

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008

VOL. 84 NO. 22

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coach of year



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FROM MARCH 7 -
AUGUST 2008

MTSU Blvd. is closed
from Rutherford Blvd. to
Blue Raider Drive due to
construction. Drivers will
be able to enter the cam-
pus off Rutherford Blvd.
at Alumni Drive (newly
opened road by Greek
Row). The 4-way stop at
MTSU Blvd. will also be
closed during construc-
tion. Please follow detour
signs.

The gravel lot at the
corner of MTSU Blvd.
and Rutherford Blvd.
will also be closed dur-
ing this time. Students
are advised to park in
the Rutherford Blvd. lot
across from Greek Row
and ride the shuttle.

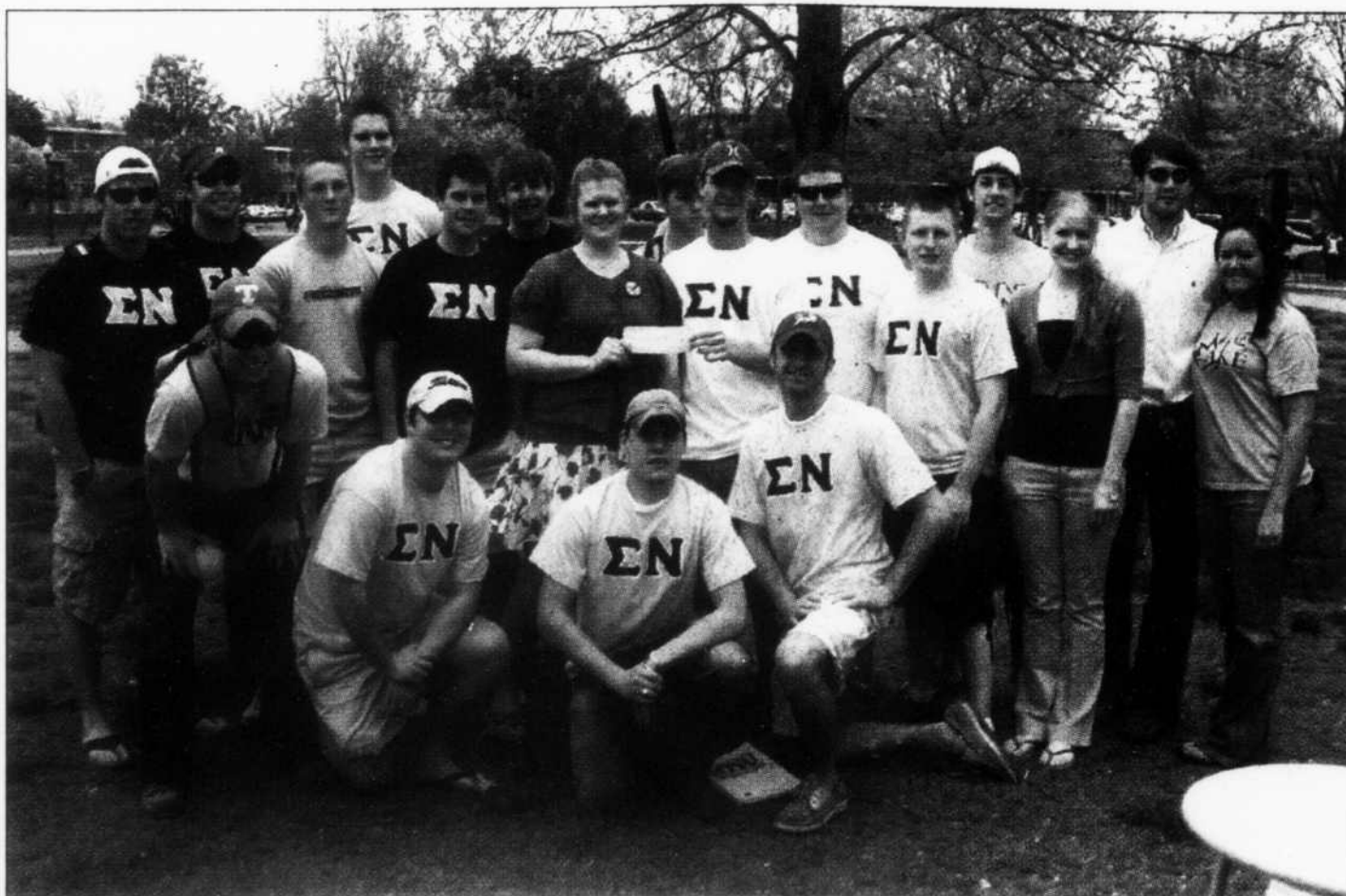


Photo Courtesy Brandon McNary
Sigma Nu present Hillary Robson and students with \$1,000 check on Keathley University Center Knoll.

Great impact costs small change

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

Students are getting involved in service learning program called "Pennies for Peace" to raise money for the construction of schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Pennies for Peace is part of the Central Asia Institute, and correlates with the reading program and selected summer novel "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace, One School At A Time" by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

In the novel, Mortenson is a well-known mountaineer and ends up taking a wrong turn that leads him to a Pakistani village. After enduring starvation and dehydration, Mortenson is taken in by the villagers and witnesses first hand their struggles and illiteracy due to lack of education.

Since school conditions are extremely poor in Paki-

stan, this organization exists for the specific purpose of building schools and improving education.

"Our goal is to raise \$21,000 to build and staff a school for a year," said Hillary Robson, professor in experiential learning, English and university studies.

Robson said the project will continue in the fall with her 1010 students and incoming freshmen that want to participate as well as student organizations that plan to get involved.

Based on book sales from the web, one percent of every sale will go to the organization in hopes of reaching its goal.

In addition to money, Robson also wants people to donate books, stuff, time and even pennies.

"Even if you're hurting for money a penny buys a pencil," Robson said. "If everyone on campus would donate a penny or a dime we would actually exceed our original goal."

Robson along with several of her students will be on the Keathley University Center Knoll every Thursday collecting donations and rewarding people for their generosity with pens, buttons and baked goods.

"I remember when 9/11 happened it was horrible [and] I wanted to do something [and] I felt like I needed to do something, but me being one person I didn't know what I could do and actually make a difference," said Matt Beird, freshman History major. "But with this I can already see a change, Greg Mortenson has already effected thousands of lives and anything I can contribute will make a difference."

The largest donation made towards Pennies for Peace thus far is from Sigma Nu, who presented Robson with a check for \$1,000 last Thursday.

"Pennies for Peace is for a good cause and it benefits several children who are

less fortunate and would not have the ability to get an education if not for organizations like this," said Brandon McNary, junior psychology major and President of Sigma Nu. "And since we just recently been back on campus, we felt a campus charity project would be better than one on a national level."

The \$1,000 donated by Sigma Nu was the money earned in Chi Omega's Wish Week fraternity. McNary said the fraternity voted after winning their earnings and decided to donate the money to Pennies for Peace.

Robson said one of the authors, Greg Mortenson, will speak at the convocation in August, and will be presented with a check for funds raised so far.

Students and community members interested in getting involved with Pennies for Peace, they can contact Hillary Robson at 615-494-8970 or at hrobson@mtsu.edu.

Yancy speaks on racial issues

By BYRON WILKES
Contributing Writer

Duquesne University philosophy professor George Yancy discussed the more subtle points of modern racial issues in a forum April 11 in the James Union building at MTSU.

Yancy made observations concerning his day-to-day experiences and those of other people, reflecting underlying tensions between people of different backgrounds that otherwise might not be so apparent. Yancy said the simple act of walking by someone in a car only to hear the door lock, obviously a response out of fear of a theft, reflects a sense of genuine racism that pervades many aspects of today's society.

Yancy's words are part of a larger idea conveyed in his coming book, "Black Bodies, White Gazes," scheduled to be released sometime this summer. Yancy probes the reasons and repercussions of understated actions people take, when placed into situations they are not used to or just have never been in before.

"I thought his speech was rather controversial, but I really appreciate the fact that he directly approached what is the white status quo," said David Sykes, freshman. "It seems like whiteness really is the promoted norm here on campus and even everywhere else."

At the beginning of his speech, Yancy revealed the three prongs which he believes best sum up his pedagogy. The first is the Greek

YANCY, PAGE 3

Alpha Omicron Pi holds 5k run for juvenile arthritis

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

Alpha Omicron Pi raised \$3,000 hosting a 5k run/walk at Alvin York V.A. Medical Center campus to raise money for national philanthropy benefiting juvenile arthritis.

The run/walk began at the park pavilion on the Medical Center campus at 8:30 a.m. and continued until 11 a.m. with music and door prizes awarded at the finish line.

Every year, members of Alpha Omicron Pi host fundraisers and events to raise money for those suffering from arthritis. Last fall, Alpha Omicron Pi held a barbeque to benefit adults with this disease, ultimately raising more than \$9,000.

After holding a concert last spring to raise money for juvenile arthritis, Alpha Omicron Pi decided this year by establishing a 5k fundraiser.

"This event was chosen

as a way to get the entire community involved in raising funds for the American Juvenile Arthritis Organization," said Sarah Achelpohl, event director and sophomore nutrition food science major. "5k's are a fun, healthy way to support a cause."

Since Run for Roses is a new event for the community, members of Alpha Omicron Pi did their best to promote the event.

"By speaking to companies [it] gave us advertising," said Leslie Fly, junior marketing major. "We even reached out to ClearChannel and public service announcements on Pipeline."

In order to register for the run/walk, participants could go online in advance to pay a fee of \$20 or they could sign up at the event. Participants were also supplied with a t-shirt, food and



Photo Courtesy of Facebook
Alpha Omicron Pi members hand out awards and door prizes after the 5k Run for Roses.

RUN, PAGE 3

Hellenic groups compete for title of Greek Week champ

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

Fraternities and sororities compete throughout Greek Week 2008 by attending and participating in daily events to earn points for their organization.

Greek Week took place from April 6 through 12 with nightly events to encourage Greek members to attend in hopes of earning points for their fraternity or sorority.

"The goal of the 2008 Greek Week is to bring together the Greek community," said Josh McKenzie, senior electronic media journalism major and president of the All Greek Council. "It gives us a chance to set aside a week for the Greek students to meet other students, celebrate the accomplishments of the year, and as a closing out of the academic year."

Greek Week is sponsored by the All Greek Council, which is combined of the three Greek councils: National Panhellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and Interfraternity Council.

The week began on April 6 at 3 p.m. with the Greek wide picture at the football stadium. Members of fraternities and sororities wore stitch letters to promote the "I'm One" campaign.

After the picture, Greek Week 2008 officially began at 5 p.m. on the Row with a decorative tent competition. Alpha Chi Omega won first place while Alpha Delta Pi took second place and Chi Omega came in third. All of the winners received points, which contributed to their final Greek Week standing.

The first "I'm Greek: Speak Out" during Greek Week was held on April 7 at 6 p.m.



Photo Courtesy of Josh McKenzie

MTSU Greek Life students gather at Floyd Stadium to celebrate Greek Week 2008 festivities.

Eight different fraternities and sororities participated in this event by coming up with themes to discuss during their sessions.

McKenzie said Greek members were required to attend two of these sessions each semester to serve as educational programming. With different houses hosting various topics, the speak out added something completely new to this year's Greek Week.

Some of the themes displayed were: "True Life: I'm a Greek Advisor" by Sigma Alpha Epsilon, "It's All About What He Said She Said: Prevent Sexual Assault" by Kappa Alpha, and "These Are My People: A Reflection of Greek History at MTSU" by Sigma Chi.

McKenzie said that even though this week was mainly

for Greek students, some of the sessions held during "I'm Greek: Speak Out" were relevant to students all across campus.

On Tuesday, Family Feud: Greek Style was held in the Learning Resource Center room 221 at 7:30 p.m. During this competition, Greeks competed against each other for pure entertainment and fun.

"This was a night to just get together and have a good time," McKenzie said.

The winners of the event consisted of Sigma Nu, Chi Omega and Zeta Phi Beta, who all served on the same team.

During the annual Greek Week Service Day, all Greek members were required to help clean the campus by picking up trash. Service Day

was held on Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

As the week progressed, the All Sing Competition approached with 12 different organizations competing in the men and women's divisions to put on a performance relating to their theme.

All Sing was held in the Murphy Center on Thursday at 7 p.m. Ticket proceeds of \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door are going towards building a childcare lab a playground for Womack Lane.

"[This was] my favorite part of the week, and the one I worked most closely with was the All Sing Competition," McKenzie said. "This gave us a chance to have Greek and non-Greek organizations participate [and] raise money for a good cause

here on campus, and see some awesome talent."

Some of the themes performed in All Sing were Chicago, Wicked, I Want To Dance with Somebody, 80s, One Hit Wonders, Seasons of Love, Mamma Mia, Jersey Boys and the Beach Boys.

On Friday, the All Greek Mixer was held at the Sigma Pi house at 9:30 p.m. and sponsored by Sigma Pi and Pi Kappa Alpha. Tickets were sold in the Keathley University Center for \$5 in advance. The band "Sky High" performed at the event.

As Greek Week came to a close, The Blue White Game, which serves as a practice game for the football team to prepare for the upcoming season, took place on Saturday at 1 p.m. in the football stadium with a tailgating

ceremony held beforehand in Walnut Grove.

"Greek life is helping promote this game by placing apart of Greek Week," McKenzie said.

In order to receive points for participation, sororities and fraternities were required to sign their names on sign-n sheets, which were available at all of the event throughout the week. Points were mainly awarded for attendance and will be counted by the All Greek Council this week before announcing the winner of Greek Week 2008 on April 23 in the Tuck Theatre at 7 p.m.

"Greek Week is important because it gives students a chance to get together and enjoy the benefits Greek Life has to offer with other Greek students," McKenzie said.

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Application deadline: 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15

Editor selection will be held the week of April 28 and will be conducted through an interview with the University Newspaper Publications Board.

Sidelines is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Summer and/or Fall semesters:

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YANCY FROM PAGE 1

term "parrhesia," which is the notion of fearless or candid speech. It is critical to the understanding of the rest of his thoughts.

The second prong is the term "troublemaker," which Yancy uses to refer to the troubling of one's own presuppositions. The third prong is "avoid pretentiousness" which Yancy believes only impedes any notable discourse on the topic.

Avoiding pretentiousness is crucial to his philosophy and Yancy concedes that there is no room to impress in the field of philosophy.

The example Yancy uses to reveal the intricacies of the black body and white gaze is one where a black man enters an elevator where a white woman is waiting to reach her floor. The woman, either from fear or habit, ever so slightly tugs her purse closer to her. If one was to see this interaction without thinking, it would probably not ap-

pear to be that significant, but in reality it carries great weight.

Yancy says that by clutching her purse, the woman has already exposed the white power structure to which she clearly relates whether or not she is or is not blatantly racist. By grabbing her handbag, the woman has opened up the white gaze onto the black man's body and simultaneously suggested the man is somebody who she should fear.

The woman has assert-

ed herself as some type of "norm" to which the black body has no place. Within the semiotic field of the elevator, the woman has commenced the act of interpellation, which effectively associates the black male body with some sort of wrongness or criminality from which there is no escape.

Yancy further classified the moments in the elevator in a sort of bulleted list, each arguing different aspects of what is going on there. The Greek term "my-

thos" for story or legend refers to the set of categories that one uses to rationalize reality; in the woman's case this would be that all black bodies are criminals.

The next is codification, which is the process by which the woman copes with her emotional feelings. The act of the woman pulling her purse is indicative of the next category, ritualization. The woman has brought forth her own ideas and beliefs in a physical act to which she relates safety.

The final category is on-

tologization, which refers to one's state of simply being. In the case of the elevator, the woman's white gaze has thrown the being of the black body to the black man, discarding it as unaffiliated in any way to whiteness.

"In terms of campus life, there is still great division between white bodies and black bodies," Yancy said when asked whether students were somehow not subject to what his observations have generally held true.

RUN FROM PAGE 1

drinks for their efforts.

"[It's] important because [we are] focusing on health this year, and a 5k is not hard," said Erin Johnson, junior public relations major. "You can run or walk it and it makes you feel good about exercising."

Besides exercise, members of Alpha Omicron Pi feel the cause is important and vital to the Juvenile Arthritis Organization.

"I do know someone that had Juvenile Arthritis as a child but who is now grown and still feels the effects of

the disease that is participating," Achelpohl said.

In addition to Achelpohl's experience with the disease, there is also a member of Alpha Omicron Pi who suffers from arthritis.

"Sarah has dedication and love for fitness and health," Fly said. "Once people see how beneficial [Run for Roses] is they will keep it going."

"This is an important cause to support because the impact of Juvenile Arthritis on school, social life, family relationships, dating, sports, and almost every other aspect of an active child's life raises special

concerns," Achelpohl said. "It's not easy and needs to be diagnosed young to receive treatment, which is difficult because it's often overlooked or misunderstood by medical professionals."

The sponsors for this event include Steinmart, Kent Coleman, Dixie Trophy House, Mullins Jewelry, Carmike Cinemas, Blockbuster, Slick Pig, Krogers, Coca Cola, Fake n' Bake and College Grove Apartments.

Sponsors donated gift cards and merchandise for door prizes, while College Grove supplied participants with refreshments.

Corrections

In Thursday's edition, the story "Student charged in death of infant" incorrectly stated that Jenna Lynn McConkey was still in Anderson County Detention Center as of Wednesday night. In actuality, McConkey was bonded out Monday night at \$75,000.

Also in Thursday's edition, the story "Fraternity wins awards at National Convention" incorrectly stated that members of Pi Sigma Epsilon paid for their own travel arrangements to Dallas. In actuality, they received \$7,200 from student activity fees and \$2,500 from James Eric Burton, dean of the College of Business.

Sidelines regrets these errors.

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Health fair held in KUC

By JESSICA GRAY
Contributing Writer

In an effort to raise health awareness to students, almost 30 local organizations and student booths crowded the Keathley University Center lobbies on Thursday for MTSU's Annual Health Fair.

The fair was coordinated by the Student Nurses Association and the School of Nursing, along with help from the Student Dietetics Association, Student National Medical Association, and Delta Sigma Theta.

Lindsay Thomas, senior nursing major and treasurer of SNA, said "We, as nurses, feel a strong obligation to reach out to our community, and we have the health fair because MTSU is our community."

There were 27 areas set up with information, demonstrations, and free items. Also, the Health Fair provided HPV, osteoporosis, blood glucose and speech and hearing screening, as well as HIV Testing, all free

of charge.

Thomas said "The HIV testing was such a hit that they actually had to close down early, at around noon, because they were running out of supplies."

Students also had the opportunity to sign up for the National Marrow Donor Program and donate blood to the American Red Cross.

Lauren Coggins, a freshman special education major, said "I am giving blood today because I feel that it is my responsibility as a person to give back."

Crystal Dutton, a senior nursing student, aided students who wanted to sign up for the National Marrow Donor Program.

"We have had over 40 applicants today, which is great," Dutton said.

There were also tables set up by local organizations, such as the Minority Affairs division of the Tennessee Health Department, Street Works, and Nashville Cares, among others.

Amanda Chenoweth, junior nursing major, said "The health fair is very important because education is the key to prevention [of illness], which is always better than treatment." Chenoweth volunteered at the hemoglobin booth, where students were able to have their blood sugar levels checked.

Another volunteer, junior nursing major Lorri Finotti, added, "Most students don't think about cancer and many other diseases, and this just helps to raise awareness."

Chuck Woosley, a junior nursing major, agreed and said "The Health Fair is a great way to reach out to the community and inform people."

The Health Fair took place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Shelaina Lewis, one of the main coordinators for the event and a senior nursing student, said "The Health fair is something that SNA does every year, and it is always a big success and we look forward to having it many more times."

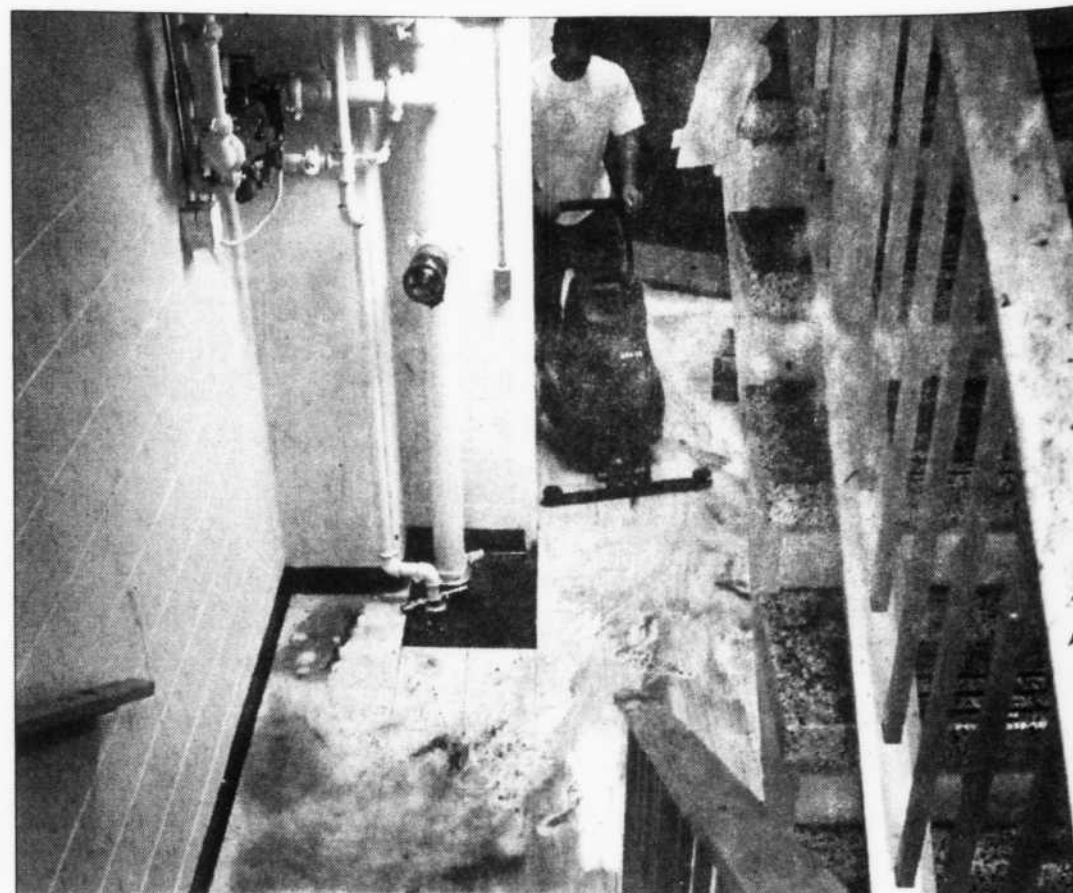


Photo Courtesy Morguefile Com

Cummings Hall floods

Water runs down the stairs in Cummings Hall Saturday night. A water valve was apparently left open, resulting in flooding on the first four floors, affecting the rooms of 10 residents there.

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88 helmets by women

Local women express feminist perspectives through art



Photo by Michael Stone, Staff Photographer

English Professor Ronald Kates, Allison Cummings and Riki-Lynne Spence discuss what to do with the 88 helmets once their art exhibit comes to an end.

By MICHAEL STONE
Staff Writer

The lobby of the Paul W. Martin Honors College Building is usually crowded with students drinking coffee and reading periodicals about the daily hubbub of life, not with 88 decorated football helmets. But this wasn't the case on April 10 and 11, for there were, in fact, 88 decorated football helmets in the lobby of the Honors Building.

The helmets were painted all colors of the rainbow and more. The helmets

were adorned with unique doo-dads and décor, giving each a sense of individuality.

But the helmets weren't turned from flat to festive to give the Blue Raider football team a new look on the field. They were decorated to give women an artistic way to tell their stories about being, well, women.

The exhibit, entitled "They Have a Story: Feminist Views of the Self," was orchestrated by three MTSU seniors,

Riki-Lynne Spence,
Michelle
Fran-

cescon and Allison Cummings.

"I wanted to do something artistically based with just females, so I began thinking about a large collaborative piece," Spence explains. "I didn't want to just use flat canvas. [So] one night, right before I went to sleep, an image of a football helmet covered in glass popped in my head."

But this seemingly arbitrary image-popping has a great degree of logic behind it.

"I loved the idea of the helmet, for one, because it is such a masculine piece of equipment, and, secondly, because it is an interesting shape that makes for a neat 'canvas' that you can utilize all sides to create a very nice sculptural-type piece," Spence notes.

The three began collaborating thoughts and ideas in their Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar class entitled "The Hometown" taught by English Professor Ronald Kates.

"This was a great idea," Kates says. "It's a good example of what students can do when they think outside the ordinary."

He thought it was such a great idea, in fact, that he helped the three students out well beyond what his contractual obligations with MTSU tell him he must do.

"Dr. Kates has been an incredible support when I came to him with this crazy idea," Spence acknowledges. "His optimism and belief in me has really kept me going, even when I didn't feel like we were getting anywhere with it."

The girls reached out to all different types of women in the Murfreesboro community to represent what being female means to females. And the women of Murfreesboro reached back, by producing 88 beautiful, individualized helmets.

"The helmets were made by local women, ages 6 through 88," Spence highlights. "Participants included church members, elementary school students, professors, MTSU students and a Girl Scout troop. We pretty much pulled women from everywhere we could think."

And Riki, Michelle and Allison didn't rush any of the women to complete their helmets. In fact, the three kept working on their project, even after Kates posted their grades on Pipeline.

"The project turned out a lot better than I thought it'd be," Kates affirms. "I mean, the girls didn't stop, even after the class was over. All the time and effort they put into this really brought together lots of different areas of the community."

Financially, the three

weren't alone in their efforts. The funding for display materials and supplies for workshops for younger girls came from Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Projects, a program that gives support to MTSU students working on research and creative projects.

And it all came together on April 10 at noon, when the girls finally opened their display to the public.

"I enjoyed reading what each one means," Rebecca Trotter, a junior elementary education major, observes. "You could tell which ones were done by younger people right off."

"I really liked the one with the planet on it," Kristin Bronner, an undeclared freshman, expresses.

"I love it, because when you think of all the manliness of a football helmet, you definitely don't think of feminism," Tanya Cupp, a senior art education major, expresses. "I love the different age ranges as well. Young women haven't really had the time to grow into their womanhood like older women have, so it's interesting to see that through these helmets."

And as these guests and more walked around and marveled at the helmets, Riki, Michelle and Allison watched with a look of accomplishment.

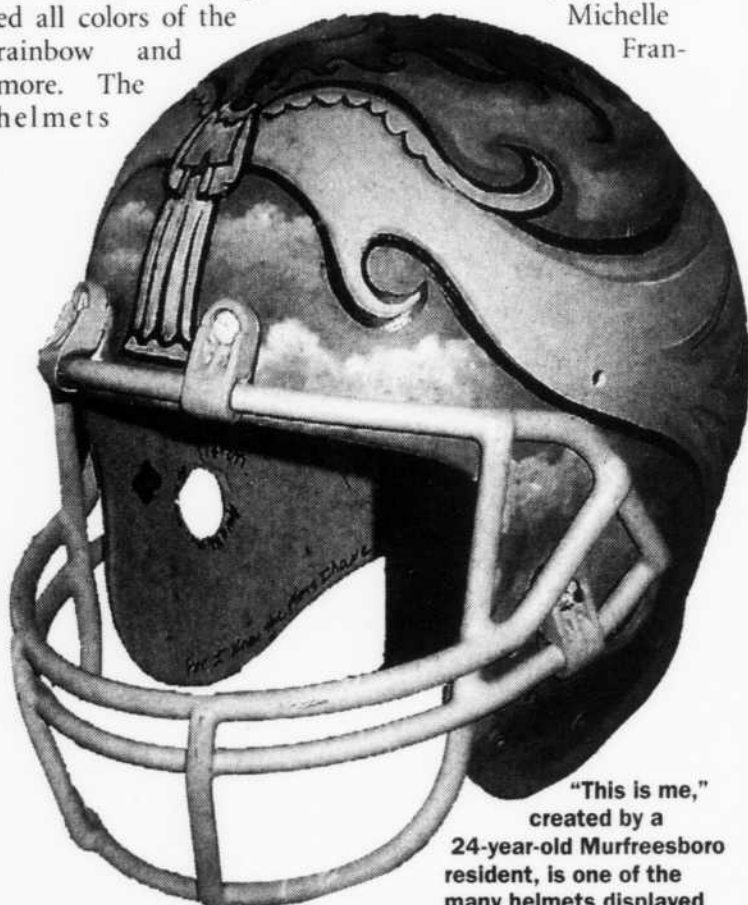
"I have loved working on this, but I am very glad to have it done," Spence admits. "I loved working with so many different women and girls. Every participant I have spoken with has had an incredible story. It's very inspiring to see so many positive and lovely minds out there, especially the minds of females."

But now, as Kates puts it, "What are they going to do with 88 football helmets?"

"We are playing around with the idea of auctioning them off," Spence says, "and raising money for a charity like the domestic violence shelter."

And even though the destination for the 88 football helmets remains unknown, one thing is for sure, and that's the impact they have made on everyone involved in the project.

"I had many women tell me they couldn't do [a helmet] because they are not artistic enough," Spence shares. "I believe there is an artist inside of all of us. Each [helmet] is very different, and, as the display shows, we can express ourselves in so many ways. And like those doubtful women saw, they had the ability to express themselves. Those women found they were very successful at doing this by creating a piece of art."



"This is me," created by a 24-year-old Murfreesboro resident, is one of the many helmets displayed in the art exhibit.

OPINIONS

Slow progress in Iraq frustrates Americans

The senior commander of our armed forces in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, testified before Congress last week.

Obviously, with an important election coming up this year, and with the Iraq situation being as central as it is, a lot of people are paying close attention to the testimony.

President Bush weighed in by saying, "The day will come when Iraq's a stable democracy that helps fight our common enemies and promote our common interests in the Middle East."

The first question out of the mouth of any patriot should be, "do you have any evidence to support that claim?"

Mike Turner said this in 2004: "We are nose-deep in a protracted insurgency, an occupying Christian



Philosophers and Ploughmen
Benjamin Harris

power in an oil-rich, Arab country. That country is not now and has never been a single nation. A single, unified, democratic Iraq comprised of Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis is a willfully ignorant illusion at best."

Of course, Turner is obviously just another hippie tree-hugger, right? Well, not exactly. According to MSNBC, Retired Air Force Col. Mike Turner is a former military planner who

served on the U.S. Central Command planning staff for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Before retiring in 1997, he spent four years as a strategic policy planner for the Joint Chiefs of Staff specializing in Middle East/Africa affairs. He is a 1973 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and a former fighter pilot and air-rescue helicopter pilot.

But, the "surge" is working, right? Petraeus and the armed forces are to be commended for the improving security conditions.

Unfortunately, as Petraeus himself noted, progress is slow, fragile and reversible. He also said that as of now there is "no light at the end of the tunnel," meaning that there is no conclusive evidence that

the outcome predicted by President Bush is necessarily more likely than that predicted by Turner.

This information must be weighed against the reality that our resources are finite with regards to our ability to "stay the course."

Senator Evan Bayh put Petraeus on the spot when he asked if it was possible for reasonable people to disagree, with regards to what the best course of action would be. This is because it is politically impossible for Petraeus to give an answer that bestows credibility on any views that run counter to those of his boss, the President of the United States.

Unfortunately for Petraeus, polls indicate that the vast majority of the American people currently disagree with the President

on this issue, which puts Petraeus in the position of effectively calling them unreasonable. Welcome to politics.

So what do we do? Do we continue the unending commitment to expend resources in the hopes that "the day will come when Iraq's a stable democracy that helps fight our common enemies and promote our common interests in the Middle East?"

This would run the risk of irrevocably bankrupting our nation and permanently damaging our future military readiness to deal with real threats as they arise. Also, it would mean increasingly strained relations with foes and allies alike.

Do we withdraw? If so,

IRAQ, PAGE 7

FACES IN THE CROWD

To what extent is racial equality an issue in 2008?



Floyd

"I think it's underlying. Deep down it is natural to look towards your own race. However, we are moving in the right direction."

DeJarvis Floyd, sophomore concrete



Hefley

"I think it's definitely a big issue. It is playing into the elections and people are really starting to notice it now more than ever."

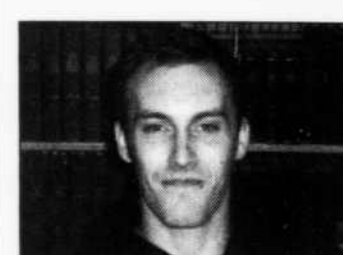
Angela Hefley, senior journalism



Lawson

"I think it's getting better, but some people still have issues with it."

Crystal Lawson, freshman chemistry

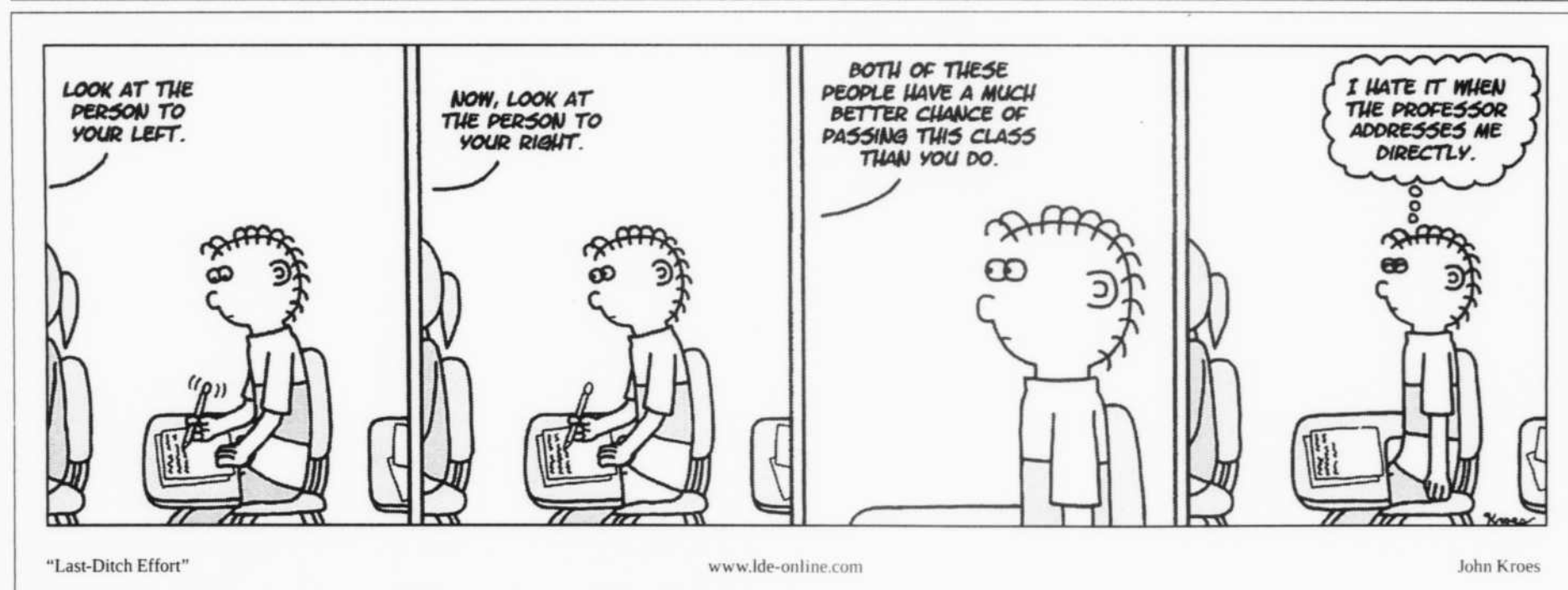


Ailey

"Personally, I think it is an issue. Equality is an issue. I don't think it could be resolved anytime soon."

Andrew Ailey, senior English

COMICS



FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Social, academic education key to fighting racism

George Yancy, a visiting philosophy professor, lectured here Friday about how racist attitudes pervade even the subtle actions of many people today.

That fact that this still happens is frustrating for many reasons.

Many would argue that something as deeply ingrained as racism cannot be excised from the psyche overnight, but instead requires a fresh start by a new generation.

In 2008, more than a generation after Civil Rights,

this seems an overly optimistic assessment.

Many neighborhoods remain as segregated as they were four decades ago, even as others audaciously claim that ending racism is as simple as ceasing to discuss it.

Besides, didn't slavery end six generations ago? Every generation after has failed to fix the problem on its own.

The fact is that racism is still a huge issue. Although Barack Obama has since proven himself a serious presidential contender, let it not be forgotten that a year ago many

still questioned how realistic such a run could be.

Things appear to have changed; Obama is the first black man running for president that has been taken with a degree of seriousness by the media, unlike Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton.

Regrettably, many do not even feel comfortable openly discussing issues of race, and that complicates our ability as a society to properly address and answer the many obstacles we face.

Another source of frustration is that there is no hard

and fast solution to the problem of racism. The best bet seems to be teaching youth a sense of tolerance. Unfortunately, in the absence of such an environment, a negative feedback loop seems inescapable and another generation of bigots are born.

Indeed, when one is frequently exposed to a rich variety of races and cultures, one can develop a better grasp of his or her surroundings.

Although people often fear what they don't relate to, with a little understanding and

knowledge, it seems possible to inoculate oneself against the irrational mistrust of which Yancy speaks.

If not exposed to other races and cultures, we run the risk of forever following in the footsteps of our intolerant and fearful forefathers.

Fortunately for us, we are lucky enough to be immersed in a diverse and accepting atmosphere. Now we just need to take advantage of it.

Again, the best tool to battle racism or any form of discrimination is education - academic and social alike.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
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Middle Tennessee State University
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Editorial: (615) 904-8357 **Advertising:**
(615) 898-2533 **Fax:** (615) 904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
Andy Harper*
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Features
Sarah Lavery
slfeatur@mtsu.edu

Photography
Ryan DeBooy
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Managing Editor
Mary Rose Fox*
sidelinesmanager@gmail.com

Sports
Richard Lowe
slsports@mtsu.edu

Production
Eric Shuff
sl4ads@mtsu.edu

Campus News
Tiffany Gibson*
slnews@mtsu.edu

Assist. News
Johnathon Schleicher
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Online
Bryan Law
slonline@mtsu.edu

Comm. News
Dan Potter*
slstate@mtsu.edu

Assist. Features
Katelyn Coil
slflash@mtsu.edu

Adviser
Steven Chappell
schappel@mtsu.edu

Opinions
Jessica Laven*
slopino@mtsu.edu

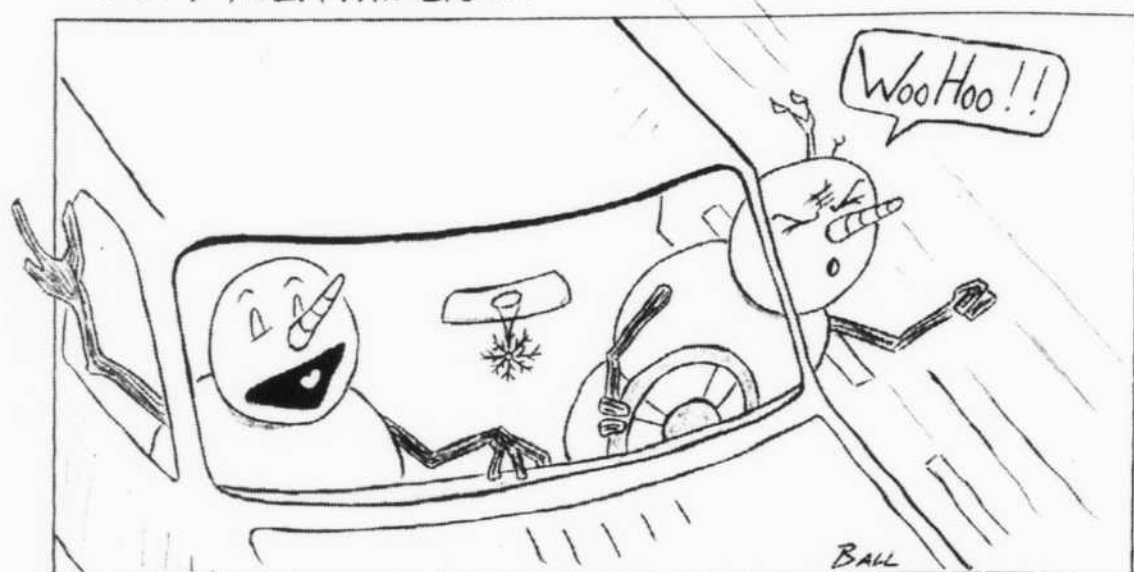
Assist. Sports
Chris Martin
slsports@mtsu.edu

Advertising
Jeri Lamb
jlamb@mtsu.edu

*denotes member
of editorial board

Business
Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

THE FINER THINGS...



FRANK AND STEVE FINALLY TAKE THE TRIP
TO FLORIDA THEY HAD ALWAYS
PLANNED.

TheFinerThingsComics@yahoo.com

Jeremy Ball

Literacy rates need improvement

From children's books to the greatest works ever published, being able to read is one of the most vital strengths for future generations to possess. However, with computer-animated video games and television programs with little knowledge capturing children's attention daily, it's not surprising that literacy rates are dropping while the opportunity for a quality education is being denied.

Of the five levels of literacy, 53 percent of Tennesseans are in the lowest two levels, so if our future leaders cannot read something as simple as an advertisement on a billboard, then the progress we have made over centuries is bound to destruct.

Of course, one factor that contributes to illiteracy among children is the lack of education they receive in the schools they attend, which evidently are not living up to their potential and standard of molding young minds.

When teens reach high school and are asked to read novels, some of them fail to do so because they were never challenged to read in elementary or middle school.

Not only are some of them not challenged, but to think children that struggle with reading simple sentences in elementary school are not pulled aside and put into programs to help correct this



**Open Mouth,
Insert Foot**
Tiffany Gibson

disability is outrageous.

By the time children reach a certain age they appear to have lost all interest in learning how to read because they think they can pass through life with the help of friends and tricks to shield them from the humiliation of asking for help.

For example, when an illiterate person is handed something to read they make up an excuse, such as sight problems or lack of concentration, but actually the letters and symbols written on a piece of paper in front of them register nothing.

In fact, some people go their entire lives having others read for them instead of taking the initiative to learn for themselves. It is understandable that they were denied learning this craft at an early age, but to refuse help later on is ignorant of them.

Sure, they can work, function normally and even own

businesses, but the feeling of knowing that their success would cease to exist if it wasn't for someone else looking over their shoulder constantly has to eat at them everyday.

To solely blame school systems would be pointless because parental guidance plays a huge role in the education of children and teens.

If a parent is too busy to read a bedtime story with his or her five-year-old then perhaps he or she should not be a parent.

Instead of sitting down with their child and slowly sounding out words in books, parents are constantly popping in DVDs to occupy their children while they relax after a hard day at work.

Of course this being a fast-paced society with demanding schedules for the human race, parents do not have the time to spend on education for their offspring, but by keeping them from reading it is almost as if they are prohibiting the use of an imagination.

By using movies and cartoons as distractions, parents are actually creating habits of watching television instead of exploring the adventures embedded in novels.

Children begin to pick up on the sense that obtaining information and imagery from the television screen is much easier and faster than

creating a mental picture of their own.

This will ultimately lead to the lack of exercising one's thoughts and ideas because if everything is given to them in the blink of an eye, then why waste their time creating their own perspective?

Furthermore, to correct this increasing problem of illiteracy, school systems have begun putting programs into action such as reading and writing labs. These labs serve as a place for individuals to go when seeking help with writing a paper, reading a book for class or self enjoyment and even practice on speaking syllables.

Unfortunately, these labs will only be able to help teens who seek assistance, but for the children in the process of learning how to read, they will serve as important assets to their education.

As far as living in a techno-crazed society, it's imperative that parents teach their children early on that they should not depend on video games and television for an education because, after all is said and done, technology is not a guarantee to a future; however, a proper education and proficiency just might be the only thing to rely on years from now.

Tiffany Gibson is a freshman English major and can be reached at tdg2w@mtsu.edu

IRAQ FROM PAGE 6

we run the risk that the Iraqi territory and its resources will come to be controlled by factions not particularly friendly to our interests, as was the case before the invasion.

Of course, there is the possibility of using diplomacy to decrease the intensity and influence of those factions.

I won't pretend that I can predict for sure what the less undesirable course will turn out to be. However, I have known this

from the beginning: the invasion of Iraq was an extreme strategic and tactical blunder which was undertaken on highly questionable pretenses. This is true in spite of the removal of Saddam Hussein. From a policy standpoint, the only question is how we are going to pay for it. But pay we must.

Americans will choose their method of payment on November 4, 2008.

Benjamin Harris is a senior guitar performance major and can be reached at bmh2q@mtsu.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

War in Iraq based on faulty information

This letter is in response to the guest columnist article published April 7 ["Activism involves more than 'dance-offs'"] by Burch Glover.

While it may be agreed that activism, indeed, involves more than "dance-offs," nothing was said regarding their grievances with the War in Iraq in the *Sidelines* article featuring SDS on March 31 ["Fighting for a True Democracy"]. It is also plainly evident that the student writing the above mentioned article on April 7 has been severely misinformed about the war, its history, and its beginnings.

Maybe he should do his duty as a collegiate scholar and do a little research on these topics. I will make a recommendation to him to view Frontline's documentary entitled "Bush's War," which I believe is a magnificent, beautifully put together piece of work outlining the war our nation is now consumed with.

He says in the article that he "personally feels that the war is justified and important." But, does he know that the war was founded on, at best, faulty intelligence and trumped-up charges?

Does he know that the Bush Administration was told by the CIA, as well as other intelligence, that, in fact, there never was a connection between the Taliban and Al-Qaeda and Saddam Hussein, in addition to the now widely known fact that there were no weapons of mass destruction lurking in Iraq?

Does he know that when the Bush Administration was told about these facts it responded by telling the intelligence agencies to "look a little harder" into the situation, implying to them to fabricate, if necessary, the intelligence so that they could go to war. Which, as we know now, is exactly what they did after being pressured into doing so by the likes of Scooter Libby and Dick Cheney, the ringleader of it all.

So what is our justifiable reason for being there for over five years - to impose democracy on their people with our political and military machine? To pose a more philosophical question: is it possible to impose democracy with military force?

In the midst of attempting to do this, we now know that we didn't start out with enough military in Iraq to provide enough of a force to get the job done correctly and efficiently. And that, my friends, is the reason we'll be there until at least 2012, as recently predicted.

We were, in fact, way over-

confident in our abilities, much like the SDS students Burch Glover described as a bunch of "C- average students" forming "some sort of activism group." He said that, "They have contributed next to nothing to society." To pose another philosophical question: since when was life, knowledge and common sense strictly adhered to a grade point average?

He remarks later that our "military around the world" is "fighting for your right to be as ignorant as you choose."

I find this statement highly ironic for obvious reasons.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that I much prefer antiwar "dance-offs" to an unjustified war.

Meaghan Harrell, freshman

Livestock bad for the environ- ment

In response to your article "Earthlings against animal cruelty" [4/10/08], it was wonderful to read that Students for Environmental Action is taking an active role in reducing MTSU's ecological footprint by targeting one of the largest contributors to global warming: the meat industry.

Across the board, animal agriculture wastes the limited resources we have by funneling them through animals raised for meat and other animal products. For example, we currently feed more than 70 percent of the grains raised in this country to animals raised for food, rather than eating the grains directly.

Similarly, nearly half of the water and 80 percent of agricultural land consumed in this country is used for livestock, when it could be used to grow food directly for human consumption. This wasteful use of our resources has a devastating effect on our local environments as well.

Currently, farmed animals produce about 130 times as much excrement as the entire U.S. population, much of which finds its way into our local waterways. Thankfully, it's easier than ever to find healthier, eco-friendly, and humane dining options (especially at MTSU).

With dishes such as vegan BBQ "riblets" and vegetarian "chicken" sandwiches widely available, there's never been a better time to pick up environmentally-conscious fare on the go. For more information on the connection between what we eat and our impact on the planet, visit peta2.com to request free stickers and a DVD.

Ryan Hulig, Norfolk VA

Letters Policy

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

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SPORTS



Photo by Ryan DeBooy, Photography Editor

Davis (right) was able to lead the Blue Raiders to a 17-15 (11-7 SBC) despite starting the season 4-6. MT finished the year with the third-best league record and a berth in the SBC Championship game.

MT's Davis earns Coach of the Year honors

Third-place finish in the Sun Belt, 17-15 record garners award from CollegeInsider.com

By TONY STINNETT
MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee men's basketball coach Kermit Davis has been named the Sun Belt Coach of the Year by CollegeInsider.com after leading the Blue Raiders to a school-record for conference wins and taking his team to league's tournament title game last month.

The Blue Raiders won 11 of their last 14 and captured 14

wins against Sun Belt Conference teams—the most league wins ever for a MT team in a single-season.

"College Insiders is one of the most comprehensive basketball sites in the country and offers tremendous exposure for basketball nationally," Davis said. "I am very appreciative of the award and our players, staff and administrators. Our team made great progress throughout the season and more than

anything it just showed the tenacity, the diligence and how they hung in there—and they end up winning 14 games against conference teams and that's a great tribute."

Davis returns his entire team in 2008-09 and welcomes the return of junior guard Calvin O'Neil who suffered a season-ending knee injury in last season's opener against San Jose State. The Blue Raiders also gain the

services of heralded guard Antwaun Boyd, who took his redshirt year in 2007-08. Additionally, the Blue Raiders have signed guards Demario Williams, Eric Allen and post Josh Jones.

MT advanced to the Sun Belt Conference championship game by upsetting No. 27-ranked South Alabama on its home court to end the Jaguars' 17-game win streak in the tournament semifinals. The Blue Raiders were

the only team to beat South Alabama twice last season and Davis guided his team into the title game for the second time in his six-year tenure. In fact, MT has played in two conference tournament championship games since 1989 and each has occurred in Davis' six years leading the program (2003, 2008). MT, Western Kentucky, and Louisiana-Lafayette are the only SBC teams to have played in multiple championship

games during this six-year span.

The Blue Raiders also joined Western Kentucky as the only Sun Belt members to reach the league's tournament semifinals at least five times in the previous six years and MT's 100 wins under Davis from 2003 to the present represents the best six-year total for the school since 1988-93 (105 wins).

Yates named Athlete of the Year by NSCA

By TONY STINNETT
MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee forward Desmond "Boogie" Yates has been awarded the All-American Strength and Conditioning Athlete of the Year Award by the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

Yates, who was nominated by Blue Raider men's basketball strength coach Jason Spray, was a first-team All-Sun Belt selection as a sophomore in 2007-08 and led the Blue Raiders in scoring with 16 points per game.

"It was not a coincidence that Boogie went from earning no all-conference awards as a freshman and not being on any preseason all-conference teams (in 2007-08) to being first-team all-league and maybe a candidate for Player of the Year as a sophomore," MT Head Coach Kermit Davis said. "It started the day after we got beat by North Texas in the tournament semifinals. Boogie was as hard of a worker as

I've ever seen in our conditioning, our 4-on-0 workouts, in the summer and the fall and that's how you pass guys."

"Not only did Boogie pass guys on our team but he passed guys in our league. Now you have to start the process all over because now you are the hunted and if you don't have the same spring, summer and fall, guys will pass him by—guys on his team and guys around the country."

Spray called Yates one of the "hardest working athletes I have ever been around," in his nomination letter.

"Desmond is the kind of guy who is a foundation player," Spray said. "You could build a program around a guy like Desmond. He has tremendous desire to improve and work hard every day. The dedication he has shown in the weight room has translated to improved performance and ability. Not only is Desmond a great athlete, but he is even



Photo by Ryan DeBooy, Photography Editor

Yates (31) led the Blue Raiders with 16 points a game.

a better person."

Yates, who was also named to the Sun Belt's All-Tournament team, said his off-season work regimen clearly impacted his play on the court as a sophomore and that he was appreciative of the award he has received.

"First, I want to thank coach Spray for thinking enough of me to nominate me for this award," Yates said. "I am very appreciative of the NSCA for recognizing me. I was a much more conditioned athlete this season and my strength was better and I have no doubt those things allowed me to have a better season. I worked hard

in the off-season to become a better player and that's the approach I am going to take this off-season."

Yates was fifth in the Sun Belt in scoring (16.0), third in field goal percentage (.575) and 10th in free-throw shooting in 2007-08. He was also among league leaders for minutes played (31.9) and shot 51 percent from 3-point range.

The 6-7 forward enters his junior season with 860 career points (40th all-time) and his 55.8 career field goal percentage is ninth all-time.

The NSCA All-American Athlete of the Year Award program is in its 29th year.

A quick turnaround, and a Masters victory for Immelman

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

Trevor Immelman has never felt better.

Four months after he had a tumor removed from his back, Immelman handled the wind and pressure of Augusta National far better than anyone chasing him Sunday to win the Masters, the first South African in a green jacket in 30 years.

Immelman held it together around Amen Corner and stretched his lead to as many as six shots on the back nine, taking the life out of a Masters that began with so much hype.

A two-putt par on the final hole gave him a 3-over 75, matching the highest final round by a Masters champion. Even so, it was good enough for a three-shot victory over Tiger Woods, whose hopes for a calendar Grand Slam ended with a thud.

Woods never got within five shots of the lead when he was on the course, twice missed birdie putts inside 8 feet and had to settle for a 72 and his second consecutive runner-up finish in the Masters.

"[Player] also told me to keep my head still on putts. It's really a special moment, and I'm glad I pulled it through for him."

TREVOR IMMELMAN
2008 Masters' Champion

"I learned my lesson there with the press," said Woods, who started the talk about a Grand Slam by talking three months ago that winning all four majors in the same year was "easily within reason."

The only slam possibilities now belong to Immelman, a 28-year-old with a polished swing, who finally realized his potential in the wicked wind of Augusta and a final round that yielded only four rounds under par.

Immelman, who finished at 8-under 280, started the week by playing a practice round

For third year in a row, Blue team wins spring game

Craddock and Honeycutt shine on offense while Lattimore and Robinson excel on defense

By CHRIS MARTIN
Assistant Sports Editor

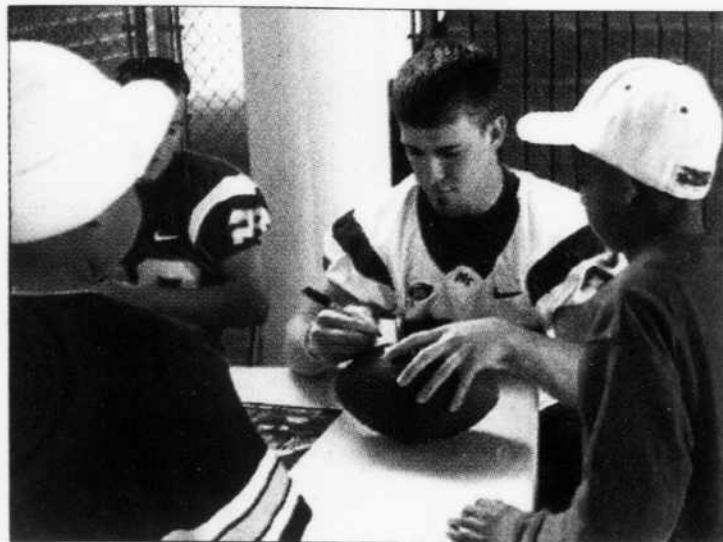
Joe Craddock used Saturday's Blue-White game to separate himself from the rest of the pack in Middle Tennessee's quarterback competition.

Craddock scored all four of the White squad's touchdowns in its 28-7 win over the Blue squad—the third straight season in which the White team has come out of the annual scrimmage victorious.

"We were doing everything to win," Craddock said. "It's all in fun, but it's still a game."

Craddock completed 19 of 25 pass attempts for 235 yards and three touchdowns and also picked up a rushing touchdown in the Blue Raiders' spring game. By contrast, freshman Dwight Dasher went 12 of 20 for 110 yards with no touchdowns and an interception. He also picked up 10 yards on the ground on three carries.

The White squad took an early 21-0 advantage by scoring on three of its first four possessions. The Blue team avoided the shutout on running back Philip Tanner's one-yard touchdown run with 6:31 left in the third quarter.



Photos Courtesy of Gobluraiders.com

On Saturday, the Blue Raiders geared up for the annual Blue-White game. Quarterback Joe Craddock led the White squad to victory.

The White team answered right back with a three-yard rush from Craddock to make the score 28-7 with 10:57 left

in the contest.

"The most important thing about today is the fact we got through it without any in-

juries," MT head coach Rick Stockstill said. "We had some decent plays today on both sides of the ball but the guys

really had fun playing and that's what it is all about."

Craddock's main target was wide receiver Patrick Honey-

cutt. The redshirt sophomore caught 11 passes for 118 yards as well as two touchdowns.

"I enjoyed being the go-to guy today and making a lot of catches," Honeycutt said. "Even when we were up 21, we never counted the Blue out because of Dwight [Dasher] and Philip [Tanner]."

On the defensive side of the ball, newcomer Jamari Lattimore had five tackles and a sack playing defensive end for the White squad. Defensive back Ted Riley led the White team with six tackles. For the Blue team, linebacker Cam Robinson led all players with 10 tackles while defensive end Chris McCoy racked up two sacks.

Even though the spring game is little more than a scrimmage, the victor earns more than bragging rights. The White squad will enjoy a steak and shrimp dinner to-night while the Blue team will be stuck munching on hot dogs and chips.

"We are glad we will be eating steak and shrimp on Monday," Honeycutt said.

The Blue Raiders will open the season at home against Sun Belt Conference-rival Troy on August 28. The game will be televised on ESPN Regional.

Blue Raiders defeat Golden Panthers 11-8, sweep three-game series

By JESSICA STAUFFACHER
MT Media Relations

Senior Zach Barrett hit a three-RBI double in the top of the 10th inning to break the tie and put the Blue Raiders up 9-6. In the next at bat junior Rawley Bishop hit a

two-run blast to centerfield to make it a five-run game, 11-6. Middle Tennessee ended the inning scoring five runs on three hits.

FIU's Jorge Castillo hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the 10th to close the gap and make it a three-run

game, but Chad Edwards entered the game and got three straight out to preserve the win for the Blue Raiders. Edwards picked up his first save of the season with the outing.

Freshman Tyler Burnett stepped to the plate in the top of the eighth and hit a two-

run blast to right field tying the game at six which would force extra inning.

"Pitching to Burnett I don't know what they were thinking, but the wind started to blow and got something he could pull. All-in-all you go a long way away from home,

sweep, go above .500 in conference play and get a little more separation from the bottom three teams in the league," Head Coach Steve Peterson said.

Barrett ended the day four for six with five RBI, two doubles and scored one run

while Bishop was four for five with three RBI, one double, one home run and scored one run. Barrett and Bishop also each had one stolen base in the game. As a team the Blue Raiders posted 15 hits

SWEEP, PAGE 10

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Love Every minute...

Predators ready for home ice advantage

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

The scenery and home-ice advantage has changed. The Nashville Predators' opinions on the officiating haven't, even as coach Barry Trotz insists they're not stewing over what they can't control.

Detroit grabbed a 2-0 lead at home in the Western Conference quarterfinals, leaving the Predators fuming about some calls and non-calls.

The winning goal in Game 1? An uncalled offside in the Predators' view. Then they had a goal disallowed at the start of the Red Wings' 4-2 win Saturday and believed interference should have erased a goal that gave Detroit the lead. A day later, Trotz still thinks Nashville lost a goal it scored.

"I'm more disappointed in the league not getting it right," he said.

"The one reviewable way out of it is to say they blew the whistle. On audio, the whistle didn't go until the net basically hit the back end boards, so to me it's just from that standpoint we can get it right. That's all. That wasn't in our control, so we go forward."

Easier said than done for a team needing a win to avoid being swept for the first time in its playoff history.

The Predators have been in this situation before, coming home trailing Detroit 2-0. In 2004, they won twice at home to force a sixth game before losing to Detroit. On Monday night, they might have some much needed offensive help in center David Legwand for Game 3.

Legwand has not played since March 7 after taking a shot off his left foot that still had him in a walking boot Sunday. But Trotz said Legwand, who had 44 points in 65 games, will be a game-time decision for this series.

The Predators also are glad to be back home, where fans have provided a strong emotional boost for this team this season. Defenseman Shea Weber said they realize what they're facing.

"We kind of have our backs up against the wall. We're looking at this game like it's do or die. It's not the end of the world, but we don't want to go down 0-3 to a team like that," Weber said.

The Red Wings, who have gotten balanced scoring and strong goaltending from Dominik Hasek, will be ready.

"It's going to be, by far, the

toughest game yet," Detroit coach Mike Babcock said.

Detroit has clamped down on Nashville's top scorers so far. Jordin Tootoo, known for his physical hits and ability to draw penalties, has a team-best two goals. Captain Jason Arnott and J.P. Dumont, who each had 72 points in the regular season, have combined for four shots through two games.

Arnott said he realizes the spotlight is on him and Dumont and that it's been tough playing against Detroit's top defensemen, Nicklas Lidstrom and Brian Rafalski.

"Their top two D seem to be out there all the time against us. We have to persevere. We have to push forward. We have had some chances to score and didn't put the puck in the net. If one of those went in, it would relieve a little bit of the pressure and give us more confidence," he said.

The Red Wings aren't ready to claim victory. Center Kris Draper remembers last year when the Red Wings went up 2-0 over Calgary only to be forced to double overtime in Game 6 before clinching the series.

"All we've done is put ourselves in a situation where we're halfway there," Draper said. "We really haven't done anything yet."

These teams are close enough that the Red Wings practiced in Detroit before flying to Nashville later Sunday. Their fans will be well represented Monday night.

"Usually their building doesn't sell out, but it's always sold out when we come to town and they're ready for us," Hasek said of the rivalry between these Central Division teams.

The Predators had to go 5-0-1 to clinch the last playoff berth, and Trotz said that his players have proven this season they're mentally tough and resilient enough to shake off the calls they feel they should have gotten.

"We're fine. We know it's going to be a long series. We're going to make it a long series. That's our goal," he said.

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with his boyhood idol, Gary Player, who won his third Masters in 1978 and set a record by playing for the 51st

time.

Player told Immelman he was good enough to win the green jacket, and he left him a voicemail Saturday night that Immelman played on his speaker phone for his family to hear. The message: "I

know you're going to win."

"He's been on me all week, telling me to believe in myself," Immelman said. "He also told me to keep my head still on putts. It's really a special moment, and I'm glad I pulled it through for him."

Immelman's wife, Carminita, and their 1-year-old son were waiting for him behind the green. Jacob took hold of the 18th flag, fussing when he couldn't go into the scoring shack to be with his father.

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with three home runs, one triple and four doubles in the game.

"We got big hits, the wind started blowing at the right time and we got some wind aided balls that took off. Bishop and Barrett each had really big hits for us. They did a very good job early in the game of executing their pitches and taking advantage of our weakness. Once they started breaking down we took advantage and got big

hits," Peterson said.

On the mound, Middle Tennessee used five pitchers as sophomore Tyler Hyde took the win with his one and two-thirds innings of work allowing two runs on two hits.

Grant Box put the Blue Raiders on the board in the top of the second inning with his solo shot to right field.

Middle Tennessee took a 2-0 lead in the top of the third on a single by Barrett to left field which allowed McDade to score from third.

The Golden Panthers cut

the lead to one on a ground-ball by Main as Guy scored from third. Then Castillo had a two-RBI double to centerfield to give FIU a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the third.


In the bottom of the fourth Stropp singled to left which scored Fuentes from second base to extend the FIU lead 4-2.

Neither team would score again until the bottom of the sixth when Smalley walked Main with the bases loaded to make it 5-2 FIU. FIU added one more run in the inning on a single by Lazano to

left field allowing Fuentes to score from third. Stropp was thrown out at home by Hudson after trying to score from second base on the play.

The Blue Raiders led the lead to two after scoring two runs on three hits in the top of the seventh.

The Blue Raiders will be back in action on Tuesday, April 15 when they travel to Winchester, Tenn., to play host to the University of Tennessee at 6 p.m. Middle Tennessee will play at Loel E. Bennett Stadium at Gamble Sports Complex.



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