



SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



MTSU beats
Tech in
quadruple
overtime.

See page 8

Murfreesboro, TN

Flames destroy local chapel

Soot, water damage – all that remains at Woodfin

Wesley R. Bush
Staff Reporter

When the flames were extinguished and the smoke began to clear, all that remained was a layer of soot, water-soaked carpet and questions of what to do next.

About 9 a.m. Thursday, John "Bubba" Woodfin, owner of the 50-year-old Woodfin Funeral Chapel, 915 N. Tennessee Blvd., could do nothing but watch as firefighters struggled to put out a fire that erupted between two workers from Roscoe Brown Inc. were installing new heating units in the building.

"It's unfortunate that the fire occurred," said Woodfin, "but it could have been a lot worse."

A gas line that was left on may have been the cause of the blaze that exploded near the two workers and quickly engulfed the attic area of the chapel, said Murfreesboro Fire Chief David Baxter.

"Because of the way the building was constructed," said Baxter, "we had to use the telescopic (fire engine-based hose) until we could get closer."

Four firefighters were transported to Middle Tennessee Medical Center while battling the initial fire.

One fireman collapsed from heat exhaustion and another

suffered from chest pains. Two drivers were treated for smoke inhalation and a man installing the heating units sustained burns. All were treated and released within a short time.

Two bodies awaiting burial were in the building when the fire started but were immediately removed and taken to another office in Smyrna, Tenn.

Woodfin said he had to leave in the midst of the fire because he had a funeral to attend.

"We were scheduled to have a funeral at 2 (o'clock)," he said, "so we had to move it to 3 (o'clock) at another location. There was nothing I could do (about the fire)."

The fire was reported by Donald Hughes, a Water and Sewer Department employee, who was driving by and radioed his dispatcher when he saw smoke rising from the building.

Murfreesboro police blocked off both directions of Tennessee Boulevard in front of the chapel for more than an hour so fire crews could stretch water hoses across the street to an available hydrant.

Approximately 30 firefighters joined efforts to save the building. Several volunteer and off-duty firemen also came to assist.

"I came to help if they needed it," said Michael Bartlett, an

off-duty firefighter who heard the call on the radio. "It can take a lot out of a person when they have about 50 extra pounds of equipment on and they're trying to put out a fire that they can't see because of the smoke."

During the blaze, firefighters lost a chainsaw that was being used to cut through sections of the building to reach the fire.

After the main fire was put out, smoke was seen rising from the roof again, but was quickly extinguished.

"This particular fire wasn't an easy one to put out," said Jimmy Francis, deputy fire chief. "Because of the way the building was constructed and the location of the fire, it took some effort to bring it under control."

Francis also happened to be a pallbearer for the relocated funeral. And he was able to attend it despite the Woodfin fire.

Firefighters remained on the scene several hours after the fire was extinguished to ensure that it would not ignite again from smoldering wood.

Damage estimates are being evaluated by insurance companies while the fire is being fully investigated.

"We're going to have a meeting," said Woodfin, "and we'll decide then where to take it from here." ■



Photos by Wesley R. Bush | Staff Photographer
Firefighters attempt to extinguish the fire at Woodfin Memorial Chapel. The chapel was destroyed last Thursday around 9 a.m. when a fire started in the attic. Murfreesboro Fire Chief David Baxter said an open gas line may have been the cause of the blaze.



Fires burn hot on officials' minds

Turner Hutchens
Staff Reporter

The deadly Seton Hall University dorm fire in Newark, N.J., as well as the Feb. 10 fire at Woodfin Funeral Chapel have brought attention to the issue of fire safety for students.

"The university housing is most important," said Bill Smotherman, director of Construction Administration. "That's where the more hazardous conditions exist, where we have people sleeping where a fire might occur."

"Basically, everyone is on their own if there's a fire," said David Holtzman, area coordinator for Monahan Hall. "They hear the alarm and get out."

The dorms all have smoke alarms, said Holtzman, and there are fire extinguishers in every hall. In addition, every dorm is required to have two fire drills each semester.

"There are some students who ignore the alarm during the drill," he said. "We try to get in touch with them after the fire and let them know how important it is to get out."

Educating students about fire safety is a significant consideration.

"The most important thing is to educate people on how to evacuate," said Ken Honeycut, Murfreesboro fire marshal.

"The first semester I was here, a fire alarm went off and I had no idea what it was," said sophomore Sara Saunders, who lives in Monahan. "All I knew was it was a loud noise. When I stepped out of my door my RA came along, telling everybody to get out of the building."

"When we get there, search and rescue is first priority," said Honeycut. "We have a special team just for search and rescue."

The fire department has special plans and equipment to deal with fires at MTSU. Fire trucks respond simultaneously from

three stations, no matter the situation. There is a response time of about four minutes from the time they receive the call.

The fire department also has layouts and fire-fighting plans for each building.

"We send four engines out on every initial response to MTSU," said Jetty McCullough, assistant fire chief. "Nineteen people total for every initial response."

Since Jan. 10, when the spring semester began, the fire department has made 17 runs to the MTSU campus, which is about average.

Most of the 17 cases were smoke scares or small fires, such as the small, outdoor fire at the Keathley University Center on Feb. 3, which was caused by a careless smoker.

The fire trucks do not come directly because of the alarms. The campus police are alerted first, and they contact the fire department, who send fire trucks and personnel.

"When we arrive, the campus police are already there," said McCullough. "They tell us what the situation is, where to look for the fire. The campus police are extremely helpful."

Most of the time the alarms are false. Last Wednesday, a KUC smoke alarm in the air duct malfunctioned. Sometimes, it is a prank.

"We had a little game with some of the students for a while last year," said McCullough. "They would see how many times they could pull the alarm without getting caught. But when some of them got suspended, that pretty much ended."

"As far as actual fires go, we haven't had any in about a year. It's really mostly alarm-system malfunctions."

"We have been extremely fortunate with fires on this campus," said Terry Logan, campus safety officer. "We've only had one fire of any significance in



Photo Illustration by Grant Fletcher | Staff Photographer
A student attempts to pull a fire alarm inside a residence hall.

the past 10 years."

That was in August of 1992 in family housing. The residents left a fan on while they went away for the weekend. At some point during the weekend, the fan shorted out and started a fire, Logan explained.

All the damage was confined to that apartment, aside from a little smoke damage," said Logan. "No one was injured."

In fact, there have been

almost no injuries from fire in the past decade.

"The only one I can remember is one police officer who had to go to the hospital because of smoke inhalation," said Logan. "There was no real fire that time, but I think the food in the oven was a complete loss."

"If someone sees a fire, they should immediately get out of the building," said Logan. "Then call campus security at 2424." ■

Health plan may leave students hurting

Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum
Staff Reporter

Love hurts. So does being uninsured following a major car accident, said Wayne Wood, hospital spokesman for Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

MTSU does not directly offer an insurance plan to students who are not covered by private health insurance or family health plans. ReliaStar Life Insurance Company, located in Minnesota, was chosen by the Tennessee Board of Regents to offer affordable health insurance to the majority of Tennessee public university students, including MTSU students.

How does the "affordable" aspect of the plan affect the effectiveness of the plan?

ReliaStar's plan offers three health insurance options. Plan I costs \$620 annually, but only has a \$100,000 maximum benefit for each injury or sickness. Plan II, costing \$670 annually, has a maximum benefit of \$150,000 for each injury or sickness. Plan III, specifically for international students, costs \$466 annually and has a \$150,000 maximum benefit for each injury or illness.

"It's your basic accident and illness insurance," said Jan Garrett, MTSU building activities attendant.

With the high cost of medical expenses, is this coverage enough?

"If somebody has too much to drink and has a relatively minor smash up, it can cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000," said Wood. If the injuries include a broken bone, orthopedic surgery may be necessary and the cost can easily increase to \$15,000 to \$20,000, Wood explained.

"A catastrophic car accident, which could be the worst thing to ever happen to a person, but not uncommon, can easily cost \$500,000, not including (physical) rehabilitation," Wood said.

Depending on which of the ReliaStar plans is purchased, only about 20 to 30 percent of a serious car accident would be paid for, leaving the student with substantial medical expenses.

"To make the cost reasonable for students and (provide) good coverage, the benefits go down, so the cost will go down," said Tom Miller, college health underwriter for ReliaStar. "If you look at the annual cost divided by 12, it's about half the cost of private insurance."

Most private insurance plans have a maximum benefit of at least \$1,000,000, but for students who do not have private or family coverage, some coverage is better than none at all, explained Wood.

Students can purchase private insurance, but the cost may be unrealistic depending on the student's financial situation.

"People buying their own ... face dramatically higher premiums than just a few years ago ... Individual coverage can run \$1,500 to \$2,500 a year..." reported the web site of the National Commission on Health Care, a not-for-profit organization working to improve health care in the United States.

An estimated 44.3 million people in the United States did not have health insurance for the entire year in 1998, reported the U.S. Census Bureau's web site. People from 18 to 24

See Health, 2

Health: Student plan hurts

Continued from 1

years of age were more likely than any other age group to lack coverage.

"People are confused and intimidated by insurance," said Garrett. To qualify for ReliaStar's insurance plan, students must be enrolled in at least six semester hours and the plan covers holidays and summers. Individual semester coverage is also available. For more information, students can call Garrett at 898-2590 and ReliaStar brochures are available in the Keathley University Center, Room 304.

The Tennessee Board of Regents vice chancellor was unavailable for comment at press time. ■

Chancellor recommended for Tennessee Board of Regents

Staff Reports

The Tennessee Board of Regents Search Committee for the chancellor will recommend Charles W. Manning as the next chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents. A special called meeting of the board will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 16, to act on this recommendation.

The board meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel at 623 Union in Downtown Nashville. In addition the search committee will meet via conference call on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 4:30 p.m. to discuss this recommendation.

Manning presently serves as the chancellor of the university system of West Virginia and has held this position since 1990. He previously served as the executive vice chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for higher education and has held

several other leadership positions in higher education in Colorado and Missouri. Manning earned his B.A. in chemistry from Western Maryland College and his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Maryland.

"We are delighted to have attracted an educator of Manning's caliber and experience to the Tennessee Board of Regents," said Bill Watkins, chair of the search committee for the chancellor. "His successful leadership and depth of experience will lead our system into the future."

The Tennessee Board of Regents is the sixth largest system of higher education in the United States. The system has six universities, 12 community colleges, two technical institutes and 26 technology centers, over 180,000 students, over 13,000 employees, and an annual budget over 1.2 billion dollars.

On Campus

To submit an announcement for On Campus, come by the James Union Building Room 308. Due to limited space, some announcements with later dates may be held.

Feb. 14-16

Registration for Innertube Water Polo will be held in the Campus Recreation Center. A captains' meeting will be held Feb. 17 at 5 p.m., and the play begins on Feb. 21. For more information, contact Karolyn at 898-2104.

Feb. 14

Frances Weaver, a noted author and lecturer, will be speaking in Wright Music Hall from 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. The lecture, entitled "I'm Not as Old as I Used to Be," is sponsored by MTSU, the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services and the Center for Health and Human Services. Reservations can be made by calling Lawrence at 898-5950. There is no charge for the event, but space is limited.

Feb. 18

Faculty proposals for summer and fall of 2001 classes are due to the Board of Trustees of the Cooperative Center of Study Abroad. Appropriate courses in all disciplines are welcome.

Outdoor Pursuits is offering a caving trip to the Espey Cave at 2:30 p.m. MTSU will provide helmets and head lamps. The cost is \$10 for students and \$12 for guests with a limit of 10. For more information, contact Mitch or Sean at 898-2104.

Feb. 21

A teacher job fair will be held at the Vanderbilt Stadium Club from 3-7 p.m. Representatives from approximately 100 school districts will be present. Directions and free parking permits are available in the Vanderbilt Placement Center, UC, Room 328. For more information, call 898-2500.

Interviews will be held in

the KUC Tuesday through Friday for teacher recruitment week. For more information, call 898-2500.

Feb. 24 / March 10

The General Studies Committee will be holding a series of open forums in order to give feedback before a final version of the General Studies Mission Statement is drafted. The meetings will be at Feb. 8 from 2-3 p.m. in PH, Room 109A, Feb. 24 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in DSB, Room 100 and March 10 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in BAS, Room S126. For more information, call Bill Bradley, director of general studies, at 898-8416.

Feb. 26

Campus Recreation is sponsoring a trip to the Nashville Predators vs. Tampa Bay Lightning hockey game for MTSU's disabled students from 4:30 p.m. to around midnight. A pre-game meeting will be held at the Campus Recreation Center at 4:00 p.m. Contact Molly or Ray at 898-2104 for more information.

Feb. 29

Campus Recreation is hosting a free-throw and 3-point contest. Participants may sign up prior to event at the Campus Recreation Center or on Court 1 on the day of the contest. Contact Chris Gravlee at 898-2104 for more information.

March 3-5

Campus Recreation is hosting a backpacking and rappelling trip to Sipsey Wilderness, Ala. A pre-trip meeting will be held at the Campus Recreation Center March 1 at 5 p.m. Contact Mitch, Sean or Karolyn at 898-2104 for more information.

March 14

Campus Recreation is spon-

soring a bench press contest. Participants must register by March 10. The cost is \$5 for individuals and \$10 for teams (five to a team). Contact Allison or Jerry at 898-2104 for more information.

March 15 & 16

Two faculty open forums are scheduled to be held in BAS, State Farm Lecture Hall, Room S102/204 at 1:30 p.m. The faculty is encouraged to attend these meetings to discuss faculty issues or other university matters of interest.

Ongoing

Cyber Cafe at Woodmore presents "Open Mic Night" every Monday from 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

The MTSU Peer Education Program is currently accepting new members. Credit hours are available. Applications may be picked up in KUC, Room 303, or call 898-5453 for more information.

The June Anderson Women's Center will be hosting a weekly support meeting, "Women: Food and Body Image," Tuesdays in the CKNB, Room 124 at 3:15 p.m. The group is also holding meetings on Thursdays titled "Looking Forward" at the same time and location. For more information, call Mary Glantz at 898-5725.

Raider Victory Ministry and Champions for Christ are holding weekly Bible meetings on Mondays at 7 p.m. in Scarlett Commons, Room 317. Contact Delvin Pikes at 896-2348 for more information. They are also holding worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. in AMG Alumni Gym. The service is open to students, faculty and the community. For more information, contact Delvin Pikes at 896-2348.

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Bring submissions to JUB 308 Monday through Friday, 8:00am- 4:30pm..

Impeachment has made character driving force of 2000 campaign

David Jackson
Knight-Ridder Tribune

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Like many voters in South Carolina, Barbara J. Johnson is looking for honesty and integrity, not tax cuts or campaign finance reform.

Like many Republicans, she gives a two-word explanation: Bill Clinton.

"We don't want to go down that road again," Johnson said after hearing Sen. John McCain speak in Columbia. "That road is so dirty and muddy."

Impeachment has made character a driving force of the 2000 presidential campaign. So Texas Gov. George W. Bush and McCain have engaged in a race of virtue headed toward Saturday's Republican primary in the Palmetto State.

Yet this beauty contest has turned ugly in the last week, each side challenging the other candidate's character. McCain is being cast as a hypocritical Washington insider, Bush as a cynical and negative campaigner.

And each has compared the other to the Republicans' favorite bogeyman, President Clinton. Bush has said the McCain tax plan is one that the president might endorse, while McCain said in a commercial that one of the Bush ads "twists the truth like Clinton."

"It has nothing to do with issues," said Frank Luntz, a pollster who has conducted Republican focus groups for MSNBC. "This is about who they are as people and what they are as people — not what they stand for."

For McCain supporters, it's about a direct and straightforward style, not to mention courage in the face of torture in a North Vietnamese prison.

As for Bush, Clemson student Wil Brasington lauded the governor for his air of executive leadership and a family tradition of public service.

"I think he's a real down-to-earth person," Brasington said. "I like the way he presents himself. He's a family-values-type person."

Democrats, whose South Carolina primary isn't until

March 9, said the Republicans may be misreading the true political value of character, an elusive concept in any case.

Aside from his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, President Clinton has been under attack from political enemies whose own character is questionable, the president's supporters said.

They also argued that concern about middle-class anxieties is another character trait. And they predicted that boom times may yet validate the Clinton campaign mantra: It's the economy, stupid.

The two Republican contenders rarely mention impeachment — at least directly.

But Bush ends many speeches the way he did last week in Columbia, saying that "when I put my hand on the Bible, I will swear to not only uphold the law of the land — I will swear to uphold the honor and the dignity of the office to which I have been elected, so help me God."

And McCain likes to mention

See Election, 4

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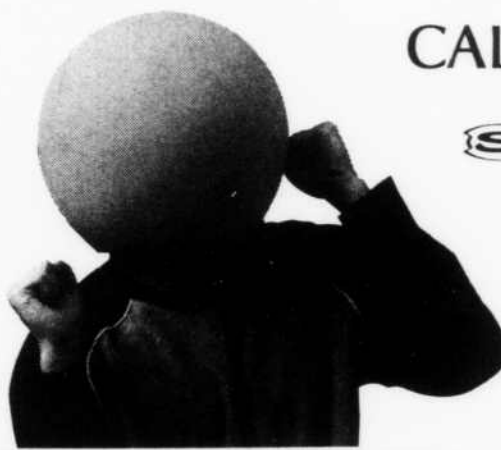
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Election: Candidates compete for character in election 2000

Continued from 3

a woman at a New Hampshire town hall meeting who simply asked him to be honest with the American people. Meeting with retirees in Columbia, the Arizona senator said he would like to be remembered as "someone who restored respect and integrity to the White House."

The two Republican candidates have few fundamental disagreements, except for the size and purpose of tax cuts and McCain's call for new restrictions on campaign fund raising.

Bush and his aides note that the chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee stumps for campaign finance reform but takes money from lobbyists, including some who have appeared before his committee.

McCain said he needs money to compete against what he called a Republican establishment that is resorting to attacks. At a town hall in Spartanburg, a woman told McCain her 14-year-old son took a call from a putative pollster who called the senator "a cheat and a liar and a fraud."

Both sides have complained about nasty whisper campaigns, mainly dealing with Bush's allegedly wild youth and McCain's divorce from his first wife.

So far, the emphasis on character seems to have benefited McCain more, according to pollsters and analysts. New Hampshire voters who gave McCain an 18-point win listed personal qualities as their main reasons for supporting him, according to exit polls.

Many cited his 5 1/2 years as a prisoner of war, which included

beatings and solitary confinement. Political analysts said that experience gives McCain a unique advantage in the battle of character.

"It's hard to win that debate against John McCain," said Karlyn Bowman, a resident scholar with the American Enterprise Institute. "Few people have been tested like that." That doesn't mean people suddenly dislike Bush, she added.

"I'm not sure Bush looks particularly weak," Bowman said. "There's just somebody else who may be a more compelling can-

didate."

McCain downplays his POW experiences, crediting his New Hampshire victory to his message of reform. And his campaign is running a radio ad that ends with an announcer intoning: "Character. Courage. John McCain for president."

The character debate is not confined to the Republican race. On the Democratic side, Vice President Al Gore is campaigning on the Clinton-era economic boom but has distanced himself from the president's personal problems.

Challenger Bill Bradley has accused Gore of lying about both his own record and that of his opponent. Like McCain, Bradley has made reform and integrity themes in his insurgent campaign.

When it comes to presidential elections, analysts said that voters often look for what is lacking in the incumbent. Eight years ago, voters who believed President George Bush spent too much time on foreign affairs responded to Clinton's pledge to focus "like a laser" on the domestic economy. ■

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, TN

Monday, February 14, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 5

From the Staff Firefighters respond slowly

Do you live in an MTSU dormitory? If you do, you should be a little concerned for your safety.

I live in Area I, and I can tell you that I was sound asleep recently when I was jolted out of bed by a fire alarm.

According to an article written by Turner Hutchens on the front page, some of the false alarms are due to malfunctions in the alarm system in the complex.

The fire department contends it has plans for fires on this campus, and that's great, but as I stood outside with other residents in near-freezing

temperatures, it seemed to take the fire department longer than a University of Tennessee football player on a spelling test.

I have several problems with the situation.

First of all, why does it take that long for firefighters to arrive at the scene?

Their plans would be worthless if they arrive that late, because the building and everything in it would be ashes. They would have time to put out some fizzling cigarette butts, maybe.

My second problem is the malfunctioning of the system.

I understand that problems can occur with any system, but I have lived in that complex for almost two years, and that should be enough time to correct it.

Fire Marshal Jetty McCullough even says that some of the time students will pull the fire alarm, but "it's really mostly alarm-system malfunctions."

What is it going to take for the system to be corrected?

Will they have to find a char-grilled student burned by the blaze?

Michael Edwards

Views from the Crowd

by R. Colin Fly, Opinions Editor

Net Nazis

Conservative lawmaker attempts to control students' access to 'net

Valentine's Day is a day of joy and happiness spent with the person you love the most. However, all that may change at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University and the University of Northern Arizona.

Yes, the university is a state-funded college, but a new bill introduced in Arizona may completely eradicate opposite-sex visitation at any time during the day and on weekends. Zero, except for immediate family. I'll even resist the urge to crack an incest joke here.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Jean McGrath, R-Glendale, Ariz. Poor Jean -- she must have a problem with today's youth.

According to McGrath, back at Arizona State University in the 1950s, guys and girls met at a lot of places outside the dorms. However, she failed to mention one.

McGrath also is in favor of restricting Internet use on college campuses to educational purposes only. Sorry, Hotpants.com isn't one of the sites she recommends, but I think if enough students from Arizona write her, it may get added to the list.

Seems McGrath's big problem with the Internet is the uncontrolled pornography spread across computers. However, McGrath is overstepping her right by trying to restrict legal adults from watching whatever they want, regardless of where they are. States keeping Internet porn out of secondary schools should be enforced.

However, most college students are consenting adults, and it is impossible to keep porn out of colleges and universities.

McGrath chairs the Public Institutions and Universities Committee of Arizona.

So, she does have influence over the three public universities in Arizona, claiming the universities are not conducive to learning.

She cites high freshman drop-out rates.

Sorry to burst her bubble, but high freshman drop-out rates are primarily because nobody, such as parents or the government, forces young adults to stay in school.

The idea is, "If you don't want to go to college, that's no big deal to us." I like it when the unmotivated leave. It opens up another parking space.

Here are the basic problems I have with the bill. First, it's the 21st century. As a society, we've grown up at an earlier age. Young adults are faced with a barrage of messages from all angles.

As we have learned to interpret these messages, our freedoms have increased.

Rep. McGrath, a fanatical Republican (or is it fanatic?), hasn't been in college for at least 40 years. I know the World War II generation liked having the power of the government, but within 10 to 15 years there will be none left. Times were definitely different in 1950 than 2000 -- McGrath can't relate to our evolving problems.

Second, restricting the Internet derives from fear -- fear of a change in societal values from one generation to the next. It is even apparent in the coming presidential election.

Knowledge is power in society. I hope that before you punch the button for George W. Bush in the general election this year, research his ideas about the Internet. We may just have taxation without representation.

McGrath, the masses will speak out on your legislation in Arizona and the resounding message will be, "We have power, and we will fight for more power because our time is now."

That's the View from the Crows. E-mail comments to MTSU.VIEWS@email.com or slopinio@mtsu.edu.■

Letter to the Editor

Black fraternities not getting recognition

As we have begun a new millennium, people would like to believe that racism is decreasing or just completely ignore the problem. However, it is more prevalent now than ever.

At times it seems as though the breeding grounds for these views are evolving on college campuses.

I understand that white fraternities and sororities operate a bit differently from black fraternities and sororities, but they are each derived from the same thing.

The first article that "Sidelines" published pertaining to Greek Row mentioned the fraternities in the "Greek" system that would have homes on this row.

"Sidelines" also mentioned why there were no sorority homes, but they failed to mention the other part of the Greek system, the part that happens to be black.

If the African American fraternities were asked to be a part of this, then that should have been stated in the article. Since predominantly white institutions fail to recognize African American fraternities and sororities as "Greek," then it is

no wonder why it was not mentioned in "Sidelines" article on Greek Row.

Not only black Greeks, but also blacks in general should be offended and take a stand.

If state bonds were used to pay for the Greek homes on the campus of a state university, then shouldn't the homes reflect the university?

Are we not a part of this state?

And are we not a part of this university?

African Americans might be a minute number at this school, but we are here, and the campus should be a reflection of all in attendance.

Jeanette Owusu
Freshman

Editor's Note: The "Sidelines" article "Sorority rumors 'ridiculous,' no tax dollars used on fraternities," (Jan. 31) explains that no tax dollars were used to fund Greek Row. State bonds are purchased by individuals and often used to fund state buildings and are treated like loans. The fraternity members must pay the money back.

Nice college guys still finish last

Adam Shiver
Central Florida Future

Have you ever listened to women talk about what kind of guy they are looking for?

If so, then you have probably overheard the same things I have.

When they get around to naming qualities they want in a man, they almost always list honesty, kindness, a good sense of humor and chivalry.

I laugh at this. I think they're just making all that up.

One woman explained to me recently that I was "too nice."

"Too nice?!" Is there such a thing?

And if there is, is that any reason not to give a good guy a chance?

I don't think so. In fact, I don't think there is enough niceness in this day and age.

I open doors, pay for dates and strive hard to be caring and sweet, but none of that gets me very far.

But the guy who stands in a corner, aloof and playing hard to get? He's golden.

He's got no trouble finding a date.

The guy who runs around with his buds, gets drunk and finally thinks to call around 1 a.m., hoping he can spend the night?

No problem, come right on over, a lot of women say. They flock to him.

I just don't get it.

These girls must love being the caretakers of their

boyfriends.

They get caught in cycles of always trying to "keep his attention" or "win him back" -- usually employing tactics that involve sex.

All of their energy and focus is consumed with trying to hang on to a person, so they fail to notice the nice guys all around them.

Instead of trying to hold on to a loser, they could be getting to know all the nice guys who are out there -- the real marriage material -- the guys like me.

I also have another guess as to why a lot of girls seem to settle for whomever (make that "whatever") they come across: They are just as shallow as a lot of men.

Oh, looks aren't as important as personality and all those other fine qualities that typically make their Top-10 lists.

Yeah, right. So, where does that leave me -- and all the other "too nice" guys?

Well, we're going to continue to maintain our honesty, integrity and charm.

We're going to keep on opening doors and sharing our feelings.

We aren't going to play games.

We'll assume responsibility for ourselves and for any hurt feelings we may cause.

We will always try to take care of those whom we care for.

And will we have time for women who expect less of us? Probably not.■



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FEATURES

6 ■ SIDELINES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Billiards and trims in the square

Downtown Murfreesboro barber shop doubles as pool hall where 'everyone knows your name'

Turner Hutchens
Staff Reporter

"I got a regular crowd that's been coming in for years," says Jimmy Lester, leaning on his pool cue. "Lot of them since they were children."

Pastime Barber & Billiard Shop, 116 S. Maple St., is a family business which was opened by Clyde Mathews in 1912, whose picture still hangs on the wall.

The shop has had several owners since then, but the business has maintained its friendly demeanor and prime location on Murfreesboro's downtown square.

Jimmy and Toni Lester have owned the place for three years. Mrs. Lester runs the barber shop while Mr. Lester runs the pool hall.

Their son, Don, hangs out and shoots pool, as well as helping out around the shop. There's a comfortable small-town feel to it.

"It's a place where you could bring your wife and your kids," says Mr. Lester. "Not like a lot of the pool halls in town."

Pastime is divided in two sections. The barbershop is in the small front room and the pool hall in the back.

The barber shop is clean, though worn from the years. Three women cut the hair of men sitting in chairs that date back to the '60s.

The walls are covered with antique advertisements, and a small Christmas tree stands in the corner, glittering with tinsel. The snip of scissors and the buzz of electric shavers mingle aren't loud enough to deter anyone from talking, even if they can't entirely be heard.

The pool players walk through the barbershop on their way to the back. Each of them says hello to the ladies cutting hair, and some stop to chat for a minute.

"We cut hair 'til six," says Mrs. Lester as she clips a quarter-inch of silver hair from a man's head.

"And the back room's open 'til 10. They just come through the back door after we're closed."

She points with her comb to the glass door, where a sign is taped that reads, "PLEASE USE BACK DOOR AFTER HOURS."

"But we won't go into that," she says.

In the back, about a dozen men stand around five old-fashioned pool tables.

Half the men seem to be involved in pool games, and the other half are just watching and talking about football or working over the noise of the electronic gambling machine.

One man with a portable oxygen tank and a tube leading to his nose puts out his Marlboro

Red in the standing ashtray next to him and watches a cue ball roll across worn green felt.

"That man right there been coming here since he was big enough to crawl," says Mr. Lester.

"Isn't that right, Raymond?" The gentleman with the oxygen tank smiles and nods.

"He's 85," says Mr. Lester. Cigarette smoke fills the back room, and the lighting looks like that of a bar.

But the Lesters never serve any alcohol or allow any crude language.

The walls in the back and the front are covered with antique signs and pictures of regulars from over the years.

Next to a picture of dogs playing pool, there are rules posted on the wall, just to help everyone remember them, such as "DO NOT SPIT IN THE ASHTRAY" and "NO CUSSIN' ALLOWED."

"They do all throw their cigarette butts on the floor," says Mr. Lester, looking at the pool room floor speckled with stomped-out cigarettes.

"But you gotta let them have something."

Donna Teacher is cutting hair in the front room, where it doesn't seem a cigarette has ever touched the ground. She's been working here for three years.

"I like this here," she says over the hum of the shaver. "You get to meet a lot of nice people."

She has worked at other hair salons, but they were only businesses.

"This place is something more," she says.

"It's kind of like 'Cheers' here," she explains. "People walk in to play pool, and we all say, 'hey.' It's not like your basic pool hall -- you can go in there with your children."

Mr. Lester says they like to keep the place quaint and cozy. People just like to come here to play pool and "shoot the bull." Everyone knows each other, and they almost never have problems.

"If anyone does have a problem, they just tell Bubba," he explains, pointing out a man in his 30s wearing a camouflage cap.

"And then Bubba tells everyone. Then it's not a problem anymore."

Bubba chuckles and continues to watch a pool game, hardly looking up.

Many of the customers are retired men, though there are some here as young as 20.

"We do [hair for] a lot of older people -- they still like that atmosphere of a barber shop," Teacher explains. "And the quality of the haircut too, I guess."

An elderly gentleman comes from the back, putting on his coat.

He announces to the barber-

shop that he's going out for a soda.

"That's Mr. Pitts," explains Teacher. "He's an ornament here."

Mr. Pitts has been coming here pretty much everyday since he retired in 1973. He's 84 years old now, but he's still sharp.

"I keep these barbers and people playing pool straightened out," he says with a smile.

Then he waves goodbye to everyone as he walks out the door.

Don Lester is shooting pool with his dad. When his father steps away for a moment he talks, holding his pool cue in front of him.

He says this shop is much more than a business, and even more important to people than they let on.

"He was raised here," he says, referring to his father.

"And then he raised me in here."

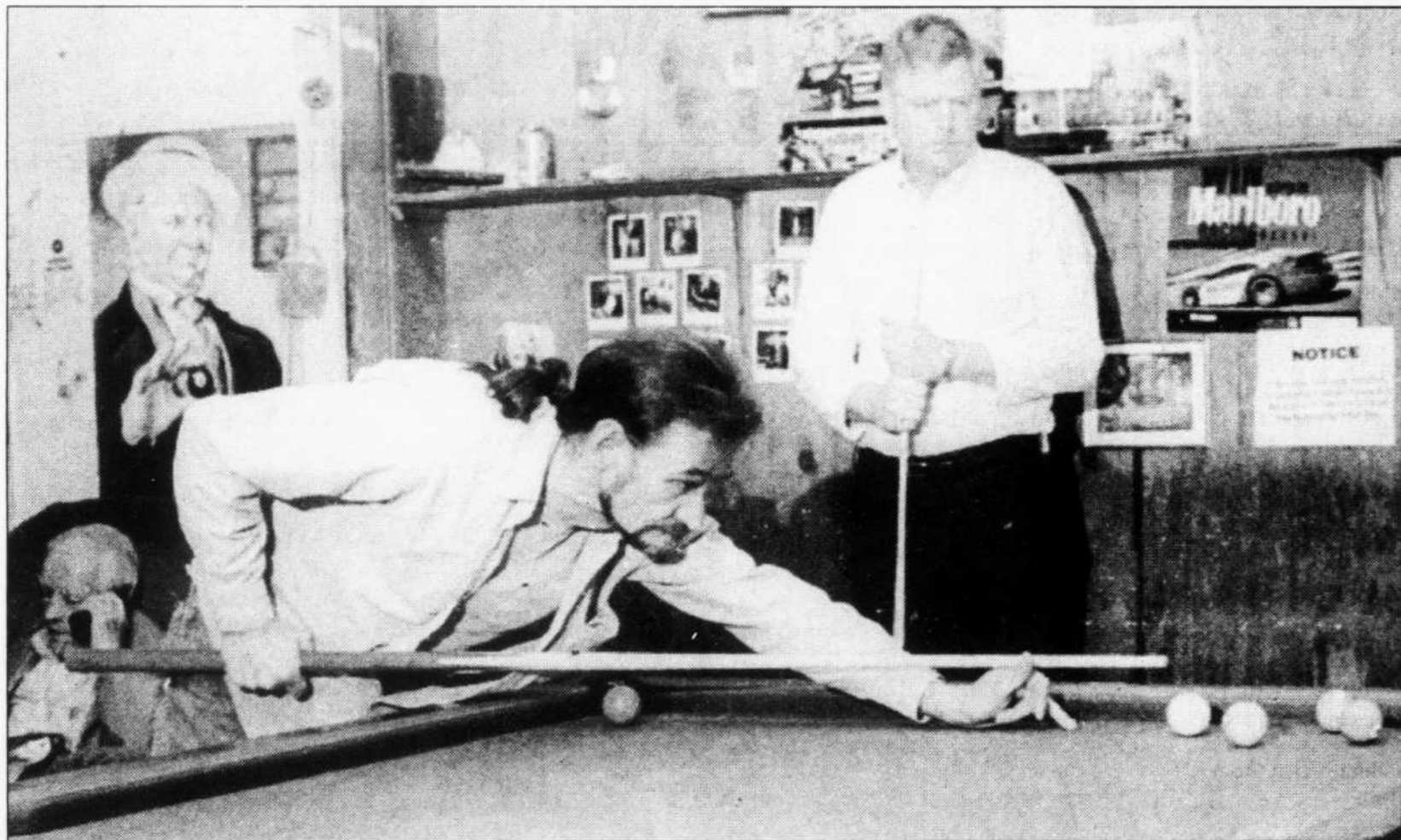
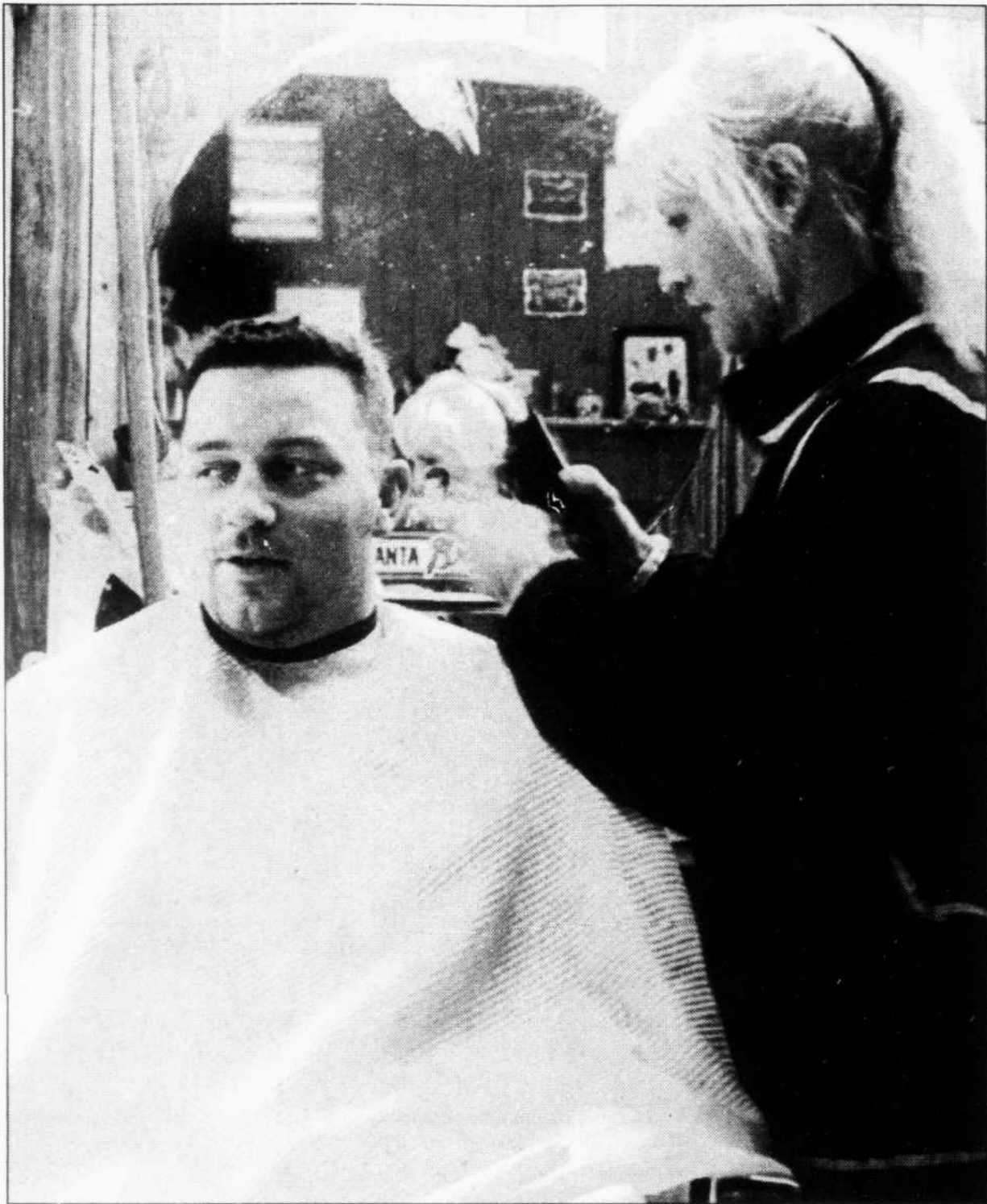
Don looks around the pool room at the men, ranging 60 years in age.

"Pretty much everybody here was raised in this place," he adds with a sigh, and then goes back to his pool game. ■

Photos by Rory White | Staff
Photographer

(Left) A man receives a trim at Pastime's barber shop, run by Mrs. Lester.

(Below) Two men play a game of pool in Mr. Lester's section of Pastime. Raymond, sitting, ignores the game while on the phone.



'V' doesn't just stand for 'valentine': Vaginas take center stage in award-winning play

Christine Tatum
TMS Campus

CHICAGO (TMS) — Women around the world and on more than 70 college campuses across the U.S. are reserving Valentine's Day to talk about their vaginas.

Thinking you'll avoid the conversation? Perhaps this year you will.

But the "V-Day" movement is hot and getting hotter -- thanks largely to "The Vagina Monologues," an Obie Award-winning play by Eve Ensler that encourages women to make very public statements about their private parts. Proceeds from performances are typically given to the V-Day Fund, which supports groups working to end violence against women.

Some of Hollywood's biggest names have performed in the typically sold-

out play since its 1996 debut: Cate Blanchette, Melissa Etheridge, Calista Flockhart, Whoopi Goldberg, Anne Heche, Rosie Perez, Wynona Ryder and Kate Winslet.

This year's V-Day events will be held in Atlanta, Johannesburg, Los Angeles, London, Paris, Santa Fe and Toronto.

Colleges are scrambling to stage the play, too.

This year, about 70 campuses, including Carleton and Spelman colleges; Duke, Harvard and Princeton universities; and the universities of Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming, will host performances.

Shows traditionally begin Feb. 14 and continue as time and space allow. As with the movement's international events, students say they, too, will be donating a portion of ticket sales to causes that help end violence against women.

"I was so excited after reading the play for the first time because I had never heard or seen anything so frank or honest about female sexuality."

Kristen Stake, University of Southern Maine junior, on "The Vagina Monologues"

And much like those larger events, students across the country are reporting sold-out shows.

New York University organizers said almost 1,000 tickets for two performances sold out in just a few hours.

What's all the fuss about?

"Women who see this play are so grateful to hear for the first time many of their stories expressed out loud," said Kristen Stake, a junior at the University of Southern Maine, who has performed one of the monologues on her campus.

"I was so excited after reading the play for the first time because I had never heard or seen anything so frank or honest about female sexuality. Women don't usually talk about their bodies or their vaginas because society tells us we're not supposed to because that's dirty or bad."

"This play helps many women understand that the vagina is a beautiful place."

Aside from knowing her own body pretty well, Ensler interviewed hundreds of women -- young and old and of all ethnic, professional, racial and

socioeconomic backgrounds -- to come up with the content for each of her monologues.

"At first, women were reluctant to talk, and they were a little shy," she wrote of her research. "But once they got going, you couldn't stop them."

The end result is electrifying -- and sometimes horrifying -- stories about female sexuality. Stories that include details of abuse, rape and genital mutilation.

And stories that also take a humorous look at women's bodies -- including one in which a woman finds her clitoris for the first time and another in which a woman discusses what her vagina would wear if it could dress itself.

"The audience just goes nuts when they hear some of this stuff," Stake said. "But we're starting a great conversation, and I don't want it to end." ■

Valentine's: Love it or leave it

'Sidelines' staffers share their holiday plans or woes

Amanda Virgillito
Features Editor

Love is in the air. Yes, sweet and simple love.

Or maybe all that's in the air is a few disappointed faces, even more broken hearts, uneaten chocolates with unidentifiable mushy pink or yellow centers and way too many empty wallets.

Ever wonder why Valentine's Day makes some girls cry and makes most boys duck and cover?

Why do pink and red hearts or chalky candy make some people cringe, while others swoon and sing?

Everyone has his or her personal expectation for Valentine's Day, whether it includes a romantic evening or treating it like every other day.

In my nineteen years of life I have had few, if any, romantic Valentine's celebrations.

Of course I have my dreams. I would love to be whisked away on a private jet to Venice, or to walk hand-in-hand on the beach with someone I love.

Reality has not yet presented me with these fantasies, but a few Valentine's memories remain clear in my mind.

There was the boy in high school who promised to shower me with roses and candy.

The smooth talker drove a car, but somehow the car didn't find its way to my house that night. Or any night ever again.

There were the times in grade school where I hopefully peeked into my home-made bag on the side of my desk to find a single Valentine. From my teacher.

Last year was perhaps the most enjoyable. It was a first date, which led to many more. A single rose and a sweet card made my day.

As curiosity goes, I proceeded to ask my co-workers about their Valentine's Day expectations, along with the reality they will be faced with.

Some were eager to share their hopes, while some cringed and walked away without comment.

Some of the girls on the staff seem to be too busy to really enjoy time with their significant other or to even look for one. Dawn Franks, "Sidelines" on-line co-editor, said she would simply "be lounging with my guy."

However, as responsibilities don't allow for holiday celebrations, she will more likely be "going to class and sitting in front of a computer."

Marisa Calvin, "Sidelines" ad designer,

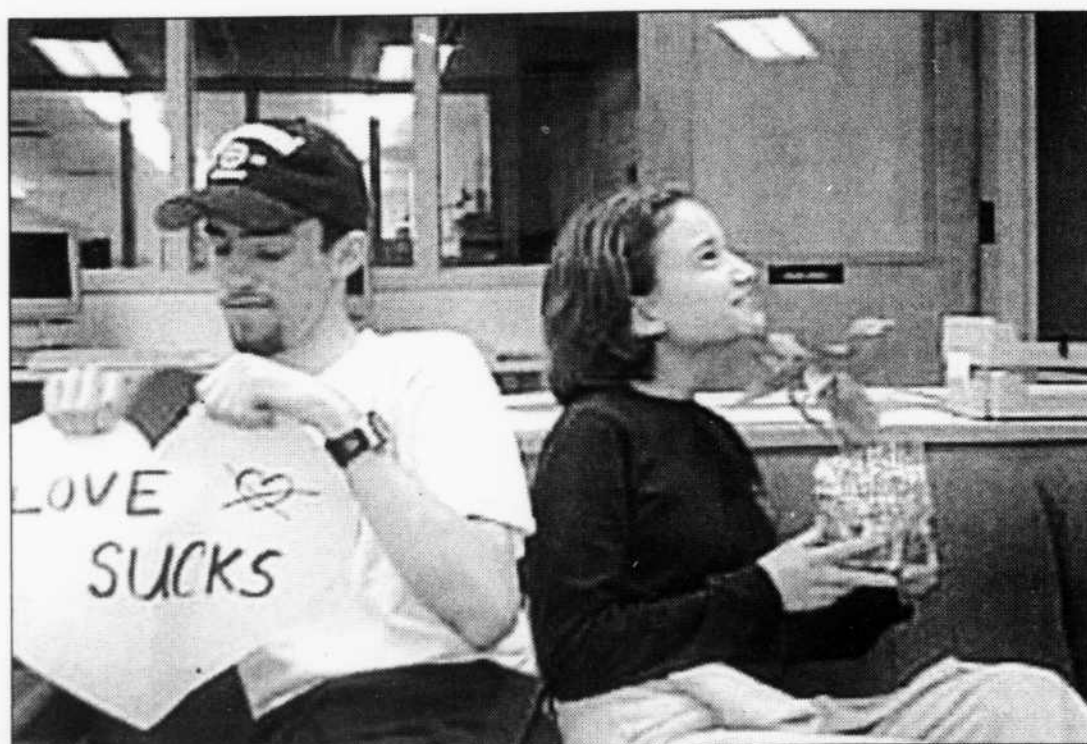


Photo Illustration by Amanda Virgillito | Staff Photographer

Michael Edwards wishes Valentine's Day didn't exist, while Jenny Cordle waits for her Prince Charming to come.

has warm and cozy thoughts for her ideal V-Day. "[I'd be] curled up in front of a fire with hot chocolate and my soul mate -- whoever and wherever he is!" she said.

This year Marisa will be found driving back from Pennsylvania after seeing a concert, a boy-band concert, whose names I won't mention.

Our news editor, Jenny Cordle, and copy editor, Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum, share similar hopes for their celebration.

They would both be found on the beach with their true loves.

However, McFadyen-Ketchum will most likely be "snuggling up with my sweetheart in our warm bed." How sweet. "OK, we're broke," she added.

Josh Ezzell, sports editor, holds a long-distance relationship with his girlfriend, Kathy, and will probably be unable to see her. If he could see her, "we would eat a romantic dinner and spend the night at a fancy hotel," he said. While he fills his heart with love for her, he always saves some room to eat.

Josh almost had it down, when he admitted that this year he would be drinking beer and watching wrestling.

Watch out, Kathy. Stone Cold may be moving in on your territory!

Some of the other guys prefer to simply ignore Valentine's Day.

Colin Fly, opinions editor, will be work-

ing. This year, "Sidelines" will get most of his attention.

"Valentine's is a 'Hallmark' holiday," he added.

Michael Edwards, sports co-editor, said, "I would want a law passed on that day, outlawing Valentine's Day."

This year he prefers to make plans on the spur of the moment. "Being a male, I prefer to procrastinate on activities," he said.

We won't tell your girlfriend, Michael.

Turner Hutchens, a staff reporter, plans to eat out at a nice restaurant with his beloved. He said they will come home and "go to bed early, and go to sleep late."

We'll leave it at that.

I'd love to end this with Robin Wallace, our FLASH! editor.

She seems to have hope that true love exists. "[I'd be] doing anything and everything with the love of my life, whenever he actually becomes part of my life."

Valentine's Day, like any other day, leaves some feeling blissfully happy and others down in the dumps.

If people would treat it not as an overrated holiday, but as an opportunity to tell someone how much they care, we'd all be much better off.

Don't spend your life savings on gifts. Don't be impersonal. Be honest and have a good time. Life is too short to take those we love for granted. ■

Students boycott Myrtle Beach

Katrice Franklin
Knight-Ridder Tribune

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — South Carolina's Confederate flag controversy is bringing hundreds of college students to Virginia Beach's resort strip this spring.

More than 1,000 Duke University college students plan to plant themselves on the Beach's Oceanfront in May for their annual end-of-the-year, post-finals party.

The 18- to 21-year-olds are changing their party plans to give the boot to one of Virginia Beach's top competitors -- Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The university's NAACP chapter is challenging all students to avoid South Carolina's shore and join with the national chapter's efforts to boycott the state for refusing to remove the Confederate flag from its state Capitol.

While the students are not the customers that Virginia Beach usually targets -- 25- to 44-year-olds with families and annual incomes of more than \$45,000 -- Beach leaders and hotel owners said they welcome the young people.

They might not spend a lot and pump up the city's tourism dollars. But they're worth far more than the money they'll contribute to the economy. They signify a different image than the one created by events in 1989.

A decade ago, Greekfest, a college party of more than 100,000 black students at the beginning of the school year, turned into riots, arrests and claims of police brutality.

The Labor Day weekend melee triggered racial complaints and accusations that the city did not embrace black college students. The riots also tarnished the Beach's reputation among college students at many

schools.

"This is a positive sign," said Oral Lambert, the Beach's chief of operations, when asked about the Duke students.

"This is an indication that Virginia Beach is not looked upon as being negative. That's the image that many people want to stir up. This is quite a turnaround in my view."

Jimmy H. Capps, president of the Beach Hotel and Motel Association, said he's thrilled about the business.

"We're not that busy in the middle of May, and we want to rent hotel rooms," Capps said. Twenty-year-old Duke student Kameron Matthews, who is leading the effort to bring the students to Virginia Beach, said she had never heard of Greekfest and is not concerned.

All Duke students want is to tan on the beach and go to the clubs and bars. And for that, the Beach's resort strip is ideal, Matthews said.

About 13 of the university's organizations have agreed to abandon Myrtle Beach. The travel time is roughly the same distance from Durham, N.C., to Myrtle Beach, she said.

"It's also got the same atmosphere," Matthews said. Ash By Ward, president of the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, said the strip has no record of the students ever coming. But of the scheduled 591 groups that planned to travel to Myrtle Beach this year, 26 have canceled. Ward estimates a loss of about \$933,000, or nearly one-half of 1 percent of the nearly \$200 million a year that Myrtle Beach collects from the tourism market.

"Duke University is a top-notch school," said Beach hotel owner Robert Vakoš. "I can't image those kids being real hell-raisers coming out of there. Are they going to jeopardize their lives by trying to do something stupid? I doubt it." ■

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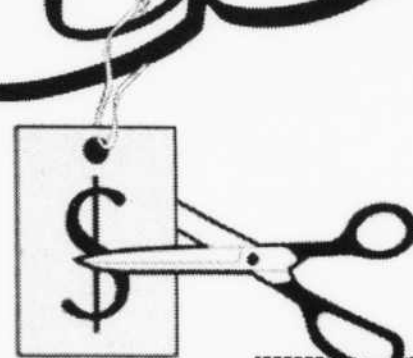
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SPORTS

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Monday, February 14, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Raiders win after four-overtime struggle

Michael Edwards
Sports Co-Editor

The Blue Raiders survived a marathon of a game and pulled out a four point win against Tennessee Tech in four overtimes.

The story for the Raiders was 5-foot-11-inch, junior guard Jonathan Whitworth, who played 58 of the 60 minutes and scored 17 points to go along with his five assists and three rebounds. The Raiders needed the spark from Whitworth, because freshman guard Kenyata Chisholm did not dress for the game.

"He's in great shape, and he's a great player," junior guard Fernando Ortiz said. "I am glad he's on my team, and not on another."

The Raiders featured nine players that played double-digit minutes, and six of them scored in double figures. Ortiz led the Raiders in scoring with 22 points, nine assists, six rebounds and three steals.

The man on Saturday for the Eagles, however, was senior Josh Heard, who poured in 31 points, including 23 in the second half.

Although the Eagles never led throughout the entire first half and were tied only once, the Raiders still struggled because of 13 first-half turnovers, and allowed Tennessee Tech to stay in the game leading by only three at the first intermission.

MTSU embarked on an 11-3 run with 4:27 left in the half, because of the play of Ortiz, Nosse and Whitworth. The Raiders owned a one-point advantage with four minutes left in the half, when Whitworth made a three pointer pushing the lead up to four.

Tech's Larrie Smith and Josh Heard brought the game to within reach after netting sevens points against the Raiders' one in the last minute of the first half.

The Raiders started the second half a little stagnant, as the Eagles took a four-point lead, which was their first of the game, at the 16 minute mark. The Raiders, as has been the story for the last three weeks, would not quit.

With the game tied at 52, Jolly stepped up for the Eagles and looked to apply the dagger with a three pointer. Hemphill

came right back for Tech and added a jumper. Wallace scored four straight for the Raiders cutting the lead to one, but Heard made two free throws with a minute left in the game. Ortiz would step in the spot light and break to the basket where he scored the layup and was fouled by Hemphill.

Ortiz canned the free throws and tied the game at 59. As time wound down, an Eagle shot attempt missed and McKnight mishandled the rebound, which bounced out of bounds. The Raiders granted Tech a second chance for the win.

Heard rarely missed in the game, but at this moment with the game on the line his three was off target, and the game headed for overtime.

The Raiders led for 32 of the first 40 minutes, but they didn't lead when the buzzer sounded.

"It was not over yet. You never can tell what will happen," McKnight said. "It's about who has the heart and who has the hustle."

MTSU began to pull away in the overtime, with another McKnight jumper. Jolly made the front end of a two free-throw situation leaving the Raider lead at one. Tenngren, who scored 12 points, made both of his free throws with 24 seconds on the clock. With six seconds left in the game, Darrel Moore heaved a desperate three and the ball banked off the backboard and went in the basket. A last ditch effort by the Raiders fell short and the two teams battled for another five minutes.

"It was very exhausting, but it gets to the point that you forget about being tired," Ortiz said.

Ortiz again led off the second overtime with a jumper, and Jolly again answered but this time with a three pointer. McKnight committed a foul and Smith converted both free throws again.

The Raiders went over two minutes with out scoring and found themselves down by five with 2:36 left. The Eagles opened the door back up when Moore sent Tenngren back to the free-throw line. He made both shots, just before Nosse made a jumper with 1:47 left. Perhaps the most electrifying moment came on the next play.

The Eagles led by two with over a minute left to play. The Raiders were guarding their men tight, and Tech tried to use

up the clock. Ortiz picked Jolly's pocket and took the ball to the basket scoring and tying the game. He was fouled on the play, but the free throw was no good.

On the subsequent Eagle possession, Hemphill casually passed to Jolly, when Ortiz stepped in front and stole the ball taking it in for the dunk. The Raiders then led by two with under a minute to play. Larrie Smith was fouled eight seconds later and made both of his free throws. The Raiders and the Eagles were tied again this time at 83.

"I'm not giving up yet," Whitworth said. "Everybody gave it all they had."

"We gotta win."

When Moore came right out of the gates and hit a three pointer with 14 seconds, the Raiders hopes were diminishing. However, Thomas would answer for the Raiders, just before Moore knocked down another jumper and pushed the Eagle lead back to three. Nosse came back and hit a jumper and a free throw tying the game at 91. The beat goes on the so does the game, into the fourth overtime.

The Eagles struck first blood in the fourth overtime with Smith hitting a jumper to give the Eagles a two-point lead. McKnight answered with one of his own, but Hemphill did one better and hit a three pointer giving the Eagles a three-point lead with 3:24 to play.

McKnight came right back for the Raiders and tied the game with a three pointer, followed by a Whitworth three pointer giving the Raiders the lead. Hemphill hit again on another three, but the Raiders scored five of the next seven points and MTSU led by three with 1:03 left in the game. Heard made three consecutive free throws tying the game at 104, but that would be all he would score. Nosse connected on a jumper, and McKnight made two free throws giving the Raiders a four-point lead at 108-104. The score and the lead would remain the same.

"It was a real barn burner especially since it was our last game against Tech," Wallace said. "We knew we had to play 40 minutes. I hated being a cheerleader for the last 20."

"We can take this win into the tournament and look forward," McKnight said.



Photo by Grant Fletcher | Staff Photographer

Jonathan Whitworth heads for a shot as Corey Hemphill watches. Whitworth scored 17 points for the Raiders during Saturday's 108-104 win over Tennessee Tech.

Lady Raiders hand Tech first conference loss

Josh Ezell
Sports Co-Editor

The Tennessee Technological University Golden Eaglettes are no longer undefeated in Ohio Valley Conference play.

Saturday night, the Lady Raider basketball team defeated Tech 90-82. The Lady Raiders improve to 12-10 overall and 9-5 in the OVC. Tech is now 18-7 overall and 13-1 in the OVC.

"This is a huge win," MTSU head coach Stephany Smith said.

"This has got to be a momentum builder. After we came back from the Murray-Martin trip we sat down and said we're starting over. We're 4-0 as far as we're concerned."

Five Lady Raiders scored in double figures. Sophomore forward Jamie Thomatis led the Lady Raiders with 25 points, 22 of which came in the second half.

Sophomore guard Erica Lufkin scored 20, and three Lady Raiders scored 11.

Tech's Diane Seng led all scorers with 26 points. Janet Holt scored 19, and Allison Clark contributed 18.

The Lady Raiders shot 51 percent from the field and 46 percent from three-point range. Tech shot 49 percent from the field and 37 percent from three-point range.

The Lady Raiders hit 22 of 27 free throws, while Tech hit 11 of

13 free throws.

"We wanted to be aggressive tonight," Smith said.

"We edited all of our offensive possessions from our game in Cookeville, and you just had to laugh. Otherwise you were gonna cry. Oh we were horrible. "Tonight we came out and did a good job."

The Lady Raiders jumped out to a quick 11-5 lead, but Seng led Tech on a 6-0 run to tie to the game at 11. Neither team was able to take control until the 7:36 mark.

Led by Lufkin, the Lady Raiders went on a 10-2 run and took a 38-31 lead. She scored five of the 10 points during the run and had an assist.

"I was worried about Erica (Lufkin)," Smith said. "She hadn't been shooting the ball well. When she came out tonight and knocked down that first three pointer I felt pretty good. She needed it."

Tech got no closer than four the remainder of the half. Junior guard Kelly Chastain closed out the first half with a jumper at the buzzer, which gave the Lady Raiders a 44-38 halftime lead.

Led by Seng, Tech outscored the Lady Raiders 13-6 to start the second half and took a 51-50 lead.

The Lady Raiders built a brief three-point lead, but Seng and Holt enabled Tech to build a 60-56 lead.

At this point Thomatis took over. She scored 13 of the Lady

Raiders next 18 points. She gave the Lady Raiders the lead for good 62-60 with a three-point play at the 8:28 mark. Following a Clark basket, which cut the lead to three, she hit two straight three pointers, which extended the lead to seven at 74-67.

"They were leaving me open," Thomatis said, "and I wanted to penalize them for doing that."

"I really didn't play up to my ability in the first half so I wanted to step up in the second half. I had to come out to the perimeter because they were trying to shut down the inside."

"I dribbled the point guard in and flanked the point guard to Jamie (Thomatis)," Smith said. "Somebody was going to be open. It wasn't necessarily for Jamie (Thomatis) to take a shot but that was an option."

Lufkin hit eight free throws down the stretch and the Lady Raiders pulled the upset.

"We made mistakes defensively," Seng said. "We weren't up to our standards. It was rough inside."

"It would've been nice to go undefeated in the conference, but we lost and we have to keep playing."

The Lady Raiders improve to 12-10 overall and 9-5 in the OVC. Tech is now 18-7 overall and 13-1 in the OVC.

The Lady Raiders next play Thursday at Austin Peay State University.



Photo by Grant Fletcher | Staff Photographer

Erica Lufkin looks for an open teammate as Allison Clark attempts to block the pass. Lufkin scored 20 points during Saturday's victory over Tennessee Tech.

MTSU track teams leave others in dust

Josh Ezzell
Sports Co-Editor

The men's and women's track teams continued to roll Saturday at the Valentine Invitational at the Murphy Center.

The women scored 80 points, outscoring Southeast Missouri State University, Western Kentucky University and the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. SEMO finished second with 47 points. Western Kentucky scored 42, and UTC scored 22.

The men scored 82 points and dominated the same teams. SEMO finished second with 55 points. UTC scored 41, and Western Kentucky scored seven. "We just ran people to get ready for the OVC Championship," head coach Dean Hayes said. "Even though we'll still find out who's the team in the OVC Championships. This really means nothing because we left

some people out and they (SEMO) left people out. It's gonna be close — we'll finish either first or second."

The women's team dominated the long and triple jumps, taking the top spots in both events. Freshman Kim Freeman won the long jump with a jump of 18-feet-10 3/4-inches. Senior Andreja Ribac won the triple jump with a jump of 41-feet-7 3/4-inches.

"I think I did all right," freshman Kim Freeman said. "I was close to my (personal record). We had at least three people over 18 feet."

Sophomore Rob Jordan led the Raiders as he finished first in the long jump, triple jump and 400-meter dash. Sophomore Jasper Demps won the 55-meter intermediate hurdles with a time of 7.43 seconds, and junior Godfrey Herring won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:54.2h.

Next up for the Blue Raiders is the OVC Championships Feb. 27 at the Murphy Center. ■



Photo by Joel Moore | Staff Photographer
Andreja Ribac takes the top spot in the triple jump event.

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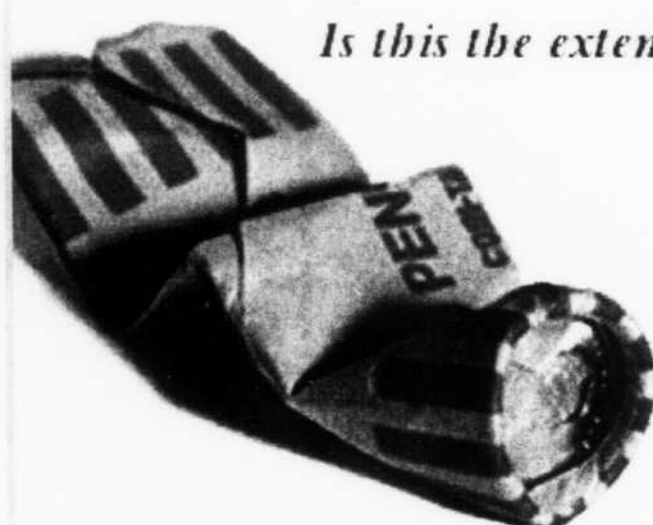
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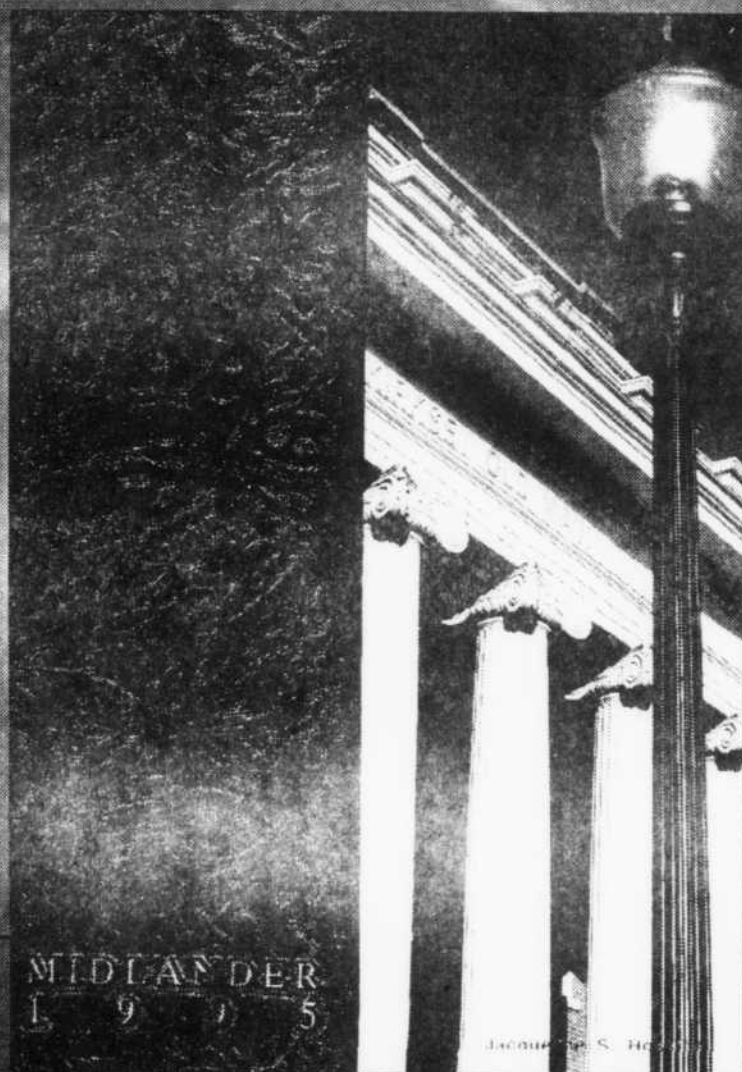
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