



INSIDE: **Stop bellyaching about Wiel, just play the game**

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Comedian incident raises security questions

By Jason Cox
Staff Writer

An incident of violence at an on-campus event has raised questions about the university's security policy.

The incident occurred Dec. 8 at the Keathley University Center Theater during a comedy show sponsored by the fraternity Phi Beta Sigma.

A supplement report provided by the Department of Public

Safety states that student and comedian Freeman Ivory was continually mocking some MTSU football players that were in the front row of the audience. Ivory then came down from the stage while continuing to mock them.



Ivory

Senior Terrance King, one of the team members, tackled Ivory. As several other players grabbed King and pulled him away, Ivory returned to the stage and began pulling and tearing some curtains. When the campus police arrived, several fights had broken out in the audience.

There was no security present at the free event, which started at 10 p.m.

According to Chris Montague, president of Phi Beta

Sigma, when an event is being planned, they must first go to their faculty advisor. They then go to their event coordinator, who looks over the forms and makes the determination of whether or not to hire security for the event.

If they decide to do so, then the form is sent from the coordinator to Maj. Roy Brewer of Public Safety, who handles security assignments outside of routine patrol. Brewer makes the

determination of whether they have the manpower to provide security and sends the form back to the coordinator, who sends it back to the president of the organization.

The president of the organization must then submit the report to his or her faculty adviser. For fraternity and sorority events, the coordinator is Victor Felts, director of Greek Life.

Felts acknowledged that he

did not see the need for security at this event because there is no precedent that would make an event such as a comedy show seem like a security risk.

Felts and Brewer both said that while university policy states that events that require a paid admission must have security present, the policy is unclear as to which free events require security and which do not.

See Comedian, 3

SGA seeks safer walks

By Mary Anna Brown
SGA Reporter

The Student Government Association passed two resolutions last week dealing directly with the safety of the student body.

The resolutions call for eliminating vehicle access to sidewalks and placing street signs at all appropriate locations on campus.

"The safety and well-being of students, including our disabled students, should be a great priority," SGA President John Marshall said. "Both of these issues have been mentioned to the administration countless times without response, so now we are taking action."

Currently, MTSU maintenance vehicles, police cars and housing golf carts are at liberty to come and go as they please on campus grounds, including the sidewalks and grassy areas.

Resolution No. 01-S states that sidewalks are vital thoroughfares for students to travel across campus safely. It states that campus vehicles constantly and inappropriately use sidewalks for transportation across campus, and that the sidewalks are no longer used by pedestrians only. It adds that students must constantly be on the lookout for university vehicles for fear of being run over.

"The sidewalk is for pedestrians and we should not have to be on the lookout for vehicles," Marshall said. "I can think of countless times when I have seen maintenance vehicles speed through the Keathley University Center knoll and students stepping aside to dodge them."

The main traffic area for the maintenance vehicles stretches from the KUC parking lot, through the courtyard and over to the Cyber Café.

Campus police have also been seen taking advantage of this shortcut.

"We know the police are trying to maintain our safety, especially in emergency situations," Marshall said. "But we are starting to wonder if they are creating another safety hazard by taking the shortcuts."

"This privilege is being taken advantage of because of sheer laziness on their part."

See SGA, 2

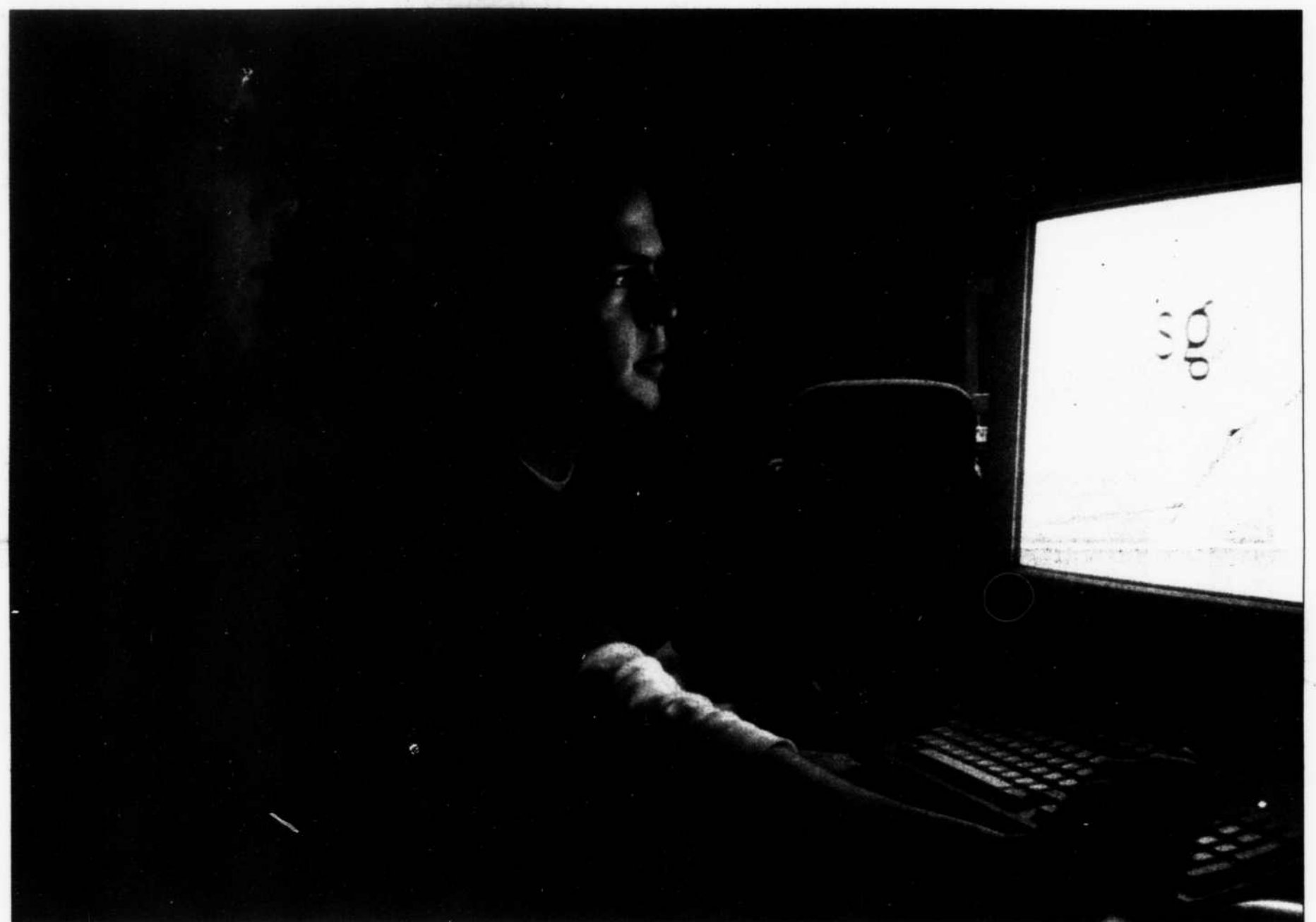


Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Chief Photographer

Russell DeVere and Jonathan Hobson work on one of the digital animation machines in the lab located in the Mass Comm building Tuesday. The two were working on sending a file but are having trouble with the network which is a side affect of technology.

Digital media concentration offered

By Laura Finger
Staff Writer

The radio-television/photography department will offer a concentration in digital media communication beginning next fall.

The aim of the new program is to increase the marketability of undergraduate students, and it will feature interdisciplinary course offerings from the

departments of RATV, art, journalism and marketing.

"We've done a lot of consulting with people within the field," Deryl Leaming, dean of the College of Mass Communication, said. "Many of them told us that they would hire students on the spot."

Many people in the industry "asked us how soon we could send people to them for internships and jobs," said Robert

Spires, RATV professor and interim director of the program.

Although the program will officially begin accepting students in the fall, most of the classes that comprise the program are already offered.

Juniors and seniors will not be able to begin the program, although "if they want to add this in and stay around here longer, they are certainly welcome to do so," Leaming said.

Students not seeking a degree in the new program will be able to participate in the classes offered, assuming they meet the prerequisites. Many of the classes, such as writing for digital media, have little or no prerequisites, Spires said.

"The classes are designed to emphasize multimedia authoring and entrepreneurship, while emphasizing both aesthetics and usability," Spires said.

Program graduates will leave prepared to work for online companies or design Web sites.

Students now enrolled in writing for digital media, a class in the digital media sequence, acknowledge the usefulness of the class.

"Sources are changing so rapidly, I need this class," said Candice McCallie, a senior jour-

See Digital, 3

Lawyer offers advice

By Sarah Johnson
Staff Writer

The Spring 2001 Honors Lecture Series kicked off Monday with Murfreesboro attorney Kathy Aslinger as the first speaker.

Aslinger is a 1994 MTSU Honors Graduate and completed law school in 1998 at the University of Tennessee. She is currently working under Judge David Wells as a judicial clerk for the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

Her clerical job consists of much research and writing. Although she is not practicing law herself, Aslinger said, "I

think I have learned more in the past two and a half years of clerking than I ever did in law school."

Aslinger gave some tips on where to start for those who may be interested in pursuing a similar career path.

Although you can enter into law school with any major and any undergraduate degree, Aslinger majored in Political Science. If you are planning to attend law school, some classes Aslinger recommends taking are Constitutional Law and Logic and Reasoning.

If you are interested in criminal law,

See Lawyer, 3



Photo by Candice Lewis | Staff

Kathy Aslinger, a local judicial clerk, speaks to Julie Parker following Aslingers lecture on the topic of education and criminal law. She said that logic classes are needed to aid in understanding the reasoning in criminal law.



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Compiled By Pam Hudgens - Assistant News Editor

Man pleads guilty to morgue theft

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - One of 10 former employees of the city's medical examiner's office pleaded guilty Tuesday to stealing from bodies at the morgue.

Leon Henry Jr., 29, stole credit cards from two bodies and gave the cards to someone who purchased computers and other merchandise worth more than \$28,000, Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Schwartz said.

Under a plea agreement, prosecutors will recommend that Henry serve 18 months to two years in jail. He could have faced 15 years in prison and a fine of \$500,000.

A. Charles Peruto Jr., Henry's attorney, said his client should not get jail time because "the crimes for which he pleaded guilty are not serious."

Besides the former morgue workers, six non-employees are charged with using credit cards stolen from the bodies. ♦

US ambassador was on hijacked plane

ADEN, Yemen (AP) - An armed man who wanted to show support for Saddam Hussein hijacked a Yemeni plane carrying the U.S. ambassador and 90 other people Tuesday and diverted it to neighboring Djibouti, where he was overpowered by the crew.

Passengers, including U.S. Ambassador Barbara Bodine, exited down the plane's emergency chute as the drama ended.

Because of the hijacking, Bodine missed an appointment with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh at which the deadly terrorist attack on the USS Cole and increased security cooperation was expected to have been discussed. Bodine, who was accompanied by other embassy staff, flew from Djibouti back to the Yemeni capital, San'a, later Tuesday. Aides said she would not comment on the hijacking. ♦

Aussie farmers fear mad cow fallout

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - As Asian nations hastily put up defenses against mad cow disease, farmers in major beef producer Australia are worried their markets may suffer even though their herds are disease-free.

Asia imports very little beef from the European Union, which has been hit by a rash of mad cow cases in recent months, but is an important customer for Australia.

Governments are trying to prevent the spread of the human form of mad cow disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, which scientists believe is spread by eating infected meat.

In three months, beef sales have tumbled 27 percent across the European Union.

Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Thailand, Taiwan and Malaysia ordered recalls of all European meat and meat byproducts from affected European countries. In Australia, people who have lived in Europe have been banned from donating blood, and feed containing European cow and sheep products has also been barred.

Most Asian nations get their beef from Australia, New Zealand, the United States and India. Australia sold a record 990,000 tons of beef in 2000, according to official government figures. ♦

Scientists enter Confederate sub

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) - Scientists slipped through a hole in the ballast tank and into the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley on Tuesday, beginning the long process of exploring the silt-filled vessel and removing the remains of its nine-man crew.

The Hunley, the first submarine to sink an enemy ship, rammed a black-powder charge into the Union ship Housatonic off nearby Sullivan's Island on Feb. 17, 1864. The Housatonic sank, but so did the submarine, which was fashioned from locomotive boilers.

The Hunley was raised last August and has since rested in a tank of cold water at the former Charleston Navy base.

It will take about a week to remove sediment from the ballast tank. Scientists then will have a better idea of how the hand-cranked sub is put together, said Kellen Butler, a spokeswoman for Friends of the Hunley.

"They will start finding how solid everything is and that will determine which hull plates they take off" to get access to the rest of the vessel, she said. ♦

Senate confirms more Bush appointees

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Senate confirmed three more top officials of the freshly minted Bush administration on Tuesday, including the man who will oversee the crafting of the next year's \$1.9 trillion federal budget.

By a single vote of 100-0, the Senate confirmed Mitch Daniels as director of the White House Office of Management and Budget; Mel Martinez as secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Anthony Principi as veterans affairs secretary.

Further underlining the lack of controversy over the three nominees, there were fewer than 20 minutes of debate.

The vote brought to 10 the number of top-level appointees of President Bush that the Senate has approved since his Saturday inauguration. ♦

SGA: Two resolutions passed to further student safety

Continued from 1

In addition to wanting to restrict vehicle access to sidewalks, SGA is also concerned with where campus vehicles are being parked around campus.

"Some buildings are notoriously known for having vehicles park on their front sidewalks," Marshall said. "The library and Cope Administration are two of the worst."

Resolution No. 02-S states that most intersections and other appropriate locations for street signage on campus are not in place and/or are not readable and that if an accident occurs on campus, most stu-

dents are unable to identify street locations as a result of inadequate signage.

"Not too long ago, I came upon an accident on campus and when asked where the police, they asked where I was located and I couldn't tell them because there was no street sign," Marshall said. "I had to describe to him the location and because of that, the response time of the emergency personnel was hindered."

The resolution also states that any delay in response time for public safety to arrive at the scene of an accident, because a student has to describe their geographic location due to

inadequate street signs could be the difference between "life or death."

The University has looked at placing uniform street signs that are in accordance with the street signs throughout the historical district of Murfreesboro for years but has lacked funding to do so. The resolution states that the university's desire to provide a uniform and aesthetically desirable signage system on campus is admirable, nonetheless it should not take priority over a student's safety and well being.

"I did some research on the cost of temporary street signs and figured up that the signs

would only cost between five and ten thousand dollars, leaning more towards the five thousand side," Marshall said. "However, the university believes that they won't ever get funding for the historic street signs if they grant us our request now."

MTSU's streets were actually renamed a few years ago, but the University is waiting on the signs to unveil the new names.

"Is our safety or campus beautification and prestige more important?" Marshall said. "Both of these resolutions are preventative measures that we feel are necessary."

The resolutions will be pre-

sented to Associate Dean of Student Life, Dr. Edmund Fitch, then to Dean of Student Life, Dr. John David Hayes, and finally to Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Robert Glenn.

Hayes will review the resolutions and write up a synopsis and their opinions on whether or not Glenn should provide his endorsement.

From that point, Glenn has 10 days to review the resolutions and decide whether or not to provide his endorsement or veto the resolution before they are passed on to their respective departments for further discussion. ♦

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MTSU preparing to send leaders to summit

By Amanda Maynard
Staff Writer

The 2001 Middle Tennessee Leadership Summit is fast approaching, and MTSU is looking to send its potential leaders.

The summit will be held at Vanderbilt University from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Feb. 16. The annual event was last held at MTSU and boasted over 80 participants.

The sixth annual MT Leadership Summit is a one day conference for student leaders and potential student leaders

from Middle Tennessee area colleges.

Area colleges include Aquinas College, Austin Peay State University, Belmont University, Columbia State Community College, Fisk University and Volunteer State Community College. Many of these colleges are included in the "Founding Schools of the MT Leadership Summit," as well as MTSU.

The years theme is "Wanted: Service Minded Leaders!" and that's exactly what MTSU is looking for. MTSU is open to volunteers who wish to attend

the summit and interact with other Middle Tennessee area college students.

The summit is designed to bring students together in order to develop their leadership skills through workshops, speakers and round table discussions.

No prior experience is necessary for students to join the summit. Past participants have included students who were involved in student government, orientation leaders, residential assistants, Greek life, programming boards and other Student Affairs affiliated organizations.

The summit's schedule typically involves a keynote speaker, session discussions in the morning, round table discussions during lunch and closing question/answer sessions. Co-organizer Gina Poff said that the discussions were, "a great way for students to network and interact with different students."

Co-organizers Poff, Maggie Prugh and Becca Wilson are also looking for student input in the planning stage of the summit. They are hoping to get much needed input from other participants rather than just administration.

MTSU is shooting for an average of 25 students to attend this year. Since enrollment is open to anyone, all students are invited. Students may also get an on-campus sponsor to sponsor their attendance to the summit.

The sponsorship will cover the \$17 charge which includes a small breakfast, lunch and T-shirt on the day of the event.

Students attending the summit are also encouraged to bring along any new or partially used book to participate in "Book EM".

"Book EM" is an organiza-

tion designed to benefit Middle Tennessee area schools, community centers and Head Start programs. "Book EM" will give books to children who may not have books of their own.

Students who are interested in attending the MT Leadership Summit may enroll by filling out the MTL registration form located in the MTL brochure. You may also contact Poff at 898-2454 or gpoff@mtsu.edu.

For more information on "Book EM" you may contact Jackie Bryant at 297-READ or Gina Poff as well. ♦

Comedian: Security costs hinder campus groups

Continued from 1

In cases of events such as a free comedy show, the determination is left to the event coordinator for that organization.

Officer Matt Foster was injured in the incident. In his report, he said that "while attempting to break up one of the fights, I had a black male by the back of the shirt and was pulling him away from the fight when someone unknown to me kicked me in the right knee, causing my knee to bend inwards."

He further stated that "numerous fights continued as we tried to evacuate the theater. It took approximately 20 minutes to get the theatre cleared. It took another 10 minutes to clear the building out."

The university decided not to prosecute Ivory, who voluntarily withdrew from the university, but according to Drew Bergman of Judicial Affairs, Ivory "will be held accountable for any damage done to the theater."

Lt. Daryl Collins questioned King Dec. 13. The report states that King "first stated that he was not drunk or drinking, then recanted to say that he had drank a couple of beers before going into the event. Mr. King stated that he was not serious when he tackled Ivory and received a three inch cut on his face due to his actions."

King was referred to Judicial Affairs, where there has yet to be a formal hearing on the matter.

Felts also said that some stu-

dent organizations run into problems with the cost of security for an event.

"If they do have security at an event they have to have at least two officers," Felts said, "and those officers have to get paid for a minimum of two hours at \$20 an hour. So, if you've got a small group, such as Phi Beta Sigma, who has probably 10 or 12 members, and you're paying \$80 for security and if it's a free event, it's [cost prohibitive]."

Montaque agrees with Felts on the subject of cost.

"I wish that the price could come down, or at least could be reasonable," Montaque said. "However, on the other hand, I do see why it's necessary. There's always people that just act like they don't have any

home-training."

Brewer said that the money brought in from security payments goes to the officer relative to their salary and that the rest "is to cover administrative costs." He said that most officers make \$12-\$15 an hour, and they are often paid overtime for security jobs.

Montaque also says that the process can often be slowed by staff members being away from their desk or out of town for up to weeks at a time.

He cites the security requests as "a big problem. We may not know that [the coordinator's] going to be gone for the next two weeks. Our organization, I know, if we need security, I walk that over [to Public Safety] myself." ♦

Digital: Program to increase job offers

Continued from 1

nalism major. "I'm familiar with new media but not that familiar."

Dewy Ballard, senior English major, hopes to use the class to further his screenwriting career. "I want to use this as a writing

tool for creating my own Web site," he said.

Recent troubles plaguing Internet companies should not affect the job market for those who chose the digital media program, Spires said.

"The problems with dot-coms don't really worry me,

because plenty of places need people to do design," Spires added.

An informational meeting will be held in the spring prior to fall registration. Further information can be found on the department's Web site at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~rtvp>. ♦

News Tip?
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slnews@mtsu.edu

Lawyer: Aslinger lectures

Continued from 1

as Aslinger is, she recommends a minor in Criminal Justice.

"These are classes you probably would want to take if you want to go to law school," Aslinger said. "They will be very beneficial."

Another piece of advice she gave was to put time into practicing for your Law School Admissions Test.

"The first year of law school is very, very stressful," Aslinger said. "It's very difficult."

Aslinger said that after you get out of law school, you start to wonder what kind of a job you will be able to get, and how much will you make. She says it depends on where you go.

"There are so many different options with law," Aslinger said. She recommends specializing in a specific area of interest, such as criminal law or family law.

Some people start out as assistants to people such as District Attorneys, where the starting salary is about \$29,000. Judicial Clerks start out at about \$39,000. If you go on to a

private firm, the salary will be higher, starting around \$49,000.

Research done on UT Law graduates shows that in 1999, the range of starting salaries was \$25-85,000, with the average starting salary being \$46,000, according to Aslinger.

Aslinger also gave insight to another aspect of her career.

"There are a lot of challenges in being an attorney," Aslinger said. "Staying objective is very difficult."

Some of the challenges she has faced are putting the law first, staying up to date, balancing work and social life, and fighting public opinion.

"It amazes me how much people really despise attorneys," Aslinger commented.

"Everybody wants to tell you lawyer jokes."

Next weeks lecture will feature a local physician, Dr. Henry Butler. The Honors Lecture Series is held every Monday from 3:00 p.m.-3:50 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 109A. All lectures are free and open to the public. ♦



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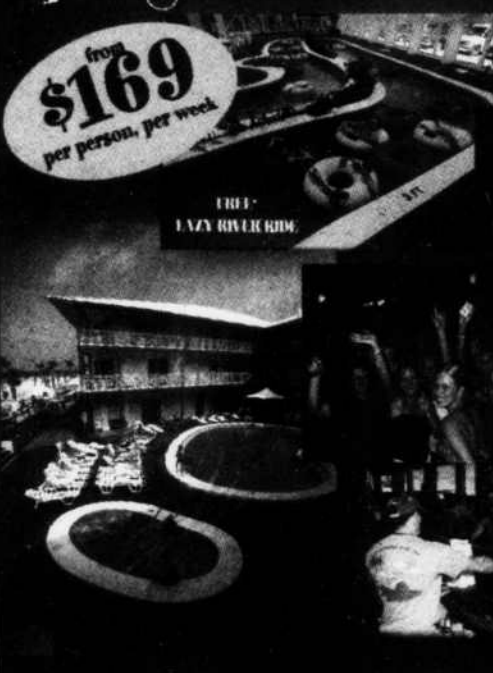
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OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, January 24, 2001

Murfreesboro, TN

From the staff Stop bellyaching about Wiel, just play the game

The men's basketball team is now 1-5 in the Sun Belt conference having only beaten North Texas, the lowest ranked team in the western division.

The Blue Raiders are now ranked 278 out of 325 I-A division teams.

The team has lost their last four competitions, six out of their last seven and eight out of the last ten by a combined 33 points.

Last week, the team lost Fernando Ortiz - their leading scorer - due to knee injuries.

Ortiz was considered by most to be the Raiders only strong man.

You won't find anyone whistling show tunes in the Murphy Center these days -- except members of the other teams.

Basically, that's because every thing about the men's team this season seems to be plagued by misfortune and missed opportunities.

In fact, it seems as if the team will end up looking at its second consecutive losing season, and the worst season since head coach Randy Wiel took the helm.

Following a tradition that has been a part of sports since the beginning of time, everyone is starting to question Wiel's ability to lead the team, and some are actually saying it's time to replace him.

Realistically, no coach can be expected to win all the time, and every coach falls in a slump every now and then.

Not to say that Wiel shouldn't shoulder some of the blame, but calling for his dismissal is somewhat premature.

Let's not forget that over the summer, Wiel was targeted by North Carolina to potentially fill the vacant head coaching position.

Surely, if the UNC officials had that much faith in Wiel's ability, we should give the guy the benefit of the doubt.

Instead of balancing on the edge of the bandwagon, maybe everyone should leave Wiel alone and let him and the team salvage what's left of the season.

Students' money being wasted

Ok, ok, I know that the subject of the new campus courtyard has already been covered by *Sidelines*, but I'm going to throw in my two cents because this issue really gets my ire up. Please allow me to explain.

Having taken several science classes, I can tell you that both our science buildings are in major need of expansion and/or renovation. The inside of WPS looks like my old country high school. DSB isn't even have enough room to hold all its professors. Several have offices in different buildings about campus.

The classrooms here aren't much better than those in WPS; many still have wood-framed chalkboards and hold nothing more technologically advanced than an overhead projector. Don't even get me started on our astronomical observatory that few students even know about. It's been rendered next to useless by light poles and not a soul outside the physics department seems to care about moving it.

Being the Renaissance man that I am, the arts are also held dear to my wee heart. Call me crazy, but I think all the art students and professors at MTSU deserve to have more than an old barn to work out of. Quaint?

Yes. Sufficient? No. I also gather that the art department is so underfunded that it cannot afford to pur-

Wes Cobb
Staff Columnist

Cranial Smorgasbord



chase ink cartridges for its state-of-the-art printer.

Parking. Ah yes, the very word conjures despair in the heart of any MTSU student. The daily battle most students here experience just trying to get here tells of a need for, dare I say it... A PARKING GARAGE. I'm scared to leave campus during the day for fear of not being able to get a parking space within a quarter mile of my dorm! Now I'm not an architect or anything, but I have a feeling that 1.4 million dollars could build a pretty decent parking garage. I think I'd rather see that in front of the library than what the administration has in mind.

Add to these the fact that our "technology fee" apparently doesn't cover the cost of running our computers. Don't forget that we get stuck paying for parking and the gym whether we use these facilities or not. I won't even mention how my dorm bath-

rooms look.

So why are we getting a new "heart of the campus" when our university is so lacking in these other areas?

MTSU makes money by upping enrollment (duh). Do incoming freshmen think about parking? That they're charged a couple of hundred dollars a semester for "technology access" and still have to pay for printing? Ever hear a tour guide say, "Well, we had to stick some of our doctors being led through this building over here because DSB isn't big enough to hold them." When was the last time you saw a group of prospective students being led through WPS or JUB?

No, my friends, it's bells and whistles that up enrollment, not hard facts. Show them a big fancy library (which I really like, by the way), a huge sound studio (even if they're not going into the RIM program), and a new "heart of the campus" and the hooks will be set.

I'm not saying incoming students are dumb, I'm just saying they have only what they are shown to go on unless they know to talk to professors and currently enrolled students, which most do not. So the money will roll in for the administration and the Tennessee Board of Regents, and we students will have to make do with what we have for a while longer. Such is life. ♦

Give Bush a chance, or be labeled a sheep

George W. Bush is a unifier. He just hasn't had the chance yet. Given the opportunity he could walk around the disgusting partisanship embedded in Washington. But it seems no one is willing to give the poor man a chance. Including some of my colleagues here at *Sidelines*.

For all the talk of inclusion and second chances liberals love to give, I cannot find one who's willing to give Bush (or his cabinet picks) a fair shake.

I am personally less than thrilled about the prospect of at least four years of a blundering Texan sitting in the office of the highest executive. But, I do firmly believe that George W. Bush will be a more effective administrator than Gore -- and certainly Nader -- ever could. Bush has the intelligence to recognize his own weaknesses and respond accordingly.

Look at his foreign policy Cabinet nominees. Colin Powell's mere presence automatically gives the Bush Administration much needed legitimacy in the foreign policy arena. Condoleezza Rice is no wallflower either. Her expertise in Russian politics is going to come in handy in the next few years as the Commies try to get back in power.



Canadian Bacon

**Patrick
Chinnery**

Staff
Columnist

Furthermore, Bush is already acting as a unifier. For a man who only received 9% of the African American vote and an even smaller percentage of other minority votes, he has assembled quite a diverse cabinet. In fact, it is the most diverse cabinet ever.

I'm not one who likes to make a big deal out of race, but Bush's cabinet has more colors and flavors than a Baskin Robbins countertop. I think that's a great thing. It's time for the Cabinet to reflect the diversity of America today. No matter the qualifications of the candidate however, the choices have political overtones. Bush has chosen three African Americans, one Hispanic, one Asian American, and one over-zealous right wing nut (or as I like to call him a "psycho-Christian").

Just for kicks, here is what I think

of Ashcroft's nomination: sure, he may be the proud recipient of a Bob Jones University honorary degree, and he may be opposed to all forms of gun control, but that does not mean that he does not have the capability to enforce the laws of the land. Just as a lawyer must defend a client, even if he is disgusted with the crime committed, Ashcroft will enforce law he does not agree with. So get over the fact that he hates abortion. I say props to him for actually speaking his mind on the matter, and not engaging in political doublespeak.

Bush is more inclusive now than Clinton ever was, though why do I have the feeling that no one in the major media channels are going to notice that fact? I'm not out to lynch the fourth estate; I just feel that sometimes they get a little carried away. And forgive me for proposing this idea, but it must be stated: public opinion is directed by the amount of coverage a story receives, and by the spin the reporter puts on it. Most people are sheep. They blindly follow the lead of the loudest person in the crowd. Unfortunately for George W. Bush, that person isn't even willing to give him a chance. ♦

SIDELINES

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Letters to the Editor

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

Scribbling Mob needs to go

There is a student publication on campus that is called *Scribbling Mob*.

I picked it up and read some of it and it is a filthy and vulgar publication.

How can you publish something like that on campus at the expense of taxpayers? Something in their lifetime has certainly warped their mind because they are perverted in their view of men.

They also are just plain perverted. What kind of professors are these that are associated with the publication? Hopefully, this publication will cease to exist.

John Hixon

Artificial uterus changes procreation property

Hello,

I'm a physics/science engineering student from Portugal/Europe.

I've read your column about artificial uterus and believe the implications are far wider than you believe. Although I believe that an artificial uterus would free women from the terrible and dangerous course of having a baby, it also gives the procreation process a completely different property.

Society as a whole, today, is structured around having and rearing babies and may always be because society is made up of people, of course, and every culture to every individual wants to sur-

vive in some way!

Having an artificial uterus would permit, for example, the existence of corporate "families" in which the genotypes and phenotypes would be tailored and time-tested for certain tasks and abilities. You would birth to your job, and you would love it because you were perfect for it! Of course, that would not be obligatory for there is human volition and will.

But let it come! Let chaos and freedom set on the social order, to produce an even higher level of order (or maybe to just implode everything).

These are some of my thoughts on the subject (of which I may have been rude to so openly share with you).

I would like to ask if you have any information related to businesses and R&D activities in the development of such machine.

I've found several related patents, but the biochemistry of the subject seems unknown territory and extremely complex.

Thanking you for your attention,

Andre Esteves

Government needs no more money, power

To The Editor:

In response to Patrick Chinnery's column on 1/17 "Support an income tax and you won't have to pay," I felt shortchanged....

Chinnery stated "They (politicians) proposed the state should cut spending, not create a new tax. However, they couldn't come up with any examples of wasteful spending." True enough. Maybe they

couldn't, but maybe we needed some replacements for the current crop?

Why couldn't they find the notorious Highway 321 expansion project that is being built though Greene County? Strangely, both the people of the county and their County Commission voted to stop the project. Furthermore the TDOT itself says that the roadway will be 700 percent overbuilt in the next 20 years. The state portion of the project is \$100 million.

Within our State of Chaos, did anyone inside state government stop to think that the state's Center for Effective Government and its \$375,000 per year price tag a bit expensive...and more importantly, it's name more than a bit of an oxymoron?

Lastly, the Cato Institute's study stated that Tennessee had one of the fastest growing state budgets in the country throughout the 1990s.

With all respects to Mr. Chinnery, I think his views are a quite naive as he quipped "We, as students could look forward to a pleasant surprise every April, when the tax-man cometh, and we get to say, 'Get bent.' We also get to benefit from a lowered sales tax."

Sure, at least for a while. But if recent Tennessee proves anything, it proves that humorist P. J. O'Rourke was right when he said, "Giving more money and power to government is like handing whiskey and car keys to teenage boys."

OK, so maybe I've become old enough to become a tad jaded, however, to write that Governor Sundquist and the legislature will become our personal saviors would make a good chapter in political science—fiction.

Sincerely,

Rod Smith

Sidelines is the editorially-independent, non-profit student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and every Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of *Sidelines* or MTSU.

The Two Minute Drill

R. Colin Fly



Sports Editor

Around the Sun Belt

Jaguars within striking distance

On a Sunday afternoon game carried by ESPN2, Ravonte Dantzler scored 18 points to lead the South Alabama Jaguars to a 72-63 win over New Mexico State.

South Alabama (13-7 overall, 4-2 in the Sun Belt) jumped out to a 34-25 lead at halftime and never relinquished the nine point advantage.

The Jaguars outrebounded the Aggies, 36-30, including 11 boards by Virgil Stanesco.

Emmett Thomas chipped in 16 points to lead the Jaguars while Henry Williams contributed with 13.

Eric Channing's game high 21 points led New Mexico State (5-13, 1-5), while Daveeno Hines and Dennis Trammell scored in double figures with 12 and 10 respectively for the Aggies.

South Alabama is now one game back of UL-Lafayette for first in the Western Division. The Jaguars travel to New Orleans on Thursday while New Mexico State plays Denver on Saturday.

UNO wins defensive battle

Ben Adams scored 10 points, including a 3-pointer with just seconds left in the game, propelling New Orleans over Denver 44-42 last Saturday night.

Adams, the only New Orleans player in double figures, hit a 3-point basket to put New Orleans (10-7, 4-2 Sun Belt Conference) ahead 41-40 with 15 seconds left.

Denver (7-10, 3-4), which escaped Murfreesboro with a two point win last Thursday, couldn't seal the Pirates fate after Wahhab Carter made two free throws with 8.4 seconds remaining.

That was enough time for A.J. Meredith of New Orleans to hit the game-winning 3-pointer.

Kevin Overton had 14 points for the Pirates. B.J. Pratt added 11 points, and Steve Simmons had 14 rebounds and seven points for Denver.

Arkansas State keeps pace

Miami (AP) - Kolin Weaver scored 19 points and snatched nine rebounds to lead Arkansas State to a 58-56 win over Florida International.

FIU's Carlos Arroyo, who led all scorers with 25 points, hit his sixth 3-pointer of the night to tie the score at 52 in the second half.

Arkansas St. (12-7, 6-1 in Sun Belt) would go 6-of-11 from the charity stripe over the final 2:22 to hang on for the victory and move into a first-place tie in the Sun Belt East Division with Western Kentucky.

In a battle of centers, Arkansas State's Jason Jennings was held scoreless for the first time all season and limited to just four rebounds. FIU's Karel Rosario countered with nine points to go along with a career-high 16 boards.

Arkansas State travels to Western Kentucky for a battle for first place in the Eastern Division on Thursday. FIU will also play Western Kentucky next, in Miami on Saturday.

Lafayette stays ahead

Louisiana-Lafayette's defense forced 24 turnovers and 10 steals as the Ragin' Cajuns punished the North Texas Eagles 86-68 Saturday night.

Lonnie Thomas scored 12 points and blocked three shots to lead UL-Lafayette.

Louisiana-Lafayette went to its bench even before halftime, when the Cajuns led 45-36, and the reserves responded with 48 points.

UL-Lafayette is 9-7 overall and 5-1 in the Sun Belt while North Texas fell to 4-14, 1-6. ♦

MT desperate to fill void



Photo Illustration by Raymond Hutzler | Managing Editor - Design
Who will fill the huge void on the offensive line after losing four seniors and an All American?

By J.P. Plant
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders lost three-quarters of a ton from its offensive line due to graduation. 1,492 pounds of senior experience are gone — not to mention an All American in Barry Hall.

Head Coach Andy McCollum must replace five seniors that were the cornerstone of an offensive line that paved the way for a rushing attack that averaged nearly 200 yards per game in 2000.

Brock Lillis, a 6-2, 269 pound center, Gil Matias, a 6-2, 295 pound right guard, and Barry Hall, a 6-6, 316 pound right tackle anchored the solid offensive line as starters while Chris Howington, a 6-3, 287 pound left tackle earned one start and Reggie Primas, a 6-1, 325 pound right guard earned five starts.

So who will fill this huge void? Well there are four sophomores and a freshman who have the same prospective talent as the outgoing senior class.

Left tackle Brandon Westbrook, a 6-6, 285 pound redshirt freshman started nine of ten games he played in last season. Another multi-game starter returning is left guard Kevin Pascoe, a 6-3, 295 pound sophomore. Joining Pascoe in the class of tal-

ented sophomores is 6-4, 308 pound David Coy, 6-2, 260-pound Glen Elarbee, and 6-3, 276 pound Jonathan Proby. These five talented linemen have 43 games of experience between them last season alone.

"The biggest thing is we need some more depth," says sophomore left guard Kevin Pascoe who started four games last season.

Helping to provide some of that depth are three mid-term signees from the junior college ranks - center Nate Blasi from Butler County Community College, offensive guard William Brasch from Northeast Oklahoma A&M, and offensive guard and tackle Preston Portley from Ft. Scott Community College.

"If we can get those JuCo (Junior College) guys in and get to know our system, that will help to fill our depth problem," says Pascoe.

More help is on the way as national signing day is quickly approaching.

Pascoe says he is not worried about the addition of three experienced linemen possibly cutting into his playing time, but he does have some thoughts regarding the issue "deep down inside" of him.

For more information regarding the rest of the future recruiting class of 2001, read Part II of this story in next Wednesday's issue. ♦

Tennis sweeps state rivals

MT Media Relations

"I think this was just what the doctor ordered," said Middle Tennessee men's tennis coach Dale Short.

With a few of the Blue Raiders returning from December surgeries to dominate matches in one day is enough to make the most ailing of teams feel better.

The Blue Raiders are playing host to visiting Austin Peay, Tennessee Tech, Murray State and UT-Chattanooga in this weekends Middle Tennessee Winter Invitational.

After handily defeating Austin Peay 6-1 in the afternoon, the Blue Raiders capped the first of two days worth of round-robin style dual matches with an impressive 7-0 win over Tennessee Tech.

"Considering we have some injuries," Short said, "this was a good start for us."

"We looked pretty good. I was pleased with the effort and the outcome."

Robert Gustafsson and Michael Staniak both recorded two straight-set wins today. Mark Pellerin, Kirk Jackson, Sean Bowen, Daniel Klemetz and Trevor Short also recorded straight-set victories in their respective singles matches.

The Blue Raiders also collected wins in all of their doubles matches. ♦

RESULTS

Middle Tenn. def. Austin Peay 6-1

Singles:

Robert Gustafsson (MT)

def. Justin Keller 6-3, 6-3

Michael Staniak (MT)

def. Vincent Burke 6-1, 6-2

Mark Pellerin (MT)

def. Marcus Kincaide 6-0, 6-0

Kirk Jackson (MT)

def. Matt Gregory 6-4, 6-2

Steven White (AP)

def. Billy Hamadeh 4-6, 6-2 (3)

Sean Bowen (MT)

def. Oscar 6-4, 6-2

Doubles:

Trevor Short/Pellerin

def. Kellen/Gregory 8-3

Staniak/Hamadeh

def. Burke/White 8-1

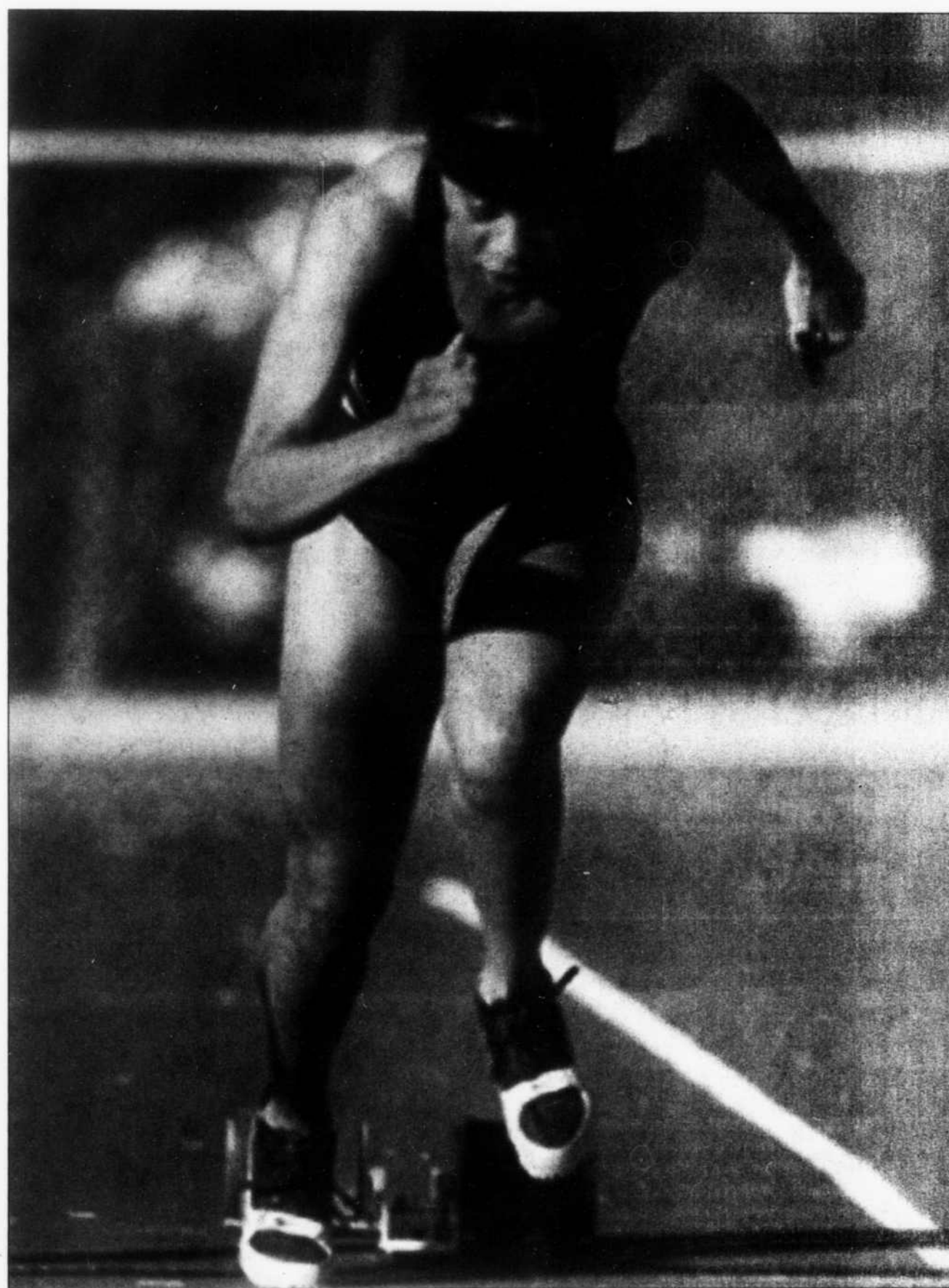
Jackson/Bowen

def. Roscher/Luis Deltin 8-3

UT-Chattanooga def. Murray State 4-1

No scores reported, Murray State entered only four players in tournament.

Middle Tenn. def. Tennessee Tech 7-0



Sophomore Willisa Heintz qualified to run in the NCAA Championships at the University of Ark.

Heintz, Demps in NCAA

Staff Reports

Sophomore Willisa Heintz, from Richardson, Tx, was named Sun Belt Conference Indoor Track and Field Performer of the Week after winning the 200-meter, 60- meter and 4x400-meter relay at the Rod McCravy

Memorial Track and Field meet last week.

After running a 24.19 in the 200, Heintz qualified at the basic NCAA standard to be eligible for the 2001 NCAA Indoor Championships, scheduled March 10-11 at the University of Arkansas.

Also qualifying this year for the NCAA Championships was Jasper Demps. The junior from West Palm Beach, Fla., turned in a time of 7.34 seconds in the 55-meter hurdles during the Middle Tennessee Christmas Invitational on Dec. 9. ♦



7 Day
Sportscast

THURSDAY

Women's Basketball

Lady Raiders vs. La. Tech
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 9 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Blue Raiders at La. Tech
Ruston, La., TBA

SATURDAY

Women's Basketball

Lady Raiders vs.
New Orleans
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 7 p.m.

Women's Tennis

Lady Raiders at Georgia
Athens, Ga., noon

Men's Basketball

Blue Raiders at
New Orleans
New Orleans, La. 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis

Kansas, Louisville and
UALR
Lawrence, Kan., TBA

SUNDAY

Men's Tennis

Kansas, Louisville and
UALR
Lawrence, Kan., TBA



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FLASH

Thirteen Days saves box office crisis

By Steven Murden
Staff Writer

Years before many of us were even a glimmer in our parents' eyes, they lived through a crisis that, if not averted, would have brought about the most devastating war in history. During the peace and love movement of the sixties the United States and the Soviet Union brought the world to the brink of nuclear warfare. The new film *Thirteen Days* depicts the Cuban Missile Crisis from the point of view of President John F. Kennedy, Attorney General Bobby Kennedy, and specifically, Special Assistant to the President Kenny O'Donnell. These three were the core group of men that fought the "Red Scare" to keep North America safe from the threat of nuclear bombs.

Kevin Costner's performance as Kenny O'Donnell shows that he hasn't lost his touch. Costner, for the first time since JFK (what a surprise), has managed to give a sharp yet poignant performance that didn't involve him falling in love. Also, a smile crawls across the face of viewers when they first hear him speak. Costner slightly overdoes the Boston style drawl that is so stereotypical of the Kennedy administration. However, this



Photo Provided

not the highlight of the film and neither is Costner.

What makes *Thirteen Days* so interesting is the look inside the private conversations between O'Donnell and the Kennedys. This is where the President conferred with his most trusted advisors to choose the proper course of action following the discovery of ballistic missiles in Cuba. I was surprised by the informal nature of these conversations, which show that long before these men were the leaders of the free world, they were friends. O'Donnell challenges the Kennedys' thinking by remind-

ing them of who they are, what they stand for, and why they are doing this. Here is where *Thirteen Days* becomes amazing in its simplicity. These men are not trying to avoid the death of millions. They are husbands and fathers trying to protect their families. Through the course of the film, the trio shows the enormous stress suffered by an individual whose decisions could mean life or death to those they hold most dear.

No Way Out director Roger Donaldson surprisingly keeps the tempo rising as the movie rolls on by sprinkling moments of intense anticipation to keep viewers on the edge of their seats. In an "artsy" kind of way, Donaldson uses transitions from black and white to color to illustrate that, though the situation may appear cut and dry to the public, O'Donnell and the Kennedys have to deal with more than just right and wrong.

Thirteen Days is so realistic, that years from now our children may watch it in their history classes to learn more about the Cuban Missile Crisis. As they watch, they'll learn the gripping story of three friends that stood together for thirteen dark October days in 1962, saved the lives of millions, and became modern day legends. ♦

Chuck bucks up rental nights

By Brian
Spencer
Staff
Writer

Editor
Note: This
story con-
tains some
profanity.
Reader dis-
cretion is
advised.



"Let's play one of those games where you stick your d*** in my mouth and I stick mine in yours." Ok, now that I have your attention with the most memorable line in this haunting and surreal film about two childhood friends, I'm going to try and convince even you macho homophobes why this film is worth checking out next time you go to the movie store.

Chuck and Buck is an entirely unique film that examines the strained relationship between two childhood friends, Chuck and Buck. When 27-year-old Buck's mother passes away, he is reunited with his best friend from childhood at the funeral. Chuck, who is now a success in the music industry, expresses his condolences to his old friend and expects this meeting with Buck to be brief. Buck, however, has other ideas for his meeting with Chuck. What those ideas might be are hinted at when Buck bursts into the restroom while Chuck is using it and gets, shall we say, friendly with him.

Buck is adamant about catching up with Chuck sometime. After his continuous prodding, Chuck reluctantly gives Buck his phone number and an invitation to visit him and his fiancé in Los Angeles. This is when the bizarre and surprising plot begins to unfold and examine in depth the true connection between Chuck and Buck.

I hesitate to talk much more about what happens in this film. I'm a little wary of giving too much away. What I can say, is that it successfully avoids being thrown into one category of film genre such as action or drama. It skillfully combines elements of a romance, drama, comedy, and stalker film into one without making it a jumbled crossover mess. Also, the uplifting ending is a welcome surprise that almost doesn't fit with the rest of the film's tone.

Chuck and Buck is directed by Miguel Arteta and stars non-professional actors Mike White and Chris Weitz as the childhood friends trying to come to grips with adulthood. The actors are extraordinary, especially White who gives a Pee-Wee Herman-esque performance as the troubled Buck. Arteta's decision to film the movie digitally gives it a grainy documentary feel that makes the story more real and disturbing. The soundtrack is relevant and fitting for a film that examines the harsh reality of having to let go of your childhood and become an adult.

Chuck and Buck is an original film available at your local video store. I think you'll enjoy it. Although, if your favorite films are regularly featured on TNT's "Movies for Guys that Like Movies," you might want to head to more action-filled pastures before giving this film a try. ♦

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FLASH

Hoge Wild

Nashville native rocks onto the music beat

Rachel Robinson
Staff Writer

Nashville may be Music City, but exactly what type of music fits under that classification? The city may never escape its label as "country music capital of the world," but it has recently seen an explosion of interest in the familiar beat of rock n' roll, and the not-so-familiar indie music.

Nashville may also harbor some of the music industries best secrets. WILL HOGE is one of those secrets.

Originally from Nashville, Hoge has been playing in rock bands since he was a teenager, but not until his current band was formed did the gig take off. The band is composed of Tres Sasser (bass), Kirk Yoquelet (drums), Dan Baird (lead guitar/ background vocals), and Hoge (vocals/guitar).

Following the live recording of All Night Long, the band has accumulated a fanatical follow-

ing. This prompted them to record their first full-length debut, *Carousel*.

The CD is to be released on Jan. 30, and promises a been-there-done-that feel. HOGE brings a pleasant mixture of Bruce Springsteen and Tom Petty with the slightest hints of a country steel guitar. This description might sound worn out, but the band brings a new energy, passion and honesty to the classics.

"Sweet Magdeline" (track 8) flaunts the bands desire to express real emotions with such lyrics as "Mama was away and all papa did was pray so the wanderlust slowly grew/ she spread her wings and a couple other things to the medicine man downtown." It's the personal honesty that Hoge hopes fans will remember when listening.

The title track for the album, "Carousel" (track 10), tells the tale of a girl's fantasy world that has fallen apart and

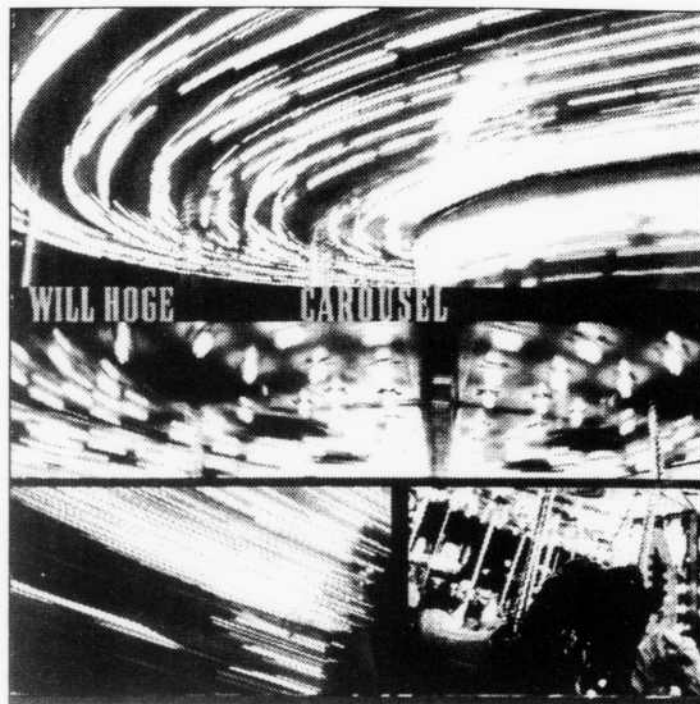


Photo Provided

her regret for the past woven with her hope for the future.

WILL HOGE's debut CD promises to increase their

number of fans and invites rock n' roll lovers to take a ride on their "Carousel." ♦

Wu Tang Clan releases much anticipated album

By Brian Spencer
Staff Writer

As the popularity of hip-hop grows more and more every year, the amount of product on the shelves has naturally grown as well. This definitely is not always a good thing, since many artists have become content with putting out albums with cliched rhymes and generic, "been there, done that" beats. It's selling, so why should anybody do it differently?

Unfortunately, the trail-blazing super-group Wu-Tang Clan fell victim to the quality bug in the last few years, putting out less than memorable solo efforts from Killah Priest, Method Man, Inspectah Deck, RZA and a thinly spread follow up double album to their genre-defining debut 36 Chambers. But lately, things have started to look up for the Wu with strong rebounds from Raekwon, Ghostface Killah, and the slept on "Golden Arms" from U-God. And with their newest album, entitled *The W*, the Wu-Tang Clan has again staked their claim for the hip-hop crown.

The W is a return to the Wu's gritty New



Photo Provided

York roots, even though much of it was produced in Los Angeles. Instead of spreading the production for the album between a few producers, beat-genius RZA handles all the duties of providing slamming beats for his crew to spit over with his trademark sound that returns to the top of his game. The classic Wu sound is injected into the album on the first two tracks, which stop and go with choppy precision that is tighter than anything you're going to hear on the radio or MTV. "Protect Ya Neck (The Jump-off)," the first single on the album, has a complete breakdown of the beat in the middle of the song that will have you rewinding the tape repeatedly.

Above all else, the lyricists of the Wu-

Tang Clan reaffirm exactly why they are so influential to so many aspiring rappers. Shining especially bright are the GZA, Masta Killah, and U-God, who happen to be the most underrated MC's of the group. The GZA, as always, weaves his web of rhymes as carefully as a spider spinning its web. Check him out on the hidden track found between "Conditioner" and "Protect Ya Neck."

There is no shortage of guests on the album, with Isaac Hayes, Snoop Dogg, Nas, Busta Rhymes, and Redman all lending their considerable talent to the post-apocalyptic sound of the album. Junior Reid, who also recently appeared on Guru's *Jazzmatazz: Street Soul*, adds a reggae tinge to the emotional tracks "One Blood Under W" and "Jah World." Ol' Dirty Bastard, due to his trouble with the law and incarceration, is also a guest on the album in one track. Killah Priest is conspicuously absent from the entire album, including the shout out's.

The Wu-Tang Clan have successfully re-established themselves in the hip-hop world as visionaries by creating an album that is both accessible and non-commercial. The album is a must-have for any fan of hip-hop music. ♦

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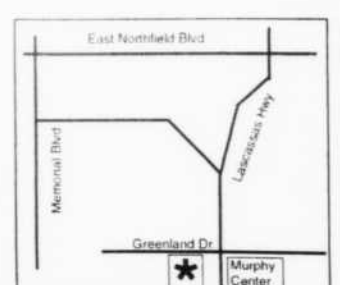
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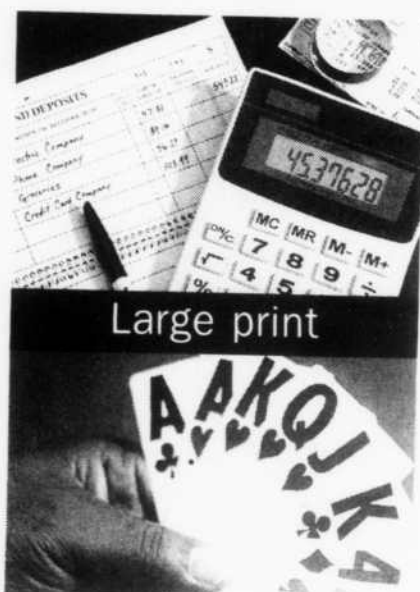
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'Wonder Boys' gets film award



LOS ANGELES (AP) - A University of Southern California literary group has honored "Wonder Boys" as the best film adapted from a book in the year 2000.

The Friends of the USC Libraries recognized author Michael Chabon and screenwriter Steven Kloves for the movie with its 13th annual Scripter Award on Monday.

In the movie, Michael Douglas plays a university professor whose life spirals out of control over a winter weekend in Pittsburgh.

Other nominees were "All the Pretty Horses," "Chocolat," "High Fidelity" and "The House of Mirth."

More than 40 film and literary professionals selected the winner.

"Wonder Boys" is a terrific example of both script and film overcoming the almost impossible burden of realizing distinctly literary material for the screen," said screenwriter Scott Frank ("Out of Sight," "Get Shorty"), chairman of the committee.

Previous Scripter Award winners include "The Hurricane," "A Civil Action," and "L.A. Confidential." ♦

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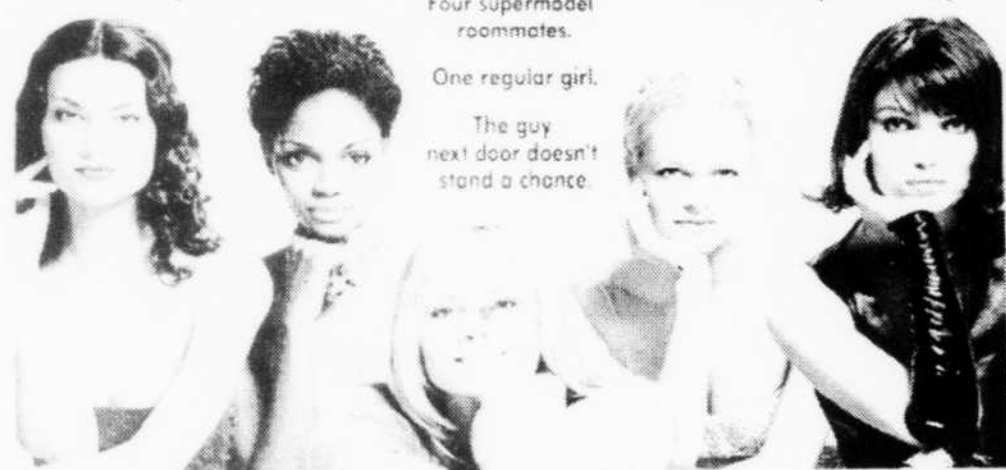


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Continued from 1

Monsters: The Best of

* Grant Lee Buffalo: Fuzzy

* The Pharcyde Cydeways: The Best of

* Kenny Rogers: Greatest Country Hits

* Dusty Springfield: Love Songs

January 23:

* Death by Chocolate: Death by Chocolate

* The Donnas: The Donnas Turn 21

* Jennifer Lopez: J Lo

* Less Than Jake: Greased

* Vitamin C: More

* Public Announcement: Don't hold back

* Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson: Waylon and Willie and WWII

* Nat King Cole: Songs from Stage and Screen and the King Swings

January 30:

* Alice Cooper: Billion Dollar Babies

* Doris Day: On Moonlight Bay/ By the Light of the Silvery Moon

* Tom Jones: There's a Party Going On

* Joni Mitchell: Both Sides Now

* Poison: Open Up and Say Ahh...

* Psychedelic Furs: Greatest Hits

* Rick Springfield Alive: The Greatest Hits

* B.J. Thomas: Love Songs and Lost Treasures

February 6:

* Babyface: The Day, For the Cool in You, Lovers and Tender Love (remastered with 3 bonus tracks)

* Blessid Union of Souls: The Singles

* Kris Kristofferson: American Milestone: Kristofferson

* Patti Labelle: Greatest Love Songs

February 13:

* Bare Jr.: Brainwasher

* Destiny's Child: Independent Women

* Run DMC: Crown Royal (double of old and new stuff)

* Judas Priest: The Best Of

* The Monkees: Music Box (4 CD set)

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