



Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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Volume 73, Number 29

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

January 29, 1998

In the News

Construction halts water

Work on the Central Chilling Plant on campus will result in a chill water (air conditioning, cooling) outage for many buildings. Welding of a new pipe will be done to re-route a trunk line around the new Cogeneration Building, and to connect a new 1,000 ton chiller. This will start Feb. 8 and continue through Feb. 14.

The subject street will also be blocked off in front of the Wright Music Building during the construction.

Recycling grants available

The Morris K. Udall Foundation will award up to 70 scholarships to outstanding students in the Spring of 1998 for use during the next academic year. The awards will be made on the basis of merit to two different groups of student; outstanding college sophomores and juniors, and outstanding Native Americans who are sophomores and juniors with outstanding potential.

Faculty against abuse

A conference for temporary and part-time faculty will be held in Chicago Feb. 21. The main theme of this conference is the use and abuse by university administrations of these temporary and part-time employees.

Soldier arrested for death

(AP)-A Fort Campbell soldier, Sgt. first class Drini Dean Khaferi, was charged Tuesday in the fatal stabbing of his estranged wife. The charge was criminal homicide in the death of Imja Khaferi. The couple had been married 11 years. Drini Khaferi had been arrested twice before for domestic violence.

Snow hits East Tennessee

(AP)-East Tennessee residents awoke yesterday to a blanket of heavy, wet snow that brought down power lines and left roads impassable. Some mountainous areas accumulated 2 1/2 feet of snow.

Escapee commits suicide

John Raymond Linstead, an Indiana escapee, killed himself in a shootout against a S.W.A.T. team in Cleveland, Tenn. It was originally thought that Linstead was killed in the barrage of gunfire, but according to Medical Examiner Ron Toolies, he was shot by his own weapon.

Tenn. reacts to Clinton

(AP)-Tennessee's congressional delegation reacted to Presidential Clinton's State of the Union Address along party lines. Democrats called it bold plan for the 21st century while republicans said it was a laundry list of mainly unnecessary and expensive new initiatives.

Jail experiences overcrowding

(AP)- The Metropolitan Nashville Jail is overcrowded after just two weeks of a police crackdown in high-crime areas.

If the conditions continue, Sherrill Gayle Ray said, she will have to report the overcrowding to federal court.



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

Student charged with felony burglary

□ Chad Gillis/staff

MTSU police have charged a female student with one class B felony and two class A misdemeanors for allegedly stealing a purse and a bank card, along with a personal identification number.

Sherilon Denise Woods, 21, was arrested on Jan. 23 without incident, taken to the campus police department and processed, according to the arrest report filed that day.

Woods allegedly committed a burglary in Lyon Hall on Oct. 21, 1997, according to Darrell Collins, investigator for public safety.

"A purse was stolen while the victim was in the shower," Collins said.

Public Safety received the victim's call at 12:16 p.m. The stolen bank card was used to withdraw \$320 at 12:26 p.m. from a First American National Bank ATM machine located on South Tennessee Boulevard, according to Collins.

While the transaction was taking place a First American National Bank camera recorded the event.

"This one was caught by means of ATM photos," Collins said.

The photos presented to public safety show a female, making the

transaction, according to Collins. The female was later identified as Woods.

At the time of the burglary Woods was living "illegally" in a female residence hall while being on academic suspension, Collins said.

She re-enrolled for the spring semester and was located on Jan. 20.

When interviewed by public safety on Jan. 23, Woods allegedly admitted to having the purse and bank card in her possession, and that she had withdrawn money from the ATM machine without the permission of the card owner, Collins said.

Woods was charged with aggravated burglary, theft under \$500 and fraud by use of a stolen debit card, according to the arrest report. When contacted, Woods denied committing the aggravated burglary and said she intends to reveal the actual felon's name on her Feb. 10 General Sessions Court date.

Aggravated burglary is defined as entering an overnight, household dwelling with intent to commit a crime and carries a maximum jail sentence of eight to 30 years and a fine not to exceed \$25,000.

Both misdemeanors carry an 11-month, 29-day jail sentence with a maximum fine of \$2,500.

Woods said she intends to reveal who actually committed the felony of

aggravated burglary on her Feb. 10 General Sessions Court date.

Burglaries of this nature have been a concern on campus recently, especially those in female dorms.

"It's happened in Corlew, Cummings and Rutledge [Halls]," Collins said, adding that all the burglaries contained the same

scenario.

"We're not segregated from the community," Collins said. "We luckily have [crime] on a smaller scale."

"If you leave your room for whatever reason, lock your door," Collins warned. "Report any suspicious persons seen in your building either male or female."

Musician jam



Vickie Gibson/staff

RATV major Chris Lock (left) and RIDM major Michael Acree (right) jam in front of the KUC. Lock is playing a Didjeridoo, an Australian Aborigine wind instrument.

Teacher evaluation revision voted down

□ Lesli Bales/staff

After almost three years of review and revision, the MTSU Faculty Senate voted 19-12 against adopting a new teacher evaluation form at its Jan. 12 meeting.

The current standardized teacher evaluation form came under review after the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) report in March 1995. After speaking with faculty members, the SACS visiting committee expressed concern with the "perceived lack of usefulness" of the standardized form.

"The current form asks students to quantify—while the new form is qualitative—asking students how well teachers perform their duties," explained Faculty Senate President Christian Haseleau.

For example, the current evaluation contains 11 statements such as 'Instructor appears to be well prepared for each class,' 'Class sessions are relevant to course subject matter,' and 'Instructor treats students in a courteous and/or professional manner.' Students may answer almost always, usually, rarely, never and not applicable.

Conversely, the proposed evaluation asked questions such as 'In general, how would you rate the instructor as a teacher?', 'How would you rate the interest, enthusiasm and stimulation the instructor brings to this course?' and 'How would you rate the instructor's attitude toward

students (concern, interest, respect)?' Ratings included excellent, above average, average, below average, poor and not applicable.

Haseleau argued against adopting the proposed evaluation, noting more questions, demographic information and "lots of data" on the old form as reasons to keep the current evaluation in place.

"I do not believe the new form was an improvement over the old form," said Faculty Senator Peter Cunningham. "I do not believe the questions on the new form were particularly useful to faculty members who want to improve their teaching performance."

Faculty Senator Jerry Brookshire gave two basic reasons why he voted for accepting the new teacher evaluation form.

"I thought the wording of the new one more clearly reflected what students would like to say to teachers than the old one does," he said. "Secondly, [the Faculty Senate] had accepted the new approach last year. Although there had been some minor revisions, I felt as a matter of consistency, the Faculty Senate should reaffirm the vote it made last year."

Although Haseleau admitted that "the current evaluation form is not a very good instrument for making course adjustments because it is too general," both he and Brookshire pointed out that departments or individual teachers can add additional

Please see EVALUATION, page 3

SGA in Action

Two resolutions were passed by the house and senate of the Student Government Association this week.

-HR-1-98S

This resolution was passed to extend the hours of operation for the Library. The new proposed hours are Monday -Friday 5a.m.-1a.m., Saturday 6a.m.-11p.m. and Sunday 12p.m.-11p.m.

-HR-2-98S

This resolution was passed to extend the hours of operation of the Recreation Center. The new proposed hours are Monday-Friday 5a.m.-1a.m., Saturday 6a.m.-11p.m. and Sunday 12p.m.-11p.m.

-Special Issue

The senate voted this week to confirm the current members of the election commission. All the members were confirmed.

Source: Student Government Association

Jamie Evans/staff

Future Guatemalan trips under intense scrutiny

□ College Press Service

When gunmen raped and robbed 16 St. Mary's College in Maryland who were on an anthropological tour of Guatemala, some educators back in the states promptly canceled their plans to back similar study trips to the Central American country.

Spring Arbor College in Michigan ordered 18 of its students and faculty members, also in Guatemala at the time of the attack, to return home immediately, cutting short their trip by two days. Administrators at Michigan State University, which sent 22 students to the area last month, weren't planning to send another

group until this December. They've already nixed those plans.

The attack of Jan. 16 raises questions of liability. Courts already have ruled that colleges and universities are legally responsible for some injuries happening on campus, but whether the same is true for studies abroad isn't clear.

"We're always scared that if there were one terrorist incident in Rome, what could happen to us there, despite our liability insurance protection," said Rose Hayden, a board member of American University in Rome, according to news reports. "It sends a

Please see ATTACK, page 3

Professor explores universe

□ Shawn Whitsell/staff



White

"The Universe Has No Center and We're Not There," is the title of the second honors lecture this semester, taking place on Feb. 2.

Jay White, physics and astronomy professor, will present six major points in history where

human views of the universe have changed.

"The universe is the way it is because we are here to experience it," White said. "I'm going to look at 2000 years of thought on our place in the universe."

For years people thought that the Earth was the center of the universe,

White explained. Edwin Hubble proved this theory to be wrong.

Hubble said that there is not a center in the cosmos, and if there were, we are not in it, White said.

"It could be a six-act play," White said, explaining that each time human views changed, their place changed as well.

White studies nova and supernova explosive systems. He is in his fifth year at MTSU, and has recently been named editor of the "Mercury" magazine—the journal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

White received his Bachelor's degree in physics from Birmingham-Southern College and later went on to get his Ph.D. in astronomy from Indiana University.


Honors lectures are given every Monday in Peck Hall room 109A, from 3:30 to 4:20 p.m. All lectures are free and open to the public.

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Wed., Feb. 4, 7 pm
Tucker Theatre

Free tickets available in KUC 308 and Murphy Center Ticket Office
 Information = 898-2551

Kirk Whalum
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 Tuesday, Feb. 10, 8 pm
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MTSU On Campus

To have information placed in the On Campus section of the paper, come by the "Sidelines" office, located in JUB 310, and fill out a form located on the table by the door. Information must be submitted in person. The deadline for Monday's paper is Thursday at 5 p.m. The deadline for Thursday's paper is Monday at 5 p.m. A new form must be filled out for each edition or the information will not be run.

Jan. 29
 The American Criminal Justice Association—Lambda Alpha Epsilon—will meet at 5 p.m. in KUC 312. The speaker is to be announced.

Feb. 2
 The Spanish Club, which meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in BDA 312, is an officially registered special interest organization which is open to anyone interested in the promotion and understanding of the Spanish and Latin American cultures and language. For more information contact Kathleen Noblit at 898-5778.

Feb. 2-27
 The Barn Gallery will feature and exhibit "Chicago: Memories and Fantasies" by Professor Robert Graham of Blacksburg, Va. The Gallery, located in the Art Barn, is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Graham will give a slide presentation at noon Feb. 2 and there will be an opening reception from 4-6 p.m. For more information call 898-5653.

Feb. 3
 "Senior Orientation — Your Job Search" will be presented by the Placement and Student Employment Center at 11 a.m. in KUC 322. Students can learn about placement services, resumes, campus interviews and employment opportunities. For more information contact Martha Turner at 898-2500.

Feb. 4
 "Resume Writing and Interview Preparation Workshop for Seniors and Graduate Students" is being offered by Placement and Student Services at 2 p.m. in KUC 322. Students can learn the basics for writing resumes and developing interview skills. For more information contact Martha Turner at 898-2500.

Feb. 5
 An organizational meeting of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, will be held at 5 p.m. in the Mass Comm. Building's upstairs lobby. Light refreshments will be served. For more information contact Lesli Bales at 898-2336.

March 10-12
 Any students expecting to graduate in May are required to take the ACT-COMP test. On these dates, students may choose to take the test at 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. All tests will be held in the Tennessee Room of the JUB. No pre-registration is necessary. The test should take approximately two and one-half hours. For more information contact Ruth Watson at 898-2854.

March 16-21
 Students are invited to join Campus Recreation on their Spring Break trip to Costa Rica. Space is limited, so visit the Rec Center or call Glenn Hanley at 898-2104.

Generation Xers ponder pushing retirement to 70

Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service

When Rob Wilkens thinks decades ahead to his late 60s, he pictures tooling around the country in a recreational vehicle, not toiling at work.

But a proposal to delay eligibility for full Social Security benefits until 70 is now floating around Washington, with the key endorsement of Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan. Wilkens, a 23-year-old college senior, would be affected. Most likely, so would younger baby boomers, Generation Xers and those born after them.

The combination of a shaky future for the Social Security fund and longer average life spans has led to consideration of a later retirement age.

"We've added (many) years to the average life span, and we haven't raised the retirement age. It just doesn't make any sense," said Richard Thau, who heads a New York group called Third Millennium that represents the Generation Xers, born between 1965 and the late 1970s.

Thau wants to know why he should be paying taxes to support retirees who are perfectly healthy but choose to play golf or watch television instead of working into their late 60s.

He's not the only one wondering as Congress begins looking at Social Security changes.

"It's one of the very live and real options," said David Certner of the American Association of Retired Persons, which is withholding judgment on the retirement-age increase until it hears what else is being considered to shore up Social Security.

The Social Security system is scheduled to run short of money beginning in 2029. By then the mass of baby boomers collecting benefits will outweigh the amount that workers pay in taxes into the Social Security Trust Fund.

Congress prefers to make changes to retirement plans gradually. That's partly to give people more time to plan and to prevent more severe action later. So changes to the Social Security system are expected long before a crisis hits in 2029.

"If we procrastinate too long, the adjustments could be truly wrenching," Greenspan said.

The Senate Budget Committee has a task force working on options. Led by Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., the task force kicked off Nov. 20 with testimony from Greenspan. Aside from being the czar of the U.S. money supply, Greenspan is an expert on Social Security. He headed the 1983 commission that made the last major changes to Social Security.

Greenspan said it would help to raise the retirement age "to keep pace with increases in life expectancy."

Edmund Amorosi, spokesman for Gregg, said the task force is waiting to hear from the Clinton administration on the issue in February. By midyear, he said, the task force will have a list of options and how much each would save in Social Security costs. Congressional action

Please see AGE, page 3

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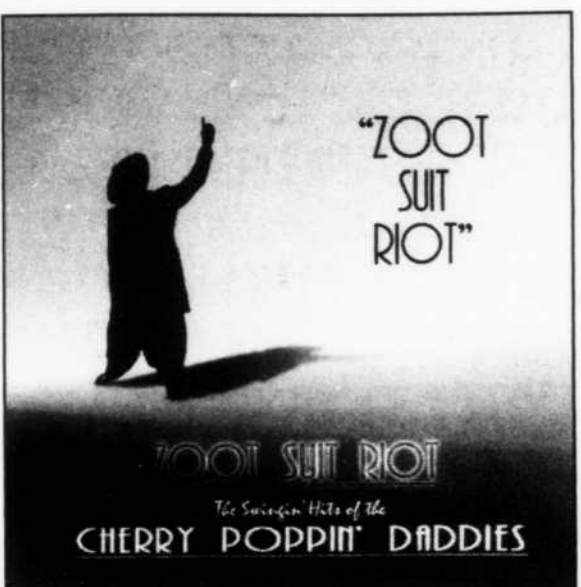
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ATTACK
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cold shiver down the backbones of anyone sending Americans anywhere."

Such uncertainty comes at a time when more American students are studying abroad than ever — and venturing into more diverse territories. The number of students in Latin America in 1996 jumped 18 percent to 13,726 over the previous year; in Africa by 10 percent to 2,027; and in Asia by 5 percent to 5,699.

The uncertainty also comes at a time when the State Department is advising Americans worldwide "to exercise greater than usual caution" when traveling. Experts suggest tips ranging from avoiding loud talk to staying out of dark areas at night. They also say travelers should follow current events and leave clothing with coveted labels — Nikes and Levis, for example — at home.

Recent events suggest there is a growing threat of anti-U.S. violence: Saddam Hussein's angry and intermittent exchanges with American leaders, the November murders of four Americans visiting Pakistan, targeted, their killers later said, in retaliation for the conviction of a Pakistani man who had killed two CIA workers; last year's conviction for the bombing of the World Trade Center.

The recent attack wasn't the first inkling of danger in Guatemala. The U.S. Embassy there has reported an increased number of kidnappings, rapes, shootings and violent assaults involving American tourists. In July, the State Department reported that a public bus was hijacked during daylight hours, all 20 passengers robbed at gunpoint. Gang members raped five.

The student group from St. Mary's was aware of these incidents and had been counseled about safety concerns

before the trip. Nonetheless, college officials did not believe students were at great risk, noting a lack of travel restrictions issued by the State Department at the time.

Michael Conn, like most students who study abroad, told the Associated Press he's bound for Western Europe. France is the "safest place" to study French, he said.

"I think people might say at first that Africa would be cool, and then they say, 'This place might have an unstable government, and I don't want to be in that area if it blows up,'" he added.

Conn also said he's been encouraging his girlfriend to study Spanish in Spain instead of Central America so she'll have a better chance of avoiding incidents like the attack in Guatemala.

"She's pretty definitely going to Spain, and she's looking for one more deciding factor," he said. "I think she may have found it.

AGE
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won't happen until political will develops.

Already there is support from young people worried the Social Security system will otherwise run out of money before they retire.

"Social Security now is a chain letter we send to our kids. They pay in, in the hopes their kids will pay for them," said Neil Howe, a generational historian and senior adviser to the budget watchdog group Concord Coalition.

In the first years of Social Security, there were more than 40 workers paying taxes into the system for every person collecting benefits. Now there are 3.3 workers for every beneficiary, and the number of workers is dropping.

Despite the financial problems of the system, senior citizens have jealously guarded their benefits against change. And the political clout of the elderly, who vote in higher proportions, has scared off politicians in the past.

But the higher retirement age would not affect anyone for years, which could lessen the political heat. And some of the younger voters, such as Thau, would rather have the later retirement age than have the system go broke on them.

Veronica Mayfield, a 20-year-old student at the University of Central Florida, doesn't relish working another 50 years but supports the later retirement age anyway.

"If we're depending on the government to take care of us, we really can't complain," said Mayfield, a receptionist at a law firm. "It's an inconvenience, but it's only fair."

Not everyone agrees. Shoeshiner Dwayne Whitehead of Orlando, Fla., said many of the black men from his neighborhood will not live long enough to collect Social Security benefits at age 70. "The American people need to be entitled to the same (as) the generation before us had," said Whitehead, 31.

Raising the retirement age

would solve about half the shortfall now in the Social Security system, according to the Social Security Administration.

Other options include investing the trust fund in stocks, trimming the cost of living increase and indexing the retirement age to life span permanently.

Life span has increased dramatically since Social Security first started paying benefits in 1940. Men retiring that year could expect to live an additional 11.9 years. Now, they can expect to live 15.5 more years. For women, the life span after 65 has jumped from 13.4 years to 19.2 years.

"People are living longer they're going to have to work longer," said gerontologist Robert Butler of the International Longevity Center, a think tank that focuses on aging society. "It doesn't make sense for people to sit and do nothing for 20 or 30 years."

Butler said medical advances and healthier lifestyles mean people are in better shape in old age. One indication of that is the average age people enter nursing homes the age has risen from 65 30 years ago to 81 now.

Butler, a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer on aging issues and former head of the National Institute on Aging, said countries throughout the developing world are facing the issue of when people should retire.

Raising the retirement age helps the Social Security balance sheet two ways. Workers draw benefits for fewer years. And they pay Social Security taxes for more years as workers.

But what about blue-collar workers with physically demanding jobs?

"You don't want coal miners working until 69 and a half," said Thau of the Generation X group. "You don't necessarily want truck drivers driving semis at 69 and a half. They become a danger to themselves and other people."

However, Butler said fewer U.S. jobs depend on brawn

instead of brains. And for those who can't physically do their jobs into their late 60s, some sort of disability coverage could be offered, he said.

The later-retirement-age proposal runs counter to recent U.S. trends toward earlier retirement. Half of all workers tap into Social Security at age 62.

That boom has been driven partly by corporate actions to induce older workers to retire early. Younger workers often carry lower salaries and much lower health-care costs.

"You have to be a little bit realistic about the private marketplace right now," Certner of AARP said. "People don't really want older workers around." But Butler, who favors stronger bans on age discrimination, said the early-retirement trend has started to reverse. People are deciding to work longer because they are healthier and they are worried about running out of money, he said.

Social Security benefits are available beginning at age 62, with the benefit reduced about 7 percent for every year younger than 65.

If the age is raised to 70, retiring at age 62 would cost workers half their Social Security check, said Howe, the generational historian. For many people, that will mean they can't afford to retire early, he said.

Social Security's average monthly benefit for a single person is \$750, Certner said. Even though the program was intended merely to supplement savings and pensions, too many recipients rely on that Social Security check for 90 percent of their income, he said.

Even though elderly people today would not be affected, they still will oppose a higher retirement age out of fear they would be hurt, Thau predicted.

"The politics are crummy," he said.

But the move is not unprecedented. Social Security's normal retirement age already is being slowly increased to 67. Anyone born after 1960 will not get full benefits until that age.

EVALUATION
continued from page 1

questions—standardized or written—to enhance the evaluations.

"Any standardized faculty evaluation to be applied to a whole campus will be difficult to compose because of different teaching styles," Brookshire said. "Neither one of the options were perfect."

The Faculty Senate first formed a committee to review the teacher evaluation form during the 1995-96 school year. However, according to former Faculty Senate President Mary Elizabeth Stivers, the Senate was not in agreement about which kind of questions should be asked. Therefore, no progress was made.

During the 1996-97 school year, a second committee within the Faculty Senate—Academic Affairs Committee B—was formed to review the current teacher evaluation. The committee recommended a

six-question form similar to that used at the University of Miami, Ohio. After the Faculty Senate's approval last spring, the new form was sent to the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs office. From there, the form was sent to the deans for distribution to the departments.

A few suggestions from the faculty were received, and the proposed form was revised by splitting a two-part question into two separate questions and adding "not applicable" to the choices of ratings. It was this slightly altered seven-question evaluation that was voted on at this month's Faculty Senate meeting.

According to Haseleau, no more revisions will be made to the teacher evaluation form "unless the Provost or someone on the Senate wants to bring the subject back up again."

"We've done what SACS said to, which was to review the form," he said. "That complies with the SACS report."

According to Jeff Hinds in

the Office of Information Technology, MTSU is required by SACS to evaluate all faculty every third year—the next full evaluation falling during the 1998-99 school year. In other years, random evaluations are done during the summer terms. In the fall, all teachers are designated to be evaluated but have the option not to be. Spring semester is a reversal, with no teachers designated for evaluation but having the option to be if they want to. Hinds noted that there are exceptions to the rule such as the College of Business which evaluates all faculty, all classes, all terms.

After the evaluations have been completed by students, the forms are returned to the faculty member and the department chair. The evaluations are put into the faculty member's permanent file and can be used for information when he or she is being reviewed for tenure or some other reason.

WHAT IS POST MODERN?

POST MODERN IS A SUPPLEMENT TO SIDELINES PUBLISHING IN A TABLOID FORMAT, POST MODERN FOCUSES ON STUDENTS EXPERIENCES IN COLLEGE; THOSE WHICH DO NOT REGULARLY RECIEVE ATTENTION IN OTHER PUBLICATIONS. POST MODERN IS CURRENTLY PUBLISHED MONTHLY BUT WILL BE A WEEKLY PUBLICATION STARTING FALL 98.



OPINIONS

Editorials

What's in a name?

"Sidelines" reported Monday the possibility of changing Middle Tennessee State University to the University of Middle Tennessee.

And although our present name is not the most pleasing phrase in the English language, it should stay.

Officials argue that changing the name would promote recognition in the region and around the country.

Why? Is it a motion to increase enrollment? Surely it is not, we can't provide for the students enrolled now.

Nothing is in a name but a name. And no matter how nifty that name may be, it is useless without substance behind it.

Progression is great, but it should be internal before external.

Who cares what the school's name is if it takes six and a half years to graduate due to the limited number of courses offered.

Is it television coverage and national media attention we want? Or is it a quality, well-rounded education in an atmosphere that promotes what's on the inside rather than what's on the outside?

When the mascot and logo committee decided to keep the nickname Blue Raider, it was justified because no other university or professional team in the nation had that name.

Middle Tennessee State University is quite a unique name itself.

And why are students NEVER allowed to contribute? Is it not the student body which actually turns the wheels? Without a student body a university is simply a plot of buildings.

Student bodies should define schools, not a board of highly paid executives looking to promote their careers instead of education.

Blue Raider cheerleaders have already prepared for a change by adopting new uniforms that officially say MT, not MTSU. It seems this change is already happening; officials are just waiting on the go-ahead from the Tennessee Board of Regents.

A name change would be great, but it's like getting a new paint job for a car that only has three wheels and lacks windshield wipers.

Sure the owner of the car wants it to look sparkling new from the outside in order to increase sale profits. But the chief concern of the buyer is that the car run efficiently.



From the Mailbox

Re-evaluating smoking policy not warranted

To the editor:

Apparently, MTSU's Faculty Senate is re-evaluating the school's smoking policy, and may institute a campus-wide ban on cigarette smoking. As a smoker, and as a student, I must object to such an idea.

According to the Faculty Senate's president, their main concerns with the smoking on campus are "the health hazards of secondhand smoke" and "the aesthetics of having piles of butts at the entrance of every building." The issue of aesthetics seems fairly flimsy at a school whose campus is composed of a hodge-podge of bad architecture, double-wide

trailers, and dirt (or more recently, mud). But I will concede that "piles of butts" are not very aesthetically pleasing. Perhaps if more suitable receptacles than our current "flower pots" were provided outside the buildings, this problem would decrease in significance. Contrary to the ideas of the Editor, I think that this is hardly a "ridiculous" proposal.

The Faculty Senate's with the health hazards of secondhand smoke on campus. I fail to see how secondhand smoke could be a significant problem as the smoking policy stands on this campus. Besides the first floor bathrooms where smoking is allowed there is only one place where smoking is allowed indoors on campus: The KUC Grill smoking section, which is certainly adequately sectioned off from the rest of the building. As for the effects of secondhand smoke outdoors, I think any reasonable person would have to

agree that they are negligible. The EPA's 1993 study on environmental tobacco smoke, on which most who set out to demonize tobacco base their rhetoric, was in fact based on the findings of 30 smaller studies, most of which failed to produce any significant results on their own. A puff of smoke exhaled from my lungs as I smoke outside a building before class is not, to borrow the Editor's flowery metaphor, a "filthy cloud of death." A high cholesterol diet has been proven to be a much higher health risk than second-hand smoke. Living on this planet is a health risk. It is utterly impossible to avoid all health risks, or else people would live forever, and who wants that? I surely don't.

Sincerely,
Jay Phillips
Junior, RIM major

Corrections

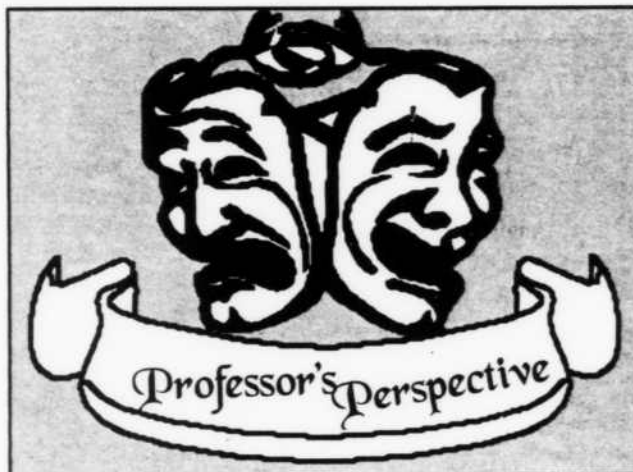
"Sidelines" ran a photograph on page 3 in the Jan. 22 issue titled "Hitting the note." In it, Sarah Flanary was incorrectly identified as Karen Flowers. Flanary was also singing an Italian aria, not an opera.

Got a gripe? Let us hear about it.



E-mail your letters to the editor to "Sidelines" at: stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu

To complete your education, leave MTSU!



Judith Rusciollelli
chairperson
foreign languages



No, I don't mean to transfer to UT or Vanderbilt. I mean to REALLY leave—go to a foreign country. It will prove to be a kind of education you never expected, and it will change your life!

"But, I've never been good at languages," you say. Well, don't let that be an obstacle. Travel abroad is not meant only for language students. As a Spanish professor, I, of course, encourage everyone to learn another language, but, fortunately for us in the United States, English is currently the "lingua franca" of the world.

While you travel, there will be lots of natives of all countries who would love to practice their English with you. Besides, ignorance of the language can lead to meeting a lot of people. It's a great excuse to approach strangers and ask questions.

When I was in Japan, I did my best to learn the "kanji" writing system, but found it overwhelming, so I memorized only the symbols for the men's and women's bathrooms, and asked for help in reading anything else—restaurant menus, prices, train schedules and maps.

Many Japanese were delighted to have the opportunity to speak with a

"foreigner;" they accompanied me to my destination, joined me at my meal, and I got an invitation to visit a home which I never would have had if I had been coping with everything on my own. Remember, too that England, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand are "foreign" countries, and MTSU offers programs in these countries, but more about that later.

Now, what specifically will you learn? Why am I supporting study abroad for everyone? We can divide the experience into formal study, personal benefits, and fun.

Let's address the personal benefits first. Travel can make you a better person. You will return home with a sense of power and accomplishment.

At first, the idea of being someplace where you don't know the customs, where the food is different, where they drive on the other side of the street can be daunting, and frankly, a bit frightening. I have traveled a lot, yet every time I get on a plane for a new place, there are still some butterflies in my stomach about the unknown.

But then I remember that I have faced these unknowns before, and that I not only survived, but really thrived!

Travel is a big confidence booster. After you have located buses stops, bought train tickets, found the museums, ordered food and actually got what you ordered, you can do anything! You discover that you can cope with unknown situations, you can assess the circumstances and find solutions.

These traits are needed no matter what you do in life, and this sense of accomplishment gives you a foundation to face other situations.

You've heard the cliché that "travel is broadening." Your mind will expand with new information about geography, politics and architecture and you'll find yourself being fascinated by objects or ideas you never thought about before.

Perhaps more important is that you'll also find out a lot about your own values and your identity as an American. When your customary habits and opinions about how things should be done come into contact with other ways, you are forced to think about what you believe and why.

We unconsciously live our values every day, never questioning the basis or logic for them. But discovering other viable approaches to organizing reality is an opportunity for us to consciously examine and analyze what we believe.

So your self-knowledge increases. As you converse with natives of the country, you will probably learn a lot about what others think about the United States, about its image abroad.

You may learn of effects that our economic and political policies have that are not reported on the six o'clock news. You will have the chance to examine national values from another perspective, and understanding how other countries see us is important for future global relations.

Please see MTSU, page 5

Sidelines

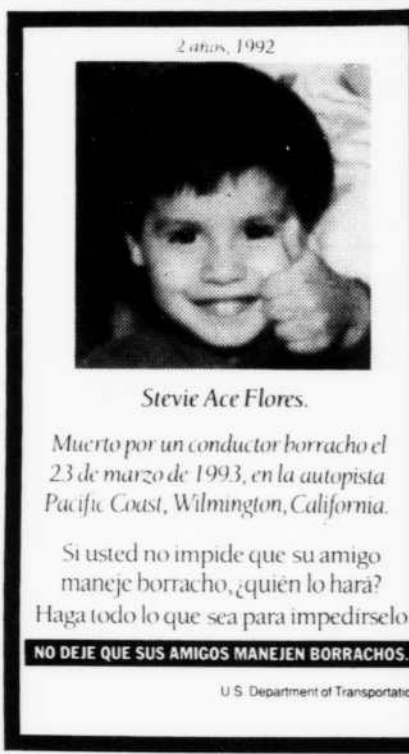
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Advertising: 898-2533 Editor: 898-2337 Fax: 904-8487

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Letters Policy

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



MTSU
continued from page 4

Travel experience can also enhance your career opportunities. As many companies grow from local or regional enterprises to international companies, they will be seeking persons who have the flexibility to work in multi-cultural settings, who have had knowledge beyond state borders.

Let's turn now to a formal study program. Signing up for a language program for a few hours of daily study is optimal. It gives some structure to your stay and access to a language and culture professional for guidance and questions. Plus, you'll meet other students you can go sightseeing with and put into practice what you are learning.

No matter the level, the chance to communicate with natives will show exactly what you need to know, and you return to the classroom with specific goals.

In addition to language, there are classes in English about history, geography, politics, art and culture.

Where can you find information about programs and tours? The Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures and the International Programs Office are good places to begin.

Here are some examples of MTSU programs. There are month-long programs in Spain and France headed by Ms. Nuria Novella and Dr. Patrice Caux, respectively.

An exchange program in Germany coordinated by Dr.

Roy Shelton is available for German majors. The Art Department takes students to Italy. Dr. Kawahito, economics professor, will take students to Japan.

Spend spring break in the Amazon with David Zacker from philosophy. Africa is the destination of the group led by Dr. Hari Garbharran of geography and geology. Dr. Kim Sokoya, management and marketing, directs a business program in France.

The English department has offered courses in London, and can direct you to other English-speaking country programs.

Other universities offer programs in Latin America, Cuba, Russia and a myriad of other places. Transfer credit to MTSU is usually easy to arrange.

The first thing that students usually do upon returning from such trips is to begin planning how to go again!

But if you don't want to study, you can sign up for a June tour of European countries offered by Dr. Dianne Harper of Foreign Languages. It is open to students and to members of the community. Knowledge of a foreign language is not necessary.

If you want to be more adventurous, just grab your backpack, buy a ticket and a good guide book and be off. (Don't forget your passport!)

In every country you will meet fellow adventurers who will share their tips for a good student hostel, a cheap restaurant and interesting off-beat sights to visit.

You will have fun meeting and exchanging ideas with students from all over the world. Call Council Travel at 1-800-226-2684 for special student airfares.

"Great," you say, "but where do I get the money?" Well, financial aid is possible for study abroad, but don't wait till the last minute to make your request.

Get advice from that office about deadlines and regulations. Talk to your parents and grandparents. They are often very happy to support your plans once they know of its benefits and how important it is for you.

Request that the trip be your graduation present. You can always get a new car later, and once you begin your career, it can be difficult to have enough vacation time to visit distant lands.

I know that most of you are working, so why not start a travel account now and save for a future trip? You'll need about \$2,500 to \$3,000 for a month. Keep track of your daily expenses—snacks, sodas, gas, entertainment—and think that you could be spending that amount in an exciting place like Mexico or Rome.

Remember, this is an investment in yourself. It is an experience of the world that you will have for the rest of your life. You'll have stories to tell and insights to share. You'll discover the interesting differences in countries and, more significantly, the unifying similarities of all people. Now that's education!

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After Hours


Thursday, January 29


 Howard & The White Boys plays the Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar from 9 p.m. till 2 a.m. \$5 cover.


 Blue Highway plays the Station Inn at 402 12th Ave., S. in Nashville.


 Nannette & The Fabrays plays the 3rd & Lindsley Bar and Grill at 6 p.m.


Friday, January 30


 The Christian band Cued Christian will play Tucker Theatre at 8 p.m. as part of their spring tour. The doors will open at 7 p.m. Tickets to the show are \$8 at the door. The concert is sponsored by Alpha Omega.

 Vic Chesnutt, Lambchop, C.Y.O.D., Paul Burch & The W.P.A. and Toybean play Lucy's Record Shop at 1707 Church St. in Nashville. The show starts at 8 p.m. \$5 cover.

 Johnny Jackson's Soul Satisfaction plays at 328 Performance Hall at 328 4th Ave., S. in Nashville. The show starts at 9 p.m. and is 21 and over.


 Stacy Mitchhart & Blues U Can Use plays the Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar from 9 p.m. till 2 a.m. \$5 cover.


 Jonell Mosser and Enough Rope play 3rd & Lindsley Bar and Grill at 9 p.m.


 The Del McCoury Band plays the Station Inn.


The Nashville Opera will present "Turn of the Screw" at TPAC's Polk Theater at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$10 to \$40 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 255-9600. Group tickets and a limited number of "pay what you can" tickets are available by calling the Nashville Opera at 292-5710. Student rush tickets will be available at the TPAC box office 45 minutes before curtain.


Saturday, January 31

 The Nashville Bluegrass Band will play at J.T. Gray's Station Inn, located at 412 12th Ave., S. in Nashville. This show is smoke-free.

 The Nashville Opera will present "Turn of the Screw" at TPAC's Polk Theater at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$10 to \$40 and are available by calling Ticketmaster. A limited number of "pay what you can" tickets are available by calling the Nashville Opera at 292-5710. Student rush tickets will be available at the TPAC box office 45 minutes before curtain.

 Javachrist, Impetuous Doom, Teen Idols, Boobyhatch and Lethargic play Lucy's Record Shop, 1707 Church St. in Nashville, at 8 p.m. \$5 cover.

 The first annual Woodchuck Lover's Ball to benefit Community Shares will be held at 328 Performance Hall at 8 p.m. The event features Monkey Time. Tickets are \$10 and are available at area Ticketmaster locations. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served.

 Stacy Mitchhart & Blues U Can Use play the Bourbon Street Blues & Boogie Bar from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. \$5 cover.

Please direct any entertainment information to the Sidelines Features Desk at 898-2917.

Elton proves he's the song man

□ Richard Barnett/special to "Sidelines"

Anyone who went to the Nashville Arena last Friday to see dazzling lights, lavish pppps and glitzy costumes was probably disappointed. But if they came to hear some of the best songs of the century delivered by a master at his keyboard, then Elton John gave them what they came for. Certainly no one in the sold-out crowd of 18,000 left disappointed.

The simple set design seemed to send the message, "Get ready to focus on the music and the man." The fact that the concert actually started on time indicated that Elton had come to do business. And do it he did! For two and a half hours he played piano with the virtuosity of a Royal Conservatory of Music alumnus while he sang songs crafted by him and lyricist Bernie Taupin over the past 30 years.

Middle Tennessee should feel fortunate to be one of the stops on Elton's "The Big Picture" tour. This, Elton's first concert series in more than two years, will play only 23 cities in North America. The tour is in support of his album of the same name (Rocket Records/A&M Associated Labels) expertly produced by Chris Thomas in London.

Some fans showed up to worship the man as well as listen to his message.

"He's a damn good performer," said Kim Reinbold, a recent MTSU graduate. "But just to breathe the same air as Elton John is good enough for me!"

The longevity of Elton's career was reflected in the audience. There were young kids there to hear the man who wrote the music for "The Lion King." They came with parents who sang along with songs of the '70s and '80s.

"Elton is the first memory I have from listening to the radio," said Mike Gibson, program director for FM 102.5. Nine-year-old Nathan Gaston was inspired by the music of Elton John to begin playing piano and was there to hear his favorite song, "Live Like Horses."

Elton started the show with "Get Back to the Simple Life" and segued quickly through what he described as "some old, fairly old and some new songs" throughout the night. He proceeded to move seamlessly through three decades of repertoire that sold more than 150 million albums worldwide.

By the time Elton and the band dove into the fifth song — "Honky Cat" — the entire arena resonated with an 18,000-voice audience sing-along. The tenor sax and banjo licks reminded the audience that even this classic song can improve with age.

Elton seemed to feel more and more comfortable with his Middle



ABOVE: Elton John and his band perform for 18,000 fans at the Nashville Arena on Jan. 24. The sold-out crowd came to hear him perform songs spanning "Honky Chateau," his first album, to his current album, "The Big Picture." With the exception of one year, he has released at least one album every year since 1970. LEFT: Elton John sings and plays during his recent concert. Nashville was one of 23 cities he is playing in North America. The tour, his first in more than two years, is in support of "The Big Picture." He played for two hours and returned to the stage for an encore. Photos by Keith Henley.

Tennessees audience as the night progressed. When a group of college-age students rushed the stage after one song, Elton rushed toward them in return! For the rest of the night, he went to the front of the stage after most songs and signed a few autographs, shook a few hands and smiled his patented leprechaun smile.

One of the only times the energy-charged audience did not sing along was during "The Last Song." He dedicated it to "everyone living with HIV" and sang it, with a minimal keyboard accompaniment, with sincerity that cannot be fabricated.

Although the "old and somewhat box" songs were crowd-pleasing appetizers, the newest songs were a welcome entree. "Love's Got a Lot to

Answer For" was the most spontaneous-sounding of the evening, even with the studio-tight band assembled on stage.

Bernie Taupin's word painting was presented perfectly in a simple yet lush melody. Lines such as "Is loneliness the same as being free?" challenged the listener as it entertained.

Elton dedicated "Something About the Way You Look Tonight" to his godson in the audience. The powerful ballad was the first single off "The Big Picture" and it basks in Elton's signature sound: pretty, memorable melodies with no apologies for being pure pop!

After two and a half hours of nonstop music, Elton still had energy

to return for one encore. And, equally amazing, it looked as if no one left before the last note rang out in the vast space of the arena.

With the exception of one year, Elton John has released at least one album each year since 1970. His skills as a tunesmith have first like, "Honky Chateau," to his current work, "The Big Picture."

The secret of his longevity in an otherwise ephemeral world of popular music was revealed in his Pace Productions, Nashville Arena concert: great songs, exciting performer and adoring audience. If you ever have a chance to experience an Elton John concert, do it. And, oh yes, plan to bring the kids and grandkids!

Free concert scheduled at Tucker Theatre

□ Tara Larimer/staff

In celebration of African American History Month, music fans will be treated to a free triple-bill concert Monday evening in Tucker Theatre.

Warner Brothers recording artist Kirk Whalum, Verve Forecast's Philippe Saisse and Bluemore's Jeff Golub will take to the Tucker stage at 8 p.m. MTSU is just one stop on the second leg of the tour bringing the together critically acclaimed artists who are sure to please audience members with their varying styles.

Memphis native Kirk Whalum's newest release, "Colors," combines pop, gospel, world music, funk, R&B and smooth jazz into ten inspired tracks. Of the tracks, Whalum penned eight, two of which he wrote solo ("Daddy Loves You" and "Escolhido") and six were co-written with Philippe Saisse and Oji Pierce. Brenda Russell contributed to the album, writing "If For Only One Night," and Tommy Simms composed "The Back Porch," Whalum's favorite piece on the album which features guest vocals by Allison Krauss and Michael McDonald.

Whalum has recorded five other solo albums besides "Colors" ("Floppy Disk," "And You Know That!" "The Promise," "Cache" and "In This Life." As a sessions and touring tenor saxophonist, Whalum has performed with a number of other top-notch entertainers, some including Quincy Jones, Luther Vandross, Whitney Houston, Barbara Streisand and Michael Franks. It was touring and recording with Whitney Houston that led Whalum to his two career highlights: performing in South Africa before integrated audiences and playing at a White House reception for

Nelson Mandela.

"While I was talking to Bill Clinton about my saxophone," Whalum said in a Columbia Media Department biography, "Nelson Mandela rushed up to me to shake my hand. I'll never forget that moment. Talking to the President of the United States and shaking hands with the new President of South Africa. I'll be telling my grandchildren about that."

With the release of "Colors," Whalum hopes to "communicate the need for reconciliation between people of different racial, ethnic and national origin." He hopes it can be part of a many-sided offensive to move beyond tolerance to genuine acceptance, according to Warner Brothers Records.

In addition to being one of Whalum's songwriters on "Colors," Saisse co-produced the tracks and recruited Whalum on his own new release, "NeXT Voyage."

The multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer and music director wanted to "incorporate a little more of the current R&B and hip-hop production values that R. Kelly or Babyface might use," says Saisse in his Verve Group biography, "and apply them to my own kind of instrumental jazz. The simpler grooves and background accompaniment make this record a lot more urban than the last."

"Masques," Saisse's previous album and third solo effort, was praised in "Jazziz" magazine for its "exciting sonics and textures" and "Keyboard" magazine made note of his ability to "set higher standards for the adult contemporary field."

Before his successes as a solo artist, Saisse had already made an impact on modern music. After producing an album for Chaka Kahn,

writing songs for David Sanborn, Al Jarreau and Al DiMeola, and playing keyboards on tracks for artists such as David Bowie and the Rolling Stones, Saisse participated in projects with Tina Turner, Vanessa Williams and the B-52's and served as music director on David Sanborn's "Night Music" show on NBC.

He's now looking forward to producing young artists and wants to lend his 20 years of experience to shape new talent.

"I would love it," he says in his biography "It would mean I've touched these people and that is the best reward."

Joining Saisse and Whalum on tour is Akron, Ohio, native Golub. He will be taking time off from playing with his band, Avenue Blue, until the tour with Whalum and Saisse wraps up at the Berks Jazz Festival in Reading, Penn., on March 22.

Golub has been busy promoting his latest release, "Nightlife," with Avenue Blue until this tour. His first break occurred in rock 'n' roll, when Billy Squier's drummer hand-picked him from a small New York City club. He remained with Squier for three world tours and a number of recordings, then went on to work with former J. Geils Band member Peter Wolf, John Waite, jazz saxophonist Bill Evans and others.

In 1988, Golub joined forces with Rod Stewart and only recently left his position to pursue his first love, jazz and blues.

As Golub and Avenue Blue were gaining recognition, he became well known as a session guitarist in New York, his adopted hometown. He recently recorded with Whalum, Vanessa Williams, Ashford & Simpson



Golub

and Bob James on the Grammy nominated "Joined at the Hip." His diverse mix of blues, soul, rock and jazz has always led Golub's focus back to the blues.

Please see TUCKER, page 7

'Desperate Measures' gets good review

Jamie Evans
review
column



Michael Keaton and Andy Garcia walk the line between good and evil in the new Tristar movie, "Desperate Measures."

The story involves Los Angeles Police Officer Frank Connor (Andy Garcia) whose son is dying of leukemia and needs a bone marrow transplant to survive. The boy's only perfect DNA match is Peter McCabe (Michael Keaton), a homicidal sociopath serving a life sentence in a federal maximum security prison.

McCabe agrees to do the transplant, but escapes during the operation procedure, shooting two cops in the process. The police then set out to hunt down McCabe and do whatever is necessary to stop him. Connor must sacrifice his career in order to keep McCabe alive while also trying to stop him from killing anyone else.

This film at times had a "Die Hard" cliché feel to it with snipers, exploding bridges and car chases. But Producer Barbet Schroeder used good character interaction to bring a new flavor to this movie genre.

Garcia, with movies like "The Godfather, Part III" and "Night Falls on Manhattan," lifted the shoes of his character



photo provided
Convicted killer Peter McCabe (Michael Keaton, left) and police officer Frank Connor (Andy Garcia) clash in a life-and-death struggle in "Desperate Measures," which opens in theaters Jan. 30.

perfectly. He portrayed Connor as a good cop, but one that was forced to enter into a corrupted relationship.

Keaton brought life to this action thriller with the apparent internal struggle over saving a young boy's life as opposed to escaping into freedom. As McCabe, he pushed Connor to the edge of his morals, showing what a

father would do for his son.

Similar to what "Pulp Fiction" did for John Travolta, this role could put Keaton on the A list of re-invents. Keaton has a gift of re-inventing his image with every film he does. In "Desperate Measures," he brings his "Beetle Juice" dark humor riddled with a tainted Bruce Wayne/Batman

Overall this movie had a nice flow to it. Some of the action sequences were a bit choppy, and in one scene it changes from night to day in a matter of seconds. If I were to rate this on a four point scale, I would give this movie a three and a half. "Desperate Measures" opens in theaters everywhere Jan. 30.

History professor given King-Hampton award

□ Susan McMahan staff

Each year, the Association of Faculty and Administrative Women presents the King-Hampton award to an MTSU staff member who makes long-time contributions to women faculty, staff and students.

The award was named for Jeanette M. King, the first female faculty member at MTSU, and Martha Hampton, the first female administrator.

This year's winner is history professor Nancy Rupprecht. In her almost 13 years at MTSU, Rupprecht has served as director of the women's studies program, a member of the Faculty Senate, president of AFAW and its predecessor, Concerned Faculty and Administrative Women, and program chair of last year's Women and Power Conference.

Rupprecht will chair the conference on Holocaust studies later this year. She also was presented the Ayne Cantrell award, given to a person with distinguished service to the MTSU's women studies program.

Cantrell, an English professor, is also a previous recipient of the King-Hampton award. Other winners include Margaret Scott, Rebecca Rice, Esther Millon Seeman, Faye Hubbard and Jan Hayes. The first award was given to Wallace Prescott in 1991.

"I can think of no one more deserving of this award," declared current women's studies director Jackie Eller, who presented the award to Rupprecht at a luncheon Jan. 27.

Rupprecht addressed the crowd of AFAW members and university administrators at the luncheon with her good humor and self-described "lack of tact." When she first stood at the podium she told everyone

she had "forced herself to prepare a minute or two of remarks" while unfolding two sheets of connected computer paper.

Rupprecht later thanked her fellow professors in the history department for their support and the university administrators, "particularly those who are here because I'm not stupid."

She told listeners at the luncheon that more ceremonies like the King-Hampton award should be held to honor women.

"This makes you feel like you're doing what you're supposed to do," she exclaimed.

Rupprecht currently teaches European history in Europe, France and Germany and a women's studies course on European women since 1700. The course is a cross-listed course, which means it also counts as a history credit. Program-based courses include introduction to women's studies and a leadership class.

Rupprecht's main area of research is on Hitler youth. She is attracted to the subject because she wants to know how their socialization was changed so they would believe the "monstrous ideas" they were taught. She is still working on researching the subject she finds interesting and valuable.

"The more I learn, the more there is to learn," she noted.

Her last paper was on Jewish humor of the Holocaust era, which was "controversial" to many people. Many Jewish people used humor as a coping mechanism, she explained.

She was interested in what makes people survive. She said she likes to do things that are very interesting.

"I get so bored with things you see over and over," she said, adding that all professors need to take a break from their major area of research.

TUCKER:

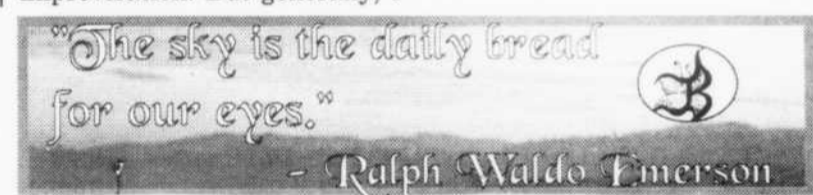
Continued from page 1

"To me, it's the real link between all American popular music," Golub said in his Atlantic/Blue Moon biography.

"If something moves me, whether it's jazz or rock or country, chances are it has a blues undertone. I'm simply playing the blues with jazz elements, adding a single note voice to basic chord changes, changing the dynamics of the notes so that it rings true as an improvisation. But generally, I

don't distinguish styles of music. If you're open to everything, you see that most formats interconnect at some point."

Whalum, Saisse and Golub's extensive, diverse and professional backgrounds will be showcased in a musical production that will appeal to concertgoers' varied tastes as well as to their pocketbooks. The concert is free and open to MTSU students and the public. For more information, call 898-2551.



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Bring the Oilers campaign

WAPB 810 AM is promoting a "Bring the Oilers to Middle Tennessee" campaign.

According to Mike Leahy, WAPB general manager, anyone interested in assisting with the campaign may call the station at 867-3366 or email WAPB@mindspring.com.

Leahy also noted that people may pick up information or sign petitions to be presented to the Oilers by coming to the station, 107 S.E. Broad Street.

Groundhog Day Luncheon

"MTSU Baseball's 1998 Groundhog Day Luncheon" will be Monday, Feb. 2, in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

Doors for the event open at 11:30 a.m. The menu includes: white beans, ham hocks, tomato salad, green onions, corn bread, chocolate cake and ice cream.

Reserved tickets are \$6 if purchased by 4:30 p.m. Jan. 30. Tickets bought after that time are \$8. For more information contact 898-2210.

Track results

The Blue Raider men's and women's track teams placed third and fourth respectively at last weekend's Illinois State Invitational.

For the women, the 4x400-meter relay team placed second, finishing with a time of 4:00.22. Also garnering a second place finish was newcomer Audreja Ribac, who had a leap of 39 feet, 6 1/2 inches.

"This is a good start for her," head coach Dean Hayes said.

In the men's competition, Boniface Amuzu picked up the Raiders' lone first place finish. Amuzu's long jump was marked at 23 feet, 11 1/2 inches.

Eric Kiauka recorded "lifetime best times" in both the one-mile and 3,000 meters with times of 4:17.59 and 8:48.28 respectively.

Women's basketball results

The Lady Raiders lost a tough overtime game 80-79 on the road at the buzzer to Eastern Kentucky.

Raider television schedule

"The Randy Wiel Show" airs every Sun. night on WNAB at 10 p.m. Replayed 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. on MTSU Ch. 8.

Raider Radio Network

WMTS FM 88.3-

(Women's Basketball only)
at Martins 5:30 p.m. Jan. 31
vs SEMO 3 p.m. Feb. 7
at TSU 7 p.m. Feb. 14
vs Morehead 5:30 p.m. Feb. 21

WGNS AM 1450-

All Lady Raider basketball games
The Randy Wiel Show on Sun. nights. Taped from 6-7 p.m. at Toot's Restarant in Murfreesboro.

Upcoming schedule

Mens Basketball-

at UT-Martin 7:30 p.m. Jan. 31
vs Eastern Illinois 7 p.m. Feb. 5

Womens Basketball-

at UT-Martin 5:50 p.m. Jan. 31
at Murray State 7 p.m. Feb. 2

Womens Tennis-

at Vanderbilt 11 p.m. Today
at Georgia Tech 11 p.m. Jan. 31

Mens Tennis-

at Wake Forest T.B.A. Jan. 31
ITA National Indoors Feb. 5-8

Indoor Track-

MTSU Invite Noon Jan. 31
at Indiana Invite All day Feb. 6-7

Baseball-

vs Illinois State 3 p.m. Feb. 20
vs Illinois State 1 p.m. Feb. 21
vs Illinois State 1 p.m. Feb. 22
(Opening Home Stand Series)

Softball-

at Samford (DH) 1 p.m. Feb. 21
at Ole Miss (DH) 2 p.m. Feb. 25

Golf-

Bridges All-American Tournament
Feb. 16-17 (all day)



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

Basketball: The Randy Wiel way

□ Keith Ryan Cartwright/staff

At the start of the season no one thought it could be done—except Randy Wiel.

The Raiders were picked to finish fourth in the Ohio Valley Conference preseason coaches poll. However, 18 games into the season, the first place Raiders are 15-3 overall and 9-1 in the OVC.

Outsiders didn't give the Raiders a chance earlier because of their lack of a marquee player.

What they didn't count on was Wiel's ability to utilize his entire roster to his teams benefit.

"My whole philosophy is based on unselfish play," Wiel said, "hard nosed defense and good shot selection. If we can do those three things we can compete with most people."

So far the Raiders have done just that. Their unselfish play is evident in the fact that the bench alone is averaging 25.2 ppg, which amounts to more than a third of the team's entire offense.

Uncharacteristic of many other coaches Wiel will look to his bench players early, often times sending Malachi Ailen and Kent Ayer into the game within five minutes of tip off.

"I want them to play important minutes," Wiel said. "Not just at the end of the game, when the [outcome] is already decided."

What has allowed Wiel the luxury of playing various players at any given time is team chemistry. Much of that chemistry has come through Wiel's insistence that the Raiders strength lies in their "togetherness, not by an individual."

Team play among the Raiders has been their strength. Six different players have led the team in scoring for various games. Just two players—Alyton Tesch and Freddie Martinez—average double figures in scoring.



Chad Gillis/staff

Randy Wiel thinks on his feet, so to speak, during a recent game at Murphy Center.

"I don't have [the team] believing that we shouldn't have to rely on one guy," Wiel said.

"Hey, if you have eight guys scoring nine points, you're in the 70s and you're going to win most games."

At the defensive end of the court the Raiders are leading the OVC in team defense, allowing their opponents an average of just 61.4 ppg.

However, take away the losses to No. 2 North Carolina and No. 4 Kansas, and their opponents are averaging just 55.5 ppg.

"Everyone has pride in their defense," Wiel said, "and not letting the team down."

The Raiders shifting defense has stifeled their opponents to the point that 13 times this season they've held the opposition to under 25 points in a half.

Much of that pressure has come from point guard Richard Duncan

who, as Wiel mentioned, "keys" the defense for the Raiders.

"Anytime there is a breakdown in the pressure up front, you are putting pressure on the big guys because they have to pick up fouls," Wiel explained. "You have to maintain pressure up front and if it fails they'll help. But, you can't rely on them."

"That's where Richard comes in and he fits that role very well. He's accepted that responsibility."

Thus far Duncan has been able to keep the pressure on the opponents at the point of attack without sacrificing too many personal fouls and jeopardizing his playing time.

However, a big key to their success has been the Raiders shot selection and shooting percentage.

Please see WIEL, page 9

Oilers visit with Fowler, impressed

□ Keith Ryan Cartwright/staff

Referring to it only as a "fact finding mission," Floyd Reese, general manager of the Tennessee Oilers, made a visit to MTSU last Friday.

Though he remained low key about his visit, Reese did not hesitate to describe his impression of MTSU's athletic facilities as "top notch."

The Oilers, who held their training camp at Tennessee State University last season, are entertaining the possibility of moving their camp to another location.

Despite national reports the Oilers were considering holding camp in another state, Reese said it was the organization's No. 1 priority to keep the training camp in Tennessee.

Reese made the trip to MTSU after being invited by MTSU Athletic Director Lee Fowler, who contacted him earlier in the week to express interest in behalf of the university.

"It's great," Reese said. "There may be a lot of construction now. But, when they're done, they're going to have a top notch facility."

"They're not missing anything."

Aside from the athletic facilities, Reese also mentioned the "positive support" the community seems to have towards the idea of the Oilers holding camp in Murfreesboro as well as the strong Blue Raider alumni base in the mid-state area.

"In just talking with [MTSU], I noticed their willingness to back their program and make things happen," Reese said. "They're moving their football program to 1A and they're determined to make it happen."

"All those things are important."

Reese's visit with Fowler was much smoother than the reported talks have been with officials at Vanderbilt University in regards to playing regular season games at Vanderbilt Stadium next season.

"It's human nature to want to work with people who are willing to work with you," said Reese, of the "positive" conversations he had with Fowler and other members of the Blue Raider athletic department.

Front runners for becoming the home site of the Oilers training camp appear to be MTSU, TSU, UT-Chattanooga, East Tennessee and Maryville.

"We still have some schools to visit," Reese said, as of Monday afternoon. "We hope to have a short list put together next week and we'll go from there."

Reese would not, however, confirm that MTSU would be on the short list.

He did say he hoped to make a decision "sooner rather than later."

As for where the Oilers plan to play their regular season games, Reese said team owner Bud Adams will be meeting with NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue and several other team owners to discuss the issue.

"We're a ways away from deciding that," Reese said. "That's a whole other ball game."

Softball an accelerated, strong sport

Guest Column
Piereccia Lyons
Senior/Softball



Fast-pitch softball is a sport that is increasingly growing in popularity. It reached its greatest high in 1996 when the epitome of softball was displayed in the Olympics.

With such greats as Lisa Fernandez, Michelle Smith and Dot Richardson, the United States softball team made history by winning the gold medal in the first Olympics that included softball as an official sport.

At a more tangible level lies the MTSU Lady Raider softball team. The program began in 1992-93 after Title IX required the addition of more female athletic programs to the university.

Fortunately, coach Karen Green gave me the opportunity to sign with MTSU. As a result, I became a member of the team at the start of the fall of 1994. The chance to play a role in shaping an MTSU softball tradition was a huge factor in my decision to play here. It was a new program, and I wanted to be a part of taking it to the top.

We, the new freshmen and returning underclassmen, came into a great situation. The seniors welcomed us into the fold with open arms. For the freshmen, everything was new and overwhelming.

However, the seniors made the transition a great deal easier. Their leadership that year was very unique and quite instrumental in our development. Mandy Baird, Jill Booth, Andrea Edwards, Jennifer Fine and Jenny West all had individual gifts to give us.

I personally feel that their influence helped to shape the player I am today. Mandy Baird gave me a sense of fight. She showed me how to have a fire inside me that illuminates the way for others to see, not one that burns destructively.

Jill was a joy. She taught me how to lighten up bad situations while

Please see LYONS, page 9

Aiming to be OVC champs

Guest Column
Karen Green
Head Coach
Softball



Where have we come and where are we going? The women's softball team is beginning its sixth year of existence. We've come a long way from having two scholarships, playing and practicing at off-campus sites and borrowing equipment to compete.

Today's 1998 women's softball team will be reaping the benefits of those brave women who set the standards for the Lady Raiders. The 1998 edition has an on-campus facility and more scholarships. All of the improvements will help us be successful.

The following players make up this year's team:

Rachel Actkinson, sophomore, SS, Hixson, Tenn.; Allison Cheatham, senior, OF, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Stephanie Cox, freshman, 2B, Bartlett, Tenn.; Tamara Davis, sophomore, 1B, Carmichael, Calif.; Shay Haskell, sophomore, OF/2B, Penryn, Calif.; Amanda Kendall,

freshman, P, Largo, Fla.; Pierrecia Lyons, senior, 3B, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Melanie Manley, sophomore, C/OF, Pinson, Ala.; Chrissy Moore, freshman, OF, Antioch, Tenn.; Jamie Polsteen, senior, OF, Brentwood, Tenn.; Jaclyn Story, sophomore, P, Smyrna, Tenn.; Courtney Wallace, P/OF, Yuma, Ariz.

Winners in life are those who know exactly what they want and who are on the road to obtaining it. Since Sept. 9, these young ladies have committed to be winners.

A day consists of 5 a.m. workouts, classes, practice and study hall. What they have in common is that they know what they want and they feel they are moving in the right direction to achieve it.

The players are reaching for something that few can achieve—a goal—a dream that can be reached.

Each of these ladies has chosen to go after what they want. Each day they strive to reshape and mold themselves physically and mentally to achieve their dreams. What the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve!

Please see GREEN, page 9

Performer of the Week

Aylton Tesch



Senior
6'8"
Forward
2nd year
with team
Vitoria,
Brazil

Games: Raiders vs. Eastern Ky. and Morehead State

Date: Jan. 22 and 24, 1998

Outcome: Pair of wins, 96-89 and 77-64 respectively

Scenario:

Aylton Tesch was named the "OVC Player of the Week" for the second consecutive week. Tesch helped lead the Blue Raiders to their first "Death Valley" sweep in 14 years. The senior scored 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in the win over Eastern. Two days later he scored another 17 points and hit the boards for 12 more rebounds. Tesch's hussel in the paint helped the Blue Raiders to a 24-7 second-chance points advantage over Morehead.

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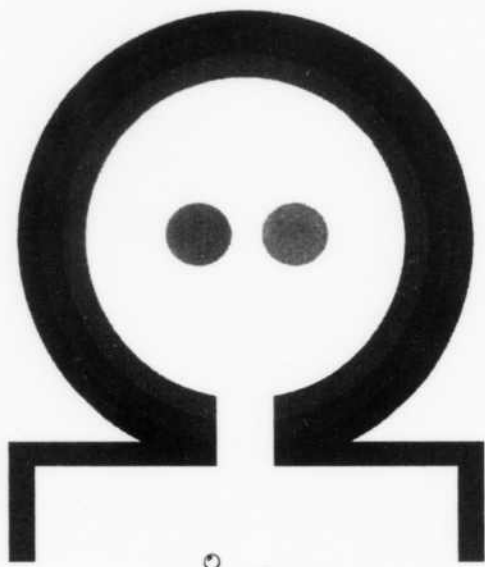
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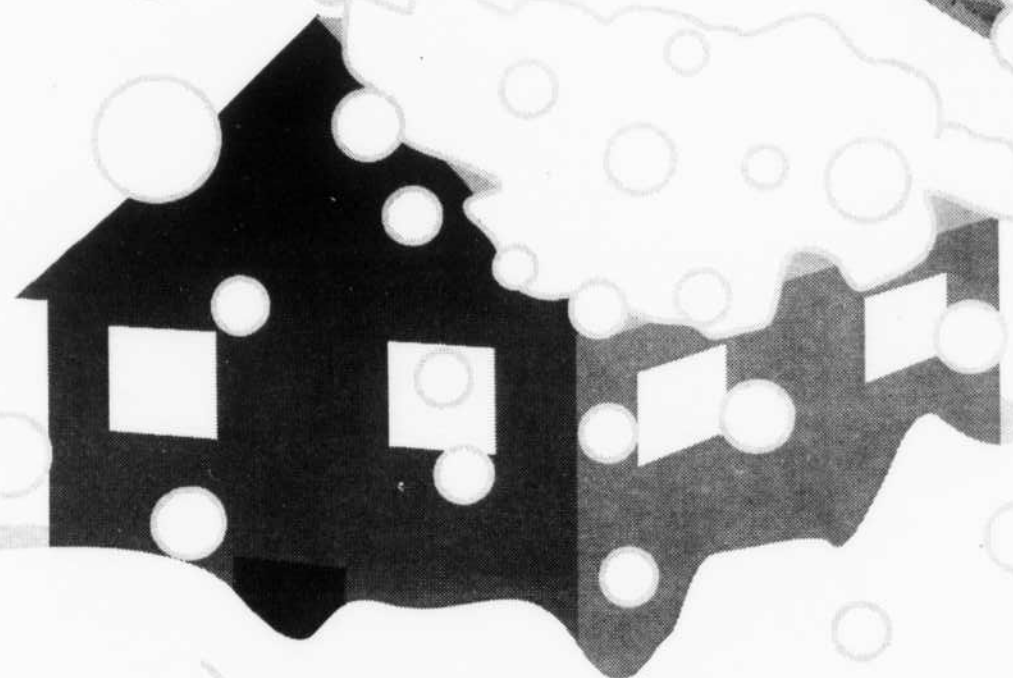
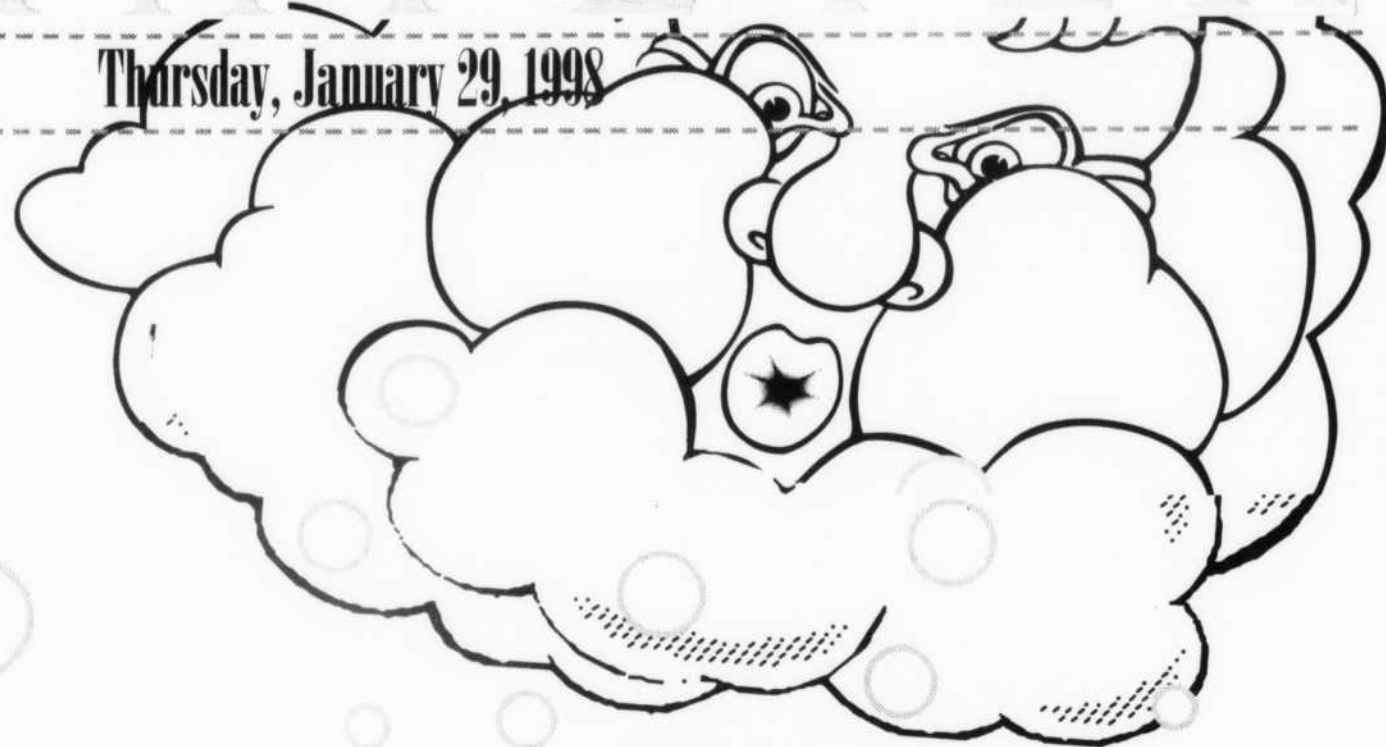
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Sidelines Special Edition

CABIN FEVER

Thursday, January 29, 1998



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Travel to a newly refined corner of the world known as Sarajevo. Times have changed, at least in some respects.

Page 3

Volunteer work pays off for more than those who are in need. Find your goodwill niche today.

Page 4

With winter at its peak, it might be best just to take a friend to the silver screen. But before doing see check with Gene Siskel.

Page 4

Elvis is alive and well, at least in some minds. Take a Chicago look at this phenom of the past and present.

Page 7



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Sarajevo, the next new mecca for tourists?

Dan Lansky
College Press

Before I went to Sarajevo, my concept of post-war Yugoslavia was a bit hazy. On a map, it looked to me like a heated game of Risk after someone had bumped the table, mixing the little, multicolored plastic chips, leaving a number of small countries with borders more complex than most trig equations and names that sounded like marriages between two Czechoslovakian hockey players (case in point, Bosnia-Herzegovina).

Armed with a 1991 pre-war Fodor's guidebook, I wanted to see what had happened to tourist attractions in Sarajevo after four years under attack from Serbs, who surrounded the city of 400,000 with 260 tanks, 120 mortars and snipers who could earn \$300 for every person they shot. (A total of 10,615 Sarajevans were killed and 50,000 wounded, making for a total possible Serb sniper profit of \$18 million.)

I wanted to know if the museums were resting in little pieces, had been put back together, or had been mostly spared from the shelling. Roughly 600,000 tourists visited Sarajevo each year between 1985 (the year following the Winter Olympics there) and 1991. Now, two years after the peace imposed by the Dayton accords, is Sarajevo ready for tourists to return?

GETTING THERE

Several commercial flights (Swiss Air, Air Austria, Bosnia Air, Adria Air and others) now arrive and depart daily from Sarajevo's once UN-controlled airport. Tickets are still pricey, around \$600 round trip from most major European airports. The \$180 option, if you're in Italy or Austria and don't mind roughly 16 hours of public transport each way, is to take one of the buses or trains down the Croatian coast to Split, head four hours inland to Mostar, then change buses again for another four-hour ride to Sarajevo. A direct bus from Budapest costs \$80 for a return ticket. As long as you don't get off the bus midway and wander into the potentially mine-filled countryside, it's safe passage.

The on-flight meal (courtesy of Adria Airlines) gave me a glimpse of the culinary experience that lay ahead. There was a cold, deep-

fried turkey breast with bacon inserted into the middle, accompanied by two side dishes, cold slices of ham and cold chicken covered with mayo. As I later learned, this was considered the vegetarian meal. It was also the eco-terrorist meal; the food was served in a molded plastic container, four layers thick if you're trying to get all the way to the plastic cutlery, which broke as soon as I tried to spread the frozen butter on the stone roll. I was afraid to ask for another knife for fear of all the plastic waste it might involve.

As the plane started its descent into Sarajevo, I looked out the window for a glimpse of the city. I was stunned. The place had been completely flattened as far as the eye could see, with gray smoke covering the still-smoldering ruins. Then I noticed we were just flying over a cloud.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The part of the city near the airport had been hardest hit. It looked like a trailer park that had been ravaged by a tornado, used as the set for Independence Day II: Even More Explosions, then looted by political party fundraising groups. You'd be hard pressed to find an apartment with more than two walls in this town. Burned-out cars sat in the front yards of homes that had been roped off with yellow tape reading MINES! I just hope the children who live nearby learn to read English soon.

On the way into town, I drove past the city's few skyscrapers, which had either completely collapsed or been so thoroughly pulverized by mortars that they looked like 30-floor parking garages. Downtown, most of the city's buildings remained structurally intact but were riddled with bullet holes. Facades looked as pock-marked as Manuel Noriega's face after a dry shave.

Despite the devastation, traffic was bumper to bumper. There are more cars now than before the war, my taxi driver told me. A law was passed that any Sarajevan who fought in the war could buy a tax-free car — and, technically, "everyone" had fought in the war. There were more BMWs and Mercedes than you could shake a grenade launcher at. What I couldn't figure out was where people got the money, since Sarajevo had between 75 percent and 90 percent unemployment (depending

which organization you talked to).

The other vehicles on the road belonged to either the multinational troops (or SFOR - Stabilization Force), who drove around in Army-green armored vehicles, or international aid organizations. I counted some 40 different aid organizations, each with a fleet of blue or white \$40,000 Range Rovers and Land Cruisers with catchy acronyms painted on the side. The only use I saw for the four-wheel drive was to fulfill the aid-worker habit of parking on the curb. Despite all the buildings that now look like parking ramps, Sarajevo is in dire need of parking.

The most startling thing about Sarajevo was walking down the main street, Marsala Tita, and seeing the best dressed citizens in Europe. It almost put Milan to shame. There were at least 10 flashy new cafes, a jazz club, four theaters, a few hip night clubs, a new Benetton shop, even a Versace outlet. Who would have guessed Versace could beat McDonald's into a war zone?

Although I couldn't figure out how people got their money, it didn't take long to see that they paid for everything in Deutsch Marks. The official currency is the Dinar but almost no one uses it. And a credit card was about as effective as a garage-door opener without batteries. There were plenty of banks but I couldn't find any that accepted plastic.

I was surprised that people in Sarajevo were quick to share the latest morbid jokes about their new post-war economy. One goes like this: A guy pulls up in a new Mercedes with his arm hanging out the window and a smug look on his face. His friend tells him, "Why do you think you're such a big shot? Everyone has a Mercedes these days." "Yes," the driver agrees, "but I also have an arm to hang out the window."

PRE-WAR ATTRACTIONS

I stopped at the tourist office and chatted with, Sefket Pobric, a 70-ish Sarajevan who spent the four war years living in a 2-yard-by-2-yard shelter with his daughter, granddaughter and a dog. There was no electricity, almost no food, and they survived on rainwater they managed to collect in a bucket. This man is now Sarajevo's Director of Tourism.

In the last year, Mr. Pobric had seen about three travelers per day ramble through his door. "Where are the snipers located?" was the most frequently asked question, he said.

Travelers also wanted to know where to find the new war cemeteries, one of which is on the soccer fields that surround the site of the opening ceremonies for the 1984 Olympics.

We went down the list of tourist attractions in my guidebook. The National Library, a Moorish-style City Hall built in 1894, was considered the most beautiful building in town. In 1945, it was converted into the National Library and filled with over a million books, periodicals and countless rare literary treasures. On Aug. 25, 1992, it was hit by 50 shells and fire destroyed the interior, sending a cloud of book ashes above the city. Today only the hallowed exterior remains, and the structure is being rebuilt.

The Museum of the Assassination told the story of the 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and how it set off the chain of events that led to World War I. The museum, under repair, plans to reopen in a year. The Church Museum is, according to Fodor's, a fascinating, small museum that contains a valuable collection of reliquaries, liturgical objects, illuminated manuscripts and magnificent iconostasis. I wouldn't recognize an iconostasis or liturgical object if I found one in my nose, but since the entire museum was looted and there are no plans to reopen it, I may never see one.

The Bey Mosque, the largest mosque in all of former Yugoslavia, was badly damaged but has now been rebuilt, thanks mostly to funding from the Iranians.

The Zemaljski Muzej is the largest and most impressive museum in town, and it was only partially destroyed during the war. It will likely reopen to the public in a few years but until then it's being used as a conference center for NATO, UN and other international officials.

The famous Clock Tower from the 17th century has survived and still tells traditional Turkish time with Arabic numerals (12 o'clock falls exactly at sunset). Consequently, it confuses tourists just as much as before the war. The Svrzina Kuca (Svrzina House) is the only

museum-like building now open to visitors. This 300-year-old traditional Bosnian-style home of a wealthy merchant family named — I presume — The Svrzinas, survived the war nearly unscathed. It cost me 1 DM (less than \$1) to enter, and this included a four-second lecture from the ticket taker, who told me that I'd arrived at Svrzina Kuca and that the toilet was located just around to the right.

Handicraft Quarter. These one-story shops that line a maze of cobblestone streets seem completely rebuilt. Salesmen are hawking trinkets as enthusiastically as before the war.

POSTWAR ATTRACTIONS

The closest I came to 3war tourism was when I ran into Adan Spuaer, a soldier in Bosnia's special forces. He was a medical student when the fighting broke out on April 6, 1991. Another medical student, 24-year-old Suada Dibuovic, had been the first victim in Sarajevo's bombardment. Adan showed me the spot on a bridge near the parliament building where Suada was shot and killed. The bridge is now named after her, and the spot she died is marked with a sign reading: "One drop of my blood spilled, and then all Bosnia began to bleed."

The Suada Dibuovic Bridge, which remained one of the front lines of fighting throughout the war, was also called the 3Romeo and Juliet Bridge by the few travelers I met. It was here where two young lovers, a Serbian man and a Muslim woman, met and were killed by snipers. The rights to this tragic romance, I was told, have already been purchased by Hollywood.

Adan, who had spent all four years of the war fighting within 100 meters of this bridge, took me through the ruins he and his comrades helped to create. His Bosniak unit's main target was a building they called 3The Butcher Shop. From here, Serb soldiers were able to pick off Sarajevan pedestrians at will. In fact, it was their primary sniping post. To get to the Butcher Shop, Adan's small force, using homemade weapons and guns taken from dead Serb soldiers, worked their way to a building called 3Bread (it looked vaguely like a loaf of bread), then on to a

Please see MECCA, page 5



Collage

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Deadline: Feb. 20th

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Volunteer work may cure those winter blues

Jennie Treadway Sidelines

If it is too cold and rainy to enjoy the outdoors and your brain would rather read the obituaries than study chemistry, you might find yourself asking, "What can I do?"

By adding a few words to the end of that question, the answer is quite clear: What can I do for someone else?

Volunteering your time to a worthy cause is not only one of the best ways to spend free time, but it is doing something positive for the community as well as for yourself. Instead of spending nine hours in front of the television (knowing nothing interesting is on anyway), shift gears and look through the yellow pages for a place to make your mark.

There are certainly benefits to working with a volunteer

center. Nine times out of ten, your services will not be turned away.

Every hour spent is an hour you have given to better the community. Not only can you make a positive difference in someone's life, but the possibility of self-improvement is almost guaranteed.

Finding a place to work is not difficult. The American Red Cross and local community shelters are always looking for extra hands, as are after-school programs at churches and community centers.

Counseling centers and hotlines are also means of volunteering, although most require the volunteers to go through training sessions to prepare them for every possible situation.

Do not underestimate donating old clothes or canned food goods to homeless shelters as a way of volunteering. Rummaging through stuffed closets or cramped cupboards

can be rewarding for both you and the shelter to which you are donating.

If a yard sale takes too much time and effort, simply give your old toys and belongings to a thrift store or Salvation Army. It's simple: the more things they have to sell, the more money they make. After all, rainy weather can kill the success of a yard sale.

Donating blood is also a major way to impact someone's life. Right now, the American Red Cross is in dire need for more blood and is running a national campaign to encourage more people to donate. Instead of waiting to see the commercials, call your local Red Cross and set up an appointment. What could be better than saving a person's life?

It might be easier to start volunteering in a group rather than alone. Often, community centers can find more projects for a larger number of people

than they would for just one. Plus, the time spent volunteering can be more fun with friends to share it with. Volunteering should not be dreadful labor but a growing experience worth repeating.

Volunteering on a regular basis can be a great way to build a resume, meet new people and expand the possibilities for a future career. The references and experience gained from public service is just as rewarding as the feeling of doing something generous.

Here are a number of public service centers that take volunteers regularly:

- American Red Cross (Murfreesboro)
- Foodbank of Rutherford County (Murfreesboro)
- Crisis Pregnancy Support Center (Murfreesboro)
- Meals on Wheels (Murfreesboro)
- Nashville Cares

- (Nashville)
- YMCA: Before & After-school Program (all areas)
- Salvation Army Thrift Store (all areas)
- Kids on the Block (Nashville)
- Habitat for Humanity (Nashville)

If you feel like being a bit less professional, come up with your own service idea. With friends, call a local park ranger and tell him you would like to do a trash pick-up. He may even have a few ideas for you. Call an elderly neighbor and offer to wash his car or do some yard work. Even if you are just picking up a few extra groceries for a neighbor, any charitable effort is worth the time.

Pick yourself up off the couch and cancel your weekend television dates. You've got more important things to do.

Movie reviews with Gene Siskel

Gene Siskel College Press

(RATINGS: The movies listed below are rated according to the following key: 4 stars — excellent; 3 stars — good; 2 stars — fair; 1 star — poor.)

OUR FLICK OF THE WEEK is "Spice World," in which we are introduced to the Spice Girls, the so-called pre-Fab Five, a handful of young singers who have been assembled in a triumph of marketing over music, much like the Monkees a generation ago.

The form of the movie is a journey through a few days in their life as they prepare for their first major concert, a concept used by other rock groups in their debut films, most notably the Beatles in "A Hard Day's Night."

But neither the Spice Girls nor their movie is in that class.

Instead of cheeky Beatles behavior, sparkling wit and a filmmaking style that pushed limits in glorious black and white, the Spice Girls in "Spice World" sit about in assorted rooms and trash one another's pop images — as the ingenue, the clotheshorse, the rebel.

The result is tiresome and a blown opportunity to launch

the group to an entirely new audience. And I suspect those who already are fans will learn nothing new about their "Girl Power" heroes. PG. 1 star.

AFTERGLOW. Julie Christie is a standout in an otherwise talking, too schematic, Alan Rudolph film about bored couples switching partners and finding some excitement. Rudolph's films fail when he is too elliptical with his dialogue, and that's the case here. Christie plays an actress married to Nick Nolte, playing a free-wheeling mechanic. They hook up with two other partners, and fewer sparks fly than you might expect with these two big talents. The film seems half-kidding much of the time. R. two stars

AMISTAD. Steven Spielberg's 19th Century slavery drama manages to tell a most complicated court case story with uncommon passion. Whether African men sold into slavery who then murdered some of their captors aboard a vessel bound for Cuba can be legitimately tried for the killings is the central judicial concept explored in "Amistad." Of course, writ large is the issue of whether human beings

Please see Siskel, page 6



The Spice Girls take a break in the funky, far-out Spice Bus with their pregnant guest Nicola (Naoko Mori, far left) in the Columbia Pictures release "Spice Girls." photo provided

MECCA

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building called 3Red2 (painted red), often fighting from one room to the next, each side trying to drill holes in the walls and push explosives through. After nearly four years, they felled the Butcher Shop by rolling a shopping cart full of TNT down a hill toward it and blowing the place up.

On my way to the airport, I wanted to check out the half-mile wartime transport tunnel that ran under the airport's runway — Sarajevo's only link to the outside world and the escape route used by the American ambassador at the beginning of the war.

While inside, I saw some young kids jump into a small hole farther along in the tunnel. I decided to ignore the 3MINES!2 warnings and follow them, figuring (stupidly) that the path would be safe if I stayed in the few fresh footprints. The four 14-year-olds all spoke English and told me they hung out here all the time.

The tunnel was muddy, about five-feet high, unlit and felt like it was about to cave in. I followed the kids for about 200 yards before better sense told me to turn back. I wondered how long it would be before the place was turned into a tourist attraction. I could easily imagine someone fixing it up a bit, renting out headlamps and boots and charging admission. Or maybe they'd make the tunnel bigger and run one of those Universal Studios-style trains through it.

NEW SOUVENIRS

War tourism is not taking off yet it's certainly revving its proverbial engines. There are already postcards with pictures of blown-up buildings. You can buy 3landmine cookies² at an American cookie shop.

In the handicraft markets, you can stock up on bullet casings engraved with 3Welcome to Sarajevo² (\$7 for the little ones, \$50 for casings the size of firewood). One shop even sells 3Hard Rock Cafe Sarajevo² T-shirts (although there's no such cafe) with bullet holes drawn into the logo. But the best souvenir in town is the poster-sized, illustrated battle map of Sarajevo under siege.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Sarajevo tourist information: Branilaca Sarajeva, phone 387-71-532-606.

SISKEL

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should ever be considered as property, and it's this issue that divides the U.S. in 1839, as the Amistad rebellion takes place. The case ascends to the U.S. Supreme Court, where former President John Quincy Adams (Anthony Hopkins) argues the anti-slavery position along with young attorney Roger Baldwin (Matthew McConaughey). As for the African characters, Spielberg succeeds in giving some of them distinct personalities, including their leader Cinque (Djimon Hounsou). Spielberg nails down the commerce of slavery in all of its sordid details. R. 3-1/2 stars.

ANASTASIA. A pretty animated feature that works because its lead character is charming, even though she gets faint support from the rest of the cast. With dialog spoken by Meg Ryan, and her musical voice performed by Liz Callaway, the story of the lost Russian princess works for the most simple of reasons: she's pretty and charming and we want her to be happy and

recover her birthright. On the other hand, the script couldn't do a worse job of informing youngsters about what life was like for the working and peasant classes during the reign of the Czar. There's some inane talk about what a great time it was for parties in St. Petersburg during the first decade of the 20th century. I'm sure there were great parties during slavery times, too. G. 3 stars.

AS GOOD AS IT GETS. A brash romantic comedy that has a serious purpose at its core. Jack Nicholson plays a grumpy old man, a romance novelist who hates all his neighbors in his Manhattan apartment building, particularly the young gay artist (Greg Kinnear) down the hall and the artist's best friend and agent (Cuba Gooding Jr.). Nicholson also is a bear at his favorite restaurant, where a pretty waitress (Helen Hunt) catches his eye and offers an opportunity for remorse — maybe even salvation. The sentimental strain of the story is matched with the wickedly funny bile of Nicholson's character, one of his best

performances in years. PG-13. 3-1/2 stars.

BENT. The plight of homosexuals during the Holocaust is made trivial in this adaptation of a dated '70s play about a couple of would-be lovers who try to outwit their captors and express their passion for each other behind barbed wire. Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List" raised the bar for Holocaust stories, and this one seems too tame and too talky. Only Mick Jagger's presence in a small role enlivens the experience. R. 2 stars.

THE BOXER. Writer-director Jim Sheridan ("The Crying Game," "In the Name of the Father") continues his examination of the Irish conflict through the story of an IRA member (Daniel Day-Lewis) who tries to put his life back together after 14 years in prison. His old girlfriend (Emily Watson) is now the wife of his best friend — now in prison — and the tentative relationship between her and Day-Lewis' character is part of the film's mosaic of people trapped by roles that the hatreds of their

ancestors have created. As good as the cast is here, however, some of their speeches seem painfully obvious, and I couldn't grasp what is new about this story. R. 2-1/2 stars.

FALLEN. In this film, Denzel Washington pops up as the detective on the case of a serial killer who was thought to be out of commission. I must tell you that my heart sinks these days when I have to see another serial killer movie, which rolls by every month, it seems. I don't care about any of the special wrinkles in the stories, whether there is more than one killer or whether, as in this case, the killer is inhabited by a devilish spirit that is a fallen angel. It's all an excuse for a depressed killing parade. The spirit of the fallen angel moves from one person to the next through touch. This leads to a nice scene that is a demonic form of tag on the streets of a big city. But when Washington becomes a suspect in a series of killings that confounds his police boss, "Fallen" turns lame. R. 1-1/2 stars.

Playin' towards the post-season

Steve Purinton/staff

The Blue Raiders continue domination of the Ohio Valley Conference against TSU to a near sell-out crowd. Tonight they face Murray State in a key match-up.

I saw Elvis at the Dairy Queen last Tuesday and...

Colleen De Baise
College Press

It's one way to prove that you're a hunka hunka burning intellect.

This year's application to the prestigious University of Chicago invites students to concoct their best conspiracy theory explaining how Elvis Presley is alive, well and maybe even hanging out at the mall.

"Here in the Office of College Admissions," the question begins, "we are persuaded that current Elvis sightings in highway rest areas, grocery stores and laundromats are part of a wider conspiracy involving five of the following: the metric system, the Mall of America, the crash of the Hindenburg, Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, lint, J.D. Salinger, and wax fruit."

The question, which is optional, asks students "to get to the bottom of this evil plot" in two pages or less.

So far, nearly a third of the 6,000 applicants have taken the challenge and answered the Elvis question, passing over a more traditional question about what factors comprise a neighborhood.

One female student drafted her response in the form of a memo to President Clinton. The King of Rock, she explained, is actually a crafty scientist who faked his own death so he could devote more time to working on complex physics theories.

To that end, Presley currently is developing a polymer coating that would prevent lint from forming on clothes, she wrote. Also, "he is very angry that nothing has been done to incorporate the metric system into general use in America since President Ford signed the Metric Conversion Act in 1975," she wrote.

Another student presented her theory that J.D. Salinger, the

reclusive author of "The Catcher in the Rye," is actually Jesse Aaron Presley, Elvis' fraternal twin presumed to have been born dead in 1935.

"Paranoid that his older twin's fame and overall 'phoniness' would distract from his artistic genius, Jesse changed his name to 'Jerome David Salinger' and since then has avoided public attention of all sorts," she wrote.

A male student decided to wax poetic and presented his answer in a Homeric ode. "1. I call you, Muse, to help me sift through the sick crime committed brashly/2. Help me to write of a conspiracy so great as to send shock waves/3. throughout the scholastic circles, to incite and wake the masses."

A suprising number of "suspicious minds" have penned their reply in verse, says Joseph Walsh, the U. of C. academic adviser who wrote the question.

"I think what happens is that they read the question and think, 'that's dumb,'" he said. "But then it bugs them enough that they say, 'those people, I'm going to show them!'"

Quirky questions have become a tradition on the U. of C. application.

Another year, students were asked to test their improvisational comedy skills by writing a story about two people meeting at the frozen food section of a supermarket and incorporating their favorite country music song.

When the questions aren't so run-of-the-mill, students tend to throw themselves into their replies, Walsh said.

"You see a real exuberance of doing a good job with this," he said. "If you ask, 'tell us about the most meaningful moment of your life' you don't get that exuberance."

Of course, students vying to fill 1,000 open slots in this year's incoming freshman class have to do a bit more than prove Elvis is alive. For starters, the mean SAT score at U. of C. falls between 1270 and

1480.

And students might want to persuade the admissions committee that they're capable of great things, too. The university boasts 69 Noble Prize winners among its alumni, more than any other school.

Walsh said the wacky question helps him and the nine other members of the admissions committee gauge a student's ingenuity.

"It really does tell us something about a student," he said. "If you're going to come here, you're going to really have to think it's fun, important and engaging to play with ideas."

The committee doesn't place much stake in the high-brow stuffiness usually associated with academic greatness, he said.

"Nobel Prize winners are a little bit nuts themselves, by and large," he said. "Actually, in an odd way, [the ability to make quirky connections] is incredibly consistent with academic achievement."

There's one more reason why the admissions committee favors odd essay questions, Walsh admits. Put yourself in their "blue suede shoes" for one moment and imagine sorting through 6,000 college applicatons.

"Nobody has more of an incentive to lighten this than the people who have to read through them," he said.



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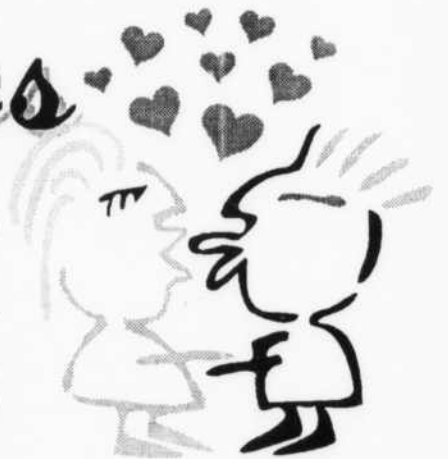
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