

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Band directors found solely responsible in misuse of funds

By Mark T. Gibson / staff

In a report to President Walker, the director of Internal Audit has recommended that Patricia Root, Linda Mitchell, and Dr. John Bingham be forced to pay the University a total of \$4,259.74 as restitution for the misdirection of University funds.

In addition, the matter will be referred to the Rutherford County Attorney General to determine if criminal prosecution is warranted.

Brenda Burkhart, director of Internal Audit, wrote in her report that funds intended to feed band students on three occasions were misdirected into an unauthorized petty cash account, and on other occasions money from other sources was diverted into both the petty cash account and an unauthorized bank account.

The report lays most of the blame on Patricia Root, the former Director of Bands, and accuses her of withholding cash which should have been given to students. In addition the report also says that she signed student's names

on money-receipt forms or directed others to do so on two occasions.

It is a violation of Tennessee Board of Regents and University regulations to maintain an unauthorized petty cash or bank account, the report says, and charges that the band did both.

Linda Mitchell, the former Assistant Director of Bands faces disciplinary action; Root and Associate Director George Megaw resigned last April.

Also named in the report is Dr. John Bingham, formerly the Chair of the Music Department. Bingham is still employed by the University, but has resigned his leadership position.

Questions were first raised when three students complained that on Sept. 9 they had received \$30 for meals while on a trip to Atlanta when the University had authorized \$49. The report states that the \$19 difference was diverted to an unauthorized petty cash fund, a total of \$2,660.

In addition, the report goes on to say that Root and her staff dined that

night using money which had been retained from the cash withheld from students.

On a trip to Opryland a month earlier, the report alleges that signatures of people who did not attend the trip were signed by Root, Mitchell, and Jennifer Stembridge, the band secretary.

The signatures were apparently used to justify cash advances made for a "scouting" trip; 23 signatures were on a sheet submitted with a travel claim when only 20 students had attended.

Further, the report states that the signatures were on a piece of steno paper with a statement typed at the top which acknowledged receipt of \$11; the report says that several of the section leaders present at the meal stated they had not received any money, and they had signed a blank piece of paper when they were taken as a group to a Nashville restaurant.

"The section leaders interviewed did not recall any statement being at the top of the sheet at the time they

"The leadership of the band exhibited poor stewardship and a lack of integrity in their handling of the band's travel funds."

*Special Review of the
MTSU Band
Department, Office of
Internal Audit*

signed it" the report says.

Other alleged improprieties include \$833 in personal cellular phone charges by Root; a check for \$161.89 written to the Murfreesboro

Electric Department by Mitchell; and \$156.48 for a meal claimed by Bingham.

In addition, the report states that Root violated University rules about contracting with vendors when she asked a student to purchase several hundred dollars worth of baseball caps for sale to bandmembers, apparently in an effort to avoid putting the order out for bid.

Band members were forced to buy T-shirts, the report says, but the only funds reported to the University were those paid for with checks; funds paid in cash appear to have been diverted to the petty cash fund.

The report notes that in the previous year those T-shirts were provided to students at no cost.

A press statement released with the audit states that a total of \$23,000 was improperly spent or diverted, but \$13,632.35 of that was legitimately used, and would have been approved under normal University spending guidelines had the rules been followed. ●

Elam named new business dean

By Sarah Way / staff

Rick Elam has been named the new dean of the College of Business at MTSU.

In a press release, Barbara Haskew, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs announced Elam's appointment.

"We are very proud of our College of Business and delighted that we were able to attract an individual of Dr. Elam's experience to help provide leadership for the future of MTSU," Haskew said.

"Dr. Elam is very interested in focusing on private fund raising to support the activities, projects, and goals of the College of Business," she said.

Elam received his BS in Business Administration from Culver-Stockton College, in Canton, Mo., and his MA and Ph.D. in Accountancy from the University of Missouri.

"This is one of the most exciting

business school opportunities in the country," Elam said. "A lot of it has to do with the demographics of this region . . . and [Rutherford County's] big economic boom right now."

Elam said he wants to get to know the business and industry leaders in the community and region, listen to their thoughts and ideas, and share his vision for MTSU's College of Business as a partner and resource.

"Dr. Elam has been successful as a teacher, scholar, and manager and he is committed to building upon the MTSU tradition of providing quality education and producing excellent students," Haskew said.

Haskew said that Elam's arrival at MTSU is at a time when "we are looking forward to moving into one of the most outstanding new educational facilities in the nation- MTSU's Business and Aerospace Building."

The building is expected to be completed in another year. ●



Mark T. Gibson / staff

Lucinda Lee catheches a laugh while informing a student of the new kiosk machine in Kirksey Old Main.

Kiosks in position around campus

By Mark T. Gibson / staff

With the addition of four electronic kiosks, MTSU has apparently become the first university in Tennessee to let students check their grades from a machine that also sends faxes, makes copies, and gives directions to buildings on campus.

Lucinda Lea, director of the Office of Information & Technology, said that the new kiosks are the result of long planning.

"We've been working on this for about two years. We wanted to provide more services to students. We spoke with President Walker, and he appropriated \$125,000 dollars from the Endowment Fund for the kiosks."

Although there were some budgetary setbacks, eventually vendors were contacted and the project put together she said.

"These units were originally designed for truck stops, so we decided that if they could take that kind of abuse then they'd fit right in here at MTSU," she said.

The units cost about \$25,000 a piece, she said, and the system a total of \$140,000. The extra money was required for the specialized software to tie the machines into the campus network.

There are four kiosks; in KUC, the library, KOM (pictured) and the Rec Center. Each one is will allow users to make copies, send and receive faxes; check on grades, and accounts; and even print unofficial transcripts.

A department directory is online, and the units will place the call for users after it looks the numbers up.

For now users can receive most hardcopy free, but in the future each sheet of paper will cost 25 cents. Lea said that the fee would pay for the paper used and help discourage people from monopolizing the kiosks.

The system contains a map of the campus and will point out its own location and the location a user would like to find; hardcopy of the map is then generated via a laser printer located within the machine.

"Faxes will cost a dollar per page to be sent; we had no control over that price" said Lea. "That's what the vendor charges us."

Users can pay either by coin or by credit card; plans are underway for the system to eventually accept Raider Funds.

The interface is both by keypad and touch screen; for some transactions -such as those involving credit cards- the PIN must be entered by keypad only.

In order to access grades or schedules, students will have to input both their social security number and their PIN. Lea said that by this fall it is hoped that students will be able to determine class availability during registration, and in the future access to TRAM for registration.

"We are also trying to put as many of these functions as we can on the World Wide Web, so that students can access them through their home [computers]" Lea added.

Some of the functions are not available now but are being added throughout the summer, Lea said. ●



photo provided

Dean Rick Elam surveys the plans of the new Aerospace/Business building

Student perishes in car accident

By Todd R. Cruse / staff

Merribeth England, age 20, was killed last Tuesday evening from injuries sustained in a one car accident on Highway 96.

England, who was traveling towards Murfreesboro on Highway 96 apparently lost control of her 1991 Mitsubishi Eclipse, causing the car to become airborne and barrel roll until finally striking a utility pole.

Vanderbilt's Life Flight medical helicopter service was called to the scene, but the victim was pronounced dead before the team could arrive.

Services for Merribeth England were held Friday at 1:00pm in the Woodmont Christian Church on Hillsboro Pike in Nashville. Her body rests in the Harpeth Hills Cemetery off of Highway 100 just past the Natchez Trace. ●

FEATURES

Boy genius plays
game show host.
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WEATHER

WED
Partly
Cloudy

High: 86
Low: 70



THUR
Sunny

High: 91
Low: 71



FRI
Sunny

High: 94
Low: 73



SPORTS

NBA stars to
highlight Wiel's camp
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OPINIONS

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SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 3, 1996

Staff Opinion

Former band staff needs lesson in morals

Everybody over the emotional age of twelve should realize that there are few moral judgments which can be viewed as black or white. In the real world, almost any moral dilemma is properly viewed in shades of gray.

Stealing is wrong. But for the moment, let's just put the issue of stealing aside, in our back pocket, as it were.

Sometimes, what matters more is who the thief is, and from whom does he steal.

In this case, the suspected individuals were Patricia Root and Linda Mitchell. The victims were MTSU students, mostly --but not always-- marching band members.

According to a report submitted by Brenda Burkhart, the director of the Internal Audit office, to President Walker, the above-named duo (and John Bingham, the former chair of the Music Department) should be forced to repay to the University a total of \$4,259.74. Burkhart's department audited the band because, in the fall of 1995 three band students found out that the University had paid the band \$49 per person for meals in Atlanta, but the band had only paid the students \$30.

The difference was, according to Burkhart's report, "retained" by band staff for a petty cash fund because Root "felt that she needed more direct control over the bands funds."

Additionally, monies from other sources were put into a bank account which was unauthorized and may have been illegal; that account

appears to have been used as a personal checking account for Root and Mitchell, and possibly for others.

Among other things, it seems to have been used to buy a nice meal for her parents, to have paid band staff family members honorariums for speaking, and apparently one person's electric bill.

At what point does sloppy bookkeeping and the presence of an unauthorized bank account become criminal theft? I'll leave it to auditors and the State and County Attorneys General to decide that.

What infuriates me is the web of deceit which involves college students, people who are almost always strained to the financial breaking point. To steal from a student is beneath contempt.

According to the audit, T-shirts were purchased from a vendor for \$5.51 each. Band students were required to purchase the shirts for \$10, when in the past the University had purchased the uniform for the students.

The report goes on to say that funds remitted by check were properly deposited to the University account. However, funds remitted by cash went straight into what the audit euphemistically calls "an unauthorized petty cash fund."

In the example cited first, the University gave the band \$49 dollars for each of 140 students to eat in Atlanta. The band paid the students \$30, and the remaining \$19 went into the "petty cash fund."

The audit report states that three of the signatures were for band members who were not present, and those signatures were forged by Pat Root and other band staff members.

On another occasion the University paid \$570 for 114 student meals per day, to include breakfast. Were the students given their money? No. Were they fed breakfast? Well...

They were given juice and doughnuts, at a cost of \$158.70. The remainder of the money was placed in a file cabinet, as part of the "petty cash fund."

That money came from funds paid by students, and from taxpayers in this state. The money was supposed to, in most cases, feed students who were representing our school. The money for food was apparently diverted instead for, among other things, Mitchell's home electric bill.

I would point out that Mitchell, Root, and other band staff are paid employees, who have a steady income from their work. College students, by contrast, often work full-time jobs, or multiple part-time jobs to put food on the table and pay those above-mentioned salaries.

To take from them isn't just wrong. It's shameful. In fact, it's worse.

It's undignified.

Mark T. Gibson
is a Senior and
the Sidelines News Editor.

**BE
SAFE AND
RESPONSIBLE
ON
THIS 4th of
JULY
HOLIDAY
WEEKEND**



From the Editor

Finding comfort in eternal life

In the beginning of this past week MTSU lost a very talented and bright student to a fatal car accident, and at the same time I had lost a friend that I had just begun to know.

Since Tuesday things have seemed very odd. I keep pondering the whole idea of death itself. Rumor has it that everything happens for a reason, but at first it is hard to believe that there is a reason for the loss of such a young life. When I sit back and take in the big scheme of things, I realize that this sort of tragic loss happens in more places than Nashville. Even if accidents do not happen for a reason, there have been many before that have had to deal with some type of loss and there will be many more to come from here until the end of time that will also experience a type of tragedy.

It was strange to attend the funeral of someone so close to my own age. It makes me wonder why the human race puts itself through such a dangerous and uncertain life. I questioned this question for a few days after Friday and until my father sent me the following on E-mail I did not fully understand:

M. Scott Peck, M.D., author of the

book *Road Less Traveled*, says "If you are determined not to risk pain, then you must do without many things: having children, getting married, the ecstasy of sex, the hope of ambition, friendship-- all that makes life alive, meaningful and significant." and "Of the thousands, even millions of risks we take in a lifetime the greatest is the risk of growing up."

This rings true in every case of tragic disasters that occur daily. No one is ever prepared for the unexplainable events that happen. The road to adulthood is one long, hard road filled with obstacles placed here for a reason. Some individuals pass these obstacles and some are never given the chance to.

There is an old adage that states "life is too short." No matter how cliché that sounds, it is in fact a true statement. No one can predict when their last day will be. Even if given the power to do so, who would want to? Life should be lived to the fullest filled with memories and experiences that will live long after you are gone. The only thing one can do is have faith and believe, that even when your life ends on earth you will live forever in eternity.

I believe that there is a place so

wonderful and exhilarating, that the human mind can not fathom the idea of being placed in such surroundings. The streets are paved with gold and the sun always shines. This place is in harmony with every emotion of every person who has ever lost a loved one and, in this great and divine place is where the souls of all humans may rest. They will never know the sorrow of pain again and they can laugh and smile at will. This place, some may refer to as heaven and others may not have a name for it, but it does exist. How am I so sure that it exists, one might ask? Because, I believe in it. If I believe in it then it exists for me, and if someone else believes in it then it exists for them, but maybe in their own way.

The point is, that after one has passed and left the mortal life behind there is no way to go but up and all that it takes is just a little faith to ensure your trip. Death is a common occurrence, not ever a pleasant one but a common one and there is nothing that anyone can do that will ever change that fact. It is a way of human nature and it is the way that keeps the world in cycle. Every minute someone dies and every minute a child is born.

Walter Scott once said "Death-the last sleep? No, it is the final awakening."

Correction

In last weeks edition of the *Sidelines* there were a couple of misrepresentation errors made on our part. We would like to appologize for any confusion.

Tom Tozer was named in the story "Board of regents approve tuition

hike" as the assistant director of economics, a position that in fact does not even exist. Mr. Tozer is, the Assistant Director of Media Relations in the Public Relations Office..

Mr. Tozer also requested not to be directly quoted since he was not an

expert on the subject matter that was at hand, and we made a typo while spelling his name.

Again we appologize for the miscommunication between our staff writer and Mr. Tozer.

Letters Policy

Sidelines encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Authors who want more than 300 words to express themselves should contact the editor. *Sidelines* keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, classification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) *Sidelines* reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the *Sidelines* office in JUB Room 310. Letters can also be sent via e-mail to the editor at: TRC007.AOL.com

SIDELINES

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FEATURES

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SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 3, 1996

Stranger danger for a thousand please Michael

By Helena Silva / staff

Michael Kearney, a twelve year old graduate student of MTSU, was the host of the Play It Safe Game Show at Stones River Mall Saturday. The game is a regular event but has never been done in a game show format until this year.

When asked what his plans for the future are, Michael replied, "...Game show host by night, Geneticist by day."

Michael says "there are many gifted children out there and yet they are all hidden. None of them want the publicity that I get." He thinks most gifted kids feel that being on TV is scary but he thinks it's fun.

Play It Safe is a safety awareness program that is sponsored by Plymouth Voyager, a division of Chrysler Corporation, and Stones River Mall. It's designed to educate kids in different aspects of safety awareness.

Deputy Jeff Griswold and Barry Benham of the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department were on hand fingerprinting children. No, the kids weren't being booked for stealing candy, the fingerprints are actually put in a booklet including other information about the child and kept in a safe place at home so that if anything should happen to the child, the parents have a record to give to police.

The winner of the Play It Safe Game Show was Calvin Carter, whose sister was chosen to play and at the last minute backed out due to a sudden case of stage fright.



photographer / staff

Calvin Carter and Saxon Smith battle it out at the Play It Safe gameshow, hosted by Michael Kearney.

Marketing Director, Donna Walsh, organized the event and hopes that the game show will become a regular part of the annual event.

Walsh read an article in the Rutherford County Magazine about Michael and decided that he would be a "natural" fit for this years Play it Safe program.

Michael hold game show hosting as one of many goals. He received his Associates Degree in Geology from Santa Rosa Junior College, his Bachelors degree in Anthropology from University of South Alabama and is working on his Masters in Chemistry here at MTSU.

Also participating was Michael's

younger sister Maeghan, a home high school student, the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department, the Fire Department, Vince and Larry (crash car dummies), Tennessee Medical Center, Scrubby Bear and Vertical Inline. ●

Achieve inner peace by knowing your grocery

By Jeremy W. Stanley / staff

Does the thought of buying groceries conjure up nightmare images of suburban moms jousting for parking space in their mini-vans? Do you see blue-haired old ladies whipping buggies to their optimum speed so they can ram into the Hostess break cakes, sea-food displays and the back of your legs every time you think about going to buy bread? Do long lines, screaming kids and those annoying people with just 15 items but 35 coupons discourage you from buying groceries? Do you spend \$20 then look in the bag and wonder what cost so much? If any or all the questions above describe you, this article is what you need. Nearly three years of working in a grocery store and two years as a student on a tight budget have given me experience as a shopper. I'm going to share with you ways to avoid the unpleasantness of buying groceries and some ideas about stretching your dollar.

Beating the Little Old Ladies

As a self-diagnosed crowd-phobic let me tell you that the best way to beat the crowds is not to buy when people are awake. Murfreesboro has a 24 hour Walmart Superstore and an all night Kroger allowing shopping, at any time. Of course, most people don't shop at three o'clock in the morning, and I hope they don't start because that's when I do my buying. At more civilized hours like 11 p.m., you'll find many of the annoyances of shopping gone. You'll be able to park at the door and you'll find no lines to stand in. An added bonus is that many of these all night places stock at night, which means that if your favorite pop-tart is not on the shelf there will be a guy dying to dig it out of a box for you.

A bit of warning about shopping late at night—be extra cautious about your surroundings. Late night shopping has its perks, its dangers and its surprises. Several weeks back while suffering with a slight cold, I

carried on a fifteen minute political conversation with what I thought was a slight young man in a sports coat and slacks. Toward the end of the conversation, I slowly began to realize that this man, with just a wisp of a mustache, was actually a woman dressed like a man. I didn't ask why.

If you're into sleeping at night or if weirdoes kind of turn you off, your best bet is to go shopping on off days. These are days when crowds are smaller. For many stores that day is Tuesday. On Fridays everyone has their check, on Mondays people are picking up things they forgot on Friday. This is why some stores offer double coupons on Tuesdays—to draw people in.

Nine Pillars of Grocery Wisdom

No matter what time you buy groceries there are certain things you should always do.

* Find a place you like and keep going there. Some people drive to five different stores chasing the bargains. This is not cost effective. The fuel you burn going from one place to the other cancels out your savings as well as making a very boring evening. Another reason to stay at one place is so you can know what the store carries so you can find coupons you can use.

* Look into the refrigerator before you go to buy anything. That way you can get rid of that green stuff that might gain consciousness and try to eat its way out of the fridge. Likewise, you can see what your roommate has actually "borrowed" so you can beat your fair share of the grocery money out of him. A knotted plow line is best for these beatings but you can substitute a bike chain or

sweaty gym socks if needed.

A third reason for looking into the refrigerator is to think about the space you have for storage. Dorm rooms are not big enough to house flies, much less a ten pound tub of peanut butter. Use your head. You don't want to end up like a friend of mine who kept potato chips under his bed. He thought he was being quite clever until he woke up to find Mickey and Minnie on the foot of his bed trying to make a nest of his covers.

* To get the freshest product, always pull from the back. If you've watched the little old ladies you know they always grab the milk that is in the back of the case. They know that store clerks rotate the old stuff out in hopes of getting rid of it before it goes bad. This practice goes on in every department including health

and beauty aids.

* Read the coupons. That includes the fine print which may stipulate you can't use it on specific sizes, or during other sales or while it is raining meat balls. Read the coupons to keep from being embarrassed.

* Don't try to get away with anything. It is true that fifty percent of all check-out clerks are devoid of any intelligence, managers hire them that way, but that is not excuse for taking advantage of them. Also every checker is monitored by cameras.

* Never buy a dented can even if it is on sale. Once a can is dented bacteria becomes a concern. Micro fractures can let in all kinds of nasty things, and the bend in the metal itself gives the bacteria a place to colonize.

Never buy a dented can, even if it is on sale. Once a can is dented, bacteria becomes a concern.

* Eggs can still be bought by the half dozen. This is a throw back to the days of the general store. Call for assistance and have the dairy manager tear the egg crate in half. Buying eggs this way is cheaper and you don't end up wasting any.

* Learn to complain. If you get back to the dorm and find your grapes squished or your hot-dogs missing, go back to the store. Even if you don't have a receipt most places will replace missing or damaged items automatically. Bringing something back will also insure your goods will be watched more closely next time.

Trade Tricks

Now that you know some of the basics here are some insider tips.

Talk to everyone at the store. Pretend it is a church gathering. Once people recognize you they'll be willing to look in the back for specialty items, they'll make sure you're getting the freshest produce and they may even give you a break on the price. A smile goes a long way with people who work long hours for little pay.

If you buy groceries early in the morning go by the bakery. You'll find donuts and pastries reduced because they're a day old.

Off brands are often made by the same people as brand name products. Study the back of the can and you'll see you'll be getting the same quality at a cheaper price.

The best advice I can give to the novice or veteran grocery buyer is to try to make the most of the place you go. Learn all you can about the store including the managers name so that you will become a regular. This status can open doors to better quality products and discounts. ●

Note: The author of this article is not a licensed dietician nor is he a staff writer for Martha Stewart Living. The views stated within this article are not necessarily those of the university or Sidelines staff.

Sweet Dreams for the late Patsy Cline

By Dustin Schrimpsner / staff

Have you ever fallen to pieces over the mellow sweet sound of Patsy Cline's voice? If you go crazy and feel lonely ever time you think of her tragic death, don't be blue.

Patsy Cline will be honored on July 4, in Camden, Tenn. Starting at 9 a.m. the sight of the infamous plane crash that took the lives of Patsy Cline, Hawkshaw Hawkins, Cowboy Copas and pilot Randy Hughes, will be

flooded with performers and music lovers alike to pay tribute to memory of the slain entertainers.

According to Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Amy Barret, "People have wanted to do something like this for years and now it will be a reality."

The program will begin July 4 with a talent competition for impersonators of the honored stars. Several local acts are slated to perform and the day will end with a magnificent fireworks display.

July 5 will feature Bluegrass and Gospel music groups. A monument is to be dedicated to the crash victims at the July 6 finale which will also feature musical acts including Patsy Cline's daughter, Julie.

The cost of the event will be \$5for July 4 and 5, and \$10 dollars for July 6. Those wishing to participate in all three days can purchase a pass for \$15.

For more information, contact Lynn Pratt at (901) 968-2817. ●

Adults Belong in College

Adult Services Center will be holding a work shop for adults considering attending college on Thursday July 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. in KUC 320. For more information on this or any other adult service offered by MTSU call 898-5989.

Light at the end of tunnel

By Dustin Schrimpsner & John King / staff

In the Fall of '91 the light was dim. Five years and many challenges later, the light at the end would cast a sharp glare on even the most doubting of eyes. A native of Knoxville, Tenn., 34-year-old John King said that "while the trip to Murfreesboro only lasted three hours, the repercussions of total relocation lasted much longer." The trip John is talking about is the long haul through the dark tunnel that is adult education.

John is among an ever-growing number of students labeled non-traditional. While not necessarily looking for a shoulder to cry on, most older students could easily fill an evening explaining the hardships facing non-traditional students.

What is a non-traditional student?

Adult Services Center director, Dr. Carol Ann Baily describes a non-traditional student as "a student with adult responsibilities." Adult responsibilities refers to anything from the responsibility of getting back into the swing of school after years away from the books, to the responsibility of having to schedule study time and classes around a family or sick loved one.

President of the Older, Wiser Learners (OWLS), Emmaly Little says that in years past "non-traditional student" has referred to any student not finishing college within four years after graduating from high school.

"These days people graduating in four years are becoming non-traditional," Little says. "Over 52% of MTSU is now 23 or older. This doesn't include single mothers who are younger than 23 or post military people and younger people with adult responsibilities. The real traditional student is now 23 to 65."

Little hasn't just done her homework, she is a relatively young mother of three and grandmother of six who has just completed course work for a Bachelors degree in criminal justice. She has begun work toward a Masters degree in criminal justice and plans to attend Nashville School of Law and eventually work with juvenile offenders.

An unexpected problem that many non-traditional students are now facing is the care of indigent parents. Because of such concerns, Emmaly Little believes that her generation will be facing 50 to 60 as middle age. In an era when most people only lived to be 40, Emmaly's grandparents lived into their 90's. When contemplating the state of social security and the age of her grandparents, Emmaly said to herself, "I sat down and thought about it. If I live a long time I'll have to take care of myself."

Little returned to school as a 40-year-old to find a much freer atmosphere. "In the 1950's you didn't argue with a teacher, especially if you were a woman," she confides.

When Emmaly went back to school many of her friends would joke, "So what do you want to do when you grow up?" With a look of fierce determination and tremendous self pride, she tells me she would answer them by saying that she didn't know but that she was sure she would be good at it.

The OWLS group that Little currently heads works closely with the Adult Services Center and is designed to be a support group and helping hand for those facing great adversity while continuing their education. Among other things, the group helps students arrange child care while they are working or in class, it helps to arrange funding so that non-traditional students can better afford college, as well as helping students cope with tight job/family/school schedules.

To all non-traditional students stumbling and even crawling after that light at the end of the tunnel, hang in there. To those that have nearly completed the trek like John and Emmaly, congratulations. The non-traditional student of the past will definitely be the traditional student of the future. If the world makes you feel as if you haven't got a friend, a wise old OWL told me that there are folks around the MTSU tunnel that will work to pull

SPORTS & RECREATION

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SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 3, 1996

Commentary

By Keith Russell

Big-name free agents mean busy summer for NBA GM's

OK NBA fans, first things first. We can all let out a collective sigh of relief after the players and owners finally accomplished this past week what no other pro sports league can seem to: avoid a strike or lockout by signing a collective bargaining agreement.

It's nice to know that at least one of the major sports realizes that the worst PR blunder an industry can make is to not put their product out on the field. When you get right down to it, the people who come to games could care less about who received compensation for such and such licensing rights, or which side knuckled under to the pressure of the other. As long as the players keep playing and the ticket prices don't start costing more than their car payments, fans will keep the stands filled and drive to the mall to buy the new Air Jordans. It's just when we see players in Armani suits instead of warm-ups and acting as if they were auditioning for a bit part in L.A. Law that it makes us want to puke into our hightops. And heaven knows with all of hockey and baseball's dim-witted labor squabbles, sports fans have lost enough of their lunches lately.

Of course, for the NBA to not nail a deal down now would have been as dumb as letting Chris Webber keep track of your team's timeouts. On the heels of a banner season which saw Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls win more games than any other team in history, this summer promises to be just as eventful. Dream Team III will play in the Olympics next month (the over-under for the number of nations Charles Barkley will offend is holding steady at 11), and this off-season could see no less than 10 of the league's best players—including his Airness—switching teams either through free agency or trade. Here's a rundown of the summer that might be:

It is almost inconceivable that Jordan would leave the Bulls or Chicago, even if his \$18 million per year asking price makes owner Jerry Reinsdorf feel woozy. Michael will get his money, even if it means Reinsdorf having to sell \$20 hot dogs at USAir Arena next year.

The same can not be said, however, for Shaquille O'Neal. Rumors throughout the season had Shaq packing his bags for the smoggy sunsets of Los Angeles to play for the Lakers, and it just might happen. Lakers general manager Jerry West has been shopping center Vlade Divac (although he'd rather retire than leave L.A.) around—the most recent deal having him shipped to Charlotte for the rights to teen phenom Kobe Bryant—thereby leaving a hole to fill in the middle. Orlando will certainly do everything it can to keep Superman around, but it also has Horace Grant's contract to worry about. Add that to the fact that O'Neal and Magic coach Brian Hill appear to be at odds, and one wonders if there will be enough cash in the Magic Kingdom's coffers to keep the big fella in Florida.

But the funny thing is, it might not be in Orlando's best interest to Please see NBA on page 5

NBA stars to appear in Wiel's hoops camp

By Keith Russell / staff

Both of MTSU's men's and women's basketball programs will wrap up their summer camp seasons next month with individual day camps for area youth.

Appearances by three former North Carolina Tarheel and current NBA players Eric Montross, Hubert Davis, and Rick Fox will highlight new Head Basketball Coach Randy Wiel's first individual basketball camp at MTSU.

The camp, to be held from July 15-19 at Murphy Center, is designed for boys who will be entering grades 3-9 this fall. Coordinators for the camp expect close the 100 youngsters to sign up.

"The kids will have a lot of fun," said assistant Basketball Coach Chris Starks, who is in charge of running the day-to-day operations of the camp. Campers will meet as a group each morning, then break up into smaller groups for instructions and activities based upon which position they play.

No doubt the most memorable moments for camp-goers will be the appearances by the NBA pros, who are scheduled to appear on three separate days. Montross, the starting center for North Carolina's last national championship team in 1993 who played for the Boston Celtics last season before being traded to the Dallas Mavericks just days before this year's NBA Draft on June 26, will be on campus Monday, July 17. Davis, also a member the Tarheels last

championship squad and now a reserve guard for the New York Knicks, is scheduled to appear Wednesday, July 19. The date for Fox's appearance is still to be decided, although the Celtics forward is expected to attend.

The participation of the three former Tarheels in the camp was a result of their past connections to Coach Wiel, who was an assistant coach under Dean Smith during each of the player's college playing careers at Chapel Hill.

The connection between Wiel and his alma mater was also a reason behind the Blue Raiders recent scheduling of a game at North Carolina for the upcoming 1996-97 season.

In addition to the three NBA players, there will be a number of current and former Blue Raider players on hand to help out with camp, and Coach Wiel will also play a vital role.

"He'll give a talk to the kids everyday, and come down and do a lot of things with them," said Starks, in response to a recent report in the Tennessee that many college head coaches rarely took an active role in their summer camps. "Coach Wiel will be very accessible."

Costs for the camp are normally \$155, but there is a special being offered to MTSU employees, who can sign up their sons for \$75. The discount is hoped to stir up more local and community interest in the Blue Raider basketball program, according to Starks.

"This is our big PR camp. We want to try to get some excitement

"This is our big PR camp. We want to try to get some excitement generated about the program and get people talking about next season."

Chris Starks
MTSU basketball coach



Keith Russell / staff

Hoopin' it up

A group of young would-be basketball stars work on fundamentals at Alumni Memorial Gym during the Lady Raider "Stars of Tomorrow" basketball camp, which started last week on campus.

generated about the program and get people talking about next season."

Meanwhile, the Lady Raiders are expecting as many as 200 girls to sign up for its grade 5-12 "Stars of Tomorrow" individual camp, and are also offering a fee discount to members of the MTSU community.

"This camp is real good for the

younger players, because we emphasize a lot of fundamental skills," related assistant coach and camp organizer Altherias Warmley.

Those interested in signing up for either camp can call Chris Starks, 898-2178, for the boy's camp, or Altherias Warmley, 898-2450, for the girls camp. ●

Tickets available for Rec trips to Olympic events

By Keith Russell / staff

Students can still purchase a limited number of tickets to one of the Campus Recreation department's trips to selected Summer Olympic events in and around Atlanta next month.

Still available are tickets to women's basketball, men and women's volleyball, men and women's soccer,

and canoeing and kayaking competitions. Men's basketball tickets have already sold out.

As of Monday, 10 spots were still available for the women's basketball doubleheader on Saturday, July 27, featuring Japan vs. Italy and China vs. Brazil. The next most available tickets are for women's volleyball preliminaries (two matches) to be held

on July 20.

Two tickets also remain unsold for the Thursday, July 25, soccer doubleheader in Birmingham, Al. Brazil and Germany will square off in women's competition, followed by a men's game between Italy and South Korea.

Only one space is available for the following trips: men's volleyball

preliminaries on July 21, and canoeing and Kayaking preliminary action at the River on Friday, July 26.

Tickets can be purchased at the Rec Center for around \$40. This includes van transportation from MTSU, parking, and a ticket to the event. Those interested can call Campus Recreation at 898-2104 for additional information. ●

U.S. Olympic baseball team drops game to Cuban team, 7-2

By Tom Sharp / Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Team USA lost a game to Cuba on Tuesday, but may have found its No. 1 starter.

Cuba pounded three Team USA relievers for six runs in the eighth inning to erase a 2-1 deficit for a 7-2 victory at Bill Meyer Stadium in Knoxville.

The victory gives the Olympic gold medal favorites three wins in four games against the American team.

The teams conclude their five-game set July 4th in Norfolk, Va.

The good news Tuesday for Team USA was the performance of starter Seth Greisinger. The former University of Virginia player pitched seven strong innings, giving up five hits and one run. He walked nobody and struck out six.

Greisinger faced just one above the minimum through five innings, with the help of three double plays started

by shortstop Augie Ojeda. Team USA manager Skip Bertman said before the game the No. 1 starter's position was up for grabs between Greisinger and Kris Benson.

Team USA took a 2-1 lead in the top of the eighth on Travis Lee's solo home run. But the bullpen, with Bertman taking a look at less frequently used relievers three days before he has to cut the team from 25 down to 20 players, couldn't make it stand up.

Cuba got a two-run double by Antonio Pacheco, a RBI single by Omar Linares and a three-run home run by pinch-hitter Orestes Kindelan to break open

the game in the eighth.

The Cubans victimized Team USA relievers Mark Johnson, Jeff Weaver and Eric DuBose in the big inning.

Osmani Bero, a hard-throwing 6-6 righthander, started for Cuba. He pitched six innings, gave up one run on five hits, walked two and struck out five.

Reliever Pedro Lazo got the win despite giving up Lee's go-ahead homer.

Team USA took a 1-0 lead in the fifth when Warren Morris walked with the bases loaded. Cuba tied it 1-1 off Greisinger on catcher Angel Lopez's opposite field homer leading off the sixth. ●

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NBA: GM's busy summer ahead

Continued from page 4

keep Shaq. That's because he's not the only marquee center that will be available this summer, with Georgetown alums Alonzo Mourning and Dikembe Mutombo also testing the free agent waters. While both are sure to command premium bucks, they probably won't reel in O'Neal's \$15-20 million price tag, meaning that the Magic could still have a quality big man and manage to keep the rest of its talented nucleus intact. With all good plans, of course, there is a catch: Orlando would have to fit Mourning or Mutombo into its salary cap, whereas there would be no dollar limit on resigning Shaq.

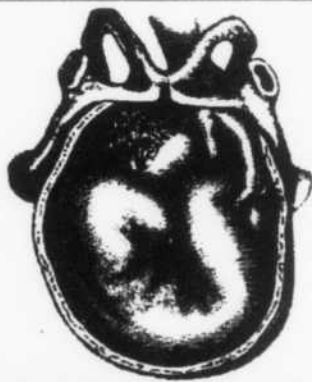
Two other teams who will also be wheeling and dealing in the coming months are Phoenix and New York. The Suns, looking for young legs, have Barkley and point guard Kevin Johnson on the trading block, with talk of Sir Charles being shipped to the Rockets or Robert Horry and Sam Cassell (a steal for Phoenix, if you ask me) and K.J. rumored to be headed to Dallas for Jimmy Jackson and some parting gifts. There's even talk of the Hornets' Larry Johnson in Suns duds next season. The question

is, can any of the deals teach Danny Manning how to play defense? The Knicks, meanwhile, have managed to free up more than \$9 million under their salary cap in order to add a big name to go along with Patrick Ewing and their new trio of rookies. Look for the Big Apple bullies to pick up a proven scorer, but don't look for John Starks to be hogging the ball at the Garden next year. According to a recent article by the New York Times, the Knicks have been trying to unload the head-butting 3-point bomber, but haven't had any takers. Certainly the Clippers will come calling.

Along with O'Neal and co., there is also a bundle of second-tier NBA All-Stars who are expecting to hit the jackpot. Knick-killer Reggie Miller,

Isotoner spokesman-in-waiting (he is, after all, "the Glove") Gary Payton, and assist man John Stockton head this list, along with the youngsters like Juwan Howard and Detroit's Allen Houston. Of the first three, Miller seems the most likely to jettison his current squad, while Payton and Stockton will probably stay put, thanks to the desires of their superstar power forward teammates (Shawn Kemp and Karl Malone, respectively), who know how hard it is to find a gifted point guard who thinks pass first.

But no matter where any of them decide to lace up their sneakers in the future, at least we'll know that there is, in fact, a future. For once a sport has it right. Out with the lawyers, in with the lay-ups. It almost makes you want to eat again. ●



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THURSDAYS

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and the Presbyterian Student Fellowship are sponsoring ongoing joint fellowship on Christian Character at the PSF every Thursday at 6:30 beginning May 16. Dinner will be served at 6:00 for a fee of \$2.00. Everyone is welcome. For more info. call Mike @ 893-1737 or Philip @ 893-1737.

MTSU SENIOR STUDIES

Classes will be held for seniors on both computer literacy and investment throughout the summer. Interested parties should contact Cynthia Drenan or Mike Reed @898-2179

TBA

Erudite Emancipator will be holding meetings in the Fall Semester. A tentative list for those interested in joining the reading group include: Brothers and Sisters - Bebe Moore(\$6.99), Makes Me Wanna Holler - Nathan McCall (\$12.00), When We Were Colored - Clifton L. Foulbert (\$8.95), Never Satisfied - Michael Baisden (\$13.95), Disappearing Acts -Terry McMillan (\$?), Claiming Earth - Haki Madhubuti (\$22.00), and Racial Healing - Harlen L.

Dalton (\$22.50). Discussions may also include poetry, and current events. There is a possibility that group discounts will be available. Interested parties should contact Angela Bond or Inez Chopfield at (901) 424-2395.

CALL FOR ALL ACTORS

MTSU's Crime Stoppers is having open call for actors for some Public Service Announcements we are producing for television this summer. Casting will take placeon Wednesday June 26 from 3:30 to 5:00pm and Thursday June 27 from 3:30 to 5:00pm. For more information and to sign up see the notice posted on the bulletin board outside of Television Studio B in the LRC.

ABUSE PREVENTION

Child Abuse Prevention of Tennessee needs volunteers to answer the statewide Parent Helpline/Domestic Violence Hotline, to work with parents of newborns in the Parent Pathway Program, to assist with parenting classes, or to assist with childcare during the parenting classes. Training begins in September. For more information, call Riki Lawrence at 227-2273

THURSDAY JULY, 11

All Seniors planning on graduating in August must take the ACT-COMP as a condition of graduation. The test will be given on July 11 in the James Union Building in the Tennessee Room. You may choose from the following test times: 8:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., or 6:00 p.m. The test should take two and one-half hours. Any questions should be directed to the office of Betty Dandridge Johnson @898-2854.

THURSDAY JULY, 18

Oak Creek Golf Association is sponsoring the First Annual Charity Golf Scramble to benefit Children's Discovery House. Shotgun start will be at 2:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Entry fees are as follows: \$100 per golfer, \$600 (HOLE SPONSOR) purchases a four-man team and promo at tee box, \$2000 (CORPORATE SPONSOR) purchases two four-man teams and two family memberships to Children's DIScovery House. Prizes for closest to pin, longest drive, and best team. A new car will be awarded for a hole-in-one! Register berfore June 30 through Children's Discovery House @ 890-2300.

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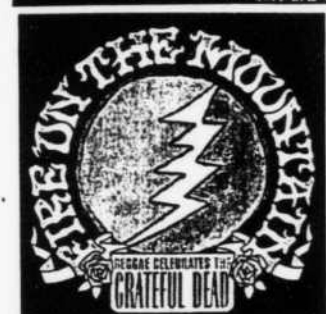
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