



This week's poll question
online at
www.mtsusidelines.com

"Did you find the Career Fair
to be useful?"

51



79

Partly Cloudy

Coming back down to Earth

In [flash], inside

[flash]

'Romeo
and Juliet'
gone goth,
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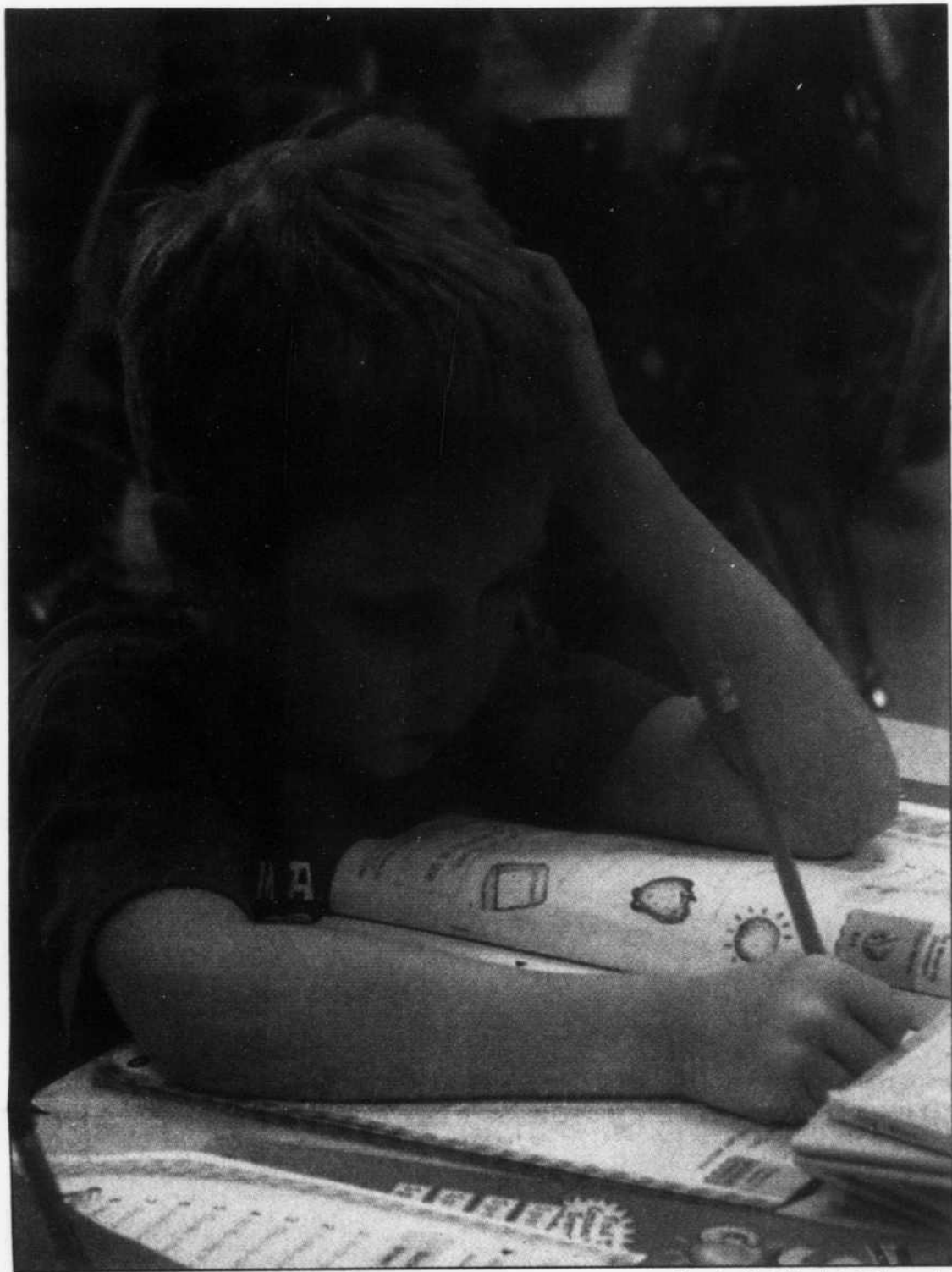
COMING BACK
DOWN TO EARTH
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The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

Volume 79 No. 24

Bush program puts pressure on schools



Seven-year-old Justin Harrell studies spelling in at Northfield Elementary School. The No Child Left Behind Act mandates rating school quality.

Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Tests used to identify troubled districts

By Stephanie Hill
Staff Writer

President George W. Bush speaks often concerning the achievement gap between white and minority students and between average income and poor students.

To combat this problem, the No Child Left Behind Act was passed to ensure that all students in all schools are academically proficient in math, reading and language arts by 2014.

"Like any new initiative, there are some aspects that are appropriate but these are not the ones making headlines," said Connie Jones, chairperson of elementary and special education at MTSU.

"There are four pillars of NCLB and they are: accountability, local control and flexibility, parental choice and using research and evidence to improve what teachers do," Jones said.

Jones said that she supports using research and evidence to improve teachers' effectiveness.

"Accountability and schools of choice pillars make the headlines and I don't support them since they are redefining what is required of a teacher in order to obtain a job," she said.

According to Jones, some local school districts are telling licensed experienced teachers that if they do not meet the NCLB standards, they will lose their jobs.

Other districts are hiring people who do not have a license to teach but who have majored in that certain content area.

"For example, hiring a chemistry major for a teaching job because he or she has the degree in the content area, but that person has not had the education classes that licensed teachers have had, therefore they do not have the skills to deal with the students," Jones said. "Many educators are upset about this."

According to www.tennessee.gov/education, state schools and districts are going to be measured on their progress towards the goals of the federal act.

Each year, a school must show that a greater percentage of its students meet proficiency standards.

The standards are divided into nine subgroups, which includes five race and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, limited English-proficient students, economically disad-

vantaged students and the school as a whole.

Schools that do not meet standards for two years will be considered a high priority school, but if the school shows progress for two consecutive years, it will be removed from the list.

If a subgroup does not meet federal benchmarks by 10 percent or more, the school will be considered to have met standards under a Safe Harbor provision.

"As long as a student is willing to stay in school and get the help needed, the teachers will work with him or her," Jones said.

"But, if a student gets frustrated and decides to drop out of school, then the teachers cannot help them," she said.

The Education Department

See Education, 3



Trent Cheeves teaches his second grade class at Northfield Elementary School in Murfreesboro.

Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Jewish holy day begins Friday

By Leah Massey
Staff Writer

The Jewish student population on campus is not very large, so it is easy for many students to feel isolated. Hillel at MTSU, a Jewish student organization, was formed last spring to give a sense of place to these students.

Art Professor Lon Nuell, the academic advisor for Hillel, said the organization is open to all students, not just Jewish students, who are interested.

According to Nuell, there are Jewish students from Florida, New York, Israel and other places that will not be able to spend the upcoming Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, with their families.

"It's amazing how far students come to go to MTSU," he said.

Rosh Hashanah begins Friday at sundown and continues through Saturday. It is a time to observe the birth of the world.

"Rosh Hashanah is not a holiday, but a holy day," Nuell said. "That's an important difference."

Rosh Hashanah is meant to bring people together and start the new year fresh.

It is considered a time of reflection so that a person can enter the new year with a clean slate, Nuell explained.

Members of Hillel plan to meet and caravan together to

Nashville for services. The nearest synagogue is in Brentwood, about an hour away.

Three different categories of Jewish congregations, reform, conservative and orthodox, worship in Nashville.

Nuell warned that if students planned to attend one of the Nashville congregations, they should probably call the congregation ahead of time and get their names on a list. Because of tensions in the Middle East, many congregations are tightening security.

"But I doubt anyone would be turned away if they did arrive unannounced," Nuell said.

According to Nuell, MTSU has policies excusing students from class to observe religious dates if they happen to fall on school days.

If students do need to miss class for religious reasons, they must tell their teachers ahead of time. The teacher is obligated to allow students to make up any assignments or take make-up tests if this occurs, but it is up to the student to make the arrangements to do so.

For more information, students should look through the MTSU student handbook for policies.

Luckily, both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur fall, for the most part, on the weekend this year.

Yom Kippur follows 10 days

See Holy day, 3

Gunslinger



Photo by Brandon Morrison | Photo Editor
ROTC Blue Brigade member Deirdre Cullom practices her rifle routine Wednesday afternoon.

Students petition Congress for higher limits on loans

By Gil Song
Daily Texan

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas - Lobbyists from universities across the nation are pushing Congress to increase limits on federal student loans.

In a survey released last Wednesday that was conducted by an independent research firm for the Coalition for Better Student Loans, 91 percent of students said they wanted Congress to increase the amount students and their families can borrow in federal student loans each year. Eighty-four percent said if government has limited resources to fund student loans, it should offer greater financial assistance to current and future students, rather than adjusting

rates for graduates paying off loans.

"With the rising cost of education, we're just out there to help as many students as we can," said Robin Cook, a spokesman for the Associated Students of the University of Missouri. "More and more families are dependent upon financial aid to cover the expenses of college and unfortunately, the definition of middle class is getting blurrier and blurrier."

Cook's group is one of many that compose the Coalition for Better Student Loans, which sent a proposal to Congress earlier this month advocating increased limits on federal Stafford and Perkins loans.

With Congress debating the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act this fall, the coalition's proposal comes at a crucial

time. Jim Boyle, a spokesman for College Parents of America, said federal loans make sense for students because of their low interest rate.

"Students really have only three options if they can't procure student loans. They can find a job, which takes away from study time, they can go to private lenders, such as credit card companies, or they can drop out of school," Boyle said. "None of those options are what students want and [are] costly in their own ways."

Jane Glickman, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Education, said tax credits and more Pell grants - education

See Loans, 3

Local blood bank helps recent disaster victims

Staff Reports

The Red Cross is asking for blood donors after Hurricane Isabel left wreckage in her wake from the Carolinas to Canada.

Donors from the Tennessee Valley Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross have helped contribute during the crisis.

"We had a request from Norfolk, Virginia for platelets," said Patricia A. Callicot, chief executive officer of TVR, in a press release. "We sent a total of 98 platelet units - 90 random donor platelets from whole blood donors and eight platelet-only donations."

Inventory at TVR and the entire blood banking system has been hovering at the one and two-day supply level. A joint emergency appeal from the Red Cross and independent blood

banks released in July has not eased the shortage.

"I'm glad we were able to spare some platelets," Callicot said. "Frequently this summer we've been very close to not meeting hospital orders."

"We have standing orders with each hospital," Callicot said. "We ship more when emergencies occur. Having enough blood ready for patients is a tremendous responsibility. We can't do it without blood donors and drive sponsors."

The Red Cross encourages everyone to consider blood donation as a responsibility. The minimum age for donors is 17 in most areas, and 110 pounds in weight.

For more information about blood donation, see www.redcross.org/tn/nashvilleblood or www.givelife.org. ♦

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risk of developing bone fractures. Some women using *Depo-Provera* have side effects. The most common are irregular periods or spotting. Many women stop having periods altogether after a few months. You may gain weight when using *Depo-Provera*. About two thirds of the women in clinical trials reported a weight gain of about 5 lb during the first year of use.

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Education: Plan may disappear if Bush not re-elected

Continued from 1

has been working on a plan to inform education majors of the act so that they can get jobs.

"We have seen what the state department has required and we are making the appropriate changes within the system," Jones said.

"If the president is re-elected in 2004 then the No Child Act will be a go, however if he is not, then the act will just cease to exist," she said.

In 2003, Tennessee combined its own accountability system with that of the NCLB requirements.

If a school or district repeatedly does not improve proficiency in students each year, action is taken.

After the first year of failing to meet the standards, the school then becomes labeled as a target school

A target school is given a warning and the State Department of Education offers technical support.

However, if the school continues to not meet the standards, it will be moved into the school improvement stage.

Eventually a school can regress into the alternative governance stage where the State Department of Education will implement a corrective action plan.

On Sept. 8, Bush visited Kirkpatrick Elementary School in Nashville to talk about the NCLB Act. Seventy-seven schools out of 127 in the Metro District are on the state's target list for improvement.

Bush has said that federal funding will increase to \$53.1 billion next year, a 26 percent increase since he began his term as president in 2000. ♦

No Child Left Behind benchmarks

K-8 schools will meet federal benchmarks if they demonstrate in all of the subgroups:

- 95 percent participation rate on all state assessments
- Required proficiency in math as determined by TCAP achievement scores
- Required proficiency in reading/language arts as determined by TCAP and writing assessments
- 93 percent attendance rate for the school year

9-12th grade schools will meet federal benchmarks if they demonstrate in all of the subgroups:

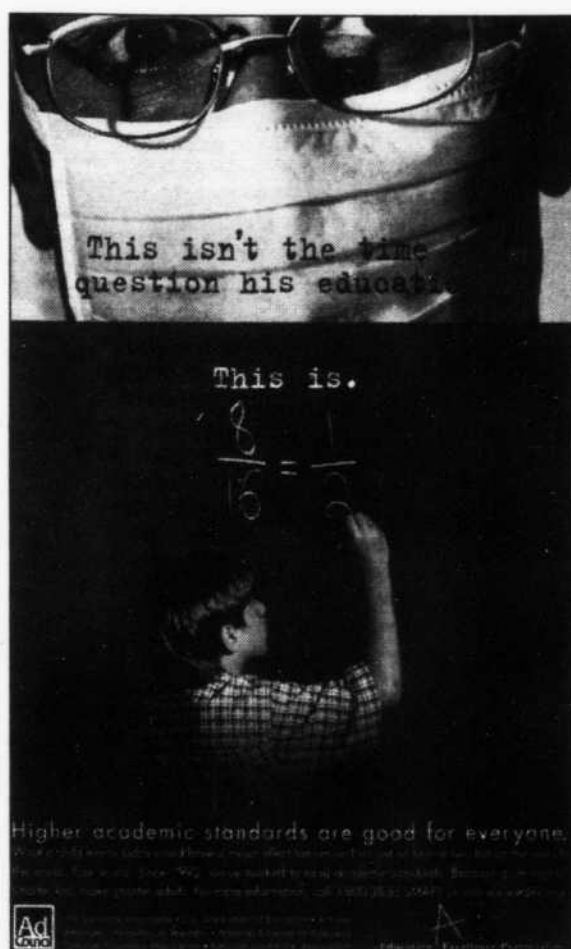
- 95 percent participation rate on all state assessments
- Required proficiency in math Gateway tests

• Required proficiency in reading/language arts as determined by English Gateway tests and writing assessments

• 60 percent graduation rate for the school year (excluding GED and special education diplomas)

Schedule for assistance for a school or district that continually fails to meet federal benchmarks:

- Year 1 school becomes a target school
- Year 2 schools put in school improvement
- Year 3 schools put on notice
- Year 4 schools put on probation
- Year 5 schools put in corrective action
- Year 6 schools enter alternative governance ♦



Holy day:

Continued from 1

after Rosh Hashanah and is marked by a day of fasting, starting at sundown of the first day and ending at sundown on the second day.

It is a day for repenting and asking forgiveness of people face-to-face and, more importantly, asking forgiveness of God.

Hillel does not meet at regular times, but the group is working to develop a regular meeting schedule.

Students interested in Hillel at MTSU can contact Nuell at his office at 898-2505. ♦

Loans:

Continued from 1

money from the government that does not have to be repaid – could be alternate means of handling the rising cost of education in the United States.

"There's sympathy for an increase [in financial aid] all across the board," said Rep. John Carter, R-Texas, who is the chairman of the House Education Committee. "Unfortunately, there is no money to increase all across the board."

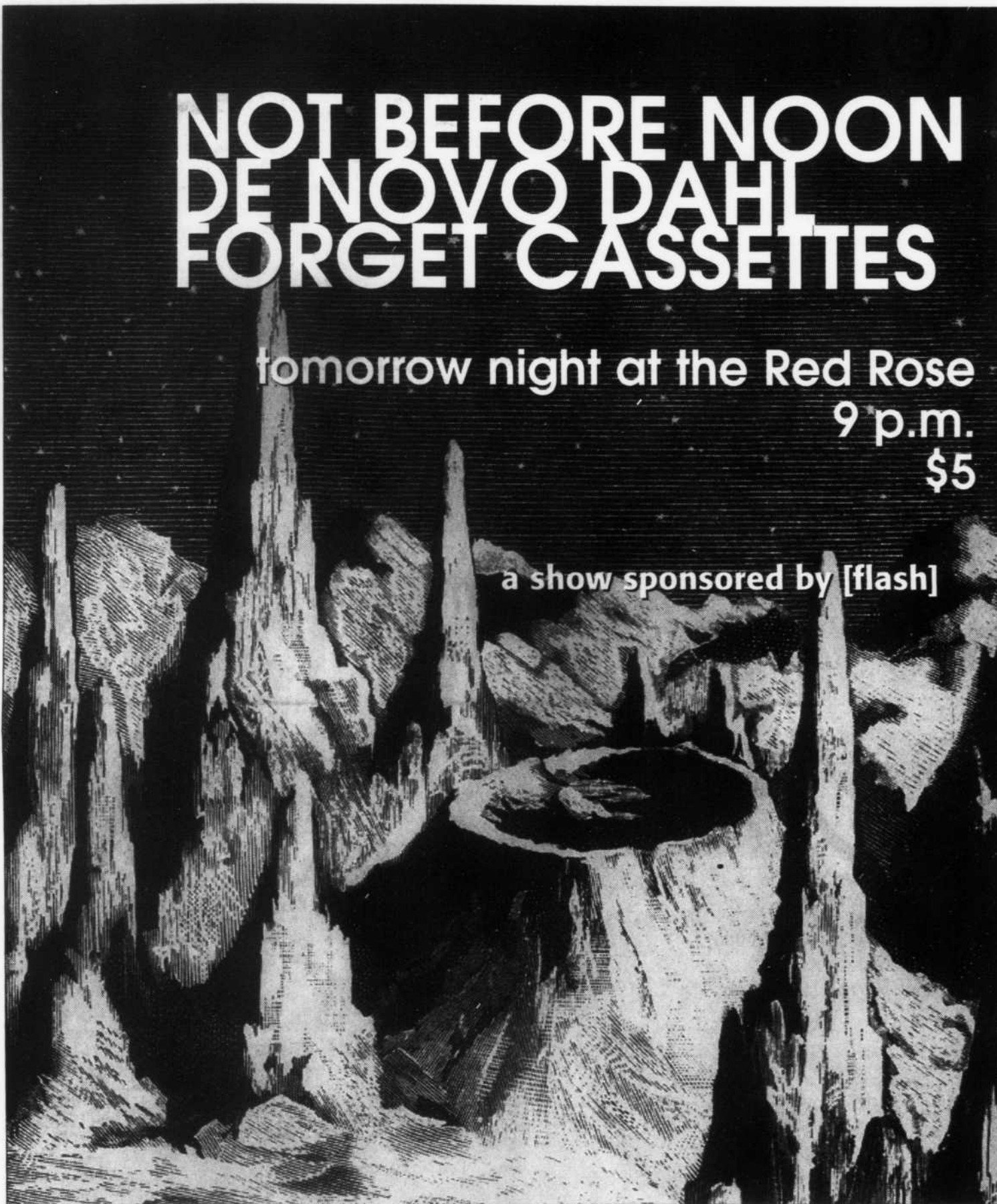
This August the Congressional Budget Office projected a federal deficit of \$401 billion for 2003, making it difficult for the committee to counter the increasing costs of education, Carter said.

"The cost of education is a concern of everybody on the committee," he said. "We're trying to help the poor and minorities, as well as the middle class." ♦

NOT BEFORE NOON DE NOVO DAHL FORGET CASSETTES

tomorrow night at the Red Rose
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Depo-Provera® Contraceptive Injection

medroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension

DEPO-PROVERA® Contraceptive Injection (medroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension, USP)

This product is intended to prevent pregnancy. It does not protect against HIV infection (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases.

What is DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is a form of birth control that is given as an intramuscular injection (a shot) in the buttock or upper arm once every 3 months (13 weeks). To continue your contraceptive protection, you must return for your next injection promptly at the end of 3 months (13 weeks). DEPO-PROVERA contains medroxyprogesterone acetate, a chemical similar to (but not the same as) the natural hormone progesterone, which is produced by your ovaries during the second half of your menstrual cycle. DEPO-PROVERA acts by preventing your egg cells from ripening. If an egg is not released from the ovaries during your menstrual cycle, it cannot become fertilized by sperm and result in pregnancy. DEPO-PROVERA also causes changes in the lining of your uterus that make it less likely for pregnancy to occur.

How effective is DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

The efficacy of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection depends on following the recommended dosage schedule exactly (see "How often do I get my shot of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?"). To make sure you are not pregnant when you first get DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection, your first injection must be given ONLY during the first 5 days of a normal menstrual period. ONLY within the first 5 days after childbirth if not breast-feeding and, if exclusively breast-feeding, ONLY at the sixth week after childbirth. It is a long-term injectable contraceptive when administered at 3-month (13-week) intervals. DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is over 99% effective, making it one of the most reliable methods of birth control available. This means that the average annual pregnancy rate is less than one for every 100 women who use DEPO-PROVERA. The effectiveness of most contraceptive methods depends in part on how reliably each woman uses the method. The effectiveness of DEPO-PROVERA depends only on the patient returning every 3 months (13 weeks) for her next injection. Your health-care provider will help you compare DEPO-PROVERA with other contraceptive methods and give you the information you need in order to decide which contraceptive method is the right choice for you.

The following table shows the percent of women who got pregnant while using different kinds of contraceptive methods. It gives both the lowest expected rate of pregnancy (the rate expected in women who use each method exactly as it should be used) and the typical rate of pregnancy (which includes women who became pregnant because they forgot to use their birth control or because they did not follow the directions exactly).

| Percent of Women Experiencing an Unplanned Pregnancy in the First Year of Continuous Use | | |
|--|-----------------|---------|
| Method | Lowest Expected | Typical |
| DEPO-PROVERA | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Injections (Norplant) | 0.2* | 0.2* |
| Female sterilization | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Male sterilization | 0.1 | 0.15 |
| Oral contraceptive (pill) | - | 3 |
| Combined | 0.1 | - |
| Progestin only | 0.5 | - |
| IUD | - | 3 |
| Progestin | 2.0 | - |
| Copper T 380A | 0.8 | - |
| Condom (with spermicide) | 2 | 12 |
| Diaphragm (with spermicide) | 6 | 18 |
| Cervical cap | 6 | 18 |
| Withdrawal | 4 | 18 |
| Periodic abstinence | 1.9 | 20 |
| Spermicide alone | 3 | 21 |
| Vaginal sponges | 6 | 18 |
| Used before childbirth | - | 29 |
| Used after childbirth | 9 | 29 |
| No method | 85 | 85 |

Source: Trussell et al. *Obstet Gynecol* 1990;76:308-367

*From Norplant package insert

Who should not use DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

- Not all women should use DEPO-PROVERA. You should not use DEPO-PROVERA if you have any of the following conditions:
- If you think you might be pregnant
- If you have any vaginal bleeding without a known reason

Birth control you think about just 4 x a year.

- If you have had cancer of the breast
- If you have had a stroke
- If you have or have had blood clots (phlebitis) in your legs
- If you have problems with your liver or liver disease
- If you are allergic to DEPO-PROVERA (medroxyprogesterone acetate or any of its other ingredients)

What other things should I consider before using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

You will have a physical examination before your doctor prescribes DEPO-PROVERA. It is important to tell your health-care provider if you have any of the following:

- a family history of breast cancer
- an abnormal mammogram (breast x-ray), fibrocystic breast disease, breast nodules or lumps, or bleeding from your nipples
- kidney disease
- irregular or scanty menstrual periods
- high blood pressure
- migraine headaches
- asthma
- epilepsy (convulsions or seizures)
- diabetes or a family history of diabetes
- a history of depression
- if you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medications

This product is intended to prevent pregnancy. It does not protect against transmission of HIV (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, genital herpes, genital warts, gonorrhea, hepatitis B, and syphilis.

What if I want to become pregnant after using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

Because DEPO-PROVERA is a long-acting birth control method, it takes some time after your last injection for fertility to wear off. Based on the results from a large study done in the United States, for women who stop using DEPO-PROVERA in order to become pregnant, it is expected that about half of those who become pregnant will do so in about 12 months after their last injection; about two thirds of those who become pregnant will do so in about 18 months; and about 93% of those who become pregnant will do so in about 18 months after their last injection. The length of time you use DEPO-PROVERA has no effect on how long it takes you to become pregnant after you stop using it.

What are the risks of using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

The side effect reported most frequently by women who use DEPO-PROVERA for contraception is a change in their normal menstrual cycle. During the first year of using DEPO-PROVERA, you might have one or more of the following changes: irregular or unpredictable bleeding or spotting; an increase or decrease in menstrual bleeding or no bleeding at all. Unusually heavy or continuous bleeding, however, is not a usual effect of DEPO-PROVERA, and if this happens, you should see your health-care provider right away. With continued use of DEPO-PROVERA, bleeding usually decreases and many women stop having periods completely. In clinical studies of DEPO-PROVERA, 55% of the women studied reported no menstrual bleeding (amenorrhea) after 1 year of use, and 68% of the women studied reported no menstrual bleeding after 2 years of use. The reason that your periods stop is because DEPO-PROVERA causes a resting state in your ovaries. When your ovaries do not release an egg monthly, the regular monthly growth of the lining of your uterus does not occur and, therefore, the bleeding that comes with your normal menstruation does not take place. When you stop using DEPO-PROVERA your menstrual period will usually, in time, return to its normal cycle.

2 Bone Mineral Changes
Use of DEPO-PROVERA may be associated with a decrease in the amount of mineral stored in your bones. This could increase your risk of developing bone fractures. The rate of bone mineral loss is greatest in the early years of DEPO-PROVERA use, but after that, it begins to resemble the normal rate of age-related bone mineral loss.

Studies of women who have used different forms of contraception found that women who used DEPO-PROVERA for contraception had no increased overall risk of developing cancer of the breast, ovary, uterus, cervix, or liver. However, women under 35 years of age whose first exposure to DEPO-PROVERA was within the previous 4 to 5 years may have a slightly increased risk of developing breast cancer similar to that seen with oral contraceptives. You should discuss this with your health-care provider.

4 Unexpected Pregnancy
Because DEPO-PROVERA is such an effective contraceptive method, the risk of accidental pregnancy for women who get their shots regularly (every 3 months [13 weeks]) is very low. While there have been reports of an increased risk of low birth weight and neonatal infant death or other health problems in infants conceived close to the time of injection, such pregnancies are uncommon. If you think you may have become pregnant while using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception, see your health-care provider as soon as possible.

5 Allergic Reactions
Some women using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection have reported severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reactions known as anaphylaxis and anaphylactoid reactions. Symptoms include the sudden onset of hives or swelling and itching of the skin, breathing difficulties, and a drop in blood pressure.

6 Other Risks
Women who use hormone-based contraceptives may have an increased risk of blood clots or strokes. Also, if a contraceptive method fails, there is a possibility that the fertilized egg will begin to develop outside of the uterus (ectopic pregnancy). While these events are rare, you should tell your health-care provider if you have any of the problems listed in the next section.

What symptoms may signal problems while using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

- sharp chest pain, coughing up of blood, or sudden shortness of breath (indicating a possible clot in the lung)
- sudden severe headache or vomiting, dizziness or fainting, problems with your eyesight or speech, weakness or numbness in an arm or leg (indicating a possible stroke)
- severe pain or swelling in the calf (indicating a possible clot in the leg)
- unusually heavy vaginal bleeding
- severe pain or tenderness in the lower abdominal area
- persistent pain, pain or bleeding at the injection site

What are the possible side effects of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

1 Weight Gain
You may experience a weight gain while you are using DEPO-PROVERA. About two thirds of the women who use DEPO-PROVERA in clinical trials reported a weight gain of about 5 pounds during the first year of use. You may continue to gain weight after the first year. Women in one large study who used DEPO-PROVERA for 2 years gained an average total of 8.1 pounds over those 2 years, or approximately 4 pounds per year. Women who continued for 4 years gained an average total of 13.8 pounds over those 4 years, or approximately 3.5 pounds per year. Women who continued for 6 years gained an average total of 16.5 pounds over those 6 years, or approximately 2.75 pounds per year.

2 Other Side Effects
In a clinical study of over 3,900 women who used DEPO-PROVERA for up to 7 years, some women reported the following effects that may or may not have been related to their use of DEPO-PROVERA: irregular menstrual bleeding, amenorrhea, headache, nervousness, abdominal cramps, dizziness, weakness or fatigue, decreased sexual desire, leg cramps, nausea, vaginal discharge or irritation, breast swelling and tenderness, bloating, swelling of the hands or feet, backache, depression, insomnia, sore, pelvic pain, no hair growth or excessive hair loss, rash, hot flashes, and joint pain. Other problems were reported by very few of the women in the clinical trial, but some of these could be serious. These include convulsions, jaundice, urinary tract infections, allergic reactions, fainting, paralysis, osteoporosis, lack of return to fertility, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, breast cancer or ovarian cancer. If these or any other problems occur during your use of DEPO-PROVERA, discuss them with your health-care provider.

Should any precautions be followed during use of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

1 Missed Periods
During the time you are using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception, you may skip a period, or your periods may stop completely. If you have been receiving your DEPO-PROVERA injections regularly every 3 months (13 weeks), then you are probably not pregnant. However, if you think that you may be pregnant, see your health-care provider.

2 Laboratory Test Interactions
If you are scheduled for any laboratory tests, tell your health-care provider that you are using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception. Certain blood tests are affected by hormones such as DEPO-PROVERA.

3 Drug Interactions
Cytochrome (amphotericin) is an anticancer drug that may significantly decrease the effectiveness of DEPO-PROVERA if the two drugs are given during the same time.

4 Nursing Mothers
Although DEPO-PROVERA can be passed to the nursing infant in the breast milk, no harmful effects have been found in these children. DEPO-PROVERA does not prevent the breast from producing milk, so it can be used by nursing mothers. However, to minimize the amount of DEPO-PROVERA that is passed to the infant in the first weeks after birth, you should wait until 6 weeks after childbirth before you start using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception.

How often do I get my shot of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

The recommended dose of DEPO-PROVERA is 150 mg every 3 months (13 weeks) given in the buttock or upper arm. To make sure that you are not pregnant at the time of the first injection, it is essential that the injection be given ONLY during the first 5 days of a normal menstrual period. If used following the delivery of a child, the first injection of DEPO-PROVERA MUST be given within 5 days after childbirth if you are not breast-feeding or 6 weeks after childbirth if you are exclusively breast-feeding. If you wait longer than 3 months (13 weeks) between injections, or longer than 6 weeks after delivery, your health-care provider should determine that you are not pregnant before giving you your injection of DEPO-PROVERA.

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From the Editorial Board No Child Left Behind deserves closer scrutiny

The No Child Left Behind Act was intended to correct student deficiencies and allow for more local control over school standards, the idea being that the teachers actually instructing the children, rather than a bureaucrat in Washington D.C.

And while NCLB may very well do some good, particularly in overburdened, underfunded or badly-managed school districts, there are some issues that simply don't make sense.

Accountability is a word that sounds great in the press, but what it actually amounts to is 'probation' and eventual takeover by the state. As we've seen in California, our own state and countless others, states seem ill-equipped to clean up messes made by local school districts.

It also pays little heed to the study of education as a practice. For example, there are experienced, licensed teachers that will most likely lose their jobs if NCLB goes into full effect, while a specialist in a certain area who has no teaching licensure, education or experience will be allowed to teach.

Anyone who has ever stepped in front of a classroom in an authoritative positioning knows there's a lot more to teaching than simply knowing the subject matter. There are all kinds of training, including knowing how to deal with behavioral problems and learning disabilities, that this subject expert would lack. In addition, these people would lack skills in classroom management and planning lessons for the allotted time.

Finally, the accountability standard leaves out the factor of kids who simply don't want to learn. Everyone knew kids like this; you might have even been one of them. Are the teachers and school districts supposed to suffer because these students might simply not be interested in learning, or aren't getting the proper reinforcement at home?

No Child Left Behind comes with it many good intentions, but as with all universally binding regulations, there are kinks to be ironed out. ♦

Corrections

In Monday's edition the date of the Hay Daze Bull Ride was incorrectly printed as Friday. The correct date is tonight at 8 p.m.

SIDELINES

P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Editorial: 898-2337
Advertising: 898-2533
Fax: 904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

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Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. E-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and a phone number for verification.

Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

Stem cell storage misleading, exploitative

Wit and Wonder



Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist

American births are quickly becoming profitable as new, for-profit companies are emerging with a costly procedure that promises to save babies' lives in the future.

Companies such as ViaCord and Cord Blood Registry are at the forefront of a rapidly growing industry of private cord blood banks, which claim to offer later-in-life health assurance through a removal and storage service of umbilical blood.

Essentially, the company harvests the blood from your newly born infant's umbilical cord, stores it in a facility and claims that preserving these stem cell

packed fluids could save your child's life in the face of future disease.

This service has been marketed in magazines such as *Fir Pregnancy* and during commercial periods of television programs like TLC's *A Baby Story*, implying a message that good mommies and daddies would definitely invest in such a service.

But this blood extraction and storage comes at quite a cost. The initial cost runs up to \$1,500 for processing of cord-blood. After that, there is a yearly fee of \$90 for storage. Many parents couldn't afford such an venture, but many still, in an attempt to be a good parent, fork over their cash to these private companies, hoping that their investment could one day save their child's life.

Many organizations remain skeptical of this money-making venture. The American Academy of

Pediatrics released a statement expressing skepticism about the validity of these claims.

The academy stated that "... private storage of cord blood as biological insurance is unwise." The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists wrote, while these cord-blood transplants seemed like a positive venture, "parents should not be sold this service without a realistic assessment of their likely return on their investment."

Researchers are saying that the return isn't likely. Medical professionals report that cord-blood is most often used in cases of blood cancer and genetic disorder, but cord-blood from another donor must be used due to the presence of genetic anomalies and sickly cells within his or her own blood. If mom or dad saves your cord-

blood, it isn't likely to save you or anyone closely linked genetically to you.

Take an instance in which a child develops leukemia later in life. There is good evidence that these kids have the leukemic cell in their blood at birth.

Many medical professionals are suggesting an alternative - put your child's umbilical cord blood in a public bank where those in need will have access to it, especially since chances are that your child may not be able to use it in every case of disease.

This is a more sound idea, considering the medical revolutions that could occur in the future, which would make this fluid a precious medical commodity.

But marketing this procedure today as a miracle cure is wrong. Such fluids should be stored in a pub-

lic bank at a lower cost to donors and those in need to make this resource more available.

With growing medical innovation and rapidly expanding methods of maintaining human life, these resources should be open to anyone, regardless of income. Parents with limited financial resources should also be given the ability to invest in their children's health, because lower income families still have the same desire to provide care and happiness for their children.

Money shouldn't stand in the way of that intent, especially where health and well being are concerned. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a senior mass communications major and can be reached via e-mail at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

Telemarketers take heed: We're coming for you



And Justice for All
Ashley Swafford
Staff Columnist

How many of you have ever taken your first bite of dinner just to have the phone ring and it be an annoying telemarketer? This is an all too common scenario.

I'm 18 - do I really need a pre-paid burial plot? What about life insurance? What really kills me is how many of these evil (yes, evil) people won't take "no" for an answer. The thing is that once you ask a telemarketer not to call back, it is illegal for them to do so.

Sometimes, politely declining does the job. I have, however, encountered the rude ones. You know, those people who act like you're wasting their time. I've even been cussed out by a telemarketer for not wanting to buy his product. I admit, I said a few choice words back and slammed the phone down (because we all know what good that does).

Having caller ID doesn't help either. When they call, it usually shows up as an unknown number. I'm the type of person who, if the number did show up, would have some fun with the situation. They probably just call from home - how great would it be to give a telemarketer a wake-up call at 2 a.m.?

I understand that people need to make a living. But seriously, how much money can one actually make by being a pest? I would hardly call that being a productive member of society.

I do know of someone, a friend of a friend, who tried his hand at it once. He hated it the whole week he did it. I really wish I could say they were a dying breed, but I'd probably be wrong.

Now, I'm looking for solutions. The problem is that there's not much that can be done about it, except for maybe one thing. There's a government do-not-call list that is available on the Internet and takes effect Oct. 1. You can put your name on the list, and supposedly it's to be taken off most telemarketing lists. Maybe this will work, but if not, it's back to the drawing board.

There are probably some loopholes (there always are) so they will still be able to find a way to call. I don't know a single person that wouldn't want to be on this holiest of lists, so if it does work, maybe we'll see the last of the dreaded telemarketer.

Of course, we may just be setting ourselves up for a regression of worse proportions. Have you ever heard of the door-to-door salesman? Back in the day, unsuspecting home-dwellers could be harassed at home. I can only imagine what that would be like. I feel sorry for anyone who dares to bother me at home, that's all I can say.

So, telemarketers everywhere: take heed. There's an ongoing battle being waged against you, and eventually you will lose. As for the rest of us: Let's keep fighting the good fight. ♦

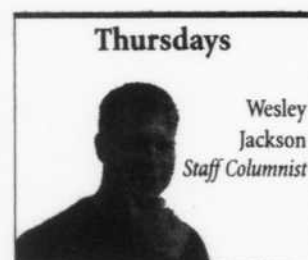
Ashley Swafford is a freshman mass communications major and can be reached via e-mail at xori-on25x@yahoo.com.

The only media group
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Where's their God
to save them now?

(Part 2 of 2)

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Judeo-Christian heritage evident



Thursdays
Wesley Jackson
Staff Columnist

Nicholas Kristof, columnist for *The New York Times*, wrote a column last month in which he expressed concern about the growing popularity of Christian evangelism in America.

He fears that, like many radical Islamic mullahs and imams, more Christians are becoming fundamentalists. In doing so, they are divorcing themselves from rational thought.

Kristof assumes that religious fundamentalism is not consistent with reason and that American evangelicals, similar to Islamic ayatollahs, are a threat to our "rich intellectual tradition."

Michael Horowitz, author and Jewish leader in Washington D.C., wrote a response to Kristof's column that was later published in the August 30th issue of *World* magazine, from which quotations here are taken. His main points detailed the profound inaccuracy of Kristof's assumptions.

Though not a Christian himself, Horowitz' experience has shown that more and more American evangelicals are becoming "Rhodes scholars, Supreme Court clerks, law review editors, Ph.D. physicists, quiet community leaders, entrepreneurial business men." This hardly fits with Kristof's claims of evangelical irrational and ignorant thinking.

Horowitz explained that far from accepting their faith blindly and without hesitation, the evangelicals of his experience have very open minds. They are self-questioning, and they critically examine, intellectually and emotionally, their beliefs.

Apparently, there are exceptions to Kristof's generalization of heartfelt-but-stupid Christian evangelicals.

The *New York Times* columnist also seems to assume that all religions are basically the same. And they are all a dangerous digression from rational thought.

Horowitz corrects this assumption as well. Whatever the blemishes of Christianity's history, Horowitz argues that, "Christianity (and the Judeo-Christian heritage that happily still remains strong in America) has promoted democracy and tolerance." He concludes that the rapid growth of the church around the world "is closely linked to the spread of democracy and human rights."

All religions are not the same, and Christianity has stood out as one of the most beneficial religions the world has known. Kristof assumes that it's the non-religious, rational secularist that will bring order and reason to the world.

Horowitz asks the columnist, "What in the history of the 20th century, Nick, leads you to think that secularists who claim to think with their minds instead of being captured by the mad excesses of their hearts have not in fact been more mad and excessive in their actions

and with their ideologies?"

Christianity has given us a tradition of democracy and human freedom. It's been the so-called rational, non-religious secularists who've brought tyranny to the world in the last century.

Kristof's words resemble comments I've heard from other friends, students, or books.

It's the idea that religion doesn't have anything to do with "the real world." We can do without it because it's all, ultimately, irrational superstition. All religions are essentially the same. They all have about as much significance as a Hallmark greeting card. They're nice and sentimental but has no bearing on life's real issues.

What Horowitz argues is that these assumptions are flawed. Far from being divorced from "the real world," it's been the Christian religion and the Judeo-Christian tradition that have engaged "the real world."

It is these religious principles that have provided the foundation for our moral rationality, democracy and society.

For us to simply assume that faith is irrelevant bears more testimony to our own blind, unquestioning, devotion to the doctrines of secularism - our own non-religious religion - than to critical thought or historical fact.

It might be a good idea for all of us, along with Kristof, to consider the importance of our Judeo-Christian heritage. ♦

Wesley Jackson is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at wj2b@mtsu.edu.

Letter to the Editor

Comfort not always found at home, church

To the Editor:

"What do people live for?" asks Jeremy Coseo. I'll tell you what. Truth, God, family, country? No truth there.

The God argument here is ridiculous. The belief in God is based purely on faith. There is no proof to the existence of God. There are unexplainable phenomena, but that isn't proof. Faith is earned, not expected. And to say that bad things haven't happened in the name of god is a diluted idea from someone with the wool pulled past their eyes and stuffed into their mouth.

The family unit is the most precious thing in rearing the next generation, but when your father is an abusive drunk and your mother is a Valium-chugging doormat, don't expect family to be the all-comforting bastion of righteousness.

And I'm not saying these things happen because of drug use itself. Coseo seems to think all drug users are some kind of degenerate moros who don't care about the harm they're causing. I hope his mode of transportation doesn't have a V-8.

As human beings, we have the ability to reason and make decisions for ourselves. We should also have the right to not be lied to. Unfortunately we don't. So it is our responsibility to reason based on what we know, put it in our pocket and claim it as our own. My favorite social causes are universal healthcare and education, but, evidently, advancing these two things, which are proven to better society, is meaningless. If so, I hope he never loses his job and health insurance and has to send his kids to public schools.

Kyle Young
Senior
College of Mass Communication

Poor tippers beware of karma police

Yesterday's Tomorrow

John Miller
Staff Columnist



Last year I wrote an column similar to what is to follow. The great thing about it was shortly thereafter I left the restaurant business for what I hoped would be the last time. However, after a semester in France and one working in Congress, I once again find myself working for those ones and fives, dimes and quarters. As much as I hate it at times,

there is not much else a college student can do that offers both flexibility and good money.

First off, servers get paid a whopping \$2.13 an hour, most of which gets eaten up by taxes. This means, more or less, we live off our tips.

Quiz: Let's say you have four people that go out to eat, and they have a \$75 bill. What should they tip? Well, the industry standard is 15 percent. This is not for the greatest or the worst service ever, just the average.

This is the minimum you should leave for adequate service, but do not ever be scared to leave a little more. I need that extra dollar more than you do, I promise.

For those of you who do not want to carry a calculator with you every time you go out to eat, here is a simple formula: Take 10 percent of the original bill, which is \$7.50. Now take half of that, which is \$3.75. Then add the two together.

If you are looking for yet an easier way, just double the tax unless you are drinking alcohol.

Because we all know how to tip, let's look at why you should tip. As stated, servers only make \$2.13 an hour. This means if the server only has a three table section, and the party of four with the \$75 tab does not leave a tip, they have cost the server a third of what he or she should have made.

Some may argue that the

service was not up to par: the server took forever to greet us, our food was not cooked properly and a thousand other things.

I go out to eat quite often, and I realize all those little things that can go wrong. I also know that sometimes it is the server's fault. However, the majority of the time, there are a million things that can go wrong that the server has no control over.

For instance, let's imagine that just before you sat down, the adorable little monster at one of the server's other tables throws his drink everywhere.

At this point, the server has a situation to deal with that he or she did nothing to cause, so it

takes a few extra seconds for them to get to your table to greet you.

Later that night, when your steak arrives, it is over or undercooked. Once again, this is probably not the server's fault. The new guy on the grill has not quite mastered his job. I could write a 10,000 word essay on all the other things that can go wrong, but I am running out of space.

Servers earn every penny of their 15 percent. The next time you go out to eat, be patient and sympathize. Do not get mad at the person who has been on their feet for 10 straight hours without a break because your refill didn't get there fast enough.

Take care of your servers and they will take care of you. Just remember what comes around goes around, or as we say in the restaurant business, "That's karma."

It seems for me that graduation and maybe a real job are just around the corner. No, I'm lying because I'm going to law school, so the real job may have to wait.

One day, I will be through with the restaurant business forever, but I will never forget where I came from. ♦

John Miller is a senior political science and French major and can be reached via e-mail at jcm2r@mtsu.edu.

A word to the wise

By Aubrey Henretty
Michigan Daily

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. — "A man may take to drink because he feels himself to be a failure, and then fail all the more completely because he drinks. It is rather the same thing that is happening to the English language. It becomes ugly and inaccurate because our thoughts are foolish, but the slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts." — George Orwell, "Politics and the English Language," 1946

Quick: Define fascism. Quick!

Too late. Next: Irony. Go. You have no idea, do you? Be honest. I promise I won't get angry. I won't think you're stupid. It's okay if you don't know. There are lots of words I don't know. All I ask is, if you see or hear the word "irony" and don't immediately think, "Ah, yes, irony: a method of expression in which the actual meaning of the words used is the opposite of their usual meaning" or "Oh, irony, of course: a combination of circumstances or a result that is the opposite of what might be expected or considered appropriate," please don't use the word yourself. Please. Never.

I'm serious. Don't say it. Close your mouth and open a dictionary. It'll take 20 seconds, tops. Then you'll know. Then you can say it.

Irony is just the beginning. Fascism is another issue altogether. If you actually know what it means, good for you. If you're like most college students, you suspect it means something like "stupid," but you're not really sure. And yet

you say it. All the time. Why? Are you really paying so little attention to what you're thinking that you'll say "fascist" when you mean "capitalist" or "Democrat" or even "asshole"? Don't you value your own opinion enough to express it clearly to others? Why are you glaring at me like that?

I know my aggressive and enthusiastic linguistic inquisitions often offend and/or annoy people. And indeed, somewhere in the deep recesses of my superego, a little voice squeaks disapproval every time I "ruin" a perfectly good conversation by pointing out a verbal snafu (my own or anyone else's) mid-sentence. But I don't hound people just for kicks. I'm not one of those militant grammarians who have massive heart attacks every time someone dares end a sentence with a preposition. In fact, as long as the meaning of the sentence is clear, I think a preposition is a fine word to end it with.

I get brash and tactless when people use words they don't know because every aspect of our society — our legal system, our government, our foreign policy, our tax code, everything — is based on linguistic subtlety, and if average people are too lazy to tackle the really obvious stuff (e.g. looking up "fascist" before they decide once and for all that the conservative kid in their poli sci class is one), there's little hope that they'll notice when they're being verbally duped by the people in control — the people who know what the words mean.

Case in point: Several months ago, the very minute the U.S. military invaded Iraq for the express purpose of over-

throwing that nation's government, CNN had a "War on Iraq" montage ready to go, complete with matching bottom-corner-of-screen graphics. A couple of days later, the montage and the graphics all said, "War in Iraq." If the bulk of the viewing population still hasn't bothered to distinguish irony from misfortune (Hello, Alanis Morissette), how many people are going to get angry about one little preposition swap? Scarier still, how many will even notice the difference? (HINT: There is a big difference. A really big one. Think about it.)

Being picky about language is not just a goofy English-major hang up. Or it shouldn't be. Words mean things, and knowing what they mean has many practical applications that are neither academic nor political. You'll never be able to argue your way out of that speeding ticket, for instance, if you don't know the exact wording and implications of the law you're fighting.

On trial for murder? Guilty? Then believe me, you'll want to hire a lawyer who not only chooses her own words carefully, but also pays close attention to those of the judge, the prosecutor and the witnesses.

Every misused word, every slovenly expression could be a matter of life and death. Chances are, while you're grumbling about the "fascist" who answered her cell phone during lecture, there's a real fascist pushing unconstitutional legislation through Congress. You might say that was ironic.

And if you did, you'd be wrong. ♦



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SPORTS

6 ◆ SIDELINES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Blue Raiders head south for road trip

By Brad Jameson
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's soccer team faces its greatest challenge so far this season when they take a road trip to face Ole Miss Friday and Mississippi State Sunday.

The 4-3 Blue Raiders are coming off a 6-1 win against Birmingham Southern on Sunday afternoon.

Head coach Aston Rhoden believes his players showed a sort of aggression against Birmingham Southern that has not been seen all season.

"We came out and played more aggressively than we usually do," Rhoden said. "We used the advantages we were given today, like home field advantage, to win this one, because Birmingham Southern is not a bad team."

MT won't have those advantages Friday night in Oxford, Miss. The Rebels currently hold the top spot in the SEC Western Division and are ranked No. 24 nationally. Their seven-game winning streak was snapped last week when Ole Miss lost to Florida State in Tallahassee, Fla., leaving the Rebels with a 7-1 overall record.

Ole Miss is 6-0 and has given up two goals while playing in Oxford, outscoring opponents a combined 25-2. The Rebels' biggest offensive threat is Kristal Menard, who has scored five goals with four assists so far this season. On defense, Ole Miss' goalkeeper Brittany Gillespie has allowed four goals in eight games.

The Rebels earned a spot in the NCAA Women's Soccer College Cup last year, becoming the first Division I program from Mississippi to reach the NCAA tournament. The team lost in the first round to Florida State.

Ole Miss head coach Steve Holeman wants another shot at the tournament.

"Anything less than another NCAA appear-

ance would be a disappointment," Holeman said.

Holeman will be going for his 100th career win Friday night against MT, giving the Rebels even more motivation. He would be the third coach to reach that milestone in SEC women's soccer history.

After the Blue Raiders' Friday night match, they will head even further south to Starkville, Miss., to take on Mississippi State Sunday afternoon.

The Bulldogs have managed a 4-3-1 record this season, winning four in a row, tying one, and then losing three in a row.

Like in the game against the Rebels, home field advantage will be a significant factor in deciding the outcome. Mississippi State is also undefeated at home, going 3-0-1.

One of the greatest obstacles in MT's way is the Bulldogs' freshman goalkeeper Luisa Marzotto, who was recently named SEC Defensive Player of the Week for her second straight week. Marzotto became the first Mississippi State player to earn such honors twice in one season.

Marzotto has also set the record for most consecutive shutout minutes, totaling just over 369 minutes without allowing a goal.

The Bulldogs are coming off of a three-game road streak, in which they lost games to Samford, Nebraska and Iowa State. Their slump has left them near the bottom of the SEC West, ranking only above Arkansas.

The three losses leave Mississippi State even hungrier for a win, which could provide even more of a challenge for MT.

"We will remain focused," head coach Neil McGuire said.

The Blue Raiders will return to Murfreesboro next Friday to face Florida International in the first Sun Belt matchup of the season. ◆

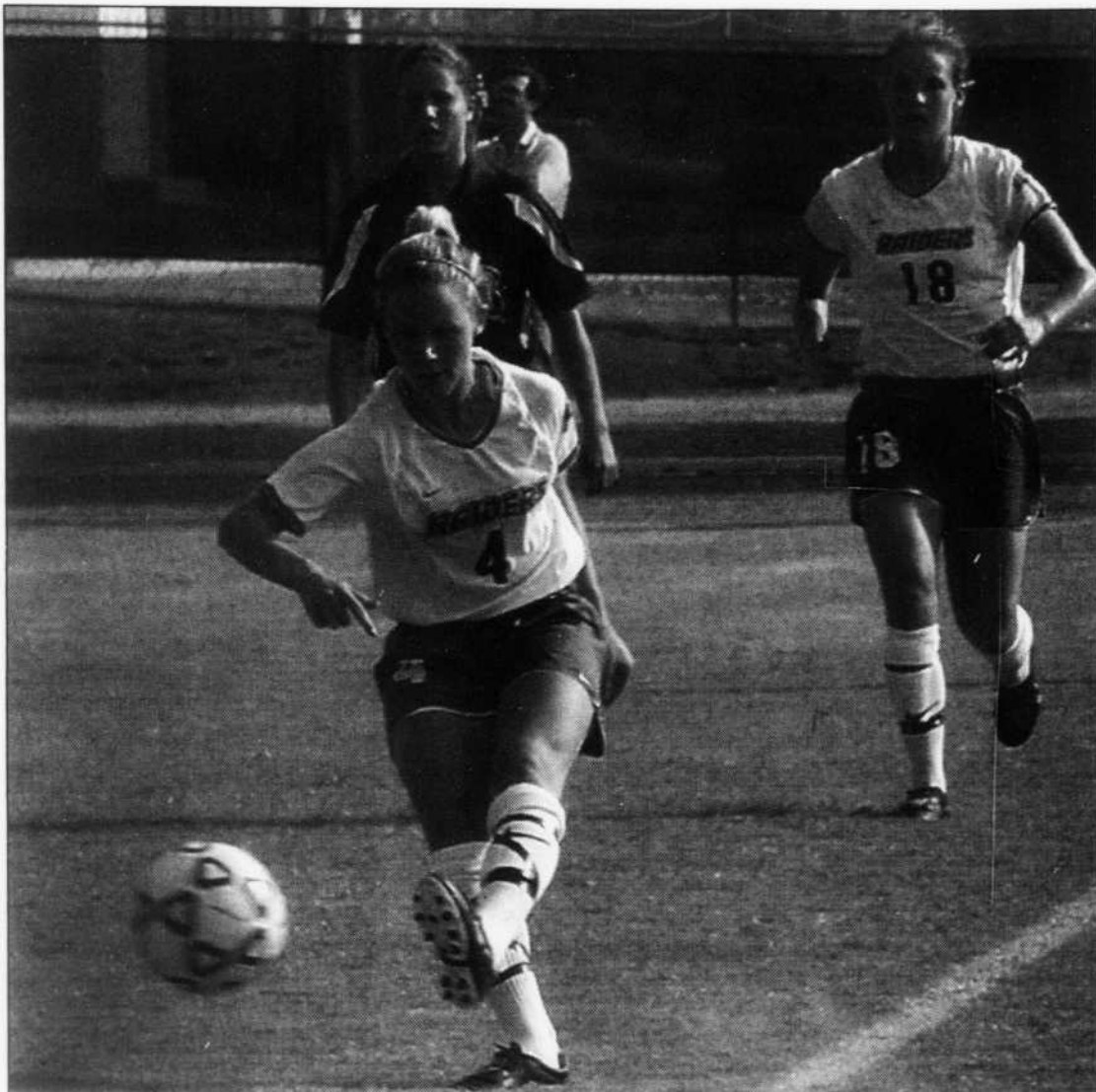


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Christina Mascaro (4) runs the ball while Jessica Northcutt runs to catch up against Birmingham Southern Sunday. The Blue Raiders beat BSC 6-1.

MT volleyball loses match after five games



Photo by Rich Kersmarki | Staff Photographer

Andressa Lyra hits the ball against Memphis Tuesday.

Memphis on 12-game winning streak

By Colby Sledge
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team lost to the University of Memphis 3-2 (19-30, 24-30, 30-26, 30-26, 11-15) Tuesday night in a match that saw the Lady Raiders battle from two games down to force a fifth and decisive game.

Nobody from MT, however, was pleased with the results.

"We started out way too slow. We started out just horrible," MT head coach Lisa Kisee said. "We were not ready, which is really surprising, because we talked about the fact that they were 14-1, and they were going to be hyped, and we gave them that match."

"We basically gave them games one and two," Kisee continued. "It took us that long to get into the flow."

"I am so fired up right now," MT co-captain Karisse Baker said. "I do not want to have another season like we had last year. We can do so much better. We have so much potential and so many coaches have told us, 'You guys are so good, you just have so much athleticism, and we just can't put it together.'"

The Tigers (15-1) came into the match riding an 11-game winning streak and appeared to have an easy victory after the first two games. UM had 32 kills through the first two games, compiling a .284 attack percentage to MT's .071 percentage.

The Lady Raiders (7-8),

however, took control of the match in games three and four, consistently blocking the Tigers' powerful duo of Tiara Gilkey and Brittany Barnett, who still finished with a combined 44 kills.

The MT offense finally woke up, averaging a .313 attack percentage in games three and four while UM's percentage plummeted to .149.

In game five, the Tigers reverted to the form they displayed earlier in the match as they raced out to a 3-0 lead and held on for the victory behind three kills from Nancy Nellans, who in the previous four games had eight attack errors and three kills.

UM's 74 total kills were the most MT has allowed this season. KeKe Deckard led the Lady Raiders with 16 kills, and setters Megan Sumrell and Goldie Bilyeu combined for 51 assists.

After the match, Kisee was extremely unhappy with her team's early mistakes and performance in the final game.

"We didn't start aggressively in game five. We went back to the same mentality we had in games one and two," Kisee said. "It really was disappointing, because I felt like though they were 14-1, their schedule was so much weaker than ours."

"I felt like the strength of our schedule had prepared us for this, but [UM] just came out positive and fighting, and we didn't."

Baker, who finished with 14



Photo by Rich Kersmarki | Staff Photographer

Kimberly Moeller (23) digs the ball while other Lady Raiders prepare to assist against Memphis Tuesday.

kills and four blocks, agreed wholeheartedly with her coach.

"It's very frustrating to fight and claw our way back into the match and then let up in game five when we were totally capable of winning," Baker said.

"We clawed our way back in; we should have sliced them up and finished it."

Friday, the Lady Raiders begin their Sun Belt Conference schedule at the University of North Texas, the first match of a five-match road trip.

MT returns home Oct. 12 to face Florida International University. ◆

SBC gears up for week of conference showdowns

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

Four teams in the Sun Belt Conference begin conference action Saturday.

The other three members will continue non-conference play. Middle Tennessee is the only SBC team this week that is idle.

Two-time defending SBC football champion University of North Texas (1-3) begins conference action when the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (0-4, 0-1) comes to Denton, Texas.

Currently, the Mean Green has an 11-game winning streak inside the SBC, second in the country behind the University of Miami. The Hurricanes have a 25-game winning streak in the Big East Conference. Their latest win

was last Saturday night over Boston College.

Also, the Mean Green has the toughest schedule in the country with their past opponents having a combined 13-2 record.

The Ragin' Cajuns are still looking for their first win of the season. ULL has a 0-1 record in the conference standings, but the loss was against Western Athletic Conference member Louisiana Tech University.

In last year's meeting, UNT defeated ULL 27-0. The Mean Green has a three-game winning streak over the

Ragin' Cajuns.

The kickoff for the game is Saturday at 7 p.m.

The other opening SBC game has the newest member, Utah State University (0-3), hosting its first SBC game against the University of Louisiana-Monroe (0-4). One of these teams will walk away with their first win of the season.

ULL head coach Charlie Weatherbie coached at USU from 1992-94. In 1993, the Aggies won the Big West Conference title and the only bowl victory in the school's history over Ball State at the Las Vegas Bowl.

This is the second meeting between the two schools. Last season, ULM defeated USU in double overtime, 51-48.

Last week, ULM's Charles Estes was named SBC Special Teams Player of

the Week for his performance in the 14-10 loss to Northwestern State. He had a total of 134 yards on punt and kickoff returns. It included a career-high 45-yard kickoff return and a 35-yard punt return.

The game starts at 5 p.m. Saturday.

New Mexico State University (1-2) travels to in-state rival

Mountain West Conference member the University of New Mexico (1-3).

This is the 94th time the rivals have played each other, with the Aggies winning the previous three out of five

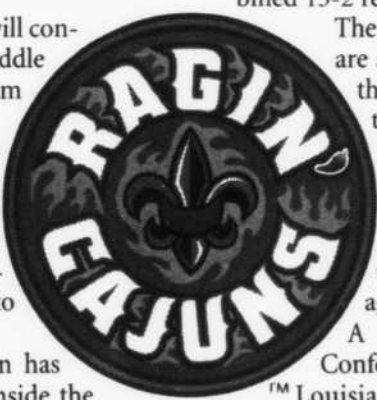
games. This series started in 1894. The teams have met every season since 1919, except for 1943-45 because of World War II.

Last season, NMSU won at home 24-13. However, UNM leads the series 60-28-5. The game starts 7 p.m. on Saturday.

One of the other two SBC games pits Arkansas State (2-2) against Conference USA member University of Memphis (2-1). This game begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

The University of Idaho (0-4) faces long-time foe the University of Montana (2-1). This is the 83rd game for the Little Brown Stein, and it starts at 2 p.m. Saturday.

None of this weekend's SBC games will be televised. ◆



MT begins Sun Belt play on road

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team will be heading to the University of North Texas and the University of Western Kentucky to begin conference play Friday.

"The defensive and offensive is all the same since the last matches, and we need to improve," head coach Lisa Kisse said.

The Lady Raiders will have to regroup for North Texas and Western Kentucky. North Texas (8-6) is ranked No. 3 in kills in the Sun Belt Conference, averaging 15.82.

UNT also owns the No. 2 spot in assists, averaging 14.04 a match.

The Mean Green's top player is senior Corina Marginas, who was recently named Sun Belt Volleyball Player of the Week.

Marginas had 53 kills in the Shocker Classic and hit a season high with 26 against Wichita State. She averaged 3.5 kills and three digs per game.

Another standout for UNT is senior outside hitter Jill Ruskowski.

Ruskowski averages 3.11 kills per game, and her season high came against Tulsa with 21. She also recorded 20 kills against Oral Roberts this season.

After the stop in Texas, the Lady Raiders will travel to Western Kentucky to take on the Hilltoppers in another SBC matchup.

WKU is known as one of the better teams in the Conference. The Lady Toppers (11-4) have won their last five SBC openers.

Tracy May, WKU's senior Sun Belt Conference player of the Week, averages 4.73 digs per game.

Last week, May recorded a career-best 26 digs in a tough loss with Indiana University.

WKU hitting percentage averages to .286.

The team totals 866 kills with 276 errors. They also average 16.34 kills in each game and have three players in the top hitting percentage.

Caron Blotch totals 167 kills on the season, while Cynda Derbort holds the second spot with 224. Amanda Schiff holds the first spot with 385 kills on the season.

Blotch also leads the SBC with assists at 12.85.

Meanwhile, the Lady Raiders will move on for more intense matches.

"North Texas and Western Kentucky are better teams than the ones we have been playing," Kisse said. "The matches are going to be tough. We cannot start off slow, then begin playing."

MT will begin conference play Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. in Denton, Texas.

The Lady Raiders then move on to Bowling Green, Ky., for the matchup against WKU at 12 p.m. Sept. 28. ♦

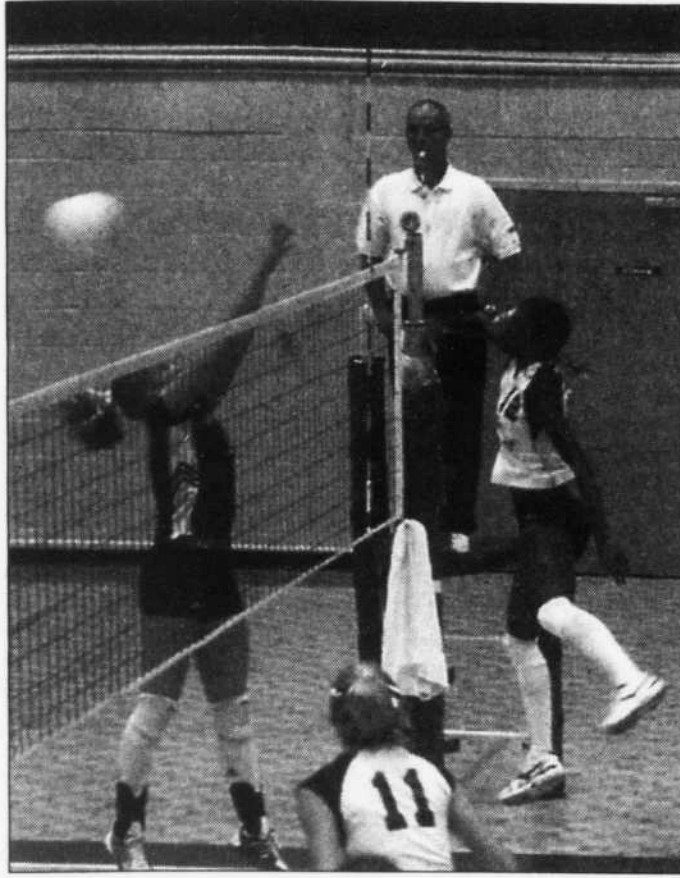


Photo by Rich Kersmarki | Staff Photographer

Senior LaToya Brown kills a ball after an assist from Goldie Bilyeu against Appalachian State Sept. 19.

Does this look like fun?

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ATP Auto Detailing. Full-service wash and wax starting at \$60. Contact Casey (615) 414-6112 or atpautodetail@yahoo.com

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Career

Are you interested in earning your PhD? Would you like to have your own personal research mentor? Would like to receive funding to conduct research? Are you interested in preparation for graduate levels studies? If you answered yes to the above questions please contact the MTSU McNair Scholars Program. The McNair Program is located in Midgett 103 (back of KOM). Our Staff would like to tell you more about our distinguished program. Information may also be found at: <http://www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair/>

Internships

Get paid to prepare to graduate school. To qualify, student has to be a low-income/first generation or underrepresented student and have a desire to achieve earning a PhD. Have a 3.0 GPA and 60 earned credit hours by May 2004. For more information, contact the **MTSU McNair Scholars Program** located in Midgett 103 (back of KOM) or call 904-8462 for more information.

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Meet **Mark**!! Call Lisa @ 898-4623 to see **Mark's** "remarkable" beauty, skin care and accessories catalog or to host a **Mark** party of your own. Make \$\$\$ and have fun at the same time, great for sororities and other groups.

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Bartender trainees needed. \$250 a day potential. Local positions. 1-800-293-3985 ext. 305

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Need an extra part time income? Do you keep your options open for another way to make money? Great pay. Flexible hours. Be your own boss. Call Justin @ 904-2498

Cheerleading, baton twirling, dance and tumbling teachers needed. Must have own transportation. Reliable and good with children. Please phone (615) 896-4683 or leave message (615) 347-3595.

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Opportunities

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A graphic design student is planning to publish a 2005 art calendar featuring artwork of MTSU students and Middle Tennessee artists. If you would like for your artwork to be included in the calendar, call John at (615) 832-4702 or email at jdcunningham@bellsouth.net.

Attention bands! Want to play Betastock 2003? Beta Theta Pi is hosting this rock concert charity event to benefit the MTSU day-care. We are looking for 4-5 bands to play this event on Oct. 30, 2003. For more information, contact Paul at (615) 494-8663 or musicman4life68@yahoo.com

Make money selling Miscellaneous items. Consignment sale 70/30. For more info. call 898-4684.

Movie extras/models needed. No experience Required, all looks and ages. earn \$100-\$300 a day. 1888-820-0167 ext. U421.

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Musicians wanted! Modern rock band is seeking second guitar player and vocalist to complete our group. Our influences include: Nickelback, Creed, Trapt, Feul, etc. Looking for talented musicians interested in playing originals. Must have great talent, pro gear, positive attitude. No drugs, slackers or non-dedicated people! Contact Paul at (615) 494-8663 or musicman4life68@yahoo.com.

Does your group need to raise money fast? Sell Avon Products and see \$\$\$ in as little as 3 weeks. Custom-designed fundraisers, supported by an Avon Independent Sales representative. Call Anna at (615) 274-2775

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Roommate needed (male preferred). Old lascaras 1/2 mile from Campus. Rent \$250. Deposit \$200. Need roommate until the end of May 2004. Cable furnished. Low utilities.

Roommate needed to share 3BR condo, walking distance to campus. Rent \$250 month, plus 1/3 utilities and 1/3 deposit. Call John (615) 542-3295.

Seeking females only for a nice-sized room available in a 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome. Located 3 miles away from MTSU. Currently only two people are residing in this townhouse so there is more than one room available. Rent \$350/mo and utilities are divided among the number of people there. Call (615) 783-1336, or (901) 262-1734 after 4 p.m.

Need two female roommates/boarders for three bedroom house in Smyrna. Access to computer and pool. Fenced backyard, outside animals allowed. Daughter (4.0 GPA) senior at MTSU in house for possible transportation and tutoring. Furnished or unfurnished; private bath; laundry, kitchen privileges. All utilities furnished. DirectTV, phone, small deposit. References required. \$400/month (negotiable). Call (615) 223-7729 pr (615) 364-5690. Available Aug. 1.

Female roommate needed asap to share a 2 bed 1 1/2 bath condo on Bell St. Fully furnished with W/D and dishwasher. Rent is \$400 and includes all utilities. Call 931-473-7502 for more information.

Roommate needed to share 2 bedroom apt. on Ewing Blvd., within walking distance to campus. Rent is \$350 + utilities. W/D, dishwasher, personal bathroom included in apt. Roommate needed soon so call today. Call Rick at (615) 896-7321.

Room for rent, no lease or deposit. \$250 a month plus 1/4 utilities. Conveniently located within walking distance of campus. Call Tony or Jamie at (615) 867-3088.

Roommate needed to share a 3-bedroom house 5 min. from campus. Off-street parking. Large lot. Washer/dryer. Rent is \$300/month + 1/3 of utilities. Contact Ryann at (615) 907-3994.

\$300 a month, includes all utilities.

ties, you rent your own room and share common living spaces (kitchen, living room, bath...). The house is located on a large farm (w/ a big front yard) off of 96 1-1/2 miles from I-24. A quick 15 minute commute in the morning traffic to campuses via 99. \$300 refundable deposit, \$300 on the first of each month, will gladly prorata August. For more information, call Wallace @ (615) 397-8243.

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Sublease needed for 1 BR/1 BA in 4 BR/4BA at University Courtyard. \$0 deposit. \$395/month, utilities included. Move in Aug. 15. Call Lisa, (615) 828-6626.

One bedroom apartment. Walk to MTSU. \$395/month. 896-5017/812-1744.

Upstairs apartment in home (all utilities paid). Digital cable \$40/mo. Prefer female non-smoker. 3 miles from I-24 off Franklin Rd. \$500 monthly + deposit and proof of income/references. (615) 893-0806 or (615) 898-7981.

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Wanted! CLEP Study Guides. Please call 703-728-7510 or email arc3a@mtsu.edu.

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Cox leads Blue Raider squad as captain

By Brad Jameson
Staff Writer

Jenny Cox, a standout in Middle Tennessee athletics, was a star football player in high school.

Her place kicking ability earned her All-State honors, making her the first and only female athlete to receive such a status in Tennessee high school football.

"It's an extremely big honor," Cox said. "I take a lot of pride in it. I just did it to help out our school."

And football's not even her sport of choice.

Now in her senior year, Cox is a co-captain and forward on the MT women's soccer squad.

"Being a senior, as well as a captain, I consider myself a leader of this team," Cox said. "I just try and go out every game and put my effort forth, and hopefully everyone else will, too."

Cox grew up in Clarksville, Tenn., and attended Kenwood High School, where she played soccer, football, basketball and track.

She led the soccer team in scoring all three years.

When she came to MT, Cox exploded from the beginning, making First Team All-Sun Belt and tying for second on the team in goals and points.

"Coming into anyone's freshman year, you're really nervous, like you have to prove something," Cox said. "So, just accomplishing all that was really nice to see that I can compete in this NCAA Division I level."

Cox's streak hit a brick wall when she missed the first half of her sophomore season and 9 games in her junior season due to a knee injury. Her production dropped to just five goals over both seasons.

Though Cox seems to have the talent to play several sports, cheerleading is not one of them.

"It was really hard," Cox said about sitting out for more than a month at a time. "Besides school, one of the main reasons I came here [was] to play. I just tried to be a good cheerleader for my team or just tried to be another coach. I tried to be supportive of the team."

If nothing else, Cox believes the time on the bench has improved her mindset.

"As a player, I've matured a lot more," Cox said. "My maturity level on and off the field has improved a lot."

Cox has played in six of the Blue Raiders' seven games this season and has scored two goals on 14 shots.

She missed the Louisville game because of complications involving her knee.

Though her knee problems have subsided, Cox remembers those long weeks of sitting out every game due to injury and takes extra care to make sure it doesn't happen again.

"I don't have any problems with it now as far as pain," Cox said. "I just take precautions, like I wear a knee brace."

Cox started playing soccer at the age of five when her dad decided she needed to get involved with sports.

As for her inspirations, Cox reaches into other sports to motivate her.

"I just like watching people like Michael Jordan," Cox said. "They're not even in my sport, but they show so much passion for their sport that they inspire me to play hard."

Cox and the Blue Raiders face two road games this weekend, No. 24 Ole Miss Friday and Mississippi State Sunday. Cox believes these games are crucial to the fate of the season.



Jenny Cox (24) fights SMS defender Michelle Frossarde (2) for the ball during the match on Sept. 19.

Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

"These are two really big games," Cox said. "We're trying to get more in the win column, and these could be games that set the standard. We're

ranked fifth in our conference. Teams don't really respect us that much, and these are two games that could gain respect."

And if that doesn't work out, she could always try out for football. ♦

Clarett sues over rules

Sports commentary



Jerry Wilkinson
Asst. Sports Editor

The NFL has rules and regulations that all players, current and prospective, must adhere to. These rules are not meant to be broken or bent in any fashion.

Former Ohio State University running back Maurice Clarett has launched a challenge of the NFL's eligibility rule. The rule states that a person must be out of high school three years before entering the draft.

The reason this rule is in place is to protect players who

are not conditioned to compete at this level.

Clarett, who was suspended from the OSU football team for lying to university officials and NCAA investigators and accepting improper extra benefits, feels this rule is ludicrous.

Not only has Clarett filed a challenge, but he also is suing the league for lost wages for not being able to enter the 2003 NFL draft.

Wait just a moment. How can this man expect anyone to take him seriously? He lied to investigators and university officials, and he wants to file a lawsuit against an organization he is not even a part of?

There is no question whether or not Clarett has the skills to compete at the next level. In fact, with the numbers he recorded last season, 1,237

yards rushing and 18 touchdowns, he is definitely what some NFL teams could use.

Clarett's attorney, Alan Milstein, and his mother informed the NFL of their intent to file a lawsuit Monday.

Milstein argues that because other players, such as former University of Detroit basketball player Spencer Haywood and former MLB player Curt Flood, had success with their lawsuits against professional sports, he, too, will have the same outcome.

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue feels that the league has a very strong case, and the NFL will prevail with their decision.

Well, Americans, once again, our tax dollars are hard at work. ♦

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