

WEDNESDAY
JULY 24, 2002

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Isolated thunderstorms



The truth
behind
'The Truth
About Kate'

In Features, page 4



Hicks
helps out
community

In Sports, page 7



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com

Which campus services
do you use the most?

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Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 78 No. 8

Campus Briefs

Deadline for applications, debt payment approaching

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

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

In a press release, Robert Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment Management, said that the new deadline would still give students plenty of time to pursue other options if they are not accepted by MTSU for the fall semester.

He also said that the limiting effect the pushed-up deadline will create would protect the university's already stretched resources.

Current students also have cause to take note of the Aug. 9 date. According to Sherian Huddleston, director and interim assistant vice president of Enrollment Management and Records, that day is the last one students have to pay debts to the university.

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

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

For more information about admissions, please contact 898-2111.

Mud volleyball tournament to help epileptics

The Epilepsy Foundation of Middle Tennessee is organizing a mud volleyball tournament to raise money for local children afflicted with the disease.

The tournament takes place Aug. 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Ashland City Highway in Nashville. The cost is \$140 per team, and each team may have up to 14 players. There is no charge to watch the games.

Proceeds from the tournament go directly to the EFMT, which helps children with epilepsy to attend summer camp and pays for emergency medication.

For information, contact the EFMT at (615) 269-7091 or (800) 244-0768.

Golf outing raises funds for insurance program

Stones River Country Club played host to the annual Tommy Martin Scramble Golf Tournament April 23, raising \$24,565 to go toward insurance scholarships. Approximately 160 people participated in the tournament.

The winning team included four Murfreesboro residents: Gary Taylor, of Murfreesboro Insurance Agency; Terry Haynes, of Haynes Brothers Lumber; David Tucker, of Ole South Properties and Mike Webb, Broad Street Auto Mart.

"It raised more than we expected," said Ken Hollman, the Martin Chair holder at MTSU. "\$25,000 is a very handsome sum. Very few golf tournaments are that productive."

Fees increase despite tuition hike

By Laura Beth Jackson
Staff Writer

Employees of MTSU services are busy settling their budgets for the 2002-03 school year.

MTSU received just more than a \$4 million increase in state funding this year, said Richard Rhoda, executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The process was the result of a lot of number crunching.

"Last year's appropriations was \$78,021,700," Rhoda said. "This year's recommendation [for funding] by the [Tennessee Board of Regents] was \$94,974,200. The governor's recommendation was

\$83,423,800. This year's actual appropriation was \$82,864,900 — a total increase of \$4,843,200."

TBR's recommendation for funds was derived from a formula based on how other universities in the south are operated based on enrollment.

Though the entire recommended funding was not supplied, Rhoda was pleased with the new money that was provided.

"The governor was taking into account so many new monies that we felt fortunate to get the increase that we did," he said. "The total amount of new dollars was 30 million for higher education [in Tennessee]."

MTSU is supplementing the

state funding with the state legislature's approved 7.5 percent tuition hike. A cap has been implemented to prohibit universities from increasing tuition beyond 7.5 percent, said state Representative Donna Rowland. Yearly in-state tuition will increase \$192, which will raise the current \$2,556 to \$2,748.

Besides the flat \$192 tuition raise used for increasing teachers' salaries and general campus maintenance, there are other incidental fees paid alongside the tuition that also benefit the university.

The raised incidental fees this year are the student activity fee, health services fee and gen-

eral access fee. Also, the cost for Customs — the freshman orientation program — will be raised, and a bicycle impoundment fee will be implemented.

The process of deciding what will be an incidental fee begins with the university vice presidents, said Duane Stucky, vice president for Business and Finance.

"Each year there are special fees reviewed early in the year," Stucky said. "Each vice president is asked to review the fees that affect their department and make recommendations on which ones need to be raised."

The student activity fee, which is allocated to the Recreation Center, was also

increased from \$15 to \$25 per semester, or \$50 per year. The Center gets no state funding.

"The Rec Center is self-sufficient, an auxiliary," Rec Center manager Charlie Gregory said. "The electric bill, the water bill, custodial services when something breaks, staff payment, all come out of this fee."

Because the Center does not receive any state financial assistance, all new monies do not go just toward employee salaries, but toward paying off debts on the building and maintaining the facility. Gregory said the increase was due largely to inflation and the rising cost of

See Tuition, 2

Gubernatorial candidate visits campus



Photos by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Former Nashville Mayor Phil Bredeesen, left, shares a laugh with MTSU employees during his visit to the Cope Administration Building offices around noon Friday. Former candidate for governor Andy Womack, middle, showed Bredeesen, who's running for governor, around the campus.

New plan developed to manage growth

By Anna D. Wilson
Contributor

As a university experiencing tremendous growth and expecting significant growth over the next few years, MTSU officials plan to expand and redesign facilities to meet the changing needs of students and faculty.

The university has commissioned the development of a physical Master Plan to provide a guide for MTSU to meet its goals.

The study analyzed the current use of space on campus and compared MTSU to other schools with the same full-time equivalent study body. Officials studied possible land acquisitions, physical needs of the campus at 17,500 and 20,000 FTE, and traffic and parking.

Several other goals listed in the Master Plan are to provide a dense academic core in an effort to shorten travel distance between classes, define a hierarchy of circulation to coordinate all intra-campus travel, and improve the quality of campus life.

The plan includes three phases. The first are priority projects, which are projects that are happening now whether they are in the building process, the designing process, or the

approval process. The second phase includes the projected FTE of 17,500, and estimates facilities' most efficient locations in order to meet student needs. The final phase of the plan is the 20,000 FTE stage.

In 1998, the population on campus was 18,366, and already in the second stage of the Master Plan. Campus officials have not been able to update facilities to meet the requirements of the 17,500 FTE phase.

For years the center of campus has been in front of the Keathley University Center, where the students can purchase school supplies, eat lunch, and lounge around outside. According to the Master Plan, the center is scheduled to shift to the new quadrangle centered between the John Bragg Mass Communication Building and the Business and Aerospace Building.

Within the past five years, Mass Comm and the BAS were built, followed by the James E. Walker Library. Upon completion of the library, the decision was made to use excess funds from the project to build the Quadrangle last spring.

In conjunction with the shift of the center of campus, several new buildings will be built. The new Honors College building is



Photo by Wesley R. Bush | Staff

Construction projects, such as this one at the Monohan dormitory complex, are outlined in the new Master Plan.

already being constructed on the former intramural fields behind Mass Comm with funding by donations and without any government aid.

In addition to the Honors College, there are plans for a new student union, replacing the KUC. The building is designed to be a "one-stop shop" for all of the students'

needs. It will provide students with lounges, restaurants, a bookstore, student entertainment and student organizations.

It also will house various student service departments such as parking services, scheduling and registration. This building

See Plan, 2

Credit card debt on rise among students

By Mary Kuehner
& Chris Mahan
Kaleidoscope

(U-WIRE) BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — According to recent statistics released by Nellie Mae, a national provider of student loans, at least 83 percent of college students now have at least one credit card. That's a 24 percent jump since the study done in 1998.

Nellie Mae publishes their annual report on student credit card use to underscore the importance of educating college students on future credit debt.

"It is interesting to note that while 54 percent of freshman students own a credit card, only 23 percent have a student loan, which is much less expensive and often considered a more positive investment in one's future," said Nina Prikazsky, vice president of operations at Nellie Mae.

"For many students entering college today, their first credit experience is with credit cards, whereas 10 years ago it was with a student loan."

And it's not just the number of students with credit cards that is concerning, but also the number of credit cards each student owns that has risen.

In just one year, the number of cards owned by one student rose from three to 4.5 each.

The percentage of students with four or more credit cards has doubled in the past three years.

Luckily, the percentage of students with credit card debt over 7,000 dollars has decreased steadily over the last year.

"The fact that average credit card debt has declined is a promising indicator," Prikazsky said. "The expanded availability of financial management programs on campus, increased publicity over the dangers of carrying large credit card balances, and the fact that the economy is not at its peak level may be factors encouraging some students to change their credit card habits."

While credit cards and college students seem to go hand in hand, Nellie Mae does offer online assistance to students interested in debt management.

A host of innovative services from debt management tools and calculators to online stu-

See Debt, 5

Plan: Renovations, new buildings needed on campus

Continued from 1

is planned to be located northeast of the future Honors College.

According to the Master Plan, the university should be planning to renovate and add to many of the existing buildings on campus. The art department's current facilities in the Art Barn are considered inadequate for its needs and the building itself is not considered worthy of renovations.

Issues such as life safety, student health and safety of instructional space require a new location for the department. Because the Todd Library is not being used, it will be renovated to provide new facilities for the Art Department.

After the Art department has moved, the Art Barn will be demolished. It is proposed that this location will be used to provide space for a new theater as part of the arts center.

Both the Davis Science Building and the Wiser-Patten Science Building are inadequate from the standpoint of quantity and quality of space. The DSB will be renovated for the physics department and general science studies.

The WPS will be converted for general education use. Another phase of the science project will be the construction of a new science building to house the biology and chemistry departments. School officials are in the process of selecting a location for this building.

It is expected that the McWhorter Learning Resources Center will need improvements and renovations in the near future.

Because the LRC is a building with high pedestrian traffic, the exterior is as important as its interior functions.

The Gore Research Center is under consideration for removal from the building because of its location, which hinders travel from there to the area surrounding the Quadrangle. Along with the renovation, there are plans to expand the north section of the build-

ing.

In addition to on-campus renovation and expansion, the university is setting up facilities at off-campus locations. One of these sites is the new horse arena.

The Miller Coliseum facility is now being constructed on Thompson Lane and is partially being funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said Patricia Miller, director of Campus Planning.

The facility will encompass the new horse arena, the agribusiness and agriscience department, and barns and stalls for the horses. With completion of these facilities, the horse science program will be considered an off-campus program.

Once the coliseum is complete and the equestrian areas have been relocated, a new residence hall may be constructed between Scarlett Commons and Rutherford Boulevard.

The hall will be a 400-bedroom apartment-style building similar to the current design of Scarlett Commons.

The current housing situation on campus is in need of serious redesigning, Miller said.

"Our main focus on housing is to improve campus living," she said.

Of the 25 housing facilities, 18 are on the high-priority major renovation list, and the other five are listed as major renovations.

Of the 18 buildings, Gracy, Judd, Deere, Nicks, Clement and Gore halls are all considered "not worthy of major renovations," according to the Master Plan.

Two of the dorms listed as high-priority major renovations are Ezell and Abernathy, which were condemned several years ago because of deterioration in the concrete used in the construction.

There is now an ongoing discussion about what to do with the former dorms. One possibility is to renovate them for faculty offices or other academic space. Another possibility is to renovate for Mass Com-



Photo by Wesley R. Bush | Staff

Ward Quast of American Flooring Systems rolls on a third layer of primer on the floor of Monohan Hall.

munication studios.

The campus population is close to reaching the 20,000 FTE mark, but officials have yet to accomplish the goals and objectives set for the 17,500 FTE mark.

With limited state funding over the past few years, all major government funding projects have been put on hold, Miller said.

University officials are still

striving to meet some of the goals set forth in the Master Plan. The Todd Project and the Science Project have been accepted on the Tennessee Board of Regents' list for government funding, and will hopefully begin construction in late fall 2002.

MTSU contracted Earl Swensson and Associates to lead the plan's development. ♦

Tuition: Several fees rising

Continued from 1

running a facility.

"The main increase is for operations. It goes up every year," he said.

He is hopeful that this year's new budget formed from the additional fees will be sufficient to run the Rec Center for a few more years.

"I think we did a really good job with our figures," Gregory said. "It should be about the same amount of time, five to seven years, before we have to touch [the Rec Center's] budget again."

Benefiting in a similar manner will be the campus' Health Services department. It also is an auxiliary and will use its increased fee, now \$70 per year from last year's \$35, to contribute toward offering a larger, more effective service to the campus.

Plans include the purchase of more X-ray equipment

and renovation to provide more exam rooms to reduce patients' waiting time. The department also added to their staff by hiring a new physician, Jonna Whitman, to help better serve the department's patients.

"Essentially, we're trying to get to provide a full-service primary health clinic," said Richard Chapman, director of the clinic.

The general access, Customs and bicycle impoundment fees benefit the university directly. The access fee has been raised from \$386 per year to \$422. The price of freshman orientation, or Customs, was raised from \$45 to \$55. The bicycle impoundment fee will require a fine of \$25 from students who leave their bikes in undesignated areas. Money from these fees fund general campus maintenance. ♦

CRIME LOG

Wednesday, July 10 – 11:49 p.m.

Rebecca James – Arrested for DUI, 1st offense

James was stopped on Tennessee Boulevard outside the president's home for excessive swerving into the oncoming lane of traffic. She was arrested after failing a field sobriety test.

Sunday, July 14 – 2:57 a.m.

Patrick Leddy – Cited for Underage Consumption of Alcohol

Leddy was stopped after failing to obey a traffic control device after leaving Greek Row. He successfully passed a field sobriety test but was cited for underage consumption.

Wednesday, July 17 – 12:03 a.m.

Kevin James Hoskins – Arrested for Probation Violation (Outstanding Warrant)

Hoskins was first stopped because he was riding against traffic on Tennessee Boulevard without nighttime safety equipment. He lacked identification but a run of his social security number revealed the outstanding warrant.

Wednesday, July 17 – 1:03 a.m.

Thomas E. Glimps – Arrested and extradited to Warren County (warrant for failure to pay fines)

Glimps was found asleep in a car outside the Keathley University Center.

To report a crime, call the MTSU Police Department at 898-2424 (off campus) or 2424 (on campus). ♦

Sidelines news e-mail

slnews@mtsu.edu

ACADEMIC APPEALS FOR FALL 2002

If you think you may be suspended after grading for the 2002 Summer term and you want to appeal your academic suspension, you must complete an academic appeal form and return it to the Records Office by 4:00 p.m. on August 13, 2002. Academic appeal forms are available on the web at www.mtsu.edu/~records and in Room 106 of Cope Administration Building. Suspension notices cannot be mailed to the permanent addresses until August 14. If you have any questions, please contact the Records Office at 898-2164.

THE DEADLINE TO APPEAL FOR FALL 2002 IS
AUGUST 13 AT 4:00 P.M.



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From the Editorial Board Increased student fees not too awful

In addition to the tuition increase implemented by the Tennessee Board of Regents, each full-time student will now be paying \$102 more each year in student fees. This doesn't include the \$25 charge if you're unfortunate enough to have your bicycle impounded.

There are good elements of this increase. The additional \$35 per year Health Services will receive has allowed them to hire a new physician so they may serve a larger number of students. They also plan to renovate their building and add necessary equipment. From an economical standpoint, this kind of expansion in benefits to students is worth paying extra money.

The extra \$37 going into the general access fund will cover the amount necessary for campus maintenance, which is essential because no one wants to be educated in a cesspool.

However, there are some fees we feel a little uncertain about.

The student activity fee, which directly funds the Recreation Center, will now cost \$50 per year instead of \$30. Sure, it funds an entire establishment, but what about those of us who never use it? The *Sidelines* staff has little time to worry about our physiques; we're busy trying to uncover flaws and shortcomings. We loathe paying for an amenity we never use and we're sure other students share the same sentiment. If the university adopted a YMCA-style membership plan for the Rec Center, paying individuals could receive a photo-identification card and use it without the rest of us feeling the pinch in our wallets.

An increase in student fees isn't so detestable, as long as it's used to improve services available to students. As for added extras like the Rec Center, if we don't use it, don't make us pay for it. ♦

Celebrity crimes unnecessary evil

For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox
Managing Editor

Here's a question for the ages: What factor of multi-million dollar stardom makes a successful man arrange the drive-by shooting of his wife, then hide from authorities in the trunk of a car in a motel parking lot?

This shining example was set by former Carolina Panther and current prison bitch Rae Carruth. He is one of many celebrities who have found themselves in trouble with authorities by going above and beyond the usual celebrity crap (drug possession, lewd disturbances, etc.) and taking on the world of murder, rape and assault.

Ever since O.J. Simpson

shocked the world by getting away with (alleged) murder, it seems that a few celebrities love the camera inside the precinct office as much as the precise office by television networks.

Allen Iverson, who, last year, led his Philadelphia 76ers to the NBA Finals before getting tromped by the Los Angeles Lakers, was recently arrested on charges of aggravated assault stemming from charges that he entered a home brandishing a gun and demanding to know the location of his significant other.

This one seems like it could have been avoided by a cooler, more logical head.

Common sense dictates that, when one suspects his or her mate of cheating, the person should take it up with that person and not a random group of people in an apartment somewhere.

Oh, yeah, and that whole gun thing was dumb, too.

Moving on, we find Robert Blake, formerly of the TV series *Baretta*, accused of murdering his wife.

The indomitable Bonny Blake claims he went into a restaurant to retrieve a gun and found his wife shot when he returned from the restaurant.

Maybe he thought the Los Angeles court system would be as friendly to him as they were to The Juice. I wouldn't count on it.

In the depraved sex department, we find R&B stars R. Kelly and Mystikal, both of whom were recently arrested for sex crimes.

Mystikal was arrested in New Orleans on charges that he and a group of friends entered a residence and forced a woman inside to have sex with them.

Kelly, on the other hand, apparently hasn't had to force anyone to have sex with him – it seems that the 12-year-old girls come rather easily.

Practically every time I peruse celebrity news, more allegations against Kelly have come out.

Because celebrity can also apparently cause one's brain to leak out the ears, Kelly committed many of his encounters with junior high chicks to videotape.

Those who have been part of Kelly's touring juggernaut have pointed out Kelly's habit of selecting the youngest girls in the room for sexual encounters.

Last I checked, most musicians who sing girly music and have millions of dollars usually don't have a problem attracting legal women.

Kelly can't make the claim that a particular girl looked of age because the behavior is proving to be widespread.

This sex, lies and videotape scandal could very well leave Kelly singing in the shower with legal, much larger men feeling on his booty.

Perhaps the rash of celebrity busts reflects an increased willingness of cops to stop looking the other way; a reading of the life and times of George Jones shows how he should still be in jail for many of the crimes he committed that the police were aware of.

However, celebrity arrests are both compelling and perplexing because one of the pressures that cause people to do things – money problems – usually aren't an issue.

These people are blessed with talent, charm and piles of money. Maybe they should consider these blessings, which many would give life to have, before they start committing random, senseless crimes. ♦

Jason Cox is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at slmedit@mtsu.edu.

From the Opinions Editor HIV-positive Muppet won't 'infect' our children



Amber Bryant
Opinions Editor

AIDS via *Sesame Street* is not only brilliant, but someone should've thought of it sooner. A child can never be too young to learn the facts about this fatal disease. We don't live in the olden days when pregnancy and plague were only whispered among brave souls in a makeshift speakeasy. If the writers of the show can make it this far without corrupting our youth, they can certainly approach the subject using tact and discretion.

Apparently, sunny days sweeping the clouds away won't be an option for HIV-positive Muppets if five Republican lawmakers have their way.

According to Cnn.com, five members of the House committee on energy and commerce are contesting the introduction of a HIV-positive Muppet on the children's television show *Sesame Street*, proclaiming it would be "unwelcome on American TV."

If only reality allowed us to approach life with the "ignore it and it'll go away" mentality harbored by most politicians.

The idea of educating children about HIV and

young viewers probably won't be receiving a sex lesson from a Muppet on national television, unless their parents decide to get creative.

We can't expect our children to grow up educated and compassionate if we continue to hide the truth about disease from them until they're "old enough." ♦

Filler



Brandon Morrison
Staff Columnist

The evil giant has died, but his smaller brother has taken his place, and no one is the wiser.

Six weeks ago, the thought of an income tax enraged hundreds of Tennesseans enough for them to take arms by the state capital and protest with large signs and car horns for weeks. The entire mess clogged our roads, polluted our air and took up way too much of our time.

Now that the income tax is dead for another year, taken its place. The sin and professional tax increases have hurt the wallets of even doctors to chain smokers.

But the tax that has promised to raise the most amount of money is the one percent raise in sales tax.

My first encounter with the increase happened when I preordered a CD from a local music store.

Although I technically bought the CD before the tax increase, the purchase didn't count until the Tuesday after the increase.

It cost me an extra 13 cents to listen to my Dave Matthews.

After I went to pick up the CD, I asked the guy at the counter what he thought of the tax increase.

He had a problem with it. It meant he had to remember all the prices after tax. He didn't like the tax at all.

I asked him, "Have you had a problem with customers complaining about the tax increase?" His reply: "No, most of them are too stupid to notice anyway."

So far, it seemed no one cared about the increase. People would fight to the death to defeat a tax that 90 percent of them probably weren't eligible to pay anyway, but nobody cared about the tax that affected everybody.

Even the people who supply the cleaning supplies for my summer job had something to say about it.

On the Thursday after the new tax took effect, I asked them if anyone had complained about the increase in prices. They said that this was the first

time it had ever come up. These guys supply cleaning agents to hundreds of businesses every week and give the bills to the owners by hand. These guys see the reaction to every bill they give, but no one had even noticed yet.

It seems like the only people who really care about the sales tax increase are people who have to sell their merchandise. Where are the people who swore on their mothers' graves if taxes went up in Tennessee they'd fight it until their last breath? Why isn't anyone outraged that Tennessee now sports the biggest sales tax in the United States?

Do the poor saps who went out and honked their horns all day in protest of the income tax realize that, unless they are among the richer of our state, they are most likely paying more now than they would have with an income tax?

Maybe they should spend some time fixing registers for the increase before they realize what has happened to them. ♦

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

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines' occasional watch for mutton-heads.

When stealing a truck, don't take one with flat tires.

If you ignore that piece of advice, don't rob a gas station for change to fill up the tires, and fill them there so the attendant can call the police in the meanwhile.

Otherwise, you may end up like Shane V. Cavalin of Fairfield, Calif., who now stands charged with robbery and auto theft. Those charges carry a possible eight years.

Oh, and since he used a shotgun to demand the quarters, another 10 years might be added on for good measure.

As reported by the Associated Press, on May 4, he went into a gas station and asked to use the air machine for the tires of the stolen truck he was driving.

The station attendant politely informed him he needed two quarters for the machine.

Displaying an amazing amount of good judgment (are you picking up the sarcasm?), he went to the truck, returned to the store with a sawed-off shotgun, and ordered the cashier to empty the register.

Feeling good about himself and his contri-



bution to society, he began to leave, but realized he still didn't have the quarters.

The cashier managed to find two, so Cavalin put the \$180 from the register and the shotgun back into the truck, and began to fill the tires.

Meanwhile, the clerk took down the license plate number and called the police.

I've heard of some glib-tongued people in my life, but Shane takes the cake.

What could have possibly been going on in his mind?

"There's no rush. I didn't kill anyone."

Was he thinking the cashier wouldn't mind having his life threatened and money stolen? "It ain't no thang, I'm sure he's been robbed lots of times."

What are criminals coming to these days? Where are the evil masterminds of yesteryear? All we have now are gun-toting schlumps and dunderheads ruining multi-national corporations. ♦

Correction

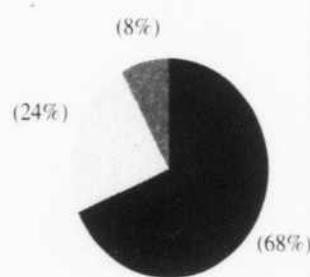
In the July 17 edition of *Sidelines*, the story, "TBR raises tuition by 7.5 percent," incorrectly reported that the deadline for enrollment applications is Aug. 11. The correct date is Aug. 9. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

Sidelines online poll results

Last week, we asked readers, "How do you think the tuition increase will affect enrollment?"

It won't – this university is still relatively inexpensive.

Don't know, my parents pay my tuition.



Enrollment will decrease since financially independent students may have trouble paying extra money.

Visit www.mtsusidelines.com and vote for this week's question: Which campus services do you use the most? ♦ this poll is not scientific

Letter to the Editor

TBR responsible for students' empty pockets

To the Editor:

We knew that tuition would increase. Tennessee has been trying to kill off higher education for the last seven years. This is no surprise. On the same note, MTSU is about to be fined for exceeding a growth cap set by the state. Since they have increased enrollment beyond what is allowed, they will pay a pretty multi-million dollar penny. Want to guess where that money will come from? Yep – us.

Why should we pay higher tuition to help feed the Tennessee Board of Regents' reckless, rampant and irresponsible trend of population increases? I have long held a theory that the TBR lives in jealousy of the UT system and are trying desperately to have the biggest schools with the most money so they can bragging rights among the higher education community – not to mention increased salaries.

Well, I hope you greedy bastards enjoy your ride, since you'll be financing your inability to manage a university on our dollar.

Our parking problems and class sizes have been showing this disturbing fact to us for years, but now the state has decided to put its foot down. Good for them. Now the question is, when the state's greedy politicians fine the greedy TBR without concern for the welfare of the students, who's playing who?

Lucas Leverett
Senior, Digital Media Communications

We care about your thoughts. Sort of. E-mail them to us at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

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Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and 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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*denotes member of editorial board

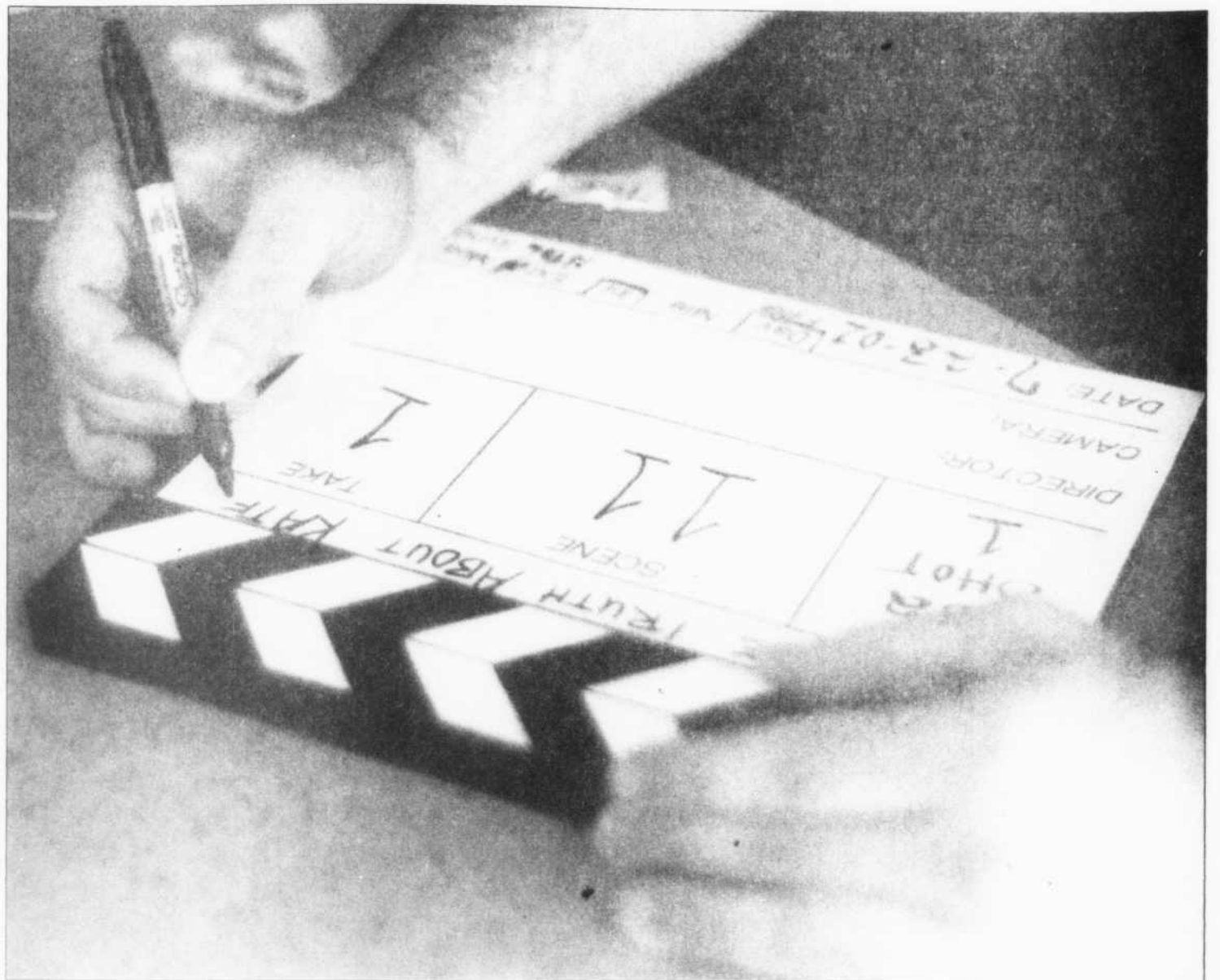
FEATURES

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The truth behind 'The Truth About Kate'



Photos by Jenny Cordie | Chief Photographer

(Above) Sound director Danny Grigsby updates the clapperboard during the last shooting of independent film and romantic comedy *The Truth About Kate* Tuesday in Peck Hall. (Below) Actor John Silvestro, who plays a professor, prepares for a classroom scene during the filming of the movie. (Below left) Actors, director of photography Chris Nichols and audio engineer Andy Morris prepare for the first take of the day.



Students film romantic comedy on campus

By Amy Delvin
Staff Writer

Production wrapped on a new feature length film made by graduates and students of MTSU Tuesday after filming a classroom scene in Peck Hall.

The crew began filming *The Truth About Kate* June 10 working 24-hour days without much sleep. But each member of the cast and crew said they have enjoyed every minute of the project.

MTSU graduate Byron Hatfield, also writer and director, created the film while working closely with a theater production company called Not Always Shakespeare. Not Necessarily In the Park as director for the pub and main stage shows. After their last production, NASNNIP employees decided to jump head-first into the world of film.

"I was at an airport watching my girlfriend fly away to Oklahoma and I was able to walk down the airport wing and watch her airplane fly away," Hatfield chuckles while he explains. "A thought occurred to me: 'What happens if she never comes back?' A comedy spring from that, which is

kind of, well maybe not ironic, but morbid." What began as a small feature steamed into a full-blown feature film after meeting with a distribution company in New York.

"We spent four months doing everything we could, making phone calls, [and] we got Camel cigarettes early," Hatfield explains. "It took a month and a half to get Camel, of me just bullying and begging, same thing with JVC and then we picked up Norm Marshall and that same day we got Microsoft and X-Box."

Backing of this kind is very impressive for a small company in the early stages of production on their first film.

"We got their first product placement from X-Box," Hatfield says. "Norm Marshall just finished *Terminator 3* and *Matrix 2* and *3* and then they picked us up."

The project was produced with War Room Productions affiliated with NASNNIP.

"War Room is basically the tech aspect of NASNNIP," says actor R. Davis Brunson, who plays "Ludas" in the film. "NASNNIP is primarily actors and War Room is primarily lights, camera, sound and people with

money."

"We all have so many different jobs and we all do different things cause we're a very small, tight-knit crew," explains business management major Jennifer Crowley, also line producer and location manager for the film. "We have all been working together for about three years, so we all just share in the responsibility."

Jennifer has worked with NASNNIP for several years and raves about the story.

"The script is just really great," she says. "It's funny, it's touching and we've already shot our climax and it went really, really well. We were all on the set just crying. We were really pleased with the way it turned out."

Others along with Jennifer agreed that the film is a cross between *American Pie* and *When Harry Met Sally*.

"It's the exact same humor we have developed that's caused our success in NASNNIP for the pub shows and the main stage shows that's been so successful for us into the world of film," Hatfield explains.

Actor Mike Barton, who plays Mike

See Movie 5

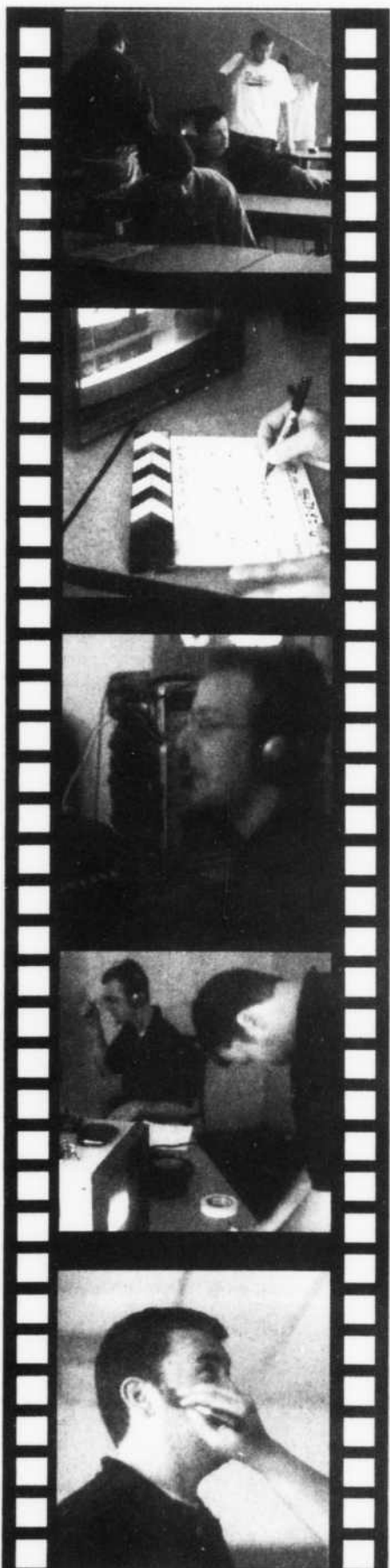


Photo by Jenny Cordie | Chief Photographer

Senior theatre major Jennifer Brown-Smith of makeup and hair applies powder to Danny Grigsby's face before shooting a classroom scene in Peck Hall.

Movie: Independent film slated for release next summer

Continued from 1

Bellicosa in the film, describes it as a romantic comedy about four college guys searching for romance and having a lot of laughs.

"Everyone loves Kate and thinks she is just amazing," he says. "She's that great person that everyone falls in love with when they meet her. We always hear about her, but she's never seen on screen."

"So we spend the film trying to find out the truth about Kate, where is she and what ever happened to her, and really all these guys in one way or another are kind of looking for Kate, that perfect person."

Not only are the characters and crew extremely busy with the production of the film, but many of them have other jobs as well.

Brunson is a full-time projection manager at Carmike Theater and Mike Barton works part-time at J. Alexander's Restaurant in Franklin along with Josh Dunkin, who plays "John" and also works at the Parthenon.

Matt Curry, who plays a jock named "Hank," is a teacher at Riverdale High School. Leading lady DeDe Drake is a bartender

at Wall Street.

"The principal actors and myself have worked together for five years," Hatfield says. "The technical people are extraordinary and are a very tight team. I feel if you surround yourself with people who are that dedicated and that good then you cannot fail and it's proven true. We have covered 160 pages of script in a month and a half."

Sometimes the friendship makes for pranks on the set.

"There's a scene with 'The Mute,' played by Mack Williams," Brunson says.

"He had to slurp soup and we didn't have any food, but we had gone to Taco Bell, so they put meat from tacos and mostly hot sauce and a little water."

"He had to keep slurping this soup that was so hot his mouth was burning and sweat broke out on his forehead."

The crew will work on post-production perfecting of their project where they'll head for the studio to edit and fix the sounds from Murfreesboro's noisy atmosphere.

The Truth About Kate will be released in certain locations and perhaps some independent film festivals around Nashville next summer. ♦

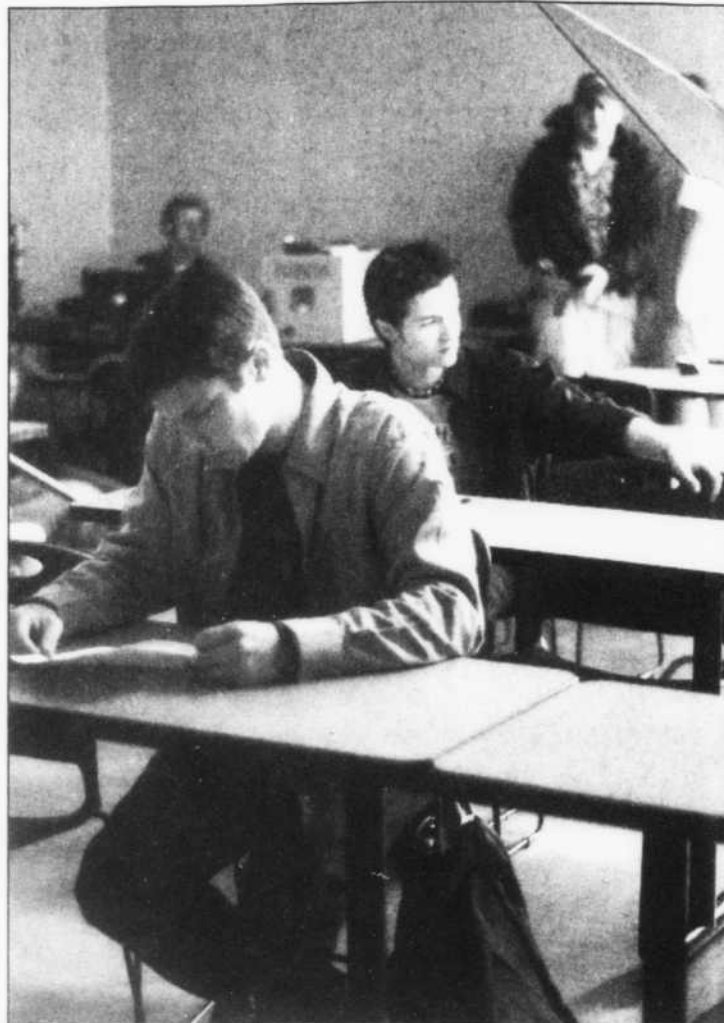


Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer
MTSU graduate Mike Barton and former theatre major R. Davis Brunson, both principal actors in the film, prepare for a classroom scene yesterday in Peck Hall.

Debt: Some students fall victim to advertising gimmicks

Continued from 1

dent loan applications are available on their web site at www.nelliemae.com.

A new, simplified online process allows students to apply for student loans, and get approval within minutes.

For students renewing loans, borrowers can access their own pre-populated applications, which can bring them as close as four clicks away from a new loan.

Nellie Mae reports that online student applications have nearly tripled in the last year.

With more than half of freshmen owning at least one credit card, it is no surprise that many college students find themselves in over their head with credit card debt.

Many of these students seek relief by buying into credit consolidation offers by credit card companies.

These companies offer to transfer all of your existing debts onto their card at a lower interest rate.

However, UAB economics professor Bradley Wilson warns that consumers should not fall prey to such advertising gimmicks.

"The bottom line is companies issuing credit cards are profit seekers, not entities concerned with the welfare of consumers," Wilson said.

Many of the companies offering consolidation have only short-term low interest rates.

In other words, if you do not pay off the debt in full by a certain date they raise the interest

rate back up to the average rate of 18-20 percent.

Many students do not realize this when they sign on, and find themselves in a situation that is equal to or worse than their previous dilemma.

"These companies know full well that the consolidated debt will not get paid down any time soon, but they have successfully taken business from their competitors," Wilson added.

Before consolidating debt onto a credit card, Wilson recommends reading the fine print carefully several times before consolidating debt onto a credit card offer.

Many times these offers contain hidden fees and penalties if the debt is not paid off by a certain date.

There are also other options available to students who find

themselves struggling to get out of debt.

Such nonprofit organizations as Consumer Credit Counseling Services and Ameridebt offer affordable credit counseling and debt consolidation to people struggling with debt.

However, the best way to avoid getting in debt is to budget your finances appropriately from the start.

Experts recommend students attend some type of debt counseling or budget management course upon enrolling at their University.

UAB currently offers budget management as part of the UNIV 105 course.

Incoming students should check with their academic adviser or the registrar's office for more information. ♦

What's going on in the 'Boro

Compiled by Ryan Noreikas
Staff Writer

Wednesday, July 24

Bunganut Pig will feature Joytown, Tom Mason and Chicken Scratch at 8 p.m. No cover.

Wall Street will feature country pop musician Doug Hough downstairs at 10 p.m. No cover.

Thursday, July 25

Bunganut Pig will feature Tim Lake and Idlepage at 8 p.m. No cover.

Red Rose will feature Over-Reactors at 9 p.m. No cover.

Wall Street will feature southern rock band Papa Joe upstairs and Brandon Vickers downstairs at 10 p.m. \$4 cover, ladies free until midnight.

Friday, July 26

Bunganut Pig will feature Clarence Dobbins and Warren Brothers, beginning at 9 p.m. \$5 cover.

Faces will feature Kim Mystery, beginning at 10 p.m. \$3 cover.

Red Rose will feature The Falling (heavy rock), Irina, Simon Brawl, beginning at 9 p.m. \$5 cover.

Wall Street will feature rock artist August Christopher upstairs and easy rock artist Patrick Baker downstairs at 10 p.m. \$5 cover.

Saturday, July 27

Bunganut Pig will feature Skyline Drive and Reverend Rutabaga at 9 p.m. \$5 cover.

Red Rose will feature Spike and Mallets and The Obscure at 9 p.m. \$5 cover.

Wall Street will feature a "Let's Do it Again" DJ party upstairs to benefit for local non-profit organizations featuring DJ Chemist and DS- funk/rock artist Eric Anderson downstairs at 10 p.m. \$3 cover.

Monday, July 29

Bunganut Pig will feature Jonathan Birchfield and Scott Dorman at 8 p.m. No cover.

Wall Street will feature Open Mic Night with Don Clark downstairs at 10 p.m. No cover.

Tuesday, July 30

Bunganut Pig will feature Butter and Lisa at 8 p.m. No cover.

Wall Street will feature Dose upstairs and Matt Warren from Papa Joe downstairs at 10 p.m. No cover.

Wednesday, July 31

Bunganut Pig will feature Kevin and Garrett and Joytown at 8 p.m. No cover.

Wall Street will feature jazz band Beblop at 10 p.m. No cover.

Bunganut Pig is located at 1602 W. Northfield Blvd.
Red Rose Coffee House and Bistro is located at 528 W. College St.

Wall Street is located at 121 N. Maple St.



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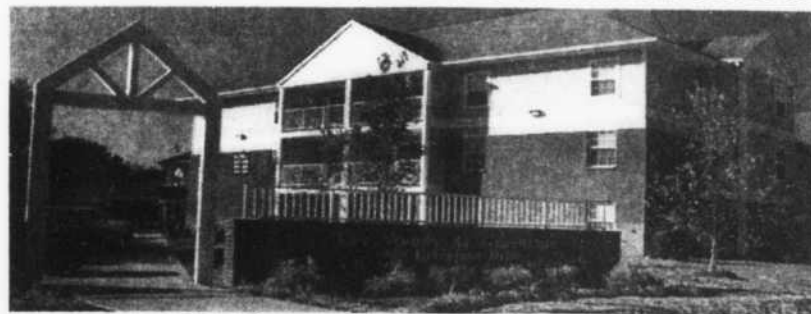
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WEEKDAY FEATURES

MORNING BEAT (6-9AM)

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHA

CLASSIFIEDS

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Classifieds are free to students!!! Stop by the JUB, Room 310 to fill out a form! Sell your calculator, sell your dog, sell your car, whatever!

110 HELP WANTED

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

2286, Smyrna, TN 37167.

Responsible person needed for church nursery. Must be able to work Sunday mornings and Wednesdays during the fall semester. Contact Jessica at 403-1612.

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125 ELECTRONICS

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145 GARAGE SALES

CHEAP PRICES. Everything must go. Fundraising sale for MTSU's Chapter of Circle K. Saturday the 27th of July, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 905 Fwing Blvd. off Tennessee near the JUB. 150 APT. FOR

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house 5 minutes from campus. Appliances included. Call 482-1941. House for Rent - 2 bedroom 2 bath/Quality and extras / MUST SEE / \$700/MTSU. \$700 deposit. Available immediately. 333-0468 or 594-4185. Cason Lane Area. 2518 Tiffany Court. 3 bedrooms / 2 baths. 1 car garage. Fireplace with gas logs. Central gas heat/electric air. Approx. 1,300 square feet. No pets. \$975 Rent. Plus \$975 deposit. One year lease. Call Steve Fuchear at

893-9334 between 8a.m. and 5 p.m.

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160 HOUSE FOR SALE

Condo for sale or lease. Near campus. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Approximate 1500 sq. feet. All kitchen appliances furnished, and washer and dryer also. Swimming pool on premises and

weight room. Asking \$74,900 sale/\$850 lease. Call 904-7387 or 210-3050.

165 ROOM-MATES

Looking for a non-smoking roommate for a 2 bedroom apt. for the summer and/or fall semesters. Rent is \$265/mo. plus utilities. Apt. has a Washer/Dryer unit. Call 896-8031 for details.

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Need someone to do a 10 month lease (Aug.-May) for a 2 bedroom apartment. Rent + utilities is

\$278 a month per person. WATER & CABLE TV FREE! Please call as soon as you can! 494-0274. Prefer a non-smoker. Thanks.

170 SUBLEASING

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someone to take over assignment for Aug. 2002. Unit is unfurnished. Both units available. Will pay you \$100 cash. Call shawn@217-3965

190 SERVICES

Cleaning, regular housekeeping service, small odd jobs (painting, deck scrubbing, etc.) E-mail amr2p@mtsu.edu or call 898-4708 and leave a message. In home pet care. Going out of town and don't want to send your animals to the vet to get fleas? I will come to

your home, feed/walk your pets, pull in newspapers/mail, etc. Call Becky at 542-1927 to check availability. D.J. Services & Sound System Rental. BBQs, Bars, Weddings, Concerts, Clubs, etc. Call 615-904-0815 or email Backyardcalbo@aol.com for more information. Steam Cleaning for Carpet/Upholstry. 1st customers get one room cleaned free. Free Estimates by calling 615-904-0815 or email Calscarpet@aol.com.

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SIDELINES ONLINE

Sports Briefs

Compiled by Kevin Jones
Staff Writer

MT alumnus signs free agent contract with Buffalo Bills

Former Middle Tennessee Cornerback Jykine Bradley was signed last week by the Buffalo Bills to a rookie free agent contract.

Following club policy, the terms of the contract were not disclosed.

Bradley started three straight years for MT at the cornerback position. In 2001, his senior year, Bradley led the team in interceptions with four while earning a spot on the All-Sun Belt Conference Team.

He had 53 tackles, which was fourth on the team and set a career and team-high with 18 pass deflections in 2001.

Bradley, who is a Knoxville, Tenn., native, has played the past two months in the Arena 2 League for the Roanoke Steam of Roanoke, Va.

Lady raider softball coach signs pair of teammates

The Lady Blue Raiders softball head coach Cindy Connelley signed a pair of teammates, Katie Tompkins and Krystal Scott, from Neosha Junior College in Chanute, Kan., for the 2003 season.

Tompkins, who is an outfielder from Commerce, Okla., was named First Team Junior College All-American in 2002. She was selected to the First Team All-Conference, First Team All-Region and named one of the top five in the region with a .474 batting average and 36 stolen bases.

Scott, a shortstop and utility fielder from Arlington, Texas, was named Second Team All-Conference and First Team All-Region with a .404 BA and 60 RBIs.

Manning takes name from Heisman promotion

The University of Mississippi announced that Eli Manning's media push for Heisman would not be from Ole Miss' media communications department.

Rebels sports director Langston Rogers told the *Daily Mississippian* July 16 that his office would not be promoting Manning's Heisman candidacy this fall.

Rogers wants to push the campaign, but the request came from Archie Manning himself.

Manning's campaign is to be the polar opposite of the last Ole Miss Heisman promotion; it will have no official coverage at all.

Deuce McAllister was Ole Miss' candidate in 2000.

Last year, New Yorkers have saw a billboard of Oregon quarterback Joey Harrington up in Times Square during the Heisman Race.

Archie Manning told the *Indianapolis Star* that after the 1997 hype surrounding Peyton Manning and his ultimate loss to Charles Woodson of the University of Michigan is what prompted the decision.

Although the Heisman race has changed in the past 30 years, Archie Manning isn't a stranger to the hype.

He finished third to Jim Plunkett and Joe Theismann in 1970 and fourth in 1969 when Oklahoma's Steve Owen won the award.

Eli Manning's stats, just one year into his Ole Miss career, are already Heismanesque.

The soon-to-be sophomore thrown for 2,948 yards, completed 63.5 percent of his passes and threw 31 touchdowns with 9 interceptions. ♦

Barron picks up first IRL win in Nashville

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

Alex Barron took his first ever Indy Racing League victory Saturday night at the Nashville Superspeedway in the Firestone Indy 200.

With 18 laps to go, defending race champion Buddy Lazier smacked the wall in turn two, which brought out the seventh caution of the night.

On the restart on lap 189, Barron went around Scott Sharp in turn three. Barron then held off Gil de Ferran by .423 of a second for the victory.

"I got a good run on Scott (Sharp) during the restart," Barron said to *Indyracing.com*. "I was going to go around him on the high side, but you can't really run up high at the end of the race here."

"I tried it once, but you lose the front end of the car. I kind of backed off, let him drift up and then I swung back underneath him, punched off hard. Once I got out front, my car was perfect and I had just the pedal down flat out until the end of the race."

On lap 195, Jeff Ward spun in turn four, initiating the last

caution of the race. With two laps to go, the green flag came out and de Ferran passed Sharp for second place. He was not able to catch Barron, who held on for the victory.

"The last restart, it's kind of hard when you're leading because they can gauge off of you. Scott and Gill got a good run, but fortunately I had some good momentum going into (turn) one. I knew that's all it would take. I just ran strong until the end while they were battling," Barron said.

See Racing, 8

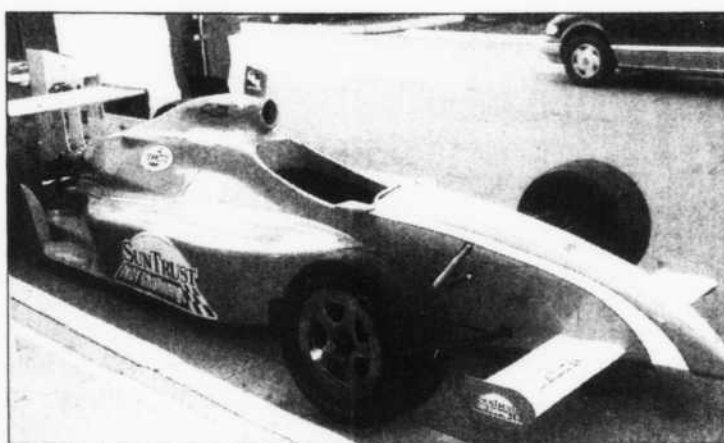


Photo by David Hunter | Staff

An IRL showcar sits for all to view last week at the SunTrust on West Northfield Boulevard in Murfreesboro.

Hicks helps out community

Receives opportunity to play in Shrine Bowl Game

By Amy Jones
Sports Editor

With the NCAA football season just a little more than a month away, most players are in the weight rooms or on the practice fields preparing for the upcoming seasons.

Not Middle Tennessee Heisman Trophy candidate Dwone Hicks, though. Hicks has spent the past five weeks assisting MT's summer camp for children ages 10 to 16 from low-income families in the Murfreesboro, LaVergne and Smyrna areas.

"I felt this was a great opportunity for me to give back to the community," Hicks said. "I have learned a lot working with the kids the past five weeks."

Hicks was asked to participate in the camps during the spring by John Scarlett, associate chair of the health, physical education and recreation department at MT. Hicks jumped at the chance to help the children at the camp, which is held on the MT campus.

"I asked Dwone to participate in the camp because we wanted to utilize his football knowledge when we put together the flag football part of the camp," Scarlett said. "It turned out the facility and weather constraints caused us to restructure the camp and Dwone has been involved in all the sports we have worked on."

Hicks helped with many of the sections of the camp. He was involved in counseling the campers in not only football, but also in basketball, baseball, soccer, tennis, volleyball and square dancing.

See Hicks, 8



File Photo
(Above) Dwone Hicks runs for the ball during the annual Blue-White game last spring at Floyd Stadium.

Photo provided by MT Media Relations
(Left) Hicks helps out a camper during the MT camp for children from low income households. Not only did Hicks help out with the flag football section of the camp, but he also assisted in basketball, baseball, soccer, tennis, volleyball and square dancing.

With no bowl, Crimson Tide players still confident about team's abilities this year

By Magen Hughes
The Crimson White

(U-WIRE) TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — College football teams can be remembered for many reasons. Start off with good seasons. Continue with bowl victories and finish off with big wins over conference rivals. This season, the Alabama football players and staff are convinced that they are going to make their mark on Alabama football history despite being a team with its future still in jeopardy.

There is not going to be a bowl game this year, and whether or not there will be one the following season is a moot point for the team's seniors — and for the fans. Tide fans have seen a plethora of bowl games and 12 national championships, so the challenge still remains of what exactly this team must do to stand out from the ones that have preceded them and the ones that will inevitably follow.

"Our main focus is to be remembered," senior defensive tackle Jarret Johnson said. "At Alabama, it's hard to be special around here. We have this chance to be a special team and a team

to be remembered by the fans and everybody. Everyone talks about the Auburn team that went undefeated on probation."

Alabama can still have a good season, and an added 13th game in the tropical setting of Hawaii will certainly give fans and players something to remember.

But postcards and souvenirs speak nothing for morale of a team that lost some crucial players to graduation and the NFL draft. This season's team could have quickly and easily unraveled had some of the veteran players like Tyler Watts, Ahamad Galloway, Brooks Daniels, Kenny King and Antonio Carter left for other teams.

"I think this is a special group of young men," head coach Dennis Franchione said. "They take pride in wearing that crimson jersey, they have a bond and they have chemistry. We have a lot of individuals learning to be a team. I think that this group very much wants to be looked upon by our fans as special."

The fact that not one player left after the NCAA sanctions follows the

See Alabama, 8

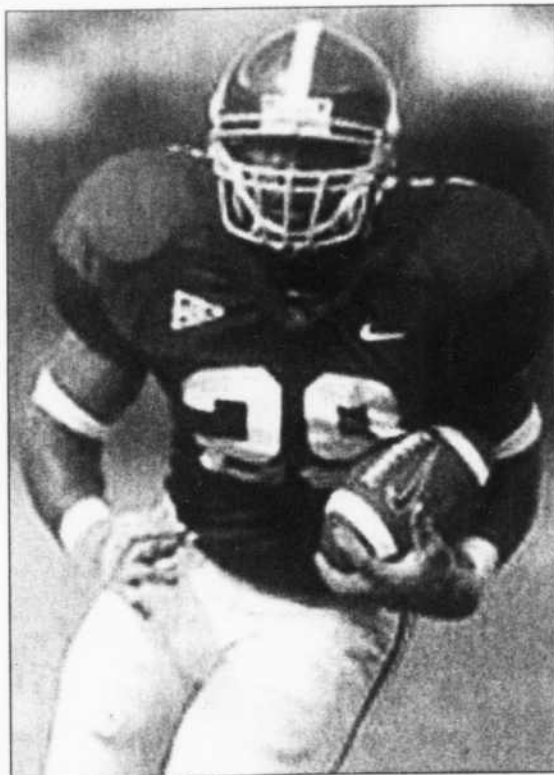


Photo from www.rolltide.com

Alabama senior Ahamad Galloway runs the ball down the field. The Tide will begin their season against MT Aug. 31.

Looking South

Benjamin Holl
Staff Writer



MT football draws near

Thirty-eight days and counting until our beloved Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders kick off their fourth season of Division I-A football. At 11:30 a.m. Aug. 31, MT will begin its quest for a Sun Belt title and some national recognition — two things the team reluctantly gave away last year.

With MT entering the 2002 football campaign, here's a few questions to consider:

Will this team of outstanding athletes, who slightly under-achieved last year, receive an invite to the school's first bowl ever in New Orleans?

Yes, without a doubt. After the disappointment of last year the attention will be focused on getting to the "Big Easy." The Sun Belt is down and MT is up. This year's team will rip through the league with no mercy and all I can say to North Texas, who comes to town Nov. 23, is "look out." So, all you fans out there, mark your calendars and call the travel agent. We will be partying on Bourbon Street come December.

Can this Blue Raider squad duplicate last year's team and conquer another Southeastern Conference school?

Well, I know they can; the question is, "How many?" Let's say Vanderbilt's in the bag and Tennessee is a long shot. That leaves Kentucky and Alabama. Kentucky should be a win — this is a team that is down, really down. The Wildcats are on probation from violations a few years back. Their record the last two seasons has been 4-18. Not good.

Alabama, to me, is a toss-up. They are also in trouble with the NCAA, but it is Alabama. Few players jumped the sinking ship to pursue careers elsewhere. It is the first game of the year, though, when any surprise can happen. Also, the Tide is not playing for a bowl berth this year; their league games and championship are what they will be up for. Maybe little MT can catch them off guard. My guess is that the Blue Raiders will dispose of Vandy and UK, lose a close one to 'Bama, and let's hope UT takes the day off.

Does the "Hicks for Heisman" promotion have a chance to succeed?

Highly unlikely. The only hope is that Hicks can run wild in Knoxville and Tuscaloosa.

To even get to the downtown athletic club in New York, Hicks will have to run for, say, 150 yards per game through two of the toughest defenses in the nation.

I say, if anyone can do it, he's the one, but it takes more than one. The other teams on schedule should provide some running room for the amazing Blue Raider. This football season promises to be one of the best in MT history, not only for the play on the field, but also for the exciting possibilities that surround this team in the NCAA. So, bring your butts out to the stadium this season and watch history being made. ♦

Hicks: Taking time to help

Continued from 7

The camp is structured so the campers would spend two hours on a sporting activity and then two hours in life skills classes supporting such topics as nutrition, careers, drugs and violence.

Hicks said he learned valuable lessons during the beginning of the camp. He came into the camp wanting to not only instruct the campers, but also be best buddies with them, which changed when he was forced to discipline them. He said.

"I learned there is a fine line there," Hicks said. "You must build their trust and have them believe you care, but you also have to find a way to be firm when it is time to discipline them."

Being a high-profile student athlete at MT presents Hicks with the situation to share his experience with children who haven't had the support that he has experienced and enjoyed.

"Working with these kids has taught me to appreciate what my parents have done for me," Hicks said. "It has taught me how to deal with all types of people and realize there are different ways to earn their respect."

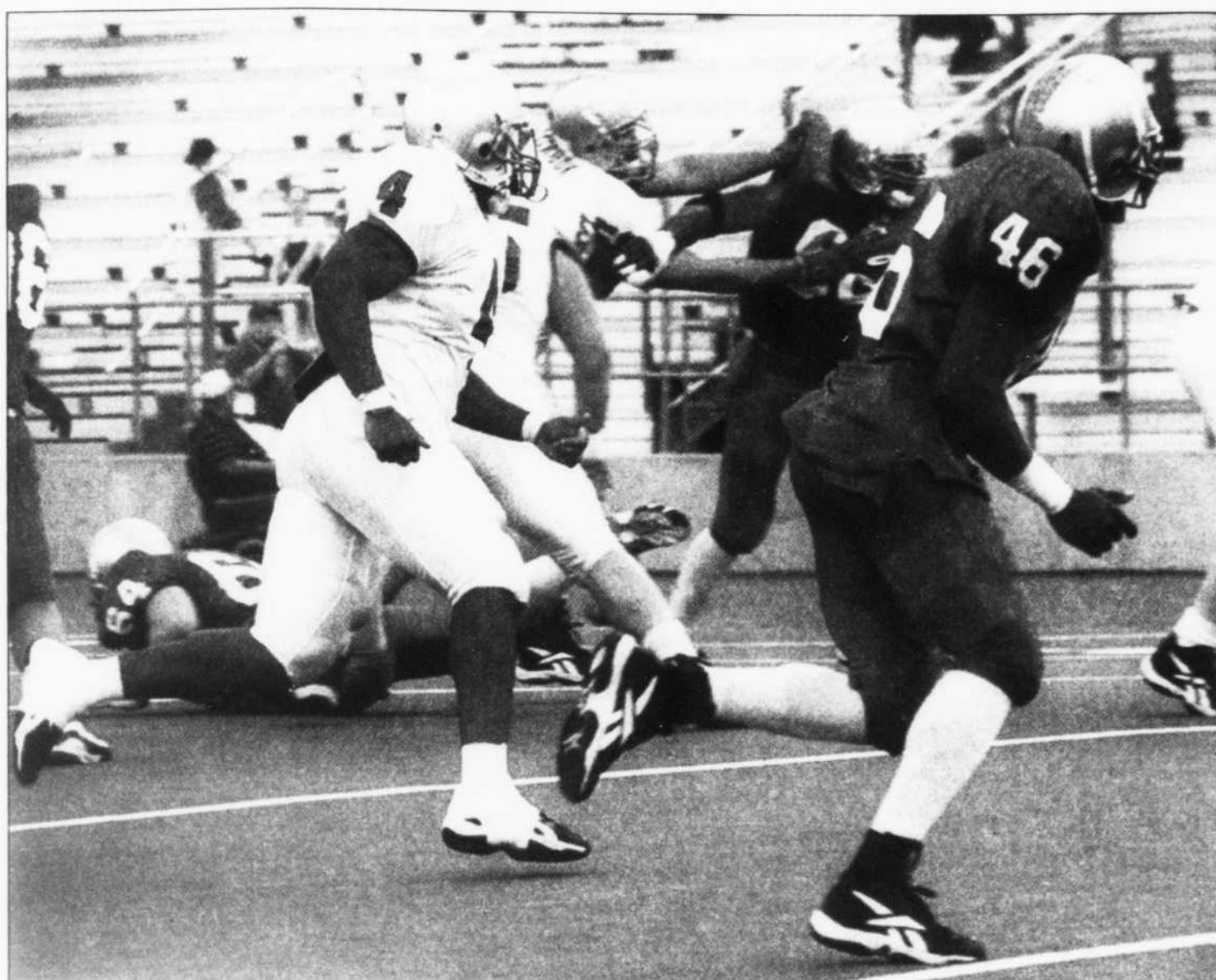
The 2002 Heisman candidate was also named last week to play in the 78th East-West Shrine Game, which will be played Jan. 11, 2003 at Pacific Ball Park in San Francisco, Calif.

Hicks will be joining the 32 other outstanding college players who have committed to play in the game thus far. He is only the second player in Blue Raider history to play in the East-West event. Walter Dunston competed in the all-star event in 1992.

"We are delighted. It is tremendous to have such top-flight football players making this early commitment to the East-West Shrine game. This initial group includes 21 players for the West team and 11 players for the East squad," said Shrine Game executive director Jack Hart.

Hicks will be playing for the West and will be coached by Mike Price of Washington State University. Tyrone Willingham of the University of Notre Dame will be the head coach for the East. Hicks joins Stanford's Kerry Carter as the team's two lone running backs to date.

Look for Hicks in his run for a Heisman and Sun Belt Championship beginning with Southeastern Conference opponent Alabama Aug. 31. ♦



Dwone Hicks plays a fake grab during the Blue-White game last spring.

File Photo

Racing: Barron takes first IRL win at Nashville Speedway

Continued from 7

This was Barron's 11th career start in the IRL with his previous best finish being a fourth place finish at this year's Indy 500.

"This has been a long time coming," Barron said. "We've had a good time all year. To do what we did just now feels really, really good. It just shows what kind of team Rayovac Blair Racing has."

With his second place finish, de Ferran takes over the IRL points lead from his Penske teammate Helio Castroneves. He leads the points 347-337 over Castroneves, who finished the race in ninth place.

"I was fortunate enough to get the timing just right with Barron so I was able to squeeze

by Sharp," de Ferran said to Indyracing.com about the Lap 198 restart. "But I have to give it to Barron. He really stood on it on that last lap and gave me no chance."

Defending series champion Sam Hornish led 95 of the first 173 laps, but finished third after being involved in an accident with rookie George Mack.

On lap 171, a caution came out when Tomas Scheckter and Billy Boat were involved in separate crashes in turn two. Hornish slowed down to get the caution flag, but was hit by Mack. The contact caused Hornish to have a flat left rear tire.

Hornish dominated the second part of the race, included having a 7.5 second lead over Castroneves with 39 laps to go.

Hornish went into the pits on Lap 173 to get four tires and fuel, but came out in fifth place.

Sharp went across the finish line in 3rd, but IRL officials penalized him one lap and moved him to eighth place after the race. He was punished because of on-track blocking.

"It was wild. I didn't know quite where Gil (de Ferran) was. I knew he tried to move down, finally I saw that he was there. He had me so I decided to give him the room," Sharp said to Indyracing.com.

"I had to get to the bottom so my car wouldn't slide up, and from there I just tried to protect the bottom. Any time I went high, the car seemed like it really got tight on me."

Sharp was in control of the race until Barron passed him on

Lap 189 for the lead.

There were a total of 8 cautions in the race for 57 laps.

The victory puts Barron in fifth in the points standings, 104 points behind de Ferran.

Barron is the fourth different first-time winner in the series this season. The other three are Jeff Ward winning in Texas on June 8, de Ferran winning at Pikes Peak on June 16 and Ayrton Dary winning in Kansas on July 7.

The next IRL race is the Michigan Indy 400, next Sunday. The race will be shown at 2 p.m. on ABC.

The next race to be held at the Nashville Superspeedway will be the Federated Auto Parts 200 for the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Aug. 10. ♦

Alabama: Still confident about season even with no chance for bowl game

Continued from 7

character of this team and make them unique among the 117 Division I teams.

With the exception of academic casualty, Marvin Brown, the entire roster stands, and according to the players, no one even discussed the possibility of leaving.

"You've got a coaching staff willing to fight for you," senior tailback Ahamad Galloway said.

"I think of these people as my family and families have their ups and downs. It's hard to walk away."

"It didn't really surprise me," senior quarterback Tyler Watts said.

"You come here and make so many friends and go through so much. We've been through so much together I think that we all just wanted to stick it out."

We all have the attitude if you want to leave, leave. We don't want you here."

A solid season remains a possibility even without a Top 25 preseason ranking. A different ranking that may hold

this team back is that according to two polls, the Tide schedule is the most difficult in the nation.

"We got beat down pretty good in February, but it brought us closer and then for good news like the Hawaii game," Watts said.

"There is a light at the end of the tunnel. As long as we go out there and work hard this season I do think that we will be remembered as a special football team."

The Alabama football team may not dazzle fans and the nation with their play this season, but a team that trudges on through hard times may be more commendable.

With so many collegiate players vying for attention from the NFL and wanting to be a part of a bowl-bound team, the players' decision to stay at Alabama may be a far greater gift to the fans than a trip to a bowl game.

"It doesn't matter what's going on," senior wide receiver A.C. Carter said. "We're Alabama football and you can't hold us down." ♦



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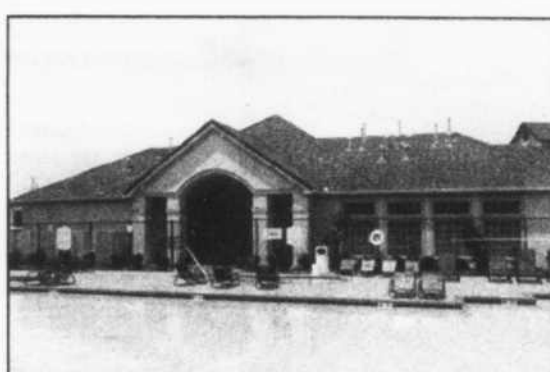


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