

Friday

HI: 54°
LO: 33°

Saturday

HI: 56°
LO: 34°Let the console wars begin
page 4MT looking for upset against South Carolina
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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

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Editorially independent

Students step into other races' faces

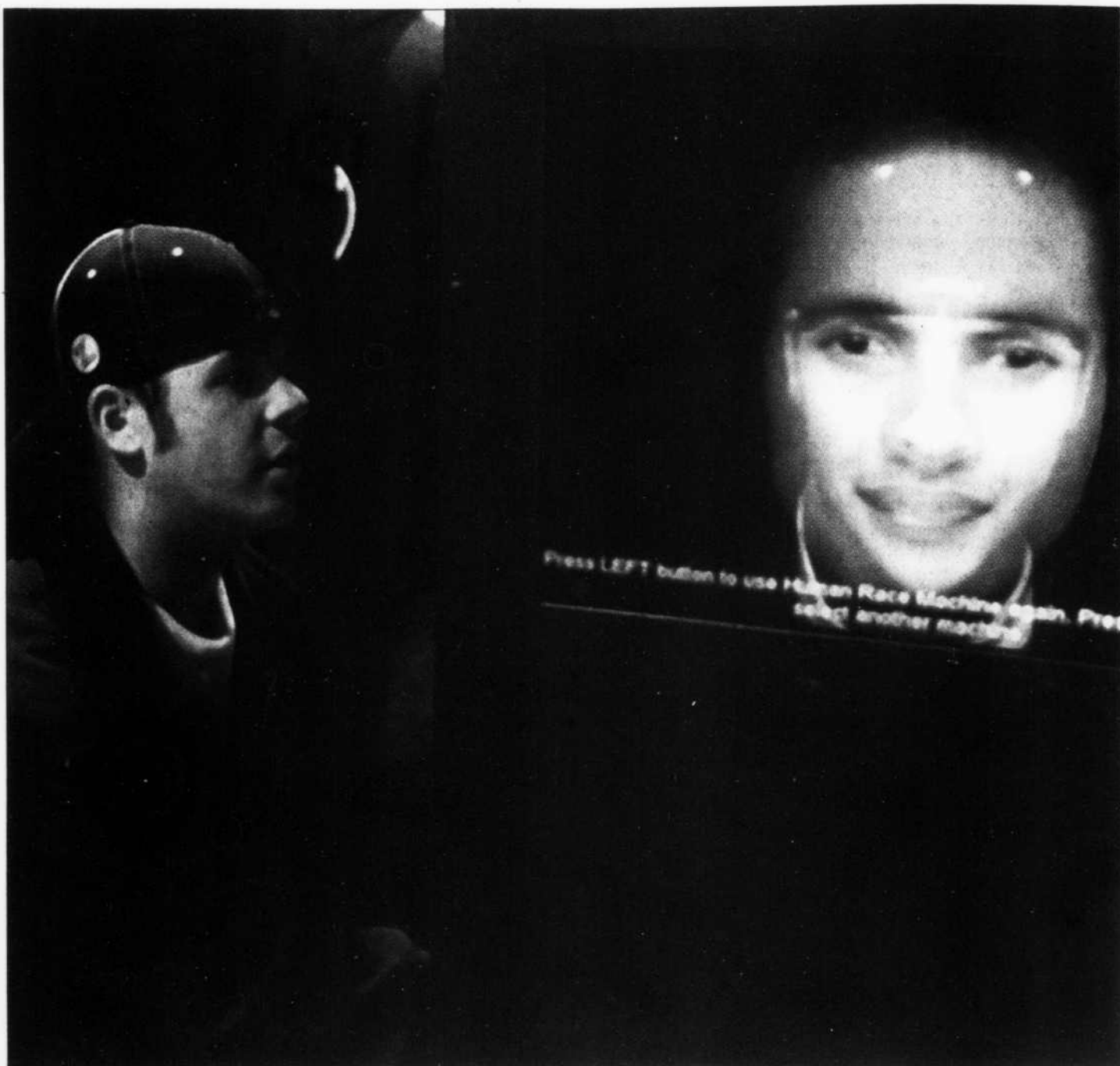


Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director

Sophomore Tommy James changes his ethnicity with the help of the Human Race Machine Wednesday in the KUC, which will be available to students until Friday.

By Josh Cross

Staff Writer

The Human Race Machine, an interactive device that allows the user to see what they would look like as a different race, is currently on display in the Keathley University Center lobby.

The machine, after scanning the user's face into the system, can transform it into six different races: white, black, Asian, Hispanic, East Indian and Middle Eastern, age their face and see what a person's children might look like.

While most people had a good time seeing what they would look like when they were older and what their children could possibly look like, the ability to see what one would look like as a different race was the most popular feature.

"My favorite part was changing my race. It seems pretty accurate," said Jon Albert, freshman English major. "I liked how I looked as an Asian. It was kind of neat."

Since its arrival in the KUC, it has had a steady stream of users and onlookers throughout the day. The idea of seeing what one might look like if they were a different race sparked an interest in many.

"I came just out of curiosity, basically," said Catherine Amey, senior chemistry major.

"I thought that it would be fun," said Brittany Thomas, freshman marketing major. "I don't think that's really what you would look like, but it's cool to see it."

The machine, which resem-

bles a mall photo-booth in an attempt to attract those who would be turned away from a complex looking machine, takes only about five minutes to complete. It also has a simple, user-friendly interface that allows the machine to be used by anyone.

"[The controls] were easy," Albert said. "You just use a joystick and a button."

While the interface may be simple, the machine carries a serious message, which is that we are all more similar than we think.

"There is no gene for race," the slogan on the device that is displayed prominently on the machine, comes from the discovery that the DNA of any two humans is 99.97 percent identical.

"People have come up to me and told me that they didn't look any different when they changed their race," said Katie Evridge, ideas and issues chair.

This fact is not surprising, since everyone's DNA is so similar, Evridge said.

Evridge, who is responsible for bringing the machine to MTSU, said that she wanted to bring the device because she thought that it would not only be fun for students to participate in but that it would also be educational.

"It's a good learning tool," Albert said.

The Human Race Machine is free to use and is on display from November 13 until the 17.

"It does a good job in presenting its message," Thomas said. "I think that everyone should try it."

Local media group goes national

By Megan Ogle

Contributing Writer

A local media production company recently signed a three-year contract to produce an instructional, how-to auto program.

Madison-based RattleTrap Productions, owned and operated by Stacey David, will produce three years of programming for the cable station, said Kathryn David, vice president of RattleTrap and wife of Stacey David.

"ESPN wanted more episodes than we finally agreed on," Kathryn said. "We want to make sure that we have the time to make quality television."

The program, which will begin taping Dec. 1, is dubbed "GearZ." The show's format is that of an informational, "how-to" program featuring Stacey David, who will instruct viewers in their own automotive projects.

The first show is scheduled for broadcast March 31 at 10 p.m., Kathryn said.

Television may recognize Stacey from

his eight-year stint with Spike TV and his program, "Trucks!" That show boasted an average audience of 3 million people, Kathryn said.

Unlike other automotive fabrication shows on television now, Stacey David's "GearZ" will not have the single-episode, start-to-finish format. Rather, Stacey will take a single project, such as a mechanical and teach viewers how to do it themselves. Using this format, Kathryn said, viewers will see

See Media, 2

Tuition change on hold till June

By Wesley Murchison

Staff Writer

Ambitious students can breathe easy, and so can their wallets, for at least one more year.

The Tennessee Board of Regents, which oversees MTSU, has temporarily discontinued the idea to change tuition from a flat rate to a per-credit charge system that would have made it more expensive for students taken over 12 hours.

TBR are meet in a preliminary meeting Tuesday in preparation for the last quarterly meeting being held this year, in December. Bob Adams, vice chancellor of business and finance, told the board that the presidents of the universities were unanimous in their decision against the change.

Currently, tuition costs cap off at 12 hours, meaning that students don't pay more for two additional courses. However, a change to a per-credit charge system would mean that students taking 18 hours would pay more.

The main reason raised by the presidents, according to Adams, was that such a system would cause students to take less hours and therefore taking more time to graduate.

"My counter argument was that students wouldn't take less hours per semester and extend their career to avoid a per hour charge," Adams said.

Another reason for the decision due to the fact that University of Tennessee—which governs itself and all UT campuses—have stayed with the current flat rate system.

"You do see both models out there," Adams said. "This is something we periodically look at."

Chancellor Charles Manning, who heads TBR, said that this is an option that should continue to be on the table, but that TBR should talk with UT so that if both school systems decide to change they should be able to make the transition at the same time.

Manning said that if UT continues to consider it that they should as well. UT will not look at changing their tuition until at least fall 2007, according to Adams. TBR decided to hold off until June.

If the tuition is changed then the question of if it will be a "neutral" transition, or if it will generate more revenue was raised.

If TBR does decide for the per-credit system to increase revenue Adams said that he would have to reconfigure the tuition to reflect TBR's increase.

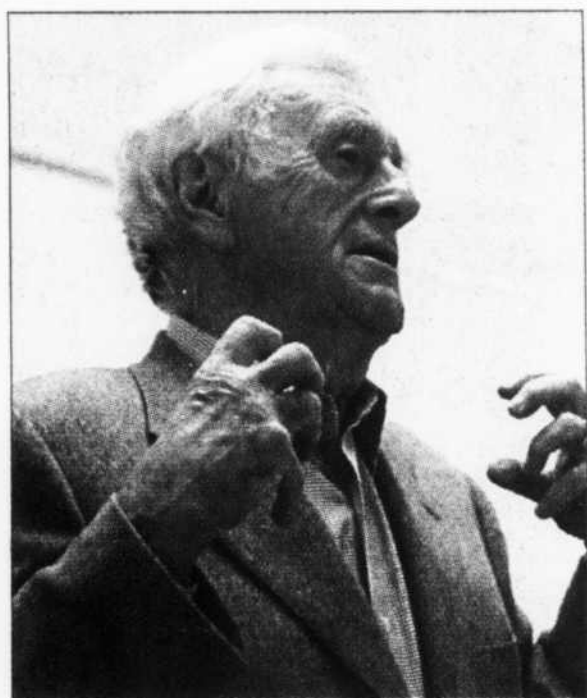


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Students learn about Civil Rights from Seigenthaler

By Josh Daughtery

Staff Writer

John Seigenthaler Sr. spoke to Robert Pickard's HIST 2020 class about desegregation in Nashville on Wednesday.

"It's nice to come and talk about a piece of history that I was part of," Seigenthaler said.

He talked about how young people prepared themselves for the sit-ins, in downtown Nashville, so they could take the abuse that was to come and practice the non-violent demonstrations.

"At that time everything was downtown," Pickard said.

Seigenthaler said that when the sit-ins began, the waitresses and owners were so shocked they closed their stores.

This was not economically feasible for the shops. When they reopened the sit-in demonstrators were arrested. He said this happened every weekend.

"We knew the weekend was going to bring demonstrations and potential violence," Seigenthaler said.

Segregation at the lunch counters did not stop until Diane Vivian asked Mayor West, the mayor of Nashville at the time, the question of whether it was right that African-Americans could buy clothes, books and shoes at the stores, but could not buy a sandwich at the lunch counter?

Seigenthaler said, Mayor West responded, "No it's not." Three weeks after his statement, segregation quietly ended at the Nashville lunch counters.

Though lunch counter segregation was over it would still be years before all segregation was eliminated.

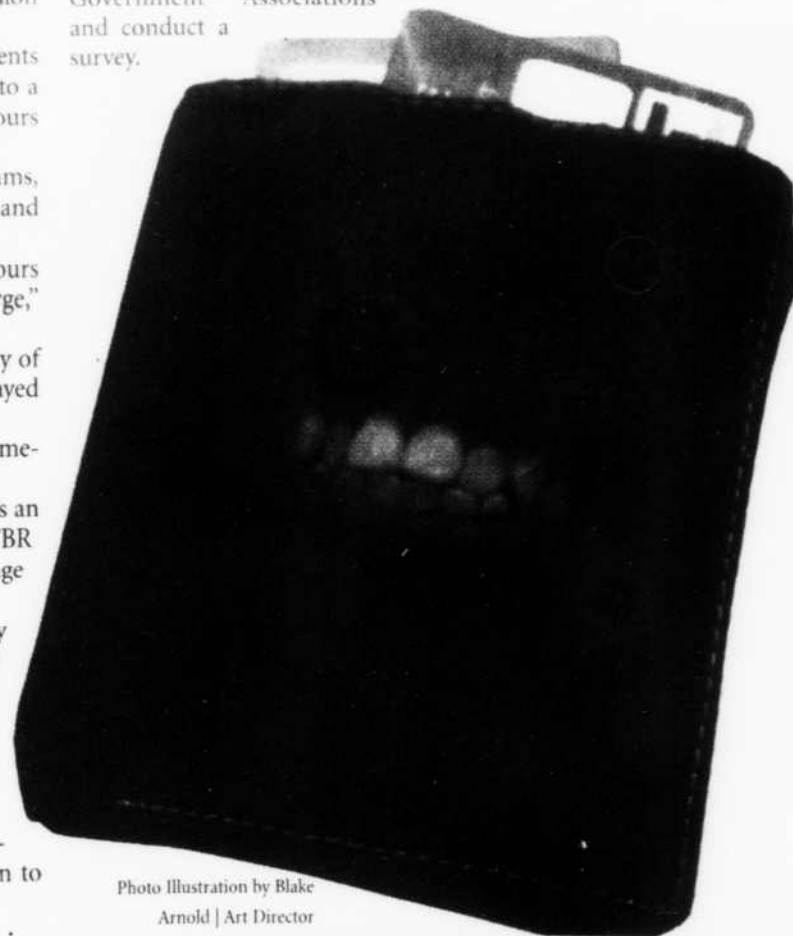


Photo Illustration by Blake Arnold | Art Director

Thanksgiving sleepiness myths examined

By Marquita Griffin

U-Wire

SAN MARCOS, Texas - The turkey is not the real culprit of that fatigued feeling people get after eating Thanksgiving dinner.

The urge to nap after the Thanksgiving meal could actually be a result of carbohydrates, not turkey.

The connection most people make between turkey and sleepiness is based on the body's use of the amino acid L-tryptophan found in turkey.

Dr. Mark Crouch of the Weight Loss Center in Hamilton said the body uses L-tryptophan to create the B-vitamin, niacin. Niacin, in return, creates serotonin, a neurotransmitter that exerts a calming effect and regulates sleep.

But here is the clincher. In order for L-tryptophan to ultimately produce serotonin and make you sleepy, you have to have an empty stomach and no other amino acids or protein in your meal, Crouch said.

"And what most people don't realize is the dosage of tryptophan in turkey is so small that the effect does not occur," he said. "And not too many people eat just turkey during Thanksgiving. There are too many other foods on the table."

Turkey is kind of worthless without stuffing accompanying it, if you think about it.

The real sleep inducers are the carbohydrate-laden extras, said Nydia Aguirre, the Student Health Center dietetic intern. While L-tryptophan can increase serotonin levels, so do carbohydrates.

Thanksgiving dinner is never without carbs, pumpkin pie, mashed or scalloped potatoes, stuffing, buttered rolls, endless slices of cakes, pies, sweet breads and grandma's secretly liqueured eggnog.

Nevertheless, carbohydrates are a large factor in the urge to nap.

Here is how it works: Carbohydrates stimulate the pancreas to secrete insulin and as a result some amino acids that compete with tryptophan leave the bloodstream, which leaves a large concentration of tryptophan behind, resulting in a large production of serotonin.

Crouch said the very process of producing insulin to bring down sugar levels, which are increased by eating carbohydrates, can make people sleepy. Crouch also said overeating is also a large contributor to people becoming fatigued after eating a Thanksgiving dinner.

Anytime your body begins to digest food, blood flows away from other organs and to your gut. Less blood is flowing to the brain, thus creating a fatigued feeling. The more food you eat, the longer the digestion process.

"It's not the turkey making people sleepy. It's that they're eating too much," Crouch said.

So remember this Thanksgiving: It's the pumpkin pie you are eating and the fact that you may be eating too much of it, not the turkey slice that makes you want to slide away from the crowded dinner table, living room or porch to find a nice soft spot take a nap. Or maybe you've had too much of Grandma's eggnog.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Theatre department presents "Oklahoma!"
Alison Helton
Contributing Writer

The MTSU Theatre and Dance Department brings Rogers and Hammerstein's famous, award-winning musical "Oklahoma!" to Tucker Theatre Nov. 15-18.

"Oklahoma! is a classic musical that ties in a lot of American history," said Wesley Suitt, sophomore music industry major, who plays the lead character Curly. "We didn't cut anything out and it's in its original form, which you don't see too often these days."

The story is set at the turn of the century in Oklahoma Territory. It is the classic American love tale of a cowboy named Curly who meets a farm girl named Laurey then tries to win her heart.

The show opened on Broadway in 1943 as the past of World War II, and for the past 60 years has been considered an American favorite for young and old.

Famous songs are showcased in the show, such as "Oh! What a Beautiful Morning" and "People Will Say We're in Love" and "Oklahoma!" and includes the original 15 minute ballet, originally choreographed by Agnes de Mille, in the first act.

The original story is based on the book "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs.

"Oklahoma!" has been the only show the theatre and dance department has put on "Hay Fever" earlier in the semester.

All performances start at 7:30 and tickets can be purchased at the door prior to the show.

The cost is \$8 for general admission, \$6 for MTSU faculty and staff, \$4 for students Kindergarten through twelfth grade and free for MTSU students with a valid school ID.

It's All About Music With the Women of Sigma Alpha Iota
Marielle Thomas
Contributing Writer

MTSU women's musical fraternity, Sigma Alpha Iota, is preparing for their upcoming semester concert after the Thanksgiving break.

Sigma Alpha Iota's musical will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 8:30 p.m. in the Saunders Fine Arts Building, Coral Hall.

"Every member in the chapter is involved in the musical; there are twenty girls strong," said Linda Elliott, senior music major and the

fraternity's vice president. "We play and sing solos, chamber music and we sing as an entire sisterhood."

The hard work that the fraternity puts into performing the musical shows how serious they are as a chapter and as an organization about that they are truly and sincerely passionate about music.

"Musicals are our way of showing our peers and the community that the foundation of SAI and our sisterhood is really about music; they show our deep dedication and love for the art," Elliott said.

The chapter performs musicals on a regular basis for the public as a part of the fraternity's standards.

"Musical is a ritual that our chapter takes part in," Elliott said. "Every chapter in the U.S. must perform in one every semester. It is a long, standing tradition and requirement."

Sigma Alpha Iota provides a major contribution to the music community as a whole, not just at MTSU.

"SAI creates a social and philanthropic center to the music community," Elliott said.

Outdoor Opportunities
Audrey Wilcox
Contributing Writer

Recently, a group of MTSU students ventured into the wilderness with the university Outdoor Pursuits club.

A group of about 15 people took a shuttle bus from MTSU to the eight-mile stretch of the Ocoee River, known for its rapids. Once the group arrived, they immediately got their rafts blown up and in the water, ready to start the exciting trip down the river.

Paul Cox, a freshman at MTSU, went on a rafting trip down the Ocoee River, which is about an hour East of Chattanooga.

"It was reasonably priced at \$45 and

the club provided all the equipment we needed," Cox said.

The organization stages clinics at the Campus Recreation Center and hosts trips during each semester to various locations around the South East. These trips and clinics include outdoor sports such as canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, mountain biking, backpacking and rafting.

For the group on the Ocoee, water rafting for the group lasted around two to three hours.

"There was not much time to think once we got there before you were in the water heading toward class 3 rapids," Cox said.

That night, the Outdoor Pursuits reserved campgrounds in the near-

by Cherokee National Forest, with plans for more rafting the next day.

"It was the first time I had gone rafting," Cox said. "The overall experience was really fun."

The Outdoor Pursuits club is planning more trips, most ranging in prices from \$30 to \$120. Students who are interested in learning skills but not with wilderness interaction can learn to kayak or do some rock climbing free at the Campus Recreation Center.

Other "how-to" clinics range from \$8 to \$18. There is always a limit on how many people can attend trips and clinics, so the group recommends those interested to sign up in advance.

Hepatitis C on the rise nationally; rivaling HIV cases

By Cedahlia Stand

U-Wire

OXFORD, Miss. - An estimated 4 million people in the United States are infected with Hepatitis C, making the virus much more common than HIV.

"Unlike the other types of viral hepatitis, Hepatitis C is very difficult for the immune system to defeat," said Barbra Collier, nurse practitioner at the University of Mississippi Health Center.

As a result, about 80 to 90 percent of Hepatitis C infections become chronic and lead to liver disease, including cirrhosis, which is scarring of the liver tissues, and liver failure, according to <http://www.epidemic.org/theFacts/essentials>.

The virus can eventually lead to death. A Hepatitis C infection is typically mild in its early stages. It is usually recognized when it begins to cause damage to the liver.

Hepatitis C, which is contracted in many of the same ways as HIV, can be caused by almost any direct or indirect exposure to infected blood. This includes intravenous drug use with poorly sterilized medical instruments, blood spills, unbandaged cuts, tattooing or body piercing, as well as less obvious sources of blood, such as shared razors or toothbrushes, or body secretions that may contain small amounts of blood. Sexual activity, particularly with multiple partners and in the absence of protective measures, can transmit the virus.

The most common symptom, beginning sometimes years after initial infection, is fatigue. Sometimes it may be combined with a mild fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, vague abdominal pain and sometimes diarrhea.

A flu-like illness which just comes and goes.

"It is not something that we test for, a person has to ask to be tested," Collier said.

There is currently no vaccine for Hepatitis C, and because of the virus's frequent mutation, it may be a long time before one becomes available.

Because of Hepatitis C's slowly progressive and with proper treatment, patients can live expectancies, many of them can recover completely.

In addition to protecting oneself against sharing intravenous needles or toothbrushes, contact with blood products that might not have been tested for Hepatitis C outside of the United States and Europe should be avoided.

Hepatitis can be tested for through a blood test.

The Hepatitis C virus was identified in 1989.

Media: "Car show on ESPN"

Continued from 1

Stacey intensively test his work, including return trips back to the shop to "work out the bugs" as needed.

In addition to video media and behind-the-scenes peeks, the program's host will award a "GearHead of the Month."

According to Stacey's proposal, although it is not a focus of the show, Stacey does plan on having his clients in the music industry visit the studio, including rockers Ted Nugent and Eric Clapton.

"Stacey is a musician," Kathryn said. "He's played guitar and sung for years."



Photo courtesy of RattleTrap Productions

Stacey David, host of "GearZ", smiles from under the hood of a past project. ESPN will begin airing the show at 10 p.m. Saturday, March 31, 2007.

Aside from on-screen instruction, the show's website, which will launch this month, will serve as a teaching tool. Stacey said he considers the online site to be an interactive place for enthusiasts to connect and get first-hand feedback.

Kathryn said the catchphrase for the show will be "What are you working on?"

"We also have an animated series currently being pitched," she added. For the time being, however, the focus at RattleTrap is to get "GearZ" turning.

More information on "GearZ" can be found on its website at <http://www.staceydavid.com/>.

Stacey David, host of "GearZ", smiles from under the hood of a past project. ESPN will begin airing the show at 10 p.m. Saturday, March 31, 2007.

p.m., including "quit kits," said Mary Strohm, Health Enhancement health educator.

The quit kits include quitting strategies and health information. Water bottles and chewing gum also will be included in the kits, Strohm said.

"I've never really wanted to quit," Schmidt said.

An American Cancer Society survey said that about 22 percent of Illinois adult smokers are that about 70 percent of smokers nationally said they would like to quit smoking, while five to 10 percent are successful on any one attempt.

It takes most people five to seven attempts to quit smoking before they are finally successful, Strohm said.

the Great American Smokeout. Durling said one of his friends has made many unsuccessful attempts to quit smoking.

"I question the practicality of it as to whether or not having someone stopping smoking for a day is going to have a long-term effect," Durling said. "Psychologically, in terms of behavior, without some sort of reward or reinforcement, it's not going to last."

Colleges Against Cancer, together with the American Cancer Society, will make chalk bodies outside DuSable Hall Thursday. Each body will feature facts about the toll tobacco takes on a person's body.

Health Enhancement also will have tables set up in the Holmes Student Center from noon to 2 p.m., and resources available at the Chick Evans Field House from 10 a.m. to 4:30

By Michelle Gibbons & Michelle Gilbert

U-Wire

DEKALB, Ill. - The American Cancer Society challenges smokers Thursday to throw out cigarettes, if just for one day.

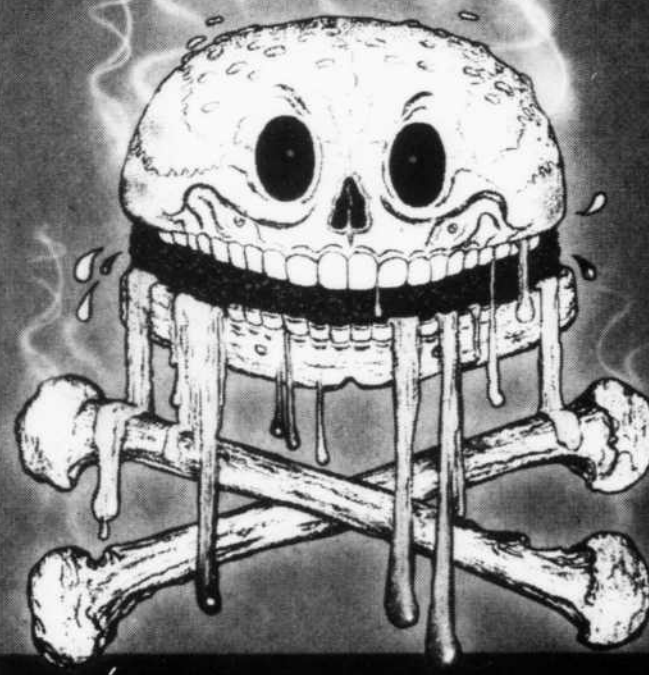
The Great American Smokeout aims to provide smokers with information in the hopes they will quit for good, said Jennifer Briggs, media relations manager of the American Cancer Society's Illinois division.

"[Smoking] is something I like doing," said junior math major David Schmidt. "It started out when I was bored. I'd have a cigarette. When I was busy all day, I never got a craving."

Junior English major Joe Durling said he has never tried smoking and just found out about

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Meet Mike: He's not afraid of identity theft

By Eric Rodriguez
U-Wire

IOWA CITY, Iowa - His mother's maiden name is Talley, and his favorite baseball team is the Chicago Cubs. But his Social Security number is 343-56-0357.

Mike Prusinski, the Lifelock Inc. vice president for communications, asserted that he's not worried criminals who may stumble upon this article will be able to use this information to rob his identity.

"My cell phone will ring a little more," Prusinski said. "But my identity won't be stolen."

Lifelock, a credit-monitoring agency conceived in jail, boasts that no crook will be able to steal a client's identity.

Prusinski said that one morning, company founder and now-CEO Robert Maynard awoke to find Maricopa County, Ariz., police at his door with a warrant for his arrest. He was charged with opening a \$16,000 line of credit at the Mirage casino in Las Vegas and failing to pay. Maynard spent seven days in jail, and officials assumed justice had been served. There was only one problem: Maynard had never stepped foot in Las Vegas that night.

Prusinski said Maynard used the experience as an impetus to launch the identity-protection firm, which is now touting its services to college students, including those at the University of Iowa.

In the age of liquid information, professionals speak of how easy it is to swipe someone's information for financial gain.

"It's so much easier to find this information today than it was yesterday," said Doug Jones, a UI associate professor of

computer science.

The vulnerability of people's identities are exposed when, for example, hackers can find bits of information - sometimes contained on something as mundane as a class schedule - and link them together with other fragments, he said. After compiling all the snatched information, a thief can often obtain a person's Social Security number, address, phone number, and mother's maiden name - the latter of which Jones said is key to acquiring financial access. Then criminals tap your bank account.

Eunjin Jung, UI assistant professor of computer science, also warns that information can leak out easily, even from trusted corporations.

"Many companies have fine print, so that they can share information with their affiliates," said Jung.

This is where Lifelock officials say they step in.

Prusinski said the company registers fraud reports with the U.S.'s four major credit agencies, monitoring credit and identity. Once those measures are in place, users would receive a call on their cell phones whenever the user or an impostor tries to use the client's information for credit purposes.

However, Jones remains skeptical about putting trust in identity-theft protection companies.

"How do they know it's your cell phone?" the professor quipped.

He said he was also concerned about how Lifelock operates, noting clients would still have to worry about the insiders, who may sell or take advantage of information.

Scientists hope to switch on sight

By Cheryl Pon
U-Wire

BERKELEY, Calif. - Imagine that there was a remote control installed in a visually impaired person's cells that could simply switch on his sight. University of California-Berkeley researchers are trying to accomplish just that by developing photoswitches that could restore sight to blind retinas.

The newly funded Nanomedicine Development Center, facilitated jointly by UC Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, is aiming to place light-sensitive switches in the body's cells in hope of developing treatment for people with macular degeneration.

Macular degeneration occurs as a result of a loss of cells specialized to sense or receive light in the eye. It is a leading cause of blindness in the United States for people over 65.

"We're asking the question, 'Can you control proteins with light?'" said principal investigator Ehud Isacoff, a UC Berkeley professor of neurobiology. "If we can control them by light, then we could develop treatments for eye or skin diseases, even blood diseases, that can be activated by light."

The team includes Isacoff, associate professor of neurobiology Richard Kramer, and Dirk Trauner, an assistant professor of chemistry.

The switches the scientists are developing could trigger chemical reactions, initiate muscle contraction, activate a drug or stimulate a nerve cell just by being exposed to a flash of light.

"We don't say we cure blindness at this point because this project is at the very fundamental level, but we have made excellent progress," Trauner said.

By manipulating an ion channel commonly found in nerve cells, the vision cell was turned on when struck by green light and turned off when stimulated by ultraviolet light.

With the help of vision science professor John Flannery, photoswitches were injected into the eyes of rats with a degenerative vision disease, successfully restoring some light sensitivity to their remaining retinal cells.

Currently, the center is working on equipping retina cells with photoswitches, essentially "turning on" blind nerve cells and enabling the person to see.

According to Isacoff, the photo switches are intended for people who were born with normal vision.

"The actual wiring of the brain is very important in its development, so during early development, there's a critical period during which the brain develops vision activity," Isacoff said. "All the layers of cells are still in the eye but the photoreceptors have just died."

According to Isacoff, future work for the team will include building artificial genes that can be inserted into a cell's DNA to express photoswitches in the correct cell, and researching how to expose certain areas in the body to light that were not able to be illuminated before.

"We do have hopes that one day we will be able to carry our ideas to people and make it clinically useful," Trauner said.

'Wrapping' techniques makes cancer drugs more effective, research finds

By Cheryl Pon
U-Wire

BERKELEY, Calif. - University of California-Berkeley researchers, in conjunction with scientists at UC San Francisco, have found that "wrapping" highly toxic anti-cancer drugs inside larger molecules makes them more effective in treating cancer as well as in lessening side effects. The research group is attaching anti-cancer drugs, such as doxorubicin, to dendrimers.

"A dendrimer is a polymer that grows from a central core and it's like a tree with branches coming off from the central trunk and gradually the branches spread out with leaves," said Francis Szoka, professor of pharmaceutical chemistry at UC San Francisco.

According to Szoka, these polymers have the ability to attach different materials to their "branches."

"(The researchers) have designed many elegant chemistries to make these dendritic polymers to the end of the polymers, and they are attached by a chemical linkage that falls apart in an environment of low pH," Szoka said.

Szoka compared the process of the drug

and polymer entering an animal's tumor to the action of leaves falling off a tree branch.

"The drugs are attached to the polymer and injected into the animal, which then circulates in its bloodstream," Szoka said. "In an animal with a tumor, the blood vessels are more leaky, so the stuff leaks out of the vessel into the tumor."

After the drug is leaked into the tumor, both tumor and non-tumor cells absorb it in a process known as endocytosis, in which a cell absorbs material by engulfing it with its cell membrane.

This process drops the pH of the drug from 7.4 to 5.0, and causes the drugs to drop free of its shell and act directly on the cell, lessening side effects on surrounding tissues, Szoka said.

"(The team) has allowed a more local release of the drug and so the activity goes up against the tumor, but the toxic effects goes down against local tissues," Szoka said.

The team tested a powerful anti-cancer drug, doxorubicin, enveloped in a large polymer and injected into mice with induced colon cancer.

The doxorubicin-polymer combination yielded a 100 percent cure in the mice while the mice treated with only the drug doxorubicin died.

The doxorubicin-polymer treatment

proved as effective as liposomal therapy, which is doxorubicin wrapped with fat bubbles called liposomes.

Liposomal therapy is used to treat a variety of human cancers today.

"There's nothing better than comparing a drug against what works in people, and in our tests in mice, the new technique cured 100 percent of the mice, performing at least as well as the liposomal drug," said principal investigator Jean Frechet, professor of chemistry and chemical engineering at UC Berkeley and a researcher at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in a statement. "We think the new technique has many advantages over liposome delivery."

In order for this anti-cancer drug and polymer combination to work effectively, the blood vessels going to tumors "have to be leaky," according to Szoka.

Most tumors fit the "leaky blood vessel" description, including tumors in the breast, prostate, and colon.

As for the next step, the research team is optimizing the chemistry, so the molecules are easier to synthesize for mass production.

"We'll go through another round of testing and we'll see, comparing to other chemistries, if the dendrimers have another advantage," Szoka said.

CRIME BRIEFS

Tuesday, Nov. 7 - 2:28 p.m.

Recreation Center
Theft Over \$500
Subject called and requested an officer in reference to a person who had over \$500 stolen.

Tuesday, Nov. 7 - 11:37 p.m.

Middle Tennessee Boulevard
First DUI Offense
Christopher Rankin, 21, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., failed a sobriety test.

Wednesday, Nov. 8 - 10:18 a.m.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon House - Greek Row
Vandalism Under \$500
Complainant advised the fence to their house had been vandalized where boards had previously been replaced. Gentry McCreary, director for Greek Life, asked the MTSU police department for a special watch during the nighttime hours regarding Greek Row Crossing residents.

Wednesday, Nov. 8 - 10:41 p.m.

Cummings Hall
Theft Under \$500
Theft reported from complainant's room.

Friday, Nov. 10 - 10:13 a.m.

Lyon Hall
Theft Under \$500
Victim reported that money has been stolen from her bank account. Victim is an on-campus resident.

Friday, Nov. 10 - 1:10 p.m.

Complainant
Complainant came by office to fill out a bike theft report.

Saturday, Nov. 11 - 1:07 p.m.

Saturdine Coliseum
Theft Under \$500
Whitt Davis called police and reported theft from a vendor. He requested an MTSU officer to take a report. At approximately 2:30 p.m., Judy called and advised that juveniles who had stolen the vendor's property had arrived back at Miller Coliseum.

Saturday, Nov. 11 - 3:27 p.m.

James E. Walker Library
Theft Under \$500
Bevin Armstrong, of Nashville, Tenn., was arrested for theft under \$500, simple possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Armstrong was also issued a trespassing warning and a photograph was taken with the digital camera.

Sunday, Nov. 12 - 8:40 a.m.

Scarlett Commons Club House
Vandalism Over \$500
Thirteen lights were knocked out around or between Scarlett Commons buildings 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8. Officers on the scene were advised that the lights were approximately \$100 each; the vandalism totaled over \$1,000.

Monday, Nov. 13 - 8:28 a.m.

Business Aerospace Building
Hit and Run

Subject called and requested an officer in reference to someone hitting his vehicle and a witness leaving a note.

Monday, Nov. 13 - 8:38 a.m.

Nicks Hall
Vandalism Under \$500
Subject called and requested an officer in reference to someone kicking the Coke machine at Nicks Hall in the breezeway.

Tuesday, Nov. 14 - 1:38 p.m.

Honors College Lot
Trespass Warning
Officer issued a trespass warning for someone putting flyers on cars.

Tuesday, Nov. 14 - 6:42 p.m.

James E. Walker Library
Trespass Warning
Misuse of Computer.

Tuesday, Nov. 14 - 10:33 p.m.

James E. Walker Library
Harassment
White male, age 30, wearing a white T-shirt and blue jeans was following females and generally harassing subjects at the location.

Wednesday, Nov. 15 - 8:07 a.m.

Todd Building
Theft From Building Over \$500
Subject called and requested an officer to come and take a report in reference to copper being stolen from the art supply room 355.

"It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day just exactly fits in the newspaper."

-Jerry Seinfeld

Yeah and you can help us make that happen by writing for Sidelines!

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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FEATURE

Let the console wars begin

Fanatics brave weather, sleep deprivation to grab the season's hottest systems

By Tom Cheredar, Michaela Jackson and Colby Sledge
Staff Writer, Editor-in-Chief and Features Editor

The console wars are back and their soldiers have already lined up, armed and ready for battle.

With the release of Sony's long-anticipated Playstation 3 on Friday and the subsequent release of Nintendo's innovative Wii on Sunday, the next generation of gaming will officially be complete. Microsoft released its Xbox 360 last November.

For their devoted followers, the new systems couldn't have come soon enough.

"I'm spoiled - I've gotta have it when it comes out," said Jana Patrick of Murfreesboro, who was second in line outside the Target at 1851 Old Fort Parkway Wednesday night awaiting the Playstation 3 release. "Plain and simple, a spoiled kid."

The PS3 will test gamers' wallets as much as their hand-eye coordination: The basic system will sell for \$499, while the premium version that includes wireless internet and a larger hard drive will cost \$599. The steep price tags have led some gamers toward other competing consoles.

"I might be getting a Wii, but I really want the PS3," junior electronic communication major Robert Mott said. "But that price, my God."

The Wii will almost certainly benefit from its price positioning and its innovative 'nun chuck' controller, which allows user to move tools within the game with a flick of the wrist. Although its graphics can't compete with those of the PS3 and the Xbox 360, the lure of wielding a sword or becoming a virtual tennis champion could attract those who wouldn't traditionally sit down to play video games.

"It pretty much is just a revolutionary innovation to gaming as a whole," said Ben Hamric of Nashville. "It has just limitless potential, in my opinion."

Big-box stores were already seeing massive turnout as early as 4:00 Wed. afternoon. The rabid aficionados sitting outside Target awaited their chance at video gaming's equivalent of Willy Wonka's golden ticket. Those wishing to snag one of the systems will receive a numbered ticket based on their location in line.

When the shipments come in the day before the launch, the tickets will then be distributed.

"We'll go through everyone with the tickets first (on release day), and then we'll help everybody else," said Target Guest Services team leader Paul Rogalski. "That way you don't have to wait in line all frickin' night long."

Some of those in line outside Target saw the console as an investment rather than an entertainment device.

"I'm trying to pay for my spring break," said Casey Williams, who hoped to get approximately \$2,500 on eBay for his PS3.

Across the street at Wal-Mart, managers had already closed down the line at the layaway department. A manager who only referred to himself as "Scott" said people started lining up at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, and two hours later the store began turning people away.

Scott indicated there were at least 10 consoles available for sale, but could not confirm the numbers allocated to his store for either console.

Of course, the real winners in the race - if paying hundreds of dollars indeed makes one a winner - are those who pre-ordered the systems. Hamric, 23, fought his battle when the Wii was available to pre-order Oct. 13.

"My girlfriend went to reserve it, and they were all sold out instantly except for this small store in Opry Mills," he said. "She flew out there to get it and almost got in a wreck to get the next-to-last one."

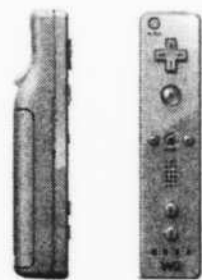
For some, the idea of waiting hours outside in the cold November rain for a video game system just, well, doesn't make sense.

"I think it's kinda pathetic actually," said sophomore marketing major Elizabeth Lee, who added that she has never played a video game in her life. "I don't see how someone can become so obsessed when they probably already have Playstation or Playstation 2. Why do you need another one?"

The question is almost sacrilegious to gamers like Hamric. "Do you really have to ask?" he responded incredulously when asked about the appeal of the Wii. "Do you even know what this thing can do?"

Wii

CPU	729 MHz "Broadway"
GPU	243 MHz "Hollywood"
RAM	88 MB 1T-SRAM
CPU-RAM	4 GB/s
DVD speed	6x
HD-DVD/Blu-Ray	None
Backward Compatible	GameCube only
Internal Memory	512 MB Flash
Wired LAN	Optional
Wi-Fi	Yes
USB	2x USB 2.0
Controller Ports	4
Wireless Controller Capability	Yes
Controller Motion Sensing	Full Motion
Controller Rumbling	Yes
Maximum Resolution	480p (no HD)
Audio Output	Dolby Pro Logic II
Price	\$249



WEEK EDITION

The biggest digital battle of the decade

High Def. DVD: Why you should hit 'pause'

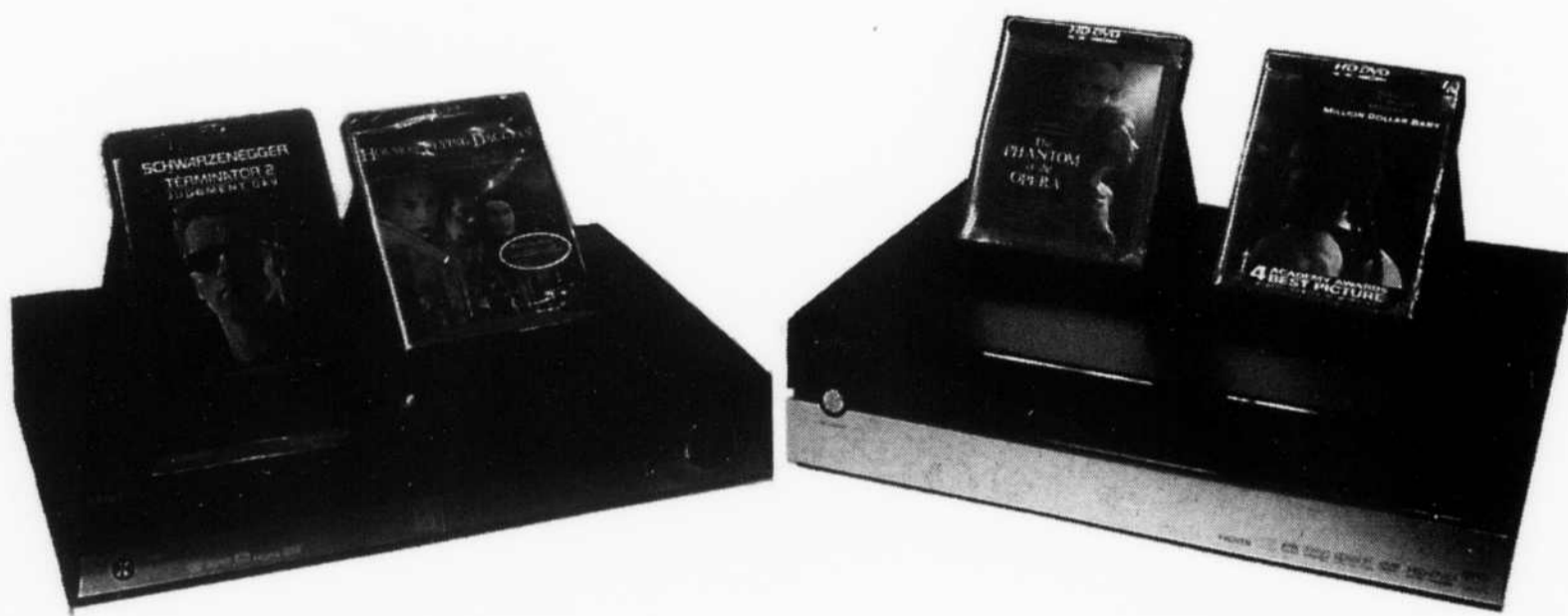


Photo Illustration by Chris Carver | Graphic Designer
In the left corner, supported by the new Playstation 3 (see opposite page): the Blu-ray player, which appropriately uses a blue laser. In the right corner, the Xbox-supported HD-DVD format, which uses a red laser.

By Becca Cook
Contributing Writer

The sides have been chosen, weapons have been picked and the guns are pointed. Ok, so there's no duel going on, but there is a format battle raging in the high definition DVD world.

There are two competitors: HD-DVD, which was introduced by Toshiba and is supported by movie studios Universal and HBO, and Blu-ray which is led by Sony and backed by Disney and Apple.

But why does this matter to consumers? Perhaps you might remember Betamax. If you don't, it's because Betamax lost to VHS during the videotape format fight of the 1970s. Consumers who invested in Betamax were left with obsolete tapes and players.

At this time, no combination HD-DVD/Blu-ray player exists and studios are beginning to release high definition DVDs in both formats. According to consumerreports.org, Warner Bros. and Paramount will offer titles in both formats, but true movie buffs will have to buy both HD-DVD and Blu-ray equipment to maximize

their home viewing experience. This presents a problem, as the equipment is not cheap for either format. Player prices start at \$500 with the discs themselves costing almost double the price of standards DVDs. And while drives for both formats are being added to computers, they will end up being a minimum of \$3,000.

There is also the matter of which studios are supporting which player. With some studios such as Universal only backing one player, movies will only be released in one format. Some students on campus are already having this problem.

"I bought a movie and realized it was in Blu-ray format," reveals Justin Adams, a senior recording industry major.

Considering the current price for Blu-ray players, Adams probably will not be getting one anytime soon. However, there is hope in the horizon.

For those willing to wait, a more versatile player is coming out. Sony is releasing its Playstation 3 video-game console, which will include a Blu-ray drive. The expected cost is around \$500, making it about as much as an HD-DVD player. Until it is

released, the biggest decision consumers will have to make is how much they are willing to spend and if capacity is important to them.

A poll conducted of freshmen in Cummings Hall shows the majority is willing to wait and buy the Playstation 3 when it arrives.

"DVDs are going to go out of style," says freshman aerospace major Andrew Hovey. "If you will need new equipment and it will cost about the same, you might as well get your money's worth."

Blu-ray does indeed seem to be catching up, despite thoughts that it had entered the race too late. The companies that are choosing to back Blu-ray outnumber the supporters of the HD-DVD format, but with Microsoft supporting the format and including it in its upcoming release in Vista, the latest operating system, the battle may get tricky. Blu-ray does have the support of Apple, though, and will probably eventually be a part of the Mac operating system as well.

The battle of the high definition DVD formats may not even matter much in the end.

"The Playstation 3 won't help HD-DVD, and Blu-ray's capacity is better for games," explains Dr. Robert Kalwinsky, an Assistant Electronic Media Communication professor. "But price counts too. And perhaps they will both be obsolete soon."

Kalwinsky thinks the true threat will be one of the new holographic memory formats.

The holographic versatile disc (HVD) is an optical disc technology that would greatly increase storage over HD-DVD and Blu-ray Disc systems.

The results could put existing CD and DVD systems in storage with the Betamax. Until one of the formats wins, consumers will have to be careful when purchasing anything in the high definition DVD department. The safest thing to do is wait and see what plays out.

So, make sure that as you are compiling your want list for Santa that you indicate what type of high definition DVD player you want, and be sure that the DVDs you buy are the correct format. For those consumers wanting to be sure, just press the pause button and wait a few years as the format battle clears up.

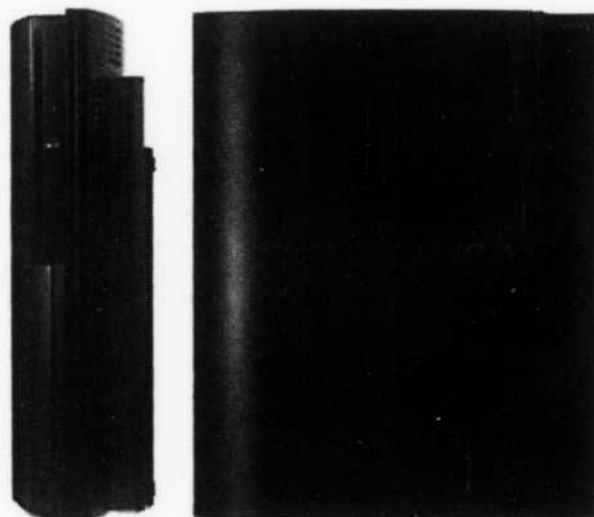
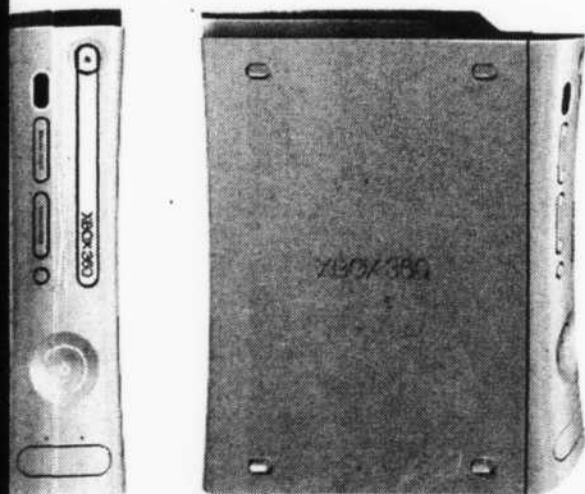
Contributing Photographer
outside Target Wednesday
\$499.

360

PS3



CPU	3.2 GHz PPC Cell GPU
GPU	550 MHz RSX
RAM	512 MB (XDR & GDDR3)
CPU-RAM	25.6 GB/s (XDR), 22.4 GB/s
DVD speed	8x
HD-DVD/Blu-Ray	Blu-Ray
Backward Compatible	Partial
Internal Memory	20 GB HDD / 60 GB HDD
Wired LAN	Yes
Wi-Fi	Optional (20 GB) / Yes (60 GB)
USB	Yes
Controller Ports	4
Wireless Controller Capability	Yes
Controller Motion Sensing	Partial
Controller Rumbling	No
Maximum Resolution	1080p
Audio Output	Dolby Digital, DTS
Price	\$499 (basic), \$599 (advanced)



OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Accepting race key to social success, diversity on campus to be celebrated

This week, the Human Race Machine has not been featured in the KUC, much to the interest of students and it is not hard to imagine why. The race machine essentially takes one's facial features and adjusts them to look like that of another race or gender. While this might be fun for a few minutes, it is a fry cry from "walking in another's shoes." Imagine if the machine did more than just print off a picture, as did the FX series "White. Black." which premiered last fall, what if you could change race for a few days? Would it change your perspective? If nothing else, it would force you into social situations you may have never experienced otherwise.

Some sociologists have speculated that someday there will only be one race. While this would solve the issue of racism, we as humans would find some other factor that would separate us. It is human nature to seek out the familiar, the problem comes when it also divides us.

The fact is, while we have overcome a great deal of institutional racism in the United States, we still face it on a social level. Just looking around campus one can see the divide. But sometimes it is subtle and most times unconscious.

We have our own groups, our own activities, our own hangouts and our own friends. From the music we hear to the classes we take, it can all be defined along racial lines. But no one is forced into any of these "norms," rather we choose them for ourselves based on familiarity and interests. Yet, is this such a problem? No.

If social differences are not acts of division and we can learn to respect each other as individuals or a group, we would effectively evolve as a society. Though we do not have to integrate completely, we must learn to celebrate diversity and internalize equality on a basic level—a quality that has eluded Americans for centuries.

If we do not accept one another for all of our differences, the only other choice we have is hate, and this will only take us backwards.

So should we step into the machine sometime before Nov. 17, just remember—we are all human.



Continue to not trust politicians

The times, they are a-changin'. Although we may be tired of the political slugfest of recent months, there is change in the air, and it is our duty to make the best of it. Regardless of how we all feel about the elections, there is a simple reality: they're finished, so get over it.

If you're a Democrat, don't gloat about "your" win. There's too much work to be done to waste a minute on pride. If you're a Republican, don't sulk, or people will think you're a whiner.

The bottom line is, get over it, and get back to work.

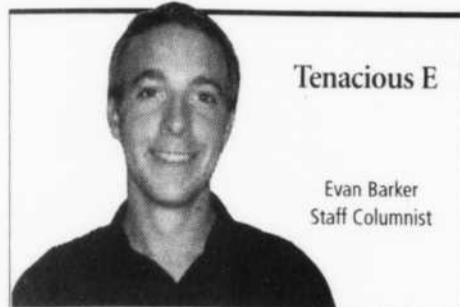
The elections blew fresh air into the stale legislative branch of Congress, but it's no magic bullet to fix our country's problems. The only thing that a Democratic win was good for was to check an out-of-control Executive branch. From now on, if President George W. Bush wants something, he'll be forced to do the unthinkable: compromise.

The very same goes for the new Democratic majority. As they are well aware, the minority party can still make a life hell, and it would be wise to carefully choose where to shed blood.

Here are a few things that will probably happen: the Democrats will probably try to remove those pesky subsidies to oil companies, whereby the federal government pays tax money to oil companies to keep prices low.

Getting rid of this means higher gas prices for you and I.

The oil companies may or may not put up a fight, since allowing higher prices under the Democrats makes the Republicans look good, and the Republicans and oil companies are all very friendly.



Tenacious E

Evan Barker
Staff Columnist

Remember this in two years. Minimum wage will probably go up. If you work on campus and you make \$5.50 per hour, you'll take home a little something extra. It might almost be enough to live on, if you don't drive or eat.

Remember this in two years. Expect wholesale inquiry into Sept. 11, 2001 and the government's response to it. The Democrats will want to vilify the Republicans to better posture themselves for the 2008 presidential election. The Republicans will try to sandbag the process to save their image, or convince you that you're still safer under them.

Expect to learn interesting things about what happened five years ago in September.

Remember them for two years. Similarly, there will be wholesale muckraking of the reasons to go to Iraq, which the Democrats will probably declare were bogus, although they voted for war anyway.

A majority of our citizens will probably agree that the war is bogus, but at this point, what good will it do? We were already fooled into starting the fight, and proving it phony won't end the bloodshed, nor bring back the dead. It may, however, shock some of the public into trusting their politicians less.

Think about these for the next two years. Essentially, that's what we need to do. The problem with our political process is the collective short-term memory of the voting public. If it helps you, clip articles about your politicians, so you can remember their every misdeed when it comes time to vote again.

To keep score, we still haven't caught Osama bin Laden, and our public schools are still in a tailspin. Additionally, our great-grandchildren will still be saddled with the nearly unfathomable debt incurred in the last 6 years, and there probably won't be any safety-blanket money left for our generation when we get old, thanks to the Baby-Boomers.

What can we do? For starters, keep the heat on your representatives. Postage stamps aren't expensive, and you can send them all the scathing mail you want. If they think they're losing your vote, they'll be interested in problem-solving.

Check into one of the many third-party groups emerging right now. Some of them have some pretty fascinating ideas to refresh you from the usual glut of useless spewing from the Democrats or Republicans.

You might consider voting for one of them instead of one of the two evils.

In short, there are plenty of things to spend the next two years on, and petty political bickering should immediately drop to the bottom of the stack.

There's plenty of catching up to do.

Evan Barker is a junior music performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Horseshoe example of ridiculous gullibility

To the Editor:

Some years ago, when Transamerica Corporation built its new headquarter in San Francisco, Herb Caen and all the usual suspects protested vigorously. It would be an abomination, they said, it was ugly and would destroy the City's skyline. Caen always capitalized City when he referred to San Francisco.

I passed through the town in, I think, the summer of 1971, and happened to walk past the building site. There was a big sign on the wooden fence: "The Transamerica Pyramid, a San Francisco landmark since 1972."

How arrogant, I thought; people hate it and it isn't even built yet, but they call it a landmark? Thirty-five years later, though, that's what it is: a San Francisco landmark.

So now we have a big blue horseshoe on campus, with a ready-made legend — hey, Harry Potter haters, why haven't you protested? Lucky horseshoe, indeed — an MTSU landmark since last Thursday week.

It's an annoying fake, a sign of how dumb "they" think we are, but in 10 years or so, maybe sooner, people will believe that it's always been there, just like the building it's next to has always been "Peck Hall." And people will touch it for luck.

Our history is continually being replaced with fake history, our traditions with fake traditions. Most Americans believe that Saddam Hussein was behind Sept. 11 2001, and that the Constitution doesn't protect non-citizens. We are an advanced society, able to believe any number of nonsensical things before breakfast. It's what we're taught to do: to believe what we're told to believe, and never to question.

Cliff Story
Instructor, mathematics



"The Horse Trough" David Norris

Fed-up conservatives cost GOP election

"I hate all of them except for Bobby Jindal," my friend Jason said, reflecting on politicians.

Jason and his wife, Jennifer, are Katrina evacuees from New Orleans. Jindal is a conservative, Republican, U.S. House member, but also was the runner-up in the 2003 Louisiana governor's race. Jason and Jennifer are two examples of how disgusted most Americans were as voters went to the polls.

I posted a note on Facebook entitled, "Why Conservative Voters Stuck It To Bush," last week, and it has generated seven comments. Almost everyone who has read it agreed with my findings. I listed off 17 reasons that conservatives had for staying home and/or voting Democratic simply out of spite against President George W. Bush. One friend questioned if I actually believed such 'banality' in my note, while another begged to ask how one could not.

In the note, I went in chronological order, starting with the Bush's inaugural address.

I believe that most conservatives didn't want to hear yet



The T.P.S. Report
Tim Hill
Staff Columnist

another foreign policy speech defending the need to liberate rogue states. Instead, a call for a flat tax and other domestic priorities would have been more welcome to Bush's supporters.

Next was the issue of John Bolton's nomination to the United Nations. Most conservatives have loved Bolton ever since he was nominated in March 2005. Those same people viewed the two filibuster votes that were three votes shy of a confirmation vote as confirmation itself.

Yet, the president let the Democrats block the nomination until he finally recess appointed Bolton on Aug. 1, 2005.

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, conservatives had known about Bush's ability to do

his job well from his Crawford Ranch. They just didn't agree with the president's flamboyant approval of excessive spending so early after the hurricane.

Conservative heartland voters have a hard time seeing the need to rebuild a city that is below sea level, no matter how delicious its food may taste.

Bush's veto threats to Congress lost their credibility with conservatives because the president never followed through on any of the meaningful ones.

Even liberals were once blastocysts, but folks concerned about budget-busting spending bills wanted to see some of those bills given the veto pen. The highway bill is the case in point.

The president "reluctantly" accepted Harriet Miers' withdrawal as his Supreme Court nominee, but the president's base never forgot her nomination to begin with. They are thankful that Justice Sam Alito was not endorsed by many Democratic senators, but they can't understand why Bush didn't nominate him first.

My note went on to mention

other reasons why conservatives may have been upset, and as such, liberal readers didn't see it that way. Many opponents who won last week believe that they finally won an election that "wasn't stolen by Republicans."

Even USA Today essentially repeated Tom DeLay's assertions that "Democrats didn't win, Republicans just lost."

Never mind that DeLay is just as at fault as Bill Frist is for losing his House for the party.

Republicans won't learn their lesson from this so long as the Republican National Committee chairmen think that it's time for "Republicans to bend over backwards to work with Democrats." That is how the party lost Congress to begin with.

The more realistic concern should be, "Just how motivated are Republicans to cheat on their taxes to keep their small businesses alive once the Democrats pass, and the president signs, a bill raising those rates?"

Tim Hill is a senior liberal arts major and can be reached at governorhill@gmail.com.

Write letters.
slopinio@mtsu.edu

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SPORTS

Upset-minded Blue Raiders head to USC

By Casey Brown

Staff Writer

Two weeks ago Middle Tennessee celebrated Homecoming with a 35-14 defeat of Florida Atlantic.

This time, head coach Rick Stockstill and athletic director Chris Massaro will be going home, as the Blue Raiders travel to Columbia to take on the Gamecocks of South Carolina.

USC suffered another heartbreaking conference loss last week in what has become a trend for the Gamecocks, falling to Florida 17-16 after having an extra-point attempt and potential game-winning field goal blocked.

MT, meanwhile, continued its dominance of the Sun Belt Conference, pulling away from Arkansas State in the second half for a 38-10 victory to remain undefeated in conference play.

This is the first meeting between the two schools, though USC coach Steve Spurrier has seen the Blue Raiders before, having defeated MT 55-0 in 2000 while still at Florida.

The Gamecocks need another win to secure bowl eligibility, while the visitors are merely playing for pride.

Will USC take out its frustration on an over-matched Blue Raider squad? Or will MT shock the football world by knocking off a Southeastern Conference school?

When USC runs

The Gamecocks feature a solid if not explosive rushing attack. Averaging 132.5 yards per game on the ground, USC is led by a two-headed beast in sophomore Mike Davis and junior Cory Boyd.

Davis racked up 94 yards and two touchdowns against Florida last week, and Boyd has put up 113 yards against both Kentucky and Vanderbilt this season.

Senior Syvelle Newton may get some snaps at quarterback, in which case the Blue Raider defense must contain the elusive backup. The USC offensive line is big, but inexperienced.

Stopping the run has been a trademark of MT throughout the 2006 campaign. The Blue Raiders rank 40th nationally against the run, and, despite being a bit banged up, J.K. Sabb and Justin Rainey still comprise one of the better linebacker duos in the SBC. The Gamecocks should be able to move the chains, but big gains will be kept to a minimum.

Advantage: Even

When USC passes

This category begins and ends with Sidney Rice. Rice has gone over the 100-yard mark in nine of his first 17 games as a Gamecock.

In September, the sophomore wideout torched Florida Atlantic for nine catches, 161 yards and five touchdowns. Against SEC-leading Arkansas, Rice managed 126 yards and a score.

Blake Mitchell will start under center for USC. Since coming off the bench at halftime of the Arkansas game, Mitchell has completed 72 percent of his passes for 488 yards and two touchdowns. The Gamecocks also possess a capable backup in Newton.

The task of covering Rice will most likely fall to cornerback Bradley Robinson. Despite a statistical decrease due to teams throwing away from him, Robinson is still the premier shut-down corner for the Blue Raiders.

Unfortunately for MT, it's hard to believe that much shutting down will occur.

Advantage: USC

When MT runs

The Blue Raiders have a real chance to do some damage on the ground. The unit has gone over the 200-yard mark in its last two games with no signs of slowing down.

Against FAU two weeks ago, Eugene Gross exploded for 208 yards, while DeMarco McNair shined last



Senior Eugene Gross scores on a 1-yard touchdown carry in the first quarter as MT defeated ASU 38-10 last week. Gross ran for 79 yards on 15 carries in the game. Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

week against Arkansas State, racking up 98 yards along with a pair of touchdowns.

MT is dependent on the run, while USC has difficulty containing it. The Gamecocks rank a dismal 83rd in rushing defense, allowing 151.2 yards per game.

In addition, South Carolina will be without the services of linebacker Cody Wells, who suffered an injured bicep last week against Florida.

If the Blue Raiders get a lead and a chance to establish the run, good things could happen.

Advantage: MT

When MT passes

Efficiency, thy name is Clint Marks. Any questions about the leadership skills of the senior quarterback should have been answered by now, as Marks has improved his decision-making under center while becoming a more vocal field general.

Marks may not post eye-popping numbers, but he

knows how to win. With a maddeningly inconsistent group of receivers, however, MT is always at risk of having a drive stall, and the team lacks a true deep threat.

Freshman Desmond Gee has proved to be a capable receiver, scoring a touchdown in each of his last four games.

USC prides itself on being stingy through the air, led by All-America candidate Fred Bennett at cornerback. The rest of the secondary is young, but talented.

The Gamecocks' five losses are misleading, as USC has only allowed 17.2 points per game. Defense is certainly not the problem, and up against an MT passing offense ranked 105th, there shouldn't be too much to worry about.

Advantage: USC

Special Teams

Both of these teams view special teams as an asset,

and for good reason.

The kicking game is a strength for the Gamecocks, who will rely on Ryan Succop (yes, it's pronounced the way it's spelled) to handled both punting and placekicking duties. Succop is a Groza Award semifinalist who has connected on 13-of-16 attempts this season.

Succop has only missed one attempt, a 51-yarder off the upright against Georgia, but has had two kicks blocked. In terms of punting, he is averaging an above-average 43.8 yards per punt. USC has little to offer that should scare the Blue Raiders in terms of a return game.

On the other sideline, Colby Smith is not utilized as much as Succop but generally delivers when needed. The real story for MT, however, is the return game.

See Preview, 8

Bradley Robinson: The silent assassin



Junior Bradley Robinson intercepts the ball during the Arkansas State game. He returned the ball for a 88-yard run for a score. Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

Last week in Arkansas, things were looking down for the Blue Raiders.

Arkansas State was driving down the field, ready to even the score at 10-10. Then, one of the plays that will define this season for the Blue Raiders occurred.

Bradley Robinson jumped in front of an Arkansas State receiver and intercepted the pass. Robinson took the ball 88 yards for the touchdown and the Blue Raiders never looked back. Robinson said he just followed his instincts.

"I was coming out, and I got inside of the receiver," he said. "I was reading the quarterback with his three-step drop. I made a break on the ball, and once I caught it I started running. Then I got to the sideline. I was just making sure nobody was going to catch me."

"I didn't look back, I was telling my teammates that. So I just kept running the whole way."

There are just a lot of things that can happen, so I just kept running full speed the whole way."

For his efforts, Robinson was named the Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Week. Robinson believes the team's success goes back to the coaching staff, and he attributes the cohesiveness of the defense to the time they spend together on and off the field.

"I think the main thing is that the defense is a lot closer," Robinson explained. "The secondary knows what the linebackers are doing, and the linebackers know what the secondary is doing."

"I mean, we hang out more, and we are a lot closer. We try to go out there. I think the fact we have a lot of experience helps, as it kind of goes out to the young guys."

This week against South Carolina is a bit of a homecoming for Robinson, who attended high school in Duncan, S.C. In fact, Robinson won a state championship while at James E. Byrnes High School.

Robinson admits that it will be fun to see a lot of his old friends, but he will be all business when he steps on the field Saturday.

"I'm very excited," Robinson professed. "I get to play against some people I played against in high school. A lot of people are asking me if I have to go up against Sidney Rice, but I'm just excited about the game. The main thing is trying to go in there with a win."

This is Robinson's third year as a starter at Middle Tennessee, and he has been a valuable member of the team this year with his leadership.

Robinson is a very dangerous player with the ball in his hands, as his stats convey. His touchdown last weekend against Arkansas State was the first of his career and his second interception of the season.

This week Robinson and the Blue Raider defense will look to shut down a South Carolina passing game that averages 226 yards per game.

Troy faces Arkansas State; Louisiana-Monroe visits Kentucky

By Greg Hohwald

Contributing writer

Florida Atlantic (2-3) at North Texas (2-3)

Florida Atlantic heads to Denton, Texas on Saturday to take on North Texas in a battle between the fourth and fifth place teams in the Sun Belt conference.

FAU is coming off back-to-back losses against division leaders Troy and Middle Tennessee and will be looking for its first win since Oct. 28, which came against Arkansas State. Look for the Owls to use their Sun Belt leading passing offense to exploit the conference's sixth best passing defense.

UNT announced last week that head coach Darrell Dickey will not return after this season. The Mean Green will be looking for a second straight win after beating ULL on the road last week. After holding Louisiana-Lafayette scoreless in the second half of their game, North Texas should come out and play inspired football in their last game of the season and walk off the field with a victory.

Louisiana-Lafayette (1-3) at Florida International (0-4)

Florida International will play host to Louisiana-Lafayette in Miami on Saturday in hopes of securing their first win of the sea-

son for head coach Don Strock, who announced his resignation yesterday, effective at the end of the season. FIU will use its defense to try and slow down the conference's top rushing attack, led by Tyrell Fenroy and quarterback Jerry Babb.

This will also be the second game back for those players involved in the brawl with Miami a few weeks back.

ULL, meanwhile, is looking to end its 3-game losing streak and pull out a victory against the conference's last place team. Neither team has been playing its best football over the last couple of weeks, but expect Florida International to leave this game still winless, as ULL should be able to come up with a win and snap their losing streak.

Louisiana Monroe (1-4) at Kentucky (4-3)

Louisiana Monroe will be traveling to Lexington, Ky., to face the Wildcats of Kentucky in a non-conference showdown. ULM got its first win since opening last week against Florida International, while the surprise Wildcats, who are seeking their fourth straight win, are in second place in the Southeastern Conference East Division after defeating the Vanderbilt Commodores last weekend. Kentucky quarterback Andre

Woodson leads the conference in quarterback efficiency, passing yards and passing touchdowns. Expect ULM to counter Kentucky's offensive prowess with a potent offense of their own, led by the Sun Belt's second-leading rusher, Calvin Dawson. ULM could keep it close early on, but Kentucky should win this game easily.

Arkansas State (3-2) at Troy (4-0)

Troy hopes to continue its four game winning streak against conference opponent Arkansas State in Alabama on Saturday, while ASU is looking to sneak up on Troy. Trojan quarterback Omar Haugabook threw for 325 yards and three touchdowns last week against FAU, but he will face a tough task against the Sun Belt's second-best scoring defense.

This game is an interesting one because as Troy is gearing up to play against Middle Tennessee next week, the Trojans need to be sure they don't overlook a strong ASU team who has lost three straight, but has notched impressive wins against Memphis and Army.

In the end, however, expect Troy to outscore ASU and pull out the victory, setting up what could be called the conference championship game next week against the Blue Raiders.

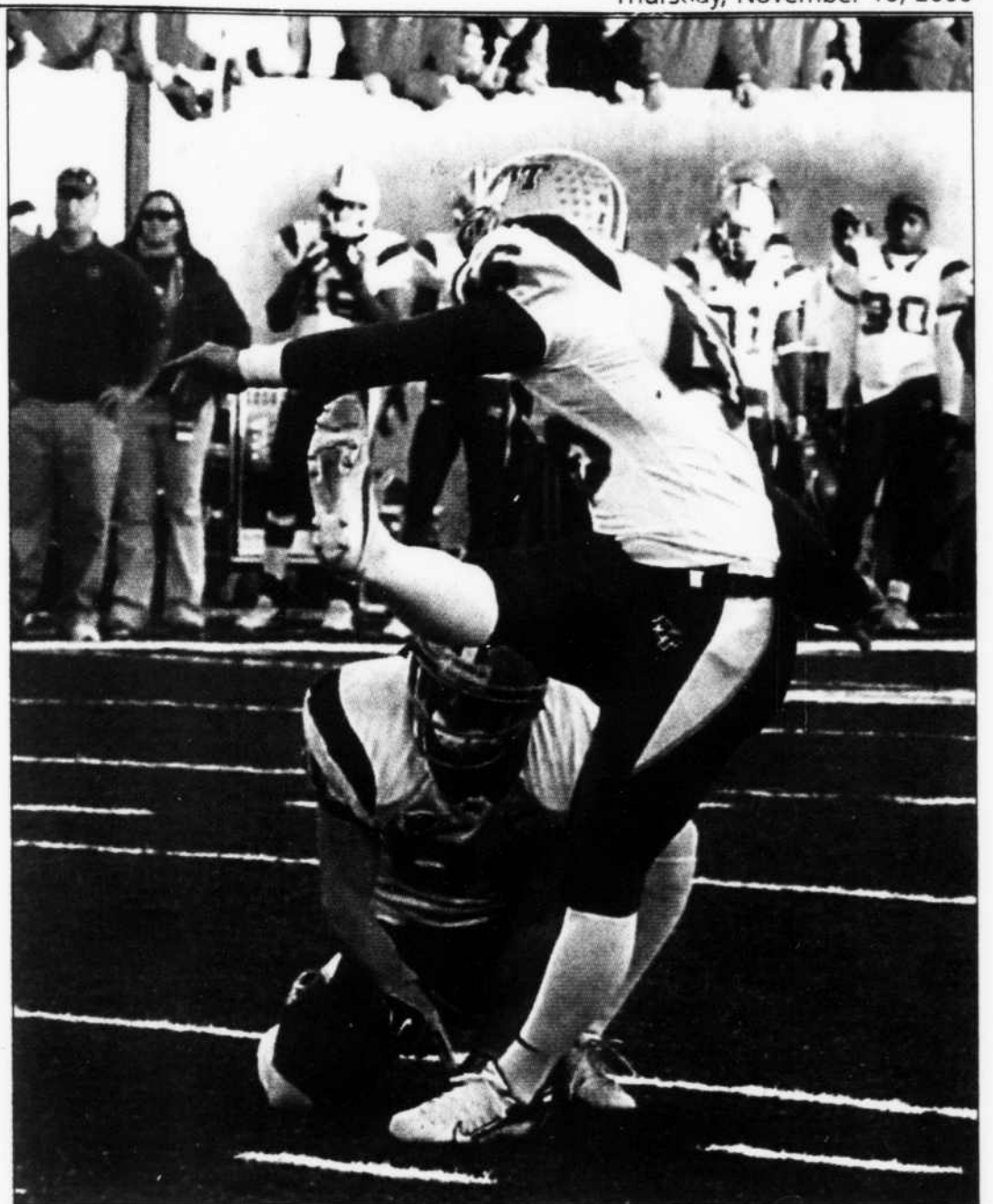


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Senior Colby Smith kicks a field goal against Arkansas State to put the Blue Raiders up 10-3 early in the second quarter.

Preview: "Blue Raiders head to USC"

Continued from 7

Damon Nickson is averaging more yards per kick return than anyone in the country, and unlike ASU last week, the Gamecocks will probably kick to him.

Advantage: Even

Coaching

With apologies to Rick Stockstill, he's going up against something of a legend in SEC circles. Steve Spurrier's name and resume speaks for itself, though Stockstill is fully capable of teaching his old superior a thing or two.

MT has experienced a much faster and dramatic turnaround than anyone expected, and the lion's share of the credit for that should go to Stock and his staff.

Spurrier obviously still needs a few years to get the program in Columbia back on track, but with bowl eligibility on the line, don't expect the Gamecocks to be ripe for an upset.

Advantage: USC

Intangibles

With Clemson looming in the week ahead, Spurrier and his team know they need this one for that magic sixth win and the accompanying bowl bid.

MT won't exactly be ready to lie down, but with several key contributors banged up there won't be many risks taken, either. Pride can be a

powerful motivator, but the Blue Raiders know that the real game is next Saturday.

Weather shouldn't be a factor, as the conditions call for sunny skies and temperatures in the mid-sixties. The home crowd at Williams-Brice Stadium could be, however, as this will be the first time this season the Blue Raiders have played in front of an SEC crowd.

Ultimately, though, this is an MT squad that has yet to be intimidated, and it has proven it can win on the road. Above all else, the determining factor may be depth.

Advantage: Even

The skinny

This matchup is relatively even statistically, and in a vacuum MT would potentially pull the upset. But unlike his predecessor, Stockstill is more concerned with winning the conference than beating an SEC school.

With injury concerns and a desperate South Carolina team on the other side of the ball, don't expect anything dynamic out of the Blue Raiders. MT will make significant gains along the ground, and the secondary will contain Rice for about a half. Eventually, however, the depth that comes along with being in BCS conference will pay off, and the Gamecocks will outlast the Blue Raiders in the fourth quarter.

The pick: South Carolina 24, Middle Tennessee 14

MT heads north for Subway Classic

By Wesley Mize

Staff Writer

MT women's basketball team will be traveling up north to Minnesota for the Subway Basketball Classic this weekend. MT is scheduled to meet Maine on Saturday at 1 p.m.

The Lady Raiders are coming off losses to South Dakota State and defending national champion Maryland. With every game there positives and negatives that you can take away from a game regardless of the result.

"We have to bring the intensity on every possession and not just in spurts," director of women's basketball operations Tom Hodges said. "We have to play Lady Raider basketball, which is playing as hard as you can as long as you can."

The Lady Raider coaching staff feels that it's very important to perform well in this tournament.

"One of the reasons we chose to take part in the tournament is because we want to simulate our conference tournament," Hodges said. "In March we are going to have to win three games in four days, so we might as well get accustomed to that."

MT's first game is against Maine, who is led by Bracey Barker, a 6'1"

forward that led her team in last season with 13.8 points per game while pulling down 6.6 rebounds per game.

"Maine returns everybody back from last year's team and they are always very competitive, so it should be a good test for us," said Hodges.

MT's possible opponent on Sunday might be Princeton, who is led by All-Ivy league point guard Meagan Cowher. She is the daughter of Pittsburgh Steeler head coach Bill Cowher.

Tournament host Minnesota is coming off five straight NCAA women's tournament appearances. The Golden Gophers are led by Katie Ohm, who scored 15 points against Northern Iowa.

MT will be looking for big games from senior point guard Chrissy Givens and junior Amber Holt. Holt led the Lady Raiders with 28 points and eight rebounds against Maryland.

The Lady Raiders coaches are not surprised by Holt's smooth transition to Division I-A basketball.

"Amber has played in big games all of her life, from AAU to the junior college national tournament," Hodges said. "She's used to the pressure and the level of play, and she's a very talented young lady that makes us a better team and compliments Chrissy and our whole team well."

Blue Raiders set to jam in paradise

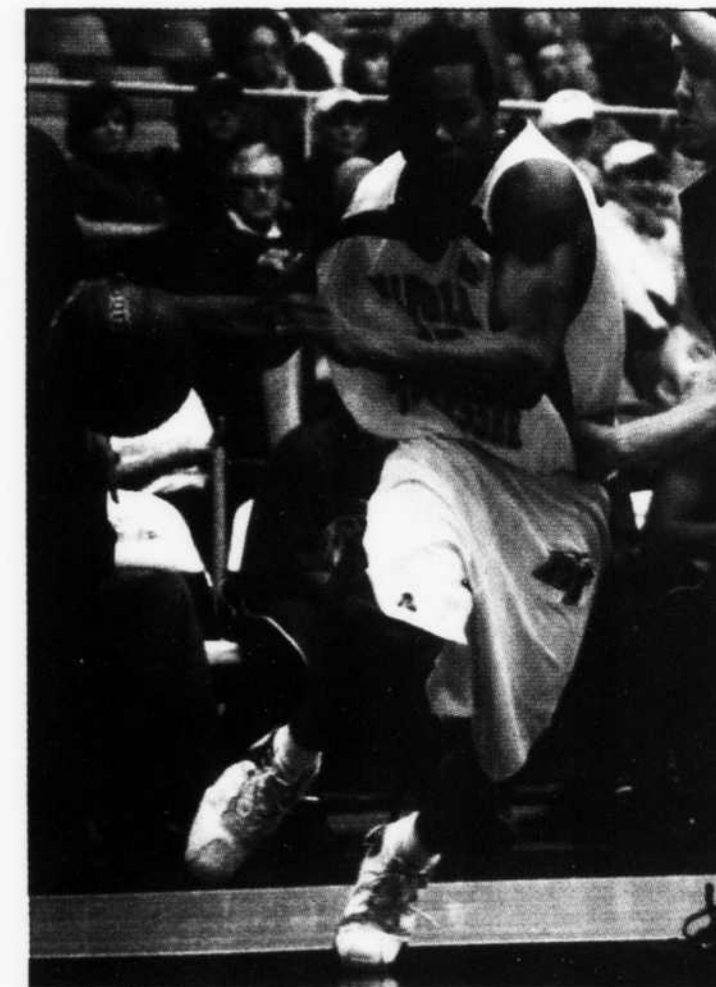


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Sophomore Theryn Hudson tries to move around the defense in order to get a shot.

By Wesley Mize

Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team is heading to the Virgin Islands this weekend for the Paradise Jam Tournament. The Paradise Jam consists of eight teams including No. 10 Alabama, who is the Blue Raiders' first opponent of the tournament. The Blue Raiders are 1-1 after winning a close game with Cumberland.

"(Alabama) is a team worthy of consideration to play in the Final Four," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. He went on to talk about their leading point guard for the Crimston Tide Ronald Steele, who Davis called "the best point guard in the nation."

Steele averages 14.3 points and 4.3 assists per game last season. Steele's teammate, Jermareo Davidson, is a 6'10" senior forward that Davis thinks very highly of.

"Davidson is long around the basket and causes so many match-up problems against teams," Davis said. "He's definitely going to be an NBA player."

The other teams in the tournament include Iowa, Virginia Commonwealth, Toledo, College

of Charleston, Xavier, and Villanova. Alabama, Xavier, Iowa, and Villanova are coming off NCAA Tournament appearances last season, while Toledo is favored to win the A-10 conference this season.

"Every team in this tournament will be playing postseason basketball this year," Davis said. With All-Sun Belt Team member Adam Vogelsberg out for a few more weeks, the Blue Raiders are looking for people to step up and fill his position.

"Calvin O'Neil has been our most consistent player in the first two games," Davis said. "We need our team as a whole to step up the level of play if we want to win."

"What's missing is a knock-down shooter. When teams played a zone against us, Adam would be able to hit three or four three pointers and get to the foul line for 15 or more points, and that's something we don't have right now. We need people to be more confident in shooting the ball, and I believe our players know that."

MT takes on Alabama Friday at noon, and the tournament will conclude Monday with the Championship Round.

Middle Tennessee vs. South Carolina

An excuse to type 'Cocks



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

This Saturday MT faces off against a football team with an identity crisis. South Carolina has been without a doubt the bastard child of the SEC for most of their history.

The Gamecocks have a 200-year history, a rabid fan following and incredible stadium and yet they get no respect.

Maybe it's because they went and named themselves the Gamecocks. The idea is that in a cockfight, the cocks fight to the death. I guess it's like the redneck version of the Samurai, only with cocks. The SEC equivalent of Ball State, the Gamecocks have long been ridiculed for their antiquated and mildly offensive moniker. The Shakespearean question of what is in a name doesn't hold up. A Gamecock by any other name would still never smell very sweet.

But perhaps it is bigger than that: As the biggest of the little schools, USC has always given the appearance of a big time program. But they've either underperformed or overcelebrated; just a few years ago, the Gamecocks only managed one win in two seasons. Superstar coach Lou Holtz only lasted a few short years there before bolting to an analyst's desk at ESPN.

Before Holtz, they had never had a big-name coach. Every other big time school they have faced has had a Robert Neyland (.829 career winning percentage) or a Bear Bryant (292 wins) to help them build tradition. Holtz's 5-year tenure there was mostly spent building a foundation.

Florida had Danny Wuerffel (10,785 yards, Heisman Trophy, beat UT 62-37), UT had Peyton Manning (of Direct TV commercials fame) and USC had Steve Taneyhill. Their greatest achiever in the pre-Holtz era was a guy whose name sounds like a golf course in Hawaii. In over 100 years of football history, the 'Cocks have played just 12 bowl games and have lost nine of them.

But then, one November day in 2004, in the south end zone of Williams-Brice Stadium, Steve Spurrier, one of the cockiest guys in the game, was named the new head coach of the Gamecocks. The Head Ball Coach, the Volunteer destroyer, six-time SEC champion, national champion, former Heisman trophy winner, visor thrower, and proud owner of an .812 winning percentage at Florida was now the coach of a team no one liked to talk about.

The bastard child rose up last year, defeating Florida and UT and posting a bowl worthy record of 7-5. Suddenly every one was trying their hardest to give South Carolina a chance, but this year's .500 winning percentage has people wondering if it can be done. South Carolina easily has one of the hardest schedules in the country. That would normally make me say that they are much better than their record, but as Spurrier himself pointed out, the Gamecocks lost those games by not playing to win. They were within a Touchdown of three Top 15 teams, and mental mistakes led to most of those losses.

So the question is, who are they now? Are they a good team with a tough schedule? A bad team with a good coach? A team that should win but doesn't know how? Or are they the final piece of Spurrier's brilliant plan, one year away from a stunning 10-1 season?

Honestly? I don't know. But what I do know is that South Carolina's Fight Song is hilarious, so I will close with that:

"The Fighting Gamecocks Lead the Way"

Hey, let's give a cheer, Carolina is here,
The Fighting Gamecocks lead the way.
Who gives a care, if the going gets tough,
And when it is rough, that's when the
'Cocks get going.
Hail to our colors of garnet and black,
In Carolina pride have we.
So, Go Gamecocks Go - FIGHT!
Drive for the goal - FIGHT!
USC will win today - GO COCKS!
So, let's give a cheer, Carolina is here.
The Fighting Gamecocks All The Way!

Middle Tennessee State University

Sidelines

Holiday Shopping Guide

Thursday, November 16, 2006

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The best
gifts to give

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Customers adopt
Grinchy attitude

p. 4

Top 10
places
to find a good
deal and great
shopping on a
budget

p. 5



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Don't let bad gifts ruin holiday season

By Joshua Hudson

Staff Writer

Christmas is the time of year that gives everybody the opportunity to spread love, joy, the spirit of giving and other things that stand in stark contrast to the harsh realities of life. However, some seem to view this as a time to ruin their otherwise healthy relationships.

We have all been there when the tearing of wrapping paper is followed by an awkward silence that is broken only when the giver of the gift announces, "It's a (insert gift here)," with a broad smile of accomplishment across their face. At this point, everybody in the room starts hoping for something slightly less demanding on the human psyche, like an electrical fire or hostage situation.

Assuming that you think you are a person of discerning taste who, at the same time, lacks discerning taste, I have compiled a list of gifts that should be avoided like they can only be purchased from a street vendor in Tijuana. And surprisingly, you may think the only place to buy them would be there. You are close, as most can be found in your local Wal-Mart.

One horrible gift idea that stuck out like an open sore were the products from Hitch Critters, who claim the "world's first animated ball hitch cover" and brake light. Essentially, the product is a mechanical animal that lights up and moves in such a fashion that Hitch Critters claims evokes "hysterical laughter" when the driver of the vehicle hits the brakes. Choices range from a gyrating fish or bulldog to a pig riding a motorcycle. Receiving a gift like this is about one notch above being punched in the throat. If you have anybody on your gift list who actually requested this, you should probably check them into rehab instead.

For the music lover in your life, might I suggest you steer clear of the Now That's What I Call Music! Compilation: Volume 23. This cd

approaches life with the insight of a 16-year-old's libido with songs such as "Promiscuous" by Nelly Furtado, "S.E.X." by Lyfe Jennings and LaLa Brown, and "Sexy Love" by Ne-Yo. Of course, who can forget Fergie's thoughtful piece of work, "London Bridge"? Maybe on their next release, NOW could package the cd with a condom.

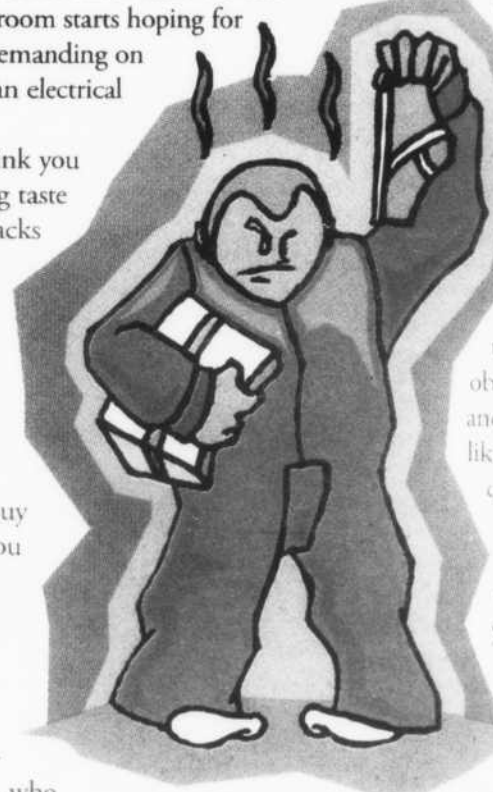
Of course, nothing says "Maybe next year," quite like a Weight Watchers cookbook. If you actually do buy somebody this gift, when they open it you should say, "Maybe we would have bought you a decent gift if we could trust you not to eat it." If you are going to get this for someone, you would probably be just as safe wrapping up a dirty sock and telling them it is to choke on.

When asked what was the worst present they have ever received, one person responded with "My mom bought me and my brothers and sister tape players and cd's." How does somebody manage to mess that up? One would think that the obvious difference between a circle and a square would prevent a mistake like that, even if cd's are sold in square cases. They are called Compact Discs for a reason.

At this point you are probably wondering why I am so bitter, and yes, it is because I have had experiences with gifts myself. Last year my dad gave me a Scott Stapp album.

I also remember a yearly tradition with my mother that involved one early present every year when we had finished putting up the tree to hold me over until Christmas day. Being in fourth grade, I was used to receiving something to do with guns or dinosaurs. So with every bit of anticipation I ripped into the package to reveal - a kaleidoscope that played the song "My Favorite Things."

With all of this in mind, you should be fully prepared to buy a decent gift for your loved ones this Christmas, and remember - if you do receive a lackluster gift, do not let anybody drop that "thought that counts" bomb. If they were thinking so hard about you, they should have realized what you would have liked.



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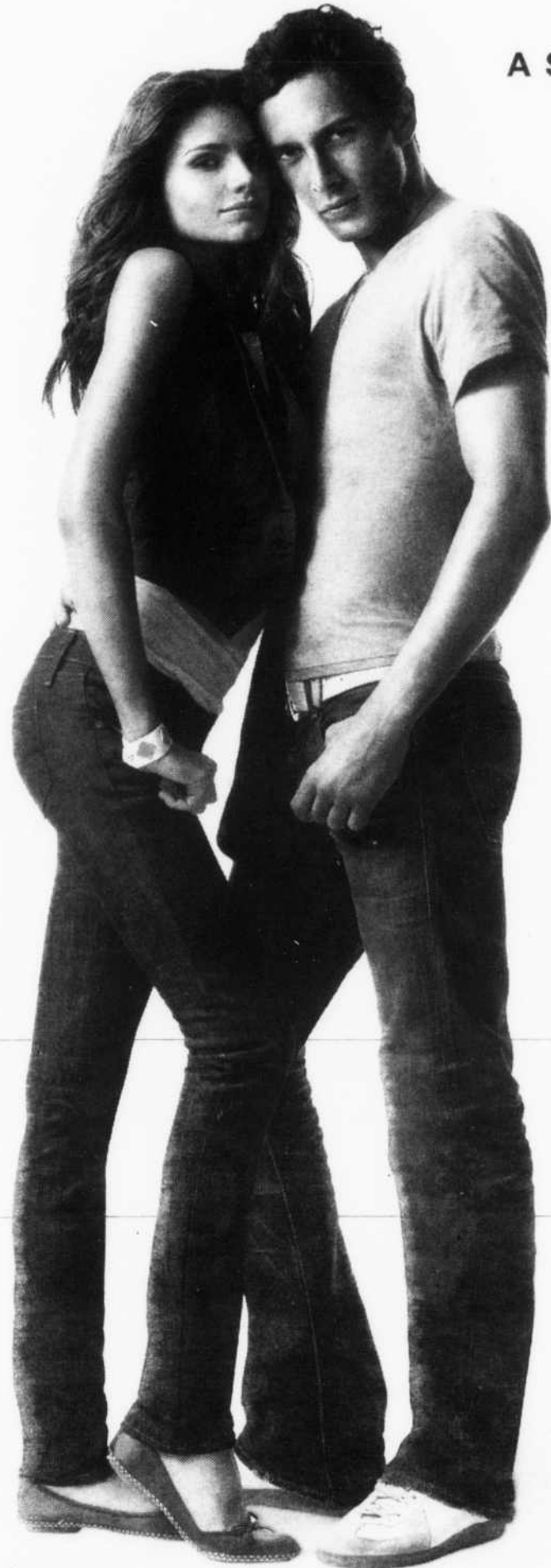
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Photo Illustration by Erica Hines | Design Editor

Customers adopt 'Grinchy' attitude

By Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

Greed, impatience, arrogance and vanity seem to be the characteristics of customers during the holiday season. Whether you work at the mall, a restaurant, or a big retailer, customers' attitudes get worse as the holidays get closer.

Though some customers are great and brighten your day, others treat you like a retail slave. In those customers' eyes you are only there to do their bidding no matter what. The evil customers don't care if there is a line and other people are waiting, or if you happen to be helping someone else when they need you.

"I think the holidays push peoples' buttons, because there are so many people out," said Jane Casey, a sophomore elementary education major.

Everything gets busy around the holidays. Everyone is out shopping, and on top of that traffic is bad. This makes people easily annoyed.

"While the employees are trying to be helpful, customers are very short [tempered]," said Briana Lamb, sophomore electronic media communication major and former sales associate at Body Shop clothing store. "I actually had a customer say to me, 'If you can't get that down, I hate you.'"

Karen Birdwell, a sophomore nursing major and American Eagle associate, said her store gets very hot when several people are in it and customers get short-tempered.

"People get really impatient and there's only so many people that can be helped," she said.

The occurrence of customers being impatient is not limited to retail. The holiday rush also affects restaurants.

"People expect to walk in with a large party and they get frustrated because they can't be seated right away," said Whitney Haldeman, a sophomore advertising major who works at the restaurant Calhouns. "They try to make it seem like it's the restaurants fault."

People make the argument that, "It's your job!" and "The customer is always right!" The truth is, though, the employees are there to help the customers – not to be abused by someone who is having a bad day because they waited till the last minute to go Christmas shopping. Also if the customer is always right then why do they need help?

Customers are not the only ones that treat associates badly during the holidays. Sometimes it is management. Not all managers are bad, but the ones who should not be in management are. Those managers are under a lot of stress and don't know how to handle it, so they take it out on the associates, thinking that will make up for their shortcomings.

"It's the crunch time," Lamb said. "So they put the pressure on."

Lamb said the company's quotas are due and the managers' superiors are getting on them. Therefore, they take it out on the employees.

"Hence why seasonal employment tends

to be just that – seasonal," Lamb said.

So remember that when you can't find the person that waited on you after New Year's. The odds are they found another job.

Also, if you plan on complaining about an associate to the management it will not do any good. The stores and restaurants are stretched thin for help as it is and they will usually not fire anyone during the holidays unless they are stealing. So don't bother.

In addition, no matter what your religion is, "Thou shall act like an ass to those helping you," is not in the scripture. So keep in mind the associate behind the counter is human. They are under enough pressure from their bosses without an ungrateful customer making it worse.

So for every one who plans on doing holiday shopping and dining this season, please be civil. Remember the holidays are not about how mean you can be to your salesperson or server. It's supposed to be about love, kindness, compassion and peace.

Here is a list of the top 10 places that you are bound to find a good deal:

1. TJ Maxx: They have department store and popular brands at a discounted price.
2. eBay: You can find everything on eBay, from clothing to unique collector's items at great prices. Just don't forget to consider delivery time.
3. Wal-Mart: They always have items at lowered prices.
4. Hastings: You can always thumb through their bargain books and previously-viewed movies for cheaper gifts.
5. Dillard's: Although they are a department store, they run a lot of 75-percent-off sales and \$2.99 to \$9.99 sales through the holidays, and if you are on your toes, you can find great gifts if you get there early. It's no joke during the holidays when they say, "The early bird gets the worm."
6. The Dollar Store: This is a great place to find little things to add to your gifts and all your wrapping needs.
7. Target: You can find everything from entertainment, to beauty products, to the right T-shirt at reasonable prices here.
8. Enchanted Planet: This is a good place to find unique gifts, and most prices are affordable.
9. Digital Planet: For your music and movie lovers, here you can find cd's, movies, video games and posters without breaking the bank.
10. Phase 2: Guys, this is the best place to go to get the girls on your list some really cool earrings or a necklace. Their jewelry selection is pretty large and very inexpensive.

Here are 10 great shopping on a budget, Gift ideas for friends or your significant other:

1. A picture frame with a picture of you and the person receiving the gift.
2. A homemade coupon book. For a friend, this book might include things like one free movie or lunch. For your significant other, you might include one back massage or a romantic dinner.
3. Mix cd's. This is a personal favorite. Music is the universal language, and you can make a cd for anyone. It could include all their favorite songs, or even be a theme cd with a message in the music you choose to include. The best part is it only requires time and a blank cd.
4. A journal with a personalized inscription inside.
5. iTunes gift card. Just about everyone in college uses iTunes, and you can get one for as low as \$15.
6. Movie theater gift certificates.
7. Your favorite book. Giving someone a book that meant some-

thing to you will probably mean a lot to them, and you don't even have to go out and buy them a new copy. You could just give them yours.

8. A photo collage. Take all your favorite photos from memories you have with the gift recipient and collage them in a nice 11x14 frame.

9. A song lyric mirror. For the sentimental, crafty gift givers, this is perfect. Take lyrics from songs that remind you of that person and buy a small mirror. Using different colored sharpies, arrange the lyrics on the mirror however you would like in your own handwriting. This way

every time they look in the mirror, they see the song lyrics, but also themselves.

10. Gift basket. This can be as cheap or expensive as you'd like. Go to the Dollar Store or Wal-Mart and buy a basket and items that would fit the recipient and arrange them in the basket. You can theme this idea. For example, you could do a bath basket with toiletries, a school basket with supplies they can use, a music basket with a cd case and cd's or other music related things, or any other themes you can think of.

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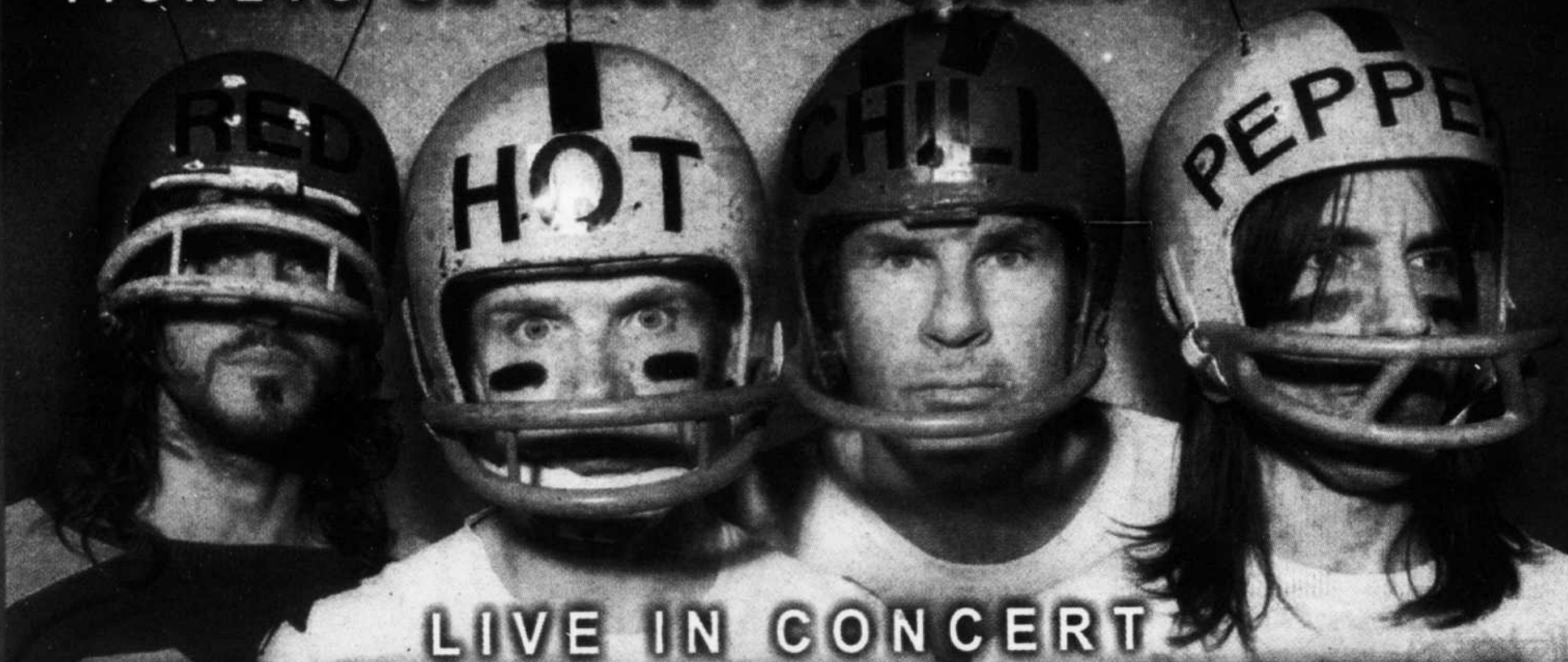
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