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An editorially independent newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

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SGA constitution referendum fails

Officials blame false rumors spread through faculty e-mail for failure

By Mary Anna Brown
SGA Reporter

The Student Government Association's proposed changes to the constitution did not pass last week during the student referendum.

A majority of voters were in favor of passing the referendum, however it was short of the two-thirds majority required. The vote was 80 in favor and 78 against. At least 105 votes were needed to change the constitution.

"We believe that part of the reason it did not pass was because an e-mail of incorrect information and false accusations was sent to over 1,000 RIM department students," SGA President John Marshall said.

James R. Miller, an MTSU

student, sent an e-mail to professor and chair of the recording industry department, Chris Haseleu, claiming that the proposed changes to the constitution would take away the student activity fee from organizations, giving it to the SGA president.

Haseleu then forwarded the e-mail, along with a disclaimer of his own, to RIM students.

"Miller's claims about the student activity fee being taken away are absolutely untrue," Marshall said. "Any organization officially registered with the office of student life is eligible to receive the fee, regardless of their attendance at House meetings or their involvement with SGA."

Miller also claimed in the e-mail that the proposed changes

would only hurt non-greek organizations.

"The proposed changes will be to the benefit of all campus organizations, greek or non-greek," Marshall said. "Greeks will receive no special treatment as a result of our propositions, nor will any other campus organization."

Marshall and other SGA officials are currently working to bring the referendum up for a second time during general elections Mar. 5-7.

"So far we have over 400 of the 500 signatures needed to bring this back up for another vote," Marshall said. "We feel that the proposed changes should be given a second chance because students were misinformed the first time around."

The three main proposed

changes center around the constitution's article four, a consistency of service in a transitional electoral period; article five, a "more efficient" unicameral governing structure; and article seven, a judicial voice for students.

Article four of the constitution deals directly with the power and procedure of the SGA executive branch.

SGA is proposing a three-month transitional period from spring elections until May where the outgoing president will work closely with the president-elect to ensure a smooth transition of power and consistency for the student body.

Currently, the president-elect's term begins as soon as the election ceases and the outgoing president concludes his/her

term of service.

"Under our prevailing governing system, the new administration is thrown into office mid-semester and is literally hanging in the balance while the outgoing administration ends their term," Speaker of the House Matt Walker said. "It leaves the new administration reeling and disconnected. We are proposing a transitional period where the new elects will be working side by side with the old administration and will in effect, eliminate downtime for the SGA."

Changes proposed for article four also call for a review, at least semi-annually, of the operations and responsibilities of the executive branch and its committees by a proposed student judicial board.

Article five of the constitution explains the distribution of the power of the legislative branch.

The SGA governing body is currently made up of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

The proposed changes to article five call for a consolidation of the two bodies into a solitary Senate body, creating a unicameral governing system from a bicameral governing system.

"The current system is inefficient and often hinders the speed by which legislation is passed," Walker said. "The students will not lose voice because they have the opportunity to present direct legislation themselves."

See SGA, 2

No horsing around

Raiders rule equestrian competition

By Lisa Thomason
Staff Writer

Members of MTSU's equestrian team have fared well this year in intercollegiate competition.

The team recently received four of the six major awards given at two competitions held at Western Kentucky University Jan. 19.

The competition included teams from Western Kentucky, Murray State, Southwest Missouri State, Truman State, Southern Illinois University, University of Tennessee at Martin and MTSU.

Team member Sarah Elder explained that the competitions are set up so points are awarded to the winners of each event. Judging is based on a rider's horsemanship and form.

"Individuals have to get a certain number of points in order to qualify for regionals," Elder said.

The top two riders in the regional tournament will go on to compete in the Zone V finals held April 7 and 8 at the University of Florida. The two top riders there will then be eligible to compete in the national championship in May at the Georgia International Horse Park.

In the Western Kentucky competitions, Elder was named High-Point Rider in the first show after placing first in both the Open Reigning class and the Rail class. Fellow team member Lisa Ligon was the Reserve High-Point Rider after finishing second in the Open Reigning class and fourth in the Rail class. Elder was named Reserve High-Point Rider in the second show.

Elder described how the competitions are set up, saying, "You have to get on a horse you don't know. You just draw a horse out of a hat ... You basically go in there and do the best you can; it's impromptu riding, and it really showcases the talents of the rider."

The competitions are divided into two divisions: Western and Hunter Seat. The Western Division involves horsemanship classes, reigning and performance of patterns and maneuvers. The Hunter Seat Division is composed of flight classes, which Elder said are similar to the horsemanship classes.

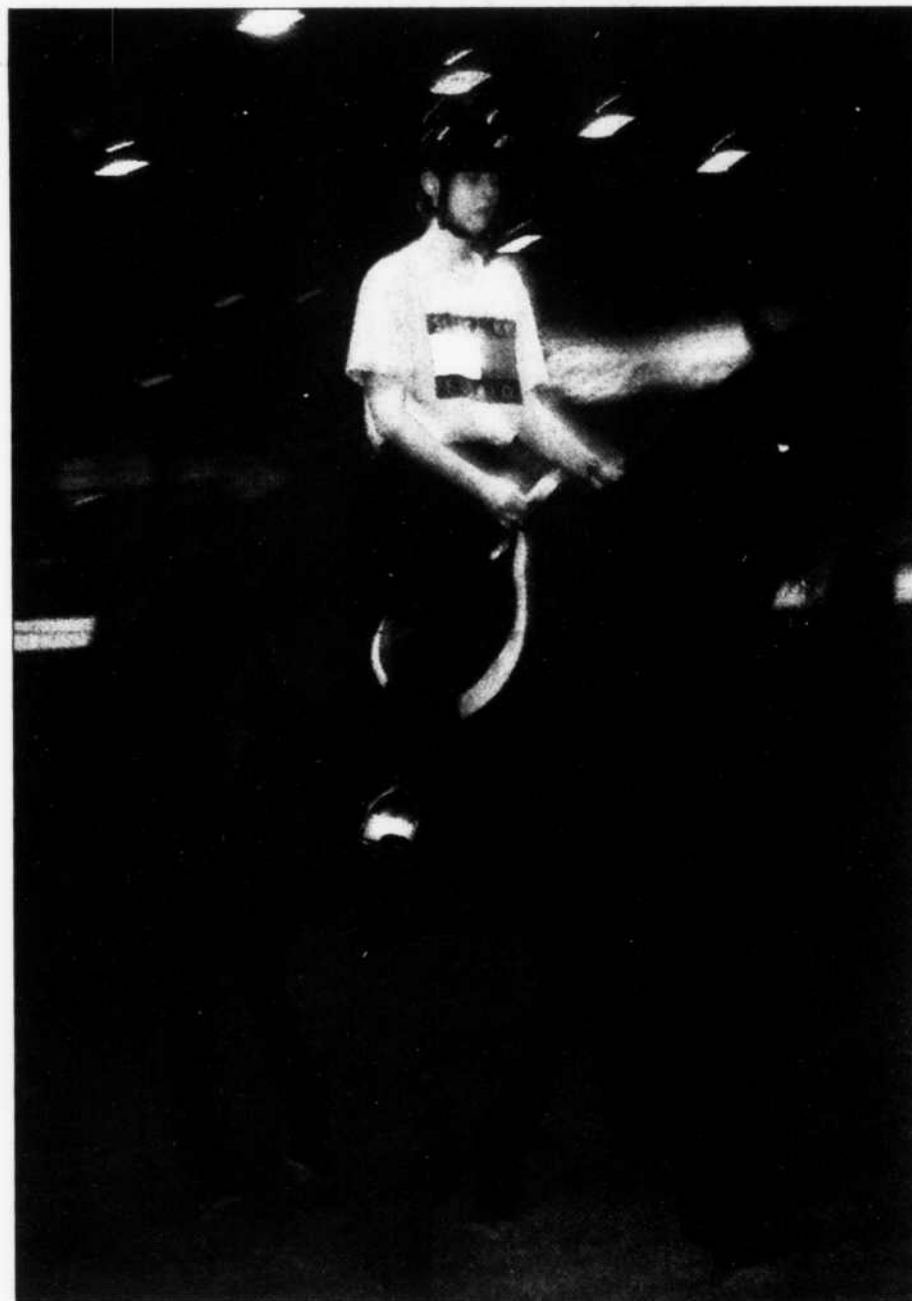


Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff

An MTSU student practices her skills in the Tennessee Livestock Center.

Anne Brzezicki, instructor for Horsemanship and Equitation courses, has been the equestrian team's faculty advisor and coach for 18 years. She said the team is composed of 42 members, representing majors such as horse science and animal science, as well as a variety of others.

According to Brzezicki, many of MTSU's team members have already qualified for the regional championships, with four competitions left on the schedule. These riders include Susan Shemwell, Jessica Schultz, Lisa Ligon, Corrine Gould, Verna Lay, Kenny Stone and Jennifer Secrest.

Brzezicki also explained that Elder

and Ligon are currently second and third, respectively, in the region in the High Point Open Rider competition in the Western division.

"It is possible for either of the MTSU girls to take over the lead at the final Western shows held at Murray (State University)," Brzezicki added.

The title of High Point Rider is very prestigious.

"The High Point Rider competition is a major draw at the shows," Brzezicki said. "The High Point Riders from each region in the nation go directly to the National Championships to compete in a

See Horse, 2

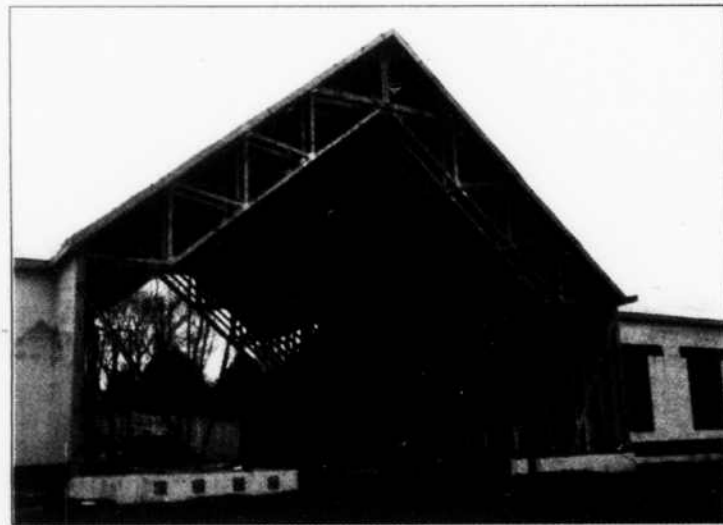


Photo by Amanda Pritt | Staff

Construction on the new Dyslexia center is underway. The building on North Baird Lane will be open in the fall and is intended to better serve the community.

Center for Dyslexia relocates to campus

By Lindsey Turner
Staff Writer

Tennessee's Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia will be moving to a new on-campus home in August of this year, thanks to a \$1 million grant from the Christy-Houston Foundation.

Construction on a new and larger building began in early December of last year on North Baird Lane. The new center — which operates as a "unit attached" to the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at MTSU — will have over 4,000 square feet of working space. That's almost double the amount the center has at its current location.

Diane Sawyer, center director, is looking forward to the center's relocation.

"Since the establishment of the center, we have been held to off-campus offices," she said. "We moved to rental property. Each year, not only the initial spaces but the increases in rental cost take an ever-increasing chunk out of our operating budget."

Sawyer feels that once the center has its own rent-free on-campus building it will be able to work more efficiently and offer more services to children (grades kindergarten through 12th) with dyslexia, as well as their parents and teachers.

Some definite plans for the new facility include a classroom,

easy computer access to the Internet, adequate office space and more space for working with children.

"We will have just generally better facilities to carry out our work," Sawyer said.

Improved web capabilities will make the center more easily accessible to a wider variety of children and schools. With an improved Web site, the center will be able to "broadcast" their staff developments, experiences and training for teachers and other personnel.

"Right now we do most of our inservice by traveling out to schools across the state," Sawyer said. "It takes time, it takes money and so we will be more efficient in this way."

Established as a free service in 1993, the center is dedicated to informing the public about the condition of dyslexia — loosely defined as "the principal learning disability contributing to limited overall development of literacy skills, despite good teaching, among intelligent individuals who want to learn."

The center strives to educate teachers about the best methods for helping students with the disorder, as well as enhance the overall amount of knowledge acquired about dyslexia and its appropriate treatments or interventions.

Information about the new facility or the program can be obtained by calling 848-1271. ♦



SGA: Another attempt at constitution changes to be introduced

Continued from 1

Reasons for moving to a unicameral governing system include poor attendance from organizations at House meetings, a barrier of communication between the House and Senate bodies, and a lack of true representation of the entire student body.

"Most organizations that are actively involved in the House are only representing a small percentage of our student body," Marshall said. "As we learned at the SGA conference last year, the representation of students at MTSU is being hindered by the bicameral system while other schools around our nation are benefiting by utilizing the unicameral system."

As a result of dissolving the House, the office of speaker of the House would become the vice president of administration and public affairs.

A referendum addressing this issue was brought up last spring by the administration but not passed by the student body.

"Some were adamantly against the proposed changes that were brought up with last year's referendum but we attribute those changes to the

lack of information the student body received about the details," Walker said. "This time around, both SGA bodies, including the Senate and the House, voted in favor of the changes."

Article seven of the constitution outlines the judicial branch and its composition and jurisdiction.

SGA is proposing all judicial powers be vested in a student judicial board which will operate under the supervision of the associate dean of Student Life.

The proposed board will consist of nine members and three alternates, made up of any full-time MTSU student maintaining a cumulative 2.5 GPA, in good standing with the university and having completed a minimum of 12 credit hours at MTSU.

"The recruitment of the board will be campus-wide and the pool of candidates should reflect the diversity of the university community," Walker said.

The student judicial board will hear cases involving the alleged violation of rules committed by students and also the alleged violations that may occur in the context of an event related to a student association

or organization during university sponsored or related activities.

All judicial matters are currently being assessed by the Supreme Court of SGA, consisting of a chief justice and six associate justices.

"The current judicial branch is amazingly inefficient and has not been utilized properly in the last 20 years," Walker said. "Our proposed student judicial board will speed up the process in hearing individual cases concerning students."

Walker said the proposed system will become an accountability system for students.

"Students should stand up and cheer for judicial change because they are finally getting a voice in the affairs and actions of their fellow students," Walker said. "It places more responsibility on the students to uphold standards and to decide a fitting punishment when the rules are broken."

Other minor additions and deletions are being proposed for the constitution.

"Despite the major changes to the constitution, some grammatical and format changes are being proposed," Walker said. "It is basically just general house-

keeping and will make the constitution flow more smoothly."

Article two, currently titled "Mandate of Student Rights," will become "Statement of Governing Principles" outlining the manner by which SGA will conduct themselves in the interest of the student body.

"Article two is the mission statement from the SGA to the student body," Walker said. "We are pledging ourselves to three main principles and we are promising the efficiency of our service."

The three proposed principles address the honesty, recognition of basic human rights and the academic integrity of the SGA.

If passed by the student body, the new constitution will take effect immediately and all legislation passed under previous constitutions will be considered null and void.

"A lot of extensive research has gone into formatting the proposed constitutional changes," Walker said. "We have coupled the strong points from the current constitution with adopted governing ideas from successful schools around the nation and created a whole new constitution that still falls under

the tradition and interest of MTSU and its student body."

SGA is currently operating under a constitution that has governed MTSU students for 26 years.

"The constitution is 26 years old and MTSU has grown an extreme amount since the core of the Constitution was revised," Speaker of the House Matt Walker said. "Minor amendments have been made, but for the most part, the constitution is cumbersome and exercises power too bureaucratically. We want a small, manageable balance with equal representation."

Students will still be able to find out about the proposed changes through the Web site at www.sga.mtsu.edu, and by calling or visiting the SGA office.

"We want a student body who has educated themselves on the specifics of the changes and not on rumors to vote when the referendum is brought up again," Marshall said. "We encourage students to check-out anything they hear to see if it is true before they take it as the truth."

Attempts to contact Miller and Haseleu were made, but neither returned the messages by press time. ♦

Napster hopes to settle recording industry lawsuit

By Ron Harris
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO - Napster Inc. offered \$1 billion to the recording industry Tuesday to settle a copyright infringement lawsuit that threatens to shut down the free Internet song-swapping service.

Under the proposal, \$150 million would be paid annually

for the first five years to Sony, Warner, BMG, EMI and Universal, with \$50 million allotted annually for independent labels.

"We all ought to sit down and settle this case as fast as we can," Napster chief executive Hank Barry said. "We're saying this is something consumers really want. Let's do something to keep it going."

However, an industry group instead urged Napster to accept a federal injunction ordering it to block copyrighted music from its service.

"This path would be more productive than trying to engage in business negotiations through the media," said Hilary Rosen, president of the Recording Industry Association of America.

The offer was announced a week after a federal appeals court said the music industry almost certainly will win its lawsuit against the pioneering digital entertainment company.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered Napster to stop millions of users from swapping copyrighted music without

charge and without restriction.

Napster, whose lawyers have said such action would be virtually impossible, has vowed to appeal.

Napster has argued it is not to blame for how subscribers use copyrighted material, citing a 1984 case in which the Supreme Court refused to hold VCR manufacturers and videotape retailers liable for people copying movies.

But the appeals court said no such protection extends to Napster because the company knew users were swapping copyrighted songs. The panel also said there was evidence of "massive, unauthorized downloading and uploading of plaintiffs' copyrighted works - as many as 10,000 files per second

by defendant's own admission."

Napster's popularity exploded in 1999 after founder Shawn Fanning released software that made it easy for personal computer users to locate and trade songs stored as computer files in the MP3 format, which compresses digital recordings without sacrificing quality.

The five largest record labels sued as soon as Napster took off, saying it could rob them of billions of dollars in profits.

Napster did reach an agreement with Bertelsmann Inc., the parent company of the BMG music unit. The German media giant has promised much-needed capital if Napster switches to a subscription-based service that pays artists' royalties. ♦

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CRIME LOG

Compiled By Matt Kelly - Police Reporter

The following is a partial list of incidents responded to by the MTSU Police Department between Feb. 13, 2001 and Feb. 16, 2001. This log is compiled from the actual police reports.

Student reports tequila bottle assault

Feb. 13, 4:37 p.m. — Beta Theta Pi house on Fraternity Row — A female student met with police to report that she had been assaulted a week earlier while visiting the Beta Theta Pi House. She stated that she was struck on the leg when a tequila bottle was slung across a table, and that another bottle struck her in the face.

The officer took a report and advised the victim how to obtain a warrant against the alleged assailant or how to handle the incident administratively through the university.

The victim stated she would prefer to handle the incident on campus.

Female arrested after not heeding police warning

Feb. 15, 4:51 a.m. — Parking lot of Middle Tennessee Baptist Church on North Tennessee Boulevard — While on patrol, two officers observed a female walking through the parking lot that looked like a female they had given an escort to several hours before.

At that time, the 19-year-old non-student had been intoxicated. The officers had taken her to a friend's residence hall and advised her that she should stay with her friend the rest of the evening

since she was intoxicated and underage. The female approached the officers' vehicle, and they recognized that she was the same individual, Sara M. Colman.

One of the officers got out to speak with her, and noticed a strong odor of alcohol about her person, that she spoke incoherently, and that she wasn't wearing any shoes. The officer decided that she would be a danger to herself if left in public, and placed her under arrest for public intoxication and underage consumption of alcohol.

Colman, 19, of 5347 Main Street in Spring Hill, Tenn., was transported to the Rutherford County Adult Detention Center, where bond was set at \$1,750.

Female reports possible alcohol poisoning

Feb. 14, 11:41 p.m. — Womack Lane Family Apartments — An officer was dispatched for a possible alcohol poisoning. A female resident advised that she had arrived home a short while earlier to find her husband passed out on the floor, vomiting. The husband was now awake and responsive and feeling considerably better. He told the officer that he drank a bottle of Jagermeister, and that since he had not drank in some time, he became a bit too intoxicated. An ambulance arrived and checked the husband out. They offered to take him to the hospital, but he refused.

Custodian caught red-handed, arrested

Feb. 14, 8:10 a.m. — A custodian at the Wright Music Building was arrested Wednesday after a

sting operation by MTSU Police.

Thomas Smith Jr., 50, of 4014A East Main Street in Murfreesboro, has been charged with two counts of burglary and two counts of theft under \$500.

According to police reports, a number of burglaries have occurred in the Wright Music Building since Jan. 30.

Lt. Darrell Collins, head of investigations, found out that Smith had been newly-assigned to that area during the same time period.

Collins was familiar with Smith, since he had been a suspect in previous burglaries and thefts on campus, according to the report.

On the night of Feb. 13, Collins hid a video camera in the music department office.

He placed a brown MTSU envelope containing \$28 in cash inside a secretary's desk drawer. The serial numbers of the bills had been recorded and the bills had been photocopied.

In addition, Collins treated the money with a powder solution visible only under black light.

After observing Smith leave the building to go on break a little after 6:30 the next morning, Collins entered the building and found both the envelope and money missing. He retrieved the videotape and went to another building to watch it. On the tape, Collins reports that Smith is seen removing the envelope from the desk.

Collins then located Smith and asked to speak with him. After reading Smith his rights, Collins looked at Smith's hands under a black light, and found spots of florescent color on three fingers of one hand, and one or two spots of color on the other hand.

Collins then asked Smith to empty his pockets, but did not find the missing money. He asked Smith where was the money he had stolen, and Smith indicated that it was in his car.

Smith retrieved the money from under the rear passenger seat in his car, and brought out the

envelope and stolen cash.

Smith also admitted to taking money from two desks in the Wright Music Building on or about Jan. 30. Smith was transported to the Rutherford County Adult Detention Center, where bond was set at \$9,000. He is due to appear in court March 12.

Speeding vehicle leads to DUI arrest

Feb. 13, 2:19 a.m. — Emanuelle Baptist Church, Greenland Drive at Rutherford Boulevard — While in the Livestock Center parking lot, an officer observed a vehicle traveling on Greenland Drive at a high rate of speed. He pulled in behind the vehicle, which continued to travel 10 mph above the speed limit. The officer also noted that the vehicle's left brake light was not working.

The officer initiated a traffic stop and, upon approaching the vehicle, noticed a strong odor of alcohol about the driver, later identified as Jordan Scott McConnell. The officer asked the driver to perform some field sobriety tests, and he agreed.

McConnell could not stand on any one leg for longer than four seconds without touching the ground with his other foot. He had to step off the line to steady himself during the walk-and-turn test, and he missed the tip of his nose three times during the finger-to-nose test.

The officer asked McConnell how much he had to drink. McConnell said he had three alcoholic drinks. McConnell was placed under arrest and charged with driving under the influence, first offense.

McConnell, 24, of 9951 Halls Hill Pike in Milton, Tenn., was transported to the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office, where bond was set at \$2,500. ♦

Horse: Equestrian team participates in community service

Continued from 1

special class, which is hotly contested and highly publicized."

The equestrian team is organized as a student club which participates in service projects as well as competitions. The members recently traveled to Tennessee Tech University

where they put on a two-hour demonstration at the State 4-H Leaders Symposium, sponsored by the University of Tennessee's Agricultural Extension Service.

The equestrian team is also joining MTSU's horse judging team March 20 to host a practice judging contest for area 4-H judg-

ing teams who will be competing in a contest in April held on the MTSU campus.

Brzezicki stated that these projects have many positive effects, such as helping the horse community, providing experience for the equestrian team members, showcasing the talents of the team and

serving as a recruiting tool for future team members.

"The serious riders, especially those who are horse science majors and likely to make their living in a manner related to their team experience, are very motivated and work long and hard, both on their riding and competition skills and their fundraisers

and service projects as well," Brzezicki said.

The equestrian team's most recent competition was held at the Tennessee Livestock Center at the end of January. The next event will be at Murray State March 9-10, with another competition at Rhodes College in Memphis the following week. ♦

In Monday's article, "Up Til Dawn: Partying with a purpose," we reported that the Up Til Dawn fundraiser is open to the public and that off-campus organizations can form teams. However, the event is only open to members of the MTSU community and on-campus organizations. Sidelines regrets the error.

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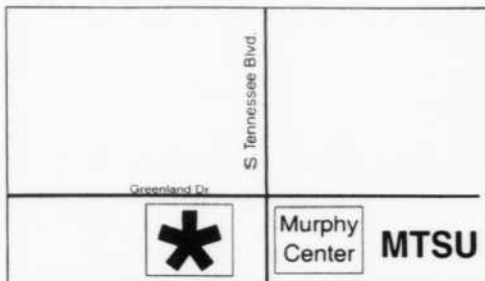


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OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, February 21, 2001

Murfreesboro, TN

From the staff

False rumors warrant re-vote for referendum

Re-votes and close elections have become popular topics lately. Who would have ever thought those issues would apply to a student government referendum at MTSU.

That's exactly what has happened though.

Last week, the SGA held a vote on a referendum to install a new constitution replacing the current one which has been in effect for more than 25 years.

Eighty students voted in favor of the new constitution, but 78 students voted against the initiative - a margin of only 2. Unfortunately even though the majority voted in favor, the new constitution will not go into effect because a two-thirds majority is needed.

The controversy centers around a student in Mass Communications who sent an e-mail to all recording industry students claiming the new constitution would make it so that non-Greek organizations would not be eligible to receive student activity fee money. The e-mail was sent through the account of Christian Haseleu - chair of the RIM department - and allegedly includes other factual errors.

In response to this propaganda, SGA President John Marshall has organized a petition to have a re-vote on the referendum in early March. At least 500 signatures are needed, and Marshall claims to already have 400 students in the fold.

We recommend that all students stand in support of the re-vote and when the re-vote occurs, we recommend that everyone carefully research the new constitution before posting an opinion.

If students really are unhappy with the proposed changes, then maybe this new constitution shouldn't be installed. But it seems as if the only reason this one wasn't passed is because of some bad information from one misinformed student.

It begs the question of why some students voted against the constitution simply because an e-mail told them it was bad. The entire text of the proposed constitution is available at the SGA Web site. So, the "I-didn't-have-the-opportunity-to-read-the-constitution" excuse doesn't cut it.

As for the student who sent the e-mail, maybe he should come forward and explain why he feels the way he does and shed some light on the gross factual errors for which he has been accused.

As for Christian Haseleu, he should be more responsible with the usage of his e-mail account and more affectively research information before interferring. ♦

Perhaps war is the answer for Israel

Ladies and gentlemen, I think we may be on the verge of the third world war. The elements are ripe: the global economy has little or no growth and it seems every country the CIA has on its list of terrorist states has nuclear capabilities or has a good friend who does.

A couple of weeks ago, a witness testified in federal court that Osama bin Laden even orchestrated a purchase of uranium so he could have his own nuclear arsenal. I know that unraveled my security blanket - a man on a jihad with a nuke under each arm.

In Israel, a new prime minister has been elected. Ariel Sharon is a military hawk who, in his tenure as Israeli defense minister, organized the war against Lebanon in the early 80s. He's bringing a brass-knuckles approach to diplomacy. He has stated that he wants a fresh start with the Palestinian peace negotiations, as opposed to picking up where his predecessor, Ehud Barak, left off.

Understandably, this has the Arab world quite upset.

At a meeting of the Arab League, Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa issued a statement saying, "If he (Sharon) continues his extremism



Canadian Bacon

Patrick Chinnery

Staff Columnist

then the situation will be very grave and would definitely require a reaction."

Fantastic.

I know there are many people who think war is bad, and we should try to make peace with everyone. Then we can all plant flowers and bake cookies in an oven made with parts from 186 different countries. That isn't going to happen.

In the real world, people get pissed and like to shoot big guns to resolve their differences.

I say let them.

Sometimes, negotiations and compromise only take you so far. This country knows that better than most.

For the first 60 years of the 19th century, Henry Clay and other statesmen created compromise after compromise to keep the Union together. To finally solidify our great country, it

took the bloodiest war in its history. When enough blood was shed, everyone finally came around. I think the same thing would happen in Israel.

Granted, there are some major differences between our Civil War and the current conflict there. We were one people with a common background whose roots only ran back a couple of hundred years. The people in that region have been around for millennia, and they have fundamentally different religious and political views.

However, fundamentalists are like drunks. You can't deal with them rationally, because their own logic is so warped, it makes negotiations impossible. The only message they understand is one of violence.

Should this war break out, the United States would invariably become involved. We have been Israel's strongest ally since its inception and have given them millions of dollars in military equipment. Once we're involved, the neighboring Arab states will enter on the Palestinians' side and all hell will break loose.

Sometimes, though, hell can be a good thing, especially if it will save thousands of lives in the future. ♦

Dear Annie

Dear Annie,

I have a very jealous girlfriend. She is driving me crazy. Last night, her behavior at Food Lion was the worst. While we were waiting in line, I saw this girl from my chemistry class and we started talking. From the time we left the grocery store and all the way to my apartment, my girlfriend wouldn't speak to me. When she finally decided to talk, the first thing she asked me was, "do you think she's prettier than me . . . you

like her don't you?" I want to work things out, but if she keeps acting this way, we are going to break up. How can I get my girlfriend to stop being so jealous? - Frustrated

Dear Frustrated,

Have you ever given your girlfriend any reason to be jealous? If your answer is no, then you have every right to be frustrated. She could be using jealousy to get you wrapped around her pinkie. To finish the story . . . she probably threw her fit and you spent the rest of the

night apologizing and complimenting her beauty. She won. She got the attention she was looking for. Sure, she probably has poor self-esteem, but you can't fix it - not your responsibility. How can you build a relationship without trust? Be honest. Tell her if she keeps up this behavior your relationship has no future. Trust is the basis for any relationship.

Please send your questions and concerns to
DearMtsuAnnie@aol.com.

Letters to the Editor

Mail your comments to Box 42, drop them off at JUB 310 or e-mail them to stupubs@mtsu.edu. Letters may be edited for length, grammar or content.

Sidelines needs to work on timeliness

To the Editor:

Sidelines, I am really disappointed in the journalistic skills of the paper.

As a campus paper you all lack one of the most fundamental and important parts of journalism, TIMELINESS! Not only that, but you all seem to have a difficult time discerning what is NEWSWORTHY. I will not give all this CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM with out pointing out a positive. I believe that out of the three main campus serving informants - Channel 10, WMTS, and *Sidelines* - *Sidelines* has the biggest following. The paper should use this to its benefit and serve the campus justly.

One suggestion is the staff writers take Berg's News I class. Sometimes I wonder if any of the writers are majoring in journalism.

I have had many objections with *Sidelines*. The article on the incident, (sic) which occurred at the Phi Beta Sigma sponsored Comedy Show, contained wrong information, did not have an interview with a student who attended and witnessed the incident, and most importantly, it was LATE! The incident occurred during the first part of December and was not published until the middle of January. Now, it would have been NEWSWORTHY if new information had been disclosed, but you all failed to relay any new information.

Sidelines let an old story lead the front page, and recently, it has proved its bad judgment in news importance. On Monday, Feb. 12's issue, a picture of the kissing fest, which happened on The Knoll, was front-page news. I'm

trying to figure out why the pictures of Miss MTSU and Miss Blue Raider were not on the front page instead. The pageant occurred that past Friday and is, by far, more newsworthy than some people kissing in front of the KUC.

When *Sidelines* did run an article on the pageant, it published a picture of Miss Blue Raider being crowned but failed to show us Miss MTSU. I know the two winners took a picture together.

If *Sidelines* wasn't going to show a picture of Ashley Brooks, Miss MTSU, then it could've, at least, put a caption under the picture it did published (sic). Some people were lead (sic) to believe the girl photographed was Miss MTSU. I'm just asking that *Sidelines* works (sic) a bit harder and use better judgment.

I know at times it is difficult to find newsworthy stories, but that's what makes a good journalist.

Jeanette Owusu
Sophomore

Stop watering down the soap

To the Editor:

MY RAIDER RANT is as follows: I have attended schools in New York, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama and I am now finishing my degree at MTSU. I know that funds are short for higher education in Tennessee, which dismays me, by the way, but how often do you wash your hands at this school?

In order to save money I assume maintenance has to use Borax for our hand-washing needs. Can you imagine going home and telling your mom or significant other: "Hey let me use some of the Tide for my hands, it is so

soothing for my hands."

Frankly, as many complain about here and I am beginning to believe the argument - the administration at this school just does not care. If you happen to be in another building instead of KOM or Peck Hall, try their soap.

In Cope, the soap does not appear to be watered down (HMMM! I WONDER WHY) but try the first floor of the LRC where the soap is so watered down it is hard to hold enough in your hand as you apply the water.

Think about this, faculty, administration, staff, and students - when was the last time you washed your hand with soap that has the consistency of sand? I bet it was at the school you are attending - MTSU.

John Sullivan
Senior

Protest with good reason

To the Editor:

As I was strolling along our wonderful campus the other day, I found a flyer advertising the protest of Al Gore being a professor here. Being the open-minded individual I am, I read the flyer to see why they were wanting to make a big deal about the former vice president teaching at our college.

Apparently, these wannabe communists (yes, they claimed to be socialists) don't think Gore should teach here because he has been, and always will be, an aid to those who destroy the environment, oppress women and minorities and starve babies in underdeveloped countries.

Now, I won't argue if our newest professor has contributed to this or not. I don't care. If all the professors at

MTSU were expected to be the cream of the crop, who do no wrong, well... lets just say parking wouldn't be a problem.

If your going to protest the man teaching here, do so because he's never taught before and not because of his moral ground. It's not like we have a nationally recognized academic record to protect.

We all have our own opinions and ways we think everything should be done. The freedom to be an individual is the reason we live in a country where we can hold protest over anything and everything. But if we're going to do so, can we at least have a good reason for it?

Joe Hartman

Image means nothing

To the Editor:

Hey, to the dude who wrote about MTSU and it being more concerned with image than curriculum. I commend you man!

You hit the nail on the head and rammed it through the 2x4 that is MTSU.

Sure we get Gore and a new courtyard, but personally I am more concerned with what I am "trying" to learn. I would rather see the money go for equipment and much needed things. I think that a little of that \$1.4 courtyard, at least the amount for one sapling, could go into buying our teachers some chalk!

Ray Parker

SIDELINES

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The Two Minute Drill

R. Colin Fly
Sports Editor



Commentary

Sports are a simplification of life.

From the earliest time reading, I remember going to the sports pages of the local newspaper.

It wasn't necessarily because I played soccer or basketball or baseball depending on the season.

The sports page wasn't news and I'll be the first to admit that maybe sports aren't even important on any level.

Sports are about competition, fair play and self-motivation. Sports are about hometown teams, "good guys and bad guys." They are about the Celtics and Lakers, Yankees and Red Sox, Maple Leafs and Canadians, Cowboys and Redskins, Gordon and Earnhardt.

Sports aren't supposed to be about life and death, until last Sunday when the 3 car wiggled and slammed into the wall.

But that's not the way it's supposed to be.

I remember discussing the relevance of sports with a female student and writer at *Sidelines* who said that she did not understand the enigma around the death of Mickey Mantle.

She couldn't understand what it meant to give the man a life saving liver transplant in his final years. She didn't understand what his status in America's society was. She wouldn't believe the fact that men young and old worship their sports heroes with unbridled enthusiasm, elevating them to demi-gods.

But we do. We do because we can take a departure from our hectic life.

We live vicariously through our sports heroes. We drive the lane and elevate for a tomahawk slam. We dive for a football in the endzone. We deke and shoot the puck in the top shelf. We hit the home run in the bottom of the ninth with two outs. We weave through traffic and blast down the road at 180 mph.

We don't dream we hit the wall.

But, that's the way it happened on Sunday. As Ned Jarrett said, "that's the way God wanted it." Earnhardt finished a quarter of a mile short.

And though I only watch about 10 races a year, another hero was taken from my group.

My thoughts and prayers are with Teresa and the Earnhardt family and to the extended NASCAR family.

Raymond Hutzler - Sidelines Maning Editor of Design - and I will miss you, Dale, the most.



1951-2001

Softball team comes up short in tournament

MT Media Relations

Early season fatigue proved to be the Lady Raider softball team's biggest opponent last weekend in Troy, Ala.

A day after playing three games at the Lady Trojans Invitational the Lady Raiders played two more Saturday, losing to Faulkner and host Troy

State in a pair of one-run games.

The Lady Raiders dropped the first game to Faulkner 3-2 in what turned out to be an extra inning battle.

After getting a one-run lead in the top of the eighth, Faulkner tied it in the bottom half of the inning. The Lady Raiders scored again in the

ninth for another one-run lead with Stacy Preator throwing. Unfortunately, Faulkner nabbed two runs for its first win of the tournament.

Despite the loss Kip Phillips went three-for-five with a run batted in. Erica Buhl slammed an RBI double.

In another gritty battle Jennifer Martinez went the dis-

ance in what was the rubber match between Middle Tennessee and Troy State. The two split their two games Friday.

The Trojans won the series and the tournament with a 2-1 win in the bottom of the seventh.

Trailing 1-0 for much of the game the Lady Raiders knotted

it up 1-1 in the top of the seventh, but the Trojans mustered up another run for the win in the bottom half of the inning.

The Lady Raiders finished the weekend 2-3, one win behind Troy State. Their next tournament will be next weekend in Statesboro, Ga. ♦



Photo by Jonathan Trundle | Staff

The Blue Raiders polish off a sweep of UNC-Asheville Sunday with a 10-3 victory.

Baseball leads off with 3-0 start

Staff Reports

The Blue Raiders swept their first series of the year, defeating UNC-Asheville Sunday 10-3.

Middle Tennessee (3-0) sent John Williams to the hill and the freshman responded with five strong innings of work. Williams struck out six and allowed just two runs on two hits for his first career victory in his first collegiate start.

The game was special for Williams, who graduated last season from Oakland High School in Murfreesboro.

The 3-0 start by the Blue Raiders marks their best start since going 3-0 in 1991. If the Blue Raiders win Friday against Southeastern Louisiana, they will set a new mark for best start with coach Steve Peterson at the helm.

The Blue Raiders exploded for four runs in the bottom of the third and jumped out to a 5-1 lead with the help of a triple by freshman Chuck Akers and a

two-run blast by Marshall Nisbett. After the third the Bulldogs from UNC-Asheville never threatened.

MT tacked on an additional three runs in the fourth and added runs in the seventh and eighth innings with home runs by Scott Goodmon and Josh Renick.

Renick went 2 for 4 from the plate, including a run batted in from his solo blast in the bottom of the eighth. Renick finished the series batting .500 by going 5 for 10 with a double, a pair of walks and a pair of stolen bases.

MT's pitching staff stole the show this weekend, allowing just three earned runs in 27 innings of work for a 1.00 ERA. The Blue Raiders' pitching staff also included 30 strikeouts compared to giving up just 15 hits.

Middle Tennessee faces Southeastern Louisiana at Reese Smith Field on Friday at 3 p.m. ♦

Blue Raiders 10, Bulldogs 3

| | | | | R | H | E |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|---|
| UNC-Asheville | 001 | 100 | 100 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| Middle Tenn. | 014 | 300 | 11X | 10 | 11 | 1 |

E. UNCA (Mulhlan); MT (Howarth)
DP - UNCA 0, MT 1.
LOB - UNCA 5, MT 8.
2B - UNCA (Jaska)
SB - UNCA (Ronai 2), MT (Akers, Nisbett, Johnson, Howarth).
CS - UNCA (Edick).
LP - UNCA Cook (0-1).
WP - MT Williams (1-0).

Women's tennis team falls to No. 31 Georgia Tech

MT Media Relations

Manon Kruse and Carien Venter had the Lady Raider's only wins of the day as No. 31 Georgia Tech ended Middle Tennessee's two-match winning streak 5-2 at the Bill Moore Tennis Center.

Georgia Tech is the ninth

ranked opponent the Lady Raiders have faced this season falling to 1-8 in those matches.

"I want to keep playing this type of competition," said head coach Randy Holden. "This team continues to fight hard, and I think it is going to make us better."

The Yellow Jackets started off

the day by winning all three doubles matches to take the doubles' point. Mysti Morris and Jaime Wong won 8-4 in the No. 1 spot beating Manon Kruse and Stacy Varnell. The doubles teams of Mason Miller and Laura Ozolins and Lea Miller and Bobbi Guthrie won their matches in tie breaks 9-8

in the No. 2 and No. 3 spots, respectively.

Kruse defeated Georgia Tech's No. 1 player Debbie Reynolds in three sets and Venter had an easy 6-2, 6-1 win over Laura Ozolins at the No. 5 position for Middle Tennessee's only wins in the match.

"I think we were the more

prepared team today," Holden said. "I would just like to have a chance to play some of these teams at home."

The Lady Raiders dropped to 3-7 on the season and will face their seventh Top 25 team on the year when they travel to No. 14 Tennessee next Sunday. ♦

Fan Appreciation Night Set for Feb. 24 at Murphy Center

MT Media Relations

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball game against Western Kentucky on Saturday, February 24 has been designated "Fan Appreciation Night" as the Lady Raiders go for a sweep of the Lady Hilltoppers. Tickets, regularly priced at \$4, will be half off for this game which tips off at 7 p.m.

The game is setup to be an exciting affair as Lady Raider seniors Kelly Chastain and Nicole Perkins will be playing

their final regular season contest in the Murphy Center.

"It's a very special night for our seniors and this program," said Kyle Turnham, women's promotions director. "We want all our fans and their friends to come out and support the team and enjoy all the festivities that will be taking place. It's set up to be a very fun and entertaining evening."

The University will also grant FREE admission to any basketball league member in Rutherford County, the National Girls and Women in

Sports Day participants, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Rutherford County and One Goal Sports Basketball League members wearing their team and/or organizational attire or jersey. Organizational members MUST be wearing the appropriate attire to be admitted free.

At halftime the marketing department will hold a ceremony to honor the Raider Rewards members who had perfect attendance records in the program, which ended on Feb. 17. The winners will receive a

plaque, fleece jacket and paper-work entitling them to two complimentary season tickets for football, men's and women's basketball and baseball for the 2001-02 seasons, as well as two tickets to the 2001 Sun Belt Conference Basketball Tournament and two tickets to the upcoming MT-Vanderbilt football game. In addition, all Raider Rewards members can redeem their membership cards for either a lanyard, magnet, or poster.

Also occurring during the evening will be the Coca-Cola

Final Four Shootout. The semi-finals and finals of the event will be completed as four competitors go for the grand prize of \$200,000.

The Lady Raiders want to encourage all fans and alumni to see one of the hottest teams in the Sun Belt take on long-time rival Western Kentucky in what should be a great night of college basketball. For further information, please contact Kyle Turnham at 615-898-5632. ♦



7 Day
Sportscast

THURSDAY

Women's Basketball

Lady Raiders at New Mexico St. Las Cruces, N.M., 7 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Blue Raiders vs. New Mexico St. Murfreesboro, Tenn., 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Baseball

Blue Raiders vs. Southeastern La. Murfreesboro, Tenn., 3 p.m.

Golf

Ron Smith Invitational Tampa, Fla., All day

SATURDAY

Baseball

Blue Raiders vs. Southeastern La. Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Lady Raiders vs. Western Kentucky Murfreesboro, Tenn., 7 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Blue Raiders at Western Kentucky Bowling Green, Ky., 7 p.m.

Golf

Ron Smith Invitational Tampa, Fla., All day

SUNDAY

Baseball

Blue Raiders vs. Southeastern La. Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1 p.m.

Women's Tennis

Lady Raiders at Tennessee Knoxville, Tenn., 6 p.m.

Golf

Ron Smith Invitational Tampa, Fla., All day

MONDAY

Baseball

Blue Raiders at Samford Birmingham, Ala., 3 p.m.

FLASH

Hannibal: Yum, yum

Continued from 10

epic film *Gladiator* recently received several Academy Award nominations, took the helm for this highly anticipated sequel. His talents brought a union between beauty and brutality unlike any other.

Hannibal is a stunning visual masterpiece. The lighting, or more specifically the lack thereof, adds darkness to the film and its characters while enhancing its overall appearance with the splendor of a master painter's touch. Every shot is a work of art that clearly shows Scott's captivating visual style and genius.

Moore and Hopkins are flawless in their respective roles.

During production, there was a great deal of speculation among mainstream critics as to Moore's ability to fill Foster's Oscar winning shoes. These discussions were completely unwarranted because, though the name is the same, the Starling of *Silence of the Lambs* and the Starling of *Hannibal* are completely different women.

In *Silence of the Lambs*, Foster's character is a young and inexperienced FBI student who allows a demented psychologist into her head. Moore's character has been hardened and made callous by 10 years with the Bureau and the effects of her intimate relationship with Lecter.

Hannibal provides a more detailed look into the psyche of its namesake. Hopkins builds on his Oscar-winning role by developing Lecter into a man with a purpose — to exasperate himself of the rude and vulgar. Hopkins subtly clues the audience into the degree of Lecter's psychosis through his calm demeanor and the juxtapositions between his phrases and actions. For example, Lecter nonchalantly uses the playful phrase "okey dokey" on multiple occasions as he prepares to murder someone. Obviously, these are not the words of a man on a level playing field. Hopkins also

illustrates that even through his madness, Lecter is still capable of love, though it is in a sick, twisted Van Gogh kind of way.

Hannibal calmly and picturesquely builds its tension like a volcano until it erupts with an explosion of blood.

In some of its more tame moments of death, the sounds of blood gurgling from a man's neck provides the audience with reason to gasp. In another instance that helps build to the upsetting climax, a man is lynched in such a way that his intestines string from his open abdomen and splatter on the street below for passers-bys to see.

Then there is the feeding of three men to wild warthogs and the extreme close-ups as the hogs gouge out their eyes and tear the flesh from their screaming faces with their elongated tusks.

However, the most nauseating shocker of the film takes place at a beautiful candle light dinner between Lecter, a drugged Starling and Krinler, Starling's superior. Lecter removes the top of Krinler's skull to expose its contents. He then tears away the membrane that surrounds the brain and cuts away a portion from the frontal lobe. Lecter then cooks the portion and feeds it to Krinler. As he chews his own brain he says, "Mmm... tastes good." Though this was done with digital effects, animatronics, and a cow's brain, the scene's realism is disgustingly remarkable and left many viewers with their heads between their knees.

Hannibal is an amazingly beautiful film, but it is also quite disturbing. It shows the lengths to which Hollywood has to go to shock audiences in the 21st century.

Though I did enjoy the film, I would not recommend it to the squeamish and I certainly don't want it to start a trend. Personally, I don't want to see anyone else eating his or her own brain ever again. ♦

Eccentric chiropractor depicted in 'The Naked Man'

Film receiving less attention than deserved

By Brian Spencer
Staff Writer

How many movies have you seen about a promising young chiropractor who is also a wrestler on the side? Unless you've already seen J. Todd Anderson's movie *The Naked Man*, I doubt the idea of such a person existing ever crossed your mind. But that is the premise of this film, which has not received nearly as much attention as it deserves.

The Naked Man was written by Ethan Coen, half of the dynamic filmmaking duo the Coen brothers. It's obvious this offbeat comedy came from the mind of the co-creator of such classics as *Fargo*, *Raising Arizona*, *Barton Fink* and *Blood Simple*. Filled with eccentric characters and hilarious dialogue, this is a must-see for any fan of the Coens' films.

Michael Rapaport plays Edward Bliss, Jr., an intern at a chiropractic office who has quickly become the best chiropractor on the staff. He realizes he is grossly underpaid, and with his first child on the way, decides to quit and start his own chiropractic office in his hometown of Harper City. The director really emphasizes how good of a chiropractor Bliss is with some of the most bone-jarring sequences of someone adjusting the spine that I've ever seen.

Bliss is also being pushed by his new wife to stop wrestling, which tears him up. After all, he's *The Naked Man*. Dressed in a body suit that depicts the human skeletal muscle system in detail, Bliss is one of the most popular wrestlers on the circuit. The viewer is allowed a glimpse into Bliss' upbringing that made him into a diehard wrestler,

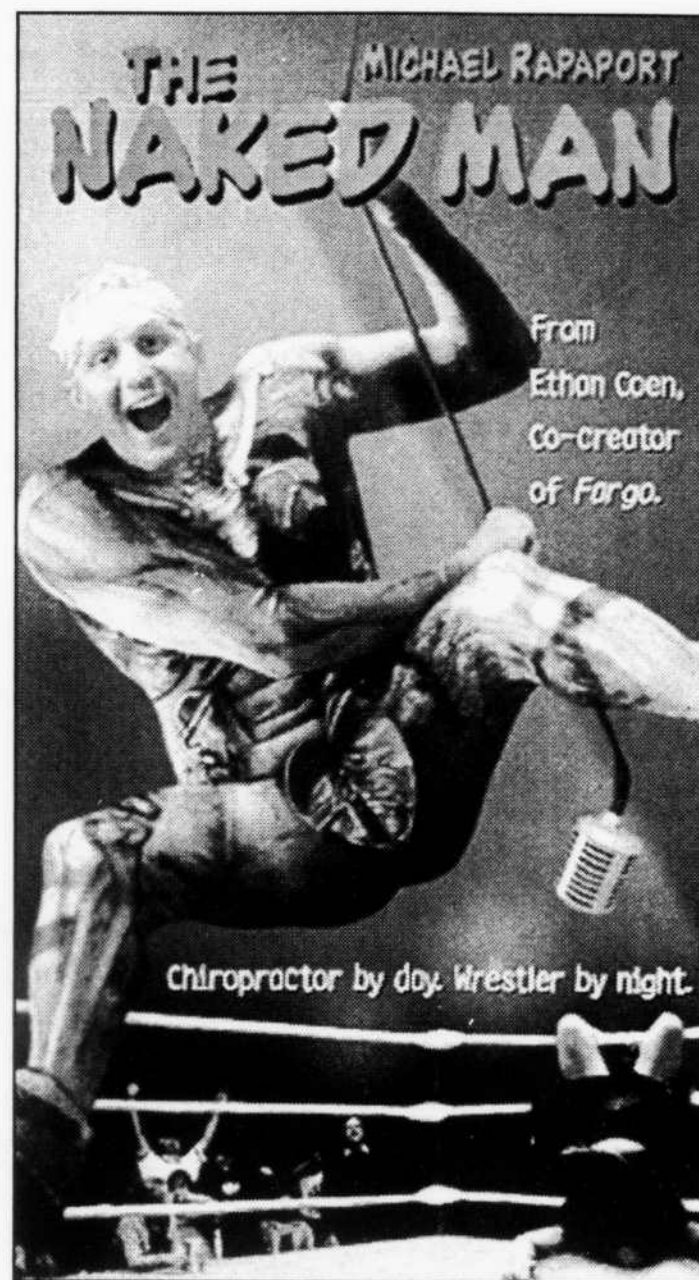


Photo Provided

which is great for the development of his character.

With wrestling and his internship days over, Ed Bliss and his wife head back to Harper City to start their new life. This is when the trouble begins brewing for Bliss. First he must confront his

father, who has shunned Ed Jr. ever since he decided he didn't want to follow in his father's footsteps as a pharmacist.

There's an exceptionally comical scene in which the two are arguing back and forth, and his dad says to him over and

over, "Don't you see Edward? Drugs! Drugs are the answer Edward! Drugs!"

His problems only get worse after the introduction of two Coen-esque characters, a crippled man who is the head of Puffy Pharmaceuticals and his overweight Elvis look-a-like sidekick who has a penchant for peanut butter and bacon sandwiches. While Ed Jr. is away getting supplies for his new business, these two strangers in Harper City prove themselves to be the film's villains, although they do furnish quite a few laughs.

The Naked Man's biggest strength are the characters. As in other Coen brothers' films, you are treated to some bizarre people who keep your attention as each new one is introduced. The Elvis character and the manager of a branch of Puffy Pharmaceuticals really stand out as memorable characters. Rachael Leigh Cook, an actress, who I still can't figure out why is even semi-successful, turns in the only bad performance as a tattooed biker girl who tries to befriend an emotionally distraught Naked Man.

Another point worth mentioning about *The Naked Man* is a death scene. No, I'm not distasteful enough to like death scenes — this one is really intended to be funny (I think). I won't say who dies, but all I could think about after seeing it was what the Comic Book Guy from *The Simpsons* would say if he saw it — "Funniest death EVER!"

This is a movie that seems like it's been slept on. Not too many people have heard about it, which is surprising since it was written by Ethan Coen. But never fear, when a movie is out on video, it's never too late to see it. ♦

'Shadow of the Vampire' casts new light on an old film

by Zack Hansen
Staff Writer

In 1922, German director F.W. Murnau decided he would like to make a film version of Bram Stoker's novel, *Dracula*. When he couldn't get the rights to the story, he simply changed

the title to *Nosferatu* and the vampire's name to Count Orlock. In the title role, he cast mysterious actor Max Schreck (whose last name means "fear"). His strange method-like techniques were thought to be quite out of the ordinary. He would always appear in

full makeup and costume and would only film at night.

The new film *Shadow of the Vampire* theorizes that Schreck was actually a vampire who was taking part in the film in exchange for the blood of the leading lady.

The film, directed by

E. Elias Merhige and written by Steven Katz, succeeds on two different levels. On one hand, *Shadow of the Vampire* has a feel very true to the time and location in which *Nosferatu* was filmed. The castles and caves in which the movie was made are dark and

damp and seem to be appropriately inhabited by Schreck, who stays at these locations even when filming has ceased for the night.

The fictional shots of the film being made are done in grainy black and

See *Vampire*, 7

Five Senses: Rental Review

Continued from 10

While in real life it may not be smell that we focus all of our attention on, things such as television, careers and money control our lives so we forget what is really significant. Things we take for granted, such as family and friends, are lost in the shuffle of everyday life. By using a theme like our senses, writer and director Jeremy Podeswa invents a compelling way of conveying the idea that we need to concentrate on the things that are truly

meaningful.

The film is left fairly open-ended, with no closure to some of the stories. By doing this, one is able to imagine the various endings to the characters' lives and think about certain themes. Material possessions will always be around, but friends and family members die or lose touch. We need to keep these things close to us while we are still able.

The Five Senses is now available to rent on DVD and VHS. ♦



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Nigel Richards whistles while at work

By Kristy Adams
Staff Writer

Have you ever heard of a CD with aphrodisiac powers? Nigel Richards warns in his latest album, *DJ Mix: A Commemorative Mix for the Whistle 3 Party*, to listen with caution while around people of the opposite sex. With songs like "Penetration" and "Want Tu Fahk," this warning should probably be taken into consideration.

Don't get too excited about the caution though. It does nothing for me sexually. It does, however, put me in the mood to drive to Studio 54 and dance until I drop.

If New York's a little too far to go for a good time, that's okay. With this CD you can create your own rave at home. The whole album maintains a constant, yet catchy beat just right for the average club lover. I recommend you don't listen to it if you don't want to dance. Even after a bad day, this mix will make your

toes tap and you'll find yourself working on your latest dance moves for Friday night.

Just listen to a couple tracks and you'll hear what I'm saying. This 30-year-old DJ, producer and entrepreneur has been practicing his DJ skills since 1988, when he worked for his college radio at the University of Rochester.

On Aug. 5, 1993, Richards opened his own dance music store, 611 Records, in his hometown, Philadelphia.

In an interview with *DJ Times*, Richards said that with this store "I wanted to provide a place where the pros and novices could meet, shop, and help each other out."

Now a days, Richards isn't a full-time manager to 611 Records but travels across the world expressing his musical style. He's been all over the United States, Canada, Germany, Scotland, Austria, and England. He devotes every weekend to trav-



Photo Provided

eling and showing people a good time.

Richards has been a DJ for other albums as well — one being the 1998 *Six Eleven DJ Mix Series Volume 2*. He's also released several popular singles and full-length albums, including the well-known *611 Funkyshit Series* and *Philadelphia Acid Experiments*.

DJ Mix: A Commemorative Mix for the Whistle 3 Party

is dedicated to the Philadelphia annual event called "Whistle" that draws in 10,000 people each year. This CD commemorates the third anniversary of this event where he performed a memorable live show.

Richards is now touring the United States. You can check out his store's web site, www.611records.com.



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Vampire: New kind of scary

Continued from 6

white, with the jittery appearance normally associated with old silent films. Some shots from *Nosferatu* are inserted into the film, and it's hard to tell the difference between the original footage and the reenactments. In this respect, the film does a superb job of telling a historical tale of the filming of the best of all vampire films.

In addition to its re-creations, *Shadow of the Vampire* also works well as a horror movie. Schreck, who of course stays in character all the time, is often found feeding on the crew members working on the film. It is implied that Murnau hired Schreck, knowing full well that he was actually a vampire. However, the rest of the crew is under the impression that Schreck just takes his work very seriously and they joke about it with him.

A funny scene deals with the producer's rather casual reaction

to Schreck snatching a bat out of the air and eating it. The real "truth" is disposed to all in the captivating final scene, which although not necessarily true, is haunting in the possibility that it might have taken place.

Although the Schreck-as-vampire theory is more than likely a fabrication of some very creative minds, while watching this film, it never occurred to me that this hadn't actually happened.

Willem Dafoe is unforgettable in his portrayal of Schreck, and I was never aware I was watching him play a role. As far as I was concerned, it was Orlock himself on screen the entire time. To use an old cliché, his performance alone was worth the price of admission.

Fortunately, the rest of the film is as good as his acting. Like other recent films about classic horror filmmakers (*Ed Wood*, *Gods and Monsters*), the result is a fascinating, hilarious and terrifying piece of cinema. ♦

'Show Boat' sinks with younger audiences

By Turner Hutchens
Staff Writer

Show Boat, a musical recently presented at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, is a show out of its time.

Show Boat is a classic musical of the stage, which means it has a formulaic plot, stock characters and lovely little songs that seem to come from nowhere.

That said, it's a fine show for people who like that sort of thing.

Show Boat, which originally opened on Broadway in 1927, was a lively show with exciting charters and moving songs dared to discuss race relations in a forward-thinking manner. It was a big hit and critically acclaimed.

It was that, but now it's an outdated show with stereotypes of blacks and obsolete notions of race relations. Of course, there are those who can appreciate the art of old-fashion musicals, and I wish them the best. I simply am not one of them, and I suspect most of my peers aren't either.

Please don't think this means I'm against musicals. It is just that as an apathetic, desensitized American youth, I need a little more to impress me. Just a few snazzy songs (by Jerome Kern) and dance numbers (by Ken Roberson) peppered with

heartfelt emotion from unbelievable charters isn't enough to sustain two and a half-hours of stage time.

The actors and crew at Tennessee Performing Arts Center do a professional, if not amazing job. They could only work with what they had.

The real problem with *Show Boat* is its old-fashion depiction of blacks in America. To be fair, *Show Boat* was ahead of its time in race relations for the big stage. A subplot involves the tragedy of a woman of mixed heritage who passed as a white woman for a time before being exposed. The tragedy of Julie Laverne (Jean Michelle Grier) is not focused on enough to really explore the intricacies of her problem.

Instead, the love story of Magnolia Hawkes (Jodi Darling) and Gaylord Ravenal (Rob Richardson) is the focus of the play. To be frank, the plot of the two lovers is not deep enough or strong enough to invoke strong sympathy. The actors do a fine job, but again, can only work within the script. Gaylord comes across as a dead-beat playboy, and Magnolia seems simply a co-dependent enabler. I realize these weren't things people necessarily thought of in 1927, but they are now.

It is Julie who is the sad,

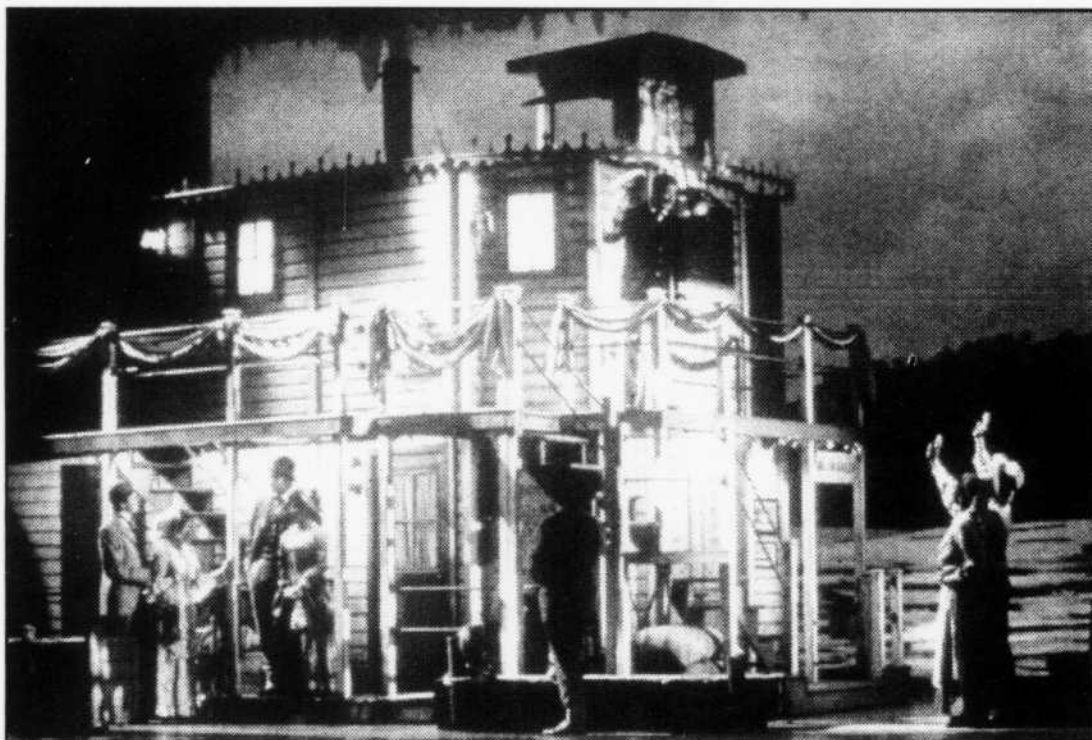


Photo Provided

intriguing character, but her story is never fully told. She remains in the shadows of the sub-plot.

The plot is no worse than a modern comedy out of Hollywood, which unfortunately means it's not very interesting or original. Perhaps the novel by Edna Ferber, which the show was adapted from, was a little more interesting. It is hard to deal with complex issues in a musical, so maybe it shouldn't

be tried.

Only one or two songs in the show resonate. When the black man Joe (Phillip Lamar Boykin) sings "Ol' Man River," it is deeply moving. His voice is strong and the words are powerful in their mournful, yet resigned commentary on the hard life of a poor black man. The song "Can't Help Lovin' That Man" also has something special to it. It's performed several times by several different

and various styles, usually coming across strong in some way.

Show Boat is not a worthless piece of the past which needs to be forgotten, but it's not enough for the modern world. Its performance is not pointless, but it serves primarily as a piece of history. History needs to be preserved and should be learned, but it doesn't always make for an enthralling evening of entertainment. ♦

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