

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 5, 2001

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INSIDE: Finals tips for students and professors

Middle Tennessee State University

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SIDELINES

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Campus Briefs

Dyslexia Center to open

The grand opening of The Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia on the MTSU campus will be today at 1 p.m. at the center on Baird Lane.

Formal remarks will commence with a welcome from MTSU President Sidney McPhee, followed by an Oakland High School student, Sam Frazer, who has benefited from the center's staff.

The center was built with the help of a \$1 million grant from the Christy-Houston Foundation as well as funds raised by the MTSU Foundation's New Century/New Visions campaign. The center has more than 4,000 square feet of space for teaching and research.

For more information, call Diane Sawyer at 898-5642.

Angel tree in JUB

Public Safety is sponsoring its annual Angel Tree Party, which will be in the James Union Building cafeteria Friday at 5:30 p.m.

Participants have bought gifts for children in the Womack Lane apartment complex on campus.

Refreshments will be available, and children will have the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus.

For more information, call Public Safety at 898-2424.

PKP to induct Gore

Former Vice President Al Gore will be inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, a national honor society, today at 5 p.m. in the Alumni Center.

Invitation to membership is based on exemplary character and academic achievements.

Alumni, graduate students, faculty and staff are eligible as are second-term juniors in the upper 5 percent of their class and seniors who rank in the top 10 percent of their class.

More than 60 MTSU students will be honored at the ceremony. Phil Mathis, professor of biology, also will be inducted.

For more information, contact Lisa Rollins at 898-2919.

SEA to meet

The Students for Environmental Action will meet this afternoon at 4:30 in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room S305.

The group will be discussing information about the possibility of starting a campus chapter of the Green Party.

For more information, call James Tardy at 848-0324. ♦

Kick yourself confident

O.b. Tampons is sponsoring o.b.U. on the Knoll tomorrow.

Activities will include kickboxing and a confidence collage.

MTSU is one of eight universities that o.b.U. will be visiting this semester. ♦

No injuries in drive-by shooting on Greek Row

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

A drive-by shooting early Sunday morning on Greek Row left four bullet holes in the Kappa Alpha house and two nearby cars.

No one was injured in the shooting, which MTSU Public Safety officials believe happened around 5 a.m. They believe the four rounds were

fired from a car on Rutherford Boulevard. No suspects have been named.

Lt. Darrell Collins, the detective who is investigating the incident, was unavailable for comment at press time.

Public Safety and other university officials met Sunday to discuss university procedure, which included encouraging residents to contact their parents and let them know they

were unharmed and increasing police patrols around Greek Row.

Counseling is available in Guidance Services for Greek Row residents, and Student Affairs has offered to relocate residents who feel unsafe in the fraternity house.

"No one has taken us up on either offer," said Gene Fitch,

See Drive-by, 2



Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

One of four bullets shot at the Kappa Alpha house early Sunday morning pierced a front window.

Student creates a statement



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

Senior Daniel Brunner stands in front of his sculpture - the Art Barn draped in plastic.

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

From dawn until dusk Monday and Tuesday, the Art Barn stood silently draped in thick plastic with a 13-foot question mark encased in a wooden frame and more plastic in front of it.

Passersby snapped photographs and grouped around the massive shrouded building, mumbling questions and voicing confusion - all to the delight of senior Daniel Brunner, the art student responsible for the project.

"Contrary to what most people think, it's not about the building," Brunner said, referring to the controversy surrounding the aging barn in which the art department resides.

Instead, Brunner said, his project is designed to draw attention to the building, and therefore the department and students inside it. The question mark encased in plastic is a visual metaphor for the barn, Brunner said, because many people have no idea what goes on inside the building.

"It's about the students and the artwork within the building," he said.

"It's to let students and faculty on campus know that, just because it might look like we're in a run-down, poor facility, we produce phenomenal work

See Art Barn, 2



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

Brunner's project includes a 13-foot-tall, wood-and-steel question mark resting beneath a wooden frame draped in plastic. Brunner said the framed question mark is a visual metaphor for the Art Barn because people know the barn is there, but they don't know what's inside it.

Housing extends application deadline

By Jessica Hall
Contributor

Housing and Residential Life will get a jump-start on the 2002-03 academic year by extending its re-application period through March 4.

Instead of offering a one-week period during the spring semester when students may re-apply for university housing, Vicki Justice-Lowe, associate director of Housing and Residential Life, said she thinks the re-application extension will benefit students by balancing the process.

"Changing to a system to allow students to re-apply at any time will make for a more equitable system," she said.

Housing assignments are based on date of application, and therein lies the problem with the old system, she said, because the date does not come into play as much if the applicant is returning to the same building and room. However, she noted, those students who wish to move to another building are affected by the re-application date restriction.

Womack Lane and Scarlett Commons are usually in high demand, and housing staff anticipate the trend to continue. Justice-Lowe said she expects nearly 350 new applications for Womack Lane, in addition to the residents who will be returning; thus, creating a problem regarding how to divide the remaining apartments.

When the re-application process lasted only one week, students who applied on the same day all were in the running for the empty spot, forcing housing staff to determine who the empty spot went to by other, more complicated, means, Justice-Lowe explained.

Now that the re-application period has been extended, though, the date can be the true determinant of housing assignments, she said.

"While there is no way to guarantee a request can be honored, the (people) with the earliest re-application dates would have the very best chance of getting the most popular spots," Justice-Lowe said.

Students may re-apply on the forms sent to their campus post office box or online. College Net provides the online applications for a \$10 service fee and allows students to pay by credit card or online check. From there, housing staff

See Housing, 2

Burglaries plague dorm, office

Corlew Hall residents endure rash of thefts

By Kelly Smith and Jessica Hall
Contributors

The suspect is still at large for a stint of burglaries in Corlew Hall in early November.

Each of the burglaries occurred on the seventh floor of Corlew the morning of Nov. 6 between 2:30 and 5:30 a.m., according to Public Safety reports. The items stolen include compact discs, a mini-disc player, mini-discs, a pocket watch, I-Omega external zip drive and a Fossil wristwatch.

According to campus police records, the suspect is a black male who does not live on the seventh floor, but was seen on at

least two occasions on the floor during this time frame. The suspect is described as short and stocky, with a large tattoo on his arm that extends from his elbow to his upper arm. He reportedly was wearing a cut-off shirt and shorts.

Travis Smith with MTSU Crime Stoppers said he finds similarities in all the cases.

"You can tell patterns, so it's almost a guarantee that the same person robbed the five rooms," he said.

However, some of the victims have said they believe the suspect to be a resident of the floor. Consequently, because most of the burglaries occurred while residents were asleep in their rooms, they also said they think the suspect was aware of their daily routines.

Among these students is

See Burglary, 2

\$7,000 in equipment taken from office

By Scott Laming
Staff Writer

William Govan, assistant professor of developmental studies, returned from the Thanksgiving holiday to find that his office in the E.W. Midgett Business Building had been broken into.

MTSU Public Safety officials responded to the call to find that the thief had somehow gotten in through the vent panel on the door.

"There were no apparent signs of a forceful break," the investigating officer said.

Police lifted fingerprints from the office in hopes of discovering the identity of the

thief.

Missing from the office was more than \$7,000 worth of computer equipment, including an Apple Mac G4 computer, a 19-inch Sony monitor, a Hewlett Packard scanner and a personal computer that belonged to Govan.

Govan was unavailable to comment on the theft of his property by press time.

MTSU Public Safety officials estimate that the theft occurred between 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21, and 8:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 26.

Any with information or clues regarding who broke into Govan's office is encouraged to contact Public Safety at 898-2424 or MTSU Crime Stoppers at 893-STOP. Those who contact Crime Stoppers with tips may remain anonymous and could be eligible for a cash reward. ♦

Housing: Next year's cost might increase 3 to 7 percent, university officials say

Continued from 1

receive the online applications just as they do the traditional paperwork applications. The only difference, Justice-Lowe said, is that College Net holds the money until the end of the month, which results in a refund delay for those students who cancel their reservation.

"We have, for some time,

accepted applications online, and it is a very popular way to apply for housing," she said.

"Last spring was the first time we accepted re-applications online," she added, "and we had some 150 students who used the system without any problems."

As for cost, Justice-Lowe said she expects a slight increase for the 2002-03 year. The rates are subject to approval by the Tennessee Board of Regents and usually are not determined until July 1.

"Housing costs have tradi-

tionally increased between 3 and 7 percent," Justice-Lowe said. "[And] while we do not know what the cost for the 2002-03 year will be, we do not anticipate it being greater than 7 percent."

In all, Justice-Lowe said she is excited about the housing opportunities offered to students for the upcoming year and believes the new re-application process greatly will increase the probability of students being assigned to the building of their choice. ♦

Art Barn: Senior's project makes a statement

Continued from 1

that surpasses everything in this area."

So much talent lies in the barn and within the art students at MTSU, he said, yet very little recognition is given to them or the art program by the university, the surrounding community or the state.

Brunner decided to wrap the barn in plastic for his sculpture class project titled "Boundaries," in which students

could do anything they wanted. He used just enough plastic to cover the front of the barn — a building that's 40 feet tall and 140 feet long.

It took two separate rolls of plastic tarp stitched together and 70 to 80 hours of work to build the question mark and its frame and to attach the tarp to the roof of the barn.

Two of Brunner's friends helped him with the project.

He had to submit a proposal to the chair of the art depart-

ment, as well as the fire marshal and other safety personnel to get the project approved.

Brunner's project was critiqued by his sculpture class and a color drawing class. He said the critique went well.

Lan Thao Lam, his professor, said his project achieved its goal.

"He wanted to voice the non-exposure and (lack of) visibility of the art department," she said.

"It's an ambitious project for

Burglary: Common sense urged for residents

Continued from 1

Mario Valdes, a recording industry major from California, who had his zip drive stolen while he was out and his roommate was asleep in their room.

"I believe that someone who lives on my floor stole my zip drive," Valdes said, "(and) I think it's someone who I know."

Jon Romero, also a recording industry major, said he had his mini-disc player stolen but didn't discover it until later in the evening. He, along with Valdes, said he believes the suspect is a resident of the floor.

"We think we know who did it, and it is someone we never would have expected to steal from us," Romero said.

As a result of these burglaries, many Corlew victims have taken extra precautions to keep

their belongings safe. Christopher King, another recording industry major, said his watch was stolen while he was sleeping.

"I lock my door all the time now," King said. "I used to trust people enough not to lock it, but not now."

"I lock my door every time I leave my room, even if I just go to the bathroom," Valdes added.

Justin Useton, the resident assistant on Corlew's seventh floor, also was victimized during the Nov. 6 burglaries. Useton, who had CDs stolen, said he advises residents on his floor to be aware of their community surroundings.

"Be careful with who you trust, and don't be stupid about where you leave your things," Useton remarked.

Lt. Darrell Collins, a detec-

tive with MTSU Public Safety, said he advises all students who live on campus to be mindful of their belongings and suggests easy ways to avoid being the next victim.

"Never leave your dorm room unlocked, even if you are in the room," he said, "(and) never leave personal items lying around the room. Don't leave high-dollar items sitting out in plain view or allow strangers in your room."

Finally, Collins reminds all students, "Always use common sense about safety and security."

Crime Stoppers will offer a reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest in the Corlew burglaries. Callers may remain anonymous, and Crime Stoppers can be reached by calling 893-STOP. ♦

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Drive-by:

Continued from 1

associate dean of Student Life.

Fitch said if the shooter or anyone directly involved with the crime is found to be a student, immediate university action would be taken and she or he would, at a minimum, be suspended for an indefinite amount of time.

Members of Kappa Alpha declined requests for comment.

MTSU Public Safety is working with Murfreesboro Police to investigate the incident.

To report information regarding the shooting, contact MTSU Public Safety at 898-2424. ♦

Sidelines is accepting applications for editors, staff writers, designers, columnists and photographers for the spring. Come by JUB 310 to apply.

Have you ever wondered what it's like being Santa Claus?



Here's your chance to find out.

The SGA Senate is sponsoring a

Toy Drive

for the Salvation Army

Donations of new, unwrapped toys can be taken to the SGA office, KUC 208, between now and December 7.



Editorial

Finals tips for students, professors

It's that time of year again.

The time you start realizing your procrastination isn't really going to pay off in the long run. The time when your roommate's odd quirks are just too much to handle and you want to drown him or her in the small pond that often forms on the intramural fields. The time when you want to do obscene things to the guy who stole the spot you were waiting for in the Bell Street lot. The time you start pulling your hair out. It's time for finals. It's time for stress.

Being a college student at this time of the year can be quite a complex task. (Not that it is not all of the time.) While juggling class work, a job, extra-curricular activities and somewhat of a social life, sometimes it's hard to find enough hours in the day. When finals come around, it really gets tough. Oftentimes it seems that professors don't remember how hard it is to manage everything.

This is why we thought it would be a great time to point out a few things that could make our lives just a little bit easier.

First, although a little late to help us this semester, next semester, do not make a student's final grade come only from a midterm and a final. Throw in an assignment or participation grade to help those geniuses who simply don't test well. Knowing that you could either get a D or A in a class depending on how you do on one test is quite nerve-racking.

Next, please prepare us for the final. By making a review sheet and setting aside the last day of class for questions, students will have a better idea of what to focus their attention on. There is nothing worse than studying 25 chapters in a book only to get to the test and find there are some sections that are not even questioned. By outlining the material, students not only save time (which is very precious during finals, especially when you have more than one on the same day), but generally do better and gain more knowledge by making a review sheet.

Which leads us to our next point. Cumulative tests are worse than pulling teeth! Some professors say that learning is cumulative, so we should be tested that way. OK... so maybe they are right. But it's still hell.

So professors, while planning your finals, please be gentle. We are delicate creatures with fragile minds during this stressful holiday/finals season. And students - good luck. ♦

Make yourself happy this Christmas

On the Real

Shawn Whitsell
Flash! Editor



It's almost Christmas time. A time when we're all supposed to be happy. However, studies have shown that the holiday season is a time when depression is at its highest.

People may be depressed because they'll be spending another holiday without the physical presence of a loved one who has passed away. Then, there are those individuals who are depressed simply because they don't have the money to shower

family and friends with more gifts than they can stand. And this year, Americans have another reason that may keep spirits down - the Sept. 11 tragedy.

If you're mourning the death of a loved one or those occurred Sept. 11, then all I can say is stay thankful and continue living life. I'm sure those who have gone on before us would want the people they love to be happy, especially during the holiday season.

If you're one of those individuals who is depressed because of your financial situation, then I ask you to look beyond that. Christmas has become too commercialized anyway. Don't get me wrong, I love to give and receive gifts on Christmas.

However, I understand that the holiday is not about how many gifts I can collect. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ, our savior. I celebrate his birth by being appreciative of what I have, by making sure my family and friends know I love them and just by allowing myself to be happy.

I've gone through a lot this semester - A LOT. And I'm still struggling through some things, but I'm here. I'm still living, and for that I'm grateful to God. When I went home for Thanksgiving and saw all my family in one place, for a short period of time I completely forgot about all the negative things that have happened in the world.

To some of you, this

may all sound cliché but I'm telling you that if you truly want to be happy despite all the crazy things that this world has to offer, then all you have to do is seek that happiness. You decide your own happiness. If you want to be depressed, then that's all you will be. However, if you want to smile during the holidays, then claim happiness and speak it into existence.

A friend of mine told me that this would be the first Christmas in her adulthood that she wouldn't have a lot of zeros on her account balance, but "I've never been happier." My friend, who has been through a major change in her life, is happy simply because she has life, and though she may not have a huge bank account this

year, she still has more blessings than she can count.

So, I say to you, concentrate on what's important for Christmas. If you have a lot of money for gifts, then that's great. Shop away. Just as a suggestion though, think about giving to those less fortunate or think about ways to spread Christmas to loved ones that doesn't have a price tag attached to it.

However, if you're going to be broke like me, remember that you're still rich with God's blessings, so spread the joy.

I hope you have had a productive semester. Have a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year. Infinite Peace and Blessings.

God bless. ♦

My first semester of commuting analyzed

For Argument's Sake

Jason Cox
Asst. News Editor



This fall, I moved off campus and decided to commute to campus every day.

But what about parking, people would say. Do you want to deal with not finding a parking place and having to park on the grass and the big mean ticket guys?

Considering my living experience in the dorms last year, my answer was a resounding yes.

The first day of the school year, I tried to leave for school 20 minutes

before my class started. I ended up stuck in the Livestock Center lot and was 10 minutes late for my first class of the semester (which has pretty much set the tone for this class).

However, as time went on, things got easier. I can only assume that the increased number of parking spaces was due to students dropping out or skipping class. Soon, there were always spaces within a three-minute walk of my classes.

The parking also fluctuates based on the weather. This would be understandable in a severe weather situation, but parking is noticeably easier when it rains.

Parking is marginally more difficult right now, as class attendance has shot

up with students hoping to complete a semester's worth of work and studying in two weeks.

So here is my expert analysis, reached through a semester of commuting to a university with more than 20,000 students: Get over it. It's not that bad.

Despite the horror stories of poor students having to park on a curb in Kittrell and hiking so far to class that by the time they get there they've already failed the course and gotten \$10,000 worth of parking tickets, I dare to say that much of this is motivated by laziness.

People are not parking illegally because there are no green spaces left on campus; they are parking there because there is not a spot in the most conve-

nient lot.

This is not to say that Parking Services does not closely resemble Big Brother. They are a self-sufficient auxiliary unit of the university ... but not really. Or are they? I've done several stories on parking as a reporter, but I could never nail down whether or not this is true.

Meter maids (i.e. hell-bound traitors of the student body) traipse across campus meters run out so they can print out a little prize for them when they come get their car. They also don't pay attention to signs that specify when the lot is open to all permits.

And guess what? If you don't call their bluff, you get the ticket.

Overall, though, parking on this campus is not as important as many make it out to be. There are much shadier dealings on this campus than whatever Parking Services is doing. Other universities in the state have much higher parking permit fees with significantly longer walks (University of Tennessee students routinely walk a mile to classes.)

I am a firm believer in fighting the system; however, there comes a time when one must pick their battles.

If you follow the relatively simple rules, you will probably not be ticketed. Don't be dumb. Save your energy for something more useful. ♦

Bike lanes would benefit entire community

By Lisa Poepsel
Guest Columnist

Being hit by a car near campus made me appreciate of riding my bicycle to school. Being hit twice opened my eyes and wounded body to a major problem of safety around campus.

The roads of Murfreesboro are full of strictly enforced driving rules, such as speed limits, seat belt laws and traffic lights, which keep residents safe. Murfreesboro roads and drivers however, give no attention to the safety of those traveling on bicycles.

Of the major roads traveled daily by MTSU students and residents of the community, only one

road has designated a bike path. A stretch of Greenland next to the Murphy Center is the only safe haven for bike riders from the busy traffic of MTSU. Do bikers deserve to ride safely only on this less than half mile stretch of road? A large number of students live in the apartment complexes or rental houses within a few miles of campus, yet parking remains a nightmare because everyone drives their personal vehicle to school.

Unsafe driving conditions make the choice to bike to school a dangerous one. Students who ride bikes have to dodge cars that are not paying proper attention to surroundings while also maneuvering

around pedestrians who do not welcome bikes on their sidewalks.

As an avid biker who has been hit by not one but two cars, both on Tennessee Boulevard by campus, each morning I must weigh my options. Leave my apartment 30 minutes early to scramble for a parking spot and then make the journey to get to my class on time. Or, ride my bike to my door of my destination and risk being run off the road or experiencing yet another crash.

A two-foot wide bike path on each side of Tennessee Boulevard, Main Street, Northfield Boulevard and all on-campus streets is all I ask for. No multi-million dollar parking garage or an

increase in green spaces in front of buildings for me. Just a little lane so the environmental, health and economic conscious students can arrive safely to class.

This would not just benefit bicycle riders, it would leave more parking spaces for commuters and ease traffic congestion in and around campus. For what the average student spends on parking tickets each semester, they could purchase a bike and be healthier and less frustrated with each journey to campus.

Bike lanes wouldn't require more long-term annoying construction or be a budget burden. Lanes would increase exercise among students, reduce pollution and decrease

parking frustration. There is nothing worse than driving a half-mile to school only to park a mile away from class.

For this university, bike lanes are a better and more immediate solution to the problems that plague our campus. Too few dorms, too little parking and too much traffic can be simply fixed with a few bike lanes around the edges of our 500-acre campus.

Bikers will be safer, drivers will have dominance on their roads and pedestrians can reclaim their sidewalks with the addition of bike lanes.

I urge you, MTSU administration, to think about long-term benefits and student safety, build bike lanes! ♦

Insanity should not be a catch-all defense

By Rachel Aderholdt
Daily Illini (U. Illinois)

(U-WIRE) - No one is responsible for anything these days. Product labels are downright ridiculous. In the family dog gets wet in the rain and little Kevin decides to dry him off in the microwave, the manual for a microwave oven absolves the manufacturer from blame: Caution, do not use to dry pets.

There is another, much more serious case in the news nowadays regarding someone else who is trying to escape blame for his or her actions. The hot topic around the DuPage County courthouse in past weeks is the Marilyn Lemak case. The Naperville mother is currently on trial for the 1994 murders of her three children by drugging and suffocating them with her bare hands. She had two boys, 7 and 3 years old, and

a 6-year-old daughter. The defense is trying to persuade the court that Lemak committed these horrible acts because of temporary insanity. In this case, I think the insanity defense seems to be another avenue to take blame and responsibility off the individual.

The legal definition of insanity requires that at the time of the commission of the act in question, the defendant, as a result of severe mental disease or defect, was unable to appreciate the quality or wrongfulness of his acts. The core of the case requires the jurors to decide whether this definition applies to Lemak.

Prosecutors are trying to prove Lemak killed her children out of jealousy to spite her husband, David, rather than in an act of insanity. Their marriage was on the rocks. They had recently separated, and he had started seeing another

woman after the separation.

A number of witnesses, including two close friends of Lemak, testified she was emotionally troubled in the days leading up to the murders of her children, but they had no reason to believe she would harm her children. One of her friends defended Lemak's husband, stating that Lemak was too critical of him and that "he was around more than most dads."

In the days leading up to the murders, Lemak made harassing phone calls to her husband's new girlfriend. She took steps to ensure that she would be alone with the children that day. On the morning of the murders, Lemak called the family's long-time cleaning lady and told her not to come. She declined a friend's invitation that day to take care of the Lemak children so Lemak could have some

time to herself. After killing her children, she tried to conceal evidence by hiding the bottle of tranquilizer behind an intercom box in the house's bathroom. Further, prosecutors plan to point out that Lemak understood exactly what she was doing by the first words she said to her mother the night after she killed her children - "I'm sorry."

She described to police how she spiked her children's after-school snacks with an anti-anxiety drug prescribed to her that caused them to hallucinate. She then covered their noses and mouths were her hands until they could no longer breathe. After they were dead, she attempted to kill herself by taking an overdose of the drugs. She awoke the next morning and, realizing her previous suicide attempt was unsuccessful, slashed her wrists before calling 911.

Do I believe she's crazy? Yes. But on the other hand, I think that anyone who murders someone is crazy. Do I think kamikaze-style terrorists who fly hijacked planes into the World Trade Center are crazy? Yup. Would I allow them (in principle, if they survived) to use a not-guilty by insanity defense in a courtroom? Hell, no. The same goes for my opinion on Lemak.

I sympathize that Lemak suffered from what her husband calls mild to moderate depression. I am sorry she was upset about her struggling marriage and felt out of control. However, that was in no way any excuse for her three children to die by her own hands. There was a world of other avenues open to her to seek help before taking out her problems by ending the lives of her children. I hope Lemak will be punished for their deaths. ♦

SIDELINES

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Movie Review

'Harry Potter' works magic for fans of all ages

By Zachary Hansen
Staff Writer

The first in a series of *Harry Potter* movies has become an unprecedented national phenomenon. It has broken nearly every box office record for the first week of release and could contend for the top-grossing film of all time.

It seems that almost everyone has read the books. Even adults are getting in on the action; the screening of the film I attended was full of mostly adults. Despite being an enormously over-marketed blockbuster, something about the *Harry Potter* film is out of the ordinary: It's actually a really good movie.

Earlier this week, I decided to see what all the fuss was about and picked up a copy of the book *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. I read through it in record time and never had more fun with a book.

Though I had promised my parents I would wait until Christmas and see the film with them, after reading the book I just couldn't wait. In an act of betrayal, I joyfully traipsed off to the movie theater to take in the spectacle (picking up a copy of the second book along the way).

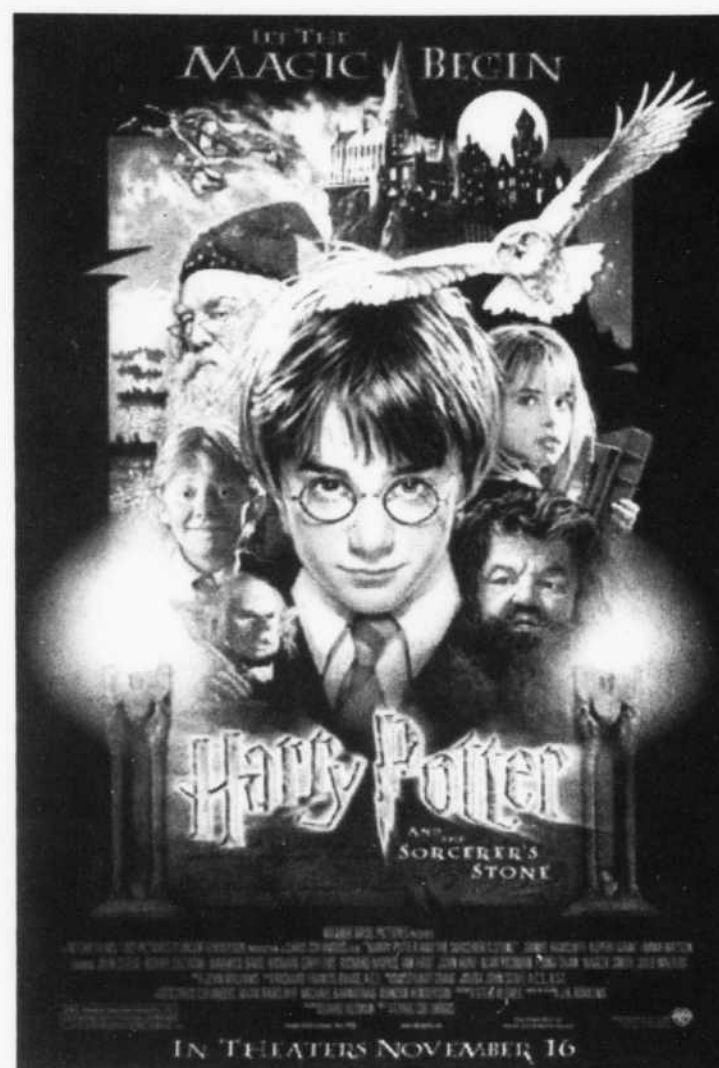
I feel awful for not waiting for Mom and Dad, but it was worth it. The very-faithful-to-the-novel adaptation follows young Harry from his first days as an orphaned child to living with his horrid aunt and uncle and onward to his wizardry studies at Hogwarts.

Along the way he works to prove himself to the other students, who regard him as a celebrity for surviving the attacks of evil Voldemort, who killed his parents. He joins new friends Ron and Hermione to foil a plot to steal the fabled sorcerer's stone, which provides unlimited riches and everlasting life.

The book is almost perfectly transposed to the screen, and although the running time is long, especially for a children's movie, there is so much energy and excitement that the length is barely noticed. The actors do a wonderful job of bringing their characters to life, especially Robbie Coltrane as the lovable giant, Hagrid.

The only minor faults in the film are the abundance of computer-generated special effects and the lack of change from book to film. Of course, there are certain parts of the book that would be hard to transcribe to the screen without computer animation, most noticeably in the Quidditch match, but the lack of reality in these scenes can be distracting. But one must keep in mind that this is a film aimed at children. Not being an anal movie critic, things like this probably won't keep the kids away from theaters.

Harry Potter is a film that everyone will love, even elitist film journalists who only like long foreign films. Even better, seeing the movie will surely get people to want to read the books, and getting people to read nowadays is quite an accomplishment. Go see it, because who knows when another well-made blockbuster will come along. And don't worry Mom and Dad, I'd love to see *Harry Potter* again, especially if it's on you. ♦



Photos Provided

Local band brings friction to the 'Boro



Photo Provided

Friction makes frequent appearances in the Murfreesboro/Nashville area and can be heard on 102.9's Buzz Around Town.

By Kylee Schwab
Contributor

A local band took the spotlight Thursday night at Bongo Johnny's.

Friction presented a versatile and creative style of music. Friction is "influenced by Staind, Tool and Puddle of Mudd," said lead singer Chad Lane.

Other members of Friction are Ashley King (drums) and Chase Cawthorne (guitar). The musicians, all Murfreesboro natives, have been performing together for more than a year.

Friction has played at many different venues from Murfreesboro to Nashville, creating a buzz within the local scene. One of those places included FM radio station 102.9's Buzz Fest at AmSouth Amphitheater this fall with bands such as Nickleback, 3 Doors Down and Sevendust.

"We were excited for the opportunity to play at Buzz Fest," Cawthorne says. "It gave us a chance to let our music be heard by a wider range of audience."

The band can be heard every Sunday night on 102.9's Buzz

Around Town program. For a sampling of the band's sound, or to purchase Friction's music or for more information on the trio, visit the players' Web site at www.mp3.com/FRICION.

"We hope to expand our audience by playing more upcoming gigs," Lane says.

Friction will play Friday at 10 p.m. at the Outer Limits, 3758 Nolensville Road, in Nashville. Ages 18 and up will be admitted. Admission is free before 10 p.m. and is \$7 per person after 10 p.m. For more information, call the venue at 781-0068. ♦

Students take runway for Operation Couture

Phoenix Taylor
Staff Writer

MTSU's Fashion Promotion class saluted American styles as they presented "Operation Couture" Tuesday in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

Every fall semester, students work to put together a presentation that allows them to use techniques learned in class. Proceeds benefited the Liberty Disaster Fund.

The show captured a diverse blend of classic but trendy looks, such as boys' Scouting uniforms. Color schemes of red, white and blue remained constant throughout the show. Occasional dabs of purple pants, glittery beige tops, black ensembles and low-slung, hip-hugging belts appeared in the fusion. This gave small amounts of color variety to the stylish presentation.

From leather pant suits and knee-high boots to glittery tube dresses, skiwear to athletic gear, denim jeans, turtleneck sweaters and cut-out, backless tops, the fashion remained in touch with mainstream retail chic. A far stretch from the theme of the show, there weren't couture qualities seen on European runways, with some exceptions given to the culture segment that captured the looks of traditional Asian dress.

In addition, hair sculptured designs with added fan shaped color pieces by Christine Ivy of Studio South and Anita Ray of Professional



Photo by Andy Alexander | Staff

A female model sports a camouflage midriff and miniskirt.

Imaging gave models an edgier look.

Male models dominated the runway. They danced and displayed sexy looks, which brought approval from women in the audience. Some crowd members swooned as men strutted in their black leather outfits.

Think Shaq-chic and all-American looks. Horizontal line prints, soft ribbed, brown, black and baby blue turtlenecks for men were a trend on the runway. There were athletic jumpsuits for couples in soft velour texture in red and blue having white skinny stripes down the sides of the pant leg. Retail stores in the fashion show were Anastasia's Attic, Wilson's leather, Old Navy, Peebles, T.J. Maxx, Trendsetter, Jamie and Wet Seal.

Along with the fashions, Operation Couture provided an entertaining night. The men of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity dazzled spectators with a show-stepping performance. Their use of Egyptian styled body movements and harmonized songs of praise for their fraternity created uproar of applause in the audience. A Chattanooga rock band called Vanadium debuted their song "Hard Way," which gave variety to the intermission.

Overall, Operation Couture was exciting. Images of American themes dictated the show's decor, from the American flag backdrop to the green military tents set up on the sides. The class gave an electrifying performance. ♦



Photo by Andy Alexander | Staff

This model rocks the runway in khaki pants.

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Back Door Cut

J.R. Lind



Copy Editor

Donnelly has proven dedication to MT

Every university with a "big time" sports reputation has a coaching legend, a man (or woman) of mythic status that conjures up images of that institution. This is part of why collegiate sports are part of the American cultural landscape.

To have a highly-revered coach is a source of institutional pride. Legends are a benchmark by which all successors are measured. Just ask any post-"Bear" Bryant Alabama football coaches.

It's almost as if a legend is a requirement for Division I-A status.

Here at Middle Tennessee, we too have a legend, a man that everyone in this area identifies with Blue Raider athletics, and that man is interim Athletics Director Boots Donnelly.

I grew up in an MT family. Both of my parents are graduates, as are several aunts, uncles and cousins. Until I arrived on campus, the only former MT coach, in any sport, that I could name was Boots Donnelly.

And now MT is faced with naming the next AD.

There are more than 30 nominees for the position, ranging from current athletics directors to the CEO of a sporting goods company to a Georgia middle school football coach. However, one name sticks out, that of Boots Donnelly.

MT is heading up in the world of college sports. The university already fields competitive teams in football, baseball and women's basketball. The pieces are in place to bring the rest of the sports to that same level.

President McPhee wants a person to lead the athletics department into this new era. What better choice than the man who has already led the Blue Raider transition since the departure of former AD Lee Fowler for the North Carolina State job?

Stability is an essential factor in growth.

Often times, the athletics directors and coaches at schools in mid-major conferences use their lower-level successes to springboard their careers.

This can and often does cause an interruption in the growth of the program.

If a school becomes a revolving door for up-and-comers, then it never has the continuity necessary to take the next step.

With Donnelly, the university leadership can rest assured that he will not be wooed away by the bigger bucks at a more well-known school.

No other candidate can provide this assurance. Donnelly has stuck with MT for a long time and he surely won't jump ship now.

Donnelly has the dedication in and the pride for this university and its athletics programs that it so desperately needs at this crucial time.

The NCAA is supposedly in the process of reviewing the Division I-A football roster and MT is one institution in jeopardy. No one will fight harder to keep this university at the highest level than Boots Donnelly.

Honestly, I know absolutely nothing about the remainder of the AD nominees. I don't need to. My mind is made up. The university would be wise to follow suit. ♦

You can reach J.R. Lind at slsports@mtsu.edu or 898-2816.

McPhee to name athletics director

By Rebecca Pickering
Managing Editor

A new Middle Tennessee athletics director will be named by February.

More than 30 applications have been filed with Dan Parker and Associates, an Atlanta-based contracted search firm that is continuing to accept applications for the position. MTSU President Sidney McPhee will narrow the search for a new athletics director by the end of this month.

"My goals are very ambitious for the university and the athletics program. We need a person to provide very strong leadership in all aspects of athletics administration, from their ability to work with the coaches and manage the athletics programs within that department," McPhee said in a *Daily News Journal* article.

After narrowing the search, McPhee plans to appoint an advisory committee to help with the interview process. McPhee, however, will have the final decision in the selection.

McPhee wants an athletics



File photo

Boots Donnelly was MT head football coach in 1979-1998. He has applied for the athletics director position.

director who can help the athletics department grow just as fast as the university. This includes

bringing new ideas to the department through fund-raising, budgeting and other outlets.

"I know what I need and the type of person I need in that position," McPhee told the *DNJ*. "You can't just focus on the administration part. There has been some concern about our budget and the whole deficit of the budget, so it's a priority to bring in someone who can manage the budget but also bring in new resources and get the community excited."

Current interim Athletics Director Boots Donnelly has filed an application for the position. Donnelly, long-time MT football coach, has served as interim director since October 2000, after Lee Fowler resigned from

the position.

McPhee noted the good job that Donnelly has done in his time as interim. He said though that the search for a full-time athletics director is open to anyone and he will closely review the merits of all applicants.

"He's done a great job managing the athletics department,

and I think anyone who knows anything about it would agree," McPhee said of Donnelly in the *DNJ*. "There are issues of the future we have to deal with that a candidate, and he is a candidate, will have to speak to - some of the concerns and issues of the future. All candidates will have to answer to that." ♦

Applicants for Director of Athletics at MTSU

J.D. Barnett
Joseph A. Biedron
Eugene Byrd
Robert S. Chichester
Brad Davis
Danielle C. Dias
James "Boots" Donnelly
Deena L. Francis
Chris Gage
Bobby M. Gleason
Kevin K. Grothe
Eli Herrera
Dr. Brad Hovious
David A. Johnsen

David W. Jones
Karlos Kirby
Bill Lavelle
Ralph Manning
Chris Massaro
Dr. Robert D. McBee
Jon McBride
Ellen McEwen
Mel Owen
Thomas F. Perry
Dr. James L. Smith
Amy E. Stoll
Herbert H. Vincent
Dr. Terry Wanless
William Weidner
Dr. Ronald E. Zwierlein

MT players honored by SBC



Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

Counts looks for a receiver to pass to against NMSU.

Staff Reports

Eleven Middle Tennessee players were honored when the Sun Belt Conference announced its 2001 football individual awards yesterday.

Wes Counts won the Sun Belt Player of the Year award. He is the nation's leader in completion percentage. Counts

owns every passing record at MT, led the league the league in passing efficiency, completion percentage, touchdown passes and threw the fewest interceptions in the league.

Dwone Hicks took the Sun Belt's Offensive Player of the Year honor. Hicks, the nation's third leading scorer, won the Sun Belt rushing title with 1,143

yards and also led the league in points scored (148) and touchdowns (24). He had the SBC's top rushing effort of the season when he ripped Vanderbilt in the opener for 203 yards.

"This is just one of the many things that makes being in a league great," head coach Andy McCollum said. "Our players always put team first, but it is still great to earn recognition like some of our guys did today. To have the Player of the Year and the Offensive Player of the Year in the same season is a great honor for our program and University."

The Blue Raiders placed seven players on the first team all-SBC and four on the second team. Co-Champion.

Counts, Hicks, wide receiver Kendall Newson, offensive lineman Brandon Westbrook, defensive tackle Tanaka Scott, linebacker Scotty Brown and defensive back Jykine Bradley were all named to the first team.

Center Glen Elarbee, safety Michael Woods, punter Robert Billings and running back Reshard Lee made the second team.

A voting panel of the league's head coaches, media relations directors and selected media voted the awards on. ♦

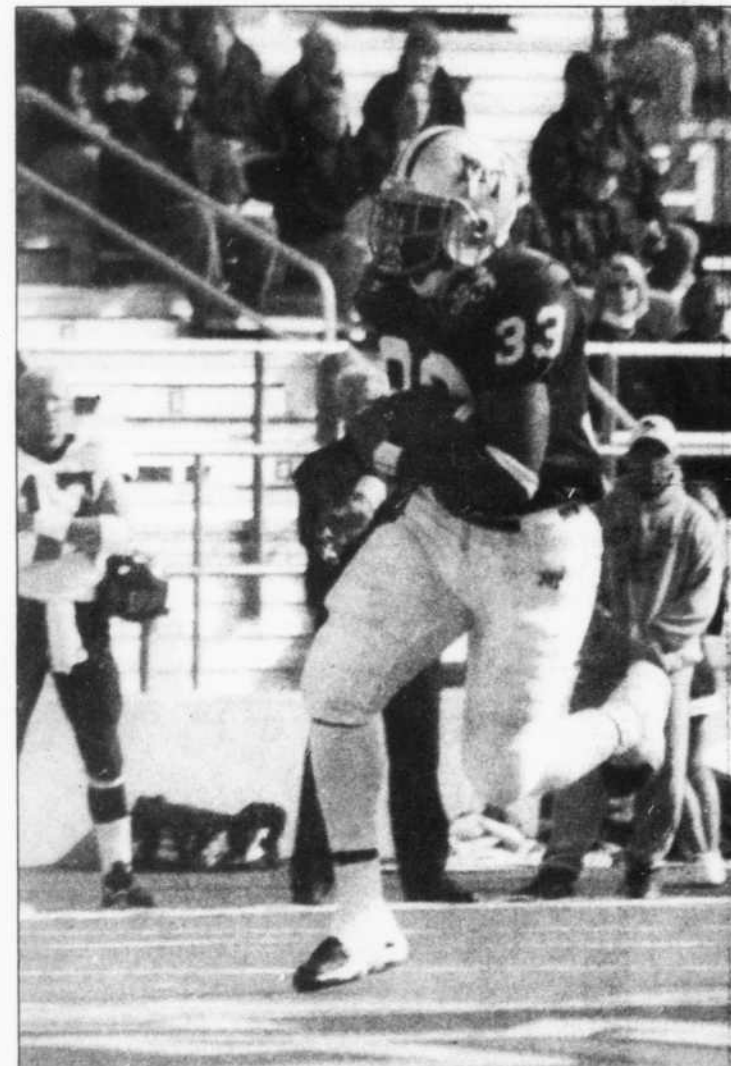


Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

Dwone Hicks rushes toward the end zone in a 54-17 win over Troy State. He ran for 1,143 yards this season.

Lady Raiders hope to upset Skyhawks

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team will take on former Ohio Valley Conference opponent the University of Tennessee-Martin tonight at Murphy Center.

UT-Martin (1-5) will try to rebound from an 87-67 loss to Southern Illinois Thursday night. MT is coming off a huge upset over Ole Miss Saturday and will look to continue its winning ways against the Skyhawks.

UT-Martin gives up 74.3 points per game, while scoring 63.2 points per game. MT meanwhile scores 72.8 points per game and allows its opponents 66.4 points per game.

Two explosive scorers in Jamie Thomatis and Joanne Aluka lead the Lady Raider offensive attack. Thomatis is averaging 20.4 points per game and scored 31 points against Ole Miss. She is the fifth leading scorer in MT history. Aluka averages 10.2 points and 6 rebounds a game. She became a member of the 1,000-point club with her 16 points against Ole Miss.

The Skyhawks don't have any players who average double digit scoring. UT-Martin's top

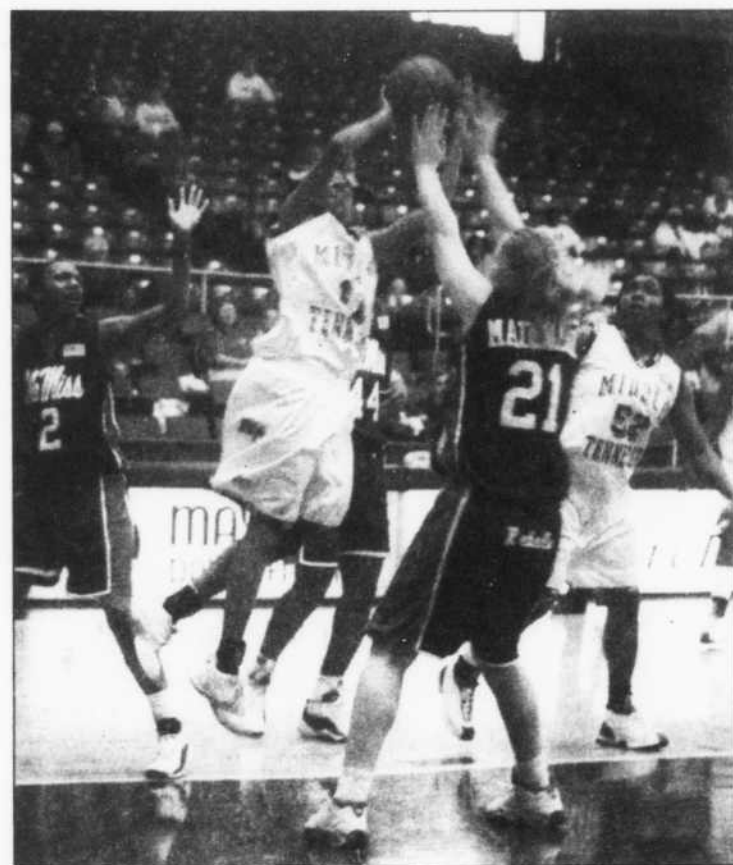


Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

Jessica McClure soars for a jump shot off the glass as the defender tries to take the charge against Ole Miss.

scorers are Kelly Pendleton and Amy Watson. Pendleton scores 9.8 points per game and had 14 points against Southern Illinois. Watson scores 9.5 per game and had 11 points against Southern

Illinois.

MT should use the momentum from the Ole Miss win to take care of UT-Martin tonight. Game time is 7 p.m. ♦

Blue Raider Notebook

By Shane Marquardt
Staff Writer



The Lady Raiders' basketball program will carry a 3-2 record and a big win over Southeastern Conference opponent Ole Miss into upcoming battles with Tennessee state schools.

The docket promises many civil war battles for the Lady Raiders, but in the three-game war, only one will be taken out of their backyard.

Tennessee Civil War:

MT's Lady Raiders face UT-Martin Wednesday at home, Tennessee Tech Sunday at home and then travel to Lipscomb to dash a little devil-may-care basketball on the Bisons home court. The Lady Raiders have fallen at home to a strong Cincinnati squad, while their only other loss came to the SEC beast Georgia Bulldogs. It's more than likely that head coach Stephany Smith won't allow her squad to slip on their own hardwood again, and Lipscomb is close enough that the Lady Raiders should still be in a frenzy when they reach the Bison gym. A 6-2 record after gutting the Tennessee scene is realistic for the Lady Raiders.

SEC Smackdown:

It has been six years since the MT lady basketball team has taken down an SEC opponent, but the Lady Raiders have grown since they last saw the town bully. The Lady Raiders took down the Ole Miss squad last Saturday night in the Murphy Center, but it been a long dry spell before that victory. Nov. 24, 1995 was the date. The opponent - the Lady Rebels.

BOO-YAH Award:

Jamie Thomatis had a season high with 31 points and 10 boards. The double-double propelled the Lady Raiders over Ole Miss, and the three three-pointers she buried didn't hurt either. Thomatis shot 50 percent from the field and was a perfect 10-for-10 from the charity stripe. ♦



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MT athletes recognized for their work and dedication inside the classroom

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee announced the 2001 spring honor roll recipients, and 107 Blue Raider student athletes were among the members. The list is as follows:

Football: Bo Browne, Antonio Capps, Billy Durham, Glen Elarbee, Lawrence Flagg, Julius Gant, Barry Hall, Montez Haywood, David Hicks, Chris

Howington, Brian Kelly, Brock Lillis, Gil Matias, Joey Montalbano, Kevin Pascoe, Chris Scott, Tanaka Scott, Michael Woods and Kerry Wright.

Soccer: Lindsey Bopp, Jessica Busey, Emily Carter, Morgan Guoan, Lindsay Henderson, Kenya Hickey, Megan Holsten, Elizabeth Maskey, Megan McGregor, Tiffany Moore, Breann Nevins, Jennifer Robb,

Sheri Robb, Sheri Robbins, Allison Schulz, Sarah Schulz, Emily Shrum, Rachael Sulkers and Veera Viljakainen.

Softball: Lindsay Azevedo, Laura Brockman, Erica Buhl, Kristina Hieb, Katie McGraw, Kip Phillips, Elizabeth Polfus, Wendy Pollock, Jennifer Polsteen, Steffi Silva and Courtney Wallace.

Golf: John Beddies, Charles Hunter Ingram, James Robert

Wade and Patrick Williams.

Basketball: Marcus Mason, Jonathon Whitworth, Rob Gordon, Daniel King; Joanne Aluka, Kelly Chastain, Crystal Davenport, Keisha McClinic, Jessica McClure, Mia Parviainen, Paula Penttila, Nicole Perkins and Jamie Thomatis.

Tennis: Tanja Buchheim, Michaela Gridling, Niger Kaur, Manon Kruse, Carlen Venter,

Inge Weirich; Sean Bowen, Oliver Foreman, Robert Gustafsson, Kirk Jackson, Daniel Klemetz, Mark Pellerin and Michael Staniak

Track: Tanko Braimah, Geoffrey Lafat, Thomas Mbanda, Anthony McGary, Levi Sybert; LaToya Brown, Mary Forrester, Kimberly Freeman, Tiffany Purham, Stephany Reid and Kelly Smith.

Volleyball: Karisse Baker,

Shakeithia Deckard, Jennifer Hignite, Erin Hillstrom, Lindsay Pritchard, Alicia Scott and Katie Thiesen.

Baseball: Chuck Akers, Jeremy Armstrong, Phillip Campbell, Kevin Davis, Matt Griffith, Steven Kines, Marshall Nisbett, Derek Phillips, Nic Stone, John Williams and Seth Yarbrough. ♦

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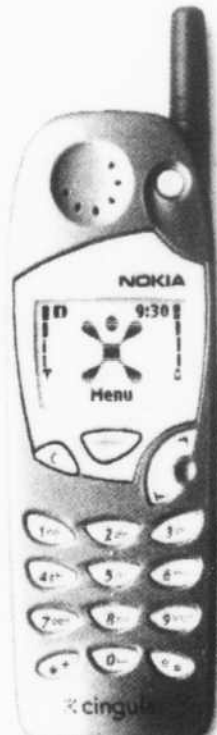
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