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Rivals put heads together to tackle Y2K problem

Russ Bynum
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) - While Delta Air Lines and its competitors spend their summer dueling over discount fares and fighting for frequent fliers, they're also teaming up to take on a common enemy - the Y2K bug.

The nation's major airlines still want to beat each other out of a buck. But they're also swapping tips to ensure one another's computer systems don't crash when the year 2000 arrives.

They aren't alone. Rival banks, phone companies, hospitals, electric utilities and other industries have reached a similar conclusion - there's little or no advantage to be gained from a competitor's Y2K catastrophe.

"If one airline happens to have a (Y2K) problem the flying public is going to perceive the whole industry has a problem," said Walter Taylor, Atlanta-based Delta's vice president for technology.

The Year 2000 computer bug threatens computer programs that read dates using only two digits for the year. If computers read the year 00 as 1900 rather than 2000,

they could spit out inaccurate data. In worst-case scenarios, it's a problem that could shut down airline reservation systems, short-circuit bank transactions, cause telephone networks to crash and scramble credit reports.

So competitors are holding joint tests of their computer systems, sponsoring Y2K roundtables through their trade associations and pooling their money to pay consultants to target problem areas.

"In a lot of ways, it's not altruism. It's a recognition of the fact that if the systems break down, everybody's going to be at risk," said John Koskinen, chairman of President Clinton's Council on Y2K Conversion. "They all need to live to fight another day and the best way to do that is to work together."

Dave Johnson, a Bedminster, N.J.-based spokesman for AT&T Corp., said the reason for the cooperation is simple: "Corporate America is not stupid."

AT&T and BellSouth Corp. have been locked in a series of regulatory fights over the Baby Bells' efforts to offer long-distance service and AT&T's attempts to expand into local telephone markets.

They recently put those

differences aside to conduct tests together to ensure customers will be able to complete calls on New Year's Day.

Each company set up labs to see how their phone switches would work when computer clocks were forwarded to Jan. 1, 2000. They tested local calls, long-distance calls, collect calls, calling-card calls, international calls and 911 calls.

"We just think the overall health of the industry is more important than fighting over customers at this moment," said Clay Owen, Year 2000 spokesman for BellSouth.

The cooperation hasn't been easy. BellSouth and AT&T spent months hashing out the details with their lawyers and contract negotiators before they could agree on what tests to conduct.

And some corporations remain skittish about sharing information, afraid they might run afoul of antitrust laws or be sued for giving Y2K advice that doesn't work.

Last year, Clinton signed into law two measures aimed at calming those fears. One prohibits companies from suing each other over faulty advice unless they can prove intentional deception.

The other says trade

associations can collect Y2K information from members and allows companies to share information directly without fear of antitrust sanctions.

Knowing many of their customers are edgy about possible Y2K disruptions, companies are getting together in part to reassure the public that things will be OK.

The New York Clearing House, an association of nine New York banks, has been working to calm fears after focus groups showed people are worried that hype about the Y2K problem could induce panic.

"One of the things we're trying to do is not to get them to overreact. All these industries are working hard, they're prepared," said George Thomas, director of information systems for the banking group. Not everybody's being so chummy when it comes to the Y2K bug, said Bruce Webster, a Dallas consultant who co-chairs the Washington-based Year 2000 Group, an organization of professionals who work on Y2K issues.

"The truth is, I think a lot of businesses hope their competitors have problems and may be counting on it," Webster said. ■

Public funds should support religious groups and charities Bush says

Christy Hoppe
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

INDIANAPOLIS - George W. Bush, in what he called a bold initiative based on his faith in faith, said Thursday that billions in public resources should be funneled to religious groups and charities to help the sick and needy.

The GOP presidential front-runner also said that if religious beliefs are an important element of such programs, the government should allow it. And he suggested less stringent regulations so church-groups could compete for federal money without being swallowed in red tape.

"In every instance where my administration sees a responsibility to help people, we will look first to the faith-based organizations, to charities and community groups that have shown their ability to save and change lives," Bush told 500 community workers at a church.

In his speech, which was preceded by gospel music and prayer, Bush promised he would dedicate \$8 billion during his first year as president for new tax credits and grants.

They would be used, he said, to encourage Americans to give more to charity and boost the role of faith-based organizations in the fight to reduce poverty, welfare rolls, crime and other social ills.

His plan later drew questions on whether it crossed the constitutional line that separates church and state.

Carole Shields, president of People for the American Way, a civil liberties advocacy group in Washington, said Bush's idea might force religion on people seeking help.

"It's bad for religion and bad for the clients," she said. "For the clients, they have to take the religion in order to get the service. For religion, the church has to be accountable for that money and that basically invades the integrity of that religion. Religion shouldn't be responsible to the government."

Bush told reporters that federal money would pay for social services delivered by faith-based groups, not for the religious teachings espoused by the groups.

Still, he said, he expects those who disagree with his proposal would file suit to prohibit religious organizations from running taxpayer-funded programs.

"I am told by legal experts that my program will pass constitutional muster," he said. "I would hope I have an attorney general who would be nimble and able enough to defend this concept."

Vice President Al Gore, the leader in the Democratic race for president, previously called for a "new partnership" between church and state.

Tony Coelho, general chairman of the Gore campaign, said in a statement, "We're glad to see George Bush following Al Gore's lead to work with faith-based organizations."

The Indianapolis event marked the most detailed public policy speech yet by the Texas governor, whose rivals have accused him of avoiding tough stands on the issues.

Bush said he wants to allow

BUSH
continued on page 3

National Registered Nurse Examination

Lynn C. Parsons & Jean Hastings

The MTSU School of Nursing has something to be proud of: a 90% passing rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for RNs (NCLEX-RN) to obtain a permit to practice as a RN.

In April 1998, the passing standard for the NCLEX-RN was raised. RN candidates taking the NCLEX saw a 3-5% drop in examination scores, which was attributed to the higher pass standard. After the passing standard for RN Licensure was raised, the overall national average was 78%, with first time U.S. educated students averaging 85%.

Registered Nurse candidates in Tennessee had higher scores than the national average with a mean score of 87.3%. During this same time, Middle Tennessee State University baccalaureate nurse graduates had an approximate 90% passing rate on the NCLEX-RN.

The School of Nursing at MTSU graduates about 40 baccalaureate prepared Registered Nurses (RN) each Fall and Spring semester. These nurses begin to embark on their career in several specialty areas in health care from hospice nursing to critical care nursing.

There are several pursuits open to nurses. Some may choose community health nursing and

manage health promotion and disease prevention programs; others may choose highly specialized fields such as pediatric cardiology.

One entity all graduate nurses have in common is that they must take the NCLEX-RN. National Licensure examinations are administered to all students who graduate from nursing school. This examination assures that graduate nurses possess a minimum knowledge base, clinical skills, and the ability to provide safe and effective nursing care. Additionally, passing this examination ensures consumers of health care that graduate nurses meet a standard of practice that is

needed for entry level nursing positions.

The NCLEX is administered by computer and titled a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT). The CAT differs from the previous NCLEX in that it is no longer a paper and pencil test. According to Springhouse (1998), questions on the CAT are adapted to the individual test-taker based on that individual's knowledge level. Initially, the examination poses a question of medium difficulty. If the question is answered correctly the next question will be more

NURSE
continued on page 3

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WOMENS

continued from page 2

taxpayers who do not itemize deductions to be able to deduct their donations to charity. He said 70 percent of taxpayers cannot claim charitable donations.

That would cost the federal government an estimated \$6.3 billion in revenue. He also would earmark \$1.7 billion in new charitable grants.

Under his plan, states could use federal welfare funds to replenish money they would lose by giving new tax credits to individuals and corporations who make charitable contributions.

"Government cannot be replaced by charities. I know that. You know

that. But it can welcome them as partners, not resent them as rivals," he said.

His proposal also calls for allowing federal vouchers for parents who want to place their children in alternative after-school programs, and establishing faith-based ministry programs for federal prison inmates.

Peri Arnold, a professor of public policy at the University of Notre Dame, said many charities have good ideas that deserve government support, but suddenly infusing the groups with a windfall of money could backfire.

"You can understand why a well-intentioned politician says look at all those people out there so good at holding church suppers -

they'd be good at coordinating and organizing relief to the poor. Well, that's a big leap of faith," Dr. Arnold said.

He said some churches and private charities have administrators who could step into a larger role with greater accountability, "but I don't think they're a dime a dozen."

Charity workers unused to recording expenditures and tracking results would have to be trained. And despite Bush's call for less bureaucracy and rules, the public will demand some form of reporting, Dr. Arnold said.

"That's public money. We don't want to just give that money out. We need them to be responsible," he said.

Bush said he is committed to removing all remaining barriers to the participation of faith-based groups in government programs.

"Sometimes our greatest need is not for more laws. It is for more conscience. Sometimes our greatest hope is not found in reform. It is found in redemption," he said in a speech that quoted Pope John Paul II and St. Francis.

He said he would create an Office of Faith-Based Action that would report directly to the president.

It would and would serve as a clearinghouse for information, help identify successful programs and assist faith-based organizations in their dealings with the federal government. ■



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NURSE

continued from page 2

difficult. Conversely, if the candidate answers the question incorrectly, the CAT will ask an easier question. The CAT process simplifies examining the competency of the test-taker. The NCLEX in the CAT format has a minimum number of 75 questions and a maximum number of 265 questions. The test will end when the computer detects individual competency level in all test areas. On the other hand, if the computer does not detect competence at question 275, the computer will shut down and the candidate will be notified that the NCLEX-RN was not passed and that they must sit for the licensure examination at another time.

The test bank for the NCLEX-RN contains thousands of

questions according to the major test categories recommended by the NCSBN. A frequent concern of RN candidates is the ability to use the computer for testing purposes with ease. However, several sources report that no computer experience is necessary. There will be brief instructions on the computer before the examination and a short practice session is provided as well. Only two keys are used for the NCLEX: the spacebar and the Enter key. All other keys are inoperable. The test is in multiple choice format, with four possible choices, and candidates must select the best answer.

Examination results are sent to the Educational Testing Service and respective state boards of nursing. The state board of nursing notifies the candidate of test results within two to six weeks of taking the NCLEX.

Questions include integrated content from all clinical areas of nursing. The NCSBN have identified four major content areas: safe and effective care environment, Health promotion and maintenance, psychosocial integrity, and physiological integrity. The following principles are integrated throughout these four categories: nursing process, caring, communication, cultural awareness, documentation, self-care, and teaching/learning. Student nurses must garner these concepts in all of their coursework throughout the four year baccalaureate nursing program.

The nursing program at MTSU is considered a 2 + 2 program. For the first two years, students take general studies courses and nursing prerequisites. Application must be made to the nursing program for the upper division nursing courses taken in

the last two years of the program. The upper division courses in nursing total 70 credit hours. The number of students accepted into the program is limited, therefore, progression into the program is competitive. The student's Grade Point Average (GPA) and Registered Nurse Entrance Exam (RNEE) scores are the major criteria used in the selection of entering the junior class.

After successful completion of the nursing program, graduate nurses may sit for the NCLEX-RN. Coursework throughout the entire four-year program at MTSU prepares the graduate RN for the licensure examination. The caliber of education at MTSU is a big part of why our graduates score high on the NCLEX-RN and have significantly higher scores than the nation wide average on the licensure examination. ■

*The Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service at Middle Tennessee State University
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The MTSU Foundation's Outstanding Public Service Award is presented each year to three faculty members who have performed outstanding public service for the University. This year's winners will be announced during the Convocation ceremonies on Friday, August 20, at 10 a.m. in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building, Tucker Theatre.

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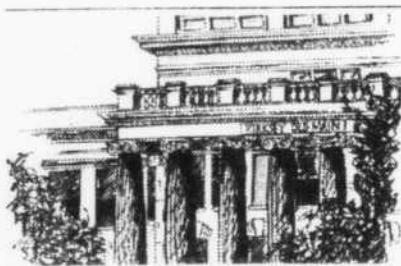
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4 ■ SIDELINES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1999

OPINIONS

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

—Thomas Jefferson
Murfreesboro, TN

Editorial

Thanks for the support

Well, we have reached the end of our journey for the summer. This is our last summer issue of "Sidelines." We know you'll miss us and we will definitely miss putting a paper together for you each week. However, sometimes working for a campus newspaper, or any newspaper for that matter, can get very demanding. We are going to take a break to focus on our finals and just enjoy what's left of our summer before classes begin again on August 23.

Most of the summer staff members are still new to our college paper, then there are those of us who have been on staff for a while but have higher positions. Whatever the case may be, we have all learned a lot from working on "Sidelines." Though times can be stressful, it is still very rewarding. "Sidelines" is a place where students can strengthen their writing skills, enhance their leadership abilities, develop strong friendships, build resumes and even earn a little money all at the same time.

Just as it has been our pleasure putting the paper together and presenting it to the greater MTSU community, we hope that it has also been pleasurable reading it. We have worked hard to present campus, local, regional and national news. We sought to interest, inform, entertain and sometimes even inspire our readers and we would like to think we accomplished that goal.

We would like to thank all of you who supported us by picking up a paper every Wednesday (sometimes on Thursdays when we had printing problems). We thank everyone for their constructive criticism, which helped us to become stronger. We would like to thank everyone who took time to do interviews with us.

Look out for the "Back to School" issue because it'll be filled with a lot of useful information for the new academic year. Please continue supporting "Sidelines" and look for it every Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. ■

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

Gore not created equal in today's entertainment

Tom Maurstad
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Since that deadly day in Littleton, everyone is talking about media violence. Lawmakers have proposed bills and just launched a public-pressure campaign to reduce it; television and radio talk shows have hosted experts denouncing it; newspapers and magazines have featured columns and essays bemoaning it.

But what are we talking about when we talk about media violence? To judge by the debate thus far, it might seem a simple question, requiring simple solutions - pass a law, establish ratings, toughen enforcement.

But, in fact, just the opposite is true. Though we speak of it in singular terms, media violence is a catch-all phrase covering a wide range of distinct and even contradictory experiences.

This is hardly surprising in a culture of wall-to-wall media where violence is a national pastime. Eskimos have a dozen words to describe different kinds of snow, but we chug along through an unending electronic blizzard of gunfights, car wrecks and body slams with nothing more than a couple of clunky phrases - media violence, violent entertainment - to help us find our way through the storm.

"You hear people talk, I have reporters calling all the time these days asking questions as if all the violent content in entertainment is the same thing," says Robert J. Thompson, a television and pop culture professor at Syracuse University. "It's like TV: Television is at once sacred and profane, educational and stupid, funny and not funny. Depending on what you watch and how you watch it, TV is all kinds of stuff. The same is true of violence."

As the entertainment industry is quick to point out, pop culture is an easy and popular target in the wake of tragedies such

as the Colorado school shootings. And just as critics and politicians in the 1950s, concerned by what they saw as a rising tide of juvenile delinquency, pointed to violent comic books as the cause, today it is violent films and computer games that are being singled out.

Last week, lawmakers including Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison announced an "Appeal to Hollywood" to pressure the industry to voluntarily reduce sexual content and violence. A proposed six-point code of conduct asks executives to commit to an "overall reduction in the level of entertainment violence."

As the saying goes, the more things change...

What we need, it seems, to help us decide whether this burst of media violence is harmless and that splatter is unhealthy is a glossary of gore, some system by which to sift through and categorize the multitude of violent entertainment that envelops us. The password of such a project? Context. All violence, after all, is not created equal.

There is, for example, the graphically realistic violence of today's teen slasher movies vs. the all-but-bloodless carnage of gangster movies from the '40s. There is violence that is an essential part of the story being told, as in "The Godfather," and the eye-candy violence of just about any action movie made in the last 10 years.

Such fare is a far cry from the roots of hyperviolent cinema, in the late '60s/early '70s and the films of directors such as Sam Peckinpah ("The Wild Bunch") and Arthur Penn ("Bonnie and Clyde").

It's hard to imagine such a thing in our post-"Scream" world, in which violent movies aspire to be clever celebrations of movie violence. The gore in movies such as "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer" is so wantonly excessive, so fountains-of-blood fantastic, it takes on a cartoonish quality. That certainly seems to be the way such movies' target audience of teens

watches them; the teens giggle as often as they groan, making a game of the gore as they try to guess who's going to get disemboweled next.

Over on television, the story is the same, in a different way. Compare today with previous eras, such as the late '70s when "S.W.A.T." and "Starsky and Hutch" reigned over prime time and provided weekly installments of bloodless carnage. Even back in the quieter times of the '50s, TV had shows such as "The Rifleman," whose weekly climax was its hero shooting some bad guy.

These days, fictional violence is all but dead and gone on television. In fact, one of the highest-rated shows in prime time, "ER," is a show that turns the old-school formula of consequence-less violence on its head. It is a show that deals with violence's consequences while only rarely showing the violence itself.

In its place, real violence is alive and well on television. First, there is the "real" violence of professional wrestling. The weekly broadcasts of the WWF and the WCW are cable TV's most consistently top-rated audience grabbers.

The other form of real violence requires no quotation marks. It is all the voyeuristic video shows peppering nightly broadcasts. In the beginning, there was "Cops." But almost a decade later, the genre it helped create is booming. From a Fox series such as "When Animals Attack" to NBC's "World's Most Amazing Videos," viewers no

longer need to bother with cheesy reproductions of violence. They can watch the real thing, whether it be a fistfight or a car wreck.

So which is worse, bloodless gore or graphic gore? Which do we need to be more worried about, a computer game's first-person simulations or a TV show's video voyeurism? Is violent entertainment that shows consequences less dangerous than entertainment in which violence is gaudy and cartoonish?

That's the problem - no one really knows for sure.

"There have been, literally, thousands of studies," says Tim Burke, a cultural history professor and co-author of "Saturday Morning Fever: Growing Up With Cartoon Culture." "And the only indisputable fact that has been absolutely established is that those studies have kept hundreds of academics off the street and gainfully employed."

"When you analyze these studies, what you see again and again is that they treat all representations of violence the same, they make no distinction between someone getting hit in the head with a cartoon frying pan and someone getting shot down on an episode of 'NYPD Blue.'"

"No amount of research is going to change the fact that what we are talking about is subtle and situational. All this stuff - movies, TV, video games - is raw material. It's what a few people do with it that causes problems. We can't look to academics or politicians for an answer. ■

"It's like TV: Television is at once sacred and profane, educational and stupid, funny and not funny. Depending on what you watch and how you watch it, TV is all kinds of stuff. The same is true of violence."

Robert J. Thompson
professor at Syracuse University

JFK Jr.: The making of a journalist

Charles McCorkle Hauser
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

CHAUTAUQUA, N.Y. - The young man sitting across the desk from me listened respectfully. I was working hard to sell him on the advantages of spending his last summer before college graduation as an intern reporter on the Providence Journal.

"You're a good writer," I said, "and I'd like to make a journalist out of you."

Politely, John F. Kennedy Jr. told me that the offer sounded inviting - just what he might want to do during his summer vacation from Brown University - but he had some other possibilities to consider. He would have to let me know.

I was sure I had him hooked. I even passed the word around at the Journal, where I was executive editor, that I thought I had signed him up as one of our summer interns.

But it was not to be. One of the "other possibilities" turned out to be a challenging job with the Democratic National Committee in Washington. He chose politics over journalism.

During John's years at Brown, our policy on the Journal was to let him live a normal life as a student, and not to stalk him for photos and news about his activities on campus. He got into print only when he chose some public role, such as appearing

in a play.

In the fall of 1980, Howard Swearer, president of Brown, invited me to become a part-time faculty member. As an adjunct associate professor in the English Department, I was assigned to teach a course called - I didn't pick the name - "journalistic writing."

There were only 10 students in the class, and I immediately recognized the handsome, dark-haired young man wearing an orange and black dashiki. John turned out to be one of the two best writers in the class. (The other young man, whose name I don't remember, was also offered a Journal internship, and accepted.)

I must admit I also don't remember the subject matter of the nonfiction stories John wrote for my class, and I can't check my files, because I have left them back in North Carolina while I spend the summer here in this corner of upper New York State.

But I remember clearly how talented he was: articulate, thoughtful and comfortable with the English language. He took criticism well, and was a fast learner in the technical aspects of writing nonfiction.

He was also a modest and courteous young man - the kind you'd be proud to have in your family.

He was prompt in turning in assignments, with one exception. In

lieu of a final exam, I had assigned a major writing project to each class member. John did not deliver his by the end of the semester. I had to give him a grade of "I" (for Incomplete). That meant he would not be credited with passing the course until he produced the missing paper.

He had a one-year deadline to accomplish that, and, as I recall, he took most of that time. At some point in his senior year, he sent the paper to me at the Journal, and I filled out the required form to change the "I" to a "B"; the lateness cost him the "A" grade he otherwise deserved.

Except for observing him in class and during the one-on-one conferences we held to discuss his writing, I knew nothing of John's activities. He kept his life private, and the Journal respected that.

Once, when I telephoned him in connection with the lateness of his final assignment, a woman's voice answered his apartment phone. So I knew he wasn't living like a hermit, but that was all I knew.

I don't think that John was cut out for the life of a celebrity in this celebrity-worshipping age. I was glad he didn't use his legal training as a springboard to go into politics. And I cheered him on when he became founder and editor of the Washington insider magazine he called George.

In the end, he turned his life toward journalism, after all. I like to think I helped him get there. ■

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FEATURES

5 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Students studying overseas drink in more than just culture



by Jason Klabacha/University of Iowa

SWANSEA, Wales (CPX) - When American students head overseas for a semester, they often find that, among other things, rules for drinking and hanging out in bars change.

There's no need for a fake I.D. in most of Europe because the legal age to drink is 18. The freedom to imbibe and hang out in European bars is something many American students have to come to terms with. And while officials at the University of Wales at Swansea say Americans don't stand out as being lushes, it is clear that some handle the cultural shift better than others.

Clint Knox, a senior at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, can attest to that. Soon after arriving in Swansea, a coastal town of about 2.5 million in southeast Wales, he could see just how much some students struggle with the freedoms Europe provides.

"I woke my second night here about two in the morning to some girl screaming in French," he said. "It turns out my flat mate passed out in front of our building. He was so drunk a couple of us had to carry him inside and put him in his bed."

"But he wasn't done yet," Knox continued. "He proceeded to role out of his bed and puke all over the place. Then to top it off, he pissed on the floor. It was quite a night, and I'll never forget it."

Many of the 10,000 students at the university in Swansea come from around the world - places like England, France, Ireland, Scotland and the U.S. And many from outside America took their first drinks long before their 18th birthdays. It's not unusual for European parents to spot their kids small amounts of wine during dinner.

"I didn't drink a lot when I was young, but when I did, my parents made sure I knew alcohol wasn't something to play with," said Nana Agyeman, a first-year student of genetics at the University of Wales at Swansea, from England.

The social scene in Europe is, in many ways, just as centered around alcohol as the scene in the U.S. - if not more so. What makes Europe different, many U.S. students say, is the maturity with which Europeans drink.

"People go out here and drink more than I'm used to," said Kelly McCracken, a sophomore at Iowa State University. "For the amount they drink, most people don't get that trashed and control themselves better compared to (the people) back home."

"When people get drunk at home, they start fights and break

things," she added. "Here they dance like mad."

McCracken said she'll be sad not to get to order her own drinks when she returns to the U.S.

"But there isn't much I can do about it," she said.

And that doesn't make sense to some European students. Henry Lewis, a 19-year old student at Swansea from England, said if visiting the States, he would go about getting a drink the same way many underage American students do.

"I'd break the law and get a fake I.D.," he said. "Here, drinking is socially acceptable and especially at university level. You're starting your independence."

Many European students support arguments against the 21-and-older policies that have been made in the United States for years. They don't understand why the U.S. allows people under 21 to have children, use credit cards, buy real estate, act independently of their parents and defend the country during wartime - and yet not allow them to consume alcohol.

"It doesn't make any sense to me," said Arnaud Bertrand, a French student at Swansea. "I think (21) is too old for people to start drinking."

In Europe, going out for a single drink is common among friends. Americans are quick to point out that consuming any more than that is cost prohibitive. Drinks are much more expensive across Britain. A pint of beer can cost anywhere from what would be in America \$1.70 to \$4.25.

Danielle Soedt, a junior at Iowa State, said she had a tough time budgeting her money during her first month in Swansea.

"I was going out practically everyday when I first got here," she said. "I wasn't going out and getting drunk, but I'd go out for a pint or two."

Even though going out for one drink at a time might be more common, heavy alcohol consumption is apparent throughout Europe's pubs and clubs. And just like in the U.S., Wales has watched students who have had too much to drink die.

Just last year - about the same time a Michigan State University student died after drinking 24 shots while celebrating his 21st birthday - a student at Swansea died on his 21st birthday after mixing hard liquor - "spirits" as its known in England and Wales - and drinking games.

After the incident, drinking policies around Swansea changed. Bars no longer allow drinking games mixing spirits, and they no longer have promotions offering spirits drink specials. Bar owners in Michigan have made similar changes because of the death.

The drinking death in Swansea shocked Emma Ferguson, the university's administrative director for American studies.

"It was the first time anything like that had ever happened around here to my knowledge," she said.

In the United States, 20 students died because of excessive alcohol consumption last year. U.S. figures also indicate that more students than ever recognize that excessive drinking is a problem on their campus.

American students are also finding it a trip to have to dress for a night on the town in Wales. Clothing is a big part of the social scheme, and no one - not even if they're only heading to the local pub - would dream of going out without looking "smart." Once pubs close at 11 p.m., students go to clubs, where dress codes are strictly enforced.

Men typically wear sports coats and ties when they're club hopping, but for women, the dress code is a lot more racy than the one that guides women in the U.S.

Agyeman, from England, said the prevailing stereotype of American women and their mode of dress is this:

"They dress like nuns," she said.

Given some of the outfits McCracken said she's seen on the European club scene, it's not hard to agree. She even said she doesn't think her mother would approve of the dressing habits she's adopted in England and might have to hide a few pictures when she gets home.

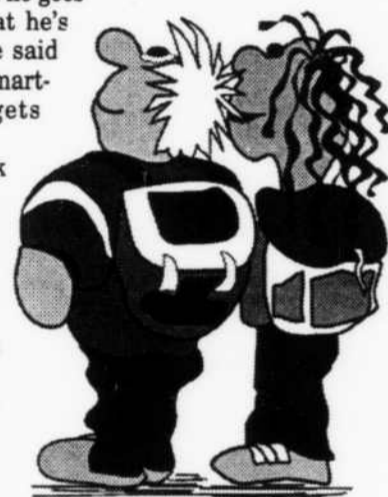
"If I dressed in a short, tight, black skirt back home I would be called a slut, but here it's the norm," she said. "As soon as I get home, the clothes I wore here are going in the closet for life."

Knox said he's had a hard time getting used to wearing pants other than blue jeans when he goes

out at night, but now that he's more accustomed to it, he said he may continue to be a "smart-looking guy" when he gets back to the states.

"I wasn't a slob back home, but I didn't look smart enough to get into a club (here) one night," he said. "After that, I started dressing a lot nicer, wearing dress slacks and a button shirt."

"I'm starting to get used to dressing up, and I sort of like it." ■



BPI holds Sixth Annual Billboard Dance Music Summit

Gabe Frankel
staff reporter

Billboard magazine held its sixth annual Dance Music Summit on July 14-16 at the Sherton Colony Square in Atlanta, GA. The summit featured daily panels on topics dealing with the industry, artist showcases, and plenty of schmoozing. Four of the five major labels, publishing companies, promotion companies, publicity firms, Indies, reporters, deejays, artists, and radio programmers were all in attendance. The days were split basically split into two parts with panels in the day and parties with showcases at night. Here's the scoop.

The days began with industry panels concerning a number of issues. The keynote address kicked off the panel madness. Matt Jagger of Ministry Sound UK gave a passionate speech about the state of Dance music worldwide. Other panels included a "state of Indies" panel concerning issues in the indie world. There, Peter Wohelski (who signed the Chemical Brothers) stressed the importance of owning your masters. A "Transistor Madness" panel discussed the 1999 radio boom of Dance/Club music. Hosh Gureli of Arista and Seth Neiman of Music Choice were among the panelists. The "America Wake up" panel discussed possible reasons why Dance music is so prominent in Europe, virtually viewed as Pop there, isn't having the same commercial impact here. The "Reality of the State of Dance Music" panel was hosted by Vince

Degiorio of RCA and debated the vocal vs. dub mix. This panel was highlighted by a heated verbal confrontation between Frank Ceralo of Epic and an unknown DJ who had to have the field mic almost ripped away from him. Phillip Dickerson (Billboard DJ), Victor Lee (Tommy Boy), Hex Hector (remixer/producer), Brinsley Evens (songwriter/producer), Maurice Joshua (remixer/producer), and Jimmy Folsie (Third Millennium Entertainment) were among the other panelists.

The "Future of the Future" panel was hosted by Shelli Andranigian of Angranigian Media. This panel focussed on the where does Dance Music go from here. The panel got into the inevitable mp3 debate with Oliver Stumm of Liquid Groove arguing for the promotional impact against sales damaging proponents from the field. Helen Bruner (songwriter/artist), Ellyn Harris of Buzz Publicity, and Tom Ryan of CDuctive were among the panelists. The "Ripped Off: The Reality of Bootlegging" panel touched on that touchy issue of illegal compilations that really gets the labels blood boiling. The final panel was "Behind the Music: Artists Speak Out" hosted by Lisa Lisa. The panel was a platform for artists such as Love Inc, disco veteran Candi Staton, Inoj, and Duane Harden to discuss the issues concerning all Dance/Club artists.

The nightlife of the summit was certainly alive. Nightly artist showcases had club artists (those sexy divas), DJs spinning, and plenty of drinks. The first night's party at Pryda was blessed by the energetic

Gaelle (backed by a mean, full, live band), Kim English, and spinning by DJ Craig Rosenberry. The late portion of the party featured virtuoso DJ "Little" Louie Vega throwing down the wax. The second night of the summit at Fusion had a spectacular performance by Inoj doing her retro take on "Ring my bell." Tommy Boy Club superstar Amber rocked with her hit "Sexual." Janice Robinson (newly signed to Warner Brothers Records), Duane Harden, Soul Dhamma, disco diva Candi Staton, and Judy Torres all gave mean performances.

The event was hosted by Kevin Aviance of Wave Music who nearly stole the show with his musical performances and stage demeanor. The later portion of the night saw Brit DJs Superchumbo, June Joseph, and Mucho Macho spinning. The third nights party at Backstreet featured a slew of quality artists. Hosted by club veteran Lisa Lisa, this showcase had performances by Love Inc, Celeda, Joi Cardwell, Erin Hamilton, Kimra Lovelace, Byron Stingily, Sevana Stone, and Kristine W. (RCA). The later portion moved over to Yin-Yang and featured awesome spinning by Oliver Stumm and Silk Hurley to name a few. Vernessa Mitchell, Ann Nesby, and CeCe Peniston carried the party into the early hours of the morning. The fourth and final night had a closing party at Warehouse that was hosted by Ricardo Companioni and Charles Bobo.

It had performances by the British Beauty/Club Superstar Abigail, DJ Lydia Prim, and DJ Bumper. The performers were kind and gracious and they hung out with the attendees after their sets. The parties

went from night to dawn and took no prisoners.

The 1999 Billboard Dance Music Summit was an informative party. The vibe there was very friendly and comfortable. Outside of every panel and showcase people were hanging out, having fun. All over the hotel you could find music people laughing, drinking, and schmoozing it up. Hundreds of business cards were exchanged. New friends were made and old friends reacquainted. People from all over the world came to celebrate the music they love. The overwhelming point that emerged from the event was that the Dance Music community must unite. A lot can be learned from the Hip Hop/R+B world. The Urbanaries always have each other on their albums, videos, and shows. That type of supportiveness, togetherness, and brilliant cross promotion are needed to help propel Dance Music back to commercial prominence in the America.

Industry Notes: The Backstreet Boys sophomore release "Millennium" returned to number one on the Billboard Top 200 Albums Chart, ending the three week reign of Limp Bizkit who knocked them out of the summit, the Limp move to number two... Kid Rock's latest "Devil Without a Cause" was recently certified Platinum by the RIAA, as was Ja Rule's debut on Jay Z's imprint Murder Inc.... Teen sensation Britany Spears debut has now sold over five million units domestically and is predicted to reach Diamond status.... Woodstock 99 ended on a bad note with concertgoers rioting and setting fires, so much for peace and love. ■



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WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1999

SPORTS

6 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Titans trying to avoid move

Teresa M. Walker
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The Tennessee Titans prepare to open camp talking about how close they are to signing all of their draft picks and how much tougher the competition for starting jobs will be. How refreshing for a team that has been the butt of jokes the past three seasons.

"We need a distraction-free camp," coach Jeff Fisher said. "There are some things we have to contend with. Yet in no way do they match what we've dealt with the last couple of years. This camp is an exciting one. We're going to hit the field running."

When rookies and selected veterans report Tuesday to the Titans' temporary practice facility, the only changes on the horizon are a move into their permanent practice facility in August and the

debut of their new 67,500-seat stadium.

Top draft pick Jevon Kearse is expected in camp on time as general manager Floyd Reese said Monday that he and Kearse's agent were very close to a deal. Reese also concluded contracts Monday with second-round tackle John Thornton, fifth-round quarterback Kevin Daft and seventh-round linebacker Phil Glover. Thornton, from West Virginia, received a three-year deal for the league minimum with a \$720,000 signing bonus.

Rookies and selected veterans begin practice Wednesday. When the entire team hits the field Sunday, the only worry will be keeping a job and

not about how few fans are watching.

The Titans have enough to worry about on the field. They haven't reached the playoffs since 1993, and Fisher's job is on the line if they fall short again.

He shuffled his staff after last season, and a fullback has been added to the offense for more production.

Fisher made it clear in minicamps that starting slots are up for grabs and that veterans shouldn't be complacent. The one person whose job isn't in jeopardy is quarterback Steve McNair despite the addition of veteran Neil O'Donnell.

"Steve's our quarterback no doubt about that, and there never has been," Reese said. "We wanted

to bring in a quality quarterback, and Neil is that."

Being able to concentrate only on football will be a nice change for players who have played in three different cities the past three seasons and who found themselves studying maps to find their way around their first training camp in Tennessee in 1997.

To avoid moving twice before the season begins, the Titans are holding camp at their temporary practice facility, which is in the back of a medical building. Some veterans will be allowed to commute from home, while most players will stay at a hotel across the road.

"There's only a few things you need at camp," said Fisher. "You need a place to feed them. You need a place to practice, a place to meet and a place to sleep, and we've got that."

NFL players losing sight of the American Dream

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

NFL players and teams are bringing shame upon themselves with their actions. Players such as Jamal Anderson and Marshall Faulk are holding out, while the San Francisco 49ers recently signed former University of Nebraska star Lawrence Phillips.

Anderson had a breakout season last year, rushing for 1,846 yards and 14 touchdowns. He led Atlanta to its first ever Super Bowl.

Now he is holding out of training camp because he wants to restructure his contract. He says that he will sit out the entire year if necessary.

Even if he succeeds in getting his contract renegotiated he will miss at least part of training camp. As a result he will not be prepared for the season. This will hurt him and his team, the Falcons might not repeat as NFC Champions.

Marshall Faulk, of the St. Louis Rams, is also holding out. He recently turned down a seven year deal worth over \$38 million. He has whined and complained about his situation in St. Louis.

I have two words of advice for Mr. Faulk: Grow Up. A seven year deal for more than \$38 million is not too bad for someone as injury prone as him. Maybe he should try working in the Real World for a little while; he might then appreciate his situation a little more.

Lawrence Phillips' situation is different, but still intriguing. While at the University of Nebraska, Tom Osborne dismissed him from the team after he beat up an ex-girlfriend. Osborne later reinstated Phillips; Nebraska won the National Championship with a convincing victory over Florida.

With the sixth pick in the 1996 NFL Draft, St. Louis selected Phillips. In one year with St. Louis he was arrested three times. He missed team meetings on a regular basis. When he showed up to the meetings he would usually sleep. Rams coach Dick Vermeil grew sick of Phillips' antics and cut him from the team.

Shortly after St. Louis cut him, Phillips signed with the Miami Dolphins. He did not produce any results on the field. The Dolphins released him after he allegedly punched a woman in a Miami night club who refused to dance with him.

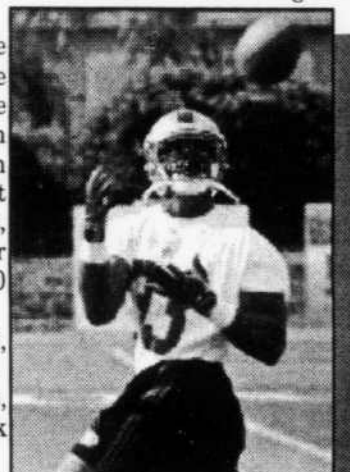
Following this, he played with the Barcelona Dragons of NFL Europe where he was named the Offensive MVP of the league. A few teams in the NFL expressed interest in Phillips; San Francisco claims it needs a running back, and as a result, signed him on Monday to a two-year \$2.25 million contract with a \$425,000 signing bonus.

"But times change, he's changed, and we have a need," Bill Walsh said.

Actions speak louder than words, Mr. Walsh, and Phillips action speak for themselves.

San Francisco has really put its reputation as a quality organization on the line by signing Phillips.

Yes, San Francisco needs a running back, but does it need the trouble Phillips could cause?

Staff Photo
Lawrence Phillips catches a pass at a 49ers practice.

The Dream Team heads for Sydney

Chris Sheridan
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - Shaquille O'Neal probably will be back, although Grant Hill's chances of being an Olympian again aren't so certain. As for the 12th man, it's a tossup.

The U.S. men's basketball team said goodbye Monday to its three youngest players - Wally Szczerbiak, Elton Brand and Richard Hamilton - and began looking toward next summer's 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

The nine NBA veterans who won the Tournament of the Americas will return, with three other players added to the Olympic roster.

"I think the one person that seems extremely likely is Shaq," said Russ Granik, the USA basketball president and NBA deputy commissioner. "Tim (Duncan) has been happy to say all month that we don't have a true center on the team, so I'd be surprised if he's not picked."

"After that, there's a lot of great players and the committee will have some tough choices. Some of it will come down to position,

some of it will come down to seeing if everyone's still healthy."

The U.S. team did not show any glaring weaknesses in Puerto Rico, although the lack of a physical low-post presence was obvious in the gold medal game. Canada's Todd MacCulloch, a second-round pick of the Philadelphia 76ers, finished with 26 points and 14 rebounds simply by parking himself under the basket.

With players like Yugoslavia's Vlade Divac, Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis and Australia's Luc Longley expected at the Olympics, the U.S. team will need another big body.

Hill was chosen for this team but withdrew because the tournament conflicted with his wedding.

"Grant, like anybody else, will just have to wait until we get our committee together at the end of the year," Granik said.

Granik said Karl Malone and Allen Iverson will be among the players considered for the Olympic roster. A big factor will be who's playing well early in the NBA season when the selection committee meets.

NBA vice president Rod Thorn, a chief architect of the team, wants to Americans to add an outside shooter to complement 3-point specialists Allan Houston, Steve Smith and, to a lesser degree, Gary Payton.

The United States won its 10 games by an average of 31.6 points, down slightly from the 1996 Olympians' average margin of 32.3.

The U.S. team reached 100 points only four times in 10 games, a mark that was reached 25 times in 30 games by the three previous Dream Teams.

This was the best defensive team, limiting opponents to 66.2 points a game - more than four points lower than the 1996 team's 70.3 points-against average.

The biggest surprise was Kevin Garnett. The coaches, team executives and support staff were impressed with the attitude and maturity of the 22-year-old forward.

Asked Sunday what he thought this team's signature was, Garnett paused several seconds.

"Poise," he said. "Just when you guys thought it was going to be a challenge against Puerto Rico, or just when you thought a game

might be close, we kept our poise and showed the type of team we are - the professionalism we possess."

For Garnett, that professionalism manifested itself in everything from bowing to fans at the medal ceremony to frolicking with children in the pool alongside the team's luxury resort.

The team's three weeks was filled as much with golf, gambling, jet skiing and sun tanning as it was with basketball.

There were no practices or shootarounds after the first full day in Puerto Rico. During the games, the Americans turned up the energy when needed.

"I think it's been much more fun than work," Houston said. "But when you have a team full of great competitors and players like this, you put pressure on yourself to play hard."

"It really wasn't a work environment, but playing every single day for eight days took a toll on us. Other than that it was fun. I think playing together for three weeks will be an advantage rather than going to the Olympics without knowing each other."

American cyclist Lance Armstrong wins personal and medical victory for the United States of America

Daniel Q. Haney
Associated Press

Lance Armstrong's victory in the Tour de France was made possible by another incredible triumph - medicine's ability to beat advanced cancer.

In 1996, Armstrong's doctors in Austin, Texas, gave him the most feared of medical diagnoses: At age 25, he had cancer. Not just that, but it had already spread throughout his body.

In a way he was lucky because his form of malignancy, cancer of the testicles, is one of the unusual types of cancer in adults that can often be cured once it has spread.

For Armstrong, like most victims, the first sign of trouble was a painless lump in one of his testicles. He ignored it for 5 1/2 months, thinking it was probably irritation from his competitive bicycle training. But when it grew sore and he began to cough up blood, he went to see a doctor.

He had never heard of testicular cancer, which strikes 7,400 men in the United States annually and represents just 1 percent of all male cancers. But for men in their 20s and 30s, it is the leading form of

cancer.

Armstrong underwent surgery to have his right testicle removed and received one round of chemotherapy. Then he was sent to Indiana University Hospital in Indianapolis to see Dr. Lawrence Einhorn, an expert in testicular cancer.

What Einhorn found was especially ominous. Doctors grade this kind of cancer by how far it has spread. Stage one disease is confined to the testicles and is completely curable. Stage two has spread to the abdominal lymph glands and is 98 percent curable. Stage three has traveled through the bloodstream to the lungs or beyond. Typically doctors can cure 80 percent of these patients.

"Stage three is the worst," Einhorn said. "He was a bad stage three."

His cancer had spread extensively throughout his lungs, and there were also traces of it in his brain that had begun to cause headaches.

Einhorn estimated that he had a 50 percent chance of being cured. Still, for an adult with widely spread malignancy, those are good odds.

Twenty-five years ago, such a diagnosis would

have led quickly to death. That was before the development of cisplatin, a platinum derivative that has become standard treatment for many kinds of tumors but is especially effective against testicular cancer.

That fall and winter, Armstrong underwent three more five-day sessions of chemotherapy. Besides cisplatin, doctors gave him the drugs etoposide and ifosfamide. Ordinarily, they prefer the drug bleomycin to ifosfamide, because it is equally effective and less likely to cause nausea. But bleomycin can slightly injure the lungs.

"That damage is trivial for most people, but if someone is a world-class athlete, a slight reduction in lung function would lower their standing by several notches," Einhorn said. So the doctors settled on the nastier but ultimately safer ifosfamide.

Armstrong continued to ride between treatments, and by late December his chemotherapy was over. But it was still unclear whether he was saved. Doctors monitor progress with chest X-rays and blood tests.

His X-rays still showed abnormal growths in his

lungs, but that could have been scar tissue, not cancer. Also, his alpha-fetoprotein levels were still high. Normally, this reading on blood tests is 1.5. Before treatment, his was 100,000.

However, the blood protein returned to normal in February 1997, and two months later, his chest X-ray was clear, too. He had reached an important milestone: cancer-free a year after treatment.

"This disease grows so very rapidly that if you fail to kill all the cancer with chemotherapy, it doesn't come back years later," Einhorn said. "It comes back months later. When a patient is one year cancer-free after chemotherapy, he has a 95 percent probability of a cure."

Now, 2 1/2 years later, his chance of cure is about 98 percent.

The one possible long-term side effect is sterility. About half of patients cannot father children. However, Armstrong's wife is expecting a child in October. While babies can be conceived with sperm stored before treatment, Einhorn said he assumes Armstrong is fertile.

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Former Blue Raider enjoys success in Tigers Organization

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

Aaron Barnett, who pitched for the Blue Raiders during the 1998 and 1999 seasons, is now enjoying success in the Detroit Tigers organization.

Barnett is currently pitching for the Oneonta Tigers in the New York-Penn League. In this short season league, teams battle for first place in two divisions with a season-ending two-of-three series to decide the champion.

Blue Raider coach Steve Peterson is confident in

Barnett's abilities.

"Aaron proved while he was here that he had outstanding ability and potential," Peterson said. "He is tough on lefties, and with some luck, should have a chance to go a long way in professional baseball."

The Tigers have the lowest ERA in their division and are currently in first place in their division with a record of 18-11.

He is 1-0 in nine appearances with a 3.60 ERA. He has walked six while striking out eleven in 15.0

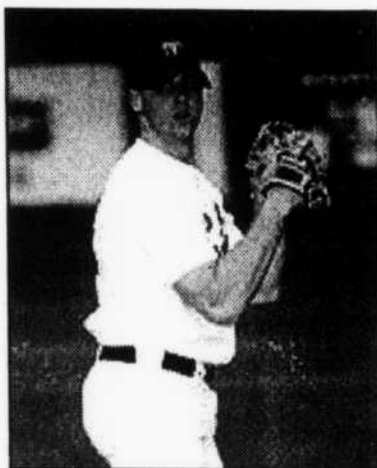
innings.

"The manager has confidence in everyone. It's fun and I'm having a good time," Barnett said. "The game's a little faster, but I'm getting used to it by now."

Barnett was 2-2 with a 5.52 ERA during his senior year. He went 45.2 innings, walked 33 and struck out five in 29 appearances.

Before coming to Middle Tennessee, Barnett attended Hiwassee Community College for two years.

At Hiwassee C.C., he was 4-2 with a 3.02 ERA. ■



Staff Photo
Former Blue Raider, Aaron Barnett enjoys his newfound success with the Detroit

All major league umpires rescind their resignations

Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) - In what appears to be an overwhelming defeat, the threatened walkout by major league umpires collapsed Tuesday, with all umpires withdrawing their resignations. The Associated Press has learned.

However, about one-third of the 68 major league umpires will lose their jobs anyway, because the American and National leagues already have hired 25 replacements from the minor leagues, two high-ranking baseball officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

AL president Gene Budig sent letters to nine AL umpires on Monday accepting their resignations, according to the officials.

Similar letters to as many as 13 NL umpires will be sent by NL president Len Coleman later this week, the officials said.

On Monday, umpires sued the AL and NL in federal court

in Philadelphia, seeking a court order that would allow them to withdraw the resignations prior to their effective date of Sept. 2.

Lawyers for owners and umpires held a conference call Tuesday with U.S. District Judge Edmund V. Ludwig, who refused to issue a temporary restraining order to prevent owners from accepting the resignations, the official said.

Umpires union head Richie Phillips did not immediately comment on the move. Baseball lawyers did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

Umpires announced their mass resignations after a meeting in Philadelphia on July 14, and 56 of the 68 umpires submitted resignation letters in the following week.

By last Friday, 14 of those 56 umpires had withdrawn their resignations. The rest of the withdrawals were sent to the leagues Tuesday, the officials said.

Umpires decided on the resignation strategy because their feared owners would lock

them out when their labor contract expires Dec. 31, and the agreement contains a no-strike clause.

The nine AL umpires who apparently were sent letters Monday accepting their resignations are Drew Coble,

Jim Evans, Dale Ford, Rich Garcia, Ed Hickox, Mark Johnson, Ken Kaiser, Greg Kosc and Larry McCoy.

The only NL umpires assured of keeping their jobs are Wally Bell, Mark Hirschbeck and Jeff Nelson. ■

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FREE INFORMATION is available through the MTSU Placement Office, KUC Room 328. Come by and receive your complimentary copies of catalogs, pamphlets, and guides to learn how to write a resume and cover letter from various samples, gather information about a particular company, and help with interview preparation. Video tapes are also available for you to view in the Career Library. The Placement Center is using a computerized registration system and resume preparation program called RESUME EXPERT. The benefits include: * professional, typeset quality resume which can be easily updated * user-friendly * IBM compatible. The computer labs on campus can be used. After purchasing your software in Phillips Bookstore, it must be brought to the Placement Center to load your information in the database for resume referrals to employer. Once registered via RESUME EXPERT, the Placement Center is able to track which companies individual resumes are referred and inform the individual upon request.

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