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EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

Guest lecturer condemns PATRIOT Act

"The administration aims to keep us safe, but from whom?"

By Katy Coil

Assistant Features Editor

Jim Bensman was investigated as a terrorism suspect by the FBI after he attended an Army Corps of Engineers meeting.

The public hearing in Alton, Ill., was to determine if a channel should be built along the Mississippi River to allow for an alternate fishing route. Bensman suggested that, instead of building an alternate channel, the dam should just be destroyed. During his slide show presentation, one of the pictures depicted a dam being blown up and soon, Bensman found himself hounded by the FBI.

Only after Bensman was harassed and his PowerPoint presentation was handed over and investigated was it realized that he posed no threat to national security.

Robert K. Newman, a professor of journalism, the law and society at Columbia University, told the story of Bensman and many others who have been falsely accused of terrorism in the age of security, surveillance and fear that has overtaken the United States in the post Sept. 11 world during his lecture at MTSU on Thursday night

entitled "Civil Liberties, Surveillance and Terrorism."

Newman lectured on such issues as wiretapping, surveillance, invasion of privacy, the overzealous nature of the American government when it comes to identifying possible terrorism suspects, and how all of these things are slowly but surely infringing upon the personal freedoms of Americans without much protest.

"If the first causality of war is truth, civil liberties are second," Newman said.

He told the audience of the virtually unopposed PATRIOT Act passed in Congress in 2001 and how it allows the government to conduct unwarranted search and seizures without prior notification to the suspect. He compared the modern day federal government to that of the McCarthy Era.

"We put people under suspicion for what they did, not if they are guilty," he said.

Even the ability for reporters to investigate the government is under fire.

"I've already had my students—future reporters—ask if they will go to jail," Newman said. "Kits provided by many news organizations often now include cards with the numbers of bail bondsmen."

Newman said that the free reign given to the Bush administration after Sept. 11 is partially to blame for the way the government is infringing upon the rights of the American people.

"Trust us, the administration has said. Trust us. But the Founding Fathers didn't even trust George Washington with his presidential powers," Newman said. "Why should we trust this administration? Put legality aside for all intents and purposes; the government can wiretap at will, and you will never know. This is much like giving the police the keys to your house in case they need to see inside. The goal, of course, is increased homeland security. Homeland security is a seductive phrase."

According to Newman, activities such as ordering books online that the government finds suspicious or being a member of an organization such as GreenPeace or People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) can make a person seem threatening to national security. The Bush administration has even proposed putting DNA into a database, which is set to be finished in two years, including the DNA of people who may have associated with terrorists even though they never did anything wrong.

"The administration aims to keep us safe, but from whom?" Newman asked. "One of the hidden, most dangerous causalities of 9/11 is the shrinking of information."

In addition to keeping information from the American people, Newman also charges the government with toughening up restrictions on international students coming into the United States, often rejecting students from studying in America or deporting them without disclosing their reasons.

"We are losing future leaders who could help us win the war on terrorism, who are taking our ideas back to their home countries," Newman said. "Moreover, any time a foreign student drops a class, gets a job, or changes addresses—even changes a dorm—the university has to report it."

Newman said the government now requires college campuses to allow it to monitor activity that takes place on university computers.

"The government is now requiring colleges to overhaul its computers so the data can be recorded in a government database," he said. "It costs \$500 per student. Now you know why your student fees are so high."

Newman said he believes we should be afraid of those government agencies

which are silent.

"Those that are not talking are the ones that we should be most afraid of because they are the hardest to get to, they are the most secretive," he said. "Those that we don't know about are the most dangerous."

He also encouraged his audience to do something about the infringement of their personal liberties.

"What you can do—make your voices heard," he said. "Write all your representatives. Vote—once, twice, three times if they let you. Everyone in office listens to a vote. Make your voices heard."

Katie Eivridge, the chair of the Ideas and Issues committee at MTSU, as well as a senior electronic media production major, thought Newman's lecture was a way to get students talking about issues such as surveillance.

"Especially right now with it being an election year, it's important to bring out issues of political concern and educate students about who they want to vote for and their political stance," Eivridge said.

She said she believes the issues Newman talked about were especially im-

See PATRIOT, 2

INSIDE

Facilities for disabled

Is disability access on campus getting better or worse for students?

See FEATURES, 3

McCain is in. What now?

The Republican Party has its candidate, but his power rests among independents, not conservatives.

See OPINIONS, 4

Blue Raiders' win streak ends

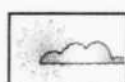


Desmond Yates registers his third double double of the season, but the Blue Raider were not able to gain the victory.

See SPORTS, 6

Local Forecast

Monday



HI: 46
LO: 35

Tuesday



HI: 49
LO: 34

Wednesday



HI: 48
LO: 34

Thursday



HI: 58
LO: 42

Index

Campus Briefs.....	2
Environment Briefs	3
Letters to the Editor	5
Comics	5
Sports Briefs	7

BLACK HISTORY Month 2008

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

Booker T. Washington

MTSU celebrates Black History

Staff Reports

When he co-founded African-American History Week in 1926, Carter G. Woodson said that "we should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice."

In 1915, scholar Carter G. Woodson co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). The organization was the platform that launched Woodson's mission to raise awareness and recognize the importance of black history.

Seeing the need to spread the news about black history to the general public as well as scholars, Woodson and the ASNLH pioneered the celebration of "Negro History Week" in 1926, which has since been extended to the entire month of February.

During the month of February, MTSU has planned a variety of activities to honor Black History Month.

Black History Month Events

February 4-5

Black Inventions Exhibit

February 18-19

The Meeting

February 6

Unity Luncheon
"Unsung Heroes" Honors

February 20

Felony Disfranchisement and the Right to Vote in Tennessee
Black History Quiz Bowl

February 7

Race, the Media, and Presidential Politics
Africa and the Diaspora: African, African American, and Caribbean Student Dialogue
"Street Fight"

February 21

Race in the 21st Century

February 12

A Wearness Runway Project

February 26

Gettysburg Jazz Concert

February 13

John Pless Faculty Award

March 11

Rebecca Walker, author

February 18

Reflections on the Lena o Protest: Film and Discussion

March 24

Lecture by Vernice G. Armour, first African American U.S. woman combat pilot

Career and Employment Center aids in job search

Jessica Young
Contributing Writer

The fear of finding a job should now be obsolete due to Lightning JobSource, the Career & Employment Center's revamped online job referral system.

"Lightning JobSource is a comprehensive one-stop shop for career services offered to MTSU students and alumni," said Bill Fletcher, director of the Career & Employment Center. "Whether you're looking for an internship or a position that's full-time, part-time, on- or off- campus, all of them will be posted through Lightning JobSource."

With a set up similar to that of Monster.com, students who register through the main site are able to post a resume in its entirety.

Each individual resume is then categorized into specific "resume books"

that are arranged according to a specific career field, such as accounting and computer technicians.

These "resume books" are maintained and monitored by the five career coordinators assigned to the position, allowing one coordinator of each of the main colleges within MTSU: Basic and Applied Sciences, Business, Educational and Behavioral Sciences, Mass Communication and Liberal Arts.

The main purpose of this system is to connect students to employers and allow them plenty of hands-on experience in their desired field, preparing them for what will come after college.

"As we look to cement relationships with the Middle Tennessee business community, we will rely on Lightning JobSource to act as a resource for employers, just as much as our students and alumni," said Fletcher. "With Lightning JobSource, employers will see evidence of the viable employee

candidates that [MTSU] has to offer." Whenever an employer contacts one of the career coordinators, they will specify the precise qualifications they are looking for in an employee.

The coordinator will then compile all the available resumes within the necessary "resume book," match the employer's request and then send the numerous resumes out.

"It's a great way for students to easily try out different careers and find which one suits them best while they're still in college," said Samantha Coppinger, freshman, educational and behavioral science major. "If they discover they hate the job, they still have the option of changing their major before it's too late."

The company, Experience, which hosts the Lightning JobSource site, is a national corporation.

While most internships and jobs searched throughout the entire site are

mainly held within Middle Tennessee, many will also be available that push past the borders of the state and cover the entire country.

There are plenty of options for all students who wish to stay within the state for employment now or after graduation, but for the students who wish to journey outside of Tennessee's borders.

"One of the great features of Lightning JobSource is the ability for users to access all of the Career & Employment Center's upcoming events," said Katy Francisco Riddle, career coordinator for the College of Business. "Students can easily access event dates, times and names of employer participants by clicking on the calendar section of the site."

The Career & Employment Center also offers a wide range of career fairs to aid students and better familiarize them with the life ahead.

As of now, there are three upcoming career fairs in February and March.

The Internships Fair will be held on campus on Thursday, Feb. 7 and will feature employers who are looking for interns.

MTSU's spring career fair for juniors, seniors, graduate students and alumni will be held in Nashville on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

This is an invitation-only event and attendees can pick up a free ticket in the main office at Keathley University Center 328 or any of the office's satellite locations.

The on-campus Summer Jobs Fair will take place Thursday, Feb. 14 and will offer seasonal job opportunities.

All students, freshmen and seniors alike, can visit each fair as well as the Lightning JobSource site and register in order to stay informed on any updates, from specific happenings to even newly registered employers.

MTSU puts up results at Grammys

Staff Reports

Bruce Nemerov, former MTSU professor, won a Grammy last night in the category of Best Album Notes for his extensive notes on the project "John Work III: Recording Black Culture."

To win this award, Nemerov, along with Spring Fed Records, beat out four competitors in the category, including Ricky Jay, Loren Schoenberg and

David Sager.

Also nominated for a Grammy was John Merchant, a recording engineer and graduate assistant here at MTSU.

Merchant contributed to Mika's "Love Today," which was defeated by Justin Timberlake's "Lovestoned/I Think She Knows" in the category of Best Dance Recording.

HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2008 / SPRING 2009

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2008/Spring 2009 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$300 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2008/2009 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008 at 4:00 PM.**

Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$300 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at www.mtsu.edu. The \$300 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$18 nonrefundable service fee charged by the third party for processing the payment online.

To obtain a **HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM**, please come by the Housing and Residential Life office during office hours, 8AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center, Room 300.

****Summer '08 Housing Applications** are also available in the Housing Office. Reserve your summer space now by completing the housing application and submitting it with the \$125.00 prepaid rent deposit. It is not too early!!

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For additional information or questions, please contact Housing and Residential Life during office hours at 898-2971.

PATRIOT: Guest speaker talks about government

Continued from page 1

portant to students at MTSU.

"We're looking at the future generation," she said. "They are going to think about how what they do on campus, such as how being on Facebook or MySpace may affect them in the future; how what they do personally and privately may affect them. It will get college students thinking more about important issues. Hopefully, it will get people talking, going back and talking to their friends and getting involved."

Freshman plant and soil science and international relations double major Aaron Shew said he learned a lot from the lecture.

"I didn't realize the background checks that even a common biology professor would have to go through to deal with common toxins or for federal research grants," Shew said.

Josh Choate, a freshman pre-nursing major, also attended the lecture and received some new information.

"I just turned 18. It's what's going to affect me, upcoming laws," he said. "I think the lecture was good. It may bring light to someone who has a blind eye. I knew what was going on but I haven't taken action. The most important step in something like this is taking action."

Newman, at the end of his lecture, gave some advice on how students can take action.

"Civil liberties are essential to our romance with democracy, but the horrors of this administration smack into the face of all this country was founded on," Newman said. "In the Constitution, we are given the right to the pursuit of happiness. Defeating terrorism—what the Bush administration says our soldiers are dying for in Iraq—is not the same as preserving our liberties. If we limit our freedom, the enemy has won."

Campus Briefs

Dramatic Arts

The T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building will host a Presidential Concert Series featuring pianist, Read Gainsford. The event will take place at 7:30 p.m.

On Friday, Feb. 15 the Preston Bailey senior trumpet recital will take place at 5 p.m.

Amber Garrett junior clarinet recital will be held on Friday, Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building.

MTSU Concert Chorale and Middle Tennessee Choral Society will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17.

The MTSU Brass Chamber Ensemble will take place at 8 p.m. in the T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of the Wright Music Building.

For more information regarding these events please contact Tim Musselman at tmusselm@mtsu.edu or call (615) 898-2493.

Campus Recreation

Campus Recreation will host an intramural racquetball league beginning on Monday, Feb. 18. Registration will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 13 with a captain's meeting on Thursday, Feb. 14 at 5 p.m. in the Rec. Center.

For more information call 898-2104 or visit mtsu.edu/~camprec.

June Anderson Women's Center

A(wear)ness Runway Project will take place

on Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. in the Tennessee Room in the James Union Building.

For questions regarding this event please contact the June Anderson Women's Center at 898-2193.

John Pleas Faculty Award

The John Pleas Faculty Award ceremony will take place in the Tom Jackson Building on Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Questions or concerns about this event are to be directed to Linda Copciac at 898-2680.

'August Rush' at the KUC Theater

"August Rush" will be showing in the Keathley University Center theatre Monday, Feb. 11 through Thursday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. On Friday, Feb. 15 the movie will show only at 7 p.m. The cost of admission is \$2.

WBCA "Think Pink"

On Sunday, Feb. 17 the Blue Lady Raiders will take on Western Kentucky while sporting pink uniforms for the WBCA's "Think Pink" event in support of breast cancer awareness. This event will begin at 2 p.m. in the Murphy Center.

For more information on this event visit goblueraiders.com.

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Classifieds

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ROOMMATES

Continued from last column

OPPORTUNITIES

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needed. www.StudentCity.com or 800-293-1445.

Get Paid to do Research! Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Committee (UR-SCA) Proposal Deadline March 18, 2008. For more info visit: http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/ursca_ursc.html.

Continued from last column

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office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.

Marketplace of MTSU

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FEATURES

Did you think things have gotten better for disabled students on campus concerning accessibility?

- a) Yes c) In some ways
b) No d) Not sure

Go to mtsusidelines.com to answer

Facilities for disabled on campus

Are things getting better or worse?

By Mark Bell

Staff Writer

We see students with disabilities on campus everyday, but when we do, many of us simply look the other way or ignore them altogether.

What many of us are blind to when it comes to these students, is that, in many ways, they are just like the rest of us.

John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services since 1985, says the most important thing everyone on campus can do to make students with disabilities feel welcome is "to make sure that they are involved in the campus process."

Harris, whose job includes making sure MTSU is complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, is visually impaired and knows all too well the difficulties associated with having a disability.

"We need to invite these students to be in the sororities, fraternities and other campus organizations," he said. "We need to give them the opportunity to work on campus."

One such student used *Sidelines* as a platform to voice her criticisms about problems concerning facilities for disabled students on campus.

Not only were there problems with facilities in this particular case, but a complete lack of training on how to use appropriate equipment to assist the physically disabled in cases of emergencies (such as the breaking down of an elevator) by the campus police.

Sarah Crotzer, an MTSU graduate who experienced this, wrote, "The fact that our campus police have an evacuation device is admirable. That they have no training in how the device works, how to lift a disabled adult, or how to listen to someone's needs and concerns—all of that is absolutely inexcusable."

Furthermore, Crotzer said she believed there should be a discussion "between the administration, those campus agencies charged with aiding students, and the same students who depend on that aid."

Almost a year after that incident on campus, have things gotten better for disabled students on campus?

"Most disabled students, if you talk to them, would say yes," Harris said. "If you look at campus as a whole you will find that, especially in the core of campus, things are very accessible."

There have been many improvements in facilities on campus, including a second elevator in Peck Hall.

And more are coming.

"We are going to add a new lift in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts building, make restrooms in the Kirksey Old Main more accessible, and we're wanting to add an elevator to Stark Agriculture building," Harris said. "We also need to add more curb cuts to sidewalks throughout the campus."

The trick, according to Harris, is to make steady changes over time without draining the universities budget.

With all of the construction going on all over campus where does that leave handicapped facilities such as elevators, restrooms and curb cuts in this renovation plan?

Under Title III of the ADA, which states, among other things, "no individual may be discriminated against on the basis of disability with regards to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation," any building constructed after

1992 "must be fully compliant with ADA accessibility guidelines."

Where does that leave older buildings such as the KOM and Stark?

Title III of the ADA also covers these older buildings, albeit with weaker standards, such as the requirement that facilities built before the passage of ADA still have obligations to remove accessibility barriers, but only if removing such barriers can be accomplished without placing the owner in a tight financial situation.

The Tennessee Board of Regents, since 2003, has been providing MTSU with \$180,000 a year to work on accessibility issues.

"The university has a standing committee called the MTSU Committee on Disability Issues," Harris said, "That committee's job is to review things on campus and provide advice to the president on how to best serve students with disabilities."

That committee, which is required to meet once a year, is made up of six faculty members, four students (appointed by the student body president), directors from DSS, directors from housing and the director of the information technology division.

"While you can never have enough money, I think our budget is adequate," Harris said.

"I think we are very fortunate on our campus to have the highest



PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGUEFILE.COM

population of students with disabilities in Tennessee, and I believe that is a testament to the great job we are doing with updating and building new facilities," he added.

In 1985, MTSU had 109 students with disabilities. That number has grown exponentially. MTSU now has more than 1,000 students with disabilities.

"Granted, our topography lends itself to serving students with disabilities so we can't take all of the credit there," Harris said.

DSS is also responsible for relocating classes in cases where disabled students cannot reach the original location.

"One of my favorite stories to tell is when the elevator in peck hall broke at the beginning of one semester we relocated 37 classes for 24 wheelchair users," Harris said. "We were able to do so in a weeks time."

What happens when there are problems with handicap facilities on campus? How do these problems get reported?

"We want our students to let us know if there are problems with facilities so they can be addressed," Harris said. "Then I'll work with Watson Harris (MTSU's ADA and 504 coordinator) and Patty Miller (MTSU's campus planner) to make sure that the situations are resolved."

According to Harris, the university only receives around five complaints a year regarding facilities for the disabled.

An issue raised by *Sidelines* concerning broken buttons on electric doors for disabled individuals, was the first complaint Harris heard in 2008.

"Sometimes you really don't know about problems until students use the facilities," said Harris. "We rely on our students to let us know if there are problems."

There are problems with expecting some disabled students to communicate problems to the proper department's however.

What happens if this situation is an emergency and the disabled person is unable to communicate?

"That's a good question but I'm not sure I know the answer to that," Harris said. "But I'm not sure that I would say that you could have people trained well enough to know how to assist someone with a disability in every situation."

So, is there a lack of communication between DSS and campus police regarding how these situations should be handled?

It is questionable if campus police have received the proper training when it comes to assisting someone with a disability.

Harris said it is important to know if a situation is a true emergency or not.

"You have to kind of look at what is a convenience to you might be inconvenience to me," Harris said. "Was it a true emergency, or did the person just want to get out of the building?"

"With all of the work MTSU has done, I would be very disappointed to find that we have failed to assist someone who really needed that assistance."

With all of the strides MTSU has made in advancing accessibility on campus, is it possible that there is a lack of potentially very important communication between campus agencies charged with assisting disabled students and emergency personnel who do that assisting?

You be the judge.

Environmental briefs

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) - President Hugo Chavez on Sunday threatened to cut off oil sales to the United States in an "economic war" if Exxon Mobil Corp. wins court judgments to seize billions of dollars in Venezuelan assets.

Exxon Mobil has gone after the assets of state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA in U.S., British and Dutch courts as it challenges the nationalization of a multibillion dollar oil project by Chavez's government.

A British court has issued an injunction "freezing" as much as \$12 billion in assets.

"If you end up freezing (Venezuelan assets) and it harms us, we're going to harm you," Chavez said during his weekly radio and television program, "Hello, President." "Do you know how? We aren't going to send oil to the United States. Take note, Mr. Bush, Mr. Danger."

Chavez has repeatedly threatened to cut off oil shipments to the United States, which is Venezuela's No. 1 client, if Washington tries to oust him. Chavez's warnings on Sunday appeared to extend that threat to attempts by oil companies to challenge his government's nationalization drive through lawsuits.

"I speak to the U.S. empire, because that's the master: continue and you will see that we won't send one drop of oil to the empire of the United States," Chavez said Sunday.

"The outlaws of Exxon Mobil will never again rob us," Chavez said, accusing the Irving, Tex-

as-based oil company of acting in concert with Washington.

Exxon Mobil spokeswoman Margaret Ross said the company had no comment. A U.S. Embassy spokeswoman in Caracas did not return a call.

Venezuela accounted for about 12 percent of U.S. crude oil imports in November, the latest figures available from the U.S. Energy Department. The 1.23 million barrels a day from Venezuela makes that country the U.S.'s fourth-biggest oil importer behind Canada, Saudi Arabia and Mexico.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez has argued that court orders won by Exxon Mobil have "no effect" on the state oil company PDVSA and are merely "transitory measures" while Venezuela presents its case in courts in New York and London.

LAFAYETTE, Tenn. (AP) - After the deadliest wave of tornadoes to hit the South in more than

two decades, dazed authorities and residents are wondering what could be done differently next time.

There will be new interest in tornado sirens in places like Macon County, which has none and suffered 14 deaths, and consideration of other changes there and elsewhere across tornado-prone areas of the South. Officials cite

strong storm awareness and disaster drills with helping Union University, in Jackson, Tenn., avoid loss of life as tornadoes roared through last week.

Sirens and long advance times in warnings that were repeatedly broadcast also helped prevent higher losses of life — the total as of Friday was 59 — from the powerful set of storms that included a ground-hugging tornado that roared across northern Tennessee with wind estimated at 125 top 150 mph. That twister was blamed for 24 for the deaths.

The most effective preparation for the next

storm could be a healthy dose of fear triggered by lingering images of this month's disaster.

"A lot of it is just members of the public taking seriously that it can happen," said Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, who toured stricken areas. "You get a little more convinced each one you see."

The tornado's awesome power drew gawkers Saturday, complicating the recovery and salvaging efforts of residents and officials in rural Macon County.

"There's an awful lot of spectators, that's for sure," said Joe Jones, a contractor from nearby Franklin, Ky., who was waiting to fix the blown out windows of a Lafayette home. "People are running 10 to 15 mph around town, and they've got plates from all over."

Michael Chertoff, U.S. Homeland Security director, said the preparation and response was evident in Jackson, in western Tennessee, hit repeatedly by tornadoes in the past decade, including one that killed 10 people in the area in 2003.

"Part of what saved lives here was there are people who are experienced and who have thought about what to do when there is a tornado," Chertoff said Thursday after a tour.

OPINIONS

Letters Policy:

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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

From the Editorial Board:

MTSU has done much to aid disabled students; more remains

MTSU has demonstrated a considerable desire to accommodate disabled students on campus in many ways.

Such students sign up first for classes, for instance. Special computers and software are also available in most facilities on campus. They have access to Braille textbooks, et cetera, where necessary.

It's convenient that our landscape is quite flat, for the most part. Anyone who has visited a campus like UT in Knoxville or Birmingham Southern knows that their terrain is substantially more challenging. Then again, dodging puddles - well, lakes, really - after a storm here is a considerable task as well.

Recent renovations to Peck Hall appear to have rendered the building wheelchair-accessible, evidence of the university's commitment to improving facilities here.

Despite the efforts of the university though, there remain plenty of complications for disabled students here - Kirksey Old Main, for one, which contains more stairs than an Escher painting.

Short breaks between classes often frustrate even able-bodied students who have only fifteen minutes to cross campus. Good luck if you were hoping to make time to grab a snack or print your homework along the way.

Imagine the plight of blind students in such situations, or those who must circumvent stairs along their route.

Further, while many entrances on campus are equipped with buttons to automatically open doors and enhance accessibility, some of these do not work, and should be better maintained as many rely upon these devices daily.

The current system also places a considerable amount of responsibility on the students. If a student has a disability and cannot get to their classroom, it become their responsibility to alert the university. But shouldn't the university be responsible, in this instance, for the welfare of its student?

All that being said, perhaps one of the university's greatest assets when it comes to assisting disabled students on campus is simple Southern Hospitality. It's a common sight on campus to observe students helping those in need with everything from directions to physical aid.

Of all the ways MTSU can help with disabled students, it's to encourage non-disabled students to listen, learn and help. This goes a long way into making MTSU as disabled friendly as possible.

America's attitude toward alcohol overly strict, compared to most other countries

A growing number of people have recently begun to reflect upon the peculiarity of this country's drinking laws and our attitudes towards alcohol in general. In relation to nearly every other area of the world, our alcohol age restriction of 21 stands out as unusually harsh.

For some reason, Americans seem to view booze as a most sinister liquid, requiring stringent regulation lest it destroy our nation's innocent youth. I will dispense with the usual, cliché arguments against the elevated drinking age, as I am sure everyone is familiar with them. Instead, I would like to entertain the idea that the root of this apprehension of alcohol lies deep within this country's cultural psyche.

The minimum drinking age of 21 was originally enacted in 1984, with the passage of the National Minimum Drinking Age Act. This piece of legislation was the result of an unholy collusion between congress and Mothers Against Drunk Driving, a powerful anti-alcohol lobby group. Upon crafting this most regressive decree, the demonic duo delivered it to the White House, where the devil himself, otherwise known as Ronald Reagan, wholeheartedly signed off. Thus began a process of blackmailing state governments to enact a 21+ drinking age by threatening to withhold highway funding if they failed to comply.

Although the current drinking age has only existed for 28 years, the convoluted path that led to it stretches much further back. The ideological basis for such disdainful views on booze probably owes something to our Puritan roots, when self-deprecation and abstinence from pleasure



Pravda

By Michael Cannon
Staff Columnist

were held as the twin paragons of moral purity.

This proud tradition of legislating from the moral high ground eventually evolved into the temperance movement of the late 19th to early 20th century. The most determined adversaries of drinking eventually achieved their ultimate goal on Jan. 16, 1920, when prohibition of alcohol went into effect. Thankfully, the better elements of our national character prevailed and popular opinion pressured the federal government into repealing the draconian amendment.

Prohibition may have proved a bit too much, but we still retain a fairly conservative stance on the booze question. While the most hard-line alcohol opposition has been swallowed up by history, these morality warriors find their modern expression within the evangelical Christian movement. As the self-proclaimed vanguard of "traditional morality," it is here that the an-

ti-booze perspective is most pronounced.

However, fear of the drink is also widespread among the saner portions of the population as well. This leads us to believe that anti-booze opinion has become ingrained in the American identity to some degree and is no longer the exclusive domain of the hyper-religious.

I am going to make a very unscientific claim here and assert the possibility that Americans are simply more immature than our colleagues in other Western nations. I am cautious to propose that we lower the drinking age to correspond to other civilized countries; we might not be capable of handling it at this point in time. It would possibly result in unbridled chaos. Americans, particularly this generation, tend to consume everything in excess. We eat too much, we kill too many people, we drive too much, buy too many useless and superfluous consumer goods, ad infinitum.

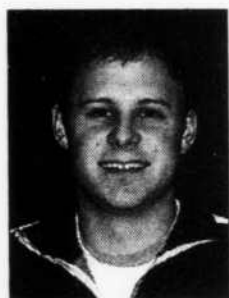
The emerging American teenager requires a perpetual stream of constantly shifting "entertainment" and base stimulation of the senses. Throwing easy access to alcohol into this mix could prove dangerous.

John Wayne, despite his racist and sexist inclinations, had one insightful remark, that "a man who doesn't drink is scared of something inside of himself." Perhaps we Americans are simply afraid of what accumulated stresses and anxieties lie behind our inhibitions.

Michael Cannon is a sophomore sociology and philosophy major and can be reached at mrc3g@mtsu.edu.

Faces in the Crowd

How well do you think MTSU accommodates disabled students?



Aylor

"I don't know any disabled students so I can't really make a judgment."

-David Aylor, sophomore recording industry major



Hood

"They do a lot compared to UT. They have really good access to the buildings."

-Ida Hood, health education graduate



Dallriva

"I think we should have volunteers that help the special needs students around. We should have people to help them around campus."

-Laurie Dallriva, senior child development and family studies major



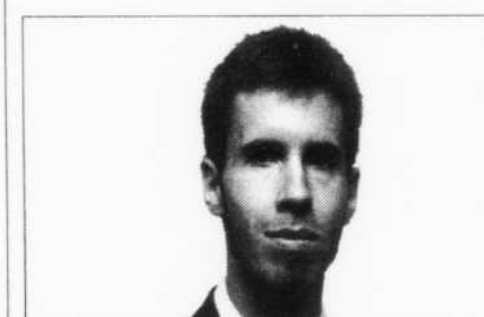
Tillman

"Really well. I've had disabled people in my class and they accommodate them really well."

-Daniel Tillman, senior biology major

Presidential field narrows

Obama the better pick to compete with McCain for independents



Better an ivory tower than a White Castle

By Daniel Potter
Staff Columnist

Following last week's news that John McCain appears the imminent Republican presidential nominee, the conventional wisdom has been that he must now earn the support of conservatives - McCain's ascent came primarily from independent voters, not staunch party affiliates.

As a result, many Americans are asking tough questions, such as how Mitt Romney can seem so incredibly pompous, even while conceding defeat, probably at tremendous personal expense.

The claim that McCain has to work to win the far right in the general election seems to imply that conservatives have a viable alternative in sitting out this election and watching McCain get steamrolled by a Democratic candidate that is expected to withdraw troops from Iraq, incidentally the main drain on our wallets when it comes to not affording domestic programs like universal healthcare.

In fact, conservative commentator and professional trash-talker Ann Coulter remarked if McCain is indeed the Republican candidate, she'll throw her support behind democrat Hillary Clinton, who is "more conservative than he is."

The reality though is that conservatives

don't have much in the way of options outside McCain, unless they're willing on principle to concede at least one whole presidential term to a democrat, as if to take a mulligan on 2008 with the hope of a true conservative retaking the White House in 2012, the way Reagan rode in after America's one term of Jimmy Carter.

However, those who don't think too much damage can be done in a president's first four years need only consider the early-game hijinks of George W. Bush - cough, invasion, cough. Further, conservatives denying McCain support would also mean throwing away four years of Supreme Court appointments, crucial to the traditional conservative crowd, given the ramifications for abortion.

It's good news for McCain if this is correct in asserting that his party has more to lose by not supporting him than the other way around. If forced to tow the line of party orthodoxy, McCain would find himself bound to some pretty unpopular positions. And that's saying something, given he already supports the war.

Regardless, he scored big points outside his base when he declined an opportunity to stomp all over illegal immigrants during the debates. See also: legislating against torture. You'd hope that wouldn't be necessary in America, but then you'd hope candidates wouldn't suggest, as Romney did, "we ought to double Guantanamo" - perhaps the most shameful American human-rights violation seen in the lifetime of this election's first-time voters.

By contrast, McCain earns considerable respect because he has first-hand experience on the wrong end of human-rights violations, having spent years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

Unfortunately for McCain, this does nothing for him on the economy, which has become a major concern for many given recent talk of a looming recession. Much

of the current downturn owes to a credit crunch as many major lenders have lost billions from over-extending into bad housing loans.

Republicans were in control of the Hill and the White House as the housing bubble swelled, and Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, complied with a hands-off approach to regulation, a conservative hallmark.

In other words, Republicans will have a hard time dodging this bullet, especially with McCain admitting he's hardly economically savvy, saying "I've got Greenspan's book," which will hardly help - McCain can't dig his way out of this hole by reading the man that got us into it.

Of course, the other news coming out of Super Tuesday was that Democrats remained unclear as to whether their nominee will be Clinton or Obama - Indeed, given complications with delegate counts, it's hard to even keep score.

However, now that it's certain whoever they ultimately choose will face McCain in the general election, Obama seems the logical pick. Where Clinton polarizes the electorate and heralds an election season that could push nastiness to new levels, Obama may be even better equipped to capture independent votes than McCain.

Clinton's feminist appeal took a hit when husband Bill began to share the heavy lifting on the campaign trail, particularly in South Carolina, volleying *ad hominem* attacks on Obama. It didn't even gain the Clinton camp much traction, as they lost the state, illustrating neatly how the Democrats would do well to keep their rivalry civil.

After all, the Republicans have been telling us for year that the Dems got nothing when it comes to waging war.

Daniel Potter is a senior journalism major and can be reached at slstate@mtsu.edu.

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From the Student Government:



SGA update

By Ashley DeSabetino
Guest Columnist

You don't want to miss the rival game between the Lady Raiders vs. Western Kentucky on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008 at 2 p.m. This will be an action-packed afternoon for all at the Murphy Center. You can join the Lady Raiders for Student Government Association Day and the 2008 THINK PINK event. The Lady Raiders will be wearing special pink uniforms that will be auctioned after the game, and \$2 from every ticket sold will go to the Kay Yow Foundation and Middle Tennessee Medical Center for the fight against breast cancer. In conjunction with this event is the NCAA Pack the House Challenge. Pack the House is a national competition where NCAA member schools compete against schools in their own conference for a chance to be the 2008 NCAA Women's Basketball Pack the House Challenge Champion.

Also, there will be a surprise giveaway sponsored by the Student Government Association. There will be a registration box at the SGA table, which will be located behind the student section. The winner will be announced sometime during the game. The SGA Senators will be dispersed throughout the Murphy Center with koozies, Frisbees and car decals for students and fans.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to Pack the House in support of breast cancer and your Lady Raiders.



And Friends frankhasenmueller@gmail.com Frank Hasenmueller



Last-Ditch Effort www.lde-online.com John Kroes

Letters to the Editor

Police state is upon us

I don't often agree with Evan Barker's columns, but he's spot-on with his assessment of the United States as a "police state" (Feb. 7).

While Barker investigates the history of J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI, I can't seem to shake the feeling that Big Brother is looking over my shoulder.

When our own Congress gives the president the authority to spy on his neighbors, then I get nervous. When legislation like the PATRIOT Act receives bipartisan support, then I realize what Winston Smith felt in Orwell's eerily relevant "1984." When the leaders of Mexico and Canada meet with President Bush about an "economic partnership," I get the strange feeling that Oceania has always been at war with Eurasia or Eastasia.

Perhaps Bush and his Ministry of Truth will squander our sovereignty and our freedoms—right out from under our noses. Perhaps one day we'll wake up and realize the Constitution is little more than an antiquated piece of parchment. Perhaps one day we'll wake up.

Matthew Hurtt, junior liberal arts

Ron Paul foresaw deficit

Over two years ago, I found the most amazing political party. They believe in free markets, individual freedom, and best of all the Constitution.

At the time, my switch from die hard Republican was out of protest. I was very upset with President Bush, his administration, and the party in general. My only hope was that THIS party could kick some sense into the others.

Last year, along came Ron Paul with hints he may make a run for the Republican nomination. When he officially announced, I threw my complete support behind him.

At first, we were ignored completely until we raised a couple million dollars in one day. Then, we were ridiculed as the "Tin Foil Hat" crowd as we strongly opposed things like borrowing money to get out of debt, wiretaps without warrants, collusion with foreign countries, etc.

Funny thing is, around November 2007, the other candidates started talking a lot about flawed monetary policy, illegal seizures, the Constitution, and foreign relations similar to the way Ron Paul always has. The difference was that the media then gave those positions merit.

Probably the most significant "I told you so" of Ron Paul is our economy. The recession of 2008 is not a surprise to us Libertarians. It has been a long time coming (at least since 1997).

The absolute best/worst warning sign was last year when it was reported we, as a country had a negative savings rate. That means we, as a country, spent more than we made. The last time that happened was 1929 (Media check: The negative savings rate was never broadly reported outside of financial circles last year. I don't recall it in the mainstream media to date.

The report came out last year making the figures two years old. NOW, the media is talking about recession. They are providing all kinds of experts yelling "SAVE!!! NOW!!!" How much should one trust an advisor that provides information or advice two years too late? The recession is not coming; it has been here for several months!.

Hopefully, anyone reading this knows the significance of the year 1929, and understands economics enough to realize you cannot "spend your way out of debt."

What really sucks for me, unless Ron Paul wins, is: No matter who else wins the election, me and people like me in the working middle class, who have prepared and saved, are going to be the ones punished.

We are going to be forced by the government to help you. We are going to work to pay to save your house. We are going to work to pay to save your business. We are going to work to pay for your healthcare. "You and your" being the "sheep" people living off my dime. It does not matter that over 20 percent of my take-home income already goes to charity.

It looks like you will get your wish that you can sit on your couch watching Oprah while collecting your unemployment/disability check. It's okay though, I'll just quit giving to things like the Red Cross, CASA, Second Harvest, Habitat for Humanity, etc. for a while.

By 2012, you will be tired of getting calls from them. In addition, you'll be tired of having to show your RealID to whomever asks. You will be tired of Homeland Security knocking on your door after you send a hateful email or post something negative about the government in a forum.

Most importantly, I really hope you will be tired of your friends, nieces, nephews, brothers, and sisters dying in Iraq, Iran, or Darfur for democracies that will never happen.

I really don't know who to support now. I think maybe I'll write in Ron Paul, JFK or Reagan. I am coming around to Obama, but he must first drop the healthcare thing. We've got until November to decide, so...

David Lyon, junior business

Victims are not to blame

I was reading the Jan. 14 article, "Trouble on the Row," and have to say, I was appalled. The victim in the article was portrayed in a horribly inappropriate light.

The quotes used from various attendees of this party were incredibly demeaning and really showed our lack of support for victims of this violent crime.

As a human being, and especially as a woman, the writer should have been more sensitive to this issue and provided an unbiased look into the story.

Instead, the victim was thrown under the bus and displayed as a "slut." No matter what the girl's actions had been prior (letting her dress fall off, sitting with her legs open, flirting, etc.

as stated), she did not deserve to be raped. It doesn't matter what you do, dress like, or whom you flirt with, a "no" means "no." Period.

I find it sad that this fellow student was not supported in this time of trauma and was instead judged and took the blame for her own victimization.

Considering one in five women is sexually assaulted, everyone reading this will have a grandmother, mom, sister, aunt or best friend that becomes a victim.

So, maybe we should start being a little more sympathetic to those who have already become one.

Amy Lynn Larwig, Murfreesboro, TN

Bible Park is a bad idea

When I first heard about Bible Park USA, I thought it was just some pipe dream that would fizzle out quickly.

But the more I hear about it, the more I realize that they're actually serious about it.

Bible Park USA is the biggest waste of space and resources ever, not to mention the fact that it will utterly destroy the Blackman community. Theme parks do not make that much money anymore, especially not when aimed at a very specific group of people. The only people who would go to "Bible Park USA" are church youth groups.

And then you stick it in Murfreesboro? The construction of this thing can only lead to bankruptcy.

Molly Gaddy, freshman business

Get involved with programs

I would just like to clarify a few things about the "Let Us Entertain You" article written last week (Feb. 4). As the executive program council chair, I was a little hurt that false information was printed about the Student Programming organization. There are numerous elements that can complicate our job, such as cost, routing, availability and venue openings. I would like to encourage those who have suggestions or an interest to come up and join a committee, or simply drop by our office to learn more about how programming for a college campus works.

Student Programming consists of seven different committees: Fine Arts, Ideas and Issues, Variety, Promotion, Game Day Activities, Concerts and Films. Each committee has their own budget. This does not include Student Activity Fees, which is a pot of money the committees are permitted to pull from should they expend their yearly budget. I also wanted to stress that we try to make our events free to students, because that was a complaint in the past. Each student pays \$3 and has the chance to go to multiple shows all year for free.

In terms of our goals with programming entertainment for this campus, we strive to provide an opportunity for students to plan, promote, produce and evaluate events with major

considerations to the cultural, educational, social and entertainment interests of the MTSU student body and community. We work very hard to offer diverse events to a population of 23,246 students.

Compared to other colleges and universities, our films program is one of the largest in the country. We show about 10 films per semester, with eight to nine showings per week. These films are usually straight out of the theater before they're available on DVD. The attendance has been high throughout the year and the committee has carefully tried to appeal to everyone.

Our Variety Committee is new this year and has exhibited more events than any other committee. Two magicians and a hypnotist have come to campus, and while this may not be of interest to all, the KUC Theater is nearly packed every time. Students have responded very positively and even won money at the shows. There will be a Comedy Call for student comedians to showcase their talent in March. These types of events help involve students and are the cheapest kind of show to book.

This year, we've also booked more concerts than in previous years. Collective Efforts (hip-hop), Need to Breathe (Christian), RAQ (jam-funk) have performed, and the students that came out really enjoyed the shows. I understand that these might not appeal to everyone, but they were chosen by a dedicated group of students sharing ideas and trying to appease the student body.

Our Fine Arts Committee was responsible for Step Afrika! and the Sierra Leone Refugee Allstars, which both attracted an audience of over 300, as well as the attention of local newspapers.

Ideas and Issues has co-sponsored several events, including Laura Fuentes with the June Anderson Women's Center. This illustrates collaboration with other campus organizations and supports that other people were interested in the show. Ideas & Issues was also responsible for the film screening and lecture of "Crossing Arizona," which deals with immigration, and Dr. Roger Newman's lecture on civil liberties.

The Game Day Activities managed the budget and was responsible for entertainment and activities (like video games, simulators and mechanical bulls) at Walnut Grove before home football games. The success of this committee can be measured by its consistent attendance of students, families and the Murfreesboro community.

Details concerning our budgets, procedures of event planning and the inner workings of our organization are public information. We welcome anyone who is interested to come by KUC 308, call 898-2551 or e-mail events@mtsu.edu and talk with us. We really try to spend money wisely, but it's hard to spend students' money without input by all students. So join a committee and voice your opinion. Make a difference. It's up to you.

Stacy Williams, senior mass communications

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SPORTS

Women's Tennis vs. Belmont Tuesday 10 a.m.
Women's Tennis vs. Chattanooga Tuesday 5 p.m.
Both matches at The Raquet Club of Murfreesboro



PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Despite outshooting the Golden Panthers 51.2 percent to 46.9 percent, the Blue Raiders were unable to continue their four-game winning streak. MT suffered its first loss since Jan. 24

FIU puts an end to Blue Raiders' winning streak

Four Golden Panthers score in double figures to stop four-game slide and split season series with MT

By Tony Stinnett

MT Media Relations

The road always can be tough, but even the Sun Belt's best road team over the last six seasons became weary in its third road trip in four games in Miami Saturday night.

Middle Tennessee's recent strong run was derailed as Florida International used timely offense and stingy defense to end the Blue Raiders' four-game win streak in a 66-60 win at Pharmed Arena Saturday night. MT still has won seven of its last 10 as it heads home to face South Alabama Thursday.

The Blue Raiders (11-12, 8-5 SBC) shot 51 percent for the game, but it was 17 turnovers and a 60 percent (12-of-20) showing at the free-throw line that proved detrimental to their cause.

Desmond Yates continued his consistent play with his third double double of the season as he scored 12 points and grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds, but the sophomore forward was only able to get

six touches as the Golden Panthers double-teamed him and made it difficult for the guards to feed him the ball on the post.

"When you are a good player, teams do that. They double team you and work harder against you and Desmond Yates is a good player," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "I just have to give credit to Florida International and coach (Sergio) Rouco. They played well and they really got after us defensively."

Demetrius Green also tallied 12 points for the Blue Raiders, Kevin Kanaskie netted 11 and Theryn Hudson tallied 10.

The game was evenly played throughout the first half and into the second but FIU (7-16, 4-9 SBC) had the game swing in its favor late when it used a 10-2 run to open the largest lead of contest for either team, 54-44, with less than five minutes remaining.

MT put together a strong run and gave the Golden Panthers a finish when they pulled to within two with less than a minute remaining. The Blue Raiders played a great defensive series, but Chris Fuller knocked down an off-balance 3-pointer from the left

corner with one second on the shot clock to extend the lead to five with less than 30 seconds remaining.

"That was a big shot by Fuller and he hit a few big ones in the second half," Davis said. "We played great defense that series, and gave ourselves a chance, but he stepped up and hit the shot that was kind of the dagger. I still am proud of our team for having enough left in the tank to battle back and give ourselves a chance when we were down 10 late."

MT trailed 30-29 at the half and the game remained a one-possession affair throughout the early portion of the second half but Kanaskie's 3-pointer provided a 42-40 Blue Raider lead with 12:44 remaining and Hudson's layup with 12:18 remaining allowed Middle Tennessee to equal its largest lead of the game, 44-40, but it was short lived as the Golden Panthers went on a 12-2 run over the next six minutes to start swinging the momentum its way for good.

Fuller led the FIU attack with a game-high 16 points while Alex Galindo added 13.

Lady Raiders drop second in a row

Golden Panthers avenge previous loss to MT

By Jo Jo Freeman

MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee started well, but ran into another buzzsaw, this one named Monica Bosilj, as the Florida International sophomore scored a career-high 32 points and the Golden Panthers shot 59 percent from the field en route to a 74-62 victory over the Blue Raiders Saturday at Pharmed Arena.

Middle Tennessee (14-10, 9-4 Sun Belt) jumped out to a 10-point lead midway through the first half only to be outscored 26-5 over the final nine minutes. FIU led 36-25 at halftime and continued to pour it on, thanks to torrid shooting from the home team. Bosilj was especially deadly, netting 13 of 16 points during one stretch of the half, including three 3-pointers.

Asha Neal also scored 13 points for the Golden Panthers (11-13, 7-6) and grabbed 10 rebounds, part of FIU's 42-30 edge on the boards.

The Blue Raiders did not score a field goal for the final 9:55 of the first half and another 3:27 of the second half (13:25 combined) and posted just five points during the stretch, all from the foul line.

FIU scored the first eight points of the second half to extend the lead to 44-25 and the Blue Raiders would get no closer than 14 until the final basket of the game, a 3-pointer from Lymon just before the buzzer. The Golden Panthers extended their lead to as many as 25 points at 72-47 after a Fanni Hutlassa layup.



PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Senior forward Amber Holt's 21 points and seven rebounds were not enough to overcome MT's poor shooting performance against FIU. The Lady Raiders shot 29 percent for the game.

Amber Holt led the Blue Raiders with 21 points and seven rebounds. She also added three assists and three steals.

Anne Marie Lanning hit four 3-pointers for the Blue Raiders and finished with 14 points, while Chelsia Lymon and Emily Queen both scored 11 points.

Middle Tennessee hits just 29 percent from the field, its second straight game under 30 percent. The

See Lady Raiders, 7

Sun Belt Women's Basketball East Division Standings

#1  11-1 Western Kentucky	#2  9-4 Middle Tennessee	#3  6-6 South Alabama
#4  7-6 Florida International	#5  3-9 Troy	#6  1-12 Florida Atlantic

Sun Belt Men's Basketball East Division Standings

#1  11-1 South Alabama	#2  11-1 Western Kentucky	#3  8-5 Middle Tennessee
#4  6-7 Florida Atlantic	#5  4-9 Florida International	#6  3-9 Troy



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SPORTS BRIEFS

Blue Raiders' Volleyball coach gets extension after Sweet 16 run

Middle Tennessee volleyball coach Matt Peck accepted a four-year contract extension with the Blue Raiders rather than fill a coaching vacancy with other interested schools.

With the four-year contract extension, Peck's deal increases to five years overall, the longest terms allowed by the state of Tennessee.

Peck, who also received a nearly 50 percent raise to his annual salary, owns MT volleyball's all-time best winning percentage and led the Blue Raiders to the NCAA Sweet 16 last season.

Peck has a 107-29 record in four seasons at MT, two straight Sun Belt titles, a school-record 35 wins last season and a winning percentage of 85.7 in the last three years. Numerous schools recently sought Peck to fill the head coaching position, including Ohio State, Arizona, Auburn and Iowa State.

There have been 10 winning seasons in MTSU volleyball's 31 years of existence, four of them by Peck. His records in four seasons include 17-14 in 2004, 28-4 in 2005, 27-8 in 2006 and 35-3 in 2007. MTSU has not lost a match in the month of November since 2005, a streak of 14 consecutive matches. Peck's teams tout five separate winning streaks of 10 or more matches in the last three seasons, and he returns three All-American players next season.

Information gathered from the Murfreesboro "Daily News Journal."

Lady Raiders' Brandi Brown named to Academic All-District team

Middle Tennessee sophomore Brandi Brown was one of 15 players recognized for academic and athletic performance as part of the "ESPN The Magazine" Academic All-District Team, as announced on Thursday by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Brown is a Third Team selection from District IV, which is comprised of schools in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan. Brown has a 3.97 grade-point average in accounting and was a Sun Belt Commissioner's List honoree in 2006-2007 after posting a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Brown has played in 15 games this season for the Lady Raiders, averaging 7.7 points and 2.9 rebounds per outing. She hits 39 percent of her 3-point attempts, ranking second on the club. The Jamestown, Tenn., native missed eight games from Jan. 3 to 26 after breaking her hand in practice.

CVU.com names Adams, Asberry and Clark Stellar Spikers

Three members of the Middle Tennessee volleyball team have been named Stellar Spikers by Collegiate Volleyball Update.

Junior Ashley Adams received first-team honors while junior Ashley Asberry and sophomore Leslie Clark were named second-team.

A total 84 student-athletes from across the country were honored as CVU.com looked for players who exhibited excellence and balance. NCAA statistical rankings were considered as well as player impact and conference awards.

The first and second team selections were centered around building a team with a starting lineup of seven players and then two players per starting slot to fill out each team.

Adams received a number of honors during the 2007 season including MVP of every tournament the Blue Raiders won, Sun Belt First Team and SBC All-Tournament.

Asberry was named SBC First Team and was ranked in the NCAA rankings in a number of categories during the 2007 season. Clark received SBC First Team honors, SBC All-Tournament and led the NCAA in assists throughout the season.

In 2007, MT posted a school record 35-3 season and advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time in school history.

Recruiting Roundup set for Feb. 13

Middle Tennessee and the Blue Raider Athletic Association will host a Football Recruiting Roundup on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame building on campus.

Head Coach Rick Stockstill and his entire coaching staff will be introduced, followed by a video presentation on all of the Blue Raiders' 2008 football signees. Members of the coaching staff will then be stationed throughout the room to talk more in-depth with fans about the newest Blue Raiders and how they made their way to Murfreesboro.

"This is a great opportunity for fans to get first-hand knowledge and information on the latest recruiting class," said Stockstill. "It's a great chance for our staff to interact with the fans and tell them various recruiting stories that helped land the 2008 class. This is a great chance for our fans to get more involved in our program and have a closer look at recruiting."

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the program will get underway at 6:15 p.m. The cost is \$20 and will include beverages and snacks. Fans can pay cash at the door and BlueDiamond and above members in the BRAA will be admitted free.

Due to NCAA rules, prospects or signees and their families may not purchase tickets or attend the event.

SPORTS: Lady Raiders

Continued from page 6

Blue Raiders were only 7-for-27 in the first half when FIU gained the momentum it needed.

"We started well but then just quit putting the ball in the hole and that was the difference in the game," head coach Rick Insell said. "We only shot 29 percent and [FIU] hit a lot of shots and they just continued to hit shots when we were trying to make a comeback."

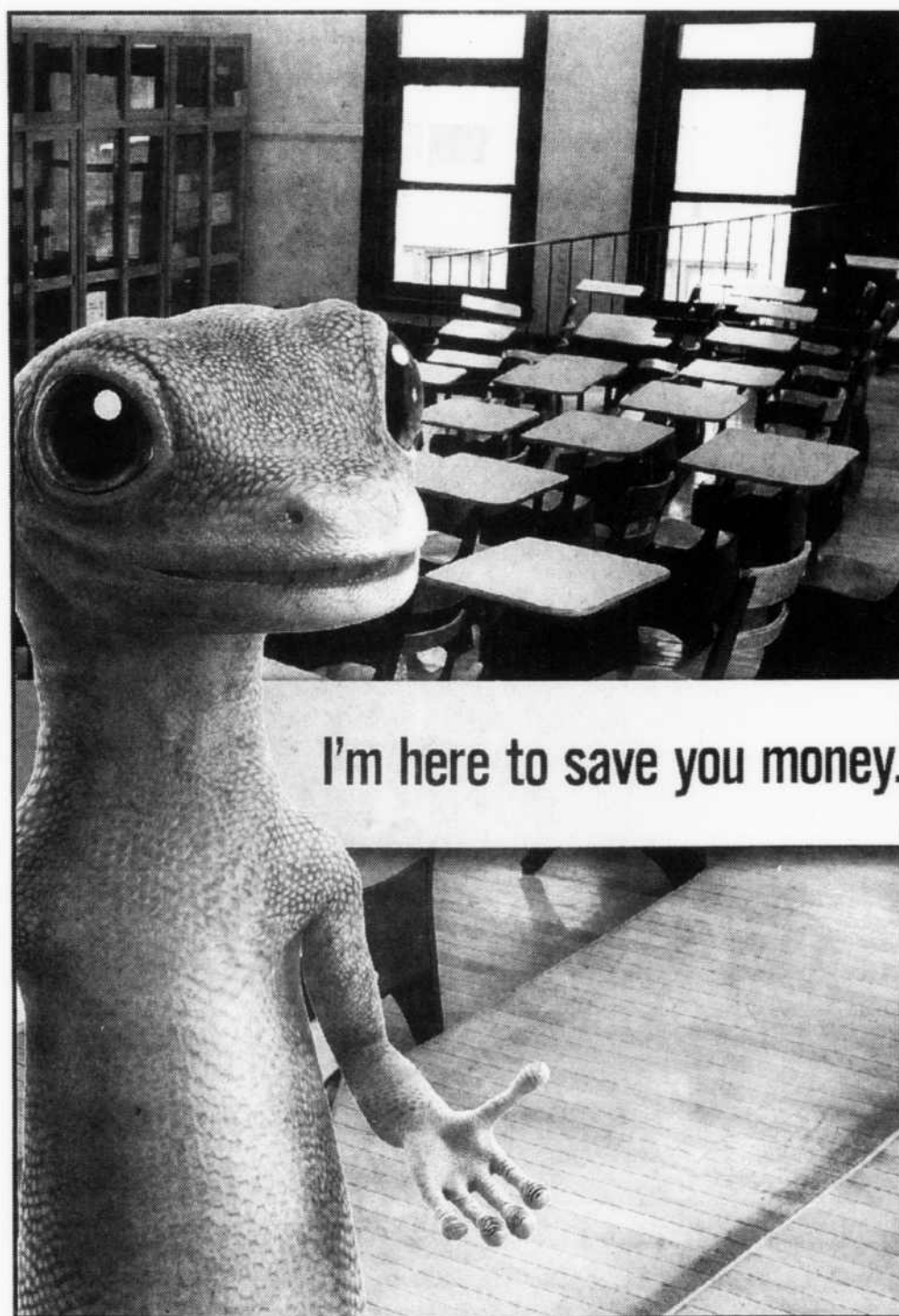
The Blue Raiders started unusually fast, jumping out to a 20-10 advantage midway through the opening period. Lanning scored 11 of the team's points, hitting three 3-pointers. Holt added six and Starr Orr hit a 3-pointer with 9:55 remaining before intermission for a 10-point advantage.

But Orr's jumper would be the last basket of the half for the Blue Raiders, who scored just five more points before the break, all on free throws. Middle Tennessee hit just one of its last 14 shots in the final 10 minutes of the half and the Golden Panthers took full advantage, going on a 26-5 run to end the first 20 minutes with a 36-25 FIU advantage.

The home team made 9-of-14 from the field over the final 10:56 of the half, including eight points from LaQuetta Ferguson before she injured her knee with 3:55 before intermission. Bisilj also added eight points and Neal scored six of the team's final eight points of the half, including a driving layup with one second before the break.

The Blue Raiders committed nine turnovers during the FIU run after posting only two in the first nine minutes.

Middle Tennessee begins a two-game homestand Thursday, hosting South Alabama at 5:30 p.m. in the first game of a doubleheader with the men. The Blue Raiders also host Western Kentucky at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17.



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Raiders set for Lady Raiders' to wear pink uniforms

Staff Reports
MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee's game against Western Kentucky on Sunday, February 17, will feature pink uniforms for the Blue Raiders in support of the WBCA's "Think Pink" initiative for breast cancer awareness. The uniforms will be auctioned after the game with proceeds going to a pair of cancer research foundations.

Middle Tennessee is also participating in a nationwide contest, the 2008 NCAA Women's Basketball "Pack the House" Challenge, with school's aiming to sellout their arenas.

The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) sponsors the "Think Pink" initiative, a global, unified effort for the WBCA nation of coaches to assist in raising breast cancer awareness on the court, across campuses, in communities and beyond. More than 600 schools around the country at all levels will be participating during the week of February 8-17.

The Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research launched the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund initiative on December

3, 2007. It honors N.C. State women's coach Kay Yow, who worked alongside Jim Valvano at N.C. State before he succumbed to cancer in 1993. Yow, who has more than 700 coaching victories, was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1987 and learned in November she has stage-four cancer.

The Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund will raise money for scientific research and to assist the underserved in an effort to fight against cancer.

The NCAA has also joined the WBCA's "Think Pink" initiative by implementing the "Calling for a Cure" campaign where all NCAA women's basketball officials will be blowing a pink whistle February 8-17.

Ten jerseys will be auctioned immediately following the game. Players will autograph the jerseys and buyers will take home their tax-deductible athletic wear that day. Fans will be able to sing-up for participation in the auction before and during the game at the Marketing Promotional Table located next to entrance N1 and N2.

To show your support for the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund, call 1-800-4-JIMMY-V, or visit jimmyv.org. For ticket information, contact the MT Ticket Office at 615-898-2103 or visit GoBlueRaiders.com.

WBCA's
THINK PINK



Valentine's Day is for basketball



The Lowdown

By Richard Lowe
Sports Editor

Forget about Mardi Gras night for a moment. Looking solely at the games being played in the Murphy Center this week, it is make-or-break time for both men's and women's basketball teams. Lucky for you, two of those games are taking place Thursday when both teams face the University of South Alabama.

Unfortunately for you lovebirds out there, it falls on Valentine's Day.

Sports do not take days off to celebrate love and the good it has done for the world. Quite frankly during this time of year, if your team is struggling to make it into a postseason tournament, "I love you" is the last thing that is coming out of a coach's mouth.

As sports fans, we are bred to be selfish. Ask any Dallas Cowboys fan today and they will probably express how much they don't care about Tony Romo's relationship with Jessica Simpson, especially since it cost them a chance to play in the NFC Championship game. Fans of the Atlanta Falcons tried to justify how dogfighting "wasn't that big of a deal" when the team ended up with Joey Harrington as the starter.

The reason we are bred this way is because at the end of the day, championships are the only things that matter. The New England Patriots being haunted by 18-1 is worse than the Buffalo Bills getting to the Super Bowl four times in a row and losing.

In both instances, however, fans were left disappointed and feeling empty because of their lack of a championship that mattered. Don't get me wrong, they both were AFC champions in their respective years but if you don't hold that Super Bowl trophy, then you are holding your face, crying.

We are not at the stage where we must worry about losing in the championship game. We must first actually get to the tournament.

Simply put, if we don't gain victories this week, both teams would possibly play their first round games on the road. Although it worked out well for the men's team last year at Troy, do you really want the fate of

your team determined in somebody else's arena?

I didn't think so. Some of the best victories in MT's history have come in front of packed crowds. Players on all teams have acknowledged that fans in the stands add energy in the building. Not to mention, it is also very intimidating for the opposing team.

Every sports fan at some point in time has watched a Duke/North Carolina basketball game and wished they were in that atmosphere. This week is your chance to feel what those students feel.

The best part about it is that it falls on Valentine's Day. Now, if your significant other is not a sports fan, this is where you discourage them from reading the rest of this column.

Let's be honest. We are all college students, and you, more than likely, spent the majority of your money this past week-end on meals and parties. I don't blame you, but your significant other will if you don't do anything for him or her on Thursday.

This is the perfect opportunity to spend sometime with them (and 11,000 other Blue Raider fans) inside of the warm and cozy Murphy Center. Can you imagine four straight hours of thrilling basketball?

Here's the best part. After the games have ended, you will still have time to take her out to dinner, go to a movie, or head to Nashville for a night on the town.

Also, for those who are walking into Thursday with nothing in their pocket but a yellow envelope and flex dollars, I would recommend you making her a loud Blue Raider fan and get her very tired so she won't want to do anything after the games are finished.

So grab your honey, or whatever pet name you came up with while walking down Walnut Grove on a chilly Saturday afternoon this past fall, and make plans for Blue Raider basketball on Thursday.

In the end, it only cost you a slide of your student ID.

Richard Lowe is a junior Broadcast Journalism major. He can be reached at rlowe@mtstutv.org.

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SIDELINES

Spring Break Special Section

Monday, February 11, 2008

Safety tips for spring break

Since spring break is just around the corner and college students the nation over are gearing up for wild adventures. Below are a few helpful and reasonable tips to keep any student safe and happy.

Alcohol: go with the flow but keep it low.

⌘ Watch your intake and know your limit. It does nobody favors to get "sloppy drunk." Alcohol poisoning still exists, even during spring break.

⌘ Water is a wonderful thing; the Aquafina commercials don't lie. For every one drink consumed, drink a glass of water. This keeps the body hydrated and leaves less chance for cotton-mouth hangover.

⌘ DO NOT MIX. Drugs are illegal. Know that mixing anything, illegal or not, can have serious consequences—like death. Alcohol is nice; enjoy it by itself.

⌘ Always choose a designated driver or bring enough money to take a cab. Don't drive drunk unless you want to be another statistic to confirm the notion that all college kids are dumb. Double plus bonus, most bars will hookup a DD with free, non-alcoholic drinks.

Money: a penny saved is a penny not spent on a stupid tourist trap.

⌘ Part of planning a vacation is scanning out

the territory. Schedule freebie days, like going to the beach, visiting landmarks or planning a picnic.

⌘ If you are going out of state, take an allotted amount of money and an emergency blank check. If a bank card is stolen, it could mean disaster. If you are going really far out of state, get travelers checks. Most companies will replace them immediately if they are stolen.

⌘ Only take what you need and nothing more. Rule of thumb: do not take anything to MTV Spring Break that you do not want stolen, broken or vomited on.

Transportation: caution, road trips can drive you crazy.

⌘ Check your car before driving long trips. Windshield wipers, oil, brakes, tire pressure and external lights should be top priorities.

⌘ Oddly enough, it helps to have a clean car, both inside and out, because it cuts down on wind resistance and ups mileage.

⌘ If other transportation is required, look into and compare prices. Also, flying is cheaper without the baggage; only take the essentials.

Above all, just remember to have fun and be safe. Everyone wants to live to see next year's spring break.

Spring swim styles go retro

By Sarah Lavery

Features Editor

Spring break beach destinations can be such a contradiction. On the one hand, the idea of endless white sands and glistening, ice-blue water represents freedom and reckless abandon. It conjures up the image of running barefoot hand-in-hand with that special someone, far from the turmoil of school, work and responsibility.

On the other hand, for any of these fantasies to be realized, you're inevitably going to have to be in a bathing suit, which means baring it all and being as close to naked as you'll probably ever be in public. For most—unless you're of the rare super-model-breed variety—this isn't the most appealing idea.

Luckily though, this season's bathing suit trends are reverting from the itchy-bitsy neon bikini to the classy, 1940s pin-up-inspired one piece.

This doesn't mean that bikinis are "out," but the new bathing suit trend asks for classy rather than trashy. The trendiest bikini bottoms are either high-waisted or boy-shorts, far from—thank god—the butt floss that was all the rage a few years ago.

Colors are more subdued—think jewel-toned colors like deep green, red or blue. The color brown—the perfect compliment to a tan—seems to be popping up in every designer's collection this season.

Long gone are the days of Sisco's "Thong Song" and girls everywhere trying to emulate what his overly catchy lyrics demanded. This season, even if you do have "dumps like a truck, truck truck" or "thighs like what, what what" that Sisco crooned about, try to opt, instead, for the new, classy silhouette.



GRAPHIC BY DANA OWENS - MTSU ALUMNA

String bikinis are being replaced by solid-colored one pieces this season with a nod to the 1940s pin-up girl.

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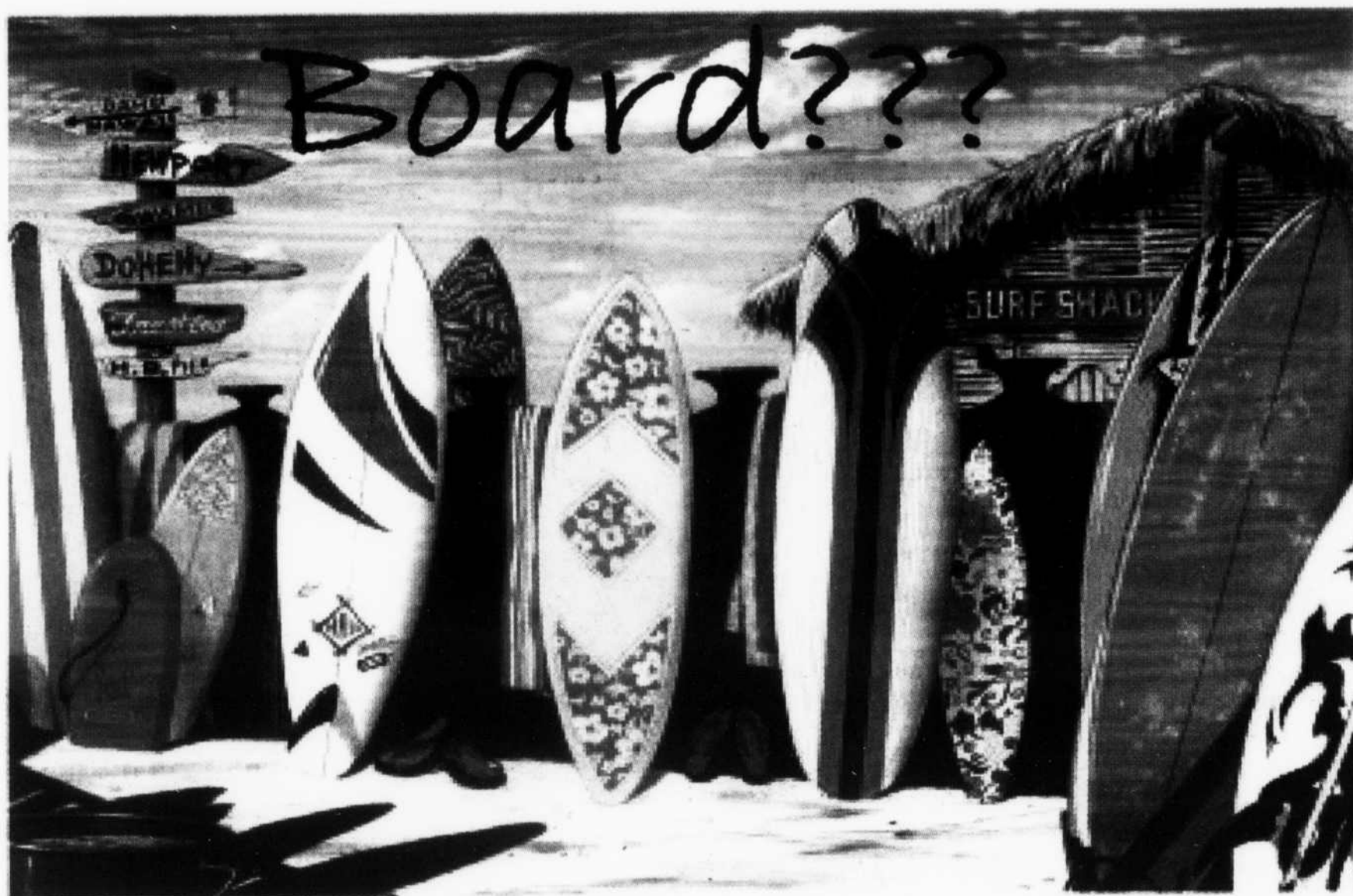
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