



Middle Tennessee State University

Student choreography debuts at concert

By Ashley Burk
Staff Writer

MTSU's dance program will present their annual Spring Concert this weekend, April 20 to 22, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Tucker Theatre.

The show, which runs approximately 90 minutes, will feature a medley of different dance pieces, ranging from ballet and jazz to hip-hop. More than 25 members of the dance program will perform.

The highlight of the concert will be a hip-hop performance choreographed by Teena Custer, said Artistic Director Neal Nofsinger. Custer is a specialist in hip-hop and was the

dance program's most recent minority guest artist. While at MTSU, Custer taught master classes on the heritage and cultural context of the hip-hop movement.

She also choreographed "Hold That Thought," which will be performed by members of the dance theatre program at the Spring Concert.

"I had a fantastic time with the MTSU students," Custer said. "They are extremely disciplined, hardworking and friendly. I haven't done much work in the South, so I got to experience true Southern hospitality. The students were very thoughtful."

"Hold That Thought" blends contemporary concert dance with hip-

hop and is very intense, Custer said. Students had to rehearse every night for several hours to train for the piece due to Custer's short stay at MTSU. Custer said the dance is "very fast and rhythmic and uses elements of popular dance styles from our social culture."

The minority guest program was developed as a means of studying the gifts of minority cultures to the dance world. The program, as well as an expansion of the dance faculty, was implemented this semester.

The Spring Concert will also include the premiere of a quartet that examines feminine identity, put together by new faculty member

Marsha Tardy.

"We are excited to have Marsha Tardy join our dance faculty," Nofsinger said. "With her addition, our program will be able to offer an even broader perspective into the art of dance."

Undergraduate students within the dance program will also play an important part in the choreography of the show. This year's concert presents dances choreographed by two students, Brandon Morrison and Leah Jacques.

"[The students' works] clearly demonstrate the emerging creative activity and research being developed by students," Nofsinger said.

Along with Nofsinger, faculty members Nancy Ammerman and Elaine Husted provided additional choreography for the Spring Concert.

"With such an assortment of pieces, there is bound to be something for everyone," Nofsinger said.

Tickets for the annual Spring Dance Concert, which are now available, are available at the door, in advance by calling 615-494-8810 or by visiting the CenterStage Ticket Office located on the first floor of the Boutwell Dramatic Arts building. Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$6 for MTSU employees and senior citizens and free for MTSU students with a valid ID.

By Matt Orenstein
Staff Writer

Taking the path well traveled can lead to campus improvement.

According to Assistant Vice President of Campus Planning Patti Miller, the historic way of deciding where new sidewalks are constructed is up to students.

"People will take the easiest route from a to b," Miller said.

The university will then put a sidewalk over heavily-trafficked areas, she said.

The most recent student sidewalk was built going diagonally from the Learning Resource Center to the James E. Walker Library.

"Many, many campuses develop their pedestrian sidewalks in this way," Miller said. "Many sidewalks are created by students taking the quickest path from a to b."

However, they "wouldn't just rely on that for how sidewalks go," she added.

Expansion of the campus to the east has required the construction of more sidewalks, Miller said.

"We are trying to get good, wide, sturdy sidewalks east to west," Miller said.

"We are working very hard to try and look at the width of sidewalks."

Another concern is with drainage on sidewalks. But Facility Services is still "looking at drainage issues," Miller said.

Much of the sidewalk construction occurs during the summer.

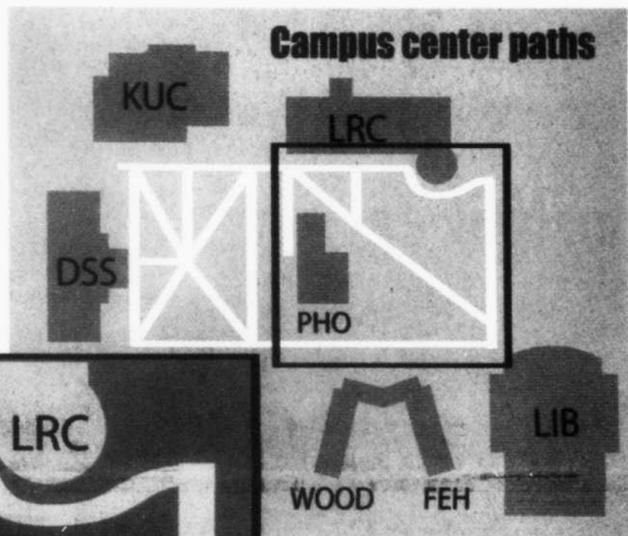
"You try and do sidewalks when there is less congestion," Miller said.

If students have a problem with a sidewalk, they can contact Facility Services to make a complaint. They can also go through the Student Government Association.

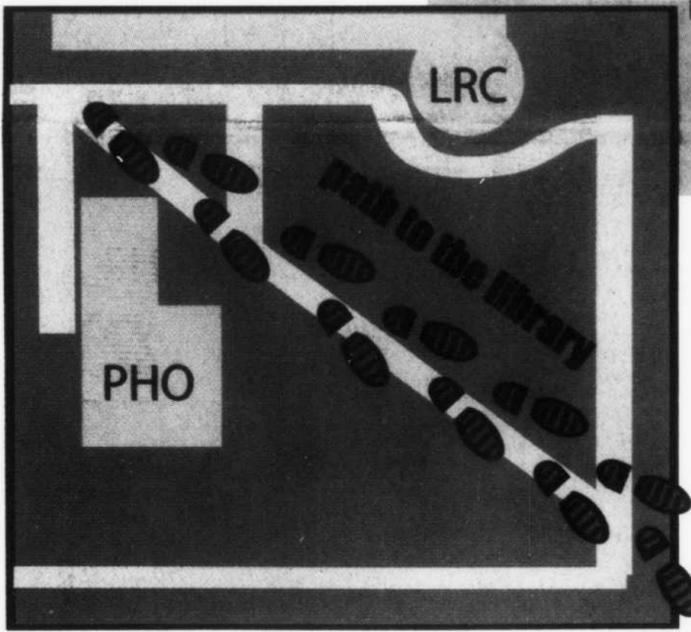
Students who would like to see a sidewalk constructed also would need to go through the SGA.

"Certainly if there was need (for a sidewalk), the SGA has put forward proposals," Miller said.

Students vote with their feet



Graphic by Jeremy Wyatt



"Legislation passed a year and a half ago to create a sidewalk from the LRC to the library," said SGA Senator Megan Flippin. Without this piece of legislation it would have taken much longer to have a sidewalk constructed between the two buildings.

"Cost can run anywhere from \$6-8 a square foot depending on the site conditions and the specifications of the walk," Miller said. The cost includes installation and labor.

Facility Services is in the middle of bringing the sidewalks and entrances of buildings up to Americans with Disability Act standards.

Wheelchair user Lindsey Painter, a sophomore Early Childhood Education major, the sidewalks "could be better."

"There's always room for improvement," Painter

See Sidewalk, 2

Biology honor society tries hand at creative fundraising

By Dan Potter
Contributing Writer

The MTSU chapter of Tri-Beta, a national biology honor society, hosted an art show and silent auction as a fundraiser last Thursday afternoon in the Keathley University Center.

"We've got some real hidden talent rolling around in the science department," said Amy Mauritson, a senior in biology helping with the event. "I am very impressed with some of the stuff."

The art show, called Corpus Callosum, is named for the brain faculty that unites the logical side of the brain with its creative counterpart.

"It's like, 'Hey, look! We have both,'" Mauritson said.

The event, which included oil and watercolor paintings, photography, pottery and poetry, raised funds for Tri-Beta's seminar speaker series, which brings in experts from various fields to guest-lecture MTSU students.

"We're hoping to make it an annual event," Mauritson said.

"We want to get enough to keep the seminar series going," she said. "We won't be able to do it anymore if we don't raise some money."

Students in the biology department provided the

artwork. Mauritson enlisted student contributions via flyers, personal connections and what she described as "some sort of buzz."

Nicole Welch, assistant professor of biology and faculty sponsor of the event, helped out by approaching faculty members to donate items to put on the silent auction block.

Tri-Beta's goal in hosting the fundraiser was "to not be as reliant on the biology department and student fees committees," Welch said.

The seminar series requires roughly \$2,500 a year because it pays for speakers working on their master's or Ph.D. at other universities to travel, she said.

"I think it's a good thing to keep up," said Ben Smith, a senior in biology who contributed several oil paintings of orchids to the exhibition. "It opens your eyes to different aspects of biology."

Tri-Beta also hopes to raise enough money to provide research grants to students in the future.

In addition to donations accepted at the door and the silent auction, a cowboy fringed and a "kick me" sign was displayed above a table where pictures of biology faculty members were taped to glass beakers. Whichever member accumulated the greatest donation dictated which faculty member had to wear the coat, Mauritson said.



Photo submitted

Artwork at the Tri-Beta Honor Society included paintings, photography, pottery and poetry.

Mauritson expected biology faculty contributing to colleagues would be the event's "biggest money maker." As of press time, department chair George Murphy was in the lead.

In addition to the artwork displayed, live music was provided, courtesy of biology professors Frank Bailey and Matt Elrod-Erickson, who played banjo and mandolin respectively.

LOCAL FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hi: 76° Lo: 57° PRECIP: 80%	Hi: 77° Lo: 53° PRECIP: 20%	Hi: 78° Lo: 57° PRECIP: 10%

CAMPUS

Special Olympics

Special Olympics brought over 200 athletes together for competition Feb 10 at Floyd Stadium, which was the largest group ever in the 20-year history of the event, said John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services.

FEATURES

Little yellow presents

Nearly every student has experienced it — returning from class to find an expensive little present inside that yellow package. Nearly every student has experienced the wrath of "the ticket Nazi."

SPORTS

Women's Golf

MT's Taryn Durham won the SBC title by defeating Denver's Katie Kempler in the second playoff hole on Wednesday at the PGA Village in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

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Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the Fall and Spring, and Wednesday during June and July.

NEWS

Check out this weeks top stories, student opinion interviews and all your favorite Blue Raider Sports on the Sidelines Podcast.



Psychology textbook updated

By Josh Daughtery
Contributing Writer

The Psychology Department is pilot testing a new general psychology textbook, created by university faculty, to reduce book costs for its students and to create a better product.

Associate Professor of Psychology Teresa Davis says the department took a previous textbook and edited it to fit the department.

"Students aren't buying something that contains a lot of information they won't use,"

Department Chair Dennis Papini said.

Papini said the information left out is not irrelevant; it just won't be used in the course.

"The goal isn't to cover everything under the sun its to cover things at the core of our discipline," he said.

The book the psychology department edited was Essentials of Psychology by Douglas A. Bernstein and Peggy W. Nash. This book sells for \$81.96 on Amazon.com.

The experimental textbook was created with a student's budget in mind. Associate Professor of

Psychology Teresa Davis said the department wanted "a better product at a better price."

The Phillips bookstore price for the psychology department generated text is \$49.15.

Davis said the book was made less expensive by using a soft cover and hole punch format instead of the traditional hard binder.

The MTSU special edition textbook will have some features that the original text does not. Davis said handouts are in the back of the book as well as a listing of the psychology department faculty with their contact information in the beginning of the book.

Davis said the department wanted the students in their General Psychology courses to benefit from the text. She said the royalties paid to the department go toward improving the General Psychology course. No royalties are paid to the writers, she said.

Department Chair Papini said students who used the textbook this semester will be administered questionnaires so the department can get feedback. The textbook has been approved for a trial three-year period, after which, there will be a revision or a change in text.

Scholarship fund offered for design majors

By Jill Gill
Contributing Writer

Michelle Chambers, a senior Apparel Design major, received the first scholarship awarded under the Harriet Estes Memorial Scholarship Fund in January, to be used for the 2006-2007 academic year.

This scholarship hits on a personal note, not just for Chambers, but also for the whole Human Sciences Department.

"Mrs. Estes was such a very special person, and I feel very special and honored in receiving the scholarship," Chambers stated.

The Harriet Estes Memorial Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to deserving MTSU students who are Textiles, Merchandising and Design majors and who are in financial need, was set up in May 2005 in honor of Mrs. Harriet Estes, who had been

diagnosed with breast cancer four years prior.

"Mrs. Estes loved her students and loved to teach," said Nancy Oxford, close friend and colleague of Estes. "The Scholarship is a great way for our department to keep her spirit going."

Estes battled the disease for four years until her death in April 2005 and helped encourage the Human Sciences Department to raise awareness and gain support within the community for breast cancer and other cancer research efforts. Estes, who had taught at MTSU for 25 years, was an assistant professor and program coordinator for the Textiles, Merchandising and Design program at MTSU.

"Even when she was diagnosed, she still made it a point to be there for her students," said Oxford, who noted Mrs. Estes' determination and will to live. According to the Women's

Cancer Network, this year over 200,000 people - both male and female - will be diagnosed with breast cancer. The Department of Human Sciences at MTSU will remember a friend and colleague who succumbed to this disease last spring.

"Since I started at MTSU, I took every class that she taught intentionally because she was such a great teacher and so helpful," Chambers said. "That's what made her such a terrific teacher and friend."

"Mrs. Estes will be missed, and I think the Scholarship Fund is a great way to remember her and to help the Textiles, Merchandising and Design students at the same time," said Angela Smith, a Fashion Merchandising senior at MTSU who had Estes for an advisor and teacher last year.

Recognized by her peers as a leader, mentor and excellent teacher the department has set forth many events to gain sup-

port for cancer research and the scholarship fund. The department established the Harriet Estes Memorial Scholarship Fund as part of their efforts.

The recent "Strike-Out Cancer" softball tournament, held earlier this month, raised money with all the proceeds going to the scholarship fund and to breast cancer research. Students in the Fashion Promotion class last fall also held a silent auction during their annual fashion show, which helped raise over \$4,000 for the Scholarship Fund.

Right now the Scholarship Fund is given out once annually, but with if enough money is raised, the department is looking into possibly giving out a scholarship twice a year. The Textiles, Merchandising and Design faculty and staff choose the student who receives the scholarship.

Sidewalk: "American Disabilities Act top priority"

Continued from 1

"The primary things (for the ADA) are adequate curb cuts and the slope of those cuts," Miller said. "The ADA has very specific requirements about the slope and width of ramps."

The ADA was enacted in 1990 to stop discrimination against

individuals with disabilities and to create an America that would be more accessible to people with disabilities. Public buildings and facilities are required to adhere to ADA standards.

For Facility Services, ADA improvements top their list.

"We have been working over the last few years with our ADA

projects," Miller said. "We are seeking to add more curb cuts. ADA is (our) top priority."

"It's definitely a lot better than last semester," Painter said about the sidewalks around campus. She also said she liked the addition of new sidewalks and the opening of some closed sidewalks.

However, some students have not noticed the additions. MTSU student Eric Taylor said he never knew the new library sidewalk had once been only a worn path through the grass.

More pedestrian walkways and projects are scheduled to be built under the Master Planning process, Miller said.

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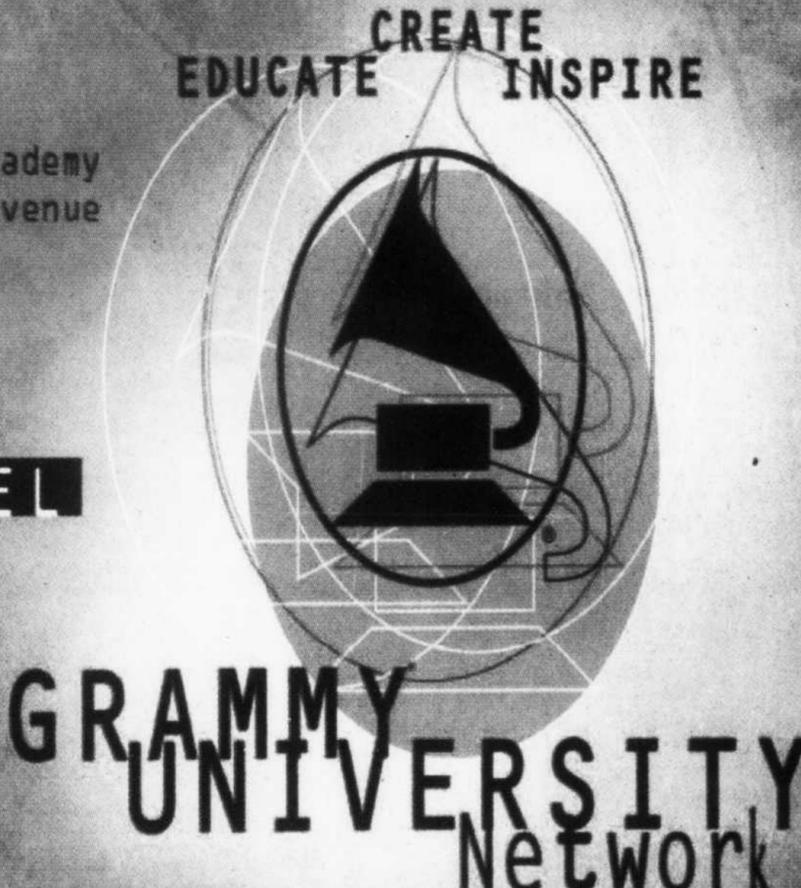
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Special Olympics at MTSU for 20 years

By Jenn Howerton
Assistant News Editor

Special Olympics brought over 200 athletes together for competition Feb 10 at Floyd Stadium, which was the largest group ever in the 20-year history of the event, said John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services.

Participants from ages 8 and over came from Rutherford County, Murfreesboro city schools and the Stone River Adult Activity Center to compete in such activities as the standing long jump, the softball throw and the 50-meter dash.

"And look at the size of the audience," said Harris, who was the co-director of the Special Olympics with Lou Paschal this year. "The schools bring their spectators and they have pep rallies for the participants. It's a really big deal for them."

All around the stadium, the dif-

ferent schools set up cheering booths in the bleachers or on the sidelines, with children and adults of all ages holding up signs and clapping as their friends raced by.

Planning for the affair began in the fall, when coaches from the different schools met with MTSU's athletic department and DSS to have the dates set and to estimate the number of athletes involved.

Although the Special Olympics began 20 years ago, the athletic department took over the event in 1995. DSS still plays a large part in the occasion because the department wants to show that "people with disabilities can give back to the community," Harris said.

"When I became the director of DSS, it was there to serve a group of students that needed assistance from others," Harris said. "With us helping sponsor the Special Olympics, it shows that we can give that same assistance to others."

Because the athletic department hosts the event, many MTSU student athletes were encouraged to volunteer for the event. Members of all the athletic programs contributed by overseeing the various games and races.

They also were able to walk away from the Special Olympics with something positive in their minds.

Clinton Corder, football player and junior in business marketing, took time in between timing the 50- and 100-meter dashes to sign autographs.

"You can see the joy and happiness in their faces," Corder said. "I would do it again in a heartbeat."

"It's an inspiration to me, seeing the kids smile and have a good time," said senior psychology major and football player Luke Paschall, who has been involved with the Special Olympics for the past three years.

Others also found the experi-

ence to be valuable to their chosen career paths.

"I'm a physical education major and decided it would be a great opportunity for me to be able to interact with children with special needs," said Meaghan Byrd, who is also a member of MTSU's track team.

"I'm going to be around kids for the rest of my life," Byrd said, adding that she would be able to use her contact with these children in her work after she graduates.

Ultimately, it's about the athletes running with all the strength in them or throwing as hard as

they can, Corder said.

"They were really excited to get in front of their peers and family and show them their talents," Byrd said.

With a smile, Corder said, "All the attention is on them."

Middle Tennessee Psychological Association returns to MTSU

By Jonathan Jackson
Contributing Writer

On April 22 the Middle Tennessee Psychological Association will hold a conference on the first floor of the Business/Aerospace Building.

The conference will take place from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Dr. Scott Lilienfeld will be the keynote speaker this year. His topic is Distinguishing Science from Pseudoscience in Mental Health Practices: Challenges, Problems, and Remedies.

Dr. Lilienfeld received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1990. Dr. Lilienfeld was a former student of Dr. William Langston, Associate Professor of Psychology at MTSU. Dr. Lilienfeld was asked to be the keynote speaker this year based on the work he did as a student at MTSU.

The Middle Tennessee Psychological Association was created by faculty members from Belmont University, Western Kentucky, Austin Peay, and Middle Tennessee State University. These faculty members form the business committee of the conference and make sure that it happens. Dr. Langston is an independent organization. It rotates through these universities on a three year cycle. This is the second year MTSU has hosted this

conference. Students are given the chance to share presentations based on work that they have done during their courses.

"It's a large conference, so they [students] are talking to other students so it's a little laid back, but it gives them still a professional presentation of a real conference," Dr. Langston said.

The Middle Tennessee Psychological Association is internally funded, but some support comes from Psi Chi, the National Honors Society. Psi Chi lends support to local research conferences so students can present their work. Phi Chi also places information on its website at www.psi.org.

Students may present work that they have done in their required classes. Faculty supervisors make sure the work submitted is of good quality. If the submission is accepted, the student is allowed to present.

If the presentation idea is good enough, the student may be eligible for funding for further research. The funding issue is decided by the Undergraduate Research Scholarship and Creative Projects Committee at MTSU.

Dr. Langston commented that if a project a student has conducted is presented, then it is an opportunity for you to put on your resumé when applying for graduate school. Making a profes-

sional conference presentation is a good way to get your "foot in the door".

On average there are anywhere from 35 to 40 presentations and 100 to 150 students, depending on the location of the conference. There are more than just general psychological topics. Clinical, health, counseling, and experimental projects are shown throughout the conference.

Langston said that a lot of the projects given are similar because professors help with ideas. However, because of the different views students take, the results are quite different.

"You never see the exact same thing over and over again,"

The presentation is only a small part of the conference. The bigger issue of the conference is that students get to experience presenting their ideas at a professional conference.

Some students like their projects so much that they will refine the project in time for the conference the following year. This gives them more time to find better materials and better participants.

Dr. Langston commented, "We've got a really spectacular keynote speaker this year. We usually do manage to put together a great program."

More details about this conference are available on the web at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~wlangsto/MTPAHome.html>.

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- Charles M. Brandon Scholarship**
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- Hester R. Rogers Scholarship**
Frank Baugh
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Denise Johnson

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Patricia Loechel
- Jacob Sharbel**
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- Anna Rose Regardien**
- Bill Kohland Memorial Award**
Josh Gardner
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Johanna Garrett
- Cynthia James**
- Adam Patrick Keeley**
- Estwing Rock Hammer Award**
William Douglas Hayes

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Caryn Miller
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Kevin Wakefield
- Outstanding Achievement in Music Composition**
Hunter Strickland
- Anthony Lunsford**
- Outstanding Achievement in Music History**
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- John W. Burgess Award**
Michael A. Jackson
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Benjamin R. Cooley
- Outstanding Student Worker**
Barbara Sidwell

Social Work

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- Sturley Key**
Dale Robert Seime Award
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Chantelle Carter
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- Aimee Gholson**
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- Luke Glaude**
- Sonora Goodsell**
Amanda Hutchins
- Conner Hoke**
Charly Kimbrell
- Virginia McKenzie**
Kelsie Parks
- Kristen Quinn**
Kandy Solomon-Kelvin
- Sherri Stinson**
Jamila Sugri-Franklin
- Tiffany Thomas**
Amanda Travers
- Rachel Walters**

Sociology & Anthropology

- Joe Ramsey Leatherman Award**
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- Clayton James Scholarship**
Susan Marie Ioar
- Marian Clark Scholarship**
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- Ashley Bosshart**
Dayton Deaton
- Ashley Edington**
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- Lacey Fleming**
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- lauren Stewart**
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Speech & Theatre

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Lorie LaFave
- Brian Morgan**
Charlette Jordan
- Heidi Ervin**
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Amanda Taylor
- Clayton Hawes Scholarship**
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- Kay Garrard Academic Leadership in Communications Disorders Award**
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- Naveen "Scott" Pejaver Memorial Scholarship**
Everette Griffey
- Amber Sanders**
- First Star Debate Team**
Jeffery Martin
- Melanie Stacy Clinical Excellence Award**
Siegrid Cooper
- Cassie Edmonds**
- Exemplary Student Award**
Tia Pruitt
- Mindy Evans**

Floyd Stadium gets facelift with new turf

By Casey Brown
Assistant Sports Editor

After Middle Tennessee football takes the field for the season opener on August 31, the team

may not want to leave.

After more than 30 years spent on a hard, outdated artificial surface, the Blue Raiders will play on a new state-of-the-art synthetic turf to be installed

at Floyd Stadium.

The field will feature turf from Sportex's "Momentum" line, identical to the surface used by the Baltimore Ravens of the NFL. NFL players recently voted the turf at Baltimore's M&T Bank Stadium as the best in the league.

MT Athletic Director Chris Massaro made the announcement before the Blue-White Spring Game on April 8. Massaro hopes that the new surface will benefit the university in more ways than one.

"First of all, the aesthetic look will be much more pleasing," Massaro said. "Number two, it's so much softer."

"I think the new technology will decrease our injuries."

The Momentum surface is expected to cost about \$800,000, with the majority of that total coming from university funds and donations from the Blue Raider Athletic Association.

The plan was kickstarted by two significant donations from MTSU alumni. Mark and Anita Pirtle and Joey and Debbie Jacobs each contributed \$100,000 toward the installation of new turf at Floyd Stadium.

Joey Jacobs is the president/CEO of Psychiatric Solutions in Nashville. The Pirtles are both MTSU graduates and co-owners of Mark Pirtle Chevrolet Ford Mercury in Shelbyville. The donors could not be reached for comment.

The goal of replacing the much-maligned current surface, originally installed in 1971, is scheduled for completion by July 29.



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FEATURES

Tickets have students seeing yellow

By Jared Brickey
Contributing Writer

Nearly every student has experienced it – returning from class to find an expensive little present inside that yellow package. Nearly every student has experienced the wrath of “the ticket Nazi.”

However, what many students don't realize is that the ticket Nazi isn't just a villainous state worker lurking around the campus waiting to cost them money. These people are actually trying to help students and faculty alike by keeping the people who shouldn't even be on campus off university grounds.

“Most students won't see that aspect of it,” said Casey Richardson, a state worker (or ticket Nazi), regarding the positive parts of his job. “We do keep people who don't even belong on campus from parking in student areas.”

“I've been told many times ‘You ticketed me for no reason,’” Richardson said, with an amused grin. “I tell them, there's no reason code on my computer for no reason at all. Casey's bored, I'm going to write a ticket.”

It isn't as if Richardson enjoys giving a student a ticket.

“I don't get paid on commission. If I did I'd be out there right now writing tickets.” Richardson said, laughing. “If I see them in the car, I'll let them know. I'll give them the warning. I don't sneak up on folks. That's dirty just as far as I'm concerned.”

Of course, Richardson also thinks that students could save themselves a lot of trouble by dealing with inconvenience.

“The problem a lot of the times, I think, is that the students don't consider it to be convenient parking. They park where they want to but I can lay my hands on 2,000 spaces any day of the week that are empty,” he said.

Richardson, a former MTSU student himself, also thinks that students should take advantage of what the university provides for them.

“When I went to school here, there were no buses. I think a lot of the parking problem stems from the students not taking the time to get in there and get to

where they need to be. I think they run on luck a lot of times. ‘Maybe I'll get lucky and find a spot. Well, now I'm out of time, so I'll jump in anywhere.’”

And while the reactions to getting a ticket are as diverse as the student body, Richardson said that the general reaction seems to be an annoyed one.

“I think most of them just consider it an irritation. We've got students who will rack up \$400 or \$500 worth of tickets,” Richardson said, shaking his head in disbelief. “There are people who don't think the rules apply to them or they can get away with it, or they got lucky in this spot last semester so they just keep going with it.”

Oddly enough, however, Richardson said that one particular vehicle owner may experience more irritation than any other.

“Fifty percent of the cars I write a ticket for are two-door or four-door gray Hondas. I can't imagine why Honda's I can't go down the road, the vehicle doesn't matter. I'm not looking for Hondas but it seems to be a very large number,” he said, grinning.

But Richardson's attitude turned from jocular to serious as he began to speak about some of the more rowdy students that he's experienced.

“I get cussed by students occasionally. I don't get as cussed as often, I think, because I'm older and I look more official,” he said.

“We're told to be polite. Answer any questions we

can, give them any guidance we can. But if they get rowdy enough, we can call for a supervisor, and if they get really rowdy, we can call for the police,” he said.

The idea that a student can become so enraged by a simple fine may be somewhat disturbing, and Richardson explained that sometimes the only way to calm them is to call police.

“I believe I've

was angry before he got to me. He had just walked out of ... his midterms and they had not gone his way, and I was standing in the road and trying to get him to veer into this lane and he just kind of looked at me and punched it,” Richardson said, shaking his head in disbelief.

At that moment, Richardson admitted, laughing, his only thought was, “Run!”

A good-natured man who takes his job seriously, Richardson will be among the first to concede that students have schedules and deadlines and need to be in class. He's not going to ignore the parking, he said, but he isn't the Nazi that many have

labeled all of the ticket-writing state workers in general.

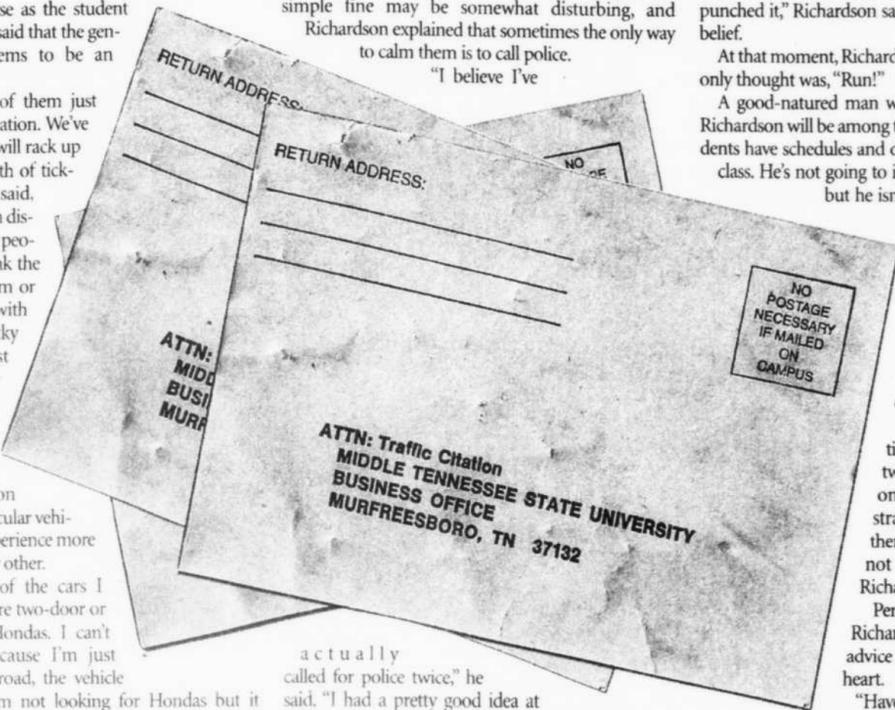
Students make mistakes, and sometimes just taking the time to arrive early is enough to ensure a parking space, he observed.

“Allot yourself enough time to get here – I'm easily twice the weight of my body on this campus. I'll walk straight to Greek Row and then straight to Greenland. It's not going to kill you,” Richardson said.

Perhaps the best advice that Richardson can give, however, is advice students should all take to heart.

“Have a little respect for your fellow man. Stay out of the disabled spots, stay out of the fire lanes. I know that there's a billion-to-one shot that that building's on fire, but if it is, that may be your friend trapped inside,” he said, somberly.

Most importantly, however, “Try not to run over the ticket Nazi!” he said.



actually called for police twice,” he said. “I had a pretty good idea at both points things were going to become physical. So usually once the student hears that the police are on the way, things start de-escalating.”

Still, compared to what else Richardson has experienced, his calls to the police may seem like a picnic.

“I was blocking the roadway one day, where we had just done some painting on the roadway itself, and I had a man in a jeep try to run me over. He had left, he

Nies to give campus a royal sendoff with ‘Henry V’



Photo by Adam Capps | Staff Photographer

By Jessy Yancey
Staff Writer

Walking through the corridors of the Wright Music Building, the sounds of all sorts and sounds of instruments drift through the air. Trombones, piano, flutes and drums—the list goes on and on. But there is one important instrument that you don't hear, one vital to the MTSU Symphony and Chamber Orchestra: the conductor's baton.

Music professor Carol Nies has conducted the student orchestra for the past five years.

“When I auditioned [for the position], the orchestra was about 24 members and is now 80 to 85 members,” she says. “It's grown tremendously, and the level of students is just wonderful. I'm very pleased with everybody.”

Nies has been conducting orchestras and operas for “a very long time” in locales ranging from Ohio and West Virginia to Rome and Romania. Despite her experience, she says she ended up in the field of music by accident.

“I took a string instrument so I could go to a school with better arts and with better math and science,” she says, chuckling. “I was going to be a doctor, but I loved music, so I continued on.”

The Miami-native had previously taken piano, but she decided to take double bass instead. She received her master's from Yale School of Music and attended Mannes College of Music in New York City and the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, where she received her doctorate of musical arts. Along the way, she decided that she wanted to conduct.

“As a bassist, you're in orchestra, and you work with conductors all the time, and then it becomes something that you want to do,” she says. “You get to see the conductor gets to shape everything; the conductor gets to make the decisions.”

The conductor, Nies explains, shapes all the variables of balance, pitch and dramatic piecing of the work. This requires a great deal of preparation time because she has to study the score to decide what she wants.

“It's like you're creating an artwork,” she says. “It's the same as making a sculpture; you have to have a vision of the finished artwork.”

Nies' current artwork is the Shakespeare play “Henry V.” “It's an unusual piece,” she says. In 1943, Sir Laurence Olivier directed a movie based on the play and included music orchestrated by William Walton. On Saturday, the MTSU Symphony Orchestra will perform “William Walton's Henry V: A Shakespeare Scenario,” with Nies conducting.

“This is called a Shakespeare scenario because they took some portions from the movie, and it's to be performed with orchestra and narrator,” she adds.

Stephen Smith of the MTSU voice faculty will be narrating, Sean Donovan and Angela Lickiss, will perform solos.

“It's rarely done,” Nies says. “It's some of the most beautiful music ever written with some of the most stirring and beautiful words ever written.”

Although performances of this sort are rare in Murfreesboro, she says she considers it similar to opera, only with the words spoken rather than sung.

Nies has conducted opera on many occasions before, including for the Rome Festival Opera and the Opera Theater of Lucca in Italy. She is returning to the Eternal City this summer to reprise her positions as assistant conductor of the Rome Festival Opera and guest conductor of the Rome Festival Orchestra. The Roman orchestra she conducts consists mainly of Italian professional musicians and American graduate students.

“The rehearsals are interesting because they are in two different languages,” she says. “I have to say, ‘OK, we start here,’ in the language of each country.”

Since conductors often start at the letter “c” or “a,” this gets confusing because the letter “e” in Italian is actually “i,” and the letter “a” in Italian is actually “e.”

Thanks to growing up in Miami, Nies says she speaks Spanish and Italian with moderate proficiency. Despite her linguistic skills, however, language was a definite barrier when she conducted in the Czech Republic and Romania.

“The biggest challenge was language, so I had studied as much Czech as possible and as much Romanian as possible,” she recalls. Still, she says, it was a wonderful experience, and she enjoyed the musicians for whom she conducted.

Nies describes conducting as showing the musicians how you want the music to be played. Conductors use batons, gestures and facial expres-

sions to convey this to their orchestra.

“As a conductor, you're showing how you want the music to be played before people play it, so they know what to do,” she says. “That's our job—we have to shape the music, and we have to show it. We have to know what we want and then communicate that with the players.”

In addition to teaching and conducting at MTSU, Nies also conducts the Curb Youth Symphony (formerly the Nashville Youth Symphony) through Vanderbilt.

“I conduct the top orchestra,” she says. “We actually have five other orchestras.”

Still, Nies is truly looking forward to the MTSU Symphony Orchestra's season finale.

“My favorite [performance] is always the next one coming up,” she says.

She has been working towards this weekend's per-

formance for the past five months.

“I've been working on it for five months,” she clarifies, adding that the whole orchestra wasn't involved the entire time. “[The students] have been working on it for five weeks.”

The original Olivier production opened during World War II with the purpose of boosting the morale of the Allied soldiers, and Nies wants to keep that mentality.

“Basically, the message of ‘Henry V’ is that, for very difficult times, you're outnumbered, [but] you persevere when it's needed,” she says. “You persevere through impossibilities.”

With Nies conducting, the MTSU Symphony and Chamber Orchestra will perform their final concert Saturday at 8 p.m. in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building. Admission is free and open to the public.

There's no 'I' in democracy

By Mary Rose Fox
Staff Writer

MTSU, along with more than 200 colleges nationwide, takes part in a group organized around encouraging civic engagement in the public and among its members: the American Democracy Project.

The project is geared toward students enrolled at institutions that belong to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

“It started off nationally as an initiative of AASCU,” said Political Science Professor Mark Byrnes, MTSU's faculty coordinator for ADP. “Anybody who wants to get involved can participate, but it's primarily for institutions like MTSU.”

The project focuses on encouraging students to civic engagement Byrnes explained. “But that really means being involved in the community.” The purpose of ADP is to make students more aware civically.

“It's just being concerned about the community, being more involved in the community,” he said. “I mean, one thing about modern life is that we're increasingly disengaged.”

The university became a part of the project just three years ago with the help of Executive Vice President and Provost Kaylene Gebert. “It's a work in progress,” Byrnes said, adding that the project will be more organized in the fall. “Next year we might have a more formal meeting schedule.”

Along with regional meet-

ings, the ADP has a national meeting among campuses every year. At last year's Southeast regional meeting, MTSU sent two students. The school won an award for its celebration of Constitution Day, and was recognized in 2004 for encouraging participation in the presidential elec-

“It's sort of a tall mountain to climb—just one step at a time.”

—Mark Byrnes, political science professor on raising student political awareness

Morgan, the Comptroller of Tennessee on campus,” Byrnes said. The visit by Morgan, the Comptroller of the Treasury, was organized by ADP. Morgan has been in the news lately because of his recent proposal to make K-12 education fully funded by the state. While on campus, he lectured on the state of education in Tennessee.

Do the political sciences classes integrate their classes? “I do in my classes,” Byrnes said. “[but] it really relies on the instructor to want to do that.”

He explained that some people find it difficult to be involved with the community because of other time-consuming obligations.

“At MTSU, where a lot of our students are incredibly busy with classes, and family and work and other outside obligations, it's particularly difficult,” he said.

Despite the challenge of getting motivated students, he said he hopes to gain more participation in future events. “It's sort of a tall mountain to climb—just one step at a time.”

The level of impact of the ADP on campus is difficult to assess. “It's hard to measure,” he said, adding that he hopes to change current attitudes on campus by increasing awareness through ADP's events. “You go on campus, and you see most people are on their cell phones or listening to an iPod. They're not really interacting with anybody.”

This, he said, is what the American Democracy Project hopes to change.

“One of our big events [that year] was voter registration week,” Byrnes said. ADP focused on increasing participation and succeeded in registering over 500 new voters on campus.

Currently, the project is pushing to be more involved with the voting process. “We hope that MTSU will get an early voting site on campus,” Byrnes said. He added that he is hoping to get a debate on campus next fall for U.S. Congress candidates and gubernatorial candidates.

“Last week, we had John

OPINIONS

Fake incidents in the media

By DeAnn Currey
Staff Columnist

The infamous run-away bride started the trend that is continuing, especially during the past week. This past week was one that was full of people wanting to have their thirty seconds of fame.

A Kansas teenage girl claims that she was kidnapped and a Missouri couple claims they had sextuplets in March. Both of these stories later turned out to be false.

It is not known at this time if the girl will be punished for her behavior, though the so-called parents could face up to seven years in prison if convicted.

Are people so self-centered and arrogant that they will do anything to get attention, anything to have the media focus on them just for a few seconds?

I think the teenager should have received some sort of punishment. I think she was just looking for a way to get some attention, and when she got it she wasn't sure what to do with it.

Why is it fair that she tied up policemen in two states for hours on end searching endlessly for her when she is safe in another town? There are hundreds of children and teenagers that are reported missing each and every year that are actually kidnapped and hurt or killed by

the assailant.

Why fake something that isn't even true and cause your family unnecessary pain? Don't you think that Nataliee Holloway's family would love to get a phone call from their daughter with her on the other end saying she faked her own kidnapping for the past year?

According to ABC News' official website, a family spokesperson made a public apology on the teenager's behalf saying, "Kelsey didn't realize the consequences of her action, which she wholeheartedly regrets. We've all made mistakes, and Kelsey just happened to make hers under the glare of the spotlight."

I'm sure she does regret faking her own kidnapping, just like the run-away bride regretted running away and the so-called expectant parents regret their hoax they pulled. I am sure none of these incidents would have occurred had they known it was going to blow up in their face and make them look ludicrous in front of the whole country.

It's ridiculous for people to act the way they do just to have someone focus on them. I think the supposed parents were just looking for a free handout.

According to www.msnbc.com, the couple used the gifts they received from the community and even strangers to pay

their bills. I mean did the parents not seriously think they weren't going to get caught in their scam?

People are going to notice if you aren't toting around six babies, especially when you have gone as far as posing for pictures as an obviously very pregnant woman.

Self-centeredness is definitely a trait that took over the common sense trait the people in these infamous cases.

DeAnn Currey is a junior Mass Communications major and can be reached at jdc3v@mtsu.edu

Letter to the editor: column inaccurately slams black Americans

This is in response to Matthew Hurtt, particularly his comments on "displaced individuals" from Katrina-damaged New Orleans, a few weeks ago.

First, they are not "displaced individuals." Katrina evacuees are mostly displaced families, which vastly complicates the problems of them returning home and rebuilding their damaged houses and neighborhoods.

These problems are, to name a couple, keeping their children in school and supplying them with a clean, safe place to live. These problems also are in the midst of rebuilding their gutted, structurally insecure houses.

Second, the assertion that, "The only people (so far) who have returned to New Orleans are the affluent white Americans," is completely wrong.

Quite a few black Americans have returned to New Orleans and are attempting to rebuild their communities. Why, I even read in the newspaper today that they had repaired and got a church going again.

Hurtt also seems to have forgotten that it is a lot more challenging for black Americans to

rebuild their communities because, disproportionately, were the most damaged during the hurricane.

Therefore, it is not only ignorant, but insensitive and cruel to say that white people are the only ones "who actually care about their homes."

Also, the claim that racism is not a problem anymore is inaccurate. Sure, racism is not as big a problem as it was in the 60's and before, but there are still some companies and people that treat blacks as inferior.

Racism is not absent from America — even Hurtt admitted that.

Finally, as to the comment, "If anyone should be complaining about race, it should be middle class white males." I'm from a middle-class white family who has no reason to complain about racism.

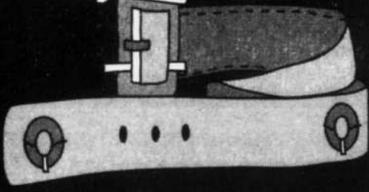
Sincerely,
Michelle Powell,
Sophomore, College of Liberal Arts



White House photo by Eric Draper

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan shakes hands with President George W. Bush. "One of us is announcing our resignation today. You have one guess at who it is," Bush joked to reporters. "CNN, MSNBC, NPR, NBC, CBS, and ABC are not allowed to vote," he added. (These quotes were not real)

Unbuckling the Beltway



After all is said and done, Valerie Plame will be attending the White House Correspondents' Dinner this year with her husband, former Ambassador Joe Wilson. At the after-party, Joe will continue to boast to people that his wife used to be in the CIA.

A group of MTSU professors won an award at the Karl Marx Association's annual convention. The professors wrote a paper advocating that A's from hard-working students be redistributed to lazy students. "The lazy bastards of our campus must be unchained!" was the title of the paper.

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan announced that he will be resigning from his post soon. In his resignation letter, McClellan said, "I'm looking forward to my wife being the only person in my life who takes what I say out of context."

Carl Bernstein has called for U.S. Senate hearings to be conducted about President George W. Bush. RNC Chairman Ken Mehlman replied, "Come on, we're not talking about the presidential character on '24.' Get your head out from wherever it is, Carl."

President Bush has refused to rule out nuclear strikes against Iranian targets in any possible military operation. "We want to solve this diplomatically, and as Rush says, 'Diplomacy is when you tell a country what to do after you are done kicking their ass at war.'"

Opinions Editor's note: This section takes the news and exaggerates it, or makes it up completely. Outside of this box, you're free to think for yourself.



While on campus to speak for the "Self-inflicted Wounds" seminar April 4-6, Carl Bernstein spoke about his involvement in exposing the Watergate scandal. Above, Bernstein signed a copy of a political cartoon.

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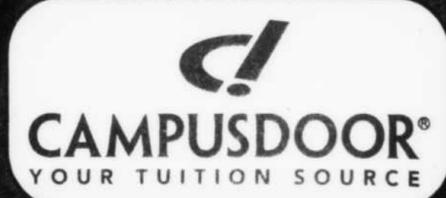
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SPORTS

Baseball beats Vandy, heads to USA

By Russell Luna
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee has been clicking on all cylinders as of late. A 13-8 win over nationally ranked Vanderbilt on Tuesday evening helped the Blue Raiders win their sixth game out of their last seven.

The Blue Raiders (18-14, 5-4 SBC) will travel to South Alabama (26-15, 7-5 SBC) this weekend with a chance to put themselves back into the heart of the Sun Belt conference standings.

In the win over the Commodores, MT first baseman Todd Martin hit his ninth homer of the season in the fourth. The home run put the Blue Raiders ahead 9-6 after VU scored four times in the previous inning.

"The pitcher had an above-average split," Martin said. "He kept throwing it good and I was fortunate that he left one up and I was able to put it over the fence."

MT relief pitcher Tyler Copeland entered in the fourth inning and pitched three and 1/3 innings, allowing only one run to earn the win.

"I got Mike (McKenry) calling a good game behind the plate," Copeland said. "I just tried to make pitches and make the defense make plays and I was lucky enough to

pitch three solid innings for us."

Jeff Beachum and Blue Raider Kendrick have led the Blue Raiders offensively this season. Beachum, who recently broke the MT all-time hits record, had two doubles on Tuesday, one of which drove home three runs and allowed the Blue Raiders to break away from VU.

Michael McKenry is second on the team with a .393 batting average and a team high 38 runs batted in.

"Beachum has had a banner year because he has been unselfish and not over aggressive when he approaches the plate, MT head baseball coach Steve Peterson said. "His ability to respond under pressure has made him very dependable for our ball team this season."

"Wayne has been able to change his swing from an upper cut to a swing that can get more line drives and hits," Peterson said. "He has come around as a batter and is taking good swings. As for Michael, he is pivotal for our team to score runs. When we have runners on base, I assure you we will pick up some runs if McKenry is at the plate."

Middle Tennessee is currently third in batting with a .314 average but seventh in runs scored. Coach Peterson understands his team must come up with timely hits and take advantage of pitching mistakes

in Mobile, where Middle Tennessee has only won one series.

"We got to take advantage of what their pitching and defense gives us," said Peterson, who is 9-17 all-time against the Jaguars. "It's tough to play at South Alabama. We need this win to get back into the thick of the race."

South Alabama currently has the best fielding team in the conference with a .967 fielding percentage and 48 double plays turned.

The Raiders will start Matt Scott on Friday. Scott (5-1, 3.28 ERA) looks to pick up his sixth win of the season when he will most likely pitch against the Jaguars' PJ Walters (5-2, 3.77 ERA).

The USA right-hander has made 12 starts allowing 49 runs on 102 hits and striking out 97 in 88 and 1/3 innings. Zach Picola (3-3, 4.50 ERA) and Joey Doan (4-2, 3.28 ERA) will most likely be the starters for the Jaguars on Saturday and Sunday.

The Jaguars are led offensively by infielder David Freese, who is currently second in the SBC with a .445 average. Freese knocked in 51 runners while scoring 49 runs off of 51 hits. Tyler Jones leads the Jaguars with 52 runs scored off of 54 hits.

Pitching is still a concern for

See Baseball, 9



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
MT first baseman Todd Martin crushes his ninth home run of the season in the fourth inning of the Blue Raiders' 13-8 win over nationally-ranked Vanderbilt in front of a huge crowd on Tuesday.

Women place third in Sun Belt tournament

Wednesday, April 19
Sun Belt Team Results
Denver 908
North Texas 912
MT 913

By Wade Neely
Staff Writer

For the first time ever, a Sun Belt Conference golf championship is coming back to Murfreesboro.

Taryn Durham won the SBC

title by defeating Denver's Katie Kemper in the second playoff hole on Wednesday at the PGA Village in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Durham shot a record low for a Lady Raider in a conference championship with a 70 in the final round. It was her third career tournament win.

"After shooting 80 in the first round I was just happy to be in a playoff," Durham said to MT Media Relations. "I had worked so hard and battled back. I really wanted to win."

The Lady Raider team as whole finished tied for third with a score of 913.

"I'm very proud of the team," MT women's golf coach Rachael Short said to MT Media Relations. "We played well and we finished four shots out of first."

Leigh Wilkins tied for ninth with a 229. Maggie McGill and Mallory Bishop finished tied at No. 21 with a 234. Jamey Dillard was 32nd with a 240.

In a bizarre turn of events, the Lady Raiders actually dropped a position on Tuesday despite shooting five shots better than they did on Monday. The Lady Raiders finished up on Monday with a total of 311, but stormed

back on Tuesday, firing up a 306.

They would slip to fifth position after Tuesday's rounds, however, thanks in large part to a pesky University of Denver bunch, who improved 13 shots between Monday and Tuesday, shooting a 313 on Monday and firing up a 301 on Tuesday.

On the individual front, several Lady Raiders certainly have done their part thus far in attempting to give the Lady Raiders and head coach Rachael Short a conference title.

Day one's success story? Mallory Bishop. The Knoxville native fired up a score of 74,

which was good enough to send the freshman flying up the individual leaderboard, ultimately finishing in a tie for third place overall.

On day two, Taryn Durham and Leigh Wilkins would share the spotlight. Both Durham and Wilkins would make huge jumps over the field, with Durham shooting a two-day total of 151, good enough for a 17th place tie while Wilkins shot a 74 and finished up in a tie for eighth.

Bishop would cool off considerably from Monday's hot round. The freshman finished

up with an 82 and fell to 16th place.

"They all contributed and we have put ourselves within striking distance heading into the final round, which was our goal," Short told MT Media Relations.

After finishing Monday's rounds in a tie for 13th, Jamey Dillard had a bad outing on Tuesday, shooting an 84 and dropping back a tie for 33rd with teammate Maggie McGill, who was in basically the opposite situation. McGill shot an 83 on Monday, but battled back with a 79 on Tuesday.

Women's softball team prepares for Troy series



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
MT softball player Kristine Reed slides back into third during the doubleheader sweep of Tennessee Tech on Tuesday.

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider softball team will host Troy in its first Sun Belt series at the newly renovated softball field. After their first SBC series win over North Texas

and a sweep of Tennessee Tech, the Blue Raiders are more than ready to take on their next Sun Belt challenge.

The Blue Raiders reopened the softball field on Tuesday by winning a doubleheader, 4-2 and 6-2, against Ohio Valley Conference-leading TTU. In the

first game, Laura Moore picked up the win to improve to 7-10 on the season. Shelby Silver went 2-for-4 with an RBI and scored a run.

In the second game, Trish White improved to 4-11 with the win. Martha Davis went 2-for-3 with three RBI and

Tuesday, April 18

MT 6, 4

Tennessee Tech 2, 2

Next Game vs. Troy,
April 22

scored a run.

The Blue Raiders are now 15-31-1 on the season and have won four of their last five games.

Over the last few games, several players have returned to the field after missing games due to injury and illness. Middle Tennessee managed to win despite the absence of key contributors, but the Blue Raiders are eagerly anticipating their return.

"I think it is a relief for our team because only having nine healthy players puts a lot of pressure on the team," head coach Leigh Podlesny said. "The returning players are also hungrier than ever because they have been watching from the sidelines for several weeks."

In the last few games the Blue Raiders have relied on success at the plate. With 27 homeruns and 120 RBI on the season, the bat is the key element of MT's game. The Blue Raiders will rely on that hitting to help them claim their second SBC

series win.

"I would like to see a repeat of our hitting," said Podlesny. "We were aggressive and made adjustments to the lineup throughout the [North Texas] series."

"The more runs we can score the more room our pitchers will have to work on their game. I would also like to see our girls take the field with as much confidence as they did at North Texas."

With power hitters like Stiner, who leads the team in hits with 44 and sports a .349 batting average, the Blue Raiders can turn their attention toward pitching.

"As always our pitching needs to step up their games. We walked too many at North Texas and solid programs are going to capitalize on those mistakes."

Returning players like Moore to the field should be a blessing and a relief for players whose versatility has paid off, but are in need of a break.

"It is great to see Laura Moore back on the mound," said Podlesny. "If she can continue what she did in Texas—no walks, spread hits out and get ahead in the count—she should do very well in our conference games."

The Blue Raiders take the field Saturday at noon against Troy in a doubleheader with the series ending on Sunday at noon.

Volleyball spikes competition, posts perfect record

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

Right now, nothing can stop the Middle Tennessee volleyball team. After an impressive 28-4 record last season, the Blue Raiders rolled along the spring part of their schedule with a perfect 8-0 record.

The question is, is the team any better than last season?

"I think actually quite a bit," MT head coach Matt Peck said. "I really feel good where we are now. We even better now than we were before."

The Blue Raiders' unblemished record came against quality competition, including a victory over 2005 Final Four participant Tennessee.

MT began the spring season with four wins at the MT Volleyball Spring Tournament on April 1-2. The team knocked off in-state rivals Tennessee State and Memphis, as well as Southeastern Conference foes Ole Miss and Mississippi State.

A couple of weeks later, the Blue Raiders sent another SEC team, Alabama, home with a loss.

Last season with MT finished the spring season with a trio of wins. In addition to knocking off the Lady Vols, MT also defeated Tennessee Tech and University of Alabama-Birmingham in the tournament at Knoxville, Tenn.

Despite last season's success, Peck feels his team is still improving.

"We are getting more balanced," Peck said. "We are not having to rely on one or two people to win. We are more athletic than we were before."

Last season, the Blue Raiders just missed an NCAA tournament bid,

losing to Western Kentucky in the finals of the Sun Belt Conference tournament three games to two. Three of the squad's four losses were to the Hilltoppers.

MT is using last season's result as motivation for their quest to capture the SBC championship.

"We had a great finish last year," Peck said. "We finished No. 43, and we didn't make the tournament. The girls realized that we have to win the tournament really, in order for us to advance. They aren't content now with just having a good record; I think they want to get to

NCAA tournament, and really do well."

The Blue Raiders return everyone from last season and add four new players to the squad.

"The nice thing is for the first time we are going to have depth at every position," Peck said.

The returning players include SBC Defensive Player of the Year Alicia Lemau'u and All-SBC team members Lyndrea Lyra and Ashley Adams. Lyra led the SBC in kills with 4.66 per game, and Lemau'u led the conference in digs with 4.99 per game.

The Blue Raiders also return Megan Sumrell, second in the SBC in assists in 2005 with 12.93 per game.

Newcomers include a transfer from North Alabama, Jessica Robinson; Alabama Gatorade Player of the Year, Savannah Pegg; Georgia A/AA Player of the Year, Ashley Mead; and Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year, Leslie Clark.

The Blue Raiders begins the 2006 season on August 25 at the Appalachian State Tournament.

SPORTS

Squad places second



The MT cheerleading squad poses on Daytona Beach with their second place trophy at the NCACN. Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations

By David Hunter
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee cheerleading squad always pumps up the crowd and lead MT athletics to victory. This past weekend the team won some hardware of their own, with a second place showing at the National Cheerleading Association Collegiate Nationals in Daytona Beach, Fla.

The runner-up finish was the squad's highest ever in the competition. The NCA national competition is the largest collegiate championship in the nation, with over 200 teams participating in 12 divisions. MT finished behind Louisville in the small co-ed division. Coming

into the finals, the Blue Raiders were in sixth after a bobble and a jewelry deduction. Even though they were already assured their highest finish ever, the team bounced back in the final round by moving up to the runner-up spot.

"We had a meeting the night before finals," MT head cheerleading coach Jonathan Pursley said. "We watched the tape of the prelims and they were all just very confident they could hit their routine. Then they went out there on finals day and did it."

The team was comprised of four male and 19 female members of the co-ed and all female squads.

The squad includes Raquel Sosa, Tara Abernathy, Carling Hughes, Lisa Van Sickle, Anna Brogden,

Christa Jensen, Amy Koelz, Rose Wambach, Alli Bosley, Stacy Bullock, Mindy Shaffer, Kayla Turner, Samantha Rogers, Ashley Sizemore, David Miller, Jennifer Wilson, Joseph O'Field, Tommy Graham, Kaci Dupree, and Orry Clayborne.

"Once we heard Charlotte's score, I mean it was pretty crazy," Pursley said. "Everybody was jumping around. To know that you are going to finish no lower than second in the nation, it's an amazing feeling."

"They handled it better than any team I had taken down there before," Pursley said. "They responded to the pressure very well."

The contest will be shown on May 2 at 2 p.m. on Fox Sports Net, Channel 28. Check local listings.

Baseball: Gets ready for South Alabama series

Continued from 8

Peterson as his team gets ready to play one of the hottest hitting squads in the Sun Belt. Brett Smalley (1-1, 6.11 ERA) and Chad Edwards (1-2, 6.75 ERA) will most likely be the starters on Saturday and Sunday.

"Our bullpen has stepped up since our series with Western Kentucky," Peterson said. "We need to make sure that we can get a solid outing from our starters and then get a couple of good innings of solid relief. Once we get through those tough situations, we can have Alan [Woodard] come in and close

the game." Middle Tennessee will begin the series on Friday in Mobile at Stanky Field. The Blue Raiders will play Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. before wrapping up the three game series on Sunday with a 1 p.m. finale.

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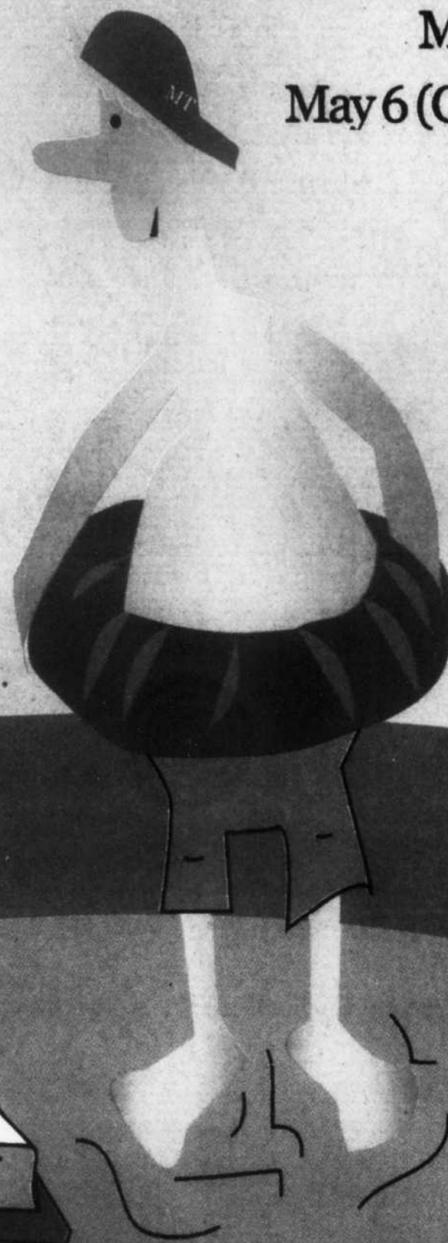
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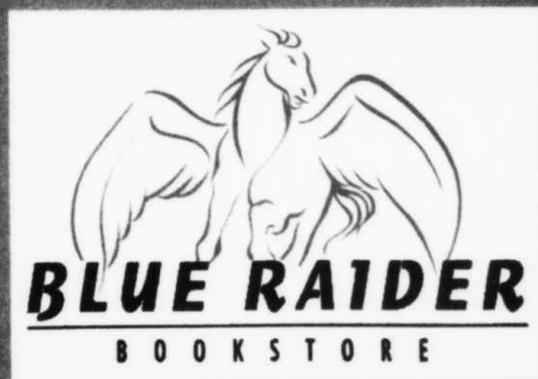
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Exposure



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INSIDE:

*Lucky Number
Slevin
Benchwarmers*

PLUS:
*Happy Birthday
Amy debuts*

the editor sighs...



This is it!

This is the last edition of Exposure for our Spring semester. So sad.

It has been a blast and a great start to a publication that can only get better.

I really want to thank some of our staff who without a doubt helped make Exposure happen week after week. To our writers, Joseph Schmickrath, Kristen Teffeteller and Juli Shipley: THANK YOU.

To our designers, Meghanne Thompson and Leigh Bernstein: THANK YOU.

Truely, I could never have done any of this without all of the people you see on the list of staff to the right.

With this last bit of space I want to stress to all the students of MTSU that this is just the beginning of a great thing. Exposure has a long way to go and even more room to grow. So I must encourage you all to come up to the Sidelines office while you spend your years here at MTSU and help make these few pages for entertainment even better.

By Phillip C. Buck
Exposure Editor

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Happy Birthday Amy

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Lucky Number Slevin
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page eight
Southern Girls Rock 'n
Roll Camp

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Joseph Schmickrath brings us a guide to the most anticipated movies of the summer

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A delicious dish for your Thursday Night

...the staff, exposed

Phillip Buck
Joseph Schmickrath
Lauren Tingle
David Benedict
Niles T. Maddox
Leigh Bernstein

Kristen Teffeteller
Juli Shipley
K.C. Hunter
Ryan Harris
Austin Bennett
Meghanne Thompson

Jessy Yancey
David Wheatley
Cameron Chiles
John Daniel
Erica Hines
John Hreha

concert calender

thursday april 20

The Boro - Mike Anderson, Jesse Cooper, Hear Hear & 8 Jade Horses
Wallstreet - The Protomen w/ Destroy Destroy Destroy
Bluesboro - Ivalee and SkyHi
Liquid Smoke - DJ & Jazz
Bunganut Pig - CLT
KUC Knoll - Earth Day Celebration w/ Velcro Stars, The Carter Administration, Apollo Up, Glossary and Jake Leg Stompers presented by SEA & 88.3; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

friday april 21

The Boro - The Orwells, Of Novas, Inglewood
Bunganut Pig - Clarence Dobbins
Liquid Smoke - Vinyl Soup
Wallstreet - Corleone & Folk Medicine
Bluesboro - Quater to Nine & Tyrone Smith

saturday april 22

Wallstreet - Wooden Wire
Bluesboro - Stereo-Hype & Waldo Weathers
Bunganut Pig - Zig-Zag
The Boro - Los Cobras, Christine & The Rockstar Club

sunday april 23

Grand Palace - Kiss Me Deadly w/ Lylas
The Boro - Acoustic Night presented by Def Kat Music

Let them eat birthday cake

By Valerie Nutt

Exposure Contributor

"It's not really my birthday, but you can give me presents if you want to," murmurs a smiling Amy Smith, the mastermind behind tonight's entertainment, from the safety of her keyboard fortress.

We're not buying it.

"Happy Birthday Amy," we shout back, and share a knowing laugh. There are face painters at the door, a ringmaster making balloon animals, and party hats poking into the smoky air of the Temptation Club, the part-time male revue where we'll be celebrating the latest addition to Murfreesboro's musical family, the band Happy Birthday Amy.

Amy closes her eyes, smiles, and a violin starts to sing. The only other sound is the crinkle of beer cans on the bar as the regulars put down their drinks for "Lock Me Away," a mesmerizing two-minute violin solo.

We're witnessing the culmination of six months of cupcakes and practice for band mates Amy Smith (vocals, keys), Dillon Smith (violin, bass) and Miles Cramer (various and sundry percussion).

The trio shoot each other loaded smiles. Debuts can be nerve-wracking, but these three

carry each other through an original ten-song set with the ease of a familiar touch. And we're eating it like up like birthday cake.

Strings give way to keys, tickled into a dark circus ditty and Amy tells us about "Avonlee" where "the house is warm and the air is sweet." The violin chimes back in, and cymbals clash us back to reality as the crowd starts to sway.

Happy Birthday Amy has perfected the art of gimmick. Mid-applause, balloons explode into the crowd and over the stage. We're already laughing and happy when they launch into "Holidays," an irresistible song with a driving beat and catchy tune.

Amy's distinct voice evokes the catchy cabaret accessibility of early Fleming McWilliams from Nashville's local success story, Fleming and John, the dynamic duo of Belmont dropouts who've been making music since the 1980s. Happy Birthday Amy's chemistry is just as intense and close knit, their music is just as uncanny and fun. They even incorporated a similar punch of brass in a trumpet cameo from their friend, Brian Risse.

The band's set ranges from the sweet, pop-accessible "Annie

Mae" to the soaring vocals of "When It Comes To." Near the end, Amy shrugs off the boys for a solo tune, "When You Say," to tell us a little something about love.

"I'm in love with your hands and the way that you dance," she confides.

There's nothing impersonal about this band, there's no reserve. If you're looking for an ascetic musical experience, look somewhere else.

Three exceptionally talented local bands, HATS, hear, hear! and Makeup & Vanity Set, set the stage for Happy Birthday Amy in their Temptation Club debut.

"They remind me of everything I loved about early indie music," Dillon says after HATS' sit-down set.

Hear, hear! serves up a set of lyric-free musical refreshment. No one misses the words. Band mates Shane Lentz (bass), Stephen May (guitar), and Dustin McCormick (drums) might as well be speaking with their sticks and strings. And with really long song titles, "It Looks Like They Have Their Own Couches, Do We Have Our Own Brain?" who needs more words anyway?

Makeup and Vanity Set aka Matthew Pusti has been serving up his sample-filled delights for indie rock kids who like to dance for the past three years.

And tonight there is dancing. It's subdued dancing, however, as Pusti lays down some newer tracks. While they demonstrate his evolution as a complex musician, they aren't the "dancetastic" tunes we've all been jerking our interpretive bottoms



From left: Dillon Smith, Amy Smith, Miles Cramer
Photo Courtesy of Happy Birthday Amy's Myspace page.

around to for the past year. It's beautiful but decidedly darker. It's thicker, but too hard to shake my hips to.

The Temptation Club may be the pinnacle of redneck-chic decor. Here tacky Christmas lights on hung on the walls. It's bright for a show, and you can hear Temptation Club regulars shooting pool between songs.

From the swarthy middle-aged bar tender in a midriff-baring top to the cracked stools and the vintage beer regalia (left up not as a flash of trendy retro stylishness, but occupying the same spot on the wall that it has indefinitely) the Temptation Club says "durty South" in every jukebox-filled break between sets.

How many times in one night can you play "Honky Tonk Badonkadonk"? Not as many times as you can play Nelly. Trust me, I counted.

The laughable décor, bad rap and questionable patrons aside, the evening was a musical breath of fresh air.

"Even the night sky will always be there for you, and so will I," Happy Birthday Amy promises the crowd in "Manhattan." I think they're right.



'Benchwarmers' reunites SNL alumnae with a side of Napolean Dynamite

By Juli Shipley

Exposure Columnist

This spring's requisite baseball flick "Benchwarmers" is typical, standard Saturday Night Live fare brought to the screen by Adam Sandler's Happy Madison Productions.

The ensemble comedy features SNL alums Rob Schneider, David Spade and Jon Lovitz with it-geek boy of the moment, Jon Heder (aka Napoleon Dynamite).

Farts and boogers are flying in the first ten minutes of this juvenile flick aimed at young boys, championing the underdogs and giving hope of

acceptance to the world's "Star Wars" fans and Dungeons and Dragons DMs.

Schneider is the group's unofficial leader, Gus, the only one not borderline mentally handicapped, with a hottie wife (former model Molly Sims) and a respectable lawn care business of his own. Heder (Clark) isn't too far removed from his notorious role as Utah's favorite dork, but he trades in his frizzy curls for a flip and a helmet. Spade plays Richie, complete with Prince Valiant bob, a video store clerk with an awkward agoraphobic brother.



Above: David Spade, Jon Heder and Rob Schneider star in Benchwarmers
Left: Jon Lovitz and Max Pardo

The trio is first lured to the baseball field when they hear a group of boys harassing a chubby kid and rush to save his dignity. Being on the field sparks childhood memories for Gus and he urges the guys to return for a practice session later that day.

When they return to initiate Clark and Richie (neither of whom has played the game before) into the game of baseball, they are confronted by a group of wise-cracking kids who want the field for themselves. This leads to a lot of name-calling and an eventual challenge sure to change all the boys, young and old.

The challenge leads to a full-scale tournament sponsored by the chubby kid's dad, Lovitz, who is every geek's dream come true. Not only a billionaire with an amazing crib, he's also proud owner of R2-D2, a vintage Batmobile, and KITT from 80s fave Knight Rider.

He offers up a brand new stadium for the winner of the one-game elimination tourney and the Benchwarmers set out to win games, hearts, and a new stadium for the ostracized kids.

The gross-out comedy does have its laughs, however shameful. They're in there, only tucked between so much product placement they can be difficult to ascertain.

First it is Pepsi, then Pizza Hut (part of the same umbrella corporation), then the guys are drinking Pepsi at the Pizza Hut. There's Sony Pictures superhero Spider-Man as well as its PlayStation 2 and Vaio laptop. Toss in Toyota and several other labels and it proves to be quite distracting.

Of course the movie wouldn't be complete without the guys facing their own bullies from school and this makes for the best jokes of the film. Former talk show host Craig Kilborn is funny as a rival's dad—a businessman who hasn't yet let go of his antagonistic childish ways.

When the team's guaranteed win is threatened in the semi-finals—well, I'll save something for the element of surprise, but you know what happens.

Not that it's a bad movie, it just is what it is. In an era following clever comedies like "Wedding Crashers" and "40-Year Old Virgin," must we resort back to fart jokes and ball-socking? The film teeters a fine line between its PG-13 rating and the R it could have received, as only a matter of words would change it. But "Benchwarmers" is for the kiddies, who have to have something to spend their money on Friday nights at the Cineplex and luckily for the grown-ups, it manages to stay quick and painless.



'Lucky Number Slevin' splashes with hard-boiled pulp but lacks depth

By Joseph Schmickrath

Exposure Columnist

There are two types of twist endings: ones like "Seven" that just shock the hell out of you and ones like "The Sixth Sense" that make you re-think the entire movie from beginning to end. Director Paul McGuigan's "Lucky Number Slevin" is the latter, but it is done so poorly that, not only could I see it coming from a mile away, but it also ruined the entire movie for me.

On the surface "Lucky Number Slevin" has a hip, cool and witty vibe that plays off its Bondish charms and offbeat characters. It has a swinging '60s feel, but unlike the "Austin

Powers" franchise, "Lucky Number Slevin" takes itself seriously.

The main character is Slevin, played by Josh Hartnett. Hartnett gives an entertaining and convincing performance as a man in the wrong place at the wrong time. He is thought to be Fischer, who has been causing problems for two of the most powerful gangsters in all of New York: The Boss (Morgan Freeman) and The Rabbi (Ben Kingsley).

Lucky Number Slevin continued on page 8

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By Joseph Schmickrath
Exposure Columnist

Most anticipated movies of Summer 2006

Photos Courtesy of Columbia Pictures, 20th Century Fox, Warner Brothers Pictures, Walt Disney Pictures, and Warner Independent Pictures

First off, I would like to thank Regal Green Hills Cinema 16 for their generosity in helping me get into movies throughout the semester.

I would also like to thank my editor Phillip Buck for helping

me work out the kinks in my reviews before they hit the press.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank the readers out there who took the time to read my reviews. I hope you enjoyed

them; now onto the SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW.

There are many summer blockbusters on the slate for the months of May through September, so I'm narrowing the list down to five that I think are the most anticipated.

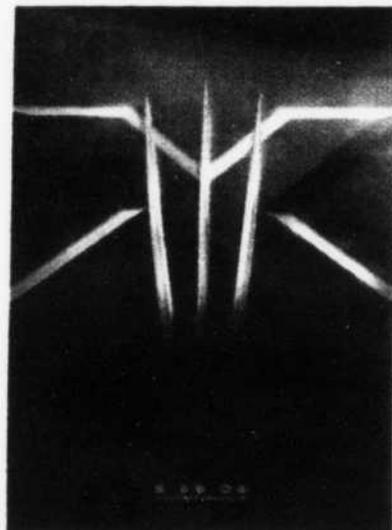


MAY 19

"The Da Vinci Code"

Apparently, Jesus did a little more than die for our sins. At least that's what author Dan Brown would like us to believe. The story tells of a Harvard symbologist named Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) as he unfolds mysteries kept secret by the Roman Catholic Church for centuries. The movie adaptation by director Ron Howard ("A Beautiful Mind," "Cinderella Man") stars such notables as Audrey Tautou ("Amelie"), Ian McKellen, Alfred Molina, and Jean Reno to name a few.

Controversy, it seems, constantly comes with the territory of religious movies, especially ones that are fiction. Look no further than "Dogma" and "The Last Temptation of Christ" for examples. But all controversy aside it can be assured that Howard will bring a glossy thriller to the screen.



MAY 26

"X-Men: The Last Stand"

Could this really be the end of the X-Men franchise? That's what Fox would lead you to believe. With spin-offs of Wolverine and Magneto in the works it seems likely that this is the X-Men's last stand. But will it go out with a bang? Director Brett Ratner ("Rush Hour" trilogy) has a lot of hype to live up to.

The addition of Kelsey Grammer as Dr. Hank McCoy, a.k.a. Beast, is an impeccable casting decision. It really adds some much-needed sophistication to the character. Nightcrawler (Alan Cumming)—clearly the highlight of "X2"—is gone. In the wake of the sulfur smoke left behind by the blue devil's disappearance, Vinnie Jones ("Snatch") takes up the slack, bringing a huge presence as Juggernaut. The absence of director Bryan Singer, however, may be too much to bare.



JUNE 30

"Superman Returns"

Newcomer Brandon Routh looks a lot like Christopher Reeve, but can he act? It remains to be seen. But with director Bryan Singer, fresh off the "X2," at the helm anything is possible.

Kate Bosworth ("Blue Crush") plays Lois Lane, clearly getting the role because of her chemistry with Kevin Spacey in "Beyond the Sea."

The two return to the screen once again with Spacey playing Superman's arch-nemesis Lex Luthor. Will he be sinister or campy? The answer to this question could decide the tone of the picture.

Marlon Brando ("The Godfather") is back as the voice of Jor-El, the birth father of Superman. "Superman Returns" has nostalgia written all over it.



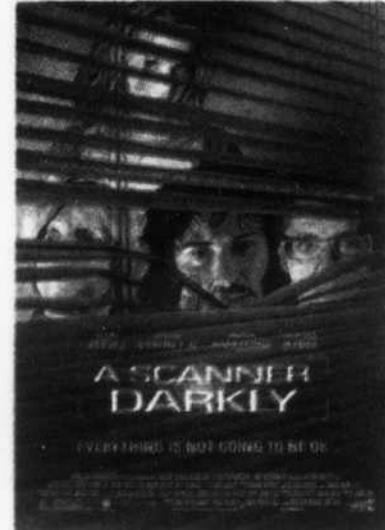
JULY 7

"Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest"

Johnny Depp returns to the screen as the "notorious" pirate Jack Sparrow, a performance that led him to an Academy Award nomination in the 2003 original "Pirates" film.

Disney and action producer extraordinaire Jerry Bruckheimer are putting up a lot more money for this outing. With the success of the first film in the trilogy—the third one is currently being filmed—there are likely to be even more fireworks than ever on screen.

Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley bring another kind of flash to the screen, reprising their roles as Will Turner and Elizabeth Swann. Even with all its promise, can it stay true to the humor that made the original so well-received?



JULY 28

"A Scanner Darkly"

Looking to be the next cult futuristic sci-fi hit, director Richard Linklater ("School of Rock") takes the unique cell-shaded style he used in his 2001 film "Waking Life" to a whole 'nother level.

The film is based on the 1977 Philip K. Dick novel of the same name and deals with the "War on Drugs." Keanu Reeves is a government pawn who resists the system, something he's quite familiar with from his role in a certain trilogy of no little renown. He is accompanied by: Winona Ryder, Robert Downey Jr. and Woody Harrelson. The music phenom of Radiohead will be adding a trippy song or two to the film's score. Ridley Scott's 1992 adaptation of "Blade Runner" is still Dick's best-known work, but will "A Scanner Darkly" be as well received, or will it be just one more bad adaptation for the silver screen?

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Lucky Number Slevin continued from page 4

Both gangsters go way back, but past feuds have led each to live in isolation—that is, across the street from one another. They try not to get in each other's way. However, the recent assassination of The Boss's son has led him to hire Mr. Goodkat (Bruce Willis) to take out The Rabbi's son in retaliation. Slevin becomes the fall guy.

While Kingsley delivers his part of the humor by really becoming an interesting and unique gangster, Freeman fails to deliver. It just seems like Freeman doesn't become a gangster character—he just showed up to the set as himself. But Willis tightens up the slack, bringing a dapper look and slick bravado to his assassin character.

Another problem is the schizophrenic story of

"Lucky Number Slevin," going this way and that way but never really coming together as a whole. Some scenes are highly entertaining and work very well on their own, such as a scene in which Mr. Goodkat coaxes the two bodyguards of The Rabbi's son to come to him, shooting them with two silencers.

But most of the time the pacing is a mess, all over the place ala "Pulp Fiction." It's lacking one key component to bring it all together: Quentin Tarantino. The scenes in "Lucky Number Slevin" haphazardly come together.

Those expecting a fun and entertaining film may still be satisfied, but be wary of the curve ball at the end. I was expecting more from "Lucky Number Slevin," and instead it rubbed me the wrong way.

Southern Girls Rock 'n Roll Camp

By Meghanne Thompson
Exposure Contributor

Now in its fourth year, the Southern Girl Rock 'n' Roll Camp established by a group of MTSU students and alumnae is gearing up for another week of music, art and a whole lotta rock.

This week long day camp encourages girls to get involved with music by providing instrument instructions, workshops and panel discussions. Instructions are available for the guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, vocals and for the first time last year, electronic music.

Workshops help the girls focus their creative expressions into not only music, but writing and art. Workshops vary between songwriting and recording to music journalism, photography and screen printing. Panels give

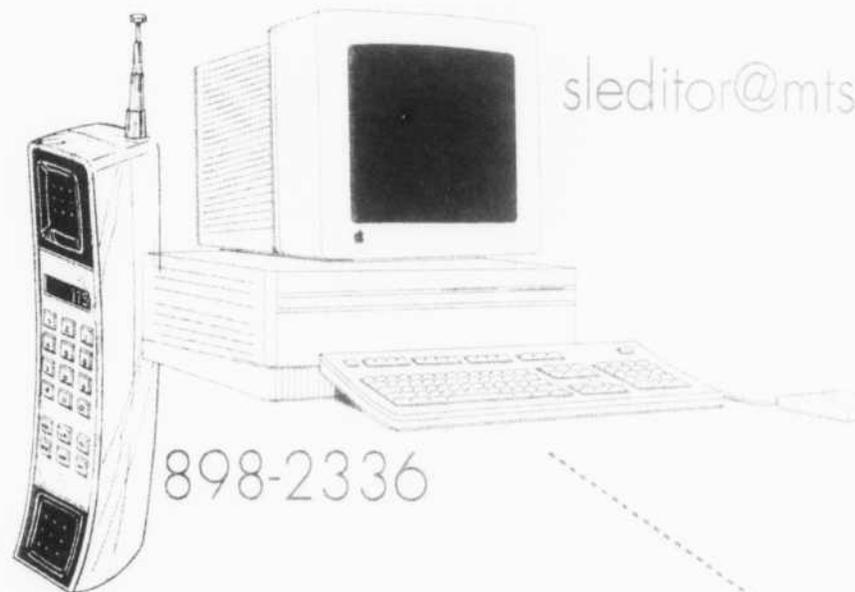
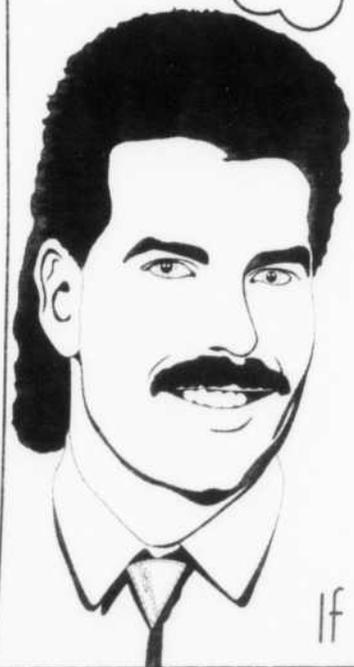
the campers the opportunity to meet individuals within the music community and obtain insight on topics like the history of women in music, girls on tour and activism in music. Former panelists have included Stacy Singer of Daemen Records, Allison Woolfe of the riot band Bratmobile, Carla DeSantis, the editor of RockGrl magazine and Kristin Thomson of the Future of Music Coalition.

Inspired by the Portland, Oregon-based Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls, our local camp was developed by Kelley Anderson as a project of the feminist organization, Women for Women. The camp was established in conjunction with the June Anderson's Women Center at MTSU and has become an

independent business. Although the camp is still located on the MTSU campus, it is no longer affiliated with MTSU.

The camp registration for 12-18 year old girls will begin shortly, and is scheduled for July 31- August 15. Camp and donation information is available on their website, www.sgrrc.org as well as positions that are available for volunteers and workers.

News Tip



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Sidelines

If you have a news tip call or email us. Thanks.

MTSU graduate takes film to Nashville Film Festival

By Sarah Crotzer

Exposure Contributor

Fisk University played host to the fifth annual Nashville International Black Film Festival, including "Dodge City: A Spaghetti Western," written, directed and co-produced by MTSU graduate and former Sidelines entertainment editor Read W. Ridley.

Ridley said that while growing up, he spent a lot of time in Nashville's hoods, which became the inspiration for "Dodge City."

"From what I've seen in Hoods," he said, "they've become to African-Americans what reservations have become to Native Americans. They're usually the most undesirable pieces of land, and there are lots of similarities to the old west."

As an MTSU student, he spent a lot of time in the now-defunct film program, Ripley said. After graduation, he worked on film crews and is now a professor and technical engineer at Watkins Film School.

"I told myself I'd give myself ten years [of industry work] before starting on my own film," he said.

"Dodge City," which stars Isaac Hayes – known, these days, for the voice of Chef on "South Park" – won the Southern Spirit Award at the 2004 Southern Film Festival and Black Writers Conference. Last week's festival was non-competitive, but Ridley says this isn't the end of the road for the film.

"Right now we're doing a little more work on the sound," he said, "and we're in talks with distributors."

He's also working a new film, he said, which he is hoping to debut at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival.

For more information on "Dodge City," visit The Privateers Motion Picture Group at <http://www.privateers.com>.



Photo Courtesy of Read Ridley

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Belcourt Beat: Tsotsi Screening

By Juli Shipley

Exposure Columnist

Belcourt Theatre does its best to bring culture to Middle Tennessee as its Foreign Language Oscar week begins on April 28th with openings of "Tsotsi" and "Sophie Scholl."

Both films were nominated for this year's Academy Awards, but it was "Tsotsi" from South Africa that took home the prize.

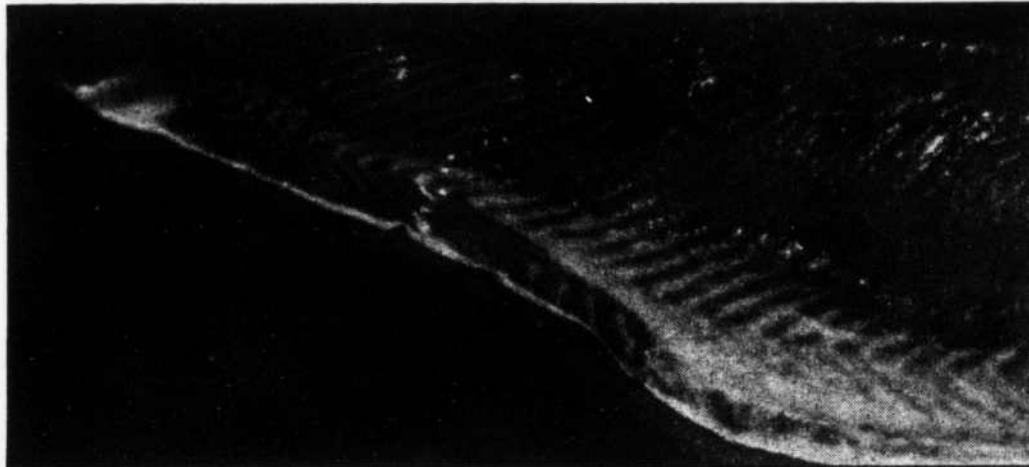
The psychological thriller takes place in present day Johannesburg and shares the street name for "thug." This is a very violent story of a struggling man amidst urban deprivation and has been compared to "Cidade de Deus (City of God)" for its gritty contemporary storytelling and realistic cinematography.

"Sofie Scholl" is a German film based on the true story of a famous anti-Nazi heroine and chronicles her last six days as

she is interrogated and tortured by the Gestapo. It has won many international film awards, including several for the luminous performance of the title role by Julia Jentsch. Friday night's opening will be presented by Josh Dark, department head of history, philosophy and political science at Tennessee State University.

Contact the Belcourt box office for showtimes or visit the webpage at www.belcourt.org. Don't forget — students get in for less than \$4 on Tuesdays.

Grilled Salmon Steaks with Basil Sauce



By Adam Castro

Sidelines Photo Editor

Think you're hot stuff in the kitchen? Curious about your culinary capabilities? Want to impress a date, or stop re-plating Fazzoli's and calling it your own. Or just actually cook your own damn food for once in your f**king life? Try your hand at this delectable dish, it is simple yet elegant, easy yet impressive.

There are a number of ways one can prepare this meal, you can

- a) buy a basil or otherwise sauce, or
 - b) concoct your own condiments
- I would recommend the latter.

If you have more sophisticated tastes, and/or a romantic setting in mind, I would highly recommend an Oregon or New Zealand Pinot Noir. Some winery suggestions would be:

1. Firesteed (\$11)
2. Leaping Lizard (\$14-16)
3. The Little Penguin (SE Australian, \$8) or for the high roller, either Stephen Vincent Pinot Noir (2003 approximately \$20), or a Louis Jadot Pinot Noir (French 2001-3 approximately \$20).

Ingredients

Sauce:

1 - 8 oz. container of low or non-fat plain yogurt (don't worry, it won't taste like yogurt in the end)
 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves
 1 tablespoon sliced green onions (optional, replace with fresh minced garlic clove if desired)
 1-teaspoon sugar
 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
 1/4 teaspoon salt

Fish:

2 - 8 oz. salmon steaks (1 in. thick), each cut into 2 pieces
 1 stick melted butter
 1/2 teaspoon lemon-pepper seasoning (or pepper with fresh lemon zest, preferred)
 a bit of extra-virgin olive oil if available

In food processor or blender, combine half of the yogurt and the remaining sauce ingredients. Process until smooth, then stir in remaining yogurt. You will want to cover and refrigerate (important!) the sauce until the salmon has been grilled.

Heat grill before using. Rub melted butter all over the salmon steaks, then sprinkle lemon-pepper over them.

When you are ready to grill, put a little oil on the grill rack just before placing the steaks on it. Cook steaks over medium heat on gas, or 4 to 6 inches from medium-high coals. Cook 10 to 15 minutes (possibly a little less,

depending) or until fish flakes easily with a fork **ONLY TURNING ONCE!**

When the salmon is ready, plate the salmon and drizzle sauce over and around the steaks. For presentation, a bit of parsley elegantly placed adds a nice touch, and perhaps a curled lemon shaving or two.

It would be beneficial to serve a garden salad as an appetizer, but keep it light (meaning not a lot of dressing, toppings, etc) as you don't want to wear out the palate before the main entrée. Do not serve wine with the salad, and drink only water until the main entrée is to be served.

What the *#!k is Pinot Noir?

Pinot Noir is one of the oldest and most difficult grape varieties to cultivate for the purpose of making wine. Ancient Romans knew this grape as Helvenacia Minor and vinified it as early as the first century AD. Recognized worldwide as a great wine grape, Pinot Noir has many aliases and is grown in Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria (called Blauburgunder or Spätburgunder), Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, England, France, Germany (Spätburgunder), Greece, Hungary, Italy (Pinot Nero), Mexico, New Zealand, Switzerland (Clevner, labeled "Dole" when blended with Gamay Noir), the United States, and Yugoslavia (Burgundac).

Until recent years, the most recognized area for Pinot production is Burgundy (Bourgogne), France, a two-mile-wide, thirty-mile-long stretch of hills, called the Côte d'Or ("Slope of Gold"). Its vineyards slope gently down toward the East, providing the vines with long sun exposure yet avoiding afternoon heat provide explana-

tion for its consistency. The soil there is very calcareous (containing calcium carbonate), offering exceptional drainage. Well-drained soils have a higher average temperature, assisting the ripening process. Because Pinot Noir seems to reflect more pronounced Gout de Terroir (flavor of the soil) than other black grape types, vineyard site selection becomes a critical factor in its production.

Difficulties plague Pinot Noir at every step, from growth to its bottle-aging characteristics. Genetically unstable, the parent vine may produce offspring that bear fruit that is nothing like the parent's in the size and shape of the berry or cluster and will frequently even have different aromas, flavors, and levels of productivity. There are 46 recognized clones of Pinot Noir in Dijon, France alone.

Pinot Noir shows some promise and has a possible future in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, the Okanogan Valley of British

Columbia, and in New Zealand, although all may prove to have growing seasons that are generally too short and too humid for consistently outstanding results. Great Pinot Noir creates a lasting impression on the palate and in the memory. Its aroma is often one of the most complex of all varieties and can be intense with a ripe-grape or black cherry aroma, frequently accented by a pronounced spiciness that suggests cinnamon, sassafras, or mint. Ripe tomato, mushroom, and barnyard are also common descriptors for identifying Pinot Noir. It is full-bodied and rich but not heavy, high in alcohol, yet neither acidic nor tannic, with substantial flavor despite its delicacy.

It is not necessary to have a degree in horticulture to enjoy wine, and the air of smugness that surrounds it shouldn't intimidate you. Don't be afraid to explore the world of wines, made tremendously available in recent years at affordable prices thanks to the aging baby-boomers.

Basil for Idiots..

Basil is an amazingly fragrant leaf, giving extra flavor to almost any dish. Sweet basil is by far the most popular of the many varieties, including hints of lemon and anise.

It's easy to grow at home, and by pinching off leaves from the center of the plant, it will produce all season.

The white flowers are edible too, though they should be frequently picked to prevent the plants energies from being wasted into flower production.

Once picked, the leaf becomes more fragile, so care is needed to keep it fresh and intact.

Trim from the stems and place the whole 'bouquet' into a glass jar or container with an inch or so of water, close it tight and keep it in the refrigerator until needed.

You will need to pinch off the stems before use as they are quite fibrous, and fine grating is recommended for garnishing.

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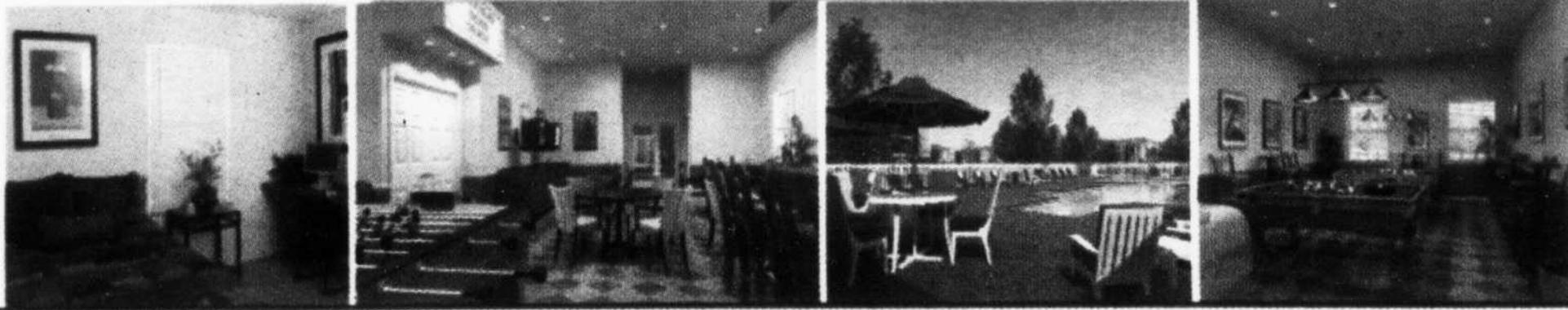
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