members Charlee Tidrick, Eric Blevins, Adam Wilson and Monica Brown discovered that the problems caused by mountaintop removal mining aren't limited to flattening a landscape that once inspired John Denver's famous lines about his "mountain momma." Massey, the National Coal Corporation and others in the coal mining industry are erasing a way of life.

"As far as [colonial] Americans, I think the Appalachian traditions are the only rich cultural traditions that we have, and that entire tradition is being crushed," Tidrick, an MTSU graduate and SEA member, said. "[These companies] are not just crushing people, they're crushing a culture."

Residents from Whitesville and other communities built around the coal industry joined 63 student activists from East Coast states as far away as Vermont to tell their stories to anyone who would listen. From grandchildren unable to breathe because coal dust is no longer a danger exclusive to men wearing hard hats to tales of a local economy that lived and died on the success of an industry that no longer needs them, the residents explained how they felt betrayed by the same companies they once depended on. For some summit participants, this was the most influential aspect of the trip.

"As activists, we're so used to hearing other activists who dress like us and talk like us," Tidrick said. "So when we hear a whole day of people who were born and raised in West Virginia, whose families have lived there for 200 years, I think that had a huge impact."

Just over 15 years ago, 30,000 men in West Virginia dug the local brand of "black gold" by which the region's lights shine and the food cooks, according to statistics tracked by the Energy Information



MASSEY COAL SLUDGE IMPOUNDMENT
2.8 Billion gallons of toxic mine waste held back by an earthen dam which MSHA reports show to be leaking

MASSEY COAL PREPARATION PLANT
The coal site is only 150 feet from the school grounds.

MARSH FORK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
attended by approximately 230 students

Photo courtesy of Coal River Mountain Watch

Administration. Now that 18 men can mine an entire ridge that once employed many more, the industry's employment has dropped to less than 12,000. Armstrong said he chalked this decrease up to the fact that "dynamite is cheaper than minimum wage."

Even in the coal-dust haze of these communities, there are occasional glimmers of hope, however brief. Participants heard the tale of two elderly women locals refer to as "the Sylvester Dust Busters" that provided encouragement for residents who decide to fight the coal companies, even if it simultaneously demonstrated how frustrating doing so could be.

When Massey built a coal processing facility near their town, Pauline Canterbury and Marry Miller, both of Sylvester, W.Va., tolerated it. When the coal company's promise fell through that the coal dust—a by-product of the processing operation and a known contributor to black lung disease, also known as "miner's asthma"—wouldn't reach the town, they decided to take action.

"The department of environmental protection told them to gather some evidence about this coal dust, so these little old ladies wiped down the same house in the same spot," Tidrick said. "They did this for two years, and no one ever came to collect the data, no one ever contacted them, so that's when they started taking Massey Coal Company to court."

Although the two women won a small victory when the court forced Massey to build a protective dome over its processing facility, the dust continued to fall. The real crime, Tidrick said, was that these women's lives once hinged on the careers of men working in Massey's dark shafts.

"You could tell that she really was thankful for coal in the region because it was their livelihood—her husband was a coal miner—and they really needed that money," Tidrick said. "She looked so hurt by how the practices of the coal companies now are so irresponsible.

"These companies have the opportunity to be responsible and offer jobs—to utilize that resource in a way that's beneficial for these communities—but they're not doing that."

The dangers of mining coal occur during every step of the process, from the ground to the power plants. After the coal is removed, the risk becomes even greater, residents and experts said. In addition to the dust that coats the underside of porches just as easily as the insides of lungs, the disposal or storage of the chemical soup known as coal slurry, which contains a number of toxic ingredients, including arsenic, lead, cadmium and other chemicals, presents a number of dangers to both the environment and the populace.

"There are problems with slurry period, no matter what," said Clay Harris, an associate professor of geosciences at MTSU who worked to determine the quality levels of ground water near abandoned underground mines in Eastern Kentucky. "You need to store it in a very stable way."

One method of containment, he said, is in the form of large, dammed-in areas known as "slurry ponds." The slurry is pumped into a blocked valley or another area to serve as a receptacle. One such "pond" is located just 400 yards away from the 244 children enrolled at Marsh Fork Elementary School in Sundial, a small town just outside Waynesville. From satellite images of the site, the 2.8 billion gallons of slurry held back by an earthen dam constructed from rubble looks more like a Jurassic tar pit than Walden.

"Slurry ponds are sort of notorious in mountain top removal because there have been several rather serious failures of slurry ponds," Harris continued. "Some of them have killed people. Slurry ponds are definitely a hazard, and in mountaintop removal, you're increasing that hazard significantly because you have a very steep gradient, and if that slurry pond fails, it can really mean trouble."

Trouble in February of 1972 meant the deaths of 125 and the destruction of 500 homes after the collapse of one slurry pond at Buffalo Creek, W.Va., according to a Mine Safety and Health Administration report of the incident. In that instance, the "pond" only contained 132 million gallons—only one twentieth as much slurry as at the Coal River Valley site.

"[The dam] is 300 feet tall, so we didn't see the water, but from the aerial photos, it looks like a dark black or brown," Armstrong said. "If somebody fell in it, I'd assume they'd die. It's already leaking, it's seeping

through into their water supply, and no one there can drink their water—they even shower with bottled water.

"[The Mine Safety and Health Administration] estimated that if it were to rain constantly, three inches of rain is all that would be needed to push through the dam, so maybe six days, that was one local estimate."

The other preferred method is to fill or "inject" abandoned mines with slurry as a containment method. As with sweeping the dirt under the rug, however, the problem may be less visible, but it's still there.

"The problem [with injecting slurry] is that you're putting it into mine works that are generally going to be below the ground water table," Harris explained. "Unfortunately, it will be connected with the saturated zone in that the slurry will percolate down through the bed rock and get into the ground water zone. Once it does, you're talking about the potential at least for a lot of heavy metals—lead, cadmium, arsenic, those sort of things getting into that water."

Once it penetrates the ground water, particularly in areas where wells are used for domestic water supplies, the health risks rise even higher on the list of potential problems, Harris added.

"When it comes to ground water, what you're talking about is the individual well owner using that water for a domestic supply, and there's no one around testing it to verify its quality," he said. "You can get real high levels of dissolved solids of iron or other things that aren't terribly good for you. You can get into the level of things that have a very low pH—very high acidity—that would do damage to your pipes, possibly to your body."

Armstrong, Tidrick and the other members of SEA left West Virginia with answers to many of their questions, but the enormity of the problem has stuck with them, they said.

"I felt like it hit closer to home because 25 percent of the mountains in Southern West Virginia are gone," Armstrong, a native of the mountains of East Tennessee, said. "They're moving to Tennessee. [The National Coal Corporation] has got permits to mine thousands of acres like that. This is sort of a preventative measure because we don't want Tennessee to look like West Virginia in 10 years."

"It's an obvious example of how it's both environmental and human rights at the same time," Tidrick said. "Even if people aren't into environmental rights or human justice, this will tap into their values. This sweeps so many violations of morality that if you have any values in your

[These companies] are not just crushing people, they're crushing a culture.

—Charlee Tidrick, MTSU alumna and SEA member

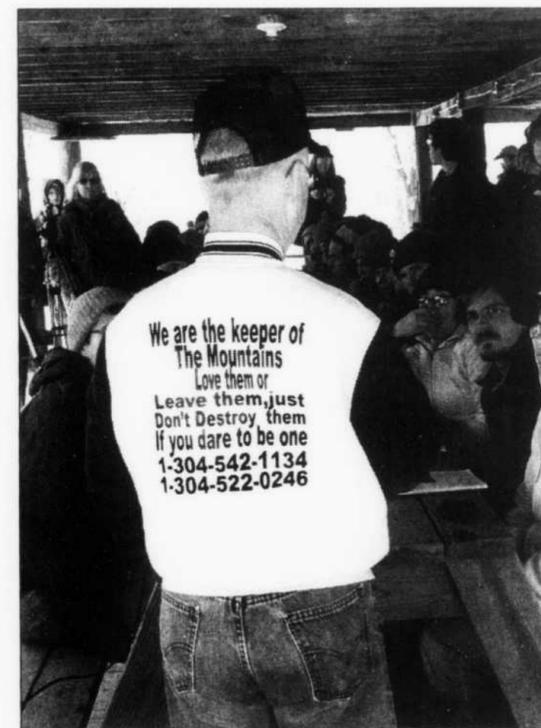
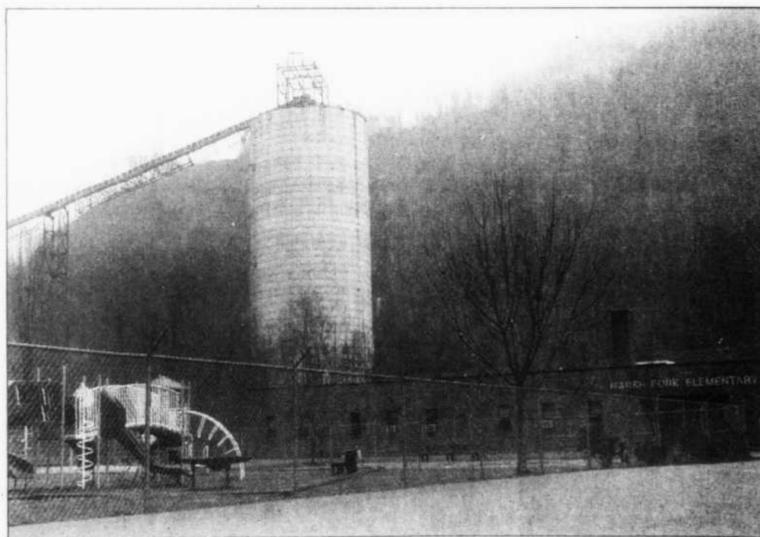


Photo © Eric Blevins

Larry Gibson, above, and other residents of the communities of Coal River Valley spoke to students about the effects of mountaintop removal on the environments.



Marsh Fork Elementary School and its 244 enrolled students, sits feet away from Massey Coal Companies facilities and just 400 yards away from a 2.8 billion gallon "slurry pond."

heart at all, you can find a way to relate to this problem."

As graduate students with less involvement in everyday SEA events than undergraduate members, Tidrick and Armstrong said they couldn't be sure what the group plans to do as a follow up to the summit. However, they both pointed to increasing public awareness of the practice as one likely direction for future events.

"As far as mountain top removal in and of itself, especially since it may be coming to Tennessee, much of SEA's activities will hopefully center around education and letter-writing campaigns to our representatives to make sure they're voting," Tidrick said.

When SEA celebrates Earth Day on April 20, they will have a prime opportunity to begin that education process. This weekend, the group will attend the Southeast Renewable Energy Conference in Knoxville. At last year's conference, Armstrong said the group found their first hand-hold to support their clean energy initiative, which has since passed on to the Tennessee Board of Regents and is under deliberation.

"That's where we learned that we could do it, we learned how to do it, and we decided to do it," he said.

If working against mountaintop removal poses as big a challenge to them as clean energy on campus, then taking photos of the Smokies for future generations may prove unnecessary.

SPORTS

Blue-White game Saturday

By David Hunter
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee football team will hit the field for the Blue-White Spring Game on Saturday at Floyd Stadium with kickoff at 1 p.m.

This will be the first time this game has taken place since MT being a Division I-A school back in 1999, and will conclude spring drills.

The teams will be divided up into two squads with the coaching staff picking the players. For example if the blue team picks the first team running back, the white team gets the second team running back.

This will be a normal game with the usual scoring system. The only difference is there will be no live kickoffs or punts. The defense will not be allowed to touch the quarterback. The ball will be put on the 35-yard line after a score, to begin the game, and to start the second half.

The game will have two 15-minute quarters with the clock being stopped like a regular game. In the second half, there will be two 12-minute quarters with the clock only stopping for a change of possession.

Also, the Blue team will be the ball first and be the home team. The White team is the visitor and get the ball to start the second half.

There is a couple of things MT head coach Rick Stockstill will be hoping to achieve during the spring game.

"To get off the field injury free," MT head coach Rick Stockstill said. "I think that one as a coach you always hope that you get out of the spring game without

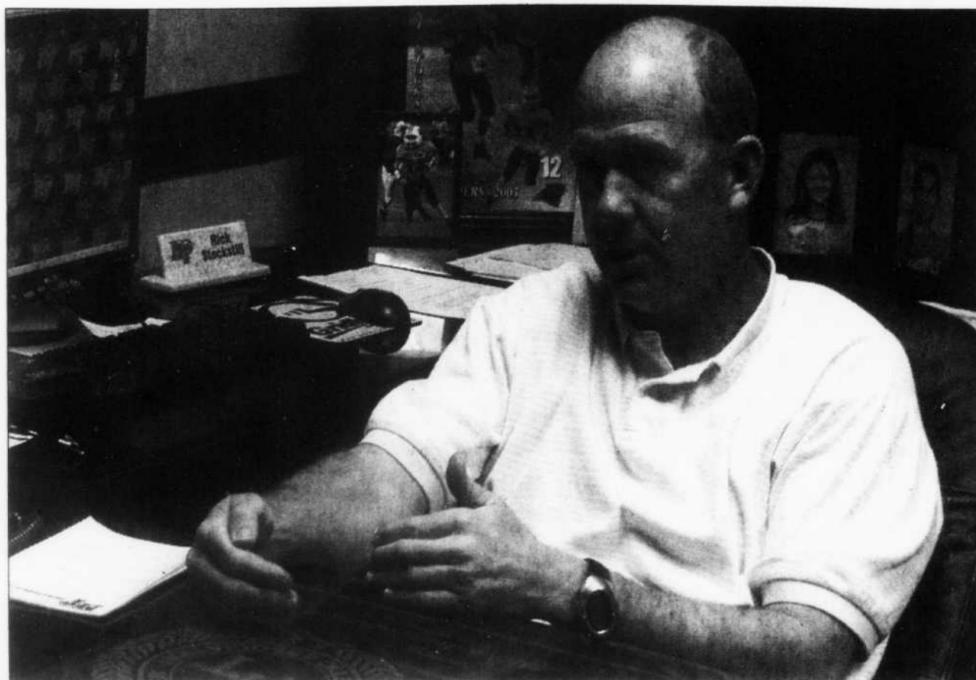


Photo by Adam Casto | Staff Photographer
First-year Middle Tennessee head football coach Rick Stockstill talks about the upcoming spring game.

getting anybody seriously hurt. Let the guys have fun, they gone through the entire off-season program, and now 14 days of practice. That they get out there and have fun and play in game-like situations. I want to see them compete. I want to see us improve. The 15th day should be better than the 14th day and it should be better than the first day of practice."

The winning team gets a steak and shrimp dinner, while the losers get only hamburgers.

Spring practices and scrimmages have been held under the guidance of Stockstill who has seen the team getting better, but thinks there is a lot of work that has to be done.

"I think we've improved," Stockstill

said. I think we're still a long, long, long way away from being a decent team in the fall. I think our summer preparation, what we do this summer is going to go a long way in determining how good we are in the fall." We got to get stronger as a football team. Our linemen have got to learn how to bend, play with leverage a little bit more than want we're playing

with now, staying on our feet more. We got to get better at wide receiver. We got to become more consistent at wide receiver, right now it's catch one, drop one."

During spring practice several players have impressed Stockstill, and will be ones to watch come Saturday.

"The person I have been most impressed with is Eugene Gross," Stockstill said. "I think he is a very, very unselfish player. He plays without the ball at full speed, he carries out his fakes, he's good in pass protection, he's catching the ball well out of the backfield, and he's doing well running the ball."

In three scrimmages, running back Gross has rushed for 184 yards and two touchdowns.

"I think Clint Marks is coming along," Stockstill said. "I think he's stepping up as a leader. He's becoming a little more vocal," Stockstill said.

The MT quarterback has thrown for 412 yards and five scores with no interceptions in three scrimmages.

"On defense, Tavares Jones, I love his motor," Stockstill said. "He practices hard every play."

Jones had two tackles for loss, two sacks, and three pass breakups in the scrimmages.

There will be an autograph session from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Blue Raider garage sale with old-school MT jerseys runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Kappa Delta Wing Fling takes place at Noon to 3 p.m. The winner of the eating contest will be announced at halftime.

The rosters for both teams are posted below. The asterisk (*) means the player is injured and will not play.

Warren leads MT baseball to win

By Russell Luna
Staff Writer

Nine runs in the first three innings would be enough on Tuesday night to help Middle Tennessee pick up their 12th win of the season by knocking off Lipscomb 12-7 at Dugan Field in Nashville.

Junior Adam Warren led the Blue Raiders with three hits and five RBIs along with Senior Jeff Beachum, who singled three times, along with scoring one run.

Middle Tennessee's Brett Smalley started Tuesday's game, but was unable to get to the fifth inning, as he allowed six runs on

ten hits during 4 and 1/3rd innings pitched. Langdon Stanley (2-4) pitched 1 and 2/3rd innings to receive his second win of the season, as Stanley allowed only one hit while facing four batters. Matt Scott, Chad Edwards, and Alan Woodward would all pitch one inning allowing one run of five hits.

The Blue Raiders struck early as a two-out single by Adam Warren to Bison second baseman Clay Lehning would allow Jeff Beachum to tag home and take a 1-0 lead.

Lipscomb would then answer back with a two-run inning in the bottom of the first, as a double

from Zac Miller, and a sacrifice fly from Justin Sanders would allow the Bison's to take the 2-1 lead.

A two-run inning in the second for Middle Tennessee would allow Marcus Taylor and Dillon Heath to score, allowing Middle Tennessee to take back the lead 3-2.

Four hits and an error would allow Middle Tennessee to score six more runs in the top of the third to take a 9-2 lead.

Insurance runs were issued in the fifth when Middle Tennessee would capitalize on a Lipscomb error that would allow Beachum and Wayne Kendrick to load the bases. A hit batter and a single

would score three runs to help the Blue Raiders take the 12-3 advantage.

Lipscomb would answer back with an addition of four runs to make the score 12-7 but were unable to hold of the streaking Blue Raiders. Shane Toole picked up his first loss of the season after pitching only two innings, allowing six runs on five hits, while striking out two and walking two.

The Blue Raiders will take their first visit to a Sun Belt opponent this weekend as Middle Tennessee will travel to New Orleans for a three game series that will begin on Friday.

Blue and White Team Rosters for the game on Saturday

Blue Team

QB Clint Marks
QB Hunter Patterson
RB DeMarco McNair
RB Julian Jamison*
FB John Marc Stephens
FB Hunter Birtsch*
FB Brodey Mann
FB David Cowan
WR Taron Henry
WR David Raymond
WR Patrick Honeycutt
WR Michael Cannon
WR Dale Galvin
WR Luke Paschall
TE Chris DeGeorge
TE Stephen Chicola
OL Franklin Dunbar
OL Mark Thompson
OL Paul Cantrell
OL Richard Bortner
OL Darrell Howard
DE Erik Walden
DE Sean Mosley
DE Zack Christian
DL Derek Mason
DL Ralpheal Ousley
LB Marcus Brandon
LB Devin Dutton
LB Chance Dunleavy
LB Levy Watson
LB Justin Rainey
LB Chad Malkiewicz
CB Bradley Robinson
CB Brandon Davis
CB Jordan Wilson
CB Matthew Hassell
CB Brent Thompson
CB Nicholas Gordon
S Jonathan Harris
S Tanner Graham
S Anthony Glover
S Ben Bradley
S Kevin Copeland*
PK Colby Smith
PK Matt Long
DS Jonathan Parks

White Team

QB Patrick Jackson
QB Joe Craddock
QB John Heard
RB Eugene Gross
RB Alex Suber*
RB Albert Webb*
FB Josh Dutton
FB Brad Nix
WR Pierre Ingram
WR Thomas Osteen
WR Jonathan Grigsby
WR Walt Bell
WR Jay Robinson
WR Rod Taylor
TE Clinton Corder
TE Bobby Matthews
OL David Price
OL Brandon Nix
OL Chris Ritter
OL Cade Becher
OL Germayle Franklin
OL Marcus Gates*
DE Chris McCoy
DE Tavares Jones
DE Brandon Roberts
DL Trevor Jenkins
DL Jonathan Presley
DL Christopher Sapp
DL Chris Anderson*
DL Brandon Perry*
LB Lonnie Clemons
LB Wes Hofacker
LB Coy Williamson
LB J.K. Sabb
LB David "Chase" West
CB Reggie Doucet
CB Craig Harris
CB Roy Polite
CB Ryan Robinson
CB Phillip Taylor
S Ronald Steed
S Dana Stewart
S Damon Nickson
PK Matt King
PK Vejin Tahir
DS Jonathan Parks

MT heads to SBC rival New Orleans

By Russell Luna
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee (12-11, 2-1 SBC) is looking to continue their streak of winning six out of their last seven games as they prepare to play the struggling Privateers this weekend in New Orleans (15-16, 2-4 SBC).

The Blue Raiders have outscored their opponents 64 to 29 in the past seven games, only losing once to Arkansas-Little Rock on March 25th. Coach Steve Peterson made some tweaks to the lineup that have sparked his team, including releasing the red shirt of freshman Dillon Heath to allow him to play the designated hitter position. Heath has responded by accumulating five runs off of six hits at 12 at bats in his first three games.

Coach Peterson is more concerned with his team working on battling at the plate and playing at a consistent level.

"These last 5 or 6 games we played, we have been in a battle mode," Peterson stated. "We have made it known to our opponents that

there are no easy outs when we are at the plate. In baseball, losses don't necessarily reflect momentum. I'm more concerned that we continue what we are doing and that will help us play better in the series."

Jeff Beachum has been one of the most consistent players for the Blue Raider offense. Beachum has an on base percentage of .438 and an average of .525 when leading off for Middle Tennessee.

New Orleans is looking to rebound after losing six games in a row, including a 19 to 5 blasting from Tulane and a series sweep from Florida International last weekend. The Privateers have been outscored 65-25 in the last six games, despite losing to Louisiana State 6 to 5 in 11 innings.

"I looked back at the WKU series and they pummeled them two straight games," said Peterson, whose team is 2-1 in the Sun Belt. "It's very difficult to go to Miami and play at FIU, who always play good at home. I just know they [New Orleans] are very capable of winning some games. Anything can happen,

what is predictable is unpredicted. We have to pitch very well, play good defense, and continue to hit."

Johnny Giavotella (.426 batting average) and Brandon Boswer (.388 batting average) lead New Orleans' offensively with a combined 62 runs scored on 95 hits, with 45 runners batted in.

Privateer Ryan O'Shea (5-2, 4.50 ERA) will most likely be the starter for Friday's game against the Blue Raiders. Justin Garcia (1-4, 5.61 ERA), and Branon Johnson (0-3, 5.96 ERA) will most likely be slotted for Saturday and Sunday's starters on the mound.

Middle Tennessee will pitch Matt Scott (4-1, 2.45 ERA) on Friday, before slotting Tyler Copeland (2-1, 3.10 ERA) on Saturday. Either Brett Reilly (0-1, 5.59 ERA) or Jeff Kasser (1-1, 3.50) will have the start on Sunday.

The Blue Raiders will begin the series on Friday with a 3:30 start. Saturday's game is slotted for a 2 p.m. start, and a 1 p.m. start will wrap up the series on Monday.

Softball Begins SBC Play vs WKU

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

Everyone knows there is no "I" in team, especially the Blue Raiders softball team who will travel to Western Kentucky this weekend to perform in their first Sun Belt Conference game of the season. The series against the Hilltoppers is the first of the next five SBC series for the Blue Raiders.

Middle Tennessee softball has been preparing for Sun Belt play since day one of practice. Now, after playing the top 25 teams, including Southern Illinois, for

the past six games, the players and coaches both feel they are ready for the upcoming conference games.

"All these games matter and we want to win all of them," said head coach Leigh Podlesny.

MT softball, however, is now down to 12 healthy players. Pitcher Laura Moore, Michelle Wilkes, Samantha Floyd and Mabern Barnes are out due to injury and illness. MT is now down to just two pitchers. Fortunately for the Blue Raiders, versatility has never been a problem and is something that has allowed MT to utilize its talents in

every game. "The girls that are healthy are very versatile and can play more than one position," said Podlesny. "They've been through a lot already and faced the very best competition early in the season."

"I'd like to see them use the experience they've gained and be aggressive," said Podlesny.

Freshman pitcher Jennifer Kempf and senior hurler Adrienne Lathrop aided in WKU's sweep over Wright State and Michigan State in their last series on March 26. Kempf pitched a shutout against Wright State and is 7-3 on the season.

Lathrop improved to 12-6.

Although WKU has solid pitching, the Blue Raiders will focus on what they have. Muriel Ledbetter has excelled in her performances at bat with six homeruns and a .319 batting average.

"For the most part it's a mental game and if you're being positive and you're confident you're going to do well against anybody," said Podlesny.

The Blue Raiders travel to Bowling Green, Ky. Saturday for a doubleheader against the Hilltoppers. The first game is set for 1 p.m. Sunday's game is set for noon.

Allan always makes things interesting

By Casey Brown
Assistant Sports Editor

To his teammates, he is known as B.A. His opponents? They probably call him something a bit more colorful.

For the last four years Brandon Allan has covered the court for the Middle Tennessee men's tennis team, compiling a successful record while giving so-called "conventional tennis" a swift backhand in the rear.

Allan is known as an aggressive all-court player who plays a high-risk, high-return game.

He's also known in the stands and on the tennis court alike as "emotional," to put it mildly.

"I'm really competitive and I hate losing, so I get frustrated easily," Allan shrugs with a casual grin.

To observers Allan can be identified as a blur of elbows and arms, fist pumps and chest bumps. His behavior is polarizing to say the least, galvanizing support from Blue Raider fans while annoying his competition to no end.

So why all the excitement?

Allan says he knows Knoxville, Tenn. feels that being expressive on the court improves his performance and complements his style of play.

"I'm more of a play maker so I like to go after my shots and win the point," Allan says.

"I like to go to the net and get in their face, and it helps to be really pumped up."

Allan's antics have left him in hot water on more than one occasion, earning him a few penalties along the way.

"I've gotten a couple of those [penal-

ties] this year," Allan says.

Allan insists he is trying to curb his enthusiasm and keep his emotions confined, but admits that "sometimes it helps to let it out."

Head coach Dale Short is forced to calm his player down at times, but Allan maintains that Short is understanding about such matters.

Allan produced one of the more memorable moments of the season when MT faced Louisville on March 27.

In a tightly contested affair, emotions ran high between Allan and opponent Jeremy Clark culminating in a heated exchange in the third set.

"There was a little bit of name calling and verbal abuse back and forth," Allan says.

"I thought I got a bad call and I might have given him one back, but it was in good fun," he continues, "At the end we apologized... usually it ends up like that."

But for the spectator, the fun doesn't end when the point is over. Allan is also noted for his colorful display with his racket while returning to the baseline.

Interested spectators often wonder what Allan is saying to his strings as he trudges back for the next point.

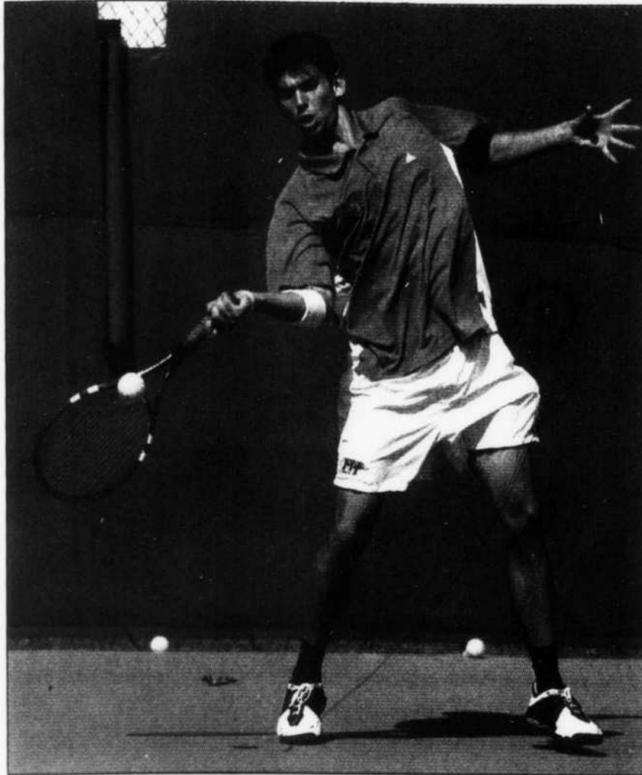
"I probably can't say that in the paper," he jokes, but goes on to say "Half the time it's technical stuff, something with the swing or footwork."

The senior also seizes the opportunity to practice his skills on the microphone.

"I listen to music a lot before the match, so a lot of times I'm just singing or rapping to myself," Allan says.

"I need a good song to play good."

Allan's aggressive mentality would



Brandon Allan returns a shot during a tennis match.

prove to be just what the doctor ordered for a slumping Blue Raider that stumbled to a disappointing 6-5 start following an upset loss to then-No. 74 Fresno State.

Photo provided by MT Media Relations

"We lost one we should have won at Virginia Tech, and the guys were just struggling with confidence after that," Allan says.

As a whole both Allan and Short

acknowledge that the team was playing tentatively, hoping the opponent would miss.

"We had a team meeting in Fresno, and everyone decided we needed to play bigger, play to win as opposed to playing not to lose," Allan says.

The change in attitude proved successful when MT upset then-No. 23 San Diego 4-2 the next day. The Blue Raiders have now won three straight, and Allan has claimed victory in five of his last six matches.

The senior attributes his personal success to increased confidence as well.

"I won a couple of three setters at Corpus Christi a couple of weeks ago. [With confidence] you get into a close situation and you just feel like you're gonna win," Allan says.

Off the court Allan reveals that he is initially shy in most situations, a far cry from the volatile persona he embodies between the lines.

He also mentions both team [advancing to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament] and personal [reaching fourth on the all-time doubles win list] goals for the remaining days of his tennis career at Middle Tennessee.

"I looked at that in the media guide, so it's definitely in the back of my mind," he says with a laugh.

Whatever the results, when Brandon Allan is involved it's safe to say that there will never be a dull moment along the way.

Opponents and officials, proceed at your own risk.

Terps take title, will open with Blue Raiders

Tuesday, April 4
Maryland 78
Duke 75

By Jimmy Golen
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) - Maryland's players celebrated on the court, laughing and hugging and bouncing up and down.

Never mind that they still had overtime to play.

"Overtime is our time,"

Terrapins forward Marissa Coleman said. "What a better way to win a national championship than in overtime, which was our time all season long?"

Too young to fear the pressure and too experienced to succumb to it, the Terrapins won their first NCAA women's title Tuesday night, coming back from a 13-point deficit to force overtime and beat Duke 78-75.

Next year, the Sun Belt Conference champs, Middle Tennessee will host Maryland to open the 2006-07 season on November 17th.

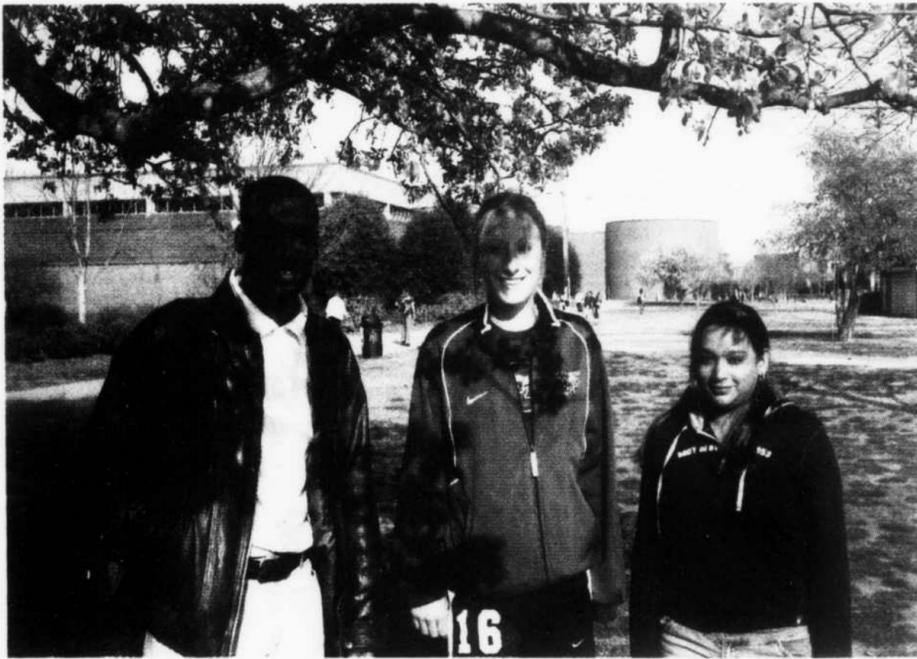
Maryland (34-4) is 6-0 in overtime games this season - the first five on the road and the last in the championship to cap the second-largest comeback in a women's final. It was the first time the title was determined in overtime since Tennessee beat Virginia in 1991.

Piling up on the court, hugging and bumping chests, the Terrapins reveled in the youth that had been the biggest doubt surrounding them coming into the tournament. Even coach Brenda Frese, who was the coach of the year at 32 and a national champion at 35, is on the precocious side.

"Age is just a number," she said. "When you get kids that believe and they believe in each other and they've got that kind of confidence, you can accomplish anything as a team."

Maryland was a charter member of the Final Four 25 years ago but struggled before Frese took over the program in 2002.

"Who would have ever thought in my wildest dreams I would have gotten two rings this year?" Frese said. "One getting married and the other a national championship."



International Programs and Services Office presents

International Culture Week April 3-7, 2006

International Banquet
Saturday April 8, 2006

Entertainment:

Salome Sandoval of Venezuela
Silviu Ciulei of Romania
Danny Salazar Y Los Kuarto
representing Latin America/Mexico
Indian Fashion Show
hosted by Mary Babbali

Tickets available in KUC 124, 898-2238.

The International Programs and Services Office wishes to invite you to celebrate our 16th annual celebration. We are celebrating International Culture Week on our campus April 3-7, 2006. During this celebration, we wish to recognize several students who have participated in giving cultural presentations within the local primary and secondary school classrooms. The students we wish to recognize are: Michael Tesfahuney from Ethiopia; Amisha Agarwal from Nepal; Claire Ward from Scotland; Holly Grogan from England; Wolday Abroha from Ethiopia; Kirsten Neuhoff from Germany.

These students have participated in our Culture-to-Culture Program. Our Director, Dr. Tech Wubneh, first implemented this program. The purpose of this program is to benefit both the international students and the local school systems in which they give their presentations. The program was designed to provide a service to schools in Murfreesboro and the surrounding counties that allows our international students and faculty to visit and present their native her-

itages to the classrooms. MTSU's international student body currently represents over 60 countries. We feel Culture-to-Culture will provide a richer learning experience than traditional methods. Students will be able to meet and ask questions of an international student or faculty member. Almost every academic subject taught in the educational system is influenced by internationalism. Therefore, any class from the sciences, foreign languages, social studies, literature, business and the arts can benefit from a little cultural experience.

Come join us in our celebration by joining us at the International Banquet on Saturday, April 8, 2006. Tickets are on sale now at KUC room 124. You can stop by to purchase your ticket or call us at 898-2238 to have tickets delivered to you on campus.

This year's entertainment will include Salome Sandoval of Venezuela; Xiaodan Zhou representing Tai Chi of China; Silviu Ciulei of Romania;

Danny Salazar Y Los Kuarto representing Latin America/Mexico; and an Indian Fashion show hosted by Mary Babbali.

Fabulous foods prepared by James Quinn, Director of Culinary Operations here at MTSU and ARAMARK will be a delectable delight. You can sample and enjoy Chicken Alfredo, German Sausage and Sour Kraut, Irish Stew, Sushi, Vegetable Stir Fried Rice, Tandoori Chicken, Shrimp Coconut Curry, African Chick Pea Stew with Chicken and Lentils, Couscous with Apricot and last but not least Honey Roasted Cornish Hen. There will be a variety of desserts sure to please every pallet.

We hope to see you at the banquet.