

SIDELINES

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

SGA pushing to change evaluation forms

Jamie Evans
Staff Reporter

Student Government Association officials are pushing to get the student evaluation form changed, claiming the current form does not adequately serve its purpose.

Jason Lawson, SGA president, said he does not feel the form asks students the right type of questions, such as "Did you learn? Are the teaching methods used in this class effective? And do you feel like a customer?"

"Any evaluation form without those crucial questions is unacceptable," he said, "because it neglects the needs of the students and is a waste of time because it fails to accurately evaluate the teacher."

Last spring, a similar proposal to change the evaluation form was voted down 19 to 12 by the Faculty Senate.

"I'm very disappointed that it failed last year," Lawson said. "I feel anytime you pay money for something, you ought to be treated like a customer."

Christian Haseleu, last year's Faculty Senate president, was one of the members who opposed altering the evaluation form. There were a couple of reasons for this, he said.

"I really didn't like the questions on the form," Haseleu said.

He said the questions had not been tested, so it would have been uncertain whether or not the additional questions would have improved the evaluation.

Haseleu added that decades of data have been gathered using the current form. If the form was

changed, he said it would make all of that information worthless and that it would be impossible to make direct comparisons on class progressions.

Even though a majority of the Faculty Senate did not support the change last year, Lawson said he does have support for it this year.

Jerry Brookshire, Faculty Senate president, is one of the professors who is for the latest move to change forms. He said improving the questions would better reflect what students actu-

ally want to say and is the best way for the faculty to see the students' perspective.

Sharon Smith, chair of the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee, is another faculty member who strongly supports the change. She said she would support any additional questions that would help faculty self-evaluate their teaching methods.

"I think the forms don't collect data that faculty need to improve their teaching," she said.

However, Smith said she understands why some faculty

members are resistant to the change. According to Smith, the fact that the forms have been used in the past to make personnel decisions makes some of the faculty paranoid.

She thinks that MTSU should not use the evaluations to determine things like tenure, but instead should use them to create a more developmental process where the faculty could use student input to improve their instructional skills.

However, she said there are

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Finding career in finance requires multitude of skills

Roy Moore
Staff Reporter

MTSU students and graduates considered their career outlooks and discovered the qualities and education necessary to survive in 21st Century finance during the Financial Industry Symposium at the Business/Aerospace Building on Monday, Oct. 12.

Sponsored by NationsBank, the conference featured some of the nation's leading financial authorities in the fields of insurance, banking and technology. Speakers appraised the present economic situation and made predictions for the upcoming millennium.

The experts said that finance companies carefully consider an applicant's grades, educational and work experience, outside interests and leadership and communication skills before hiring.

Ricki Tigert Helfer, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute in Washington and former head of the Federal Deposit Insurance

Corporation, began the symposium by focusing on technology and bank mergers within global finance.

Although 14,000 independent bank companies existed 20 years

"With more computerization, there is need for more education."

- Kenneth Holloman

ago, only 9000 remain today with 500 dissolving each year.

Because of technology, banks have begun downsizing, and future employees must be versatile in the many fields of finance and flexible to changing trends in both companies and cities in order to thrive within the present system.

"The moral of the story is don't try with just one company, one city," Helfer said.

Helper told the audience to consider their personal interests, educational preparation and tolerance for risk before committing to a specific career path within the banking system.

Finance professions that will be growing in the future include bank regulators, examiners and policy makers, as governments have placed greater emphasis on the stabilization of growing economies.

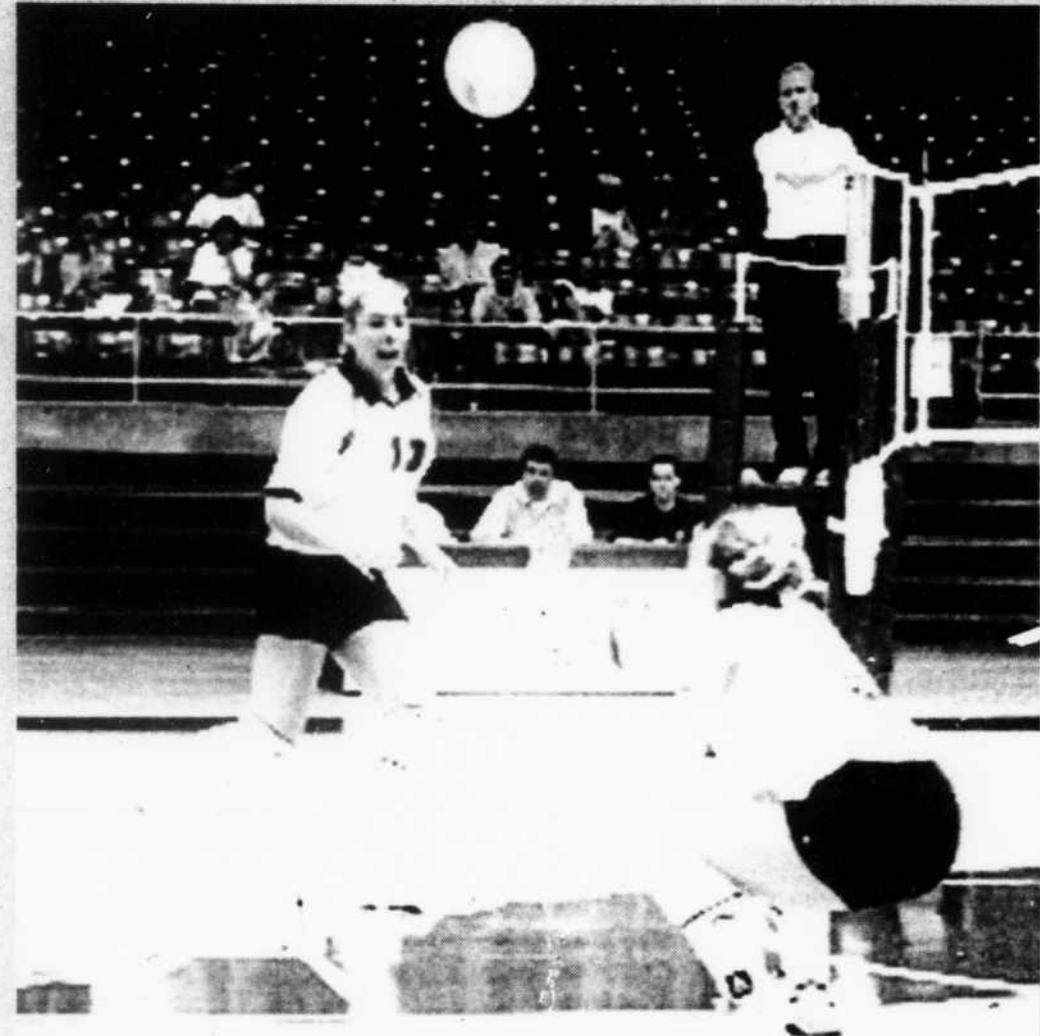
In the private sector, the securities trading profession appears on the rise despite its high levels of stress, risk and rejection.

Eric H. Bowles, senior vice-president for NationsBank and frequent hirer of MTSU alumni, said that the changes in financing principles has left companies in need of employees who are aggressive, able to operate cross-functionally, can lead and follow and are knowledgeable of technology.

"That's the name of the game. You have to not be afraid to learn new things," Bowles said.

Bill Ford, MTSU professor and former president of the Federal

See FINANCE, page 3



Kelly Smith, 13, helps a fellow player set up a spike. Smith is a key player for the Lady Raiders and she's got the scars to prove it. See page 8.

photo by Derrick Wilson

Family Day, Senior Fall Preview Day scheduled

Shawn Whitsell
Staff Reporter

MTSU will celebrate its annual Family Day, along with the third annual Fall Preview Day on Saturday.

"Family Day is an opportunity for all MTSU students and their families to come to campus and enjoy some of the activities," said Stuart Eddings of Student Development, coordinator of this year's Family Day.

Eddings said that she predicts approximately 1,000 participants in Family Day, which has been the estimated number of people who have participated in the past.

There will be several events going on that day. The Parent Association will have its first meeting ever. There will be academic and organizational open houses, and the Recreation Center and bookstore will be available for the families to tour and use. There also will be a cookout and pep rally before the football game against Eastern Illinois University.

Registration for Family Day will begin at the Recreation Center at 11 a.m. Name tags will be passed out at that time, as well as tickets for the football game and cookout. There will be a \$10 registration fee for each adult and a \$5 fee for children between the ages of three and 13. If anyone has season passes to the games, the fee will be \$5. All of this information has been

mailed to the permanent address of each student.

Gina Poff, director of Student Development, said that Family Day started many years ago but died out for a period of years until she brought it back in 1995.

"We just want the families to have a chance to spend time with the students," she said.

"I think the students enjoy having their families visit them on campus. They're kind of proud of the way they have

See FAMILY, page 2

Multimedia project opens to select Mid-Tennessee schools

David Figueiredo
Staff Reporter

The university celebrated the grand opening of the new Satellite Video-Conferencing Center that will link six Middle Tennessee schools. Opening ceremony was held at 4 p.m. in the McWherter Learning Resources Center, Room 221.

"It has been a project years in the making," said Barbara Haskew, vice president for academic affairs.

"Many people have been involved and it has truly been a team effort," said Harley W. Fouch, director for the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience.

Middle Tennessee State University received a \$300,000 Distance Learning and Tele-medicine Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture in July of 1997. After MTSU allocated an additional \$156,000 for the project, the university began work on the multi-media project titled, "Distance Learning Technology for Middle Tennessee State University and Rural Schools in Tennessee."

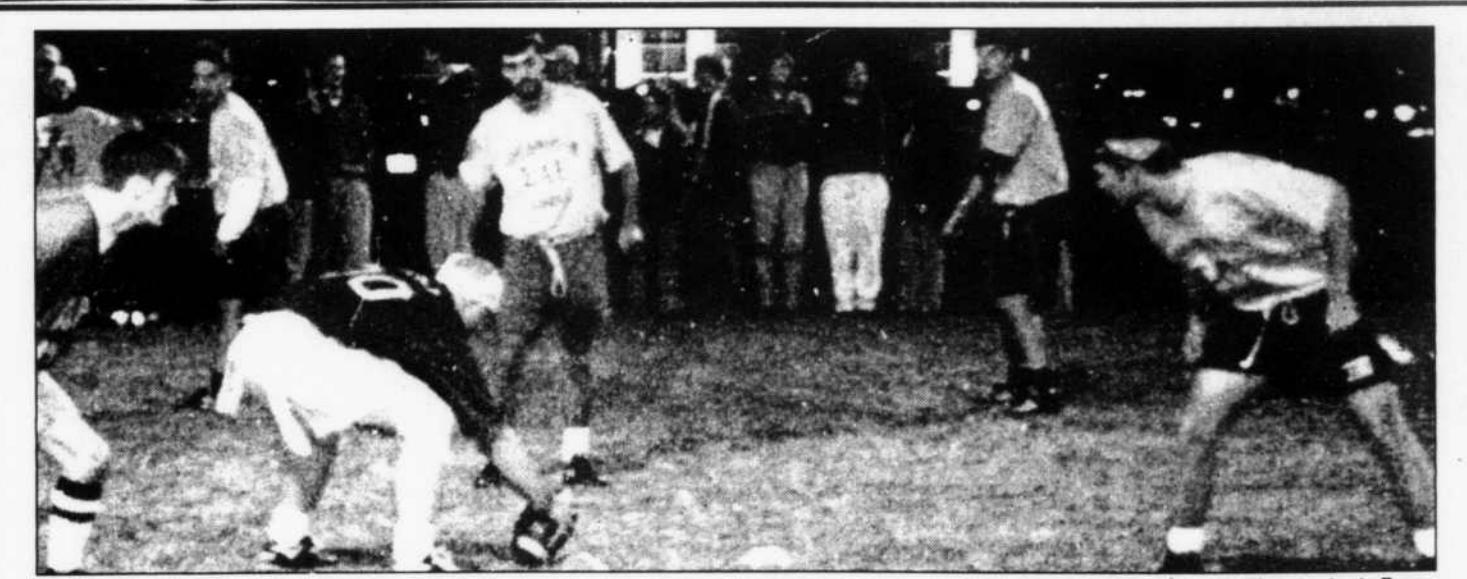
"This is another milestone in the history of this great university,"

said James Walker, president of MTSU. "It is a great honor to be part of something so futuristic."

The main control room and one of the on-campus studios are located in the LRC and the second studio is located in the Horticulture Education Center. The LRC studio allows 40 students to sit in on broadcasts while the HEC studio allows 65 spectators. Each studio allows independent broadcast that are monitored from the main control room. Studios are equipped with two remote controlled cameras and a document display device that work in the same way as a overhead projector.

The high-tech project incorporates five satellite dishes mounted atop the LRC and one larger dish behind the HEC. These dishes link two on-campus classroom studios to six high school classrooms. The off campus sites are able to dial into either one of the MTSU sites and receive a variety of live classes and enhancement programs developed by MTSU staff. After completion of the on-campus studios, digital satellite receivers were installed at

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Cold night air did not stop many students from enjoying a game of flag football on the intramural fields.

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SPORTS

- Boots Donnelly coaches his last home game of career this Saturday against Eastern Illinois. See page 8.

FEATURES

- Learn about the affects of alcohol on students during Alcohol Awareness week. See page 6.

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ON CAMPUS

To submit an announcement for On Campus, submit information in person at James Union Building Room 310, mail information to campus box 42 or fax information to 904-8487. Due to space constraints, priority will be given to submissions with earlier deadlines.

Monday, Oct. 26

The Psychology Club/Psi Chi will have a meeting entitled "Kicking the Habit: Is it as hard as you think?" at 2:30 p.m. in Peck Hall 109A. After the presentation, there will be an organizational meeting.

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Sankofa featuring The Great Debate Honor Society will host a debate production from 8 to 10 in the BAS 102 (State Farm Lecture Room). Admission is free and refreshments will be served. TSU affiliated chapter members and neophytes of MTSU, BEH Chapter come together to present a great debate production entitled: "Real Men vs Real Women" A Battle of the Sexes. For more information, contact Angela Bond at 867-2608.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

The Seventh-Day Adventist Student Fellowship will hold the Next Millennium Seminar from 6 to 7 p.m. in the KUC 315. The title is "Titanic: Are we next?" Is the secret of our fate hidden in the movie the whole world has seen? Check out the "Next Millennium seminar" website at "net98.org" For more information, contact Perry Louden at 563-2669.

Wednesday Oct. 28-Friday Nov. 20

The Japan Center of Tennessee in the cooperation with Volunteer State Community College will sponsor a Netsuke Exhibit at the Thigpen Library at Volunteer State Community College located at 1480 Nashville Pike, Galatin, TN. The public is invited to view the exhibit Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

in the lobby of the Thigpen Library at Volunteer State Community College.

October-Dec. 23

The Japan Center of Tennessee is sponsoring a Mini-Exhibit "Japanese Containers" in the lobby of the Cope Administration building at Middle Tennessee State University. The public is invited to view the exhibit Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call The Japan Center of Tennessee at 898-2229.

Thursday, Nov. 5

Open forums will be held in the Keathley University Center Theatre, allowing administrative and classified employees to share their thoughts and concerns about MTSU. The forums are: 9:30 a.m., Classified Maintenance; 1:30 p.m., Classified Clerical; and 3:00 p.m., Administrators (all divisions).

Thursdays, Nov. 5, 12, 19, and Tuesday, Nov. 24

Belmont University's Center for Entrepreneurship, and association with the National Federation of Independent Businesses, presents "Strategic Planning for Small Business." The class meets from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Jack C. Massey Business Center, located on Wedgewood Ave. at 16th Ave. The cost is \$300, and the registration deadline is Oct. 28. For more information, call 460-6608.

Continuing

Public Safety will be offering Rape Aggression Defense Systems classes exclusively for women. The 12 hour course is open to MTSU students and employees as well as

area residents. The classes will be held at the Foundation House, 324 West Thompson Ln., on October 27-29 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The cost for MTSU students, faculty, and staff is \$15 and for others \$30. To register, contact the Campus Police at 898-2424 or 898-2259.

MTSU Civil War Society will meet on the second Tuesday in every month from 6-7 p.m. in Peck Hall 202. For more information, contact George Pimentel.

The June Anderson Women's Center's eating disorder support group will meet every Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The "Looking Forward" support group will meet every Thursday from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Both of these groups will meet in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building 109. For more information, contact Mary Glantz at 898-5725.

Raider Victory Ministries will hold Bible study sessions on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Corlew 719, Wednesdays at Cummings 731 at 7 p.m., and Wednesdays at Felder 204 at 8 p.m. For more information, contact Ricky Walters at 371-8479.

The Intercollegiate Debate Association of MTSU meets Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m. in Boutwell Dramatics Arts room 220. For more information, contact Jason Stone at 898-2273 or Michael Krueger at 898-5607. All students are welcome to attend.

Campus Crusade for Christ will have CRU meetings every Thursday at 7:30 in the BAS Auditorium. For more information, contact 848-6741 or 867-2656.

Strawman draws double meaning from Twain's works

Barry Gilley
Staff Reporter

Do you see a con as something only committed by those outside the law? To find deception and scheming, you might only need to look no farther than the person next to you or the closest mirror.

Tom Strawman, professor of English, will delve into this concept and the work of the great social reform enthusiast Samuel Clemens in his presentation for the Honors Lecture Series Monday from 3:30-4:20 p.m. in Peck Hall 109A.

This installment is entitled Gullibility, Self-deception and Philosophical Naivete: Reading Mark Twain's Fiction as an Expose of the American Experience. In it, Strawman will use the satirist's observations of life in 19th century America to explore scams from another perspective.

According to Strawman, much of Twain's work, particularly in The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, points out how prevalent con artistry is among not only criminals, but also among more respectable members of society as well. Those not familiar with Twain's work might not realize that the author's creations, while being fiction, were very much based in reality.

"What Huck and Jim see on their rafting adventure is the

America that Twain saw when he worked for several years as a steamboat pilot. He knew the river towns and in them he saw, in one critic's words, a nightmare society driven by bigotry, violence, greed, ignorance, and depravity.

Strawman says that the world that occupies Twain's fictional stories and factual past is still very much a frontier area that operates on the margins of civilization where rules are not as well defined as they are farther east of the Mississippi River. The characters that filled this terrain were often transients, social outcasts and con artists attracted to the kinds of opportunities available to those with low grades of morality.

However, Strawman says that he is not limiting his presentation to those persons who make a living scamming people such as the King and the Duke in Huckleberry Finn.

"What I'm going to go into are the kind of respectable folk that also put up a great front of lies about themselves and American society."

Two big lies that Strawman sees as being exposed in Twain's fiction are the prevalence of white supremacy and the notion that, as Americans, we are individualists and free. He says that although in trying to expose these lies Twain has been accused of being a racist himself, there is something else going on. In the Adventures of

Huckleberry Finn, he depicts a world where we are all slaves to our traditions and conventions.

"Jim is not going to be free in America as a black man in the 19th or 20th century and Huck, even as a white man, isn't going to be free because we are too bound by social conformity to be truly free."

Strawman says that only when Jim and Huck are on the raft and away from the influence of mainstream society do they experience what total emancipation would be like beyond stereotypes and prejudicial ways of looking at one another.

Despite the fact that none of us live in the 19th century South, Strawman points out that Americans have not stopped telling each other and themselves lies.

"I think we are every bit as American today as we were in the 19th century. As these lectures have shown over and over again, we live very fraudulent lives in the United States. It's not that we're any different from other people, but perhaps we think we are."

Strawman says that Twain's fiction forces us to look at ourselves for who we are and, like all good satirists, his fiction holds a mirror up and asks us to look into it.

The Honors Lecture Series is free and open to the public. Anyone who would like a good look into Twain's mirror of society are encouraged to attend. ■

houses and visiting residence halls but will be eating in Corlew Dining Hall instead of the cookout. They also will be going to the pep rally and football game.

Senior Preview Day, sponsored by the Admissions Office, also will be held Saturday. The Admissions Office invites high school seniors to come visit MTSU to gain more information and get a feel for college life.

These students will participate in many of the same events as the families. They will be going to academic and organizational open

houses and visiting residence halls but will be eating in Corlew Dining Hall instead of the cookout. They also will be going to the pep rally and football game.

According to Thomas this is the

busiest time of the year in the admissions office as far as recruiting students and doing different programs and fairs.

Thomas later added that the benefit of having Fall Preview and Family Day on the same day is that parents will get to talk to other parents, and students will get to talk to prospective students.

She later added that she believes Fall Preview will be a success with an estimated number of 1000 prospective students attending.

Registration for Fall Preview will be at the Recreation Center from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. ■

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Auction will be held at the MTSU Christian Student Center on Thursday evening, October 22nd beginning at 6:00 P.M. The Christian Student Center is located at 1105 East Bell Street in Murfreesboro (across from the Bell Street Parking lot at MTSU). For more information, phone 896-1529 or 896-1583 or Cathy Rogers at 848-1078.

Ramsey fights back against America's accumulated debt

Michele Conklin
Staff Reporter

Creditors are duping Americans into impoverishing themselves, said Dave Ramsey, financial guru of the airwaves, said.

"The various forms of debt have been marketed so well that for us to imagine living without debt requires a complete paradigm shift," Ramsey explained during a seminar held at the Roy Acuff Theater in Nashville Saturday.

The five-hour seminar, one of the many appearances Ramsey makes all over the country each year, was based on the premise that there is life after debt.

This seminar offered a glimpse into Ramsey's theories, which he says emphasize getting out of debt, staying out of debt, saving, investing and living life to its fullest using the same Bible-based principles most Americans' great-grandparents held dear.

Ramsey opened the seminar by describing the financial status of today's America. Ramsey showed that, according to the Wall Street Journal, 70 percent of all consumers live from paycheck to paycheck. Statistics showed that Tennessee and Shelby County lead the country in bankruptcy filings, that the No. 1 cause for divorce in America is money fights and that 78 percent of all college students have student loans while 2 percent of all college students have credit cards.

Ignorance, character shortfalls and something called, "stuffedit," are the reasons why people have money problems today, Ramsey said.

Baby boomers were not taught the financial principles that their great-grandparents once believed, and this deficiency has left today's consumers in a disastrous financial state, he added.

"Our great-grandparents thought debt was a sin, and our parents thought debt was okay."

Most Americans haven't

developed the character to delay pleasure, Ramsey said. People focus too much on what they want rather than what they really need. Going into debt seems a lot easier than saving the money and paying cash later for those wants after they have all that they need.

Americans' obsession with how much stuff they can buy usually lures them into debt, a condition he calls "stuffedit." Today's societal status is based on how much stuff one has or how expensive of a car one drives.

Ramsey said that debt robs

"Our great grandparents thought debt was a sin, and our parents thought debt was okay."

- Dave Ramsey

people of their ability to save and to build wealth. While Ramsey is not an advocate of wealth, he believes that once people get out of debt, they can start saving and investing so they can have the resources to help others get out of debt.

He listed the following steps to getting out of debt:

- Quit borrowing more money. Debt consolidation does not work, Ramsey said.

- Start saving money.

- Use the debt snowball theory (Ramsey's theory for eliminating debt). First, list all bills and debt, from smallest to largest. Take the smallest bill and pay it off as quickly as possible. Next, take the money that you would normally be paying on the first small bill, add to it any extra money available and pay that on the second to the smallest bill, also paying that bill

off as quickly as possible. Continue with this same procedure with all bills until all debt is eliminated.

- Destroy and then pay off all credit cards. Credit cards build wealth for no one but banks, he said.

Throughout the seminar, Ramsey strongly advised that having a budget, having an emergency fund, investing in more than one type of investment and living on less than one's earnings will speed the way to being debt free.

Ramsey has over one million listeners to his talk show, which is dedicated to answering callers' financial questions.

Locally, "The Money Game," airs on Supertalk radio 99.7 FM, WWTN, Nashville, Monday through Friday, from 1-4 p.m.

Each hour is dedicated to giving listeners hope and answers to financial questions concerning student financial aid, investing, mortgages, taxes and any imaginable question about finances in today's world.

On his talk show, Ramsey currently is advocating the "Great Credit Rebellion." He has composed a letter that listeners can download off of the internet at www.997wwtn.com or at www.financialpeace.com.

Ramsey urges listeners to download the letter and send it to all the major credit card companies, using the companies' own envelopes, instead of returning the credit card applications. Ultimately, returning so many prepaid envelopes will cost the credit card companies millions of dollars, he says.

Ramsey has dubbed these companies the "Credit Card Sharks" because of their abilities to lure people into life-destroying debt. The letter generally shows that people are angry about the credit state of consumers and that they have decided to fight back, Ramsey said.

Part of the letter reads, "We, The Money Game listeners, hold

these Truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights that among these are: Life without credit card debt; Liberty from ridiculous interest rates; and the pursuit of happiness which will be achieved when you finally get the message: Reply THIS, shark!!!"

So far, Ramsey has received pledges from his listeners that they will return more than 24,000 credit applications a month containing only a copy of the letter.

Along with his seminars, the radio talk show and his book, Ramsey also is the founder of the Financial Peace University.

FPU is a 13-week course and is currently being held in many locations all over the country. The course is more detailed than the seminars and gives instruction on how to follow the steps of getting out of debt, saving and investing and relationships in the family when it comes to dealing with money.

So far, FPU has had more than 10,000 families attend these courses successfully. According to the Financial Peace workbook, "FPU provides both the knowledge and environment to permanently change personal financial behavior in a way that brings long-term prosperity and financial security."

Ramsey, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, knows what it's like to go from riches to rags.

At age 12, Ramsey was encouraged by his father into creating his first job, mowing lawns. By age 26, he had accumulated over \$4 million in real estate and in a third of the time it took to him get rich, Ramsey lost everything. According to Ramsey, "It took me ten years to get rich, and it took me 3 years lose it all."

By applying the principles that he has learned from years of experience, other financial advisers, authors and the Bible, Ramsey has recovered without debt and with financial peace.

FORM
continued from page 1

some professors who just think students' opinions should not be listened to and should not be a factor in anyway towards a faculty member's performance.

"They have some really strong opinions and they are not positive," she said.

The legislation to change the forms was passed in the SGA Senate meeting last night.

The resolution calls for the following questions to be added on a separate page of the current evaluation form:

- How many hours per week do you spend on course material outside of class?

- Are the teaching methods used in this class effective?
- Are you treated like a customer of the university in this class?
- Would you tenure this faculty member?
- Would you recommend this teacher to another student?

The resolution will move next to the SGA House of Representatives in the Nov. 2 meeting. After that, it will have to be approved by Lawson and Vice President of Student Affairs Robert Lalance.

If the resolution makes it that far, it will go to the Faculty Senate where they will decide whether or not to pass it into law.

If it passes, the new forms will take effect beginning Jan. 1, 1999.

Holloman said.

According to Holloman, measurable growth is expected in claims adjustment, agencies and brokerages, service representation and in risk management.

Workers in these fields generally need a college degree, usually in accounting, insurance or business/finance. A masters degree and serious experience can result in a difference of \$20,000-\$30,000 each year.

"With more computerization, there is need for more education," Holloman said, repeating the meeting's theme.

The experts addressed the audience's apprehensions about Y2K's effect on the banking industry. Today, over 300 banks possess on-line banking. Helfer said that regulated industries are in a better position to deal with the upcoming problem than unregulated ones and foreign companies.

Both Ford and Holloman work in finding jobs for MTSU students and graduates in the financing industry.

The last challenge of a socially conscious society?

Depression strikes millions—indiscriminately. Depression is simply a suppression of brain activity that makes life unbearable. And even though depression is readily treatable, only 1 in 5 ever seeks treatment. Why do so many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide? First, there's the lack of awareness of depression—as an illness and as the threat that it is to each and every one of us. Second, there's the unwarranted negative stigma attached to it. You know, the 'mental' thing. It's time to collectively face depression. To know it's an illness, not a weakness. And it's a challenge that's long overdue. It's taken too many of us already.

UNTREATED DEPRESSION

#1 Cause of Suicide

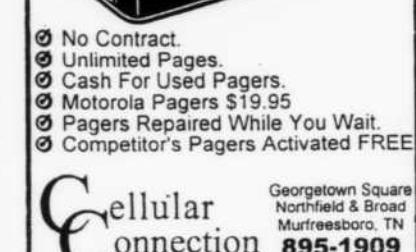
Public Service message from SA-VE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education) <http://www.save.org>

VIDEO

continued from page 1

school sites in the following six Tennessee counties: Bedford County, Coffee County, Franklin County, Lincoln County, Marshall County and Moore County.

"We installed desktop computer systems to create a two way interface. What is so good about this is it is live action, which is so important to learning," said Constance Schmidt, director of instructional technology support center.



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OPINIONS

4 ■ SIDELINES

Editorial

Make evaluations worthwhile

Near the end of the semester, all students are subjected to filling out vague evaluations of their professors as a summary of the semester.

While the questions pertain to whether the professor was on time for class and if he returned class work on time, it asks nothing about whether the student learned from or even enjoyed the class.

Changing the evaluation format has been on the SGA's to-do list since last year, but the idea was voted down.

On the table again, the evaluation forms have a better chance of getting a makeover since both the SGA and Faculty Senate are rooting for a change of questions. Both groups agree that the present questions are not an adequate evaluation on the effectiveness of a professor.

Well, it's about time someone realized that.

The only reason students look forward to filling out professor evaluations is because it takes up 20 minutes of class. They all know that the scantron sheet doesn't portray the professor's real success or failure in teaching, so why take it seriously?

To get a real profile of a professor, ask the questions that count: Did the professor's lectures make sense to you? Could you follow his/her way of thinking? Did you think the tests correlated with the class curriculum? Would you recommend this class to another student? Did the professor make him/herself available for out-of-class tutoring? Did you feel comfortable in class?

Too often, students are stuck with monotone professors who don't seem to enjoy the subject they teach. As hard as some classes can get, they should all have something enjoyable about them. And sometimes it is left up to the professor to bring in the laughs.

If the administration wants to get an accurate opinion of a professor, it needs to ask the pertinent questions. Students might voice their real opinions if they are given the proper means to. ■

SIDELINES

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

Andrew Gulliford
Special to Sidelines

Hickman land to benefit entire community

MTSU has now moved into the big leagues with a new football stadium and soon we will have a stunning new library. Other new buildings continue to crop up on campus just as Davidson, Williamson and Rutherford County grow at phenomenal rates.

But not all growth is good. Edward Abbey wrote that growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of a cancer cell. Perhaps it is now time to think critically about major environmental issues confronting Tennesseans.

Here on campus we have a wonderful opportunity to use the Stark/Whitson 800-acre rural property in Hickman County, now owned by the Middle Tennessee State University Foundation, for the kind of field schools and environmental reflection that as faculty, staff and students we all need.

MTSU should turn that property into a biological preserve as its best and highest use for environmental education, biology classes, environmental history field trips, public access and long term pollution monitoring. Rarely does a university have such an opportunity to save an ecosystem, and now that opportunity is ours.

Everything else we touch seems to become concrete or asphalt.

The new football stadium needs very bright lights for nighttime play, but as individuals we also need darkness, silence, solitude and an opportunity for group retreats. John Muir called this the tonic of wilderness, and Henry David Thoreau argued that "In the wildness is the preservation of the world."

We need new parking lots on campus, but we also need free flowing creeks and native grasses. The measure of a great institution is not only what it can build, but also what it can save for posterity.

Not only should we save the Hickman County property as the university's first biological preserve, but we also should institute a new initiative to make MTSU the state's environmental university.

Across the country at Northern Arizona University and Western Washington University, other institutions are doing the same thing, and they are attracting new and dedicated students.

The University of Northern Iowa has a 154-acre biological preserve to allow the study of native flora, fauna and habitats. Here at MTSU we now have a critical mass of professors, classes, centers, staff and opportunities for a unique environmental emphasis that would increase our status across the state, across the region and perhaps even across the nation.

In the English department, Dr. Tom Strawman teaches courses in nature writing; Dr. Robert Hood teaches environmental ethics in the Philosophy Department; Dr. Glenn Himebaugh teaches environmental journalism, and I teach environmental history.

Under the leadership of Dr. Glenn Hanley and W.T. Taylor, we have excellent outdoor opportunities with the Campus Recreation Outdoor Program for canoeing,

backpacking, hiking and rock climbing.

In the Biology department, Dr. Padgett Kelley directs the Environmental Education Center and in HPERS, Dr. Peter Cunningham and Dr. Eric Frauman teach wilderness skills.

In the Geography department, students learn the latest in GIS, or global information systems technology, which utilizes satellites to map and locate almost anything on earth.

Ant this is just a small sample of the ways we have moved towards an environmental consciousness on this campus. Certainly Dr. Patrick Doyle's recycling program coupled with ongoing efforts by Ms. Summa Clark in Publications and Graphics have gone far to teach us all how to recycle paper and aluminum, but there is much more to do.

As Tennessee's premiere environmental campus we could give a special focus to environmental issues in all departments and create special courses, majors, minors and graduate degrees truly worthy of a 21st century institution. Vice President Al Gore has written "Earth in the Balance," which is a provocative book about the need for environmental change in our lifetimes.

Let's begin off campus with preserving and protecting

See HICKMAN, page 5

"Rarely does a university have such an opportunity to save an ecosystem, and now that opportunity is ours. Everything else we touch seems to become concrete or asphalt."

environmental issues in all departments and create special courses, majors, minors and graduate degrees truly worthy of a 21st century institution. Vice President Al Gore has written "Earth in the Balance," which is a provocative book about the need for environmental change in our lifetimes.

Let's begin off campus with preserving and protecting

Animal testing keeps me out of med school

Erika Check
Standford Daily

On Tuesday, I realized why I will never go to medical school.

I was sitting in my neuroscience class watching a film that demonstrated how researchers record signals from resting brain cells. Fairly technical stuff; innocuous enough, right? Perhaps, except that those resting brain cells were part of a live animal. A cat, to be exact. A cat with an electrode inserted in its brain. I wasn't the only one in the class who felt sick and sad watching it.

Now you're thinking, "Rabid-anti-animal-testing rant approaching. Must skip to read something less gross." But I'm not against animal testing. As a biology major and the daughter of scientists, I understand that humans have countless monkeys, rabbits, mice, rats, cats and other animals to thank for the vaccines, medicines and consumer products we use every day.

But that doesn't make the killing of animals any easier to accept. As a kid, I devoured James Herriot's books, had two cats of my own, and wanted to be a veterinarian when I grew up. The whole putting-drops-in-rabbits' eyes thing didn't sit well with me.

I used to argue about this with my mother - and to no avail. She runs an immunology lab and tests humans for HIV, cancer and even fetal defects. None of her work would be possible if some small, furry friends of ours hadn't been sacrificed, she said. And then people would die. And that wasn't right.

But morality seems to break down when it comes to animal testing. Our human code of ethics tells us that harming and killing other human beings is wrong. But it's OK to kill and harm non-human beings, as long as it's for our good, we reason. After all, it's not our fault if we have the knowledge and skills to manipulate the environment.

Diseases are part of our environment. We want to get rid of those. And animals are a part of our environment, too. If we work on animals, we are only manipulating two parts of our environment - animals and diseases. There seems to be no choice. We can't just sit back and let our knowledge go to waste. We can't allow people to die without doing everything in our power to save them.

The problem is that animals are not just part of our environment. They are sentient beings that think and feel. Maybe they don't solve calculus problems or plan their futures like humans do, but nobody questions that animals sense pain. They deserve the respect that we try - and sometimes fail - to give each other.

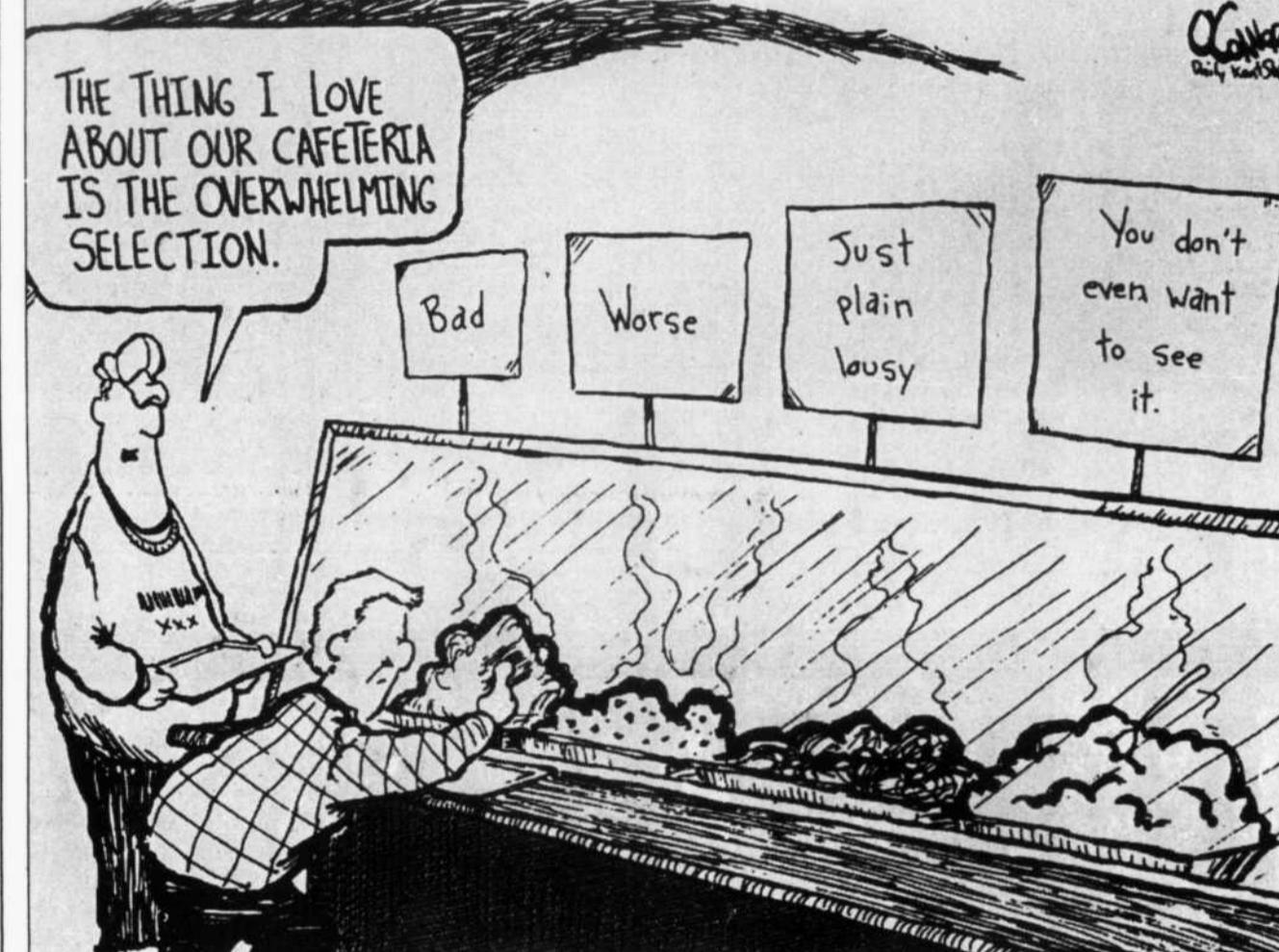
Most researchers try to accommodate animals' needs. Scientists are not callous. Some even have pets at home. But it makes sense to treat lab animals well. If test subjects are distressed and dying from non-experimental treatment, the research will never reach an accurate conclusion.

Those of us who never have to set foot in a lab can do something about animal testing. We can start by understanding the importance and necessity of animal testing despite its unpleasantness. We can respect the fact that the FDA requires that potential drugs — cures for AIDS and cancer and birth defects — be tested on animals before humans are ever allowed to touch them. We also can accept the fact that we can't do much to change any of that.

But we can buy brands of cosmetics and shampoos and any host of products that don't use animal testing. Conducting research on animals to develop new vaccines is one thing; testing on animals to make new and better kinds of lipsticks and toothpastes is another. It's not much of a sacrifice to buy animal-friendly products.

We don't have to bomb laboratories. We don't have to shoot researchers in parking lots. We simply should make sure that the creatures who lost their freedom, suffered or even died did so that we may live healthy — not more cosmetic — lives. ■

O'CONNOR



Get by on less than a dollar

Al Forkner
University of Nebraska

Today's lecture on college survival is about how to get by on \$1 or less a day.

With a little creativity and depravity it can be done.

After all, thanks to Uncle Sam (and Mamma Sam and Daddy Sam), your tuition, board and books are paid for already. That's great because theoretically, that's all the expense you should have.

Theoretically, of course.

As we all know, certain "extra expenses" come up during the semester. You know them: beer, traffic tickets and tattoo removal. Those require money - usually up front.

We don't have time to cover all the ways to make that money. So to make things easy, we'll just assume your income comes from the three main sources everyone taps into: plasma donation, pawn shops and knocking over 7-Elevens. Needless to say, those

options don't reel in a whole lot of cash - they don't require much work, either - so careful budgeting of your marginally legal income is necessary.

FOOD

Eating cheap is actually easy. Just scan a copy of your student newspaper for any meetings on campus. Several will offer free food.

The upside is that you'll also get involved in campus activities - and that means more food-filled meetings.

Cost to you: None. It's free, you twit. (There is, however, a mental sacrifice involved here. But, in the long run, free pizza is worth listening to an hour of environmentally friendly, fat-free, Republican-bashing haiku.)

SHOPPING

If you really need something, your folks often will give you the money.

Of course, convincing them that you are in dire need of 12 gallons of "South Park"-scented Vaseline might prove difficult.

Which brings us to the most important money-saving tip when it comes to shopping: Don't go.

There really is no need for new clothes. On any given day there will be numerous cell phone, credit card and campus groups giving away free T-shirts. Fill out an application, get a shirt. It's free trade at its purest.

Another little hint: Give 'em your parents' name and address. That way, after the lists are sold to telemarketers, your parents can enjoy the limitless opportunities provided by telephone sales.

Cost to you: Nothing but the time required to fill out countless forms. Heck, we do that all the time for the university free of charge.

ENTERTAINMENT

This one is tricky. Movies cost money, dinner costs money, and concerts cost a lot of money.

Colleges and universities do put on free shows for students. Unfortunately the movies are usually bad David Schwimmer films (Isn't saying "bad David Schwimmer film" redundant?)

See DOLLAR, page 5

COLLEGE PRESS



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

—Thomas Jefferson

Murfreesboro, TN

From the Mailbox

GREAT JOB MTSU STUDENTS

On behalf of the MTSU National Alumni Association, I would like to say thanks to all MTSU students who showed their support for the Blue Raiders during Homecoming 98! Your enthusiasm and attendance at the football game was much appreciated by all alumni and friends of the university.

The alumni of this fine university were proud to be a part of the wonderful festivities and it was a wonderful sight to see so many student organizations participating in the Homecoming parade, the festivities at Tent City and at the football game. It was nice to see a crowded student section at the game!

A special thanks to Chelle Bradburn at the SGA Office and

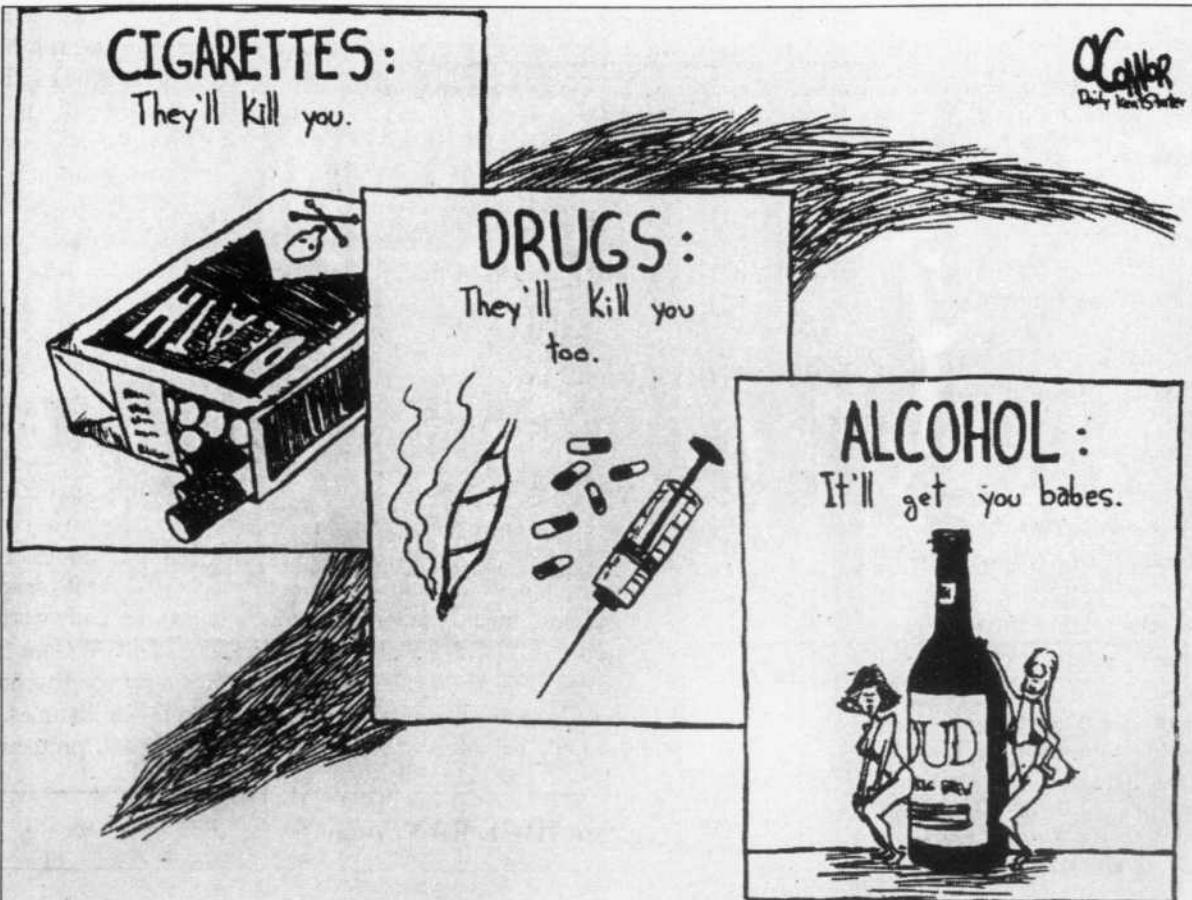


all the persons who helped her plan this year's activities. It was a tremendous success.

Keep up that Blue Raider spirit! I look forward to seeing everyone at the football game on Oct. 24!

David A. Cullum '55
President MTSU National
Alumni Association

O'CONNOR



HICKMAN

continued from page 4

the 800-acre Stark property to provide hands-on experiences for school groups, tours with trails and exhibits and opportunities from hiking to campus and bird-watching.

MTSU should provide future generations with remnants of Tennessee's native heritage. The time is

now — to preserve 800 pristine acres for future MTSU students and to work on campus towards defining MTSU as the state's environmental campus.

These are goals within reach. Let's reach them now together. ■

Andrew Gulliford is an associate professor of History and the director of Public History and Historic Preservation.

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**IS IT THE QUALITY OF LIFE THAT
LURES SO MANY
PEOPLE TO THE SOUTH? OR IS IT
THE DUCK HEADS?**



DOLLAR

continued from page 4

Until "Spice World" hits campus, consider my modus operandi: Nothing provides cheap entertainment like childish, juvenile pranks.

I'm not talking about hiding underwear in the freezer (Although, once I hid an entire load of whites in the bottom of an ice machine). I'm talking inane, little pranks that rightfully earn the description "sophomoric behavior."

Start simply - like, say, putting "South Park" Vaseline on doorknobs up and down your hall. (Another friendly hint: Grease your own door, too, because you'll give yourself away otherwise.)

When you're ready, try more complex and dangerous pranks.

For example, send a letter to your favorite sorority and sign it from the Center for Disease Control, based in Atlanta. Tell the recipients that members of one of the fraternities on campus have been found to carry a contagious disease. Feel free to make up an illness, and be creative about it. Give it a long name and barely plausible symptoms. Remember: the more scabs the better.

Next, randomly pick a name out of the campus directory. Call the person and confess to a having a torrid affair with his or her significant other. There's a 50-50 chance they'll be single. In that case, apologize and hang up. (I'm not a total jerk.)

(DISCLAIMER: Doing any of the aforementioned pranks may lead to fines, expulsions and ass-

kickings. I assume no responsibility for anyone stupid enough to do any of these things. Just ask my attorneys at Screwjda, Oveur and ButtGud.)

Cost to you: Negligible. You have a phone, and you can always steal your roommate's 12 gallons of Vaseline.

BEER

After trying all of the cost-cutting suggestions listed above, you should have \$7. That works out to 14 50-cent beers offered during drink specials. That money will also go a long way toward buying a case.

Then again, you could always continue saving your money and get your drinks - clothes, movies, etc. - cheaply by dating a rich dude or chick. ■

WANTED: Production intern in the Instructional Television Department of WDCN-TV8 for approximately 8-10 hours weekly. Duties include: research, writing, production assistance, light clerical. Qualifications: good research and writing skills, interest in educational television and media. Unpaid position. Inquiries: 259-9325, ex. 244.

The Stults Memorial Scholarship Committee is now taking applications for the

Douglas E. Stults Memorial Scholarship

\$1200

Application Deadline:
4 p.m., November 6, 1998

To Qualify A Candidate Must:

- have a minimum 2.7 cumulative grade point average (must be exact or better)
- be at least a second-year undergraduate student with a minimum of 24 credit hours
- have some media experience (on or off campus work applies, in any print or broadcast medium)

To Apply:

- submit an application
- a 1,000-2,000 word essay on "The Future of Privacy in Contemporary Society"
- submit a copy of your transcript
- submit three to five samples of your work, six copies of each (Short tapes of broadcasts are accepted. Clips must be professionally presented.)

For more information, contact Jenny Crouch at 898-2815 or come by James Union Building, Room 306 and the School of Journalism Office, Mass Com. 249. Up to three finalists may be selected from the field of applicants for an interview on a date to be announced. You will be notified if you are to be interviewed.



Don't Forget!!

It's that Time Again!

Student Activity Fee applications for spring semester will be available in KUC 130 on October 19th. Completed applications are due to the same office on November 23rd.

**For Your Convenience:
Activity Fee Orientation Meetings**

**Monday, October 19th 4:00 KUC 322
Thursday, October 22nd 4:00 KUC 322**



FEATURES

6 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Week Brings Awareness To Alcohol Problems

Amanda Virgillito
Staff Reporter

Many universities, including MTSU, are stressing the importance of alcohol awareness this week with support groups, demonstrations, and displays to inform students of the dangers of alcohol.

Alcohol Awareness Week October 19-21 included several programs to make students more aware of the potential dangers. Sponsors were SHARE, Greek Life, Student Development, and the June Anderson Women's Center.

Events consisted of a mocktail recipe contest, a graveyard, and a simulated car crash. A Narcotics Anonymous meeting was held Tuesday. An information table was set up inside the Keathley University Center where students could pick up information about alcohol and the problems associated with its use.

The mocktail contest featured different student organizations concocting various non-alcoholic beverages, according to Maggie Prugh, who oversaw the first annual competition among student organizations.

Alpha Omicron Pi's entry "Can't Touch This" won the \$50 cash award for the best mocktail. Kerry Lane mixed up the winning drink for the sorority. Other mocktail entries were submitted by the Freshmen Forum, the Baha-i Association, the Recreation Majors Club and the Raiders Assistance Project.

The graveyard was held outside of the KUC and had tombstones listing statistics pertaining to alcohol abuse.

Many students wore black ribbons to represent those who died in alcohol-related automobile accidents. Alcohol-related accidents remain the leading cause of death among college-age adults, read the message with the ribbons.

The purpose of Alcohol Awareness Week is to inform people of the possible side effects and the negative aspects of alcohol consumption. Many organizations on and off campus offer support groups and counseling to those who seek it.

Alcohol abuse is common among college students, even those who are underage. Students often fail to realize the negative effects that alcohol can bring to their bodies, emotional status, and to their record.

Prolonged use of alcohol can lead to diseases such as cirrhosis of the liver, which degrades liver tissue therefore it can no longer filter toxins, and various types of cancer. Heavy drinking could possibly lead to mental problems such as impulsiveness, depression, anxiety, deviant behavior, and stress.

If a person drinks and drives a vehicle, the threat of a DUI stands. This could lead to the suspension or revocation of a driver's license, court-ordered treatment, and possibly jail time.

The National Institute on Alcohol

Abuse and Alcoholism has a web page located at www.niaaa.nih.gov that offers information on alcoholism. The service answers frequently asked questions and gives advice to people of all ages starting from children through the elderly. The site also offers publications and releases on alcohol studies.

According to Alcohol Alert, a quarterly bulletin that discusses important research findings, blood alcohol content (BAC) is the way most police officers judge the level of intoxication. In most states, the limit for adults 21 and up is .10, although some states have lowered it to .08. The article cautions those who drink to act responsibly when driving after consumption. At a BAC of .02, the driver's ability to divide attention between two or more sources of visual information is lowered, according to Alcohol Alert. Blood Alcohol Content of .05 will hinder a person's eye movements, glare resistance, visual perception, reaction time, certain steering tasks and ability to process information.

Studies show that 88 percent of college students, both over 21 and under age, have consumed alcohol.

The article suggests that drinking in social groups may possibly promote drinking larger amounts of alcohol. When people serve themselves, they are more likely to consume a higher amount. Party scenes and social gatherings can be places where students consume a great deal of alcoholic beverages.

Heavy drinking makes students more likely to engage in sexual activity and take part in unprotected sex.

Under age drinking has increased drastically over the years. The National Institute of Health (NIH) says that 15-year-olds that consume alcohol are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than 21-year-olds.

A survey of high school students shows that 46 percent of eighth graders, 65 percent of tenth graders, and 75 percent of high school seniors have consumed alcohol. The National Institute of Drug Abuse says that 93 percent of all teens have experience with alcohol by the end of their senior year, and that six percent drink daily.

Young people who drink can do serious harm to their bodies, alter their growth, and alcoholism can result later in life.

More information is available online at: www.ias.org.uk, www.alcoholismhelp.com/help/index.htm, DCRADAR.org/quiz.html, substanceabuse.miningco.com, and www.niaaa.nih.gov.

These sites offer general information on alcohol, the latest news and research pertaining to alcohol, reading resources, and contacts for help and counseling for those who have problems or family members and friends with problems. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Alcohol is a drug, a depressant, not a stimulant.
- ✓ You must be of legal age (21 in Tennessee) to buy or be served any type of alcohol.
- ✓ Beer and wine are just as potent as liquor: 12 ounces of beer = 5 ounces of wine = 1.5 ounces of 80 proof liquor.
- ✓ Alcohol increases the effect of tranquilizers, and antihistamines may increase alcohol's effect.
- ✓ Only time can lessen the effects of alcohol. Coffee, a cold shower, exercise, and fresh air can not sober up someone who has been drinking.
- ✓ Alcohol is involved in:
 - 50% of all traffic fatalities
 - 50% of all murders
 - 33% of all suicides
 - 25% of all other accidents
- ✓ The penalties for DWI include a fine, suspension of drivers license, jail time, hours of community service work, or any combination of these.
- ✓ A DWI conviction never gets "taken off" your driving record.



Unique performance combines art, dance

Shannan Tipton
Staff Reporter

Former MTSU dancers are returning for a special performance that uses visual images through dance and slide art to depict stories of life.

Blue Moves Modern Dance Company and the MTSU Art Club are teaming up for the free performance on the front lawn of the Art Barn. The company will perform repertory favorites and will give a short choreographic demonstration beginning at 6 p.m. today.

A slide show will be incorporated throughout the company's unique performances of dances inspired by life and historical events. Slides by Rick Hawkins will be projected onto the dancers, props and a backdrop. The slides are incorporated into the improvised choreography of the dance troupe and are designed to enhance the visual images portrayed by the dancers. White skirts of the dancers and sheer fabric become mobile screens for the artwork.

The featured dances include "Ride," choreographed by Julie Shavers. "Ride" is an eclectic, comical dance set to the music of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds and Brian Eno. Two dancers progress from young girls to women to old ladies while watching the carnival of life pass them by.

The company will also perform Amanda Cantrell Roche's "Freedom from Fear," a dance inspired by the efforts of Burma's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi in the face of persecution. This piece incorporates spoken word and flowing fabric to depict the human struggle against oppression.

Blue Moves Modern Dance Company was founded in the summer of 1989 by three MTSU students: Roche, Lee Anne Carmack and Don Sullivan, former members of the MTSU Dance Club. Three other students were invited to join due to their dance skills and a similar desire to be part of a professional-level group and Blue Moves Modern Dance Company was born.

Since the formation of the company, the group has evolved, but their original mission has remained the same—to provide a professional-level, local group in which committed dancers can perform and set innovative choreography.

The group accepts new members into the company by auditions only. An audition was held last month for new members. Most of the dance troupe members are current MTSU students or graduates.

In addition to Roche, the dancers who have been with the company more than a year are Angela Armstrong, Holly Cannon, Jacqueline Holmes, Christy Rose and Julie Shavers. New members are Elizabeth Dempster, Solita Engel and D'Arcy Holland. Apprentice dancers are Kristen Hubbard, Leslie Meely and Meg Sniderman. ■

Choral Evensong Presents Sacred Music

Vickie Gibson
Staff Reporter

Middle Tennessee Choral Society opens its season of vocal music with a Choral Evensong with the MTSU Chamber Choir, Schola Cantorum, a brass quintet and orchestra.

The program is a celebration of the great sacred literature throughout the ages, said director Raphael Bundage, music professor who will conduct the concert. It will feature the music of Handel, Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Purcell, Gardiner, Pinkham and Britten.

The combined 150-voice choral society and chamber choir will sing "The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune," "Evening Hymn," "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," "Sinfonia Sacra" and other selections.

Featured on the program will be Schola Cantorum, a small vocal group within the Chamber Choir. Valetta Wayne, a vocal performance graduate student, is soloist. Performing on the concert is a brass quintet made up of faculty musicians Jeff Bailey, trumpet; Leonard Foy, trumpet; Robert Heuer, horn; Donn Schaefer,

See MUSIC, page 7

Japan/MTSU in joint research on violence

Michele Conklin
Staff Reporter

Japan and the United States lie half a world apart. But the problems that crop up in the two countries' schoolyards and classrooms show remarkable similarities.

That finding and others are emerging from a joint research effort involving faculty from MTSU and faculty from the University of Fukushima in Japan. Two Fukushima faculty members visited campus recently as part of an ongoing exchange of ideas and research between the two universities.

Genshiro Hiruta, a professor of psychiatry, and associate professor of education Yuichi Tomita are back in Japan after two weeks visiting MTSU and public schools in Middle Tennessee.

Using a research grant from the Japanese Ministry, the two

professors along with seven other Japanese professors, are working with six MTSU faculty members on a three-year study comparing behavioral problems among Japanese and American students.

Jane Williams, professor in educational leadership, said the visit was part of an ongoing study between MTSU and Fukushima. Faculty members from each university will visit each other for two-week periods during the next three years in an effort to swap ideas and gather data related to school behavior problems.

"A lot of information has already been exchanged through e-mail," said Williams.

For two weeks, Hiruta and Tomita interviewed school guidance counselors and teachers of special education from several area public schools. They are studying behavioral issues that concern counselors and teachers and will be comparing the information with that collected from schools in

Japan.

So far, the research has revealed that a difference in the definition of violence exists between the two countries. American teachers are concerned with guns, other weapons and physical violence committed against students and teachers in schools while Japan's educators define violence as bullying of younger students by older students and consider the situation a very serious problem.

"In Japan, guns are not allowed to anyone, therefore children don't have access to them," said Williams. The only weapon Japanese educators have to deal with is small pocket knives.

Research also revealed that both countries have entire communities involved with finding solutions to the problems.

Next year, the team will focus on conducting extensive field studies with teachers in both countries. The team will be asking questions such as, "What kind of problems are

you having with your students? What kind of discipline works and what doesn't? and Why do you believe this kind of violence occurs?"

The study will conclude with analysis of the information and publication of a book.

According to Williams, Hiruta is chairman of a school counseling project and will be involved in placing guidance counselors in the Japanese school system for the first time through this program.

"This committee will be shaping school counseling into operation," said Williams. "They are looking for a new way of doing things."

The violent behavior of children in school has become a growing concern worldwide. As these two universities compare and study information together, the educators involved believe that progress may be made in finding solutions to the problem for the sake of school children in Japan and the United States. ■

Plenty of places to enjoy the great outdoors

Brian Forrester
Staff Reporter

With the pressures of school and work, students seldom find time to enjoy the outdoors. People cannot find time to slow down, enjoy nature and discover what Middle Tennessee has to offer.

There are several places within a day's drive of MTSU where students can escape for the day or weekend.

"It is important to go outdoors because a person needs to be able to relate to the outdoors," said Glenn Hanley, director of campus recreation. "In modern society, we have too much stress pulling from different directions and are not able to relax."

A trip to the great outdoors is where people can collect their thoughts and after a brief time feel refreshed and rejuvenated.

Fall Creek Falls, located near Spencer, offers several picturesque waterfalls and trails for hikers. The trails are easy to hike, even for the novice hiker.

The park is known nationally for its display of fall colors and beautiful overlooks of the gorge.

Those who wish to take an

overnight trip to Fall Creek Falls might check out the Cane Creek overnight trail - lower loop. The trail is 12 miles long and goes down into the gorge on one side and up the other side. The benefit of this trail is that it offers people several overlooks, a suspension bridge, and the famous Fall Creek Falls. This trail is the most scenic trail and is for overnight hikers and day hikers.

To take an overnight trip on any of the park's trails, a camping permit must be obtained from the Nature Center. Camping is only permitted in designated areas. A fire permit must also be obtained for campfires.

Another state park nearby is Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Big South Fork is located north of Crossville near Jamestown and approximately 150 miles from Murfreesboro. The park offers a river for rafting with various local outfitters as well as hundreds of miles of trails.

For people interested in multiple-day camping, Big South Fork offers some of the best hiking.

The John Muir trail is a 44-

mile trail that provides distance and beauty. There are several overlooks as the trail wraps around the edge of the gorge overlooking the river. The overlooks provide day hikers a great view of autumn's changing colors. The trail is relatively flat and would take approximately three to four days to hike depending on how fast hikers go.

The park hosts unique rock formations, like the Twin Arches, and lush vegetation. It offers numerous trails that are ideal for day hiking.

Visitors should check into the Bandy Creek Visitor Center and ask a ranger to suggest a trail and also let the ranger know that someone is on the trail in case something happens.

For those interested in overnight trips, the park does not have any designated camping spots. Hikers are allowed to pick a spot to camp and permitted to use fires. Bandy Creek Visitor Center rangers request that visitors register, but it is not required.

Students who wish to enjoy nature closer to Murfreesboro have several possible destinations. The greenway is a

4.5-mile trail that follows the Stones River. The trail is paved the entire way and features several access points.

The closest access to campus is located near Cannonsburgh off Southeast Broad Street. Another trailhead is located off Thompson Lane.

Because the trail is paved, it is a great place for people to rollerblade or bike. Several people run along the trail while others take the trail a little slower to enjoy the river or trees. The greenway is open from dawn to dusk and is patrolled by police officers on bikes.

Stones River Battlefield, located off Old Nashville Highway, is the site of a Civil War battle. The park offers a two-mile road that tours several spots of key interest to the battle. There is a dirt trail that wraps around the perimeter of the park and is approximately four miles.

The park is a good escape for people to enjoy nature and quiet woods close to campus. It has a visitor center that provides information on the historic battle. It is open every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■

X-Files brings intrigue to campus theater

Staff Reports

Prepare to enter the mythological world where Mulder and Scully explore aliens and otherworldly events as MTSU Films presents "X-Files: Fight the Future" tonight in the Keathley University Center Theater.

Based on the award-winning television series "The X-Files," created by Chris Carter, the two-hour feature film follows FBI special agents Mulder and Scully as they are drawn into a web of intrigue while investigating the mysterious bombing of a Dallas office building and the secrets buried inside.

Set against the backdrops of

Washington D.C., dusty northern Texas, private meeting rooms of London and the frigid Antarctica, the movie is carefully designed to introduce the award-winning series' popular characters to a whole new audience while giving existing fans answers to questions from the show's five-season run.

The X-Files movie delves deeply into the series' mythology, further exploring the intrinsic relationship between Mulder and Scully, and ultimately exposes the truth behind a project that threatens to irrevocably alter the future of mankind. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$2. ■

MUSIC
continued from page 6

trombone; and Gill Long, tuba. MTSU music professor Polly Brecht is also featured on organ. Brecht will also be performing a faculty recital Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Wright Music Hall.

The evensong will be presented twice, Sunday, Oct. 25 at 3 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wright Music Hall at MTSU.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door. MTSU students with ID are admitted free.

Made up of MTSU students and community members, the group was organized in 1969 and became a chartered, non-profit organization in 1984 under the direction of Bundage

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The singers have performed at numerous locations in the United States including Carnegie Hall. European tours with members of the Chamber Choir have included concerts in England, France, Italy, Austria and Scandinavia.

The choral society's season will include the traditional presentation of Handel's "The Messiah" before Christmas, Bach's spiritual masterpiece "St. Matthew Passion" in February and the annual Orpheus Vocal Competition in March. ■

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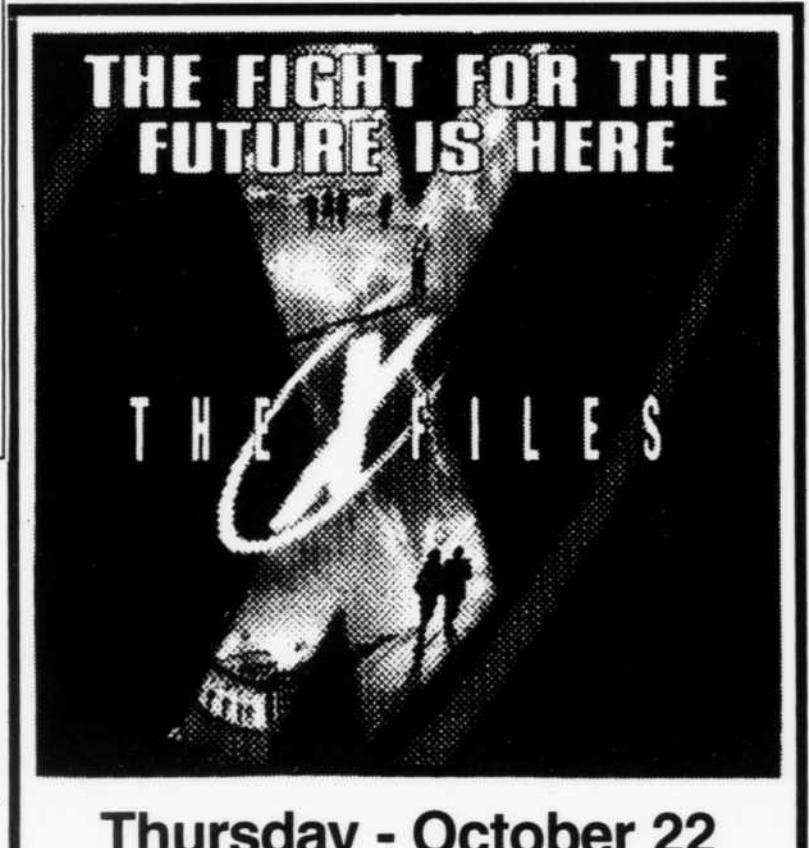
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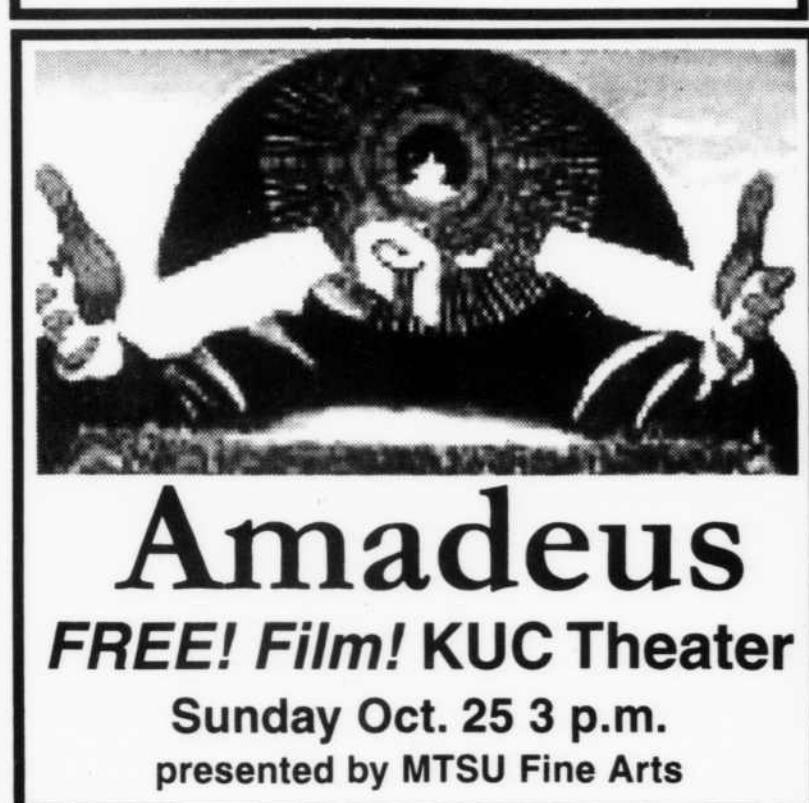
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THURSDAY, OCT 22, 1998

SPORTS

8 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Consuela's law: no pain, no gain

Chad Foltz
Staff Reporter

Pain everyday, degenerative disc, nerve damage and knee problems. These obstacles do not hinder the courageous play and leadership of an athlete from the Lady Raiders volleyball team.

Kelly "Consuela" Smith, the junior middle blocker for the Lady Raiders, is in the midst of a career year both statistically and personally. Already having established herself at Eastern Kentucky University as a player with potential, Smith's play over the course of the current season has catapulted her to almost superstar status in the OVC. It definitely wasn't always that way though.

"It's kind of funny. I always played but I wasn't ever really that great at it," Smith said. "They just had me play because I was big."

From these unusual roots in the Euclid, Ohio, volleyball system, Smith learned how to refine the tools and techniques needed to become a big-time player at a Division I school. Not being "all that great" wasn't the only obstacle that the modest player had to overcome to achieve her goals.

Her high school team wasn't that good, and she wasn't yet considered the standout that she is now. However, Smith was picked by her high school district to play in a showcase where Eastern Kentucky first recruited her for her skills as a volleyball player.

During her two-year tenure at EKU, Smith began to see something in herself that she had never noticed before.

"I played for two years there and actually, I got to see the potential I had in the sport," Smith said.

The perfect marriage didn't last long however and with new changes in Eastern Kentucky's coaching staff and philosophy came new changes in Kelly's career.

"I was in a situation last year leaving Eastern where I had to come to a decision. I could either go home and go to school there, or I could try and find somewhere to finish out my career. I pretty much didn't let up until I found somewhere to go," Smith said.

And it's a good thing for the Lady Raiders program that she didn't let up. Although the record of the team doesn't show it, (3-13 overall; 1-6 in the OVC), the acquisition of Smith has helped the team grow tremendously. Her leadership qualities are beyond that of a first year player just trying to fit in with a new team.

MTSU head coach Lisa Kissee feels like Kelly is doing an outstanding job.

"Kelly's personality is very charismatic, very up. She has learned this season to become more disciplined in practice as well as in matches," Kissee said.

"I expected her to come in and be one of the best blockers in the conference, and she has done that. Even though we haven't had the wins that we expected to have, we are starting to play better as a team. The impact that she has had has definitely been positive."

It's the "never say die" attitude that Smith has acquired over the years that has helped to get her where she is today. She plays everyday through agonizing pain caused by a degenerative disc in her lower back, which throbs as it bulges with every step, jump and block. She is constantly having to ice places on her body that didn't even hurt the day before.

Her love for the game, the realization that her career is coming to an end in the next year and her love for her family is what gets her through.

"I attribute my success to my family. They have always been very supportive. I've always wanted to pretty much not do things for myself, but do it for my parents," Smith said. "Everything I do is to make them proud."

Her team leading statistics, including a 1.315 blocks/game average along with an attack percentage of .234, and her ultimate goal of helping to lead the team to victory next season make her the leader that she is. With intensive rehab over the off season, she hopes to be more than ready when the first match rolls around next season.

"I just want to keep getting better, keep the team together and focused for next year," Smith said. ■

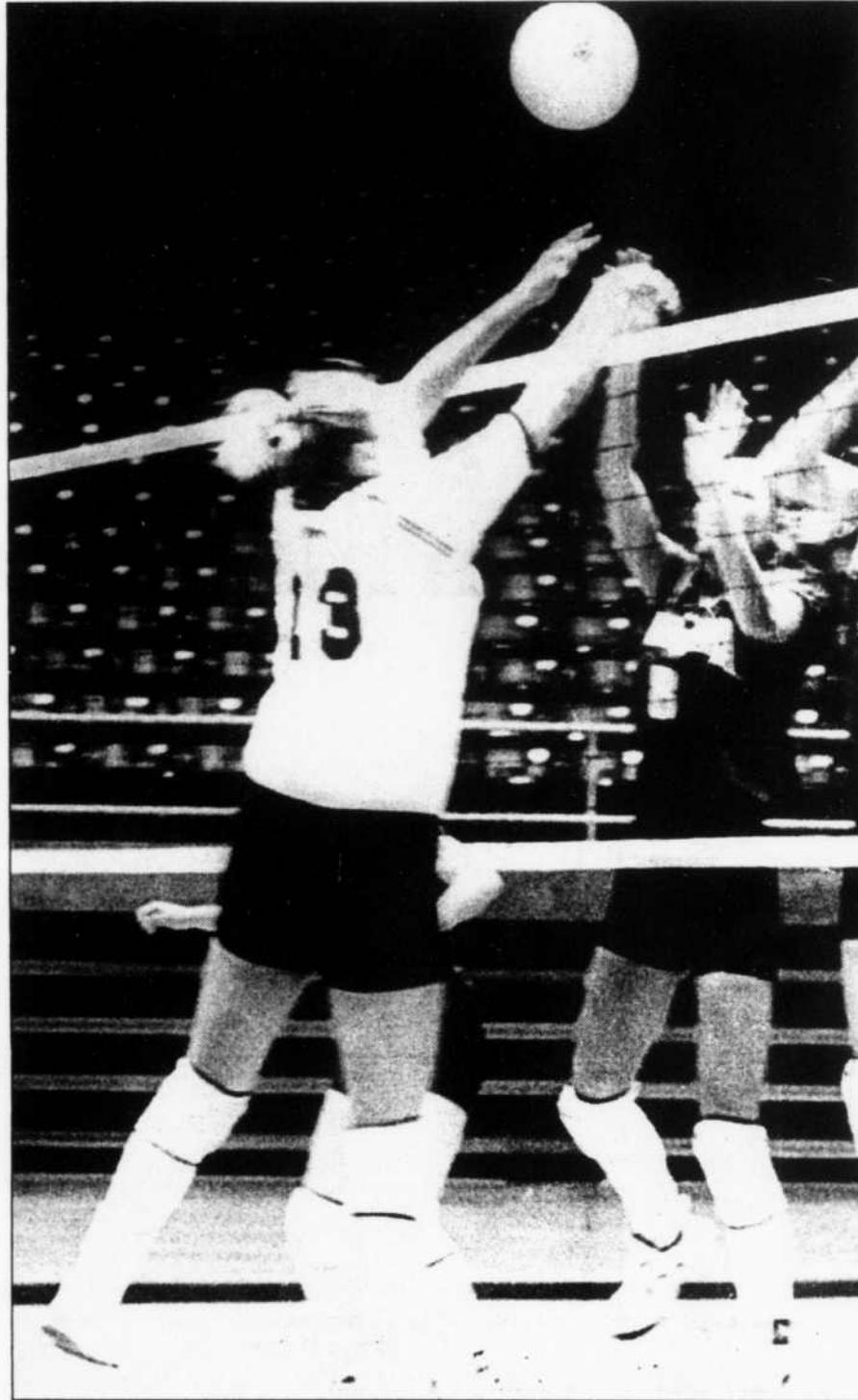


photo by Derrick Wilson

Kelly Smith, 13, former Eastern Kentucky player, is a junior and a Child and Family Studies major.

Basketball season is on its way

Staff Reports

Along with the chills of the fall weather comes the beginning of another college basketball season.

The Blue Raider and Lady Raider basketball teams began preparing for the upcoming 1998-99 season this past Saturday with two-a-day workouts.

"We're excited about getting a new season underway," men's head coach Randy Wiel said. "We have a chance to be very successful, but those expectations will depend largely on the extent of how quickly and how well our new front-line

players adopt to our system and the competition in the OVC."

The Raiders will mix seven returning players from last year's 19-9 squad with a group of incoming recruits to give Wiel his most talented team in three years as Middle Tennessee's head coach.

Highlighting the veterans will be senior point guard Richard Duncan and junior small forward Freddie Martinez. Duncan, who has started each of the past two seasons, led the Raiders in assists last year with 4.2 a game while scoring 9.8 points a contest.

Martinez, one of the nation's top three-point shooters, was the team's second leading scorer a year ago

with 12.3 a game. A native of Ponce, Puerto Rico, Martinez connected on 66 treys last year, which ranked as the third best total in school history.

Joining Duncan and Martinez, the Raiders also return guards Kevin White, Reggie Marshall and Kent Ayer, along with forward Ali McGhee and center Lee Nosse.

Heading up Middle's talented newcomers will be juniors Cedrick Wallace, Johnny Cobb, Ellious Swanigan and Allen Hatchett. Wallace, a transfer from Northern Mississippi Community College, is an accomplished scorer who averaged 26 points and 7.8 rebounds for Northeast.

Cobb, a highly recruited post player from Hutchinson Community College, will add strength and athleticism in the paint, while Swanigan will provide the rebounding and strong defensive play down low. Hatchett, a starter for two years at Southeast Missouri, averaged 10.2 points and hit 43 percent of his three-pointers for the Indians.

Rounding out the Raiders are junior Anthony Rice, talented sophomore Dale Thomas and the explosive guard Gerald King. King, a transfer from Coastal Carolina where he was a member of the Big

See BASKETBALL, page 9

Former Raiders invited to honor Donnelly

Staff Reports

Former football players that played under retiring head coach Boots Donnelly are invited to return for Donnelly's final home game on Oct. 24.

All former players and assistant coaches can receive two free tickets for the 6 p.m. game against Eastern Illinois by contacting Diane Turnham at (615) 898-2938 or Jan Worley at (615) 898-2926. If more tickets are needed, they will be available for sale.

In addition to the invitation to former players and coaches, a fireworks display following the game will celebrate Donnelly's 20-year head coaching career at Middle Tennessee.

Donnelly recently announced that he would be retiring as head coach following the completion of the 1998 football season. However, he has indicated an interest in remaining with the university in an administrative capacity.

This season is the last year for Middle

Tennessee in NCAA Division I-AA football. Next season will mark the Raiders' inaugural venture into the realm of Division I-A play.

Already on the slate for the Raiders are two road games to start the season. First the team will travel to Mississippi State before heading west to meet the Arizona Wildcats. Also on the schedule are home games against Louisiana Tech and Florida Central. ■

Boots Donnelly watches the team he's coached for 20 years during the Eastern Kentucky game on Sept. 26.



Photo by Derrick Wilson

Donnelly to coach last home game Saturday



Game time: 6 p.m.

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

Boots Donnelly will coach his final regular season home game in Floyd Stadium on Saturday. The Donnelly era will come to an end against the 14th-ranked Eastern Illinois Panthers.

The Panthers will enter the game with a record of 4-2 overall and 2-0 in the OVC. Last week, while the Raiders were idle, EIU was ousted by Illinois State on EIU's homecoming. Quarterback Anthony Buich completed 20 of 28 passes for 230 yards and two touchdowns while his backfield mate, Justin Lynch, rushed for 117 yards on 23 carries and one touchdown.

The Panthers are undefeated in the OVC, but they have beaten Tennessee Tech and Southeast Missouri. Tech and SEMO combined have only been able to produce three conference wins.

The Panthers took their show on the road and played Central Florida and Heisman Trophy candidate Daunte Culpepper. Culpepper lit the EIU defense up for 48 points, while the EIU offense was shutout.

Saturday, however, the Panthers will want to recapture their three-game winning streak, which was broken against Illinois State. The Panthers do an excellent job of mixing up the offense. EIU will resemble the Eastern Kentucky offense, that squeaked out a victory over the Blue Raiders, in that they like to run directly at the defense.

The Panthers will feature a multiple pro offense. Buich has completed 64.5 percent of his passes, while throwing for six touchdowns and three interceptions. He averages 139 yards per game passing. The experience factor is not relevant here, because both Wes Counts and Buich are in their first year as starters.

The tailback matchup features the best in the OVC. Torin Kirtsey leads the league in rushing at 97.7 per game, while EIU's Justin Lynch is second, averaging 94.3 per game.

The combination of Sulecio Sanford and Matt Lowe overmatch the receivers of EIU, Phillip Taylor and Seth Willingham. The emergence of the freshmen Hansford Johnson and Kendall Newsome has also ignited the Blue Raider offense. The advantage goes to MTSU on offense.

Defensively, the Panthers will show a 4-3 with four down linemen and three linebackers. The defensive line is anchored by left tackle Reggie Scott, who leads the team in sacks with three. Scott is a 6-feet-2-inch senior, while tipping the scales at 271 pounds. Linebacker Lance Lohrenz leads the team in tackles with 58, including two sacks and four tackles for a loss.

The Raider offensive line will have its hands full with the EIU defensive line. Statistically, the Panthers have given up an average of 130 yards rushing and 216 yards passing per game while the Raiders are giving up 135 yards rushing and 222 yards passing per game.

Led by the OVC's interception leader, Cedric Stegall, MTSU's secondary is better than EIU's secondary. The defenses are about even.

Once again, the special teams are a big factor. Keegan Ray is one of the best kickers in the OVC after connecting on all four of his field goals including one from 45 yards. EIU's Chad Larner is 7 of 9, and he has hit one from 48 yards.

Sanford and Kirtsey remain as two of the top return men in the conference. Sanford would probably lead the OVC in return yards, but the kickers do not have the guts to kick him the ball. Kirtsey has done a more than adequate job of returning kickoffs.

The Blue Raider punting unit is still a question mark after six games. The coverage, however, has been very good. They have given an average of four yards per return. The Raiders have an edge, once again, in the special teams department.

On the sidelines, Boots Donnelly has a worthy adversary in Bob Spoo. Spoo, in 11 years at EIU, is 68-56-1. The coaches have met twice with Spoo winning last year 30-7 and Donnelly winning in 1996, 31-24. The Raiders should be fired up about the game after last year's drubbing in Charleston, Illinois.

MTSU had an off week last week and should be rested. The emotions were high after the Murray State win, and the coaching was

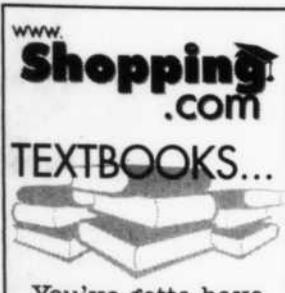
See DONNELLY, page 9

Doubles partners know their game

Sean McWilliam
Staff Reporter

Looking for some exciting tennis? Well, you won't have to go far. This year's Lady Raiders hope to pick up where they left off last year, and they'll be led by seniors Jennifer Bryans and Alex Toelle.

Bryans came to MTSU from Cartersville, Ga., where she began playing at age 5 with her parents. She didn't get serious until she was 11, when she began playing in tournaments. Bryans knew where she wanted to play her collegiate tennis the first time she stepped on



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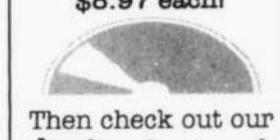


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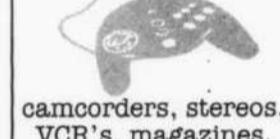
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CRIME 42

Kevin Brown is series mystery man

Bill Conlin
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

SAN DIEGO—After country warbler Tricia Yearwood wrapped the Star Strangled Banner in gingham, five Navy jets roared over Qualcomm Stadium. The fifth jet lagged behind the speeding diamond in the famous "Missing Man Formation."

I asked the columnist next to me, Cincinnati's Tim Sullivan, "So, who's missing?"

"Kevin Brown, I guess," Sullivan deadpanned, the best line of this sea-to-shining-sea World Series.

One thing missing as Game 3 rapidly unfolded toward the catharsis of a 5-4 Yankees victory in the 72-degree Mission Valley twilight was early offense. The Yankees and Padres swung the bats like kids whose mothers told them to be home before dark. But with night came the thunder of Yankee long balls.

In the sixth inning of the scoreless game, something happened you will never, ever see in the American League. Padres starter Sterling Hitchcock, the MVP of the burning of Atlanta, broke up David Cone's no-hitter with a leadoff single.

This proved to be so unnerving that Joe Torre's 12-game winners flew apart like a platter of tacos in a Santa Ana wind. After Quilvio Veras worked Cone for a walk, Tony Gwynn lined a single to right. Now, I've seen good outfielders make bad throws. But I've never seen an outfielder as good as Paul O'Neill make a throw as bad as the one he unfurled while Hitchcock raced toward the plate.

The throw didn't hit anybody or thing until it cleanly split the middle of the Yankees' dugout, scattering reserves. Veras also scored and Gwynn chugged into third, proud as the Tijuana Trolley that makes a stadium stop.

The last ball that passed so aimlessly over the infield dirt here was Chris Boniol's field-goal attempt. Gwynn scored on Ken Caminiti's sacrifice fly and the Padres had their second substantial lead of the Series.

And, just like the 5-2 lead that looked so Himalayan when Kevin Brown had it in Game 1, this 3-0 lead turned out to be as permanent as a Mojave Desert sand dune. The Yankees flattened it somewhat with a two-spot in the seventh. More important, they began to gnaw on the soft underbelly of the Padres' pitching staff.

And Bruce Bochy's bullpen continued to bleed at every pore. Trevor Hoffman, the Hell's Bells closer, looked more like the Liberty Bell when Bochy tried to nurse a six-out save from him after Randy Myers walked O'Neill to open the eighth.

A long fly, a walk and a lusty three-run homer by Scott Brosius was not exactly the escape Bochy and the suddenly

silent 64,667 hanky-wavers had in mind. Brosius, who answered the Padres' three-spot with a leadoff homer in the seventh, leads the Yankees with 14 postseason RBI. This was a guy who batted .203 at Oakland last year and had about as much value last winter as John Kruk. "Sometimes, it can be harder to hit .200 than .300," Scott said. Uh, we know what you mean.

So now there is nothing between the Padres and a sweep but Kevin Brown and the sun gliding into the Pacific beyond Point Loma.

Brown has become the Padres' English Patient, the mystery man of a Series writing an anticlimactic ending to major league baseball's season of redemption. In fact, the entire postseason has been an anticlimax. The Braves and Astros called for their tee times without a whimper in one league and the Yankees jack-booted opposition as inferior as the Padres in the other.

Brown brought flu to the mound Saturday. He wrapped it in secrecy with such care not even his manager suspected his ace was feverish and dehydrated until that 5-2 lead blew apart like a sneeze. By then, Brown also had taken a ball off a shin, so it was hard to tell which had robbed more of his stuff.

Obviously, the scowling Georgian, who sits alone at the end of the dugout between innings when he pitches, can be trusted with anything from the nuclear codes to Bill Clinton's black book.

Had the Padres clung to the latest blown lead and drawn a line in the bribe, Bochy would have had a tougher decision. He would have been tempted to give Brown another day to heal and start Joey Hamilton Wednesday night.

You knew that plan was deader than Mike Tyson's stare when Hamilton relieved Hitchcock after Shane Spencer followed the first Brosius homer with a booming double. At that point Brown was penciled in, come Hell's Bells,

high water or bubonic plague.

"I really caught wind of it (Brown's illness) about the sixth inning there," Bochy said. "But you could tell something was wrong, just looking at him and even watching him out on the mound."

Nor is Brown the Padres' only medical concern as the National League's survivor implodes before America's bloodshot eyes. Mariano Rivera, the Yankees' relief ace, literally drove cleanup hitter Ken Caminiti to his knees during a painful strikeout that ended the eighth inning. The third baseman's worsening groin injury only hurts when he swings, runs or throws.

Bochy must have the eye of an ER resident to tell something is wrong with his tight-lipped pitching star. The guy always looks as if he has a migraine or has received an IRS full-audit notice between innings. Bochy couldn't pry the truth about his condition out of him if he forced him to watch a tape of the Eagles-Chargers game.

"Well, I'm not confident he's going to be honest with me," the manager said. "He's going to do what's best for the ballclub, for us, and you like him to be honest. Like Caminiti, I'm trying to get him to tell me exactly where he's at right now."

Probably throwing up. But this is not the time of year when a Kevin Brown is going to say, "Not tonight, Skip, I've got a headache. Give the ball to Brian Boehringer."

The Navy's "Missing Man Formation" before the game actually was for Gene Autry, the Angels' recently departed Cowboy, whose wife, Jackie, threw out the first ball.

But the symbolism wasn't lost. The flyover could have been for Kevin Brown. If he calls in well Wednesday night, the Padres' agony will be prolonged another day. But anything Bochy comes up with against this runaway freight of a Yankees team will be too little. And later than a Jeffrey Lurie apology.

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Tyson regains license to box

Athelia Knight
The Washington Post

Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson was granted his request to resume his boxing career Monday after being barred from fighting for almost 16 months because he bit Evander Holyfield's ears during a bout in June 1997.

The Nevada Athletic Commission voted, 4-1, to restore Tyson's boxing license after hearing three hours of testimony from Tyson, Tyson's wife, and doctors who concluded that Tyson is mentally fit to return to the ring. The doctors said Tyson is unlikely to repeat the behavior he displayed in the fight against Holyfield and that he should undergo weekly psychotherapy sessions to control his anger.

Also present at Monday's hearing in Las Vegas were former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali and former NBA player Magic Johnson, both of whom testified on Tyson's behalf.

At the end of the hearing, commission chairman Elias Ghanem told Tyson: "I am prepared to give you one last chance in Nevada. . . . But, I want to warn you, in my view, this will indeed be your last chance. Mike, you must take responsibility for yourself and act like the champion you once were. You will either conduct yourself in accordance with our rules and regulations, or you will probably never fight again in Nevada."

After Nevada revoked Tyson's license in 1997, other states honored the revocation.

"I'm just happy I won," Tyson said after the hearing. "I'm undecided when I'll fight again. I don't know whether I'm prepared to fight. I've been

going through a lot of things."

Some of Tyson's handlers have said Tyson, who is a large box office draw, could fight again before the end of this year.

But Johnson, who said he wants to help Tyson, said: "He's been inactive a long time. We're going to bring him along very, very slowly."

Monday's hearing was the first time Tyson and his wife, Monica, publicly discussed the Aug. 31 traffic dispute that ended with Tyson being charged with assaulting two motorists in Gaithersburg, Md. Tyson, who denied he assaulted the drivers, is to be tried Dec. 1 in Rockville.

In a letter to the commission Monday, the lawyers for the two motorists stated that their clients "have reached the stage where we believe that we will be able to resolve our civil claims." They also told the panel that they believe Tyson's behavior in the incident "should not affect your decision on whether to relicense him."

Tyson and his wife reiterated during the hearing that Tyson did not hit either of the drivers. Monica Tyson said she was driving their car when it was hit. She and her husband, who was a passenger, got out of the car and went to the rear of the car that had hit theirs. The drivers of the two cars behind them were arguing about who was at fault, the Tysons said.

"So Mike was saying, 'What do you mean, you didn't do it? We heard you hit him and then you hit us,'" Monica Tyson said. One of the drivers returned to his car. "Mike was yelling at the guy over my shoulder. . . . He was getting a little loud. . . . He scared him a little bit," she said.

Monica Tyson said her husband met with the two

motorists last week to apologize for his behavior at the accident scene. "They shook hands and they hugged," she said.

For his part, Tyson said of the incident: "I was irate. I was crazy. . . . I was saying some things I shouldn't have said. I really said some bad things to those people. . . . They probably were afraid. . . . It was just a big ugly scene."

Tyson added: "I didn't really hit nobody. If he said, 'I did it and I was unconscious of doing it, I'm sorry.' . . . My life is on the line for a traffic violation. My freedom is on the line. My professional career is on the line. I'm just sorry. . . . They accepted my apology. These guys hugged me."

Monday's hearing was less contentious than a six-hour appearance Tyson made before the commission a month ago. At that hearing, Tyson was accompanied by several lawyers and declined to discuss the Maryland traffic incident.

Monday, only Las Vegas lawyer James Jimmerson and Monica Tyson sat with Tyson at his table.

Tyson said he blamed himself for biting Holyfield, but added that he was reacting to what he thought were intentional head butts.

Tyson and his wife said he is committed to undergoing counseling to help control his anger. "I'm not going to kill anybody," he said. "I'm not a mass murderer."

In a statement from Ali, which was read by Ali's wife, Lonnie, the former heavyweight champion said Tyson had made mistakes, but he should be allowed to fight again.

"There are only a few punishments worse than being denied a right to make a living," Ali said. ■



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America's game is alive

Keith Ryan Cartwright
Staff Reporter

Over the decades, the New York Yankees have become synonymous with baseball's Fall Classic.

Yes, the World Series has arrived and yes, the Yankees are once again in the driver's seat.

There just seems to be something natural about Yankee Stadium and the World Series, the Bronx Bombers as they're aptly known.

Sure, it's easy to say you're a Yankee fan. Especially in a year like this one, in which they won a franchise-record 114 games and recorded an 8-2 record in their first 10 post-season games this year.

Despite all of George Steinbrenner's comments about moving the team across the Hudson River into New Jersey, the team will never move out of New York City.

Let's be realistic: they drew over 3 million fans this year. Yankee Stadium

will either get another much needed face-lift or a new stadium will be constructed entirely and the Bronx will undergo a massive cleanup effort, but the bottom line remains: the Yankees aren't going anywhere.

The only place the Yanks are going for the time being is into the record books as possibly one of the best teams ever assembled in the history of Major League Baseball.

It seems that even under the guidance of wacko commissioner Bud Selig, a fellow Wisconsinite, baseball has truly emerged once again as America's favorite pastime.

In fact, baseball has been able to overcome Steinbrenner's silly remarks and the cancellation of the 1994 World Series fastly is becoming just another fading memory.

Though Selig tried to bolster attendance and enthusiasm by initiating inter-league play, what he never could have planned on was the home run show put on by Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa

this season.

The two players captured the imagination of an entire country. They gave television viewers something to follow other than the "X-ploits" of our president. More than that, they gave fans a reason once again to flood the gates of major stadiums and support a sport that just a few short years ago, was in complete disarray.

Like many young boys growing up, I dreamed of playing professional baseball. As I got older, I began for some reason to envision myself as a third base coach for the Boston Red Sox. Lord only knows why it was the Sox, because I sure don't.

Then, like many fans, I became disappointed as the powers that be allowed the sport I loved and cherished so much to falter.

So to the New York Yankees, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, I say, "Thank you! Thank you for making baseball exciting again." ■

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