

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Editorially Independent ~ Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007

Free women's defense class

By Faith Franklin
Staff Writer

The second Free Women's Self Defense Seminar will be held Sunday, Nov. 18 at 2 p.m.

The seminar is hosted by the Middle Tennessee Mixed Martial Arts Gym, which opened this past July.

The gym was started by two MTSU students, Michael Stevenson, business administration major and Sam Gaskin, exercise science major.

Gaskin has been training, competing and teaching Brazilian jiu-jitsu for 13 years. Gaskin has a black belt in Judo, "He trains at a world class level," Stevenson said.

Stevenson has wrestled for two years and has taken Muay Thai boxing for nine years.

Hosting the seminar "is basically something we decided to do from the onset [of opening the gym]," Stevenson said.

The first free women's self defense seminar was held Oct. 14 and roughly 15 women participated.

"I took the class because my parents were concerned with my safety," said Rachel Herman, freshman International Relations major. "It was really helpful because I am not a strong person, a lot of girls on campus could be in trouble."

The purpose of the seminar is "to raise awareness of what women can do to help defend themselves and educate themselves on how to stay safe," Stevenson said. It also offers "how to think about [as well as] positions not to put yourself in."

If women do find themselves in a "bad place," Stevenson said, the seminar "will show you what to do to break away from that place."

"We are helping the community by trying to show women how to defend themselves," Stevenson said.

"[They taught us] practical things on how to defend yourself and you do not have to be super strong or trained to do," Herman said.

The seminar is not only for women. "While the majority of the people that come out are women anybody is more than welcome," Stevenson said. "There is no body type anyone can do it, it is not solely specific to any group."

The primary instructor of the seminar will be Gaskin, while Stevenson and other full contact fighters will come in to help teach.

The seminar begins with a general introduction that uses an analogy to scuba diving, Stevenson said.

The analogy discussed refers to when a scuba diver wears a knife on their leg in case of a shark attack. The idea is not that a scuba diver will be able to kill the shark with the knife, but make the shark realize that "you would be a bad meal," Stevenson said.

The shark analogy relates to a sexual predator.

The sexual predator "will want an easy meal, something that will be easy to do," Stevenson said. "So if you make yourself a bad meal, a sexual predator will move on to a much easier target."

After completing the seminar the women will "be a bad meal," Stevenson said.

Throughout the course of the seminar women are educated "that they can do something about this whole cycle of predators out there preying on women," Stevenson said.

"It seems life every single week there is some sort of incident that happens on campus," Stevenson said. "We just think that women could better educate themselves and realize that they don't need to be a victim and that they are not a victims and that they can do something."

"[The class] was conducted really well," said Jennifer Scroggs, junior sociology, major. "I left the class more confident that if something happened I could defend myself." Scroggs said that the class is great for both men and women.

"It's a good idea," said Tiffany Gray, sophomore theater major. "Everyone should know how to defend themselves, especially since it gets darker earlier and people have to walk alone at night." ♦

State senator fined for personal use of \$95,000 in campaign funds

Associated Press

State Sen. Jerry Cooper was fined \$120,000 Wednesday by the state Registry of Election Finance for moving campaign funds into a personal account.

"That is the largest civil penalty the Registry has ever issued," Registry Director Drew Rawlins said.

State law does not allow politicians to use campaign money for their personal expenses.

The transfer came to light during a trial in which the Morrison Democrat faced charges of bank fraud, mail fraud and conspiracy. He was acquitted by a jury earlier this year but during that trial an Internal Revenue Service investigator testified that Cooper had moved \$95,000 from a

See Senator, 3

Student dies in Cummings

By Andy Harper
Managing Editor

The cause of death for Jeremy Beatty remains unknown, although evidence at the scene suggests natural causes, said James Fanguy, sergeant for the MTSU Department of Public Safety.

Funeral services were held for Beatty on Tuesday. Housing and Residential Life officials found the body of Beatty, freshman electronic media major, late Sunday evening in room 618 of Cummings. According to Fanguy, evidence found at the scene indicates Beatty died from natural causes.

Beatty, 28-year-old, Mt. Juliet native, suffered from diabetes. An official cause of death will not be determined until the test results from an autopsy are processed.

Chris Barrett and Robert Irvin, residents of Cummings, said a midnight carried Beatty's body out of Irvin's residence between 11:50 a.m. and midnight. "We saw him being rolled out on a stretcher with a sheet over his head," said Barrett, freshman recording industry major. "We all just dropped, Jarren didn't exist anymore."

Jarren Long, freshman mass communication major, went to check on Beatty around 10:15 p.m. on Sunday, said Irvin, freshman aerospace major. When Beatty did not respond to Long's knocks, Irvin said Long became worried and called Kara Westmoreland, area coordinator for Cummings. Westmoreland arrived and unlocked Beatty's door around 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, Irvin said.

"I was coming upstairs and ran into my RA," Irvin said. "He told me to get off

the floor, but changed his mind and asked for me to stay and make sure no one came near the room."

Irvin said he was then told by Westmoreland to go to his room. Long, who gave a statement to police, told Irvin he overheard paramedics talking about a coma and that Beatty would not likely survive.

Barrett was up in his room, one floor above Beatty, during the event. "I got a call from my friend telling me there was an ambulance downstairs and she thought it was for our friend Jeremy," Barrett said. "I ran to the stairs, grabbed the railing and flew down. I couldn't have jumped down the stairs any faster."

Irvin said he and Beatty planned to start training for third-shift at the Shell station on Old Fort Parkway on Saturday.

"We were both hired and went to take a drug-test on Friday," Irvin said. "Jeremy was having trouble going to the bathroom so he drank a lot of water." According to Irvin, after the test, he and Beatty came back to Cummings, where Beatty became sick and began vomiting.

"I got up and went to knock on Jeremy's door Saturday night," Irvin said. "He didn't answer, so I figured he was still sick and went without him."

In addition to Westmoreland, Susan Sudak, executive director of Housing and Residential Life, was present at the scene to inform and comfort students. "They [the staff] were as respectful and calm as they could be," Barrett said. "They talked with us and even brought us tissues."

"Jeremy was leaving in January for a Disney scholarship. I was with him when he got the letter saying he got the internship and he was so happy. He wasn't even going to come back after winter break, he was just going straight to Florida." ♦

E. coli outbreak in frozen pizzas

By Johnathon Schleicher
Staff Writer

General Mills announced a Class I recall of their frozen meat pizza products on Nov. 1 due to a possible connection to an E. coli contamination. The company stated that 3.3 million pounds of the frozen products from Totino's and Jeni's pizzas might have been a possible cause for a multi-state E. coli illness outbreak. Approximately 141,000 pizzas were affected.

Some of the products recalled were Totino's Party Supreme, Three Meat, Pepperoni, Pepperoni Trio and Party Combo. Jeni's Crisp N Tasty Supreme, Pepperoni, and Combo were also recalled.

State and federal authorities discovered the problem while conducting an investigation of the E. coli illness. The problem might have come from the pepperoni topping at the General Mills plant in Ohio, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin all had one report of the illness while Tennessee had the most cases reported in the nation with eight reports. There are 21 total cases of the outbreak. Nine of the individuals affected were hospitalized. Ten states total have reported a case, and the investigation of the outbreak is still ongoing.

The Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, with the cooperation of General Mills, took precautionary measures by recalling the questioned products and tested the facility.

"We took action as a precaution; however, to date we have found no E. coli in our plant, and we have found no E. coli in our products," said Kristie Foster, spokeswoman for General Mills. "As a precaution and interest in consumer safety, we initiated a voluntary recall."

The USDA Web site stated that all the products recalled were produced on or before Oct. 30 and were in stores nationwide. Consumers are urged to look in their freezers and throw away any of the frozen pizza products if found.

According to General Mills, the earliest case was reported to state authorities on July 20. The latest case of E. coli was reported Oct. 10. Since July 1, Totino's and Jeni's have distributed more than 120 million pizzas across the nation.

Symptoms of E. coli include bloody diarrhea, dehydration and abdominal cramps. The food-borne bacterium is potentially deadly. The young, senior citizens and those with immune deficiencies are those most susceptible to the illness. ♦

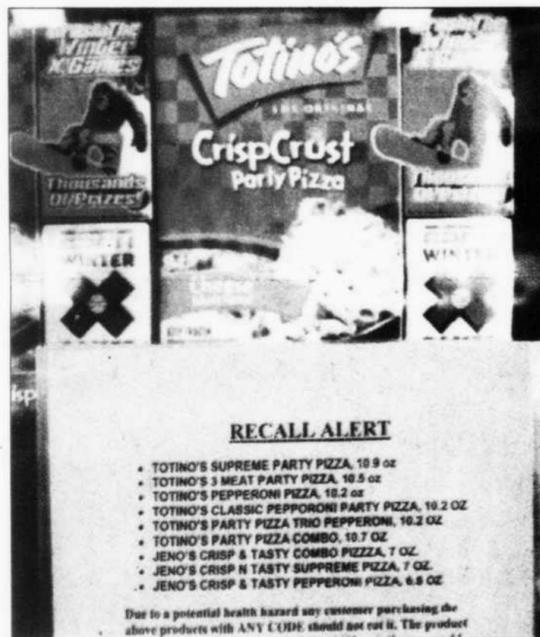


Photo by Justin Keonin | Photography Editor
Totino's and Jeni's pizzas containing meat were recalled earlier this month. The recall applies to pizzas produced on or before Oct. 30.

MT hosts Holocaust conference; highest attendance in eight years

By Teri Patton

Contributing Writer

MTSU hosted the eighth bi-annual Holocaust Studies Conference last week, chaired by Nancy Rupprecht, Department of History. The 2007 conference was privileged to have two world-class scholars - Gerhard Weinberg, author of "Verdict of Victory" and Robert Satloff, author of "Among the Righteous."

Connie Huddleston, MTSU's Events Coordinator, said that students are very fortunate to have opportunities to hear individuals like Satloff and Weinberg.

Huddleston said she appreciated every one who provided help with the conference, such as Allen Hibbard of the Middle East Center, who sponsored and coordinated the featured speaker, Robert Satloff.

Satloff's book that asks the question: "Did any Arabs save any Jews during the Holocaust?"

Satloff said the answer was difficult to find in certain areas due to denial, lack of education on the Holocaust, or official records of German forces in areas like Tanzania. Satloff found a positive way to make the question personal and accepted by the Arabs. While conducting interviews for his book, Satloff used the words of the Quran: "Whoever saves one life, he saves the entire world." This opened doors to find the righteous Arabs that helped protect and save Jews.

Satloff told some of these stories. One told of Khaled Abdelwahhab, a native of Mahdia, Tunisia, who saved a Jewish woman from being raped by a German officer. Abdelwahhab hid Odette

Boukris and her family on his farm. Satloff research led to, Khaled being considered for the honor of "Righteous among the Nation."

This award was given in 1963 to honor those non-Jew individuals who rescued Jews during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem, the official Israeli memorial of the Holocaust, set up a public committee headed by a retired Israeli Supreme Court Justice. The committee is responsible for granting the title. If approved, Abdelwahhab will be the first Arab ever to join the heroes of the Holocaust. He is still in review for Israel's National Holocaust memorial for the honor.

Huddleston said that this year was the most successful 2007 conference with the highest attendance. The next Holocaust Studies Conference is scheduled for 2009. ♦

TBI investigating death of deputy in Knoxville

Associated Press

Moments after a federal jury awarded \$5 million in damages to the widow of a Scott County, Tenn. sheriff's officer who was shot and killed by his partner in 2003, a prosecutor announced Wednesday a TBI probe into allegations raised in the civil trial.

Four years ago, authorities declined to prosecute former drug officer Marty Carson, the sheriff's son, after his partner, Sgt. Hubert "John John" Yancey, 35, was fatally shot during a raid on a meth lab in a darkened mobile home in Oneida. They called it an accident.

But District Attorney General Paul Phillips said the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is now "investigating the recent allegations that came out of the civil case."

"When the TBI investigation is complete, if any criminal wrongdoing is found beyond a reasonable doubt, this office will bring charges," Phillips said in a statement.

In her wrongful death lawsuit, Lori Ann Yancey claimed Carson, a pal her husband at her husband's funeral, murdered her husband to silence his secret probe into allegations that Carson was profiting from the meth trade in Scott County. She sought \$10 million in damages. ♦

TV bridges gap of students; industry

See Features, 5

"Today's Forecast:" '08 candidates bad, worse

See Opinions, 4

Sidelines 2007-08 basketball preview

See Sports, 6 & 8

LOCAL FORECAST

Thursday



Hi: 52°
Lo: 29°

Friday



Hi: 57°
Lo: 36°

Saturday



Hi: 61°
Lo: 39°

Sunday



Hi: 61°
Lo: 46°

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Study lists Oakland as dropout factory, school system disagrees

By Johnathon Schleicher
Staff Writer

"Dropout factory" is not an honorable title for any school in the United States. The term dropout factory refers to a high school that has a 60 percent or less graduation rate, according to an Associated Press story on a study taken by Johns Hopkins University, which said one out of 10 high schools in the United States fit into this category.

In Tennessee, 14.2 percent of high schools are considered dropout factories by the study, and are usually found in urban districts. The article stated that Davidson County had eight schools that fell into this category, Hamilton County had seven, Madison County had two and Rutherford County had one.

"If you are born in a neighborhood or town where the only high school is one where graduation is not like the norm, how is this the living land of equal opportunity?" asked Bob Balfanz, researcher at Johns Hopkins University.

Oakland High School was listed as a dropout factory, with a graduation rate of 50 percent for the 2003-2004 school year, but the Rutherford County Board of Education shows it to be at 88 percent. The graduation rate is defined by the number of students who start as freshmen and graduate within four years.

"They did not consider students being transferred or moving away. They just counted them as dropouts," said James Evans, spokesman for Rutherford County Schools. "Oakland lost a lot of students because they were rezoned to a new school that recently opened. Some just left, they all did not dropout."

According to Evans, the actual dropout rate was 12 percent and the other 38 percent of the students transferred to Siegel High School. Oakland High School had an 82.6 percent graduation rate for 2006. Even with the numbers reported by Evans, the school did not meet the state goal of 90 percent, but the current percentile is significantly higher than the 50 percent reported.

The AP article also stated that the highest concentration of dropout factories are in large cities and rural areas in the South. The dropout rates are common in schools consisting mostly of minorities. ♦



Photo by Justin Keonmb | Photography Editor
There are conflicting reports on the graduation rates for Oakland High School for the 2003-2004 school year.

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CRIME BRIEFS

Nov. 7, 8:25 a.m.
Theft Under \$500
Scarlett Commons - Apt. 2
Individual reported that her debit card had been stolen and was being used fraudulently.

Nov. 7, 8:43
Harassment
Deere Hall
Individual reported that she was receiving harassing and threatening phone calls, possibly from a coworker.

Nov. 7, 1:23 p.m.
Vandalism Over \$500
Cummings Annex Lot
Individual reported that his vehicle had been vandalized.

Nov. 7, 4:30 p.m.
Traffic - Leaving the Scene of an Accident Involving Property Damage
MTSU Police Department
A hit and run occurred Tuesday, the subject reported at the police department.

Nov. 7, 11:47 p.m.
Simple Possession of Marijuana
Deere Hall
Griffin P. Powlas

Nov. 8, 12:37 a.m.
Public Intoxication
Sigma Nu House - Greek Row

An individual was arrested for public intoxication and consumption of alcohol under 21.
Daniel Criss

Nov. 8, 12:30 p.m.
Theft Over \$500
President's House
An individual filled out a report in the station in reference to a stolen wood chipper.

Nov. 8, 12:47 p.m.
Theft - Bicycles Under \$500
Wood Hall
An individual called to request an officer in reference to her stolen bike.

Nov. 8, 3:16 p.m.
Theft Under \$500
James E. Walker Library
An individual called advising her coat was stolen from the library.

Nov. 8, 10:34 p.m.
Assault
Clement Hall
A caller advised that a black male had assaulted her roommate. He was wearing a blue sweater, jeans and hat; while the caller was on the phone with the police dispatch he left in a dark-colored Explorer.

Nov. 9, 12:44 p.m.
Theft Under \$500
Kirksey Old Main

An individual called advising his iPod was stolen from his office.

Nov. 10, 12:19 a.m.
Theft Under \$500
Keathley University Center
A student's Mac laptop was stolen from the KUC, where it had been outside the bookstore, not in a locker. The student only remembered it was missing that evening.

Nov. 10, 5:34 p.m.
Disorderly Conduct
Floyd Stadium
An individual was arrested for Disorderly Conduct.
Donte Hughes

Nov. 11, 10:57 a.m.
Motor Vehicle Theft
Blue Raider Dr.
A golf cart was found unattended in the roadway.

Nov. 11, 11:48 a.m.
Assistance
Keathley University Center
The subject needed the building unsecured to examine faculty paperwork.

Nov. 11, 6:08 p.m.
Harassment
MTSU Police Department
An individual in the lobby asked to speak to an officer concerning possi-

ble third-party threats.

Nov. 12, 2:22 p.m.
Burglary
Recreation Center
A worker at the recreation center called to advise that someone has been cutting the locks on the lockers there.

Nov. 12, 2:53 p.m.
Vandalism
Learning Resources Center
Someone knocked some pictures off the wall in the LRC photo gallery, the complainant advised.

Nov. 12, 5:34 p.m.
Theft - Over \$500
James E. Walker Library
A backpack was reported stolen from the library.

Nov. 13, 3:33 p.m.
Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia
Cummings Hall
The area coordinator called advising she smelled drug use; evidence was collected and a report is to be filed.

Nov. 14, 12:19 a.m.
Traffic - Moving Violation
Blue Raider Dr.
Individual issued a state citation for driving on a closed road.
Jonathan Dennis

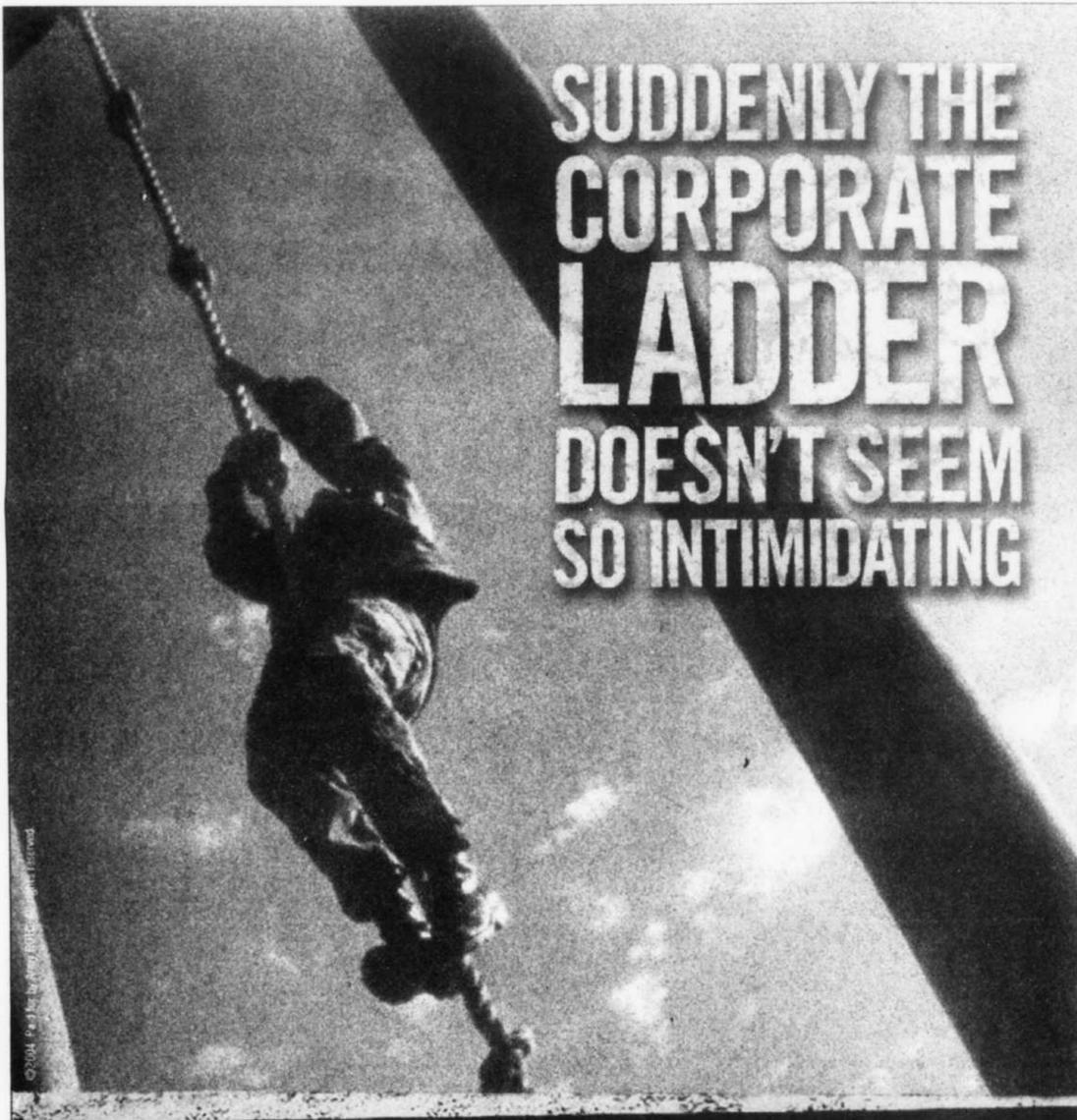
Nov. 14, 9:35 a.m.
Theft - Under \$500
Kirksey Old Main
Individual called to advise some items were stolen from her office.
Nov. 14, 10:31 a.m.
Theft Under \$500
Greek Row - Phi Kappa Phi House
Someone broke into the data room, the complainant advised.

Nov. 14, 10:42 a.m.
Theft Under \$500
Kirksey Old main
An individual advised some items were stolen from her office.

Nov. 14, 11:16 a.m.
Traffic - Leaving the Scene of an Accident Involving Property Damage
Greenland Drive - Lot B
A blue 2000 VW Jetta was hit in the parking lot; causing damage over \$400.

Nov. 14, 11:30 a.m.
Theft Under \$500
Kirksey Old Main
Items were reported stolen from an office.

Nov. 14, 11:42 a.m.
Theft Under \$500
James Union Building
A bag was reported stolen from an office.



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Senator

Continued from 1

campaign account to a private account between December 1999 and November 2001.

The Registry found that a small portion of that was probably a reimbursement for a campaign

expense, but it still found he had appropriated more than \$94,000 in money that was supposed to be used for campaigning.

"In anybody's book that is an egregious violation," Registry Chairman Will Long said. ♦

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board:

Tennessee likes streets more than its students

It is unusually depressing that a school in Murfreesboro has been referred to as a "Dropout Factory." Obviously, the connotation is that Tennessee puts children through 13 years of education just to see them fail before they reach the end with a diploma and a shot at college.

Tennessee's state government is notorious for choosing to fund smoother highways than the education of the future generations. This is telling our kids that better driving conditions are much more important than their futures.

Without the proper funding, we as a state cannot afford to procure the teachers that actually earned some semblance of a degree and did not graduate from the Three Stooges Academy.

Tennessee has a massive turnover rate and poor teacher retention. They leave for greener pastures and a lot more money with curriculum that is not actually laughable. They are also exposed to schools in other states that can afford to buy the technology to better instruct their pupils.

We cannot afford to provide the technology that is essential in this technological age. High school students are using textbooks, that to quote "Family Guy," "refer to the Civil Rights Movement as 'trouble ahead.'"

Textbooks are even becoming irrelevant as computers are more heavily relied on to do research and work. How can Tennessee afford to buy computers and software for students if we can't buy teachers who wouldn't know how to turn them on with a manual and a personal tutor?

Money isn't the only concern in education. Our schools teach the test, referring to qualifying standardized tests such as the Gateway exam, the AP exam, etc. Teachers are so busy cramming answers into students that only apply to a 100 question test instead of teaching them 'outside the box' and critical thinking skills.

All blame can not be placed on teachers and funding, but students can't be expected to learn when they are taught the answers for test after ridiculous and superfluous test that, in the end, defeat the purpose of learning if students don't stick around long enough to shovel the next pile of standardized manure. Students are taught to memorize, not understand.

We need to quit repaving our roads every other month and throw money at our school systems. The sad thing is that some of these schools are so beyond repair that the money might not make a difference, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't try.

We learn from what we see. Tennessee is showing us that the most fundamental education we should learn is not worth as much as the Teflon cushion for our tires.

Letter to the Editor

Rep. Paul responsible spender

To the Editor:

Last week, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the Dalai Lama in recognition of his lifelong commitment to peace. The medal cost \$30,000 to mint, and the House of Representatives approved the funding by a vote of 434-1.

The lone dissenting vote was cast by presidential candidate Ron Paul. "Mr. Speaker," said Congressman Paul on the House floor, "with great sadness I must rise to oppose this measure." After noting the irony in honoring a devout Buddhist monk with a material gift of gold, Paul explained:

"We cannot forget that Congress has no authority under the Constitution to spend taxpayer money on medals and awards, no matter how richly deserved."

Paul had an alternative solution: he offered to pay \$100 out of his own pocket to pay for the medal, if the other House members ponied up \$70 each to cover the rest. No one did.

"You see," Paul observed, "it's a lot easier to spend other people's money." Let's be clear: Paul has nothing against the Dalai Lama. He was also the lone vote in opposition to similar medals for Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II. His dissent speaks volumes about his principled political philosophy, which emphasizes, above all, strict adherence to the Constitution.

Sadly, Ron Paul seems to be the only politician left in Washington who actually understands the proper role of the federal government in America. Our Founding Fathers were very clear: while the Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war and levy taxes, it says nothing about spending taxpayer dollars on feel-good medals.

Of course, the Congressional Gold Medal isn't really a big deal, but it's indicative of a much larger problem: over the years, our politicians have consistently ignored and eroded the Constitution, each one straying further than the last, to the point where 434 out of 435 members of the House don't hesitate to violate the document they all swore to uphold.

To fully understand the degree to which the public has accepted this nonsense, look no further than the most recent presidential debate, where Paul pointed out that the Constitution requires the president to get congressional approval before going to war, and some members of the audience actually booed!

Ron Paul's campaign slogan is "Hope for America," and if the Dalai Lama vote is any indication, Paul is literally the only hope for those wishing to return to the ideals set forth in the Constitution: those of limited government at home, non-intervention abroad, and individual liberty for all.

So if you want more of the same: foreign wars, debt and domestic spying, then by all means, take your pick from the other presidential candidates.

But if you're looking for someone who would refuse a Congressional Gold Medal to an international beacon of peace on Constitutional grounds, well, there's literally only one choice.

Alex Blackwelder
Freshman, College of Mass Communications



"And Friends"

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Frank Hasenmueller

'08 candidates bad, worse

Apparently, it is again time to start thinking about elections for the President of the United States of America. I do not mean to alarm people, but the upcoming election will probably decide the fate of the world.

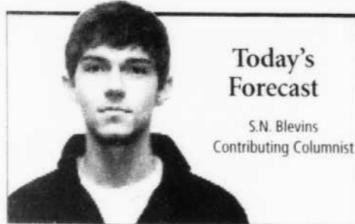
You know why, because I am beginning to believe the people who think the world is going to end. Not because I think they are right, but simply because there are so many of them. Think about it, if you believe that their will not be a distant future, it almost validates living a selfish, greedy, wasteful life. That kind of thinking is destroying the world.

Just look at Southern California and Hollywood, the epitome of superficiality. It is going down the drain right now. The television writers are striking, the movie industry is awful, and I am not even going to get into the music scene. It was literally on fire just a short while ago.

On to the candidates:

First up, we have John McCain, U.S. Senator from Arizona. He has a strange look to him, and is a stiff speaker. His support of President George W. Bush in 2004 helped shape these wonderful past four years.

Next is Barack Obama, U.S. Senator from Illinois; in case you missed it, he is half black and half white. He is also sincere, young and best of all, he is smart. I do not want to be more intelligent than my president; Obama is



Today's Forecast

S.N. Blevins
Contributing Columnist

the only candidate to make me think twice.

Next we have Rudolph Giuliani, former mayor of New York City. He loves the sound of his own voice, almost as much as he loves applause.

On to the former first lady Hillary Clinton, U.S. Senator from New York. She is too cautious. Her only goal is to get votes. Oh, and attention all restaurant servers: she does not tip, nor does she hire people that tip, according to an Iowa waitress. Afterwards, Senator Clinton felt no qualms using the woman as an example of a hard-working single mom in a speech. I am sure the \$2.13 an hour that servers make before tips goes a long way.

Next we have Joe Biden, U.S. Senator from Delaware: the classic average Joe candidate. He is a bold speaker and very entertaining to watch.

Last but certainly not least we have Ron Paul, U.S. Representative from Texas; he has

some exciting ideas. He was also a doctor, and he used these skills in a war. Oh and get this, the troops support him, having received the most donations from actual soldiers.

There is also one unifying characteristic of all these members of Congress: they are not doing their jobs!

They were elected to uphold the law and to do what is best for their state as well as the country.

Well, our country was attacked. Thousands of innocent civilians died. Last time I checked, the person responsible has not been brought to justice.

The candidates are running around the country expecting people to have faith in them, to trust them. All the while, one of the biggest mass murderers in the history of our world enjoys his freedom.

They think it is okay to just take a year off, miss crucial votes, and in general make a mockery of what the government is supposed to stand for.

They ought to get back to Washington and make a difference right now. They must not squander this coming year. Honestly, why would I elect a slacker to run my country?

S.N. Blevins is a freshman science major and can be reached at sub2j@mtsu.edu.

Gov't not fiscally conservative

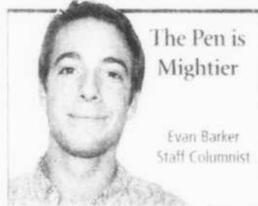
Deep in the throes of a lame-duck presidency, the George W. Bush administration is tinkering dangerously with our national finances. For the past year, Bush has swung the veto club in a manner reminiscent of Andrew Jackson.

This week, Bush vetoed a bill that would have provided \$600 billion worth of critical funding for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services. He was apparently bothered that the bill requested \$10 billion more than he wanted to spend.

At the same time, he signed a bill that sends about \$460 billion to the Department of Defense, alone. It is worth noting Bush's dissatisfaction with the bill, since it allowed him \$3.5 billion less than what he wanted. Essentially, in the president's eyes, it is fine and dandy to spend nearly half a trillion dollars in the Middle East, but it is not okay to spend a slightly larger amount within the borders of the United States of America.

This dichotomy is like an elephant in our collective living room. Domestic spending: bad, foreign spending: good.

Of course, neither Bush nor his administration will ever actually



The Pen is Mightier

Evan Barker
Staff Columnist

face the consequences of their overspending. Literally trillions of dollars of debt will be passed down to the grandchildren of Generation Z, most likely. It is important to put that number in context. A trillion is one thousand billion, which is one thousand million. It's what economists call "real money." Our kids, Republican, Democrat, or whatever, will all be saddled with a crushing amount of debt.

Recently, Congress actually overrode another Bush veto, this time of a water projects bill. This bill will cost about \$24 billion dollars. Bush promised to kill it, and made good on that promise. In this case, enough Republicans abandoned the president to override the veto, signaling that Congress would like to spend just a little bit of money here, inside the borders.

Again, the double standard. Why is it wrong to perform neces-

sary maintenance on dams, bridges and waterways in the U.S., but absolutely essential to dump more money on the largely outsourced Iraqi War. Obviously, our troops need food and ammo. However, folks back Stateside need safe drinking water and sturdy bridges.

Bush is posturing himself and his administration as being watchful of the federal deficit. Never mind that they incurred much of it themselves. It does make one wonder, though, if he gives the Department of Defense carte blanche to spend whatever they want, is that being watchful?

This comes on the heels of some interesting news, including the Johns Hopkins University report on so-called "dropout factory" high schools. Never mind the fact that despite any efforts to the contrary, public school students in the United States fare woefully in comparisons to any other so-called 'developed' nations.

Let's not forget those pesky U.S. Border Patrol statistics that estimate some 20,000+ illegal border crossings in the past year. Never mind that the Border Patrol is desperately underfunded, understaffed and overworked. Never

mind that they've been clamoring for more staffing for years. Bush's response to this was to send National Guard units to the border, and to dump more money into the Department of Defense. Get the picture?

It's okay to spend all the money you want, as long as you're spending it on the Department of Defense. Schools, drinking water and balanced budgeting be damned, we need to spend more money on foreign wars and unstable regimes.

Republican, Democrat, independent or apathetic, it's time for a reality check. There is no entity in the world, save the Federal Government, that is allowed to spend trillions of dollars more than it makes, or is likely to make in years.

Whatever or whomever you decide to vote for in 2008, make sure they understand that red ink signifies a bleeding budget, and China, to whom we owe hundreds of billion dollars in debt. Red is also the color of the blood that will inevitably be spent, here and abroad, to repay the debt.

Evan Barker is a senior viola performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

A new Sidelines haiku:

Dropout factory
Not a nice name for a school
Teach the kids something

Send us your submissions.
We really might run them.

slopinio@mtsu.edu

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FEATURES

Songwriters Unite

Television program bridges gap between students, industry

By Rachel Nutt
Staff Writer

MTSU's recording industry students have more than one thing to be happy about these days. The department has added a concentration in songwriting as a major. And, consecutively, the idea for a show called "Songspeak: Conversations on the Art and Craft of Songwriting" came about.

"Songspeak" would not be possible without Hal Newman. He hosts the show, but that is only a minor part of his involvement with the project. Before meeting Newman, I was told he was very busy. He helps choose which songwriters will be on the show and is also submerged in other projects, like the book he is writing. But as soon as I walked into his office, he gave all his time and attention to me and I realized he is the kind of person who lives in the moment, even if there are 10 other things he needs to accomplish.

Not that he hasn't already accomplished more than many people will in their entire lives. Newman snagged his first gig at the ripe age of three, singing a radio jingle for a children's clothing store. At age five, he began taking formal piano lessons. Through the years, he continued to be involved with music. But in college, he did not begin with the intention of being a music major; his parents didn't think it would lead to a career. But after dabbling in a few other areas, Newman finally decided to pursue music as a way to make a living. As soon as he did this, he admits that his grades immediately improved. He became an excellent student, he says, because he was doing something he loves. This illustrates his true love and real talent for music. After studying music in college, he turned his raw talent into a profession.

Today, Newman is an accomplished songwriter himself. His songs have been recorded by many people, such as Shirley Caesar and George Strait. "Spreadin' Like Wildfire," a song of his performed by the Archers, was Grammy-nominated. He has played with many famous artists, such as Aaron Neville of The Neville Brothers and Sam Moore of Sam and Dave. He had a six-year career in Memphis after signing a recording contract with Willie Mitchell. Today, Newman works as an assistant professor for MTSU and plays in his band "Hal Newman and the Mystics of Time."

I can tell Newman really longs to transfer his knowledge of the industry to others. "Songspeak" is only one way he is doing this. The book Newman is currently working on focuses on helping novices

learn more about songwriting. He wants both the show and his book to have a conversational feel, rather than taking a boring textbook approach.

His experience is not the only reason he is ideal to help inform others about music. Newman is sincerely a congenial person. Wherever I met him, the atmosphere becomes relaxed. From the moment I he is, he was smiling and joking. He even remembered my name and greeted me when he saw me later at a recording of the show.

His attitude toward music can help keep students from being narrow-minded. Some limit themselves to one or two genres, but Newman sums up the ideal attitude with one simple statement: "If it's good, I like it."

When asked if a wide variety of genres would be represented in the show, he chuckled and said yes, that they had "country and country-western." He explained that most of the songwriters would be coming out of Nashville, so the most prominent genres in Nashville would be the most prominent genres represented in "Songspeak." However, the show has also featured R&B, pop, and other types of writers. In fact, Newman says that he, and others loved and been influenced by R&B.

The show is about the process of writing good music, not the reputation of its genre. True music lovers don't limit themselves to a certain kind of music. They listen for quality and allow themselves to be influenced by different styles. As Newman says, "One of the best ways to find yourself is to do the great songs of other artists before you." It is not about copying someone else's style, but about learning from them. Newman says that the experiences of hearing and playing others' music "become a part of you." He explains that you "learn rules so that you can bend them."

MTSU students can attend recordings of "Songspeak" by requesting to attend online at songspeak.net. Newman informed me that since the recordings are on Fridays, there is not an excessive amount of students signing up. But many of his students have been watching the show as it airs every Sunday night and are impressed.

I was one of the few who did attend Friday afternoon's second recording. When I arrived, John Briggs, the songwriters from the day's earlier recording, and a couple audience members were chatting. Briggs represents the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and works with Newman in booking accomplished songwriters for the show.

Since several recordings of the show have already taken place, everyone seemed to have fallen into a routine. All, including the audience members, were united by the common interest of music. A girl working on the camera crew hummed "Hey Jude" by The Beatles as the set was put into place for the next recording. Who I understood had attended several previous recordings of the show, obviously felt right at home: during setup, he sauntered up to the keyboard and began playing a jazzy/bluesy song. After he played for a few seconds, I realized he was playing "Cruella de Vil." Newman, hearing the student playing, complimented him. The atmosphere in the room was like that at a family gathering.

The songwriting guests were Tom Hambridge and Robert Ellis Oral, who are also both artists. They both discussed with Newman the importance of different parts of a song, like verses, bridges, choruses, the first line and more. The show is split into three segments. Part of the time is spent talking with the songwriters, part is spent with them per-

forming their songs, and part is a question and answer session with the audience. This is a great opportunity for music major students and music lovers alike to get to ask any question they want of an accomplished songwriter.

The entire experience was enjoyable. At first I felt a bit out of place since I am not a music major, but I became so lost in the interesting stories and the music that it felt completely natural to be there. Ellis

Oral's enthusiastic keyboard playing had me hooked from the start. He also told a funny story about a humorous song he wrote called "Ultimate." When I heard the song, they thought it was a great love song for one of their movies, even though Ellis Oral's intentions had been quite different. Lindsay Lohan ended up recording the song; it can be heard at the end of the film "Freaky Friday." Hambridge played the snare drum and had his friend Steve accompany him on guitar. He sang one up-tempo song called "Fix Her" as audience members snapped their fingers. Even with such a small audience, we were all having fun.

Though the show is about songwriting, I would argue that it is not just for music majors, but also for music lovers.

"Songspeak" is not one of those generic infomercial-type productions; instead, it is full of big personality and inspiring people with intriguing backgrounds. ♦

"One of the best ways to find yourself is to do the great songs of other artists before you."

—Hal Newman
"Songspeak" host



Photo courtesy of Paula Wheeler
Nashville songwriter Tom Hambridge has appeared on MTSU's "Songspeak" program.

NEW YORK (AP) — The drama was on the streets and not on stage for disappointed theatergoers as striking stagehands picketed behind barricades in the Times Square area.

From "Wicked" to "The Phantom of the Opera," from "Mamma Mia!" to "Rent," most shows did not go on Saturday as Broadway stagehands walked off the job, shutting down more than two dozen plays and musicals.

The work stoppage first affected "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical," a holiday attraction for families that had an early 11 a.m. matinee. Patrons will be able to get refunds for tickets to canceled shows or exchange the tickets for the next available date, the league said. At "Wicked," several received pamphlets for "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," which was playing next door and was open for business.

On West 52nd Street, where Tony Award-winning musicals "Jersey Boys" and "Hairspray" play on either side of the street, pickets stood behind police barricades as theatergoers received directions on how to get their refunds. The stagehands carried signs reading, "Our families are No. 1." ♦

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — After 25 years, the Bluebird Cafe, the famed songwriter club where Garth Brooks and Faith Hill were discovered and where so many hits were first performed, is changing ownership.

The Nashville Songwriters Association bought the club in a deal that ensures it will keep operating as a hub for songwriters, founder and longtime owner Amy Kurland told The Associated Press.

The ownership change, which was announced Thursday night before a performance by Country Music Hall of Famer Kris Kristofferson, takes effect Jan. 1.

After all those years of fixing toilets, worrying whether the ice machine is working and the dozens of other chores that go with running a nightclub, Kurland, 52, wanted a change and had been searching a while for an "exit strategy" when she thought of selling to the NSA.

"I couldn't think of anybody else other than the Songwriters Association that would have the same mission, the same love in their heart for songwriters," she said.

The not-for-profit group has about 5,000 members and bills itself as the largest organization of its kind in the United States.

"The goal is not to make a bunch of money off this, but to give them something they can continue and prosper with," Kurland said.

Herbison said the club will continue operating as it always has, down to the existing staff.

"We wrote in the contract that the Bluebird remains a songwriter venue," Herbison said. "Something magic happens in those walls that doesn't happen anywhere else in the world."

Kurland opened the Bluebird in 1982 as a restaurant with some live music but within a few years began adding writers' nights. The club soon evolved into a place where songs, often performed by the writer sitting in a circle with three or four other writers, take center stage.

Garth Brooks found his hit "The Dance" while visiting there one night. Songwriter Don Schlitz tried out many of his songs that Randy Travis recorded ("On the Other Hand," "Forever and Ever, Amen") at the Bluebird. Club dishwasher/bartender Mark Irwin wrote the Alan Jackson hit "Here in the Real World." ♦

SPORTS

Blue Reign

A conversation with hall of fame head coach Rick Insell

By Richard Lowe

Sports Editor

Sitting inside of a half-lighted locker room, the sound of exhausted breaths are heard. All eyes are facing the projector screen, but all ears are focused on the voices of the Middle Tennessee women's basketball staff. Leading the team for his third season is Rick Insell, a former high school girl's basketball coach who is more known now for his short college coaching career.

In three seasons at MT, Insell has achieved a record of 50 - 16. His teams have won the Sun Belt Conference championship both seasons and are entering this year playing for another title, which would be the fifth in a row for the university.

This year, like the two previous ones, the team started its season with a loss; this time to Old Dominion, the defending 16-time Colonial Athletic Association champions. Insell did find positives in the loss. "I was proud of the way we played," Insell said. "We didn't quit. We had good effort. We worked ourselves back into a chance to win the ballgame."

Losing the first game of the season does not have Insell worried. "If they gave a national championship trophy, the first game then I would probably be a little more concerned," Insell said. "I go into every game with the attitude that we are going to win them, but I'm surely not going to be down and out because we lost to Old Dominion. We probably played one of the toughest teams for a first game than anybody in the country."

Continuously playing high profile teams is the game plan for the women's basketball team since Insell was named head coach in 2005. With that mind frame, Middle Tennessee came within four points of the No. 1 team in the country (Maryland), defeated the eighth ranked team in the country (Georgia), and was ranked for the



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Rick Insell established himself as the women's basketball coach at Shelbyville Central High School. He has brought similar success to Middle Tennessee since accepting the head coaching position in 2005. The team is 1-1 with a victory over Tennessee Tech.

first time since 1988. With Middle Tennessee gaining notoriety outside of Murfreesboro, the fan base in the state is growing as well.

"What I think I'm seeing is Tennessee maintaining [fans], and I see us growing [our fan base] and I like that," Insell said. "We are heading in the same direction that they are at. We want to get it where we are averaging 10,000 to 12,000 people a game. I know we can do that, but to do that we have to put a good product on the floor, and we have to have a good schedule."

"We can't go out every night and play people that the fans know we are going to defeat before

they get in [the Murphy Center]. When you bring in these nationally profiled teams like Stanford, Duke, or Tennessee, then your fans want to come because they smell that it might be an upset. It could be the beginning of something and the fans want to be there just like players want to be there. We are all in this together."

Casual women's basketball fans may not realize that schools like Old Dominion are competitive in the sport, but Insell does not want that mistake to take place.

"We want to continue to play UTC because they are a good program. They are in the NCAA

Tournament just about every year and are in the top 50 or 60 in RPI and that's the type of teams we want to play. We would not even consider not playing UTC, or Tennessee Tech and Austin Peay. We'd like to get it where we are also playing the University of Memphis. The fact is that those games are close and they have fan support, and eventually it would help build our crowd and our attendance."

One team that is constantly on the lips of Blue Raider fans is Vanderbilt University. It seems as though a game of cat and mouse has ensued between the schools with Insell never afraid to express how he feels about the relationship.

"There is talk of us teaming up with Vanderbilt for a tournament," Insell said. "The talk between Chris [Massaro] and David Williams [Vanderbilt's vice chancellor for university affairs] is for possibly one year they could host the tournament and the next year we host it, so if that takes shape that would be something neat. That way we might be able to heal up some of the feelings that are there between Vanderbilt and Middle Tennessee."

"As far as we're concerned, we'll play anytime, but they don't want any part of us. I think they said they recruit some of the same players we do. Yes, we do, but when you have two national profile teams in Vanderbilt and Middle Tennessee, there's no reason why we don't play every year at alternate sites for their fans and our fans to enjoy."

The future is bright for women's basketball at Middle Tennessee. There are deals in place to host two home games of the Preseason Women's National Invitational Tournament in 2008, along with series against the University of Tennessee, Louisiana State University, and Alabama, who is coached by MT women's basketball coach, Stephany Smith. ♦

MT men ready to shine

By Chris Martin

Staff Writer

An experienced backcourt that has several key players returning will lead a young Middle Tennessee men's basketball team for the upcoming 2007-08 season.

The Blue Raiders squad will feature five players who made at least 16 starts during the 2006-07 season, including last year's leading scorer, Kevin Kanaskie.

Overall, MT is returning six players who averaged at least 5.9 points per game from a team that went 15-17 overall with an 8-10 Sun Belt Conference record. Leading the way will be preseason third team All-SBC selection Kanaskie, who averaged 12.2 ppg.

Also returning is sophomore forward Desmond Yates (10.9 ppg), junior guards Nigel Johnson (6.8 ppg), Calvin O'Neil (6.6 ppg), and junior center Theryn Hudson (5.9 ppg). However, this is a young team; there are no seniors on the roster.

While the backcourt will have plenty of experience, the frontcourt will be missing some key players from last year's squad. Forward Tim Blue and center Kyle Young have exhausted their eligibility. Between the two, they accounted for 16.1 points and 10.1 rebounds a contest.

"We miss [Blue] and [Young] from a rebounding standpoint," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "[Young] was our best post defender. It's going to be hard to replace those two guys."

One candidate to help replace Blue and Young will be newcomer Uriah Hethington. Hethington, a 6-8 junior, was ranked by rivals.com as the 13th best center prospect in 2005. Davis said the transfer from Okaloosa-Walton Junior College, Fla. may just be able to step into a starting role right away.

"[Hethington] has been playing [well] in practice," Davis said. "He's really beat out [Hudson] in the last week. If he keeps going, he'll start next Thursday night."

The Blue Raiders will look to use a rotation of Hethington, Hudson and sophomore forward Dino Hair up front.

"Our biggest concern right now is rebounding the ball," Davis said. "It's probably going to boil down to which of those guys can rebound the ball."

Other players that are new to the Blue Raiders are: junior Demetrius Green, freshman Broderick Gilchrest and freshman Josh Sain.

Gilchrest, a 6-0 guard from Memphis, will provide MT with some defense off the bench in his first season.

"[Gilchrest] can be one of our better defenders," Davis said. "[He's] very fast."

MT was picked to finish third in the SBC East Division, behind Western Kentucky and South Alabama who were picked first and second, respectively.

WKU, the unanymous pick to finish atop the division, features senior guard/forward

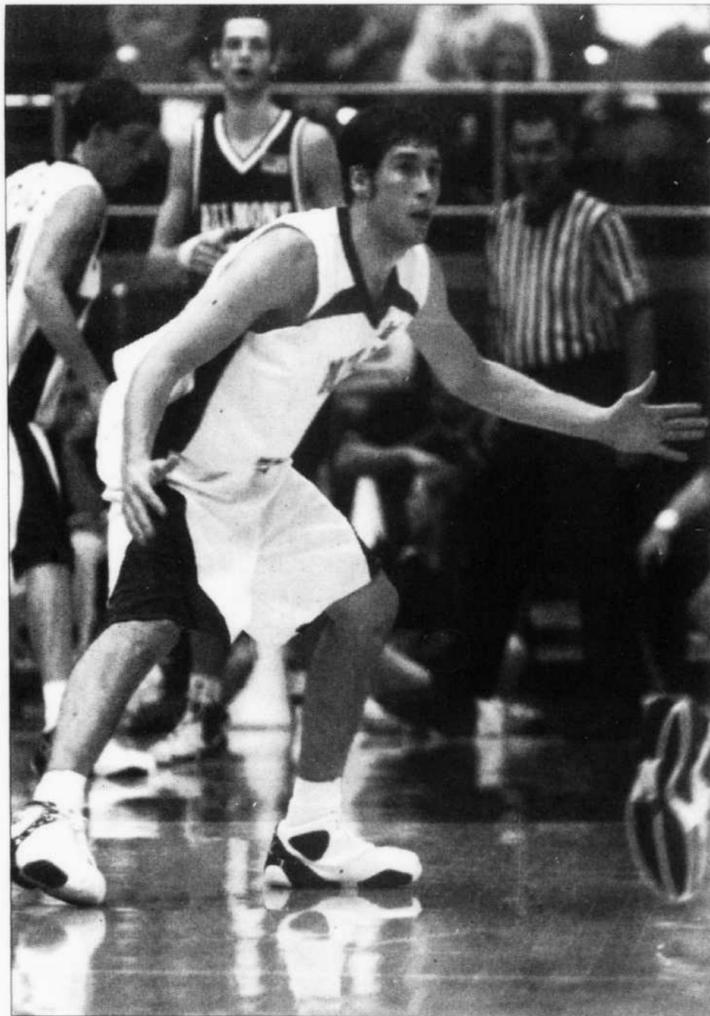


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer
Junior Kevin Kanaskie was named to the preseason All-Sun Belt Conference third team. Last year, he led MT in scoring, 3-point field goals made, and assists. He is the first player in school history to achieve that feat.

Courtney Lee who averaged 17.4 points, 6.3 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 2.6 steals a game last year. He will be joined in the backcourt by preseason second-team All-SBC pick Tyrone Brazelton, who transferred from Missouri State.

The Blue Raiders will face the Hilltoppers twice, at WKU on Jan. 2 and at the Murphy Center on Feb. 16.

On Thursday, MT played an exhibition game against Lincoln Memorial University. The Blue Raiders won 93-68 but were outscored 42-40 in the second half and were out-rebounded 47-46 for the game despite possessing taller players.

"I thought we played well the first half," Kanaskie said. "We moved the ball. We were very unselfish, but the second half we didn't play as well."

Kanaskie finished the game with 21 points

to go along with five assists. Yates had 14 points and nine rebounds while Hethington chipped in 16 points and three rebounds. Of the three big men that will be looking to replace Young and Blue, Hethington had the best game while Hair and Hudson combined for 13 points and eight rebounds.

Davis said that while his team did pull out the decisive win, it's not ready for the regular season.

"I don't really ever think you're ready," Davis said. "Nobody's really ready for everything. We can sure play in a college game, but we've got a lot of work to do between now and Thursday."

The Blue Raiders will tip off their season on Thursday, Nov. 15 against San Jose St. The game will take place in the Murphy Center and is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. ♦

Sit-down with Kermit Davis:

By Brian Estes

Staff Writer

Experienced youth. For most teams, it's an oxymoron. Most teams will sit younger players on the bench and deny them the chance to get experience, but not MT. For the Blue Raiders, experienced youth could be the key to the season.

Men's Head Basketball Coach Kermit Davis said his team will still be one of the youngest in the Sun Belt Conference, but MT has a number of third year players who have seen significant playing time. In all, MT returns 73 percent of its scoring, 87 percent of its assists and 68 percent of its rebounding from last year.

"You hope your team will be a little further ahead of other teams who aren't returning as much," Davis said.

One of the most experienced players is junior point guard Kevin Kanaskie.

Kanaskie led the team in scoring, assists, and 3-point field goal last year, a feat that had never been accomplished in program history. He also broke the school record for minutes played in a season with 1184.

"I think he may be more valuable to this team than anyone else in the conference is to their team," Davis said. "But I hope he won't average 38 to 39 minutes. We've got better depth on the perimeter, so he may play 30 to 32 minutes."

Kanaskie said he doesn't think the workload has had much of an effect.

"I don't think it's harder on me because our practices are harder than our games," Kanaskie said. "[In practice] we're going hard for two or three hours, and if we do bad we keep going."

However, Davis said the player who has made the biggest impact so far is Uriah Hethington, a transfer from Okaloosa Walton Junior College. Hethington had originally signed with the Blue Raiders two years ago before deciding to enroll in junior college.

"He's our most athletic front court player," Davis said. "In our last three scrimmages, he's averaged 17 and 18 points a game."

Sophomore forward Desmond Yates also has the chance to attract more attention. Yates averaged 10.9 points per game last year with 19 double digit performances and ranked fifth in the Sun Belt Conference in field goal percentage.

MT will be looking to make a bigger dent in the conference standings than it did a year ago. MT tied for fourth in the Sun Belt's Eastern Division last year, but advanced all the way to semifinals of the conference tournament.

"Western Kentucky by far has the most experience back in the league," Davis said. "Louisiana Monro is a ton of experience and athleticism, and I think even North Texas has got a chance. It's the deepest our league's been in the last year."

Davis said Western Kentucky may have the best player in the Sun Belt in Courtney Lee. The senior averaged 26 points per game last year and ranks first in Hilltopper history with an 81.4 free throw percentage. He also ranks third all-time for Western Kentucky with 177 steals and fourth with 176 3-pointers. Davis also made note of Bo McCalebb, the reigning Sun Belt Conference player of the year. McCalebb ranked sixth nationally with 25 points per game in 2006-07.

The nonconference schedule will once again feature trips to Tennessee and Memphis. Davis said the key to victory against these teams includes having strong performances from experienced players and taking care of the ball.

"It would be like our football team winning against LSU," Davis said. "You have to have the confidence that you aren't just there to play but that you're there to compete and win. And you have to be as physical as they are. It's a tough task but we're going to play to win." ♦

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Lightning strikes

Volleyball team gets set for conference tournament in Denver, Colo.

By Clarence Plank
 Staff Writer

The mountains of Colorado are the site of this season finale of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, where the winner will receive an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Eight teams have reached the finish line and earned their seeding and are preparing to play on Nov 15-17.

The Blue Raiders, Denver, Western Kentucky, New Orleans, Florida International, Arkansas-Little Rock, Arkansas State and North Texas will be the teams competing for the SBC Championship.

No. 1 seed Middle Tennessee comes into the tournament with a 29-2, 16-1 record and face No. 8 seed Arkansas State 12-18, 8-10 in the first round of play. They are the opening teams of the first day of competition as well.

This is the fifth trip to the SBC Tourney for the Lady Indians and the 14th time they have been in the tourney since they came to the SBC in 1991. They face a MT team that has won eight straight games. The Blue Raiders also lead the conference in hitting percentage, opponent hitting percentage, assists, blocks and second in kills.

The last time these two team met, MT won the regular season match 3-1 in Murfreesboro. ASU will be looking for revenge and knock off the top seeded Blue Raiders in order to advance to the next round. The last time these two teams met in the tournament was back in 2005 with the Blue Raiders pulling out the win.

No. 4 seed UALR 22-8, 14-4 faces a No. 5 seed FIU. The Golden Panthers looking to return to the finals and possibility of winning their first conference championship. FIU beat the Trojans 3-0 during the regular season. Amy Hafner of the Trojans

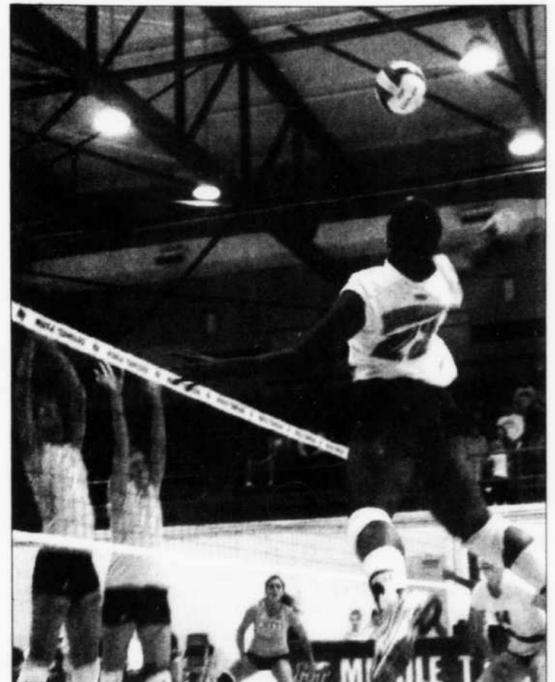


Photo by Justin Keonih | Photography Editor
 The Blue Raiders enter this weekend's conference tournament as the number one seed. A tournament championship guarantees entry in the NCAA Tournament.

earned Defensive Player of the Week honor in helping her team reach the 20 wins mark. She leads the UALR in digs. UALR has won the conference championship 11 times since joining the SBC. They have recently found the niche and have been working their way back into being the dominate force in the conference they used to be.

No. 2 seed Denver 21-11, 15-3 faces No. 7 seed North Texas 12-20, 8-10. Denver is hosting the conference tourney this year and is the second time that they have hosted the tourney since 2001. The Pioneers is 2-0 this season against and have an over-all record of 8-8 in the series with UNT.

No. 3 seed Western Kentucky 25-7, 14-3 faces No. 6 seed New Orleans 16-15, 10-8. This season

New Orleans is one of the three teams that have beaten the Lady Hilltoppers. The other teams were Florida International and Middle Tennessee. WKU comes into the contest without a share or a eastern division title.

The semi-finals on Friday will see the winners of the first round in the higher seeds will face the lower seeds.

The winner of the MT/ASU faces the winner of UALR/FIU match. WKU/UNO winner faces the DU/UNT with the winner moving to the finals on Saturday. The winner earns a NCAA bid and the possibility of hosting the first and second rounds of the NCAA tourney depending on where they are placed in the brackets. ♦

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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for the Spring semester

Candidates must be currently enrolled students in good standing.

To apply, complete a Sidelines staff application (available in COMM 269) and attach a resume, cover letter and the names and contact information of three references, and deliver to:

Steven Chappell, Sidelines Director, Box 8 or deliver applications to COMMM 269

Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21

Sidelines is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Spring semester:

- News editor
- Sports editor
- Features editor
- Exposure editor
- Photo editor
- Opinions editor
- Copy editor
- Staff writers
- Staff photographers
- Design editor
- Staff designers

To apply, come by COMM 269 and fill out an application. These positions are open until filled.

MT Basketball 2007-08 Schedules

 <p> Nov. 15 Nov. 16 Nov. 17 Nov. 20 Nov. 23 Nov. 26 Dec. 1 Dec. 12 Dec. 15 Dec. 18 Dec. 22 Dec. 29 Jan. 2 Jan. 5 Jan. 9 Jan. 16 Jan. 19 Jan. 24 Jan. 27 Jan. 31 Feb. 4 Feb. 7 Feb. 9 Feb. 14 Feb. 16 </p>	<p> San Jose State Lipscomb Appalachian State Tennessee Tennessee Wesleyan Belmont Houston Belmont Memphis - Sun Belt Classic (ESPN2) Florida International South Alabama Austin Peay Western Kentucky Denver Florida Atlantic Troy New Orleans (ESPN) Louisiana-Monroe North Texas Louisiana-Lafayette Arkansas State UALR Florida International South Alabama Western Kentucky (ESPN) Feb. 21 Denver Feb. 23 Florida Atlantic Mar. 1 Troy Mar. 5 Sun Belt Championships (First Round) </p>	<p> Nov. 19 Houston Nov. 25 Arizona Nov. 28 Chattanooga Dec. 2 Western Carolina Dec. 5 Maryland Dec. 13 Tennessee (SportsSouth) Dec. 15 Austin Peay Dec. 19 Florida International Dec. 22 South Alabama Dec. 28 LSU Dec. 30 Louisville Jan. 3 Western Kentucky Jan. 6 Denver Jan. 10 Florida Atlantic Jan. 14 Arkansas State Jan. 17 Troy Jan. 20 New Orleans Jan. 24 Louisiana-Monroe Jan. 26 North Texas Jan. 30 Louisiana-Lafayette Feb. 6 Arkansas-Little Rock Feb. 9 Florida International Feb. 14 South Alabama Feb. 17 Western Kentucky (ESPN Regional) Denver Florida Atlantic Troy Sun Belt Championships (First Round) </p>
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Blue Raiders

Men's Basketball

Lady Raiders

Women's Basketball



Sun Belt Championships

University of Southern Alabama – Mobile, Ala.

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