

SIDELINES

Volume 75, No. 31

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

Mock trial hosts tournament

Greg Stuck
Staff Reporter

MTSU hosted the nation's largest invitational mock trial tournament last weekend.

The 10th Annual Mid-South Invitational Mock Trial Tournament took place Friday and Saturday.

Forty teams from 20 universities and eight states took the stand against one another in the nation's largest invitational event of the year. Among the schools present this year were the defending 1999 National Champion Bellarmine College and four-time champion (1990, 91, 94 and 95) Rhodes College.

The American Mock Trial Association was created in 1985 by Richard M. Calkins, dean of Drake University's Law School. The program allows students to experience law in a simulated trial environment, with the intent of providing prospective law students with the opportunity to improve their communication and teamwork skills, while increasing their knowledge of legal procedures.

Each mock trial team consists of six to eight students, with each student learning a role as attorney or witness. The witnesses must learn their own affidavits (sworn statements given to the authorities) and remain in character while answering all questions from the stand.

The attorneys often have double duty, being required to act as either plaintiff or defendant throughout the tournament. Attorneys give opening and closing statements, question witnesses directly and on cross-examinations, and object to any improper questioning from the opposition.

Each year the AMTA provides members with a fictitious court case, complete with details such as people's names, important dates, affidavits and exhibits.

All AMTA cases take place in the hypothetical state of Midlands. Each team uses the same trial information for all competitions during the given year, including regional and national championships.



Kelli Branham (with shovel), a mock trial attorney from the University of Memphis, makes her case during a trial session Friday afternoon. At right is Alastair Gamble, an attorney from Emory College.

Photo by Zack Millican

This year the case is one of murder, with the State of Midlands named as the plaintiff (the prosecutors) and Ruel T. Ellis named as the defendant.

Faculty members and lawyers volunteer to act as judges during the trial. In most circumstances three judges are present, one judge to preside over the trial and two judges to score the teams.

The scoring judges will rank each team member from one to 10 on items such as professionalism, knowledge, preparation and delivery, and the team with the higher score wins the match. Tournaments usually consist of two or four rounds and teams progress through these bracketed rounds alternating

between plaintiff and defendant.

After completion of all the rounds, overall win-loss records dictate the event winner. In case of a tie, the additional factor of opponent strength determines the winner.

Rhodes College captured both first and second place this year followed by Bellarmine College in third. Macalester College and Furman University finish out the top five.

MTSU's best finish was eighth place, captained by Shannon Kelley. Austin Peay State University and the University of Tennessee each received an award for sportsmanship.

A student who performs exceptionally

well receives an individual award as best attorney or best witness.

MTSU team members Kyle Dodd, Kim Gulden, Rebekah Stephens and Jarrod Stone were all named best attorney.

This year's National Tournament (formerly called the Silver Flight Tournament) will be held in St. Paul, Minn., March 31 - April 2, 2000. The top four teams from this event will be eligible for the National Championship Tournament. The National Championship will be in Des Moines, Iowa April 14-16, 2000.

For additional information on mock trial, contact the department of political science at 898-2708.

Income tax bill still uncertain

Phil West
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — As Sen. Robert Rochelle cruised the halls of the Capitol on Wednesday seeking Senate votes for his income tax bill, the House Republican Caucus announced its opposition to the plan.

Republican leaders say only five of the 40 House GOP members are committed to the bill, which Rochelle, D-Lebanon, crafted from a tax plan announced last month by Republican Gov. Don Sundquist. At least 30 plan to vote against it, according to Rep. Jim Boyer, R-Corryton and the caucus chairman.

The overwhelming GOP opposition is key because some House Democrats have said they will not risk their seats by supporting a tax plan that does not have bipartisan backing.

Sundquist spokeswoman Alexia Levison played down the GOP announcement, saying the governor was not surprised.

"He knew there were a lot of them against it. He'd probably ask those who oppose his proposal to offer their own solution to the budget shortfall," she said.

"The votes are not there in the state Senate for an income tax of any variation at the present time."

- Joe Haynes, D-Goodlettsville

Republicans said they have a task force examining the state's budget and tax structure and expect to make recommendations in January.

Rochelle's bill made it out of the Senate Finance Committee on a 6-5 vote Tuesday, but faces an uncertain future in the 33-member Senate, which could vote on it Thursday.

"The votes are not there in the state Senate for an income tax of any variation at the present time," said Joe Haynes, D-Goodlettsville and chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus. Haynes is a member of the Finance Committee and voted against the bill.

Rochelle, one of the General Assembly's best deal-makers, was using all his powers of persuasion to try to find the 17 votes necessary for passage. He scurried from Senate office to office throughout the day, refusing to say how many commitments he had collected.

"It's close. It's still close," Rochelle said.

"I just hope they wake up in the morning and realize it's not in their best interest to vote against this bill."

Democrats control the 99-member House, but their leaders say they won't consider the bill unless it passes the Senate.

House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh was noncommittal about Rochelle's plan, and indicated the House would be ready to consider other tax options if the Senate fails to pass the bill.

"There are a lot of options out there," he said, noting 41 tax bills before the House Finance Committee.

Lawmakers are in third week of a special session called by Sundquist to consider tax reform. He offered a plan that included a flat income tax of 3.75 percent, reduced the sales tax on non-grocery items from 6 percent to 3.75 percent and repealed 6 percent taxes on groceries and investment income.

The plan went nowhere, prompting Rochelle to start working on a compromise bill, which he announced Monday.

With no new taxes, Sundquist has said Tennessee will be \$382 million in the red when the new fiscal year begins July 1. Tax opponents have said the figure is overblown and any shortfall can be addressed through spending cuts and more efficient government.

Rochelle's bill includes a graduated income tax of 1 percent to 5 percent that would take effect Jan. 1. It also repeals the 6 percent sales tax on groceries and the 6 percent Hall income tax on investment proceeds. It keeps the 6 percent sales tax on non-grocery items.

See TAXES, page 4

Taking the prize



Photo by Derrick Wilson

Nekishia Woods, a freshman business major, was named first runner-up in the state's Miss Black and Gold pageant Saturday. Woods was crowned MTSU's Miss Black and Gold in October.

Class to show how to live well

Rachel Pickel
Staff Reporter

As registration at MTSU gets into full swing for the spring semester, many students are signing up for the first ever MTSU-created telecourse. The new class is called "How To Live a Wonderful Life" and under listed as the course number Social Work 415.

Producer Charles Frost said that MTSU has hosted several telecourses in the past, but they were always purchased from another company. This is the first telecourse to ever be completely filmed and produced at MTSU.

"Living a wonderful life is truly a process," Frost said. "The fundamental purpose of our course is just what it says: actually learning how to live a wonderful life."

He explained that students taking the course will set goals for themselves and then learn how to accomplish them. Therefore, the course is very "internal and not external."

Frost said the course is appropriate for anybody.

"I recommend this course for anyone who wants to live a wonderful life," Frost said. It is an exciting and interesting way to learn about life and about yourself."

Frost also says the course will have lasting benefits on any student who chooses to follow through with it.

"Learning to live a wonderful life is a process that does not end when the course is over. I hope students will continually come back and visit the Web site and follow it up the rest of their

lives," he said.

The course itself will include three basic elements. First, there is a website on which all the written assignments are available including hundreds of worksheets that go along with the course. The website also has a complete listing of the syllabus.

Secondly, the course will include 13 interactive broadcasts that are currently still being taped in the MTTV Channel 10 studios on campus in the Learning Resource Center. Each broadcast will be 90 minutes long and will begin with Frost himself talking about the topic. The broadcast will then consist of a drama role-playing session. The program will then go back to Frost talking and will end up with a visualization exercise.

The third element of the course is the interactive portion, which will be conducted by e-mail. Students can submit assignments, offer comments and ask questions.

Frost quoted Alfred Lord Tennyson when describing what he specifically wants to get across to his students: "Self reverence, self knowledge, and self control: These three alone lead to a sovereign power."

According to Frost, these characteristics will also lead his new students to a wonderful life.

While "How to Live a Wonderful Life" is still in its taping stages, students can view the syllabus and further information about the course at www.mtsu.edu/~socwork/page5.html.

He explained it is not too late to register. There are still openings in the course.

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SPORTS

Lady Raiders tune up for UAB. See page 8.

FEATURES

Learn what it takes to become a rock climber. See page 6.

WEATHER FORECAST



THURSDAY
SUNNY
HI 66/LO 40



FRIDAY
PARTLY
CLOUDY
HI 65/LO 46



SATURDAY
RAIN
HI 62/LO 48

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. 18

The Independent Music Organization is hosting "Hardcore Show" on campus featuring "Reach the Sky" and "The Longstrokes" in Forrest Hall, Room 204 at 6 p.m. The cost is \$5. Contact Brooke Duncan at 907-ROCK for further information.

Nov. 19

"Up 'til Dawn," a fundraiser benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, will be held at 8 p.m. in the Campus Recreation Center. Registration will be from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building State Farm Room. Bands will be performing from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. and the cost is \$5. For more information, call Kealie Frazier at 904-8270.

Nov. 20

The Center for Energy Efficiency is hosting a Solar Vehicles Workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Voorhies Industrial Studies Building, Room 169. The cost is \$15 per person or \$10 for two or more people and is open to everyone. Attendees must pre-register by Nov. 17. Contact Linda Hardyman at 904-8096 or 898-2119 for additional information.

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.

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/~mtlambda.

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

U.N. refugee chief inspects conditions in Chechnya

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian officials insisted Thursday that no humanitarian catastrophe is looming for Chechen civilians, after the top U.N. refugee official urged Russia to protect the tens of thousands of people who have fled fighting in the breakaway republic.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata told Russian leaders of growing international concern for the Chechens forced to leave their homes because of Moscow's military offensive.

After meeting with Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Ogata said she had tried "to convey the secretary-general's concern and understanding, his appreciation of the difficulty in controlling and tackling terrorism, the importance of caring for the civilian population."

Despite widespread refugee complaints and growing Western concern, Russia's Minister for Emergency Situations Sergei Shoigu told Ogata that "there is no humanitarian catastrophe here."

Talks end on Nazi labor compensation fund

BONN, Germany (AP) — Negotiators working out a German industry fund to compensate Nazi-era slave and forced laborers came significantly closer Wednesday to agreeing on how much money firms will pay in exchange for immunity from lawsuits in the United States.

At the end of the two-day talks, German government envoy Otto Lambsdorff said Germany had raised its \$3.2 billion offer to \$4.2 billion and class-action lawyers representing those who were forced to work for Nazi Germany during World War II halved their previous demands to between \$5.3 billion and \$7.9 billion.

"A realistic settlement now seems attainable," said U.S. government envoy Stuart Eizenstat. "The two sides have narrowed their differences." However, Lambsdorff still called the lawyers' figures "unrealistic."

Eurostar agrees to allow women to wear trousers

LONDON (AP) — The company that operates passenger trains through the Channel tunnel ended weeks of dispute with two women employees Wednesday by agreeing that they could wear trousers to work.

Security guards Debbie Sheen, 37, and Lynn McKay, 35, were threatened with disciplinary action and sent home from work last month when they refused to wear skirts during their shift at the Eurostar terminal at London's Waterloo Station.

The women said trousers were both more comfortable and more appropriate, but Eurostar countered that female security guards should wear skirts in the passenger security area "for ease of recognition as much as smartness."

Eurostar said it had instructed Securitas to amend its uniform code, and said the two women were free to return to work.



National News

Texas student wounded in school shooting

DICKINSON, Texas (AP) — A 15-year-old was critically wounded at his school Wednesday when a handgun accidentally discharged while a student was showing it off before classes, police said.

Two students at Dickinson High School southeast of Houston were being questioned about the shooting, in which the boy was hit in the face, police said.

"It kind of freaked me out," said student James Joplin, who heard the shot.

After an ambulance took the injured boy away, police confined students to classrooms and scoured the campus for the weapon. The gun was recovered three hours later when a student left police to a hiding place in a nearby apartment complex.

The injured boy was in critical condition at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, said spokeswoman Alicia Simmons.

Clearer warning labels on alcoholic beverages sought

WASHINGTON — The government is being asked to make the warning labels on beer, wine and liquor easier to find and read.

First required 10 years ago, the labels were intended to cut down on drinking by pregnant women and motorists, but the Treasury Department has been lax in enforcing how the 42-word health warning appears, according to a petition filed Wednesday by the American Medical Association and other groups.

The government "has been asleep at the wheel in terms of assuring that the labels meet congressional intent and even meet the requirements of their own regulations," said George Hacker, director of the alcohol policies project for the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

The alcohol warning says that "women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects" and that drinking impairs the "ability to drive a car or operate machinery."

Although the wording cannot vary, the labels appear in myriad ways, depending on the product.

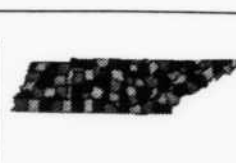
More firefighters to join wildfire battle

BLAIRSVILLE, Ga. (AP) — A 13-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail, which stretches from Georgia to Maine, remained closed Wednesday because of smoke from six forest fires burning in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

About 140 more firefighters were brought in Wednesday to help battle the blazes, which have burned 2,600 acres in the northeast Georgia since Saturday. That brings the total number of reinforcements to about 360.

Three of the fires started about the same time Saturday afternoon in the 7,800-acre wilderness area, which sprawls across the Lumpkin-Union county line. Officials are still trying to determine whether they were deliberately set.

On Wednesday, three of the six fires had been contained.



State News

SEC files civil complaint against six men

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Six Middle Tennessee men are accused of earning \$405,000 from insider trading in a civil complaint filed in U.S. District Court Tuesday by the Securities Exchange Commission.

The complaint accuses Jay T. Deragon, an Exel consultant, of inappropriately tipping Robert G. Poole before Mid Ocean acquired Exel in March 1998.

Poole then tipped Mark C. Chestnut and Giles R. Krebs about Mid Ocean's acquisition, the complaint said. All three profited when Mid Ocean later made its acquisition public and its stock price increased from \$65 a share to \$74 a share, according to the SEC.

Poole also is accused of tipping Cristan K. Blackman, a stockbroker at Morgan Keegan & Co. in Nashville, who relayed the information to his colleague Charles R. Roberts.

Blackman tipped his brother and some of his clients, and Roberts tipped several of his clients, according to the complaint.

Gatlinburg bans street sales of resort timeshares

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP) — This Smoky Mountain tourist town is trying to clear its busy sidewalks of streetside solicitors hawking timeshare condominium deals to the city's throngs of visitors.

By a 3-2 vote, the City Commission adopted an ordinance Tuesday barring some 140 licensed "off-premises contact" salespeople from grabbing pedestrians, blocking the sidewalks and generally behaving in a disruptive manner.

Specifically, the law bars sidewalk salesmen from making "any verbal statement, to speak to, yell, shout or otherwise take any action to cause a pedestrian to stop" unless the tourist asked first.

The ordinance, which carries fines of up to \$500, is the first of its kind in Tennessee, city attorney Ronald Sharp said Wednesday. But it likely won't go unchallenged.

911 operators not expecting Y2K problems

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee's emergency communications centers expect to ring in the new millennium without any computer-related problems, but they're prepared for worst-case scenarios, too.

"I don't look for any 911 districts in the state of Tennessee to fail," said Amy McClure, president of the Tennessee Emergency Number Association, comprised of state 911 districts. "I think we're ready to go."

The assurance comes on the heels of the final report of the President's Council on the Year 2000 Conversion, which found only half of U.S. 911 call centers are Y2K compliant.

Federal officials have warned that 911 computer failures could delay police or fire response times and encouraged local officials to test their equipment. Tennessee took the warnings seriously and prepared thoroughly, officials said.

Sidelines News Line 898-2336

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Equal Housing Opportunity

The Student Publications Committee is now taking applications for



SIDELINES Spring 2000 Editor

Deadline Extended
4:00 pm
Nov. 29, 1999

Qualified candidates should:

- Be an MTSU student registered for coursework at the time of application.
- Have a 2.0 cumulative GPA at the time of application.
- Have worked on staff at least two semesters. Comparable media experience applies.
- Provide three letters of recommendation and no more than five examples of their work, professionally submitted.

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.

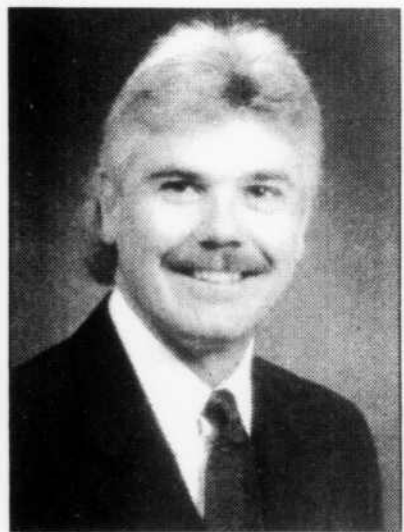
Lecture deals with students and Internet

R. Colin Fly
Staff Reporter

The networked world of the Internet and how it will revolutionize education will be the topic of the last installment of the Honors Lecture Series.

Richard Hannah will present the final professor's lecture in the series on Monday, Nov. 22, in Peck Hall 109A.

The Internet gives us the ability to distribute information at a higher rate of speed than ever before, Hannah explained. However, Hannah plans to answer the question of how education will cope with the new information influx.



Hannah

"We need to alter our framework in education to succeed," Hannah said. "Students need to be able to filter information."

Hannah will discuss the differences between credible sources and Internet junk. He will also focus on how educators must teach students about these differences for students to be successful in the coming years. Hannah will also warn students of problems the Internet presents.

"It is easy to waste time with technology," Hannah said. "Technology can be very seductive." Hannah will also explain the relationship between students and the Internet.

"Students are driving the change in the Internet," Hannah stated. "Now, the faculty has to ask the question, 'If we do not understand the network, are we equipped to teach from it?'"

"We [as faculty] must drive the content, but think about how it is delivered."

Hannah received his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Utah. He received his master's from MTSU and holds two bachelor degrees. Hannah worked seven years for the Tennessee Valley Authority. He served as human resource director at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Honors students will present their theses Nov. 29, followed by wrap-up discussions Dec. 6.

Student Ambassador plan to involve more graduates

Jeremy Rush
Staff Reporter

The MTSU Student Ambassadors are promoting the "Alumni in Residence" program this December to educate students about alumni status and awareness.

The program is designed to keep students linked with the University after graduating by educating them on what it means to be MTSU alumni.

According to an Alumni Relations press release, students earn alumni status after completing just one semester at MTSU, even if students are presently enrolled in classes.

"Most students don't even know they are alumni," says Student Ambassador President Chaney Mosley, "our goal is to let these students know that being an alumni has benefits in the future."

Upon leaving the university, alumni benefits include a mentoring program that pairs students with a professional in the field of his or her major and different travel opportunities.

A trip to Austria has been planned for March of next year for alumni. Graduates can also attend social activities such as chapter events, reunions and homecoming.

According to Alumni Relations, The MTSU National Alumni Association is an established organization and serves more than 65,000 alumni nationwide and throughout the world.

MTSU student ambassadors plan to promote the new Alumni in Residence program by speaking at student meetings, mailing flyers to students and distributing posters.

The ambassadors will be in the Keathley University Center Basement Dec. 6 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., handing out blue and white M & M's.

They will be in the Alumni Center Dec. 8 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., giving out free erasable mini memo pads.

"We want this program to bring some excitement to the campus," says Laureate Hughes, alumni advancement coordinator. "We are a top university with top faculty, staff and administrators—students should be proud to be alumni."

The MTSU Student ambassadors are a group of 32 students serving as hosts and hostesses of the university. Ambassadors must at least have completed one semester at MTSU, gone through the application process and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Ambassadors also receive opportunities to earn scholarship money.

Students that are interested in becoming a student ambassador can contact Terryl Williams in the Alumni Relations office at 898-2922.

GW students sweat over fake ID sting

Christine Tatum
TMS Campus

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TMS) — When federal officers wielding search warrants showed up in a dormitory at George Washington University last week looking for fake IDs, they didn't have any trouble finding them — or the student who made them.

Students, figuring they'd be caught sooner or later and wanting to avoid additional legal troubles, gladly handed over their hallmate's handiwork. The student who made the fakes also was quick to cooperate. According to the GW Hatchet, he turned in the equipment he used and a computer database of more than 100 digital pictures of his clients.

"If the feds are knocking on my door, they probably have enough to can me, so I might as well cooperate to the fullest," the accused student, speaking under the condition of anonymity, told the Hatchet. School

officials and D.C. authorities also are not releasing the student's name because he is a juvenile.

Despite his effort to come clean, police charged him with juvenile forgery, and the university put him on interim suspension and barred him from the campus. Students who bought the fake IDs have been granted amnesty from federal prosecution but still may face university sanctions. If they turn in their fakes by the end of this week, they'll get off with only a warning, "but if they hold out and are caught later, they'll face sanctions that are more severe," said Barbara Porter, a spokeswoman for the university.

A campus judiciary board made up of students, faculty and staff is expected to review charges against the operation's ringleader and hold a hearing within two weeks, Porter said. Expulsion is an option, she added.

Police said additional arrests are likely.

See FAKE IDS, page 4

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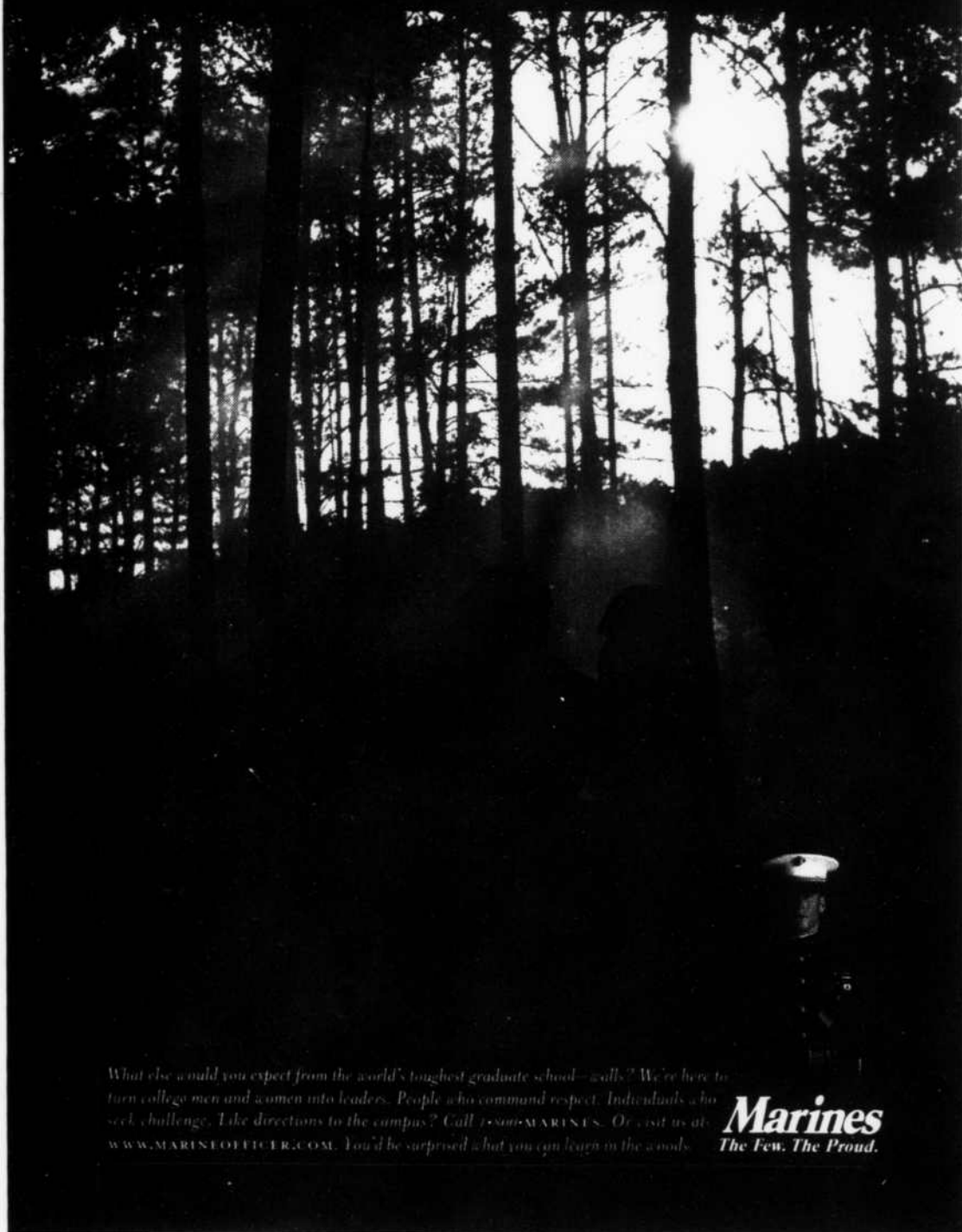
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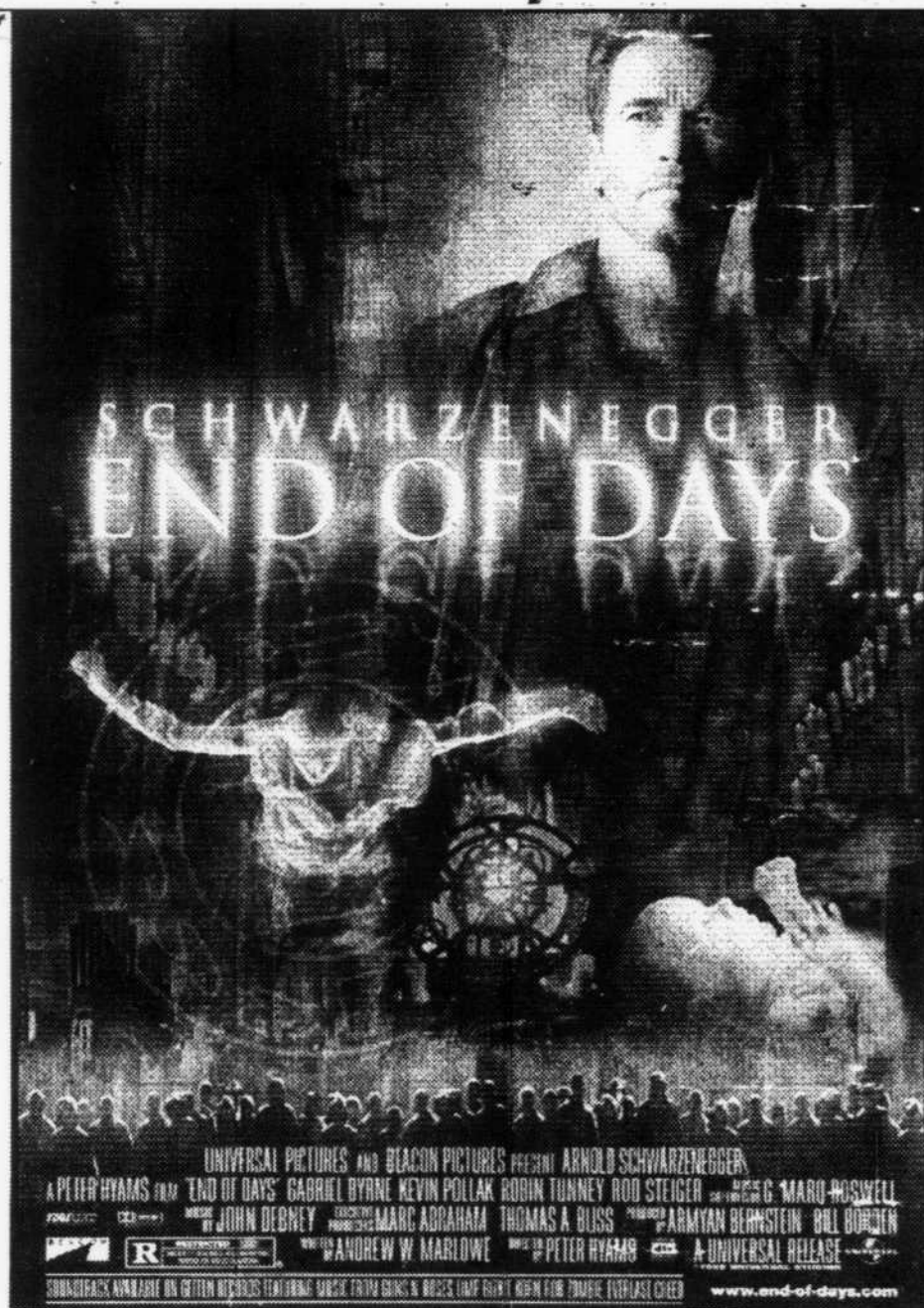
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TAXES

continued from page 1

Individuals with a gross adjusted income of less than \$15,000 and couples with an income under \$30,000 would not pay any income tax.

The graduated tax starts at 1 percent for individuals and couples who earn more than those amounts and rises to 5 percent for individuals with a gross adjusted income above \$45,000 and couples who earn about \$90,000.

FAKE IDS

continued from page 3

Students living in the dormitory said it was only a matter of time before authorities caught on to the fake ID sales. They told the Hatchet that the student charged with making the bogus

New Jersey and Maine licenses didn't make much of an effort to keep his work a secret. They said he often approached them with samples, posted pictures on the dormitory's Web server, left the door to his room open as he worked and sold his product to anyone willing to pay.

The bill would generate an estimated \$1.3 billion a year, giving the state a projected surplus of more than \$555 million in the fiscal year that ends June 30.

Tax opponents in the Senate lost a battle Wednesday when members voted 21-9 against a motion to adjourn the special session. A similar motion was defeated last week, too.

Sen. Micheal Williams, one of the chamber's most ardent tax foes, said he offered the motion because he wanted to give lawmakers and the public more time to study Rochelle's plan. ■

It appears authorities indeed monitored the operation before moving in for the sting. The student charged with the forgeries told the Hatchet that an officer in his room the day of his arrest was the same man who visited him a week earlier asking to purchase an ID. ■

Student wins award



Ann Parker, left, of the Risk and Insurance Management Society in Nashville, presents a check to MTSU insurance student Grant Lichtenwalker, who recently won a scholarship offered by the group.

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PROJECT HELP IS EXPANDING ITS PROGRAM

Beginning January 1, 2000, Project HELP will be expanding its program. Typically developing children (ages one to three years) will be included in the classes to serve as language and social models. MTSU students are invited to enroll their child into this stimulating educational program. The program operates Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. or from 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The cost will be \$40.00 per week which includes all programming materials and snack. The Friday program will be available only to children who are enrolled in the full-week program. There is a \$10.00 charge for Friday morning care. Transportation may be provided at nominal cost to parents.

Persons interested in enrolling their child (ages one to three years) may get an application and more information by calling Debbie Estes at (615) 898-2837 or the Project HELP office at (615) 898-2458. There is a \$10.00 application fee.



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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

5 SIDELINES

Editorial

Apathy doesn't kill Up 'til Dawn

Maybe everyone on this campus isn't as apathetic as we thought...

All semester, the Sidelines staff has gripped about apathy at MTSU. Don't get us wrong: we aren't the only ones with negative attitudes. Professors gripe about it, other students gripe about it, and I'm sure the administration gripes about it, too, when no one is listening.

Still, we offer no solutions and the problem continues. Low voter turnout in elections, low attendance at sports games and low participation in any on-campus activity are becoming trademark symbols of MTSU although the university continues to grow.

But now, some students are well on their way to raising more than \$30,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis by their participation in Friday night's Up 'til Dawn, a 12-hour fundraising event taking place at the Recreation Center.

MTSU should be proud of those students who have worked so diligently for such a good cause. According to an article in Monday's issue of Sidelines, an executive panel and a committee comprised of more than 50 students have been planning the event since January.

MTSU also should feel a sense of pride in being only the second university to host Up 'til Dawn, with University of Memphis being the inaugural host last year.

Sidelines hopes Up 'til Dawn will be the success the sick children at St. Jude's deserve. After all, the biggest accomplishment is not overcoming apathy. Instead, the MTSU students involved in Up 'til Dawn should pat themselves on the back for a bigger reason — for bringing a smile and much-needed funding to the children at St. Jude's.

—Lesli Bales
Editor

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor.



Simply drop them
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Letters may be edited for
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"Sidelines" is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published every Wednesday during June and July and on Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. FLASH!, the entertainment magazine, is published every Wednesday during the Fall & Spring semester. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily "Sidelines" or the university.

The Codebreaker's Almanac

by Dylan Ross, Staff Columnist

Explosions in Decatur not caused by discrimination

Decatur, Ill.

Not exactly what I would call one of the greatest places to go. It's small, flat and courtesy of the Archer Daniel Midland Company (you know, the people that use vegetables to promote world peace), and it smells like Puppy Chow.

The Adventures of Rob have taken me to this Midwestern hole in the wall many times. It would be similar to Murfreesboro, if only it were closer to Chicago, but my overall impression is mile after mile of cornfields. It's not the most happening place.

So why has it garnered the national media spotlight?

To sum up the causing factors, there was a fight at a high school football game between some students from different high schools in Decatur. Actually, it really wasn't a fight but more of a "let's gang up on one guy and see how badly we can hurt him" kind of

deal.

While it wasn't identified what race the victim was, it has been clearly established that seven of the persons involved were black. This is known because those seven have been expelled from the Decatur school system.

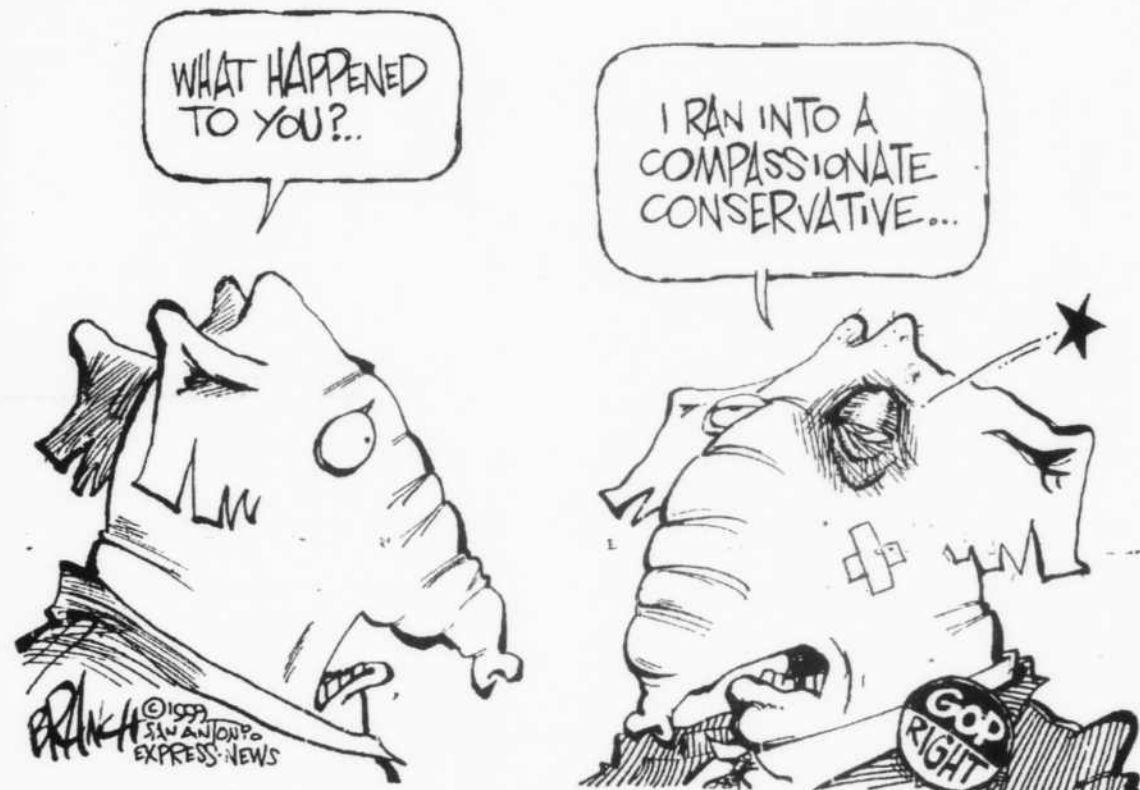
This is the reason that Decatur, Ill. has become the sight of another national folly. Let's bring up race as the issue of why these students were given such harsh sentences and expelled from school, even though there is a zero tolerance policy in force in Decatur schools that does not discriminate. So the only reason these students were expelled can be because they are black. Give me a break!

How can we progress socially if we continue to drop back to the old standby of using race as a determining factor in decisions? In my opinion, those students involved in the fight were punished fairly.

According to the Rev. Jesse Jackson, known for his humanitarian efforts, no weapons were involved in the fight, so the punishment far exceeds the crime. Perhaps none of the injuries were severe, but does that make the act any less violent?

Jackson, along with other civil rights activists, has formed and lead many marches through the streets of Decatur protesting the expulsions. The Klu Klux Klan in response to this action is calling a rally of white supremacists in Decatur as well. Throw in the media and you have a regular ol' three-ring circus.

All this is happening because we cannot move on and try to believe that America can be equal for all. As long as there is someone who feels like they have been treated unjustly, this will continue, not just with African-Americans, but with all other races as well. ■



Bush resembles wolf in sheep's clothing

Martha Knox
Ohio State University

George W. Bush's campaign slogan of "compassionate conservatism" is so far proving to go a long way with Republicans of all sorts, from moderate women leaning conservative to fanatic Christian moralists. No one seems to mind that his actions don't exactly match his words, or that he has most easily won the support of another common type of republican - the hard core economic conservative.

Bush is a master at looking tolerant, flexible and dodging the most controversial issues. He talks more about concepts such as "personal responsibility" and "strong families" and less about what he is going to actually do about them. Although sending 14-year-olds to adult prisons seems to be part of his idea of "personal responsibility."

It's all talk. Social republicans who really do care are getting the wool pulled over their eyes. One example is that recently Bush visited a pregnancy crisis center in Iowa, which focused on adoption as an alternative to abortion. After he declined to say that he would move to fund programs like the center, Bush said, "Part of my job, should I become president, is to herald the beauty and love of adoptions." Herald the beauty? This is just like when President Reagan had dinner with ex-General Motors employees in Flint, Mich. Who were laid off because factories were moved to Mexico. Basically Reagan made an appearance, looked good on television giving his verbal support to these unfortunate people, and then skipped back to Washington with a smile.

Christian moralists cheer when Bush promises to dedicate \$8 billion to tax credits and grants for religious institutions and private charities, but this facade of compassion will only dismantle the public services, destroying countless jobs and removing the most basic federal standards. Bush and his kind argue that the "true Christians" who

run private institutions care more and would do a better job than government employees who treat people like numbers.

But who are these heartless individuals who get into social work just to treat people like numbers? For those who are not aware, there is a scarcity of social work that isn't volunteer. That is why our mommies and daddies encouraged us to major in business and engineering. Diverting public money to private use would only worsen the situation. The same is true with school vouchers.

Education one of Bush's key issues, although he strongly advocates vouchers as one solution, despite its drawbacks. Publicly funded vouchers for private schools are crippling public schools in more ways than one. Vouchers are more expensive, and so cause public school levies to fail. They also do not cover the cost of most private schools, meaning that the poorest still have no choice where to send their children. Learning has not significantly improved due to Milwaukee's 10 year running voucher system.

Worst of all, private schools are not subject to many civil laws and all federal standards. This has nothing to do with improving education. This has to do with privatization.

How can Bush be for strong communities and yet advocate the destruction of public schools and publicly provided social services which are for everyone?

How can he be for strong families but not discourage big industries from firing employees and transplanting jobs as only indifferent economic forces dictate?

How can someone concerned with the violence, sex and poor quality in mainstream entertainment and commercials blame the writers and artists when the people making the most money are big businessmen?

Hopefully Americans who really are concerned with strong communities, families and better education will see that Bush is just an economically conservative wolf in a moderate sheep's clothing. ■

Modern Dysfunction

by Rob Evans, Staff Columnist

School of Americas breeding ground for assassins

This weekend, for the 10th year in a row, thousands of people will gather outside the gates of the U.S. army base at Fort Benning, Ga., to protest the continuing operation of the international military training program known as the School of the Americas (SOA).

According to its operators, SOA functions to train Latin American military personnel in techniques of military intelligence and "counter-narcotics" operations. In recent years, the latter emphasis has received increased attention in the army's press releases regarding the school. These press releases paint SOA as a vital link in the war on drugs.

By portraying SOA as a weapon in the war against "narco-terrorists" south of the United States border, the army has sought to improve the image of this potentially scandalous operation. But the thousands of Latin American citizens who have renamed SOA "the School of Assassins" wonder just who the targets of this particular "war" happen to be.

According to SOA Watch, the organization founded by Father Roy Bourgeois in 1990 to close SOA through a program of nonviolent protest and media/legislative action, the school's graduates have included some of the most egregious abusers of human rights in Latin America.

The SOA manuals declassified in 1996 reveal that the school encouraged, in the words of a New York Times report, "interrogation techniques like torture, execution, blackmail and arresting the relatives of those being questioned."

The list of SOA graduates includes perpetrators of numerous atrocities, such as the massacre of 900 at El Mozote and the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. The roll of atrocities goes on, containing incidents of mass murder, torture, rape and assassination.

Most of these acts were committed under the guise of "counterinsurgency" during the bloody extension of the Cold War in Latin America, when the United States pursued a policy of support for brutally oppressive authoritarian regimes that expressed "anti-Communist" commitments. During the decades of Cold War in Latin America, SOA was one of the tools that certain sectors of United States society used to keep Latin American markets open and politics to the right.

To see how SOA still contributes to the violence that burns across much of Latin America, we need only to look to Colombia. This nation has been the center of numerous atrocities in the past few years, as anyone standing in the way of Colombian "globalization" is in danger of losing his or her life.

As economist Edward Herman's excellent article in the September '99 issue of Z Magazine reports, more than 3,800 human rights activists were murdered in Colombia in 1998. These victims included lawyers, priests, nuns, journalists and half of the labor leaders murdered in the world last year.

In addition to human rights activists, the civilian populations dwelling on or near concentrations of natural resources are endangered. Paramilitary groups, known to the peace movement as "death squads" during the 1980s, have been involved in numerous massacres of rural peasants in Colombia, and more than one million of these citizens have been driven off their land and are now refugees in their own nation.

Such statistics are troubling, considering United States eagerness to intervene in Kosovo with overwhelming violence in response to a civil war that displaced significantly fewer Kosovar Albanians than the 1.5 million Colombians that have been made refugees in the name of transnational capitalism.

More troubling is the fact that, according to SOA Watch, 100 of the 246 Colombian military officers charged with committing or contributing to atrocities, most often by organizing paramilitary death squads, were SOA-trained. And United States military aid flows into Colombia to help these operations, under the familiar auspices of the war on drugs.

It should be noted that the guerrilla army this aid is meant to help combat, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, do finance a large part of their operations with profits from the drug trade. But the paramilitary operations supported by the United States are likewise largely funded by drug money, and they commit 84 percent of the atrocities reported in Colombia.

The drug-war rhetoric spouted by the State Department, CIA and DEA appears to be utter hypocrisy.

The most telling fact about the United States and SOA involvement in Colombia seems to be that the rebels stand in the way of transnational corporate investments that seek to exploit Colombian resources. Gold and oil have been discovered in the rural areas of the south, and this is where United States aid goes — not to the northern regions, where the routes used by the drug trade are protected by the United States allies, the paramilitaries and Colombian army.

The thousands that will confront the ugliness that is United States Latin American policy this weekend are standing up to a state of affairs that should be opposed by everyone who loves the things the United States ostensibly stands for — life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I know I don't pay taxes to fund the work of Colombian assassins, and if you agree, there are some things you can do.

For more information, check out SOA Watch's web site at <http://www.soaw.org/>

Rep. Moakley of Mass. has introduced HR 732, calling for the closing of SOA. Call Rep. Bart Gordon's office at 896-1986 and demand that he co-sponsor this legislation.

Senator Durbin's bill, S.873, is a similar piece of legislation you need to let your senators know about. Call Fred Thompson at 736-5129 or Bill Frist at 352-9411 and demand that they co-sponsor the bill. ■

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FEATURES

6 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Reaching for the top

Turner Hutchens
Staff Reporter

Becky Setterberg's leg shakes visibly as she clings to the wall 25 feet off the ground and stretches her body, straining for the next handhold. She struggles for well over a minute while her friend shouts encouragement from below. Finally, she yells "take" and pushes off from the wall, hanging in her harness and letting her exhausted arms go slack.

She's just made an attempt at the second difficulty level of the climbing-wall in MTSU's Recreation Center. The 30-foot wall

is the first thing inside the Recreation Center's doors, its simulated rock looming over everyone who walks past. In the evenings, students and guests are invited to try their hand at climbing.

"I'm all shaky and tired," says Setterberg, back on the ground but still breathing hard. "If I had more guts, I might have just made a leap for it—and maybe fall."

"I do it for the challenge, to build trust and to take risks," she says unstrapping her helmet. "It's got my heart pumping, so it must be a good workout—that or it's the anxiety."

Setterberg and her friend

Melanie Heugan have discovered rock climbing at MTSU.

Heugan doesn't seem intimidated by the height, though the adrenaline rush shows in her pink face when she returns to the ground after struggling to the top of the wall. Heugan says she doesn't feel fear when she's climbing. The activity is a mental challenge for her, problem solving to get to the next foot or handhold.

"No, I wouldn't say it's fear," says Heugan. "It would be more frustration."

"There is a little bit of fear," she admits after a pause.

Safety is the top priority according to Suits Hoffman, the outdoor pursuits graduate assistant, who is in charge of the climbing wall. And as far as injuries from accidents go, there are none, "except maybe a twisted ankle."

"People fall all the time," says Hoffman. "But they never hit the ground. It's probably safer than walking across campus."

"I think it's the safest thing in here," says Eric Speckner, who works at the climbing wall.

Climbers are always strapped in to a harness and wear a helmet. A nylon rope attached to the harness is held by a person trained to "belay," which means to keep people from plummeting to the ground. Before climbing, people are given brief instruction on what to do if they want to come down.

"Remember, just say 'take' when you're ready to come down," says Speckner, who is belaying for a first-time climber. "I'll get you."

"I don't worry about dropping people," says Stephanie Hitch, holding the rope that suspends a young man several yards off the ground. "You just have to trust the rope."

Everyone seems to trust the rope. It is tested to hold weight "in metric tons." That seems good enough for most.

A lot of inexperienced and first-

time climbers feel safer trying rock climbing in a controlled environment like the Recreation Center. Between 4 and 9 p.m. anyone can sign a waiver, take a few instructions, strap into a harness and start climbing. There are four different ways to get up the wall, each a little harder than the last. There's a level there for everyone.

"The staff is excellent at getting people to try," says Hoffman. "And we get a lot of interest from younger students. They see the wall when they come in for orientation."

For the first part of the year, the wall is packed every night, but this time of year the initial excitement of freshmen has died down.

"Sometimes football players come in and think they can just do it," says Josh Stone, who has been working at the wall for a year and a half. "But it's a lot more than strength. They think just because they see a girl doing it, they can."

"Women make excellent climbers," says Hoffman. "We have half women on our staff."

Some people have been coming to the wall for years.

"I've seen some really good climbers out here," says Speckner. "There is one man who can make it up the entire wall without using handhold, just the texture of the wall itself."

Nick Clark practices free-climbing, using no ropes or harness. He stays only a few feet off the ground and works his way across the bottom of the wall. His wiry arms and legs are spread far, and he keeps his body almost against the wall, looking like a spider creeping sideways across a cliff.

"I try to come out and climb about two or three times a week," says Clark, rubbing his sore fingers. He prefers outdoor climbing, but the wall helps him build his tone and skills. He says it's the best place to practice in the

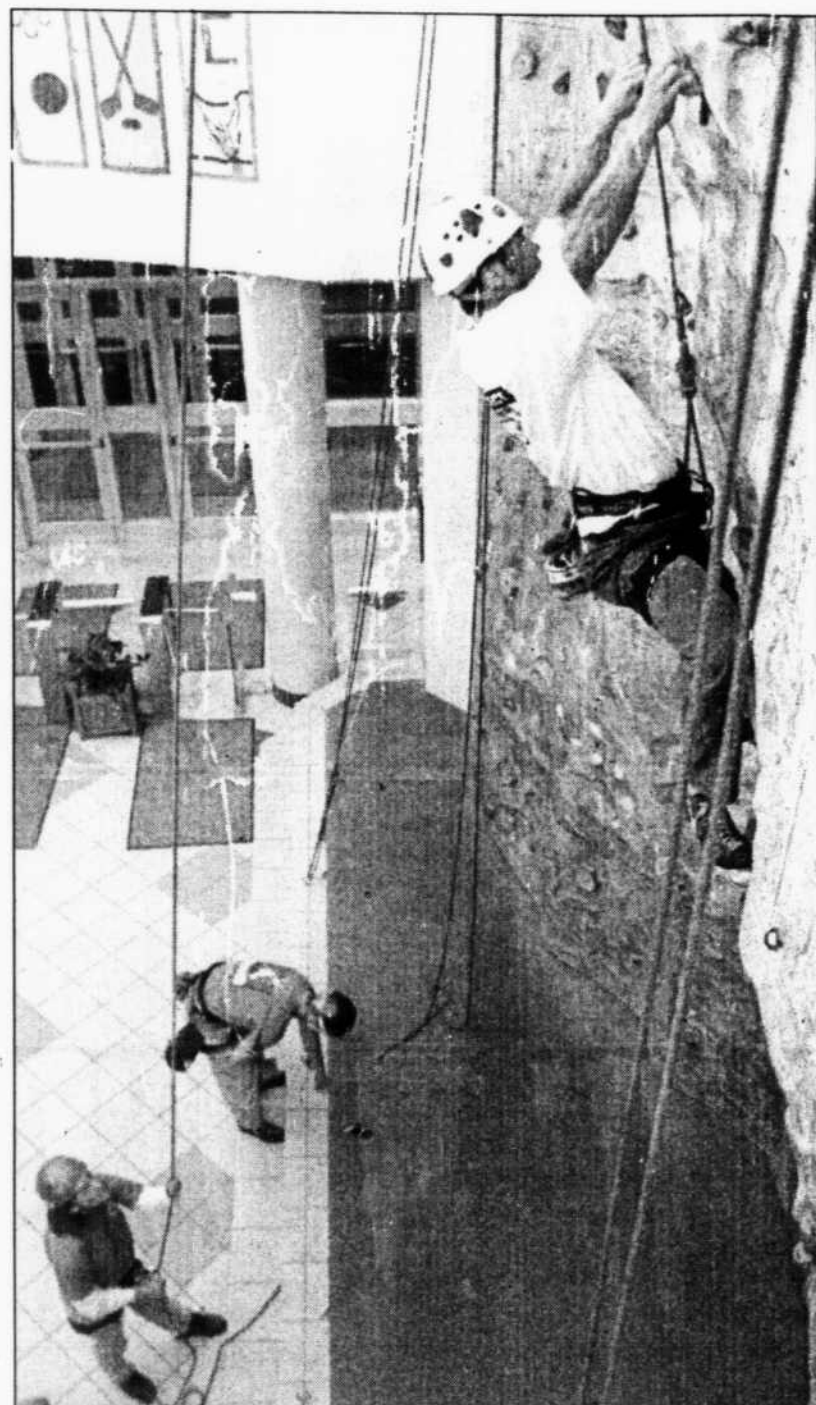


Photo by Zack Millican

Josh Stone, an MTSU senior, struggles to find another grip on his way up the wall.

county.

Clark puts on the harness and helmet and steps back up to the wall. He says he wants to "burn out" this time.

"If you want to burn out, three's the one," says Jason Hale, holding the rope that will belay Clark. "It leans back."

And Clark goes for it, climbing fast, and stretching his body to it's

fullest. He leans back as little as possible and pushes with his feet while pulling with his hands. His face shows the concentration as he looks for and thinks quickly about each hold.

Rick Hawkins, who has climbed the wall a few times, sees it as a challenge for the mind and as a meditation.

"Very Zen," Hawkins said. ■

It's not turkey preserves . . . it's Tuck's Thanksgiving Jam

Turner Hutchens
Staff Reporter

MTSU will host the Tuck's Thanksgiving Jam in the Tennessee Room at the James Union Building Nov. 23. The doors will open at 7:45 p.m., and the show will start at 8 p.m.

"It's just to get everybody in the Thanksgiving feeling," said Thurman "Tuck" Tucker, the recording artist who is promoting the Thanksgiving Jam. "Get them in a good giving feeling."

MTSU's Concert Events is sponsoring the free concert. Performers will include Tuck, Malik Shawty P., Christy Taylor, F.A.M., the Unit, SEA SEA, the Hillside C&C and POW POW. The music will be rhythm and blues and rap, and there will be a step show by the Sigmas.

"I need everyone to come out

and see the concert so these groups can get a chance to showcase their talent to a big crowd," Tuck said.

Each group will have an eight-minute set so people can get a taste of their music. The performances should last about an hour, and there will be an after party with DJ C-Wiz out of Nashville and a special performance by the rap group F.O.D.

"Everybody just comes in and parties," Tuck explained. "It's like going to a club."

The after party should last until 1 a.m.

Tuck graduated from MTSU as a major in Recording Industry Management of Music Business. He has been doing low budget rap album releases since the late 80s and now has his own label, RapBall Records out of Flint Mich., which has put out seven underground albums. The main artists have been Tuck and F.O.D.

Tuck tours and performs regularly in the Midwest. He considers his music "Reality Rap."

"I like to call it Ghetto Gospel," Tuck said. "It's from the ghetto, but it's got the healing in it just like Gospel."

This is the third year Tuck's Thanksgiving Jam will be held. In previous years, the Thanksgiving Jam has filled the Tennessee Room completely.

"This year I expect it to be bigger than ever," Tuck said. "We have full lighting, full stage and the best sound system MTSU's got."

He also expects Tuck's Thanksgiving Jams to continue in future years, growing larger and bringing in bigger artists.

"I was just trying to find something for black folks to have some fun," Tuck said. "I know being a college student you don't have much money, and this is something



Thurman "Tuck" Tucker

for free."

"Everybody's welcome," Tuck said. "They should go out with a bang when they leave for Thanksgiving break." ■

Just for the Health of It

Holiday eating survival tips

Kelley Dodd
Staff Reporter

As the semester winds down and the holiday season approaches, memories of Grandma's homemade pumpkin pie and casseroles begin to summon your taste buds.

While food plays a major role in the tradition of holidays such as Thanksgiving, you can still enjoy your favorite family dishes without gaining a few extra pounds.

The American Dietetic Association offers a few suggestions for making wise decisions during the season of eating:

-Balance what you eat with other meals throughout the day by choosing smaller, low-calorie foods to tide you over until the big dinner is ready.

-Don't deprive yourself of your favorite foods. Deprivation usually leads to overindulgence so go ahead and eat that portion of mashed potatoes and gravy or candied sweet potatoes.

-Don't forget the dessert. Enjoy one slice of your favorite pie or cake or have a bite of each flavor instead. That one bite tastes the same as the rest of the pie.

-Eyeball your portions carefully to prevent overeating. Serving sizes can be underestimated easily, making the calorie counts of any food higher. For a visual comparison, look for a slice of turkey that is about the size of a deck of cards or a half of a baseball for a half-cup serving of casserole.

-Do some physical activity. Suggest the family take a brisk walk or play a game of touch football following dinner to burn off all those extra holiday calories.

-Do not start a diet or starve yourself to prepare for the big meal. More than likely you will overeat when faced with the big feast.

Most importantly, enjoy the holiday season by eating a balanced variety of homecooked foods while spending quality time with your friends and family. Eat well for your health! ■

Keeping It Clean: Cuss Control Academy Works To Curb Swearing

Ovetta Sampson
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

People rarely do it in front of their parents. Or with their kids in the room. And doing it in church is beyond blasphemous.

So why do folks feel so free to curse, swear and say the most foul four-letter words in public?

That's the question Chicagoan James O'Connor asked himself two

years ago after he sat through the popular, profanity-laden movie "Get Shorty."

Rather than try to answer such a complex question O'Connor decided instead to take action: He opened up the "Cuss Control Academy" in his hometown. His twice-monthly classes are aimed at helping people curb their appetite for bad words.

"(Cursing is) a very, very serious problem," says O'Connor, whose

book, "Cuss Control: The Complete Book On How To Curb Your Cursing," is due out in March. "Our society seems to have come to the comfort level where the f-word, the s-word and any kind of four-letter word is OK."

Well, hello language police. Doesn't his crusade fly in the face of the sacred First Amendment? Don't we citizens of the United States of America have the privilege to curse whenever and

wherever we damn well please? Isn't his crusade just a bunch of ...

Well, wait a minute. Swear words are not just harmless colloquial expressions of a free and modern society, says O'Connor, who has made national headlines with his campaign to curb public cursing. The crusade against public swearing is about the good of society.

We cuss because we fuss.

And fussing, he says, can lead to

a wide range of anti-social behavior including road rage, fights and even physical violence. Take cursing away, O'Connor says, and people can learn to communicate better. They will also learn to cope easier with whatever little inconveniences life throws at them.

"It's an attempt to get people to at least control when and where they swear in an effort to restore some civility and good manners," O'Connor says about his cut-the-

cussing program.

But can clipping the bad lip make you a happier person, win you friends and help you influence people?

Absolutely, says O'Connor, who admits to a small streak of blue-language himself. He reached his conclusion after interviewing non-religious people who don't curse. (Yes, they exist; he said he found a

See CUSS, page 7

A Darned Short History Of Swearing

Ovetta Sampson
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Swear words probably have been around since hieroglyphics, but they remained largely unwritten and unspoken for thousands of years. It wasn't until the 10th century that the vulgar version of shoot was uttered publicly, and the naughty f-word reference to sex didn't surface until 1485 in a British poem. In the United States, swear words weren't allowed in books until 1950, according to Jim O'Connor, who has researched curse words for his book "Cuss Control: The Complete Book On How to Curb Your Cursing." Hence Norman Mailer's forced use of the word "fug," in "The Naked and the Dead," his 1948 novel about World War II. So how did we get from there to 1999, when CBS became the first network to allow the "s" word to be uttered on an entertainment show? Flame it on the dam-bursting '60s, says O'Connor. During the late 1960s and early '70s, movies began to use blue language to compete with television. Gradually the practice seeped onto TV through cable channels and then so-called pioneering dramas like "NYPD Blue," which began to push the envelope on sex and language as the mainstream became more comfortable with the taboo words. And now, we've got those foul-mouthed third-graders in the cartoon "South Park." In O'Connor's opinion, it's a sign that society is straight on the path to you-know-where in a handbasket. "If we all start talking like Cartman this will not be a nice place to live," he said, referring to the cartoon character on "South Park," who has a wicked way with words. ■

CUSS

continued from page 6

slew of them.) All were calm, rational people who rarely got mad. And if they did, well, the worst that came out of their mouths were such expressions as "darn" and "fooeey."

By nature, these people aren't easily rattled, so they're not inclined to curse. That, in a nutshell, is Ron Ellis, a Pueblo, Colo., native who moved to Colorado Springs less than a year ago. Ellis, 47, is a calm man who speaks a tinge below normal and a leap above a whisper. He is prone to laugh heartily. And he has never, he says, uttered a blimey curse word.

"It's not a part of my vocabulary," Ellis says matter-of-factly. "I just don't do that."

As his wife, Jane, enters the conversation, she jokingly draws an imaginary halo around Ron's head. She's been married to him for 28 years and says he has never uttered anything more risqué than "son of a gun." And it took her a minute to come up with that one.

"I met Ron when I was 14 and he was 16 and I've never heard him cuss," says Jane, who admits to a flinging a few foul words every now and then. "That's what makes this even more amazing. It's a Ripley's Believe It or Not."

She says he rarely gets mad, eliminating the need to curse.

The father of seven also feels a need to be a role model. He said his parents cursed, his siblings swore and, as a music teacher at Emerson-Edison Middle School, he hears swear words almost everyday. But he just never uses

that language.

"As a teacher I feel like I have to show the right kind of behavior," he says. "And for me to tell a child, especially my own child, not to cuss and then for me to do it, seems kind of bad."

That's music to O'Connor's ear, though he says he's not the potty-mouth patrol ready to rid the world of dirty words. He just thinks less cursing is the key to a less stressful world, and maintains that even natural-born cursers can learn to control their anger along with their language.

"One way to control your swearing is to control your emotions," he said. "And if you control your emotions you're going to be a more content person and you're also going to be a much more pleasant person to be with."

All this may sound futile, but O'Connor is in national demand for his cursing curbing services. He's often invited to speak at school assemblies and conduct workshops for corporations, and teaches about 30 people a month at his academy. During an appearance on Oprah Winfrey, he even got the talk-show queen to admit that she curses too much.

Linda Hill, director of Colorado School of Protocol and Etiquette in Denver, says bravo to O'Connor. Cursing is something that ladies and gentlemen just don't do. She plans to add a class on the subject to her etiquette school next year.

"When they use vulgar or profane language they're demonstrating three things: a lack of breeding, lack of manners and lack of vocabulary," she says.

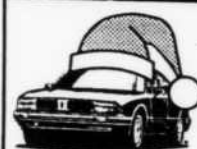
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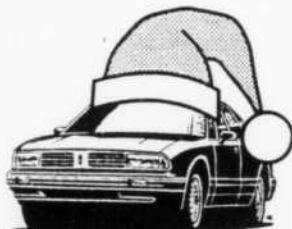
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SPORTS

8 • SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Raiders hope to end with win

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

With 10 down and one to go, the Raiders will have a chance to leave their first season as a I-A football team with a victory, when they host East Tennessee State University in Floyd Stadium at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Senior Charlie Walker tried to foretell the Raider's fortune after last week's loss to Central Florida.

"We are just going to win. We are going to work hard this week just like we do ever week and try to win," said Walker.

When MTSU runs

The ground game was almost non-existent last week against UCF, as Golden Knight quarterback outrushed the entire Raider team with his 122 yard performance. MTSU managed only 48. The Raiders are playing a lesser football team this week in ETSU, but they need to establish a ground attack.

The leading rusher, Jamison Palmer, only carried the ball seven times last week for 15 yards. He needs more carries. Quarterback Wes Counts was the leading rusher with 13 carries for 24 yards.

Every game that the offense has done well in, the running game has produced. Every game that they

have been beaten, the running game either didn't produce or wasn't given a chance to do so. On Saturday, Palmer and company have a great chance to send the seniors out happy. The ETSU defense is allowing over 200 yards of rushing offense per game.

When MTSU passes

The passing game has been there all year. The wide spread attack features 3-6 receivers every time. Sometimes the Raiders will bring an offensive lineman out around the yard numbers and have him block for Counts when he rolls out. In that formation, the Raiders go with three down linemen, a back, another lineman outside, two receivers on each side and a quarterback. The passing game was very consistent and effective early in the year, but they have tailed off lately, except for the Martin game. MTSU has great receivers that have been record setters this year, and they should add to their total Saturday.

When ETSU runs

The Buccaneers are led by Brandon Walker, who is averaging almost 100 yards per game this year. They have a host of backs, four to be exact, that are rushing for over 20 yards per game. Their offense is centered around their running game, maybe that's why they are 6-4. As a team, the Bucs

have rushed for an average of 196 yards per game. Of course, they are giving up more than that on defense.

The Raiders have had their share of troubles with opposing teams that like to run the football. MTSU is giving up 218 yards per game, and that is not a good sign for the defense.

When ETSU passes

Jamey Chadwell is the quarterback for the Bucs, replacing Todd Wells.

Lamar Cooper is the leading receiver with 70 yards per game but will be going against a secondary that has been improving every week.

The X-factor

Defense, defense, defense. Like every game, the Raiders must play solid defense to have a chance. Similarly, MTSU must be able to run the football. This allows the defense to get added time to rest before going out on to the field. Comparing the two teams, the Bucs were beaten badly by Wofford, a team that MTSU beat up on early in the year. At that point in the year the Raider defense wasn't showing up, but lately it has been pretty solid. If the defense plays to its ability and the offense continues its success, the Bucs are going to be in for a long night ■

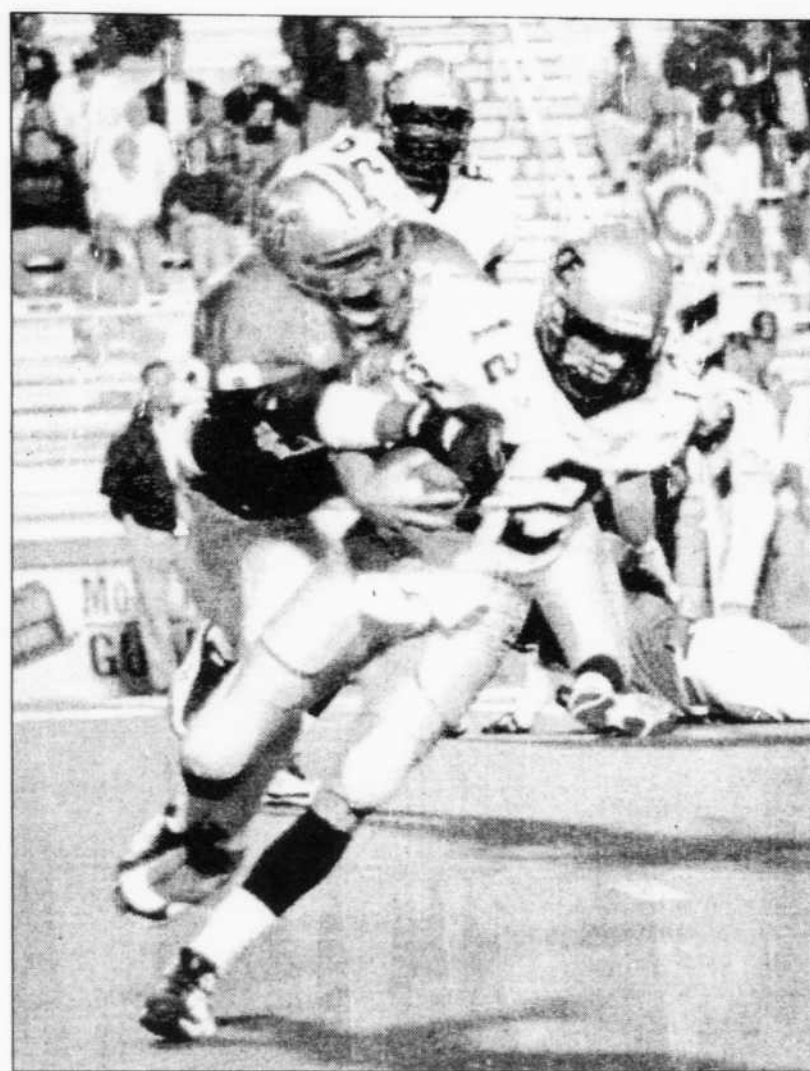


Photo by Robin Wallace

The Raiders take down UCF quarterback Vic Penn last Saturday.

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East Tennessee State University

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MT in 1999 (2-8)

@ Mississippi St. 7-40
@ Arizona 19-34
WOFFORD 52-42
@ Louisiana-Lafayette 31-45
TROY STATE 31-48
@ Arkansas 6-58
@ Louisiana Tech 18-42
@ Louisiana-Monroe 0-10
UT-MARTIN 70-14
CENTRAL FLORIDA 14-39
EAST TENNESSEE 6 p.m.

ETSU in 1999 (6-4)

Citadel 28-10
W. Virginia Tech 61-0
@ VMI 26-17
Western Carolina 38-10
@ Appalachian State 19-23
Liberty 24-12
@ Furman 21-48
Georgia Southern 6-55
@ Wofford 14-38
Chattanooga 28-14
@ MTSU

Hopefully we can end on a good note for the seniors and the rest of the team.

Head Coach
Andy McCollum

East Tennessee State
Starting Lineup

Offense

WR 14 Charvin Clark 6-1, 170, So.
WR 4 Lamar Cooper 5-9, 185, Sr.
WR 84 Pedro Edison 6-3, 250, Sr.
OG 69 Victor Hooks 6-1, 302, Jr.
OG 74 Travis Crusenberry 6-2, 288, Sr.
C 72 Jim Beverly 6-4, 304, Sr.
OG 65 Manuel Llanaeza 6-1, 297, Sr.
OT 58 Chip Pearson 6-5, 300, So.
FB 40 Scott Carter 5-10, 203, Fr.
TB 44 Brandon Walker 5-10, 204, Sr.
QB 21 Jamey Chadwell 6-0, 212, Sr.

Defense
LB 54 Rahim El Amin 6-2, 207, Jr.
DT 77 Andrew Simmons 6-0, 242, So.
NG 57 Julius Curry 6-0, 275, Fr.
DT 55 Monti Panzica 6-1, 240, Sr.
LB 33 Derek Fudge 6-0, 248, Sr.
LB 45 Kevin Peterson, 5-10, 235, Sr.
LB 42 Terrieic Robbins 5-10, 215, Sr.
CB 1 Keyandre Fenn 5-6, 160, Jr.
SS 25 Cullen Crane 6-0, 208, Sr.
FS 18 Keydrick Gordon 5-8, 175, Jr.
CB 24 Denario Smalls 5-8, 177, Jr.

Specialists

P 29 David Helton 6-1, 183, Sr.
PK 27 Brian Fucus 5-11, 170, Sr.
KO 28 Con Chellis 5-9, 165, So.
PR 1 Keyandre Fenn 5-6, 160, Jr.
KOR 37 Terrance Sims 5-6, 156, Jr.
LS 53 Adam Howell 6-1, 235, So.

For more information about MTSU athletics visit goblueraiders.com

Lady Raiders win laughter against NWBL Elite by 55

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

The Lady Raider basketball team warmed up for over an hour on Monday because of NWBL Elite's late arrival.

The Lady Raiders started slow, but got things rolling en route to a 106-51 blowout of NWBL Elite.

"We started off kind of slow, but we got back into our tempo as the game got going," Joanne Aluka said.

The Lady Raiders shot 53 percent from the field and 57 percent from three-point range.

With things relatively close at 16-10, the Lady Raiders embarked on a 16-4 run, making the score 32-14 with 8:10 remaining in the first half.

Mia Parviainen contributed four points during the run, and Erica Lufkin contributed six points and one assist.

The Lady Raiders never looked back, jumping out to a 51-26 halftime lead. Erica Lufkin, Jamie Thomatis and Kelly Chastain led

the charge. Lufkin led the Lady Raiders with 13 points in 12 minutes, while Thomatis contributed nine and Chastain seven.

The Lady Raiders hit six of 10 3-pointers, while NWBL went 0 for 3. The Lady Raiders also out-rebounded NWBL Elite 29 to 21.

"We got better as the game progressed," Lufkin said. "The intensity is definitely here."

The second half wasn't any better for NWBL Elite.

Led by Kelly Chastain, the Lady Raiders went on a 12-2 run to start the second half, which made the score 63-28. Chastain had five points, an assist and a steal during the run.

Crystal Hardy-Smith stopped the bleeding for NWBL Elite with a basket. Following the Hardy-Smith basket, the Lady Raiders went on another run. Seven different players scored for MTSU during the 17-6 run which made the score 80-34.

The Lady Raiders coasted the rest of the game, outscoring NWBL Elite 26-17 on the way to the

team's second exhibition win of the season.

Lufkin led the Lady Raiders with 26 points. Chastain added 17 points, while Thomatis added 16 points and 15 rebounds.

Caronda Jones led NWBL Elite with 14 points while Crystal Hardy-Smith contributed 13.

Head coach Stephany Smith was happy to pick up the win, but she thinks the Lady Raiders need to improve in certain areas.

"We have a rough road ahead," Smith said. "We need to work on intensity. We also need to run the offense better and take care of the basketball."

Lufkin also thinks the Lady Raiders need to improve in certain areas.

"I don't think we played well enough," Lufkin said. "We need to work on offense. We also need to crash the offensive boards. That's a weakness of ours."

The regular season begins Friday against Alabama-Birmingham, who lost to the University of Georgia 76-75 Monday night. ■

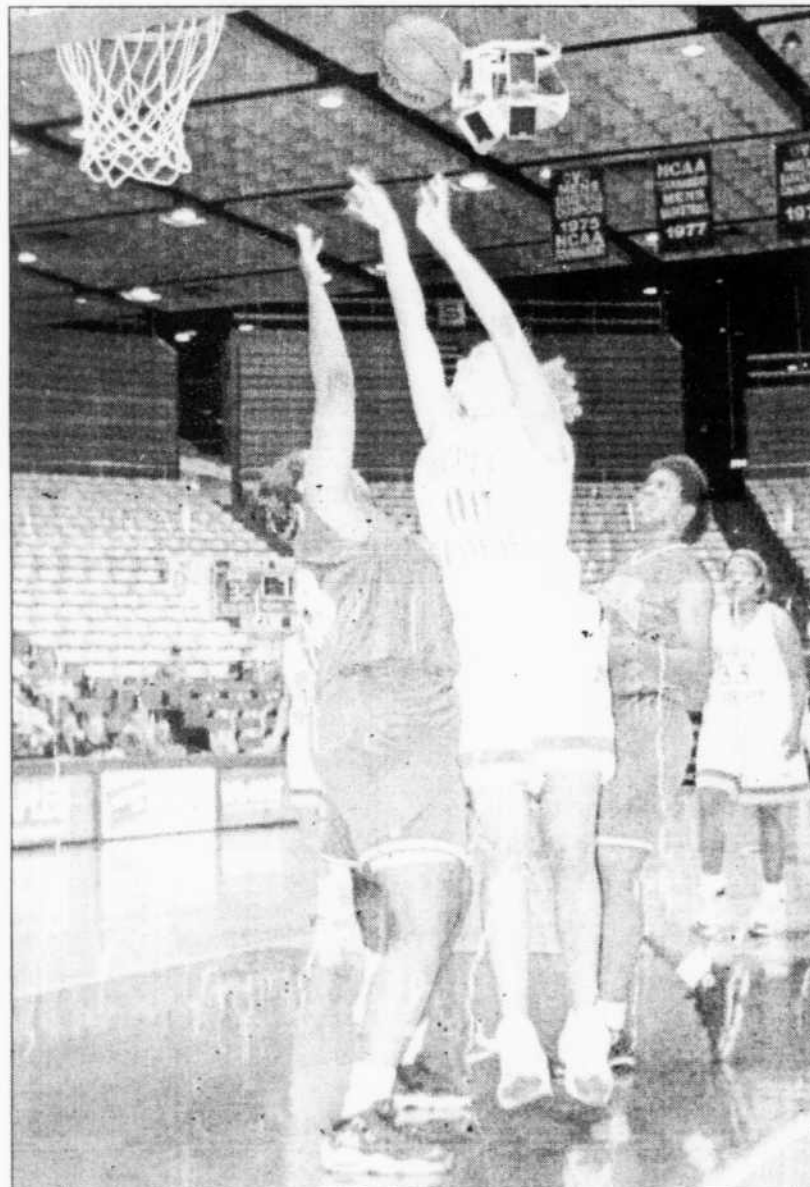


Photo by Zack Millican

LaShonda Winfree shoots the ball against NWBL Elite.

And the winner is . . .

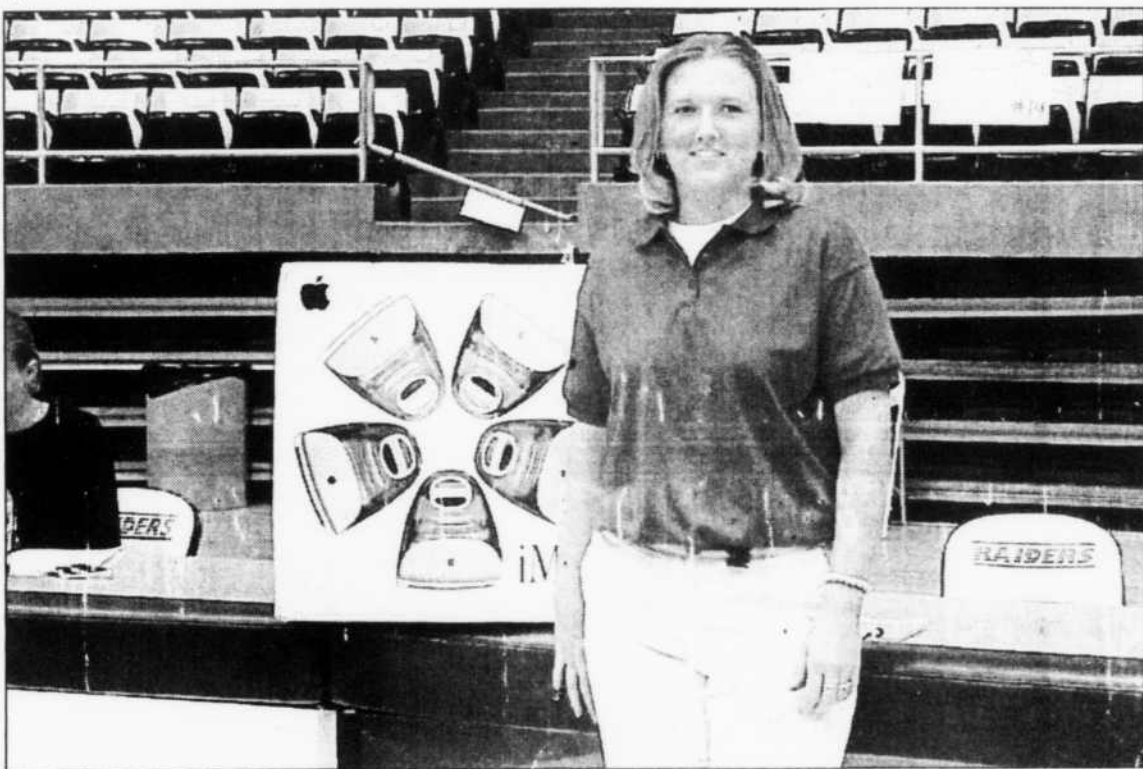


Photo Provided

Amanda Berryhill wins the iMac computer courtesy of Phillips Bookstore and Blue Raider Athletics

NCAA football needs playoff system, not BCS

View from the Top A sports commentary



Michael Edwards
Columnist

Right about now, the NCAA and Roy Kramer should be thanking underdogs such as Minnesota, Michigan and Arkansas for beating teams that were in the National Championship hunt until last weekend.

Going into last Saturday, five teams were unbeaten, and after the weekend only three remained: Marshall, Florida State and Virginia Tech. Virginia Tech and Florida State still have tough games coming up.

Florida State still has to beat Florida in the Swamp; Virginia Tech has to beat Temple, who upset them last year and Boston College, a team that is on a roll. And well, Marshall never plays tough teams. Their strength of schedule is 98th. MTSU has played more top notch teams than Marshall.

If it were not for these upsets, the national championship picture would be blurry at best. Is it time for a playoff system? Of course it is. The reasons for not having one include television rights and money.

The first thing they say is that a playoff would not make as much money as the bowls. The

presidents of the universities are the people who have made that decision. Every other sport that I can think of, pro or amateur, has a playoff system.

The NFL is a business. Yes, they all want to win, but their primary goal is to make a living and make as much money as they can. Just ask Joe Galloway. If the bowl system makes more money than a playoff system then why doesn't the NFL use it? Very simply, it doesn't make more money. If it did, the NFL could use the same system that college football uses and make more money.

Bowls could still be used for those teams that did not make the playoff. Keep the Music City Bowl and Motor City Bowl; they can send the schools that did not do as well to those bowls. Make the major bowls like the Rose, Fiesta and the Sugar playoff games. These games would feature the best teams in the country and would be sure to sell out the stadiums.

The other problem is the television contracts. Bid the playoff games to the different networks, and of course, the highest bidder gets the game. The higher magnitude games would be the most expensive. That would give the schools more money than the bowls, because they would be playing more games.

The college basketball tournament is perhaps the most exciting time of the sports year. One reason is because of the upsets and the fact that every team in the country has a chance to win the national

championship. MTSU could win the national championship this year. Probably not going to happen, but they have a chance. The MTSU football team does not really have a chance to win it, because they are not a well known team. Florida State, Florida, Tennessee and other teams like that always have a shot but not the lesser known teams. College football will never generate the electricity that college basketball does without a playoff system.

I have a plan for the NCAA: use 16 teams in the playoff. They could still use the BCS ratings to determine who gets in. Play the three rounds, while maybe giving a week off between the second and third rounds. Play the national championship game the week before the Super Bowl in the same stadium. Think of the marketing possibilities that week could produce. Hotels, restaurants and other places like those would make unbelievable amounts of money. The cities could even bid on hosting the Super Bowl and the National Championship.

This system would eliminate people like me, that say Virginia Tech and Marshall should not get to play for the National Championship because of their weak schedules. The top 16 teams would have a chance to prove that they are the nation's best team. The best.

This year, Florida State would play the 16th ranked team, while Virginia Tech would play the

See BCS, page 10

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Chipper Jones wins NL MVP

Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) - Chipper Jones won the National League Most Valuable Player Award in a landslide today following a season in which he hit 45 homers and carried Atlanta to an eighth straight division title.

Jones received 29 of 32 first-place votes and finished with 432 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He also received two second-place votes and one third.

"It's awfully hard to believe," Jones said. "To have this in your corner, to always be able to say you won an MVP, is a tremendous honor."

Houston first baseman Jeff Bagwell was second with one first and 276 points, followed by Arizona third baseman Matt Williams, who had two firsts and 269 points. They were the only players picked on every ballot.

Cincinnati's Greg Vaughn was fourth with 121 points and St.

Louis' Mark McGwire was fifth with 115, followed by the New York Mets' Robin Ventura (113), Mike Piazza (109) and Edgardo Alfonzo (88). Chicago's Sammy Sosa was ninth at 87.

"Matt Williams is one of the guys I try to be like. Just to be in the hunt with him is an honor in itself," Jones said. "I didn't have a real good first half. Baggy put together a full year."

The 27-year-old third baseman became the fifth Brave to win the award, joining Bob Elliott (1947), Hank Aaron (1957), Dale Murphy (1982 and '83) and Terry Pendleton (1991).

Jones hit .319 with 119 RBIs, 116 runs, 25 steals and 126 walks. He finished third in homers behind Mark McGwire (65) and Sammy Sosa (63) and third in walks; fourth in slugging percentage (.633), on-base percentage (.441) and total bases (359); seventh in runs; and 10th in batting.

After June 15, he hit 30 homers and drove in 79 runs.

"The guy picked a great time to

get hot," teammate Brian Jordan said. "It's a special time in anyone's career when you have the sense you can do no wrong at the plate. He has a lot of confidence."

Jones gained momentum in September when he homered four times in Atlanta's three-game sweep of the New York Mets. When the Braves went to Shea Stadium the following week and returned in October for the NL Championship Series, Mets fans taunted him with slow chants of "Lar-ry. Lar-ry," his real first name.

"I think those four home runs were huge," Jones said. "I'd like to think my name was already on the map before that, but that kind of jump-started everything."

"I didn't put any pressure on myself," Jones said. "I knew that teams were going to pitch me carefully and, in certain situations weren't going to let me beat them. You can't put any extra pressure on yourself and try to hit a three-run homer every time you walk to the plate. That's how slumps get started." ■

BCS

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15th ranked team. Nebraska and Marshall would play in a game that is the tale of two completely different offenses. Other games would be Florida and Georgia Tech, Tennessee and Michigan State, Alabama and Penn State, Wisconsin and Michigan, and, finally, Kansas State and Texas. Imagine if Florida and Tennessee played again in a game that meant more than the usual regular season. Can anyone honestly say that a quarter of a million UT and Florida fans would not be drooling over the chance to put an end to the other teams hopes once and for

all?

The bottom line is that every reason that the NCAA has made public has been a load of crap. The fact is, they can't come up with a reason; maybe it's time for a change in the leadership. Some say the final decision is the NCAA's to make. In a sense that's true, but not entirely. What would happen if fans got so mad over this that they stopped going to games and stopped watching games on television. Well, advertisers would stop shelling out big bucks to be noticed by fans, and the NCAA would have to submit to our wants and needs.

I know that will never happen, but I can dream. ■

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