


 HI: 89°
LO: 63°

 HI: 80°
LO: 57°


SIDELINES

Legislative hopefuls



Electronic Media Professor Bob Pondillo (center) mediates forum of Rutherford County Candidates for the House 49th district, Oscar D. Gardner (left) and Kent Coleman (D-Murfreesboro). The forum, which took place last night, featured eight local candidates for Tennessee State House of Representatives and Senate.

See Page 3 for the full story.

Student's trial delayed pending psych evaluation

By Jaz Gray

Staff Writer

MTSU student Elartice "Marsell" Ingram's trial has been delayed pending the results of a psychological evaluation in a hearing held Aug. 22.

The release of the evaluation has been extended from Sept. 13 until Oct. 27. Ingram has been charged with eight counts of attempted murder for a stabbing incident that occurred July 21 at Schnucks Grocery Store in Shelby County.

Ingram, 21-year-old sophomore from Cordova, Tenn., pleaded not guilty to the charges brought against him.

According to Theresa Howard, one of the victims from Murfreesboro, Tenn., William Massey, Ingram's attorney, asked her and the other victims in a conference meeting Aug. 22 to give statements about what exactly happened. She said that none of the victims wanted to respond because they "were so unsure" about the how the incident occurred.

"It happened so fast, before I knew it he was there," said Theresa Howard who worked in the bakery department of the grocery store.

Howard said that she arrived at 6 a.m. and that Ingram appeared for work two hours later. Ingram started attacking co-workers sometime after 9:25 a.m.

"It was always noisy in the store. I heard bottles crashing, but didn't even know," Howard said.

She said that Ingram came up



Ingram

behind her and stabbed her four times.

"He was like he was a robot. He did that, he looked up, looked around and attacked

someone else right after," Howard said. "I jumped up so fast I started to psych myself out and say, 'I'm OK, I'm OK.'"

Howard said that she passed by another stabbed co-worker as she made her way through the store. She was completely stunned by the scene, but thought she only had a small cut.

Massey, Ingram's lawyer, said he is certain something happened to Ingram that made him "snap."

"It was not malicious. It was triggered by something unusual; something beyond his ability to reason. It wasn't anger; it was something deeper," Massey said.

Massey said that his client is "confused, sad and depressed."

"Imagine waking up in a jail, wondering why has this happened. He is terrified," Massey said.

Massey said he hopes, with the release of his mental evaluation report, the speculation about Ingram's state of mind will be put to rest.

"All he talks about is how he loved school. He was hard worker, had good grades, and was very goal oriented. None of this seems logical," Massey said.

College students face lack, choices regarding insurance

By Faith Franklin

Staff Writer

Health insurance is a major issue in the United States. What most people do not realize is health insurance has become an issue for today's college student as well.

Many college students today are going by without health insurance for various reasons. Some students get dropped from their parents' insurance plans when they reach a certain age. Others lose their insurance because they are on a childhood program that has expired, while still others cannot afford to be placed on their parents' insurance because the premium is too high.

According to a study published by the Commonwealth Fund in 2000 monitoring adults living without health insurance, one-third of the nation's adults between the ages of 19 and 29 are uninsured.

Many MTSU students help to make up the one-third reported without insurance.

"I don't have health insurance because my parents live in

Pennsylvania, and their insurance won't cover me out of state," Alexis Thompson, a junior media design major, said.

Several MTSU students said they do not even know if they have insurance, stating that their parents handle it.

"TennCare cut me off, and my dad is too cheap to pay the premium for me to be on his insurance because I am a diabetic," Andrea Pace, a junior social-work major, said. "I receive my medicine from Hope Clinic in Murfreesboro for free, but I have to pay \$20 for doctor's visits."

The Hope Clinic provides medical services that include general adult care, pediatric services, immunizations, gynecological services and laboratory services. They also provide community health services. The clinic accepts patients that are both insured and uninsured.

Thompson said she does not get sick very often so she goes to MTSU Health Services for her medical needs.

"I don't know what I would do [if I were ever seriously injured]," she said.

According to MTSU Health Services, they provide care for the sick and injured students without charge because it is covered in their tuition.

They provide laboratory testing and a pharmacy where the students can purchase medicines at a minimal fee. The doctors on staff are also able to write prescriptions for those students who do have an insurance plan.

Even students with minimal coverage can have problems if they have a major accident or fall seriously ill, such as in the case of Alison Parson, a senior recording industry major, who was involved in a serious canoeing accident. Parson's insurance will not cover all of her medical bills, so she will have to pay out of pocket nearly \$50,000.

If she were ever seriously injured and had to receive medical attention, Pace said that she "would have to pay for it."

As stated in the Commonwealth Fund report, "In addition to the financial burden it can create, lack of health insurance limits access to the regular preventative care and health

counseling and force people to forgo needed medical care."

There are other options for student without health coverage. There are many student-based health insurance plans available with all types of coverage ranging from minimal to the vast.

An example of such coverage is the Student Injury And Sickness Insurance Plan from Nationwide Life Insurance Company. This plan is provided for domestic students attending member institutions of the state university and community college system of Tennessee.

This plan provides various health services for students, including the traditional student and students of the ages 40 and over. The plan can include coverage for the spouses of students and their children. The amount of coverage is optional and varies from two different types of plans that both include in-patient and out-patient services as well as other important medical services.

Students can receive information about this plan at <http://www.gmsouthwest.com>

Student dies in 3-car accident

By Wesley Murchison

Campus Administration News Editor

An MTSU student died Monday from injuries sustained in a car accident Sunday on Rutherford Boulevard.

Ashley H. Hanley, 20, of Hendersonville, Tenn., was traveling west on Rutherford Boulevard in the left turn lane. When she turned and reached the middle of the intersection, a 2005 GMC U-Haul cargo truck struck her 2003 Ford Taurus, according to a police report.

"The Ford Taurus was attempting the left turn and had reached the middle of the intersection when the collision occurred," the report stated.

The U-haul truck, being driv-

en by Kenneth L. Maddox, 57, of Christiana, Tenn., hit Hanley's car on her drivers side that caused her car to spin and hit Michael E. Hooper's Ford F-350.

The report makes no mention of anyone else in the accident receiving any medical attention including Jessica Willett, 21, of Christiana, Tenn., who was a passenger in Hanley's car.

Hanley, a junior of education and behavioral science, was transported to Middle Tennessee Medical Center and then airlifted to Vanderbilt Hospital. Hanley died Monday, shortly after 5:00 a.m., according to Jerry Jones, spokesman for Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Professor researches staph infection treatment

By Josh Daughtery

Staff Writer

An MTSU professor is conducting research into an antibiotic for staph infections as cases in Rutherford County begin to multiply.

Staphylococcus aureus is the bacterium that causes staph infections. It is also one of the leading causes of skin infections in the United States. If untreated, a staph infection can be fatal if it enters the blood stream. However, the problem now is the resistance staph has to antibiotics.

Biology Professor Anthony Newsome has been doing research to battle staph in athletic equipment, which is a known spreader of the bacteria, using a new method to produce Chlorine Dioxide gas.

"There are simply two different powders in the packet and I just ... mix the two powders, then the gas comes out," said Newsome. "What we do is put the equipment in a garbage bag and throw in one of the packets."

The gas takes around five hours to disinfect the equipment and the packet it comes in is about the

size of half a sheet of paper.

"We're finding out that not just one single antibiotic kills the bacteria," said Pat Spangler, medical director of Health Services. "The mistake a lot of clinicians, physicians and providers are making is that they're treating it with only one anti-biotic and that's not sufficient; it takes two antibiotics."

Rutherford County schools have reported a problem with staph infections this year.

"We've had a total of about 50 cases that are confirmed or reported in Rutherford county schools," said James Evans, Rutherford County Schools spokesperson. He added that they have been taking precautions to prevent further outbreaks.

Anyone can get staph infections, but the people who are more likely to contract staph are people with low immune systems or open sores, Spangler said. Athletes and active people are susceptible due to the cuts they sustain while playing sports.

The physicians at MTSU Health Services said

See Staph, 2



Medicines used to treat staph infections at MTSU Health Services. An MTSU professor is working to treat the infection in athletic equipment, which is a major spreader of the bacteria.

Photo by Josh Daughtery | Contributing Photographer

Students unite to support canoeing accident victim

By Kristen Teffetteller
Exposure Editor

A fundraiser for medical bills has started for an MTSU student who was involved in a canoeing accident early in September.

The Alison Parson project was started in response to Alison Parson, senior recoding industry major, who was pinned by a tree during a canoeing trip on Sept. 9.

Life Flight flew Parson to Vanderbilt University Medical Center with back injuries.

"We pulled up to dock and the tree fell and I checked to see if Alison was ok," said Andrea Greenway, MTSU graduate and Parson's friend who was with Parson. "I could see her face, but she would not respond."

John Rickitts, an MTSU graduate and witness to the accident, made sure that Parson's head remained above the water until she was taken ashore.

"The accident was the most traumatizing thing that I have ever seen," Rickitts said.

Before the accident Parson was extremely active and Greenway describes Parson as being "outdoorsy."

"Even though Alison has started an internship and is back in classes, she is still really weak," said Tianna Calcagno, Parson's roommate and senior organizational communications major.

Following the accident Calcagno became one of Parson's primary caregivers.

"Alison won't be back to normal any time soon, but she has made a dramatic improvement," Calcagno said.

In response to the accident and the cost of the medical bills, Calcagno and Greenway, along with other friends, have started the "Alison Parson Project."

The project was created to raise funds to help cover the unexpected medical expenses due to the accident.

"Many people from all over have donated to the cause," Calcagno said. "Not just people from Murfreesboro, but Alison's

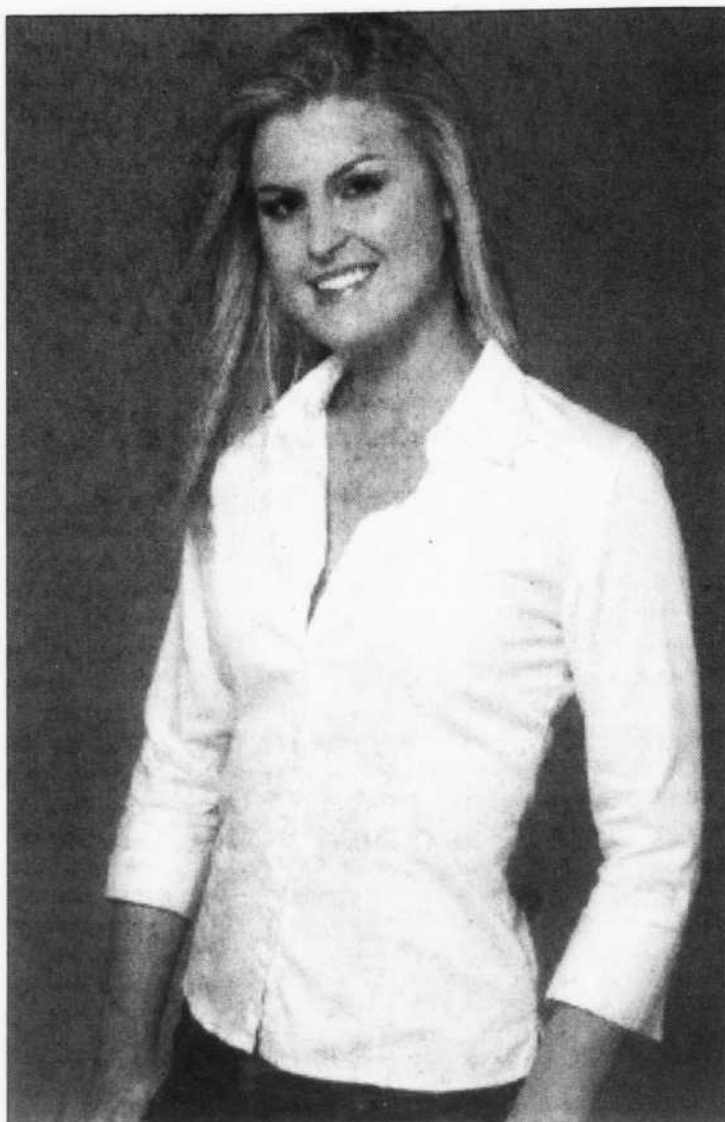


Photo courtesy of Facebook.com

Alison Parson (above) was injured in a canoeing accident in early September.

story has touched many lives."

The goal of The Alison Parson Project is to raise \$50,000.

"The amount was set because although Alison had insurance, the coverage was very minimal and it did not include Life Flight," Calcagno said. "It is not near enough to cover all of her medical bills."

The Alison Parson Project has several mediums to help get raise awareness of all people including a pledge page that has received over 13,000 hits.

In addition to the pledge page there is also a group on Facebook called "Alison Parson Project (Donate)" and a Mypace page is also under construction.

A benefit concert is also being

planned for the project and is expected to be held around early December, Calcagno said. A date will be finalized by later in November.

"I don't know how something like this should be the last thing happening to Alison," Greenway said. "Considering how she is constantly doing things for others."

Parson participated in a fundraiser that helped raise over \$30,000 for Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and is involved with the Make a Wish Foundation, Greenway said. She also won the title of Miss Middle Tennessee State University in 2003 and currently holds the title Miss Scenic City.

Staph: Professor works to treat athletic equipment

Continued from 1

they try to recognize anything they suspect is a staph infection.

"The way we identify them is that they often look

like what the common person would refer to as a boil or pimple," Spangler said.

He said that most of the time, what a person thinks is a spider bite is actually a staph infection.

"I had a staph infection in my leg when I was in the military," said George Winters, senior biology major. "I fell down a flight of stairs and it got infected. They drew out the staph with a needle," he added that he was also given penicillin and the infection was cured.

"If students have a question about a lesion, infection, boil or pimple, they need to come and seek medical attention quickly," said Spangler.

To prevent the spread of staph, Rutherford County schools had a training session with principals regarding staph infections, prevention, and students with staph, Evans said.

They now bleach all the bathrooms, water fountains, and cafeteria tables. If a child has staph, he is sent home until he has a release from a doctor.

"We educate the student who has staph infection," Spangler said. "They have to keep the wound covered at all times. That doesn't allow the material that carries the bacteria from going to one person to the other. Also, they have to keep their hands washed often. Hygiene is major," he added.

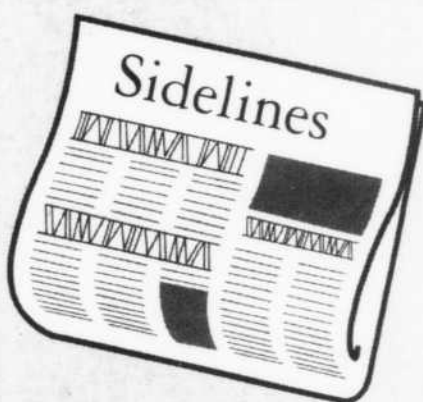
He also said those infected with staph should be avoided, but people who make contact with them should keep their hands clean.

"The reason the bacteria has become so resistant is because we as physicians and patients have demanded antibiotics used for everything," Spangler said.

"Students have to understand when they come to the clinic or go to the doctor and the doctor says 'this is not a bacterial infection I don't think you'll benefit from an antibiotic,' they need to accept that," Spangler said.

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Holla at us!



Rutherford County Candidates Face-off



Last night, eight candidates for Tennessee State House of Representative and State Senate from Rutherford County participated in a forum at MTSU to address important issues facing Tennesseans.

Make your voice heard Nov. 7 when you cast your votes for four of these candidates. Early voting begins Oct. 18.



Mary Esther Bell House 34th District Democrat

HOPE Scholarship funds for pre-K education, Bell said she fully supported the initiative because it provides a strong foundation for education.

"[Education] is essential to improve the quality of life for everyone here in Tennessee," Bell said.

On taxation, Bell said she would like to give the county commission more power over taxation because "they know what's best."

Every tax dollar should be stretched to avoid a state income tax and the rapid growth of Rutherford County should pay for itself, Bell said. Growth is a major issue because it effects

everything and everyone in the county.

Bell said she can use her diverse experiences as a small business owner, mother and civic leader to help shape the future of Rutherford County.

"In my family, community service was an expectation," Bell said, adding that she and her family have always acted as "public servants."

"This election is about new ideas, new leadership and putting people first," Bell said, adding that she will approach her job as Tennessee State House Representative with a "moderate, educated approach to get things done."



John Hood House 48th District Democrat

increases, Hood said the funding formula must be reexamined since MTSU is such a fast growing institute. Furthermore, Hood said he wants \$15 million to fund a new science building for MTSU.

Hood also said he would like to see increased graduation rates from higher education institutes in Tennessee to "better prepare our young people for today and the future."

In addition, Hood said he wants to bring better jobs to Tennessee to keep new graduates in the state.

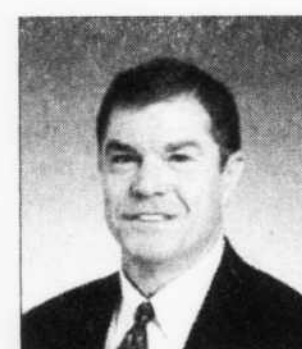
While Hood said he supports a lower food sales tax, \$5-6 million would need to

be replaced in state revenue to make up for the loss. Though he supports a higher sales tax on cigarettes to go toward health care, Hood said it is not a steady income for the state to replace what would be lost in food sales tax.

Locally, Hood said he would work with the county to balance the budget and work on improving roads and traffic.

To help manage the growth of Rutherford County, Hood has sponsored an act to come up with alternative sources of revenue for the county, though it did not pass.

"I'll work daily to represent you," Hood said.



Kent Coleman House 49th District Democrat

scholarship should be available to everyone who wants to go to college, who works hard, and deserves to go to college. He also said he helped create the scholarship for Tennessee.

"We need to support education because it is the future of our nation, I think my track record is clear on that," Coleman said.

Regarding immigration, Coleman said illegal immigrants taking jobs for low wages from citizens is a key issue in the election and in Tennessee. A bill has already been passed that will make employing illegal immigrants a crime.

"I have listened hard to counties' needs for schools, you can't tax one industry too hard or you will strain it,"

Coleman said.

To protect Tennesseans, Coleman said he would continue to work like he has done over the past four years. He cited his involvement in "Methraids Tennessee" and legislation to keep sexual predators out of the state as being important initiatives.

Coleman said he supports reducing the sales tax on food because, while it is necessary to have, it is not fair to charge a 9.75 percent sales tax. Unfortunately, Tennessee needs the sales tax for revenue and the "rainy day fund" will not cover it, Coleman said.

"Budgetarily, we can't [reduce the sales tax] at this time," Coleman said.



Vince B. Springer Senate 13th District Democrat

impact of legislation on education.

On the subject of handling the illegal immigrants in Tennessee, Springer and Ketron are both in agreement that there must be stricter legislation in place to prevent the immigrants from acquiring driver licenses and social security numbers illegally.

"[Immigrants] come to Tennessee for jobs, not for UT and MTSU football," Springer said.

In regards to decreasing the food sales tax, Springer said he thought it a great idea, but numbers based on projections scare him.

"We've got to have a 'rainy

day fund,'" he said. "[We need to] secure our savings so we can continue to not have an income tax."

The growth that Rutherford County has been experiencing lies in the thirteenth district and Springer said he would look to the local government and citizens to listen to their needs to make decisions about how to manage growth.

"I belong to the Democratic party because it stands for the right things, has arms to all types of people," Springer said. "Everyone has responsibility to help people when they need a helping hand and to be a good neighbor."



Donna Rowland House 34th District Republican

toward a reduction in sales food tax. Since the money is already there, it would not be cutting into Tennessee's "rainy day fund," she said.

The best method of balancing Tennessee's budget would be to eliminate unnecessary government programs and mandates, Rowland said.

"Government should be a last resort ... individuals should be able to run their lives free from government interference," she said.

As a republican, Rowland said she believes in minimal government interference because people know how to govern their own lives best.

When dealing with illegal immigration, Rowland said

common sense initiatives should be put in place.

She said legal documents should be required in order to receive government services and drivers licenses. She also said she believes tests for driver's licenses should be given in English only.

Tennessee taxpayers come before illegal immigrants, Rowland said.

In regards to education, Rowland said there is an excess in the HOPE lottery scholarship fund which should go toward improvement of school buildings in Tennessee.

"I look forward to meeting your needs and exceeding your expectations," she said.



Joe Carr House 48th District Republican

"My opponent voted twice to give illegal immigrants drivers license, but we need a proactive, assertive leadership formula," Carr said.

He added that Hood has voted against a bill to make Tennessee the official language of Tennessee and has allowed illegal immigrants benefits they were not due.

Education and job security are priorities of his campaign. He also said that a reduction in food sales tax is a necessity for people like senior citizens who have to cope with high health-care a prescription drug costs.

With Rutherford County being a rapidly growing rapidly, legislators must meet the demands of communities and the growth rate. Carr pro-

posed to do so through expanding school funding and paving new roads.

"If the government is not taking from counties, we wouldn't be behind the curve," He said. "The HOPE scholarship said excess funding that can be used toward school projects, the governor and legislator need to see this," Carr said.

"The forty-eighth needs a choice, a conservative choice reflected by the community," Carr said. "You will see a contrast in style and leadership."

"This was a great opportunity to look at two styles and substance from two clear candidates, giving two choices Carr said.



Oscar D. Gardner House 49th District Republican

County," he said. "We shouldn't settle for being forty-eighth in the nation in education."

Gardner said to fix the problem, Tennessee needs to get better teacher and keep them by paying them what they deserve.

He said the illegal immigrants have had an impact in schools around the state, causing many students to be quarantined because of tuberculosis with which they were infected.

He said he thinks that only citizens should have the ability to register to vote and wants to end illegal immigrants using false documents to register.

"I am fundamentally opposed to development tax

increases because we can't spend more money than we take in," Gardner said.

In regards to food sales tax decrease, Gardner said it should be done because taxpayers expect change back.

"There's been over \$4 million collected in taxes, we need less government and less taxes," Gardner said.

Gardner said he spoke to constituents and overwhelmingly the issue on their mind has been illegal immigrants. He said he wants to eliminate them from Tennessee and that it can be done.

"I love this county," he said. "I want to give back to the community."



Bill Ketron Senate 13th District Republican

English required to get a driver's license," he said. "I introduced a bill that required to forms of identification to get a driver's license and to get a tag for your vehicle."

The governor allowed for an education budget of \$8 million, but the Senate Education Committee wanted another \$20 million, Ketron said. Once they gained support, they ended up with \$38 million, he added.

A popular issue is the food sales tax reduction and Ketron said he absolutely supported it.

On the growth issue of Rutherford County and others, Ketron said that in areas of high growth, every school board does not have taxing authority. It is always a need to put more money into education, Ketron said.

"There is \$320 million in excess to put into capital projects," Ketron said.

In regards to his party affiliation, Ketron said, "I belong to my party for what it stands for; family values, right to life, connect with folks throughout the state and connect with people who feel the same."

By Dana Owens and Geoff Brashear
Community News Editor and Staff Writer

Education dept. to track students

By Rob Tricchinelli
U-WIRE

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings on Sept. 26 announced plans to overhaul post-secondary education nationwide by revamping the financial aid process and holding college and universities accountable for student learning.

Her announcement came on the heels of a report released the previous week by a 19-member higher education commission formed last year.

The report stressed a need "to address the issues of accessibility, affordability and accountability" in higher education.

Spellings described five "actions" under her plan, including the creation of a "higher education information system" and the expansion of President Bush's controversial No Child Left Behind program.

The information system would use privacy-protected, student-level data to improve the Department of Education's ranking and searching systems.

These changes, according to Spellings, would provide more resources to help students research higher education and would allow for higher education to be judged on performance, not reputation. The data, however, would

have to be provided by the colleges and universities themselves.

"In almost every area of our government, we expect transparency and accountability, from prescription drug programs to housing to K-12 education," Spellings said. "So if we're that particular in those areas, shouldn't we do the same with higher education, something so critical to our future success and quality of life?"

The first item she discussed specifically was "expanding the effective principles of No Child Left Behind and holding high schools accountable for results."

Expanding No Child Left Behind is something that has faced opposition both in Congress and in the public. Spellings, however, stands by the program.

"It's about specific targets for specific kids and is a major step forward in American public education," she said. "So I stand by it. Those are the core principles of No Child Left Behind. I do not believe any of them should be revisited or retreated from."

Another facet of Spellings' plan involved improving the affordability of college through streamlining the financial aid process, and reducing the turnaround time for students to discover their financial-aid eligibility.

"We must increase need-based aid," she said. "I look forward to teaming up with Congress

again to improve the financial aid process and to help the students who need it the most."

One thing Spellings did not specifically mention in her report was the issue of Pell Grants. The commission recommended across-the-board increases.

While Spellings did recognize the need for more money, she did not specifically mention increasing Pell Grants.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., issued a statement addressing the Pell Grant omission after an advance copy of Spellings' speech was released.

Kennedy criticized the country's student loan system as a whole, saying, "That system squanders billions each year to provide corporate welfare to big lenders, rather than serving the best interests of our students."

Spellings also cautioned against providing more money as the sole solution: "More money isn't going to make a difference if states and institutions don't do their part to keep costs in line. ... There are still too many who will say, 'Just give us more money.'"

The plan of action may not be warmly received across the board, a fact Spellings acknowledged in tongue-in-cheek fashion.

"I realize that after what I've just said, commencement invitations may get lost in the mail," she said.



Photo courtesy of Morguefile.com

Congress passes Web poker ban

By Eleazar David Melendez
U-WIRE

NEW YORK - The United States Senate dealt a terrible hand to Internet poker enthusiasts early Saturday morning, when Republican leaders passed a bill that will make it virtually impossible for Americans to play poker online.

News of the ban, which was attached to a must-pass port security bill, drew immediate praise from anti-gambling groups, but infuriated players across the nation, and roiled financial markets worldwide.

Under the proposed law, which was unexpectedly pushed through the Senate by Majority Leader Bill Frist, it is illegal for credit card companies or banks to transact with online casinos and certain gambling sites, effec-

tively shutting them off from U.S. residents. Bets on horse racing, fantasy sports, and state lotteries will be exempt.

"Many players are simply out of a job now. A lot of people feel like the sky is falling for them," said Alvin Lau, a part-time professional poker player and performance poet based in Chicago who said he made \$114,000 playing poker online last year. "The biggest site that I play at ... is going down," he added.

The chips were also down for online casino operators, who manage their sites from places like Costa Rica and Gibraltar, but do most of their business with American players. As investors from Singapore to New York called off all bets and sold shares of the companies en masse, tens of billions of dollars in market value simply disappeared.

British operator PartyGaming, which owns the most popular poker room on the Internet, PartyPoker.com, said it would stop accepting money from its U.S. customers as soon as the bill was signed into law. So did 888 Holdings, which runs PacificPoker.com, the second biggest Internet poker room. Sportingbet, owner of ParadisePoker.com, said it would consider its options. Those three companies alone lost over 2.6 billion pounds (or about \$4.9 billion) in market value Monday on the London Stock Exchange.

Critics noted that the bill does not explain how American players with accounts in foreign online casinos can claim their cash after the ban becomes law. The bill gave 270 days to the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve to decide how to enforce the law,

something that certain observers said might be impossible.

"This happened really suddenly and seemed sort of an unexpected turn ... it is unclear what is going to happen," said junior Columbia student Mael Bredeche, president of the Columbia University Poker Society. Bredeche said his group, which coordinates poker games on campus, had no activities planned this semester sponsored by online poker sites.

Among others, the NCAA has backed the ban, which extends to online sport betting, citing instances in which college players have been paid to throw important games.

White House spokeswoman Emily Lawrimore told Bloomberg News that President George W. Bush will sign the bill into law.

Female scientists still face bias, report finds

By Heather Schwedel
U-WIRE

PHILADELPHIA - Ever wonder why most of your professors in science and engineering are men?

A recent report released by the National Academy of Sciences blames institutional bias for the lack of female scientists and engineers in academia, but officials at the University of Pennsylvania's Engineering School say they recognize the problem and are working to fix it.

The report concluded that "women faculty are paid less, are promoted more slowly, receive fewer honors and hold fewer leadership positions than men." It added that "these discrepancies do not appear to be based on productivity, the significance of their work or any other measure of performance."

A panel of academics, composed of 17 women and one man, compiled the report. It recommends several steps universities and government agencies should take to increase opportunities for female faculty in the sciences. Suggestions included new policies in hiring, tenure and promotion, along with more resources for female professors with families.

Women in science became a contentious topic recently when Lawrence Summers, the former president of Harvard University, caused an uproar after indicating that female scientists may be less successful than their male counterparts because of innate differences in ability.

Many female faculty in science and engineering agreed that more work needs to be done, but said that if any bias exists at Penn, it's more unconscious than overt.

In Penn's School of Engineering and Applied Science, only eight professors of a faculty of 100 are female.

Susan Davidson, professor of Computer Science and the deputy dean in Engineering, said that this number is "low but not usually low."

Davidson added that this

year, three female professors will be joining the Engineering faculty, and this is "not by chance."

Being serious about hiring female professors means paying special attention to female applicants, Davidson said.

While "excellence in teaching and research are non-negotiables" for new hires, Davidson said that compromises in negotiable areas like exact area of expertise can help female candidates move up on a hiring list.

Studies have shown that women in academia are much more likely than men to have spouses who also work, meaning that women may have more family responsibilities on average than their male counterparts, according to Hanna Wallach, a visiting graduate student in the Engineering school.

For this reason, Penn and other universities have programs that give women who are starting families resources and a longer timetable for achieving tenure, Davidson said.

The gender imbalance is also felt in the Engineering School's classroom, where men outnumber women. The uneven ratio is more pronounced in certain departments, like Computer Science.

Engineering and College senior Michelle Aleong, a Computer Science major, said this environment could be intimidating at first. She said she has often asked herself, "The guy next to me has been coding [programs] since he was 6. How am I going to compete?"

But eventually, "you get used to the feeling of being the only girl in the room," Aleong said.

Aleong has countered the imbalance in her own way. She was president of the Women in Computer Science club and said she found positive female role models in summer internships at Microsoft Corp. and at conferences for women in science.

For Wallach, who is finishing her doctorate in Penn's Computer Science department, it's no deterrent having the odds against her as she looks toward a future in academia.

"I like a challenge," she said.

Hookah detrimental to health

By Cherise Forno
U-WIRE

POMONA, Calif. - An increasing amount of college students smoke hookah despite evidence that it is as harmful as cigarette smoking. While many students believe smoking hookah is less harmful than cigarette smoking, studies indicate it is as harmful or even more detrimental to one's health than smoking cigarettes.

The typical hookah smoker spends more time per smoking session than other smokers because of the pleasant atmosphere and less irritating smoke. A typical session lasts 30 minutes to an hour, compared to a cigarette which lasts only five minutes. A one-hour session of hookah smoking exposes the user to 100 to 200 times the volume of smoke inhaled from one cigarette, according to the World Health Organization. Even though the tobacco smoke is water-filtered, it contains high levels of toxins including carbon monoxide, heavy metals and carcinogens. Hookah smoking also contains high levels of nicotine, so it can be as addictive as cigarette smoking, according to a report on the Mayo Clinic Web site. "It's a social activity people hopefully grow out of," said Emily Troyer, second-year liberal studies student. "It's popular, but it's not the most popular thing for college students to do."

At least 200 to 300 new hookah bars have opened in the United States during the past three to five years, especially in California and near college campuses, according to Smokeshop Magazine. Eighty-six percent of

colleges and universities have at least one hookah lounge nearby. "It's at its largest demand ever in this country," said Brennan Appel, who runs SouthSmoke.com, an online supplier of hookah pipes and tobacco. "I don't think it's going away anytime soon."

There's so much more room for the product to expand. Only a small percentage of Americans know about it." Hookah bars also pose legal concerns. According to the California Smoke-free Workplace Act-Labor Code 6404.5, which prohibits indoor smoking, almost all hookah bars are operating illegally. Except for three exemptions, smoking tobacco in any form in an enclosed workplace is illegal. This law does not distinguish between the smoking of tobacco in cigarettes or hookah pipes. Hookah establishments are excepted from the Labor Code if they are owner-operated (have no employees), are a private smokers' lounge, or are solely a retail tobacco store. If a hookah bar has even one part-time employee, it must be smoke-free indoors at all times.

To qualify for the second exemption a hookah bar's main purpose must be selling tobacco. If the bar sells food and/or beverages (alcoholic or nonalcoholic), or offers live entertainment, it violates the law. A typical hookah bar usually offers beverages, light food and entertainment in order to be successful. It would be difficult for a hookah bar to survive simply on profits from selling hookah products. The California Health and Safety Code also applies to hookah businesses. It does not allow an employee who sells food to handle or

light hookah pipes, or offer tobacco to customers. Even if the establishment is owner-operated, there can not be food sold at the establishment.

A hookah is a traditional Middle Eastern device that uses charcoal to heat tobacco. It can be used for smoking many substances such as marijuana and opium, but at hookah lounges and cafes it is often used to smoke herbal fruits. A very common mixture is shredded tobacco leaf and a sweetener, such as honey or fruit. Many hookah cafes offer a variety of flavors such as apple, strawberry, mango, cappuccino, vanilla, coconut, banana, kiwifruit, cola, mint and even licorice.

The smoke is filtered through water to create a smoother taste and experience than cigarette smoking, according to Smokeshop Magazine. Hookah smoking is a very social activity in the U.S. Hookahs are often three feet high with several long hoses to allow several people to share. People enjoy gathering around a hookah with their friends and soaking in the exotic ambiance of a hookah bar. "The atmosphere is very mellow and relaxing," said Richard Park, a fifth-year marketing student. "But I don't like smoking hookah because it tastes like flavored charcoal." The low cost of hookah is another appealing factor to college students. A hookah session ranges from \$5 to \$25, depending on the hookah and type of tobacco. After splitting the cost with a few friends, smoking hookah is much cheaper than a night spent drinking at a regular bar.

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Students need to be aware, plan for future with insurance

American college students: Put down the bong. Upright yourself from your keg stand. Close your textbooks. And please, if you would, put on your pants (or skirt). Gather around and heed my words. You are in danger my college brothers and sisters. For too many of you are without health insurance.

As we prepare ourselves to take the helm of this great country as the next generation of bankers, doctors, lawyers and, of course, recording industry professionals, we must protect ourselves against the harsh elements that is college life.

According to the 2005 Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Cover in the United States, a U.S. Census Bureau study, largest age demographic without insurance is 18- to 24-year-olds, at 30.6 percent, closely followed by 25- through 34-year olds at 26.4 percent.

This statistical snafu is exacerbated by the fact that the South has the largest percentage of un-insured, at 18.6. If these numbers are too hard to add-up, let me tell it to you straight: You are at risk.

Yes, it is true that health insurance is expensive, hard to understand and might even seem superfluous but hark – many of you don't know if you are even covered.

This problem could be simply solved by insurance companies creating specially-designed coverage plans intended for students. These packages could be catered to classification, like the freshman package that includes provisions for have-one-get-one-free stomach pumps.

All joking aside, though, another option to solve this problem is to offer minimum health coverage for recent graduates who may be struggling to find a job through the alumni association, like many universities do in conjunction with insurance companies that offer students insurance at reduced rates.

Prison systems fail to retribute inmates

Prisons were originally set up as rehabilitation centers for those who broke the law. Their purpose was to get criminals off the streets, while making them better citizens. The question, now, is has America's legal system gotten away from its original intent?

In the largest recidivism study ever conducted in the United States, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reveals data sure to fuel the ongoing debate of prisons in U.S. society. Do our prisons rehabilitate criminals, simply detain criminals or do they serve as criminal colleges? Many criminals are not taught morals in prisons but better, more innovative ways to commit crime. Hence, large percentages become second-offenders within a year.

According to the mental health project coordinated by the council of state governments, approximately 5 percent of the United States has some form of mental illness. However, 16 percent of prisoners suffer this condition. In a study of 25 counties in New York State, female recipients of mental health services were 4 to 8.6 times more likely than females in the general population to be incarcerated. These findings are very disturbing. There is a direct correlation between mental health and the likelihood of committing a crime.

Throwing mentally-ill people in prison and expecting them to fix themselves is impractical. Not only do mentally-ill prisoners receive an unfair trial, but also, there is a large chance that they will go back to prison. Mental illness is a real problem that needs to be controlled in order for these criminals not to become repeat-offenders. According to the study of the mental health project in the Lucas County, Ohio prison, 72 percent of people with mental illness were arrested again within 36 months of release. Those statistics are unbelievable and, though they may not be the case everywhere, they illustrate the fact that several mentally ill people end up going back to prison. Obviously, something is not registering.

The majority of prisoners do not suffer mental illness, but the trend of repeat offending is still present. Why are prisons in place



My 'Keep It Real' Policy
Shannon Mitchell
Contributing Columnist

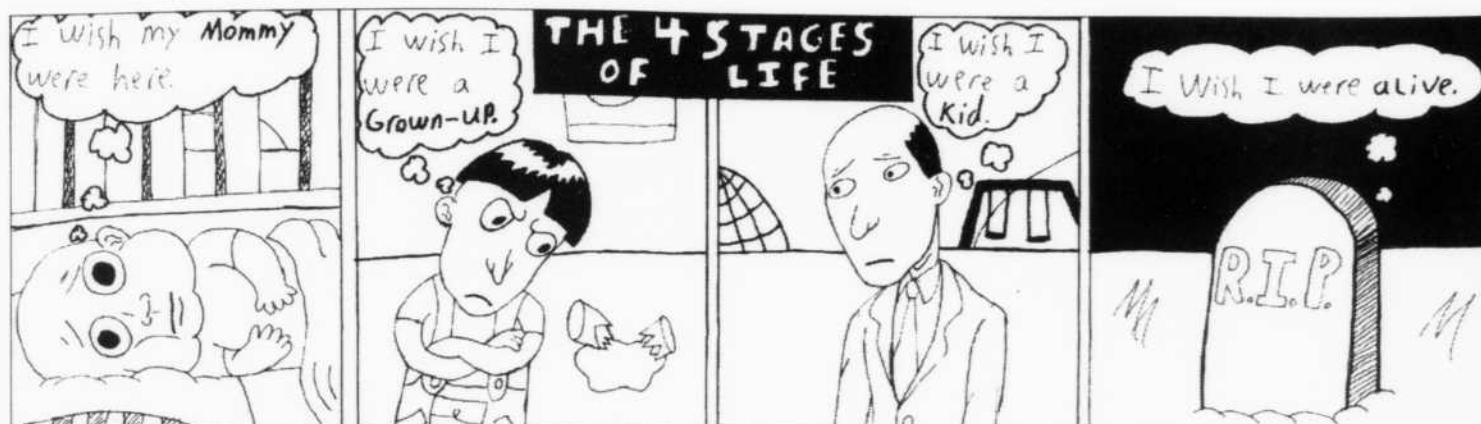
if prisoners are continuing destructive behaviors? Are they simply a housing unit – communities filled with criminals who are not receiving rehabilitation? What's the point? Its purpose should not be to get them out of society's hair, but to provide help. If our justice system actually provided more time and attention to inmates and their issues, several crimes may not have occurred.

Unfortunately, when a person commits a felony, it is on their record forever. Unless a person owns his or her own business, getting hired to a decent paying job is next to impossible. To play devil's advocate, sometimes they may have to revert to criminal activity to make a livable income. If a felon is released from prison and tries to start clean, they can't because it is hard to lose that title. They are reminded every time they fill out a job application or election season comes around.

There needs to be a solution. I agree that if "you do the crime, you pay the time," but their time should not be useless. There has to be a glitch in the system if there are such high numbers of repeat offenders. Better prisons will definitely aid in crime prevention. There are still gangs, violence and sexual exploitation in prison. Most facilities are overcrowded, and inmates lose their identity and become a number.

What makes people tick? Why are so many people in prison? Our legal system has come far, but issues such as racial profiling still exist. Our tax money should get Play Stations out of the penitentiary and add more counseling. Prisoners should not be forgotten causes handed over to the government to house and feed. Something needs to happen for prisons to be more efficient.

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



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

Consider student center on ballot

By Gene Fitch, Jr.

Guest Columnist

Unless you have been locked up in your apartment studying for the past week or off in the Galapagos Islands doing research on the mating habits of the Giant Tortoise, you have likely heard about the proposed fee to construct a new student center. There has been a lot of information shared about the fee, some of it accurate, some of it not so accurate. I want to take this opportunity to attempt to clarify as much of the information as possible and to address any concerns you may have before you cast your vote during this week's election.

I would first like to address the question "Why do we need this facility?" Contrary to what you may have heard, it will not just be a place to "hang out." Will there be lounge space in the new building? Yes, that will be part of it. However, this building will be much more than that. This facility will help in developing a sense of community on campus. It will aid in promoting diversity and attracting new students. It will complement the academic mission of the institution by providing a means to support a variety of social, recreational, educational and cultural programs. It will link together our campus and serve as the community center of the university.

I don't know that many people would argue the need for a new student center. Our student population has simply outgrown the current facility. The Keathley University Center has become nothing more than an office building and storage facility. A true student center is the focal point of the campus. It is a gathering space. It is often compared to the den of your home. It is a place where students will come together to visit, share ideas and, yes, just "hang out." It is the hub of the campus. Right now, we have a tree and two benches that serve as our hub. Our campus needs more, our students should demand more.

What actually goes into the building has not been finalized at this point as there are many factors that will impact that decision. Here is a brief list of some of the things that are being considered: A major upgrade to our food service operations featuring many brand name

items and a facility that will accommodate 500-600 people for dining; retail operations including a possible salon, dry cleaners, bank and copy center; meeting space to accommodate the space needs of more than 300 student organizations; office space for student organizations; a 24-hour computer lab; study space, office space to support the student functions contained within the building, the campus bookstore and gaming area.

A large majority of the misinformation that is out there centers on the fee itself. The legislation passed in the Student Government Association Senate supports a fee up to \$125 per semester to construct a new student center. Numerous conversations took place in deciding upon this fee, including conversations with Spencer Wood, the senator who sponsored the legislation. We debated asking students if they would simply support a fee. We debated presenting a fee range of \$75 - \$125 for consideration. Neither of these options seemed viable as neither truly represented what we were about to ask our students to do. We finally agreed that the best approach, though admittedly risky, was to ask students to decide based upon a worst case scenario.

So why this approach, why would we take this risk? Because it requires students to fully educate themselves about the fee and cast their vote based upon accurate information. And if you do that, if you educate yourselves and make an informed decision, we believe you will see the benefits of this building. Additionally, the construction of this building will have absolutely no impact on the construction of the new science building. The state has agreed to provide the funding necessary for that building. If your concern is parking, take a look at the master plan. There are at least three proposed parking decks in the master plan. The problem with constructing a parking deck is the cost. A parking deck costs about \$12,000-\$15,000 per space to build. I don't think students are willing to see their parking fee increase enough to cover that kind of an expense.

Some have said the fee shouldn't be assessed until ground has been broken for the building. That just isn't possible as there are costs associ-

ated with the planning and designing of the building. This fee will assist in covering those costs. There has not been millions of dollars spent on the planning of the facility as has been previously reported. We have spent money to begin the planning of the building, but those costs are nowhere near "millions of dollars." Therefore, it simply isn't realistic to wait until groundbreaking to begin assessing the fee as costs are already being incurred.

The final argument I have heard concerns the amount of time it will take to construct the new facility. Students have asked why they should support the fee if they will not get to use the building. This is the same concern raised 13 years ago when students were considering a fee to construct the new recreation center. Those students had the foresight to look to the future of our campus. They saw the long-term benefits associated with the passage of that fee. What we are asking you to do now is no different than what students were asked to do 13 years earlier. The difference is you now have a state of the art recreation facility available to you. Will our future students and alumni be able to look back and thank you for your efforts?

I think this will address many of the concerns I have heard. I hope you will take the time to educate yourself about the fee before casting your vote – one way or the other. I would be lying to you if I said I wasn't in support of the fee and that I hoped students would be in favor of it as well. The only thing we ask is that you make an informed decision whether you support the fee or not.

To review the legislation passed by the SGA, you may visit www.mtsu.edu/~sga/sgaref_f2006.pdf. You may also view a Facebook page created by Senator Spencer Wood entitled, "Students who Support a Union Center." On this page, you will find additional information about the fee and the student center. Please take the time to vote "yes" in support of the fee. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 898-2750 or through email at gfitch@mtsu.edu.

Gene Fitch is the associate vice president for student affairs and dean of student life.

Bush's schemes embolden terrorists

Columnists often face a common dilemma – there is nothing worth writing about.

MTSU's Greeks are too mobile for criticism. They can band together and rally, maybe throw a philanthropy party. Sidney McPhee hasn't done anything loony enough – yet – this semester to deserve ink-and-paper. Can't write about campus DUT's either, no good ones lately.

So I click my television over to Fox News – remember, they're fair and balanced – just in time to hear some talking head introduce President George W. Bush. Then, he defends his war in Iraq from one more of its fallacies.

Citing data from a classified document – the National Intelligence Estimate – Democrats are calling for a withdrawal from action. One of the few declassified portions of the study reveals to anyone who didn't know the Iraqi war has contributed to the worldwide expansion of terrorism.

"Our safety depends on the outcome of the battle in Iraq," Bush says, beating a tired drum. "Withdrawing from Iraq before the enemy is defeated would embolden the terrorists."

Does Bush know even know



Polishing Brass on the Titanic
Brandon Bouchillon
Staff Columnist

what the word "embolden" means?

Say I'm an insurgent. When foreign countries defy democracy in Islamic regions, when presidents deal out off-the-cuff ultimatums, when innocent people perish so Halliburton climbs a few points – then I'd be emboldened.

Past that, I'd feel enraged, infuriated, incensed and annoyed. Jihad-ish? Maybe even.

Internationally, we should be past worrying about "emboldened terrorists." They've got boldness you wouldn't – although you probably should – believe.

However, if the United States left the fight, maybe walked away, that would be too harmonious. Don't give them something to hate, and they couldn't possibly.

Bush didn't stop there though.

"The only way to protect our citizens at home is to go on the offense against the enemy across the world." Thud. The scariest

thing I've ever heard the man say.

Our president has set his sights farther abroad. Remember the recent conflict with Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad over their nuclear enrichment program? He and Bush are far from schoolyard chums.

Also factor in our president's whimsical way of declaring his wars. A whiff of profit and a nod from Vice President Dick Cheney and we're off to fight. The crosshairs may be zeroing in on Iran, or towards whatever section of the Islamic world deemed "terrorist." Bush even made an astute and complex metaphor – bless him, he tried.

He said if we take the fight to the terrorists, if we hunt them round the globe and dedicate our open-ended lives to their eventual demise, then terrorists won't have any time to go off terrorizing. They'll be too busy hiding. Repositioning for, well, more dastardly plans. Then we'll chase them some more.

So the United States becomes terror's babysitter. We indulge it, show it attention, play hide and seek with it, and maybe, just maybe, it doesn't cry or act out.

However, if we spend all our

time watching evildoers, isn't that terrorizing ourselves? Hypnotized by fear of an invisible evil; pacified through a never-ending hunt for the "badguys," tranquilized with the premonition that it could happen again. Some 1984-ish caricature of Osama Bin Laden peeling on a brick-alley wall, reminds us: Stay vigilant.

Such fear and panic works like valium. The more Bush preaches and threatens about how we "gotta get 'em," the further we shrink back into our shells. We grow timid and wither.

Quick and all together now, everyone forget what rebellion means.

A country so spread out, so scattered abroad, battling the notion of "terrorism," isn't equipped to handle problems at home. Curbing poverty, rebuilding tattered cities, shrinking the world's largest deficit, repossessing our constitutional rights to privacy – bollocks. To concern yourself with such things would embolden the terrorists.

You don't want that. Do you?

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FEATURES

Wednesday: *Health & Life*

When holding hands was forbidden Sexual expression on campus not what it used to be

By Will Cade

Staff Writer

Two young lovers lounge in Walnut Grove, kissing intermittently and savoring all they can of one another before the waning fall days vanish into cold winter nights.

If this had been the '30s, they both would have been expelled.

According to the 1932 Dormitory Rules and Regulations Handbook, "young women are not allowed to sit in cars with young men," let alone kiss in public.

MTSU's past and present is strewn with codes governing sexual conduct that may surprise modern-day students.

In the '60s, women were allowed to ride in cars with men, but "kissing or petting in parked cars on campus at night" could be grounds for dismissal, according to a 1964 student handbook.

On a similar note, women were not even allowed to wear pants on campus in the '60s. In a 2000 interview, Harold Smith, a graduate student and facilities employee during the '60s, spoke of working in the Keathley University Center.

"One of the rules for this building was that we were not to permit females — now I didn't say stu-

dents, I said females — into this building in pants," Smith said of the KUC.

Apparently the '70s were much wilder, as MTSU's administration found it necessary to specifically include "so-called panty raids" in their definition of riotous or mob behavior in the '73 student handbook.

Today, however, the rules governing public display of affection on campus have become much more liberal.

"There is not a specific rule set that addresses public display of affection," says Laura Sosh-Lightsy, assistant dean of Judicial Affairs. "What we do have is a disorderly conduct rule."

Disorderly conduct is a blanket phrase which refers to behavior that is disruptive, abusive or lewd, according to MTSU's 2006-2007 Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

"Typically what we see with lewd conduct is students who may be exposing certain parts of their body," Sosh-Lightsy says.

"We'd be taking a step back in time if we told students they couldn't hold hands or kiss each other in public," adds Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs.

Campus rules may no longer prohibit students from publicly displaying their affection for one another; however, certain housing regulations appear to still be caught in the puritanical mores of the past, especially with regard to visitation.

According to the visitation regulations in the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, "Residents and guests must be properly attired in apparel suitable for class or street wear."

That's not to say sexual activity would be impossible under these circumstances, although it would probably be uncomfortable.

This regulation will probably surprise you, at the very least. In fact, certain administrators do not even realize it exists, which should come as a relief to those who tend to think of pajamas as casual wear.

"There's no policy governing sexual behavior in the residence halls that I am aware of. They could sit around naked all day if they wanted," Sosh-Lightsy jokes.

If residents did decide to sit around in their birthday suits, however, they could face serious repercussions, which could range from housing probation to cancellation of their housing contract, according to housing regulations.

This particular rule, however, has never been called into question during a visitation situation, says Sara Sudak, executive director for Housing and Residential Life.

"We wanted to have a policy in place: a no shirt, no shoes, no service kind of deal," Sudak explains. "Our intent is not to be in their space when activ-



Photo by Greg Johnson | Staff Photographer

Seemingly innocent forms of loving affection like this one would have been banned in earlier years on campus. For example, women weren't even allowed to sit in cars with men in the 1930s, much less wrap their arm around their man.

ity is on. The policies are here so that when something is drawn to our attention, we have a leg to stand on."

You may wonder how housing staff would know if an individual is breaking the 'no resident left naked' policy. Although the current handbook states that "room checks may be made at any time during visitation by residence hall personnel," housing staff said they typically reserve that right for extreme circumstances only.

"It's there in the event we needed to check something," Sudak explains.

For instance, if visitation hours have passed, and a student still has not checked out their guest, housing staff may key into the room to see if that space is vacant.

"We're not out looking for violators," explains Sudak. "It's when it's brought to our attention."

Housing and Residential Life expects the roommate or other residents on the floor to bring it to the attention of housing staff in the event that activity becomes disruptive or disrespectful, Sudak says.

"It is for the comfort and convenience of the roommate or other people on the floor," she explains. "We want everybody to feel comfortable in their living environment, and feel that there is somebody who will be their advocate if they run into some issue."

This sentiment echoes the expectations set forth in the student responsibilities section of the current Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, which states, "These standards and expectations ... include honesty, a respect for diversity, commitment to community, and freedom of expression."

In regard to sexuality, however, we may need to reconsider what freedom of expression means. For instance, if you plan to visit a lover living on campus, be careful with your clothing.

At least, take a close look at the fine print, lest you get caught with your pants down in a college dormitory.

Will Cade writes *Health & Life* for *Sidelines*. He can be reached at wac2h@mtsu.edu.



Photo from 1976 Midlander

A young tyke protests a Sigma Chi Derby Week event in 1976 that apparently involved clothing unsuitable for little eyes.

Military energy foods shout HOOAH! Student taste-testers give mixed reviews on bar, drink

By Jared Brickey

Staff Writer

Energy drinks are nothing uncommon. Red Bull, SoBe and Rockstar each promise a boost to the cramming college student, but there's a lesser known contender out there manufactured by the U.S. military.

Enter Hooah!, the official energy bar and drink of the U.S. military. Made available to the public in 2005, Hooah! was originally created for soldiers in the field. According to the food packaging, the name refers to a battle cry shouted as soldiers jump out of helicopters and freefall behind enemy lines. "It means anything and everything but *no*," the back of the bar reads.

"A number of years ago, the soldiers requested an energy bar, but the soldier needed it long-term," said Maj. Chuck Giles, who works with the ROTC program on campus. Giles was passing out Hooah! energy drinks at the MTSU 5K Veterans Memorial Run Sept. 17.

"A lot of the energy bars and energy drinks today have a lot of caffeine in them, so it's gonna pick you up for a period of time, but then it crashes," Maj. Giles said. "That's not what the army needs. They need energy to sustain over a long period, especially if you're out a number of days, a number of weeks and if you don't get sleep for a number of days."

The Hooah! energy drink also seems to be a new way of thinking for the military as far as keeping its troops ready.

"We've always been pushing just drinking a lot of water," Maj. Giles said. "Well if you drink too much water, it burns out all your electrolytes. It's

important to not only hydrate, but to hydrate and also to put the electrolytes and potassium back in. [Hooah!] puts in salt and potassium and electrolytes that your body uses."

Hooah!'s official Web site claims the bar and drink both provide steady energy without the crash of a caffeine boost (giving the consumer what Hooah! terms "Steady Energy"), and the bar helps to delay the onset of fatigue and improve physical performance. Not only that, but the drink is supposed to enhance your mental performance, "specifically vigilance," by 50 percent.

The foods have also received accolades from critics. The chocolate crisp energy bar was named the "Most Loved Health Product" in Amazon.com's Best of 2005 rankings, and the energy drink release followed earlier this year.

All of those claims are great for marketing, but how does Hooah! stack up in one of the

most important areas? How does it taste?

In general, Hooah! received a mixed reaction for both the bar and the drink from MTSU students.



Photos used with permission of <http://www.hooah.com>

"I wouldn't buy it. I like my carbonation," junior mass communication major Tanya Cupp said about the lemon-lime energy drink.

"It sort of tastes a little bit like green tea," sophomore

mass communication major Sarah Finchum said. "It isn't bad, but it isn't as good. I'm somewhere in the middle."

However, both Cupp and Finchum had a more positive reaction to the chocolate crisp flavored bar.

"This is pretty good," Cupp said. "Most power bars are just a bar of something, but this one is kind of like a brownie. I would give this one a thumbs-up. I wouldn't eat it for breakfast, but if I were backpacking or hiking, I'd take it."

"It's not bad," sophomore Maggie France said. "I probably wouldn't buy it because I don't buy energy bars, but it tastes good."

Seniors Adria Matney and Luke Walters both tried the tropical punch-flavored drink and said simply, "It tastes really good."

While everyone has a different opinion, one factor that could have played a part in the

taste test could be the physical condition of each person. While Cupp and Finchum were both seated comfortably, France, Matney and Walters were exercising before they tried Hooah!

While their reaction was positive, Major Sgt. Mark Sankey, who ran in the 5K Veterans Memorial Run, wasn't a fan after his first taste.

"It's nasty," Sankey said. "It didn't do anything for me. The bars I didn't like real well. As for the drink, I'm more of a Powerade or Gatorade type of person. Then again, it was a really hot day that day, so it was kind of like an unfair assessment."

As for Maj. Giles, he enjoys the apple cinnamon Hooah! bar, and says that the cadets who have tried the drink think the tropical punch flavor is good.

While currently there are no retailers carrying Hooah! in Murfreesboro, both the bars and the drinks can be bought online at Amazon.com or on Hooah!'s online shopping Web site, http://www.hooah.com/order_online.html.

And while Hooah!'s taste may not be for everyone, one positive aspect of the product is that money earned from the sales of Hooah! bars and drinks support the troops. The Hooah! Web site also hosts photos, videos and profiles of soldiers overseas and their friends and families so they can remain in touch.

With every sale helping to fund research for improving soldier safety, diet and quality of life, and the ability to communicate quickly and easily with loved ones back home, the new energy foods might just give the troops something new to say "Hooah!" about.

SPORTS

MT soccer defeats Troy in SBC play

Sunday, Oct. 1
Troy State 1
MT 8

Next Game at Arkansas
Little Rock,
Friday, Oct. 6
Arkansas State
Sunday, Oct. 8

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

'Offensive juggernaut' might not be the best phrase, but it's the first that comes to mind. Middle Tennessee continued its early-season onslaught with an 8-1 defeat of Troy at Blue Raider Field Sunday.

The Blue Raiders stayed undefeated in Sun Belt Conference play with the win at

4-0, and improved to 10-2 overall. MT head coach Ashton Rhoden was pleased with his team's all-around effort, but even he was stunned by the offensive output of his squad.

"Our girls came out with a good sense of purpose and were very professional in their play," Rhoden said. "The score was surprising; you don't find those scores in conference play regularly."

MT's Kala Morgan, currently second nationally in scoring, didn't waste any time in getting the Blue Raiders on the board early. Morgan found the far post in the third minute and increased the lead to 2-0 a few minutes later off a Katy Rayburn cross.

Junior Holly Grogan added her 10th goal of the season on a 23rd-minute run, and newcomer Kim Farrant had a career day with two goals and an assist.

Freshmen Mary Zapapas and

Sara Beth Lee and sophomore Katie Daley, who was named Offensive Player of the Game, rounded out the scoring.

As efficient as the offense was, Rhoden said another stellar defensive effort was a key to victory.

"We've got a very strong defensive team," he said. "Everyone talks about our offense, but a part of coming out strong early is also not giving anything up early."

A goal by Troy's Kasey Pruett in the 88th minute broke a streak of six consecutive scoreless halves for the MT back line. The Blue Raiders have scored 20 goals in four SBC matches while allowing only two.

Freshman keeper Erynn Murray saved the only two shots she faced in the first half on her way to her fourth consecutive

See Soccer, 8

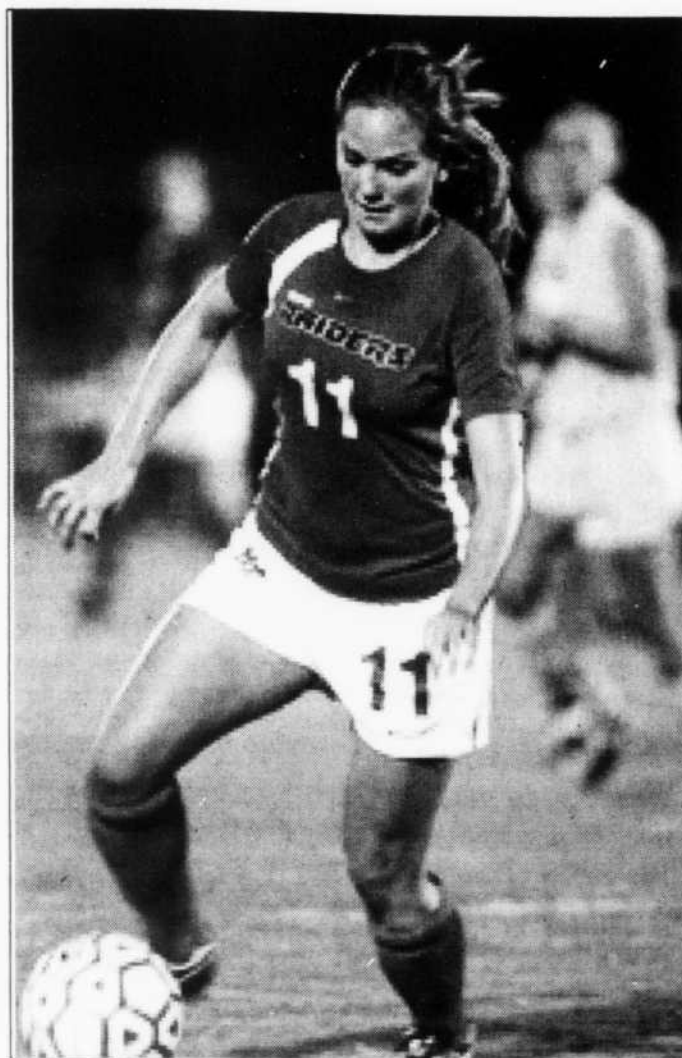


Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations
Sophomore Kim Farrant scored twice and assisted in the 8-1 rout of Troy State

A note from Mark Owens

Assistant Athletic Director
and Media Relations Director

Fans who plan to attend Friday's Middle Tennessee-Louisville football game in Nashville are encouraged to purchase a parking pass in advance of the game at the Blue Raider Ticket Office. The cost of the parking pass is \$10 and fans will not be allowed to pay cash and get into the stadium lots on gameday.

The Blue Raider Ticket Office is open Monday - Friday from 8 AM to 5:30 PM.

With the game being on a Friday night, traffic and congestion in the downtown area will be heavy and the University and the Nashville Sports Council urge fans to obtain their parking passes in advance.

If fans choose to not purchase a parking pass in advance, their next option would be to park in the garages and lots in downtown Nashville and walk across either of the two bridges to LP Field. Various downtown parking areas can be viewed at <http://www.parkitdowntown.com/maps/>

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 PM and the game will be broadcast nationally on ESPN2.

Be Loud. Be Proud. Be Blue.

Intramural swimmers begin '06-'07 season

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

The Intramural Master Swim Club competed in their first swim meet of the 2006-2007 season over the weekend in the Knoxville Fall Championships. A team of five master swimmers entered several events.

MTSU's Master Swim Club is apart of the campus recreation and affiliated with the U.S. Master Swimming Inc. Masters swimming is open to adults ages 19 and up, and members take part in a lap-swimming and international competition. They offer a membership in the Master Swim Club, which includes insurance during meets along with health and fitness.

The next meet will be held in Memphis, Tenn. at the Memphis Master's Meet on Oct. 15.

Intramural sports are offered through the Middle Tennessee campus recreation center and include baseball, boxing and paintball. If you're interested in some of the different sports the rec center offers, check out its Web site at www.mtsu.edu/~camprec/clubs/ for further information.

Swim Team Results

Adam Beasley:

2nd place 50-yard butterfly
3rd place 50-yard breaststroke
4th place 200-yard IM
4th place 100-yard breaststroke
4th place 100-yard butterfly
4th place 100-yard individual medley

Chad Farmer:

3rd place 100-yard freestyle
5th place 50-yard backstroke
5th place 100-yard backstroke
7th 100-yard individual medley

Hap Parsons:

4th 50-yard breaststroke

Billy Richards:

2nd place 50-yard butterfly

Karen Wallace:

6th place 500-yard freestyle

In search of a great game



The Cynic

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

It's 1:05 in the morning in the land of Terrell Owens, crazy alcohol laws and even crazier accounting practices (see: Enron, Tom Delay, and Halliburton for more on that topic), and I'm still trying to decide if I should write a story before the North Texas-Middle Tennessee game begins. I guess there is no real point in writing anything before kickoff.

But I've always been a fan of the absurd. Once, when I lived in the dorms, a pen burst in my mouth. Instead of getting upset, I smeared the ink on my face like a commando and ran through the halls screaming like Ah'hold. Even though I have no idea how the game will turn out, I feel compelled to write an article, both to justify my seat on the charter flight and to give myself something to do.

Unfortunately, I've spent much of my day in Dallas being bored and boring others, which can't be good for this article's future. In the process of being bored, I brought my 8 dollars (which is 125 percent of what I'll get paid for this article) down to the bar for a ... nonalcoholic beverage. And while I enjoyed my ... nonalcoholic beverage, I struck up a conversation with a kind elderly man who looked very much a Texan. This palsied old fellow had apparently seen Florida State play a big game against North Texas more than 27 years ago.

Allow me to paraphrase for brevity's sake:

"The snow was everywhere. It was so high they had to dig for two minutes to see if this one run was a touchdown or not. And then FSU threw a 90-yard touchdown pass. It was back and forth like that all night. I remember them throwing snowballs at each other, which was strange. Man, what a game."

"You sure remember a lot about that game," I replied. "Did you know our head coach played for FSU about that time?"

"Huh," he replied. "That's something else." He shot back a few more quick glances at the Rutgers game on TV and inquired if the coach would like a drink. The coach, I explained, was probably busy coaching. But I promised to say hello for him.

Impressed with his tale, I finished my drink and prepared to return to my room. I was still upset about not having a story. Then it occurred to me he had left a major detail out. "Hey!" I shouted as I started to walk away. "Who won the game?"

He took another look at the TV, smiled and then answered with a twinkle in his eyes. "Oh I have no idea. But it was a great game."

Then it hit me. That was my story. The joy of sport doesn't require a final result. When I look back on tomorrow night, say some time in the year 2034, I may not be able to remember all the details. But I hope I can still say it was a great game. Life should be so simple.

And if you look back on this article in 20 seconds and you can't remember what it was about, don't fret. I'm only 20 percent sure myself, so that means 80 percent of you will probably be lost as well. It may not be the most factual or poignant thing I've ever written, and it may be crazy to print a story written before the game two days after it's over, but I hope a few of you will be able to look back and say it was a great story.

Not so I'll look good. Or so that Sidelines will give me my own desk. But because win or lose, point or pointless, life should be great.

MT volleyball beats Denver, loses to UNT

By Rickey Brooksher
Staff Writer

Friday, Sept. 29

MT 3

Denver 1

Sunday, Oct. 1

MT 2

North Texas 3

Next Game at Arkansas

Little Rock, Friday, Oct. 6

Arkansas State, Sunday, Oct. 8

Subhead: Matt Peck record 600th career win

MT volleyball lost to North Texas 3-2 Sunday in Denton, Texas at the North Texas Volleyball Center. This was MT's first loss of the conference schedule and ended their six-match winning streak (19-30, 30-24, 26-30, 30-27, 15-11).

The Blue Raiders (12-5, 3-1) struggled to get things going on offense as UNT controlled the tempo of the series. MT was able to win a couple of matches, but they were hard fought victories. UNT won game three by four points and MT rallied back to even the series at two games a piece by three points.

MT lost control of the game by committing some costly errors on offense. The Blue Raiders were tied at 10 all with UNT, but MT committed an attack error and UNT capitalized off it. They scored four points to win the final game.

The Blue Raiders were held to a .148 attacking percentage with 40 errors and 14 service errors. Sophomore Ashley Adams had 23 kills and junior Quanshell Scott had 10 kills.

On Friday MT (12-4) beat the Denver volleyball team in Denver. They won the match 3-1 (31-29) (32-34) (30-13) (30-17). The first two games were down to the wire and each forced extra points.

MT won the first game on a service ace from Scott. Then Denver answered back with a game winning service ace to even the matches at one game apiece.

MT felt a sense of urgency and played much better in the last two games. The Blue Raiders never trailed in the third game and lead most of the final game. They had a superb attacking percentage in the last two games of .389 and .406.

Senior Jessica Robinson had the best game of the year with a season high 20 kills. Victoria Monasterolo had double double with 19 kills and 14 digs, that was her third of the season. Adams had another solid game with 12 kills.

The match against Denver added another victory to head coach Matt Peck's career total at 600 wins.

Middle Tennessee will be playing a double dip in Arkansas as they play against SBC teams Arkansas-Little Rock on Friday and Arkansas State on Sunday.

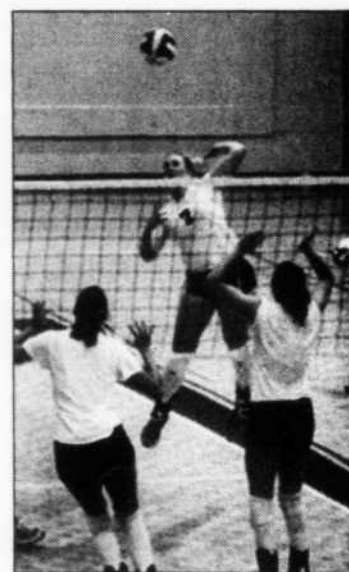


Photo courtesy of MT Media Relations
Sophomore Ashley Adams led both teams with 23 kills against UNT

Sun Belt Recap Week 5: Teams start conference play

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

Louisiana-Lafayette 33, Eastern Michigan 14

ULL (2-2, 0-0) won against Eastern Michigan Saturday as quarterback Jerry Babb went 17-of-21 for 202 yards and two touchdowns. Running back Tyrell Fenroy had his second straight 100-yard rushing game as he had 15 carries for 110 yards. They collected 367 yards of total offense.

EMU quarterback Andy Schmitt went 23-of-35 for 171 yards and scored his team's only touchdowns in the game in the last eight minutes.

Alabama-Birmingham 21, Troy State 3

UAB quarterback Sam Hunt threw for 11-of-16 for 145 yards. Hunt had one passing touchdown and one rushing touchdown in the game as UAB (2-3) beat Troy Saturday night. Hunt had 69 yards on 21 carries, which led the team in rushing. Sylvester Mencer caught five receptions for 96 yards.

Troy's quarterback Omar Haugabook threw for 144 yards and completed 18-of-30 passes. UAB sacked Haugabook six times and kept the offense in check for 58 yards rushing.



Arkansas State 31, Florida International 6

ASU (2-2, 1-0) defense held a winless FIU (0-5, 0-2) in check as they forced four turnovers. FIU only managed 186 yards and nine rushing



yards. As the Indians had 330 yards of total offense with quarterback Travis Hewitt throwing for 68 passing yards and 10-of-22 passes.

Hewitt also ran in two touchdowns. Reggie Arnold rushed for 146 yards.



Florida Atlantic 21, Louisiana-Monroe 19

FAU (1-4) quarterback Sean Clayton went 12-of-18 with 164 yards and a touchdown as the Owls beat ULM (1-3), even though ULM was ahead in the stats column, as they had 407 yards of total offense against FAU 336 total yards. ULM lost the game due to turnovers and penalties.



Cross country runners claim top-10 finishes

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

MT cross-country team had two top 10 finishes at the Greater Louisville Classic in Louisville Ky. Senior Sara Lunning and junior Marjorie Gombert finished sixth and eighth place in the Blue race. Lunning led the team in the 5K with a time of 19:39.04 and behind her was Gombert with 19:45.14. Freshman Sangau Zamzam finished in 19th place in 20:12.80 and Tiffany Sawyer came in 37th place with 20:41.76. Ashleigh Thaler finished in 48th place with a 20:57.01. Sophomore Ashley Comstock competed for the first time this season after injuring her ankle. She finished with a time of

21:40.40 and sophomore Catherine Chester finished with a time of 22:02.21. Another sophomore Kaitlyn Hammond begins her comeback with a time of 22:18.98. "Sara Lunning had probably her best race since she's been at Middle Tennessee," Middle Tennessee head coach Dean Hayes told MT Media Relations. "And Marjorie ran well again. The big thing was just getting Ashley and Kaitlyn back running. I was very happy to see them competing very satisfied with our overall team effort, both men and women." For the men senior Tony Carufe finished 44th with a time of 28:03.64 and junior Matthew Young finished in 81st with a time of 28:54.81. Newcomer William

Songcock competed in his first race in the 8K and finished with a time of 25:13.94. "William was excellent in his first race. He's a stud," Hayes told MT Media Relations. "And Chris Travis was solid and Matt Young ran very well also." Chris Travis placed 88th and Philip Benavides finished 94th. Ryan Hood finished in 120th and Luke Pfleger finished 126th. Middle Tennessee earned a short break before they head down to University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in two weeks on October 14th for the UTC Invitational in Chattanooga, Tenn. After that MT will be gearing up for the SBC Championships on October 28 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Cross Country Results

Greater Louisville Classic at E.P. Tom Sawyer Park

MEN - 8K

- 2. William Songcock, 25:13.94
- 44. Tony Carufe, 28:03.64
- 81. Matthew Young, 28:54.81
- 88. Chris Travis, 29:04.94
- 94. Philip Benavides, 29:12.61
- 120. Luke Pfleger, 30:33.58
- 126. Ryan Hood, 31:19.49

WOMEN - 5K

- 6. Sara Lunning, 19:34.04
- 8. Marjorie Gombert, 19:45.14
- 19. Sangau Zamzam, 20:12.80
- 37. Tiffany Sawyer, 20:41.76
- 48. Ashleigh Thaler, 20:57.01
- 85. Ashley Comstock, 21:40.40
- 103. Catherine Chester, 22:02.21
- Kaitlyn Hammond, 22:18.98



Soccer: MT claims big win against Troy

Continued from 7

victory in net. With Sunday's performance, attention is turning to the Blue Raider record books. MT has now won 18 consecutive games at Blue Raider Field, 11 straight regular-season games against SBC opponents, and secured its fourth winning season in a row. The high-octane offense has already scored 50 goals through 12 games. The record for goals in a season is owned by the 2004 team, which put 69

shots in net. The Blue Raiders will look to maintain a high level of performance with matches against Arkansas-Little Rock and Arkansas State this weekend. "UALR is having their best season ever," Rhoden said. "They're young, but very athletic. I suspect they're going to give us a really tough game."

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