



SIDELINES



Volume 74, No. 13

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

New library faces challenges

Angie Stults
Staff Reporter

With the new library scheduled to open its doors on Jan. 6, 1999, the university is facing many challenges as the opening date gets closer.

With the cost of books and journals rising, it is difficult to purchase additional printed materials and the latest computer technology. State funding can no longer provide a growing university the resources it needs. In order to continue to provide for the students and faculty, the new library has had to adopt plans for other types of funding. These plans include: petitions for stronger budgets, partnerships with faculty and

institutions, investments in technology, cost effective information formats, and expert assistance.

The library will begin moving offices in November, said William Black, associate professor of Todd Library. A professional moving crew will be hired to begin moving the books after final exams are taken.

Because the new library will consist of four stories and is twice the size of Todd Library, more furniture and equipment will need to be purchased. Lots of new equipment and furniture will need to be installed before the library actually opens in January. Wooden furniture will be custom designed for the public areas. It will consist of 347 study carrels and 277 tables.

Shelving will be installed for 800,000 volumes. Installation of approximately 800,000 feet of linear cable will also be needed for voice, data and video. It will take about six weeks for the installation to be completed.

Because state funding is not enough to purchase everything the library needs, private support has become increasingly important. The library is offering personally-inscribed bricks to anyone who wishes to support the library for \$200. These bricks will be placed in front of the new library in the courtyard.

The library is also implementing a library book fund for individuals who may want to purchase books on a particular subject that is interesting to them. A

bookplate will be placed inside the book cover recognizing the individual who purchased the book.

The dean and the head of special collections have been identified for support also. The interest from the endowed positions will be used to pay the salaries, as well as to purchase other library needs.

Finally, the new library will recognize continuous supporters by naming portions of the building after them. The parts of the new library that need support and naming include the new library itself, the lobby atrium, conference rooms, the new special collections area, the library instruction rooms, study rooms, and faculty research studies.

The new library will offer expanded

Interlibrary Loan services. Interlibrary Loan is a process that allows one library to borrow resources from another. It costs the library about \$18.62 to borrow a document or research article and photocopy it. It costs about \$10.93 to lend a document to another library. The library suggests that if one requests material through Interlibrary Loan, the person should choose wisely and pick up and return the material in a timely fashion, as it is relatively costly.

Lexis-Nexis Universe will also be available at the new library.

The new library will also feature a study room available for student use after the rest of the library is closed. Hours for the new library have not been decided. ■

Scholarship created in memory of Tucker

MURFREESBORO— The department of mathematical sciences and the Martin Chair of Insurance are creating a scholarship endowment in memory of MTSU student Scotty Tucker, who was killed in an auto accident near Murfreesboro on August 17.

Tucker came to MTSU from Oakland High School, where he graduated in 1986.

He graduated summa cum laude in mathematics in 1990 and received his M.S. degree in mathematics from MTSU in 1996.

At the time of his death, he was enrolled as a doctoral



Scotty Tucker

student in the department of economics and finance.

"He left behind a legacy of intellectual achievement — only one appeared on his transcript — that few scholars ever attain. He was an extremely well-liked person whose death leaves a void in the lives of his family and friends," said Ken Hollman, holder of the Martin Chair of Insurance.

Tucker worked as an actuary for the American General and Sedgwick James, Inc. from 1990 until 1994, when he began work on his master's degree.

In 1996 he was employed as a mathematics instructor in

the department of developmental studies.

"He was so loved. His students adored him. He could help anyone. Never did I ever hear him say anything negative about anyone," said Carol Brader, chair of the department of developmental studies. "He never complained and was never sarcastic. It doesn't seem possible that he is gone."

Checks of contributions to the memorial scholarship fund may be made to the MTSU Development Office, Scotty Tucker Memorial Scholarship Fund. ■



Kevin McConnel, 3, helps teammate Adam Kibler, MVP, catch the ball Saturday afternoon. The rugby team beat Western Kentucky 93-5. See page 8.

How to file a ticket appeal form

- Student takes ticket to SGA Office to appeal it
- Fill out the **Student Traffic Appeal Form**
 - social security number is needed
 - state reasons why ticket should be voided
 - sign form
 - attach ticket and any evidence. The ticket must be attached in order for the case to be heard. A copy of the ticket can be provided by Parking Services.
- Student should receive a court date and time on an **Appointment Card**. The student does not have to appear in court, but the case will be heard on the date assigned whether the student is present or not.
- At the hearing, if the student decides to attend the meeting, he/she has a chance to verbally explain to the Court the reasons why the ticket should be voided.
- The Court will make a decision based on the information provided verbally and/or written on the **Student Traffic Appeals Form**. This decision is final and cannot be appealed.
- For the student to obtain their court decision, go to Court of Traffic Appeals website.
 - go to: <http://sga.mtsu.edu>
 - click "COTA;" then click "COTA decisions"
 - select the semester in which you appealed your citation.
 - Enter your student ID number and click the "Find Decision" button to view the decision of your citation.
- If the student's citation is voided it may take up to 10 days to clear the business office. If the student needs to have a hold cleared immediately, he/she should pay the fine either on TRAM (by credit card) or at the business office.

The SGA Office is located in the Keathley University Center, room 204

OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD

Sky's the limit with White

Barry Gilley
Staff Reporter

James (Jay) C. White II is an associate professor in the department of physics and astronomy and the winner of one Outstanding Teacher Award.

White received his bachelor's degree in physics from Birmingham-Southern College in 1984 and completed his doctoral degree in astronomy at Indiana University in 1993. He joined the faculty at MTSU that same year and has since published numerous research articles and general astronomy columns in journals, newspapers and magazines. He has served on the American Institute of Physics' Public Information Advisory Panel and on two proposal review panels for the National Science Foundation.

He teaches astronomy, physics and physical science in addition to researching a phenomenon known as astrophysical accretion. Specifically, he studies how pairs of stars, called binaries, exchange matter as the pairs closely circle their common centers of gravity.

Outside the university, much of White's time is spent as the editor of Mercury, the magazine of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. He is also author of a

regular column in Mercury titled "Accidental Astrophysics" and editor of its quarterly newsletter for teachers, "Universe in the Classroom." Mercury's readers are in 71 different countries and are made up of professional and amateur astronomers and educators at all levels as well as interested non-scientists. "Universe in the Classroom" reaches approximately 15,000 teachers in 20 countries and about half a million of their students.

"It's hard working 90 hours a week; it really is," White said. "That's why I don't know how long I'll be able to stay with science publishing. The reason that I drive myself is because I know that I now have a lot of energy because I'm still pretty young."

Despite the hard work involved, White feels his writing and editing duties — like writing, painting and drawing for pleasure — provides him with something that teaching cannot, something tangible to hold onto at the end of the day. He also believes that his writing and editing duties help him to stay actively involved in his field, something he considers an important part of his effectiveness in the classroom.

"If I'm not active in what I teach, I can't take to the classroom that latest experience I had

working with some project or some collaboration that just went bad and the teaching loses its edge."

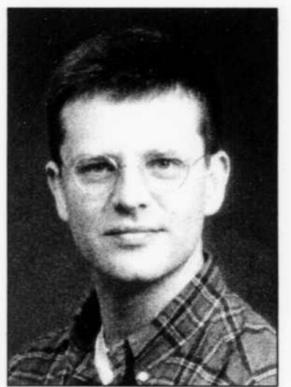
His reasons for the teaching itself are less tangible.

"There's just something about walking into a classroom," he said. "It's an exciting thing to see a big group of students become totally energized."

"I'm not sure if the students can see the effect they have on me, but sometimes I'll come in with so much on my mind and, looking out, see people sort of sitting there leaning forward with expectation, and it just feels great, like you're all a part of something."

According to White, teachers must be both active in and excited about their fields, but these qualities alone cannot make an effective teacher. There also has to be mutual respect on the part of teachers and students. "I think, in the past, younger people automatically respected older people, but I don't think that's necessarily true now," he said. "I think it's something that has to be earned."

White and a colleague from Switzerland left Thursday for a three-week trip to Vietnam at the request of the International Astronomical Union to work with middle school, high school and college astronomy teachers at



James C. White II

Vinh University and Hanoi Pedagogical Institute.

In his travels, White has observed that astronomy seems to have no cultural barriers.

"In every place that I've been in the world, people are interested in the sky. That's what makes astronomy so exciting: it's playing with an innate curiosity in humans. People, in desperate situations in some places, still take the time to look up at the stars."

During the Fall Convocation this August, eight professors were honored by the MTSU Foundation in the areas of research, technology, teaching and public service. Each recipient received \$3,000 dollars. ■

INSIDE

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SPORTS

The golf team heads to the Peach State this week for the first tournament of the season. See page 8.

FEATURES

Free posters and prints of movies, sports figures, etc. available online for students. See page 6.

WEATHER FORECAST



MONDAY
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WEDNESDAY
PARTLY-
CLOUDY, 77

ON CAMPUS

To submit an announcement for On Campus, come by the James Union Building Room 308.

Tuesday, Sept 22
The College Republicans will meet at 7 p.m. in KUC 313 to hear guest speaker Tenn. state House candidate Donna Rowland. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Brandy Canler at 849-9797.

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) /MBA Chapter will hold a general interest meeting for senior/graduate business students interested in human resource careers from 5-5:45 p.m. in BAS N127A (Sun Trust Room).

The Lambda Association will meet Mass Comm 103 at 7 p.m. A lesbian couple will speak on its custody battle for its child shared by a drunken unfit dad. For more information, contact Mark McBride at 882-8932 or email mtlambda@frank.mtsu.edu

The MTSU Civil War Society will be holding an organizational meeting from 6-7 p.m. in Peck Hall 200. Refreshments will be served. For additional information, contact George Pimentel at 898-5039.

Wednesday, Sept. 23
Walt Disney World will hold an informational meeting for the spring 1999 Internships/College Program at 5 p.m. in KUC 322. Must attend the information meeting to be eligible for interviews on the following day. Contact the Placement Center at 898-2500 for additional information.

Thursday, Sept. 24
The University of Tennessee, Memphis Health Science Center will be in KUC 322, 322A, 322B, 322C, 312 and 314 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. to talk to students about Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Cytotechnology, Dental Hygiene, Health

Information Management, Medical Technology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and the Tennessee Preprofessional Program.

Middle Tennessee Students of Objectivism is sponsoring a video lecture by Dr. Gary Hull called "Multiculturalism = Racism." The lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the third floor of the KUC. For more information, contact Luc Travers at 895-0951.

Delta Sigma Theta sorority will be hosting the Alaya Pageant at Wright Music Hall at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Christina Malone at 898-4975.

The Society of Professional Journalists/MTSU Chapter will host "Sensitivity and the Media: Confronting Stereotypes and Understanding Victims" from 2 to 4 p.m. in BAS S118. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Angie Harville or Lisa Rollins at 904-8380.

Continuing
Organizations not requesting funds must have their organizational report forms completed on or before Sept. 21. The forms are due in KUC 122, and are currently available in KUC 122 and KUC 306. The forms also will be available at the organization sessions scheduled for this week and next week.

S.H.A.R.E., MTSU's Peer Education Program, is now accepting applications. Peer educators perform theatre and educational programs on college health issues such as STDs, sexual assault, alcohol, drugs, etc. Pick up an application in KUC 303 or call Tressa Cherry at 898-5453 for more information.

The June Anderson Women's Center's Eating Disorder Support Group will meet on Wednesdays from 12-1:30 p.m. in Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building 109. Bring lunch and join the discussion and support group. For further information, contact Mary Glantz at 898-5725.

The June Anderson Women's Center's Looking Forward Support Group will meet every Thursday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Carson-Kennedy Nursing Building 109. This group is for survivors of sexual abuse. The meetings are facilitated by a therapist to assist in the healing process. For more information, contact Mary Glantz at 898-5725.

Raider Victory Ministry will be holding dorm Bible studies on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in Corlew Hall 719, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in Cummings Hall 731, and also on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in Felder 204. Contact Ricky Walters at 371-8479 for further information.

The Presbyterian Student Fellowship will be having "Prime Time Study" on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., "Noontime Forum" lunches on Mondays from 12 to 1 p.m., and cell groups on Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. They will all be held at the PSF Fellowship House and Individual Apartments. For more information, contact Rich Zeigler at 893-1787 or resident advisers at 867-7370.

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

MTSU second largest in TBR system

Jamie Evans
Staff Reporter

MTSU's final head count of 18,432 students is up .36 percent from last fall, making it the second largest institution in the Tennessee Board of Regents system, according to the Fall 1998 enrollment comparisons report.

MTSU has the largest freshmen class in the system this year. These freshmen had an ACT average of 21.8 percent, which is above the national average of 21.0 percent and exceeds the Tennessee tested population average of 19.8 percent.

So, how long before MTSU hits 20,000 students?

Cliff Gillespie, associate vice president of enrollment management, said that initially it was projected to be 2002. However, he said enrollment was down this fall from what was expected.

"We didn't grow this fall as much as we thought we would," Gillespie said.

The new projection using the latest numbers has not been completed yet, but MTSU is expected to have 20,000 students by 2002 or 2003, according to Gillespie. He also said that there is no end to this growth trend in sight.

But how many students can MTSU handle?

Gillespie said there are two factors to how many students can be accommodated.

One is the number of faculty available to teach courses. The university filled several faculty positions this year so, for now, it is not a problem, according to Gillespie.

The second factor is day-to-day issues like buildings and parking. Gillespie said with the new Business and Aerospace building, classroom space is not that much of an issue. However, he said there is one area of study that is suffering.

"We are reaching capacity on science courses," Gillespie said. "We desperately need a new science building."

With the shortage of science classes offered, some freshmen are having to take their first year science courses during their sophomore year, Gillespie said.

Patti Miller, director of campus planning, declined comment as to when a new science building was planned to be built.

Other information from the enrollment comparison report showed that the top six feeder colleges for transfer students are Motlow State, Volunteer state, Columbia State, Nashville State Tech, UT-Knoxville and Tennessee Tech. The top four feeder colleges are all community colleges in the TBR system. MTSU has a long tradition of getting students from these colleges because credits are easily transferred, Gillespie said.

The largest school in the TBR system is the University of Memphis with 20,108 students, up 1.27 percent from last year. However, according to officials at the UM enrollment office, this is not the final number and it could fluctuate slightly in the next few days.

\$7 million to be spent on renovations

Bryan Brooks
Staff Reporter

A \$7 million bond was recently secured from the Tennessee State School Bond Authority to finance campus housing renovations over the next two summers.

"A number of people will be working through the fall and spring to determine where it will be spent," said Debra Sells, director of housing and residence life.

The bond will help complete the first portion of the \$45 million in renovations that were outlined in a

study done by Nashville-based architecture firm Street Dixon Rick last year.

Bob Adams, assistant vice president for the business office, worked with Sells to obtain the bond. He said that a state-appointed architect will work with the school to prioritize the renovations. He added these include bathroom renovations, new flooring, windows, roofing and addressing any safety concerns.

Adams said \$7 million was the most they felt like they could ask for at present with the current rent structure in place for students

living on campus. To borrow more money, Adams said housing costs for students would have to be increased.

The bond will be paid off over the next 20 years.

This summer, \$500,000 of work in the form of concrete and cosmetic repairs was completed on Deere, Nicks, Clement and Gore residence halls.

Most dorms are more than 25 years old and were originally funded by federal money given to universities during the late 1960s. Major renovations are now being required because of age.

Due to limited space, not all Campus Caps submitted can be printed

'Sidelines' always welcomes new writers, photographers, graphic designers and artists. Come by the JUB (310) or call 898-2336 for more information.



MINUTE MAID COLLEGE EXTRAVAGANZA



September 22, 1998
KUC Knoll
10:30am-2:00pm



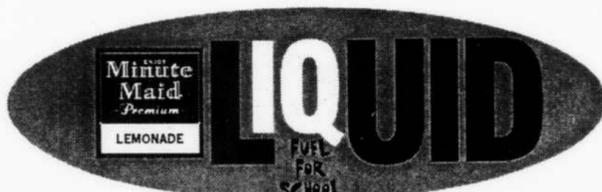
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1:30PM-2:00PM

"How many lemons can you eat in one minute?"

- D.J. for entertainment
- MTSU Mascot "Lightning"

- Sample Minute Maid Products
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Socialists speak out

Roy Moore
Staff Reporter

Dozens of dimly-dressed students flocked to the Olympia House Friday night for a benefit concert for Middle Tennessee Solidarity, the local branch of the national Marxist organization.

Philosophy professor Michael Principe and local bands Pop Roxy, Alexis Wax and The Standard Fixed headlined the event, which sought to dispel any premature notions of socialism's demise.

Greg Matherly, spokesperson for MT Solidarity, arranged the concert to raise funds and awareness of the organization and to recruit new members. The

group will use the concert's proceeds to bring socialist author Kim Moody to MTSU for a Philosophy Lyceum.

Matherly said that modern society is growing more tolerant of the controversial organization.

"It seems that the McCarthy-era Red Scare is finally dying down, and people our age are pretty open to new ideas," he said.

Curious onlookers read literature and listened to speeches about Solidarity -- a socialist, democratic, feminist and anti-racist organization founded nationally in 1986.

MT Solidarity organized in May as a grass-roots association and began immediately by protesting

America's embargo on Cuba, possible war with Iraq and MTSU's logging of Hickman County wetlands.

Principe compared socialism to a democratic movement in the night's keynote address.

"People democratically will change their future," he said. "It's people getting together and trying to push for further democratization," Principe said.

In a sobering speech, Principe challenged the audience members to retain their fervor in these cynical times.

"All of us are still wanting some kind of passion, of commitment. We're not so alienated that we've forgotten that," he said. ■



Principe speaks to a crowd of 50 at the Olympia House Friday night.

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Starbucks grounds for protest among students

Jill Gardiner
University of Wisconsin at Madison

Starbucks' largest venue in the U.S. is brewing trouble for locally owned coffeehouses near the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

The corporate coffee giant celebrated the grand opening of its three-floor, 5,000 square-foot building last week, prompting many UW students and Madison residents to picket in protest with signs reading 'Starbucks squeezes the life out of local coffee shops,' and 'Is frappuccino really thicker than blood?'

"The main problem I have with Starbucks is its backstabbing business practices," said Dan Rodman, a student protestor. "They have been known for driving out local businesses in a number of cases."

Even a recently elected county official invited to speak during Thursday's ribbon-cutting ceremony issued a strong warning to the franchise.

"Starbucks, welcome to Madison," said County Commissioner Echnaton Vedder. "The reality is that we are a liberal, progressive community. Consumers here are not naive. You are mistaken if you think you won't be heavily scrutinized by this community. When and if your local business practices and international marketing are not satisfactory, we will take action. The future of Starbucks here is in your hands."

It wasn't exactly the welcome company officials had hoped for. Malcolm McGowan, store manager and host of the event, acknowledged the protestors' right to free speech, but said he was disappointed that their information about the corporation's business practices was inaccurate.

Employees working the pastry counter, cash register and cappuccino machines agreed.

"I have worked for other coffeehouses in town, and Starbucks is by far the nicest to their employees," said cashier Joel

Jirard. "They are truly a great corporation."

The new Starbucks, located in the trendy shopping district of State Street, has stirred mixed emotions among local coffeehouse owners who already provide amenities no contemporary java hut should be without - board games, overstuffed couches, live music and gourmet scones.

"We are pretty much going about our business," said Tanya Wheeler, a co-owner of Café Assisi, a hangout that's popular with UW students. "We don't necessarily think they do things in the most democratic way, but we are not Starbucks haters either."

Marketing Professor Hank Boyd said the new Starbucks could potentially draw more people to one of the city's shopping districts and expand the local market with strong brand name recognition.

"Maybe on the whole it will be good for the economy," he said. "But I don't know how convinced I would feel as a local coffee vendor." ■

Honors lecture delves into Flight 800 crash

Barry Gilley
Staff Reporter

Controversy, conspiracy theories and a plane crash will hit MTSU today between 3:30-4:20 p.m., and it's not in the latest movie showing at the KUC Theater. Ron Ferrara will discuss the Flight 800 airline disaster that occurred off Long Island in July 1996 and the extensive investigation of its cause in Peck Hall 109A. "Flight 800: Airplane Crashes and Cover-ups" is the latest installment of the Fall 1998 Honors Lecture Series Exploring the theme, "Shams, Cons, and Cover-ups."

Despite the involvement of the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board and the FBI in what was probably the most intense investigation of any airplane crash in history, no definitive answer has, as yet, been provided for the cause of the aircraft's destruction. Those involved with the investigation have cited an explosion of the craft's center wing fuel tank as the cause but, according to Ferrara, there is still

much speculation and conflicting evidence surrounding the case.

"They have not yet come up with an ignition source that explains why the fuel tank would have exploded," Ferrara said. "About 90 percent of the airplane was reconstructed in a hanger from Debra. Investigation of the wreckage has led some to argue that the tank exploded after the plane broke apart."

Other theories as to the cause have ranged from terrorist bombings to missile strikes and mid-air collisions. Evidence contradicting the official explanation includes 150 eye-witnesses giving the same story, traces of explosives in the seats and inferences made from structural damage and instrumentation reading from the "black box." There have also been groups that claim there are FBI radar photographs that have not been released to the public although there is no proof.

The Honors Lecture Series is free and open to the public. Anyone that would like to find out more about this real life mystery is welcome. ■

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OPINIONS

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

Editorial

Leave your mark on campus

The new library is a short three and a half months away from being open to the student body, and a lot still has to be done.

What's exciting about the new institution is that the students will have access to new equipment with a larger area to work and study. Let's not forget how awesome the building looks. We should be thankful.

State funding has provided much of the supplies needed to build the new library. While new books are not first on the list of necessities, state funding could not provide the cost of them anyway. The administration has resorted to private funding — which is a great opportunity for students to leave their mark on campus.

The library is offering personally-inscribed bricks to be placed in the courtyard in front of the building. The bricks can be purchased by anyone, who in return has their name engraved and put on permanent display.

What a great way to literally leave your mark. Your name would be set in stone as an alum of MTSU and contributor to the library.

Another way to participate in the funding for the library is by purchasing a book and donating it to the library. With gratitude, your name will be inscribed on the inside cover.

No one likes to hear about more money going from our pockets to the school. However, some causes are worth the effort.

The point of contributing is not only to support our school in a positive way but to leave your name, in some way, on the school. While some students leave their mark academically or athletically, students who don't fit into either areas can still make a difference and be part of MTSU history-in-the-making.

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.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



Bikers have parking problems too

Susan McMahan
Managing Editor

I circle around looking for the perfect parking space, complaining the entire time about the lack of space. After finally finding an open space, I lock up and walk away.

I go through the same things as everybody else that tries to park on this campus, and I never even attempt to park my car on campus. It's scary enough to park my bicycle.

As parking spots for cars become more and more scarce, more students living within a short distance of the university are realizing the advantages of bringing two wheels to campus instead of four.

While more bicycles decrease the congestion in the crowded campus parking lots, spaces are getting harder to find on

campus bike racks.

According to Public Safety's web page on bike theft, the racks on campus are placed in "maximum-visibility areas" around campus and bikes should be placed only on these racks.

Public Safety can issue citations for people who block entrances and exits to buildings, since blocking doorways is against state law. However, the threat of a citation does not stop people from parking their bikes on railings around campus when no room is left on the bike racks.

If enough racks were placed in these high-visibility areas, something amazing would happen. Bikes would disappear from the railings and reappear on the new bike racks.

Railings are currently a popular target for overflow bike parking because they resemble the size and shape of a bike rack.

Public Safety recommends bikers always

use a lock on their bike. More specifically, they endorse the U-bolt style bike lock, named because the lock is shaped like a giant "U."

U-bolt locks are the most effective because they can only be used one way. To be effective, the wheel of the bike must be placed over the top pole on the bike rack.

A U-bolt lock can't be wrapped around a tree, light post or fence. The only other possible alternative is a handrail.

While U-bolt locks make the bike safer on the rack, they also make space on the rack harder to find. Placing the bike over the rack means that another bike can't be placed in the same area on the other side of the rack.

But without placing the bike wheel over the bike rack, only the wheels can be protected. Even with another type of lock, placing a tire over the rack is recommended to better protect the bike frame and wheels.

Since all adult-sized bikes sold at speciality bike shops — with the exception of BMX styles — have a quick-release lever on the front wheel, locking only a wheel is an open invitation to bike thieves to steal either the frame or the wheels of a bike if both aren't protected.

Twenty-five bikes were reported to Public Safety as stolen on campus in 1997, worth a total of \$6,387 or an average of over \$255 per bike. How many of these thefts were the result of not being able to lock a bike up properly?

Two-thirds of the thefts last year occurred around a dorm, where racks are always crowded.

How will the number stack up this year, when all racks are more crowded than they have been in years past? I bet the numbers would be lower if the number of bike racks was higher. ■

Clinton confession video might be public

Los Angeles Times

The House Judiciary Committee is expected to vote Thursday, probably along party lines, to make public the videotape of President Clinton's testimony to a grand jury about his relationship with Monica S. Lewinsky. That testimony provided much of the basis for independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr's finding in his report to Congress that Clinton lied under oath, a possible ground for impeachment.

At some point, most of the material Starr sent to Congress is likely to be made public, as it should be. On an issue of such paramount national importance, the public has the right to reach its own informed conclusions. But how that material is released could be crucial in testing whether the Judiciary Committee is, as promised, going about its work fairly.

Republicans who have seen the Clinton videotape say it shows an evasive and unconvincing dissembler who, after

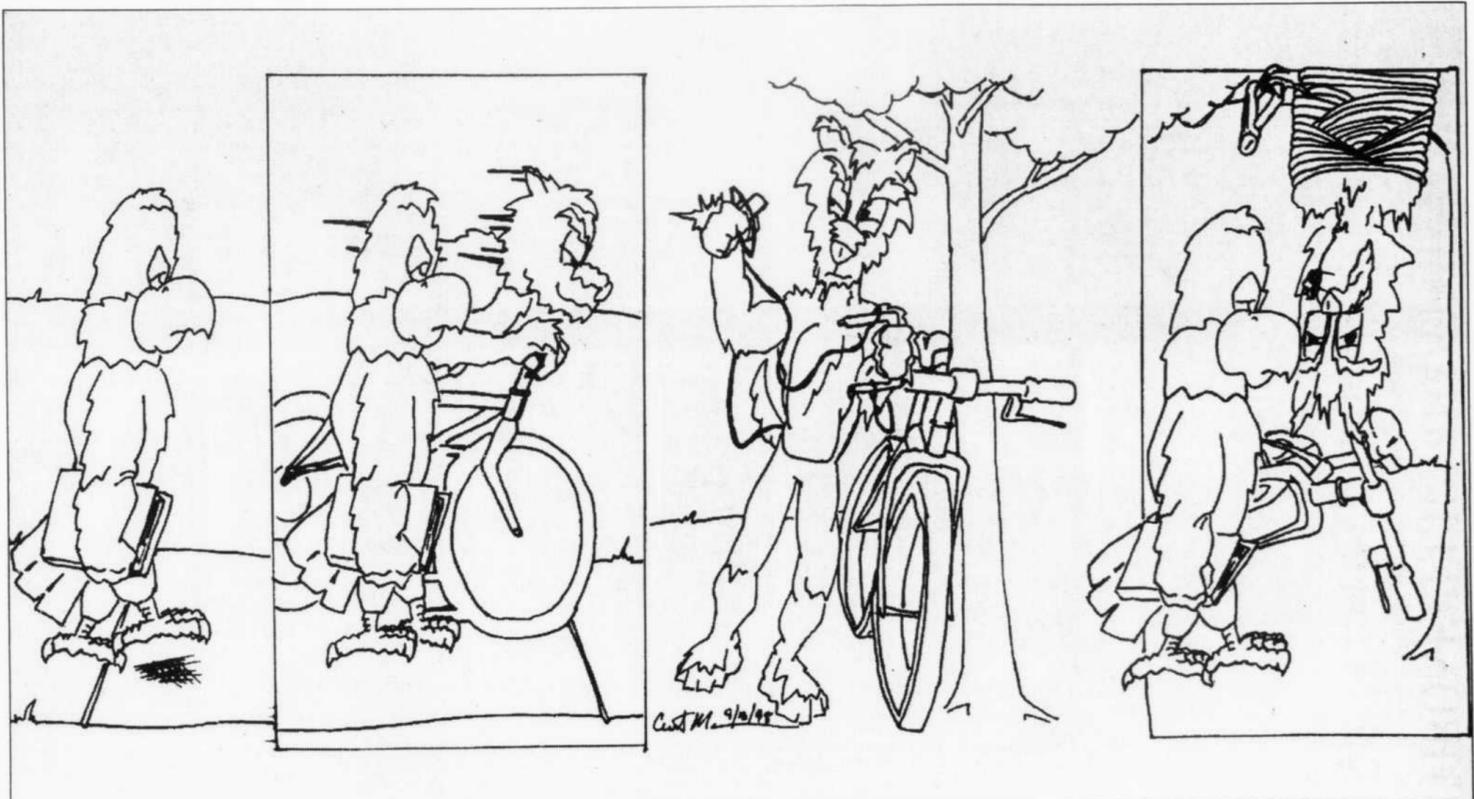
nearly four hours of testimony, explodes in anger. That is precisely why they are eager to rush the tape into the public domain. It depicts Clinton in a context he cannot control and puts his responses to detailed questions about his relationship with Lewinsky up against the now familiar contradictory testimony summarized in the Starr report. The tape apparently further casts doubt on the claims by Clinton's lawyers that, even though he did not tell the whole truth, he did not technically perjure himself.

The immediate question is whether the videotape ought to be released before other relevant grand jury testimony and supporting evidence is also made public. Certainly the tape is a central document in this matter. It exists because Clinton, after refusing for months to testify before the grand jury, finally agreed to do so through closed-circuit television. So the video record of his appearance is a matter of his own choosing. No other witness, so far as is known, was similarly recorded. By showing Clinton's demeanor, not least his discomfort, the videotape adds a unique dimension to the transcript.

At some point—and that point need not be far off — the videotape should be made public. It is an intrinsic part of this whole sordid business, a key piece of evidence that exists only because Clinton insisted on testifying to the grand jury without appearing personally before it. But how the tape is released is of key importance.

Just a few days ago congressional leaders and Judiciary Committee members assured the public that the impeachment process would be conducted responsibly and free of partisanship. Now comes an undisguised partisan push to release a single piece of embarrassing evidence, well before any hearing on the impeachment process has even been scheduled. The political motivations behind this effort are unlikely to raise the public's confidence in the fairness of what is about to unfold. Republicans who seek to damage the president by the precipitate release of the videotape should pause to consider what harm their hasty action could be doing to the integrity of the momentous process Congress is about to begin. ■

BY CURT MANN



From the mailbox

Move bikes off campus

I read with interest the story in the September 14 issue reporting on SGA's pending bill to increase campus safety by increasing lighting on campus. This is a laudatory effort. I am hoping that SGA will broaden its concern about campus safety to consider a problem that affects far more members of the campus community: bicycle traffic on campus. I have both been personally involved in and witnessed dozens of collisions or near-misses between bicyclists and pedestrians. The problem seems to have gotten even worse this year — the result of greater enrollments and more bicycling due to inadequate vehicle parking spots.

I urge SGA to contact the MTSU Public Safety Office to discuss re-locating all bicycle racks to the campus perimeter

and banning bicycles from the campus core, or other appropriate ways of reducing this serious safety problem.

Richard Osborne
Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Decision not made about donated land

Your article titled "Save the trees, ax the waste" in the September 14 issue of Sidelines contained useful information about the corporate welfare program that is destroying our national forests, however, I for one wish you would look into MTSU's own "timber issue," i.e., the 995-acre wooded site in Hickman County owned by the MTSU Foundation.

The foundation is studying several alternatives regarding what to do with this property. They have had the timber on

it appraised, I understand, and logging it is one of the options under consideration. (Much surrounding land in Hickman County has been clearcut already.) This is being considered in spite of the fact that the late Dr. Clifford Stark, retired chair of the agriculture department, who donated the land to MTSU in 1969, indicated it was to be used as a hands-on educational laboratory. It is my understanding that the foundation intends to make a decision sometime this semester.

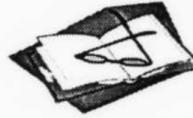
Petitions regarding this issue are circulating among both students and faculty under the direction of Rex Barber in the biology department. Why has there been no coverage of this effort in Sidelines?

Dr. Glenn Himebaugh
Professor of Journalism

Reach for the Pinnacle Student Success Workshops



Five-Day Study Plan



Thurs, Sept 24	12:30 - 1:30	OR
	1:30 - 2:30	OR
Friday, Sept 25	12:00 - 1:00	OR
	1:00 - 2:00	

A seminar for students to learn a study plan to make it possible to prepare for exams and to help them avoid using cramming as their only study technique.

Five Steps to a College Paper



Thurs, Oct 22	12:30 - 1:30	OR
	1:30 - 2:30	OR
Friday, Oct 23	12:00 - 1:00	OR
	1:00 - 2:00	

This seminar is designed to help students learn how to plan to complete a college paper in a five-week period, through five clear steps from deciding upon a topic to the final paper.

Call 898-5989 to sign up for any of these free Student Success Workshops. They will all be held in KUC 320, except for the Sept. 24th workshops, to be held in Cummings 106.

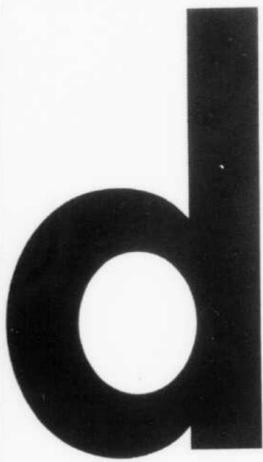
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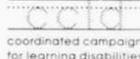


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JESUS: LIAR, LUNATIC OR LORD

A LECTURE
BY
DR. DAVID YOUNG

TUESDAY NIGHT
September 22 @ 7:00 p.m.
Learning Resources Center
Room 221

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

JESUS



"You can shut Him up as a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call him Lord and God."

Lecture is sponsored by the MTSU Christian Student Center

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FEATURES

Only women will really understand

Staff Reports

Only women will be invited to Beth Donahue's "For Women Only" show tonight at Zanies Comedy Showplace in Nashville. It's not that men would not understand her cut-to-the-chase routine, it's just that they can't really understand! It's a girl thing ... like going to the bathroom in pairs. Women who laugh at themselves together bond, and Donahue knows it.

After several years in stand-up comedy, Donahue has spent the past few years as a morning show air personality on WKDF Radio in Nashville. She entertained audiences during her morning show from 6 a.m. until 10 a.m. and during frequent live remote appearances. Now back to live performing on stage, she admits she relishes the ability to "sleep in" in the morning.

"Everything in my act has really happened to me,"

comedienne Beth Donahue

As a comedienne, Donahue rose quickly from unknown status to headliner at comedy clubs. During the Persian Gulf War, she was one of only two U.S. women performing for the troops. With a style described as brutally funny and incredibly honest, she has achieved swift and immense popularity in Nashville. In constant demand for performances, she has performed her "For Women Only" show to packed houses all over the country.

Her book, *This Is Insanity*, has also added recently to the growing interest in the comedienne. She attributes her success with her genuine love for performing and honesty and insight that connects with audiences.

"Everything in my act has really happened to me," she said. "If it hasn't, I have a hard time selling it."

Showtime is 8 p.m. Monday. Tickets are \$15 and available through Ticketmaster or at the door at Zanies, 2025 Eighth Ave. South, Nashville. ■

Debate team squares off on live radio

Staff Reports

A live, on-air public debate between the MTSU Debate Team and the University of Alabama Debate Team will be broadcast by WMTS 88.3 Thursday, Sept. 24.

The event is sponsored by the Intercollegiate Debate Association and the MTSU Department of Speech and Theatre.

The topic for the debate is whether or not additional Affirmative Action programs would be beneficial. The discussion gets underway at 8 p.m. Thursday and continues until 10 p.m., according to Michael Krueger, director of debate for MTSU's speech and theatre department.

Listeners are welcomed and encouraged to call the station during the debate with questions and comments. Tune in to 88.3 Thursday and call 898-5051 to participate in the live broadcast. ■



free art online

Staff Reports

More than 100,000 pieces of art are available free to college students as part of the "Back-to-College Giveaway Special" sponsored by an art and framing supergallery on the world wide web.

Students can select from more than 150 different free images offered at the online gallery. These artwork prints have been handpicked by Artuframe.com merchandising team and includes many of the hottest 1998 artwork choices of college students. The most sought after prints feature celebrities, movies, beer and sports figures, according to sales statistics at the art distribution company.

Registration for the free art is through the company's newly-expanded web site at www.artuframe.com.

"We are finding that once students are on our site, they are not only signing up for a free poster, but are exploring the entire site," said Bill Lederer, president and founder of Artuframe.com. "By providing these free prints and posters, we also are opening students' eyes to areas of art they might never have seen."

Lederer suggested a countdown of the five top reasons why students might want to decorate their rooms with art prints and posters:

5. You can tell your parents their hard-earned money is being spent on culture.

4. Your parents will be thrilled that you have a Warhol in your room instead of a Miller or a Bud.

3. It will allow you to bring your own personal style to your room.

2. It is less expensive than spending your junior year at the Louvre.

1. It will help make your parents believe you really learned something in Art History 101.

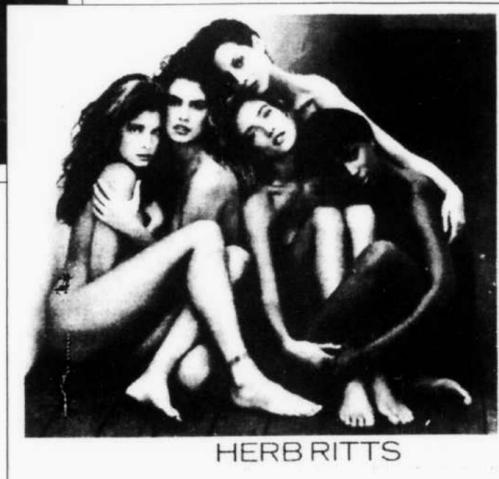
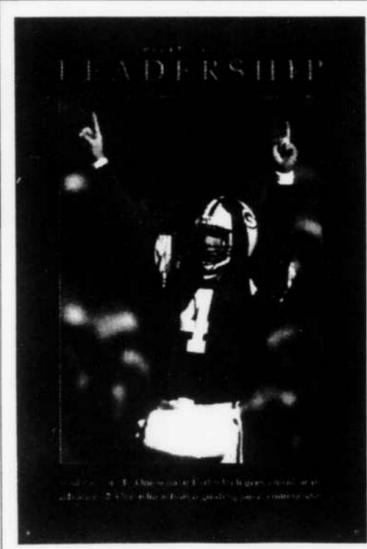
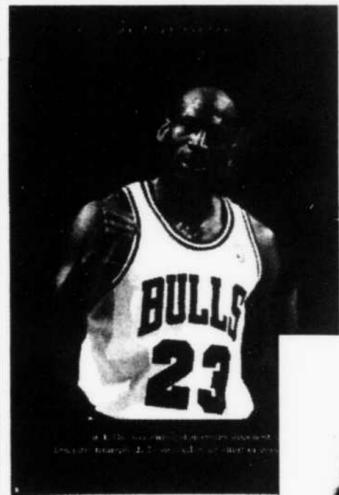
Some of the posters in the giveaway are cartoons, vintage movies, abstracts and the work of modern artists and great masters.

The "Herb Ritts' Celebrity Photos Collection" features prints of such celebrities as Dizzy Gillespie, Naomi Campbell and Bill T. Jones. The "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall" is a favorite among college students because it depicts beers from around the world. The most popular pro football prints are of local heroes and vintage football moments.

The giveaway is a way to introduce students to the prints and posters in the entire Artuframe.com supergallery which include tens of thousands of different prints and more than a billion framing options. Images can be ordered unframed or matted and framed from a virtual framing studio.

Students also are invited to join ArtClique which provides free art, discounts and other membership benefits including use of the exciting artificial intelligence of the GroupLens recommendation engine.

Founded in 1997 and based in Lake Forest, Ill., Artuframe.com offers affordable images of sports stars, celebrities, music, vintage movies, fine arts, modern masters and many other categories. ■



'Steel Magnolias' steals stage

Circle Players revive box office comedy drama

Vickie Gibson
Staff Reporter



Photo by Beth Gwin

Robert Harling's heartwarming comedy "Steel Magnolias" comes to the stage as the 1998-99 season opener for Circle Players. The play centers around six women and a beauty parlor that is the center of the Southern town's gossip activity.

The play's action is set in Chinquapin, La., where beauty shop owner Truvy's philosophy is "There is no such thing as 'natural' beauty." Wise-cracking Truvy is helped by an eager and somewhat mysterious new assistant, Annelle. Their customers include a sharp-tongued Ouiser, social activist Miss Clairee, sweet-spoken M'Lynn and her delicate daughter Shelby.

Director Delores McCreery, a first-time Circle director, said she is delighted with the great script, terrific cast and good crew.

"The realistic storyline emphasizes the relationships between the women and gives the show great depth. You see each character grow and change and learn."

The realistic set, with running

water and real rollers and curling irons, gives the director and actors extra challenges. The actors playing Truvy and Annelle have to handle the beauticians' chores during the beauty shop scenes.

The cast of "Steel Magnolias" includes Maryanna Clark as M'Lynn, Kimberly Guerrero as Shelby, Debbie Kraski as Truvy, LaDonna McGehee as Ouiser, Wesley Paine as Clairee and Stacey Smith as Annelle. Producers are Ramona Richards and Sunny Spain.

"Steel Magnolias" runs Fridays

and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. through Oct. 4. Tickets are \$12 and available through Ticketmaster or by calling Telecharge at 255-2787. Season tickets for all six shows in Circle Players' 49th season are still available by calling 254-0113. ■

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A \$200 deposit is due AT REGISTRATION

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MTSU Ideas and Issues, MT Anthropology Society, and Linebaugh Public Library present

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Murfreesboro City Hall

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MTSU 7
Jacksonville State 10



(Friday)	1	2	3	4
MTSU	5	6	11	
SEMO	15	15	15	

MTSU (loss)
SEMO (win)

(Sat.)				
MTSU	15	4	7	5
East III.	9	15	15	15

MTSU (loss)
East. III. (win)



	1	2	F
MTSU	0	0	0
Wofford	4	2	6



MTSU-A team 93
West Kentucky 5

MTSU-B team 50
West Kentucky 5



UT-Chattanooga
Adidas/Powerade
Invitational

Men-Individual

- 11-Jason Smith
 - 12-Kyle Brown
 - 14-John Cheek
 - 18-Casey Lawson
 - 23-Dallas Jones
 - 35-Alex Brown
- Men-Team**
- 1-UT-Chattanooga
 - 2-MTSU

Women-Individual

- 17-Sabrina Smith
- 21-Sarah Calvin
- 25-Lavonda Miller
- 31-Jennifer Bruetting

Women's soccer falls short

Staff Reports

The women's soccer team fell to Wofford this weekend with a 0-6 loss.

Freshman Amanda Berman scored two goals and added two assists to lead Wofford over the Lady Raiders at Snyder Field.

Berman opened the scoring when she took a cross from Debbie Boyce and put the ball past the keeper just under five minutes into the match. She then netted another goal eight minutes later off an assist by Thea Moen.

Amanda Leylan upped the score to 3-0 when she broke away from her defender and pounded a shot past the Lady Raiders' keeper.

Meghan McAdams made the score 4-0 at the half when she took a pass from Janelle Gisel and kicked the ball into the left side of the net.

Heidi Best took a pass from Berman and Melissa Murphy in the 46th-minute to put Wofford ahead 5-0. Murphy then added a goal in the 49th-minute off an assist by Berman.

Wofford (4-2-0) outshot MTSU (3-4-0) 19-3.

Golf team goes to first tournament of season

Keith Ryan Cartwright
Staff Reporter

Last year, the Blue Raider golf team was marked by youth and inconsistency.

However, going into their first tournament of the 1998 fall season, expectations are a bit higher this time around.

"We've got experience," head coach Johnny Moore said. "Now we've got to play."

Beginning Tuesday, the Raiders will be competing in the Precept Peach State Intercollegiate Golf Tournament hosted by Georgia State University.

The last time the Raiders headed down to Conyers, Ga., and the Cherokee Run Golf Course, they finished a disappointing third from last in the 16-team field.

This year's field will once again feature the likes of Central Florida, Georgia

Southern, Memphis and South Alabama among others.

"It's time we step up and play with these guys," Moore stressed. "Beat somebody we're not supposed to beat. We can't beat all of these teams, but we have to beat some of them—at least the schools that are our size."

Not knowing exactly what level of talent some of the other schools are returning with, Moore feels a finish in the top half of the field is a realistic outlook.

The Raiders will find out fast just how they stack up. The 54-hole tournament tees off Tuesday at 8 a.m. with two-rounds of action, capped off with the final round on Wednesday beginning at 8 a.m.

"My expectations are high," Moore said. "Everyone's been there. There's no excuses, we're just going to play."

The Raiders will be led by a trio of juniors—Brett Alexander, Richard Spangler and Javier Correa. The other two members of the traveling squad will be fifth-year senior Steve Ressler and sophomore Dane Randle.

Thus far Spangler has had what Moore characterized as a tremendous fall practice. In fact, Spangler out shot Alexander in the qualifying round to earn the spot as the Raiders No. 1 golfer.

"Richard has had a real good fall practice for us," Moore said. "And Brett will come through when we need him."

Alexander, who combines a

solid long game off the tees with good touch on the greens, was the Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year in 1997. The junior from Richland, Mo., will be called on by Moore to lead the Raiders out on the course this year.

"These guys are juniors now," Moore said. "They're going to have to step up."

Unfortunately, the Raiders will be without junior Whit Turnbow, who is out with an injured left shoulder. Taking his place is Randle. The youngster from Albany, Ga., showed signs of greatness during the spring portion of the Raiders schedule a year ago.

However, as much ability as the Raiders showed at times last year, they'll have to maintain their composure on a more consistent basis this year if they intend to reach their true potential.



STEVE RESSLER RICHARD SPANGLER BRETT ALEXANDER JAVIER CORREA DANE RANDLE

The Peach State Tournament tees off with the first two rounds on Tuesday at 8 a.m. The golf team is expected to rank well due to the high quality and experience of its players.

Gamecocks defense too much for Blue Raiders

Staff Reports

Boots Donnelly returned home unhappy yesterday. Once again, Blue Raider offense took the punch as Jacksonville took the victory 10-7.

"We got beat in every way that you could get beat up front on offense," said MTSU's football coach. "They just whipped us up front. We didn't do anything up there that I'm happy about at all. Not one

thing at all."

Wes Counts, red-shirt freshman quarterback, was 12-of-18 for 104 yards, but was taken back on almost every play throughout the game by a hostile Gamecock defense.

"I just didn't make some plays when I should have. I should have done more," Counts said. "We didn't get it done when we had the chance and that's my fault."

"We didn't do that good a job of protecting him today," said

offensive lineman Barry Hall. "He was running around a lot back there just trying to survive."

The Blue Raiders led the game 7-0 at the end of the first half, but Jacksonville got on the board with only 23 seconds left in the second quarter. Gamecock Brad Hopkins made the 46-yard field goal to make the score 7-3 MTSU.

At the beginning of the third quarter, Joey Hamilton made an 82-yard touchdown to put

the Gamecocks in the lead 10-7. He caught the ball mid-field and slipped past Darrell Love into the end zone.

"There is no way that we should have been beaten on that play," Donnelly said. "It shouldn't have happened."

Win or lose, Donnelly makes a point to remind the team that every game is a combined effort.

"We come in and we win together or we lose together," he said.



Support your local players

Let me catch my breath. UT beat Florida. After five years of losing to the Gators, the Vols finally put their foot down. The 20-17 win -- in overtime, no less -- was the biggest for UT Coach Phillip Fulmer.

Fulmer was around for the 1992 win over Florida, but he was only the interim head coach at the time.

It was a close game the whole way -- 10-10, 17-17 -- and the scores went on this way for almost four hours.

The win places UT higher in the national rankings -- no more No. 6. They could very well replace Florida's No. 2 spot.

What really lured me into the game Saturday night was not only the awesome competition between two powerful teams but the eternal devotion of the fans. Players and coaches had trouble hearing each other (which was a problem throughout the game) because the fans were cheering so loud. Neyland Stadium could barely hold them.

It was great to see such loyalty not only to the teams themselves but to the spirit of rivalry. At the finish, the cheers were screeching with joy, the team rejoicing in victory. Goal posts fell to the field and an orange wave of fans covered the green. It was beautiful.

Ticket prices were an investment -- ranging from \$100 to over \$600 outside the stadium before the game. Fans are fans no matter what the cost. But that's UT football. That's rivalry. That's Tennessee.

Turning to Raider football, I was proud of the turnout for the first season game against TSU, who is considered

See SUPPORT, page 9



MOOSEMEN WIN

MTSU dominated both the A- and B-team games on Saturday against Western Kentucky with superior rugby skills as they took the early lead and never stopped. At halftime, it was 52-5. Despite dry conditions, they continued to score until the end.

Adam Kibler earned game MVP when he scored three of his five tries in the 4th quarter.

Other stand-outs include Jo Jo DeGuira, Will Maddox, Chris Ryan and Cayo Nicolau.

This weekend, the Moosemen travel to Huntsville to play in the "Heart of Dixie" Tournament where the team will meet up with Florida, University of Tennessee, Alabama, Clemson and others.

Left: Prop Chris Drogmiller, 1, runs after Kevin McConnell, 3, who is being tackled by three Western Kentucky players.

Photos by Derrick Wilson

UT Vols break five-year losing streak to Florida



Above: Defensive back Fred White battles with Florida tailback Terry Jackson. (photo by Larry McCormack)

Left: Shelby Russell, 7, of Knoxville sticks a pom pom in her dad's back pocket. (photo by Lisa Nipp)

SUPPORT continued from page 8

to be MTSU's rival. The crowd set a record attendance, and the 28-27 victory over the Tigers was sweet.

Let's not give up on our team. Although the last two losses are disappointing, keep the faith. Maybe the Blue Raiders just need to be in the comforts of home to be the best.

When they ARE home, make it a point to support the team -- support the school. This weekend the Raiders play Eastern Kentucky at 6 p.m. Let's keep the hometown support and be in the stands at kick-off. ■

NEXT GAME:
Eastern Kentucky visits MTSU this Saturday. Kick-off is at 6 p.m.

Ask your employer or banker about saving with U.S. Savings Bonds.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 898-2104

America's game makes season memories

Thomas Boswell
The Washington Post

The faces in the crowd are what you remember. It's not just that people are smiling. They're grinning so broadly, talking so animatedly, that you can see their teeth - rows and rows of teeth from the upper deck in Chicago's Wrigley Field to the grandstand in Milwaukee's County Stadium. Everywhere Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa play, America's mouth is agape.

For the next week, which constitutes both the last days of this season and the final act of the greatest home-run chase in any year, hundreds of thousands of fans will be smiling, screaming, chanting and applauding in packed ballparks from St. Louis to Milwaukee to Houston. They'll be having the time, and the memory, of a sports lifetime. They're the lucky ones. And I know just how they feel. On Friday, I was one of them. Yes, my teeth are still showing, too.

Even busmen deserve a holiday. I went to Chicago in the afternoon to see Sosa, then drove a couple of hours to Milwaukee to see McGwire. Now, that's a doubleheader. As one of my childhood favorites, Ernie Banks, might've said, "Let's see two." Like anyone who has latched onto this summer's movable baseball feast, I saw plenty. I gasped at one home run (Big Mac's 64th) and groaned as two of his titanic 450-foot blasts hooked around the left-field foul pole. I chanted, "Sammy, Sammy," and, twice, on full-count pitches, went into that long, full-throated shawnee wail that fills a park, chills a pitcher and thrills a home-town hitter on a "payoff" pitch. And twice, Sosa barely missed hitting bombs of his own, shooting pop-ups so high in the cloudless, crisp, late-summer sky that infielders staggered under them, necks arched, awed by the true slugger's unique style of a 450-foot blast: 250 feet up, then 250 feet down.

Most of all, like fans from coast to coast who have been collecting parts for their personal piece of the drama, I got a hundred memories for my time. My favorite came at Wrigley

because every person in the park was standing as Sosa batted seventhinning, a man had to hold his 5-year-old son up to get a Sosa jersey, on his shoulders. What a view that little boy had. From the middle of the upper deck, directly behind home plate, a panorama was spread out before us that included the lights of Lake Michigan beyond the right-field bleachers and a passing El train.

How lucky a family was that? An heir to the Wrigley fortune? A ticket holder? Someone who plotted this visit months in advance?

I called Ticketmaster a couple of weeks ago. Paid \$11 each for two tickets," said Ray Tromba of Shreveport, La., sitting next to me. His wife, Kathy, with Layton still on his shoulders. "But I only got tickets for one game. If Sammy doesn't hit one this last time at bat, I may have to look into "alternate possibilities" for tickets (Saturday)."

"He might hit one right now," I said. "We were quickly disappointed."

"Could be scalpers (Saturday)," said Tromba, who said he once watched a year of Class A ball for the Cards, McGwire's

Alumni Relations

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September 21, 1998

Dear MTSU Students:

I recently made the trip with several alumni to the University of Illinois football game on September 12, 1998. We were all very impressed with the Illinois student turnout at the game. Keep in mind, that this is a football program that had lost 18 straight games!! At all of the away games that I have attended in the past, the student support at these games was tremendous.

As the football program moves to a different level, they need your support and enthusiasm. By attending home football games, you can show your support for the Blue Raiders and help the move to Division 1-A football. The games are different than past years with lots of fun and excitement in the air. We should all be proud to be a part of such a fine institution with such a rich history.

The MTSU Alumni Association challenges you to attend the games this year. Don't let the alumni and friends outnumber the students on game day! Start making your own memories now. Be a part of this historical season and support the Blue Raiders.

See you at the game!

David

David A. Cullum '55
President
MTSU National Alumni Association

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Coaches want patience with quarterbacks

Bob Glauber
Newsday

Item: Not even one full game into the season, Washington Redskins Coach Norv Turner decides to pull the plug on the Gus Fretter era and turns to some guy named Trent Green, who had thrown all of one NFL pass before this season.

Item: After only two games, Detroit Lions Coach Bobby Ross says enough is enough and benches quarterback Scott Mitchell, replacing him with Charlie Batch, a second-round rookie.

Conclusion: Sure isn't a lot of patience with quarterbacks these days, is there?

"You don't have a lot of wiggle room anymore," New York Giants quarterback coach Rod Dowhower said. "I'll tell you what, I wouldn't want to be in (Ross' and Turner's) shoes. A young quarterback can watch all the tapes you want, the quarterback coach can teach you, but there's nothing like lining up in a game situation. There's nothing like experience."

Yet increasingly, coaches have become less tolerant of erratic quarterback play, and have shown little reluctance to make changes. This, in spite of the fact that many of these same

coaches admit that the position has become so complex that patience often is the only way to allow a player to truly flourish.

"The ideal way is to bring a quarterback along slowly in your program," said Minnesota Vikings Coach Dennis Green, who points to the gradual indoctrination of Brad Johnson as the perfect example of his theory. Johnson joined Minnesota as a ninth-round pick in 1992, spent some time in the World League, and now is one of the NFL's top quarterbacks.

"You have to believe in your system, and you have to have patience with the people in it," Green said. "If you can do that, I think you're ahead of the game."

But not many people are doing it that way lately:

Last year, New York Jets Coach Bill Parcells became so frustrated with veteran Neil O'Donnell's reluctance to release his passes on certain routes that he opted for Glenn Foley, who is only 1-6 as a starter.

Giants Coach Jim Fassel replaced the injured Dave Brown midway through last season with Danny Kanell, then decided to keep Kanell as his permanent starter, even though he came into 1998 with a mere two seasons of NFL experience.

The Buffalo Bills traded away a first-round

pick to Jacksonville and awarded a five-year, \$25 million contract to Rob Johnson, who had only one career start before this season.

Baltimore Ravens Coach Ted Marchibroda is leaning toward promoting fourth-year quarterback Eric Zeier over oft-injured veteran Jim Harbaugh.

And the San Diego Chargers with Ryan Leaf and the Indianapolis Colts with Peyton Manning have wasted no time throwing both first-round picks into the fire as instant starters. Leaf has done well so far, winning his first two starts; Manning is winless and already has seven turnovers.

"The only way for (Manning) to become the kind of quarterback we know he will become is to go out there and play," General Manager Bill Polian said of Manning, who faces the Jets Sunday at Giants Stadium. "It doesn't do any good to sit him down. The idea of 'give him a break' is just curbstone philosophy. It doesn't work in football."

What works is this: You either have a big-time quarterback such as Steve Young, Brett Favre or John Elway and don't worry about the position, or you force-feed your young passers and stick them in the lineup sooner rather than later.

Then you cross your fingers. ■

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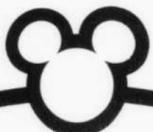
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MEMORIES

continued from page 9

organization, but is a Sosa fan.
 In a ballpark, you can meet anybody. And, because it's a ballgame, you can talk to them. As I left the Trombas, I bumped into a tall young man followed by dozens of screaming adolescent girls. With this clue in hand, I realized I'd just collided with a Smashing Pumpkin-lead singer Billy Corgan. Now that Harry Caray's dead, they'll let anybody lead the crowd in "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

"Billy, you wrote my favorite lyric of the '90s - 'In spite of my rage, I'm still just a rat in a cage.'"

"That's cool." Shaved head. Floppy black hat. Shades. Black kick-em-when-you've-got-em-downgrunge boots.

"My kid loves your music even more than I do."

"That's cooler."

"You don't seem too angry today, man."

"Ballgame."

Indeed.

Ballgames aren't "destinations," in the current jargon of the travel industry. They are, as they've always been, lazy journeys. It's all about the process. That's why we don't care "if we never get back." Exactly 100 percent of the people who love baseball understand that the final score is just more syrup on the ice-cream sundae. It's the game in which the highlight of the day might be a long foul ball.

Don't all great 19th-century novels - the form most akin to the long, intricate baseball season - start in a train station? The journey begins. The characters and incidents arrive in their own sweet time. And we follow it all, not with modern flashbacks and cutaways, but with devotion to the simple forward motion of real time.

In baseball, that's not how it works. You blurt out the best. "Saw McGwire on Friday. What a show! Smoked one into the bleachers - 417 feet like a clothesline. But he almost had THREE. Just about killed two people in the upper deck with foul balls. Flied out to the warning track in right. If the wind hadn't been blowing across, that one might have carried out, too. He's right on everything. Sosa hit four homers off the Brewers last weekend. How many'll Mac hit THIS weekend?"

Then you chill.

Late September may have the most perfect days for baseball. No clouds and no temperature, either. Not hot, not cold. As you walk down Addison Street, you want to go much slower, and yet much faster, all at the same time. Slower, to savor the approach, the glimpse of the top of Wrigley sticking out above the roofs of row houses. Faster, because you want to arrive so you can walk in the cool smell-drenched promenade under the stands where ancient men, who look like they knew Hack Wilson, sell Sammy Celebration programs and disinterested women interrupt their conversations long enough to slide an Italian sausage pizza in your general direction.

If an ancient record is to be broken, shouldn't it be shattered by a man playing in the most venerable of yards? Even Fenway Park in Boston does not feel as intimate as Wrigley. One second, you are shoulder-to-shoulder with the crowd, trying not to step on Cub scouts. The next, you're suddenly through the gate in the brick wall and standing on the field. There's no decompression chamber, no tunnel through the clubhouse, no psychological period of adjustment.

One second, you're a fan and the next, Reds Manager Jack McKeon, who has bounced around the game for 49 years, is deciding whether to spit on your shoes. If you want to know how baseball itself feels about McGwire and Sosa, ask McKeon, because he IS baseball itself, right down to his unregenerate cigar.

"Aw, this is the greatest, isn't it. Now don't get me wrong, we've pitched both these guys tough," says McKeon who, like almost all old-timers, is an integrity-of-the-game freak. "But you love to see two good guys, two really genuine people, doing something like this instead of some of the jerks we've got."

"I hope they end up tied. I like 66. Good number, don't ya think? Let 'em both have their share of the accolades," says McKeon. "I loved the way McGwire picked up his kid after he hit number 62. And I like the way Sammy's mother is so nervous watching (on TV) back in the Dominican that she can't hold her (drinking) cup when he's at bat."

Sosa pops out of the Cubs' dugout and heads straight to McKeon for some backslapping. A few weeks ago, when few thought Sosa would stay in this chase, much less have a fine chance to win it, McKeon sought him out to tell him how proud he was, as a career baseball person, that Sosa was representing the game so well. No rival manager ever had sought Sosa out to praise him. He was so tickled that he's been sending McKeon cigars.

When the Reds were in Houston last week, and Sosa was driving in six runs in TWO innings, in a late game in San Diego, McKeon held up the Cincinnati team bus so everybody could watch Sosa. "This is part of our history," said McKeon. "Watch how he acts, how he carries himself. Think about how hard you want to work so that, someday, we'll be good enough to have people pay that much attention to us."

"Jez, don't write that story," says McKeon. "They'll be all over me saying we're givin' him fat pitches." Not if they know what an ornery old coot you are.

True to his word, McKeon's Reds pitched Sosa tougher than if he'd been Babe Ruth after a visit to a dying kid in a hospital. Even though Sosa went 0 for 4, as I flipped on the radio at random for the drive to Milwaukee, the first words on the news were, "Sammy Sosa." The timing of this chase may work out perfectly. One more week of such a saga is the best fun we can imagine. And about all we can take, too.

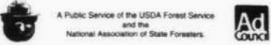
For Sosa and McGwire, this is their finest moment and their game's rejuvenating hour. The nine-stomached information age that surrounds them wants to dissect, invade, hyperbolize and, ultimately, digest them like some enormous meal. Yet they have, so far, retained some irreducible and untouchable quality. They have shared themselves, but not squandered themselves.

That mysterious light within us that's called identity - the flame you never miss until it's gone out - still burns in them. In fact, it shines out of them brighter all the time, it seems.

And it's worth a trip to see. ■

MATCH POINT

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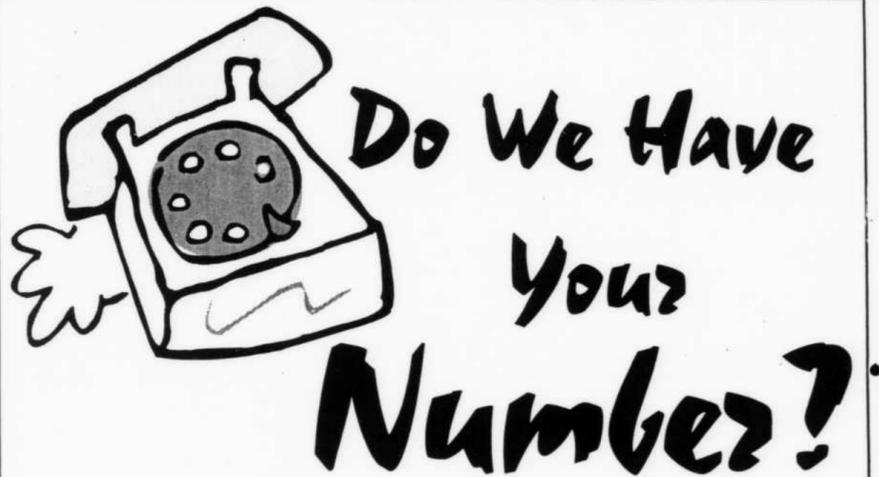
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If you do NOT wish to be listed in such a directory, you must notify the Records Office in writing no later than Wednesday, September 23, 1998. The easiest way is to go by Cope 106.

Faculty and staff numbers also will be listed in the telephone directory along with University offices and a guide to services.

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