



SIDELINES



Volume 74, No. 56

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

New parking lots to be built without raise in fees

Staff Reports

When students come to campus for the fall semester, some may find it difficult to find parking on, and there are plenty of complaints and several letters to the editor published in "Sidelines" about how bad parking is.

This fall could be different. Students and faculty may surprisingly return to new parking lots and improvements in the traffic rules and regulations.

At the hearing this, the first thing average student may say is, "How much more is this going to cost?" In response to that question, the university would say, "Nothing at all. There will be no parking increases for the 1999-2000 school year." The rates for parking permits will remain at \$65 for white permits, \$45 for green permits and \$30 for black permits.

MTSU Parking Services, along with the Traffic Committee and Campus Planning have worked hard collectively to suggest and review ideas for the building of new parking lots.

When students and faculty get to campus in the fall, they can expect a new parking lot constructed on the heating plant site, which will have approximately 55 white-permit parking spaces; 97 additional spaces to the Recreation Center gravel lot, which will be connected to 2nd street with a new road to minimize traffic congestion; and a new gravel lot with approximately 100 spaces next to the Tennessee Livestock Center on Greenland Dr.

The parking areas will also be re-striped and new signage will be visible. There are plans to remove the coloring from the curbs this summer. It is also planned to have all parking designations indicated by signage by fall. New

signs and pavement parking permit designations will take the place of the colored curbs. However, yellow curbs and fire lanes will remain marked as usual.

The Traffic Committee approved a recommendation that will reserve parking for students residing in Scarlett Commons, Womack Lane Apartments (formerly Family Housing) and Greek Row starting in the fall. The residents of these areas will have to park in their designated areas. Those residents will also be allowed to utilize the parking lot at the Recreation Center if the aforementioned areas are full. If these residents are parked anywhere else on campus, they will be given a ticket for "unassigned space." The vehicles of these residents will be identified by special validation stickers.

Parking Services and the



New signs in place on campus.

Traffic Committee invite all concerned persons to suggest ideas for review when the committee meets in the fall. To contact Parking Services, call 898-2850.

Enrollment goes up for summer

Melanie McWhorter
Staff Reporter

There are more students enrolled in summer classes at MTSU than there have ever been before.

As of the May 31, there were 7,871 students enrolled in summer classes, according to numbers released Monday by the Scheduling Center. This number is an increase of 3.33 percent over last year's enrollment of 7,617, and an even larger increase over 1997's 7,532 summer students.

According to the center, there has also been an increase in the number of class sections offered during sessions I, II, and VIII. As compared with last year, there are 17 more courses offered in session I, 36 more courses offered in session II, and 7 more courses in session VIII.

In addition to the regular summer classes that are being offered, there are an increasing number of options available to students, such as correspondence courses, telecourses, video/data conference courses, and compressed video courses. Students are also given a wider range of class scheduling opportunities by evening classes, weekend classes, and off-campus courses. These various classes and the flexibility that they allow may be attracting a larger number of students who work full time and/or have families to care for.

With these statistics, officials are anticipating enrollment in the fall to be larger than last fall. According to Lynn Palmer, Director of Admissions, "fall applications are up."

Graphic design student wins Addy Award

Staff Reports

Theresa Lisa Hendon just graduated from MTSU in May, her career has already taken flight. Hendon, who majored in graphic design, recently received an Addy award from the National Advertising Federation.

Hendon won the Addy award for an invitation that would be sent out to potential investors in a fictitious restaurant called Matisse. The invitations were shaped like an artist's palettes and on the back is written, "Do you know how to paint the picture-perfect evening?"

By winning this award, Hendon might a great deal of recognition to MTSU's art department and her employer Nashville's Kupper Parker Communications, where she worked as an intern. Hendon plans to stay with the company and maybe relocate to the company's affiliate in Louis.

"I've never had a job I enjoy so much," Hendon said of her experience at Kupper Parker Communications.

Hendon's primary career goal is to launch her own business sometime in the future.

"I'd like to work for an ad agency maybe for four or five years, then go out on my own," she said. "When you're in graphic design, you're problem-solving all the time. They're the good kind of problems. A client needs a solution for an ad, packaging, CD cover, or whatever and you try to come up with solutions."

Hendon was the only student who won an award, and she was "shocked" about

winning the Addy. She also added that her boss who encouraged her to enter the competition. For a time, this non-traditional student wasn't even sure if she had the ability to pursue this career and hesitated going back to school because she thought she "wasn't good enough and didn't have any natural ability." She also struggled to decipher how much of graphic design is natural talent as opposed to learned skill.

into it. When someone says, "I really don't like that," that's hard. My boss says you have to develop a thick skin."

Hendon attributes a lot of her success to the Art faculty at MTSU, who encouraged her throughout her college career. She also advocates a new art facility on campus.

"It could very well discourage the creative spirit," she said of the Art Barn's current condition.



Lisa Hendon, graphic design student and Addy Award winner, is flanked by Barry Buxkamper (Left), associate professor of Art, and Oliver Fancher (Right), associate professor of Art, two of her mentors who provided help and encouragement along the way to receiving her B.F.A degree in graphic design in May.

"Sometimes you have to pull back from your creative passions," she said in reference to working for a client. "You have to consider a client's budget. I've had my ego deflated. I think that doing art work, you do put yourself

Hendon is originally from Florence, Alabama, where her family still lives. "They're proud of me," she said. However, she considers her roots to be here and plans to continue to live and work in this area.

Police suspect student in robbery

Staff Reports

An MTSU student behind on his bills allegedly robbed two SunTrust banks in one week in April.

Jason D. Sparks, 21, of 301 Bridge Ave., will face federal charges for allegedly robbing SunTrust Bank April 22 on Greenland Drive and SunTrust Bank April 28 on East main Street, said Detective Lt. Jim Gage. He allegedly kidnapped cab driver Darrin York in the April 28 getaway.

Detective Sgt. Chris Guthrie charged Sparks with two counts of aggravated robbery and one count of aggravated kidnapping of York.

Detectives credit a Crime Stoppers' caller for giving information about the suspect's name and address about 11:30 a.m. Thursday. Detectives reportedly developed the suspect's last name from a landlord.

Officers began surveillance of his residence where they waited until a man came home. He was interviewed by Sgt. Chris Guthrie and FBI Agent Utley Noble.

From that interview, detectives learned Sparks might be in his hometown of Paris, Tenn. They contacted Paris Police who knew Sparks. Paris Police found his car at a motel.

Sparks learned about the investigation and turned himself in late Thursday evening. Before interviewing him, police took a picture for a photo lineup.

"During the interview, the photo lineup was shown to taxi driver Darrin York who positively identified Mr. Sparks as the suspect who kidnapped him after the second robbery," Gage said.

After confronting Sparks with information, he gave a statement about both robberies, the lieutenant said.

Guthrie said Sparks said he became behind on some bills and pawned his car.

"He needed to get it back out," Guthrie said.

Gage said the weapon used and none of the money were recovered. Sparks was previously charged with burglary and possession of marijuana offenses, the lieutenant said.

Gage expressed thanks to the witnesses, especially MTSU students, who stopped police after the second robbery about finding the clothes apparently worn by Sparks.

He thanked Murfreesboro patrol officers who gathered information and evidence, MTSU Police who worked overtime to get a photograph of Sparks and Paris Police and Henry County Sheriff's Department deputies who helped search for Sparks.

The information gathered from citizens and police led to Sparks' statement, the lieutenant said.

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Compare your favorite late-night eatouts.....page 4

WEATHER FORECAST



WEDNESDAY
PARTLY
SUNNY, FEW
T-STORMS

HIGH 84, LOW 68



THURSDAY
PARTLY
SUNNY

HIGH 86, LOW 68



FRIDAY
PARTLY
SUNNY

HIGH 88, LOW 70

May 14

ASSISTANCE: At 1:13 p.m., medical assistance was provided to a female who reported she felt like she was going to pass out at Jones Hall. She was transported.

May 15

DISORDERLY CONDUCT: At 5:21 p.m., disorderly conduct was reported at the Student Recreation Center front entrance and a report was filed about incident.

May 16

THEFT under \$500: A bicycle was reported stolen from Wood Hall at 12:23 p.m.

May 17

ASSAULT: Simple Assault /Domestic Related, 6:16 a.m., at Family Housing. During an argument between a couple, the

Campus Crime Report

wife struck the husband in the face.

ARREST for Domestic Assault, 7:36 a.m. Suspect lived at Womack Lane apartment arrested for domestic assault

THEFT: Burglary of a coin-operated machine E/F, reported at 8:17 a.m. at the Rutherford Boulevard and Second Street Greek Row construction site. A coke machine was broken into.

FORGERY: Forged checks were found and reported at 10:04 a.m. in the Mass Communications Building 99-05-17-09858

THEFT under \$500: A tire was reported stolen from a bike at Ezell Hall at 1:11 p.m. **VANDALISM** under \$500 A/M: A vehicle was reported vandalized at the Smith Hall parking lot at 4:12 p.m.

May 18

THEFT Over \$500: Someone reported the theft of an 8 foot aluminum grooming chute from the Tennessee Livestock Center March 14 at 20:52.

May 19

SEX OFFENSES: Indecent Exposure B/M reported at 10:48 a.m. at Belle Aire Baptist Church parking lot at Division Street at Crestland Ave. A notice was posted on campus.

May 26

ASSAULT: Communicating Threat/Verbal Assault A/M at 09:26, Kirksey Old Main, subject reported being

threatened

VANDALISM: Vandalism over \$500 at 19:15, Family Housing. Someone reported that some juveniles were ramming the golf carts into the walls at the Family Housing Office.

May 27

THEFT under \$500: From auto and breaking in E/F, 6:54 a.m., at Family Housing parking lot. Stolen were CDs, CD player and a radar detector.

RADAR DETECTOR ALSO STOLEN
THEFT under \$500: From auto and breaking in E/F, 8:23 a.m. Family Housing parking lot. Vehicle was broken into and parts were missing

Summary: **VEHICLE BROEN INTO, PARTS MISSING**

THEFT under \$500: Boutwell Dramatic Arts loading dock, 12:13. Digital camera was stolen.■

White student wins Apha Phi Alpha scholarship

Sandran Knight-Riddle newspaper

NEWPORT NS, Va. — Thomas Thornton had no idea what he was waig into last month when he wto interview for a college scholaiip with the local Zeta Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alphanternity.

"I was surprised said the 18 year-old Woodsicigh School senior, chuckling had no idea that the Zeta Lam chapter was a chapter thadealt with advocating theghts of al minorities, predomntly African American minorit'

He made theg discover during the inteev process when he was surnded by more than 30 gradu fraternity brothers _ all of ta black, all of them assembled to decide which of the five scholarsifinalists was the most deservitThornton was the only white m in the room. Yet he was the who got the call last week ming him a winner.

William M. tts III, the immediate past sident of the Zeta Lambda chapter and chairman of tScholarship Awards Banquetid this is the first time in red history and probably the firstme ever that a white student hwon the local group's \$2,500 scarship award.

The Zeta Lbda chapter covers the Nport News Williamsburg a York County areas, but recognized throughout thegion and the country. It's thelest Alpha Phi Alpha fraternithapter in the state and one of five oldest in the nation. Batsaid. And last year, the Zeta mbda chapter earned the diction of being named Internaal Chapter of the Year.

Zke Zimmern, the chapter's scholarship cnttee chairman, said that unë some other fraternal organtions, there is nothing in thocal chapter's scholarship eligibility requirements at states what race or sex the dlicant must be.

The requirnts simply state that the recipi show academic excellence, a denstrated love for all mankind, bç good character, have strong als and show financial needimimmerman, an assistant prinpal at Woodside High School, ninated Thornton for the award.vever, it took a vote of the lo membership to name Thorntthe scholarship award winner.!

Gilley would receive \$250,000 under contract

Duncan Mansfield Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The first contract ever offered a University of Tennessee president will pay J. Wade Gilley \$250,000 a year under a five-year pact that could be extended to 2009.

Gilley, president of Marshall University in West Virginia, has agreed to the terms.

UT Trustee Vice Chairman Bill Sansom, who negotiated the deal on the board's behalf, will present the package to the trustees' executive committee on Friday.

Gilley will succeed retiring Joe Johnson on Aug. 1 as the 20th president of the 41,000-student,

five-campus University of Tennessee system.

The contract would boost the president's salary nearly \$30,000 from what Johnson earns, and give Gilley a \$110,000 hike from Marshall's wages.

"How does it compare to the football coach?" Gilley said with a laugh Tuesday when asked in a telephone interview about the proposed pay package.

Not well, is the serious answer.

The university gave Tennessee football coach Phillip Fulmer a six-year contract paying nearly \$1 million a year - \$175,000 in base salary - just before the Volunteers won the national title in January.

Tennessee head basketball coaches Pat Summitt and Jerry Green both make \$500,000 or more.

"I think the salary is very appropriate," Gilley said. "It is kind of in the middle of the Southeastern Conference presidents, if you exempt Vanderbilt."

The University of Florida's president receives \$255,000 and the University of Georgia's gets \$267,000. Vanderbilt University Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt received \$472,110 in 1996-97, according to the latest figures compiled by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The idea of a multiyear agreement is something new to UT.

"The new UT president will face a number of difficult decisions," Sansom said. "The contract should make it a bit easier for a new president to address these decisions."

Johnson, who turns 66 in July after four decades with the university, never had a contract, but supports the idea.

"I never felt that I needed one, but it is becoming the norm for athletics directors and it is becoming the norm for presidents," Johnson said.

"When you have 43 years in the retirement system, you don't need a contract, you don't need tenure," he said. "But I can make a good argument for it."

"If you are coming from

somewhere else to an environment that is new to to, you would like to have some assurance that you would have time to set your dreams in motion and achieve something."

Gilley, 60, could retire in five years. But he said he hopes to work longer for UT.

"Someone asked me about that during the interview process," Gilley said. "I said I thought that five years is the minimum that a president should serve and 10 years, plus or minus two years, is about the maximum."

"I hope I am able to do it, and able to make a contribution. So I expect to be there between five and 10 years."■



Chi Alpha Epsilon honors students

Staff Reports

The Chi Alpha Epsilon honor society has recently inducted four new members to its roster.

Chi Alpha Epsilon is an organization for students who started their college careers in academic assistance programs and have maintained a 3.0 GPA for at least two semesters.

This year's inductees are Chris Feagans, a business major and Murfreesboro resident; Linda Gail Feagans (Chris' mother), are education major and Murfreesboro resident;

Kristine Phillips of Nashville, a computer information systems major; and Angela Scruggs, a speech and theatre major from Nashville.

"Our purpose in offering academic assistance programs like Developmental Studies is to provide our students with the availability to enter the academic mainstream as soon as possible. The existence of a society which honors academic excellence while paying homage to how far the student has traveled to achieve such excellence is a tribute to the student as well as to the programs which have played such an important part in the success story," said Carol Bader, director of Developmental Studies.■

Photo Provided by Ken Robinson
Kristine Phillips, Linda Gail Feagans, Angela Scruggs.

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Fig. 1: Deer Tick

YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE SOMETHING THIS DANGEROUS ON YOUR BODY. OR WOULD YOU?

Fig. 2: Melanoma

Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. In fact, one person an hour in the U.S. dies from the disease. Fortunately melanoma can be completely cured if it's caught early enough. So examine your skin regularly. If you find a blemish larger than a pencil eraser, multi-colored, asymmetrical or irregular at the edges, you may have melanoma and should see your dermatologist. For more information on melanoma, call 1-888-462-DEEM, or visit www.aad.org.

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OPINIONS

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

—Thomas Jefferson

Murfreesboro, TN



3 ■ SIDELINES

Editorial

Welcome to the first summer issue of Sidelines. We here at the Sidelines office hope that you are enjoying this issue but more importantly, we hope your summer classes and activities are going well.

Sidelines is here for the benefit of the entire MTSU community. We hope to inform, entertain and inspire you as much as possible. We strive to provide you with a well-rounded paper full of campus, regional and national news. We also hope to entertain you with our sports and feature sections as well as expose you to new thoughts and ideas in our opinions section.

The Sidelines staff realizes its responsibility to the MTSU community works hard toward fulfilling that mission. We appreciate the support that many of you have shown by being consistent and faithful readers; but we also need the support of those of you who do not pick up our paper on a regular. We want you to read our paper every time it hits news stands so that we have a real reason to put so much time and effort into the paper.

Not only do we want you to support us but we want to support you. Sidelines is your newspaper too so please feel free to let us know what you want. We are always open to suggestions. Call us and let us know when we are doing a good job and please don't hesitate to offer us some constructive criticism when we are not at our best. We strongly encourage you to write letters to the editor to be published in Sidelines. You can write concerning the subject of your choice. Don't hesitate because chances are, somebody feels the same way you do. You may even consider joining our staff. We are always looking for writers and photographers. Whatever your choice of action, help us help you.

We greatly appreciate your support and look forward to servicing you to the best of our ability. Thank you!

—Sidelines

Citizens should regulate their own internet usage

Angie Brunk
Indiana University

A California resident, identified only as Kathleen R., recently sued the Livermore Public Library because she was disturbed that her son viewed material that she objected to at the library.

She believed that she had a constitutional right to demand that the library change its Internet access policy, which allowed unrestricted access to the Internet. Fortunately, her lawsuit was dismissed.

I've watched the battle over Internet censorship closely for more than three years. If the current state of affairs is any indication, this battle is likely to be as contentious and long lasting as the battles over abortion, physician-assisted suicide and the death penalty. Intellectual freedom is not a physical life and death issue; if anything, it is even more critical than that.

The founders of this nation included the right to speak in the First Amendment to the Constitution because the freedom to speak and freedom to hear are both vital to a smooth-running democracy. Ideally, a citizen will listen to all sides of a controversial issue before making a decision, but the right to listen also contains the right to shut out unwanted words or images.

However, that right belongs to the

individual citizen. He or she does not have the right to silence one point of view which is disagreeable and certainly does not have the right to compel the government to silence a speaker that they find distasteful.

It is impossible to escape the fact that some Web pages contain images that offend me or that some messages posted on news groups or e-mail discussion lists really irritate me.

But that which offends me is probably not going to offend another. We cannot shelter ourselves from opinions that we find disagreeable unless we want to become a society of cave-dwelling hermits.

Some parents seek to do the impossible and shelter their children from all ideas they disagree with. Indeed, it is their right to do so. But that right cannot interfere with the rights of others to view ideas those parents might object to.

If parents wish to control the ideas their children are exposed to, it is the job of these parents and these parents alone to control what their children are exposed to.

The library is and always has been a depository of information. Librarians strive to develop collections that meet the needs of their communities.

Libraries should collect materials that reflect all points of view concerning a controversial issue.

The Internet is both a thorn in the side of librarians and a great tool for research. Much of the information on the Internet is worthless. Anyone can put up a Web site or

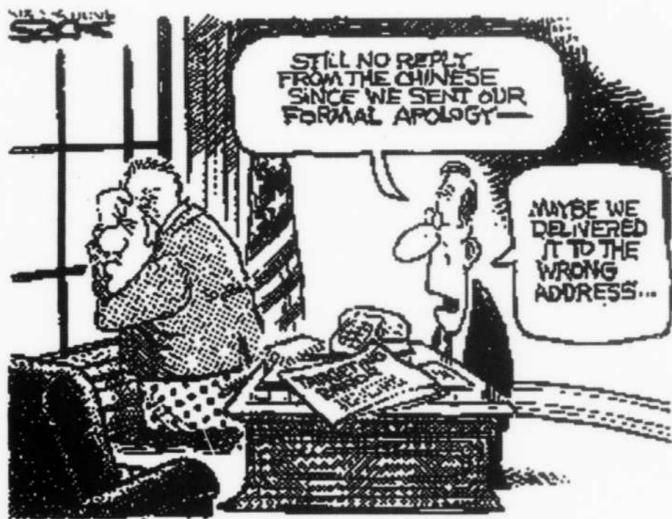
start an e-mail discussion list and say anything they like. That is both the greatest strength and weakness of the Internet as

An information tool. Every imaginable viewpoint is expressed on the Web.

At the same time, there is no way for an individual to be certain that the information is correct unless they know something about the subject they are researching. For that reason, most library Internet-use policies state that offensive information can be found easily on the Internet. Libraries also urge users to evaluate any information carefully. Most library Internet-use policies state that parents are responsible for their children's Internet use.

The desire to protect children from accessing information they cannot handle is understandable. But children are far less innocent than we like to believe. Even when they do run across information they cannot handle, they can simply move on to something more interesting.

Kathleen R. and others who share her



Susan Lucci gets her reward - Now what ?

Josh Morris
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

At last. Put out the cat, turn off the lights, slap me with a fish and call me silly. At last, Susan Lucci has won a daytime Emmy.

Now what? And for that matter, now who? Who are we going to root for now that the perennial underdog has finally run off with the big bone? Does this mean we all have to start rooting for another perpetual loser, say Bob Dole?

For the answers to these and other questions, tune in tomorrow. Right now, I'm too busy celebrating Lucci's big win.

Although I don't readily admit this, I am a closet soap opera fan. I watch only one, "All My Children," but I've watched, off and on, for 28 years.

In those early days, my viewing was sporadic. I completely missed Erica's first marriage to Jeff Martin, and her relationship with Nick Davis is a complete mystery. I did see the abortion, though - a first for television. And the confrontation when Tom discovered Erica had been taking, gasp, birth control pills.

Basically, though, I hated Erica. She was rude, self-centered and scheming. She cheated and lied and justified it all. And save your lectures, I know it's only television, but I also despised Susan Lucci.

To me, Susan was Erica and Erica was Susan. It wasn't until I started seeing Lucci in made-for-television movies (most of them pretty badly made), and reading interviews with her and her cast mates, who obviously adore her, that I was able to name the separation.

Yeah, it was just like Adam and Stuart. Adam is the evil twin, Stuart the nice one. Erica was Susan's evil twin.

Somewhere around her fifth marriage, I began to appreciate Lucci's acting abilities. It takes depth to play someone so shallow. I softened toward both of them.

Did Lucci deserve the Emmy this year? I don't know that her performance was any better than it has been in past years. But I think someone finally said, "Hey, let's just get this over with and give her the Emmy for, if nothing else, her lifetime of work on "All My Kids."

If Lucci was being denied, as some have said, because of some personal vendetta, it backfired big time. Her losses made her more famous than a win. Every time she lost, she won more points with the public. Even people who associate daytime television with vacant minds and Frito pie know who Lucci is and probably could tell you her character's name and details of at least a couple of marriages.

The only people who could be happier with the win than Lucci are the other leading actresses who each year are overshadowed by "Lucciwatch," and vilified by fans (like me) who blame them for not losing to Lucci. I have an irrational dislike for Erica Slezak just because she won one year and Lucci didn't.

So, thank you. At last the Emmy is hers and the world seems a fairer place.

But not in Pine Valley, where Vanessa is scheming and David is suffering and Erica is disfigured and vengeful and Hayley has become stepmother to a complete brat and Liza doesn't know her baby wasn't fathered by Jake but by Adam, who switched sperm at the donor clinic and Bob Dole is gaining popularity. ■

Columbine, Heritage screaming at parents to come home

Ross Mackenzie
Tribune Media Services

Columbine and Heritage and the ones that went before — and the ones to come — scream of a deep-running problem in our culture. Everybody knows the problem. The question is: What is the solution?

Deep thinkers have suggested as answers — let's see: See-through book bags, smaller schools and classes, more counselors and teachers, more mental-health care and after-school programs. They might help, but marginally. Others have suggested school prayer. That might not be a bad idea, given that the United States Congress and other lofty entities open their daily deliberations with a prayer. If prayer is OK for congressional swells, it ought to be OK for school children too. Or how about opening each school day with "The Star Spangled Banner," the way they do at the ballpark? Or with the fourth verse of "America" ("Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty...")?

Still others suggest metal detectors — and why not? As airborne gunmen and bombers have led to the inconveniencing of every air traveler, so our school gunmen and bombers may be forcing us to the similar inconveniencing of every student.

School uniforms? Sure. Sociology-types say sameness in school dress might reduce the competition and alienation and isolation that fuel the rebelliousness in which malicious killing and wounding breed; uniforms, they say, would promote inclusion instead of outcast exclusion. Maybe. A surer reason is that uniforms would end the galloping epidemic of sartorial sloppiness.

And, of course, your Senate has weighed in with a bill mandating, among other things, (1) background checks at gun shows, (2) bans on the importation of gun clips holding more than 10 bullets, (3) the sale of safety locks with all new guns, and (4) bans on the under-21 buying or possession of pistols or assault weapons. Such laws might — or might not — reverse a trend wherein with 30,000 local, state, and national gun laws, The Problem has only gotten worse.

All those nibbling-at-the-edges "common-sense" recommendations and faddish educationist notions, along with insistences by the horde of presidential wannabes to make The Problem a campaign issue, combine to form a picture at whose center something is starkly missing.

If the problem is the proliferation and easy availability of guns in America — 200 million by one count — it also is under-age access to guns and the malign connivance of the young to use them.

Many adults today remember growing up in households with guns on the walls, guns in the basement, guns in drawers. Yet how many entertained even the first impulse to go get those guns — or to build bombs in their bedrooms — and mow down everyone at school? How many, when dumped by their girlfriend, smashed the glass in their stepfather's gun cabinet and started shooting up their friends?

The problem is the young — particularly boys. The solution is parents. Today we have too many parents afraid to be parents, who don't want to be parents, who want to be pals instead of parents, who don't know how to be parents — verily, who probably shouldn't be parents but are.

Perhaps we cannot legislate responsibility any more than we can legislate morality. But what is the matter with at least trying, and beginning by holding parents criminally responsible for their children's use of guns?

Seven states have such laws; those in only one — Oklahoma — have any severity to them. The concept was offered in the Senate, which killed it. Maybe the House will have the courage to resurrect it.

Imagine the potential effect on parents across the land if the parents in Littleton and Conyers were now under indictment for what their sons have done. Parents everywhere would be locking their guns in steel cabinets and instilling the fear of God in their children for even thinking about using them on their own. Or parents would be getting rid of their guns — or not buying them in the first place.

We know the problem. The solution is parents.

Columbine and Heritage and the others are screaming at parents to come home.

From work or the club or ego trips. To take their kids home from day care. To be there — one parent for the sure — full time during the preschool years, and thereafter whenever school gets out. To be pals perhaps, but to be disciplinarians, counselors, and setters of standards and goals certainly.

To be, in a word, parents. ■



SIDELINES

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"Sidelines" is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published every Wednesday during June and July and on Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. FLASH!, the entertainment magazine, is published every Wednesday during the Fall & Spring semester. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily "Sidelines" or the university.

FEATURES

Cuppa' Joe

Waffle House, IHOP, and Steak and Shake are all vying for your late night dining patronage.

by Julie Williams/Staff Reporter

It's 1 a.m. and five hungry college students have just walked through the door of the Steak and Shake on Old Fort Parkway. They sit in a booth against the partition in the middle of the room and peruse the menus. Three of them utilize a coupon found in the newspaper and get double steak burgers, while another opts for a plate of cheese fries and a glass of hot green Surge. A fifth joins in later and orders up a steaming hot cuppa joe that will last him through the night.

Steak and Shake is the restaurant of choice tonight, but because of the variety of options available, the choice is becoming increasingly difficult. With three major restaurant chains vying for off-peak hour patronage, the typical poor college student is being given more bang for their late-night dining buck.

"Sometimes I get hungry at 1 o'clock in the morning and want to get something to eat.

Luckily there are some restaurants open then," said Meghan Dinnean, an MTSU freshman who has been known to frequent 24-hour restaurants.

The period between dinner and breakfast is a time when most restaurants are closed, but for Waffle House, IHOP and Steak and Shake, that time frame brings in many a hungry customer. The first choice in the late-night dining war is Waffle House, the roadside staple present on seemingly every highway off ramp in America. Its menu ranges from simple bacon and egg breakfasts to pork chop dinners to their world famous hash browns.

Waffle House has always had a certain appeal for the weary college student. Whether it is the intimate setting or the perpetual smell of bacon, Waffle House has always provided quality food that doesn't put too much strain on a college wallet.

With two locations on opposite sides of the interstate, Waffle House draws in patrons seeking a good meal at decent prices. Kerry McDermott, a seasoned Waffle House waitress, says word of mouth is what keeps people pouring in.

"Waffle House is actually the best of the three," Scott Pierce, a frequent late-night diner, says. "It's got the best food for the money and a better atmosphere."

The traditional Waffle House juke box graces the entrance to the majority of American Waffle Houses, on which you can play the latest hit to something a bit more obscure, like Waffle House's own ode to hash browns.

The next major contender to enter the picture is IHOP, or the International House of Pancakes. It, like Waffle House, has been the choice of many discriminating late-night diners since its doors opened.

IHOP and Waffle House serve the same basic fare, but what some see as lacking at Waffle House, customers find in IHOP. The more open setting of IHOP lends itself toward larger groups that

Waffle House can't accommodate. Although Waffle House can accommodate a group of four or five, IHOP has no problem seating groups of more than a dozen at a time.

"It's a little more expensive and the food takes a little longer," admits Catherine Collins, a long-time patron of IHOP, "but it's more fun when you have a big group, and you don't smell like smoke when you leave." IHOP is the only of the three restaurants to offer a completely separate area for smoking, unlike Steak and Shake, who has a half-wall partition, and Waffle House, who has no separation at all.

IHOP also offers a larger breakfast selection than their competition, including their famous Rooty Tooty Fresh 'N Fruity and Viva La French Toast, as well as quite a few other options. However, IHOP's hash browns don't hold a candle to Waffle House's Scattered, Smothered and Covered.

The newest force is this late-night feeding frenzy is Steak and Shake. Almost directly across the street from IHOP, it has seen steady patronage since its opening in 1998.

Although open all night, Steak and Shake does not serve breakfast round-the-clock, so someone looking for a bowl of grits or some sausage links should look elsewhere. Their late night menu contains a variety of entrees, such as their famous Steakburger and Chili on Spaghetti.

The Steak and Shake dessert menu beats the dessert menus of the others hands down. Shakes, malts, sundaes, brownies and plain old ice cream can be found on the menu, enough to please any sweet tooth.

So what determines where college students will have their late night snacks?

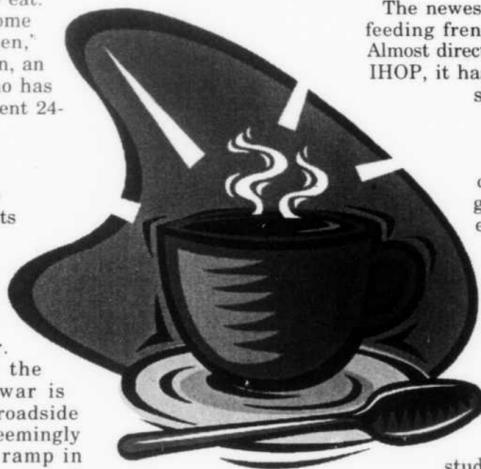
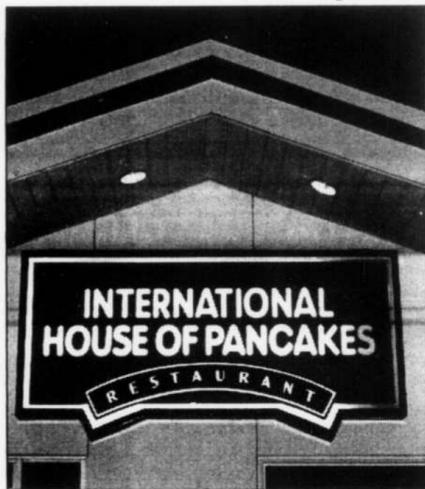
"The student discounts at IHOP," Collins says bluntly.

A soft-spoken Azmeh Nayfeh, the manager of IHOP, concurs. He agrees that IHOP's ten percent student discounts and 24 hour service are two reasons for IHOP's college patronage.

Food preferences are also a prime factor in determining where one will spend his late night food budget. If a person wants a good breakfast, they are more likely to choose Waffle House or IHOP rather than Steak and Shake. On the other hand, if a person would rather have a large burger with fries and baked beans, they are more likely to find what they want at Steak and Shake.

The opening of Steak and Shake has had seemingly no effect on the business of IHOP and Waffle House. "Our regulars as far as college kids are still here," said Marla Forbes, a waitress at IHOP. McDermott also concurs that Waffle House has not seen a drop in business since Steak and Shake's opening.

It's 1 a.m., and another, now somewhat larger, group of hungry college students is seated in a long booth in the corner of IHOP. Two orders sundaes. One orders banana pancakes and another just orders up a good evening with friends, laughing and playing over a steaming hot cuppa joe. ■



Nashville meets the Silk Road

Through hard work, an MTSU student finds love and success in Central Asia.

By Joseph Weir/Staff Reporter

It's early in the morning in Uzbekistan. As Maria Rustamova blindly stumbles to the window to see just how early it really is, those immortal words, "you're not in Kansas anymore," resound in her head.

Things get started here earlier than in America. A society just freed from the bonds of communism has a unique feel. A feel some Americans take for granted.

For Rustamova, 25, being an American was something she never took for granted, but things were different now. Sure, she had lived briefly in Ireland and Africa at a young age, but she was on her own now, in a country she knew little about. Here she was, wiping the sleep from her eyes, peering out the window into the thick darkness, wondering if she had made the right decision.

Maria was only 19 when she arrived in Uzbekistan during the fall of 1992. She was part of a group of Americans affiliated with a non-governmental organization called the Central Asian Free Exchange (CAFE). The group was there to teach English at the University of Economy and World Diplomacy in the capital city, Tashkent.

"I wasn't scared too much because I had been to foreign lands before, but I couldn't speak any Uzbek so that made it terribly hard," Maria recalls.

Uzbekistan, just north of Afghanistan in Central Asia, was communist until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. It was one of a handful of Soviet-governed republics. It was the fall of communism that opened the gates for Westerners like Maria.

Maria adapted quickly to Uzbek culture. She became very popular among her students because of her dedication and hard work.

"It was really hilarious," Maria fondly remembers, "I

couldn't speak one bit of Uzbek and my class couldn't speak one bit of English. It took two weeks just to get our names out."

One class member who especially took notice of her gentle and caring spirit was a young man named Farhod. He introduced himself after the first class and liked her immediately.

"She was like an Uzbek girl," Farhod says with a smile. "Her hair and skin was so much like an Uzbek woman it was incredible. I really learned so much because she was such a warm and caring soul."

Quickly they developed a strong friendship and an emotional bond. Farhod and his family helped Maria learn the language and culture, while Maria taught Farhod the fundamentals of English. Maria fell in love with the people and culture so much that she decided to attend school there.

"I became interested in going to school to learn Uzbek," Maria explains. "I knew it would be difficult, but I wanted to learn everything I could."

Maria started attending Tashkent State University in 1995, becoming the first American student ever to be enrolled in an Uzbek university. She was also employed by a television station to do Uzbek news in English.

"I was the first American to be employed by Uzbek TV," she proudly remembers. "It was very hard because I had to do everything on my own like writing, taping, formatting and editing, all while going to school to learn the language."

Maria became a celebrity in Tashkent. She could barely go to the bazaars to shop without creating a buzz. "Not bad for a girl from Nashville," Maria likes to say.

Gladys Weir, Maria's mom, remembers how funny it was to get pictures of her daughter enjoying her celebrity status.

"I would see a picture and Maria would be hugging an admirer or pointing at herself on the television set. I was just so proud and happy for her," Weir said.

In the summer of 1996, Maria came home for a visit. However, this was more than just a vacation. Maria came home with the person who helped her adapt and learn the intricacies of Uzbek culture. Together, as they had been for the past four years, Maria and Farhod were married in Nashville.

"It was the perfect thing that could have happened," Maria said. "We both knew that it was right. It's unbelievable how we met from different parts of the world and God brought us together."

After spending the summer in Nashville, the newlyweds returned to Uzbekistan so Farhod could finish his degree in political science. Maria remained in Uzbekistan for one more year and came back to Nashville. She planned and coordinated Farhod's arrival so they both could pursue educational opportunities in America.

Currently, Maria is studying international relations here at MTSU, and Farhod is enrolled in night classes at Nashville State Tech hoping to improve his English skills.

"I want to help developing countries with their problems," Maria said. "It's hard work because of the various cultural obstacles, but the personal involvement in seeing people from foreign countries realize their dreams is so incredibly rewarding."

Looking back Maria is grateful for those early mornings in Uzbekistan. The things she learned will forever be ingrained in her heart and mind. After all, Farhod reminds her, she still has a mother-in-law there.

Whatever Maria attempts to accomplish during the rest of her life, you can count on her doing it with love and a smile on her face. ■

"It was really hilarious. I couldn't speak one bit of Uzbek and my class couldn't speak on bit of English. It took two weeks just to get our names out."

-Maria Rustamora

Weekly Horoscope

by Linda C. Black/Tribune Services

Aries (March 21-April 19). Move quickly Monday and you may get to the prize before anyone catches you. Tuesday and Wednesday are good for business and profit. Listen and learn on Thursday and Friday from your partner and your friends. Your luck in love improves on Saturday. Be generous until it hurts on Sunday. It'll do you good.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). The sun in Gemini this week helps you focus on financial matters, as if you didn't do enough of that already. This time, instead of finding ways to save, you'll be finding ways to make more money. On Monday, your best bet is through investments. Tuesday and Wednesday you'll find the best deals by looking in catalogs, especially for vendors who are far away. From Thursday through Friday, your best source of income involves a conversation with a person in a position of authority.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). The sun's in your sign all week, giving you an advantage, and that's going to get even more obvious as the week progresses. On Monday, you're looking good, especially if you're working with a partner who has skills you lack. On Tuesday and

Wednesday, do business that involves other people's money, to be most successful. On Thursday, wrap up chores early so you can travel. Thursday through Saturday look good for that, especially if you can go with a group and involve at least one person you find terribly attractive.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Your mind is probably buzzing this week, with the sun and Mercury both in Gemini. You're most likely worrying about work-related matters on Monday. Just wait a while, and things will calm down there. Tuesday and Wednesday, the fuss is about a partner, and changes you're doing together. Being with someone you trust certainly helps. Thursday and Friday would be good for going over your investments and insurance coverage. You might find a place where you could save some money.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You're good with teams this week. Social activities should be taking up lots of your time, too, especially on Monday, with the moon in Sagittarius. You'll have more invitations than you can possibly accept, so you may have to reject a few, but try not to reject the people who asked you. Tuesday and Wednesday are full on work days. Don't plan anything else. Thursday and Friday, you may have to ask a partner to help, and it's about time. Looks like an expert is needed. Over the weekend, you'll be getting luckier in love as Venus goes into your sign on Saturday. Sunday is a good day to

buy gifts for other people. You know just what a loved one wants.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You might tend to be nervous while the sun is in Gemini, but the upside is that it makes you even quicker, both mentally and physically. That'll be especially noticeable Monday, when the moon is in Sagittarius. Stay away from stimulants. You won't need them. Tuesday and Wednesday, you'll settle down long enough to have some romance in your life, we hope. Thursday and Friday, you'll pick up speed again, as your workload increases. Do the job perfectly, and get a raise in pay. Over the weekend, a partner can help you relax. Let him or her do the driving.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The sun's in Gemini this week, which is really lovely for you. It helps you travel and also learn advanced subjects. The biggest difficulty will be figuring out where to go and which subjects to study, especially on Monday. You'll have way too many to choose from. On Tuesday and Wednesday, it'll be easy to get flustered. There's too much stimulation. On Thursday and Friday, settle down, hopefully in pleasant company. You'll be more decisive after Friday, when Mars goes direct in your sign.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can make and lose a lot of money while the sun's going through

Gemini, so take care. On Monday, especially, it looks like a lot of it is changing hands. You'll have to be sharp to wind up with a profit. You'll learn through doing on Tuesday and Wednesday, and you'd be wise to pick an experienced tutor. Stick close to home on Thursday and Friday. There's plenty to keep you busy there. Romance blossoms over the weekend, especially if you can find any privacy together.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The sun's in Gemini this week, presenting something of a challenge, especially on Monday, when a raging debate could prove quite entertaining. You're one of the main players, so stay alert. Count your money on Tuesday and Wednesday, and if you don't have enough, use old skills to gain more. From Thursday through about Saturday, you'll be gaining new skills.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You generally stay pretty busy, but during the sun's transit of Gemini things can get downright hectic. On Monday, it looks like you're working to meet a deadline. On Tuesday and Wednesday, you've got a little more time to be creative, while the moon's in your sign. Thursday, you'd better count the money, because you're going to think of lots of ways to play with it this weekend. If you notice you need more, Friday is a pretty good time to ask for a raise.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You

do very well when the sun is in Gemini, as it is now, so this whole week should be spectacular for you. On Monday, your friends will come up with some amazing new ideas, much to your delight. Tuesday and Wednesday are a little strenuous, as you have to do what somebody else tells you to do. But since you already agreed to the program, it's understandable that this would happen eventually. Thursday and Friday, the moon's in your sign, and just about everything is in your favor. Wait to make your big decisions then, and also to start new projects. Over the weekend, the moon's going into Pisces, in your solar second house of money, and conditions will be excellent for buying gifts for loved ones, and they will love that too.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). The sun in Gemini this week could inspire you to make changes at home, especially on Monday when the moon's in Sagittarius. That'll really stir things up and make you impatient with the status quo. On Tuesday and Wednesday, your friends can give you several good ideas for how to make money, but change may be required there too. Not nickels and dimes, but perhaps a change in your career focus. Keep your old objectives in mind on Thursday and Friday, but try a different way of achieving them. Don't get talked into something you disagree with over the weekend. Make your opinions known, and you may find you're more persuasive than you thought you were. ♋

REVIEW

Naughty by Nature doesn't make the cut

Lamont Gholston
Staff Reporter

The intro says "I knew they were coming back, I just didn't know they were coming back like this," as an explosion leads into the first song, "Ring the Alarm." Somebody call '911' because I didn't know that Naughty By Nature's latest album nineteen naughty nine - Nature's Fury was going to be this wack. This is the group's fourth and worst album. It seems that the change of record labels - from Tommy Boy to Arista - did more harm than good. The A&R must have told them to keep their look but lose their hard-core sound and lyrics. Naughty has always had radio-friendly singles, but Nature's Fury sounds like they've been collaborating with the TrackMasters and Mase.

"Holiday" and "Jamboree" are as commercial as rap songs come. "The Blues," a track with R&B group Next, gives me just that. The only reason that "Thugs and Hustlers" is on the album is because it features Krayzie Bone. "Would've Done The Same For Me" could have followed in the steps of other Naughty love songs, but instead of sounding gritty, it sounds like it belongs on "Midnight Love." I'm not saying this album is totally disappointing. It

definitely has some joints to check for. "Dirt All By My Lonely" and "On The Run" are definitely greatest hits material.

"Live or Die" featuring Master P, Silkk the Shocker, Mystikal, and Phiness will have the crowds from NY to N.O. crunk. One of the hottest jams from the summer of 1998, "Work" - freaking some samples from Rose Royce's "Car Wash" - is certainly the jewel of this album. This track, featuring Mag and Castro, was in heavy rotation on mix tapes and radio stations alike. Another memorable song, "We Could Do It" featuring Big Pun, was an example of how their radio-friendly tracks should have come off.

For most groups this would have been a decent LP, but for seasoned veterans like Naughty By Nature, their fourth album shouldn't have sounded like musical uncertainty. Hopefully this is the product of switching labels and their next album will take us back to familiar territory.

You can hear all CDs reviewed in this column on SNM or any other hip-hop shows on 88.3 FM WMTS. Check out the WMTS home page on the Internet at www.mtsu.edu/~wmts. Check the schedule to find the times of the shows you want. For more information, call the WMTS request line at 898-5051. ■

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SPORTS

6 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Kats can't weather arena storm

Bleu Holden
Staff Reporter

At the Nashville Arena Friday night there were dancers, girls in a hot tub, fireworks, lasers, contests and prizes. Oh, yeah, there was also a football game going on in the middle of all that. The Arena Football game pitted the Nashville Kats against the Storm from Tampa Bay. The more than 12,000 Kats fans in attendance were hoping to see their team revenge a 41-34 loss to the Storm in Tampa just a week earlier.

The Nashville offense faltered in The Alley as Kelly was only 7-20 for 83 yards with his team failing to score a single touchdown in the first half. He threw two interceptions in the first half, which led to his being replaced by Scott Semptimphelter.

The Storm was in control of the game from the outset, picking off Kelly on only the second play from scrimmage. This set up a 27 yard field goal to put the Storm up 3-0. The Kats would answer with a field goal of their own before giving up a 25 yard touchdown pass. After two more field goals and a safety resulting

from Cory Fleming's blocked field goal in the end zone, the Kats took their first and final lead of the game at 11-10.

The Storm would then close out the half with a touchdown and another field goal to go into the locker room with a 19-11 edge.

Tampa began the second half as it had finished the first, with another field goal and touchdown to push their lead to 36-18. After trading touchdowns, the Kats struck on a 13 yard pass from Semptimphelter to Hason Graham. Next, the Kats converted a 2 point conversion, as Semptimphelter completed a pass to Tyrone Jones in the corner of the end zone, which closed the gap to 36-26.

This turned out to be too little too late as the Kats then failed to recover either of two onside kick attempts. In addition, the Kats swapped touchdowns with the



The Nashville Kats, as they try to punch into the endzone.

Storm to account for the final 43-32 margin.

Semptimphelter would finish with 8-18 passing for 113 yards. Kirk Pointer, who is among the league leaders in interceptions, collected his fifth of the season. Former MTSU star and current Kats defensive leader Anthony

Hicks was named Iron Man of the Game.

The Kats' next game is June 5 in Iowa against the Barnstormers, and they return home next on June 18 vs. the Houston Thunderbears. The June 5 game can be seen on Fox Sports South. ■

Pro-wrestler Hart dies with dignity

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

In sports, as in life, tragedies sometimes occur. At the World Wrestling Federation's last pay-per-view, Over the Edge, Owen Hart lost his life on a stunt that went wrong.

Hart, a.k.a. the Blue Blazer, was supposed to be lowered to the ring from the rafters, but the equipment necessary for the stunt was not hooked up properly. Hart fell over 50 feet and hit his head on a turnbuckle, losing his life as a result.

Over the Edge continued with everyone displaying little concern about the matches. Obviously, everyone else had more important things on their minds.

The next night on Raw is War, the WWF dedicated the entire program to Owen Hart. The program began with everyone associated with the WWF observing a moment of silence; during the moment of silence, the bell was rung ten times.

Wrestlers such as Jeff Jarrett, Triple H and Mankind praised Hart and offered condolences to his family. In addition, WWF owner Vince McMahon gave a brief account of Hart's career and offered his condolences to the Hart family.

People often say that McMahon is a cruel, calculating businessman. He showed a softer side by putting business, and his feud with the Hart family, aside last Monday. In addition, the WWF has canceled scheduled events in Hart's native Canada. This is a credit to the character of Vince McMahon.

World Championship Wrestling, the WWF's rival, issued a statement in which it offered its condolences to the Hart family. This was a classy move by the WCW, because it could have gone to great lengths to criticize the WWF.

Hart's death has put everything in perspective. Everyone in the wrestling world has stopped bickering about petty things such as adult language. Instead, the focus of the wrestling world has been on the loss of a great wrestler, and a great man. ■

Spurs and Pacers picked for finals

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

Once again, Indiana and New York will square off in the playoffs. And as usual, this series promises to be physical and down to the wire.

Indiana holds the advantage on offense. The Pacers have better shooters. Reggie Miller, Chris Mullin and Sam Perkins are great at coming off screens and hitting three pointers.

When the Pacers miss, Dale Davis, Antonio Davis and Rik Smits are usually able to get the offensive rebound and convert. This presents a real problem for New York, as it has a small team, especially with Patrick Ewing's Achilles' Tendon bothering him.

Indiana wants a half court game. Expect Mark Jackson and the Pacers to work the ball inside. When this happens, the big men will kick the ball outside to Reggie Miller and Chris Mullin for the open shot.

New York, on the other hand, wants to run. Expect New York to force the ball up the court and either take the ball to the basket or shoot a transition three. In order to run, New York needs Latrell Sprewell and Chris Childs to push the ball up the court following rebounds. When this happens, Allan Houston and Larry Johnson will need to hit the open shots.

In addition, Latrell Sprewell will have to score at least 20 points, and Marcus Camby will have to be physical.

The Knicks will put forth a valiant effort, but Indiana will prevail in seven. Shortly thereafter, Jeff Van Gundy will be fired. The probable replacement will be Phil Jackson.

In the Western Conference Finals, San Antonio is squaring off against Portland.

Portland has an explosive offense which is led by Damon Stoudamire and Isaiah Rider. The Trailblazers are a patient team that will wait for the open shot. In addition to Stoudamire and Rider, Arvydas Sabonis can score and Rasheed Wallace has been putting up big numbers off the bench.

Defense is where Portland could be in trouble. The Trailblazers do not have anybody capable of stopping Tim Duncan and David Robinson. Expect Portland to double team Duncan. When this happens, Mario Elie, Sean Elliott and Jarin Jackson will get open looks at the basket. ■



Both teams will be physical on the defensive side of the ball. Indiana has the advantage because of its depth. The Pacers will bring Dale Davis and Derrick McKey off the bench to battle inside. New York, on the other hand, does not have big bodies on the bench.

New York is at a disadvantage in many areas. In order for New York to win, it will need to play fast break basketball. In

Replay aids in St. Louis Cardinals win

Josh Dubow
Associated Press

Instant replay is back in the NFL. The Florida Marlins had no idea it could be used in baseball, too.

Umpire Frank Pulli did just that, changing a home run to a double for Cliff Floyd in the Marlins 5-2 loss to the St. Louis Cardinals on Monday.

"I didn't know instant replay was in the game," Floyd said.

It's not actually, but Pulli decided to use it anyway in the fifth inning. St. Louis led 4-1 before Floyd drove in a runner from second with his deep drive.

Floyd claimed his hit was a homer because it bounced off the facade behind the scoreboard. Second-base umpire Greg Gibson at first called the hit a double, but after the Marlins began to argue, the umpiring crew conferred briefly, and Pulli - the crew chief and third-base umpire - changed the ruling to a homer.

The Cardinals then argued, and the game was delayed for more than five minutes while Pulli studied replays on a TV camera near the Marlins' dugout. He changed the call back to a double.

"I sure don't want to make a habit of it," said Pulli, who had never used replay in his 28 years as an umpire. "But at that moment, I thought it was the proper thing to do."

The Marlins played the

game under protest, arguing that the reliance on a replay violated major league policy and set an unwanted precedent.

"They used video to change the call - that's what I'm protesting," interim manager Fredi Gonzalez said.

There is no mention of replay in the rulebook, though umpires "do have the authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in these rules." And Pulli did just that.

"He did end up making the right call - with the help of the cameraman," Floyd said. "I was hoping maybe I'd get a cheap one."

In other NL games, it was Cincinnati 5, New York 3; Pittsburgh 5, Los Angeles 4; Milwaukee 8, San Diego 2; Atlanta 3, Colorado 1; Philadelphia 4, San Francisco 3; and Arizona 8, Montreal 5.

At Miami, the Marlins World Series hero Edgar Renteria hit a pair of solo homers against his teammates, while Kent Bottenfield pitched five innings and improved to 8-2, tying him for the National League in victories.

Mark McGwire, playing in his second game since being hospitalized for 36 hours with a staph infection in his right leg, went 2-for-5 with an RBI double.

Brian Meadows (4-5) allowed four runs in six innings for the Marlins.

Reds 5, Mets 3

Greg Vaughn homered and Ron Villone and Scott Williamson combined for 6 1-3 innings of hitless relief to lead Cincinnati to victory at New York.

It was the fourth straight loss for the Mets. Cincinnati has won three in a row and 11 of 15.

Vaughn, who missed the last six games with an abdominal strain, hit a solo homer off Al Leiter (2-5) to give Cincinnati a 4-3 lead in the fifth.

Pirates 5, Dodgers 4

At Pittsburgh, Warren Morris blooped a tiebreaking single to center as the Pirates scored twice with two outs in the eighth inning to win their fourth straight.

Raul Mondesi's run-scoring single in the top of the eighth put the Dodgers up 4-3, and reliever Jamie Arnold (2-1) quickly got the first two batters in the bottom of the inning before walking Kevin Young.

Jason Kendall's fly ball then fell in front of left fielder Gary Sheffield, who didn't break especially hard on the ball or charge it once it landed. That allowed Young to score all the way from first. Kendall scored the go-ahead run on Morris' hit.

Marc Wilkins (1-0) pitched the eighth for the win, and Mike Williams finished for his 10th save.

Brewers 8, Padres 2

At Milwaukee, Hideo Nomo allowed three hits in 6 1-3 innings for his fifth straight

strong start.

Nomo (2-1), released by the Mets and Cubs earlier this season, has a 2.41 ERA in five starts since being signed by the Brewers.

Ron Belliard homered off Woody Williams (2-3) and Jeremy Burnitz drove in two runs for the Brewers.

Braves 3, Rockies 1

At Atlanta, Brian Jordan had three hits, including a pair of run-scoring singles off Pedro Astacio (4-5), to help Kevin Millwood win his fourth consecutive decision.

Millwood (6-3) gave up seven hits, allowing only a solo homer to Vinny Castilla. John Rocker pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Phillies 4, Giants 3

Alex Arias capped a four-run seventh inning with a solo homer off John Johnstone (4-2) as visiting San Francisco lost its fifth straight.

Arias' homer came after Philadelphia ended a 22-inning scoreless drought with three runs, tying it at 3 and chasing starter Kirk Rueter.

Yorkis Perez (2-1) got two outs in the seventh for the victory and Wayne Gomes pitched two innings for his fourth save.

Diamondbacks 8, Expos 5

Kelly Stinnett hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning as Arizona won at Montreal, the Diamondbacks' seventh straight victory. ■

Stars try to escape the Avalanche

Aaron J. Lopez
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) - The Colorado Avalanche weren't supposed to have enough depth to match the Detroit Red Wings and Dallas Stars.

That lack of depth has turned out to be a shallow perception.

Having survived injuries and illness to key players, the Avalanche are just one game away from the Stanley Cup finals. They can advance for the second time in four seasons with a victory over the Stars tonight in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals.

"I think we rebounded in two rounds," Colorado coach Bob Hartley said. "When you look at our intensity, goaltending, special teams, the way we have gone from the finishing game to a war to a football game ... I don't think I have ever seen this before."

The Avalanche, who ousted the defending Stanley Cup champion Red Wings in six games in the second round, won Game 4 against Dallas without sharpshooting forward Valeri Kamensky. They came back and scored seven goals in Game 5 without All-Star right wing Theo Fleury and productive rookie forward Milan Hejduk.

Hejduk is out with a broken collarbone, but Fleury is expected to return to the lineup tonight after missing Colorado's 7-5 victory Sunday with the flu. He did not skate Monday, but his health was improving.

"I made sure I was walking on the other side of the street," Colorado goalie Patrick Roy said of staying away from his contagious teammate. "It was nice to see Theo was much better."

With Fleury and Hejduk out, the Avalanche figured to be in trouble heading into Dallas for Game 5, but Peter Forsberg, Kamensky, Sandis Ozolinsh and rookie Chris Drury made up for their absence.

Although his only goal went into an empty net Sunday, Forsberg was the strongest offensive player on the ice. He set up two goals and rarely was knocked off the puck when the Avalanche controlled the tempo.

"I liked the game," Forsberg said. "It surprised me that it was an open game. I thought that everyone was tired."

Fatigue may have been a factor in Sunday's score-a-thon, but 12 goals still came as a surprise considering the teams combined for 16 in the first four games of the series. Twelve games Sunday in major league baseball had less than a dozen runs.

"The way this round has gone so far, you can expect anything," Hartley said. "I didn't look into my magic ball. The person who can predict what type of game it will be is a very bright man."

One thing is certain: Dallas needs to avoid another fast-paced shootout that favors the fleet-skating Avalanche. While the Stars have scoring punch on all four lines, they have more success when games turn into a battle along the boards.

"We started playing their game," Dallas captain Derian Hatcher said. "We didn't hit people the way we need to. We didn't check the way we need to. We played their game. We can't win games like that."

Despite their two-game slump, it's premature to discount the Stars. Dallas had the league's top record and did not lose three straight all season. ■

Sabres head to the finals

John Kekis
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) - No screaming, no champagne and no cigars for the Buffalo Sabres. Just a bunch of new T-shirts and hats were more than enough to make the Eastern Conference champions happy.

"We haven't accomplished anything yet. We have a long way to go," Buffalo's Dixon Ward said after the Sabres beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-2 Monday night to wrap up the Eastern Conference finals in five games.

"We haven't won anything yet. We weren't playing for that (Prince of Wales) trophy. We only care about one trophy."

That would be the Stanley Cup, of course.

"We want the Stanley Cup," said Buffalo captain Michael Peca, whose strong play neutralized Maple Leafs captain Mats Sundin and helped turn the series in Buffalo's favor. "It's the Stanley Cup that you work to touch and hold over your head and all that fun stuff. It really feels good inside to make a step up from last year, but there's a lot of work ahead of us."

The Sabres will play either Colorado, which leads the Western Conference final 3-2, or Dallas for the Cup. The Avalanche play the Stars tonight in Dallas.

The Sabres' celebration

after ousting the Maple Leafs was subdued because of recent history. A year ago, the Sabres whooped it up after sweeping the Montreal Canadiens in the second round, then lost to the Washington Capitals in the conference final.

This time, the Sabres didn't rely on goalie Dominik Hasek, as they usually do. They played a strong all-around defensive game, and Hasek only had to make 20 saves.

"I'm very, very happy. It's a great feeling," Hasek said. "To win the last round will be harder than winning the first three. It's great to get to the final, but our goal is to win."

The teams were tied 2-2 after both scored twice in the second period - Steve Sullivan and Kris King for Toronto and Curtis Brown and Vaclav Varada for Buffalo.

Buffalo won it on a third-period goal by Erik Rasmussen at 11:35, and then got the clincher on Ward's empty-netter.

"We realized that they were a good hockey team," Maple Leafs coach Pat Quinn said. "Usually, all the credit

went to Dominik, and he is terrific. But they allowed their team to grow, and I think they got little credit. We had to fight and scratch to get any chances at all."

The Maple Leafs had battled back from 2-1 deficits to beat Philadelphia and Pittsburgh in the first two rounds, then lost the first game against Buffalo with Hasek out nursing a groin injury and never recovered.

"We had a chance to go all the way and it slipped away," said Toronto center Steve Sullivan, who gave the Maple Leafs a 1-0 lead Monday night in the first minute of the second period.

"We always thought we had a shot. We just weren't able to do it. Not too many of our guys have been here."

That the Sabres had made all the difference.

"We have to remember this feeling," Toronto forward Garry Valk said. "Buffalo was in this position last year and they obviously learned something from it. I'm confident that with this nucleus that we'll get back here next year."

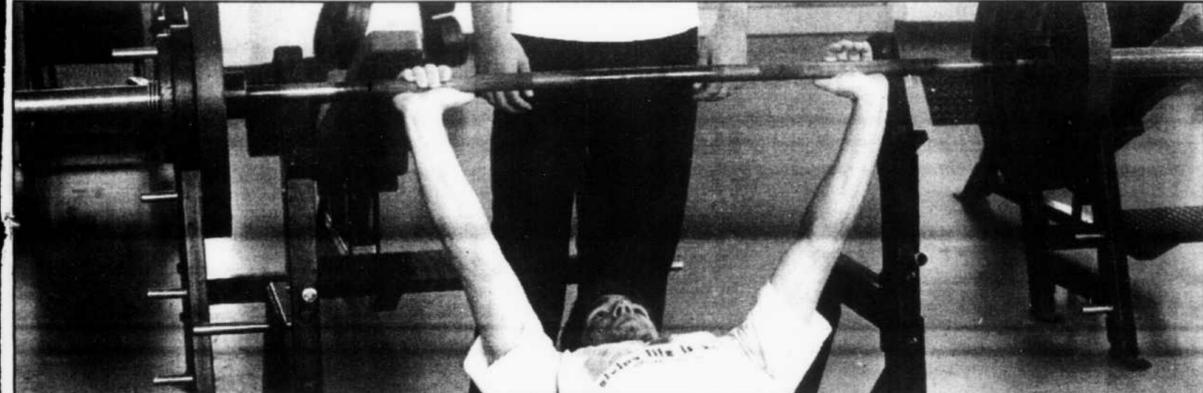
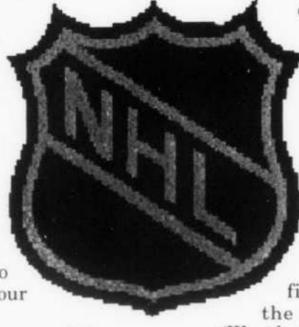
It will be only the second appearance for the Sabres in the finals since the team entered the league in 1970. This team is far different from its predecessor. The Sabres and their famed finesse "French Connection" line of Gilbert Perreault, Rick Martin and Rene Robert were beaten in six games in 1975 by the Philadelphia Flyers.

These Sabres are all grit instead of glitter, and that was never more apparent than in the finale.

The Sabres came from behind twice to win. Not even a disallowed goal by Varada could deter them. Rasmussen scored the winner just over two minutes later.

Brian Holzinger broke into the Toronto zone, stopped, spun around and fired a hard drive at Curtis Joseph. The puck skidded to Rasmussen and he drilled it back in before Joseph could recover.

"That's an emotional time of the game where you worry about your team getting down," Sabres coach Lindy Ruff said after Varada's goal was disallowed. "I thought about calling a timeout just to settle everything down, but it seemed like everybody got their heads back on straight. We've been a pretty resilient team when it comes to those circumstances and fighting our way through."



Staff Photo by Josh Ezzell
Todd Bekaert pumps some iron in the Rec Center weight room.

Kuerten a favorite for the French Open

Jocelyn Noveck
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) - When Gustavo Kuerten won the French Open two years ago as a virtual unknown, he was asked what he'd do with the \$700,000 in prize money - at the time, about three times his career earnings.

His answer was endearing, and showed why the fans like this good-natured, scrappy Brazilian so much.

"Money? I think I'll put mine in an account because I don't want to buy anything," he said. "I have everything I need. I have a good house, and my mom's car that I use a little bit."

Moments later, tipsy from champagne on an empty stomach, he was on a balcony at Roland Garros, swaying happily to a samba band composed of fans chanting his nickname: "GUGA!" He tried to open a champagne bottle himself, but needed help from his coach. He explained: "I've never won a title before."

Things are a bit different this year for Kuerten, who's now ranked No. 8 in the world and has enough titles to know how to open a champagne bottle.

In fact, Kuerten, who easily reached the quarterfinals Monday with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 victory Czech Bohdan Ulihrach,

has had the best clay-court season of anyone this year, winning both Monte Carlo and the Italian Open. He could even become No. 1 this summer.

But Kuerten hasn't changed much, although the scraggly mop of hair and the bandana are gone in favor of a sleek short cut.

Now 22, he's still dressed in blue and yellow, to the discomfort of tournament officials, and still brings his German grandmother, Olga, to the matches. She advises him how to play each opponent, he says.

And he's still modest. He said Monday that one reason for his success at the French this year is that he hasn't met any seeded players so far.

Still, many say he is the man to beat this year. In four matches, he's lost only one set.

"These last two months, I've been playing wonderful, with a lot of confidence, too," Kuerten said. "That's the way I came here. And now I think I'm growing in this tournament, playing better and better."

He admits it's harder this time, with the expectations on him.

In 1997, "I had nothing to lose. I came here and started to play my best tennis."

Now, he says, "I expect more. Sometimes it's more difficult because of that."

Next, Kuerten will meet

Andrei Medvedev, the much-improved Ukrainian who knocked out Pete Sampras in the second round and beat Frenchman Arnaud Di Pasquale on Monday.

Joining them in the quarterfinals are Andre Agassi; Marcelo Rios of Chile; another Brazilian, Fernando Meligeni; Spain's Alex Corretja; Uruguay's Marcelo Filippini; and Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty.

Meligeni said he was inspired by Kuerten's victory here in 1997.

"A friend of yours wins the tournament, it shows you that you can do it," he said. "I don't know if I'm good enough to win the tournament. I just get on the court, try my best, hit the ball harder and run like a dog."

Kuerten knows there are some players in the group that could pose a real challenge to him, especially Agassi, who's having an inspired run here, coming from behind to beat defending champion Carlos Moya in the fourth round.

"When he's playing well, inspired, he can beat everybody," Kuerten said of Agassi. "He's really a tough guy to play."

In an exchange Agassi would surely love to have heard, Kuerten was asked his reaction to an "old guy" like Agassi, nearly 30, beating a young guy like Moya.

"How old you are?" Kuerten asked his questioner. "Why you say Agassi is old?"

Add respect for his elders to Kuerten's list of attributes. ■

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