



Partly cloudy



Better than Ezra
draws fans
closer to
preferred sound

In Features, page 4



UNT picked
No. 1 in polls

In Sports, page 7



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Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 78 No. 9

Campus Briefs

Deadline for applications approaching

The university has set an Aug. 9 deadline for acceptance of undergraduate applications. Last year, the deadline was the first day of classes.

The deadline was moved up because the university is expecting a significant increase in enrollment. Last fall, a record 20,073 students attended classes. This year, 6 to 7 percent more are expected to join the MTSU community.

For more information concerning application, please contact 898-2111.

Current students also have cause to take note of the Aug. 9 date.

According to Sherian Huddleston, director/interim assistant vice president of Enrollment Management and Records, that day is the last one students have to pay outstanding debts to the university.

It also is the last day that students may access their grades via TRAM or WebMT until fall classes begin.

Furthermore, it is the last day that students may receive a printed grade report before next semester.

Dining halls change hours of operation Sunday

Beginning Sunday, the KUC Grill and the Cyber Café will alter their operating hours.

Due to renovations, the KUC grill will close Sunday, at 5 p.m. and will not reopen until the first day of the fall semester, Aug. 19 at 6:30 a.m.

However, Aug. 12 through Aug. 16, Freshens at the KUC grill will be open for the food service needs of students, faculty and staff.

Monday through Friday, Aug. 9, the Cyber Café will be open daily from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The Cyber Café will open for the fall semester at noon on Aug. 16. McCallie dining hall will open at 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 16 with an outdoor meal part of welcome week festivities.

The James Union Building dining area will open at 7 a.m. on Aug. 16.

MTSU to have night out with the Nashville Sounds

A special ticket package has been put together for all MTSU students, faculty and staff to attend the Nashville Sounds game against the Omaha Royals Aug. 17.

The cost is \$8 per adult and \$7 per child, age 12 and under.

Included is a lower level reserved seat admission, a hot dog and a soft drink. In addition, Captain D's will distribute posters. Face value of the package is \$15.

MTSU President Sidney McPhee will throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Fireworks will take place after the game and children will be allowed to run the bases.

Game time is at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by calling Chris Snyder, Sounds assistant general manager, at 615-242-4371, ext. 140. They can also be purchased over the Web at www.nashvillesounds.com or at www.mtsu.edu/~alumni/.

Community building class returns

By Kristy Adams
Staff Writer

Al Gore's Community Building class will again be available to juniors, seniors and graduate students this fall. This will be Gore's fourth semester at MTSU.

Like previous semesters, the course will include 10 session meetings, led by faculty, experts in the community, videos of previous lectures and Gore himself. This time, though, Gore will only attend three sessions. Catherine Stogner of the human sciences department, and Carole Carroll, of sociology, will be the lead faculty for the upcoming semester.

Enrolled students will no longer only hear lectures on how to improve their community. The course has extended as a service learning class where students get hands-on experience with their own community project.

Community Building will consist of two three-hour semester classes. The first will give lectures on the principles required to improve a community. The second will center on outside work, where students will practice a hands-on project. Students wanting to take the second course must complete the first, but both are not required.

The structure of the course is

undetermined. "What we're trying to decide," Stogner said, "is whether to try to have the service learning component be there every semester or ... fall to be straight lecture and spring to be service."

Last semester was the first time service learning was practiced. Many projects were executed at Rutherford Community Cares, a home for the elderly.

Felicia Johnson, assistant to the executive vice president and provost at MTSU, is also active with the Community Building class. She explained the projects at this elderly facility.

See Gore, 2



File photo

The former vice president is scheduled to visit campus Sept. 9 and Dec. 12. His Oct. 7 appearance was canceled.

Candidates speak to hungry crowd



Photo by Wesley R. Bush | Staff

Former Nashville mayor and gubernatorial candidate Phil Bredesen speaks to the crowd at Ambassador Lawn of Vanderbilt University July 24. The picnic was hosted by the school to allow candidates for U.S. Senate and governor to briefly speak of their platforms.

President's economy bill backed by Cheney

By Choyon Manjrekar
The Daily Iowan (U. Iowa)

(U-WIRE) CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa - Vice President Dick Cheney defended the Bush administration's efforts to stimulate a faltering economy and said a bill to be signed Tuesday by the president will crack down hard on corporate corruption with more stringent penalties.

With investors' confidence shaken by corporate scandals at Enron and WorldCom, he promised the measure will "protect investors from the oversight of accountants," giving "higher ethical standards to the system and prosecuting wrongdoers."

"The economy is on the path to recovery," he declared during a 20-minute speech.

The vice president spoke in front of approximately 700 people.

See Cheney, 2

New doctor looking to improve health services offered to students

By Laura Beth Jackson
Staff Writer

MTSU's Health Services will be seeing a few changes this year.

One of them is Dr. Jonna Whitman, a new physician at the Student Health clinic who began her duties July 15.

Whitman is a native of Houston, Texas. She received her bachelor's degree from William's College in William's Town, Md., and went on to receive her M.D. from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. She worked a three-year residency in family medicine at the University of Michigan.

"After that, I became a board certified family physician," she said.

Whitman has held a private practice in Nashville for four years, but then turned to looking at student health care which led her to work at MTSU.

"I figured you can't hang out and grow old around a bunch of college students," she said. "I started looking around for student health opportunities and MTSU had an opening. [MTSU's] health services is looking to expand women's health services and needed

someone who was interested in that."

She is a part of the clinic's vision to improve the quality of health services available for students, especially regarding women's concerns. The new women's services include preventative medicine, birth control, annual exams and various tests.

The availability to perform more tests has been a significant addition to the clinic's resources, she said. Tests such as pregnancy, strep, and EKGs are now offered. Someday the clinic hopes to be able to offer X-ray examinations.

Health services are offered to all MTSU students. The cost of the office visits are included in the student activity fee that is that is totaled into each semester's tuition. This year the cost was raised from \$17.50 to \$35. Students may be required to pay additional costs for services such as laboratory tests, medications, injections, suturing, and EKGs, called professional services, according to the clinic's brochure.

Students can receive care for any illness. "We're really the first line of defense [in sickness] ... we pretty much do whatever," Whitman said. "We're pretty

slow in the summer, but they tell me we can have 130-150 [students] a day during the school year."

Students may come in at any time, without an appointment, to receive medical help, said Whitman. Annual exams, however, must be scheduled ahead of time.

For severe emergencies, students are referred to an appropriate doctor in the Murfreesboro area. "We work with people in town so we can refer [students] to specialists," Whitman said.

The clinic does give out over-the-counter medication to patients when appropriate, and writes prescriptions. Prescriptions may be covered by the student's insurance.

"We try to work with students' insurance," she said. "If the student, you know, just doesn't have any money, we try to work with them and make sure they get what they need."

For students who are not currently covered by an insurance plan, Student Health Services offers information on health insurance for students. Interested students should contact the Insurance Office at Keathley University Center room 304 at 898-2590.

Playing musical notes

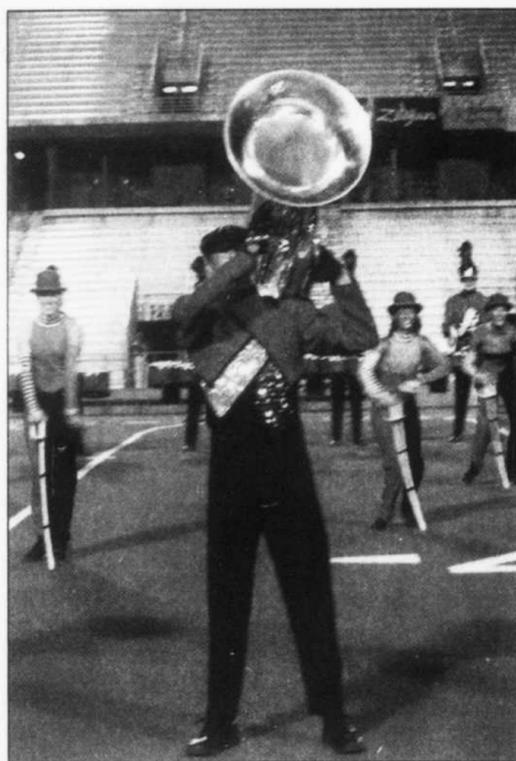


Photo by Jason Cox | Staff

A tuba player for the Blue Devils of Concord, Calif., rocks out during the 30th Drum Corps International Summer Music Games Saturday at Floyd Stadium.

College Board to no longer flag disabled students' scores

Decision seen as major victory in eliminating discrimination

By Emma Schwartz
Daily Californian

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif. — The College Board and ACT Inc. announced this month they will no longer flag the tests of students with disabilities.

Disability rights advocates see the decision as a major victory in eliminating discrimina-

tion in the college and university admissions processes.

"I think many admissions offices may think a person is manipulating the system, or if they think they are actually disabled, they might think the people are less capable," said Alison Aubrejuan, staff attorney for Disability Rights Advocates in Oakland, Calif.

In April, the College Board, the company that administers the SAT, PSAT and Advanced Placement tests, reported that a panel of national experts voted 4-2 against flagging.

The panel held that the practice stigmatizes an applicant and violates the applicant's right to privacy.

One week after the College Board's announcement, ACT, which evaluated its flagging policy during the panel inquiry, also decided to drop the practice.

Students with a medical record of a disability receive extra time for standardized tests. In the past, ACT and the College Board marked the exams allotting extra time as "special."

ACT officials said their decision was made in fairness to students, and was influenced by the College Board's announcement.

"Everybody who does standardized tests is interested in having a level playing field and

being as fair as possible to all students," said Ken Gullette, an ACT spokesman.

Some proponents of flagging the tests are concerned that students will take advantage of the disability exemptions because the tests are not marked.

But supporters are confident in the standards for disability accommodation.

"I don't think that the settlement will have any impact on the abuse of the system," Aubrejuan said. "That was one of the issues that the panel looked at. All of the testing agencies have rigorous requirements in order to give extended time."

In addition to required med-

ical records documenting a disability, students must have their school counselors file for exemption on their behalf and prove they receive accommodations for their disability from their schools, said Jeff Rubenstein, assistant vice president at the Princeton Review, a test prep course.

University of California-Berkeley officials said the flags never factored into university admissions procedures.

"It never was a matter of, 'Oh, your scores were flagged, so we automatically did something,'" said Richard Black, assistant vice chancellor for admissions and enrollment at UC-Berkeley.

"Given that we look at the whole academic record, it is very unlikely that one score will tip the balance."

Some standardized testing administrators said the changes are not all-encompassing.

"A lot of people who deserve exemptions don't have access to good health care and can't get diagnosed, but that is a larger educational issue," Rubenstein said.

Following a 2000 settlement with Disability Rights Advocates, the College Board established a panel of national experts to evaluate the use of flagging in all standardized testing. ♦

CRIME LOG

Wednesday, July 17 - 10:58 p.m.

Pi Kappa Alpha - Theft

A grill was stolen off the porch of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house located on Greek Row.

Thursday, July 18 - 2:20 a.m.

Mark A. Rothschild - Arrest for DUI (1st offense)

Rothschild failed to obey a traffic control device, and was consequently pulled over. He was arrested after failing a field sobriety test.

Thursday, July 18 - 06:20 a.m.

Felder Hall - Simple assault

A Felder Hall resident brought assault charges against his roommate after the roommate allegedly threw water at the sleeping roommate and punched him in order to wake him up.

Sunday, July 21 - 4:08 p.m.

Smith Hall

A bike was left unsecured and was then taken. There are no leads at this time.

Monday, July 22 - 7:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Greenland Drive Parking Lot A

Two neighboring cars were keyed. There are no current leads.

Monday, July 22 - 11:14 p.m.

Mark Brian Schardt - Driving on suspended license

Schardt failed to obey a stop sign on campus. A search revealed his license was suspended.

Wednesday, July 24 - 8:07 p.m.

Gregory M. Weyker Jr. - Arrest for an outstanding bench warrant in Rutherford County.

Weyker was stopped for running a stop sign on campus. A run on his identification revealed an active, outstanding warrant from the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office.

Thursday, July 25 - 06:02 a.m.

Vandalism at Greenland Parking Lot

A Buick Skylark parked overnight had its headlights broken.

Friday, July 26 - 11:42 a.m.

Cell Phone reported stolen.

April Brandon was sitting on the steps of Kirskey Old Main Building when a thief stole her cell phone and ran.

Gore: Projects part of class

Continued from 1

"There was a big partnership developed between a family centered community building faculty and students and Community Cares," Johnson said. "We had students that worked on some really exciting projects."

Some service learning projects included setting up computers and a library for the residents' use, establishing a day care on property for visitors, and working one on one with those living at Rutherford Community Cares.

Pam Sheldon took the first Community Building class in spring 2001 and now works at Rutherford Community Cares. Her inspiration to help the community developed from the class.

She said this elderly home shouldn't be looked at as a place to come and die, but as a place

where people can live. As for community building, Sheldon knows it's not an easy process.

"The real change begins on a community level," she said. "You have to step out of the box and make change happen."

Stogner, Johnson, and other involved faculty members hope to have a similar impression on future students and projects.

Although Gore's been a major focus of this course, faculty members hope it won't be the only reason students enroll.

"There's a lot more to it than just Al Gore showing up on campus," Stogner said.

Gore plans to remain involved with the course and its future directions. He also intends to visit journalism and political science classes.

If interested in the course, contact Stogner in Human Sciences at 898-5522 or Carroll in sociology at 898-2519. ♦

Brief storm uproots campus oak

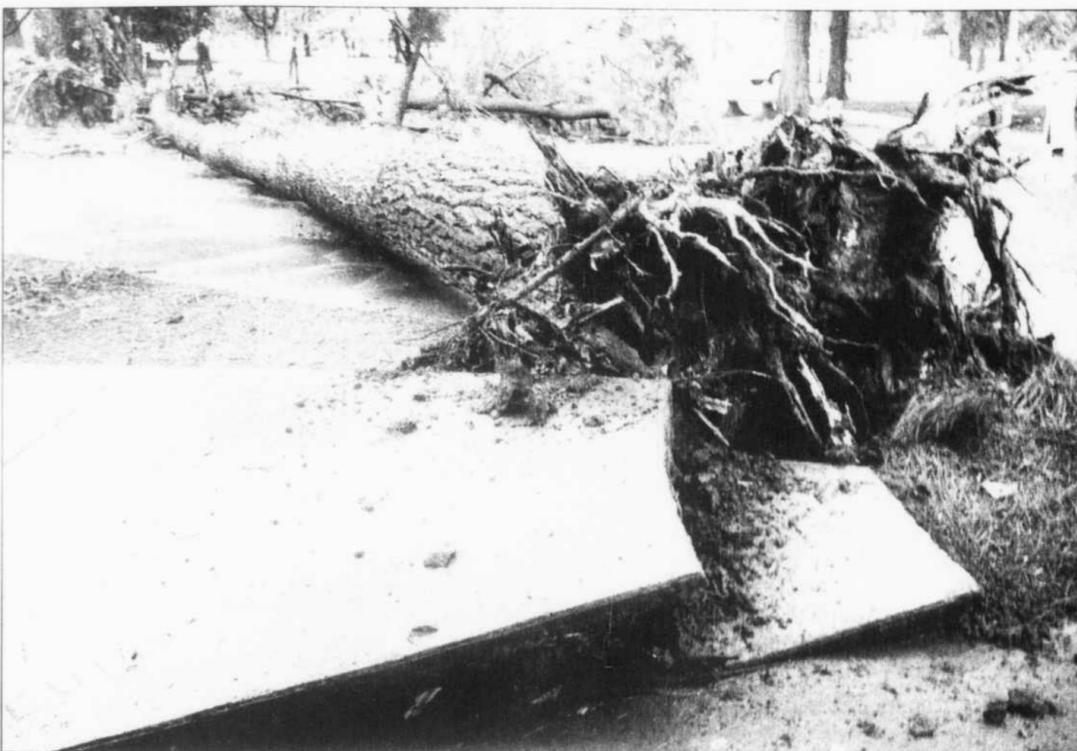


Photo by Kristin Hooper | Photo Editor

This oak tree outside the James Union Building was blown over by high winds during a severe thunderstorm Monday. A university maintenance crew chainsawed the trunk and limbs and removed the pieces that evening.

Cheney: Policy plans to boost employment and economy

Continued from 1

ple who paid \$100 each to attend the invitation-only event at the PS hangar at the Eastern Iowa Airport to raise funds for Rep. Jim Leach, R-Iowa.

Cheney, a longtime friend of the congressman, endorsed Leach as the right choice for 2nd District voter in the race against Cedar Rapids, Iowa, pediatrician Julie Thomas.

Cheney said he and the president plan to boost employment and the economy with their energy policy and free-trade initiatives. The administration has drawn up an energy bill that is pro-job and pro-growth, he said, and he emphasized using ethanol to reduce the dependence on foreign oil.

The speech also provided an update on the trade bill, which is projected to open new overseas markets to farmers and resurrect the slumping economy. The bill has been passed by the House; it awaits action in the Senate.

The Republican crowd seemed thrilled about hearing the vice president speak.

"I thought this was a great opportunity to see the vice president in Iowa," said Mouni Pleasant, Iowa, resident Jan Towne. "People confuse the state of the economy with the stock market. I think he's doing

a great job, and the economy looks pretty strong to me."

Cheney avoided discussing his former company, Halliburton, which is currently under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission for accounting issues that arose during the time Cheney was CEO.

Reporters were cordoned off in a makeshift enclosure more than 50 feet from the vice president and were given no opportunity to ask questions regarding his affiliation with Halliburton's alleged accounting malpractice, which report-

edly overstated revenue.

Cheney spoke hours after the Iowa Federation of Labor distributed free peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches in protest outside Leach's Iowa City, Iowa, office.

"We registered 20 voters and distributed 150 lunches to state our case to the people," said Sara Swisher, a leader of the protest. "We want to show that Leach does not care about health, job and social security, and workers' issues, which are major concerns of Iowa voters." ♦

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For additional information for Fall Semester Registration, call the Military Science Department at (615) 898-2470.

Hey Seniors!
Planning to graduate in August?
The last day to take the Academic Profile is August 1 at 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the JUB.

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OPINIONS

3 ◆ SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 31, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board

Consider the alternative

Sometimes it's easy to feel as if candidate choices have been made for you; local media only get around to covering a select few whose financial backing make them impossible to ignore. We suggest digging deeper.

If you Republicans out there are feeling disenfranchised by Van Hilleary and Jim Henry spouting their moderate views on this God-fearing state, why not vote for the Rev. Bob Tripp? He believes in keeping God in the Pledge of Allegiance, the classroom, the courtroom and the boardroom.

Too young (or stoned) to vote for John Jay Hooker when the Democrats nominated him in 1998? You've got your chance again, only now he's representing an independent for governor, senator and representative. Fiscally conservative Democrats who don't trust Slick Phil may want to consider prison guard Luther Best.

If you don't like your major party choices, there's always Native American Chieftain Carl "Two Feathers" Whitaker, an independent advocating Native American issues, education and lower taxes. Also running is Marivana Stout Leinoff, a Nashville head shop owner and supporter of drug law reform.

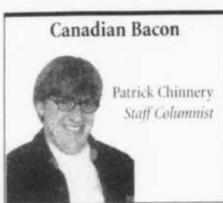
For the U.S. Senate seat, there are candidates such as gun rights activist and Marine veteran Christopher Fenner, recent University of Memphis graduate Mary Taylor Shelby and Basil Marceaux, a Northern transplant with libertarian ideas who is also running for governor.

One of the most interesting House candidates is Carlton Cornett, an author and gay rights activist who is also one of Tennessee's first openly gay candidates for any office. In this same race are Vanderbilt doctoral candidate Adam Cox and Green Party candidate and Vandy professor Jonathan Farley.

Uninformed and don't know who to vote for? Why not throw your vote to one of these guys? They will appreciate every vote they get, the ignorant don't screw up the electoral process and everyone is happy.

Remember that you still have choices and the election process is every bit as colorful and interesting as it always was; now you just have to look closer. ◆

Men more likely to croak before women



I have testicles. Therefore, the odds are that I'll die long before any female reader will.

As if I didn't think about, a new study published in the July 27 issue of the *New Scientist* scientific journal has determined that men are more likely to die before women at any age. This is especially true for males aged 20-24. In this age range, three times as many men die as women.

You may think that this has to do with the stereotypical collegiate male thrill-seeking attitude. Not true.

This pattern holds true for every major cause of death, from car accidents to heart disease to homicide.

This isn't something that can be grown out of, either. The lopsided death rates persist past age 80, where elderly gents are still twice as likely to kick the bucket as their molded matriarchs are.

In the accompanying article in *New Scientist*, Randolph Nesse of the University of Michigan said, "Being male is now the single largest demographic factor of early death."

Well, that certainly makes me feel safe, warm and fuzzy inside.

I'm sure when my girlfriend reads this column, she'll say something to the effect of, "Well, it serves men right. For centuries they have oppressed

women, and so what if a few more of them die." Then she'll probably tell me to do the dishes.

But that's the wrong attitude to take. A lot of those guys who die won't deserve it.

Maybe if there was some way to only have the useless (i.e. the French) take the place of the nice guys, I wouldn't find these facts so rough. But as it stands, it's just not right.

Nesse added, "If you could make male mortality rates the same as females rates, you would do more good than curing cancer." Now, I assume he doesn't mean start killing females until things even out. His colleague Daniel Kruger stated that more than 375,000 lives would be saved in a single year in the United States if men's risk of dying was as low as women's.

How could we get the rate to drop so low?

Well, we could start by focusing our attention on improvements in medical technology that will benefit men. Both Nesse and Kruger noted that improvements in public health and medicine may have benefited women more than men.

For example, far fewer women now die at a relatively young age during childbirth. While that development was certainly necessary, it wouldn't hurt anything to see more advances that help those of us with a prostate.

How about clothing with woven-in Kevlar? Because many men, especially in American cities, die from homicide, this could be the most popular line of clothing ever. Are you listening, Tommy Hilfiger?

The study noted that this early death rate was not confined to the United States. The research was gathered in 20 countries, including Ireland, Australia, Russia and El Salvador.

An especially dangerous country for men is Colombia, where men in their early 20s are five times more likely to die than women of the same age. There's nowhere for us to run.

Sure, we men can pee standing up, but I'd bet dollars to doughnuts that most guys would trade that for an unstacked deck in the game of life.

As long as we got to keep our penises. ◆

Patrick Chinnery is a junior political science major and can be reached via e-mail at pwc2c@mtsu.edu.

Festival lets southerners keep it in the family



I got in touch with my roots last week.

Most people go and talk to people in their family with a little knowledge of the family history. Some look up where their families came from and learn a little more about their culture.

Me, I went to a bluegrass festival.

Last weekend about 100 bluegrass aficionados ranging from banjo players to line dancers flocked to downtown Franklin to celebrate everything bluegrass.

Personally, I'd like to say that I have no ties to bluegrass music or anything stereotypically Southern. But since my family comes from East Tennessee and Kentucky, the only way I could get more Southern is to walk around barefoot with a piece of straw in my mouth.

Normally, I don't like going to music festivals like this. When I go to one, I tend to be a G.R.I.T.S. magnet. For the uninitiated, that means "Girls Raised In The South." While picking up women isn't a bad thing, I don't feel comfortable with G.R.I.T.S. I can't get over the "close" family ties Southern families sometimes have. Like they say, you gotta keep it in the family around here.

I don't like my odds of picking a not-so-distant cousin to spend my time with.

When I got downtown, the festival was already well underway. I probably heard "Man of Constant Sorrow" played a dozen times in the first 15 minutes. I asked one fiddle player if she could play "Crazy Train." She looked at me funny.

I went to watch the line dancers at the other end of the square. As far as talent goes, all of them could blow any pop act away. A few of the more experienced dancers were having a dance-off. As the competition heated up, it boiled down to a sixty-year-old man and a forty-year-old woman. They were tapping away while the band next to them egged them on with "Soggy Mountain Breakdown."

After an hour or so into the festival, I wasn't so ashamed of my hick heritage. I watched fellow rednecks bursting with musical

talent showcase their skills for all the world to see. It didn't matter if they had an accent or if they didn't look like an Abercrombie and Fitch model. They were proud of who they were.

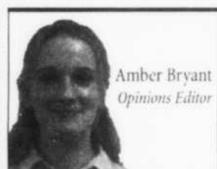
I learned a lot from the players at the festival. First, I learned I wasn't as much of a G.R.I.T.S. magnet as I thought I was. More importantly, I found out that it doesn't always take a synthesizer and an electric guitar to make good music. It takes guts to perform without the safety of a microphone in front of you.

I'm glad I went to the festival, even if I didn't pick up a cousin of mine. ◆

Brandon Morrison is a sophomore graphic communications major and can be reached via e-mail at bjm2k@mtsu.edu.

From the Opinions Editor

MTSU has more to offer than computers and a track



If I learned anything this week (Sorry, Dr. McClusky), it's that *Sidelines* Online only attracts the techno-freaks and the super-healthy.

Our recent poll question reveals that, while the Recreation Center and Technology Access are getting frequent action from students, Career Placement and Health Services remain surprisingly stagnant.

Sure, I often enjoy both those amenities. How else can I drool over the pectorals of sweaty men and then go look up feminist poetry?

I'll be the first to admit that Health Services can be a little scary. You walk in with the sniffles and leave with enough free medication to render yourself stupefied for the next year or so.

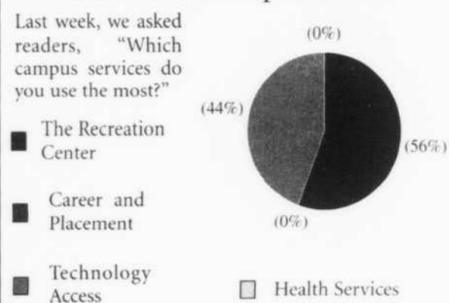
Hmmm. Maybe that should be their slogan.

Regardless of whether or not a student could lapse into a coma after one visit, we are paying a relatively pretty penny for this facility. If it's never used, consider that money flushed. Middle Tennessee Medical Center may offer a few more services, but they aren't cheap. Besides, our money is already invested in on-campus health care, involuntary as it may be, so why not take advantage?

As for Career Placement Services, we are, after all, in college to find decent jobs. Since they help students find jobs during and after graduation, create resumes and set up internships, one would logically expect them to be swamped with students as much as you.

As day as you and I would like to sit on our butts and soak up oxygen, we need to support our university and make use of the services we pay for. ◆

Sidelines online poll results



Visit www.mtsusidelines.com for all your campus news and events. *Sidelines* will return Aug. 19.

* this poll is not scientific

Domestic homicide not limited to men; Harris deserves to be punished



When someone hears the term domestic violence, they probably automatically envision a man beating his wife.

While the majority of the time this is the case, sometimes the victim is the husband.

When the perpetrators are women, should there be lessened consequences for their actions?

Anyone who believes in equal rights and hopes that one day there will be an end to all forms of sexism can't honestly answer that question.

In Houston, Texas a woman was let out of jail on \$30,000 bail even though she was charged with killing her husband.

Clara Harris, 44, had suspected that her husband, 10 years, was cheating on her for some time. Clara hired a private investigator to help gain answers to the questions her husband was not

answering truthfully.

Sure enough, the private investigator tracked David to a hotel where a female accompanied him.

The investigator led Clara to the hotel where there was a violent confrontation between the three.

Hotel staff quickly asked that the domestic drama be taken outside where it then escalated.

As David helped his mistress into her car, Clara came at him full force in her Mercedes, knocking him 25 feet from the point of impact.

This, however, was not enough for her.

Clara then continued to circle the parking lot three times, running over David's body at each pass. Finally she gave up and just parked on top of her dead husband.

You mean to tell me that this woman got out of jail?

OK, I guess I can have some compassion for a woman who just found out her husband of 10 years was all she had in the world and the visual shock of seeing the two of them together put her over the edge. But let's get real. If that would have been

a man who ran over his wife three times, then parked on top of her lifeless body, every woman's group from here to Antarctica would be in the media's face. If the man was let out on bail, a full-blown protest might ensue.

This is not a true domestic violence case since there was no past abuse reported.

If anything, this was a crime of passion.

I hate to be the one to point out the hypocrisy of the situation, but I truly believe that if a man would have committed the same crime, not only would his face be plastered on every news channel, but also he would still be sitting in jail right now.

Personally, I am appalled with the judge's decision to let this woman out of jail. Even if she is convicted, which doesn't seem that improbable, she is still enjoying what is left of her freedom. That is a luxury that a man in her position could never experience. ◆

Courtney England is a sophomore undecided major and can be reached via e-mail at cde2d@mtsu.edu.

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines' occasional watch for wutton-heads.

Look out, McDonald's! Here comes Mr. Fatty-Fatty-Fat-Fat to sue you. He's had one super-size too many, and now he wants you to pay.

The lead plaintiff in the suit, 56-year-old Casesar Barber, said in an interview with FOXnews.com, "There was no fast food I didn't eat, and I ate it more often than not because I was single, it was quick and I'm not a very good cook," adding, "It was a necessity, and I think it was killing me, my doctor said it was killing me, and I don't want to die."

Then you shouldn't have eaten it, tons o' fun. No one forced you to dine at the four places - McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King and KFC - you're suing. Maybe with some exercise and a balanced diet, your self-control might fall out from in between your fat rolls.

Barber ate at fast food restaurants four or five times a week, and blames his fat-laden diet for his obesity, diabetes,



high blood pressure, and cholesterol and his two heart attacks.

Everyone knows grease is bad for you. I can't think of anyone that believes that a Biggie Sized Classic Double with Cheese is better for you than a fresh fruit cup and celery.

Why should these four companies, who are actively promoting such items as the McVeggie Burger, pitas and salads, be held responsible for the actions of a rotund slyster who won't take the time to learn how to cook for himself?

Barber needs to get off the court steps and get on to a treadmill.

Until he does, we'll consider him the biggest (pun intended) schmuck yet. ◆

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University
1301 East Main Street
P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 898-2337
Advertising: 898-2533
Fax: 904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
Managing Editor
News Editor
Assistant News Editor
Opinions Editor/Designer
Features Editor/Chief Photographer
Sports Editor
Online Editor
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*denotes member of editorial board

FEATURES

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 31, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

BETTER than EZRA

draws fans closer to preferred sound

After fifth album release, BTE performs at District

By Jenny Cordle
Features Editor

Hours after the morning light breaks and slowly moves across Tom Drummond's bed, he settles into a chair in his Louisiana home and thinks of California.

Of Los Angeles, that is, when bartending was his second job. The first being the bass player for pop/rock band Better Than Ezra.

"It was great," Tom recalls about living in California. So great that lead singer/songwriter Kevin Griffin wrote "Under You," the would-have-been hit that was never released off the album, *How Does Your Garden Grow?*

A Hollywood flat where we'd laugh about our fortunes

Well we held jobs in the bar down at 3rd and San Vicente. And Ramen noodles at 4:30 in the morning. When we barely could survive, I was never more alive.

Things have changed for Tom, Kevin and drummer Travis McNabb.

Tom hit the hay at 2:30 a.m. and is thinking of eating cereal and toast for breakfast.

And as far as the rest of the band: Almost a year after their fifth album, *Closer*, has been released, they are touring with Cowboy Mouth this fall and, even better than that, they will be playing at Dancin' in the District in Nashville tomorrow.

"This is the third time we've played for Dancin' in the District," says Tom before he reluctantly classifies the band as pop/rock. "We're not

just pop and we're not just rock, so we're somewhere in between."

Before the rise of "Good" (1995) and their biggest selling single "All The Stars" (1998), they were Louisiana State University students sharing the same hobby 14 years ago. Cary Bonnez was the drummer on *Deluxe*, their first album. By the second album release they had a new drummer, Travis, also from New Orleans.

"Travis was kind of a studio drummer on the second album," Tom says. "By the third album he had more of an influence in sound."

"By the fourth album, we all had equal impact."

But the fourth album wasn't released to the public except through their Web site for Ezralites only.

"Artifakt is roughly songs that have been around that were never recorded for an album,"

Tom explains. "They were songs we felt needed to be heard, but didn't fit into a CD."

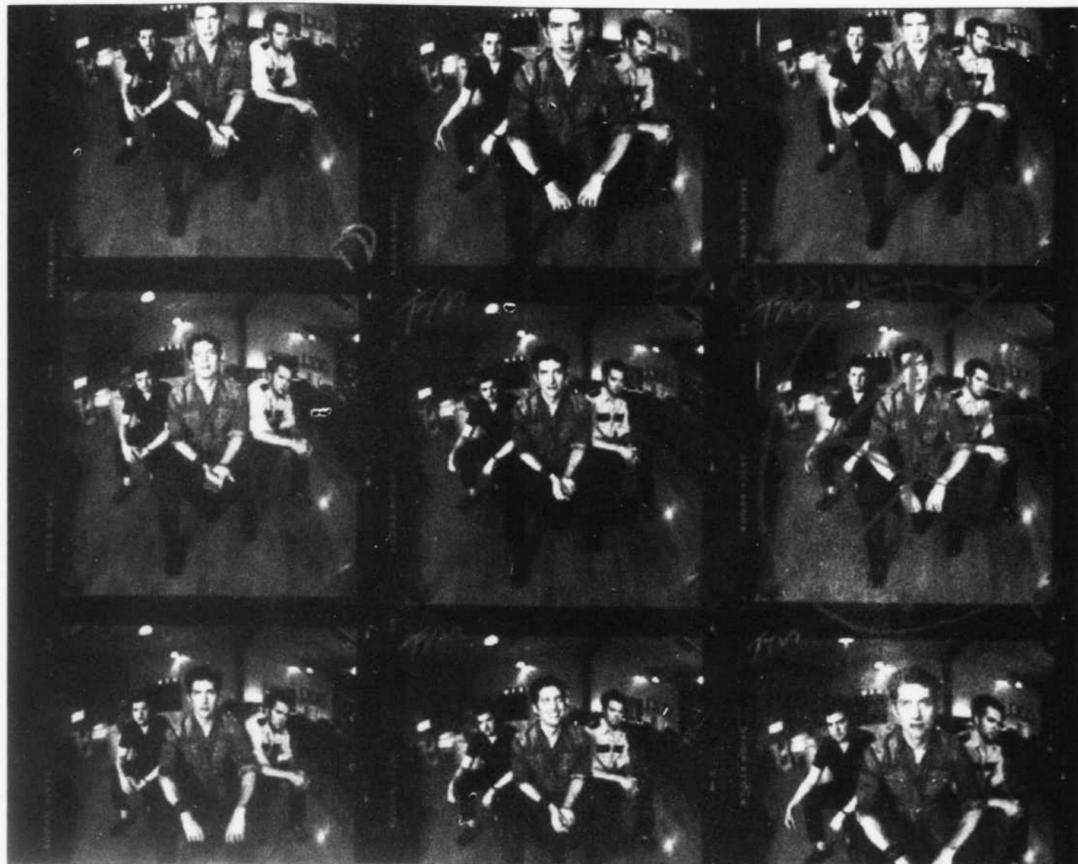
Their newest release, *Closer*, is closer to the sound they have been searching to find for 14 years.

"We were trying to find a way to make Better Than Ezra Better Than Ezra," he says. "And we finally figured that out in this album."

Think of "singing out loud when the sun came up" on a sunny day at the beach, and you've got every hopeful, happy-go-lucky tune covered except "Closer" and "A Lifetime," both of which are the album's strongest songs.

With beautiful string arrangements by David Campbell featuring the Quartet Illumina, "Closer" tells the story of a father's excitement and anxiety about the birth of a child.

See **Better**, 5



Pop/rock band Better Than Ezra tours with Cowboy Mouth in September and performs in Nashville tomorrow. Photo provided

MTSU's own prepares to defend dissertation

After 36 years of school, instructor anticipates dissertation presentation

By India Stone
Staff Writer

Ron Hardy tunnels his way to his computer desk through piles of books and papers that fill his room. He flips the monitor on revealing the square blue eye of technology, nearly lost among his texts.

He has been in school for 36 years.

"It unravels itself slowly," says Hardy, 56, referring to his dissertation-in-progress. After a few clicks of the mouse, he brings up the obsession he must nurture, lest it never be completed. Aside from teaching college classes in history and economics at MTSU, working at his rental house in Murfreesboro and helping to raise his grandson, Hardy strains to make progress on his work.

Time is not the only issue involved in completing such a project. To obtain a doctor of arts degree, one must formulate a completely original idea or build on another idea in an original way and write a dissertation about it.

A committee chair must also approve the idea before the dissertation is completed, but after a substantial portion has been written.

Hardy hasn't submitted his idea to the committee chair yet, so he may have to rewrite everything he has so far.

"A dissertation needs to be a book-length research study that makes an original contribution to historical knowledge while meeting the standards for scholarship set by the profession,"

says Lynn Nelson, committee chair in the history department at MTSU, who is working with Hardy on his dissertation.

Hardy is aiming for a doctor of arts in history with an emphasis in economics, two subjects in which he has always held interest.

His dissertation, titled "Conflict & Resolution: Longwave Cycles in U.S. History," periodicity, the idea that certain types of economic and political events reoccur regularly at periodic intervals.

He claims that understanding periodicity is the key to predicting future events and believes that American economic history runs in 60-year cycles.

"I'm hoping to be finished by December," Hardy says with confidence. He has been finished with classes for nearly a year but took six months to formulate ideas and do research. He has now been writing his dissertation for about six months.

Hardy describes the process of getting a dissertation passed. First, the student must find three "readers" — graduate faculty who get extra credit for reading dissertations — and give the dissertation to the committee chair. If it passes phase one, it will be sent to the department chair, Thad Smith, in history.

If Smith approves Hardy's dissertation it will go to the dean of the graduate school. If the dean finds it acceptable, it will be printed and bound in the form of a book and the stu-

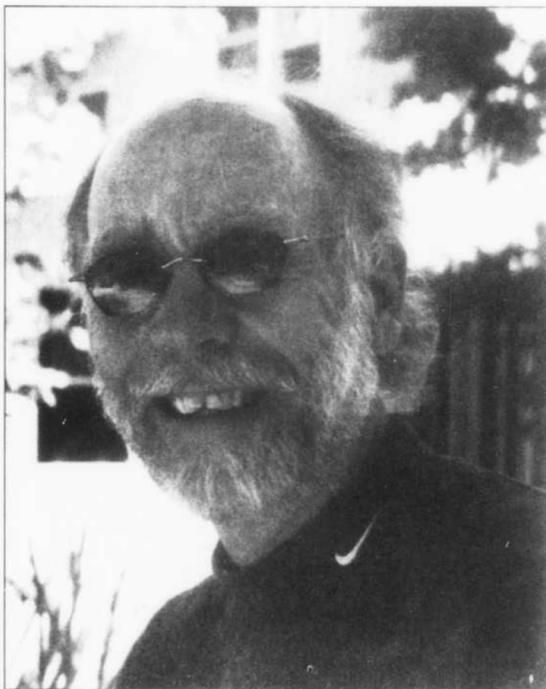


Photo provided

Instructor Ron Hardy continues to work on his dissertation after six months of progress. Hardy, who teaches history and economics, hopes to be finished by December and will submit his idea to a committee chair.

dent becomes a graduate.

"One copy goes to the student, and one stays in the department on a shelf in the conference room," Hardy jokes. In reality, dissertations are sent to the MTSU library, where other students use them for future research.

"I'm certainly interested in what he's doing and think a good dissertation can be done in the area he's working on," Nelson says.

Hardy's long school career began in 1952 when he started kindergarten. He entered college in 1964 after graduating from high school in Alabama.

"Somewhere in there I took a 15-year break, then decided to go back and get my master's," Hardy says. Although not every class Hardy took contributed to his bachelor's, master's and doctor of arts degrees, he says none were ever worthless.

"I always learned something," he says.

Hardy's advice for anyone thinking of earning a doctorate: "Be prepared for a long and often disappointing grind."

He knows that he may need to revise his work over and over again, but soon-to-be "Dr." Ron Hardy knows it will pay off. ♦

Blues/rock/ funk band performs at MTSU picnic, various venues

Staff Reports

The Nationals, an improvisational band who consider themselves blues, rock and funk, will take the stage at the MTSU President's Picnic on campus at 6 p.m. Aug. 18.

Members include former Allman Brothers Band guitarist Jack Pearson, harmonica player William Howse, and former Jimmy Buffett keyboardist A.J. McMahon. Richard Carter plays drums and Elizabeth Pearson plays bass.

The jam band has shared the stage with the Neville Brothers, Tracy Nelson, Lonnie Mack, Bo Diddley and Johnny Taylor.

Howse and Pearson recently released an acoustic blues CD titled *William Howse & Jack Pearson*. The CD includes sounds from a harmonica, slide guitar and swinging rhythm.

McMahon released a solo CD of bluesy Louisiana Bayou funk originals titled *MEK MAN*. The lyrics are sung not only in English, but in Spanish and Haitian Creole.

Pearson also released *Step Out and Jack Pearson*. Both albums are original creations. *Step Out* features soulful singing and songwriting while *Jack Pearson* is an instrumental album of various musica styles such as blues, latin, funk, gospel, jazz and rock.

The band is currently working on a new album.

All CDs are available on the Web at www.jackpearson.com and at any Nationals performance.

The stage at the picnic will be located on the lawn behind the Cape Administration Building.

The Boro Bar & Grill will also feature the band Aug. 7 and Aug. 10 at Faces. ♦



Photo provided

The Nationals, a blues, rock and funk band, will perform at the President's Picnic Aug. 18.

CD Review

'Busted Stuff' comes out of the closet

By Meghan Bard
The Daily Campus

(U-WIRE) STORRS, Conn. — It was being called the greatest album never released. In the summer of 2000 The Dave Matthews Band shelved sessions now known as "The Lillywhite's" (called such after the producer Steve Lillywhite). These unfinished songs were put away, with no certain future or any real potential to see the light of day. A Dave Matthews Band album release date was pushed back. And the fans waited. In the spring of 2001 they were rewarded with the album *Everyday* — by far the band's most commercial and least musically impressive album to date. Instead of using the incredible musicianship of Matthew's band mates, drummer Carter Beauford was forced to replicate drumbeats from the demos created by Matthews and producer Glen Ballard. Fiddler

player Boyd Tinsley and horn player LeRoi Moore were underused and under-appreciated.

Then "The Lillywhite's" surfaced. No one knows how the sessions got out, but what is certain is that the songs were far superior to anything on *Everyday*. "The Lillywhite's" actually sounded like the Dave Matthews Band. Nearly a million people managed to get their hands on the now infamous sessions.

With songs like "Grace is Gone," "Bartender" and "Grey Street," it was no wonder why fans were so upset. It was unfathomable to any listener that something of the quality of "The Lillywhite's" was scrapped in favor of the poppy *Everyday*.

The Dave Matthews Band then decided to revisit "The Lillywhite Sessions" songs. With a new zeal and love for the songs they recorded new versions of nine of the tracks. Add in two

new songs including their current single, the excellent "Where Are You Going" and the new album, re-christened *Busted Stuff*, is quite possibly The Dave Matthews Band's best album to date.

On "Bartender," Matthews begs the bartender to "Fill my glass for me / With the wine you gave Jesus that set him free / After three days in the ground." Heavy lyrics combined with the pumping sounds of Moore's baritone saxophone, Beauford's unique rhythms, Stefan Lessard's grooving bass line, Tinsley's stellar fiddle playing and Matthews' forceful delivery "Bartender" is one of The Dave Matthews Band's best songs ever.

The album opens with the title track, a mid-tempo groove that you can't help but get into. Next up is the powerful "Grey Street." Matthews sings, "There's a loneliness inside her, and she'd do anything to fill it in / and

though it's red blood bleeding from her now / It's more like cold blue ice in her heart / She feels like kicking out all the windows / And setting fire to this life / She could change everything about her / Using colors bold and bright / But all the colors mix together — to grey / and it breaks her heart."

Another stellar "Lillywhite" holdover is "Grace is Gone," a song that any college student could find themselves singing on a Saturday night. "Neon shines through smokey eyes tonight / It's 2 a.m.: I'm drunk again / It's heavy on my mind ... Excuse me please one more drink / Could you make it strong cuz I don't need to think she broke my heart / My Grace is Gone." This recording is even better than the one that appeared on "The Lillywhite" recordings.

While most of the songs are familiar to Dave Matthews band fans, it is imperative that every-

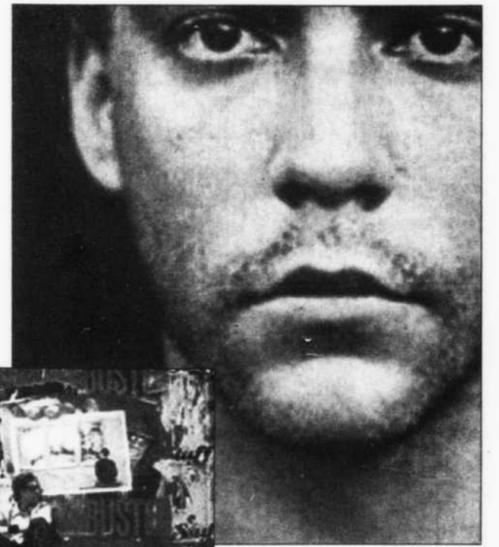


Photo provided

Dave Matthews Band released *Busted Stuff* featuring "Moore's baritone saxophone, Beauford's unique rhythms, Stefan Lessard's grooving bass line, Tinsley's stellar fiddle playing and Matthews' forced delivery."

one picks up *Busted Stuff*. There are at the top of their game, and is a vivacity and renewed strength in them that is refreshing to hear. These five musicians are a showcase for their immense talent. ♦

Better: 'Closer' a combination of previous albums' sounds

Continued from 4

He gets up without her waking
To the voices in his head
Through the shadows in the hallway
To the room they painted blue
And on the inside he is frightened
At a loss for what to do.

"Kevin had a son," Tom says. "He was coming to grips with fatherhood."

"A Lifetime" is equally as moving and was inspired by the death and burial of a singer/songwriter in the 1970s "who wanted to be buried in a certain way."

When we arrived late to the wake,
Stole the urn while they looked away,
And drove to the beach 'Cause I knew you'd want it
That way.

"It's partly based on real life and partly fictional," Tom explains. "I hope that song will be the next song out."

With DJ Swamp on the turntables, songs such as "Extra Ordinary" and "Recognize" feature the poppier rock sounds for which BTE is known.

"*Closer* has all the aspects from the other records," he explains. "It's a combination of it all. It has the electronica from *How Does Your Garden Grow?*, the rock from *Friction*, *Baby*, and the stylistic songwriting from *Deluxe*. Put all those together and you get *Closer*."

Tom says Kevin will have an idea and "we'll say, 'Yeah, let's work on that.'"

"We usually finish recording the lyrics," Tom laughs. "From a songwriting point of view, this new record is the best and I think the most successful in that

aspect."

While working on new material this fall, the band will tour with Cowboy Band from the end of September until the end of November.

They will headline at Riverfront Park in downtown Nashville tomorrow with Cracker, RANA, Feable Weiner, Homunculus and Wil Seabrook. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and the free show ends at 10:30 p.m.

"It's hard work," Tom says. "A lot of people think it's a party, but it takes a lot of effort. It took us so long to get where we are." ♦



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MORNING BEAT (6-9AM)

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OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHIA

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110 HELP WANTED
Sidelines is hiring writers for the summer months. Stop by the James Union Building, Room 310 to fill out an application. AP style knowledge is a plus, but not required. This is a great way to build your resume and start collecting clips! E-mail Jason Cox at slmed-it@mtsu.edu for more information. Office help needed for small insurance agency located in Smyrna. Hours 9-5 Tuesdays only. Please send resume to PO Box 2286, Smyrna, TN 37167.

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SIDELINES ONLINE

Sports Briefs

Compiled by Kevin Jones
Staff Writer

McNamara joins Lady Raider tennis squad

Laura McNamara was announced as a new addition to the 2002-03 Lady Raiders tennis team July 21.

The Melbourne, Australia, native is a transfer from Oklahoma Christian University, an NAIA school in Oklahoma City. McNamara will be joining MT after two years at OCU.

The OCU Lady Eagles were ranked as high as No. 5 in the NAIA and attended the 2002 NAIA National Tournament. McNamara played in the Junior Australian Open in 1999.

David McNamara, her brother, is a name familiar to all tennis fans. He was an MT-American for the Blue Raider tennis squad and played from 1995-98.

Raider Roundup auction set for Aug. 2

The Raider Roundup will be held at 6 p.m. in the Middle Tennessee Foundation House Friday.

The event will be chaired by Liz Rhea and is used each year to raise money for scholarships and other programs. Area businesses have donated items for the auction in past years.

Super Bowl tickets will be highlighted along with sports memorabilia. A number of trips, jewelry, furniture, clothing, home accessories and some silent auction items will be available for purchase.

A group of 20 volunteers are responsible for making this year's event possible: Lori Dykes, Judy Myatt, Julia Sullivan, Linda Parks, Beth Bunkley, Brenda Winder, Ed DeBoer, Ginger Corley, Sharon Thomas, Chuck and Wanda Shaw, Don and Hannah Witherspoon, Tanya Rogers, Gail Tansil, Molly Culbreath, Kathy Hoover, Diane Gower, May Esther Bell, Cindy Flippin, Linda Watson and Stephanie Brackman.

The cost per person is \$50 and will include in the festivities, an open bar, music and food provided by Outback Steakhouse. Guests may dress in casual attire.

MT softball picks up Arkansas transfer

Courtney Mitchell signed July 25 with the Lady Raiders softball team as a transfer from the University of Arkansas.

A junior from Mt. Juliet, Tenn., and an alumna of Ezell-Harding Christian High School, Mitchell started at shortstop in 2002.

She broke the Arkansas home run record with seven and hit two home runs in a game against Coastal Carolina March 11.

Mitchell was third on the team in 2002 with a .282 batting average and 23 RBI. She led the team in doubles with 12 and 26 runs scored.

Also while at Arkansas, Mitchell played 59 of 66 games during her freshman season while scoring 18 runs and getting 40 hits.

She started in the SEC Championship.

A five-year letter winner and starter at Ezell-Harding Christian, Mitchell guided the Eagles to three district and region titles as well as a runner-up finish and three Tennessee state titles.

She was a five-time all-district, all-region and all-state selection and was named the district MVP her sophomore season. ♦

Sun Belt inks deal with ESPN

By Amy Jones
Sports Editor

The Sun Belt Conference inked a television broadcast deal with ESPN last week that will benefit Blue Raider football greatly during the 2002 season. Three of Middle Tennessee's SBC matchups will be televised from Floyd Stadium, where the Blue Raiders have won 11 games in a row.

The TV deal is part of the new six-year agreement that the SBC signed with ESPN to televise regular season football along with basketball.

The home games to be aired include the Oct. 19 match up against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, the Nov. 16 contest against the University of Louisiana-Monroe and the Nov. 23 game against SBC co-champion North Texas.

All three games will be televised and can be seen locally on CSS TV (channel 27 on Comcast in the Murfreesboro and Nashville areas). CSS is esti-

mated to reach between 4 and 5 million homes throughout the Southeast.

"This is a prime example of what a conference affiliation can do for a football program," said MT head coach Andy McCollum. "We are elated to have this many televised games and we look forward to the exposure."

The games' start times will be posted in two weeks.

The Blue Raiders are set and scheduled to have seven of their 12 regular season games to be televised this fall. Along with ESPN and the three conference games, MT will also appear on Fox Sports Net Northwest against Idaho Oct. 26. Due to programming restraints, the official game start time has been changed from 4 p.m. CST to 2:07 CST.

"Television is one of the best recruiting tools a program can have," McCollum said. "To be



able to showcase our great fans, university and facilities will be a big boost to our growing program."

The Blue Raiders also have three other chances to be televised this season. MT will also open the season against the University of Alabama on Jefferson-Pilot Sports. Dwone Hicks' Heisman Trophy candidate announcement video will also be shown before the kick-off.

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville and the University of Kentucky games will be shown on a tape-delay basis. The UT-MT game will be available on pay-per-view.

The new deal will take place

at the beginning of the 2002-03 academic year through the 2007-08 year.

The features of the deal include a combination of regional telecasts of football and basketball produced through ESPN Regional Television, as well as national football exposure on ESPN and ESPN2 beginning the next season on 2003.

"We are thrilled to continue our longstanding relationship with ESPN," said Sun Belt Conference commissioner Wright Walters. "This is a significant step forward in the growth of our football league, and the Conference as a whole stands to benefit tremendously from this agreement."

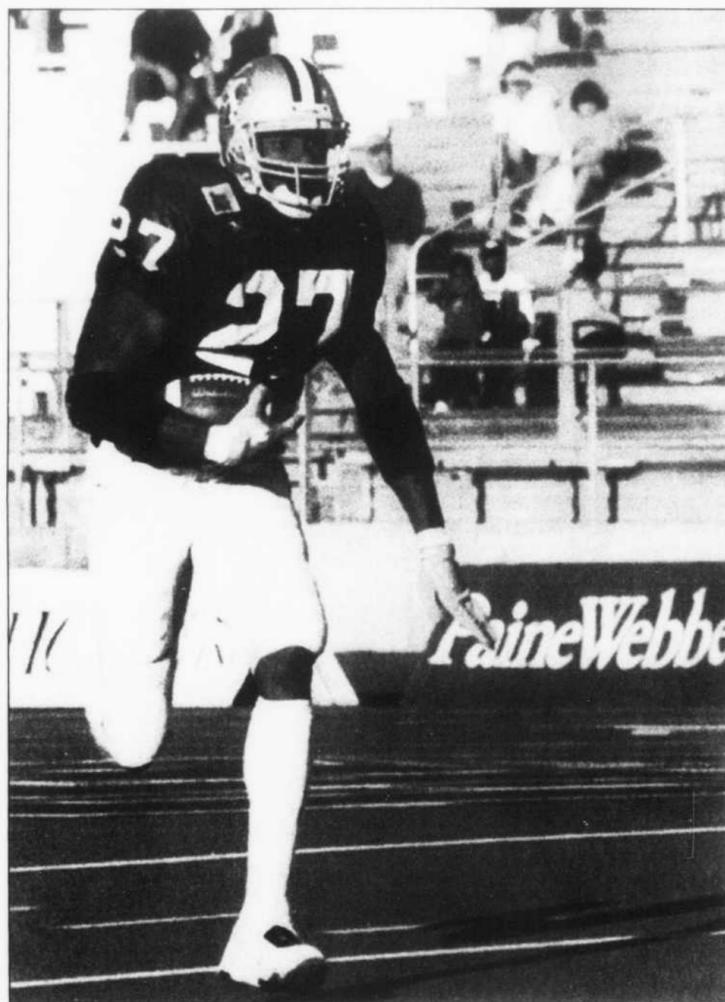
In 2003, in addition to the regional telecasts of the SBC football games, the nationwide part of the agreement will kick off with the league guaranteed to receive a minimum of five nationwide football telecasts on

ESPN or ESPN2 during the life of the contract which is through 2007. The deal could include games played on weeknights.

"We are excited to both extend and expand our relationship with the Sun Belt Conference," said ESPN regional television executive vice president and general manager Chuck Gerber. "The extension recognizes the growth and development Sun Belt athletics has experienced, thanks to outstanding leadership from Commissioner Wright Walters and the presidents, athletics directors and coaches."

In SBC basketball, the deal calls for no less than eight men and eight women's regular season games to be produced by ESPN Regional Television beginning during the 2002-03 academic year also.

The SBC's current telecast contract with ESPN, including coverage of the men's tournament championship game, was extended through the 2007-08 season. ♦



Tyron Calico runs the ball down the field last fall.

UNT picked No. 1 in polls

By Amy Jones
Sports Editor

The Sun Belt Conference preseason polls predict another close race during the 2002 season for the co-champion teams - North Texas and Middle Tennessee.

North Texas and MT were picked as the No. 1 and No. 2 teams respectively in both polls released at the Sun Belt Media Day last Wednesday in New Orleans, La. The Mean Green and Blue Raiders tied for first in 2001 with 5-1 SBC records.

North Texas, who finished 5-6 overall last season, took the No. 1 spot in the coaches' poll with 44 points and four first-place votes. MT, who finished the season with an overall record of 8-3, was No. 2 with 43 points and two first-place votes.

In the leagues' sports information poll, MT took the edge and No. 1 spot with 46 points and four first-place votes. North Texas took No. 2 with 43 points and three first-place votes.

Both polls concluded the same for the remaining rankings with New Mexico State at No. 3, followed by Louisiana-Lafayette, Idaho, Louisiana-Monroe and Arkansas State in the bottom spot.

In addition, the Blue Raiders had six players named to the preseason

All-Conference Team: running back Dwone Hicks, offensive tackle Brandon Westbrook, free safety Michael Woods, wide receiver Tyron Calico, punter Robert Billings and place kicker Brian Kelly.

"This is great for our fans and the league," said head coach Andy McCollum. "But we are only concerned about where we will stand in December. These are just predictions and we have to get it done on the field."

"The six players singled out are very deserving and have worked hard, but they will be the first to tell you that without our team's success that these type of awards don't mean a whole lot."

The Mean Green also had six players placed on the preseason team. North Texas will return 20 starters from the 2001 season, but will have to replace linebacker Brad Kassell, the SBC defensive player of the year last season.

MT's returning Heisman Trophy candidate, Dwone Hicks, was the 2001 SBC offensive player of the year. MT's former quarterback, Wes Counts, took the SBC player of the year in 2001.

"We didn't dominate or roll through this league by any stretch of the imagination," North Texas head

See SBC, 8

Former Blue Raiders begin NFL training camp

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

NFL training camps kicked off this past week for all 32 teams. This year, seven former Middle Tennessee players are among the campers.

The group includes two ex-MT quarterbacks, two rookies from last year's co-Sun Belt championship team, an offensive lineman who stayed in-state, a wide-out making a comeback after one year out of football and a 10-year veteran who changed teams during the off season.

In April's NFL draft, the Jacksonville Jaguars picked MT's all-time leading receiver Kendall Newson in the seventh round. Newson, who was a member of the Blue Raiders from 1998-2001, led the team in receptions with 65 last season. He was selected first team All-Sun Belt Conference and played in the Hula Bowl.

Jaguars head coach Tom Coughlin described Newson to Jaguars.com as "a tough guy who will go in and block."

Newson will complete for one of the wide receiver spots on the team along with new members of the Jaguars, Patrick Johnson and Bobby Shaw. The camp is taking place at Alltel Stadium until Aug. 19.

The other player in camp from last year's team is defensive back Jykine Bradley. Bradley was not picked in this year's draft but signed with the Buffalo Bills as a undrafted free agent July 16. He, along with Newson, was put on the first team All-Sun Belt Conference and played in the Hula Bowl. Bradley led MT in interceptions last season with four picks and was named captain six times. He was a member of the Blue Raiders from 1999-01.

Bradley will be fighting for a spot on the Bills as a defensive back. The Bills camp is going on at St. John Fisher College located in Pittsford, N.Y., until Aug. 21.

Kelly Holcomb and Jonathan Quinn are the two former MT quarterbacks in camp. Holcomb begins his second year with the Cleveland Browns after spending five seasons as a member of the Indianapolis Colts. Holcomb was a Blue Raider from 1991-94, where he became the all-time leader in completions (501), attempts (801) and passing yards (7,064) at MT.

Last season, Holcomb played in the fourth quarter against the Tennessee Titans where he completed 7-of-12 passes and passed for a touchdown. This season Holcomb is battling to become back up quarterback to Tim Couch. The Browns' camp is going on until Aug. 15 at their training facility in Berea, Ohio.

This past offseason, Quinn changed addresses to become a member of the

See Camp, 8



Kendall Newson was chose this year by the Jacksonville Jaguars.

LSU baseball player dies of heart problem

Associated Press

HARVEY, La. — An autopsy determined that LSU baseball player Wally Pontiff, found dead in his parents' home last week, died of natural causes and no drugs were in his system, the Jefferson Parish coroner said Monday.

The autopsy found an abnormality in the heart, which is still being tested, so final determination of exact cause of death may take several more days, the coroner's report said.

There was also no evidence of trauma or foul play, the statement from Coroner Robert E. Treuting said.

He went to extra lengths to spell out that no drugs were involved in the death.

"All toxicology studies were negative," Treuting said. "Specifically there were no illegal drugs, nor any prescription or over-the-counter drugs in his system."

Janie Badinger, of the coroner's office, said there was no indication that the microscopic examination of the heart abnormality would affect the finding of death by natural causes.

Pontiff, 21, a third baseman who was heading into his senior year at LSU, had been picked in the 21st round of this year's draft by the Oakland Athletics. He had not announced whether he would return to LSU for his senior year.

He had recently returned home after playing 14 games in the Cape Cod Baseball League, the top amateur league in the country.

He was a member of the All-SEC second team this season and had made the first All-SEC team the previous year.

Pontiff was found dead in his parents' home in

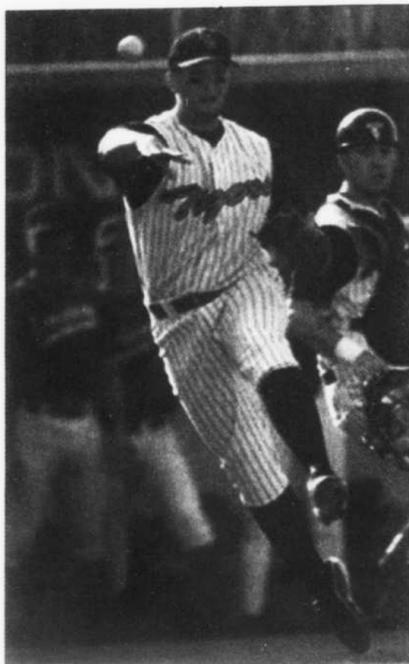


Photo courtesy of www.theadvocate.com

Wally Pontiff throws a runner out at first.

suburban New Orleans July 24. His funeral was Friday at Jesuit High School, where Pontiff was a four-year letterman before moving on to college. ♦

SBC: UNT gets No.1 vote over MT

Continued from 7

coach Darrell Dickey said to *The Advocate*. "All our games were very close. The ball just kind of bounced our way after mid-season. When we were 0-5 we were prepared to do anything just to win a game. We have to keep that mentality."

Even with a winning 8-3 record compared to North Texas' 5-6 record, MT was shut out of a chance at a bowl game by a SBC rule that used head-to-head competition as its tiebreaker.

The Mean Green took a last minute 24-21 three point win over MT Oct.13 in Denton, Texas. Last year was the first time the two teams have ever met. The loss to North Texas was MT's lone conference loss in 2001.

If a tie takes place after the 2002 season, the conference will pick the team that will attend the New Orleans Bowl. Another change for the New Orleans Bowl will be the opposition will be supplied by Conference USA instead of the Mountain West

Conference. New Mexico State (5-7 overall, 4-2 conference) lost to MT Oct. 27, 39-35. The Blue Raiders will travel to Las Cruces, N.M., for their seventh and final road game of the season.

Last year's Blue Raider win over the Aggies marked the greatest comeback in school history after trailing 35-11. MT scored 28 points in the fourth quarter to take the win.

UL-Lafayette (3-8, 2-4) took a coaching change this season in hopes of earning a better record. Virginia Tech's former offensive coordinator, Rickey Bustle, will make the calls as the Ragin' Cajuns' head coach after seven years with the Hokies.

The MT-Lafayette game Oct. 19 is MT's conference home opener. The Blue Raiders took a 41-38 overtime victory over the Cajuns after the place kicker Brian Kelly made a 21-yard field goal in the second overtime for the win. This game will be the Blue Raiders' only home game in October.

Idaho (1-10, 1-5) will take on MT this season at home after

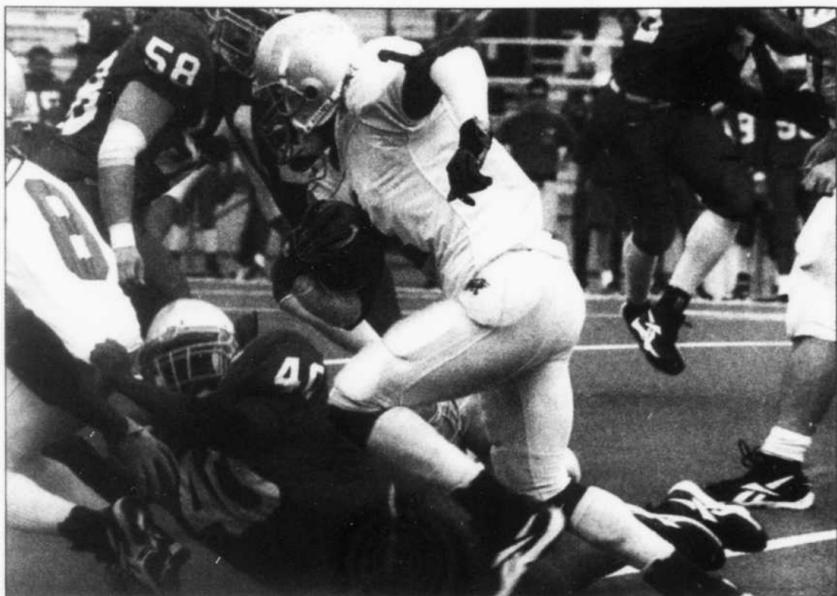
taking a tough, high-scoring 70-58 loss to the Blue Raiders in Murfreesboro Oct. 6, 2001.

The game against the Vandals, which will be played at Kibbie Dome, will mark MT's first game in a dome stadium since 1995 when the Blue Raiders took on the Georgia Southern in the Georgia Dome.

UL-Monroe (2-9, 2-4) features linebacker Maurice Sonnier, who took the preseason SBC defensive player of the year. Even with an MT 38-20 win over the Indians last season, ULM deserves credit. The Indians were the sole SBC team to take a victory over North Texas last fall.

Sitting at the bottom of the poll is Arkansas State (2-9, 2-4). MT will travel to Jonesboro, Ark. on Oct.5. The last time MT traveled to Jonesboro was in 1949 and the Blue Raiders returned home with a win.

The Blue Raiders will begin the 2002 campaign against the University of Alabama Aug. 31 and will begin their SBC championship campaign Oct. 5 against Arkansas State. ♦



File Photo

Kerry Wright dodges the defense during the Blue-White game last spring. Sun Belt Conference preseason polls show MT as the No. 2 pick.

Camp: Ex-Raiders take field at NFL camps

Continued from 7

Kansas City Chiefs. The past four years Quinn was a Jaguar. He played quarterback at MT from 1995-97. During that time he completed more than 50 percent of his passes for 4,864 yards, 28 touchdowns and 26 interceptions.

In 1998, Quinn played in four games for Jacksonville including a start in two of them. This season Quinn is competing for the third string quarterback job along with Joe Germaine, a fourth year player from Ohio State.

Chiefs camp is being held at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in River Falls, Wis. until Aug. 16.

Mike Caldwell will be entering his 10th season as a linebacker in the NFL, but he will be doing it with a different team. He signed with the Chicago Bears as a free agent after spending the four previous years with the Philadelphia Eagles. Caldwell has been a member of the Cleveland Browns (93-95), Baltimore Ravens (1996) and the Arizona Cardinals (1997).

Caldwell was a member of the Blue Raiders from 1989-92. Caldwell started every game at

MT and was picked to the All American team and Ohio Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year as a senior. Last season for the Eagles he started in all the games and was second on the team in tackles with a career high 140. This year Caldwell is playing for a linebacker spot. The camp for the Bears is located at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Ill., until Aug. 14.

Offensive lineman Barry Hall will be entering his second season as a member of the Tennessee Titans. He started in 42 straight games at MT where he went from 1997-2000. Hall will be going a spot on the offensive line of the Titans. The camp is being held at Baptist Sports Park in Nashville until Aug. 21.

Wide receiver Sulecio Sanford returns to professional football after not being on a team in 2001. On March 11, he signed with the Miami Dolphins.

Sanford was cut by the Chicago Bears Aug. 23 of last year after spending two seasons with the Bears. In 2000, he hyperextended his left knee and missed that season.

Sanford was the last MT player to be drafted until

Newson this year. Sanford was drafted in the seventh round by the Bears in 1999. He is sixth on the MT all-time career reception list with 81 catches as a member from 1997-98.

Sanford will be competing for one of the wide receivers jobs of the Dolphins. The camp is at Nova University in Davie, Fla. until Aug. 22.

The first preseason NFL game will be this Saturday between the Washington Redskins and the San Francisco 49ers at 9 p.m. The game will take place in Osaka, Japan, and is set to be televised on ESPN. ♦



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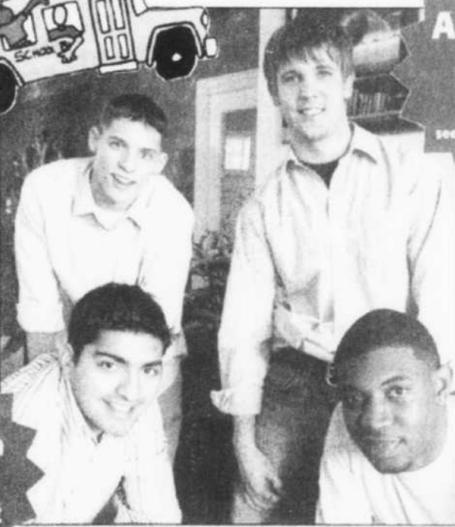
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