

NPR host offers wisdom, anecdotes



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Terry Gross, host of the National Public Radio show "Fresh Air," spoke to students in the James Union Building Tuesday night, sharing anecdotes from her experiences, as well as advice.

By Wesley Murchison and Daniel Potter
Campus Administration News Editor and Staff Writer

Terry Gross, host of the National Public Radio show "Fresh Air," spoke Tuesday about her career as an interviewer.

Gross spoke for more than an hour in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building, playing clips from a few of her more memorable interviews, and offering insight into the nature of the press, as well as her own interview process.

During the lecture, Gross used clips from her show and talked about various issues concerning being an interviewee.

After airing a segment from an interview with George Clooney, during which they talked when he was taken out of context by the *New York Post*.

"This is an example of why people are afraid to be emotionally honest to the press," she said.

Earlier in the day, Gross addressed a smaller group of students in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building. She passed on her experience, tricks and a few anecdotes from interviews that have "ranged from Bill Clinton to John Travolta."

She talked candidly about her career, and offered some advice on how to be a good interviewer.

These people don't want to be interviewed by stalkers and presidents of their fan club, Gross said to gales of laughter. "They want to be interviewed by a professional."

Gross discussed with the students her philosophy on a one-to-one talk show. She explained that the interview, unlike other media, is the show itself, which is

why she offers her guests the chance to do second takes.

"The interview is the thing. And it has to be edited coherently so that it stands on its own, basically without interruption," Gross said. "If an answer has come out in a confusing way, it doesn't do me any good and it doesn't do the audience any good. I can't use it."

Gross talked about how she handles sensitive questions when it comes to celebrities and their personal lives. She explained that different celebrities will talk about some things, but not others.

"I believe that people should have the right to draw the line between what's public and what's private, and I can't presume to know where that line is," Gross said.

To manage her guests in an appropriate way, she tells them that if a question is too personal she will skip it and move on to the next question.

"Some people will talk about money, but they won't talk about sex. Other people will talk about sex, but they won't talk about money. Some people want to talk about their illness and what its about."

"So rather than me censoring myself, I put the ball in their court," Gross said.

On the other hand, Gross won't do this with politicians, feeling that as public servants they have developed skills to "embroider and spin facts to support their agenda" and that it is her job as a journalist to "knock them off their talking points," and keep them off.

Gross said she thinks that when it comes to the private lives of politicians it is fair game to ask personal, sensitive questions about their lives when they pertain to legislation or political action

that affects the personal lives of the represented.

"I think that the people who we elect to office, who control our private lives by passing legislation that has to do with health care, access to abortion and gay marriage - things that are as personal as can be ... that I have the right to ask them personal questions when it pertains to issues that they are involved in," Gross said.

As an example, Gross told a story about the time when she interviewed Lynne Cheney, wife to Dick Cheney, whose daughter is a known lesbian.

"I really wanted to ask her how she kind of reconciled being the loving mother of a gay daughter and at the same time being part of a party platform which was based in part, you know, an amendment to ban gay marriage and other very anti-gay things."

"She didn't want to talk about that ... a lot of people want to know why you are so uncomfortable talking about this. Is it because you don't want to break rank with the president?" Gross said.

After talking about her career, Gross answered questions from students and faculty, including offering advice to journalists during an interview.

"The best way to get a good answer is by using communication through your questions," Gross said. "You have to be animated."

One of the students attending the question and answer with Gross was Erin Johnson, freshman public relations major. Johnson said she felt the interview was very informative and helpful.

"She gave good tips about interviewing," Johnson said. "[And] you have to be informed."

MTSU employees embark on new wellness initiative

By Courtney Foster
Staff Writer

A new campus-wide, employee wellness initiative was started Monday to provide support and methods for faculty to become and stay healthy.

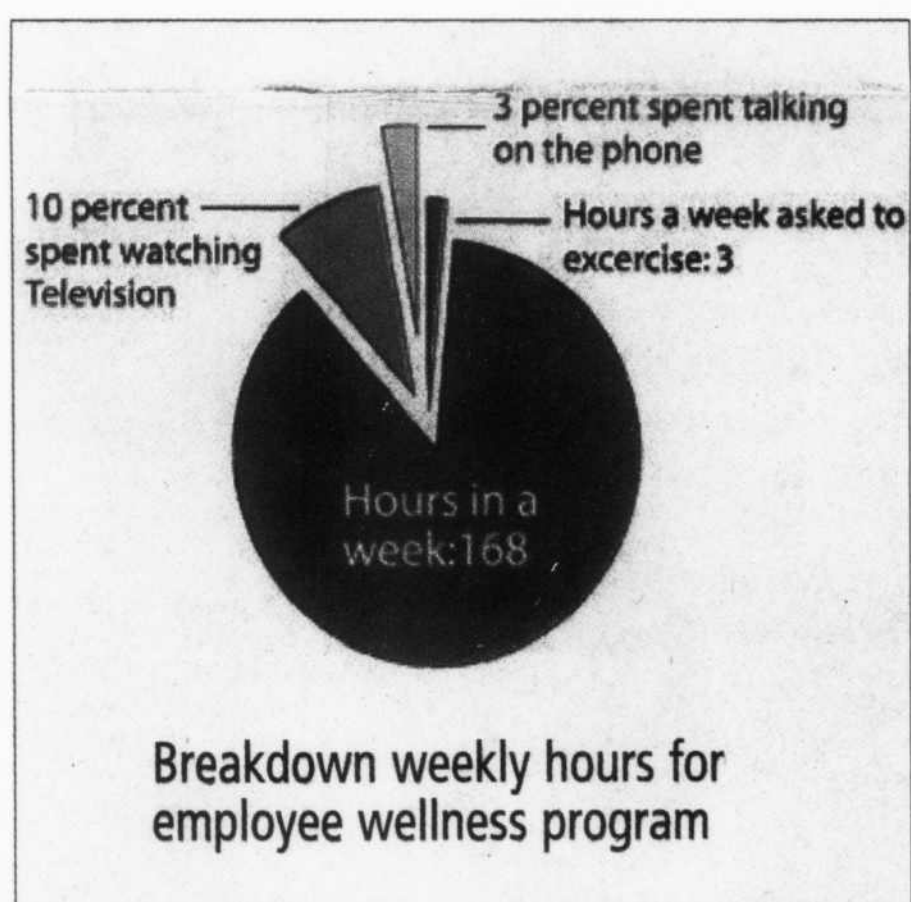
Mark Anshel, the program director and professor of health and human performance, along with Tony Johnston, MTSU Faculty Senate president, proposed the idea to Sidney McPhee, president of MTSU.

"I am excited that people are considering changing their lives," Anshel said.

Johnston was involved in a study with Anshel on improving exercise habits and liked the idea of creating a new healthier culture on campus and creating awareness of the lack of general health among employees.

When people reach their 30s and 40s, they realize that their health is changing, they start to "get with the program" and consider the need to get in shape not only for their health's sake but for their family's sake.

"Some people say that they 'don't have enough time' to exercise," Anshel said. "There are 168 hours in a week and the books ask you to exercise three of those hours on different days per week; it's easy math."



Information for the graph was provided by Mark Anshel, Program Director for Faculty Wellness Initiative.

chologist to find potential mental barriers that would keep participants from completing the program and high-performance training, which will help participants be more efficient in the workplace and at home.

"Participants should think of exercise as an investment," Anshel said. "Putting in time every week could provide two or three times more energy and improve the overall quality of their life. Being healthy can provide more capability to think and perform successfully."

Nina Lee, coordinator for procurement services, is involved because she likes the idea of having a coach to help her get in better health.

"If I can get started and have a coach that will keep me going," Lee said. "I think that this is a wonderful program to offer to the employees."

"I honestly think that lives are going to change permanently," Anshel said.

Student retains legal counsel

By Andy Harper
Campus Life News Editor

Michael Morrison, the student who was assaulted Sept. 3rd, said he has retained counsel for advisory purposes.

"It's for advice and we won't comment further," said Mart Fendley of Clarksville, Morrison's lawyer. "Obviously the individual who hurt Michael will need to be responsible for his behavior."

Morrison was taken to Vanderbilt this past Labor Day after suffering damages after William Vinson assaulted Morrison with a pool cue.

Morrison had emergency surgery performed to stop hemorrhaging and pressure, which might have caused brain damage.

Vinson was released on Sept. 4th from Rutherford County Sheriff's Office on \$10,000 bond. His court date is set for Oct. 26th.



Morrison



Vinson

Metro may make English official language

By Dana Owens
Community News Editor

Nashville City Council discussed a bill Tuesday night that would require all city government communications to be conducted in English.

Though the council must first vote on the bill three times before it becomes law, the law would establish English as the official language for the Nashville Metropolitan Government. The outcome of Tuesday night's vote, which was the first of the three, was not available at press time.

The bill, which is sponsored by Council Member Eric Crafton, states: "All communications, publications and telephone answering systems of the metropolitan government boards, commissions, departments and agencies shall be in English only."

The bill comes shortly after the passage of state code that establishes English as the official language of Tennessee, and on the heels of recent debate over making English the national language, as well.

According to Larry Burris, professor of Journalism, if the bill is not discriminatory and there is a rational basis behind it, then it will not be illegal.

To be rational, Metro would need only show that it is spending a good amount of money on translation or that immigrants are not being assimilated into the culture. It just needs to make sense, Burris said.

"What you have to do is step back from the issue itself and say, 'Does what they're saying, at some level, make sense?'" Burris said. "You may not agree with it, but is there a rational argument?"

Burris said that if the law is passed, it will be probably be challenged on the basis of not having a rational reasoning behind it.

"There's lots of rules out there that we could create just because it make sense," Burris said.

Metro could run into a problem if there are federal laws that require signage or documents to be translated. Such laws would override city law.

In order for Metro to be challenged in a civil rights case, it would need to show what right is being infringed. Burris said in this case, there is no obvious infringement since English language requirements are common.

The impact of the law and whom it would affect must be considered. Since there are many people who can speak English as a second language or have the ability to learn, then the law would not be discriminating against that group, Burris said.

"Anything that happens after September 1, you really have to be looking at ... the political subtitle," Burris said.

Burris said he believes the bill has to do with the fact that elections on a state and national level for the House and Senate are fast approaching in November.

"It's all political grandstanding," Burris said. "It's not going to go anywhere."

Mother discusses risks of binge drinking at Penn State University

By Julia Chapman
U-Wire

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - Every year, an estimated 1,400 college students die from alcohol poisoning.

This statistic and others addressing the topic of campus drinking were presented Monday night at the HUB-Robeson Center's Alumni Hall as Patty Spady, founder of The Student Alcohol Management (SAM) Spady Foundation and mother of Samantha Spady, the Colorado State University student who died of alcohol poisoning two years ago, addressed the Penn State Greek community.

"What happened to Sam is that she drank too much and she drank too fast," Spady said.

Samantha Spady died of acute alcohol poisoning Sept. 5, 2004, at the beginning of her sophomore year at Colorado State University. Samantha, known as Sam, died after a day of drinking to celebrate the rivalry football game between Colorado State and Colorado University. When Sam was unable to walk home from a party, she was left in an empty room of

a fraternity house to sleep it off, and later died, Spady said.

The SAM Spady Foundation, which was created following Sam's death, works to raise awareness of alcohol poisoning on college campuses and the dangers of binge drinking.

"I just want everyone here to be able to recognize [alcohol poisoning] so that no one has to die in this preventable manner," Spady said.

Spady also said a major factor contributing to alcohol poisoning is the popularity of competitive drinking.

"Drinking is not a numbers game. It's a game of Russian Roulette. What one person can handle could kill the next person," she said.

The film, *Death by Alcohol: The Sam Spady Story*, was shown at the program to address the issue of a blurred line between safe drinking behaviors and those that are dangerous and deadly.

"As simple and unremarkable as death by alcohol sounds, it's killing thousands of our best and brightest every year, and there are few signs that this epidemic is coming to an end," the film said.



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GLOBAL seeks to expand horizons

By Blake Boldt
Staff Writer

A new organization at MTSU is bridging the gap between the general student body and the international community on campus.

Now in its second year, Getting Lost Outside Boundaries and Limitations, GLOBAL, is expanding its services in an effort to create awareness of various cultures. The main student groups targeted are study abroad students and international students. These groups are encouraged to share their experiences to gain global understanding.

"[GLOBAL] is a program focused on internationalizing the MTSU campus," said Jennifer Campbell, faculty adviser for GLOBAL.

Campbell acknowledges that the transition for international students can be difficult, and the organization encourages people to reach out to new international students. She said she sees significant advantages in joining the organization for international students struggling to adapt to a new culture, but also realizes the rewards for American students as well.

"They can see a piece of the culture without having to travel," Campbell said.

One student that has reaped great benefits from the organization is its vice president, Angie Feeney. Feeney studied abroad in Europe and Mexico, and the experience impacted her so greatly that she changed her major to International Relations. She stresses the fact that gaining more awareness about other cultures can lead to personal growth.



Photo by Emily Jameyfield | Contributing Photographer
Amanda Ryan (left), the former president of GLOBAL, talks to Angie Feeney (middle), the vice president and Candi Nunley (right) the president at Cracker Barrel.

through GLOBAL gave me the courage and means to study abroad," Nunley said.

GLOBAL is attempting to host a Foreign Film Festival, an event that would be their first major activity of the year. Planned for the week of Nov. 6, international students will select films from their home countries and show them to the public for free. The students will introduce the films to the audience, and after the film, there will be an open forum for discussion.

"It has definitely enhanced my understanding and motivated me to keep thriving for that knowledge," Feeney said.

Candi Nunley, the president of GLOBAL, studied in Italy for five months this summer, and she said she believes meeting people with different backgrounds has been a catalyst in expanding her education. She said she agrees with Feeney that GLOBAL's influence has been a main factor in expanding her education.

"Connections that I made

through GLOBAL gave me the courage and means to study abroad," Nunley said.

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"They feel [the films] are a good representation of the country. They describe the films to explain their meaning," Campbell said.

This coming spring, GLOBAL

will host their second annual International week. Last year's event, Africa: It's a Continent, Not a Country, included a fashion show, a panel discussion, an international movie and a display of cultural artifacts. The most popular program of that week was the award-winning "Taste of Africa," which gave students the opportunity to create traditional African dishes and explain their origins.

GLOBAL plans to focus on the Middle East for this year's event. According to Campbell, the activities will promote tolerance and inform students and faculty in an attempt to eliminate stereotypes.

Nunley said they are working toward drawing in more American students and further developing their programs.

Meetings are held every other Monday, and the next meeting is Monday, Sept. 25 at 6 p.m. in the Keathley University Center, Room 316. Students who are interested may contact Jennifer Campbell in the International Programs and Services office.

At each meeting, a presentation is given about a foreign country, with a question-and-answer session following the presentation. Attendees then participate in an open discussion about an interesting aspect of international culture selected by the students. The next topic is international dating.


"My personal goal for the year is to talk to members and find out what they're interested in," Nunley said.

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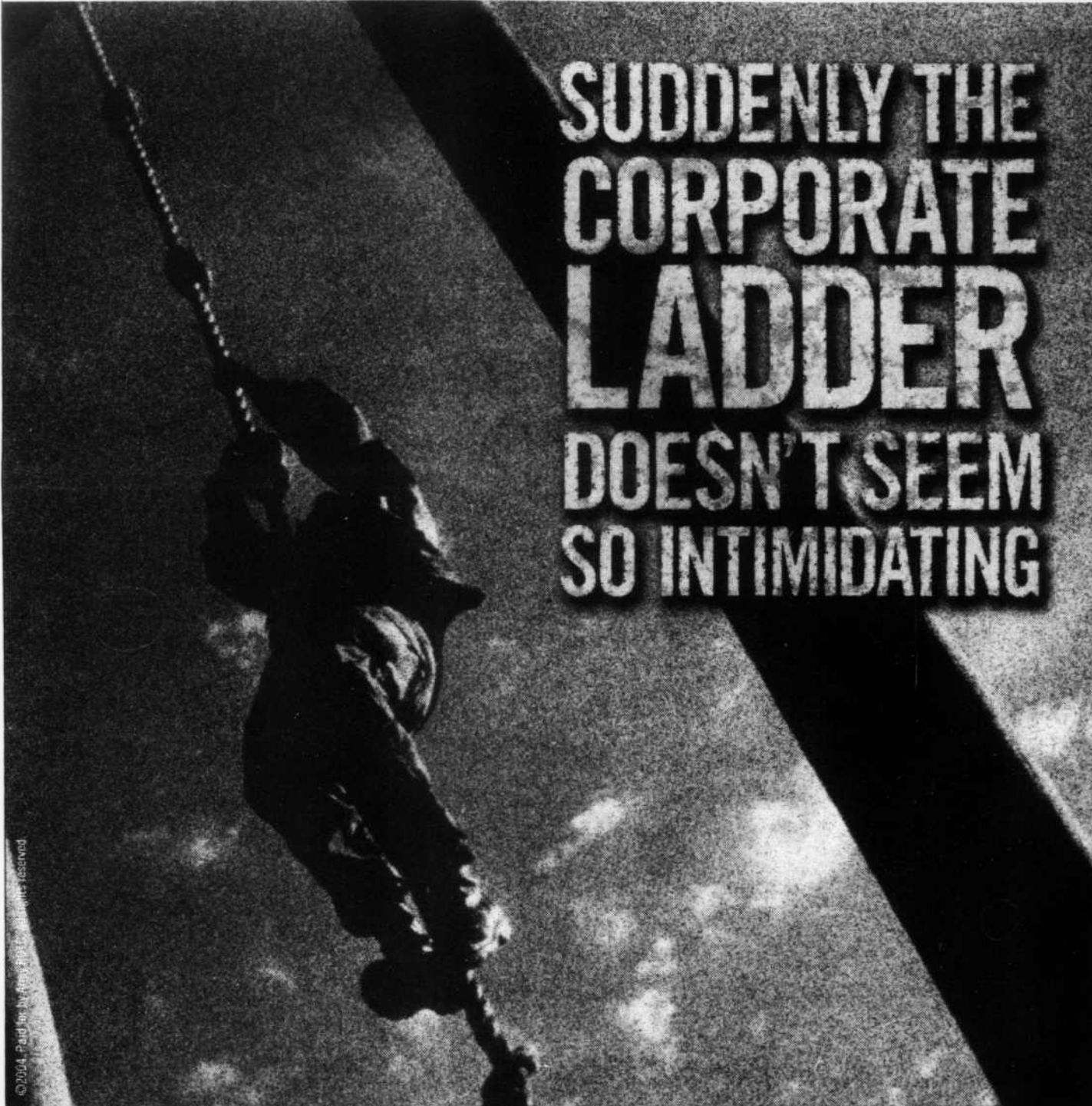
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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board English bill not about economics; real issue is racial discrimination

Metro City Council held a discussion Tuesday night about passing a bill that would require all city government communications to be conducted with only the English language.

The question posed is whether this argument about languages is a matter of monetary savings or a stab at minorities.

Coincidentally enough, elections are up and coming and an air of tangible tension regarding non-English speaking peoples has been floating around Tennessee.

The economic side is clear. The government is trying, desperately, to store a little extra away for that dreary day. To its credit, the law would at least make exceptions for medical or emergency situations, providing a translator at best, a "push one if you speak" at worst.

However, the economics is just simple rouge covering the face of exclusionism.

Creating such a law would, inadvertently, cause the non-English speaking population to feel unwanted, because, if a government does not support you, why would its people want you?

And honestly, how much money does the Metro government spend every year on translating forms to buy houses or tax returns in comparison to funding a city fireworks show on the Fourth?

While the law seems to be non-discriminatory towards those who know English as a second language or have the means to learn, it does, ultimately, promote the idea that if you do not speak "our" language, then you do not fully belong or should not be accepted into "our" society.

Specifically, Hispanic people tend to bear the brunt of the prejudice against non-English speakers.

"Metro Council, welcome to America, we speak English here, pass the bill, immigrants, no habla Ingles?, no freeo stuffo, from el gobierno, comprende por favor?"

The above is an example of a billboard in Nashville. Displaying something of this nature does not promote monetary savings, just pure and unadulterated racism.

Perhaps if this law was not being presented during a time of popular unrest towards those who speak differently than the majority, or if it was not being presented during a time of election in which candidates could argue their point to the masses, then maybe this law could be used to unite people under a common ideal.

An ideal sometimes forgotten: Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free.

Competition damages women's relationships

I have a confession to make. There is something very unnatural about my obsession with reality television. Every time I flip the channel, models, extreme makeovers and fantasy weddings mesmerize me. However, there is one show that I love to watch because it deals with an issue that hits close to home: drama.

If you have not heard of "Flavor of Love," then you have probably been living under a rock for the past two years. This is a dating show intended to provide former rapper, Flava Flav, with a girlfriend. It is full of drama, betrayal and envy.

These women will do anything to not be eliminated. Just last episode, someone was almost knocked over a balcony.

Sure, this is a reality show – though I am not sure how much of it is reality – but it tackles a real problem: women who are constantly in competition.

This show embodies female caddiness. The major question is, how far will we go?

Sure, "Flavor of Love" is a reality-show competition, but how much are we willing to compete in real life? It is amazing what these women will do for 15 seconds of fame. According to my boyfriend, women are unstable creatures. Unfortunately, I agree.

I have just one question. Why can't we all just get along?

The concept seems simple, but apparently, it is rocket science. One of the hardest things for women to overcome is the jealousy of another woman. It is literally survival of the fittest.

Whoever has the best body, longest hair and biggest breasts wins. Society, as a whole, has become obsessed with image.

This illusion of perfection has several women reaching for their flat irons and paying millions of dollars each year to have plastic surgery.



My 'Keep It Real' Policy
Shannon Mitchell
Contributing Columnist

Why do women put themselves through such hell?

Partially, because it makes them feel good, and partially because it could make another woman feel bad.

I know it sounds extreme, but who does not want people lusting over what you have? The lengths to which people will go for the sake of someone else is ridiculous.

I, personally, have been subject to feature profiling. On more than one occasion, women have told me that I appear unapproachable – in other words, I look stuck-up.

I am sure that I exude confidence, but I never mean to be cocky. This barrier can definitely stop future relationships from developing and ruin old ones.

Is this fair?

Probably not, but most times, life is not fair.

Perception is everything.

Pretty much, all I want is for women to get to know each other for who they really are and not what they look like.

Martin Luther King had a dream of ending racism. I have a dream of ending hating.

Ladies, let's unite!

We are stronger together than we are apart. If we eliminated half of the petty things that keep us at a distance, who knows – we could probably run the world.

Let's strap up our stilettos and walk hand in hand into a brighter future.

Shannon Mitchell is a junior public relations major and can be reached at srm3i@mtsu.edu.

Clear Channel clearly unnecessary

Radio is dying, and with its last, clutching gasps, it's also killing music.

Playlists on one station sound spot-on similar to those a few clicks away. The same bad songs hiss repeatedly and good ones never ring out. Musicians, traditionally left in charge of the art they create, now forsake their product to media conglomerates, namely Clear Channel.

It's a company so vast – they own up to seven radio stations in some markets, and six in the Nashville area – that promoting a new band or radio show simply means circulating it through the company's own media outlets. Having the capacity to publicize new assets through branches of your business that already dominate their relative markets – this is true economic power, a setup that holds Clear Channel steady, inches away from an all-out monopoly.

If a band wants their record played to a specific market, Clear Channel most likely owns the top stations, so the band's members are forced to sign a contract.

This is all thanks to the 1996 Telecommunications Act, which loosened restrictions for media ownership. Soon after, Clear Channel spent \$30 billion in radio acquisitions. They now control the majority of airwaves in America. Radio spots, on-air playlists, concert venues, even Rush Limbaugh all heed the tyrannical rule of Clear Channel.

For instance, a band attempts to advertise an upcoming show on a station not owned by Clear Channel. All their music quickly disappears from CC's networks.

Say a band chooses not to play a Clear Channel sponsored event. Then no more of their tracks on Clear Channel radio stations – the majority, mind you. Either cooperate by putting your music and income at their discretion, or strike out on your own. Find some niche market in a dark corner of the room that Clear Channel hasn't discovered quite yet.

The dilemma created here will define the music industry.

Be the artist you choose, play the notes attuned to you, the music that ping-pongs within your band, and go with it alone – without the hope of stardom or celebrity life,



Polishing Brass
on the Titanic

Brandon Bouchillon
Staff Columnist

because a company controls those.

Or, sacrifice your music on some altar of greed to Clear Channel, your artistic well-being chained to their capitalistic whims.

If a company gains control over an art form – in this case, radio – shouldn't they be unbiased and let quality speak for itself? Shouldn't the best music rise to the top, and stop floundering beneath all these awful bands paying their Clear Channel dues? Shouldn't such a media conglomerate be without political ties?

Positively.

The sad truth?

Big Business does what Big Business wants.

Clear Channel isn't shy about making its political beliefs clear. Their stations censor critical opinions of our awesome president, George W. Bush. They've also removed sentiments deemed 'Anti-Republican.'

Remember the list of songs pulled from the radio after Sept. 11, 2001 for fear they would scare us?

Clear Channel authored that list and on it were such threatening numbers as John Lennon's "Imagine" and Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World." Lennon and Armstrong should've known better, writing songs of hope and splendor – they should've known partisanship could turn their creations into something evil and "terrorist."

Clear Channel denied that these songs were "banned," instead calling it a list of titles that should be played only after great thought. From hypnotizing listeners with interchangeable crap to encouraging intrinsic reflection, someone's getting duped.

When the Iraq War "broke" out, Clear Channel took off its pressed, pin-striped suit to flaunt the red, white and blue underneath.

The company held rallies to counteract anti-

war demonstrations happening throughout the country. After some public relations deliberations, Clear Channel named them "patriotic" rallies, in place of their real moniker, "pro-war" parties.

Howard Stern recently moved his talk show from Clear Channel to Sirius Radio. After fining, admonishing, restricting and banning Stern, CC sacked him. The firing came as part of the FCC's new 'zero tolerance' policy towards indecency.

Naked women and vulgarity ran, and still run, rampant on Stern's show – an exercise in First Amendment freedom of speech. Radio is a medium of sound – the words we hear illustrated by our imaginations – which makes indecency a 'relative' term. Each person provides a point of reference stemming from their specific – religious, social, economic – background. Literally, indecency means a million different things to a million different people.

Strangely enough, Michael Savage still broadcasts his radio show on Clear Channel stations – the same Michael Savage who told a homosexual caller, "You should only get AIDS and die, you pig," on his since-cancelled MSNBC show. The Federal Communications Commission certainly has its priorities straight.

On a tour regrettably sponsored by Clear Channel, Neil Young had this to say about the media conglomerate.

"They have to be exposed for what they are, and they know what they are. They are anti-music, and they don't get the spirit of it. I'm sorry we're touring under these circumstances because it's difficult to do it any other way. But it won't be forever. Its part of what I'm talking about. There is a backlash brewing."

Dig, uncover, expose, reveal, search for and find music that matters to you. Not music that a billion-dollar corporation markets so that it appears to matter. Your delusion amounts to their profit. So snap out of it.

Brandon Bouchillon is a junior mass communication major and can be reached at bcb2t@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

MTSU made unfair example of Kappa

To the Editor:

I have read the column by Matt Hurtt entitled, "Greeks must recreate honorable foundation," [Sept. 18] and, although it contained several mistakes, I thought that it was a great piece. It's about damn time that someone at *Sidelines* acted on this story, which has just been sitting there waiting to be reported. However, this piece accuses the Kappa Sigma fraternity of things that never happened.

You say that Kappa Sigma is "the poster child for irresponsible fraternities on campus," yet you neglect the fact that the same fraternity won the Best Service Project Award in 2004 at the annual Greek Awards for helping needy families around Christmas. This is a positive aspect of Greek life that is never reported by *Sidelines*. You tend to focus on the negatives. Greeks aren't all about "Toga, Toga, Toga!" and if you took time to do some real reporting, you would find that out. Not all news is found in the "Crime Log."

The MTSU administration never kicked Kappa Sigma off campus. The event that took place in the spring of 2005 forced campus to put us on probation. An alcohol violation (one of many by all fraternities on Greek Row) during the fall 2005 semester proved to be the final straw for the fraternity. At this point, we were told that we would be put on social probation for a year, which means no rush, no homecoming, no meetings, no nothing. Campus basically wanted us to keep our charter to keep paying the bills on Greek Row. Knowing the financial strain that these stipulations would put on the fraternity, nationals decided to just take our charter for financial reasons. We did have another place to call home. The Old Kappa Sigma house is at 1003 East Main Street. It is still owned by Kappa Sigma and is currently being rented out by Sigma Pi.

I do, however, agree with you that Kappa Sigma was held to higher standards than all other fraternities and we realize that we were made an example of, to show this new Greek administration would be "no nonsense." The reason that nothing will happen to Beta is because campus can't afford financially to kick another fraternity off of Greek Row. How about you write an article on that?

David Wright
Junior, College of Mass Communication

Greeks provide campus good examples

To the Editor:

Regarding Matt Hurtt's column, "Greeks must recreate honorable foundation," Sept. 18] maybe he should do a little research.

If you look into the real leaders on campus, you will notice that an overwhelming majority are Greek.

The entire executive council of the Student Government Association are Greek, along with about 80 percent of the senators.

The Raider Reps and Student Orientation Assistants are about 90 percent Greek.

If you notice, the organizations on campus that actually have a real mission, (not just the ones that are made up just to be an organization) many of their executive councils are run by Greeks.

Everywhere students look around campus they see Greeks, not only leading but also studying. About 75 percent of the Greek organizations on campus have grade point averages averaging above all males and all females.

We do have fun along with all of this. I apologize that Greeks are also good multitaskers.

Maybe you should join a Greek organization and learn how to loosen up a little and make some friends.

In your free time, though, you should certainly learn how to do a little research and be a real reporter. You do not have any of your facts straight, especially on the Kappa Sigma situation. Maybe you should stick to watching C-Span and stay away from the reporting and leave it to people that can do the real job.

Also, to the *Sidelines* new editors, why has *Sidelines* been so negative lately? This is my fourth year here at MTSU and before this year, the paper was great and left me feeling good about my life here on campus. Now, all I see is negativity, negativity, some professor bashing and some more negativity.

Sidelines should bring back some more positive reporting for the front page and some better staff writers for its opinions. With all of this I will continue to read *Sidelines*, hoping that soon it will bring some glory back to MTSU.

Wes Merriman
Senior, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Got something to say?

slopinio@mtsu.edu

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES

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

FEATURES

Scholarship money funds student 'needs'

By Jared Brickley
Staff Writer

If you had a few extra hundred dollars, how would you spend them?
Would you buy food, clothing or gas? Would you pay the rent in advance? Would you save it for a rainy day, or blow it all on something fun?

For students attending MTSU on a scholarship, the variety of answers you'll receive is quite diverse.

There are many scholarships available to students in need of financial aid, and with each student capable of receiving multiple scholarships, the discerning pupil can easily pay for the cost of tuition and sometimes even more than that.

So how does the student on scholarship spend his or her extra dough?

After the expense of tuition, most students use their scholarship money to pay for the costs of living, like rent and food. Others use the leftover money to pay for books or save it for later, but that isn't the case with every student.

"I am really bad about saving money," said freshman business major Kristin McCaslin, who is attending MTSU on a scholarship. "I spent about \$1,300 on rent for five months, then \$500 on books and school supplies. Then I went out to eat a whole lot and did fun things. I went to Buzzfest and to movies and things like that."

"I usually write my apartment complex a check for my rent through December, and then I use the rest of it for the 'essentials,'" junior mass communication major Sarah Russell said, making air quotes. "A lot of times it ends up being late night trips to Wal-Mart and random junk I don't need."

The cost of living tends to take up most of the scholarship money. Freshman Jaz Gray said most of her



extra money is spent on "lunch, rent and different things for the apartment."

"Food," junior mass communication major Lemon Keith replied when asked about his spending habits. "Without it, I deprive myself. I don't go to Applebee's or Chili's. When you get the money, you can spend \$10 or \$15 to eat. I did spend a little bit on clothes, but not a lot. A lot of it I keep it in the bank."

Keeping it in the bank is something many students decide to do, but freshman Kyle Commander is somewhere in-between.

"I spend my money on] pretty much books," Commander said. "I take it and buy my books with it so my parents won't have to. Right now I'm saving for a car and a new guitar with what's leftover from books, and [the rest] I just put away

for whatever."

Of course, not every student receives the same amount. Some students' scholarship amount is based on where they live and if they still live with their parents.

"Technically, no student gets more than they need," said Bonnie McCarty, assistant director of scholarships. "While they may receive more than the actual charges from MTSU, students

incur other indirect expenses which they can pay with the refund they receive."

"The estimate for total cost of attendance at MTSU is a little bit over \$15,000, and that's basic. Most universities are the same," said Russ Deaton, the director for Fiscal Analysis at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

College isn't cheap, and for many students, tuition and books absorb every penny of their scholarship. Freshmen Sarah Visocky and Tyler Wall, for example, said their scholarships didn't leave any money after their tuition and books.

With full-time tuition ranging between \$4,000 and \$5,000, some students can't find any money left after living expenses, tuition and books. This semester, however, liberal arts senior Nate Cougill managed to find some left over for the first time.

"I bought a lot of poetry books and canned goods," Cougill said. "I bought a cheap, used laptop and a big bottle of Maker's Mark."

Naturally, the more scholarships one can find, the better off one will be, and even something as simple as having a parent with the right job can help.

"I usually end up getting a large amount of money because I have the Presidential Scholarship and the lottery [scholarship], and I get half off tuition because my dad works for the state," Russell said.

While it's hard to generalize what students do in any situation, how they spend their scholarship money is especially difficult. Some students try to save and use their money primarily for school, whereas others use it for movies, concerts and a good time. The only real consistency among them all?

College students are hungry, and they like to eat.



From the
Editor
Colby Sledge
Features Editor

For those of you who have made it this far into today's issue of *Sidelines*, congratulations! You've reached the Features page, where creativity reigns and interesting stories — your stories — abound.

You might notice that today's page has something of a theme: money. Money obviously is a driving force in our lives. It's not uncommon to hear someone decline a party invitation, reschedule lunch plans or bail out of a class project because of work. We are supposedly in college to acquire the skills necessary to obtain a job that will sustain us, yet we work while in school. Sometimes we need that money to pay for books. Sometimes (okay, most of the time) we need that money to pay for beer. Regardless, money is important to every college student, as you can read in the story below about students at the University of Kansas.

Today, though, we focus on those who have extra money through scholarship funds. With the inception

University of Kansas students struggle to make ends meet

By Mark Vierthaler
U-WIRE

LAWRENCE, Kan. Each month is a struggle to make ends meet for University of Kansas student Ramsi Lindgren.

After classes, Lindgren, a junior from Topeka, Kan., has to go to work. At two places.

Lindgren estimated she works 35 hours a week at both Stone Creek restaurant and the Office of Admissions and Scholarships.

"I don't have a normal student life," Lindgren said. "To keep up with school and rent and utilities, I have to work that hard."

With tuition costs rising and inflation putting a larger burden on students, some are forced to hold down full-time jobs simply to make basic payments.

The Council for Community and Economic Research, an organization that works to promote excellence in community and economic research, reported in 2005 that the cost of living in Lawrence, Kan., ranked above Manhattan, Kan.; Topeka, Kan.; Columbia, Mo., and other cities of comparable size.

Rent in Manhattan averages \$58 a month less than in Lawrence, according to the council's Cost of Living comparison calculator. Apartment rent in Columbia, Mo., averages \$190 a month less than in Lawrence.

Lindgren said several of her

friends are able to look to their parents for support. She doesn't have that luxury, so she relies on her work ethic and whatever aid the school can send her way.

Eric Grospitch, executive assistant to the director of student housing, said on-campus housing is usually the cheapest option for students coming in to Lawrence.

Undergraduates pay an average of \$5,800 for on-campus living. Graduate students must pay \$8,400 for on-campus living, according to the University's financial aid Web site. Neither of these figures included general living expenses.

Grospitch said scholarship halls are another way of avoiding off-campus living expenses. Depending on where a student lives, the scholarship halls can cost anywhere from \$1,700 to \$4,200 for one school year.

The average cost of tuition for a Kansas resident, without financial aid, is estimated at \$6,152.50 for one school year. A non-resident of Kansas, without financial aid, can expect to pay \$15,122.50 a year. An estimated \$750 a year is the average amount spent on books. Required fees and extra materials are not included.

Many students also have to pay for gas, which at more than \$2 a gallon can lead to an average cost of \$30 for a mid-sized sedan.

When Selena Ramirez was a freshman, she had to work 40

hours a week just to make ends meet.

Day after day Ramirez, who now lives in California, dragged herself in to Kohl's Department Store where she worked, attempting to make it to the next month without drowning in bills.

Her sophomore year she began waiting tables at Stone Creek restaurant for \$2.16 an hour, plus tips. She worked there until she graduated last year.

"I lived tip by tip," Ramirez said. "You basically don't get a paycheck when you're a server. I literally lived on tips."

Ramirez said paying rent, utilities, car payments, cell phone, tuition and books every month was a struggle.

The time when parents would save up and give their children a full ride through school is long gone, Ramirez said.

"They're really making you work for your education," she said.

Ramirez said it's not an impossible feat, in spite of the financial strains. She said a person just has to know where to look for help within the University. Plenty of scholarships and loans are available, she said.

Ramirez said it's just one more step in learning about real life.

"It only gets harder after graduation," she said with a laugh. "Life sucks."



When free money isn't so free

By Colby Sledge
Features Editor

So you've received that healthy little scholarship refund check, and good for you! Your academic prowess has paid off in the form of cold, hard cash.

Before you go skipping to the local liquor store to celebrate, however, you have a little family debt to pay — to your good ol' Uncle Sam.

Say what?

That's right: Any scholarship money not spent on tuition, books or class supplies is defined as taxable income and must be reported on your annual federal tax return.

"The IRS rules are that any 'free money' students receive, whether its scholarships, Pell Grants or TSAC (Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation) money, technically could be taxable," said Bonnie McCarty, assistant director of scholarships.

This 'free money' — you know, the kind that your parents said doesn't grow on trees — is what you end up with after you buy the things you actually need, like textbooks and such. According to the Internal Revenue Service Web site (<http://www.irs.gov>), only "qualified scholarships" may be excluded from a student's gross income.

What is a qualified scholarship, you ask? According to the IRS, qualified scholarships are used for "tuition and fees ... books, supplies and equipment required for courses of instruction." That means those lab goggles you bought for your intro biology class are

exempt, but that video iPod that you so needed for your Music as Popular Culture course isn't.

So what happens if you try and pull a fast one on the feds and just don't report the income? I mean, who's going to care if you pimp your ride on the state's dime?

That depends if you get caught.

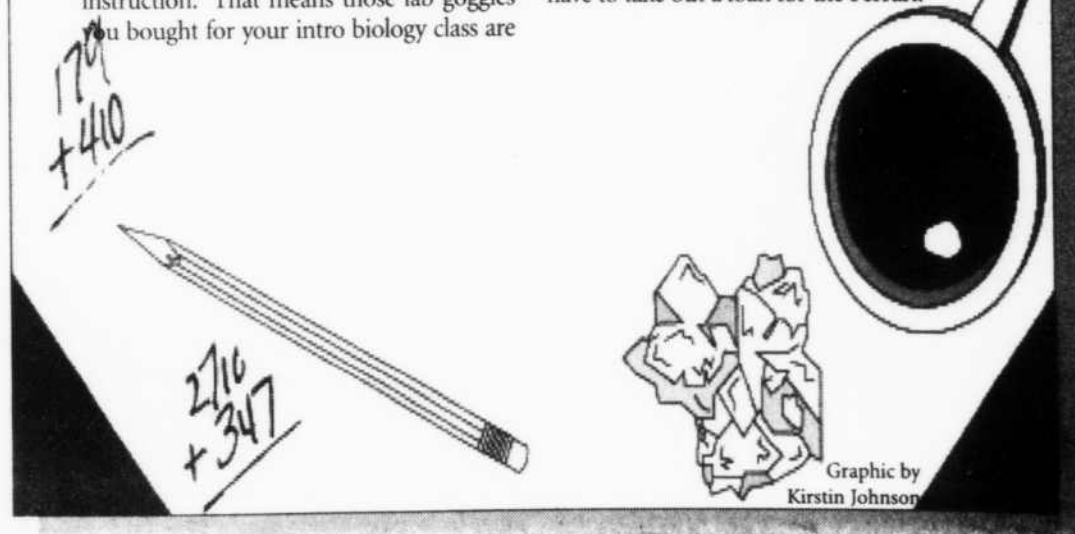
"If the Internal Revenue Service determines that a student underreported their income, there would be additional tax — and interest," said John Ledbetter, a certified public accountant and assistant professor at Ball State University. "There may be penalties, and if it's determined if it's done intentionally, the penalties can be severe."

But how severe?

"It would be an extreme case, but sometimes people go to jail for not reporting income," Ledbetter said.

So cheating the system might be out of the question. However, there is still a loophole, albeit a complicated one. If a certain item is required for class — for instance, if a Tablet PC is required for medical school, as many schools now require — then the computer would fall under 'class supplies' and would be tax-exempt. Never mind that you would be doodling on it instead of taking notes on dialysis.

The real key, then, is to get your professors to require everyone to buy a video iPod, laptop or Ferrari for class. Then your purchases are totally tax-free — although you might have to take out a loan for the Ferrari.



SPORTS

Vandy edges MT in overtime

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

For over 100 minutes, Middle Tennessee and Vanderbilt stood toe-to-toe.

In the second overtime period, however, Vandy found the back of the net to defeat the Blue Raiders 4-3 in Nashville Sunday.

Just a few minutes into the second overtime, the Commodores' Sarah Dennis lofted the game-winning goal into the top corner of the net past keeper Erynn Murray from 18 yards out.

The loss was only the second of the season for MT, who dropped a 2-1 heartbreaker to Tennessee last week.

"It's a tough loss but I think there are positives," Middle Tennessee coach Aston Rhoden told MT Media Relations. "We have traveled on the road and had opportunities, great opportunities, to beat two very good teams out of the Southeastern Conference."

The Blue Raiders managed to keep the game close despite struggling on defense. A sluggish MT squad did not pressure the ball, but the characteristically solid back line held firm when necessary.

Kala Morgan opened the scoring in the ninth minute off a Katy Rayburn assist to give the Blue Raiders a 1-0 lead. Morgan has contributed seven goals and three assists in her last four matches, and has posted nine goals overall.

The home team rebounded before the half with goals from



File Photo

(16) Midfielder Holly Grogan avoids defenders to get a free shot on the goal in a game against non-conference opponent Birmingham Southern in 2005.

See Soccer, 7

Siljestrom, doubles team win consolation finals at Ole Miss

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

Lady Raider sophomore Ann-Kristen Siljestrom won the consolation finals at the Ole Miss Fall Classic in Oxford, Miss., Sunday.

Siljestrom defeated Georgia's Lara Fakhoury, 6-4, 6-0 to cap a three-match winning streak after losing to Georgia's Yvette Hyndman in the first round.

Senior Hala Sufi and junior Claudia Szabo won (8-2) the doubles consolation final, beating out South Alabama's Dijana Stanic and Michaela Badicova.

Sufi and Szabo also lost in the first round and then won three straight.

MT sophomore Elvira Yusupova lost 2-6, 0-6 to North Florida's Florence Torres in the NYC Draw finals.

In Friday's action, Yusupova won two matches to reach the finals, defeating Andrea Courtney of Southern Illinois 6-2, 6-1 and Angela Dangond of Louisiana-Lafayette 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 in the semifinals.

Hala Sufi beat Nika

Koukhartchouk of Ole Miss 6-3, 7-5 but lost to No. 21 Natalie Frazier of Ole Miss 5-7, 0-6.

Szabo lost 4-6, 6-2, 2-6 late Friday night to Stephanie Dellocono, but rebounded Saturday with a 7-5, 7-5 win.

She would later lose to Fakhoury in the consolation semifinals.

Siljestrom won her first consolation match 6-0, 6-2 against Brittany Serret of Southern Miss. She then dominated Anne Pennington of Murray State 6-0, 6-0 in the second.

Lady Raider sophomore Pooja Kommireddi fell to Troy's Suzanne Jones 2-6, 0-6 and Marlene Chemin beat Hollie Robinson of Arkansas Little Rock 6-3, 6-3, but she would later lose to Chanell Meijer of Louisiana-Lafayette 3-6, 2-6 in the semifinals.

Sufi and Szabo beat Serret and Ali Blackett of Southern Miss 8-1, but the duo of Kommireddi and Chemin fell to Lyndsay Ottosen and Lynsey Bochenek of Murray State 8-4.

For more information, go to www.olemisssports.com to find the results of your favorite team.

Ole Miss Fall Classic Results

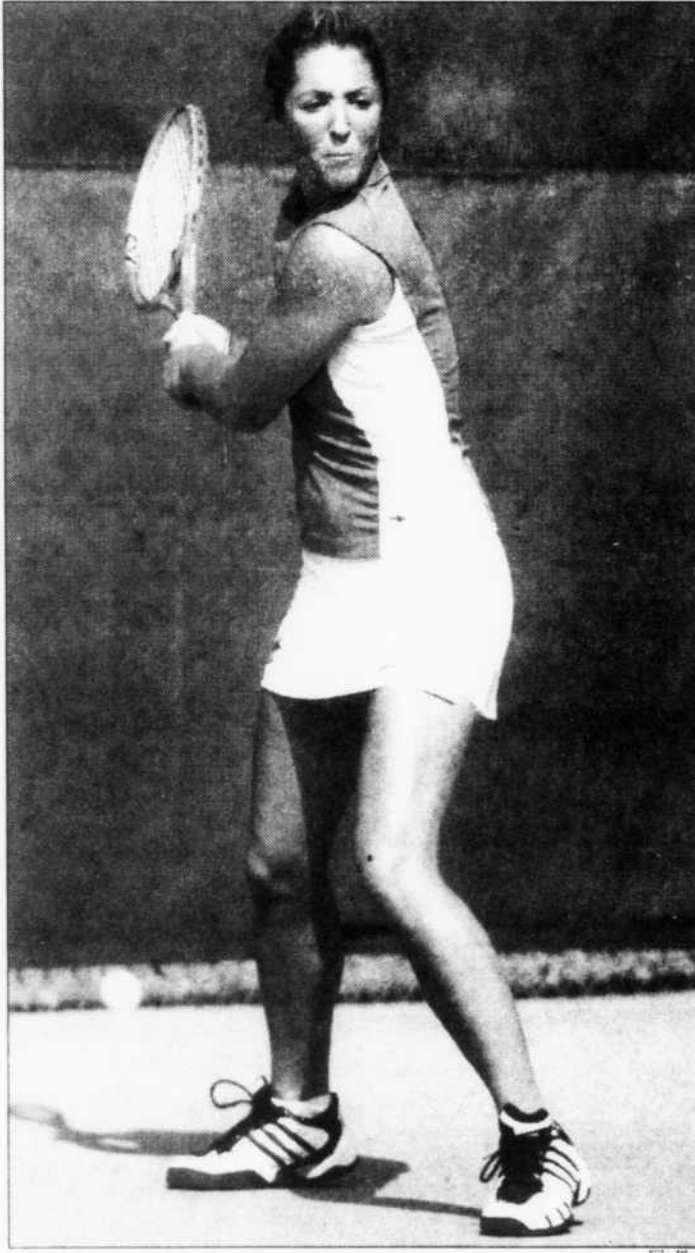
SINGLES

NYC Draw - Finals
Florenca Torres (UNF)
def. Elvira Yusupova
(MT), 6-2, 6-0

Red Draw -
Consolation Finals
Ann-Kristin Siljestrom
(MT) def. Lara Fakhoury
(UGA), 6-4, 6-0

DOUBLES

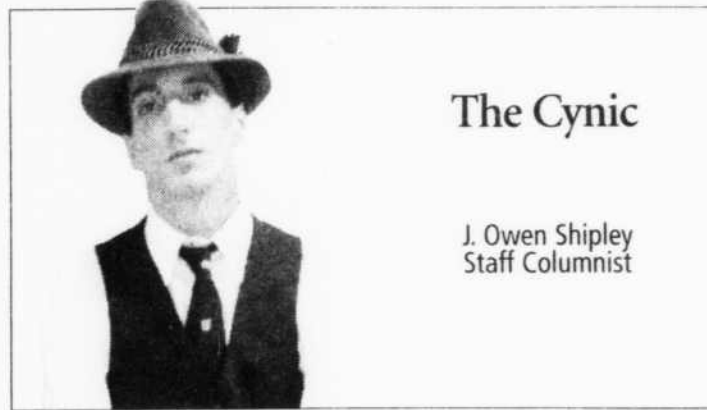
Blue Draw -
Consolation Finals
Hala Sufi-Claudia Szabo
(MT) def. Dijana Stanic-
Michaela Babicova
(USA), 8-2



File Photo

MT's Claudia Szabo (pictured) and Hala Sufi won the doubles consolation final.

Accidental Betting – Do's and Don'ts



The Cynic

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

Betting on sports is dumb. Let's start with that. But when an argument about sports invariably leads to the words "Oh, you wanna bet?", make sure it's your brain you are betting with and not your heart.

When I was 12, I bet \$10 on the Steelers to win Super Bowl XXX.

They got destroyed. It wasn't that they couldn't have won. The odds just weren't in their favor. I lost my first bet because I led with my heart.

Had I used my brain, I would have taken into account how many points the Cowboys scored per game, how many takeaways they averaged and how many bad decisions Neil O'Donnell made versus those of Troy Aikman.

If I had truly thought about it from a "How many points can my team score?" point of view, I may have asked for a spread. That was a bet I could have won – and would have won. The spread was 13 1/2 and the Steelers only lost by 10.

The bet at hand started with a prediction. Well, actually it started with yet another Kerry Collins interception. I was at the Boro watching the Titans get hammered. In breaks between the San Diego touchdowns, I brought up how close I thought the Oklahoma-MTSU game could be.

I said I was thinking of giving Oklahoma less than a seven point spread, especially after the turmoil following their loss to Oregon.

An argument immediately sprang up and someone decided to bet with his gut and not his brain. The bet was that Oklahoma would win by at least 30 points. Now, that's a bet I will always take. I didn't because I don't bet (and I was flat broke and drinking water), but I did talk another patron into taking the odds.

Just because MT could win, I know better than to say they will. On paper it seems possible. Never bet on possible.

On the other hand, it's very likely MT will stay within 30 points of Oklahoma if statistic trends continue. Betting on 'likely' is a better idea than betting on 'could,' but betting in general is still a bad idea.

It's hard to tell which part of your inner fan you are betting with. Whether it's an office pool, a family matter or a drunken claim at a bar, you can't control what happens on that field. No amount of stats can account for the intangibles. Still, I feel good about betting someone else's money with the numbers on my side. Check back next week to see who had their facts straight(est).

Soccer: Blue Raiders fall to second SEC foe of season

Continued from 6

Nicole Lukens and Meredith Kohn to give the Commodores a 2-1 lead.

Vandy substituted generously in the second half to keep fresh legs in the game, and the strategy worked as the Commodores controlled the ball for most of the second half.

MT made the most of their offensive possessions, however, as Jen Threlkeld scored her fourth goal off a cross by Morgan to tie the game. The lead was short-

lived as Vandy pulled ahead again in the 55th minute.

With the Commodores looking to shut the door on their instate rival, Caitlin Reeves had other ideas. The sophomore carried the ball to the right side and appeared ready to cross to a teammate before unleashing a powerful shot that went past the outstretched arms of Vandy keeper Erin Horanz in the 66th minute.

The first overtime period saw the Blue Raiders control possession and receive a few good looks

at the goal, but the team was unable to finish. Early into the second extra period, Dennis broke down the MT defense and finished for the win.

"I thought our team showed a great deal of character and will to win in the second half, and that was the biggest thing," Rhoden said.

After earning a 6-2 record in the first part of the season, the next step for MT is Sun Belt Conference play, which begins on the road against Florida Atlantic Friday.

MT runners finish strong at Western Kentucky meet

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee cross country runners Marjorie Gombert and Tony Carufe finished 21st and 29th, respectively, last weekend at the WKU Old Timers Classic in Bowling Green, Ky.

Gombert was the highest runner for the women, finishing the 5K course in 19:17.10, while Sara Lunning finished in 28th place with 20:23.80. Sangau Zamzam finish 30th in 20:28.20.

Tiffany Sawyer finished with a time of 21:01.20 and Catherine Chester finished in 42nd with a personal best 21:59.10. Ashleigh Thaler came in 50th with a time of 24:05.00.

"Marjorie ran very well again and Zamzam was right there in the top three, just behind Sara," MT head coach Dean Hayes told Media Relations. "Catherine posted a big [personal record] over last year."

Ashley Comstock and Kaitlyn Hammond did not compete due to injuries and are expected to return in two weeks.

For the men, Carufe continued his streak of being the top MT finisher in the 8K with a time of 29:05.50. Matthew Young finished in 28th place with 29:28.40, and Philip Benavides finished with a time of 30:40.70 in 33rd place.

Chris Travis and Luke Pfleger finished 36th and 40th, respectively. Travis' time was 31:16.60 and Pfleger's time was 32:15.30.

"Tony ran well and Matt Young was very good, finishing under 30 minutes," Hayes told MT Media Relations. "The big thing today was both teams were able to run the distances they will have to run at the Sun Belt meet next month."

Comstock, Hammond and newcomer William Songock will compete in the Greater Louisville Invitational Sept. 30.

For the results from the meet go to wkusports.com.

WKU Old Timers Classic Results

25th Annual Old Timers Classic
Kereiakes Park - Bowling Green, Ky.

MEN - 8K

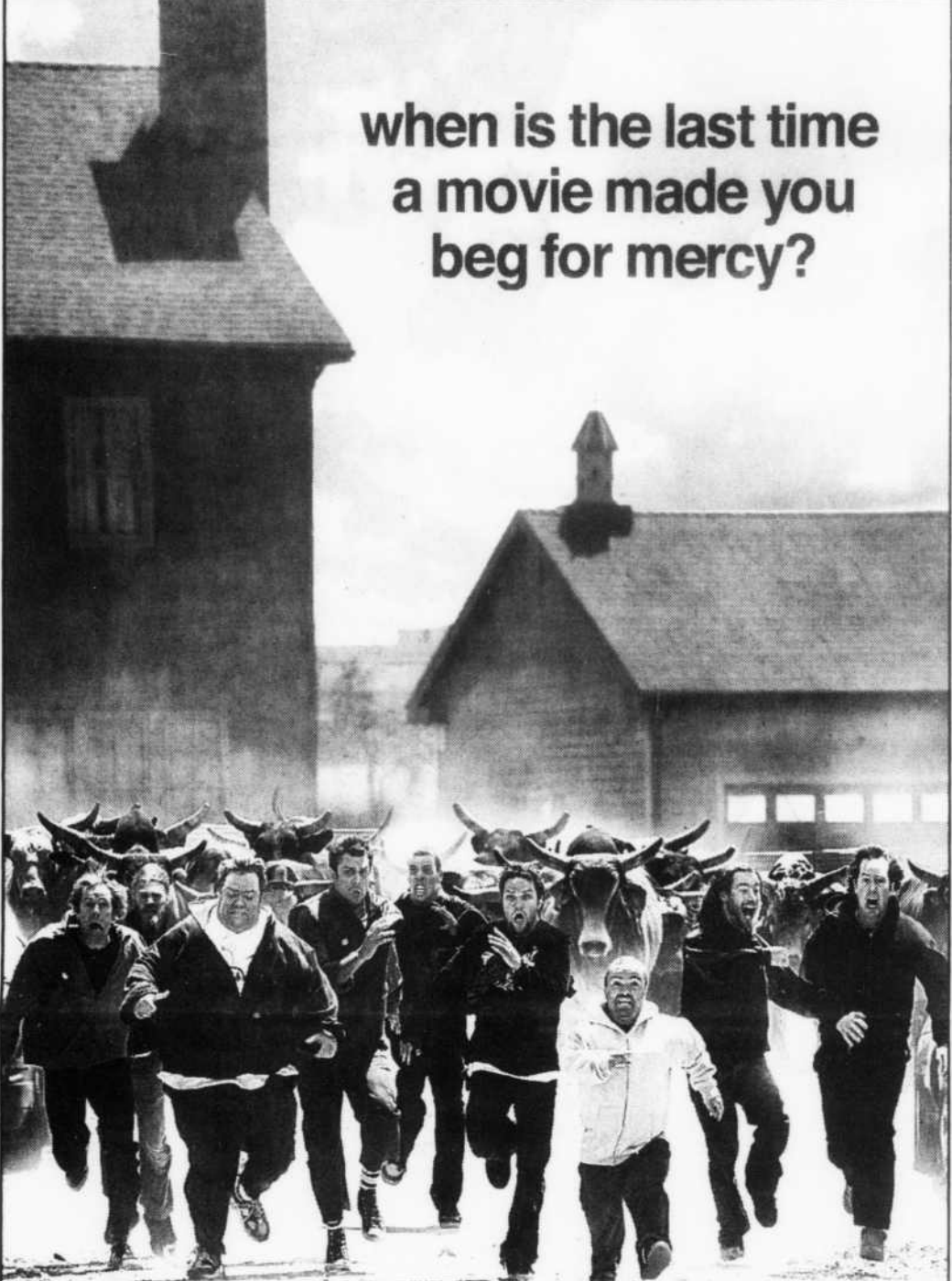
- 24. Tony Carufe, 29:05.50
- 28. Matthew Young, 29:28.40
- 33. Philip Benavides, 30:40.70
- 36. Chris Travis, 31:16.60
- 40. Luke Pfleger, 32:15.30

WOMEN - 5K

- 19. Marjorie Gombert, 19:17.10
- 26. Sara Lunning, 20:23.80
- 28. Sangau Zamzam, 20:28.20
- 38. Tiffany Sawyer, 21:01.20
- 42. Catherine Chester, 21:59.10
- 50. Ashleigh Thaler, 24:05.00

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Business casual attire; no short shorts or flip-flops.

Register for door prizes.

For more information or to view a roster of attendees,
go to **www.mtsu.edu~career**

Sponsored by the MTSU Career and Employment Center

MTSU is Tennessee Board of Regents university. It is an equal opportunity, non-racially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.

the morning...

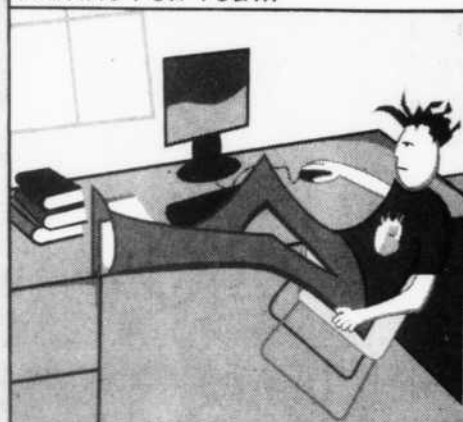
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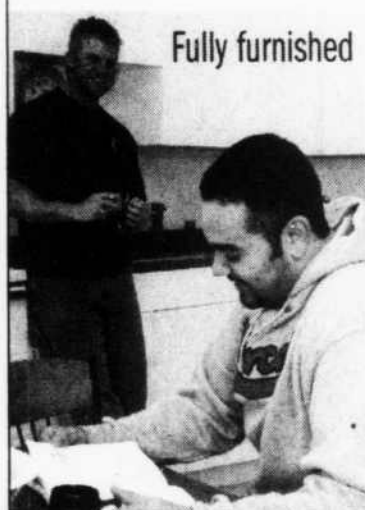
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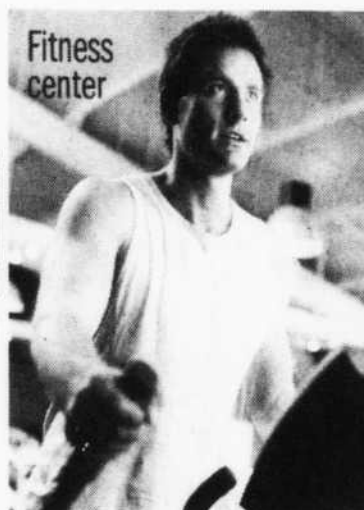
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