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www.mtsusidelines.com

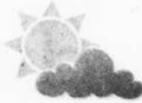
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School of Journalism needs to embrace new technologies.

Opinions, page 5

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009

VOL. 85, NO. 21

McPhee aims to cut student services

By CHRIS MAYO
Contributing Writer

President Sidney McPhee supports the elimination of the June Anderson Women's Center and Off Campus Student Services in the future.

Carol Ann Baily, director of Off Campus Student Services, said the suggested cuts are disproportionately targeting nontraditional students and will create a large reduction in services for the majority of students, while protecting the interests of an elite minority.

Baily said that 85 percent of MTSU students live off campus, qualifying them for Off Campus Student Services, 38 percent are 24 years or older, and 10 percent of students live more than an hour away.

"Unlike the Greek organizations [which are not being considered for cuts] that are mostly exclusive social groups, we function as an academic support group, as well as a place for nontraditional students to meet each other," Baily said.

Baily said that research shows getting to know other nontraditional students is a major contributor to successfully earning a degree, and they are one of the only options for these students to seek out their peers for social and academic support.

"Nontraditional students who do not form bonds with their peers are far more likely to drop out," Baily said.

Off Campus Student Services also provides off campus housing assistance, the Blue Raider Guide to Living Off Campus, a comprehensive Web site designed to

be easily navigated, and a weekly e-mail to more than 29,000 students reminding them of scholarships and events they may not hear about otherwise.

McPhee said that these specific programs were chosen to be cut because the services they provide are redundant and being offered by larger structures within the university. McPhee said, in the case of the JAWC, counseling rape victims is also handled by Counseling Services, and that MTSU now has a very impressive Student Health Services Center that is equipped to address women's health issues.

"McPhee doesn't know what he is talking about," said Laura Wiemar, a JAWC student worker. "We are not women's health services, and have not provided rape counseling in 10 years."

Wiemar said they provide a safe place for women to come and seek help or to simply decompress. They can connect women to domestic violence assistance, rape counseling and health services, but also offer many things that are very unique contributions to MTSU.

"[McPhee] seems out of touch with the fact that, as our definition of terms, and people indicated by these terms, like 'minority,' 'people of color,' 'single,' 'people of woman,' shift dramatically, it is going to be crucial for us not to cut, but to enrich, to cultivate, systems of support," said Sarah Cozort, a second year Master's candidate in English.

BUDGET, PAGE 2



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Patrick Mertis and Ben Scott reset Janet Billingsly's mailbox at 1811 Weeks Road during the activities of "The Big Event."



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Students work to clean up after tearing down a shed.

STAFF REPORT

This past Saturday, the Student Government Association hosted The Big Event, a giant community service project, on campus and the surrounding community.

More than 100 students came out to participate in numerous jobs, ranging from yard work, house cleaning and painting.

The Big Event, which originated at Texas A&M

University, is the largest nationwide community service project in the country.

Brandon McNary, SGA executive vice president and Big Event recruitment director, said people in the MTSU community were incredibly appreciative of the students' efforts.

"The event went really well," McNary said. "This is definitely a tradition [the SGA] will continue every year."



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Tyler Zhorne hauls off debris from a disassembled shed.

Cirque du Soleil springs into Nashville

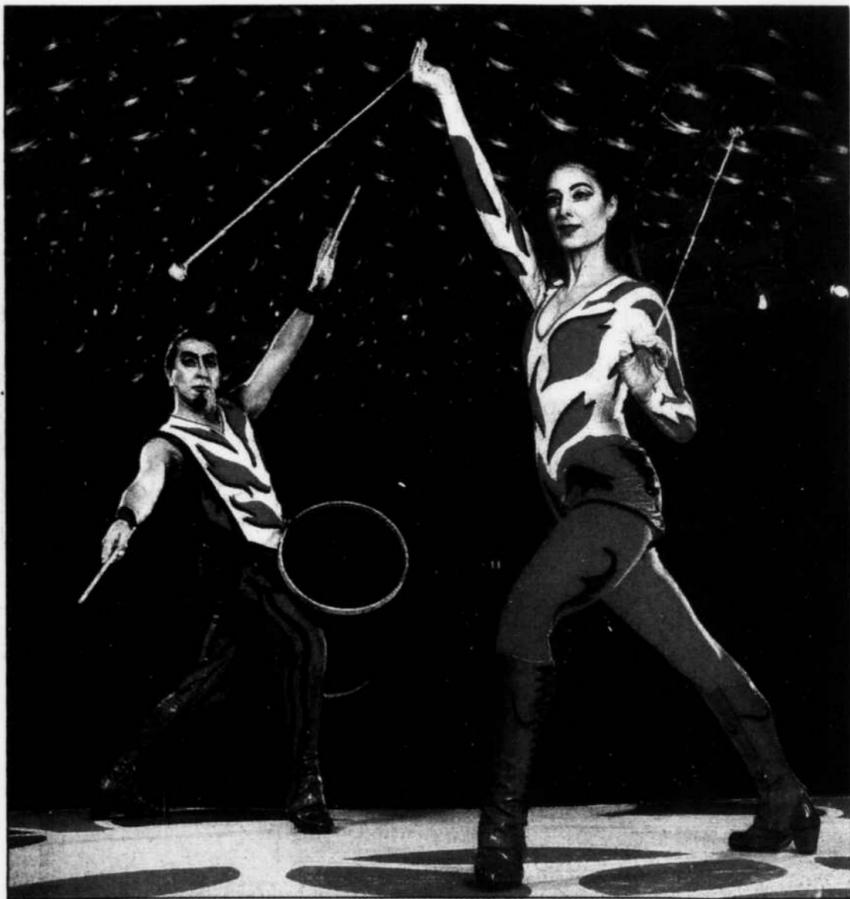


Photo courtesy of Cirque Du Soleil
Cirque du Soleil performers, like the ones seen above, are scheduled to come to Nashville April 9-12.

By DUSTIN EVANS
Staff Writer

Cirque du Soleil is setting up its tents in Nashville to bring its longest-running show, "Saltimbanco," to Tennessee.

The performance, which is scheduled to run from April 9-12, will be housed under the Sommet Center to bring Middle Tennessee a show that has "thrilled more than 10 million people on five continents."

"We created 'Saltimbanco' to reassure people that if you decide to change and do something new, you can do it with joy," said Carmen Ruest, the show's director for the show. "The message is: Don't be afraid, change can happen and be positive."

Saltimbanco comes from the Italian, "saltare in banco" which actually means "to jump on a bench," Cirque du Soleil stated on their Web site. The show's title refers to the acrobatics that are customary in any Cirque performance.

"'Saltimbanco' is a lively show. It's all about joy," said Michael Ocampo, the

head coach for the show. "It's colorful and upbeat and never ceases to amaze the audience."

Adam Miller, the artis-

to see the performance. "Over a period of 21 weeks, the show was re-staged to adapt to the new venue size," stated Cirq-

"Saltimbanco is a lively show, it's all about joy. It's colorful and upbeat and never ceases to amaze the audience."

MICHAEL OCAMPO
HEAD COACH FOR THE SHOW

tic director said that the performance harnesses elements of art that are not found in the usual circus.

"We integrate all the theatrical elements in Cirque du Soleil, and people who normally don't go to a circus will go to a Cirque du Soleil show," Miller said. "It's acrobatic. It's cohesive. It's alive."

Cirquedusoleil.com stated that Saltimbanco was originally released under the Grand Chapiteau [Big Top] in Montreal, Canada, on April 23, 1992. The current tour of the show has been modified to fit in large arena spaces to give audiences another chance

uedusoleil.com. "The Saltimbanco tour will stop in about 40 cities each year, with a message that is as relevant and powerful today as it was when the show was created."

The Web site also stated that the show explores the "urban experience in all its myriad forms." It is about the inhabitants, the "hustle and bustle" of streets and the towering peaks of buildings and skyscrapers.

"Saltimbanco" is a bowl of joy for the whole family," Ruest said. Tickets can be purchased in advance at cirquedusoleil.com/saltimbanco or by calling 770-2000.

Class promotes cycling

Tour De Boro to help raise funds for Department of Recreation and Leisure Services

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Community News Editor

The third Annual Tour De Boro online registration ends this Friday for the century cycling event that will take place in Southern Rutherford County and parts of Williamson County.

The cost of the event, scheduled for April 25 is \$25 if participants register online. Registration at the event, which begins at 7:30 a.m., costs \$35.

The tour is sponsored by

Barnett, a senior liberal studies major, recreation minor and spokesperson for the tour.

Barnett said that working on the tour has been a challenging hands-on learning experience that, she could not have gotten without the event.

"We have learned so much about how to put on an event," Barnett said. "We also have learned a whole lot about how the entire parks and recreation process works."

and raise funds for the Department.

Barnett said that the department tries to promote healthy living educating the community on how to be healthier.

Participants wishing to participate in the event should be actual cyclists, Barnett said.

"This is an actual cycling event," Barnett said. "You need to be in good shape to do it."

Barnett said participants will be supporting MTSU's Recreation and Leisure Services.

"With the school being so low in funding right now, it could really help us out," Barnett said.

Barnett said that a major part of the department's "educational practices" come from hands-on experience, such as camping trips, which requires funding.

"[The tour] is a good event. It is going to support a department on campus that just a few weeks ago people were scared they would be closed," Barnett said. "Of course, McPhee said that is not going to be a problem, but we are condensing and getting rid of concentrations."

Barnett said that with funding at the university low, helping to support another department is a good thing.

"Now more than ever, we need to come together and help each other out," Barnett said.

To register online, visit active.com.

TOUR DE BORO

3 routes: 16.5 miles, 31 miles, 57.5 miles

All routes:

- scenic, low-traffic, back roads
- water and food stations
- monitored by support and gear drivers and the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department

31- and 16.5-mile routes:

- flat and fast
- a few rolling hills

57.5-mile route:

- full of rolling hills
- long climbs and fast descents

MTSU's Department of Recreation and Leisure. A class within the department, programming for Parks and Recreation, has been working on it since the beginning of the semester.

"Most of our students are recreation and administration students so, it gives us experience on how to organize an event," said Crystal

Barnett said that the tour requires more work than a regular class.

"We learned a lot about what our customers will want in parks and recreation,"

Barnett added that the hardest thing about the tour was starting with almost zero funding.

The purpose of the tour is to "promote healthy living"

BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

Wiemar said The Women's Center offers programs ranging from free monthly legal clinics, workshops on various topics, scholarships, and gender circles, weekly discussion groups open to any one of any gender.

Wiemar said that, while it is estimated that around 2,000 women come into the office every year, the center is also responsible for bringing speakers to campus, directly sponsoring two speakers this year, including the well received Bell Hooks, but also provides funds for other groups to bring speakers. The center is responsible for bringing over 28 events to campus this semester alone.

"We were an easy target," Wiemar said. "And he can't cut Greek life because he is from a Greek background."

"We are women's issues and women's issues usually get put on the back burner."

Baily, Wiemar and Cozort all support Professor John

Sanborn's public demand for McPhee's resignation, published in an opinion piece in *Sidelines* on March 26.

McPhee's official response to the OSC's "Report for Positioning the University for the Future" suggests that many cuts to student services be put in place, consolidating

the bail out money is for the transition of the university system into a more efficient model of business," McPhee said.

McPhee said MTSU has to be prepared for the \$19.3 million reduction in state funds the school will face in 2011.

"The Governor said that we

"We are an easy target and [McPhee] can't cut greek life because he's from a greek background."

LAURA WIEMAR
WOMEN'S CENTER STUDENT WORKER

some services, while completely eliminating others. But after Gov. Phil Bredesen's March 23 2009-2010 budget address speech seems to contradict the immediate need for cuts.

"[Higher Education] not only won't have to make cuts, but cuts they have already taken here in Tennessee have been restored; about \$100 million extra in this fiscal year," Bredesen said.

"I want to make it clear that

have dodged a bullet, and that Tennessee Higher Education should not rely on the Federal Bail Out money," McPhee said. "We are looking at how we can better and more efficiently serve our students."

Wiemar said that the JAWC uses volunteers for these events, without them it would not be possible.

"Our budget doesn't even meet the lowest salary of any of the steering committee members."

Through the *Sidelines'* Lens



Photo by Aya Matsuo, staff photographer
The fashion show last Thursday at 7 p.m. in the James Union Building was one of MTSU's first designed shows done by just students. The students used mostly found objects in the show.

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

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

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

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

Up 'Til Dawn is a national student-led, student-run fundraising organization. Over 200 campuses participate in an Up 'Til Dawn event, but MTSU is among the best. For over 10 years, MTSU students have been leading the way in hosting this campus and community wide event, raising over \$640,000 to fight childhood cancer.



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UP 'TIL DAWN
ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

Students help others tie the knot

By DUSTIN EVANS
Staff Writer

The MTSU Lambda Association is hosting its "Spring Out! White Knot Campaign" on campus throughout this week.

The campaign is geared towards the equality of marriage, which has been made very public due to recent political activity all across the

country.

"It is a campaign that started after Proposition 8. It basically has the right to tie the knot," said Brandon Thomas, public relations for Lambda.

Thomas said that the inspiration came from the cast and crew of the film, "Milk," who wore white knots on their lapels during the Academy Awards.

Thomas said that there will be a lecture from Jackie Eller, an MTSU professor of sociology, Nashville Cares will be in attendance for information, and there will be a showing of the film "After Stonewall."

"I think [the film] is important because it shows the history of the gay movement and everything that happened after the riots,"

Thomas said. "It's important because a lot of people don't know about it."

The event's release arrives just after the Iowa Supreme Court's ruling that abolished laws preventing gay marriage.

The ruling has sparked controversy among political leaders like Congressman Steve King, R-Iowa.

"Iowa law says that mar-

riage is between one man and one woman," King said in a press conference on April 3. "If judges believe the Iowa legislature should grant same-sex marriage, they should resign from their positions and run for office, not legislate from the bench."

King also said that Iowa must put legislation out in a timely manner so that Iowa does not become a "Gay

Mecca."

Some students on campus, like Teresa Porterfield, a senior theater major, will get a chance to support a cause that is very dear to them.

"I think that gay couples have every right to express themselves like straight people do," Porterfield said. "If they love each other, they have every right to be together."

SGA passes bill to increase number of senators

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant News Editor

Students will be able to vote on a special referendum Tuesday, April 21 and Wednesday, April 22 to increase the number of senators in the Student Government Association.

Currently, there is one senator for every 750 students per college at MTSU, said Brandon McNary, executive vice president and speaker of the senate. The SGA wants to expand to one senator for every 500 students. This would increase the senate from 43

senators to about 61.

"By having more senators, the SGA will be much more visible than it currently is," McNary said. "We will have more man power to work more events for the student body."

During the past SGA election, not all of the senator seats were filled, including those in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and the College of Mass Communication.

McNary said the reason for the empty seats is because there was not enough

publicity to advertise the open senator seats to students.

“Students in these seats don't just represent their own personal college. Instead, these students represent the entire university.”

BRANDON McNARY
SGA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

"Students just weren't aware because the positions weren't publicized correctly," McNary said. "Students really are inter-

ested, they just didn't know that applications were due, and that is something we

will change next year."

Part of the resolution states that the number of At-Large senate seats will be increased from five to

seven.

"Students in these seats don't just represent their own personal college," McNary said. "Instead, these students represent the entire university."

Qualifications to become a senator include a minimum 2.3 GPA, completing 12 senate hours each semester, and mandatory attendance of senate meetings every Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

The referendum will be sent to students through their e-mail and they will be able to vote for or against

the expansion of the SGA in regards to the addition of senators.

If passed, McNary, the 2009-2010 SGA president, will fill the newly opened senate seats by appointment with approval from the 2009-2010 senators.

"One of the largest complaints from students is that they don't see the SGA," McNary said. "This will allow for more diversity and overall, a larger senate will allow us to reach out to more students than we ever have before."

Vandy professor to address crisis

John Lachs is set to visit MTSU and present his lecture "Education in a Time of Crisis"

STAFF REPORT

Vanderbilt philosophy professor John Lachs will present his lecture "Education in a Time of Crisis" this Wednesday, April 8 in the James Union building.

With the Department of Philosophy and other programs currently being proposed for elimination, Lachs' lecture will cover what roles philosophy and the humanities play in the

university.

Lachs is the author of numerous books, including those on George Santayana, Georg Wilhelm Hegel and Karl Marx. He is also the chair of the American Philosophical Association's Centennial Committee, which is dedicated to supporting the private value and social usefulness of philosophy.

An award-winning professor, Lachs has been part of the Vanderbilt faculty since 1967 and has spoken

frequently to both academic and community groups.

The lecture is sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and is part of its annual Applied Philosophy Lyceum. The department hopes to provoke philosophical reflection by bringing distinguished scholars to campus to address crucial issues.

The lecture is free and open to the public and will be held in dining hall room C of the JUB at 4 p.m.

CRIME BRIEFS

April 1, 8:47 a.m.

Warrant

Rutledge Hall

Mother of a juvenile requested assistance from police to locate her son who was known to be on campus at the time. The juvenile has been entered into NCIC as a runaway. The juvenile had been arrested on runaway petition from Lebanon police.

April 1, 10:54 a.m.

Theft

MTSU Campus

Report of personal items more than \$500 stolen from campus.

April 1, 3:01 p.m.

Vandalism

Monohan Hall

Subject called and requested an officer in reference to someone using a blow gun and embedding the dart into a wall.

April 1, 4:59 p.m.

Theft

Murphy Center

Victim reported their cell phone had been stolen from the Murphy Center.

April 1, 6:16 p.m.

Vandalism

Greek Row

Subject requested to report vandalism that occurred the day before on Greek Row.

April 2, 2:43 a.m.

Drug Abuse

Braig Lane Lot

Jonathan Shubert was issued a state citation for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and underage consumption of alcohol.

April 2, 11:56 a.m.

Theft

Todd Gallery

Subject called to request an officer in reference to a stolen laptop.

CURRENT EVENTS

"White Knot Campaign"

Hosted by: MT Lambda

Monday, April 6 at 11:00 a.m. through Friday, April 10 at 8:30 p.m.

Location: MTSU

"Valkyrie"

April 6-10

Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Friday, 7 p.m.

Admission: \$2

Location: KUC Theater

Student Appreciation Week

Hosted by the Student Government Association

Monday, April 6 to Thursday, April 9

Visit mtsu.edu/~sga to see full list of event times and locations

Seven Secrets to the Hidden Job Market

Presented by Donald Asher

Wednesday, April 8 from 12 to 1 p.m.

Location: KUC 332

Free and open to MTSU community

Town Hall Meeting with President McPhee

Thursday, April 9

Location: KUC Theater

"Paul Blart-Mall Cop"

April 13-17

Monday-Thursday, 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Friday, 7 p.m.

Admission: \$2

Location: KUC Theater

Afroflow Festival
Starring recording artist Mike-E

Tuesday, April 14 at 4 p.m.

Location: front lawn of the Honors College

More Information: visit afroflow.com

A night of comedy with Iliza Shlesinger

Thursday, April 16 at 7 p.m.

Admission: free

Location: JUB Tennessee Room
More Information: visit ilizashlesinger.com

SGA Senate Meeting

April 16 at 4:30 p.m.

Location: Keathley University Center

Open to the public

Kappa Delta Wing Fling
6th Annual KD Wing Fling

Saturday, April 18

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: At MTSU beside the Murphy Center

9th Annual MTSU Student Festival

April 20-24

Visit KUC 308 for more information

SGA Senate Meeting

April 23 at 4:30 p.m.

Location: Keathley University Center

Open to the public

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Memphis' mayor spending in question

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal investigators are questioning how five-term Mayor Willie Herenton used excess money from a pricey annual Christmas party attended by prominent people in the business community, *The Commercial Appeal* has found.

The newspaper reported Sunday that the money, acknowledged by Herenton's lawyer, is being scrutinized by agents from the FBI and IRS as part of a long-running, multifaceted investigation of Herenton.

Much of that probe has focused on a separate venture involving a \$91,000

payment Herenton received while pushing a public plan to redevelop Greyhound's downtown property.

In recent weeks, however, FBI agents have been asking about the lavish Christmas Gala, a \$1,000-a-plate party started in 1996 by a group of citizens and corporations. The FBI is investigating whether all the money given went to finance the party.

The newspaper found that the money was given to the mayor over about eight years.

In a written statement released Saturday, Herenton's lawyer, Robert Spence, indicated Herenton

acted lawfully in accepting the money.

"In 2002 the host for this event, Pete Aviotti, began to give as a gift to the Mayor monies that were left over after all expenses had been

received these gifts in the same spirit as they were given. However, notwithstanding the donative intent of these gifts, the mayor, based on conservative advice of Certified Public

specific written questions submitted by the newspaper, including when Herenton reported the gifts as income.

The Christmas Gala was financed by donors who sent \$1,000 checks to Aviotti, who in turn deposited the money into his personal account and then paid for the event.

Reached by phone last week, Aviotti, who has appeared as a witness before a federal grand jury, declined to discuss the payments, saying only, "I haven't done anything illegal."

Six donors who said they were interviewed by the FBI each told the newspa-

per they didn't know any of their contribution would go to Herenton as a gift.

"All I knew is we gave money and they had a party every year," said real estate lawyer Ron Harkavy.

A roster of the 2005 donors, collectively known as the Host Committee, includes names of 85 individuals and couples. The list includes FedEx chairman Frederick W. Smith, AutoZone founder J.R. "Pitt" Hyde III, real estate mogul Jack Belz and cotton merchant Billy Dunavant.

Information from *The Commercial Appeal*.

“ All I knew is we gave money and they had a party every year.”

RON HARKAVY
LAWYER IN MEMPHIS

paid. The amount of the gift varied over the years," Spence said in the e-mailed statement.

"The Mayor, in turn re-

Accountants has treated these gifts as income and filed appropriate federal income tax returns."

Spence did not answer

Obama gives General Motors 60 days to make cuts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Auto industry analysts suggest General Motors Corp.'s Spring Hill plant could become vulnerable as the Obama administration makes steeper demands in return for federal financial support, and workers say they are nervous.

President Barack Obama had said GM's initial plans to become viable didn't go far enough. Last week, he told the company it had 60 days to make more cuts and get more concessions from bondholders and unions, or it won't get any more government help.

"We're a little nervous about what's going on with the decisions being made about the plants," said Michael Herron, chairman of United Auto Workers Local 1853, which represents the 2,911 hourly workers at

Spring Hill.

"We don't know when the decision will be made," he told *The Tennessean*, "but I believe they are going to move very, very quickly, and we may be at risk."

Industry analysts say Spring Hill is vulnerable even though the carmaker spent

operating at an estimated 24 percent capacity.

Erich Merkle, a Grand Rapids, Mich.-based auto analyst, thinks Spring Hill could be jettisoned in favor of GM's newest plant in Lansing, Mich., which makes vehicles similar to the Traverse and has excess capacity to

At current sales levels, all four vehicles could be built at either plant, but politics could give the Michigan plant the edge, Merkle said. "Spring Hill could be on the bubble because it's in a red state, and Michigan is a blue state," Merkle said. "The governor of Michigan is a Democrat, too, and she needs all the plants she can get."

U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said last week he's concerned that Spring Hill could lose out if the Obama administration chooses which plants to close based on how a state voted in last fall's presidential election. Tennessee went "red," with a majority of voters casting ballots for the Republican candidate, U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Opened in 1990 to assemble the new Saturn brand of economical small cars, Spring Hill is the third-new-

est GM assembly plant in operation. Lansing is GM's newest, built at a cost of \$1.5 billion in 2006.

Saturn production ceased in March 2007, and the plant was refurbished at a cost of several hundred million dollars to build the new Chevrolet crossover.

Besides the Traverse, the Spring Hill facility also builds fuel-efficient four-cylinder Ecotec engines for a variety of other GM vehicles. The plant produced 418,566 of the engines last year for such models as the Chevrolet Malibu and Cobalt sedans.

Whether the plant would retain the engine work even if its vehicle-assembly operations were shut down remains unclear, and a GM manufacturing spokeswoman declined to discuss the possibilities of closing any of the automaker's remaining

facilities.

The Lansing and Spring Hill plants should be safe if operating decisions are made rationally, said David Cole, chairman of the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"Spring Hill is still a relatively new plant and has been refurbished to make it much more flexible than it has ever been," he said. "It's a very good plant, and when the economy recovers, those GM crossover vehicles are going to be very strong."

"It would be a shame for GM not to be able to meet consumer demand because they closed one of the plants. If they walk away from that plant, that would be a very strategic error," Cole said, "but in politics anything is possible."

Information from *The Tennessean*.

“ We're a little nervous about what's going on with the decisions being made about the plants.”

MICHAEL HERRON
CHAIRMAN OF UNITED AUTO WORKERS LOCAL

\$690 million to upgrade the facility in 2007 to prepare to build the new Chevrolet Traverse crossover utility vehicle, which went into production last fall.

Sales of the Traverse have been below expectations, and the Spring Hill plant is

take over Spring Hill's current production.

The Delta Township plant in Lansing, which opened in 2006, makes three other crossover vehicles that are closely related to the Traverse: the GMC Acadia, Buick Enclave and Saturn Outlook.



TUES. APRIL 14TH, 2009 5:30 PM

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ΩΔΨ

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

OPINIONS

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

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Resolution from SGA could mean stacked votes

MTSU's student body will be allowed to vote on a referendum April 21 and 22 that, if passed, will raise the amount of senators in the Student Government Association Senate.

In the past SGA election, 13 senate seats were left vacant because not enough students ran for the Senate.

When Brandon McNary begins his term as SGA president at the end of this semester, those seats will be filled through appointments by the president-elect. If the resolution passes, he will also be allowed to fill those newly added seats, giving him a great amount of power through appointments within the SGA.

Can we say "spoils system," anyone?

Granted, the elected 2009-10 Senate does have to approve his appointments, but it doesn't seem like any members of it would oppose any of the president-elect's appointments.

The SGA should've put this referendum up for a vote before the SGA elections earlier this spring. This way, the student would feel he or she has more of a say in who gets elected to the SGA rather than all the power lying with the president-elect.

Yet even if the SGA had done this, it probably wouldn't have even mattered. Not enough students ran to fill the current senate numbers, let alone a rise in SGA senators.

The way the referendum will be worded for the student body is as follows:

"I support the expansion of the Student Government Association in regards to the addition of Senators."

This wording is general and does not give any of the specifics of the referendum. Does this mean there will be 200 senators? Or maybe even 500 senators?

The resolution the SGA passed gives specifics on the increases, but these specifics are not what is going to be presented to the student body.

The resolution brings light to a larger question concerning the SGA. How effective is our student body representational organization, really?

The logic behind adding more senators when not enough students ran for the Senate this semester is dubious at best. Why do we need these additional representatives, anyway?

But perhaps what should students should be asking is why their President-elect McNary gets to appoint all of these potential positions. It's a lot of power for just one person, even if the Senate has to approve the representatives beforehand.

Maybe this resolution doesn't matter, though. In the big picture, what harm would a few more senators do to passing or failing pertinent, far-reaching legislation?

It's not like having a bloc of voters in the SGA could possibly allow McNary to, in theory, push issues he feels are the most critical for MTSU, right? But looking at the student turn-out in the last election, many people here just don't care about the SGA.

MTSU must adapt to online media

Newspapers are on their deathbeds, at least in hard copy form.

Two of the nation's biggest papers, the *Rocky Mountain News*, which stopped operating in February, and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, which moved to an online-only format last month, are the latest large-circulation publications to fall victim to their parent companies saying, "You're not making me enough money." Don't be surprised when many more newspapers follow suit in the coming months.

The adage "Only old people read the newspaper" may have always been true, but the old people replacing the old people are figuring out they can get a newspaper's content for free online. Thus, circulation totals are declining, thus print advertising - the majority of a paper's revenue in the traditional sense - is traveling 100 mph to nonexistence.

Is there a savior? Well, kind of.

Those newspapers that can weather the storm of transitioning their business models from print to online advertising have a chance of surviving. But



From the Editor
Michael Stone

just having a Web site doesn't say much because, honestly, who doesn't have a Web site these days?

The newspapers that will survive the age of the Internet and 24-hour news channels will be the ones that set the standard for online news sources. To do this, news organizations must have journalists that know not only how to write, but also how to make videos, update social-networking sites, type "markup languages" like HTML and perform various other technological tasks that assist in conveying information in the digital age.

MTSU has realized this need for convergence amongst its media students and is preparing to construct a "media center." The center will put MTTV, WMOT,

WMTS, Scared Rabbit Records, *Collage* and *Sidelines* under one roof.

These six departments are only for those media students who get involved in extracurricular activities, though. So how is the Department of Journalism adjusting to all the changes in the world of newspapers for its students that don't get involved outside of class?

Well, it hasn't really, at least not yet.

The curriculum for journalism majors with a concentration in newspaper/magazine is based around writing and conceptualizing journalism in the traditional sense. The same things goes for those journalism students with a concentration in public relations.

Nothing against the faculty of the department, but journalism students are becoming more marketable than many of their professors because they were raised manipulating screens and have coped easily, generally speaking, with rapid advancements in technol-

ogy. Plus it doesn't hurt that many journalism students will go where ever for work and take whatever salaries they can get.

One possible solution would be for MTSU to follow the University of Tennessee at Knoxville's example and create a School of Journalism and Electronic Media. The mission of this school is "to

nication. It's difficult for me to grasp why students in the College of Mass Communication, except for those in the Department of Recording Industry, cannot minor in something pertaining to mass communication.

Common sense would dictate that a student majoring in a field could further his or her knowledge by minoring

“Common sense would dictate that a student majoring in a field could further his or her knowledge by minoring in something closely related.”

make a meaningful contribution to the changes occurring in the converging world of media and to the preparation of students for careers in that world."

MTSU did take a slight stab at this by offering a computer-assisted reporting class for this semester, but it was cancelled because not enough people signed up for it.

Another solution would be to permit journalism students to minor in a field within the Department of Electronic Media Commu-

nication. It's difficult for me to grasp why students in the College of Mass Communication, except for those in the Department of Recording Industry, cannot minor in something pertaining to mass communication. Common sense would dictate that a student majoring in a field could further his or her knowledge by minoring in something closely related. But, according to advisers in the college, the reasoning behind not allowing journalism and electronic media students to minor in mass communication is because the college wants its students to "broaden their education."

I'm all up for students having a wide range of knowledge. But people come to college to become conversant in a certain field, not to repeat the diverse curriculum that they experienced in high school.

Michael Stone is a senior journalism major and can be reached at sleditor@mtsu.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My name is Wendy Caldwell, and I am a former MTSU student with majors in philosophy and applied mathematics.

Upon hearing of the budget cut proposal, I made several attempts to get an audience with President Sidney McPhee to discuss these cuts and express my opinion.

Phone calls were not returned, and his only response to one of my e-mails was that I should read the report, which I had already done several times.

He has said time and again that he welcomes concerns and suggestions, yet his actions suggest otherwise. After his dismissal of a senior philosophy major's question concerning the department, it has become ever more apparent that this man has no respect for the philosophy department or for the students at MTSU.

He has now made it clear to me that he has no interest in my concerns, and this is unacceptable. He is putting the future of the university in jeopardy, and he needs to be held accountable.

I, and many others like me, want answers, and he is unwilling to give them to us.

Even meeting him briefly after Wednesday's forum had no effect. Perhaps you will have more luck.

Please do not be afraid to ask the hard questions. The university depends on it.

I have no intention of ceasing my efforts. My concerns are valid and they are shared by many. McPhee needs to understand that we will not be easily silenced. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I am willing to do whatever is necessary to help protect higher education in Tennessee.

Wendy Caldwell is an MTSU alumnus from Hendersonville and can be reached at visa717@aim.com.



This letter is in response to "The business of college" in the March 30 issue of the *Sidelines* and specifically James Burton's comment, "Why do you pay more for a diamond than you do for coal? The reason is strictly economics - it's supply and demand. There aren't very many folks who stay in the business and get Ph.D.s in business fields."

Burton's choice of metaphor was unfortunate for several reasons.

First, contrary to popular belief, diamonds are not particularly scarce. While it is true that there is a finite amount of diamonds in the world, the same can be said for any other commodity. However, approximately 100 million carats of gemstone-quality diamonds are produced yearly, or approximately 800 million individual stones.

For over 100 years, De Beers created an artificial scarcity by stockpiling diamonds and manipulating the markets. While its control of the diamond markets is not as absolute as was once the case, De Beers still controls about 40 percent of the market.

Second, the comparison between the scarcity of natural resources, such as diamonds, and intellectual resources, such as Ph.D.s, is suspect. While it is true that scientists and engineers have developed processes to manufacture synthetic diamonds, as a general rule there is a finite amount of any natural resource. However, Ph.D.s, whether in business or any other field, are not natural - they are the product of human work and study. The only absolute limitation on the total number of Ph.D.s is the size of the human population.

Third, Burton's last sentence was very interesting. Why aren't there very many folks who stay in the business and get Ph.D.s in business fields? What is the underlying reason for this scarcity?

We won't presume to have the complete answer to this question, but we do have one answer: the scarcity in business Ph.D.s is due to the recognition, by professional businessmen, that a Ph.D. in business is unnecessary for a successful career. This explanation ties in neatly with Burton's observation about supply and demand - if there

is no demand for a degree, there will be fewer suppliers of the degree.

We can't speak for the other science fields, but we do know something about chemistry and the demand for chemistry degrees.

In 2007, there were 12,888 B.S., 2,042 M.S. and 2,462 Ph.D. degrees awarded in chemistry in the United States.

Generally, the trend is upward for all of these degrees over the last 20 years. The unemployment rate for chemists at all levels is about 2.3 percent.

Finally, we hope that Burton will take the time to more fully respond to the question of salary disparity between the business college and the other colleges.

In these troubled economic times and with the future of our university at stake, we don't think that reliance upon flawed metaphors is particularly useful in positioning our university for the future.

Terrence Lee, Paul Kline and Tammy Melton are chemistry professors, and can be reached at tlee@mtsu.edu, pkline@mtsu.edu and tmelton@mtsu.edu, respectively.

COMICS

"And Friends" frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF "URINETOWN?"

online TELL US ONLINE AT MTSUSIDELINES.COM

FEATURES



ARE PRESIDENT SIDNEY MCPHEE'S FORUMS ADDRESSING YOUR BUDGET CONCERNS? BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Charity race 'goes to the dogs'

Pets and their owners attend See Spot Run 5K to benefit Habitat for Humanity

By KATY COIL
Features Editor

I am awake a lot earlier than normal on a Sunday morning. But Dash is very much awake and ready to run, eagerly looking out the car window at the scenes passing by.

When we get out of the car, he follows the other dogs, owners and runners heading out to the front of Peck Hall for registration. While I get my tag and packets, he is sniffing the other dogs around him, touching noses and making new friends.

Every breed, from the smallest Chihuahua to the biggest Great Dane, is wandering around Walnut Grove with their owners. Professional runners are beginning their stretches while those who are just here for fun, like Dash and I, sit around in the grass and peruse the stalls set up for dog treats and coffee. The local community is here in full force, from the Murfreesboro Pacers running team, to faculty and students with their canine companions.

Racing for Humanity

Yesterday marked the fourth Annual See Spot Run 5K, a race for owners and dogs that benefits MTSU's chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Owners pay a \$20 registration fee online or a \$25 registration fee the day of the race.

"We team up with the Habitat of Rutherford County," says Olivia Barker, a graduate assistant for the Department of Leadership and Service. "They help us figure out how much we have to raise to build a house in Murfreesboro. It costs about \$4,000 to build a house.

"We put in all the labor. Students, faculty, staff and Murfreesboro residents put the house together."

The event was created by three MTSU staff members: Amanda Samsel, coordinator for Judicial Affairs, Jackie Victory, director of the Department of Leadership and Service, and Laura Sosh-Lightsy, assistant dean for Judicial Affairs. Sosh-Lightsy got the idea from a university she had previously worked at.

"Laura worked at Texas A&M," Barker explains. "They did a similar walk there, and they decided to do the same thing here for Habitat. Everyone thought it would be a great idea."

The fourth annual race was



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Participants in the See Spot Run 5k jog with their dogs on campus yesterday to raise money for Habitat for Humanity.

the largest so far, Barker says. "We had over 215 preregister, which is our largest ever preregistration," Barker says. "Each year it keeps getting bigger and bigger."

Making new friends

Before the race, there is tons of anticipation in the air. The dogs are getting to know each other, some of them with their "See Spot Run" bandanas tied around their necks.

Dash has already made tons of new friends and runs around excitedly as we sit on the grass. We are waiting for the announcement telling us where to go. While we wait for the race, we get to know several of the dogs and owners around us.

Local resident Jessica Stock has come to the event with her soft-coated Wheaten terrier Bheaten. "I had him here with student nurses being active in the community," she says. Debra says Barkley is very energetic and ready to run. "He just likes to move," Debra laughs. "He's going to look forward to walking."

"I've been wanting to do it for years, and it happened to be convenient," she says. "I wanted to do it mostly because I get to do it with my dog."

Jessica says she knew about the event because of advertisements around town and plans to do the race again if she is still in Murfreesboro next year. For Beckett, the event is an opportunity to

meet new friends. "Sometimes I wonder if he [Beckett] recognizes other dogs, even when I don't," Jessica laughs.

Debra Wilson, an associate nursing professor, has come to the event with her 5-year-old Tibetan terrier Barkley.

"Tibetan terriers were almost wiped out by the Chinese when they invaded Tibet," Debra explains. "They killed the dogs along with the monks. Luckily, they managed to smuggle some of the dogs out to England."

"There are only 10 to 15 breeders for them in the U.S."

Debra and Barkley have come to the event to help promote MTSU's School of Nursing.

"I had him here with student nurses being active in the community," she says.

Debra says Barkley is very energetic and ready to run. "He just likes to move," Debra laughs. "He's going to look forward to walking."

Get Ready, Get Set, Go

Dash and I follow the other participants to the road between Kirksey Old Main and Peck Hall, where the race is due to begin. Runners are in front, dog walkers in the center, and walkers without dogs at the end. The dogs bark and walk around in anticipation. Many of them have never been in a group of dogs this

large before.

When the race starts, everyone takes off. Dash is keeping a good pace but has to stop early to do his business. When he is finished, we have to find a place to take care of his baggie. He picks up the pace quickly enough, though we are far from being at the front of the race.

I am content being somewhere in the middle of things, but Dash is dragging me along. The walk is a 5K, putting it close to three miles long. Dash has never walked this far in one trip. He is a medium-sized, long-haired Dachshund-Cairn terrier mix, though he is running much more speedily than some of the dogs twice his size. I am worried about him being able to make it all the way without getting tired.

He doesn't slow down, however. We reach the one-mile mark, and he is still eagerly running, his tongue out and his tail wagging. We stop for water, and I get a cup. But Dash doesn't seem to need any. He wants to keep up the pace, following the other dogs through the roundabout and up past the agriculture buildings.

Both of us seem to catch our second wind as we reach Floyd Stadium. There is a cool breeze blowing at our backs, and soon we can see the end of the race ahead. The 5K is over sooner than I had realized, and our time is at 39

minutes and 20 seconds. Not bad for two first-time walkers.

With the race over, we both get water — a bottle for me and a bowl for Dash. He drinks it up quickly and though he is panting, he doesn't seem tired. He still walks around energetically, excitedly watching the other dogs finish the race. I am more short-winded, and after a brief rest, Dash and I head to the other side of Peck Hall to wait for the winners of the race to be announced. We both get treats as well: bagel slices for me and dog bones for Dash.

Doing Their Part

For me, this race is more than just having a fun outing with my dog. My family rescued Dash from the Happy Tails rescue mission in September 2006 when he was 1-and-a-half years old. They told us Dash was their favorite dog and had been thusly named because of his fast-paced nature.

The first time he rushed across our backyard, we knew the name Dash was going to stick.

I find something heartwarming about thinking that we have given Dash a home, and now he has helped give a home to someone else who did not have one.

Dash is also not the only rescue dog who ran the race. John Kaehler has come

with his Jack Russell mix, Biscuit, who he has owned for two years.

"He was a stray in our neighborhood," John says. "We were the only ones with a fenced yard, so we ended up with him."

Biscuit is John's training partner for many of the 5K races he runs.

"I thought it would be fun if he could run with me," John says. "I thought he'd be more misbehaved, but he was pretty low key. He kept his head straight down and ran."

Biscuit and John have had fun and plan to do the event again.

"It was a lot of fun," John says. "We'll probably bring more dogs next time. This is the most dogs he's [Biscuit's] ever interacted with before."

Neena Ray, a junior child development and family studies major, has come to See Spot Run with Punkie, her Golden Retriever-Labrador mix. Neena runs cross-country and actually found Punkie while running.

"She was on the side of the interstate," Neena explains. "Someone had dumped her. She ran across the street to me and that's how I found her."

Neena and Punkie also enjoy running together, which is one of the reasons they have participated in the event.

"We always run together," Neena says. "It's something fun to get her out to do. She really likes to run."

"I mostly do 5Ks and they don't let you have your dog. It's nice to have your dog along."

Punkie's favorite part of the race was the end.

"She loved getting the water at the end of the race," Neena says.

The Finish Line

Dash and I hear the winners being announced and then head home. Dash is still pretty peppy, though his pace has slowed since the end of the race. He has tons of new treats for when he gets home, given to us by the veterinary clinic booth.

I have gift certificates for coffee and a new shirt. I am relaxed and recovered

by the time we arrive home around 10 a.m., but Dash is getting more and more tired. It isn't long before he is curled up asleep on his pillow from all of the excitement and energy he has spent. Still, I know it won't be long before he is up and ready to race again.

CALENDAR

movies, music, nightlife and more

MUSIC

April 6

Dan Fester - Blue Rooster - 8 p.m.

Robyn Hitchcock and the Venus 3 - Exit/In - 9:45 p.m. - \$15 advance, \$17 day of

April 7

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

Rock the Block w/ the Lesser Light and Zach Spence - Exit/In - 8 p.m.

Couchfire w/ Junky - ad Road - The End - 9 p.m.

April 8

MicQeyQoolaid - Club 527 - 9 p.m. - \$5

Bobby Scott - Graffiti Club - 10 p.m.

Jimmie's Chicken Shack w/ Sound and Shape, Flight Case for Sushi, and Derek Stroker - Exit/In - 8:00 p.m. - \$10

advance, \$12 day of

April 9

Cowboy Mouth, Mike Anderson and the Deputies with Vett - Club 527 - \$12 advance

Bueller - Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

Brian Jonestown Masacre w/ the Flavor Crystals - Exit/In - 8:00 p.m. - \$16

Appleseed Cast - The End - 9 p.m.

April 10

Jump Back Jakes -

the Boro - 8 p.m.

The Screamin' Bowevils - Wall Street - 9 p.m.

Vanilla Ice w/ DJ Cliffy D - Club 527 - 9 p.m.

Lipstick Blonde - The Blue Rooster - 9:00

Knight Hawk - Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

Doug Stanhope w/ The Mattoid & Chad Riden - Exit/In - 8:00 - \$20

Eastern Block - The End - 9:00

April 11

Corleone with Duperocho - Club 527 - 9:45 - 18+ \$9, 21+ \$7

Chain Reaction (Journey Tribute Band) - Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

Pluto's Revenge - Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

Stoney La Rue w/ the Dirt Drifters - 8:00 - \$12

April 12

Nine Foot Clearance, Deep Machine, and Insurrect - Club 527 - 8 p.m. - \$7, \$4 w/ ID

PacAKracRs - Graffiti Bar - 9 p.m.

OTHER

April 6

Karaoke - The Blue Rooster

Joker's Poker - The Graffiti Bar - 7 p.m.

April 7

Kappa Alpha Order Party/Karaoke - Graffiti Bar - 7 p.m.

April 9

Trivia Night - Blue Rooster - 7p.m.

Kappa Alpha Order Party - Graffiti Bar - 8 p.m.

SPORTS

MT baseball hits roadblock, swept by ULL

Blue Raiders lose 11-game Sun Belt Conference winning streak, first series of the 2009 season

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

MT baseball saw its 11-game, Sun Belt Conference winning streak end and a three-game losing streak begin as the Blue Raiders dropped the series against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette this weekend.

The Blue Raiders (21-7, 11-4 SBC) couldn't keep up with the Ragin' Cajuns (15-12-1, 8-6 SBC) as they outscored MT 29-14 over a three-game set in Louisiana. The Blue Raiders defense never settled, losing 5-2, 10-5 and 14-7 as MT dropped its first conference series of the season.

With the losses, the Blue Raiders fall to second place in the SBC, two games behind Western Kentucky University.

The Blue Raiders dropped a two-run lead to a late-inning ULL comeback in game one's 5-2 loss.

On the mound, sophomore Bryce Brentz (3-1) received his first loss of the season, allowing three runs on four hits in 6.2 innings of work. Brentz also struck out five and walked three in the contest.

The sophomore had a no hitter through the sixth in-

ning until the Ragin' Cajuns offense awoke and scored three runs on a bases-loaded double to take a 3-2 lead.

At the plate, MT was led by junior right-fielder Stuart Meinhart who went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a home run. Senior center-fielder Nathan Hines also added two hits, including a double, in the loss.

Both teams compiled eight hits in the game, but the Blue Raiders were unable to bring home their base runners, as they stranded six.

MT fell 10-5 in game two as the Ragin' Cajuns outhit the Blue Raiders 16 to eight in the contest.

Junior pitcher Kenneth Roberts (3-1) took the loss after allowing six runs on seven hits in 4.1 innings of work. Roberts struck out three while walking two for the game.

Brentz and senior third baseman Rowley Bishop anchored the Blue Raider offense going a combined 5-for-9 in the game. Bishop added an RBI and a run scored to help the Blue Raider, cause.

ULL scored early and often in the game, scoring three runs in both the second and eighth innings. Six Ragin'

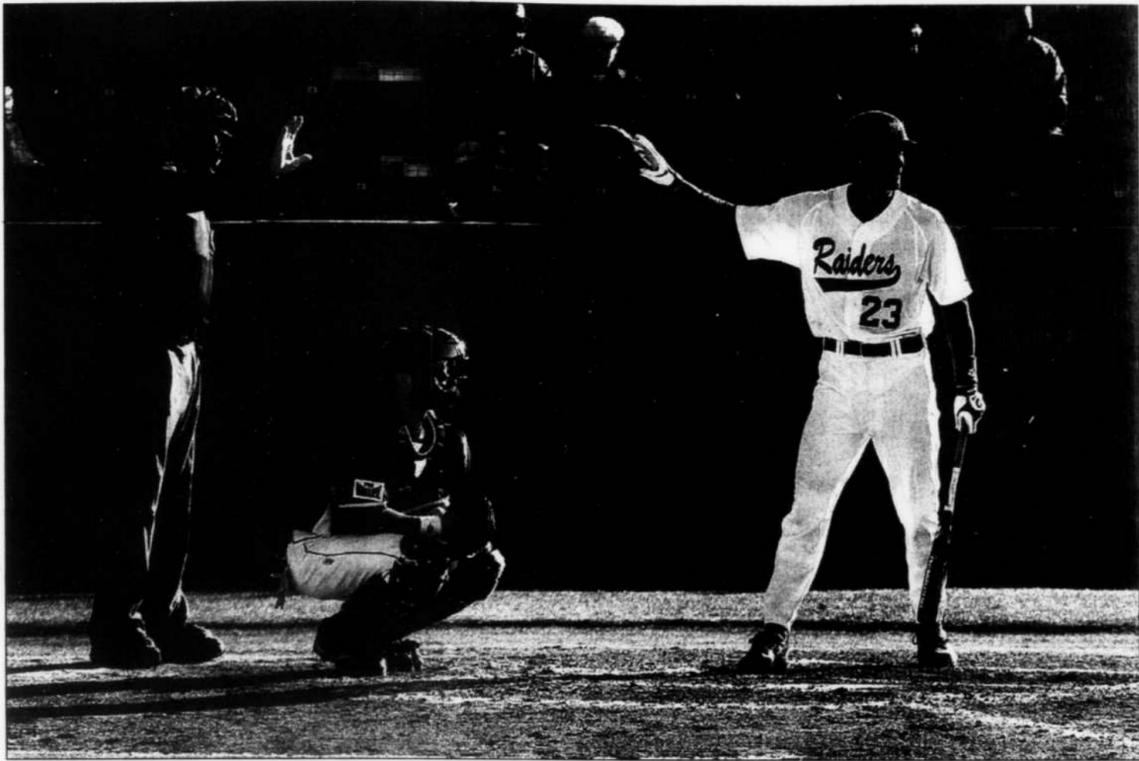


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Junior catcher Drew Robertson signals for time to the umpire. The Blue Raiders have fallen to second place in the Sun Belt over the weekend.

Cajuns recorded an RBI as ULL's offense proved dangerous from top to bottom. Greg Fontenot and Les Smith each went 3-for-4 for ULL.

The Ragin' Cajuns completed the sweep Sunday with a 14-4 victory over the

Blue Raiders.

MT continued to struggle against ULL's offense as the Blue Raiders were outhit for the second game in a row, 14-7. The Ragin' Cajuns crippled MT with a nine run fifth inning to seal the game and the

series sweep.

Hines led the Blue Raider offense going 2-for-4 with three RBIs in the contest.

Sophomore Jud Stoltz received the start, allowing four runs on six hits in four innings of work. Freshman

Justin Guidry took the loss, giving up four runs on four hits in a limited relief appearance.

The Blue Raiders will return home for a single-game series against Vanderbilt Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Softball proves clutch with huge SBC series victory

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raider softball team put its seven-game losing streak behind them by winning two out of three games in a crucial Sun Belt Conference series this weekend.

In the three-game home series, MT (8-25, 3-12 SBC) defeated the University of North Texas in Saturday's doubleheader, 1-0 and 3-2 before falling 3-1 in Sunday's finale.

Desperately needing a win, the Blue Raiders turned to junior pitcher Lindsey Vander Lugt (6-12), who delivered one of her best games in an MT uniform. The lefty from Olympia, Wash., threw

a complete-game shutout holding off the Mean Green offense to give the Blue Raiders a 1-0 victory.

In seven innings of work, Vander Lugt set a personal best in strikeouts by fanning 11 North Texas batters. Vander Lugt only allowed one hit and just two walks in the contest.

The Mean Green's Ashley Lail (8-7) took the complete game loss, allowing one run on seven hits with one strike-out.

On offense, the Blue Raiders were led by freshman right-fielder Shelby Barrett's perfect game from the plate as she went 3-for-3 with one RBI. Sophomore center-fielder Kelsey Dortch went

1-for-3 from the leadoff spot and scored the game's only run.

The Blue Raider defense dominated the early portion of the game as Vander Lugt struck out the side in the top of the second.

In the bottom of the third, MT got on the board as Dortch doubled to right field to start the inning. Dortch advanced to third on junior left fielder Caitlin Mclure's sacrifice bunt.

Two batters later, Barrett stepped to the plate and delivered an RBI-single to drive in Dortch for the game-winning run.

Barrett continued to rake from the plate in game two of the doubleheader as she went 2-for-2 with two walks and two RBIs, leading the Blue Raiders to a 3-2 victory.

Vander Lugt got the start and pitched her second complete game of the day. The junior pitched seven innings and allowed two unearned runs on four hits with eight strikeouts and no walks.

MT got out to an early lead in the contest by scoring a run in the bottom of the first. Dortch walked to start the game and advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt followed by a one-out single. Barrett continued her hot streak with an RBI single to take a 1-0 Blue Raider lead.

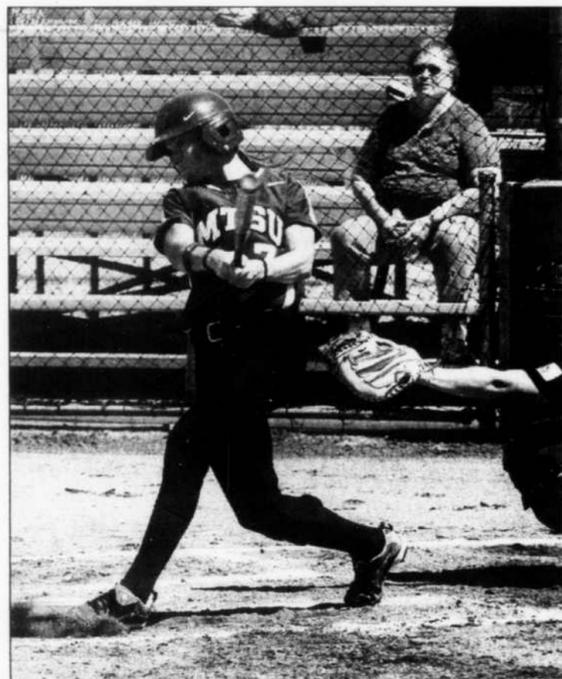


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Sophomore center fielder Kelsey Dortch takes a swing against North Texas. Dortch scored the game-winning run in the series opener.

In the fourth, the Blue Raiders had a prime opportunity to score with the bases loaded and no outs, but they were unable to capitalize after three fly outs.

North Texas took advantage in the top of the fifth with a two-RBI triple to give the Mean Green a 2-1 lead.

The Blue Raiders failed to put anything together until they were down to their final

out of the game. Mclure got on base by beating out a routine grounder to first before stealing second base.

Barrett continued her clutch hitting with an RBI-single to tie the game at 2-2. Freshman first baseman Kaycee Popham ended the game 3-2 with a walk-off RBI hit to left field. The clutch hit taken a series victory for the Blue Raiders.

On Sunday, MT dropped the series finale against North Texas, 3-1.

Vander Lugt received the start once again for the Blue Raiders, but she could not perform as well as her first two outings in the series. Vander Lugt allowed three runs on five hits in seven innings. She struck out six batters to raise her weekend total to 25.

North Texas' Ashley Lail pitched a complete game against the Blue Raiders and gave up just five hits while striking out five.

Dortch continued performing well from the leadoff spot as she hammered a home run in the first inning to give MT a 1-0 lead. The Blue Raiders loaded the bases later in the inning but were unable to capitalize as Lail escaped the inning with two strikeouts.

North Texas scored all its runs in the fifth inning by loading the bases on two MT errors. The Mean Green put three runs on the board with two RBI singles and a bases loaded walk.

MT couldn't create a comeback going into the final innings as the Blue Raiders fell 3-1 to lose its hope of a series sweep.

The Blue Raiders will return to SBC action at Florida International University Friday at 4 p.m.



SOFTBALL Top Performers



P Lindsey Vander Lugt #21 Jr.
2-1 record in series
25 strikeouts



OF Shelby Barrett #3 Fr.
3 RBIs
2 walks
2 runs scored

Four records fall as MT track continues outdoor season

Men, women's track, field teams combine for eight NCAA regional qualifying marks at Auburn

By ZACH REVES
Assistant Sports Editor

The scenery may have changed, but the results are still the same.

On Saturday, the Blue Raiders participated in the second event of its outdoor season and compiled eight regional qualifying times along with breaking four school records at the Tiger Track Classic.

After being rained out in Georgia Tech's Yellow Jacket

Invitational last week, this weekend's Auburn-hosted event sported clear skies and tough Southeast competition.

"Overall, it was a good day for us with the weather cooperating," head coach Dean Hayes said. "We went into this meet to focus on the individual events, and we did really well."

MT was represented well as the Blue Raiders scored five first-place finishes in individual events over the weekend.

The women's team was led by junior Brittany Cox who earned two NCAA regional meet qualifiers while breaking two MT school records. Cox set the school mark for the shot put with a toss of 15.89 meters, which also won the event and qualified her for the regionals. She also earned a regional-qualifying mark in the discus throw with a 51.94-meter toss that placed fourth.

Cox broke a second school record in the hammer throw

with a 51.94-meter toss that earned a fourth place finish at the meet.

On the track, junior Zamzam Sangau earned two regional qualifiers in both the 800- and 1500-meter dashes. She set school records in both events with the times of 2 minutes, 9.17 seconds in the 800 and 4:27.11 in the 1500.

Junior Sarah Nambawa continued MT's winning streak by taking first in the triple jump with a

13.29-meter leap, which qualifies her for the regional meet.

Nambawa also placed third in the long jump just behind sophomore Kortney Thurman who took second with a 6.03-meter leap. Thurman's mark qualified her for the NCAA regionals.

The men's team added two additional qualifying times in its events this weekend.

Sophomore Festus Chemaoui took first place in the 1500 with a qualifying time

of 3:46.28. Chemaoui also finished second in the 800 with a time of 1:51.69.

Senior Carl Morgan rounded out the MT regional qualifying field with a 7.47-meter long jump, which was good enough for first place in Auburn.

The Blue Raider outdoor season will continue next weekend by splitting its weeks among the Sea-Ray Relays in Knoxville and the Boston-Moon Invitational in Nashville.

Men's tennis excell in Sun Belt Shootout

MT hosts event, brings wins to Middle Tennessee as team takes championship title

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The No. 56 Middle Tennessee men's tennis team triumphed over the competition this weekend as it hosted the Sun Belt Shootout at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

The weekend got off to a victorious start with the 4-0 win over Sun Belt Conference rival Western Kentucky University on Friday afternoon.

The No. 29 doubles team of senior Robert McKenzie and sophomore John Peers came together again to defeat WKU's Thomas Krug and

Andy True 8-2.

Senior Morgan Richard and junior Victor Melo followed suit, besting Curie Martin and Priyan Gangadharan 8-2.

In singles play, McKenzie put MT up by another match, taking the 6-1, 6-0 win over True.

Richard defeated Martin 6-0, 6-3. Then Melo sealed the match for the Blue Raiders with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Gangadharan.

Later that evening, the Blue Raiders took on UL-Lafayette and came out on the winning side of a 4-1 decision.

Peers and Melo paired up for this doubles bout, taking on ULL's Piotr Banas and Piotr Olechowski 8-1. McKenzie and Richard followed, defeating Neil Schneider and Javie Pulgar-Garcia 8-1.

"We had a few times where it could have gone either way and we pulled it out," head coach David McNamara said. "It shows that we are maturing and getting ready for the conference tournament and postseason play."

Melo retired his match to Olechowski 2-2, followed by Peers besting Pulgar-Garcia to give MT the lead again. Richard's 2-6, 6-1, 6-0 defeat of ULL's Schneider put MT ahead 3-1.

McKenzie won his three-set bout 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 over Banas to give MT the second win of the tournament.

"Their ability to stay focused during the tough moments was effectively what won us the match and the title," McNamara said. "The guys have proven their ability."

"If they are prepared to continue to work hard over the next two weeks and do everything necessary to prepare themselves, we will have a fantastic opportunity at the conference tournament."

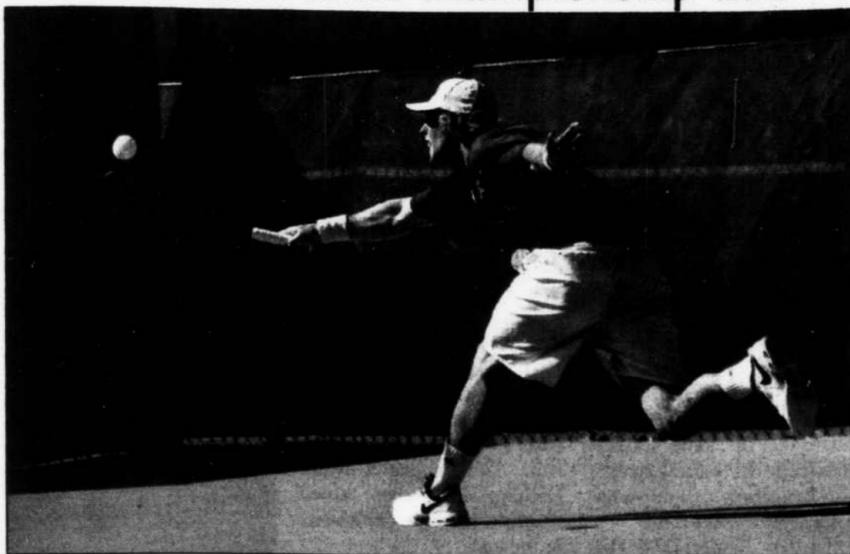


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Robert McKenzie dives for the return against UL-Lafayette at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center Saturday.

The Blue Raiders' win was enough to advance them to the championship match of the Shootout, where they took on the University of South Alabama for a 4-1 victory on Saturday.

Peers teamed up with freshman Matthew Langley for the 8-2 win over Romain Bocaert and Hanno Bartsch.

McKenzie and Richard then took on Leo Dominguez and Daw Druger for an 8-5 win.

Peers took MT up by two in singles play with his 6-1, 6-1 win over Marek Sramek. McKenzie followed with his defeat of USA's Bocaert, putting the Blue Raiders within one point of clinching the match.

Sophomore Kyle Wishing fell to Bartsch 6-4, 6-1 in the fifth singles match, but Langley finished the match with his 6-4, 6-0 win over USA's Aaron Krisan.

"It was a first class performance today and with a well-

deserved result," McNamara said. "We started the final one player down against a team that had put together two very strong wins."

"The odds were against us, but the guys have made huge progress in recent matches in dealing with the adversity tennis at this level brings."

The Blue Raiders will next take on the Belmont Bruins on Saturday. The match starts at 9 a.m. at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Matthew Langley returns a serve at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center on Saturday.

Women's soccer spring season suffering

Blue Raiders fight, fall in final minutes of spring training game against Murray State Saturday

By SARAH FRYAR
Contributing Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's soccer team played host to the Lady Racers of Murray State Saturday afternoon.

After two hard-fought halves, the Lady Racers came out on top 1-0.

The match was a defensive stand-out, as the only goal for

BOX SCORES

Middle Tenn.: 0

Murray State: 1

the match came with four

minutes in the second half.

Murray State's sophomore forward Rachel Wright advanced through MT junior and Blue Raider goalkeeper junior Erynn Murray.

"It was good getting back to playing and it certainly shows we haven't been playing for a while," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "We had many opportunities to score

and missed them and ended up losing the game to a one point difference.

"But it's a work in progress. We are a young team. We only have two seniors on the field so we are still trying to sort through a lot of different things."

MT will continue their spring schedule next weekend when they travel to SEC-opponent Vanderbilt, and welcomes Evansville to Blue Raider Field next Wednesday.

"We are excited to get back on the field for these matches,"

Rhoden said. "The team has been practicing very well and we are eager to test ourselves against quality competition."

"This is another step in the development of our players in preparation for a successful fall campaign."

Women's tennis falls prey to superior Thundering Herd

No. 64 ranked Marshall tennis too much for MT

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team could not hold its own against the No. 64 Marshall Thundering Herd on Saturday.

The Blue Raiders began the doubles match with junior Anna Djananova and Marlene Chemin falling to Marshall's Kellie Schmitt and Karolina Soor 8-3.

The winning pair of freshman Taylor Coffey and junior Natalie Araya came out victorious in their match, taking on Deanna Bailey and Jessica Keener for an 8-5 decision.

The Coffey/Araya team gave MT the only doubles win of the day, as freshmen Marietta Bigus and Alex Dachos lost their match 8-5.

"Overall, I thought we

played well," head coach Alison Ojeda said. "We have been working on a few things in doubles and it is working."

"Natalie and Taylor played very well, and we had chances in the other two doubles

“ [The team all] had good chances today where it could have gone either way. This match will give us confidence going into our match with UAB next week.”

ALISON OJEDA
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE WOMEN'S TENNIS

matches." Marshall continued to maintain control throughout singles play, as Andrea Herrera and Bigus both fell to their

opponents 6-4, 6-0 and 6-2, 6-1, respectively.

Araya would take the only win for the Blue Raiders, defeating Marshall's Jessica Kenner 6-4, 4-6, 10-8.

"Natalie played really well today in her match," Ojeda

said. "Taylor and Andrea both had good chances today where it could have gone either way."

"This match will give us confidence going into our match with UAB next week."

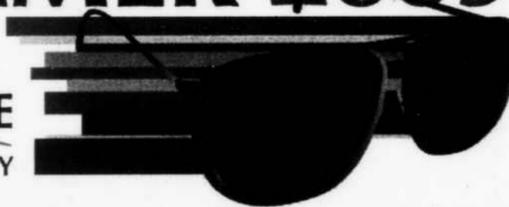
Coffey lost her match to Soor 3-6, 6-4, 10-7, but forced a tiebreaker. Djananova fell to Catherine Kellner 6-1, 7-5.

Dachos also lost her match 6-2, 6-3.

The Blue Raiders will play host to two teams next week, as they take on UAB Friday and Memphis Saturday. Both matches will start at noon in the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

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TENNIS
Top Performers



Natalie Araya - Jr. (Tr.)
vs. MAR - 6-4, 4-6, 10-8

Taylor Coffey - Fr. (HS)
(in doubles with Araya)
vs. MAR - 8-5