



MT track
breaks
record

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Jan. 30, 2006
MONDAY

Coming Thursday:

Exposure

Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

VOL. 81 No. 04

MURFREESBORO, TN

MTSU prepares for SGA elections

Applications for SGA candidates available Monday

By Tori Harris
Staff Writer

Applications for the MTSU Student Government Association's annual elections are available Monday, Jan. 30.

Meagan Flippin, vice president for administration and public affairs, said the positions avail-

able this year include SGA president, executive vice president and speaker of the senate, vice president for administration and public affairs, election commissioner and all senate seats from each college.

"It's important for students to vote because the people they elect make many decisions that directly affect them each and every day," Flippin said. "These same students also serve as representatives of all students to the university administration, community and university guests. Students should choose the candidate who best represents them and the student body."

Candidates' answers from their application questions are posted on the SGA Web site so students can learn a little bit about the candidates

before voting, Flippin said.

The election application consists of typical essay questions like, "why are you running for this office" and, "if elected, what would you do to improve the quality of life at MTSU," Flippin said.

The elections last year made history because it was the highest voter turnout ever in the history of the MTSU SGA elections.

"This semester, we are advertising elections early and hope that we can encourage more students to vote," Flippin said.

Chrystal Flippin, a freshman criminal justice major, said the elections are imperative because they are the way students' voices are heard.

"Students should have a say in what happens

on campus and choosing the candidate that best fits their needs and interests is the best way to be heard," Boyce said.

Carly Livingston, a junior marketing major, said she feels the SGA elections are important because they do many helpful things for the student body, and they try to make things better.

Livingston said she understands some things are uncontrollable by the SGA but knows they do have an influence on some issues.

"The biggest problem I have is parking," Livingston said. "Maybe after this election, there will be some type of change, and we will have better parking."

Election packets for SGA elections are available in the Keathly University Center room 208.

Mardi Gras night at Murphy Center



Fans show their support and enthusiasm at Thursday nights Mardi Gras festival during the New Orleans basketball game.

Photo by Joe Harvey | Staff Photographer

MT hosts healthy breakfast

By Paige Presley
Staff Writer

Faculty members of MTSU and the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions are working together to educate people on better health.

MTSU held a breakfast last Wednesday morning with several guest speakers to discuss the initiatives that faculty from MTSU and Deloitte are taking to resolve the chronic weight problem in the United States.

At the breakfast, Sidney McPhee, MTSU president, announced the university's objective to make a difference in the community.

"Some faculty are working on implementing better physical education and nutrition programs into the local school system," McPhee said.

"The problem with obesity has grown worse than smoking, drinking, and poverty combined," said Earl Swenson, Jennings and Rebecca Jones Chair of Excellence in urban and regional planning.

"13 percent of the population in Tennessee, grades 9-12, are considered obese while 59 percent of the adult population is considered obese," Swenson said.

Some reasons for rising health problems are increased affluence, availability of cheap but high calorie goods and the decrease in energy expenditure, Thomas Brinthaup, MTSU professor of psychology, said.

"Children's time constraints, lack of influence from parents, and difficulty in having healthy habits in school are to blame for obesity in children," Brinthaup said. "Some of the school-based interventions included non-disruptive changes in eating, exercising habits at school and better education on the subject."

Obesity leads to more chronic illnesses such as heart disease, hypertension, arthritis and diabetes, Bill Cecil, director of health policy research at Blue Cross - Blue Shield of Tennessee, said.

Keynote speaker Tommy Thompson, Wisconsin governor and the independent chair for the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions, congratulated MTSU on being the first university in the nation to conduct such a large intervention for obesity.

See Breakfast, 2

Writer's Loft prepares future writers

By Andy Harper
News Editor

The MTSU Writer's Loft graduated their third class this Saturday at the downtown Murfreesboro branch of the Nashville library.

The Writer's Loft program was created at MTSU in the fall of 2003. The program consists of three sessions, which are required for graduation from the Writer's Loft program. The sessions include public readings, lectures and one-on-one writing and professional interaction said Lance Ikard, director of professional development and personal enrichment.

"At some point in your life, you become more interested in quality than quantity," said Roy Burkhead, founder of the Writer's Loft program. "By participating in this program you start to feel like a part of your community through your work."

"The idea is that we feel like a community," Burkhead said. "We do not graduate many students at a time because some of our members might take a session off, but they still come to our free lectures or events that promote any other member's works. No one ever stops being a part of our community. We are all very centered around the philosophy of being a writer support group."

Most of the alumni of the program earn their living other ways than writing, said Ikard. The alumni list includes a few lawyers, a dentist, a retired engineer and a landscape designer.

"The common thread shared by all these different people is that they all want to commit to becoming better writers," Ikard said.

The Loft program provides three sessions a year: fall, spring and summer. The cost is \$1,000 a session, \$3,000 total.

Participants do not have to commit to back-to-back sessions, they may take them at their leisure, said Ikard.

"The price is in fact, very reasonable in exchange for valuable direct interaction with professional mentors," Burkhead said. "The opportunities are endless with possible publications, available venues for works and of course networking."

The writers are paired with mentors to cater to their specific genres, like novels or scripts. Each month a writer exchanges up to 25 pages with their mentor for review and criticism, Ikard said.

"One of the mentors we are very excited about having is River Jordan," Ikard said. "River is a local author in Nashville and one of the lectures she does for us is on the publishing process and helping the writers establish goals for their works."

The Loft program was originally designed to have a group of 50 students or smaller to

allow for a better student-teacher ratio, Burkhead said.

Loft writers share their work through the Writer's Loft magazine anthology, The Trunk, Ikard said. The publication features the works of mentors, students and alumni and is published once a year.

"To become the best possible writer, one must keep learning and building up networks, which is why the publication and the mentors are so important," said Burkhead. "Our mentors and alumni especially provide a really good literary network that most writers cannot obtain."

"Theoretically, our writers will come to us with nothing," Burkhead said. "And they will leave with the first draft of a novel, a portfolio of poems or even the first act of a play. The biggest monster of writing is the first blank 250 pages and the program is here to help confront those challenges."

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OPINIONS

Immigration

What does a tunnel filled with two tons of marijuana in California have to do with the Murfreesboro driver testing center? Both were raided by government officials last Wednesday in an effort to thwart illegal immigration.

FEATURES

Bio-Diesel

Many would consider the air quality an improvement at a busy intersection if it smelled like a deep fryer rather than a smokestack in an industrial park.

SPORTS

Women's Basketball

In a match-up against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team came out on top 69-68 Thursday night.

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LETTERS POLICY

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please email letters to opinions@mtsu.edu, and include your contact information 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 and Wednesday during June and July.

Narrating Katrina through oral histories



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor.
A cypress tree remains standing while a Waffle House was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina's wake. Efforts to rebuild the coast are still underway.

By Tom Bell
Staff Writer

The Albert Gore, Sr. Research Center at MTSU will be conducting an oral history project to interview people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Last year the project interviewed 50 people who experienced the dispersion caused by the disaster and the goal this year is to find even more people, said MTSU history professor Rebecca Conard.

"The project was initiated out of the MTSU administration's desire to do something appropriately academic and positive to help the people affected," Conard said.

Lisa Pruitt, an associate professor at the Gore Research Center, said she and Conard formed a committee that decided an oral history project would be the most effective use of the resources MTSU has to offer.

"Psychologically, one of the most helpful responses to trauma is allowing those affected to tell their stories," said Brenda Rambo, psychology assistant professor.

"That was certainly true in my case," said William Denius, an oral history graduate student and

participant in the project.

Denius was at MTSU when the storm hit his home in Mississippi. Although experienced with hurricanes, Denius said he feared Katrina was the "big one."

In addition to Conard and Pruitt, the committee also consists of Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost, Loren McWatters, professor of history, Ellen Garrison, associate history professor and Kevin Smith, sociology and anthropology professor.

Teams of student interviewers will ask participants to describe their experiences evacuating, either temporarily staying in shelters or with family and friends, or permanently re-establishing their lives in Middle Tennessee, their perceptions of media coverage and evaluation of organizations who responded to the disaster.

Another aspect of the project will include volunteers who assisted in damaged areas. The volunteers will be asked to describe their motives for volunteering, the logistics and details of their work, their feelings about the experience and their perceptions of the scope and impact of the disaster.

SPRING BREAK HOT SPOT

Panama City Beach has been a Spring Break hot spot for as long as most Spring Breakers can remember. The Sandpiper-Beacon Beach Resort has been at the forefront of Spring Break activities in Panama City Beach since 1990.

Its popularity stems from its "World's Largest and Longest Keg Party" and on-site resort bar, giving Spring Breakers plenty to do without ever leaving the resort. DJ Big Donna has been playing the hottest dance mixes since 1995 and the Sandpiper has been host to other well-known DJ's including DJ Skribble. The Sandpiper-Beacon brings the party to you - no driving, just walk up to your room from the bar.

MTV's *The Real World* was at the Sandpiper in 2005 with MJ and Robin as special guests at an *Axe/Stuff Magazine* Beach Party. They sponsored a model search, keg party, free beer and a swimsuit competition. *Alloy Marketing* has also brought in model searches,

along with *Classmates USA's* calendar model search. Spring Breakers can expect plenty more of the same this year with bikini and wet t-shirt/wet jockey shorts contests daily and nightly.

The Sandpiper is never short on big-time entertainment, hosting such acts as Bob Marley's Wailers, Tone Loc and other major acts. Tentatively scheduled for this year are the Black Eyed Peas performing on the beach behind the Sandpiper Beacon during Jay Leno's show. Metro Nightclubs is a Spring Break sponsor giving away swimwear and the Corona Beach Volleyball Tournament is scheduled to take place behind the Sandpiper this year. There will be entertainment all day and all night at the hotel throughout spring break.

Visit www.sandpiperbeacon.com to see what's on tap for Spring Break 2006 at the Sandpiper Beacon Beach Resort in beautiful Panama City Beach, Florida or call the resort at 800-488-8828.

Paid Advertisement



Photo by Adam Casto
Photography Editor

A house becomes part of the landscape in Biloxi, Miss. (left). A car remains overturned on the coast line, which is cluttered with debris from the storm. There is nearly 200 miles of destruction on the coast (right).



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Spring Rush
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Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor
A boat washed ashore from Katrina is named "S.S. Hurricane Camille." rests under a cypress tree in Biloxi, Miss.

Breakfast: "Health Solutions"

Continued from 1

Focusing on obesity in the work place, Thompson said over 125 million Americans suffer from obesity related chronic illnesses, and 70 percent of Americans are either overweight or obese.

Due to the increasing problem of obesity in adults, Cecil said companies are paying more for health insurance, but some are reducing costs by installing exercising facilities and offering various sponsored fitness programs to their employees.

"Walk 30 minutes a day, lose 5-10 percent of your body weight and eat healthier," Thompson said. "You can cut your chances of developing Type II diabetes by 60 percent."

"MTSU will conduct a two-year study of the effects of this change in physical and nutrition education," Brinthaup said. "Our goal is to educate students about their caloric intake and their physical activity levels."

DO YOU WANT TO RUN FOR AN SGA OFFICE?

Note the dates below to see how you can
become a leader of the student body at MTSU!

January 30
February 7
February 14
February 15
February 18
February 28

Election packets available in KUC 208.
Election packets due by 4 p.m.
Eligibility announced.
Mandatory candidate meeting.
Campaigning begins.
Elections begin via PipelineMT.

Want to help others over Spring Break?

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Applications Due By Feb. 7th

OPINIONS

Illegal immigrants a growing concern

By Matthew Hurtt
Hurtt Pride

What does a tunnel filled with two tons of marijuana in California have to do with the Murfreesboro driver testing center? Both were raided by government officials last Wednesday in an effort to thwart illegal immigration. Why is illegal immigration such a hot-button topic nationally? It is easier, sometimes, to understand national issues when there is a local issue that is similar.

Last Wednesday, the Murfreesboro driver testing center was raided by the FBI for supplying illegal immigrants with driver's licenses and certificates without proper testing completion.

Tests must be given in English, so comprehension of English is necessary. Most immigrants involved in the scandal had little, if any, knowledge of the basics of English.

The fact that many of the immigrants involved could not comprehend basic phrases tipped off the FBI, who launched an investigation, dubbed "Operation Crooked Highway." It culminated with the arrest of driver's license examiner Bruce Conklin and the indictment of five other people involved.

The Ford family, Tennessee's largest political machine, denies any involvement.

The General Assembly is expected to address the situation of illegal immigration this session, with State Senator Bill

Ketron, R-13, leading the movement in the Senate and Rep. Donna Rowland no doubt leading the movement in the House. Past legislation on illegal immigration has died along party lines.

There is no tough argument against stronger illegal immigration laws, only the diversionary, "You don't support immigration?" Proponents of illegal immigration laws DO support immigration, and that is why they are so adamant about making it harder for illegal immigrants to function in our society.

Why has nothing been done to stop the threat of illegal immigration from ruining the economy? To my knowledge, the Rutherford County Commission and the Murfreesboro City

Council have done very little to curb illegal immigration into the county. For a county growing as fast as Rutherford, one would think the governments would be more inclined to protect the working citizens from such a large threat.

The only way to stop illegal immigrants from settling in Rutherford County is to make sure the city and county governments are aware that the citizens want regulations on who can be employed and live in this county. Once cities and counties pass legislation like that, the senators and representatives who previously opposed anti-illegal immigration legislation would most likely take notice and vote on behalf of their constituents.

How can college students make a difference when it comes to illegal immigration? I suggest a campus organization that could sit out on the knoll and educate everyone on the perils of illegal immigration. Maybe we could call it, "MTSU Minute Men."

If campus revolutionaries can influence Coca-Cola in Columbia, then average students can put a dent in illegal immigration locally.

Matthew Hurtt is a freshman History/Political Science major, and can be reached at Matt.Hurtt@gmail.com

UNBUCKLING THE BELTWAY

Opinions editor's note: This section takes the news and exaggerates it, or makes it up completely. Outside of this box, you're allowed to think for yourself.

Suggested lines for President Bush's State of the Union speech this week:

"I am truly grateful that the United States Senate voted to confirm Judge Alito to the US Supreme Court today. If they had failed, I would have had to use my recess pen."

"Any American who owns 'Enemy of the State' on DVD should not be surprised about what the NSA has been doing since the 60s to keep us safe. Vice President Cheney's favorite line is the one where Will Smith talks about moon-lighting as a cross-dresser on the weekends."

"The CIA has recruited Michael J. Fox to help bring peace to the Middle East. Fox will drive a Delorion back in time to prevent Esau from trading his inheritance rights for a bowl of soup."

"It's not my fault Mayor Nagin endorsed Gov. Blanco's conservative Republican opponent in the 2003 gubernatorial race. I'm just so glad politicians don't have a history of letting past petty political differences prevent them from helping each other in times of crisis."

"Recently, the 500 soldiers who aided in Saddam's capture came to the White House to greet me in the Oval Office. They all asked me the same question: 'Why isn't he at Gitmo?'"

Study abroad good option for students

If I were to write a commercial, it would say something like this: "Interested in having an educational experience that will transform your life, earn up to six credits towards graduation, and help you get a job—all while viewing some of the most beautiful art in the world?"

But, why, you ask, would I be thinking of commercials? The answer lies in the fact that it really is possible for you to achieve these goals this summer by participating in a study abroad program to Italy.

Studying abroad can be one of the most important educational experiences of your life. In one survey of former students who had participated in a study abroad program, each person mentioned that it had been a life-changing experience. For some, it affected what they majored in or a career path they chose while others developed a life-long interest in another part of the world.

Learning about another culture through actual experiences gives you a depth of knowledge that isn't possible in a classroom at home—and allows you to stand

Linda Seward
guest faculty
columnist



out in a job interview when all the other applicants have virtually the same set of experiences.

I was 20 the first time I traveled to Italy. To this day, I can remember specific experiences of breathtaking beauty and awe: ducking low in a rowboat to enter the small opening of a cave in order to view the luminescent blue water of a sea. I also remember walking into St. Peter's and being amazed by Michelangelo's Pieta.

How do I describe the wonder that I felt when walking on the same streets that were part of ancient Rome or the awe of seeing paintings by Raphael—not from a picture projected on the wall but in person, up close?

These experiences are not the only rea-

sons to apply for the study abroad program. Consider these statistics from YaleGlobal Online: Multinational corporations have grown from 3,000 in 1990 to more than 63,000 in 2005; they employ 90 million people and produce 25 percent of the world's gross product.

Even if you remain in Tennessee, you will encounter co-workers and neighbors from other countries. Your experiences in a study abroad program can improve your ability to interact successfully with people from other cultures.

Studying abroad will test you in ways that won't occur if you remain at home, and those experiences can lead you to a greater understanding of who you are and what you want in life. As a student there is no better time to pursue this adventure.

Dr. Linda Seward is a professor in the Speech and Theater department, and can be reached best via her website, www.mtsu.edu/~lseward

Even if you remain in Tennessee, you will encounter co-workers and neighbors from other countries.

Linda Seward
Professor in the Speech and Theater department

New thoughts on Washington DC from the Hill

By Tim Hill
Opinions Editor

Before I witnessed the hearing, I was fairly confident my life plan would eventually include a few terms as member of the U.S. House. During the hearing, I grew disgusted with my own GOP-controlled Congress. They deserve to lose seats because they were giving the Democrats everything I was, as Kip says, 'kinda T.O.'d.'

—Tim Hill
Opinions Editor

Over the Christmas holidays, I was back in Washington DC interning for the White House. While I earned three credits, some things weren't as I had planned. My computer clearance didn't go through until the last week I was there, so I had to settle for other tasks. That time allowed me the opportunity to see new parts of the Bush Administration at work.

I helped prepare packets for this spring's White House interns, distributed gifts for poor children, attended a White House Christmas Party, and had lunch with the executive assistant to the comptroller for the Office of Management and Budget. While munching down on a ham sandwich, we got to meet Steve Doocy of "Fox and Friends." He's a very witty person even in real life.

One morning at work, I learned that a Congressional hearing would be held a few Metro stops away so that Gov. Kathleen Blanco and Mayor Ray Nagin of Louisiana could testify about their responses to Hurricane Katrina. Since I was raised in New Orleans and had ran against Nagin before I voted for him, my boss gave me permission to attend the public hearing.

Before I witnessed the hearing, I was fairly confident my life plan would eventually include a few terms as member of the U.S. House. During the hearing, I grew disgusted with my own GOP-controlled Congress. They deserve to lose seats because they were giving the Democrats everything. I was, as Kip says, "kinda T.O.'d."

A Democrat by the name of Charlie Melancon was trying to pass a motion which would require administration Blackberry transcripts during the week of Katrina be handed over to the committee for its investigation. One only man objected to this man's antics, and that was Indiana Republican Steven Buyer. He pointed out that Melancon did not hold "ranking member" status on the committee, and therefore did not have the authority to introduce motions or bills.

The hearing was delayed for nearly an hour until the chairman finally agreed to table the motion until after the

hearing was over.

I also got to talk to Mayor Ray Nagin before and after he testified. He remembered me from the mayoral campaign, even pointing out to his advisor, "This guy ran for mayor when he was 21 years old." Nagin asked me if I had finished college yet, and I told him I was still trying to. He also was happy to hear I was in the nation's capitol interning. During his testimony, he said he was confident New Orleans would turn all of the colors of Mardi Gras before returning to blue city status.

The rest of the time in Washington was spent praying for a Christmas morning recess appointment of Sam Alito, various Republicans being implicated in various crimes, and some actual cool events in my own life. In just five weeks, I had received many business cards from people up there—including one from the director of the U.S. House of Representatives Recording Studio. The tour was amazing.

During my last week in town, I had an appointment with former Speaker of the House Bob Livingston of Louisiana. In our 45 minute long meeting, we talked about our disdain for Governor Blanco's policies and temperament, the future of New Orleans and the state of the media at large. He also offered to come on my WMTS radio show again this spring.

The internship ended with a literal "thumbs-up." My boss got three of us approved for an arrival of Marine One landing on the South Lawn of the White House on January 6th. When President Bush started walking towards us, I gave him two thumbs up. He looked straight at me and returned one. I felt like a little kid again.

I voted for President Bush twice, attended both of his inaugurations, and have now interned for his Correspondence Office twice. Although I support him, I don't let my conservatism prevent me from laughing about the policies he and I believe in.

Tim Hill junior Journalism major. He can be reached at governorhill@gmail.com

From the Editor:

To the distinguished faculty of Middle Tennessee State University: Yes, I am buttering you up a little. Actually, I am inviting you to become more involved. No, this will not require more meetings or committees or bringing your favorite covered dish. But, it may require a few minutes of extra time to sit down for a little creative writing.

The *Sidelines* staff is respectfully requesting that you consider writing a column for *Sidelines*. This column can really be about anything—your hobbies, your teaching style, your feelings about current events and issues or even your crazy relatives. However, *Sidelines* does have a no brown-nosing policy, so please avoid conflicts of interest.

My hopes for this addition to the opinions page is to provide a little insight into the minds, maybe lives, of our faculty—our mentors, leaders, educators, inspiration.

We believe a faculty column will be both entertaining and a serve as a way to connect students and fellow faculty.

If you are interested in writing a column for *Sidelines*, please email slopinio@mtsu.edu and Tim Hill, the opinions editor, will provide more information about deadlines and the process for submitting a column.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sarah B. Mullen
Sidelines Editor



Photo courtesy of Eric Draper

"Using Google maps, you can see Crawford was 548 miles from New Orleans City Hall. The White House, likewise, was 1,086 miles away. Governor, your argument doesn't hold water, pardon the pun." — (This was not a real quote)

FEATURES

Bio-diesel coming to campus?

By Cameron Chiles
Staff Writer

Many would consider the air quality an improvement at a busy intersection if it smelled like a deep fryer rather than a smokestack in an industrial park.

If a new, renewable fuel source is adopted at MTSU, as the Students for Environmental Action hope, the scent of tacos may very well replace carbon-monoxide at traffic lights.

The use of bio-diesel is receiving attention from professors and the SEA as an alternative for MTSU's buses.

Bio-diesel, which is renewable and environment-friendly, is the combination of diesel fuel and seed oils such as soy oil or used vegetable oil.

SEA member Brandon Armstrong said the possibility of using bio-diesel at MTSU was presented to the organization two years ago.

"That was when we started casually discussing the idea," SEA member Brandon Armstrong said.

Actual research for bio-diesel began last summer, when Ngee Chong, a chemistry professor at MTSU, worked with several high school and undergraduate students to conduct testing on the viability of using bio-diesel on campus.

Chong said the fuel would consist of 20 percent oil and 80 percent diesel fuel.

"We wanted to see if we could make it on campus," Chong said.

While oil can be obtained free of charge from fast-food restaurants, prices on oils could vary from 18 cents a pound to 27 cents a pound, Chong said. In any case, this translates to a little over \$2 for a gallon of oil at its most expensive.

Although the conversion to bio-diesel was part of the Clean Energy Initiative passed last semester, the Tennessee Board of Regents has not made a decision about it yet, Armstrong said.

If things go as planned, Armstrong said MTSU will be using bio-diesel to some degree by the Fall 2006 semester. The conversion of the buses and the initial cost of converting will be paid for by a portion of the clean energy fee, which will be an \$8 increase in tuition.

The utility of bio-diesel doesn't end with buses. Conversion for diesel cars and trucks is also relatively easy and inexpensive.

"All most cars need is a replacement for the rubber hoses," Armstrong said.

Armstrong said \$3 of the tuition increase is earmarked for use in campus projects and the bio-diesel conversion is likely to be one of the first projects to utilize these funds.

Linda Hardyman, assistant manager for MTSU's Center for Energy Efficiency, said a request was given to Tennessee



Photo by Adam Casto | Photography Editor

Growing traffic and pollution problems make alternative fuels like bio-diesel more and more attractive.

Department of Transportation last spring for funding, but there hasn't been a response yet.

"It's an awareness thing at this point," Hardyman said. "There's no established 'next step.'"

MTSU isn't the only place that could benefit from bio-diesel conversion.

"If the United States were to utilize bio-diesel, we wouldn't have to drill in Alaska," Armstrong said. "[Bio-diesel] is not definite yet, but it's a possibility, and I think it's a worthy one."

Chong said some advantages of using bio-diesel include a rela-

tive low cost and clean emission. Bio-diesel is carbon neutral, which means it contributes almost no gases linked to global warming.

Global warming isn't the only environmental benefit. Using bio-diesel would improve air quality as well, Armstrong said.

"You could stand behind the car and breathe the fumes if you wanted to," Armstrong said.

The fumes, by the way, smell something like French fries, Chong said.

Students in academic distress aren't without options

By Mark Bell
Staff Writer

American business philosopher Jim Rohn once said that a good objective in business is to help those who are doing poorly to do well and to help those who are doing well to do even better.

This seems to be the philosophy of the student support centers at MTSU.

Academic Support Center Director Laurie Witherow said the type of help a student depends on the type of help the individual needs.

"Many students need tutoring help and we can put them in touch with those resources," Witherow said. "Other students may need help with time management or drug and alcohol problems."

For many, utilization of these services comes too little too late, Witherow said.

"All of the services are under uti-

lized," said Witherow. "Many students are unaware and fail to talk with advisors."

That doesn't mean that students aren't warned when scholarships are in jeopardy or that the help isn't there.

"We work with financial aid to gather a list of students who are in a danger zone and contact those students to give them help," said Witherow. "We also help with decisions about dropping classes or getting support."

There are many services offered by MTSU to students in need, which are supported by faculty.

"My first piece of advice is always to see the professor," Witherow said. "All professors keep office hours and wait for students to come in for help."

The new Partners In Education program is another option available to students that allows "designated persons" such as family to access otherwise restricted information covered by the

More Resources for Students in Distress

There are many resources available to students in need of academic assistance. Help from the Academic Support Center can be obtained by visiting the main office in Keathley University Center Room 324 Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Student Support Services is located in Midgett Building Room 101 Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Writing Lab is located in Peck Hall Room 304b and is open Monday thru Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Math Lab is located in Stark Agribusiness and Agriscience Center Room 202 and is open Monday thru Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act including grades and progress reports.

Witherow said services aren't just there for freshmen but for anyone who needs the help.

"There are so many resources," Witherow said. "There are college and faculty advisors, the academic support center and an array of tutoring labs."

One example of these services is the Developmental Studies Writing Lab.

Claire Bates, a tutor in the writing lab, said help is available not only for students in English classes, but for students who need help with papers covering any number of subjects.

"We're here to help people with their writing," Bates said. "We have creative writing groups, research groups and also help with brainstorming and revision."

Bates also said the writing lab is a great place for foreign exchange students and ESL students to get help.

He warned students that the writing lab gets busier as the semester progresses and recommends making an appointment. The most important piece of advice for a student in academic distress is to get help when it's needed and to get it early.

"There is big competition for help around mid-terms and finals," said Bates. "Making an appointment is crucial."

Vegetarians say dining options not good enough on campus



By Ashley Pinkerton
Staff Writer

Looking for a herbivorous diet? MT Dining offers a plethora of vegetarian meals from burgers to salads.

Depending on your vegetarian lifestyle—semi-vegetarian, ovo-lacto-vegetarian, vegan, raw/living foodist or fruitarian—there are meal options to fit your taste.

Alternatives for vegans, vegetarians and other special diets on campus are offered, though many students express

dissatisfaction with the range of options available.

Junior Emily Skaggs is a vegetarian who says she is still adjusting to the food options on campus, which she said don't always conform to her lifestyle.

"I bring snacks from home because I know I will be eating the same thing everyday," Skaggs said.

Last semester, Skaggs said she was limited to eating breadsticks at Pizza Hut every Monday and Wednesday. Pizza Hut also offers a vegetarian pizza, but only on Fridays as a special.

Skaggs said she had ideas for how dining services could improve their options.

"I think [MT Dining] should put a Mexican restaurant or something that serves burritos in the Keathley University Center," Skaggs said.

Meal options weren't the only aspect of MTSU's dining services that angered her, Skaggs said location and cost also play into her eating decisions.

"Some of the other dining halls prices are too high and are located too far from my classes," she said.

Freshman Archie Frink is a vegan who

has learned to adjust to the campus dining halls' limited food selections. He said he anticipated a lack of options for vegans.

Vegans differ from most vegetarians in the strictness of their diet. Unlike vegetarians, vegans only eat food products derived from plants. Dairy products, eggs or honey aren't part of a vegan diet.

Some purists known as raw/living foodists refuse to eat cooked food. Raw-foodists say that the cooking process destroys enzymes containing essential nutritional value.

As a vegan, Frink said he would like to see humus, soy milk, rye bread, alfalfa sprouts and similar options offered on campus.

"[Vegan options] are okay, but I'm not content with them," Frink said.

Frink said he was a vegetarian for three years and is now a vegan. He has been a vegan for the past six months and said he wishes there were more options for him to eat.

"I just go with the options given, but there could be more of a variety," Frink said.

Robin Day is the retail manager over the multiple eating areas on campus. Day retails The Grill and Home Zone in the K.U.C., Buy & Fly in the Business and Aerospace building and Cyber Café at Woodmore.

"The areas I cover are accommodated with veggie options," Day said.

"We can't mandate what franchises bring in, but all of them offer options for vegetarians and vegans," Day said.

Vegetarian Friendly Restaurants on Campus

On campus there are options (for vegetarians), but students are looking for new things. Cyber Café has Subway, which offers a Veggie Delite. Burger King, which offers a veggie burger. McCallie has stir fry, pasta, rice, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The Grill in the Keathley University Center has a Pizza Hut, which offers a veggie pizza, cheese pizza and breadsticks. Quiznos has a veggie sub and now has the Soup-in-a-Bowl without a meat entrée. The Buy & Fly in the Business and Aerospace building offer veggie wraps. There are also veggie options at Home Zone everyday. The Salad Garden has eight or nine different salads plus fruit cups.

The Grill offers a veggie burger and grilled cheese, even though it is not known to have a lot of veggie options. Home Zone offers many veggie options everyday. Quiznos, Chick-Fil-A and Pizza Hut offer veggie subs, pizza and salads.

SPORTS

Women's basketball team wins a nail-biter



By Erika Davis
Staff Writer

In a match-up against the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team came out on top 69-68 Thursday night. As time was winding down the game was going back and forth, but junior forward Krystle Horton led the way to victory for MT.

In the opening tip-off, the Ragin' Cajuns got the ball but did not score. When the Blue Raiders got the ball back it was Horton who scored Middle Tennessee's first basket. The Blue Raiders had the lead most of the first half, but with 13:55 remaining, the Ragin' Cajuns got their first lead of the night with 10-11. With 13:03 to go in the first half, MT took back the lead on Chrissy Givens's field goal, making the score 12-11. By half time Middle Tennessee was on top, 42-34. Chrissy Givens led all players with 16 points, four rebounds and was 2-2 from the three point range. Louisiana-Lafayette's highest scorer by halftime was Jeanenne Colbert with 11 points. Colbert was 3-4 from the free-throw line.

It was Louisiana-Lafayette that came out with the first basket of the second half. The Ragin' Cajuns stormed out with a 13-5 run with under three minutes remaining in the game. With 2:20 on the clock, the game was tied 63-63. Freshman guard Johnna Abney broke the tie with a field goal, making the score 65-63 with 1:57 remaining on the clock.

They are a good team, a very good team. They matched us perfectly.

—Rick Insell, Blue Raider coach

Senior forward Tia Stovall fouled Louisiana-Lafayette's Yolanda Jones, which resulted in a tie 65-65 when Jones connected on both free-throw attempts with 1:34 left in the game. As the clock hit one minute, it was Blue Raider freshman guard LaCondra Mason that broke the tie with a field goal

of her own making the score 67-65. The game was getting intense with under a minute remaining.

With 29.4 seconds on the clock it was Louisiana-Lafayette's Colbert that answered with a three-point shot that made the score 67-68. With nine seconds to go in the game, Horton was fouled and went to the free-throw line. Horton made both free-throw attempts and brought the Blue Raiders back on top to 69-68.

As the final horn sounded, Louisiana-Lafayette's guard Ashley Blanche pulled a jumper that connected with the goal, but it proved to be no good as the referee blew his whistle and waved his hands. MT beat the Ragin' Cajuns 69-68, improving their record to 12-7, 5-1 in the Sun Belt Conference.

"They are a good team, a very good team," Blue Raider coach Rick Insell said of Louisiana-Lafayette. "They matched us perfectly."

Krystle Horton was the player of the game, scoring 21 points and shooting 5-6 from the free throw line. It was her last minute free-throws that brought MT the victory. Chrissy Givens had 24 points and was 3-5 from the three-point range. The highest scorer for Louisiana-Lafayette was Yolanda Jones with 25 points.

Women's team in first

By Erika Davis
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team is now in first place of the Sun Belt Conference's East Division with their 90-41 victory over New Orleans on Saturday night. It was the Blue Raiders who were the first to strike in the first half, by taking the lead and never having to look in their rearview mirror to see if the Privateers were coming.

MT was draining three's left and right, and creating a season high from that range. The Blue Raiders connected on twelve three-point shots, five of which were made by guard Johnna Abney. Although the Blue Raiders didn't score from the three-point marker in the second half, they were still able to connect with the goal inside the paint.

All 10 of the Blue Raiders squad saw action, and two bench players had career high nights. In 14 minutes, sophomore guard Monique Martin led all players in scoring with 18 points and also added six steals. Also coming off the bench was freshman forward Brittany Pittman. Within her career-high 20 minutes, she had 5 blocks, which was also a career high for her.

Louisiana native and starting guard Chrissy Givens scored 15 points. Starting forward Lakira Boyd had a career-high in rebounds with 10; also to add is four steals.

MT forced 32 turnovers on New Orleans, and from that they scored 39 points. MT's total steals were 22, which is a season high for the team.

MT's record has improved to 13-7 overall, and 6-1 in the Sun Belt East. The Blue Raiders have the half-game lead over Florida International (12-7, 5-1) in the East Division. MT next game is against FIU, and MT will try to get more comfortable sitting at the top of the East. The game is set to tip-off this Thursday night at 7 p.m. at the Murphy Center.

Men end losing streak with win against Lafayette

By David Hunter
Sports Editor

The losing streak is over for the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team, and there were hundreds of scouts in the crowd Saturday to witness the win.

The Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the United States of America saw the Blue Raiders end their five-game losing streak against Louisiana-Lafayette with a 73-59 victory at the Murphy Center with a season best 5,003 in attendance.

Saturday was "Scout night." Scouts got to stand on the court while the team came out for pregame warm-ups.

It was the first win over the Ragin' Cajuns during the Coach Kermit Davis era.

"They had really good teams the four years we've been here," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "I thought tonight their team played really hard. It was a

good win for us. It was just good to get back-to-back wins in our league."

MT guard Adam Vogelsberg led the way with a career-best 21 points, including six three-pointers. ULL closed to the lead to one, 56-55 with 4:43 to go.

Vogelsberg added a free throw, and then connected on a three-pointer from the top of the key with 3:34 left. The Ragin' Cajuns never got closer. The Blue Raiders went 11-for-12 at the foul line to end the game.

"I think we wanted to get back on the win streak," MT guard Adam Vogelsberg said. "Everybody was playing well together and helped us get open shots."

The Ragin' Cajuns came into the game as the two-time defending Sun Belt Conference tournament champions. The two previ-

See Men's basketball, 6



Photo by Greg Johnson | Staff Photographer

Guard Marcus Morison attempts a mid-range jumper against Louisiana Lafayette — he finished with 11 points off the bench.

MT football game to be televised by ESPN

By David Hunter
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee football team will make a national appearance this season.

University officials announced last week that the game against the University of Louisville has been moved to Friday night, Oct. 6 and will be televised on ESPN2.

"It's a great privilege to be on ESPN," MT head football coach Rick Stockstill said. "It's a great honor for our football team and this university to

be on national television."

The game will be played at The Coliseum in Nashville, where Tennessee State University and the NFL's Tennessee Titans have their home games. The match-up will count as a home game for the Blue Raiders.

MT has been talking to the network for some time to get the deal secured.

"We've been talking to ESPN for awhile, and we thought the Louisville game might be an attractive television game," MT athletic director Chris Massaro said. "Through our conference office, and

through Louisville and the Big East, we all kind of got together and made it happen."

This will be MT's first-ever home game to be shown on television across the nation. In 1989, MT traveled to Georgia Southern in a contest that was broadcast on ESPN that became known as the Hurricane Bowl because of an oncoming system.

"That is a good day for us," Massaro said. "It's not something we want to do all the time, but this opportunity was too good. We had to go ahead and take advantage of it."

The Nashville Sports Council will host the game.

They are a private, nonprofit organization of local corporations and individual sports enthusiasts that run many events in the area.

This will be a great chance for MT to be shown on television, according to Massaro.

"It means a great deal," Massaro said. "For three hours, Middle Tennessee will be talked about, it will be seen. We'll be the only college football game that day, so we'll get nationwide attention that this university has probably never had."

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

Track team wins seven events at the MT Open

By Clarence Plank
Staff Writer

James "the Hurler" Thomas broke his own record for the second time this season with a mark of 56-7 in the weight throw. Thomas originally set the school record at the Kentucky Invite earlier this season. Nick Diel placed third with a mark of 49-4, while teammate Willie Parker finished third in the shot put with a distance of 48-8.

Juan Walker also competed in the triple jump and long jump and won the triple with a mark of 47-6.5. Senior JJ Strum came in fourth in the event.

Walker finished second in the long jump with 23-8.5, but not far behind was Blue Raider junior JaKeith Hairston, who finished third. Linnie Yarbrough finished sixth with 23-1.75, and teammate Strum came in seventh with 22-11.

Yarbrough won the 55-meter hurdles in 7.25, and Walker finished third with 7.45. Behind him was Pete Senatus, who finished fourth with 7.63.

"I actually felt a lot better compared to last week," Yarbrough said. "I'm a little more aggressive. I had stiff competition. Juan Walker is great competition, every time he steps to the line I have to bring my A-game. Juan really pushed me today, and Brandon Brown from Wallace State — great athlete."

The competition this week included teams from Belmont University, Western Kentucky University, Wallace State, University of Arkansas State and University of New Orleans.

Former All-American Godfrey Herring and Tim Hicks finished first and fifth, respectively, in the 400-meters and Sean Waller came in second with a best time of 47.63 for the season. Jermaine Barton had a personal-best in the 400-meters with 48.20, which was good enough for third place.

In the 55-meters, senior VanTonio Fraley finished with 6.45 for third, Walker was fourth and Darly Terrell was fifth. Samuel Adade finished in seventh and Derek Carey was close behind for eighth.

Herring competed in the 200-meters and won. Fraley finished in second and Orlando Reid was third. Terrell and Barton finished fifth and sixth respectively.

In the mile runner, Jonathan Guillou finished a strong third with 4:22.58 in a tight race. Tony Carufe finished eighth.

In the 800-meters, Ryan Hood came in fourth and Luke Pfleger was eighth. In the one mile relay, the team of Senatus, Terrell, Reid and Waller won with a time of 3:15.20.

In the women's events, Candice Robertson won the 55-meters hurdles, Iecca Epps finished third and Sierra Douglas was fourth. Epps's time of 8.33 was a season-best for her. Erika Palmer finished in first in the 55-meter dash finals, just barely beating teammate Tiffany Owens who finished second.

In the 400-meters, TraMayne Gillyard was third, with Shanna-Kay Campbell finishing in fourth and Antranette Stringer fifth.

The 200-meters event saw Campbell finish fourth and Palmer fifth, with Owens eighth.

In the 800-meters, Marjorie Gombert came in second and Veronica Patterson was third. Carlissa Shaw finished seventh. Sara Lunning came in sixth in the 3000-meters.

In the field events, Stephanie Tamgho finished in first place in the triple jump for the first time with a distance of 40-0, and Douglas was third, which was a season-best for her with a mark of 38-4. Both women finished second and third, respectively, in the long jump event. Douglas's 18-10.5 was a season-best for her.

Meaghan Tyrd came in second in the weight throw

with a 51-0 and finished in third in the shot put. That weight-throw mark was a season-best for Byrd.

"Overall we were very flat today, but we did have a few good performances," head coach Dean Hayes told goblueraiders.com. "Candice ran well and so did Linnie, and the guys in the 400 also ran well. We've got to do a better job next week and as we head toward the conference meet."

The track and field team travels to Bloomington, Indiana this Friday and Saturday to compete in the Indiana Invitational.

I'm a little more aggressive. I had stiff competition. Juan Walker is great competition, every time he steps to the line I have to bring my A-game.

—Linnie Yarbrough

CORRECTION

There were mistakes in a story in the Jan. 26 issue of Sidelines. "Green, Paul lead successful MTSU wheelchair tennis in Denver."

The Wheelchair Sports Club, tennis team competes in two to three tournaments a year for a ranking. The club gets funding from the recreation center for travel for being a sport club. They also get funding from the Tennessee Wheelchair Athletic Association, and support from Disabled Student Services. The team has won one College Division National Championship in singles last year, and two titles in doubles in 2004 and 2005. MTSU will be hosting the MTSU tournament on Feb. 18 and 19 at the Murfreesboro Racquet Club. The club practices there on Saturday. The only wheelchair sport that the club has is tennis, not softball or hockey.

Strong start for women's tennis

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team started the season on a winning note over the weekend, defeating the University of Texas at San Antonio and UT-Pan Am by scores of 5-2 and 6-0, respectively.

On Friday, the Lady Raiders swept all three doubles matches and prevailed at the bottom four singles slots, preserving a 5-2 victory against UTSA.

MT faced little resistance in claiming the doubles point. At No. 2, Claudia Dobson and New-comer Elvira Yusupova handled the duo of Barbara Mooney and Nathalie Wallin by an 8-3 margin. At No. 3, Ann-Kristin Siljestrom and Pooja Kommireddi posted an 8-2 victory over Monika Drabkova and Sandra Kukla to wrap up the first point of the match.

The match at No. 1 doubles was a battle, with Lady Raiders Kelly Adams and Marlene Chemin surviving a tiebreaker to defeat Tanya Hasking and Karen Scida 9-8 (4).

UTSA posted wins at the top two singles slots when Wallin defeated Chemin 6-1, 6-4 at No. 1 and Szabo fell to Kukla 4-6, 1-6 at No. 2.

The Lady Raiders secured victory, however, with convincing wins at every other position.

At No. 3, Yusupova defeated Drabkova 6-1, 6-2. Siljestrom was a 6-0, 6-3 winner over Scida at No. 4.

MT also proved victorious at Nos. 5 and 6, with Adams defeating Mooney 6-1, 6-4 and Kommireddi posting a 6-3, 6-4 win over Hasking, respectively.

In spite of fielding a squad with very little dual match experience, including two sopho-

mores and four freshmen, first-year head coach Alison Ojeda was pleased with her team's performance.

"Winning sure makes everything more exciting," Ojeda told MT Media Relations. "I thought we played very well. We've been stressing ever since September what it's like to compete, to play smart tennis and not just go for everything. We wanted to play basic tennis and the girls did a really good job of that today."

In a match originally scheduled for Sunday, the Lady Raiders dominated play in a rain-shortened 6-0 victory over UTPA on Saturday.

After inclement weather pushed the match back to late Saturday night, a decision was made not to play doubles. MT didn't miss a beat, sweeping singles play.

At No. 1, Chemin defeated Lady Bronc Silke Buksik 6-4, 6-2. Szabo picked up a win over Marine de Bourquency by a 6-2, 6-1 tally at No. 2.

The rest of the draw played out in similar fashion. Yusupova defeated Sheila Mabulac 6-3, 6-0 at No. 3, while Siljestrom was a 6-1, 6-0 winner over Elysia Sloan at No. 4.

Adams handled Nicole Garcia 6-1, 6-1, at No. 5, and Kommireddi defeated Jessica Nanez 6-0, 6-1 at No. 6.

With the pair of wins, MT moved to 2-0 on the season.

The Lady Raiders will attempt to remain undefeated this weekend when MT hosted East Tennessee State and Wichita State. The Raiders will face ETSU on Saturday at 5 p.m. in their home opener, while MT will clash with WSU on Sunday at 10 a.m.

Both matches will be held at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro.

Men's team thrashes New Orleans

By Jared Hastings
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team returned home Thursday night, romping past New Orleans 86-65.

The win snapped a three game losing streak for MT, while the Privateers lost their fourth in a row.

The Blue Raiders, who have struggled in Sun Belt play, shooting just 40 percent from the field and 27.5 percent from three-point range, obliterated those numbers by shooting 58 percent from the

field and 62 percent from behind the arc as they connected on 13-21 tries.

Adam Vogelsberg (five of eight in three-pointers) and Tim Blue (six of eight from the field) each notched a career-high 19 points to lead Middle MT, while New Orleans was led by Jeremie Davis (18 points).

In the first half, the Blue Raiders and Privateers traded leads six times. Davis scored 17 of his 18 in the first half for the Privateers, and

his three-pointer with 2:08 remaining in the half gave UNO a 42-32 advantage.

Davis went cold in the waning minutes of the first half and MT closed with a 10-1 run to cut the Privateer advantage to one at 43-42 going into the intermission.

"That was the most critical point in the game," Blue Raider head coach Kermit Davis said. "We haven't played well in the last minutes of the half this year, but we played well, got it to one, and that was the ball game."

"I triggered that run," said Jeremie Davis. "I took some quick

shots and didn't take care of the ball, so that's on me. But you have to give them credit for making the plays at the other end."

In the second half, UNO extended their lead to 49-46 with just over 17 minutes remaining on Jamie McNeilly's three-pointer. But Kyle Young answered for MT with a layup on the other end to key a 30-8 Blue Raider run that saw Middle Tennessee hit four of four attempts from long range, and extend their lead to 76-57 with 7:40 remaining in the game.

The final score was 86-65 MT.

Men's basketball: "Losing streak over"

Continued from 5

ous years, ULL ended MT's season with defeats in the SBC tournament.

"We were really motivated to come in tonight and try to beat them," MT guard Fats Cuyler said. "We came in and executed the game plan and got it done."

The bench had their second straight game scoring over 30 points. On Thursday, the bench scored 48.

On Saturday, they added 38. Tim Blue led the way with 14, Cuyler added 13, and Marcus Morrison scored 11.

"I'm pleased on how those guys just totally accepted their role," Davis said.

The Blue Raiders are now 10-9, 3-4 on the season, while ULL drops to 5-14, 1-7.

MT's next game is at Florida International on Saturday night at 6 p.m.

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Call Captin Humble at 615.336.3103 or e-mail humblejc@marines.usmc.mil for scheduling.

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Babysitter needed: for

Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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Sublesser needed at Campus Crossing

Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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Continued from last column

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