



# Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

The non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Established 1925.

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Wednesday, June 10, 1998

## In the News

### Governor approves funding for new greenway system

Maryville and Alcoa will be getting \$378,000 to construct a greenway system, Gov. Don Sunquist announced.

The greenway construction is in addition to the \$22 million worth of road construction already underway in Blount County.

"We have devoted half of the total highway budget to projects here in East Tennessee," Sunquist said. "We're making up for a lot of past problems."

### Wage gap narrows again

The earning gap between men and women has closed by about three cents on the dollar since spring 1997—improvement the Clinton administration is chalking up to low unemployment and recent increases in the minimum wage.

"We do think that this is a real improvement and it's due to the strong economy," said Rick McGahey, the Labor Department's assistant secretary for policy.

As a result, women earned 76 cents for every dollar men made in the first quarter of 1998, compared with 73 cents during the same period a year earlier.

### Americans and Russians work together in space

Discovery's crew focused on science experiments today after successfully completing the last shuttle-Mir hookup and ending a program that taught Americans and Russians how to work together in space.

"We've learned through hard knocks and in tough times how to operate better," said Frank Culbertson, NASA's shuttle-Mir program director.

Discovery's trip to the Russian space station was NASA's ninth and last before construction begins later this year on the international space station.

### Honda, Ford pay to settle allegations of misconduct

Honda and Ford have agreed to pay millions of dollars in civil penalties and make other restitution to settle cases involving alleged tampering with auto emission equipment.

The consent agreements, including a record \$17.1 million settlement with Honda involving 1.7 million cars, were announced Monday by the Justice Department and the Environmental Protection Agency.

In a separate action, the Ford Motor Co. agreed to a \$7.8 million settlement in a case involving tampering with emission controls on 60,000 Econoline vans in an effort to get better gas mileage.

### Largest survey of heavens underway

A survey of the stars that will guide generations of astronomers is underway at a remote New Mexico mountain top using what experts call the most complex camera ever built.

Called the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, the \$77 million effort to map the heavens will probe 40 times farther into the universe than an earlier survey, taking pictures in three dimensions and in five colors, astronomers announced Monday.

## Stadium construction stays schedule

□ Cynthia Ryan/ staff

The football stadium, whose press box can now be seen rising from a distance, is presently under budget and on track to be completed by the season home opener despite bad weather.

The construction schedule has changed due to excessive rain, but the stadium should be completed before the Sept. 5 home opener against Tennessee State University, according to Doug Williams of News and Public

Affairs.

Due to the nature of the contract, construction was extended every time work was delayed by rain. These extensions mean that "technically, they do not have to be finished until December," Williams said.

"They did get behind, but they're working hard and I don't think there are any major concerns," he said.

According to Williams the university is hoping the construction company will bring in extra workers to ensure that the stadium is completed

on time.

The stadium, which brought a \$25 million bid in October of 1996, is still under budget, according to Larry Counts, director of Athletic Relations.

"We knew going in that we could not go over budget because of the way it is funded, which is through student activity fees," Counts said.

The new 30,600-seat stadium is part of the university's move from division I-AA football to I-A, a move that requires an average of 17,000 tickets to be sold for each of the four

home games this season. This number can include the swiping of student ID cards.

Counts said that he is hoping 31,000 people attend the home opener, that number including vendors, workers and press people in attendance.

"Anybody ... has the opportunity on September 5 to be part of history," Counts said. "That night will set an all-time attendance record for an MTSU game."

## Housing begins \$45 million renovation

□ Chad Gillis/ staff

Housing and Residential Life is constituting more than \$400,000 of concrete and cosmetic repairs to four dormitories this summer.

This project is the first of a prescribed \$45 million housing renovation.

"It's a question of first repairing areas that are deteriorating," said Debra Sells, director of Housing and Residential Life, adding that dorms with continuing damage must be repaired before upgrading can begin.

Most dorms are more than 25 years old, and were originally funded by federal money given to universities during the late '60s. Major renovations are now being required because of age.

Exterior repairs are being made to walkways and staircases in Deere, Nicks, Clement and Gore Halls Sells said.

Funding for the project will come from a 7 percent raise in housing costs that will become effective this fall.

The Tennessee Board of Regents has approved an increase that would raise the cost of living in the dorms from \$846 to \$905 per semester, while raising rates in Abernathy and Ezell Halls from \$963 to

\$1030.

After the concrete work is finished, interior painting and trim work will begin in each of the four residence halls, Sells said.

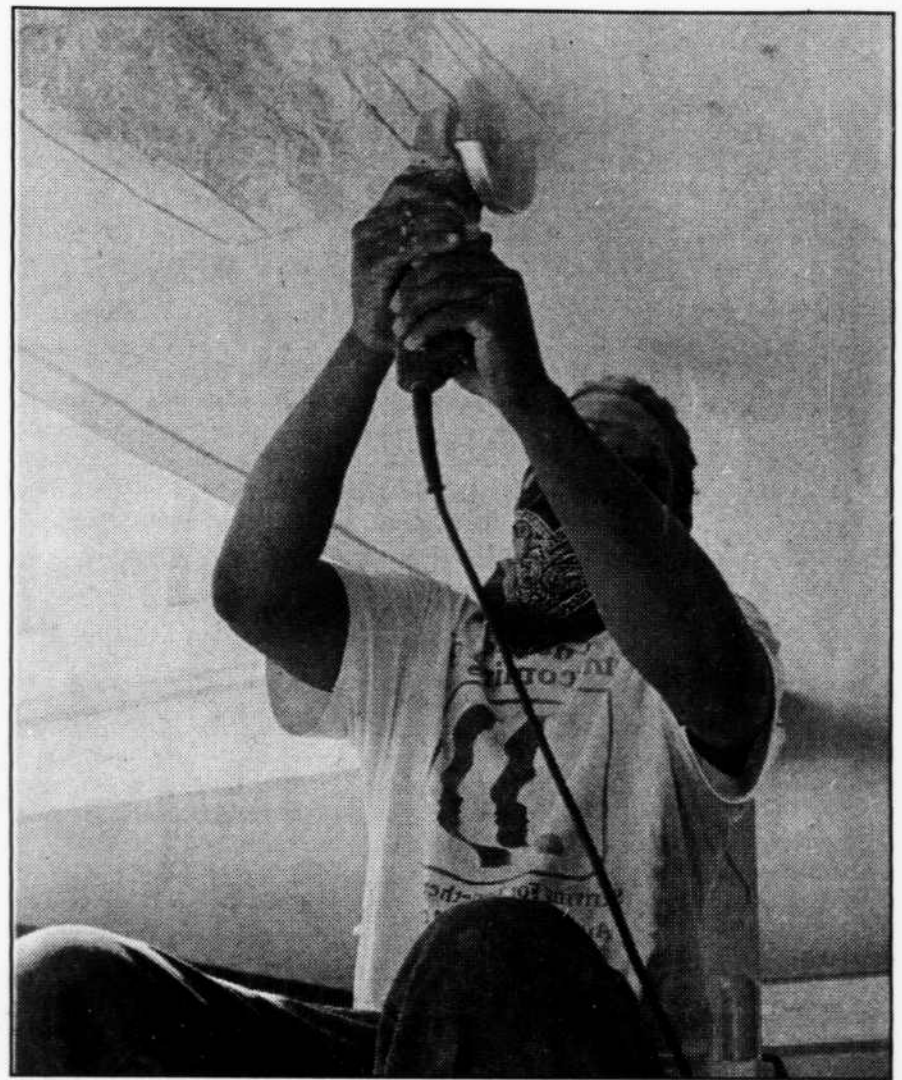
Nashville-based firm Street Dixon Rick reported last year that \$45 million would be needed to keep current housing facilities operational for the next 20 years, Sells said.

Renovations are expected to be complete by early August, said Paul Wright, campus planning project manager.

"We're trying to get it where we wouldn't have four dorms down at one time," Wright said adding that work is being sequenced in such a way that three of the dorms will be completed in the event of a delay.

In addition to this summer's repairs, MTSU is in the process of borrowing \$7 million for housing renovations for the 1999 and 2000 summers.

"This first \$7 million can be acquired without raising the cost of living," Sells said. "The question is can we continue this project without raising costs more than 7 percent?"



Chad Gillis/staff

A Wasco construction worker prepares a Nicks Hall walkway ceiling for repairs. Renovations to Clement, Gore, Deere and Nicks Halls should be complete before the start of the fall semester.

## Three white men charged in dragging death of black man

JASPER, Texas (AP) — Three white men with suspected ties to the Ku Klux Klan chained a black hitchhiker to the back of a pickup truck and dragged him to his death, authorities said Tuesday.

James Byrd Jr.'s head, neck and right arm were found about a mile from his mangled torso. A wrench with the name of one of the suspects on it was found near the body. Byrd had been dragged about two miles on a narrow, winding asphalt road.

"All evidence shows it will be racially motivated," Sheriff Billy Rowles said.

Lawrence Russell Brewer, 31, Shawn Allen Berry and John William King, both 23, were charged with murder and jailed without bail.

Byrd, 49, had been walking home from a niece's bridal shower Saturday night and apparently accepted a ride from the defendants. He was last seen riding in the back of the truck, police said. When he was found, he was so badly disfigured that investigators had to use fingerprints to identify him.

King and Brewer were covered with tattoos indicating white supremacist beliefs, and all three had spent time in prison, where they apparently had ties to the KKK and the Aryan Nation, the sheriff said.

The sheriff said it appeared that Byrd knew one of the defendants, but

he rejected the notion that racist groups have members in the area.

"We have no Aryan Nation or KKK in Jasper County," he said, drawing hoots from blacks at a news conference.

Rowles said it appeared the three men had been drinking.

Jasper is a timber town of 7,800 people about 100 miles northeast of Houston. It is 55 miles north of Vidor, where a Klan faction protested a 1993 federal order to integrate an all-white public housing complex.

Authorities gave this account of the slaying:

Berry told police he and his companions were riding around in his truck when they saw Byrd walking down the dirt road and offered him a ride. King objected because of Byrd's race, but they went to a convenience store. King then got behind the wheel and drove to an isolated area. There, the defendants got out and Brewer and King started beating the victim. Byrd was chained to the truck's back bumper and dragged.

Byrd's body was discovered Sunday morning about 10 miles away from his apartment.

Tuesday, there were 75 red spray-painted circles along the road to mark where police had found either Byrd's belongings — his keys and dentures — or body parts. The chain

believed to be the used to drag him was found behind a house.

Police said they have a witness who saw Berry's truck. Authorities also said they discovered a wrench engraved with Berry's name near the body that resembles similar tools from Berry's truck.

The three men initially were picked up for possession of stolen property, authorities said. Officers investigating a break-in at a restaurant allegedly caught them with a large quantity of frozen meat.

FBI agents met with the sheriff on Tuesday, and federal civil rights charges may be filed, authorities said.

Byrd, a former vacuum salesman and father of three, didn't have a car and lived on disability checks because of an arm injury, said his sister, Clara Taylor.

"He was very outgoing, friendly towards everyone," Ms. Taylor said. "Everyone around here knew him. There was no ingrained hatred or anything like that."

She described her brother as a music lover who sang and played the piano and trumpet. "He had a beautiful singing voice," she said.

When Brewer's mother, Helen Brewer of Houston, heard what her son was accused of, she said: "That is so hard to believe. I couldn't do a dog that way. ... That just shows you what alcohol can do."

## Tyson recalls 160,000 pounds of chicken supplied to Wendy's

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Tyson Foods recalled 160,000 pounds of chicken supplied to Wendy's restaurants — mostly in the Southeast and the Midwest — after three customers found bits of metal in their food.

The recall, which included New Orleans, took place on Saturday and involved breast fillets and chicken nuggets.

Two customers in Minnesota and one in New York found metal in their sandwiches and nuggets on Friday, said Ed Nicholson, a Tyson spokesman at headquarters in Springdale, Ark. No injuries were reported.

The metal was apparently wire mesh from a conveyor belt, Nicholson said.

The affected Wendy's restaurants are being resupplied and all should be selling chicken again by Wednesday.

"It's several scattered markets, primarily in the Southeast and Midwest," said Rebecca Lusk, a spokeswoman at Wendy's International Inc. in Dublin, Ohio.

She said she did not know which cities or states were affected. Wendy's uses several suppliers, so the recall probably did not hit every store in all of those markets, she said.

Columnist Brian Kaufman explores life as a simply the living of a story on page 4.

Olivia Newton-John hopes moving to Nashville will reconnect her with the country audience on page 5.

Blue Raider center fielder was drafted by the San Diego Padres after his junior year on page 7.

Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms. Winds out of the southwest at 10 to 15 miles per hour.



Know something noteworthy happening on campus? Call the Sidelines news desk at 898-2336 or fax us at 904-8487. Information can also be mailed to box 42.



# 16 deaths among Viagra users; FDA repeats heart patient warning

WASHINGTON (AP) — Deaths among men who took the wildly popular impotence pill Viagra have climbed to 16, including seven men who reportedly died during or after sex, a reminder that sexual exertion in older men can be risky with or without a pill.

The Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday there is no evidence that Viagra itself is dangerous, although the agency did repeat warnings that heart patients who take nitroglycerin should never take the impotence pill because the drug mix can be deadly. Two deaths suggest that happened.

Doctors say if there is any risk, some men don't care.

"I've had a lot of patients say, 'If I have to go, that's the way I want to go out,'" said Dr. Ira Sharlip of San Francisco, an adviser on impotence to the American Urological Association.

"I've taken prescriptions out of two patients' hands who lied about (using nitroglycerin) because they

wanted Viagra so badly, said Dr. William Steers, the University of Virginia's urology chairman. "Men value sexuality over general health. ... They are going to have this regardless of the consequences."

The FDA repeated that Viagra is safe and effective when used by appropriate patients. But in response to intense public interest, the FDA posted on its Internet site 16 deaths reported among Viagra users.

Nine men already had heart disease, including previous heart attacks, atrial fibrillation, cardiomyopathy or high blood pressure. Because the FDA did not receive full medical information, there is no information about the medical history of six others, including four patients discovered through media reports. Ages ranged from 48 to 80; most were in their 60s and 70s.

"There's no direct link (to Viagra), but we are going to continue to monitor these reports" in case a pattern suggesting a problem appears,

said FDA spokeswoman Lorrie McHugh. "The bottom line is, patients talk with their health care provider and read warning labels before taking this."

The FDA will regularly update the Internet list as it learns of more deaths. That's considered inevitable because so many older men are flocking to the drug, the very population most at cardiac risk. The American Heart Association counts 418,000 new or recurrent heart attacks in men over 65 every year; about 116,000 die of a heart attack.

Pfizer has counted 1.7 million new Viagra prescriptions since it was approved in March, 80 percent of them for men over age 50.

The FDA and Pfizer have warned since Viagra began selling that men who take nitroglycerine or related nitrate-containing heart drugs should never take Viagra because the mix can cause large drops in blood pressure. Pfizer just mailed 750,000 doctors a reminder

warning. But doctors are finding advice for men with heart disease who don't take the risky nitrate drugs a little tougher.

"I'd be very careful about prescribing it for patients with heart disease until I really understand what their level of risk might be," said former American Heart Association president Dr. Sidney Smith of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The FDA's death report, while not a link, "certainly raises a red flag and makes everyone aware of the need for more information."

But University of Virginia's Steers said reports of possible Viagra problems have been extraordinarily low considering how many men take it. He considers the Viagra cautions a good reminder for doctors to more closely examine impotent men for heart disease and get them treated.

# Police ask public for help in identifying object that caused crash

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Police appealed to the public Tuesday for help in finding the source of a 200-pound piece of steel that caused a wreck that claimed seven lives.

Kentucky State Police displayed the 3-foot-high piece of steel Tuesday afternoon and said it appeared to be a base to some type of heavy equipment.

The piece of steel, which lay haphazardly in the southbound lanes of Interstate 65 on Monday, was struck by a tractor-trailer that careened out of control. It crossed the median and struck two northbound vehicles, killing seven people at the Oakland interchange, about 100 miles south of Louisville.

Police initially said they had few clues to the origin of the steel object, which was blue and 150 to 200 pounds. By Tuesday, they said telephone tips had produced several leads, though no one had come forward to claim responsibility.

"Some of the witnesses believe it fell off a flatbed tractor-trailer truck," said

Trooper Roy Howard, an accident reconstructionist working the case.

He said witnesses reported less than a mile south of the wreck shortly after it happened. That truck's driver reportedly was checking his load of some sort of steel cargo, Howard said.

He said other witnesses reported hearing citizens band radio traffic of one truck driver telling another that he had lost a part of his load.

But police said they did not have a detailed description of the suspect truck or any license plate information.

"There is no way for us to have any idea where it could be," said Trooper Nick Stephens, a state police spokesman at Bowling Green. "It could be anywhere."

Stephens and Howard said if the truck is found, someone could face criminal charges.

"That would be up to the commonwealth's attorney," Howard said.



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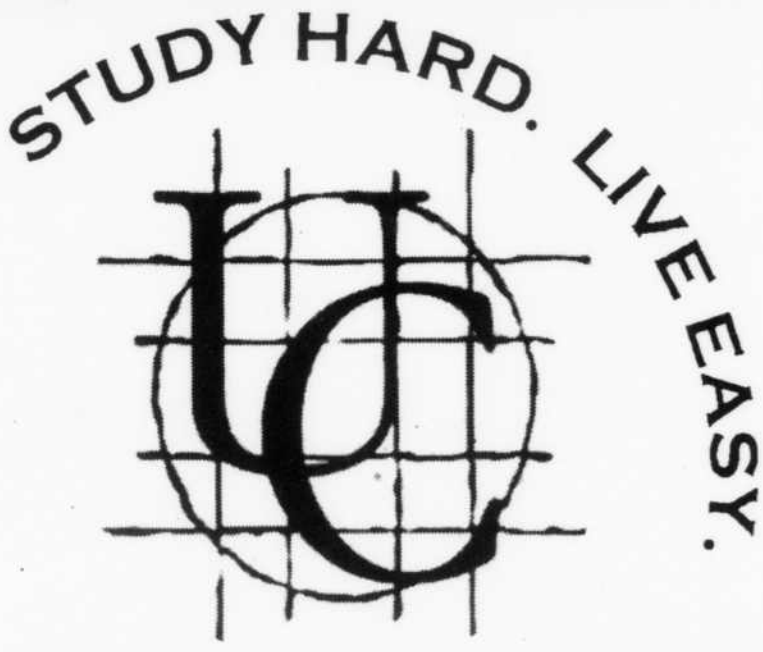
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## Oak Ridge study suggests radiation-cancer link in older workers

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. (AP) — A study of 14,000 workers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory suggests older workers may be more susceptible to the cancer-causing effects of radiation.

The study by researchers at the University of North Carolina School of Public Health was presented Tuesday to lab workers and a community forum, The Knoxville News-Sentinel reported.

Although dozens of workers at various Department of Energy operations in Oak Ridge recently have raised health complaints they blame on the nuclear weapons and research complex, this study focused on historical data.

The study looked at death rates among 14,096 people who worked at ORNL for at least 30 days between 1943 and 1972. Of those, 3,269 workers had died by 1990 with 879 deaths attributed to cancer.

Researchers Steve Wing and David Richardson said their study indicated that cumulative exposures to radiation had a greater effect on workers aged 45 and older, than those who were younger. The cancer mortality rate increased 5.46 percent for these older workers.

The researchers could only guess at the

reasons. They suggested the weakened immune systems of older workers could be a factor.

A 47-year-old worker at the Oak Ridge lab asked whether his exposure to radiation should be curtailed because of these findings. Bill Murray with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which contracted the study, said more research is needed to confirm the results in other settings before radiation protection standards are changed.

Peter Brush, DOE's acting assistant secretary for environment, safety and health, praised the study as "an important contribution to our understanding of the risks associated with radiation exposure."

The findings apparently conflict with a study of Japanese survivors of atomic bombs dropped in World War II. The cancer death rate among the bomb survivors was higher among younger people.

A blue-ribbon panel appointed by Gov. Don Sundquist reported in January that there are legitimately sick workers and residents in Oak Ridge, but the cause of the illness remains a mystery. Researchers looking into these complaints are expected to issue their report later this summer.

## Mother is sued over her sexually active son

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — In what may be the first case of its kind in the nation, the parents of a 16-year-old girl who got pregnant by her high school sweetheart are suing the boy's mother, alleging the woman knew the teen-agers were having sex and did nothing to stop it.

Leanne Detmer got pregnant four months after she and 16-year-old Dallas Mills started dating. She later got an abortion. The Detmers claim that their daughter suffered extensive psychological and physical damage.

In a pretrial ruling, state District Judge Jeffre Chevront said the teens had sex 15 to 20 times at various locations, including the girl's home, the boy's home and the home of a friend. The judge said the sex was consensual, so he dropped the boy from the lawsuit, but he ruled that questions about the mother's responsibility should be decided at a trial.

"The issue is whether she

had a duty to act," the judge ruled May 27. "Certainly it is foreseeable that harm can result to a person of tender years who finds herself pregnant."

No trial date has been set, but the case may be heard by a jury in October.

The idea of holding parents responsible for their children's consensual sexual behavior is novel, said Simon Heller, a lawyer with the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy in New York.

If the lawsuit proceeds, he said, it could lead parents to watch over their children's sex lives more closely. "On the other hand, it is clear that in my view, teen-agers do have some constitutional rights to engage in sexual activity," Heller said.

In the lawsuit, filed last August, Doug and Sharon Detmer say they did not know the teens were having sex until their daughter told them she was pregnant in April 1997.

They do not specify how the boy's mother, Dawn Bixler, supposedly knew about the teens' sexual activity.

The Detmers are seeking \$11,371 in medical expenses, including the cost of the abortions and costs associated with their daughter's depression, plus other, unspecified damages.

Susan Strong, an attorney for the boy's mother, said the lawsuit borders on frivolous. Ms. Bixler asked her son and his girlfriend if they were having sex, and they denied it, Ms. Strong said.

"She cannot be there 24 hours a day. I don't know why it should fall on her shoulders," Ms. Strong said. "Obviously the girl's parents were in on this thing, too. I think my client did as much as she could do."

Ms. Bixler's telephone number was unlisted and she could not be reached for comment. The Detmers did not return a call Tuesday.

## Russia arms exporter denies having delivered missiles to Cyprus

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's state arms exporter denied a newspaper report Tuesday that said it had delivered powerful air-defense missiles to Greek Cyprus. Turkey had threatened to use force to stop their deployment.

The arms supplier, Rosvooruzheniye, said the S-300 missiles were still in Russia and would be sent to Cyprus in mid-August as planned, the Interfax news agency reported. The missile, which Russia has claimed is for defensive purposes, is the equivalent of the U.S. Patriot missile used in the Persian Gulf War.

Turkey has maintained 30,000 troops on Cyprus since invading in 1974 after a failed

coup by supporters of union with Greece. The Mediterranean island remains divided.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin, while not denying Tuesday's report in the newspaper Segodnya, denounced it, calling it part of a media campaign to discredit Russia's foreign policy, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Turkish Defense Minister Ismet Sezgin reiterated Tuesday that his country would not tolerate the missiles' deployment.

"If the S-300 missiles are deployed on Cyprus, we will do whatever is necessary," the Anatolia news agency quoted

him as saying.

In Nicosia, government spokesman Christos Stylianides refused to comment on the newspaper report.

Greece has said it will come to the aid of Cyprus if it is attacked by Turkey, raising fears of a military conflict between two NATO allies.

Cyprus has said it would be willing to cancel the \$200 million missile deal if there is substantial progress toward reunifying the island and if Turkey accepts its proposal for demilitarization.

The latest attempt to restart talks to reunify Cyprus failed last month.

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## Editorials

### Rising costs a part of life

Housing is currently renovating dormitories. Though some may agree that the improvements were much needed, others will simply detest the increase in the cost of living.

In the last decade tuition has nearly doubled. That may sound like a large chunk of change, but actually it is only a few hundred dollars.

The improvements our campus has undergone far outweigh individual student costs. And most students will never see the completion of new art and science buildings, but neither did those students who paid for Murphy Center so many years ago.

Although this is a hard for some to grasp, advancement is only achieved through allocating surplus resources.

To college students, surplus resources may be as scarce as alien encounters, but someone has to foot the bill.

The cost of living is rising across the globe. Why would college students think that inflation shouldn't occur on our campus?

Tuition will rise. Prices at the grill will rise. Housing costs will rise. If this university is going to continue its present state of progress, money will be needed.

The cost of an education at this school is minute when compared to similar universities. Many students from other areas attend this university because paying out-of-state tuition at MTSU is cheaper than in-state tuition in their home state.

Gone are the days when students at MTSU can get a university education at community college prices.

## CORRECTIONS

On June 3, "Sidelines" ran an article titled "17,000 warm bodies needed." In that story it was reported that the attendance required to go to Division I-A was 17,000 at home and away games. Actually, 17,000 is the figure needed for home games over the next football season.

## Got a gripe? Let us hear about it.



E-mail your letters to the editor to "Sidelines" at: [stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu](mailto:stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu)

## Sidelines

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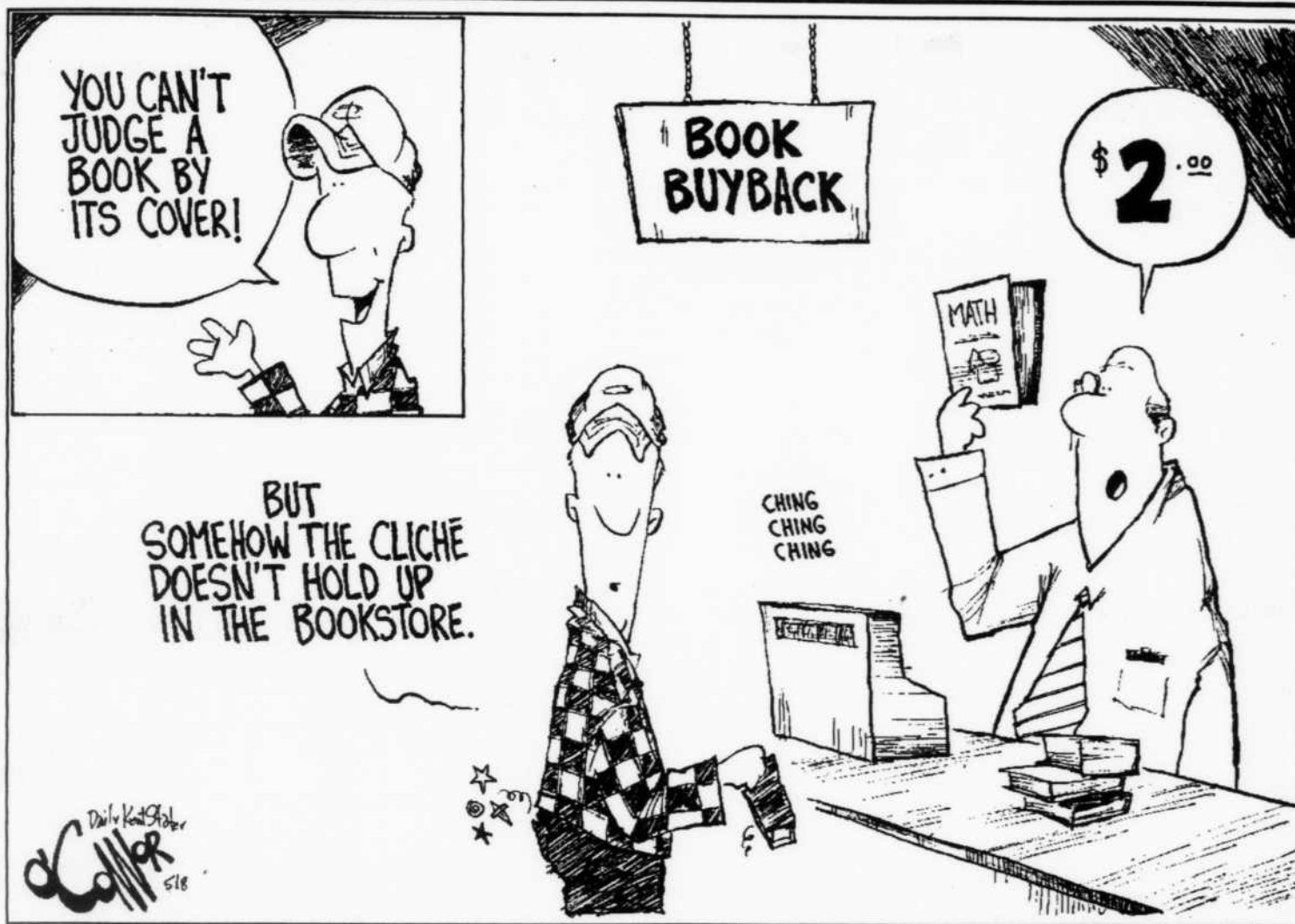
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"Sidelines" is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published every Wednesday during June and July and Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The opinions expressed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

### Letters Policy

"Sidelines" encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Authors who want more than 300 words to express themselves should contact the editor. "Sidelines" keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, classification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) "Sidelines" reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. EMail letters to [stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu](mailto:stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu). Send letters to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the "Sidelines" office in JUB Room 310. Theft of this newspaper is a crime and punishable by law.



## Every day we write (and rewrite) the book

□ Brian Kaufman/CPS

In two weeks, my friend is going to graduate. I asked the usual inane questions.

"Are you stressed? Do you have a job lined up?" After forgoing my rhetorical cruelty, she confessed that she was second-guessing the path she'd chosen.

"I'm wondering if it was all worth it," she said. I noticed the edge of panic in her voice, so I kept my mouth shut and listened. "I just spent five years getting this degree, and I'm not even sure I want to work in this field. How can you spend that much of your life, not to mention the money, and then not know what you want to do?"

"Confusion makes life interesting," I said. That was the short version.

What I want to offer you is a writer's analogy for a complex set of ideas that philosophers have been working on for years. First, let me recommend "The Man Who Mistook His Wife's Head for a Hat" by Oliver Sacks. The book is a readable collection of case histories, covering the behaviors of people with neurological disorders.

The people Sacks writes about do not have behavioral strategies that put them at odds with society, that is, they are not mentally ill. They have physiological problems that illustrate certain foundational human traits in surprising ways.

One particular case involved a man with extreme memory loss. "Mr. Thompson" could not remember anything for more than a few seconds. As a defense against the assault of a chaotic reality, he constructed personas, discarding whole personalities every few moments. Stripped of any sense of self, he

invented his life, again and again.

Sacks wrote, "... each of us is a biography, a story. Each of us is a singular narrative, which is constructed continually ..." The primary function of language, in fact, may be to help us create ourselves. That would explain the popularity of literature, a fictional testing ground for our ideas of who we are, and who we ought to be.

Think of the way the brain gives a sense of continuity and motion to a movie, which is nothing more than a series of single frames strung together. Some philosophers picture humans as fragmented creatures who generate a sense of continuity with a pastiche of memories and language.

Sacks described Mr. Thompson as "superficially ... ebullient." Beneath the veneer of wit (imagine the quick feet necessary to create himself every moment), Thompson had the look of "naked, pathetic bewilderment." He had no sense of continuity, and in the face of that loss, he made up his own histories instantaneously.

Every culture has a story-telling tradition, with myths, legends, even jokes. We need to have "a story"--it's the way we think about ourselves.

And, if we must live our lives as a story, then it should be a good story. It is normal to desire a happy ending, for example, but tragedy can yield a rich text, and if we want a little depth and resonance in our story, we may have to expect heartbreak. (You didn't want to live a "comedy," did you?)

One irreducible aspect of Western literature is conflict. Not Darth Vader vs. Obie-Wan conflict, but complex, contradictory, mutually exclusive desires at virtual war. Great art depends on conflict. The stories of our lives depend on conflict too.

Conflict means that we are not machines, that we have multiple

desires and agendas. Confusion over those desires yields dividends. Moments of "overdetermination" are the moments where change of direction is possible, and change means breaking old, useless patterns.

The only "characters" who know what they want at all times are those in comic books or Stallone movies. I'll bet that every single diploma awarded next week will go to a person with nagging doubts, and many of the graduates will wonder if there is "something wrong" with them. I say,

**'And, if we must live our lives as a story, then it should be a good story.'**

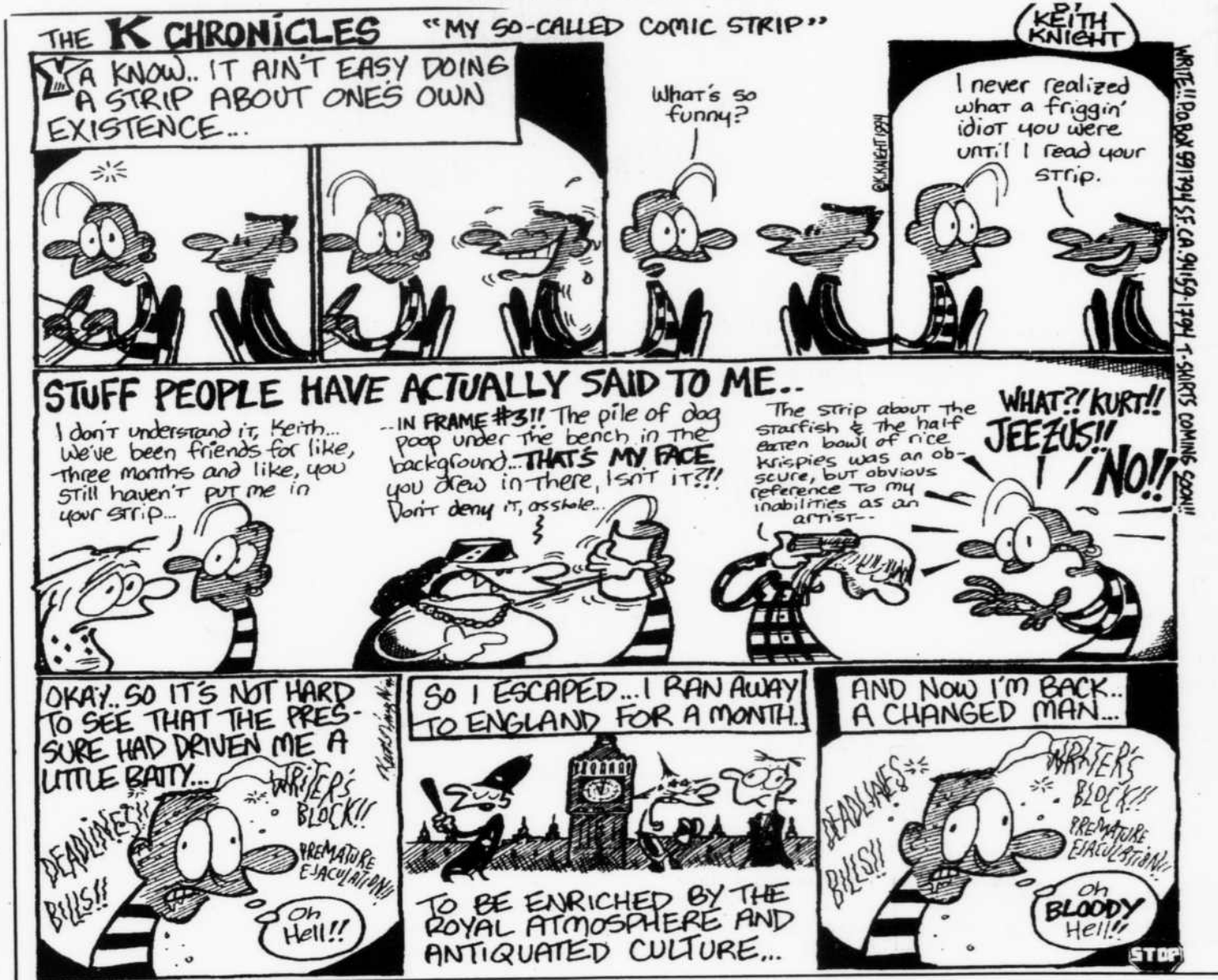
Brian Kaufman

"Don't worry, it's part of the story. Enjoy the ceremony."

When I told my friend that confusion makes life interesting, I meant that confusion is a necessary part of any "text," in this case, an abundant, valuable life. Over the years I have played guitar in a metal band, ridden a bull, pitched off of a 140-foot bungee crane and done stand-up comedy at a local club.

I owned two restaurants and bankrupted both of them. I was even arrested for firing a pop-can bazooka at a police car. I didn't get to do all these things because I was single-minded.

We live our lives as a story in order to make sense of the almost incomprehensible whirl of light and sound that constitutes our connection with the world. Our story may be a lie, but it can be a funny, tragic, pretty lie, and that is always, always "worth the read."





## Sound Bites Marilyn Mathis



Welcome back to "Sound Bites." I hope you enjoyed the first installment. This week I bring you everything I promised and more.

If you haven't heard Josh Rouse's debut "Dressed Up Like Nebraska" on Slow River Records, you are definitely missing out on one of Nashville's best-kept secrets.

Rouse is one of those singer/songwriters who leaves a distinct impression on the people who are lucky enough to hear his music. "Nashville Scene" mentioned that his music brings a feeling of yearning for something, but the only yearning I'm doing is to hear more music by Rouse.

I recently saw Josh Rouse do an extremely low-key but amazing show at The Boro. His three-piece band made more beautiful music than any singer/songwriter band I've seen in Middle Tennessee for quite some time. Some of you may have seen or heard Josh Rouse when he did a live Lightning 100 (WRLT) show at 3rd and Lindsley.

He has also recently traveled to New York and London to take his music to the masses. It appears as though worldwide fame is just around the corner for Josh Rouse.

Slight is another great but different band from Nashville. The band includes former members of the now defunct Stresscoat, but I assure fans this is a brand new band. If you went to the Clutch show mentioned last week, Slight was the opening act.

People have compared Slight to Korn and the Deftones, but I think Slight is different. People like to compare every band in the "hardcore" scene to those bands, but I usually tend to disagree.

While the scene has a bunch of cool bands like Today is the Day, Process is Dead and 12 Volt Negative Earth, the bands tend to get lumped together unfairly. If you would like to get more familiar with the harder side of Nashville, those bands are a great place to start.

Ng Records' Spider Virus, a.k.a. Nashville's favorite hellraising punks, will be returning to Middle Tennessee with a show at Indinet Record Shop on July 3. Right now the rumor is that they will also be playing at the WMTS Benefit Show scheduled for June 18 at Mainstreet. The show is confirmed, but the lineup is still a little wobbly. I'll have the real scoop about the benefit show next week. Until then, tune in to WMTS and win some Spider Virus stuff that Ng Records so graciously donated to the station during the McGathy Promotions party.

Ebeling Hughes, a recent addition to Zero Hour's roster, will release their "Zero Hour" debut on August 11. I just heard their first album "The Little Bugs Glow," sent to me by Bob Ebeling himself. It sounded cool but weird. If you dig experimental types of music, this may be for you. I'll tell you more about it when the "Zero Hour" CD comes out, because what I'm listening to now is about three years old.

I also just heard an advanced copy of the new Vision of Disorder album "Imprint." It will be out on Roadrunner Records July 14. VOD recorded this album in 19 days, but it certainly does not show. The band toured relentlessly last year, including a ton of dates on Ozzfest, which brought the band a much tighter sound. Pantera fans will definitely want to check out this CD when it comes out; Phil Anselmo appears on "By the River." Anselmo also co-wrote the lyrics with the band.

Dancing in the District this week is a must see. Self makes a return to the stage for this special Spongebath party at DID. Love Circle Logic, who are not on the label, will also appear to add a little variety.

That about does it for this week. If you have any music news, local or otherwise, please contact me at *Sidelines*. I'd love to expand my musical horizons!

# Giggle TV: Girls are in, women are out

□ Lynn Elber/AP

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Girls are back and television's got 'em.

There's Ally and Dharma and Caroline and Rachel and the girl on "Two Guys, A Girl and a Pizza Place."

And the fall TV season is likely to bring more of the same, if Christina Applegate in a new sitcom by the producers of "Friends" is any sign. Applegate, remember, is the sextup daughter of "Married ... With Children."

Sweet young things are in, and sassy older women are suffering.

Chuck Lorre, the co-creator of "Dharma & Greg," put it somewhat differently in a recent television interview. The "bitter, neurotic, angry female character" is played out, he said; joyful, life-embracing women like Dharma are in.

Let's see if we have this right. We're not talking retro as in "Charlie's Angels" and jiggle TV; this is the advent of Giggle TV.

We'd love to hear Murphy Brown's sardonic assessment on the subject or the kind of hot-blooded riff an incensed Julia Sugarbaker of "Designing Women" would let loose.

But "Designing Women" is long gone. So is "Roseanne." And in the past year we've seen retirement parties, some forced, for "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," "Murphy Brown," "Cybill" and "Grace Under Fire."

Add to the crowd the canceled "Ellen," whose title character started out a dithering, confused girl but ended up an assured woman. Maybe it wasn't the lesbian thing, after all, that proved her undoing.

"It is the era of girls again," declared "Murphy Brown" creator Diane English.

Let's make sure we're not just talking semantics here. After all, the once-dismissive term "girls" and the girls themselves aren't what they

used to be.

What became practically a four-letter word to many has shimmied back into the vocabulary, retaining its youthful sexiness but with moxie and power mixed in.

With three-quarters of women 25 to 54 working outside the home, with women earning more than half of today's bachelor's degrees and with

not, were the stable center of their world.

Television's new girls are more of a mixed bag. They may have responsible jobs, like attorney Ally McBeal, but they have the emotional klutziness of a teen-ager and the same level of self-involvement.

They are generally charming, cute as a button and perhaps somewhat

by advertisers because they supposedly spend more and are more easily influenced.

Although the range varies a bit depending on the network, the most-wanted viewers fall between 18 and 49.

"Murphy was 40 when the show premiered," English said of her sitcom character. "She's 50 now. It's not with a little bit of irony that the show ended when she turned 50, because advertisers think people end when they turn 50."

Linda Bloodworth Thomason, who created "Designing Women," suggests there also is a shift in perspective at work.

"I think it's reflective of our culture right now that there's an attitude toward the woman's movement that's kind of 'been there, done that,'" she said. "They're almost acting as though the movement was a fad, like the Hula-Hoop, and now they're on to something else."

Any assumption that women and television have sailed beyond confining stereotypes would seem to be disproved by the case of "Cybill" star and producer Cybill Shepherd, 49.

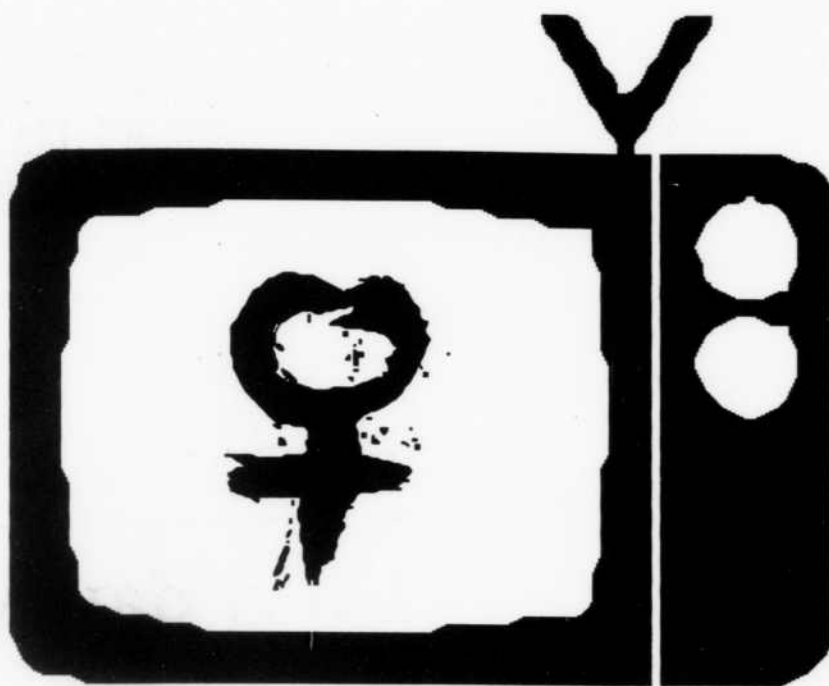
"As I age on the show, I find that people want me to be invisible. People want to ignore me," she said shortly before "Cybill" was canceled. "It's happening to me as a person as well as a character on my show."

As her publicist explained to her: "It's happening to all women your age."

Television, more a follower than a trendsetter, seems unlikely to counter such attitudes.

"If I went in (to a network meeting) and said I'd like to do a show about a woman grappling with the aging process, a woman between 40 and 50 ...." said English.

You just cleared the room? "Tumbleweeds are coming in."



the male-female wage gap narrowing, the old world is vanished in more than name.

Television reflected the changes with such 1970s groundbreakers as the single career woman in "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and the feisty feminist in "Maude." The TV image of women gained complexity with "Murphy Brown," "Roseanne" and more.

The women portrayed in these shows were committed to jobs and families and friends and partners. While fallible, they were passionate about their lives and, more often than

representative of young women whose lives are still in flux. Nothing wrong with that; the women's movement is always at its best when it is inclusive.

And there are unabashedly strong young women in a number of series, including the attorneys of "The Practice," the FBI agent on "The X-Files" and the warrior princess Xena.

But spunky, seasoned females are a vanishing TV species, largely because of dollars and cents.

Older women characters are victims of their own maturity in a medium that increasingly seeks younger viewers — the ones favored

## Olivia Newton-John turns to Nashville

□ Jim Patterson/AP

NASHVILLE (AP) — Olivia Newton-John sits at a table at MCA Records, scanning the sales chart of a music industry trade magazine.



Olivia Newton-John

"I'm looking for hopeful signs," she says with a smile.

Newton-John, now 49, is riding a wave of publicity from the re-release of the movie "Grease" and she is promoting her first new album in five years. She's hoping the Nashville-recorded songs on "Back With a

Heart" will reconnect her with the country audience that embraced her earliest hits.

Newton-John continues her search of the charts, and she is up front about being a little out of the loop when it comes to the current music scene. Things have changed since the days of "Have You Never Been Mellow?" or "Please Mr. Please." Her last run of hits, including "Physical," came in the 1980s.

Looking at the top-selling 200 albums in the country, she admits she doesn't recognize some of the artists.

"The Dave Matthews Band? Don't know them," she says. K-Ci & JoJo and Savage Garden draw blank stares, but she highly recommends Italian singer Andrea Bocelli.

Then she smiles. "It's nice to see all these girls doing well, and country singers, too." She names them — Shania Twain, Faith Hill, LeAnn Rimes, Trisha Yearwood, Martina McBride. All are selling briskly.

"Back With a Heart" straddles the fence between modern country and diva ballads that wouldn't be out of place on a Celine Dion or Whitney Houston album. It showcases Newton-John's own songwriting, which she has been cultivating the past few years.

She wrote all the songs on her last album, "Gaia: One Women's Journey," about her 1992 bout with breast cancer.

Most of the songs on "Back With a Heart" were co-written with Nashville songwriters, including Victoria Shaw, Chris Farren and Gary Burr. There's one ringer on the record — a remake of her 1974 hit, "I Honestly Love You," with backup vocals by Babyface. It's the first single from the album.

"With all these remakes going around, I was scared to death someone would get to it before me," Newton-John said. "It's just a great song."

The highlight on the new album is "Fight for Our Love," a dramatic ballad that is a worthy successor to "Hopelessly Devoted to You" from "Grease."

Though better known for her movie career and pop hits, Newton-John does have a track record in country music. Many of her soft-rock hits in the 1970s crossed over to country and she was voted female vocalist of the year by the Country Music Association in 1974.

At the time, some in Nashville resented that an outsider from the pop world could invade the country charts. Newton-John says she was barely aware of the criticism at the time.

"I've since heard about it like it was all that was going on at the time, but what I remember is Dolly [Parton] and Loretta [Lynn] and others being so open and welcoming," Newton-John said.

## Joel leaves Elton John to perform alone

### 1980s rock star Billy Joel sits out on two upcoming duo concerts

□ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Suffering from a throat infection, Billy Joel pulled out of two weekend concerts with Elton John in London, so the British pop singer agreed to perform alone.

Joel also backed out of a joint concert Thursday in Manchester, because he was suffering from asthma. That show was canceled after John refused to go solo.

Facing the prospect of even more disappointed fans, John agreed to perform by himself at Wembley Stadium on Saturday and Sunday.

At their opening concert in Scotland on Tuesday, Joel suffered an asthma attack compounded by an upper respiratory infection.

Reviewers noted bitter winds at the open air concert.

Wembley Stadium offered refunds

to the 30,000 fans for each concert because Joel is not performing, but received few returns.

The concerts were the duo's last in Britain. They still have 13 dates on their world tour, but it wasn't clear whether Joel would be able to perform.

Joel, 49, admitted Friday he couldn't "hack" being on tour at his age.

"In the old days I could scream and punch my way through it, but now it wouldn't be fair to my fans," he said.

### Publishers Weekly Bestsellers

#### HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "A Widow for One Year" by John Irving
2. "Black and Blue" by Anna Quindlen
3. "You belong to Me" by Mary Higgins Clark
4. "Message in a Bottle" by Nicholas Sparks
5. "N Is for Noose" by Sue Grafton
6. "Summer Sisters" by Judy Blume
7. "The Street Lawyer" by John Grisham
8. "Secret Prey" by John Sandford
9. "Memoirs of a Geisha" by Arthur Golden
10. "Cold Mountain" by Charles Frazier

#### NONFICTION/GENERAL

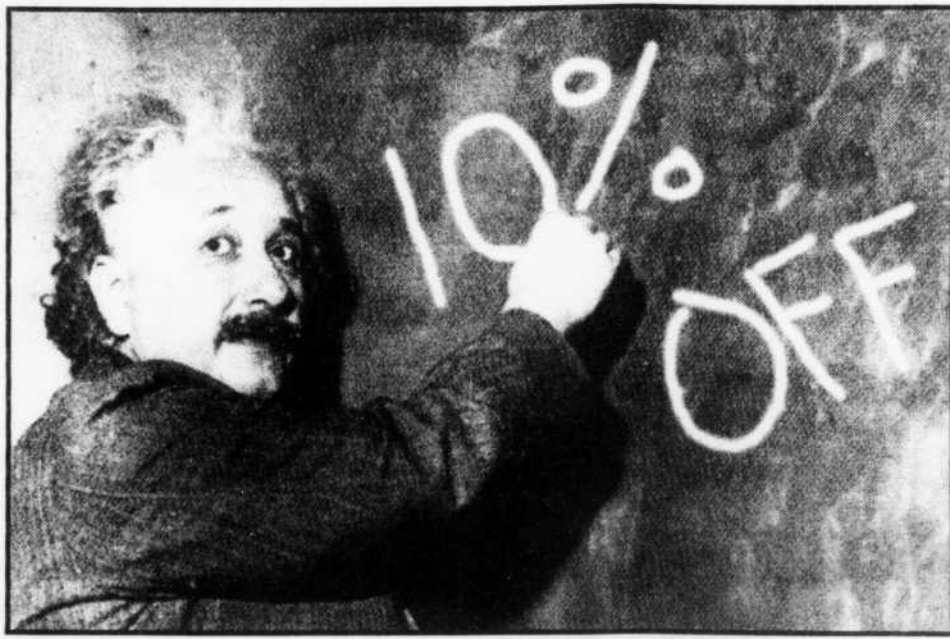
1. "In the Meantime" by Iyanla Vanzant
2. "We Are Our Mothers' Daughters" by Cokie Roberts
3. "Tuesdays With Morrie" by Mitch Albom
4. "The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom" by Suze Orman
5. "Still Me" by Christopher Reeve
6. "Angela's Ashes" by Frank McCourt
7. "The Man Who Listens to Horses" by Monty Roberts
8. "Sugar Busters!" by Steward, Bethea, Andrews and Balart
9. "Simple Abundance" by Sarah Ban Breathnach
10. "The Gifts of the Jews" by Thomas Cahill

#### MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

1. "The Horse Whisperer" by Nicholas Evans
2. "Pretend You Don't See Her" by Mary Higgins Clark
3. "Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution" by Robert C. Atkins
4. "Into Thin Air" by Jon Krakauer
5. "Fat Tuesday" by Sandra Brown
6. "She's Come Undone" by Wally Lamb
7. "The Night Crew" by John Sandford
8. "Op-Center: Balance of Power" by Tom Clancy and Steve Pieczenik
9. "Up Island" by Anne Rivers Siddons
10. "Butterfly" by V.C. Andrews

Please direct any entertainment information to the "Sidelines" Features Desk at 898-2917. Fax information to 904-8487.





Einstein, shown here proving his lesser-known Maurices Theory of Relativity.

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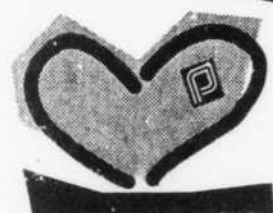
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**Kin Easter**  
Sports Editor



## Here we grow again!?!

Middle Tennessee's a-changing. Nashville's got an NFL team with a stadium to be completed in the near future. The NHL is also coming to Nashville and can be seen in the nation's most beautiful arena. And we can't forget to mention Kats who are playing in a sport that continues to grow.

The sports world in Nashville is growing and it's starting to catch down here.

All over campus, there's construction.

Walking to class is an obstacle course. When a fence is put up to surround a construction sight, rest assured, students will have to add another mile to their vast journey across campus.

Open an issue of *Sidelines*, and sometimes you'll see a picture of construction workers laying down concrete or mixing cement.

This university is not the only thing that is trying to grow in Murfreesboro, but like Nashville, this town would like to put its sports on the map too.

The Blue Raiders are attempting to enter Division I-A football.

The renovated football stadium, which will have a seating capacity of 31,000, will be a nice facility. All the seats should be ready for the first home game on Sept. 5 against Tennessee State. The new stadium size was one of the Division I-A requirements.

## There are some students who never attended a single game, but decided to pack their orange-and-white pompons one weekend and head for Knoxville to cheer for some other school.

By the way, if we go to Division I-A, we're really moving up in the football world. We'll play Mississippi State, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana State and other big names the next five years.

But wait, there's another requirement. The stadium must be halfway filled.

The Blue Raiders must have an average attendance of 17,000 for their four home games this coming season. Tennessee State, Eastern Kentucky, Murray State and Eastern Illinois are on the 1998 home schedule.

If the Blitz Campaign is going to sell these tickets, they have a great task before them.

A goal for the campaign is to sell 5,000 season tickets. Last season, an average of 5,890 fans showed up at Horace Jones Field.

There are factors to consider, however: the stadium was heavily under construction last season and there was no Blitz Campaign; and the push to see "lightning strike" last February drew the biggest crowd ever to assemble and witness Blue Raider basketball at Murphy Center.

This year, the Blitz Campaign will have to convert many hearts.

These thoughts bring about a study in "Bootism" philosophy.

The question is asked, "How many people do you see on campus wearing Tennessee jackets, shirts or caps?"

You see quite a few, coach Donnelly.

"Why can't we change that?" Boots asked.

That's a good question, but it has a very simple answer. Many of the students and alumni don't care about Blue Raiders athletics.

Why? Because we just like to jump on the bandwagon. We like to go for teams that have all the national attention, not just some team in the OVC.

Please see **EASTER**, page 8

# CENTER FIELDER DRAFTED

**Kin Easter/staff**

## Owens selected by the Padres in the eighth round; Reds pick Woodrum in the 39th



Owens

Jeremy Owens always wanted to play baseball professionally, but he didn't expect to be called so soon. Now Owens has a new favorite baseball team, the San Diego Padres.

The Blue Raider junior centerfielder was selected by the Padres in the eighth round of the major league baseball draft June 2 and signed Sunday. Owens will be assigned to rookie league play at Great Falls, Idaho. He will not further his game at MTSU.

"I was very happy for getting picked up that early," Owens said. "I didn't think I was going to do that well. I'm just happy they're giving me a chance."

"I feel like I'm ready to go and play the next level. I'm always looking for a new challenge."

Owens, who batted .293 with 26 RBIs and six homers last season and led his team with 17 doubles, credited much of his experience and knowledge he gained to coach Steve Peterson.

"Coach Peterson taught me so much about baseball," Owens said. "He made me a more mature baseball player. I can't say enough."

"I owe myself to him for giving me the chance as a freshman. He's just a great coach."

"He's very interested in professional baseball," Peterson said. "I know he wants to play professional ball and he can do it. It pays decent money and that's what he wants to do."

"A lot of people that knew Jeremy said he couldn't handle the college



photo by J. Intintoli

Left-handed pitcher Randy Woodrum retrieves a fly ball in a previous game. The Blue Raider was selected by the Cincinnati Reds in the 39th round on June 3.

curriculum, but he was able to do that, play college baseball and keep up his level of play.

"Jeanne Massaquoi (coordinator of the Athletic Academic Enhancement

Program) and Wynnifred Counts (assistant coordinator) helped him get through that."

Please see **DRAFTED**, page 8

## Going BIG time

**Staff Reports**

Middle Tennessee athletic director Lee Fowler announced today that the Blue Raider football team has scheduled a minimum of seven Division I-A football opponents through the 2003 season.

One of the NCAA requirements for MTSU's move to Division I-A from I-AA, scheduled for the 1999 season, calls for at least 60 percent of each season's games to be slated against I-A opponents.

"We have at least seven games scheduled against Division I-A opponents from 1999 through 2003 at the present time," said Fowler. "Those games include teams from the Southeastern, Big 10, Atlantic Coast and Big 12 conferences, as well as others."

"We are working steadily to up-


grade each year's schedule even more with the addition of other solid opponents, particularly for home games where our own fans can enjoy seeing our football team play the very best teams we can bring in."

"The schedules for those five seasons are challenging, at the least," said veteran MTSU head coach Boots Donnelly, who has put together a 135-82-1 record over his 19 years as the leader of the Blue Raiders. "In fact, it's almost intimidating."

The list of opponents we'll be facing means that we've got to coach at our very best, recruit at our very best and play at our very best. At the same time, we've got to have the unstinting support of our fans, which undergirds everything we try to do.

"Our fans have always been great and we're confident they'll gear up to back us with even more effort as we move into Division I-A."

## 1999-2003 DIVISION I-A OPPONENTS

1999		
◆Mississippi State University		
◆University of Arizona		
◆Southwestern Louisiana		
◆University of Arkansas		
◆Louisiana Tech		
◆Northeast Louisiana		
◆University of Central Florida		
2000		
◆University of Illinois		
◆University of Florida		
◆University of Maryland		
◆Boise State		
◆Northeast Louisiana		
◆Louisiana Tech		
◆Southwestern Louisiana		
2001		
◆Southwestern Louisiana		
◆Boise State		
◆University of Arkansas		
◆Louisiana Tech		
◆University of Mississippi		
◆Northwest Louisiana		
◆Louisiana State University		
2002		
◆University of Minnesota		
◆Georgia Tech		
◆Southwestern Louisiana		
◆University of Kentucky		
◆Northeast Louisiana		
◆University of Central Florida		
◆Louisiana Tech		
◆Bowling Green State University		
2003		
◆University of Missouri		
◆Clemson University		
◆University of Georgia		
◆Bowling Green State University		
◆Southwestern Louisiana		
◆Northeast Louisiana		
◆Louisiana Tech		

## Boots to kick up ticket sales

Says people will pay to see how 'stupid' he is

**Kin Easter/staff**

Coach Boots Donnelly is already working for the 17,000-ticket drive. Well, sort of.

Nashville Motor Sports Raceway needed eight drivers for the Celebrity Exhibition race at the Brooks & Dunn Summer Race Series.

Donnelly accepted the offer. "You get yourself in some things you wish you hadn't," Donnelly said before the race.

Vanderbilt football coach Woody Widenhofer and Donnelly continued to stay behind the pack as they were lapped. Although the racing fans in Nashville got a good laugh that evening, they now realize there is another major football program in the midstate besides Vanderbilt.

Donnelly was asked to race, but he didn't do it as a publicity stunt. It was just something to do.

"I might need something [racing] to fall back on, I need a second career," Donnelly said, jokingly.

So when it comes down to pushing ticket sales for the 1998 season, Donnelly will leave it up to Blitz Campaign Director Carol Fowler to get the job done.

But on the football field, Donnelly calmly explained his part of the campaign wasn't only to win ball games, but to perform to the best of his ability.

"I have one job, my job is to win football games and bring in healthy people that have the ability to compete," said Donnelly. "I must put each guy into the field with a game plan. If we can carry that game out, we have a chance to win and it will motivate those guys that we can win."

"I try to do that everyday, that's all I can do. If it's not, then my whole premise is, I did as much as I could possibly with the ability I have personally to get this team playing. I wouldn't be ashamed of that."

Like many celebrities whose lives are examined by many critics, Donnelly believed his every decision as a coach, whether good or bad, must be analyzed by football fans.

"Now listen up, this is the unique situation I'm in," said Donnelly. "In my profession people pay money to come and see how stupid I am. Even if

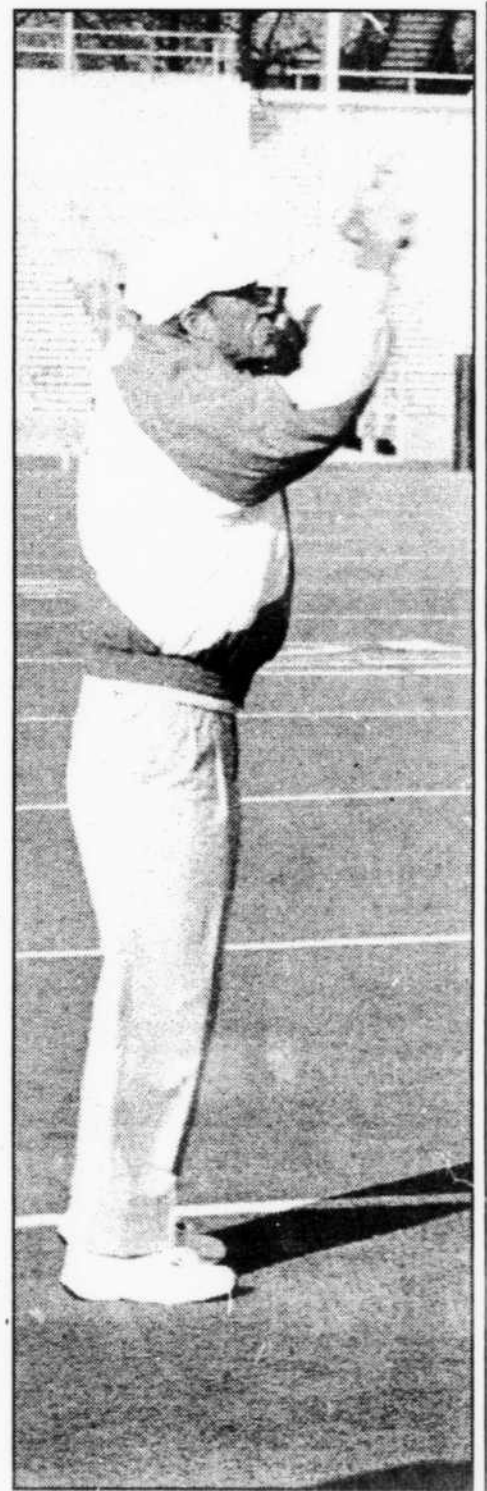


photo provided

Football coach Boots Donnelly instructs his players during their win over Austin Peay last season. Donnelly said his concerns will be on coaching while the Blitz Campaign takes care of ticket sales.

we win, they question individuals."

The Blitz Campaign will continue its busy work this summer. The only thing Donnelly will worry about is his football team.

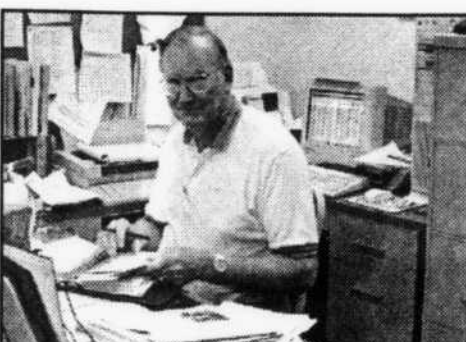
## GIVEN RETIRES

**Kin Easter/staff**

The Blue Raider sports information department will dawn upon a new era in August. Director Ed Given's last day is July 31. For him, however, it is only the beginning of a new job; spending time with his five children and nine grandchildren.

"I've been thinking about retirement," Given said. "I am now able to make it a reality. Between the months of August and April, I haven't had a weekend off."

Since January 1983, Given has been "providing the media with both information and facilities they need to get the job done." Given worked under the same title for 16 years at Western Kentucky. Other jobs include five and a half years of work for the *Nashville Banner* and the *Jackson Sun*.



Emily Parker/staff

Sports information director Ed Given will retire July 31. Given started his work at MTSU in January 1983.

Given's most memorable moments working with the Blue Raiders were witnessing the 1985 football team go No. 1 and undefeated in the Ohio Valley Conference and seeing the

Please see **GIVEN**, page 8

## Raider pitching gets a Spark

**Kin Easter/staff**

It's now official. Nashville Overton hurler Kyle Sparkman is the latest addition to the Blue Raider pitching staff.

"He will be a great addition to the pitching staff if he fulfills his potential like I think he can," said baseball coach Steve Peterson. "He has the tools to be a very good pitcher."

The six-foot-three, 170-pound right-hand pitcher powered his way into collegiate play with 295 high school career strikeouts.

Sparkman had an 8-3 record his junior year and collected 97 strikeouts in 65 innings pitched. In his senior year, he was 5-3 with two saves and 71 strikeouts in 65 innings pitched.

The signee said he's excited about stepping on the mound on Reese Smith Field.

"Whenever I get the opportunity to pitch, I can help the team and we can win the game," said Sparkman. "I'll try my best to make the team win."

"[Peterson] told me if I do good in the fall, I'll get a shot in the spring. Maybe I'll get the opportunity to pitch against some good teams."

Sparkman was impressed with the athletic facilities as well as the academics and chose this university over two or three others.

"I thought MTSU was the best place to go," said Sparkman.

He was also impressed with Peterson.

"The way he talks, he seems to know what he's doing," said Sparkman.

The Blue Raider pitching staff struggled last season, posting an 8.32 earned run average and a 17-33 record. Peterson is hoping to sign more pitchers this summer.

Please fax any information on sports and recreational activities to *Sidelines* at 904-8487 or call the Sports desk at 898-2816.



Stay Fit
Jennie Treadway



It can happen to anyone

I have AIDS. I have had Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, which almost killed me. Unlikely or not, blood test, T-cell count, the fact that it was Pneumocystis means I have AIDS and must die.

In the Company of My Solitude: Americans Writing from the AIDS Pandemic changed me. The stories are real, heavyhearted and assured to touch the lives of all who read the true stories of everyday people living the fate of the incurable disease.

Understanding AIDS takes more than memorizing a text-book definition and passing a 10-question test.

Yes, it is an immune system depleting disease to which doctors have yet to find a remedy.

Yes, it is transmitted by unprotected sex, drug use and blood transfusions.

And yes, statistics show heterosexuals acquiring the disease these days at a faster rate than homosexuals.

But what does that tell you? What do facts and statistics mean to a Dean's List college student who grew up in a good home and stable environment?

It means that no one is outside the ring. It means that we are all in this disease together—in search for compassion, support and a cure.

As of last week, the Food and Drug Administration

approved testing for a new AIDS vaccine created by a company in California. A vaccine. A possible prohibitor to the fatal spread of AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS Awareness movement is stronger now than ever. It began in the 80s when the disease showed its ugly face. Although AIDS had been around for years, its prevalence had not been strong enough for researchers to take a sturdy look at it.

Now, as we approach the year 2000, millions are infected with the virus and the numbers continuously grow. Doctors around the world have devoted their lives to AIDS research — many of them are Americans.

But maybe we rely too much on medicine, vaccines and the unfailing dream that a cure will pop up before the disease gets too close to us or our family. Maybe we think it doesn't exist in Rutherford County... Murfreesboro... our neighborhood.

Make the disease real. Read. Research. Learn. Know how it hurts and how it inspires. Realize that AIDS is more than a statistic or topic for an award-winning movie.

The disease is probably closer to you than you think. Your life may be a healthy one — well fed and exercised. But there is more to health than a low body fat percentage and average weight. There's more to it than low blood pressure and low cholesterol.

Take control of your life and what happens in it. Make it last as long as possible.

Really, I can say nothing further at this point. Pray for me.

Excerpts from "To My Readers" by Harold Brodkey, from "In the Company of My Solitude"

2-MIN. DRILL



Blue Raider basketball and football tickets can now be purchased through Ticketmaster. The catch: there will be a Tickemaster outlet on campus distributing tickets for off-campus events.



Three major league baseball teams will hold tryout camps at Reese Smith Field. The tryouts are for ages 16-22.

The Atlanta Braves will host on June 22 at 9 a.m., the Philadelphia Phillies on June 23 at 9:30 a.m. and the Texas Rangers on July 8 at 9 a.m.



KNOXVILLE - Longtime voice of the Tennessee Volunteers John Ward will retire after the upcoming football and basketball seasons. Ward has broadcasted 30 years of football and 33 years of basketball. Since 1968, he has covered 352 football games.

His color analyst partner Bill Anderson will retire also.



The Blue Raider men's and women's tennis teams finished ranked among the best in the country for the 1997-98 season. The women, 23-6, finished a school-best 55th, while the men, 14-11, ended the year at 64.

Individually, senior David McNamara wound up the season in the NCAA Tournament second round and finished 28th. He and doubles partner Julius Robbets, a senior as well, also made it to the second round at the NCAA, ending the year ranked 13th.



NASHVILLE (AP) - Tennessee Oilers running back Eddie George underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee.

Physicians performed the surgery after George experienced swelling in his knee following Tuesday's practice, Oilers General Manager Floyd Reese said Thursday.

Doctors found a roughening of the cartilage surface, Reese said.

George will begin rehabilitation within 48 hours of the surgery and should be at full strength by the July 24 start of training camp.



PARIS (AP) - Carlos Moya and Alex Corretja were just a couple of buddies playing on a windy day at the French Open. Both are Spanish and both love clay. One difference: Moya is now a Grand Slam champion.



Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department will hold its environmental camp June 22-26. The camp will feature canoeing, hiking, bicycling, nature crafts, tree identification, fishing, history and camping skills. Cost is \$70 and \$50 for those with the city resident discount. For more information, or to register, call 890-5333.

DRAFTED continued from page 7

Teammate Randy Woodrum was selected in the 39th round by the Cincinnati Reds. The southpaw hurler from Lexington, Kentucky had a 6.93 earned run average with a 1-4 record.

To a lot of people it's a surprise he got drafted, but he's one of the best athletes on the team. He's reached his potential here," Peterson said.

Milne's one of the world's best

Kin Easter/staff

David Milne recently finished 80th out of 150 runners in the junior men's 8k relay at the World Cross Country Championship held at Morocco.

The freshman track runner took his distance-running talent he discovered in his junior year in high school at Vancouver, Canada, and carried it overseas for the first time.

Overall, the Blue Raider was satisfied with his performance.

"I ran probably the best race of my life, which I was thrilled about," said Milne.

Milne admitted he thought he was in the top 50 after completing the race, but according to a friend's calculations, he finished close to 70th. With a 25 minute and 42 second finish, the official results set Milne at 80th.

However, he is not disappointed, but proud of his effort.

"I ran the best I could despite my injuries," Milne said.

Bad hips, two stress fractures and tendonitis in his Achilles have haunted Milne in just one year, but they won't stop him from going to more competitions this summer.

Milne will compete in Sweden on July 1 and the Canadian Nationals on July 16-17. If Milne is ranked in the top 12 at the nationals, he will represent Canada later this summer at the World Junior Track and Field competition hosted by France.

Out of the top 12, Milne expects three or four chosen runners will be male, thus narrowing his chances.

"To be one of those guys is going to be tough," Milne said.

Canada will also have a team to compete in the Caribbean duel meet this summer, and if Milne doesn't qualify for the trip to France, chances are he'll compete in the Caribbeans.

I don't mean to be negative, but the Blitz Campaign is going to have to do a lot of praying. It has nothing to do with the workers' performances, it has to do with the students and the alumni.

The alumni will be the ones buying the tickets and it will be hard for them to stop by on a Saturday and watch the old alma mater.

What they want to know about their favorite teams in the SEC, the Big 10 or the Atlantic Coast will be at the click of a mouse or the push of a button.

That may spark their interest more than paying to watch Middle Tennessee and Tennessee State play.

But who knows? Maybe the Blitz Campaign is already close to hitting the average. For now, they just won't give us a progress report.

Until we know, the biggest challenge the Blue Raiders will have won't be their opponents, but the lack of interest in the students and the alumni.

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For example, Alabama, Florida or Tennessee football makes quite a chunk of change in its sportswear.

Collegiate basketball fans go shopping after North Carolina, Duke or Kentucky jerseys.

The saddest example of all is this: some students on campus would stand by the Vols if they took on the Blue Raiders in football.

Chances are, Tennessee would win and no one would want to cheer for the losing team, even if that means a betrayal has to be made.

For students, home games are free. The funny thing is, there are some students who never attended a home game, but decided to pack their orange-and-white pompons one weekend and head for Knoxville to cheer for some other school. The trip may cost them a fortune.

GIVEN continued from page 7

basketball team make a come-from-behind victory over Florida State in the first round of the 1989 NCAA tournament.

While serving at Western Kentucky, the basketball team entered the NCAA Final Four in

1971.

However, those thrills don't compare to Given's biggest joy: "I loved being around the kids and seeing them mature," he said. "I especially like to see them get a degree, go on, raise a family and have success in life. And I've also been fortunate enough to work with good coaches."

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CAMP SUMMIT in New York has summer job openings for qualified MTSU students. CABIN COUNSELORS, WATERFRONT STAFF, TENNIS, OUTDOOR ADVENTURE, LACROSSE, CERAMICS and more! Great salary and benefits! Call 914-963-1853 in the evenings and on weekends. Ask for Dale.

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Roommate Housemate needed by end of June. Large older house. \$168/month and 1/4 utilities and run of the house. Lots of storage space. 904-9292.Jim

Male or female to share a new bedroom house approx. 5 minutes from campus. House is full furnished and utilities are split. Must be a non-smoker and non-drinker. Must have good references and sign a 1-year lease agreement. Rent is \$325 a month plus deposit. Call (423) 336-3606.

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