

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009

VOL. 85, NO. 17

Protests continue against budget cuts



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Students march to President Sidney McPhee's house on Middle Tennessee Boulevard last Thursday.



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Concerned students march to protest the Steering Committee's proposal to eliminate 48 majors.

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

Hundreds of students, led by the Coalition to Save Our Schools, marched across campus to protest and voice their opinions to President Sidney McPhee about the Steering Committee's proposal to eliminate 48 majors and concentrations.

"Our actions today are in response to the recent Steering Committee report that came out," said Sarah Cozort, a founding member of CSOS and an English graduate student. "In this report, there are proposals that would essentially mean the elimination of 44 majors and four

academic departments."

Students gathered in front of the Mass Communication building and after a press conference, marched toward McPhee's on-campus home.

For multimedia on the protest visit:
www.mtsusidelines.com

Philosophy, physics, geosciences and women's studies are among the list of 48 majors recommended to be eliminated in the Steering Committee's report.

Aaron Sheehan, a senior

geosciences major, said he doesn't understand why the Department of Geosciences, which has grown 60 percent in the last five years and has an excellent placement in graduate schools, is on the list.

"I feel like the only justifiable reason is that we are a small department," Sheehan said. "We really didn't think we were going to have to justify our existence in a public, comprehensive university."

David Hiller, a sophomore physics major said that one of the things that MTSU prides itself on is having such a wide degree of programs.

PROTEST, PAGE 3

McPhee fights for majors

While looming MTSU budget cuts still not made official, president decides to try to save majors, concentrations

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Community News Editor

Though some majors and concentrations are still being considered for elimination, President Sidney McPhee said Thursday that he would fight for the survival of those originally proposed to be cut.

McPhee recommended not eliminating three majors: office management; family and consumer science education; and recreation and leisure services. McPhee said that he did not want to eliminate global studies, but cut the concentrations within the major.

Four concentrations – electrical construction management within construction management technology, mildly/moderately disabled and severely/profoundly disabled within special education, and health education and lifetime wellness within health education – were also under McPhee's recommendations to not be cut.

"Students majoring in of-



Office management receive a bachelor of business administration degree as well as training to serve in supervisory roles," said Stephen Lewis, chairman of business communication and entrepreneurship. "I think that it was a good decision, [and] I am grateful to the president for not choosing eliminate that major."

Office management majors are also required to take all of the core courses that other business majors take.

"In addition to that, they would gain supervisory skills in addition to those technical skills," Lewis said.

The program currently has 30 to 45 office management majors and has been working the past year to make the major available completely online, Lewis said.

"We are waiting on some courses so we can advertise it truly as an online program," Lewis said. "Once we do have it online and can advertise it as online, I think the program will grow."

McPhee also recommended that family and consumer science education remain as a major.

"We are pleased and excited about the president's decision," said Dellmar Walker, chairperson of the Department of Human Sciences. "Our program trains the largest number of high school teachers in family and consumer sciences in the state."

Walker said that there is a strong need for continuing the program.

There are currently 30 majors in the program and an additional 35 teachers com-



McPhee

ing back to receive additional endorsements, Walker said.

"The program trains students for jobs as high-school teachers," Walker said. "Currently there is a proposal to require a personal finance course for all high-school students, and they would be the ones teaching this course."

Walker said that she is pleased with the president's report and is looking forward to continuing with a very successful program.

McPhee recommends the elimination of the concentrations within the global studies major: globalization and commerce; globalization and culture; and globalization and science.

"The major itself was never under scrutiny, but the concentrations were," said Douglas Heffington, director of the Department of Global Studies. "I understand why they were, because when you pull up numbers for globalization and science, there were zero majors in it."

MAJORS, PAGE 3

Women celebrate quality, diversity

By DUSTIN EVANS
Staff Writer

The June Anderson Women's Center is scheduled to host a celebration of Women's History Month with special campus events and guest speakers, including Peggy McIntosh and Bell Hooks.

During March, deemed by Congress as National

Peggy McIntosh, associate director of the Wellesley Centers for Women and the founder of the National Seeking Educational Equality and Diversity Project on Inclusive Curriculum, is scheduled to lecture on privilege systems and diversity on March 31 at 4 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall.

McIntosh is also scheduled to hold a workshop for faculty and staff on "lessening systems of privilege" to

“Women's History Month is not necessarily the celebration of the progression of women, it is the celebration of all mankind.”

CHANERA PIERCE
SOPHOMORE POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Women's History Month, the center brings several guest speakers to MTSU to discuss struggles women had for equality.

"This month represents a time when we can highlight the different aspects of women," said Terri Johnson, director of the JAWC. "It is an opportunity to inform the entire community of the history of women."

promote acceptance and diversity of race, class, gender and sexual orientation.

"Women's History Month is not necessarily the celebration of the progression of women, it is the celebration of all mankind," said Chanera Pierce, a sophomore political science major who works at the JAWC.

WOMEN, PAGE 2

Bonuses paid out could be recouped enraging Tenn. representative

Gordon upset about AIG Corporation to pay bailout dollars used for bonuses

STAFF REPORT

The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation Friday that would recoup the \$165 million in federal dollars AIG paid out in bonuses.

Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., said that he wanted measures taken to get the

Executive Bonuses Paid by Companies Receiving TARP Assistance," would impose a 90 percent tax on bonuses given out by companies that have received more than \$5 billion in federal assistance from the Treasury Department since Dec. 31, 2007.

On March 13, many bonuses were mailed out to employees who worked in AIG's financial products-division for making excessively risky decisions related to insured mortgage-backed securities that ultimately ended up backfiring.

Seventy-three AIG employees received bonuses totaling more than \$1 million.

"I was raised to believe that work done well is work that will be rewarded," Gordon said. "Far too many good, hard-working people across the country have lost their jobs as a result of the financial turmoil caused by AIG and other financial institutions."

bonus money back immediately. "This legislation was absolutely necessary," said Gordon in a news release. "It is an outrage that AIG used taxpayer dollars to reward the very executives who brought the company to the brink of collapse. When the Treasury Department stepped in, it did so in an effort to prevent catastrophic damage to the broader economy," said Gordon. The bill, titled the "Tax

“ It is an outrage that AIG used taxpayer dollars to reward the very executives who brought the company to the brink of collapse.”

BART GORDON
TENNESSEE REPRESENTATIVE

Women's History Month

March 24

Women's History Month Celebration
Speaker: bell hooks, author and feminist scholar
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: KUC Theater
Contact: Terri Johnson, trjohnso@mtsu.edu

Keynote speaker bell hooks speaking to ENGL 3735, Black Women as Writers
Time: 1:00-2:45 p.m.
Location: Peck Hall, Room 315

Seventeenth Annual Women's International Poetry Reading
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Tom Jackson Building
Contact: Michael Rice, 904-8591

March 26

Vagina Monologues
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Tom H. Jackson Building
Contact: Tina Johnson, 898-5910

Interdisciplinary Conference in Women Studies
Location: Tom H. Jackson Building
Contact: Terri Johnson, 898-2193

March 27

Interdisciplinary Conference in Women Studies
Location: Tom H. Jackson Building
Contact: Terri Johnson, 898-2193

April 6

"An Evening with Marjane Satrapi"
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: BAS, State Farm Room
Contact: Allen Hibbard, 494-8809

April 20

"I Never Thought it Was Rape" - Movie and Discussion
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: KUC Theater
Contact: Terri Johnson, 898-2193

April 20-22

Clothesline Project
Location: KUC Knoll
Time: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Contact: Allison Lay, arl2r@mtsu.edu

April 21/April 22 (in case of rain day)

Take Back the Night/Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
Time: 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Location: KUC Knoll
Contact: Terri Johnson, 898-2193

April 28

Equity Pay Day
Dr. Gilbert, Faculty Senate
Contact: Tina Johnson, 898-2705



WOMEN FROM PAGE 1

The keynote speaker this year, Bell Hooks, is scheduled to speak at the Keathley University Center tomorrow at 4 p.m. to discuss the continuing struggle for feminism. Hooks is the author of "Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism," which was named one of the "twenty most influential women's books of the last twenty years" by Publisher's Weekly in 1992.

"When it comes to the women's rights movement,

she is one of the top people I have seen," Johnson said. "When Bell Hooks speaks, the world listens."

According to *The Sandspur*, newspaper of Rollins College in Florida, her name is always seen written in lowercase letters because she believes that what is most important is the "substance of books, not who I am."

This year, the event will pay tribute to Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress, who won the position in 1986.

Chisholm's quote, "I am, was, and always will be a catalyst for change," is the

theme of MTSU's National Women's History Month celebration.

"In tough times, [Chisholm] led us through the movement," Johnson said. "She told us to be out there and take a chance."

Johnson said that she wants the students to have "the best" and that she is trying to give hard working students a chance to interact with very influential leaders.

"When you get a chance to see speakers at this level - go," Johnson said.

Angela Manivong, a senior educational and behavioral science major and National

Women's History Month assistant, said that Women's History Month is a way the students can "take a stand" for women, and for the campus.

Manivong said that, as a human science major and active worker at the JAWC, she feels that women are being placed at the bottom of the picture in regard to the proposed budget cuts that threaten her major and her job.

"They don't care so much about us," Manivong said. "Women's History Month is a way for us to fight for what we have come so far for."

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Up 'Til Dawn raises \$81,000 for St. Jude

Positions are open for next year's Up 'Til Dawn. Once you become part of this organization, you will receive experiences sure to add value to your resume and make you feel good about helping children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

There are many ways to get involved as a volunteer, team member, executive board member or planning committee. Within these positions are opportunities in entertainment, catering, corporate sponsorship, public relations, recruitment, finance, patient relations, logistics, fundraising and more.

Applications are in the KUC room 326-S and are due Friday, Mar. 20. For more info visit <http://frank.mtsu.edu/> -uptildawn or call 615-898-5812.



Up 'Til Dawn is a national student-led, student-run fundraising organization. Over 200 campuses participate in an Up 'Til Dawn event, but MTSU is among the best. For over 10 years, MTSU students have been leading the way in hosting this campus and community-wide event, raising over \$40,000 to fight childhood cancer.



PROTEST FROM PAGE 1

"The first page of the committee's report says that emphasis should be placed on interdisciplinary initiatives," Hiller said. "How can a university be interdisciplinary if it's losing disciplines?"

Jacob Wittenberg, a sophomore philosophy major, said that if his major is cut, he will have to transfer schools.

"Right now, the future of MTSU is looking pretty bleak," Wittenberg said. "But it all just depends on McPhee's decision."

Gionni Carr, a student representative for the Tennessee Board of Regents, said it's hard for members of the board to understand the impacts their decisions have on students since they are not students themselves.

"We are going to fight so that our programs can be saved, so our professors can be saved, our friends can be saved and most importantly, our education can be saved," Carr said.

McPhee is scheduled to have open forum meetings regarding budget cuts on April 1, 2 and 9.

His final budget cut decisions will be released on May 1.



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer. Students chant to express their opinions concerning the budget cuts Thursday. The Coalition to Save our Schools organized the event and led the march and protest.

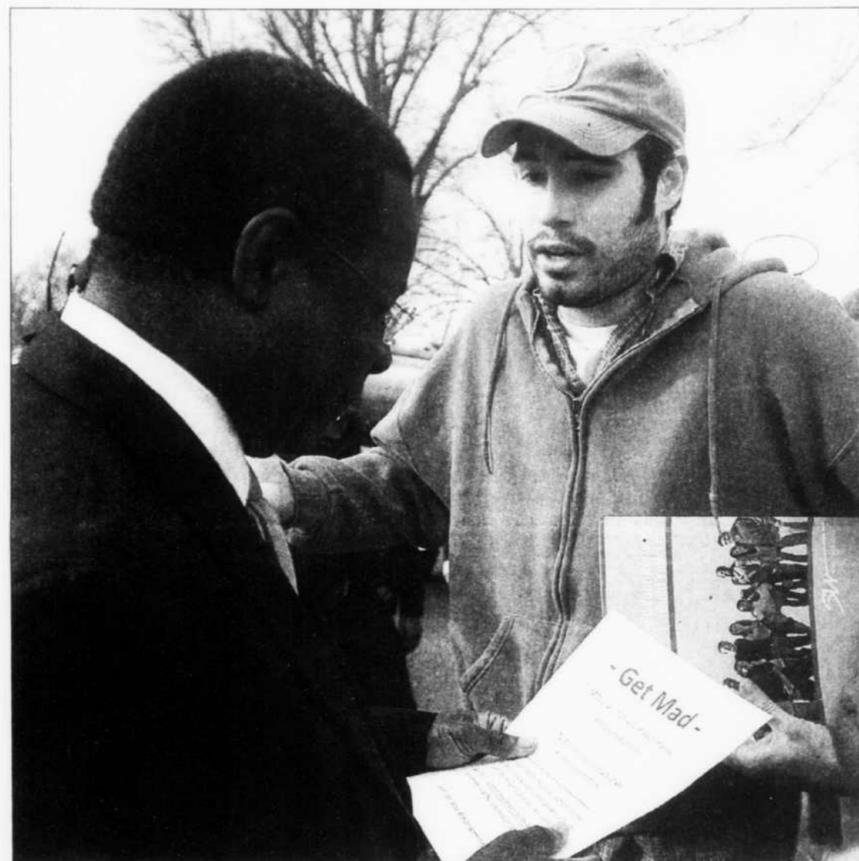


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer. A student shows President Sidney McPhee a flier asking students to "Get Mad" about budget cuts.



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer. Protestors marched from the James E. Walker Library to President McPhee's house Thursday.

MAJORS FROM PAGE 1

Currently students majoring in global studies have to choose one of three concentrations.

Heffington said that no students have ever chosen global and science as a concentration. In the past three years, three students have chosen the commerce concentration. Currently there are about

65 students taking the culture track.

The recommendation of this program restructuring has been one of the first budget cuts with which many have been pleased with.

"I think [McPhee's recommendation] makes [global studies] a strong program," Heffington said. "It will make my life easier and the student's life easier."

Global studies provides

students with an internationalizing curriculum that internationalizes the students, Heffington said.

"Global studies is the only major that you have to have a study abroad component," Heffington said. "Our students come out with a globalized curriculum, [and] they may not be fluent but at least functional in another language."

Global studies majors are educated in other countries, which is powerful in

"I am pleased because now we have simplified and in the process strengthened an already strong major."

DOUGLAS HEFFINGTON
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL STUDIES

today's globalized job market, Heffington said.

"I am pleased because now we have simplified

and, in the process, strengthened an already strong major," Heffington said.

The program coordinator for recreation and leisure services, another major that McPhee recommended to not be eliminated, could not be reached for comment.

"Even with the release of my preliminary responses to these recommendations, it is important to note that we are still in the process of reviewing and vetting these ideas," McPhee said in the report.

VOX gives free condoms to promote safe sex

Information on sexually transmitted diseases, emergency contraception will be available in Keathley University Center

STAFF REPORT

The MTSU chapter of VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood is scheduled to hand out free condoms, personal lubricant and coupons for emergency contraception at the

Keathley University Center today until Thursday.

The group will be on the second floor of the KUC, where they will also be handing out literature concerning sexually transmitted diseases, safe sex and other important issues regarding sex.

Condoms have been proven to reduce the risk of pregnancy, and the group is handing them out to raise awareness among college students.

VOX is sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee, a group that offers several

medical services for both men and women in reproductive and healthcare, such as general gynecological care, pregnancy testing, counseling, cancer screenings and abortion services.

VOX is also attempting to fight the assumption

that emergency contraception (the "morning-after pill") is essentially abortion. Various forms of this type of contraception operate in different ways, either temporarily ceasing an egg from being released, halting fertilization of an egg

or stopping the fertilized egg from attaching.

VOX is a proactive advocacy and volunteer service at MTSU, spreading information and education to students and others in support of reproductive and other civil freedoms.

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SIDELINES

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Through the *Sidelines'* Lens



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor
Exotic birds wait to find a new home at the Exotic Bird Fair yesterday in the Tennessee Livestock Center. The fair had many birds, cages, seed, toys, pellets and books about birds for sale.

Community activists host forum

Murfreesboro community organizers discuss effects of Obama's stimulus package on the local economy Sunday

STAFF REPORT

Citizens and community activists from Rutherford County and Middle Tennessee are scheduled to hold a public forum entitled "The Economic Crisis: Options for Change," Sunday

The forum will be held at Patterson Park Community

"Economic Crisis: Options for Change"

Where:
Patterson Park Community Center
When:
4 p.m.

Center Meeting Hall from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. and is sponsored by Murfreesboro Com-

munity Organizers.

Issues that will be covered at the forum will include the effects of President Obama's stimulus package on the local economy, healthcare, taxation and K-12 education.

Other issues include the impact of proposed cuts to higher education, the Employee Free Choice Act, jobs

and creating a sustainable future.

MCO's purpose is to promote civic engagement, progressive social change and nonviolent social change principles, according to its Web site.

For further information visit murfreesborocommunityorganizers.com.

CRIME BRIEFS

March 17, 11:47 p.m. DUI

Alma Matter Drive
Sydney Hester was arrested for DUI and charged with simple possession of marijuana, underage consumption, and drug paraphernalia. Megan Kelly was issued a state citation for underage consumption.

March 18, 3:37 a.m. DUI

Rutherford Blvd.
Christa Asher was arrested for DUI of the first offense and violation of open container law.

March 18, 4:16 a.m. DUI

Rutherford Blvd
Daniel Porter was arrested for DUI of the first offense and charged with possession of illegal substance, drug paraphernalia, implied consent, and the pull over law.

March 18, 11:51 a.m. Assault

Murphy Center
Subjects that were here for TSSAA basketball game got into a fight.

March 18, 6:00 p.m. Drug Abuse and Possession

Greenhouse Lot
Josh Palmer was arrested for Tenn. Felony possession of illegal substance for resale.

March 18, 6:11 p.m. Disorderly Conduct

Greenland Drive
There was a report of disorderly students in the area.

March 18, 11:17 p.m. Harassment

Rutherford Parking lot
Officers received a complaint of harassment by an individual in the New Rutherford lot.

CURRENT EVENTS

The Tale of Despereaux

March 23-27
Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Friday, 7 p.m.
Admission: \$2
Location: KUC Theater

Vernice G. Armour First black woman combat pilot

Tuesday, March 24 at 6 p.m.
Admission: Free
Location: James Union Building Tennessee Room

Miss Universal Pageant

Wednesday, March 25 at 7 p.m.
Hosted by Lambda Theta Alpha sorority
Location: James Union Building

Diversity Workshop

For administration, faculty and staff
Thursday, March 26 at 1 p.m.
Admission: Free
Location: Tom Jackson Building

Legal Clinic

Thursday, March 26 at 7 p.m. in the June Anderson Women's Center

To Have & To Hold: The Debate Over Gay Marriage

Presented by the MTSU Ideas and Issues Committee
Thursday, March 26 at 5 p.m.
Admission: Free
Location: BAS State Farm Room

The BIG Event hosted by the Student Government Association

March 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the Murphy Center Parking Lot
For more information: visit <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~sga/bigevent.htm>

Yes Man

March 30- April 2
Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Friday, 7 p.m.
Admission: \$2
Location: KUC Theater

Coming to See Privilege Systems Diversity Workshop

Tuesday, March 31 at 4 p.m.
Admission: Free
Location: BAS State Farm Room.

FRIENDS OF AMY SPAIN SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Amy Spain Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$500, will be awarded this spring to a graduating senior planning on attending law school this fall. Amy Spain was an alumna of Middle Tennessee State University and an active Alpha Delta Pi from 1982-1986. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree she went on to graduate with honors from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Amy obtained a position as an Assistant United States Attorney in Memphis. She held this position until a tragic automobile accident ended her exceptional life.

To continue Amy's legacy, some of her friends and family have established this scholarship. The Memorial Fund will be used to further the education of an MTSU Greek female who plans to attend Law School. Candidates must demonstrate the leadership, dedication, commitment, and integrity which characterized and described Amy.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please obtain an application from Susan Thornton in the Dean of Student Life Office, Keathley University Center, Room 128.

Deadline for applications is Friday, March 27, 2009.

MTSU Student Affairs announces the

2009 DEAN JUDY SMITH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Dean Judy Smith Scholarship Award is given to a student who is an active participant in one or more of the following areas of Campus Life: social sorority or fraternity, cheerleading squad, Student Programming / Special Events, Student Government Association (executive, legislative, or judicial branch), or CUSTOMS (new student orientation). This student must have completed at least 30 hours credit in residence at MTSU and have a cumulative minimum grade point average of 3.000. (Because of the terms of this award, graduating seniors are ineligible.)

Applications are available now in the Office of Dean of Student Life, KUC Room 128.

Application Deadline: March 27, 2009

If you have any questions about the application process or the scholarship award, please contact Susan Thornton in the Dean of Student Life Office at 898-2750.



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Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

OPINIONS

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

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Kudos to McPhee on analysis of final report

Lately, the budget cuts concerning university officials and students have been a guessing game as strategic work groups propose cuts and pass their recommendations along to the Steering Committee, who then submit the suggestions to President Sidney McPhee.

Last Thursday, McPhee released his final budget cut recommendations where he defended some of the possible eliminations in the Steering Committee's final report.

McPhee said in his report that the revision of Walker Library's hours of operation is not under consideration, as well as the elimination or consolidation of a specialist position in the library.

He also said that the elimination of physical education courses, the debate team and the farm lab are not under consideration at this time.

We would like to commend McPhee for taking a look at some of the eliminations on the table and considering how it would affect students' education and experiences. Instead of flipping through the Steering Committee's final report and slapping his approval on a piece of paper, the president showed his concern for certain eliminations by actually taking the time to explore the repercussions of any decision he might have to make.

He also said he is against cutting three majors: office management, family and consumer science education and recreation and leisure services. In addition to these, McPhee said he does not want to cut global studies, but the concentrations within the major.

After the final report from the Steering Committee was released, most science majors were outraged and worried about having to transfer to other schools to continue their education. The Department of Geosciences voiced its concerns as the largest department in Tennessee and said that the job field for sciences is increasing.

While McPhee is against eliminating science majors, he said he has to cut somewhere. It is a great possibility that majors are going to be eliminated and students will have to transfer or attend other universities, but the fact that the president is trying to save as much of the academic portion of the university really says a lot about his character.

During these times of budget cuts, many students and faculty are harshly criticizing McPhee, whether it's in hushed tones within the safe confines of an office or publicly over the Internet. What many people don't take into consideration, though, is the high level of labor McPhee puts into his position, a position which directly affects a vast scope of university life. We congratulate McPhee for taking such pragmatic strides during times of economic turmoil among Tennessee colleges and abroad.

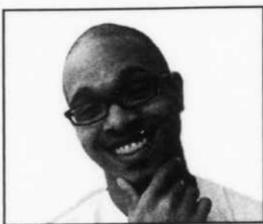
That or maybe he doesn't want hundreds of students protesting on his lawn any more. How expensive is sod these days anyway?

Selfish students should consider others

If you looked too quick, you would think MTSU has gone back to the 1970s. Several protests have been taking place across campus in reference to the proposed budget cuts to the university.

Earlier this semester, I called for students to be more vocal and to fight the fight that some faculty members feel they wouldn't be able to. In turn, the protests revved up and the community has started to speak out. I'm not saying my column had anything to do with it, but I do think clarity should be given toward what I was intending.

This student body has



The Lowdown

Richard Lowe

been categorized as apathetic. We tend not to care about anything but parking. This has been disproven recently when the student body voted down the All-Access Campus Improvement Plan.

It didn't take a protest to

get all of the students on the same page. All it took was for students to simply get upset. The recent protests on campus and in Nashville have proven that students across the nation are upset.

But the phrase "United we stand, divided we fall" is more than clever. Believe it or not, it's true.

It's one thing to say that you shouldn't fire a good professor, but you shouldn't throw another professor under the bus to help yours. You can't throw another

major under the bus just to save your major. The student body as a whole is an incredible asset to this university. You, as an individual, aren't that important.

At this point, you're fighting for everything that affects you and only you, but

MTSU is not going to become a community college. In fact, there's talk of a growth in admissions for the fall and no talk of this four-year university becoming a two-year institution.

If you want to transfer to UT, then go ahead and do it. A wise man once said on my radio show, "You applied to MTSU, MTSU didn't apply to you." If you don't want to be here then leave. But

every school, business, corporation and non-profit organization is going through these same types of cuts around the country. Wearing orange won't fix your problems. Your problems are in your head.

Continue to fight for what you believe in as long as it doesn't mean you're destroying what others believe in.

The best example is the fact that, currently, WMOT will live to see another day. The efforts to save the jazz station were far-reaching and well worth it. They didn't try to save themselves by throwing other radio stations under the bus. They just fought for what they believed in and made their voice heard. Now is your time to do the same.

Richard Lowe is a senior in mass communication and can be reached at richardlowejr@gmail.com.

“In reality, the elimination of a major simply means phasing it out. They can't kick you out of the program you are in.”

you aren't helping this university. Think about it like this: when an advisor screws up your scheduling, you never think about how he or she might have also screwed up the scheduling of other students. Your only concern at that moment is that he or she screwed you up.

What many students on this campus are trying to save this university from is it turning into something they fear. Something students shouldn't fear, however, is research.

Students are afraid that if MTSU cuts their major, they're going to have to transfer. In reality, the elimination of a major simply means phasing it out. They can't just kick you out of the program you are in. No one else can take that major, but if you've declared then you're fine.

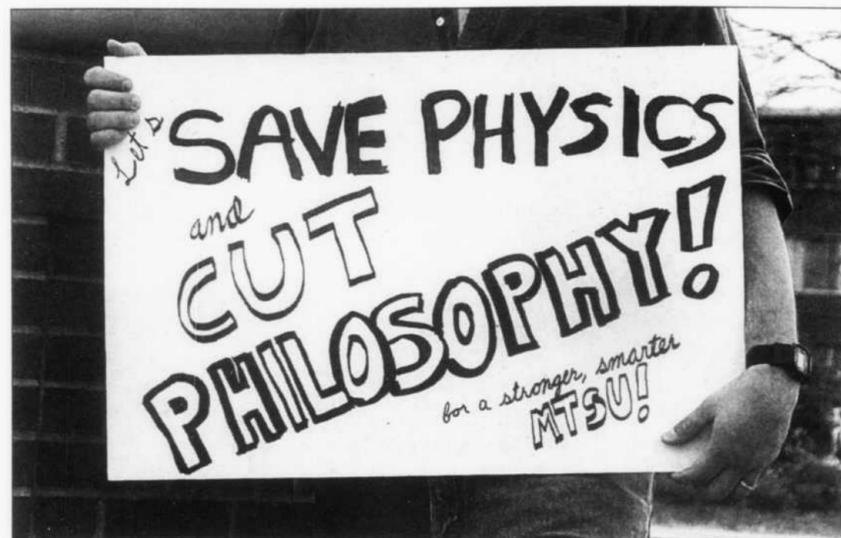


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

A student holds a sign suggesting the cut of philosophy in lieu of physics from MTSU's list of majors.

Domestic abuse reaching, affecting teens

I remember back to my high school days when I had a good friend who had it all as far as relationships go. She was a good student, dating the star football player and had great friends.

One day she and I went shopping. When she came out of the dressing room, I noticed a bruise on the inside of her arm. Her eyes dropped, and she told me that her boyfriend had "gotten a little mad" and grabbed her.

As I saw the four small round bruises in the shape of fingertips, my heart sank. You have those conversations with people to try to make them understand relationships shouldn't be like that, but it's love, apparently. And it's hard to make a girl, or boy, understand that a relationship isn't about getting angry and taking out aggression on your significant other.

Relationships that start in middle school or high school are getting more and more serious and the results of that can be dangerous.

Over the weekend I read an article from "The Boston



Tales from a Feminist

MacKenzie Fox

Globe" that took an unofficial poll of 200 teenagers, age 12-19. One of the questions posed was who was responsible for the assault against pop-star Rihanna.

Roughly 50 percent of those teenagers believe that it was, for whatever reason, Rihanna's fault. And more than half of those teenagers surveyed believed that the media was being too harsh on Chris Brown.

Another interesting fact of the poll said that 70 percent of the teens questioned believed that arguing was a normal part of a relationship and 44 percent, said that fighting was normal, too.

Those results are baffling to me and I think it should



Photo illustration by Alex Blackwelder

open people's eyes to just how normal domestic violence has become.

Regardless of the situation, no one should be subjected to that kind of pain, because it goes beyond physical pain; it's emotional, too. It damages not only your body, but also your mind. And it has to stop. No matter if you are a man or woman, young or old, rich or poor, it is never

OK to show that physical violence to anyone, much less your partner.

So how can you stop it? If you know someone who is being abused, don't take "they still love me" as an excuse. Be aware important information such as where the nearest domestic violence shelter is located.

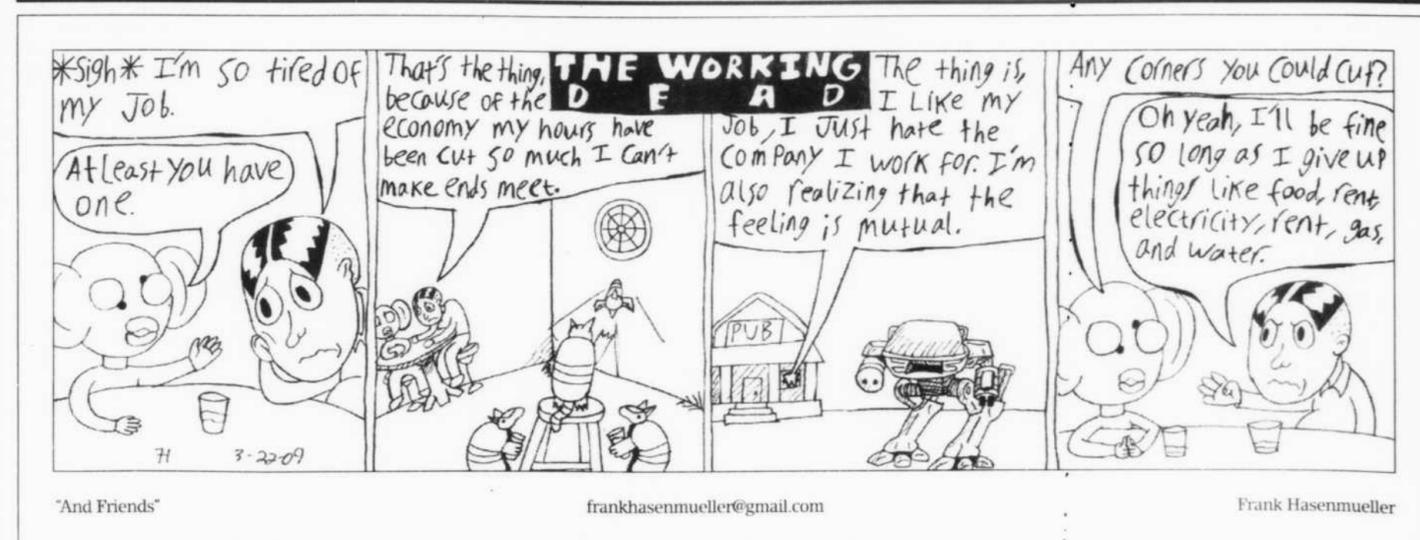
Also, as I said before, so

many kids grow up thinking that abuse is OK in a relationship, so talk to your younger siblings or cousins, and tell them that it's not OK.

And, most importantly, realize yourself that it's not how real, meaningful relationships are achieved.

MacKenzie Fox is a freshman in sociology and can be reached at mdf3c@mtsu.edu.

COMICS



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

ARE YOU PLEASSED WITH MCPHEE'S BUDGET CUT RECOMMENDATIONS?

online TELL US ONLINE AT MTSUSIDELINES.COM

FEATURES

NO 76%

WILL THE LADY RAIDERS BEAT MICHIGAN STATE ON THE ROAD?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Dorm life vs. apartment life

Students try to find best places to live for their college years

By JUSTYNE MCCOY
Contributing Writer

Whether to live on or off campus can be one of the most challenging decisions a student makes considering the difficulty of weighing the pros and cons of student housing and apartment rental.

Many students may be concerned with not being able to find a parking spot, but students who live on campus are often times spared from that worry.

Around 23,000 students are enrolled at MTSU, and of those enrolled, about 3,500 students live on campus in the 21 residence halls and two apartment complexes.

Brandee Kent, a freshman mass communications major, lives in Monohan Hall and says she enjoys being able to walk to her classes and not having to worry about parking. Still, not even the perk of walking to class can make her want to stay on campus next year.

"I do plan on moving off campus next semester," Kent says. "I am ready to have my own apartment somewhere off campus."

Kristina Adkins, a sophomore advertising major, says she lived on campus and then decided she would rather live off campus.

"I lived on campus my freshman year, and a big perk was I could roll out of bed and get to class in two minutes," Adkins says. "One of the things I miss the most is being able to run back to my dorm room and grab something that I had forgotten for class."

Rasha Ahmed, a sophomore liberal arts major, says she lives 15 miles from campus. That may look like a



Photos by Ian Bailey, staff photographer
Stanley Springer, a freshman mass communication major, and Jonathan Stewart, an undeclared freshman, record a song in their Sims Hall dorm room.

short drive, but parking is never easy for her.

"I have to give myself one hour to get to campus in order to find a parking spot and get to my first class on time," Ahmed says. "Even though parking is sometimes terribly difficult, I would never consider living on campus."

Living on campus freshman year is a great opportunity for new students adjusting to college life to take a little stress

out of their lives and get some exercise.

Many students that live in the MTSU residence halls develop strong friendships through interacting with other students living in their hall.

Not all of the residence halls and apartments require students to have a roommate. If a student prefers to have a private room, he or she can choose to pay a higher room

rate and have his or her own room.

Rent for single or private rooms in the halls or apartments ranges from around \$2,500 to about \$4,000 a semester. Rent is paid per semester, unlike many off-campus apartments where rent is paid by the month.

In most cases, students are allowed to request a roommate, which can make the transition from high school

to college a bit smoother.

Eric Hancock, a freshman education and behavioral science major, lives in Clement Hall and says he is thankful that he was able to request his roommate.

"I am lucky to be rooming with one of my best friends," Hancock says with a smile. "We never had to go through the awkward stage of getting to know and living with a complete stranger."

Although Hancock may have a great roommate and not have to drive to class, there are a few things that are not so great about Clement Hall, he explains.

"I always feel like I am staying at a cheap hotel and have to remind myself it is temporary," Hancock says. "But it really sinks in that it is a little more than temporary when I lay down to sleep at night and feel as though I am sleeping on a the most uncomfortable plastic mattress ever."

Living off campus is sometimes more expensive, but some students prefer to live away from the dorms in order to avoid noisy neighbors and distractions.

Andrea Nourse, a junior mass communication major, says she lives about 15 minutes from campus and enjoys having her own space.

"It is wonderful having my own home and not having to worry about campus laws and rules," Nourse says. "It can be hard to get motivated to drive back to campus for club meetings or other on-campus activities that do not take place during the times I am on campus for my classes."

Living on campus, in many cases, makes it easier for some students to be able to attend extra-curricular activities. Many students that live off campus have a hard time making the drive back to campus to attend a function or get involved with a club. Some students have an hour commute to school and work a full-time job, which makes it very difficult to get involved.

There is no way to know if on campus living would be right for you unless you try it. To find out more about on campus living check out mts.edu/~housing.

'Night for Visions' to benefit Autism Center

Local musicians come together for second annual charity concert

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

Tonight the second annual "A Night for Visions," a benefit for Visions Autism Center, is scheduled to take place in historic downtown Franklin.

SOL Restaurant, located at 403 Main St., hosted the benefit last April and is opening its doors again to raise money for the organization.

Visions Autism Center is a non-profit organization started in 2007 by Executive

Director Meshea James and her husband David.

Meshea had a vision when she realized how limited educational options were for her 12-year-old autistic son. She decided to open a center for special needs children to provide what public school systems could not.

"I think the schools do a good job with the resources they have," James says. "But often the children have such differences in behavior that unless you studied their conditions specifically, it is diffi-

cult to get a handle on how to educate them."

Visions offers educational and behavioral therapy for autistic children of all ages as well as those with other be-

havioral differences.

The staff gives the kids the individual attention they need to help them learn and develop social skills through Applied Be-

havior Analysis (ABA).

James describes ABA as a data-driven science involving the study of a specified child's behavior and finding ways to help the child learn based upon those observations.

Visions Autism Center relies on fundraisers like the upcoming benefit at SOL to continue providing educational assistance to these children and support for their families.

Luckily, SOL owner Jason McConnel is a former school-

mate of both James and her husband and volunteered to hold the benefit at his restaurant.

The event will take place at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 purchased in advance at What's in Store or The Daily Dish, both located in Franklin, and \$25 at the door.

The benefit will feature Nashville band The Lonely Hearts as well as a silent auctioning of local artwork, jewelry and gift certificates. All proceeds will support the organization.

What:
"Night for Visions"
Where:
SOL Restaurant: 403 Main St., Franklin
When:
Tonight @ 6 p.m.
Cost:
\$20/advance, \$25/door

CALENDAR

movies, music, nightlife and more

MUSIC

March 23

Say Hi w/ Telekinesis & Jack @ The End - 9 p.m.

March 24

Blues Jam @ Club 527 - 9 p.m. - \$5

The Fervor w/ The Winter Pills and Pete & J @ The End - 9 p.m.

Gene Ween Band w/ The Mattoid @ Exit/In - 9 p.m.

March 25

Nashville AllStar Band @ The Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

DJ Migeygoolaid @ Club 527 - 8 p.m. - \$5

March 26

The Highlife Band @ The Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

The Last Straw @ Wall Street - 9 p.m.

S.O.S. @ The Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m. Parachute Musical w/ Parrish Hudson

and Mike Anderson @ Club 527 - 9 pm - \$8

Shoot the Mountain w/ Awesome Shirt and Heartbeater @ The End - 9 p.m.

Matt Wertz w/ Michael Tolcher @ Exit/In

March 27

Iron Age @ The Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

Lord Mantis w/ Rintrah @ Wall Street - 9 p.m.

Dirty Pirate Hookers @ The Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

Enjoy the Zoo w/ Motive

and Rookie of the Year @ Club 527 - 8 p.m. - \$9

Born Empty w/ Popular Genius, Hammer No More, The Guggerss and Slam Dunk Contest @ The End - 9 p.m.

Butch Walker w/ Ponderosa @ Exit/In - 9 p.m.

March 28

Boomers @ The Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

Jaime Fox Band @ The Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

Autovaughn w/ Luna Halo, The Worsties, Flight Case

for Sushi @ Club 527 - 9:30 p.m. - \$9

Baby Teeth Thieves w/ Once and Future Kings @ Tomato, Tomato - 10 p.m.

Yung and Ugly's Neon Network @ The End - 9 p.m.

Chairlift w/ Acrylics and Oblio @ Exit/In - 9 p.m.

March 29

Street Light Allstars @ Club 527 - 8 p.m. - \$4

Black Stone Cherry w/ Sixth Floor and Willowshade @ Exit/In - 9 p.m.

OTHER

March 23

Joker's Poker @ The Graffiti Bar - 8 pm

March 24

Karaoke Contest @ The Graffiti Bar - 10 pm

Karaoke @ The Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

March 25

Trivia @ Wall Street - 8 pm

March 26

Tip of Your Tongue Trivia @ The Blue Rooster - 7 p.m.

Compiled by Malarie Woods

Baseball
March 24, March 25

Opponent/time:
Lipscomb at 6 p.m.
Tennessee Tech at 6 p.m.



SPORTS



Softball
March 24

Opponent/time:
Tennessee Tech at 4 p.m.

Lady Raiders' tourney ends in 60-59 heartbreaker

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

After a cutthroat battle that spanned the length of the game and a series of fouls that forced the nation's leading scorer to take the bench, the clock at the Breslin Center in East Lansing, Mich., wound down to reveal a stunning 60-59 loss for the No. 8 seed Middle Tennessee Lady Raiders.

Junior forward Alysha Clark, who was voted a Second Team All-American and averaged 27.3 points per game, scored the most points for either team (34), coupled with 10 rebounds, enough for her 17th double-double of the season.

The Spartans would not allow another MT player in the

double digits, as Clark's closest followers, junior forward/guard Brandi Brown and junior guard Jackie Pickel, could only garner nine and eight points, respectively.

Both teams stayed neck-and-neck throughout the first three minutes of the game. A 3-pointer from Pickel would break open the Lady Raider's floodgates, starting a barrage of points that lasted through the first half.

Michigan State's Cetera Washington, a sophomore forward, would cap a comeback effort, bringing her Spartans within one point of the MT squad. But a Pickel jumper would put a stop to MSU's charge.

The Lady Raiders would lead by a maximum of 15 points, at the hands of a Clark

3-pointer. MT would maintain a safe cushion throughout the rest of the half, despite constant attempts by MSU's Wallyssa DeHaan.

"I expected her to be on me," Clark said. "She's 6'9". I'm 5'10". I knew she'd block some shots. I couldn't stop going at her."

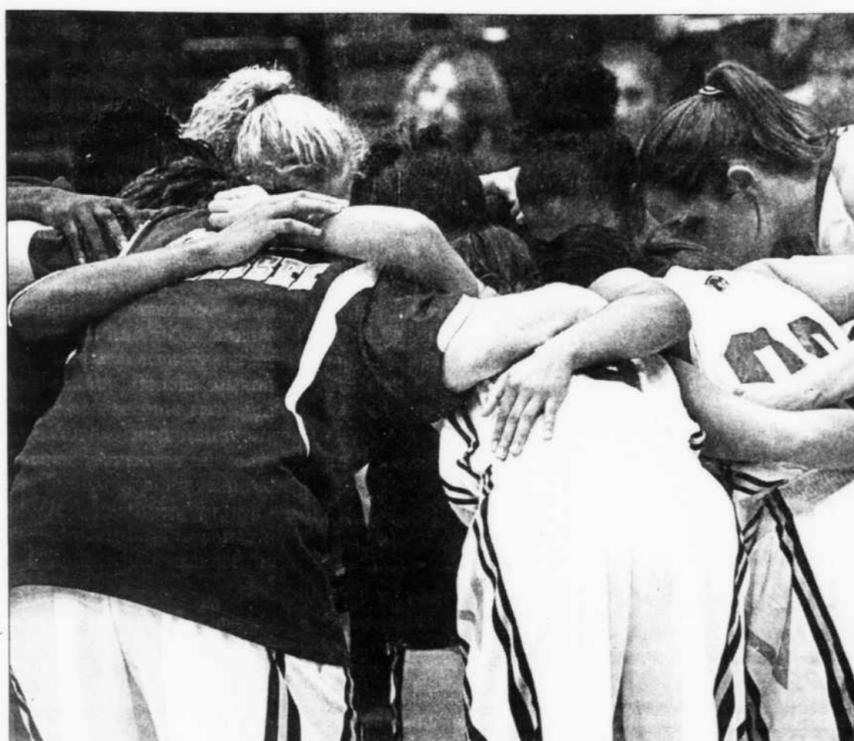
DeHaan's stature (she stands at 6'9") would prove an interesting matchup to Clark's skill. The two stayed in close proximity throughout the game, in an effort by MSU to lockdown Clark's shots.

"The big girl [Allyssa DeHaan] got in her head a little bit," MT head coach Rick Insell said. "She would've got in my head, too."

MSU came out of the locker room to score seven of the half's first eight points. This would bring MT's lead back down to one, with a successful foul shot by senior guard Mia Johnson. But the Lady Raiders would stop them yet again.

MT would push the lead back to seven on a Brown 3-pointer, but MSU would continue to gain, tying the score at 57 on a Washington layup.

With 1:36 to go, Clark fouled out of the game. Sophomore forward Emily Queen



File Photo

stepped in for the newly ousted Clark, and MSU's Mia Johnson took advantage by hitting a 3-pointer with 1:10 to go. This gave the Spartans the lead.

With the clock ticking, the Lady Raiders scrambled to make up the deficit. A layup from Brown at 0:42 would spark the comeback and gave

MT some hope.

The Lady Raiders would pass back and forth for the remainder of the game, but a superior Spartan defense would stop the clock, with a 60-59 score.

Clark ended the season setting a single-season school record of 935 points, enough to rank fifth all-time in NCAA history. The game was the

12th NCAA tournament appearance for the Lady Raiders and capped the current season as MT's 34th game.

The Lady Raiders finished the season with an overall record of 28-6, and a conference record of 17-1. All 11 players will return for the 2009-2010 season, with five incoming recruits.

Top Performers

F Alysha Clark #22 Jr.
34 total points, 10 rebounds, 2 assists

G Chelsia Lymon #00 Jr.
5 rebounds, 4 steals, 3 assists

The NFL's new leader prepares for war

The NFL is moving into uncharted waters with an enigmatic and new captain leading the way.

Five days ago, the National Football League Players Association, or the players' union, elected DeMaurice Smith, a D.C. criminal defense lawyer, to fill its executive director void left behind by the late Gene Upshaw.

A three-year term has been given to Smith, which means he will be the man in charge of guiding the players' union through what could possibly be the most important era of professional sports.

Last May, the football franchise owners voted unanimously against an extension of the NFL's current collective bargaining agreement, which will lead to the end of the salary cap by the 2010 season. The players currently make 60 percent of the NFL's revenue, and the owners are unhappy with their share of



Mr. Irrelevant

Zach Reves

the profits. If the situation is left as is, an owner's lock-out could occur, potentially shortening or even canceling the NFL season.

Smith has been the man selected to prevent that from happening by mediating an agreement between the players and the owners over the next two years.

However, there are many pundits and players who are unsure if Smith is the right man for such an important task.

One of the biggest factors raised is Smith's inexperience in the field of professional

football. I'm not dismissing his law degree from the University of Virginia or his work with Patton Boggs law firm. But neither of those paints him in the light of a business man in a field where economics is all that matters right now. Smith himself has even admitted that he has no background in the field of labor law, and thus his situation will be a learn-as-you-go experience.

Another detrimental factor that's been raised is Smith's viewpoint within the argument process. Upshaw, who was well-respected as director, was a former player who understood player motivations. Smith hasn't touched a pigskin outside of little league.

Instead, Smith might be a lot more comfortable with white collar people than the people he has been chosen to represent. Perhaps Smith can melt away prior allegiances and

come to understand where the players are coming from, but only time will tell over the short period with which he has to work.

Despite these shortcomings, the NFL has cited the 45-year-old lawyer as fresh blood to a tension-filled situation that desperately needs new ideas. Smith has already established an idea to bridge the gap between the NFL and its retired and injured players, a notion that has been ignored too long. Funds and retirement benefits as a high priority for Smith are a high priority for players barely have the funds to pay for required medical treatment for injuries sustained in the game.

Is he the right man for the job?

To read more, visit us online.



Softball avoids series sweep against USA

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

After dropping the first two games against the University of South Alabama, the Blue Raiders pulled away in the third contest with a walkoff RBI single to earn the 1-0 victory.

In this weekend's home series against USA, the Blue Raiders lost 10-0, 9-0 and won 1-0 as MT dropped the Sun Belt Conference series.

The first two games were played as a doubleheader on Saturday, in which the Blue Raider offense was completely absent.

MT (6-17, 1-5 Sun Belt) only recorded one hit in the series opener, as the team fell 10-0. On the opposite side of the ball, the Jaguars had runners on base 16 times against the Blue Raiders.

Junior pitcher Lindsey Vander Lugt (4-9) started the game and allowed two earned runs on five hits with five strikeouts for the game. In relief, sophomore Kellie Head allowed four earned runs on

five hits as the Jaguars built a commanding lead.

The Jaguars scored in bunches including a three-run first inning and six-run fourth inning that put the game completely out of reach.

In game two of the doubleheader, MT stayed close with USA throughout the game until an eight-run seventh by the Jaguars changed the game's dynamics.

Freshman pitcher Caty Jutson (1-6) took the loss as she pitched seven innings giving up five earned runs on nine hits with three strikeouts.

At the plate, the Blue Raiders had four hits for the game as they couldn't chain anything together to create a run.

USA scored a quick run in the top of the first with an RBI single to take a 1-0 lead. MT buckled down and prevented the Jaguars from any significant offense for the rest of the game until the final inning's eight-run effort that silenced any MT comeback.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Kellie Head serves up a pitch. Head shut out USA in Sunday's game.

On Sunday, the Blue Raiders exacted some revenge as they shut out USA for a 1-0 victory to prevent the sweep. The victory marks MT's first Sun Belt victory this season. Head started the game and pitched a complete game shutout, giving up only four hits and striking out six while walking only one.

MT continued to struggle

at the plate with only four hits in the game, but one of them was a walkoff RBI single in the bottom of the seventh by sophomore outfielder Kelsey Dortch. The single led to the biggest and only run for the Blue Raiders this weekend.

The Blue Raider softball team will return to action on Tuesday against Tennessee Tech at home at 4 p.m.

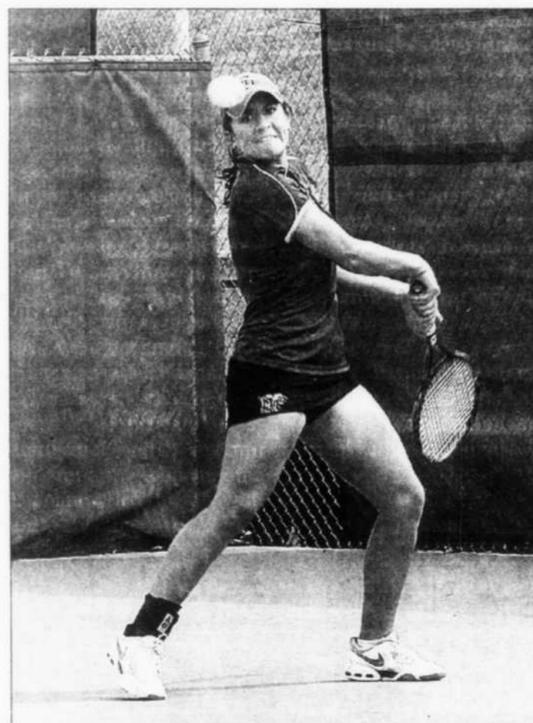


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

Senior Andrea Herrera prepares to return a shot during her singles match against WKU. MT swept WKU 7-0 at home.

Bouldin Tennis Center serves up wins against SBC rival

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee women's tennis weekend, managed to break its seven-match losing streak with a 7-0 decision against WKU on Friday, and started falling back into a familiar state with a loss to Indiana State on Saturday.

After a fledgling series of matches capped by the landslide loss to Princeton early last week, the Lady Raiders reclaimed a win as they hosted the Western Kentucky Lady Hilltoppers Friday night.

MT swept the doubles matches, as the team of veteran senior Marlene Chemin and junior newcomer Anna Djananova led the way with an 8-4 victory over WKU's

sister act of Matgot and Marlou Van Bussel.

Singles action was much of the same, as MT dominated throughout. Djananova led singles play with her 6-0, 6-2 victory over Margot Van Bussel.

Freshman Marietta Bigus followed suit, clinching a 6-1, 6-2 win over Erin Fulkerson, immediately chased by junior Natalie Araya's 6-3, 7-5 victory over Marija Djuran.

Chemin finished off the set with her defeat of Carrie True 6-3, 6-3.

None of the Lady Raiders allowed a third set, as all MT players finished off the match within the first two sets.

MT Baseball sweeps series against FAU

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raider baseball team continued its Sun Belt dominance with a series sweep over Florida Atlantic this past weekend.

Victories of 7-2, 5-4 and 14-6 over the Owls have moved the boys in blue to a 7-1 record in the Sun Belt Conference, which solidifies MT's second place position in the SBC.

MT began the three-game series Friday with a 7-2 victory over the Owls keyed by solid defense and a superb pitching effort from sophomore Bryce Brentz.

Brentz pitched his first complete game, allowing only two runs on nine hits in his nine innings of work. He struck out six while only walking one as Brentz earned his second win of the season. His nine innings of work is the first Blue Raider complete game since the 2005 season.

The defense behind Brentz also performed admirably as it played without a defensive error all game.

On offense, the Blue Raiders tallied seven runs on seven hits in the game. Senior centerfielder Nathan Hines led MT at the bat, hammering a grand slam in the bottom of the third inning. Hines would hit 3-for-4 with four RBIs and two runs scored.

Senior thirdbaseman Rawley Bishop added one hit with one RBI and two runs scored to the Blue Raider offense.

FAU took an early lead in

the top of the first with Nick DelGuidice's RBI single, but further damage was removed as the Blue Raiders threw out an Owl trying to steal home to end the inning.

The Blue Raiders took the lead in the third by loading the bases followed by Hines' grand slam, which gave MT plenty of breathing room to hold on for the win.

The second game was a bit closer, as the Blue Raiders waited until the bottom of the ninth to earn their 5-4 comeback victory.

Brentz, one day after pitching a complete game, hit a first pitch two-RBI walkoff home run giving the Blue Raiders their second win in the series.

"It says something about our team to finish in this fashion," head coach Steve Peterson said. "We have good power, and it's not surprising that both teams score off home runs."

Junior Kenneth Robert took the mound for the Blue Raiders, pitching six innings and giving up three earned runs on four hits with six strikeouts. Junior Coty Woods took the win in his one third of an inning relief appearance, as he struck out the only batter he faced.

MT only recorded seven hits at the plate with no player hitting more than one for the game. FAU had nine hits in the game, including two home runs, but the team was unable to seal the deal against Brentz and the Blue Raiders.

On Sunday, MT completed the sweep with a dominant



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Junior Drew Robertson follows through with his swing after a hit during this weekend's series against FAU. MT is 7-1 in Sun Belt play.

14-6 victory based around a powerful offensive attack.

The Blue Raiders knocked four home runs out of the park and put up two five-run innings to fend off the Owls. MT recorded 13 hits in the contest with four players achieving a multi-hit game.

Bishop went 2-for-5 including a home run with three RBIs and a run scored to lead

the offensive attack to victory. Brentz contributed out of leftfield with a 2-for-5 performance with two RBIs and a home run.

On the mound, sophomore pitcher Jud Stoltz pitched only three innings while giving up five earned runs on five hits. Freshman pitcher Justin Guidry gave up one run in three and two-thirds innings

of relief as he earned his second win of the season.

The Blue Raiders took an early lead with a two-run second, but FAU came storming back with a five-run third inning. MT regained the lead with a powerful bottom of the sixth as the Blue Raiders hammered three home runs to score five runs of their own.

For added insurance, the boys in blue added five more runs in the bottom of the eighth with RBI doubles by Bishop and junior catcher Drew Robertson.

The Blue Raiders will depart on a nine-game road trip starting with a single game series against Lipscomb Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Former MLB record breaking pitcher to speak at MTSU

By DEAN HOLDEN
Staff Writer

Former Major League Baseball pitcher Jim "Mudcat" Grant is scheduled to speak at the 14th Conference on Baseball and Literature at MTSU on March 27.

Grant, author of "The Black Aces: Baseball's Only African-American Twenty-Game Winners," will discuss both his book and career in the major leagues, as well as current issues facing baseball.

The former pitcher became the first black player in the American League to win 20 games in a season in 1965 with the Minnesota Twins.

"That was a great year for me, though it wasn't until I reached about 18 wins that I

started thinking about winning 20," said Grant.

Later in the same season, he became the first black player to win a World Series game, winning Game One against the Los Angeles Dodgers. He later won Game Six as well.

He was originally slated to pitch against Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax in Game One. Koufax, who is Jewish, opted not to pitch Game One because it coincided with Yom Kippur.

"I thank Yom Kippur for that," Grant said, "because I knew if I was pitching against Koufax, I was going to have to pitch a shutout."

Since his career ended, Grant has involved himself in studying and promoting the history of black athletes in

baseball, including the first-ever African-American Little League World Series in 2010, one of the topics he will address at the conference.

"Mudcat" Grant has shed light on aspects of the game during the Civil Rights era of the 1960s, which he can comment on first hand," said Warren Tormey, an English professor at MTSU who coordinated the conference with English professor Ronald Kates.

Tormey, in addition to organizing the conference, will discuss issues concerning baseball within social issues, language, fiction, poetry and drama.

"The conference provides a forum for scholars across the country to present their

work on baseball themes and topics," Tormey said. "It's a mixed bag, but the conference provides a point of gathering for scholars from various fields to meet and exchange ideas."

Grant will draw largely from his own experiences at the conference,

"I want people to see what they can do with a foot on their neck and almost nothing to their name," Grant said. "I want to show people how to deal with impossibilities and make them possibilities."

Many of the other 12 black pitchers in "The Black Aces"

the experiences and struggles of all African-American 20-game winners, and in this light, he's also served baseball as a historian of an important chapter in the game's history," Tormey said.

Tormey said he and Kates have coordinated the conference since it moved to MTSU from Indiana State University in 2006.

"The conference has continued to attract scholars from across the country since moving and remains strong even in this tough economic climate," Tormey said.

The conference is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on March 27 in the James Union Building. The registration fee is \$70, including breakfast and lunch.

"I want to show people how to deal with impossibilities and make them possibilities."

JIM "MUDCAT" GRANT
FORMER MAJOR LEAGUE PITCHER AND AUTHOR

discussing baseball in the Civil Rights environment of his career and his struggles, as well as those described in "The Black Aces."

have also taken turbulent paths to baseball fame, and these struggles are a major feature of the book.

"The Black Aces' chronicles

TENNIS FROM PAGE 7

The team did not fare as well while playing host to the Indiana State Sycamores on Saturday afternoon.

ISU took both doubles matches early. The Chemin/Djananova team came closest, falling in an 8-5 match to Sofya Lifanova and Anna Morgina.

Bigus, Herrera, freshman Taylor Coffey and senior Andrea Herrera each

forced a third set before their loss. Herrera gave up the first set 6-4, but recovered quickly for a 4-6 set win. The match fell through, though, as Herrera's third set would culminate in her 6-3 loss.

Djananova was MT's sole savior, taking her match against Aleksandra Dzaua 6-3, 6-4.

The Lady Raiders will be back in action on Friday, as they travel to Denver to face the Montana Grizzlies. The match is scheduled to start at 11 a.m.

Spring time for MT football

By JACOB WELLS
Contributing Writer

The Blue Raiders began the 2009 season last week with spring practice, but students and fans still have plenty of opportunities to see how the team is shaping up.

Some new faces will join some familiar ones for the next month as MTSU looks to improve upon last season's 5-7 overall record and 3-4 record in the Sun Belt Conference.

New offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Tony Franklin joins the team this year. Franklin coached a prolific passing offense at conference rival Troy before taking the same position at Auburn last season.

The players will likely participate in seven-on-seven scrimmages, drills and end practice with a short game of offense versus defense, said Gene Delle Donne, redshirt senior tight end.

The seven-on-seven scrimmages, also called a pass skelton, run with only a center on the offensive line, along with the quarterback, receivers and tailbacks. The defensive side of the ball is manned by the linebackers, safeties and corners, leaving the defensive linemen on the sidelines.

The Blue Raiders, along



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

The Blue Raider defense brings down the ballcarrier at home. MT is gearing up with spring practices.

with every other football subdivision, must follow certain NCAA guidelines throughout the spring session. They are limited to 15 practices, including the spring game. Also, only 12 practices may involve contact, and there can be no contact before the third practice.

Of those 12 remaining practices, eight may involve tackling, and no more than three of the eight practices may be devoted primarily to full-

team scrimmages. Also, according to NCAA guidelines, tackling is prohibited in four of the 12 contact practices.

Students and the general public are allowed to attend practices free of charge, said Andy Vaughn, director of football operations.

"People attending practices should enter through Gate 2A, and they are allowed to sit anywhere in the bleachers," Vaughn said.

"I think it's a great chance

for the students to see what their team will look like in the fall," said Chad Nichols, a senior recording industry major at MTSU.

Practices usually start around 4 p.m. and end at varying times.

Blue Raider football spring practice began on March 16. Remaining practices are scheduled for March 25, 27, 28, 29 and 30 and April 2, 8, 10, 13 and 16. The spring game will take place April 18.



TENNIS Top Performers



Anna Djananova
Junior
vs. WKU 6-0, 6-2
vs. INS 6-3, 6-4



Marietta Bigus
Freshman
vs. WKU 6-1, 6-2
vs. INS 4-6, 6-3, 6-4



Marlene Chemin
Senior
vs. WKU 6-3, 6-3