

# SIDELINES

Volume 75, No. 32

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

## Fee system could change

Jenny Cordle  
Staff Reporter

MTSU may not be affected by the justices' decision in a recent Supreme Court case involving the university's allocation of student fees, according to MTSU officials.

In 1996, Scott Southworth, then a law student, filed a lawsuit against the University of Wisconsin, which objected to the use of his student fees to support liberal campus groups.

The U.S. Supreme Court heard the case Nov. 9 of this year and is currently deciding whether public universities can use activity fees to fund campus organizations that have political goals.

A federal trial judge and the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed the funding of groups that students find objectionable is unlawfully forced on the students.

The ball is now in the Supreme Court, and the Justices may decide to implement one of two policies: prohibit the use of student fees to pay for politically active groups, or allow students to choose whether to fund groups they find objectionable.

Southworth and several other law students objected to funding groups such as the International Socialist Organization; the

Campus Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Center; Amnesty International; and an AIDS support network.

Gene Fitch, MTSU's associate dean of Student Life, said the fee allocation is different at MTSU, because "we don't have lobbying groups here."

However, Fitch believes that student fees should be allocated for all campus organizations.

"That's what institutions are for—the sharing of knowledge and experiences," he said. "Organizations provide the opportunity to do that."

Thomas Burke, dean of Student Life, said that the MTSU student activity committee does not use student fees to fund student organizations themselves but rather their activities.

"The student activity committee allocates money for organizations' events," Burke said.

He said the fee was raised last spring from \$5 to \$20, "because MTSU is a school of 19,000 students."

"We had an activity fee good for 5,000 to 7,000 students," Burke said. "There was not enough money for activities, and the money was going to benefit students. It just wasn't possible with a \$5 fee."

See FEES, page 4

## Fire being investigated

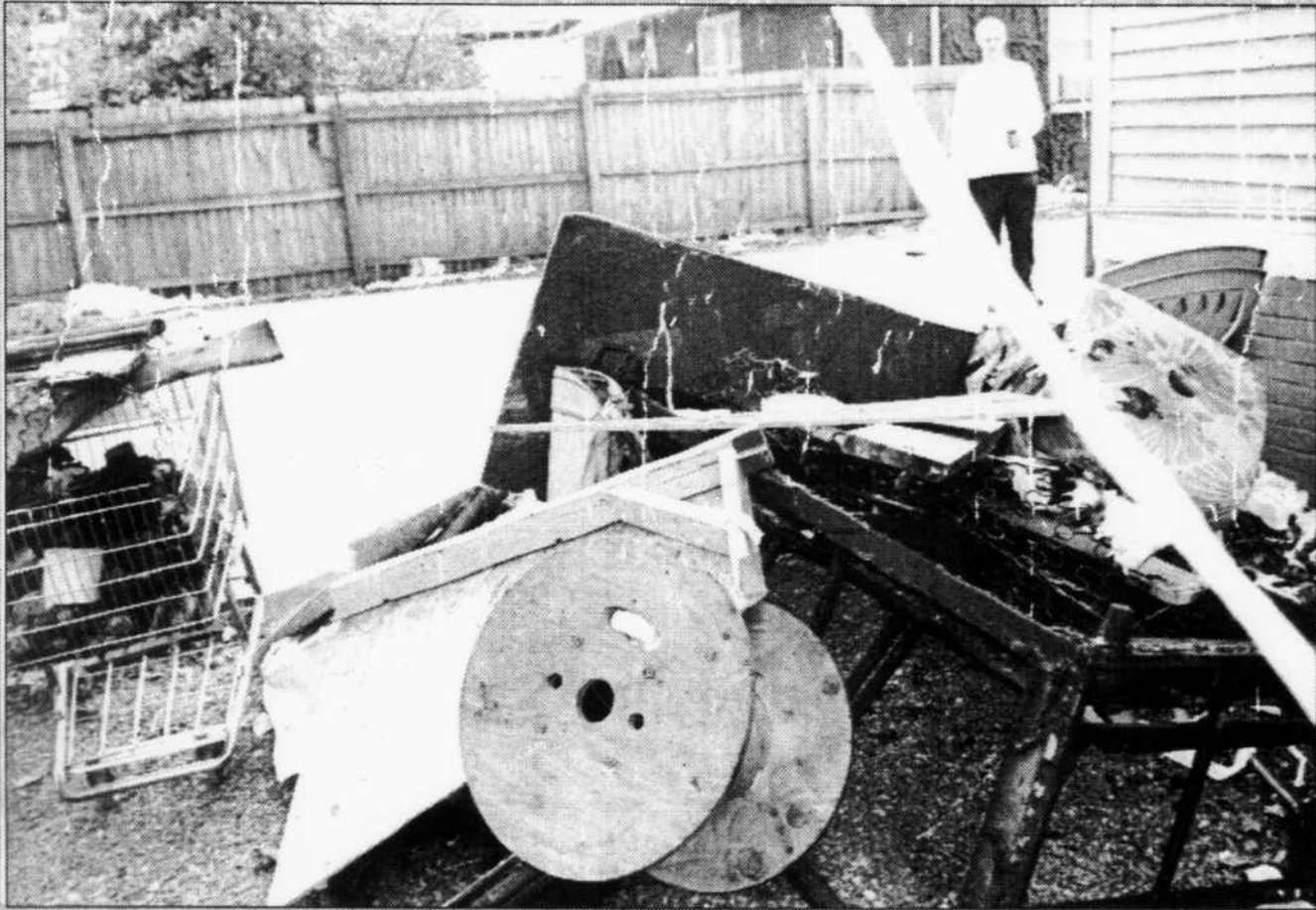


Photo by Zack Millican

The brothers of Beta Theta Pi fraternity clean up after a small fire at their house on Lytle Street Friday morning. Murfreesboro Fire Department Inspector Allen Swader said he believes the fire was the result of arson and that investigators are following leads as to who might have started the blaze. Beta President Jason Duke said there was only minor damage and that the arsonist may have lit toilet paper that had been spread in the yard. "The house isn't hurt," Duke said. "All that was lit was toilet paper."

## Income tax is gone for now, but could surface again

### Governor could call another session

Phil West  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The idea of a state income tax is not going away.

Outraged voters sent e-mails and made phone calls by the thousands, convincing legislators last week that a pro-income tax vote would be, as one senator put it, "a courageous but career-ending move."

But it's likely another income tax plan will be presented to lawmakers, either in a third special session this year or when they

return for their regular session in January.

"Just give them a few days to rest up and they'll realize the problem is still there and won't go away," said Sen. Robert Rochelle, who sponsored a graduated income tax bill that died when the latest special session ended Thursday.

Rep. Tommy Head, D-Clarksville and vice chairman of the House Finance Committee, already is working on legislation that would roll back sales taxes and implement a flat-rate income tax. No details have been disclosed, but such a combination is thought to be to the liking of House Democratic leaders.

Gov. Don Sundquist spent much of the summer and fall traveling the state calling attention to what he says is a flawed tax

system that, without any changes, will leave the state \$382 million in the hole next year.

Tennessee is one of nine states without an income tax. Sundquist and others pushing for tax reform say the state's 6 percent sales tax — Tennessee's main source of revenue — does not keep pace with economic changes and is unfair to the poor.

Sundquist unveiled a plan last month that included a flat 3.75 percent income tax, rolled back the sales tax to 3.75 percent and eliminated the 6 percent sales tax on groceries and the Hall income tax on investment proceeds.

He then called a special session on Nov. 1 to consider the plan and other tax

options. His proposal went nowhere, even after Rochelle amended it with a graduated income tax of between 1 percent and 5 percent.

"I don't know if I failed to make my case or the people of Tennessee failed to understand the gravity of the situation," an exasperated Sundquist said.

He refused to rule out another income tax proposal, and said everything short of a sales tax increase is on the table.

Sundquist said he will decide in the next week or so whether to call legislators back for a third special session this year. The first session, in April, also failed to produce any tax reform.

Meantime, legislative Republicans, many of whom are upset that Sundquist

abandoned his long-held opposition to an income tax, have formed a task force to look at ways to cut spending and plan to present recommendations in January.

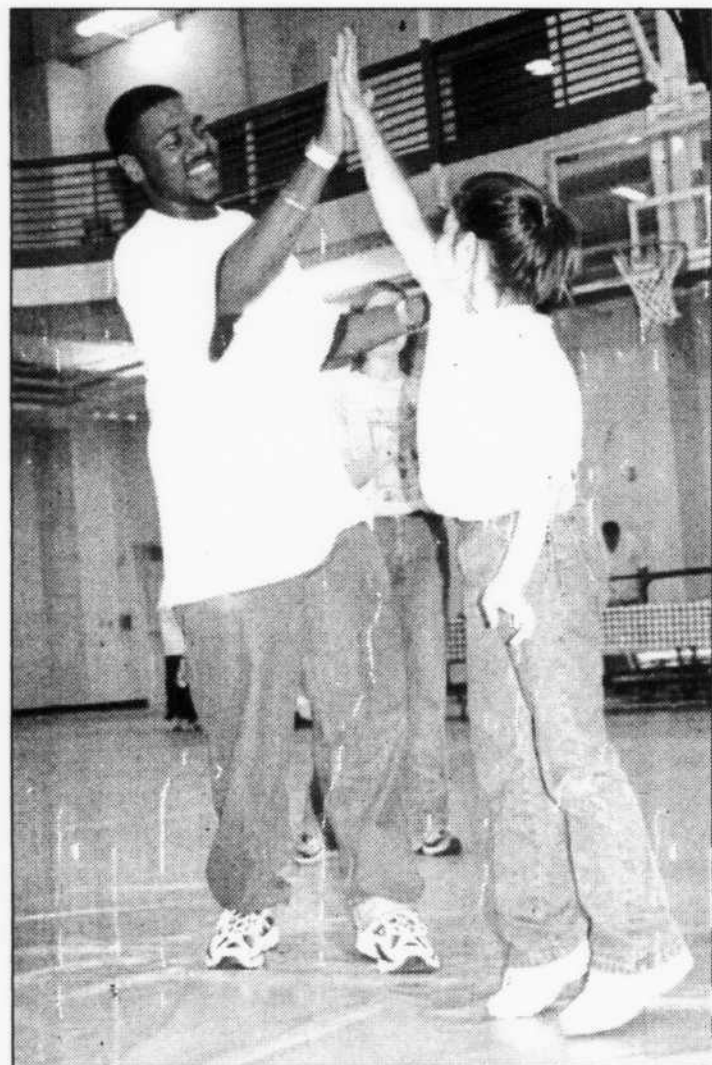
They are pushing for performance-based budgeting — justifying each and every dollar that's appropriated — before considering any tax increases.

"One thing everyone has come to learn over the last 10 months is we have a problem," said Rep. Matt Kisber, D-Jackson and chairman of the House Finance Committee.

"It might be a spending problem. It might be a revenue problem. But the bottom line is there is a problem."

See TAXES, page 4

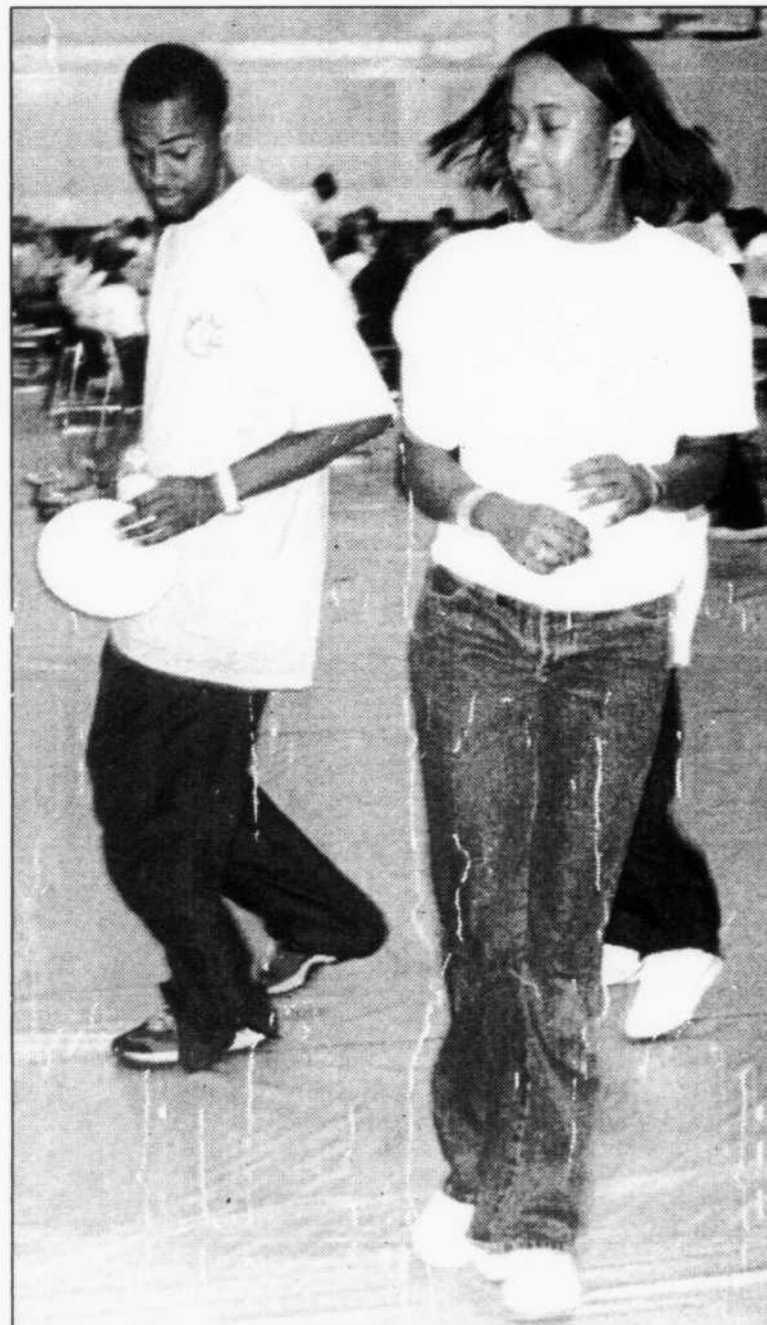
## Students stay 'Up 'til Dawn'



Photos by Derrick Wilson

MTSU's Student Organizations office hosted Up 'til Dawn Friday night through Saturday morning. MTSU is the second school to host the fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

(Left) Kala, right, gets a high-five for her skills on the dance floor. (Above) Freshman Melissa Schmidt, center, learns how to play poker. (Right) Charles Lyons, sophomore, gives dancing lessons to keep participants awake.



### INSIDE

On Campus.....page 2  
Opinions.....page 6  
Features.....page 8  
Sports.....page 10

### SPORTS

Football team finishes with win. See page 10.

### FEATURES

Horse competition comes to MTSU. See page 8.

### WEATHER FORECAST



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WEDNESDAY  
RAIN  
HI 61/LO 49



## On Campus

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

Nov. 22

The Fine Arts Department, Urban Music Society, and Student Programming will present Apollo Night Extravaganza. The event will feature approximately 15 acts performed by MTSU students in the areas of music, dance, comedy and drama. The show will be hosted by comedian Earthquake who has appeared on such shows as Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam and BET's Comic View. The show will begin at 7 p.m. and tickets are available at Ticket Master (255-9600) or MTSU Special Events (898-2551) for \$8.

Concert in the Commons will feature Damage's Son and many other bands in the Scarlett Commons Clubhouse. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and performers begin at 7:15. Food will be provided.

Nov. 30

Campus Recreation is hosting an indoor roller hockey tournament. The deadline for registration is Nov. 29 at 5 p.m. Contact Tina Villard at 898-2104 for more info.

Dec. 2

The June Anderson's Women's Center is sponsoring a free legal clinic on December 2 from 7-9 p.m. The clinic is available to all MTSU students, faculty, and staff. Appointments to speak with an attorney can be made by calling the JAWC at 898-2193. Space is limited.

Jan. 3-9

Campus Recreation is sponsoring a canoeing trip to the Florida Everglades. The cost is \$125 for students and \$160 for guests. Only 10 participants will be accepted. Sign up at Campus Recreation or contact WT, Mitch, or Sean at 898-2104 for additional information.

### ONGOING

Champions for Christ is sponsoring campus Bible talks every Monday at 7 p.m. in Scarlett Commons, Building 7, Room 713 for all students and athletes. Food will be provided.

Raider Victory Ministry is holding Sunday Celebration church services every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the MTSU Alumni Gym. The service features Generation X

music, food, and relevant messages on campus each week. Contact Pastor Franco Gennaro at 896-2348 for more information.

Campus Crusade for Christ will hold CRU, its weekly meeting, on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in LRC 221. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call Rich Humphrey at 896-2039, or e-mail him at rich.humphrey@uscm.org

MTSU Women's Rugby invites interested students to attend practices every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the intramural fields. For additional information, contact Stacey Venanzio at 893-1786.

MTSU Rugby Football Club invites interested students to attend practices every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the intramural fields. The "Moosemen" were the 1999 SEC champions and were ranked ninth in the nation last year. Call Evan or Todd at 907-5075 for further information.

Lambda Association invites everyone on campus to attend meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in BAS S118. Contact the president, Tony Gowell, at 867-3658 for any questions or concerns, or visit the web site at www.mtsu.edu/~mtlamba.

June Anderson Women's Center is hosting "Women, Food, and Body Image," an ongoing support group for women students who have eating disorders or concerns about body image and food. The meetings are held every Tuesday in CKNB 124 at 3 p.m. Contact Mary Glantz at 898-5725 for additional information.

June Anderson Women's Center is hosting "Looking Forward," an ongoing support group for women who are survivors of sexual abuse or rape. The meetings are held every Thursday in CKNB 124 at 3 p.m. Contact Mary Glantz at 898-5725 for additional information.

Project HELP is expanding its program to include typically developing one to three year old children. Parents interested in enrolling their child may get an application and additional information by calling Debbie Estes at 898-2837 or the Project HELP office at 898-2458.



## World News

### Children without schools in cyclone-hit Orissa

BHUBANESHWAR, India (AP) — School has yet to reopen for millions of Indian children who survived the cyclone that pummeled the country's east coast three weeks ago.

Many of the schools in Orissa state were demolished. Some of the teachers have died. And few students have textbooks, notebooks or pencils. Sixth grader Jiten Behera trudges to what remains of his school every day, only to be disappointed.

Three weeks after the cyclone laid waste to Orissa, relief officials are still finding human bodies in the water. Nearly 10,000 people were killed, according to government statistics.

The cyclone blew off the tiled roofs of thousands of schools, flattened walls and submerged hundreds of buildings in several feet of water.

Officials of the U.N. Children's Fund and local volunteer organizations estimate that 24,000 schools have been destroyed or damaged, affecting 3.1 million children.

### U.S. investigators in Egypt looking for causes for crash

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Six U.S. investigators are in Egypt looking into the backgrounds of passengers, crew members and anyone who had access to the EgyptAir plane before Flight 990 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean, a senior Western diplomat said Sunday.

The six investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board arrived Friday to "run through information, check facts, history ... records of the plane, individuals on board, who had access to the plane and some information that can only be accessed here," the diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

All 217 people aboard the Boeing 767 jet died when it went down Oct. 31 less than an hour after leaving New York for Cairo.

### Palestinian police stop workers from working

KHAN YUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinian police joined activists in stopping thousands of Palestinians from going to work in Jewish settlements Sunday, prompting a counter-closure by Israel that confined hundreds of Palestinians to their home villages.

Meanwhile, Palestinian and Israeli negotiators failed to resolve a dispute over the location of a West Bank troop withdrawal that was to have taken place last week.

Angry at settlement expansion in territory where the Palestinians hope to establish a state, activists from a Palestinian anti-settlement group pitched tents at two crossing points between the Palestinian-controlled and Israeli-controlled areas of Gaza, while plainclothes police closed both checkpoints.

"We aim to prevent all workers from going to the settlements so long as they are on the map," said Hassan Shaaban, an activist leader.



## National News

### Four busloads of Penn State students crash; two dead

WHITE HAVEN, Pa. (AP) — Four buses packed with Penn State University students crashed in thick fog early Sunday, killing at least one student and a bus driver and injuring 106 people, authorities said.

The buses were among six carrying 280 students home from a shopping trip to New York, university spokesman Bill Mahon said.

Three of the buses traveling together on Interstate 80 apparently slammed into each other and a fourth hit a guard rail, authorities said. A car and a pickup truck were also involved in the 1 a.m. wreck, police said.

Four hospitals treated the most seriously injured. Various churches in White Haven took in those with less serious injuries.

"We offer our condolences to the families of the deceased and want to do everything possible to assist the other students who made this trip," University President Graham B. Spanier said.

Other details, including the identities of the victims and the extent of the injuries, were not immediately available.

### Police tail murder suspect with satellites

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — When Brad Jackson said his 9-year-old daughter disappeared without a sound from his front yard early one school morning, police were skeptical. So when the trail grew cold, investigators turned to the digital-age version of a bloodhound, a space-based tracking system that made the 33-year-old truck driver unwittingly lead them to clues.

A week after Valerie's Oct. 18 disappearance, detectives obtained warrants to search Jackson's white-and-brown 1995 Ford pickup. The vehicle was soon returned — but with hidden cargo.

Police had attached Global Positioning System devices — satellite-linked transmitters commonly used by boaters, hikers and the military for navigation — that allowed them to track Jackson's movements for the next 18 days.

### School rifle teams in spotlight after shootings

LYNBROOK, N.Y. (AP) — Earlier this month test results revealed high levels of lead in the Marion Street Elementary School, emanating from a basement rifle range.

For decades, the Lynbrook High School rifle teams used it for target practice and competition — a notion that alarmed parents who had memories of school shootings in Littleton, Colo., and Springfield, Ore.

School officials in Lynbrook headed off a petition drive by parents and closed the rifle range following a three-day cleanup; the team now practices at a range off campus.

Charles Tacke, a rifle coach on Long Island for nearly 25 years, says there's no cause for alarm, contending that instructing students in the proper use of firearms is the surest prevention for tragedy.

He criticized the decision made by officials in Chicago this month, where Junior ROTC marksmanship classes were dropped in 33 schools.



## State News

### Coe attorneys try to reopen case before Nixon

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Attorneys for child-murderer Robert Glen Coe are trying to block his execution by turning to a federal judge who three years ago threw out his conviction.

U.S. District Court Judge John Nixon's 1996 ruling was overturned and Coe remains on Death Row.

Friday, attorneys for Coe asked Nixon to reopen the case in his court and block Coe's execution. It had been set for Oct. 19, but was stayed last month for an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court for a re-hearing.

Nixon set a Nov. 29 hearing for lawyers to argue whether he has jurisdiction. State prosecutors said Nixon now lacks authority to re-open the case, since appellate courts have ruled.

Charlotte Stout, the mother of Coe's Ann Medlin, Coe's 8-year-old victim, said she does not believe Coe will ever be executed, now that his lawyers are trying to take his case back before Nixon.

Victims' rights advocates contend Nixon opposes capital punishment.

### Suspected drug dealer dies in shootout

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A suspected drug dealer died after being fatally wounded during a shootout with undercover sheriff's deputies. Two suspects were charged Saturday in connection with the drug sting.

Marion Woody, 20, was dead on arrival Friday at Saint Francis Hospital, said Insp. Joe Ball of the Shelby County Sheriff's Department detective division. Officials said Woody was shot during an exchange of gunfire and a car chase.

Saturday, deputies charged Mark Armor, 24, with two counts of attempted first-degree murder and one count of aggravated robbery. Kaitlin McAllister, 19, was charged with one count of aggravated robbery.

One of the suspects pulled a gun and fired at undercover officers posing as drug dealers after money was exchanged, said Insp. David Wing of the Narcotics Unit.

### Teen given probation after fatal shooting

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (AP) — A teenager who shot his friend to death avoided a prison sentence.

Ryan Scott Cradic, 18, of Erwin pleaded guilty to reckless homicide Friday in Washington County Criminal Court. He was granted judicial diversion, which means the charge will be cleared from his record if he successfully completes six years of probation.

He shot 17-year-old Justin Huffine, a classmate at University High School in Johnson City, at a friend's house in Jonesborough in June. Cradic said the two were best friends and the shooting was an accident.

Judge Lynn Brown said Friday that Cradic had a mostly exemplary record and a lack of intent to harm Huffine. The judge also ordered Cradic to pay the victim's father \$3,000 as compensation for lost wages.

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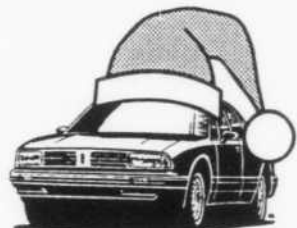
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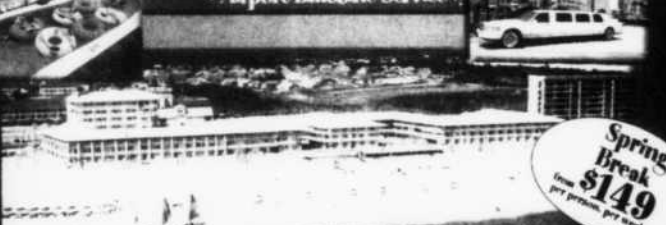
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# Church groups to host Thanksgiving dinner for students

Randall Ford  
Staff Reporter

International students and those who will not be able to travel home for the Thanksgiving holiday will still get to sit down to a traditional dinner.

Victory Church and the Raiders Victory Fellowship will sponsor a Thanksgiving dinner at noon Thursday at the Studecrest Golf Club on Mona Road in Murfreesboro.

"We wanted to do an American dinner for international students who don't know what Thanksgiving is about and why we do it and about our traditional foods," said Moon Cook, one of the event's coordinators.

The group expects about 100 people to show up for the second annual dinner.

Cook said the event is available to all students — whether they are international students or not.

"We take the holiday for granted," Cook said, "but other cultures don't celebrate Thanksgiving."

Local businesses donated food items for the meal, including pumpkin pie, which Cook said was popular at last year's meal.

"I remember last year, some of them had never tasted pumpkin pie, so that was a big deal to everybody," Cook said. "They could not understand why there would be a pie with pumpkin in it."

Dress is casual for the meal, and Cook said students should also bring clothing appropriate for other types of activities.

"There's also going to be volleyball and football," she said. "They're also working on putting together hayrides, which is something else that went over well last year."

Students wishing to attend should R.S.V.P. by Wednesday evening by calling 849-8534. Transportation will also be available for students who need it. ■

# Fraternity walks for charity



The brothers of Kappa Sigma fraternity held a walk-a-thon Sunday to raise money for the Leukemia Society of America. The fraternity, with the help of local businesses, raised \$1500 for the charity.

Photo by Derrick Wilson

# SGA Senate looks to inform students about textbook buyback availability

Kelley Dodd  
Staff Reporter

New proposals by the Student Government Association would ease the frustrations of students who cannot sell back discontinued textbooks and of evening-class students who have to buy a full-price parking pass.

A resolution passed unanimously by the SGA Senate during the Nov. 17 meeting, calls for students to be made aware of the discontinuation of certain textbooks at the bookstore when such materials are sold.

Introduced by Sen. Russ Henderson of the College of Business, this program would allow students to know before purchase that a particular book will no longer be used beyond the current semester.

"This is just to let students know that when they

buy a \$100 book, it may or may not bring them back any money," Henderson said.

In addition, the buy back price of certain textbooks would be made known in advance.

The resolution further stated that the respective department will be encouraged to make an official announcement regarding the future status of textbooks.

Also during the meeting, senators unanimously passed a resolution that would establish a parking pass for students attending only evening classes, with a recommendation that the bill take effect in the fall of 2001.

The resolution will next be considered by the University Traffic Committee.

According to Sen. Brian Gillespie of the College of Mass Communication, this parking pass would be sold at 60 percent of the current cost of a green parking pass and would allow students to park in

either green or white spaces after 4:30 p.m.

"This pass is basically for people who work during the day and commute to class at night," said Sen. Matt Hargis of the College of Mass Communication. "It's beneficial because they would be able to also park in white spaces and would save 40 percent off of the green pass."

Other business of the meeting included:

♦ The passage of a bill to create a Constituency Day, allowing senators to provide information regarding SGA and other current events within the university to students in different locations on campus.

♦ Speaker Will Shipley, a graduate student, informing senators on ways to reduce stress while in college.

♦ Announcements regarding an upcoming Christmas toy drive, of which the Senate is a sponsor. ■

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# Kansas student refuses to drop chalupa issue

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — A 270-pound University of Kansas football player became stuck while trying to climb through in a Taco Bell drive-thru window to confront employees who left a chalupa out of his order, authorities said.

Dion Rayford, 24, pleaded innocent Wednesday to charges of disorderly conduct, misdemeanor property damage and having an open container of alcohol. He was released on his own recognizance.

Authorities say Rayford became angry at about 2 a.m. Wednesday when he didn't get a chalupa he had ordered, and tried to climb through the 14-by-46-inch drive-thru window.

The window couldn't support the 6-foot, 3-inch Rayford and broke.

Police Sgt. George Wheeler said Rayford was

extricated by an officer who was an ex-football player and about Rayford's size.

"When the police arrived, he was partially through the window, attempting to get through. The police (officer) grabbed him and removed him from the window," Wheeler said.

Rayford, a senior defensive end, also was suspended from this Saturday's game against Iowa State, the final game of the season.

"I'm disappointed for the young man, and frustrated as a coach to be put in the position to suspend someone from the final game of their career," said Kansas football coach Terry Allen. "But we can't tolerate that type of behavior in our program."

A popular Taco Bell advertising campaign features a tense standoff for a chalupa, a taco-like creation.■

### FEES

continued from page 1

Fitch said the money is allocated as such:

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Student Government Association President Andrae Crismon said he has mixed emotions about the allocation of student fees for various political groups.

"I can see where someone is coming from, such as why someone wouldn't want money from the pot to go to specific organizations," he said. "But since that pot is out there, anyone can get money for specific groups."

That may not be the case

anymore, however.

Crimson said if the Supreme Court rules that student fees may not be used to fund political organizations, then "it's going to be every organization for themselves."

"Students are going to see organizations die," he said about the organizations of other campuses. "Without being able to expose themselves through events because of a lack of funding, they will die."

The Supreme Court ruling is expected in June.■

### TAXES

continued from page 1

Sen. Jerry Cooper, the Senate Commerce Committee chairman, often acts as a compromiser between Senate Republicans and Democrats, as well as between the House and Senate.

Cooper, D-Morrison, participated in tax reform talks involving Sundquist and members of both parties, and doesn't believe another special session will be held before the regular legislative session begins Jan. 11.

He also doesn't believe the income tax debate is over.

"I think the words 'income tax,' from what we've seen in the extraordinary session, scares the majority of Tennesseans right now," he said.

"We, as legislators, haven't convinced Tennesseans that they can trust us with an open-ended income tax with no constitutional limit on it."

While the income tax bitterly divided lawmakers during the session, they agreed the \$4.3 billion TennCare health care program has problems and needs repair.

Sundquist proposed TennCare legislation during the session that would require more companies to provide health insurance for their workers and punish insurance companies that dump sick people onto TennCare.

It also went nowhere, though lawmakers appear committed to doing something to shore up TennCare.

"TennCare needs some changes, but we don't need to cut it. With increases in health care costs, you can't cut it and stay even with where we are right now," said Sen. Roy Herron, D-Dresden and chairman of the TennCare Oversight Committee.

Herron's committee will examine TennCare at its meeting in early December.

Rochelle, D-Lebanon, said an income tax is the best way to ensure the state has adequate money for key programs like TennCare.

"It's difficult to abandon because there's not that many options out there. We'll just have to do a better job of explaining it and what the options are," he said.

"That's a healthy part of a democracy — that you don't put all your trust in public officials. You need to educate folks to all the details. But at some point, legislators have to decide if this choice is better than the other choice."■

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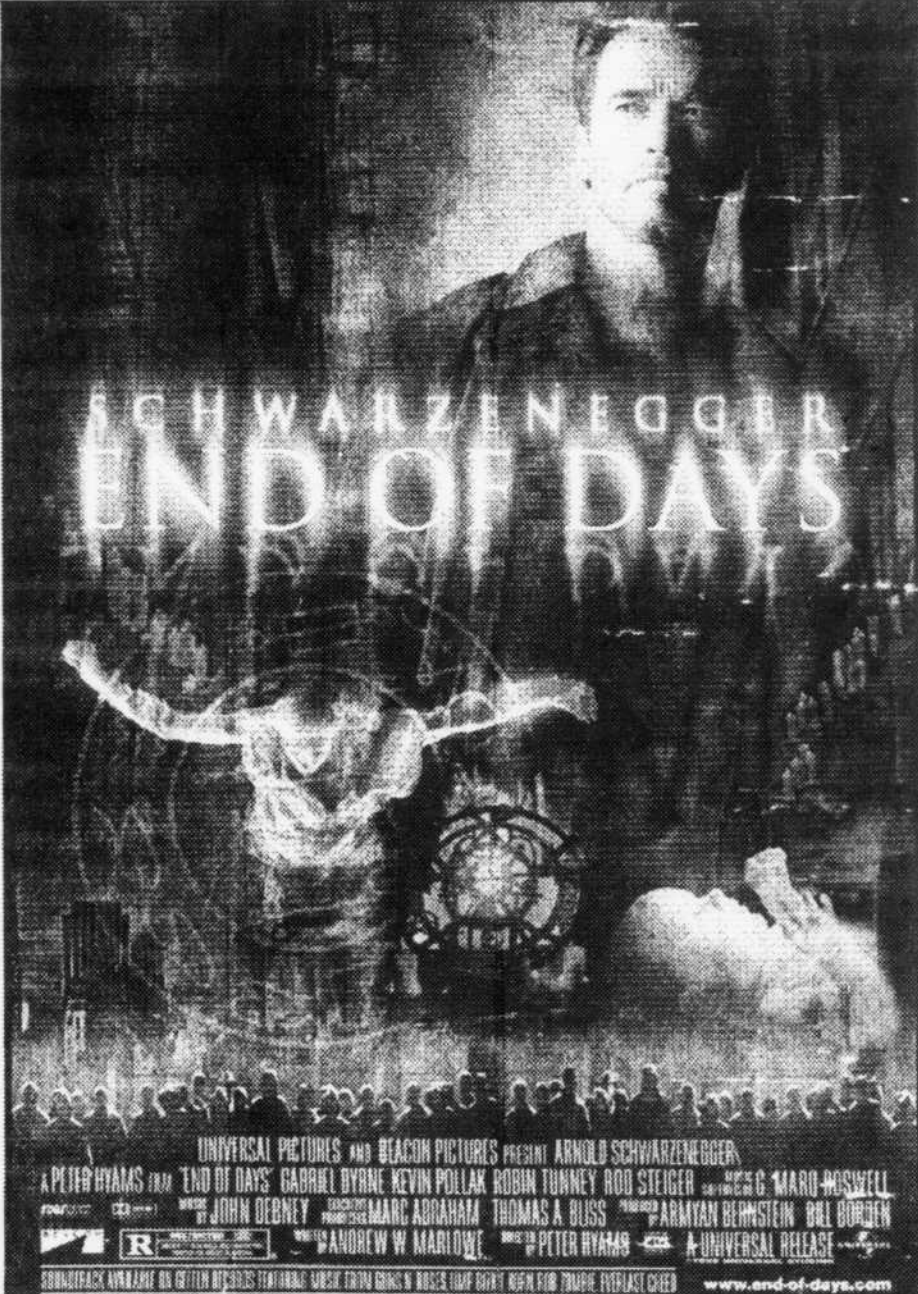
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# SIDELINES

## Spring 2000

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Editors receive a full tuition scholarship and a salary during their tenure. Applications may be picked up from the secretary in Room 306 JUB and must be returned there, 8am-4:30pm, Mon-Fri.



# Funerals held after Texas tradition turns into tragedy

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Friends and families began burying their dead Saturday as Texas A&M University struggled to cope with the bonfire collapse that killed 12 people and injured 27.

About 1,000 people attended the funeral service for Nathan Scott West, a 19-year-old sophomore oceanography major who was killed in the Thursday morning accident.

"Why does tragedy happen to good people who are going about doing good for others?" said the Rev. Mark Young.

"We live in a world that is not always fair. To suggest it was Scott's time to leave earth is some kind of cruel joke."

At the end of the service in the Houston suburb of Bellaire, mourners linked arms and sang the Aggie fight song.

Questions have begun to resurface about the safety of the annual bonfire, a venerated tradition on the A&M campus for 90 years.

Texas A&M President Ray Bowen has ordered the formation of a task force of engineers and other experts to look into the disaster "so we'll be able to analyze all the facts and make

decisions to see this horror never visits our campus again."

Hospital waiting rooms near the campus were crowded with students offering blood, sympathy and support for the seven people still receiving treatment. Up to 40 students have maintained a 24-hour vigil at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center.

"It has been incredible," said Cheryl Davis, mother of hospitalized student William Davis. "This has been wonderful."

Two people — Davis, from Bellaire, and John Comstock of Richardson — remained in critical condition Saturday, while three were in serious condition: Chad Hutchinson of Houston, J.H. Washam of Dallas and Dominic Braus of Hallettsville.

Lanny Hayes of Monahans and Milton Thiel of Livingston were in fair condition.

Twenty students had been treated and released from the hospitals by Saturday.

Hutchinson's father said his son grew emotional when he regained consciousness Thursday and was told of the loss of life, including three of his friends.

"He shed a few tears," Bill Hutchinson said, adding that his son remains committed to the

bonfire tradition. "If they would release him (from the hospital) to build it, he would."

William Davis and Chad Hutchinson were both crew chiefs who coordinated the student work gangs building the bonfire.

"They are so cautious and careful," said Davis' mother. "The manuals are passed down. There are years and years of experience."

Ms. Davis said her son "is doing great" despite pelvic and wrist fractures, a lacerated liver and a punctured lung.

The campus was somber on Saturday.

This time of the year, it's normally energized with students coming and going from the bonfire site and getting excited about the football game against rival University of Texas.

"Usually people are saying, 'Howdy!' but today, they are just looking down at the ground. It's totally un-Aggie," said Amber Roach, 18, of Aransas Pass.

Officials have said about 70 people were stacking the logs when the pile gave way. Some students were hurled from the structure; others were trapped in the shifting logs.

Past A&M engineering

professors said they tried over the years to warn students that the design of the bonfire contained perilous flaws.

"You put a pine pole in the center and then ... lash all these matchsticks together," Swiki Anderson, now a consulting engineer, told the Houston Chronicle. "It's an accident that's been waiting to happen."

Anderson said he voiced his worries to his department chairman when teaching at A&M in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The bonfire pile is flawed because it consists of a relatively loose bunching of upright logs and because its base is too narrow to hold its looming tower, said A&M professor emeritus Louis Thompson.

"I kept telling them it was dangerous," said Thompson, a civil engineer who retired in 1991 after 25 years.

"What's amazing to me is that it went on as long as it did."

Other A&M staff have decried the practice as safe and technically sound.

Bill Kibler, assistant vice president for student affairs, said he is unaware of any warnings made by engineering faculty over the years. ■

## Tennessee parents of bonfire accident victim say farewell

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A 17-year-old student from Barlett heard his parents say they loved him before he died of injuries suffered when a stack of logs for a bonfire at Texas A&M collapsed.

The death Friday of Tim Kerlee Jr. brought the death toll to 12. Kerlee had been hospitalized with internal injuries, a crushed pelvis and broken arm.

His mother and father, Tim and Janice Kerlee, kept vigil at St. Joseph Regional Health Center in Bryan, Texas, a short distance from the A&M campus.

Mrs. Kerlee said her son's internal injuries, particularly a damaged vein in his left leg, led to complications.

He was too weak to survive an amputation of the leg, and "even if he did, there was too much other damage," she said.

"He said he was tired of fighting," she said.

Kerlee was injured when the 40-foot tall bonfire structure shifted early Thursday and trapped students who were building it. Twenty-seven others were injured.

The bonfire, lit the night before the Aggies annual game against arch rival Texas, is a 90-year-old A&M tradition.

Mrs. Kerlee said she wished she could have videotaped the words of the friends who came to say goodbye.

"They talked about what a positive influence he will be for them. It was beautiful. There couldn't be any eulogy that will be any more touching."

She talked about her son and his accomplishments. She said he liked Texas A&M the first day he visited the campus in the summer of 1998.

"He is a fine Christian young man," she said before he passed. "And he's the type of kid who gives 110 percent to everything. That's what has kept him going this long. We didn't expect him to last until we got here, and he's lasted an extra day because he never gives up."

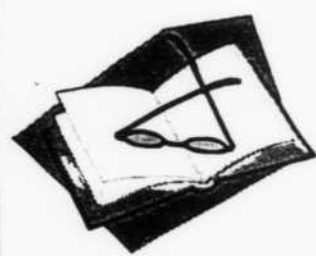
"We've told him it's OK to let go," she said. "We will miss him very much, but he can go home now to be with the Lord."

Kerlee was the youngest to die in the accident.

He graduated earlier this year from high school in Germantown, Tenn., a Memphis suburb. He was involved in the drama club and other activities of the Germantown United Methodist Church. Kerlee was president of the Beta Club and a member of the Germantown team that finished second at the district level of an economics competition at the Federal Reserve in St. Louis. ■

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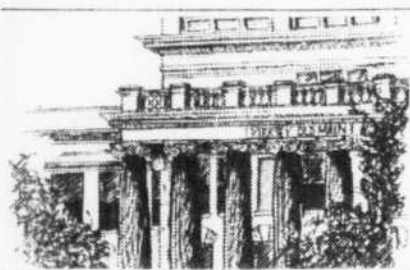
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6 ■ SIDELINES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1999

# OPINIONS

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

—Thomas Jefferson

Murfreesboro, TN

## Editorial

### Give thanks to the people around you

Ahhh, Thanksgiving. What does this holiday mean to you? A couple of days out of class? Reunions with family members who haven't seen you since you were "this tall"? Stuffing yourself fuller than the Thanksgiving turkey?

Thanksgiving, like other holidays, seems to have lost its true meaning. What was established as a day set aside to express gratefulness for many blessings has become a day that tends to center around a big family meal followed by a day of hectic Christmas shopping.

Well, Thanksgiving isn't just about family and friends. Without stepping on anyone's religious beliefs, Sidelines challenges you to give thanks this week to the many people around you who make your life a better one. Sometimes the people we are in contact with everyday are taken for granted. This week is the perfect opportunity to tell them they are appreciated.

For instance, one student told me that the Raider Xpress bus drivers endure horrible treatment by their passengers. If you ride the Raider Xpress this week, why not take the time to tell the driver you think he or she is doing a great job.

Dorm residents, how many times have you bumped into a custodian or maintenance worker on your groggy morning walk down the hall to the bathroom? Take the opportunity to tell these people you appreciate their hard work to make your campus living experience more tolerable.

Look around. There are many people who do their jobs on this campus everyday without any word of thanks. When's the last time you said "thank you" and smiled warmly at a food service worker or a cashier in the bookstore? How about those who work at the campus post office or the many library employees?

MTSU is not just built on administrators, faculty and students. This Thanksgiving week, let the everyday people around you know they are appreciated. Not only will your kind words most likely make their days a little brighter, I bet you'll receive a blessing, yourself.

—Lesli Bales  
Editor

## Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor.



Simply drop them by  
JUB 310 or email  
them to [stupubs@mtsu.edu](mailto:stupubs@mtsu.edu).

Letters may be edited for length or grammar.

## SIDELINES

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## Views from the Crowd

by R. Colin Fly, Staff Columnist

# Microsoft not down for count

Is there life after Microsoft?

I sat and pondered the question staring at my word processor, Microsoft Word, on my computer, which is an IBM Aptiva, using my operating system, Microsoft Windows 95.

I like Microsoft products. I'm not even afraid or ashamed to say it. I think it's best stated in the words of my roommate, "It's not like they are charging premium price for a poor product. Microsoft makes some of the best products because they have some of the best computer programmers in the world."

I couldn't agree more. Microsoft does make a tremendous product. I never worry about the quality of the content. However, I could see where others would despise Microsoft simply because of its stranglehold on the personal computer industry.

Well, then, buy a Macintosh. It doesn't matter to me. They re-emerged out of the rubble of the Apple Company a few short years ago with vengeance. I admit, my first computer in 1986 was an Apple. I like Macs, but I have grown to understand Windows.

Red Hat Software's Linux operating system now also has a chance to make a splash on computers across the nation. Linus Torvalds created the initial system when he was a student at the University of Helsinki in 1991. See, breaking up the monopoly is good. However, there

is always competition in every business; the competition might just be very small.

Internet browser battles should kick back into high gear. The big two, AOL's newest Netscape Communicator 5.0, not yet released, and Microsoft's Internet Explorer 5.0, will claw for the hearts of another surfing generation. However, alternate browsers, such as iCao, are also expected to make a small impact on their side of cyberspace.

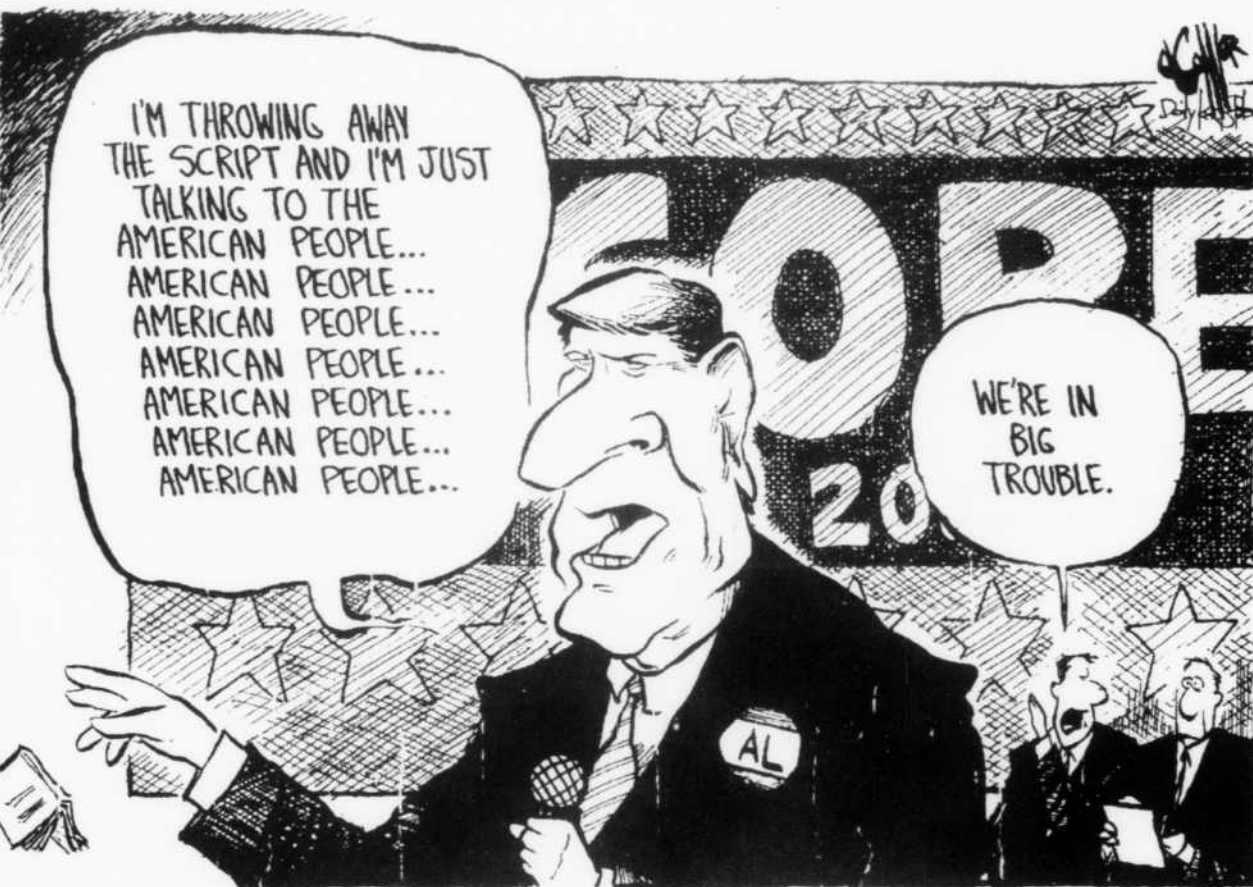
A majority of people do not trust Microsoft. For this, I can't blame them. They have consistently attempted to side step rights of privacy. When Microsoft Office is used with some versions of Windows 98, a source code is released. This source code could track your document back to your registered serial number.

An outcry followed, and Microsoft released a patch to block source codes from being released. However, it just isn't the way to make friends.

Is there life after Microsoft? Absolutely.

People can push the number of Microsoft programs and platforms down in society. However, with Windows 2000 on the horizon, don't plan on major companies to drop everything to switch systems. Businesses like Microsoft. Bill Gates likes their money.

That's the view from the crowd. Now, go home and stuff yourself with turkey this holiday weekend. ■



## Murder rate may be falling, but number of maniacs increasing

Chris Wooten  
Tulane University

Statistics recently issued by the FBI report that the U.S. murder rate in 1998 is the lowest since 1967. Last year's 16,914 murders are part of a general decline in crime that has been occurring since 1992.

Political leaders were quick to point out that America is the safest it's been in a generation and, naturally, credited this achievement to their various pet crime prevention programs.

The drastic fall in the murder rate is definitely worth celebrating, but it makes another trend in American society all the more disturbing.

While in recent years the overall crime rate has plummeted, the number of mass murders, especially the news-friendly massacres in schools, churches and offices that have become so familiar, has skyrocketed.

The decline of the murder rate is a direct result of the general fall in crime, which is an immediate benefit of the booming U.S. economy. (Although the FBI report also credits more and better trained police, mandatory sentencing laws that keep criminals off the streets for longer periods and the strictest gun control laws the United States has ever seen.)

The rise in massacres has been blamed on violent movies and video games, the breakdown of the American family, modern morality's lack of respect for life, the high pace and high stress of today's lifestyles and even a lack of religion in schools. None of these theories, however, have been able to explain fully what turns comparatively "normal" law-abiding Americans into hate and insanity-driven killers time and again.

### Children's play was mimicking the violence of adults long before Quake and Half-Life hit the market.

After every workplace and schoolyard shooting spree, politicians and theorists are ready to demonize movies and video games and to claim that even tougher gun control laws are the answer. But these seem to be convenient, inadequate explanations more designed to garner votes than actually solve the problem.

Violence has existed in movies for as long as there have been moving pictures, and Western literature and theater have been filled with war and murder since time immemorial.

Children's play, also, was mimicking the violence of adults long before Quake and Half-Life hit the market (probably since the first Cro-Magnon child lifted a stick in imitation of his father's war club).

The perpetrators of these terrible crimes were surely influenced, at least to some degree, by the movies they watched and the games they played, but it's more than ignorant to believe that all of the blame can be laid on Hollywood and Silicon Valley.

After all, many of these criminals were adults who couldn't find a hotkey with both hands and who wouldn't know what a

railgun was if you fragged them with it. More stringent firearm laws don't seem to be the answer, either, as the number of mass killings has increased along with the "strength" of the gun control laws.

Apparently, most of the weapons were either obtained through completely legal channels by people who passed all of the background checks and then went on to vent their rage through the trigger; or they were obtained illegally, through theft, which bypassed the federal government's background check system; or on the black market where even a total ban on firearms couldn't have stopped them.

Each time one of these horrible events graces the nightly news, whether from a high school in Colorado, an investment firm in Georgia or a synagogue in California, the debate starts fresh, and it becomes more clear that there is no easy explanation for these crimes.

These crimes are symptoms of a deeper, more fundamental problem in American society. Segments of the American population are so cut off, so over-looked and so marginalized that these people are forced to simmer in their own anger, hatred and insanity until they explode into fits of homicidal rage.

Every one of 1998's massacres could have been prevented had a parent, teacher, coworker, law enforcement official or psychiatric worker noticed the warning signs. Excuses and legislation couldn't have stopped any of these crimes, but simple concern for another person's welfare could have stopped them all.

We live in an environment that we create, and if we want to live in a country in which our classmates and colleagues are more dangerous than junkies and carjackers, we will. ■

## Correction

The article "Expulsions in Decatur not caused by discrimination" was written by Rob Evans, and the article "School of Americas breeding ground for assassins" was written by Dylan Ross. Both articles ran in the opinions section of the Nov. 18 issue. Sidelines regrets the error.

## Top ten quotes of the 20th century

Alex Ross  
Tulane University

This week I'm going low.

Really low.

I'm dancing with sea urchins, three-legged rats, freshmen and student-government representatives.

If this trend continues, soon I'll be looking sorority girls in the eyes. (Good God, save me. Save me from the fire!)

Anyway, due to the prodding of a couple of close friends of mine (I like to call them Mr. Sock and Mr. Pencil), I've decided to shed my morals and embrace the vulgar. I've created my own, personal, top ten list of the 20th century.

On what? Well, it took me a while to figure it out. After doing extensive research, I discovered that every somewhat legitimate, respectable and pertinent list had already been compiled and printed. From ESPN's "100 Greatest Athletes of Our Century" to my roommate's "Top Ten Reasons Why Physics Is Controlled Substance" to the Modern Library's "Top 100 best English-language Novels of the 20th Century" to my girlfriend's "30 Reasons Why Faulkner Should've Just Given Up," there was seemingly nowhere left for me to turn.

But, fortunately, Mr. Sock informed me of one subject that had yet to be exploited. And, naturally, I've decided to go there. So, I've gone ahead and compiled "The Top Ten Quotes of the 20th century." (Do you smell something burning?)

I took the quotes from a variety of individuals from many different social, political and historical contexts. These quotes defined lives, moved nations and provided hope for millions. And now, for your convenience, I've stripped them of their due glory and assembled them here, in my own top ten list. In addition, with each quote I've provided a brief commentary so as to distract you, the reader, from the quote's undoubtedly profound meaning.

You can thank me later.

### THE TOP TEN QUOTES OF THE 20th CENTURY

10.) "The trick is to stop thinking about it as 'your' money." — IRS auditor. Funny, I could've sworn a university administrator somewhere said this — on more than one occasion.

9.) "I was recently on a tour of Latin America, and the only regret I have was that I didn't study Latin harder in school so I could converse with those people." — Dan Quayle. I wonder what Dar'sverse's biggest regret is.

8.) "What do you take me for, an idiot?" — General Charles de Gaulle when a journalist asked him if he was happy. Thanks for the quote, General. Oh, and yes, we do take you for an

See QUOTES, page 7

## Interested in speaking your mind?



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# Medical marijuana prosecution hurts innocent people in need

Clarence Page  
Tribune Media Services

If the movement to legalize medical marijuana needs a poster family, here it is.

They live in Takoma Park, a mostly middle-class Maryland suburb of Washington. The mother, a lawyer, suffers from migraines and a chronic muscle pain disorder that is hard to pronounce and even harder to spell: fibromyalgia.

It is a condition that is severe enough for her to be considered totally disabled by the Social Security Administration, according to her attorney, Steven Kupferberg.

To relieve her suffering, according to police reports, this particular mom planted and cultivated her own private marijuana garden under plant lights in the basement of the family home.

That was before her 16-year-old daughter recently took photographs of the plants to local police.

Police came to the home, smelled marijuana, according to their report, and returned with a search warrant. They found the plants and charged each parent on Aug. 30 with the manufacture and distribution of marijuana, possession of marijuana and conspiracy to manufacture and possess marijuana.

The parents, Robert Jason Alvarez, 54, and Kathleen Marie "Kitty" Tucker, 55, turned themselves in to the Takoma Park police station and were released on their personal promise to return to court.

Because of the controversy, the father, a political appointee, was fired from his job as a senior policy adviser at the U.S. Energy

Department.

The parents also lost custody of their daughter, Kerry Tucker. A county judge ordered her into the care of family friends, an order that attorney Kupferberg was working to overturn. The family wants to be reunited, he said.

"This is a family that is loving and caring," Kupferberg told me in an interview. "There is no acrimony between parents and child. Everybody understands where everyone else stands. This is a family crisis, a tragedy of cataclysmic dimensions. Even if the allegations are not true, it leaves scars. People just remember what they read in the paper."

Before the incident, both parents were widely known figures among anti-nuclear activists. The wife helped bring national attention to the 1974 car accident that killed Karen Silkwood, a lab analyst at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron Plutonium Plant in Oklahoma who was on her way to meet a reporter to discuss alleged safety problems at the plant. Her story became "Silkwood," the popular movie starring Meryl Streep.

Perhaps someone will make a movie out of the Alvarez-Tucker family's story, too. It contains the sort of compelling and tragic irony that Hollywood loves. It illustrates the tragic consequences that come from treating marijuana as a law enforcement problem, instead of a health and medical issue, even while a growing body of medical evidence endorses the medical benefits of marijuana for some patients.

It also illustrates the tragic consequences of a "war on drugs" that empowers kids, who are too young to comprehend fully the consequences of their actions, to inform against their parents in the fashion of Stalinist Russia.

Alan St. Pierre, executive director of the

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), which favors decriminalization, told me he can recall "about 20" similar cases of youthful tipsters against their parents since assuming his post in 1990. Many have involved teen-agers who, angered by some youthful dispute with their parents, decided to get even by informing police that their parents possessed marijuana.

In an earlier era, "We might have held our breath or run away, but today teens really have the option to drop a dime on their parents," St. Pierre said.

But not everywhere. Alaska, Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington State have passed referenda to legalize marijuana for use by seriously ill patients. Maine votes on a similar measure this November.

A few blocks to the west of where the Alvarez-Tucker family lives, the District of Columbia voted on a medical marijuana issue last November, but a measure introduced by Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., while he was not busy prosecuting President Clinton, blocked the vote from being counted. Had it passed and Tucker's family moved into the District, Tucker easily might have been prescribed marijuana the same way doctors prescribe other legal pain relievers.

After all, even the Institute of Medicine, a branch of the National Academy of Sciences, announced earlier this year that marijuana eases pain, nausea and other symptoms in some patients.

But the zero-tolerance crowd, led by folks like Barr, does not want to hear about that. Sometimes politicians say they care about "family values." Sometimes that talk just goes up in smoke. ■

## QUOTES

continued from page 6

idiot.

7.) "Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?" — H. M. Warner, founder of Warner Brothers. Mr. Warner could just smell Keanu Reeves on the distant horizon, couldn't he?

6.) "University politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small." — Henry Kissinger. This one is for student government yahoos on campuses everywhere. May you continue to discuss, form committees, eat up our money and of course, win elections with a .0003% student turn out (Up .0001% from last year!). Oh, did I mention discuss, form committees and eat up our money?

5.) "It took me fifteen years to discover I had no talent for writing, but I couldn't give it up because by that time I was too famous." — Anonymous. A friend of mine told me that if anybody, John Grisham said this quote. "Fifteen years?" I responded. "For Grisham, try fifteen minutes."

4.) "Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country." — Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, DC. Maybe a few university presidents out there should consider hiring Mr. Barry: "Outside of our drop in rankings; despite the fact that most students are, by definition, alcoholics; outside the fact that our library is sinking; this is still one of the best schools in the nation."

3.) "In the beginning, the Universe was created. This has made a lot of people very angry and is

widely regarded as a bad move." — Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. I have my own version of this quote: "In the beginning, (The name of your school's main rival goes here.) was created. This has pissed off a good number of decent human beings and was generally regarded as a stupid, stupid, stupid move."

2.) "I would have made a good Pope." — Richard M. Nixon. You just can't argue with common sense.

1.) "The sooner I fall behind, the more time I have to catch up." — Anonymous. Truly, the creed of every college student. ■

Alex Ross is a Tulane College sophomore majoring in English. Comments can be sent to [aross@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu](mailto:aross@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu).

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# FEATURES

8 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

## It's a horse, of course Livestock Center hosts equestrian event

Ruth Peltier  
Staff Reporter

The Livestock Center highlighted the talents of 37 Middle Tennessee young people Saturday as part of the Stones River Pony Club Horse Show.

The riders competed for first through fifth place ribbons in five categories. The divisions, which represented different levels of experience, were Training, Novice, Pre-novice, Green As Grass A (12 and under) and Green As Grass B (over 12).

### Remaining Events

According to the Tennessee Livestock calendar, these are the remaining events for 1999.

- Dec. 8 Beef Cattle Improvement Association's tested bull sale
- Dec. 11-12 Tennessee Valley Ropers Association Finals
- Dec. 17-18 Intercollegiate Horse Show
- Dec. 26-29 TQHA Holiday Circuit Cattle Classes

\*Students are welcome at any of these events.

Although both sexes participate in this sport, all of the riders at this meet were female and ranged in age from 7 to 30.

About 10 adult members of the pony club did various jobs including setting up the courses, making sure riders were in place at the right time, keeping records and supporting the riders.

At the dressage test Saturday morning, the judge, Jane Pugh, ranked the riders on the ability to direct their horse with no visible cues. After each rider was tested, Pugh talked to the riders and made suggestions for improvement. She then allowed the participant to ride the course again, praising her progress.

In the afternoon, the riders demonstrated their skill at jumping. Then the judges combine each rider's morning and afternoon scores to determine the winners of the ribbons.

Colored barricades, flower boxes, trees and other artificial plants embellished the hurdles for the jumping test and made the course very intimidating for the horses.

The riders walked the course before the start of their event, but the horses were not allowed to see it before the ride began. By not letting the horses see the course, the riders were tested on their ability to convince their horse to jump over unfamiliar obstacles.

About half of the horses balked

at jumping at least one of the hurdles, but on the second or third try, most of them finally did go over them.

Horse shows provide an opportunity for families to interact.

Scottie Sawyer, grandmother of one of the riders, said that her daughter, Cheryl Kilburn, became interested in horses when she was 14. Kilburn, in turn, transmitted her love of riding to her daughter Heather, now 13.

Heather's little sister Christine, 7, said she is waiting for her parents to replace the pony that her sister handed down to her with, in her words, "a better horse", before she can compete.

There is a remarkable spirit of camaraderie among the participants. Although they are in competition with one another, they work together to improve one another's skills.

Wendy Johnson, 30, the oldest rider in the show, described her relationship with Russlyn Kimbrough, 26.

"We grew up doing this together," Johnson said.

The younger riders gathered around these women between events listening to their advice and encouragement.

First place winners were as follows:

- Training, Preston Johnson
- riding Spudweiser
- Novice Wendy Johnson riding Just Like A Leo.



Photo by Zack Millican

Comfy warms up for the competition held at the Tennessee Livestock Center this past weekend. The Livestock Center highlighted the talents of 37 Middle Tennessee young people Saturday from the Stones River Pony Club.

Pre Novice, Stephanie Baker riding Blue Hills

Green as Grass A, Jessica Costello riding Sam I Am.

Green as Grass B, Kaelin Willis

riding KW's Flying Bailey.

Almost every weekend, at about the time the students are loading laundry into their cars for the weekly trip home, members of

some of Middle Tennessee's agricultural groups, begin to arrive at the livestock center. These groups present various kinds of events. ■

## Cutting edge of fashion



Photo by Zack Millican

Exotica, a student produced fashion show, receives tremendous support Thursday from those in attendance. The show was a class project for the fashion promotions class under the department of human sciences.

"Putting together this show was a great learning experience for the students," said Nancy Kelly, fashion promotions professor. "Now when they get out into the real world of fashion, they will know how to coordinate a fashion show."

(TOP) In the industrial segment of the fashion show, Roxanne Chandler, Jaime Wilson, and Josh Baker strike a pose on the catwalk to show off their industrial wear.

## Painting allows students freedom

Eric Adler

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

LAWRENCE, Kan. — This is a story about painting, but it's not.

It's about tapping into the artist within us all, about freedom, self-expression and living in the moment.

It's about people — young, older, middle-aged — who have rarely if ever painted artistically in their adult lives and who, for the most part, know diddly about painting. But what they do know is that somewhere deep inside themselves or just shimmering beneath the surface is a creative spirit pressing to burst out.

So with their souls shouting, "Let me play!" or whispering "Feed me," they come each week to a place in Lawrence to let their souls hang out in color. They come to a garage-turned-color-splashed-work-space behind Sarah Oblinger's stone home where, for the better part of five years, the 47-year-old artist has run the "Paint or Die Studio."

Yes, "Paint or Die."

Its name is both personal and symbolic.

Personal because, as Oblinger tells it, when she began painting — which she didn't do until her 30s — it not only helped turn around her depressed life but also saved it. (We'll get back to that later.)

And symbolic because, as Oblinger sees it, life and creativity are inseparable. We are all artists, she believes. To deny the art within us is to deny a vital and expressive part of living.

"I think that creativity is alive in all of us," Oblinger said on a recent Wednesday morning as sunlight streamed through her

studio door, and one by one the morning's seven students — all women in their 30s, 40s, and 50s — began wandering in for the 10 a.m. session.

At 47, Oblinger is petite and lissome. Dressed in soft, loose-fitting clothes — a flannel shirt worn open over a T-shirt and baggy pants — she moves in a fluid and relaxed manner. She walks with the quiet ease of a yoga instructor. Her dark hair is cut peach-fuzz short. With her oval wire-rimmed glasses, she radiates the look and calm of a Buddhist monk.

Her studio smells like kindergarten.

Moments after they enter, the students begin "There is no talking. No music. No subjects."

"It puts you back in touch with a vital part of who you are," Oblinger said.

Of course, to think of students in any of Oblinger's weekly classes as art students would be as wrong as thinking of Oblinger as an art instructor or as the classes as art classes.

Oblinger is fast to admit she is not teaching students how to paint. She is teaching them that they can already paint — that inside every individual are 10,000 and 10,000 more images of shocking, heavenly, phantasmagoric and even hideous beauty.

At Heather Roman's green super woman with wild purple hair, blue lightning bolts shooting from her body and pink stiletto heels.

"I really like her. The lightning bolts just came," said Roman, 51, a Lenexa piano teacher who's painted with Oblinger for three years.

"I don't plan these paintings at all," she said. "Sometimes you're in this place where all you can do is

just keep up with the brush."

Down the wall, Stephanie Hansen, 31, who works at a center for at-risk youths, is working on a sharp-featured character with an array of curling tendrils, a kind of multi-limbed Shiva poised above a squat naked figure with the word "SABOTAGE" scrawled on his back and goldfish swimming in his skull.

Next to Hansen, Randee Werts, 50, an interior designer from Prairie Village, has a three-paneled painting of overlapping images: yellow-centered stars bursting into a field of gold, a green hand holding a cherry red heart in its outstretched palm, the words "fragility punished" scrawled nearby.

"It has totally amazed me the kinds of things that have come to the paper that I never would have expected," Werts said. "It is pretty liberating to just let go and do what you want."

But it also can be terrifying.

When Oblinger began painting this way in her 30s, even she found it frightening. But she also believes that it was this process of painting "from a place of honesty" that not only saved her life but also magnified its beauty and purpose.

Born and raised in Wichita, Kan., the oldest of six children in a middle-class family (her dad was a landscape architect; her mom stayed at home), Oblinger describes her upbringing as "hugely chaotic," and herself as a terrible student who flirted on the edge of delinquency.

"I knew at an early age what therapy was," she said, "and I knew one day I would be in it. I knew I wasn't happy."

Throughout her childhood, into adulthood and through two failed

See PAINTING, page 9

## Apollo opens at Tucker Theatre

Heather Glass  
Staff Reporter

If you're looking for an evening filled with drama, music and dance, then the 1st Annual Apollo Night held at Tucker Theatre is the place for you to be.

The show was named after the Apollo Theatre in New York, which traditionally has featured many amateur artists who got their start at the infamous

theater.

"We wanted to create a similar opportunity for students to premier their talents on stage," commented Fine Arts Chair Frank Harp.

Open auditions took place Nov. 3 and 4 at the Keathley University Center to select those talented students that will perform at Apollo Night.

There will be four judges from the professional industry who will be choosing three winners, a

second runner-up, a runner-up, and a Grand Prize winner.

The event will be hosted by Earthquake, who has appeared on "Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam" and was a winner at Grandstands on BET's "Comic View". Earthquake has also performed at the Apollo. Accompanying Earthquake at Apollo Night will be the DJ Miss Tasha.

Apollo Night is being sponsored by the fine arts department,

Student Programming, MidCoast Entertainment and Urban Music Society, and will consist of 15 talent acts. The acts that will be performed by the students will consist of rap, R&B, poetry, modern dance and gospel.

The show will be held tonight in the Tucker Theatre at 7 p.m. and costs \$8. Tickets can be purchased at Murphy Center ticket office or the Student Programming office on the third floor of the KUC

The following is a list of the

students chosen to perform at Apollo Night: Vega Tigarrus, Javaria Porter, Richard Hunter (also known as "Versatile"), Clarence McFerren, Kevin McWilliams, Urban Footwork (dance group), Cool Mike Sean, Dezaray Frasier, Tim

Mayberry, Meleek Shannon, Janelle Means, Joseph Watts, Angela Northern, April Hale and Quinterio Rayford. Come out and support your talented fellow students. ■



## PAINTING

continued from page 8

marriages, Oblinger would suffer severe bouts of depression. As an adult, her feelings of deep hopelessness only became worse by an unremitting battle with psoriasis, a skin condition that left her knees, elbows and face scaled and blotched.

In 1970 she graduated from Wichita North High School. "I felt terribly lost," she said. "I had no idea what interested me. I had no idea where to go."

So she went to George Williams College in Downers Grove, Ill., where her boyfriend was going. At 19 she married him. Eight months later, scared and unhappy, she dropped out, left him and hitchhiked to a friend's home in New Haven, Conn. A year later her marriage was over.

Instead of going back to George Williams College, in 1974 she enrolled at Kansas State University to study horticultural therapy. Again it was because she had no idea what to do and because her dad knew somebody in the program.

"What that says to me, when I look back on my life, is how much

of it I spent in abject fear," Oblinger said.

But it only got worse.

After college came a job mowing lawns at the Sedgwick County Zoo and "feeling hugely incompetent." Again, she followed a boyfriend — David Arehart, whom she eventually married — to San Diego, where he got a job selling furniture. She taught ground maintenance to disabled adults.

"Right after I moved to San Diego," Oblinger said, "it (the psoriasis) cropped up. It was the way my depression and anger manifested itself."

It also manifested itself with moves, one nearly every year, from San Diego to Los Angeles to San Francisco to Marin County and to one dissatisfying job after another. Until, in 1980, Oblinger and Arehart found themselves living poor and miserable in the basement of a decrepit cabin in the middle of the redwood forest.

That's when she thought of killing herself.

"I felt hopeless," she said. "Here I was. I didn't even know if I liked this man or if I liked my job. I was depressed. My skin was bad and I was seeing people who were telling me it might be a precursor to

cancer. I contemplated suicide and how I would do it.

"But I thought 'I can't blow my head off; that would be too painful.' I felt even too hopeless to carry that off."

So instead, prompted by an ultimatum from Arehart — "Get help, or we're done" — she went to a therapist schooled in a combination of Reichian and Zen Buddhist philosophy, a doctrine centered on "feeling and existing in the moment."

It changed everything. "What was so powerful," Oblinger said, "is that I could go and be a mess and have that witnessed and have it respected. It was very much a process of learning to love myself. Not with positive affirmations but by going through the feelings that were coming up."

Not long after, in 1983, Oblinger began taking a painting class in San Francisco. Its method, "painting in the moment," jibed exactly with her therapy.

Although it was frightening to paint out her moment-to-moment feelings on paper, she felt the liberation. And something else: She could paint!

"It was hugely overwhelming,"

Oblinger said. "It was hard. It was humiliating. It was everything."

Through the process, she felt alive, happy, safe, creative, affirmed.

"I went home and told David I want to work this way with people," she said.

The rest, as they say, is history, albeit gradual: more painting, encouraging friends, gallery shows, selling her work on greeting cards, moving back to Kansas, more shows and, in 1995, her studio.

Now, in class, when students find themselves in a moment of disturbing feelings or images, Oblinger tells them: "Stay in the moment. Work through the darkness and see where it takes you."

Because as she well knows, in painting as in life, the most dangerous ground can also be the most fertile.

"The evil devil you paint one week," Oblinger said, "one week later may suddenly be wearing a halo or be bearing a gift."

That alone will make it beautiful.

Paint or die?

It's no contest. Paint. ■

## Playing it up

The cast of MTSU's theatre production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" perform the play's pre-show. The show ran Monday through Saturday.



Photo by Zack Millican

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# Raiders go out on top, 24-7

Michael Edwards  
Staff Reporter

"Blue Raiders ride on to victory" is the first line of the MTSU fight song, and it would ring true for the 1999 finale and senior day in Floyd Stadium on Saturday.

Emotions were high for the Raider players and fans as the seniors ran out of the tunnel for the last time in their collegiate careers. The seniors were honored with a brief ceremony prior to the game. The Raider players would eventually send the seniors out on a winning note with a 24-7 domination of the East Tennessee State Buccaneers.

"It feels good, because they work hard all year, and you just want to send them out on a win," Kendall Newson said.

"I know I am going to miss them," Tyrone Calico said emotionally. "We wanted to end on a good note."

Usually the highlights are dominated by the MTSU offense until this game. The Raider defense rose to the occasion on several plays, holding ETSU to 174 yards passing and 152 yards rushing.

Terrence King, Keith Pauldo and Jykine Bradley all stepped up and made major plays in the game, all of which resulted in a turnover or stopped a Buccaneer drive. In the first game of the season, Terrence King made the first sack for the Raiders as a Division I-A team, and in the final game, he made the final two sacks. His first forced a 3-16 from the East Tennessee 32. Two plays later the Bucs punted. His second sack came two plays before he batted a pass into the air, where Keith Pauldo would intercept it and run it 34 yards to the East Tennessee 34-yard line.

Jykine Bradley also made a big play when he intercepted a pass as the Bucs were moving the ball at the MTSU 27. East Tennessee had driven 49 yards on only 9 plays when Bradley stepped in front, made the interception and returned it 65 yards to the MTSU 17. He was one block or a cut back away from going for a touchdown.

"Our defense played great; I don't think they played bad in any spot," head coach Andy McCollum said. "I think they gave us a chance to win this game today. I am proud of them; it's been a growing process

all year."

The offense wasn't too bad either. The running game finally got the opportunity to show off, and it did. The Raiders had a host of backs that combined for the 36 carry, 109 yard night. Jamison Palmer lead the team with 13 carries for 45 yards. Not including the two times Wes Counts was sacked, the Raiders totaled 139 yards on 34 carries.

The efficient running game opened up the passing game for the Raiders as Wes Counts threw 35 times completing 25 for 218 yards and one interception. His favorite target of the night was Tyrone Calico, who hauled in 11 catches for 95 yards and one receiving touchdown. He also rushed for a touchdown. Kendall Newson added 52 yards with six receptions.

Although he wasn't on fire in receptions, Hansford Johnson provided one of the most electrifying plays of the game when he returned a punt 41 yards. He wove in and out of would be tacklers.

Keegan Ray had arguably one of his best games punting, despite the 21-yard field goal that was blocked by ETSU's Lonnie Nettles. Ray did finish the night one of two in field goals and averaged 42 yards on five punts including three inside the 20 yard line.

The game started out with the Raiders taking the ball and marching down the field with no interruptions. MTSU rushed six times and passed six times for a diversified drive. No play gained more than 15 yards and only one play resulted in a loss of yardage. Wes Counts hooked up with Calico for 15 yards for the touchdown putting the Raiders on top 7-0 after only one possession. The drive took over five minutes.

After a punt by each team, the Bucs were faced with a 4-1 at the MTSU 20. Raymondo Miller was stopped for no gain, and the Raiders took over. MTSU, however, could not score, and it punted after only three plays. ETSU could do no better on their next possession. It punted to Johnson, and he returned the punt 41 yards.

MTSU could not move the ball against a very stingy ETSU defense. A field goal attempt by Ray was blocked, and the momentum that Johnson had captured shifted back to ETSU. No one could inflict any pain to the



Jamison Palmer crashes into an ETSU defender during Saturday's game.

Photo by Derrick Wilson

other team for the rest of the first half. The Raiders ended the half clinging to a touchdown advantage.

"I give a lot of credit to our defense," ETSU head coach Paul Hamilton said. "They played a great game. It's disappointing because the offense got down close again and again, and we were not able to get in the endzone."

On the first play of the second half, ETSU quarterback Jamie Chadwell completed a pass to Lamar Cooper for 23 yards. The Bucs were starting the second half hot, and flashbacks of the Troy State game lingered in the minds of observers. The drive continued as Chadwell rolled down the field

completing 5-6 passes before Jykine Bradley intercepted his seventh pass and returned it 65 yards to the ETSU. After having great field position, the Raiders were forced to settle for a field goal.

With the score 10-0 in favor of MTSU, ETSU was forced to punt after obtaining possession for only a little over a minute. MTSU took advantage of a fatigued ETSU defense and took 10 plays to go up 17-0. Again Tyrone Calico scored on a 16-yard rush, his second touchdown of the game. With the Raiders comfortably in front 17-0, the third quarter ended.

On the first play of the fourth, King batted the ball into the air

where Pauldo made the interception and ran 34 yards to the ETSU 34. MTSU could not muster any steam and punted. The next possession for the Bucs saw a new quarterback and some new life. Todd Wells completed two passes for more than 10 yards and Brandon Walker, who rushed for 120 yards on the night, picked up 36 yards on six carries before Wells, on fourth and two, alluded tacklers and scored on a 4-yard run.

The teams traded a couple of punts, and the Raiders took the ball at their own 40. Counts found Johnson on the third play of the drive for a gain of 33 yards.

Jamison Palmer picked up 27 yards on five carries, capping the drive with a four yard touchdown run. The score capped off a 60 yard drive that put the Raiders up 24-7 for the rest of the game.

"At any time it could have gone either way," McCollum said. "They just beat an East Tennessee team that won six games in the Southern Conference, and that's pretty good."

After the success of the final game of the year, the work is not done for head coach Andy McCollum.

"It's a 365 day a year job and it starts Monday," he said. "We are going to get ready to go again." ■

## Lady Raiders fall short, 70-67

Josh Ezzell  
Staff Reporter

Turnovers and free throws are a small but important aspect of basketball.

The Lady Raider basketball team failed to hold on to the ball and missed critical free throws, and as a result the Lady Raiders lost the season opener Friday to Alabama-Birmingham 70-67 in overtime.

The Lady Raiders committed 33 turnovers and hit only 12 of 18 free throws. Jessica McClure missed a big free throw with 12 seconds left in the game. As a result, Mia Thrash's basket with a few seconds remaining tied the game at 61.

"The turnovers we made cost us," McClure said. "I missed a big free throw at the end, and we lost. They picked up the tempo and we didn't attack."

Head coach Stephany Smith believes that the Lady Raiders blew chances to win the game.

"We were in control and we

gave it away," Smith said. "It was our game. A missed free throw here, a missed free throw there and they were able to get back into the game."

Led by Deanna Jackson, UAB jumped out to a 17-10 lead with 13:28 remaining in the first half. Jackson scored 10 of the Blazers first 17 points.

The Lady Raiders regained the lead 22-20 at the 3:52 point as the result of an intentional foul by Sally Jeter. Kelly Chastain hit a free throw, tying the score at 20. Chastain put the Lady Raiders on top with a jumper; Paula Penttila had the assist.

Jamie Thomatis and Erica Lufkin scored the last seven points of the half for the Lady Raiders, giving the Lady Raiders a 29-24 halftime lead.

McClure led the charge for the Lady Raiders early in the second half, scoring four of the Lady Raiders first ten points of the second half, while also contributing two assists and a steal.

Deanna and Felicia Jackson answered the Lady Raiders by scoring the first 12 points of the second half, keeping the Lady Raiders within three at 39-36.

Shortly after UAB got within three with a 3-point play by Deanna Jackson, Lady Raider guard Erica Lufkin went down with a sprained ankle. Lufkin's injury would hurt the Lady Raiders.

"Lufkin's loss was vital to us," Thomatis said. "If someone goes down, it really hurts. We hoped it wouldn't determine the outcome of the game."

Coach Smith also thought losing Lufkin hurt the team.

"It's not that we live and die with Erica; Paula (Penttila) isn't looking to shoot," Smith said. "Paula never plays two guard in practice."

The Lady Raiders appeared to be in good shape without Lufkin as they jumped out to a 47-39 lead. Chastain picked up her fourth foul at the 11:35 mark, enabling UAB to get back in the game.

UAB went on an 10-2 run; Deanna Jackson tied the game at 49 with 8:16 remaining in the game. The Lady Raiders scored seven straight points, but UAB refused to die. Thrash scored six points in the last 1:10 to send the game into overtime.

"Thrash played with poise," UAB head coach Jeannie Milling said. "She didn't force anything; she really came through for us. We had experience at the end of the basketball game."

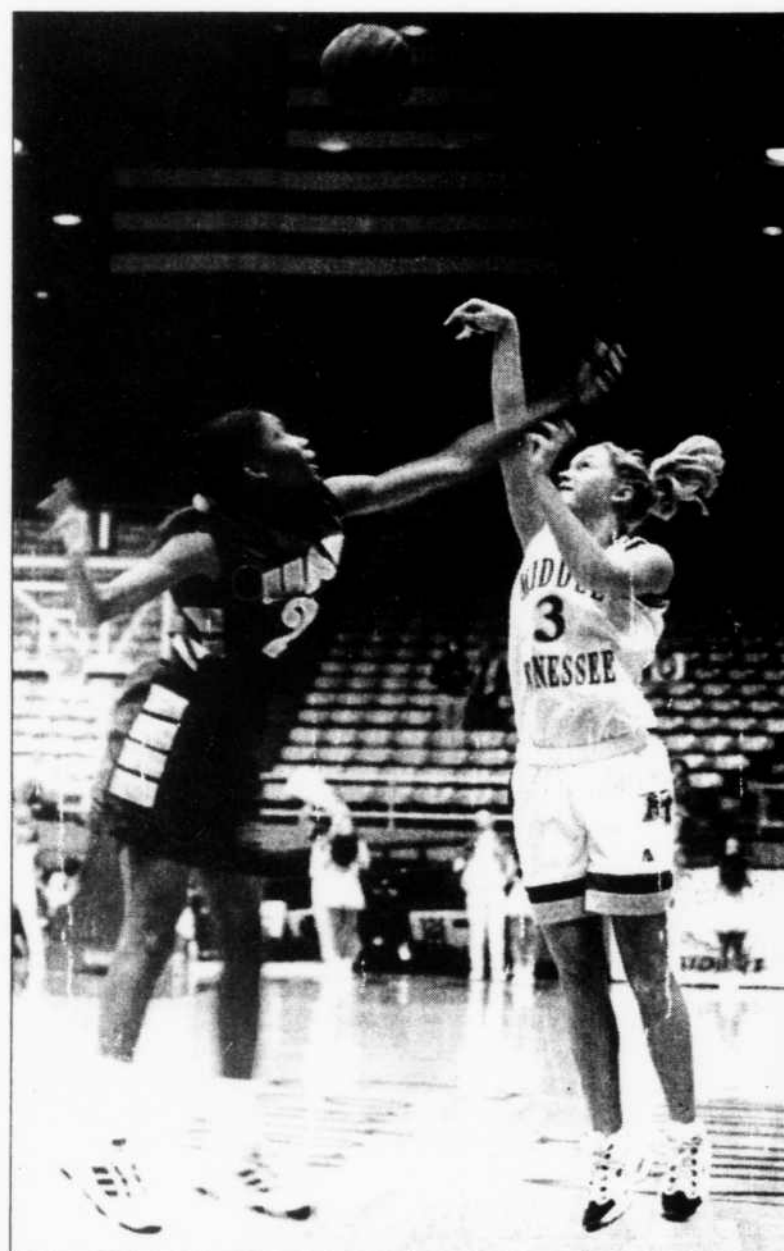
Coach Smith also thought that Thrash played well at the end of the game.

"Mia Thrash was very tenacious," Smith said. "She is a credit of that win."

UAB outscored the Lady Raiders 9-6 in overtime to pick up the win.

Deanna Jackson led all scorers with 23 points while Mia Thrash contributed 17 for UAB. Jamie Thomatis led the Lady Raiders with 22 points.

The Lady Raiders next game is Tuesday at Auburn. ■



Erica Lufkin shoots a jumper during the season opener.

Photo by Derrick Wilson

The Blue Raiders play Tennessee Temple tonight at the Murphy Center. Tip-off for this game will be at 7 P.M. Student admission is free with a valid ID.



# Run, Jykine, Run!



Jykine Bradley returns an interception during Saturday's victory over ETSU.

Photo by Robin Wallace

## DX rules again; Rock lays the smack down

Josh Ezzell  
Staff Reporter

D-Generation X beat the hell out of Pat Patterson and Gerry Brisco, and the Big Show retained the Heavyweight Title on Smackdown.

Triple H led DX on a rampage at the beginning of Smackdown, attacking Brisco and Patterson and bloodying Patterson's nose in the process. At the end of the beatdown, Triple H told Patterson to warn Vince McMahon that he is making things too personal.

Stephanie opened wedding presents after the match while Test played a video game. The couple received a bowl and an

invitation to pick up a wedding present in the outside limo. Test went to get the gift and was jumped by DX, who beat him down and dumped him in the trunk of a car; Mr. Ass drove away.

Another champion, The Big Show, was successful in his World Title defense against Hardcore Holly. After defeating Hardcore, the Big Show was jumped by Crash Holly. The Big Show made quick work of Crash, but he was unable to have success against a Big Boss Man sneak attack.

Ladies and gentleman, boys and girls, children of all ages—the New Age Outlaws retained the Tag Team Titles with a victory over the Hardy Boyz. The

Hardys dominated the match and seemed to have the match won after nailing the Road Dogg with a legdrop, but they lost, thanks to X-Pac.

X-Pac interfered while the ref was knocked out and hit Matt Hardy with the X-Factor, and the Road Dogg got the pin.

And now for the main event. The Rock "laid the smack down" on the Big Boss Man. The match went back and forth until Prince Albert interfered.

Prince Albert was trying to help the Big Boss Man beat up on the Rock. Instead, the Big Boss Man missed with a nightstick, and the Rock landed a Rock Bottom and got the pinfall.

Triple H called out Vince McMahon and Vince accepted. ■

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**Female Roommate Needed!**  
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The Placement Center is using a computerized registration system and resume preparation program called **RESUME EXPERT**. The benefits include:

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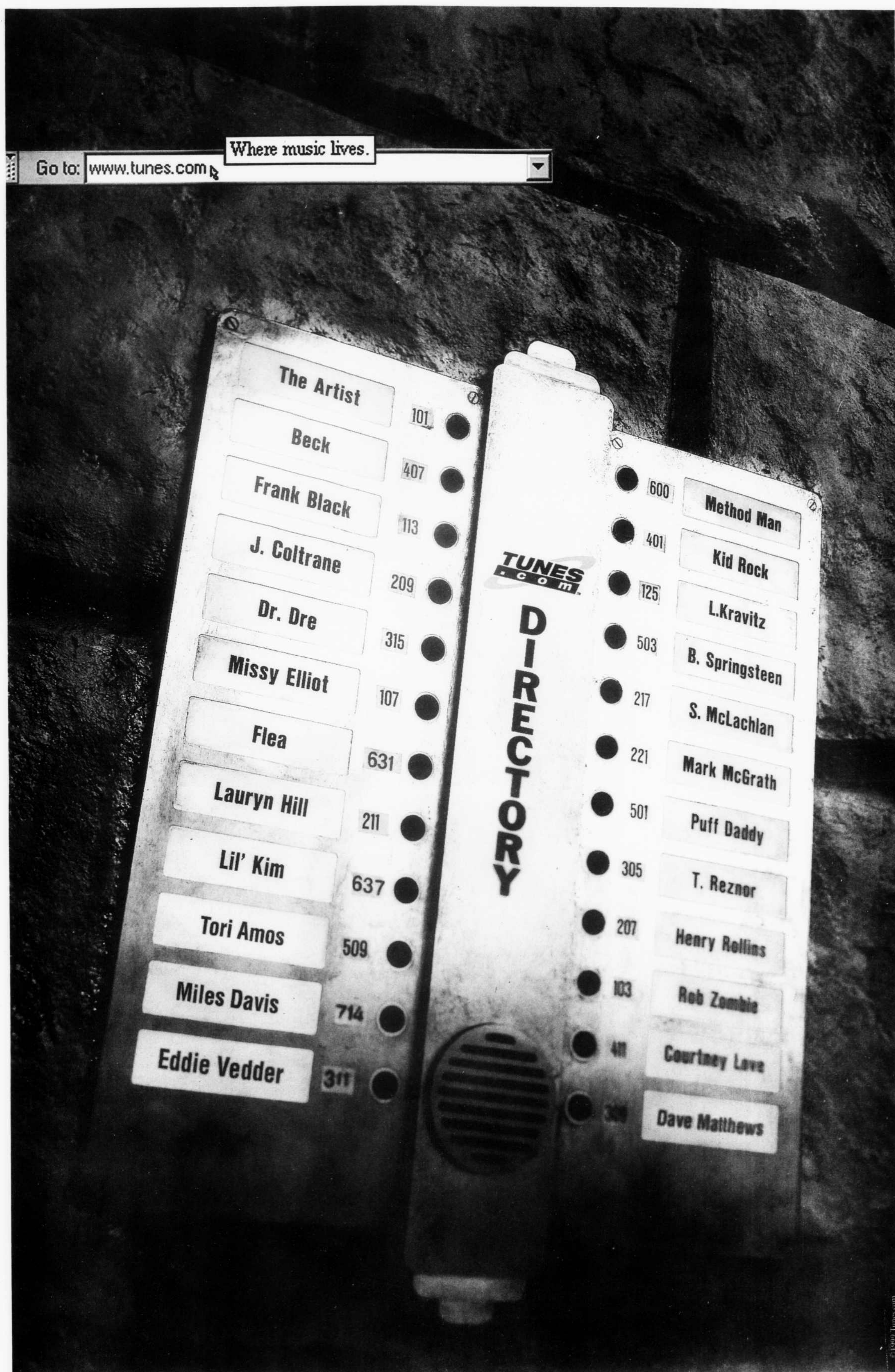
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