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Baseball team hosts Southwest Missouri

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How often will you utilize the new wireless Internet connection?

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INSIDE: 'Open Line' lacks openness McPhee promised to display

Middle Tennessee State University

An editorially independent newspaper

SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

Volume 77 No. 27

Activist to discuss Afghanistan's condition

By Shana Brogden Contributor

A rare first-hand account of the war in Afghanistan has had on its people from an experienced third-world relief organizer will be told at MTSU today.

Medea Benjamin, a human rights activist who has just returned from a second trip to Afghanistan, will be describing the consequences of the U.S.-led war against terrorism as felt by Afghan refugees, a perspective Benjamin says is normally left out by the U.S. news media and government officials.

"During our visit to Afghanistan with relatives who lost loved ones on September 11, we met dozens of innocent people who lost relatives, were injured or lost their meager possessions during the U.S. bombing campaign," Benjamin said.

The two trips to Afghanistan Benjamin will discuss spawned enough international attention that the U.S. government was pressured to discuss civilian casualties and create a compensation fund for Afghan victims. Benjamin and others visited with Afghan refugees affected by U.S.-led bombing campaigns, evaluating the human, material situation and assessing the damage to the country's infrastructure.

Benjamin will argue that the U.S. government is morally and financially responsible for reconstructing the war-torn infrastructure that its bombing helped demolish.

"Our hearts and wallets have gone out to the families of the innocent victims of September 11, but what happens to these innocent victims?" Benjamin asked. "We're calling for help for these people because what we found is, that they're getting none."

Benjamin is the founding director of Global Exchange, a human rights organization that promotes environmental, political and social justice around the world and works to increase global awareness among the American public.

Benjamin was also the California Green Party candidate for the U.S. Senate, campaigning on issues such as living wage, schools not as a for-profit, and universal health care. In 2001, she was active in fighting market manipulation by energy companies during the California energy crisis.

Through Global Exchange, she has helped generate world attention on the need to place labor and environmental concerns over corporate profits.

Benjamin was also a key figure in an anti-sweatshop movement and campaigned against such retail companies as Nike and Gap. She also helped expose the problem of indentured servitude in Saipan, which led to a billion-dollar lawsuit against 17 U.S. retailers.

Her MTSU appearance today in Room 204 of the James Union Building at 4 p.m. is sponsored by MTSU Solidarity. Her specific topic, in addition to the need to rebuild Afghanistan, will be the particular situation faced by women there.

Benjamin's primary

See Medea 2



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Medea Benjamin is one of the few non-government or media related officials to visit Afghanistan since Sept. 11

Canines cheer local patients



By Pam Hudgens Editor in Chief

As they trot through the halls of personalized name tags attached to their collars, Chaser and Batman are stopped frequently to receive praise and coddling by medical staff, patients and visitors alike. Though they may be some of the

hospital's most unusual visitors, they also are some of the most popular.

The two dogs have been visiting MTMC for the past few months as part of Volunteer Paws, a pet therapy group that became an official chapter of Therapy Dogs International in 1999. The volunteers provide comfort and companionship to hospital patients and to the disabled, handicapped and terminal-



Photos by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

MTSU psychology professor Cathy Crooks (above) holds Chaser in her arms before visiting patients. The Middle Tennessee Medical Center emergency room staff (left) gather around Chaser and Batman.

ly ill by providing a sense of normalcy to health-care facilities.

"It's such a stress-reliever," said Irish Frazier, patient care director at MTMC. "It brings a little sunshine into the hospital."

Volunteer Paws Director Margaret DiCorleto said the best part of the experience is being able to make a difference in people's lives.

"When we go into a facility, we really change the atmosphere," she said.

Cathy Crooks, a psychology professor at MTSU, is a founding member of the group. She and Chaser, a 1-year-old sheltie, visit the hospital about once a month. They, along with other members

See Paws, 4

Campus opens lines with President McPhee



Photo by Jason Cox | Staff

Channel 10 premiered the first 'Open Line with President Sidney McPhee' Tuesday night. President McPhee fielded questions about department funding, fund-raising, the removal of the modulars and parking from the campus community and general public.

EYESORE OF THE WEEK



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Thought it was over? Think again. Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association is back, charging spectators and excluding students from spots they paid for.

"Eyesore of the Week" examines the inadequacies of our campus in hopes of drawing attention to flaws that need to be addressed. If you have seen any "eyesores" around campus, please let us know by calling 904-8357 or e-mailing slmedit@mtsu.edu.

Housing extending deadline for tutors

By Courtney Huckabay Staff Writer

Housing needs tutoring - and lots of it.

No, really. Housing and Residential Life is searching for well-rounded individuals to serve as academic assistants in the First Year Experience halls, Corlew and Cummings.

"It's a great opportunity to

work with first-year students," said Peer Academic Advisor Dana Moore. "An academic assistant serves as a role model and helps freshmen get acclimated to student life and get excited about school."

Academic assistants pay for a private room at the price of a double, put in 10 hours per week of tutoring in the centers located in the lobbies of both

buildings and also five hours of programming for the residents. They work closely with each other as a team and also with the resident assistants to provide an educational and social atmosphere for freshmen living on campus.

"Our area really is a unique one," Moore said. "We're like one big family. Everyone pulls together to make sure things get

done, and we really support each other. A great benefit of doing something like this is making lifelong friendships."

The FYE program started at Cummings Hall in 1998, allowing three floors of females and three floors of males to live together with an RA and AA on each floor. The program has

See Tutoring, 2

Medea: Activist tours Nashville

Continued from 1

appearance while in middle Tennessee will be Friday at 7 p.m. at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville, where she will present a historical overview of Afghanistan's problems. The Green Party of Middle Tennessee will host a reception and potluck dinner for her at 6:30 tonight after a presentation at the Nashville Peace and Justice Center.

The public is invited to the events, all of which are free. For additional information, contact John Drury at 670-1141. ♦

A partial listing of incidents filed by the MTSU Police Department from Feb. 28 to March 12 included:

Thursday, Feb. 28 – 6:09 p.m.

Family Student Housing Office – Clothes were stolen from the laundry room.

Friday, March 1 – 7:38 a.m.

Cope Administration Building – A sticky substance marred a car.

Sunday, March 3 – 2:50 a.m.

James Union Building – Stephen C. Hervey, a Goodlettsville resident, was arrested on the charge of driving on a suspended license.

Monday, March 4 – 12:55 a.m.

Spencer T. Phillippi was arrested on the charge of driving under the influence. It is the Smyrna resident's fourth DUI offense.

CRIME LOG

Compiled By Laren Anderson – Staff Writer

Monday, March 4 – 11:09 p.m.

Nicks Hall – A brown, four-door vehicle, believed to be a 1989 Mercury Cougar, nearly struck a pedestrian. The car swerved and drove away. A male, who wore a dark colored jacket, may have been the driver.

Tuesday, March 5 – 1:39 p.m.

McHenry Hall – A wallet was stolen from a female's dorm room.

Tuesday, March 5 – 2:31 p.m.

Cummings Hall – A resident reported she received harassing phone calls.

Friday, March 8 – 10:10 a.m.

A hit and run occurred at Greek Row on Rutherford Boulevard.

Friday, March 8 – 1:56 p.m.

Greenland Drive Parking Lot B – A red Chevrolet

Cavalier with an Indiana license plate left the parking lot after it was allegedly involved in a hit and run.

Sunday, March 10 – 1:44 p.m.

Business and Aerospace Building – Juan Demetrio Vasquez, a resident of Granite Falls, N.C., was arrested on the charge of driving without a license.

Monday, March 11 – 2:14 a.m.

Scarlett Commons – Chad N. Hale of Columbia, Tenn., was arrested on the charge of driving under the influence.

Tuesday, March 12 – 1:54 a.m.

Brandon P. Jones of Beech Bluff, Tenn., was arrested and charged with driving on a revoked license.

To report an emergency or crime, dial 2424 from any campus phone or dial 898-2424 from off campus. ♦

Tutoring: Academic tutors help students

Continued from 1

expanded to include both Corlew and Cummings, with two centers and two peer academic advisers. More improvements are being discussed for the next academic year as well, so current applicants would be part of a new phase of the program.

Academic assistants receive a stipend of \$1,785 per semester, but most agree that the rewards come from the interaction with students and the relationships developed over time.

Junior Andrew Moss is a math academic assistant who values these small rewards.

"People come up to me all the time to thank me or to tell me that they did really well on a test because I helped them," he said. "One person even told me that I helped him bring his grade up from an F to a B."

"The tutoring program is a great experience for both the assistants and the residents," Shelly Selchow, peer academic adviser, explained.

"While assistants could hold this position all through their college career and use it as a resume builder," she said, "residents have easy access to free help right downstairs. It's good for students because it's a hands-on experience, and they



Photo by Pam Hudgens | Editor in Chief

Sophomore Virginia Dumoulin tutors Sophomore Tashalla Hinkle, a nursing student, in Algebra Monday.

can ask questions in and out of the center because the assistants live with them as well."

The deadline to apply for the positions has been extended to Wednesday, March 20 to allow for more candidates.

Applications are available in the Housing office, Keathley University Center, Room 303. Moore can be reached at 904-8556 for questions about the tutoring program and the application process. ♦

after this, the corporate ladder will be a piece of [cake].SM

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SIDELINES STUDENT BALLOT Nomination for Outstanding Teacher Award 2001-2002

I Nominate _____
(Please Print Full Name of Instructor)

from _____
(Department of Nominee)

for a

2001-2002 Outstanding Teacher Award

(Nominees must be full-time faculty members to be eligible)
(Please type or print clearly)

Signature _____

Please return this ballot to:

Office of Executive Vice President and Provost,
119 Cope Administration Building
Mailing address: Provost - CAB 119

Deadline

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Why is it so hard for a 30-year-old to think about retirement?

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Some women using *Depo-Provera* experience side effects. The most common are irregular periods or spotting. Many women stop having periods altogether after a few months and some

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Paws: Volunteer pooches offer healing companionship

Continued from 1

of the group, also visit area nursing homes and the Veteran's Administration Medical Center.

"It's such an honor to be able to come here," Crooks said. She explained that MTMC is one of the few hospitals in Middle Tennessee that allows pet therapy groups to visit.

"We just get such a warm reception," she said. "It's unbelievable."

Chaser and Batman, a 7-year-old Afghan hound, visited the hospital last Thursday along with Crooks and Batman's handler, Jennifer Clute.

As soon as they entered the sliding doors, they were bombarded with requests for personal visits, including one from a hospital employee whose father was in the hospital as a patient.

"We usually only have time for one or two floors because we get stopped so much," Crooks said.

Ruby Anderson's room was the first stop of the afternoon. After getting the permission, Chaser hopped into the hospital bed to snuggle with Anderson.

"He's going to crawl all over you if you let him," Crooks

warned with a smile.

"I love him," Anderson replied. "He's my baby."

Anderson's husband told Crooks that she had been asking for her own dogs, two beagles and a chihuahua, to visit. She settled for a visit from both Chaser and Batman.

While Chaser's small size allows him to lay in bed with the patients, Batman's 60 pounds require a different approach. Thanks to his height, Batman is easy to pet and hug when he stands beside the bed or climbs into a chair, as he did while visiting Henry Clark.

"He can sit and watch TV with me," Clark said with a laugh while watching Batman situate himself in the recliner to the right of Clark's bed. Clark had been in the hospital since that Monday with heart problems and was waiting to hear from the doctors on where he stood.

"I'm glad you stopped by," he told Clute as she and Batman headed on to the next patient.

The dogs are allowed to enter all areas of the hospital except surgery and the GI lab. In fact, though Chaser and Batman were allowed to visit a cancer patient who requested to see

them, Clute and Crooks were cautioned that they had to wash their hands with an anti-bacterial lotion before they could enter the room.

"The dogs are clean enough that they're OK," Frazier said. "They're not the risk to her."

The hospital employees often look forward to visits from the dogs as much as the patients do.

"A lot of times when we come in ... we can't get past the staff," Crooks said.

As the four enter the emergency room, they are surrounded by nurses, doctors and security guards who want to get closer to the dogs.

"He loves attention," Crooks said of Chaser.

After Chaser and Batman are photographed with all the staff members, they head down the hall to see patients.

"They're cleaner than you are," Director of Emergency Services D'Lynn West when asked by a nurse if the dogs are allowed in the patients' rooms. West said they don't get to see the dogs enough, though.

"We've asked if they'd come every day," she said. "We want them to come whenever they can. If the patients don't want to

see them, the staff sure does."

Volunteer Paws consists of 20 handlers and almost two dozen dogs. The dogs must have basic obedience training along with the right personality.

"They have to like what they're doing, otherwise it doesn't work," DiCorleto said. She said the dogs must be friendly, outgoing, adaptable and well-behaved with a stable temperament and that they must like meeting people in a variety of situations.

"It has to be under control and well-behaved at all times, no matter what happens," she said. "The environments that we bring them in are stressful. It's work for them."

Two teams from Volunteer Paws also are participating in a pilot reading program that's modeled after the READ program. It pairs children who have been identified as reading below grade level with a canine partner to read to.

"By reading to the dogs, it takes the pressure off of reading," DiCorleto explained. She said over time, the child's reading improves, and frequently their self-esteem improves also. It does seem to be working very nicely," she said.



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer
Ruby Anderson, a patient at Middle Tennessee Medical Center, gets a visit from Chaser, a 1-year-old sheltie. Chaser is just one of the two dozen dogs that visit patients at local health-care facilities as part of Volunteer Paws, a local pet therapy group.

"He looks forward to reading now and talks about enjoying reading, which he didn't do before," she said of one of the children in the program. She hopes to add more teams to the program next year.

They also are planning to explore the area of disaster response to provide emotional

support and comfort to victims of tornados, floods and fires.

DiCorleto said she is always interested in hearing from people who want to join the group. If interested, visit the group's Web site at www.volunteer-paws.org or call DiCorleto at 273-2904. ♦

WE AGREE WITH DAVE:

Katie Thiesen
Volleyball

Erin Hillstrom
Volleyball

Lisa Kissee
Head Coach, Volleyball

Michael Johnson
Football

Tasha Adams
Athletic Trainer

Bobby Barlow
Athletic Trainer

Matt Riley
Head Strength Coach

Roxanne B. Forth
Athletic Secretary

WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE, DEPO-PROVERA agree Dave's story and share your Spiritual beliefs. Don't miss out!

7:30 p.m., Thursday March 14
LRC 221

www.agreeordisagree.com

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What is DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?
DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is a birth control that is given as an intramuscular injection (a shot) in the buttock or upper arm every 3 months (12 weeks). To continue your contraceptive protection you must return for your next injection promptly at the end of 3 months (12 weeks). DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is a hormone that is injected into the muscle to prevent pregnancy. It is not effective until 14 days after your injection. It is not effective until 14 days after your injection. It is not effective until 14 days after your injection.

How effective is DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?
The efficacy of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection depends on following the recommended dosage (see below) and when you get your shot. If you do not get your shot on time, you may not be protected against pregnancy. DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is 99% effective in preventing pregnancy when used as directed. DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is 99% effective in preventing pregnancy when used as directed. DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is 99% effective in preventing pregnancy when used as directed.

What are the risks of using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?
The side effects reported most frequently by women who use DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection are: weight gain, irregular menstrual bleeding, and changes in menstrual bleeding. Other side effects include: changes in menstrual bleeding, changes in menstrual bleeding, and changes in menstrual bleeding.

Percent of Women Experiencing an Accidental Pregnancy in the First Year of Continuous Use

Method	Lowest Reported	Typical
DEPO-PROVERA	0.1	0.2
Diaphragm (with spermicide)	8	12
Female condom	11	14
Vaginal sponge (with spermicide)	18	21
Coitus interruptus (pulling out)	20	23
Withdrawal	22	26
Female condom (without spermicide)	25	28
Diaphragm (without spermicide)	26	29
Female condom (without spermicide)	27	30
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Female condom (without spermicide)	93	96
Female condom (without spermicide)	94	97
Female condom (without spermicide)	95	98
Female condom (without spermicide)	96	99
Female condom (without spermicide)	97	100

Birth control you think about just 4 x a year

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, March 14, 2002

SIDELINES ♦ 5

Editorial

'Open Line' lacks openness McPhee promised to display

At the beginning of Tuesday night's "Open Line with President Sidney McPhee," McPhee promised an hour of free-flowing information on any topic - information without a filter. While, presumably, the filter was removed for the night, McPhee still managed to avoid straight answers to several important questions he was asked.

When a caller inquired about former basketball coach Randy Wiel's sudden resignation Tuesday, McPhee said nothing more than that he wished Wiel the best of luck. He gave no insight into why Wiel left or what part he played in Wiel's decision.

Another caller wondered about the satisfaction rate of MTSU graduates, and why our rate is much lower than that of Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tenn. McPhee said those surveys could be unreliable if only certain segments are questioned and that, before he could really answer the question, he needed to review MTSU's satisfaction rating.

When another caller asked McPhee about funding for individual colleges at the university and why some colleges seem to receive more funding than others, McPhee said one college shouldn't receive more funding than another. He also said it's the university's responsibility to supply Peck Hall with plenty of chalk, a habit that might make some professors laugh.

McPhee became indignant when he was asked where the graduate teaching assistants and professors will go for office space, now that they have been evicted from the modular buildings. He said other space "we can be proud of" had been found for all those evicted, yet we know of several still and a couple of professors still without adequate office space.

However, despite our disappointment with some of McPhee's answers (and, frankly, some of the questions asked: does parking really merit three questions?), we think the show was done very well and has excellent potential to live up to its billing.

We also applaud McPhee for his consistent efforts to open himself up to questions from the general public.

We encourage McPhee, for the April show, to be even more open and honest with the students, and share his real opinions about the issues affecting us. There's something about public relations-style spin doctoring that turns students off.

So next time, McPhee, give us less pap, more soap. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

What's wrong with Hollywood's finest enjoying a cigarette?



Health nuts in California, citing a study in the anti-tobacco journal *Tobacco Control*, are clamoring for inclusion of tobacco in movie ratings.

Right now, movie ratings are based on drug use, nudity, language, violence, sensuality and overall theme. How do cigarettes fit into those categories? Unless Mr. Butts starts cursing like George Carlin with PMS and starts doing a strip tease for whimpering preschoolers, I can't see where the protesters are coming from.

The argument they give is weak: tobacco is used by big, popular movie stars on screen and then impressionable people are more apt to smoke.

Interesting theory. Too bad it's wrong.

Smokers are usually in PG-13 or R rated movies, films whose target audience already knows the dangers of

smoking. I have a hard time believing that a 37-year-old man munching on some Junior Mints is going to rush out and buy a pack of Camel Turkish Golds if he's never smoked before. And if he has smoked before, then the damage was already done before he went to the movie.

There have been no direct tobacco placements in films since 1989, when the film industry voluntarily adopted a ban. It stands to reason, then, that the only point of showing tobacco in films is to advance a scene or allow the audience to relate to a character. Or to accidentally start fire with a cigarette butt, like in *Raising Arizona*.

The industry is already doing enough to police itself. The Motion Picture Association of America, who sets movie ratings, must realize enough is enough and ignore the "advice" of *Tobacco Control*.

If they succeed, what's next? No more fast food? No more car chases? In the name of all that is decent and American, let the smoking scenes be. ♦

Record stores take note: I'm more than just hip-hop

On the Real

Shawn Whitsell
Staff Columnist



About a week and a half ago, my friend Michelle and I were rummaging through the "used" section at a local music store. I wasn't looking for anything particular, as usual, I was just hoping to strike gold. Then a store employee asked if we were finding everything OK. We smiled, told him that we were cool and thanked him for his assistance.

There was nothing unusual about the situation until he opened his mouth again. As he was walking away, he pointed and said, "The rap section is over here."

I laughed at his comment. Michelle and I looked at each other and he said, "We're not looking for rap." Then I said, "I'm looking for country."

was joking, but I was also making a point. We sort of laughed the situation off because being stereotyped is an everyday thing in our lives. We just couldn't believe the guy let that comment come out of his mouth.

To be honest, I don't think the guy meant anything by it. It just goes to show how people stereotype others without even thinking.

True, I did walk out of the store with a hip-hop CD (Nappy Roots), but I also bought Soulive's *Doin' Something* album. And if you're familiar with Soulive, then you know that they are a soul-jazz organ band. If they had any used Ben Harper CDs, I would have bought one of those, too. For those of you who aren't familiar with Harper, he does everything from folk to hard rock.

I was in a different music store Saturday and the employee asked, "You looking for rap or R&B?" He asked with much assurance as if it was totally illogical for me to be look-

ing for anything else.

Once again, I wasn't searching for anything particular, but if I had been looking for rap or R&B, he wouldn't have been able to tell by simply looking at me, regardless of my skin tone or the type of clothes I was wearing.

I didn't make a big deal about it. I just told the guy I was just looking for whatever. I wasn't really that upset, but I was disappointed that this had happened twice in less than two weeks.

Yes, I love rap music, not all of it, but a lot of it. But don't think that just because I'm a young, black male that rap is all I'm into. Alongside my Common, Mos Def, Prodigy and Jay-Z CDs, I also have four Bob Marley albums. Santana's *Supernatural*, jazz saxophonist Gerald Albright's *Live to Love* album and six of Lenny Kravitz's seven CDs.

Those guys have no idea that one of my favorite songs is the beautiful "Imagine" by John Lennon

or that I really like Moby and Gwen Stefani's hit "Southside." They have no clue of how much I appreciate Pink's latest album, which is a blend of rock, blues and folk.

They probably would've never guessed that the same skinny, black guy who walked into their stores wearing a backward UK cap also plays the acoustic guitar (I didn't say I was that good, but I do play).

Now, I'm not really a country music fan, but as funny as it sounds, I did work as an on-air personality for a country music radio station one summer in my hometown. I did it just to get the radio experience, but I ended up leaving with something far greater - a better understanding of what country music is.

Sometimes when I'm shopping at Wal-Mart at 3 a.m., I catch myself singing along to Lee Ann Womack's "I Hope You Dance" or some other song that is forever engraved into my head from my days at WFMW. Those guys

from the record store would've never known that, huh?

If you look through my music collection, you're going to find a little bit of everything. However, I'll admit that the lion's share of it is hip-hop and soulful R&B. I don't want to make it sound like my CD collection is more diverse than it really is.

Besides gospel, hip-hop and soulful R&B are my favorite genres of music - make no mistake about it. I just have a problem with people making assumptions about me based on the color of my skin.

Like I said in past columns, please open your mind and take note when you find yourselves prejudging or stereotyping others.

Oh, and if you catch me at Wal-Mart humming to a Tim McGraw tune, don't laugh; back a brotha up. ♦

Shawn Whitsell is a senior sociology and public relations of the recording industry major and can be reached via e-mail at dlw2a@mtsu.edu.

This Spring Break do yourself a favor - keep your clothes on

What the Smack?

Amber Bryant
Staff Columnist



Around the end of March, college students from across America engage in the age-old tradition of sexual promiscuity and liver disintegration known as Spring Break.

We've all seen the footage - usually someone whips out the beer funnel and suddenly young coeds start taking off their clothes and making out with each other while a pack of slobbering men watch with lustful glee. If you haven't been fortunate enough to witness the fun, you can rent it at your local video store in the snut section.

The scene brings to mind Sodom and Gomorrah, the biblical cities where people could go to indulge every carnal instinct they could muster up, regardless of how raucous or morally amiss it might have been. The only difference is that the Big One's wrath hasn't fallen on Panama City Beach - yet.

While I firmly believe that college students should kick back while our skin still clings tightly to our bones, I think perhaps a less vile vacation might have fewer repercussions.

First, if women ever expect to find decent husbands, they should stop rewarding disgusting behavior with uninhibited nudity.

Pet for example, if I have a pet velociraptor and I feed him a bucket of human flesh every day, he will quickly learn to expect that

type of cuisine. The day I try to feed him some healthy tofu salad, he will most likely reject my advances.

Next, any student who wishes to have a prominent career in law, politics or the like may be slightly perturbed when it is discovered that he or she spent time shaking his or her goods on bar tops. Every year, news teams cover the wild adventures of students visiting local party scenes, marking those caught on camera in history. Conscience can be a blood-sucking whore, folks.

Statistics show that a disturbing number of students bring home sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies when they could've just settled for a witty T-shirt and maybe a hickey or two. Sadly, these people return from their vacations sick instead of stress-free.

If keeping your vacation PG-13 isn't your cup of tea, think about the rest of us. All the heathens who frequent the Florida beaches every year ruin it for those who don't like to be ogled. Not that I'm a prude, but something about a group of hollering guys with "Lick Me" adorning their hatchback window just doesn't give me that special feeling inside - unless you consider nausea special.

This year, instead of spending your vacation bumping and grinding with strangers who may or may not wash, weigh the cost of your actions against the benefits. You'll be much happier and so will I. ♦

Amber Bryant is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at alb2x@mtsu.edu.

Homosexual couples have every right to become parents

Wit and Wonder

Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist



Through my always wondrous reporting class, I learned of the American Academy of Pediatrics' recent decision to endorse gay and lesbian adoption. They won't be the first organization to have done this - the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association both have initiated this same policy as well.

I was pleased by this news. I firmly believe that gay and lesbian couples should have the same adoption rights as any heterosexual couple. With all the children floating around within state custody, why not allow them to go to capable, loving homes that can provide stability and a nurturing environment?

After all, does a parent's sexuality really affect parenting ability? Last time I checked, your sexuality didn't determine personality traits such as compassion, kindness, generosity or patience, which are all required for successful parenting.

This new policy has been met with resistance. I've heard multiple arguments surrounding the new policy - the most absurd of these arguments

was the claim that gay and lesbian parents would lead their children to also assume a homosexual lifestyle later in life. I find it rather unfortunate that such simplistic and ridiculous arguments even enter this debate.

It is obvious that homosexual children exist within homes with a mother and father who provide a heterosexual relationship model.

So, if heterosexual couples worldwide produce homosexual children, though they provide a relationship model consisting of a male and female, why is the assumption made that a same sex parenting model would have a greater affect on the development of a child's sexual identity?

While parental figures obviously have a tremendous amount of influence on their children, sexual identity is an area in which parental influence is limited.

My parents had little to do with my quest for sexual identity. While they provided a relationship model - that of a divorced couple - and helped mold my perceptions of romantic relationships, they had little to do with the gender I felt myself attracted to. That's simply not something your parents teach you. It is an innate trait.

Being gay or a lesbian is certainly not a result of exposure to various stimuli, such as the sexuality of a person's parents. It is simply a way of being that should be regarded as a

natural state of being, just as heterosexuality is. It is not a conscious decision or a reflection of upbringing. Why our society still maintains a "norm" regarding sexuality baffles me.

What adoption policy should be based on is the capability of individuals to provide a stable, financially secure, loving home for a child. A child requires care and guidance. A person's ability to provide these things should not be judged by sexuality. Yet, this still occurs.

Children desperately in need of permanent homes remain within state custody and often bounce from foster home to foster home. Gay and lesbian couples could provide homes for many of these children if prejudices and assumptions based on stereotyping could be set aside.

I applaud the American Association of Pediatrics and other organizations that maintain an endorsement of same-sex couple adoption for taking a stand against this prejudice and for stepping beyond the foolish assumption that gay and lesbian couples lack the potential to be excellent parents.

Who a person is should never be defined by sexual orientation, and parenting ability certainly shouldn't be either. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a sophomore majoring in magazine journalism and can be reached via e-mail at callie_82@msn.com.

The editorial staff is in New York City right now, spending your tuition dollars. What do you think about that? E-mail slopinio@mtsu.edu.

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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.

FEATURES

MTSU professor establishes film company

By Carla Rhodes
Staff Writer

Lights! Camera! Social work! Sound odd? Not to Charles Frost, chair of MTSU's social work department.

Frost hopes to start his own movie production company with money from a \$1.4 million grant he has applied for.

The Southern Film Company will create socially conscious films aimed at making a difference.

Why socially conscious films in an era littered with many films of no relevance? Frost is a social worker and has a socially conscious mind.

"I think there is a place in our society for films that are trying to get you to think about how to make the world work better," Frost said. "As a social worker, that's what I'm always involved in."

Most people would be surprised to learn that a social worker is involved in the arts.

"March is National Social Work Month, and you will find social workers involved in a wide variety of activities around

the world," Frost said.

Making a difference in people's lives and thinking is very important to Frost.

"I want them (people) to see and feel," Frost explained. "To do that, one of the most valuable resources you have is acting. It gets you involved."

"You can actually do therapy with people by having them act things out."

The type of therapy Frost is referring to is called psychodrama, which is a form of role play. Frost said the principle of role play is very important to him. He uses role play in his regular classes and with the satellite broadcast programs he's involved in.

One of Frost's goals is to make training films for employees of the Department of Children's Services.

"We want to enhance their training before they go out there and work with real human beings," he said.

"We are creating simulations."

"Basically, they learn what to do through experiential training," he added. "They read their

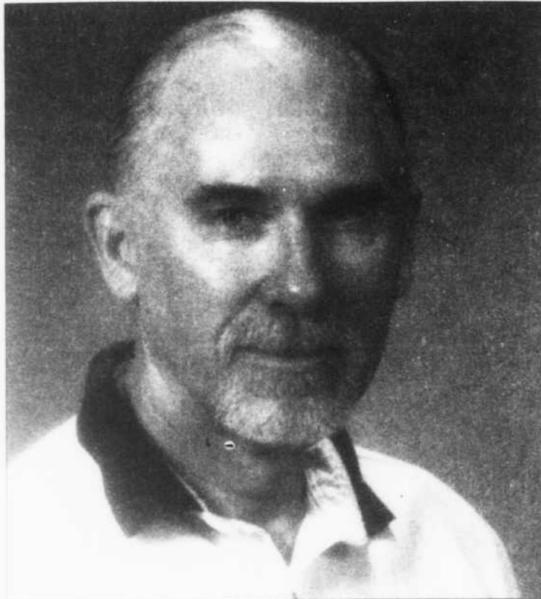


Photo provided

Charles Frost to bring his own feature film to life.

out there, but they don't know what they're doing [so] they learn the hard way."

Frost hopes his films will

prepare employees for possible life-altering decisions they will make involving children.

"Actors act out a problem sit-

uation," he explained. "You'll see what determines the fate of a family, and if it's the wrong choice, maybe back up and go down a different alley."

"As a social work professor, I understand that in order to get people to really change their behavior, you have to get them emotionally involved, not just intellectually involved."

Making feature films is also on Frost's agenda.

"I've been interested in movies ever since I was a kid," he said.

Frost, who lived in Los Angeles for three years, is no stranger to the film business.

While he served as chair of the social work department at California State Polytechnic University, he produced films on drug abuse.

"I hired actors," Frost said, "and I worked with actors in Los Angeles to help dramatize some of the issues."

Currently writing scripts for his films, Frost added that the films will be socially relevant. However, he stressed that they will be feature films, not documentaries.

One of the scripts, titled *Ambulong*, deals with people being kidnapped by terrorists.

Another script Frost is working on focuses on the court system in the United States.

He said he's searching for all types of people to be involved in his films.

"What I see is trying to assemble a group of people that are interested in this area," he said. "That group picks a project and divides up the work."

"Some people wind up being actors, some people wind up being behind the camera and some people will be involved in the production aspects of it."

Frost is currently searching for actors, actresses, producers, directors, musicians, scriptwriters and more and is interested in people who want to create or be involved in feature films.

To contact Frost or set up an interview for a part in one of the films, call Frost at 898-2477 or e-mail him at cfrost@mtsu.edu.

To learn more about his courses at MTSU, visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/~soc-work/frost>.

Women's Center director contributes to book



By Magdeline McGee
Contributor

A book about women's centers features a chapter written by Candace Rosovsky, associate professor of women's studies at MTSU.

The book, *University and College Women's Centers: A Journey Toward Equity*, takes a look at women's centers by using data collected from around the country.

"Libraries at the Center," Rosovsky's chapter, explores the importance of these libraries:

"The significance of these libraries is that they transmitted to women a powerful legacy ... that could not always be located in the main university libraries."

Rosovsky also addresses the wide array of problems facing the libraries. Many of these issues are a matter of space and money, while there are some

questions about the focus of the works within the library and the categories of books to collect.

Fortunately, Rosovsky is no stranger to these topics. She has been the director of the June Anderson Women's Center since 1992.

The center primarily offers resources and referrals to MTSU students, faculty and members of the community.

In addition, it contains a library, a legal clinic, scholarship information and brochures containing information about women's health and other issues.

The legal clinic provides a non-binding consultation for a variety of topics, especially those that might be significant to women, including family issues, sexual harassment and sexual discrimination.

Also, the center's library provides books that are by, for and

about women and contain a variety of literature to choose from. The selection includes poetry, plays, fiction, mystery, feminism theory, sociology and self-help books.

If the information or resource needed is not available at the center, a referral can be made.

For example, if a woman needs birth control, which is not offered by student health services, the center can provide a referral.

Assistant Director Brooke Rodgers said the center is important to females partly because of the security it offers.

"This is a space where women are safe to learn and grow," Brooke said, "where they are not necessarily in a traditional environment."

Rosovsky said the center can help serve the community by alleviating what she refers to as

"fear of the F-word." This forbidden F-word is feminism.

"Strong women are a threat to traditional white male construction of the world."

There have even been cases where a man would not permit his female partner to walk through the doors of the center.

The center is not limited to serving the female population, however.

Rodgers said men are encouraged to use the library and that men often come by the center to pick up the safe sex packets offered there.

Race and ethnicity also are important to the center, which supports various programs dealing with race as well as gender.

Programs in the past have been: "Nappy Edges: African American Women Talking About Hair," "Global Issues for Women of Color and Leadership"

and "Professionalism."

Rosovsky said "a core value is to be deliberately conscious of the responsibility to combat racism on campus."

Although the center has grown since its beginning almost three decades ago, it can always use some more help.

Both Rodgers and Rosovsky agree that space is in high demand and short supply for the center. There is also a need for funding and both professional and volunteer staff.

"Any student can volunteer," Rosovsky said.

"[However], they cannot be engaged in violence against women," she said.

For more information, visit the center's Web site www.mtsu.edu/~jwcw or visit the center, itself, which is on the second floor of the James Union Building.

Ticket prices surpass college students' budgets

By Alan Slone
Staff Writer

Students going to concerts is one of the staples of America. Waiting in line for two days in the blistering cold or extreme heat to get the perfect seats to your favorite band is what being young is all about.

Unfortunately, rising ticket prices seem to be driving cash-strapped college students away from the box office.

"I've paid anywhere from \$35 to \$45 for a show," said Michael Brown, a recording industry junior.

Brown, a self-proclaimed "concert junkie," has seen every-

one from John and Billy Joel. While concert tickets seem to be getting more and more outrageous as time goes on, it may not be all that much.

Richard Barnet, a recording industry professor and co-author of the book *Controversies of the Music Industry*, said that ticket prices really haven't risen very high over the last few years.

"If you adjust for the cost of living," Barnet said, "ticket prices are about where they should be."

He also said ticket prices have appeared to increase dramatically over the past 10 years because the prices were not being adjusted all along.

According to Barnet, the median price (usually called the general admission price), when adjusted for the cost of living, is really no higher than it should be.

The other big fallacy of rising ticket prices, he said, was the use of scaling by promoters. Scaling simply involves using price tiers - higher priced tickets being closer to the stage, while cheaper tickets are in less desirable positions. For example, a Gold Circle seat to a Jimmy Buffet show is \$39.50, while a general admission seat is only \$30. The promoters bank on the idea that die-hard fans will pay more for closer seats, while moderate fans will pay the

regular prices. Ticketmaster, the ticketing service used by most promoters, also comes under fire for the continuously rising ticket prices.

"Most people think that Ticketmaster is the anti-Christ of the music business," Barnet said.

In actuality, though, Ticketmaster is only a medium to purchase tickets - not the people who set the prices. That responsibility falls on the backs of the promoters, Barnet commented.

Why do people still go to concerts when they think the prices are too high?

Barnet said the fact is con-

sumer backlash can be attributed to over-production on CDs, and the lack of an experience with videos. People still want to see concerts because it's really the only true experience for music, and it explains the phenomenon of cult followings.

"My own son is flocking to Copenhagen to see the band Blink 182 in a few months," Barnet said. "People want the live experience."

While some people may pass at the box office, other students,



such as Brown, will keep shelling out dollars to see the bands.

"I've been buying tickets for years," Brown said, "and I'll keep buying them as long as I can."

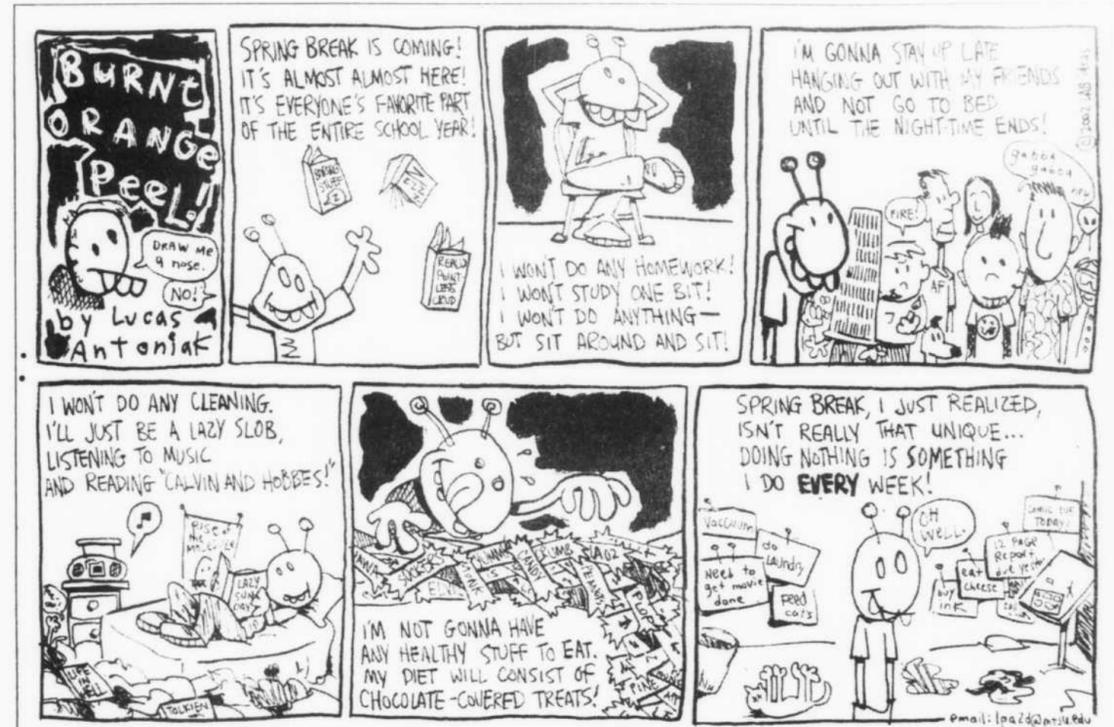


Photo by Allison Grammer | Staff

Elisabeth Small, a violin instructor at Belmont University, performs Monday at Tucker Theatre.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Compiled by Leslie Fike | Features Editor

Thursday, March 14

The Learning Resources Center's Baldwin Photographic Gallery will be exhibiting "Astral Allusions," which features 60 16-by-20 inch chromagen color prints by New York photographer Jane Schreiber, through April 24, 2002. The exhibit will be available for viewing between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. Saturdays and between 6 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. Sundays.



The Martial Arts Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center's aerobics room. Everyone in the MTSU community is welcome to start or continue training in various martial arts throughout the semester.



The General Studies Committee will host an open forum in the Faculty Senate chamber at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Kim Sokoya at 898-2352.



There will be a Student Recital Hour at 11 a.m. in the Wright Music Hall. For more information, contact Tim Musselman at 898-2493.



The physics and astronomy department will host a lecture featuring speaker Gerrit L. Verschuur. Verschuur will discuss "Impact: The Threat of comets and Asteroids" at 7 p.m. in Room 100 of the Davis Science Building. He will give an additional lecture

on black holes March 15 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Room 102 of the Wiser-Patten Science Hall. There will be a star party following the lecture on the front lawn of the WPS. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Eric Klumpe at 898-2483.

Friday, March 15

The School of Music presents Jeff Lockerman performing his senior oboe recital at 8 p.m. in the Wright Music Hall.

Saturday, March 16

Alpha Omicron Pi and Alpha Tau Omega will host the third annual Alpha Jam, which is a three-on-three basketball tournament to benefit the American Juvenile Arthritis Organization on the basketball courts of the Recreation Center. There will be a men's and women's tourney, as well as a slam dunk and three-point competition. Students can register for the event in Keathley University Center, Room 310 by March 8. There will be cash prizes, gift certificates and trophies for all winners. For more information, contact Tim Peterson at 898-4057.

Sunday, March 17

The School of Music presents Autumn Pate performing her junior horn recital at 3 p.m.; Chad Ruegsegger performing his graduate recital at 5 p.m.; and the MTSU Brass Chamber Ensembles performing at 7:30 p.m. in the Wright Music Hall.

Monday, March 18

MTSU's Survival Honors Lecture Series presents "Israel and Palestine: Survival Means Different Things to Different People" with special speaker Ron Messier in Peck Hall, Room 109A, from 3 to 3:50 p.m.

Courtyard gets reactions

By Carla Rhodes
Staff Writer

The new \$1.4 million courtyard, or Quadrangle, as it's officially called, is finally completed and already becoming a popular hang out spot for students who frequent the library and its surrounding buildings.

Will the rest of the campus catch on, though?

"I think it's not quite as beautiful as I thought it would be," said Kathryn Arnett, a media design student. "I like the quotes on the ground, but I thought it would be more elaborate," she said of the engraved quotations in the concrete surrounding the university seal.

The quotes on the ground of the Quadrangle add to the intrigue of the courtyard. A person can walk to the middle of the Quadrangle, stand on the Tennessee state seal and be surrounded by the wisdom of famous historians such as George Washington Carver, Willa Cather, Joseph Addison and Henry David Thoreau.

Some students were concerned with the length of time it took to create the concrete masterpiece because construction began in January of 2001 and finally completed this month.

Jamey Anderson, a public relations major, said he doesn't understand why it took so long to construct.

"I don't see the whole point of it," Anderson said.

Jonathan Smiley agrees with Anderson and can't even remember what the old courtyard looked like before the construction.

"It's better than the fence," Rob Summers said, "which is all I have to compare it to."

In addition, some students, including Deanna Wilson, graphic communications major, are concerned about the massive amount of money it took to build the Quadrangle.

"I think it's great, but the money could've probably been spent elsewhere," Wilson said. "They shouldn't spend any more money they get toward classrooms."

Shane Keenan agrees with Wilson.

"I think it's nice," Keenan commented, "but given the current budget crisis that the school and the state has, the money could have been spent better somewhere else."

Of course, many students have already become fond of the Quadrangle.

"There are lots of places where people can relax and study," Kristy Adams said. "So I like it. I think there's a little too much space, but if they are going to have a big event going on here, then that would be good."

Tom Tozer, director of media relations for News and Public Affairs, expresses positive feelings about the new courtyard.

"The Quadrangle creates a new hub on campus—an attrac-

tive place where students and faculty can go to study, talk and relax," Tozer said.

"I think it's a real thing of beauty, a tremendous asset to the campus. It was designed intelligently to meet the practical and aesthetic needs of the campus population."

Recording industry major Daniel Boucher thinks the Quadrangle is definitely a positive investment.

"I think it's awesome. It's good to see people sitting around just talking and chilling," Boucher said. "We don't have this kind of community at MTSU. Maybe something will grow from it."

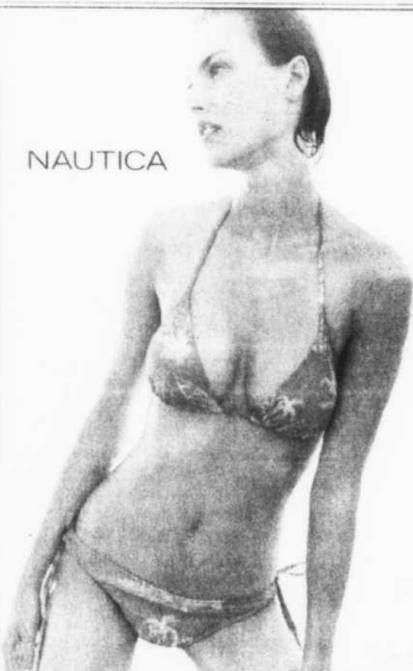
"I like it," said Matt Pulley, a radio/television major who is enjoying the new courtyard as well.

"It's a nice addition to the campus, and look at all the people it's attracted already. It's going to be a positive thing once it gets a little warmer."

Overall, reactions to the Quadrangle are mixed, but on a sunny day, a handful of students are seen lounging on the benches and grass, doing everything from studying to playing guitar.

"I think this is going to be the new version of the Knoll," said Pulley, who believes the Quadrangle will end up being more popular than any other spot on campus.

The official ribbon cutting of the Quadrangle will be at 4 p.m. April 18 in front of the James E. Walker Library. ♦



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Call from the Press Box
Colleen Cox
Sports Editor



Smaller sports are important to university

The Blue Raider tennis team tied a school record, winning its 12th consecutive match Saturday.

Unfortunately, the number of people who know this or even care is very slim.

The only team at the university that is undefeated suffers from lack of recognition and fan support.

Sadly, most people don't care about the lack of support for tennis or the smaller sports. As long as it's not the football team struggling to get fans, no one cares.

The tennis team isn't the only one suffering with the lack of recognition and fan support. The track team won most of the indoor meets it competed in, but there was never a packed Murphy Center for the meets.

The softball team won a record 41 games last season and is off to a pretty good start this season, yet very few people show up to watch them play.

These are just a few examples of the successful teams here at MT that don't receive support.

Fans of MT athletics need to keep in mind that there are more sports than football in the fall and baseball in the spring. MT has plenty of other very talented teams who deserve your support. These teams, along with the football team, can make MT a top notch Division I school.

I would argue that sports like baseball, softball, track and tennis are already contenders. The football team doesn't feel top notch yet, but they also deserve some credit for their 9-3 season. Sure, they're not the University of Tennessee, but they are good.

MT athletic teams give the student body plenty to cheer about, but you can't get excited if you're not there. I'm tired of hearing MT isn't good enough.

We have a tennis team that's 12-0, and a track team that wins lots of meets.

Give the teams a thought and a chance before you criticize.

Sure, most schools are considered big time because of their football or basketball teams, but MT students should be happy with the successful teams we have.

Perhaps the day will come when the basketball team plays in March Madness and the football team is in a serious bowl game, but until then, give the other sports teams some credit.

Maybe you could even check out a match or game. You might be surprised and actually be interested in the other teams.

So next time you get the whim to complain that you're not at a major university and don't have a team to support, think about the undefeated men's tennis team, the track team or the softball team.

Football isn't all that dictates school spirit or makes a university a major sports university. Give the "lesser" sports the credit they deserve.

The women's tennis team plays at home Sunday. The baseball team plays a three-game series against Southwest Missouri State University tomorrow through Sunday.

Call from the Press Box appears every Wednesday.

You can contact Colleen Cox at 898-2816 or slsports@mtsu.edu.

Track team opens outdoor season at Auburn

By Angelica Journagin
News Editor

After a successful indoor season that included Sun Belt Championship titles, the Lady and Blue Raiders open their outdoor season at the Auburn Invitational this weekend.

Middle Tennessee ended the 2001 outdoor track season with two of its members earning All-American honors and the Men's Sun Belt Championship. At last year's NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, junior Kim Freeman placed 11th in the triple jump and senior

Godfrey Herring placed fifth in the 400-meter dash.

This year Freeman took first place in the triple jump with 41 feet, 10.75 inches and third place in the long jump with a distance of 19 feet, 5.50 inches at the SBC Indoor Championships. For her efforts she was named the SBC Indoor Field Athlete of the tournament along with her teammate Letitia Eady. Eady also placed in the jumping events, taking the gold in the long jump with a distance of 19 feet, 11.75 inches and the silver in the triple jump with a distance of 41 feet 05.25 inches.

Freeman and Eady will be competing this weekend against Auburn University's Shelly-Anne Gallimore who jumped 44 feet, 9.00 inches last weekend to finish fourth place and earn her fourth All-American title.

Herring, who just earned his fourth All-American honor last weekend at the NCAA Indoor Championships, currently holds the MT record in the 400-meter dash with a time of 45.35 seconds. He was also a member last year of the MT record holding 4-by-100-meter relay team, which went to the NCAA Outdoor Championship last

year but did not qualify for the finals.

Herring will have a chance to take on AU's Shameron Turner, who just last weekend ran a time of 46.77 seconds to finish sixth. This was only one spot ahead of Herring's seventh place time of 47.10 seconds.

Another member of last year's relay team who just earned his first All-American honors is sophomore Mardy Scales who finished in the eighth spot in the 60 meter dash at the NCAA Indoor Championship. Scales was named SBC Player of the Week

twice for the indoor season and went to the NCAA Outdoor Championship last year for the outdoor season in the 200-meter dash.

Rounding out last year's individual participants in the NCAA Outdoor Championship is junior Jasper Demps, who runs the 55-, 65- and 110-meter hurdles. Demps did not qualify for the finals in the 110 meter hurdles after finishing seventh in his heat. Demps provisionally qualified for this year's NCAA Indoor Championship, but

See **Track, 10**

Baseball team hosts Southwest Missouri

By Kevin Rose
Staff Writer

True baseball returns to Reese Smith Field this weekend.

After spending the past two weeks playing only two games on the weekend, the Middle Tennessee baseball team (7-3) will host the Southwest Missouri State Bears for a three-game series starting tomorrow.

The three-game match-up marks the second series of its kind on the season, but the first at home for the Blue Raiders.

The Blue Raiders lost two out of three to Troy State early in the season. This weekend will



Reese Smith Field

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

be very important for the Blue Raiders.

The Bears will be the best team the Blue Raiders have faced during the young season. Wins over a program like SMS

will be very impressive to the NCAA selection committee if the Blue Raiders are in the running for a NCAA regional bid.

SMS (3-2) will come to Murfreesboro for the second time in four years. The last time the Bears came to town was in 1999. They left with a three-game sweep over the Blue Raiders.

The Bears have played only five games due to inclement weather. They have posted wins over the University of Iowa, the University of Arkansas and the Air Force Academy. The two losses have come against The University of Texas-Arlington and Arkansas.

The Bears, who are members of the Missouri Valley Conference, are



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Marshall Nisbett crosses home plate with an MT run.

led by two dominating right-handed pitchers. Starter Brad Ziegler is rated as one of the top draft-eligible juniors according to the magazine *Baseball America*. Reliever Bob Zimmermann is one of the best closers in college baseball. He was a freshman All-American in 2001 and played for the USA national team in the summer of 2001.

Ziegler is 1-1 on the season in 2 starts with a 2.92 E.R.A. Opponents are hitting only .244 against him. Zimmermann is 0-1 on the season with 2 saves and an unbelievable 0.00 E.R.A.

The Bear offense is hitting .282 as a team. Gary Mathis leads the way with a .400 average. Catcher Tony Piazza is also a threat. Piazza is hitting .316 on the season but was named MVC player of the week to open the season.

The Blue Raider offense continues to be led by Marshall Nisbett, Justin Sims and Brett Carroll. All three were hitting more than .400 going into last weekend's series.

On the mound, John Williams and Adam Larson will pitch two of the games. It is uncertain who will pitch the third game. Travis Horschel and Steven Kines have been battling for the third spot in the rotation.

Horschel was the early favorite but did not throw well in his last start.

Kines has two quality starts under his belt and, with a good performance against Memphis, could be the third starter this weekend.

Friday's game will start at 3 p.m. with Saturday's and Sunday's games beginning at 2 p.m. and 1 p.m., respectively. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Chuck Akers slides safely into second base while the defender tries to keep control of the ball.

Lady Raiders host Marshall

By Justin Ward
Staff Writer

The No. 62 nationally ranked Lady Raider tennis team (7-7) will play No. 75 nationally ranked Marshall University (5-4) Sunday in Murfreesboro.

The Lady Raiders will be going into the match off of two wins. They defeated No. 50 Mississippi State Feb. 23 7-0, and they defeated UT-Chattanooga 7-0 March 6.

These two shutouts bring their record up to 7-7 as they look for another win against Marshall.

In doubles, the No. 14 ranked team of Manon Kruse and Stacy Varnell are 12-2 for the season in the No. 1 position. They won their last couple of matches easily with a score of 8-3 against the doubles team of Bethany Everett and Van Velze for UT-Chattanooga and a score of 8-2 against the doubles team of Elaine Fagan and Carole Soubis for Mississippi State.

Verena Preiss and Jennifer Klashchka will be bringing up the No. 2 spot with a 9-5 record for the season.

In Marshall University's last match, they defeated Cincinnati 7-0. Anna Mitina and Alice Sukner defeated Khushchehr Italia and Lyndsey Malony 8-0 at the No. 1 spot. Jessica

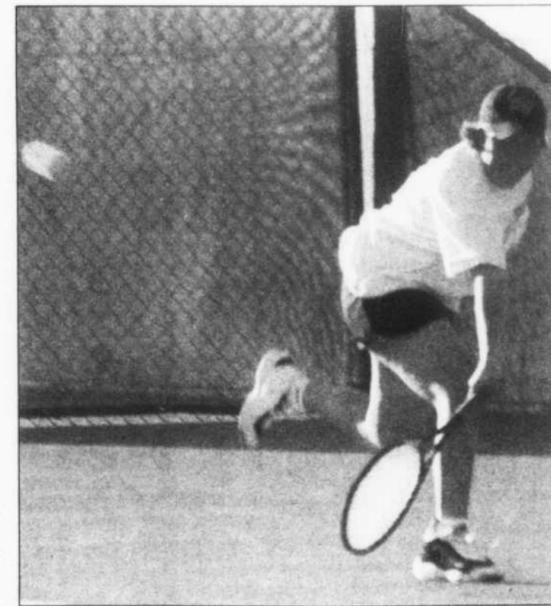


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

South Africa native Carien Venter uses a swift back hand to get the ball across the net.

Johnson and Ashley Kroh won 8-4 at the No. 2 spot.

In singles, No. 29 ranked Kruse is 8-3 for the season in the No. 1 spot.

Kruse started off the season well with a 6-7, 7-5, 7-5 win over No. 27 Sarah Riske of Vanderbilt and a 6-4, 6-2 win over No. 53 Sarah Witten of the

University of Kentucky. In the match against Chattanooga, she defeated Charlotte Goude 6-1, 6-1.

Jennifer Klashchka is 2-1 in No. 1 singles and 5-5 in No. 2 singles. She won the No. 2 spot in the match against Mississippi

See **Tennis, 10**

MT student speaks of time with Titans

By Amber Bryant
Staff Writer

While most students spent last summer recuperating, MTSU senior Donovan Stewart hung out with the Tennessee Titans.

Stewart had previously thought football players were millionaires who had it easy, but changed his mind after running back Eddie George invited him to observe a rehabilitation session with strength and conditioning coach Steve Waterson.

"For an hour and a half, I saw him break Eddie George," Stewart said. "He was in pain." Stewart now argues with people who claim football players have it easy because he has seen how hard they work.

A journalism internship with the Titans was a fantasy come true for Stewart, a small-town guy from Jasper, Tenn., with a love for sports. He spent some of his childhood watching his father, a former high school football coach, analyze football game footage.

"I was born into sports," Stewart said.

He attributes his fortunate experience to a principle he strives to practice: to treat others as he wants to be treated.

"I just looked at them as human beings," Stewart said. "They do the same things we do - they're just bigger, faster and they've got a gift."

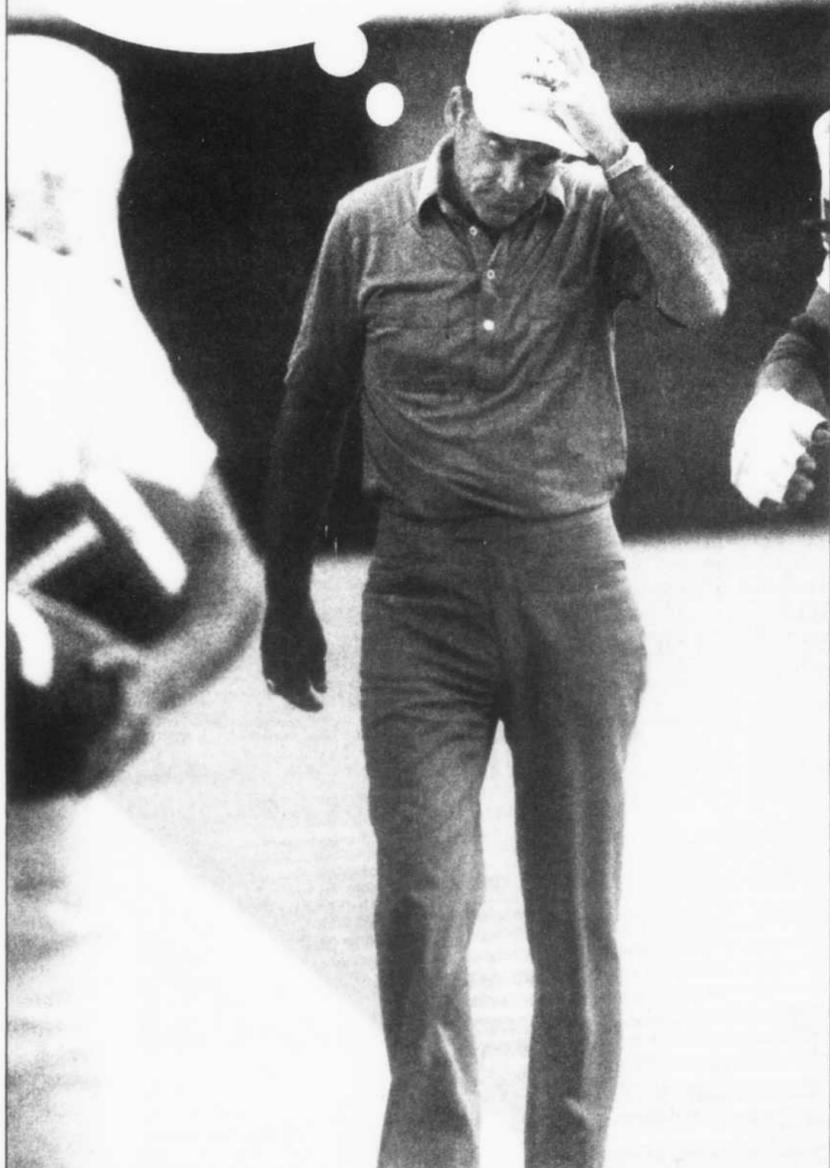
One person who appreciated Stewart's compassion is Philip Fulmer, head football coach for the University of Tennessee Volunteers.

Fulmer was cheering for his daughter in the stands at a high school swim meet Stewart once covered during his five years with *The Tennessean*. While other reporters were busy trying to interview Fulmer, he left him alone.

Fulmer was a father that day, not a public figure, Stewart said. Later, Fulmer remembered Stewart for his kindness and recommended him for the internship with the Titans. This and Stewart's sports writing background with *The Tennessean* persuaded Gary Glenn, Titans director of Internet Operations and Publications, to choose him for the internship. Stewart didn't

See **Titans, 10**

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Titans: Student gets to speak at old high school to share work experiences

Continued from 8

disappoint him, Glenn said. "He put in more hours than needed because he wanted the experience," he said. However, making friends with big names in the world of professional football was only a perk. Stewart's main goal was to exercise and develop his writing skills. He wrote approximately 40 feature articles, some of which can be seen in the Titan yearbook and on NFL.com, a major Web site for football fans. He also documented a day in

training camp, had articles published in preseason game programs and the media guide and wrote rookie biographies. One project Stewart is particularly proud of is the 4,000-word article he wrote on Gunther Cunningham, former Kansas City Chiefs head coach and presently a Titans assistant head coach. He now bowls with Cunningham occasionally and has an autographed picture of them together, identical to the one Cunningham has hanging up in his own office.

Stewart's writing reflected his pro-humanity principles, which impressed Kevin Carter, a defensive end who was traded from the St. Louis Rams to the Titans earlier this year and has since been the subject of harsh criticism among sports writers. He and Stewart quickly became friends, enabling Stewart to write about him from a personal as well as professional point of view. "He wrote me as a person," Carter said. Maintaining such positive values gave Stewart the oppor-

tunity to make many friends among the Titans' staff and players. Even though his internship is over, he still writes freelance on game days this season and visits the team often. The internship also has attracted attention in his hometown. "The ticket requests have gotten a little crazy," Stewart said. He also was invited to visit his high school alma mater and give a speech to a journalism class. To create a more lasting impression for the wannabe

journalists, he distributed handouts listing some of his most valued ideals. With these, Stewart encouraged the students to treat everyone involved in a story with respect, strive to be a better writer and write with the heart as well as the head. Stewart would like to write professionally for the Titans after graduation if the opportunity arises. After an experience like this, he realizes he can do anything he puts his mind to, Stewart said. ♦

Don't miss the *Sidelines* April Fool's edition, Monday, April 1.



Tennis: Players unranked

Continued from 8

State 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 against Camila Sagae. Verena Preiss is 3-1 for the season in No. 2 singles and 4-5 in No. 3 singles. She won the No. 2 spot against Chattanooga 4-6, 7-5 (10-5). Johnson will be at the No. 1 spot for Marshall Sunday. She defeated Cristina Reyes 0-6, 6-2, 6-7 in the match against Cincinnati. Mitina defeated Len

Capuzzi 6-3, 6-1 at the No. 2 spot. The fact that none of Marshall's players or doubles teams are ranked will factor into the match Sunday. The No. 14 ranked Kruse and Varnell will be a tough obstacle for Marshall in doubles, and No. 29 ranked Kruse will be difficult to beat at the No. 1 spot in singles. The match will take place this Sunday at noon at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center. ♦

Track: Ready for the Auburn Invitational

Continued from 8

er player who performed well in the indoor season was freshman Rosemary Okafor. Okafor has competed for the Nigerian national team in the 2000 Sydney Olympics in the 4-by-400-meter relay. At the SBC championships, Okafor came in second in the 55-meter dash. Junior Stephany Reid also took home medals at the SBC

Championship. She took bronze in the triple jump and silver in the long jump. Both Okafor and Reid provisionally qualified for the NCAA Indoor Championship but, like Demps, missed out on the cut off line. The Lady and Blue Raiders compete at the Auburn Invitational in Auburn, Ala., March 16 at 10 a.m. ♦

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