SIDELINES

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Murfreesboro, TN

## Hit-and-run leaves man dead

### Two students charged with vehicular homicide

R. Collin Fly News Editor

Two students who attended MTSU in the spring were charged with vehicular homicide by intoxication and leaving the scene of an accident following a fatal hit-andrun early Monday.

Audray L. Dunkle, a 20-year-old sophomore, and Dana Williams, a 21-year-old senior, both of Holly Park Apartments located at 2426 E.

Main St., hit and killed a 48-year- been drinking. old Florida man who was crossing Murfreesboro Road in South Nashville at about 3:50 a.m. Monday morning. The victim's name was not immediately released.

The women did not stop at the scene of the accident. However, they turned around and stopped at a Mapco Express convenience store to ask about cleaning up blood and glass. Metro Nashville Police said that both women appeared to have

The convenience store clerk blocked the women's vehicle with his to prevent them from leaving and then phoned the police.

The vehicle, a 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier, belonged to Dunkle but was driven by Williams.

According to a Metro County Jail official, both women were released on Monday, June 19.

Dunkle denied comment and Williams was unable to be reached before deadline.







Dunkle

## **High Court bans** prayer at school football games

Richard Carelli Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - In a crushing defeat for schoolprayer supporters, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that praying in public schools must be private. By a 6-3 vote Monday, the court barred officials from letting students lead stadium crowds in prayer before football games.

The court's sweeping language in a Texas case could extend far beyond school sports events - eventually affecting graduation ceremonies, moments of silence and more.

The ruling said a school district's policy of allowing such student-led prayers violated the constitutionally required separation of government and reli-

Champions of a strict churchstate separation exulted.

"The court's decision signals a reaffirmation of the appropriate role of religion in public schools - one in which private religious expression is constitutionally protected but officially sanctioned religious observances are not," said David Harris of the American Jewish

Committee. Opponents were aggrieved.

"The government's 'benign neutrality' toward religion in this country is now nothing short of malevolent hostility," said Jan LaRue of the conservative Family Research Council.

Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the court: "Nothing in the Constitution ... prohibits any public school student from voluntarily praying at any time before, during or after the schoolday. But the religious libprotected by the Constitution is abridged when the state affirmatively sponsors the particular religious practice

of prayer." As the latest word on a politically volatile issue that has bedeviled the nation's highest court for 40 years, the ruling offered a ringing endorsement of a landmark 1962 decision that outlawed organized, officially sponsored prayers in public

"Worship is a responsibility and a choice committed to the

private sphere," Stevens said. When the Texas case was argued in March, an ABC News poll said two-thirds of Americans thought students should be permitted to lead such prayers.

And in Texas' Republican primary election that same month, 94 percent of voters approved a nonbinding resolution backing student-initiated prayer at sporting events.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who had filed a brief urging the Supreme Court to uphold student-led prayer, said he was dis-

"I support the constitutionally guaranteed right of all students to express their faith freely and participate in voluntary student-led prayer," said the Republican presidential candidate.

Vice President Al Gore, the presumed Democratic presidential nominee, thought the court got it right.

"He feels ... in this case that the prayer was found to be government-sponsored and participation was not truly voluntary," said Gore spokesman Douglas Hattaway. "He does support private prayer in school and at school-related events as long as participation is truly voluntary and ... is suitable within the school environmental.'

Gary Bauer, a former candidate for the GOP presidential nomination, noted Republican presidents appointed four of the court's six-justice majority. "This underscores that my party has got to be more serious about the men and women we put on the high bench," said Bauer, who now leads the Campaign for Working Families.

Stevens said the court recognizes "the important role that public worship plays in many communities, as well as the sincere desire to include public prayer as a part of various occasions so as to mark those occasions' significance."

But he added: "Such religious activity in public schools, as elsewhere, must comport with the First Amendment." That amendment prohibits an "establishment of religion."

Joining Stevens were Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony M. Kennedy, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer.

Dissenting were Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.

Writing for the three, Rehnquist said he found the tone of the court's opinion more disturbing than its substance. "It bristles with hostility to all things religious in public life," he said.

Stevens' opinion relied heavily on the court's last major ruling on school prayer, when in 1992 the justices barred clergyled prayers - invocations and benedictions - at public school graduation ceremonies.

Monday's decision is sure to be cited in challenges to student-led prayers at such ceremonies, and could be powerful ammunition in attacks against laws or school policies calling for daily moments of silence for prayer or meditation.

In the Texas case, four high school students and their parsued the Santa

See Court, 3

## Fishing for recruits

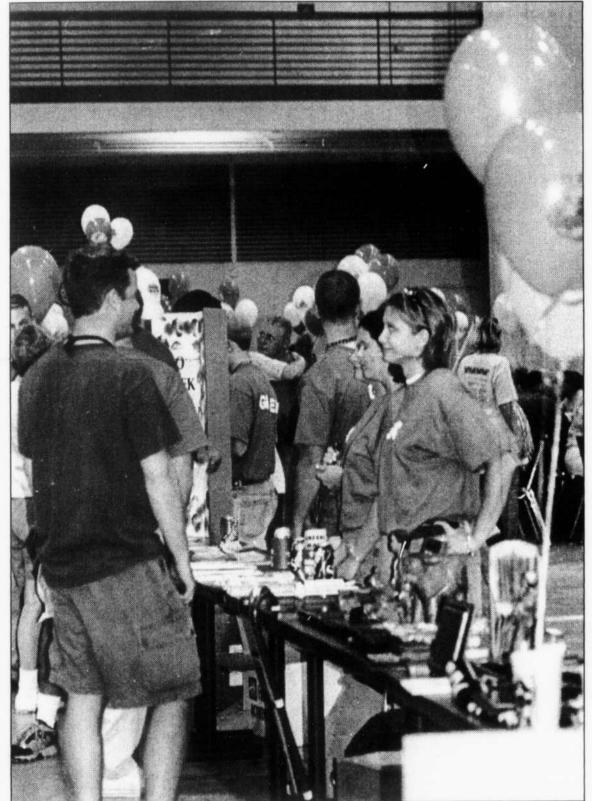


Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

Organizations seek incoming freshman to join Greek Life at a Ports of Call Session at CUSTOMS.

### of Women dies at age 83 Martha Hampton, 83, former

**Former Dean** 

dean of women at MTSU, died Thursday at Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

A native of Palmer, Tenn.,

Hampton taught elementary school for 25 years before she moved to Murfreesboro in 1961.

Hampton was the third woman to be the Dean of Women, fol-



lowing Louise Frey (1931) and Mary Hall (1945-47). The position laid dormant

for several years. It was revived when Hampton was appointed. She became the director of the Campus School in 1970,

working there until her retirement in 1979. Hampton was a member of The Women's Club, MTSU

Phi Delta Kappa and Delta Kappa Gamma. She was well-known for her work with the Parent-Teacher Association and the Methodist

Dames Club, Kappa Delta Pi,

She is survived by her sister, Becky Hampton, her nephews Stewart Hampton and Rush Hampton; niece Peggy Pickett and 17 great-nieces and greatnephews.

### Tenn. cuts credit cards on campus

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -A bill limiting credit card solicitation on college campuses will likely go before both legislative houses this week for a final vote.

A conference committee of House and Senate members reached a compromise on differing versions of the bill passed by each house last year. But senators delayed a vote Tuesday to give University of Tennessee lobbyists a chance to study it.

House Speaker Pro Tem Lois DeBerry wanted to prohibit credit card companies from soliciting college students on campus, but UT and other universities were opposed because they have multimillion-dollar contracts with companies to issue credit cards with school logos and names.

Instead, starting July 1, 2001, the bill would prohibit companies from giving free gifts to students who sign up for credit cards, and it would prevent the companies from using student or alumni organizations to solicit customers.

### \$10,000 grant allows professor to begin mobile lab pilot program

**James Evans** Managing Editor

A new mobile lab unit has been purchased by the university, which will be used to measure air quality at various sites in Tennessee.

This new lab was the result of a proposal from Ngee Sing Chong, an assistant professor in the Chemistry department, and a \$10,000 grant from the MTSU Foundation, which provides "seed" money for projects that promote the mission of the university and its faculty.

"This project is an opportunity to collect preliminary data on air quality in many areas and analyze the pollution from smoke stacks," Chong said. "This can be a boon to the environment in the monitoring of pollution, but can also benefit industry.'

As part of the pilot program, Chong said he plans to test industrial locations in the Middle Tennessee area and then expand to other sites throughout the state. The first on-site analyses are to be carried out in July.



Photo Provided

Ngee Sing Chong

There are only two similar university programs in operation in the nation - one at Tufts University and the other at the University of Utah.

"Chong is well-qualified in this area and has been studying air pollution and air quality for over 10 years," said Earl Pearson, chair of the Chemistry depart-

ment. "He has been doing limited field work with students, and the department has also purchased new equipment to assist him.

Before coming to MTSU, Chong was involved with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, which dealt with similar mobile lab activities. His past experience made the MTSU mobile lab project a natural extension.

'This is kind of an expansion of what I have done in the past," he said.

If additional support is generated, Chong hopes to expand the pilot program with additional mobile lab units. If the pilot program is successful, Chong plans to submit another proposal for a full mobile laboratory program that would cost between \$70,000 and \$100,000 per year. The enlistment of financial assistance from organizations such as the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency and other non-profits are also a possibility, he said.

### CAMPUS BRIEFS

## Poet to be honored in Washington D.C.

Brian Kissack, an MTSU graduate student, was nominated for "Poet of the Year" by the International Poet Society.

Kissack, a criminal justice major, will have a chance to read his poem to the Symposium in Washington D.C. during the three-day event, Aug. 18-20.

Kissack's poem is a tribute to his mother, who passed away in March 1998 from cancer. mother died of cancer.

### Artistic students attend Governor's School

Two hundred thiry-five artistic Tennessee high school students will be on campus until July 15.

The Governor's School for the Arts is a fourweek summer residency program at MTSU for gifted high school students.

More than 1,500 students auditioned to attend the school includes a diverse curriculum of visual arts, music, theatre and dance.

## College preparing for accreditation review

Dr. Gloria Bonner, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science, announced that the college is scheduled for accreditation review November 11-15 by the National Council for Accerditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The NCATE recently announced new performance-based standards for teacher preparation. The college will be one of the first in the nation to operate under the new guidelines.

The U.S. Department of Education recognizes the NCATE as the professional accrediting body for teacher preparation in the United States.



Photo by Photographer | Staff Photographer

Shani Foster, an alto singer and one of 235 students attending Governor's School, relaxs while playing the piano in Corlew after dinner.

## **Green Party plans to nominate Ralph Nader**

The Green Party will hold its national nominating convention June 22-25 to elect Ralph Nader as the party's choice for President of the United States.

The Green Party of Tennessee will send 11 delegates to the convention in Denver, Colo., includ-

ing Gary Wolf, Green Party chair and journalism professor at MTSU.

### Cheatham chosen as Interim Dean

Dr. Thomas Cheatham, professor of computer science, has been appointed Inter. Associate

Dean for the Basic and Applied Sciences.

Cheatham, who is also the Academic Coordinator for the McNair Program, began teaching at MTSU in 1990.

### Magazine features student's work

Alicia Moore, senior, was one of six finalist in the third annual "Tell Us Who You Are" photo contest sponsored by Tamron/Bronica.

Her photo was featured alongside the other finalists in a full-color ad page in "Popular Photography."

The contest raised more than \$30,000 towards research for The Breast Cancer Reseach Foundation.

## Multicultural workshop for June canceled

The Multicultural Educational Enrichment Training Institute has canceled its two-day program June 27-28.

Dr. Beryl West, professor of psychology, said that the workshop will be rescheduled in October or early November of the fall 2000 semester.

### **Burglars strike in Scarlett Commons**

A Smart Stack Internet Switch, valued at \$1,400, was stolen from Building 6 of Scarlett Commons.

Public Safety has no leads on the crime, which is considered a felony. The burglary took place at approximately 9:20 p.m. on May 31.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest of the individuals involved and can be reached at 893-

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**Middle Tennessee's** 

### Texas A&M bonfire suspended for 2 years

**Bill Hanna** Knight-Ridder Tribune

COLLEGE STATION, Texas Vowing not to tolerate a repeat of November's fatal bonfire collapse, Texas A&M President Ray Bowen on Friday put the event on hold for at least two years and ordered a drastic downsizing before it can be revived.

Bowen also demanded that students who participate in what many Aggies consider their most revered tradition undergo a change of culture and demonstrate a willingness to accept his terms for the revival. When and if bonfire returns, Bowen said, it will revert to a simpler, smaller "teepee" design that will resemble the stacks of logs built in the 1950s.

"I think the decision today is driven as much by having observed the horror that visited our campus as much as anything else," Bowen said of the Nov. 18 collapse that killed 12 students and injured 27.

Reaction to Bowen's announcement ranged from relief and support to disbelief and criticism.

Many former students said they are happy that the bonfire was not eliminated. But others are disappointed the bonfire will be canceled for two years. Some say the university could have solved safety problems and still have a bonfire this fall.

U.S. Rep. Joe Barton, an A&M graduate and a professional engineer who once represented the College Station area, praised Bowen's announcement, but said he strongly disagrees with halting the bonfire until 2002.

Barton, an Ennis, Texas, Republican, said there is no safety justification to stop the bon-

Independent School District in

Galveston County in 1995 over

its policy of letting students elect

a "chaplain" to lead "prayers" at graduation ceremonies and home

Two families - one Catholic

and one Mormon - challenged

Continued from 1

football games.

fire for two years because the planned teepee design for the logs "eliminated the largest structural problem."

"It does not take two years to decide how to build a teepeestyle bonfire. I'm sorry, but it doesn't," he said.

Barton said that A&M officials told him that Bowen's decision to cancel the bonfire for two years is really a way to halt student trends with the bonfire that Bowen doesn't like.

"He's trying to break the culture of some of the student leadership," Barton said. "He wants to break that chain. But there is another way to break it without stopping the bonfire."

Bowen insists that the new version will be designed by a licensed engineer, with only one layer or stack, versus the six that comprised the 1999 bonfire, and students will only be allowed to work on the project for two weeks each fall.

Perhaps the most jarring change will be the elimination of the so-called cut site, where students chop down logs and then haul them to the campus. Cut sites have been the scene of numerous reported injuries of students through the years, as well as hazing incidents.

"My decision places great responsibility upon our student leadership," Bowen said. "It requires that they work with us to meet the conditions I have described. In doing so, they will be committing to fundamental changes in all aspects of the bonfire, changes which none of them would have ever anticipated before last Nov. 18.

While most of the A&M organizations voiced support for Bowen's plan, his announcement was a jolt to the students who led a petition drive for the bonfire's return.

the policy. Their identities were

the policy was changed to let

student-elected representatives -

no longer called chaplains - give

Speakers were free to choose

what they say so long as it pro-

motes good sportsmanship.

"message or invocation."

After their lawsuit was filed,

sealed by the courts.

Court: Supreme Court rules on student-led prayer

"We were ready for a year off to make sure there was time to implement the changes that were needed to make bonfire safe. We were not ready for what we heard from Dr. Bowen today," said Will Clark, one of the organizers of the "Keep the Fire Burning" campaign.

But other Aggies welcomed Bowen's decision.

"How can it be harsh when we are just looking for the safety of our students?" asked student body president Forrest Lane.

Judy Franklin, president of the 40,000-member Houston A&M Club, the largest A&M club in world, called the announcement good news.

"I'm delighted that it appears the tradition will continue," she said. "It could have been worse. There had to be controls to make sure the bonfire is put together in a safe manner. It could have been a decision to abandon tradition."

Jim Patterson of Fort Worth, a building contractor who graduated with the class of 1948, said he's glad to see A&M return to a smaller, simpler bonfire.

"I love the bonfire. I love the Aggie traditions," Patterson said. The student leaders who worked on the bonfire - socalled "Red Pots" - also reluctantly supported Bowen's decision, said bonfire advisor Rusty Thompson.

'It was obviously difficult for them but they understand the reality," said Thompson, who added he isn't sure what role he will have in future bonfires.

Bob Strawser, president of the faculty senate, also praised Bowen's decision and said the faculty's concerns were heard.

"There really was a consensus throughout the A&M community that this was the way to go," Strawser said. "Everyone wanted to see it continue if it could be

The Supreme Court agreed

Still to be decided before the

only to focus on the football

games, passing up the gradua-

1999-2000 court term ends next

week is a Louisiana dispute over the constitutionality of using

taxpayer money to buy comput-

ers and other instructional mate-

tion-ceremony dispute.

done safely, and Dr. Bowen's plan addresses that.'

But both Strawser and Richard Carlson, the deputy faculty speaker, said they weren't sure licensed engineering faculty would be willing to work on the project.

Earlier this week, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers launched an inquiry into the 1999 bonfire and also said a licensed engineer should supervise future bonfires. The bonfire report, which cited design flaws and A&M's "tunnel vision" for failing to recognize warning signs, also called for a professionally engineered design.

Jeff Ground, a licensed engineer and president-elect of the Fort Worth/Tarrant County A&M club, said he would have qualms about working on the bonfire and he thinks other engineers would too.

Bowen said his decision was an easy one because of the loss of

Among the other recommendations in Bowen's plan are that all logs will be cut by professionals and delivered to the site. The bonfire location, which Bowen said will be in the same spot where it fell last November, will be fenced and monitored with video cameras. No work will take place between midnight and 6 a.m.

Under Bowen's plan, a group of students, staff and faculty leaders will convene in September. In January 2002, work will begin on the bonfire.

There will be some type of unspecified memorial service this fall, Bowen said. What will happen on the anniversary of the accident in 2001 is unclear.

Bowen also said he has no plans to resign and he received numerous letters and e-mails of

rials for religious schools.

That ruling will affect federal

efforts to connect every

American classroom with the

Internet and also could carry

significance for the politically

charged legal fights over tuition

vouchers - help for families who

send their children to religious

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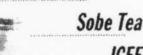


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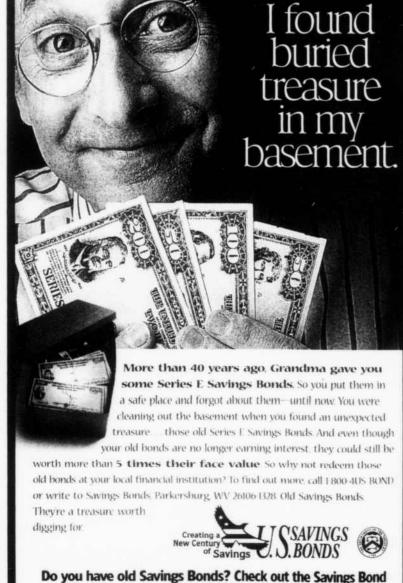
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## **OPINIONS**

4 SIDELINES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

### From the Staff

### Contributing to the delinquency of character

At the first CUSTOMS session I also know that underage of the summer, one Greek organization was seen giving away insulted beverage holders, or "coozies," at its information booth to incoming freshmen. Now maybe these gifts were innocent, but what about the perception associated with coozies?

Whether the Greeks wish to admit it or not, alot of incoming freshmen have the perception that fraternities and sororities are just organizations that party and drink all the time. Giving away these types of gifts doesn't help the situation.

Greeks are constantly writing letters to this paper complaining about the negative coverage they receive and the bad reputation that accompanies it. Maybe giving away more tactful and appropriate gifts would contribute to improving their

Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against drinking, as I am an accomplished drinker myself.

drinking occurs, and I have participated in that as well. Furthermore, I don't agree with the no-tolerance drinking policy on this campus. If a student is of legal age, why shouldn't they be

they lose rights because they are pursuing an education? Still, the Greeks blatantly solicited new pledges with the between-the-lines promise, "join us and you'll get beer." Most incoming freshman are under the legal drinking age, so why

would the Greeks further tarnish

allowed to drink? Why should

their image with such an obvious gesture?

The Greeks would probably use the defense that coozies can be used for any canned drink. not just beer, but do they really think that's what everyone else thinks? Everyone knows that drinking happens on this campus, but why be so stupid as to throw it in the faces of the powers that be?

Try thinking next time.

## **Courtesy? Respect?** Don't 'miss' the point

**Gracie Bonds Staples** Knight-Ridder Tribune

I always liked hearing the story about how I got my name. It was given to me, my mother told me, by the midwife who helped bring me into the world.

My daughters are the same way about their names. They can listen to my stories over and over again.

But this column isn't about names. Not exactly. It is about common courtesy. Respect.

Which gets me to Miss Hale.

As the story goes, Harold Hale was just a child when he made a vow that whites would never be able to address his daughter without due and proper respect, like they did his

To guarantee it, he'd name her Miss. Today, Miss Hale is a 26-year-old graduate student at Morgan State University in Baltimore. Everybody calls her Miss. It's her

I always liked that story, liked the way Miss shared it with me, liked the pride in her brown eyes and in her voice. But I hadn't much thought about it again until the other day when I read about yet another effort by school officials to teach students manners

I shrugged when I read last year how

Louisiana lawmakers had decided to legislate courtesy in the state's schools. Students had to address their teachers respectfully or face detention. Well, maybe I gave it more than a shrug.

I do remember thinking God always has a way of getting our attention.

The idea caught on briefly with legislators in other states.

As the nation tried to come to grips with school violence, governors in Alabama and South Carolina began pushing "yes, sir; no, ma'am" laws.

"This is just fluff," state Rep. John Rogers of Alabama was quoted as saying in an Associated Press story.

To his credit, Rogers had a different approach: He preferred to improve the climate in our schools with better pay and training for teachers.

The proposed bill in Alabama was killed. But I was struck by his belief that the "yes ma'am" proposal brought back uncomfortable reminders of slavery and Jim Crow.

"If you didn't say "yes, sir' or "no, sir,' you were going to get 40 lashes," Rogers said. "It's the wrong message to send to kids at

school, especially black kids.' Teaching children common courtesy is hardly damaging to them, even to African-Americans. My parents taught me to respond to my elders that way. I still do, and it hasn't hurt me. And not once did it make

me feel beneath anyone. In fact, it elevates me to a place that a simple yes or no, or nod of the head, never could.

Harold Hale was living in a different time

when he vowed to name his daughter Miss. It was a time when black men had to address white boys as "sir," when they themselves were called "boys."

He couldn't conceive of a world like the one we enjoy these days. And so when his daughter was born in 1973, he kept his promise to himself.

That says as much about the time he was living in as it does his character.

He believed his mother deserved to be addressed with the proper title, even by white children. I suspect that's how he addressed his elders. Not saying "yes, sir" or "no, sir," could get you 40 lashes, especially in Alabama, where Hale grew up. But if you were a child addressing an adult with any less respect, you deserved it.

It's the same punishment white children who called Hale's mother Pearlie deserved.

Requiring students to address teachers this way won't stop violence in the schools. It won't even deter drug use. But it will restore a common courtesy that can't help but lift us

Gracie Bonds Staples is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. You can send e-mail to her at gstaples@star-telegram.com.

### SIDELINES

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### Letter to the Editor

### Student asks for P&G boycott

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uct tests.

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Workers force chemicals into rabbits' eyes and rub them onto animals' shaved and abraded skin. The animals are forced into restraining devices

so they can't escape the terrible pain; they are not sedated or given painkillers. Some break their necks or backs trying to escape the terrible pain!

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P&G has refused to stop testing cosmetics and household products on animals, even though federal law does not require animal tests on these products! Mere than 550 companies, including large corporations like Gillette and Avon, ensure their customers' safety by using more accurate, nonanimal tests.

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Thank you, J. Serena Matthews College of Mass Communication

We take your letters! Email them to stupubs@ mtsu.edu or drop them by JUB 310.

Letters may be edited for length, content or grammar.



## Is this activist group guided by science or money?

Whitt Flora Knight-Ridder Tribune

WASHINGTON -Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) suddenly has become the darling of reporter's Rolodexes with members quoted as experts on everything from arms control to biofoods to

From Jan. 1 through late May, various UCS staffers were cited as authoritative sources in more than 200 leading U.S. newspapers, including USA Today, Washington Post, Los Times, Houston Angeles Chronicle, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune and The New York Times.

It's curious when one group turns up as a source of expertise on so many disparate fronts on so many front pages in so short a time span.

It's especially curious when the group has been around for three decades and has an entrenched reputation for leftwing advocacy rather than a time-tested commitment to

sound science. Formed by idealistic faculty members and students at MIT in the flower-child era, the UCS

always has billed itself as a group of objective scientists studying the vital issues of the day and then recommending public policy solutions based on rigorous scientific analysis.

At first, journalists applauded. What better resource could science-challenged reporters find to make sense of the oftconflicting claims of politicians, business leaders, bureaucrats and environmentalists?

The truth was a little less romantic. Hardly the sweet voice of reason, the UCS quickly became a brash trumpeter of preconceived ideological nostrums. Instead of providing objective analysis, the group has become an adept media manipulator.

It's a shame that UCS has become just another advocacy group apparently more devoted fund-raising because reporters and the public once were hopeful that it would be a reliable clearing house for accurate scientific information.

Just how far the UCS has ventured into unabashed advocacy became clear earlier this year after leading newspapers reported on a February meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

The only qualification for members appears to be a dedication to environmental action and a willingness to send in a check for \$25, \$50, \$100, \$300 or \$500.

(AAAS) where the preliminary findings of a national assessment report on climate change was discussed.

The final version of the much-awaited report will be released later this summer.

The UCS immediately fired off an Internet memo to members, faulting the media for its coverage of the AAAS meeting.

The report "underscores the seriousness of the potential impacts of climate change on the U.S.," the UCS memo noted.

call for equally convincing and member has read the final

immediate action."

The memo urged UCS members to monitor hometown papers for coverage of the report and send a letter to the editor emphasizing that the 'National Assessment confirms that the potential impacts of climate change are serious and warrant immediate action.

"By submitting a letter to the editor in response to this early news coverage, scientists can highlight the importance of the findings," the memo adds.

Bear in mind that neither "Yet the news stories fail to UCS officials nor any UCS

National Assessment report. Yet the group was prepared to spin the media and the American public to accept its version of what the report says.

Whether you agree with its conclusions or not - and many respected mainstream scientists don't - you still have to wonder how such blatant propagandizing squares with its carefully cultivated public image.

In reality, the UCS is made up of passionate activists. This membership pitch on its web site, pretty much says it all: "Why join? As a UCS mem-

ber, you'll help change the world by convincing businesses and governments to take action against global warming .. You'll also win healthier airquality standards ... and set safety standards for genetically

engineered foods. "Whether you're a doctor or lawyer, a programmer or engineer, a teacher, student, or homemaker ... if you're concerned about the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the food you eat, you can do something about it. You can join UCS now."

Not exactly a group that limits its members to credentialed

In fact, the only qualification for membership appears to be a dedication to environmental activism and a willingness to send in a check for \$25, \$50, \$100, \$300 or \$500.

The later amount enables a "UCS senior scientist to travel to a hog farm in the Midwest to study the environment and human-health risks of industrialized animal agriculture."

Of course, there are a dozen or so other environmental activist groups also willing to sign you up — ranging from the Sierra Club to the Environmental Defense Fund to Ozone Action.

The only apparent difference between them and the UCS is they haven't been able to con the media into believing they are disinterested and impartial observers.

So next time you see an UCS "scientist" quoted on a vital issue in your local newspaper, write a letter to the editor of your own.

Ask why the paper persists in perpetuating the UCS' longrunning journalist myth. After all newspapers do have "truth in advertising" standards, don't ' they?

## **FEATURES**

Murfreesboro, TN

SIDELINES # 5

## If only she had known... Former freshman shares her wisdom, experience with incoming students

Jenny Cordle Staff Reporter

"Would you like a copy of your grades sent to your home?" the recorded voice on TRAM asks me after I just listened to what my professors gra-ciously gave me for basically slacking off all semester.

"I'll pass," I thought. But I didn't. I went ahead against my better judgement and pressed the tiny button on the phone. Mommy and Daddy will want to see them, I knew.

"I'll pass." That's what I told myself all semester. After I didn't study. After I failed the test. After I skipped the class. Over and over. It was a lie.

I didn't pass. And now the moment was here. The moment I knew would come. The moment when I was official-

semester was over. My freshman year was done. And all I could think of was what I had done wrong. Instead of being ecstatic, I was exhausted. Instead of feeling smarter, I felt dumber. And given time and stop in mid-sentence to

instead of looking back with nostalgia at the good old days I was to call part of my first year as a college student, I never looked back.

Until now, I wouldn't do this for just anyone either. I'm recalling my mistakes for the sole purpose of helping you, of giving you advice. And if you're smart, you'll take it.

Your roommate holds the key. Not to your future, but as to whether or not your lavish living style in a dorm room/roach motel will be the best it can possibly be or the worst you could imagine. The roommate from hell wears a nice smile and constantly talks about how much fun you're going to have all year together. I know. She was mine. And let me give you a bit of advice. If you don't have any other standards for choosing a roommate, have this one.

Make sure he/she takes a shower My wish had come true. The spring once a day before you swap social security numbers to write on the housing application. There is nothing more annoying than to have other dorm groupies walk into your room at any

ask, "Umm, what is that awful smell?" Eventually you'll get tired of watching their faces crinkle as you remind them for the 10th time that your roommate thinks water is simply something you drink, and not for bathing purposes.

If you're like me, the stench is just enough to get you up and ready for class. But in order for you to keep that routine without giving into the temptation of skipping, you can't give yourself

I had a friend who absolutely refused to skip one little class. We called her a dork, of course. But when we all compared grades, she was the one ready for a new semester of classes, while we scheduled a few take-overs.

Just because the class is a general requirement or physical education (HPER) doesn't mean it holds less importance because it's not something you're passionate about. I had to learn that the hard way. Now I'm having to develop a passion for geology, and lemme tell ya, rocks are not my thing.

But, writing papers is a forte of mine. That's why I wait until the night before a paper is due to write it. Good idea? Ummm....no. There's always something biology professor is going to dissect you to forget -- a fifth source to find or another concept to be discussed. I have a tendency to completely forget to type up the works cited page. And that's major points off. Get the point? Don't wait until the night before to start your paper. Start as soon as you get the chance. And if that chance just happens to be the night before, you've got some time management skills to polish.

And if you suffer from having no concept of time like I do, planning a study time and sticking to it is the best way to maintain your grades. Your designated study place is up to you.

If you're living in the dorms, I strongly recommend you don't use the study room. Study room is code for social room.

You'll realize this when you plop your books down on the study table and three hours later haven't opened one of them. For the number of books you brought in, you've got that many new friends. So it's an even trade right? Wrong. Unless your biology test is going to be over which friend was prom queen or homecoming queen, your

You might also want to watch how much alcohol or drugs you intake at any given time. It's not fun to suffer in class with a hangover. And drugs are easy-just say no.

Just saying no to the tiny temptations that add up to one big hell is what's gonna get you through your freshman year. It's so easy to forget why you're in college in the first place. Oh, yeah, to meet dates, right? Haha...unfortunately

But while we're on the subject, if you have to talk yourself into going out with someone, they're not worth it.

On the other hand, you might have to talk yourself into going to class and studying from time to time. And I promise it'll be worth it.

So surf around on the waves of independence for a while, but don't forget to come back to shore to say hi to Mom and Dad. And to study. And to go to class. That way when the recorded voice on TRAM asks you if you want a copy of your grades sent to your home, you can say, "Oooh yeah!"

### **Answer your financial aid** questions with this guide

Angela White Editor in chief

Financial aid can seem complicated at times, so much so that filling out the FAFSA may feel like the SAT all over again. But underneath all the technical terms and abbreviations actually lies a method that will prove useful to many students this fall, including some of those who never thought they'd be eligible for

Aid can come in four forms: scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Scholarships can come from a variety of sources, as can some grants. However, when filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, more commonly referred to the FAFSA, only grants, some loans and workstudy will be applied.

Most students are eligible to apply for and receive financial aid. However, a new law implemented on July 1 will suspend eligibility for financial aid for students convicted under federal or state law of sale or possession of drugs.

The FAFSA must be received by July 2, 2001 for the 2000-2001 academic year. Students wanting to receive aid for the following fall semester should send it as soon as possible after January 1. However, it should never be sent prior to January 1, or even signed and dated before that time. Doing so will cause your FAFSA to be voided.

The FAFSA can be submitted in various ways, including the traditional snail-mail, on the Web by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov, or by using FAFSA Express, a free software program found at many high schools and libraries that submits the form electronically via a modem, not the Internet. MTSU's primary deadline to receive the SAR, or Student Aid Report, the outcome of the FAFSA after it is mailed, is May 15. MTSU will send an award letter after receiving the SAR, which will detail how much money is offered through grants, loans and work study.

The amount of aid for which a student is eligible is determined by subtracting the estimated family contribution, or EFC, from the cost of attendance, or COA.

The EFC is calculated by a complex method involving the questions on the FAFSA, including income and savings, whether the student is dependent (reliant upon his or her parents for more than half of his or her support) or independent, how many children are

### **Financial aid links**

MTSU financial aid Web page: http://www.mtsu.edu/~fin\_aid/

Student Financial Assistance from Department of Education: http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/Students/

Student Guide 2000-2001:

http://www.ed.gov/prog\_info/SFA/StudentGuide/ 2000-1/index.html

FAFSA on the Web: http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/

FinAid: http://www.finaid.org/

in the family and how many family members are in college.

adding tuition, estimated room and board if applicable, textbook costs and other related costs. These figures are estimated by MTSU and sent to the Department of Education.

If a parent can declare a student as a dependent on his or her tax form, then that student is considered to be dependent in financial aid terms as well. meaning that the parent's income, in addition to the student's, will be used to determine the EFC.

A student is considered independent if he or she was born before January 1, 1977, is married, has a child that he or she declares as a dependent, is enrolled in graduate school, was an orphan or ward of the court before turning 18, or is a veteran.

Department The Education offers several types of federal grants. The Pell Grant is only awarded to students with exceptional financial need. This grant is guaranteed to be given to every student who meets the require-

ments. The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant is given to students who are eligible for the Pell grant. However, there is no guarantee that all eligible students will receive this grant.

The Tennessee Student Assistance Grant is given to needy Tennessee citizens attending eligible Tennessee institutions. This grant is severely limited, and funds for it are generally depleted by April 15.

The most popular way students receive aid is through loans. Federal loans include the Stafford loan, which must be paid back by the student shortly after graduation. Students are eligible for \$2,625 their freshman year, \$3,500 their sophomore year and \$5,500 their remaining years. undergraduate Independent students can borrow an additional \$4,000 their first two years and \$5,000 the remaining years.

The Stafford loan can come as a subsidized loan, meaning The COA is determined by that the government will pay the interest while the student is in school, or as an unsubsidized loan, meaning that the interest will accrue while the student is in school unless he or she pays off the interest while still in school.

> All students are eligible for unsubsidized loans regardless of financial need, but must also submit FAFSAs. Students who want to apply for Stafford loans must complete a Loan Request Sheet as well. These applications should returned two months in advance of the date the student wishes to receive the funds.

> The Perkins loan is awarded to students with exceptional financial need. Students can only borrow \$3,000 a year up to a total of \$15,000 while pursuing an undergraduate degree. The Perkins loan features a lower interest rate and more flexible loan forgiveness and payment options.

PLUS loans are given to parents, not students. PLUS loans can cover the full cost of student's attendance. Repayment begins 60 days after the funds are fully disbursed. If this loan goes into default, it is the parents, not the student, who will be held accountable, even if that student dropped out of school or agreed to pay the loan.

Private student loans are also given by many banks.

work-study Federal involves students working on campus or for public service agencies. Students can earn only up to a pre-determined amount mentioned on their financial aid award letter. They make at least minimum 20 hours a week. They are paid at least twice a month.

If the student is offered ference. work-study, he or she must the financial aid office in order to accept it.

Students must also go to the office during the first week of Ireland. classes to pick up their job assignments.

Flipping out

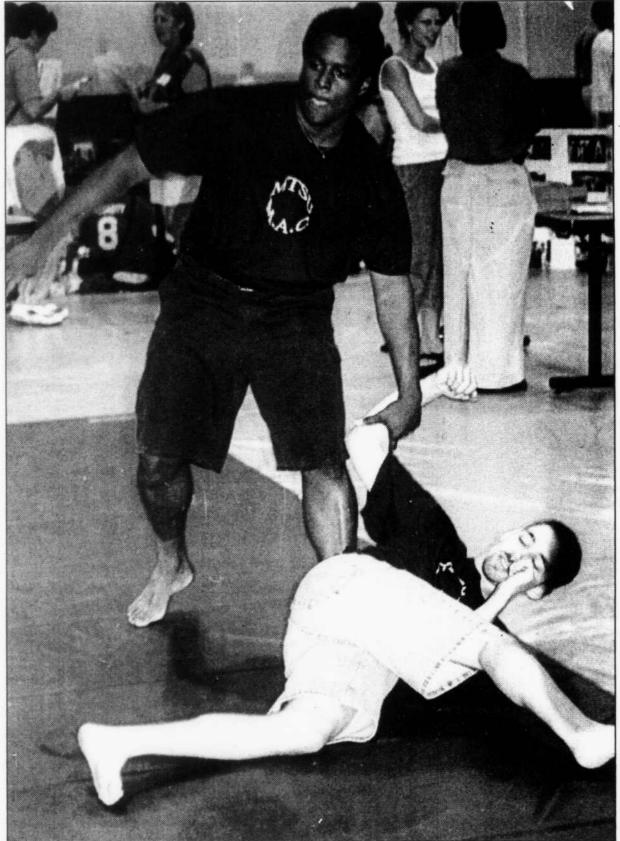


Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo editor

The Martial Arts Club performs for the CUSTOMS crowd at the Rec Center Monday. Tables were set up at the Ports of Call session for the incoming freshmen and their parents to learn about various departments and activities available on campus.

### 10 percent of college students slaves to Internet

CHICAGO (TMS) - At least 10 percent of college students are letting the Internet wreck their lives, a psychologist at Rensseleaer wage and can only work up to Polytechnic Institute reported last week at the American College Health Association's annual con-

Keith J. Anderson revealed the send the signed award letter to findings of a survey of 1,300 college students at seven American colleges and universities and one institution of higher education in

> Anderson's study over the course of the 1998-99 academic reported negative consequences,

year used criteria typically employed to gauge dependency on substances, such as alcohol, and habits, such as reading pornography. Of the 1,078 participants who said they used the Internet, more than 100 fit the criteria for Internet dependency.

Anderson reported that those students identified as dependent used the Internet an average of 229 minutes a day for nonacademic reasons, compared to 73 minutes a day for others.

Many of the dependent users

such as poor grades and social isolation.

Anderson spotted other patterns: Of the 106 students deemed Internet-dependent, 93 were men, and 81 studied science - particularly computer technology.

Students participating in the survey were from American International University, Black Hawk College, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rensslaer, Siena College, the State University of New York at Albany, SUNY at Buffalo and the one campus in Ireland.

## SPORTS

6 SIDELINES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

#### COMMENTARY

## Fisher good investment for Adams, Titans

**Jay Carlton** Sports Editor

It's quite possible that Tennessee Titans owner Bud Adams is getting wiser in his old age. Known for not being especially loyal to his head coaches, Adams must understand that Jeff Fisher is an asset to the team.

Fisher, who signed a threeyear contract extension June 15, will now be under contract through the end of the 2003 sea-

Coming off a 13-3 season and guiding the Titans to their firstever Super Bowl appearance, coach Fisher clearly had the upper hand in contract negotia-

Fisher imposed a deadline of

June 15 to complete the contract extension, or he would suspend talks until the conclusion of the upcoming season.

Had the negotiations not started until the end of the 2000 season, the Titans would have risked losing 42-year-old Fisher to another team.

There was speculation that the new Houston franchise that begins play in the 2002 season wanted to bring Fisher back to Houston — the city where he first made his head coaching debut, when he took over for lack Pardee, who was fired, 10 games into the 1994 season.

Coach Fisher's rise to the top of the head coaching food chain hasn't been an easy one.

He finished with a record of 1-5 with six games left in the '94

From '96-'98 he had the distraction of leaving Houston, the debacle in Memphis and playing in front of small crowds at Vanderbilt stadium - each season finishing 8-8.

The 1999 season was special. It was the first season at Adelphia Coliseum, the brandnew digs that the team and fans had waited several years for. Fisher's team now had a new name, uniforms and a muchneeded home-field advantage. Fisher finished with a 13-3 regular-season record.

After guiding his team to dramatic wins in the playoffs over Buffalo, Indianapolis and Jacksonville, Fisher found himself in Atlanta for Super Bowl

The Titans didn't win the big game, but they did win over the

hearts of many fans across the boy hat, except inside the country - especially in Middle Tennessee.

Considering all the distractions over the past few years, Fisher has done an incredible job of turning the franchise around.

Fisher deserved to be rewarded for his loyalty to the team and the success that he has produced. Bud Adams had to ante up this time.

The Oilers/Titans organization has had 16 head coaches in its 40-year history. Over the years, there have been some interesting characters to roam the sidelines. The most storied head coach in team history is Bum Phillips, who compiled a 59-38-0 record in his six years as head coach. Phillips was a true cowboy, always wearing a cowAstrodome. He said that his mom told him to never wear a hat indoors.

Jerry Glanville was the Oilers head coach from 1985-89. His statistics aren't very impressive: He went 35-35-0 in five years. Glanville, who is a huge Elvis fan, always dressed in black and left tickets for the King before every home game.

Jeff Fisher probably doesn't have the larger-than-life personality of a Bum Phillips, or Jerry Glanville's intricacy, but the southern California native still gets results.

When Fisher's contract expires at the end of the 2003 season, he will be the organization's longest-lasting coach.

Team President Jeff Diamond handled the contract negotiations for Fisher, but Adams was ultimately responsible for opening up his wallet and paying Fisher what was needed to keep him in Nashville.

Anyone who has followed NFL football for any length of time knows that Bud Adams has made a lot of mistakes. He has fought with the press, has an ongoing feud with the mayor of Houston, and is rather cheap where his head coaches are concerned.

Maybe Bud is starting to wise up in his old age, or maybe Jeff Diamond is the sense of reason the organization has needed for a long time. Either way, the contract is complete and Titans' fans can worry about other important issues - like signing Eddie George to a contract extension.

## Jumpin' into camp



Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

Shelbyville and Howard High School basketball teams face off in the Blue Raider Team Basketball Camp ongoing through June 22.

### Brazelton, Team USA beat Mexico in national trials

MT Media Relations

Mickey Seward, Baseball Tucson, Arizona - For the second consecutive evening, the USA National Team received strong pitching to shut down Mexico's hitters, but for the first time, the Americans showed their offensive explosiveness as Team USA defeated Mexico 17-2 in front of 1,216 fans at Hi Corbett Field in Tucson, Ariz., Monday evening.

Team USA, which served as the visiting team in the game, jumped on the board in the top of the second inning when Mike Rouse (2B, So, Cal State Fullerton) knocked a double that scored Jake Gautreau (1B, So, Tulane.

Two batters later, Danny Garcia (DH, So, Pepperdine) drove in Rouse with an RBI single to give Team USA a 2-0 lead.

The Americans scored three more runs with a two-out rally in the fourth inning to go up 5-0, and added another run in the sixth on Ryan Howard's (1B, So, Southwest Missouri State) RBI. The Americans then exploded for seven runs on eight hits in

the seventh frame. Mexico finally scored a pair of unearned runs in the seventh. Luis Diazhiron, who reached on an error, scored the first Mexican run after his team had been shut down for 15 1/3 straight innings to open the series when he crossed the plate on Ismael Llerenas' RBI groundout. Jose Nolasco then scored on error to give Mexico its second

Despite the runs, USA's pitchers have still not allowed an earned run in 17 innings this

Bobby Crosby's (3B, So, Long Beach State) leadoff home run over the left field wall in the ninth completed the scoring for the Americans.

Team USA starter Dewon Brazleton (RHP, So, Middle Tennessee) threw three innings, allowing two hits and two walks while fanning three to earn the win and raise his record to 1-0. Relievers Noah Lowry (LHP, So, Pepperdine), Jarrod Schmidt (RHP, Fr, Clemson), Gosling and Zane Carlson RHP, Fr, Baylor) did not allow a hit in the final six innings.

### O'Neal leads Lakers to title

### Both teams shed tears after final game of final series

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) -Shaquille O'Neal's mother wrapped her arms around his neck

His sister latched on to his arm. Friends, teammates and strangers reached in for a piece of this beautiful, triumphant group hug.

Tears began to bead in his eyes, but Shaq didn't flinch under the weight. He was strong enough to carry them all.

Moments later, amid the confetti and cacophony of the Los Angeles Lakers' 116-111 victory over the Indiana Pacers in Game 6 of the NBA Finals on Monday night, O'Neal raised two trophies above his head. One was for being an NBA champion and one was for being the MVP of the finals.

The game's most dominant force finally had willed his team to the only rewards he said he truly desired in his eight-year career. It was closure, it was vindication, it was a wish fulfilled.

The Lakers' big man had earned one more nickname: The Big Champion.

"This is my dream here," he said. "This is what I wanted when I came to LA. It's the only thing I play this game for."

Part of Los Angeles' seventh title - its first since 1988 belongs to Kobe Bryant, the young shooter who might someday be as good as his best performances. Another part belongs to Phil Jackson, who won his seventh championship as a coach by blending the Lakers' disparate talents into a cohesive

But the biggest part belongs to O'Neal, who averaged 38 points and 16.6 rebounds in the finals. Throughout nearly eight months of basketball, he simply carried a team like few players in the game's history have been able to He became the third player to

All-Star Game MVP award and the finals MVP award in the same year. "Give the credit to the big

win the league MVP award, the

guy," Bryant said. "This was the moment he was waiting for his whole life." O'Neal had 41 points, 12

rebounds and an unapologetically bad 3-for-12 performance from the fcul line in Game 6. He took charge in a critical fourthquarter stretch with a series of big plays that negated an inspired Pacers comeback.

Indiana, shooting as proficiently as it did in its Game 5 blowout win, led for much of the game and decisively outplayed the Lakers until the fourth quar-While O'Neal and his mates

were playing for a title, the unflappable, veteran Pacers were playing for coach Larry Bird, who entered retirement with their loss.

Jalen Rose had 29 points and Reggie Miller added 25 in another stellar shooting display, and the Pacers hit 12 3-pointers. Indiana held a six-point lead early in the fourth quarter.

"We won the first three rounds (of the game), but lost the most important one, and that was the fourth round," Miller

The Lakers won two of the final three games in the series despite allowing the Pacers to score 116.3 points per game in

Instead of buckling down on defense, Los Angeles simply outscored the Pacers with inside baskets from O'Neal and a surprising proficiency from outside.

The Lakers had to score 37 points in the fourth quarter to finally shake Indiana. Robert Horry, Glen Rice and

Rick Fox all hit critical late jumpers as Los Angeles matched Indiana shot for shot. Fox, who muted his own

scoring abilities to help the Lakers chase a title, wore a look of pure joy after he buried a 3pointer with 8:23 left to give Los Angeles a 94-90 lead.

O'Neal was fouled on three straight baskets early in the period, but he missed all three free throws as Indiana desperately hung on. Minutes later, he had consecutive rebound dunks that sent the laid-back L.A. fans into a frenzy.

"I didn't know if we could really learn a lesson after not closing teams out over and over again," said forward A.C. Green, the link between the Lakers' title teams of 1988 and 2000.

"But once they started to smell the championship, they started playing defense. To see these guys really rally around each other and mature in the playoffs, I'm very impressed." Bryant had 26 points and 10

rebounds in an erratic 8-for-27 shooting performance, alternating sublime shots with clunkers. He will have much better memories of his performance in Game 4, when he stepped in for a fouled-out O'Neal and scored eight points in overtime of Los Angeles' victory.

"I'm numb. I'm just numb right now," the 21-year-old Bryant said. "I didn't know champagne burned this much when it gets in your eyes."

Rice, a free agent who complained about his role during the finals and may have been playing his last game for the Lakers, had 16 points, including three 3pointers.

### Newson receives Preseason honors

MT Media Relations

Junior wide receiver Kendall Newson has been selected to the Football News All-Independent presea-

Newson, who set the single season record for receptions in a season last year, is the only Blue Raider on

All-Independent team. Newson caught 69 passes for 918 yards and five touchdowns.

Notre Dame and Navy had the most representatives with six while UCF had five named to the preseason

Louisiana-Monroe, who will visit Floyd Stadium on October 14, had three players named to the All-Independent team.

First year Division I-A member Connecticut placed one player on the team.

The Blue Raiders will travel to Storrs, Conn.,

November 4, to face the Huskies. Newson is currently tied for eighth in the nation for consecutive games with at least one reception at 21, and he needs just 12 more catches to become Middle

His six 100-yard receiving games is two shy of the school record.

Tennessee's all-time leading receiver.

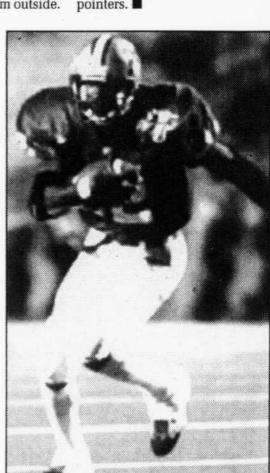


Photo Provided

Kendall Newson on the field.

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## Classifieds

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### **Employment**

#### Office/Personal Assistant

Year-round position assisting public relations executive, handling personal errands and helping care for three-year-old. Childcare experience, computskills, transportation required. Must be available Monday and Wednesday through summer. Other hours flexible. For info and interview, 896-2372

### For Sale

Small candy-vending business established in Williamson County, but movable. I work

one day a month and get \$100-\$200 for six hours of work. (615)414-7196.

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### For Rent

House to share, rooms to rent \$300. One bedroom \$400. Close walk to MTSU or MTMC. 615-896-7918

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Reliable female roommate needed to find an apartment for fall semester. Please con-Nastia Wednesday through Sunday after 6 p.m. at 459-3788 banastal@ or vahoo.com

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The Placement Center is using a computerized registration system and resume preparation program called RESUME EXPERT. The benefits include:

\* professional, typeset quality resume which can be easily updated

\* user-friendly

\* IBM compatible. The computer labs on campus can be used. After purchasing your software in Phillips Bookstore, it must be brought to the Placement Center to load your information in the database for resume referrals to employer. Once RESUME registered via EXPERT, the Placement Center is able to track which companies individual resumes are referred and inform the individual upon request.

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