



Are you stressed?

See page 6

Murfreesboro, TN

Walker in top 50 for leadership

Kipp Cavalier
Staff Reporter

MTSU President James Walker was recently included in a list of the nation's top 50 college presidents. The December 23 edition of the journal "Black Issues in Higher Education," compiled the list based on achievements in access, matriculation and diversity. For nearly a decade, President Walker has led the university to an increase in national ranking while experiencing a nearly 25 percent enlargement of its student body.

In the nine years of President Walker's leadership, the MTSU community has seen its population expand from just under 16,000 students in 1991 to nearly 19,000 this spring.

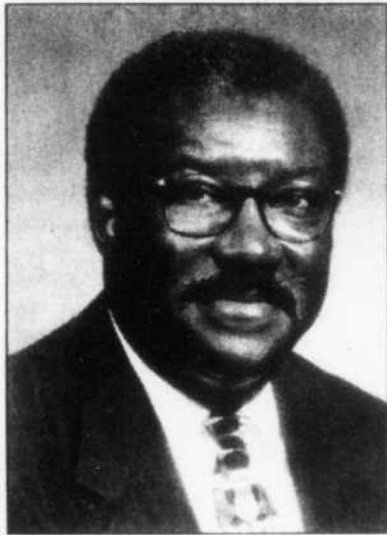
Although the growing number of students reflects a population explosion in the entire Middle Tennessee region, President Walker suggests that "our ever-expanding campus society is in great part a result of everyone working together to move this university forward." Administrative efforts are concentrated on expanding academic facilities, hiring enough faculty and staff to accommodate thriving enrollment and provide scholarships, grants and financial aid for students.

When currently compared to the nation's roughly 3,600 colleges, MTSU is rated among the top 200 institutions. The ACT scores of incoming freshmen exceed the national average.

Scholarship money for MTSU students has increased from a half-million dollars in 1991 to \$4.5 million at present.

President Walker feels that students here are "getting a quality education at a reasonable cost in an environment where they are growing and learning (and) know that the prestige of their degree has increased over the years and will continue to increase."

Along with the addition of class and office space, MTSU students and faculty have experienced drastic technological



Walker

improvements funded mainly by student technology fees. The university has upgraded from having a room with computers in it, to having a campus with computers on it.

We have found our instructors fluent in using state of the art technology and excited to pass that knowledge on to the students. President Walker encourages faculty to maximize the potential of new resources and is amazed by (faculty's) enthusiasm toward the new computers.

A serious dilemma for MTSU, according to President Walker, is a lack of adequate funding. We are in constant demand of increased government subsidy to continue providing the resources needed to avoid capping enrollment as some schools have done.

Compensating for budget shortcomings in an effort to meet our expanding demands may threaten tuition increasing beyond the means of many students.

President Walker assures that it is his intention to "keep tuition down at a reasonable cost... for the citizens of Tennessee, and that students from low-income families (have) opportunities for grants and loans to help them finance their education."

President Walker has worked passionately in recent years to

See Walker, 3

Careless smoker causes minor fire



Photo by Rory White | Staff Photographer

The Murfreesboro Fire Department responded to a call around 12:30 p.m. Thursday after grass outside the KUC caught on fire. The fire began after someone threw a cigarette toward an ashtray outside the KUC and missed.

Tax debate fires up again

Governor proposes income tax, more funding for higher education

Randall Ford
Editor in Chief

Breaking it down:

- State lawmakers must decide how to balance the budget, which could be almost \$400 million in the hole by July.
- An appointed committee says Tennessee's public colleges and universities need more than \$100 million more to be competitive.
- Governor Don Sundquist proposes a state income tax, lowering the state sales tax and eliminating the sales tax on food.
- Opponents say voters don't want an income tax and that spending should be curbed instead.

would also receive more funding.

Sundquist, a Republican, claims an income tax will place a greater burden on high-income families and allow the state to make up for revenue lost when citizens make purchases online. State estimates say Tennessee lost \$34 million last year because of e-commerce.

Sundquist spoke at a forum for higher education in Memphis Thursday night. He told a crowd of higher-education officials and supporters, including the presidents of the University of Tennessee and the

dents, he said.

Sundquist also said his proposal would give a 6 percent pay raise for college and university faculty and a 3 percent pay raise for non-faculty staff.

"Even with a 6 percent raise, it still will take comparable raises the next two years straight to get our faculty pay on par with other states in the Southern region," Sundquist said.

Walker, who was not at the forum, acknowledged the budget proposal would mean good things for MTSU, if it is passed.

"If they can figure out some way to fund it, I think it would be very good for higher education," Walker said. "I guess the big question out there is whether they're going to be able to come up with the revenue to fund what the governor has recommended."

Indeed, that is the issue facing state legislators who must decide whether to approve the proposal. Most say there is not enough voter support for a state income tax.

See Tax, 4

Wrong-time clocks confuse students

Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum
Staff Reporter

"Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!" cried White Rabbit as he sped past Alice in the classic Lewis Carroll tale "Alice in Wonderland."

MTSU students may get into a similar panic when they're running late for class. The old, analog clocks in the halls of many university buildings, some of which are off by hours, aren't much help.

A good number of clocks located in Peck Hall, Keathley University Center, Murphy Center and James Union Building show the wrong time. Three clocks located on the first and second floors of Peck Hall are hours behind the actual time. One double-sided clock in the KUC showed the correct time on one side, while the other is one hour ahead of schedule.

"I never know what time it really is," said Dishan Farmer, a sophomore anthropology major. "All of the clocks are wrong."

Building Maintenance Services is responsible for main-

taining the clocks, but after certain building renovations, the time-keeping system was altered, causing the subsequent timing problems, explained Gerald Caudill, manager of Engineering and Building Maintenance Services.

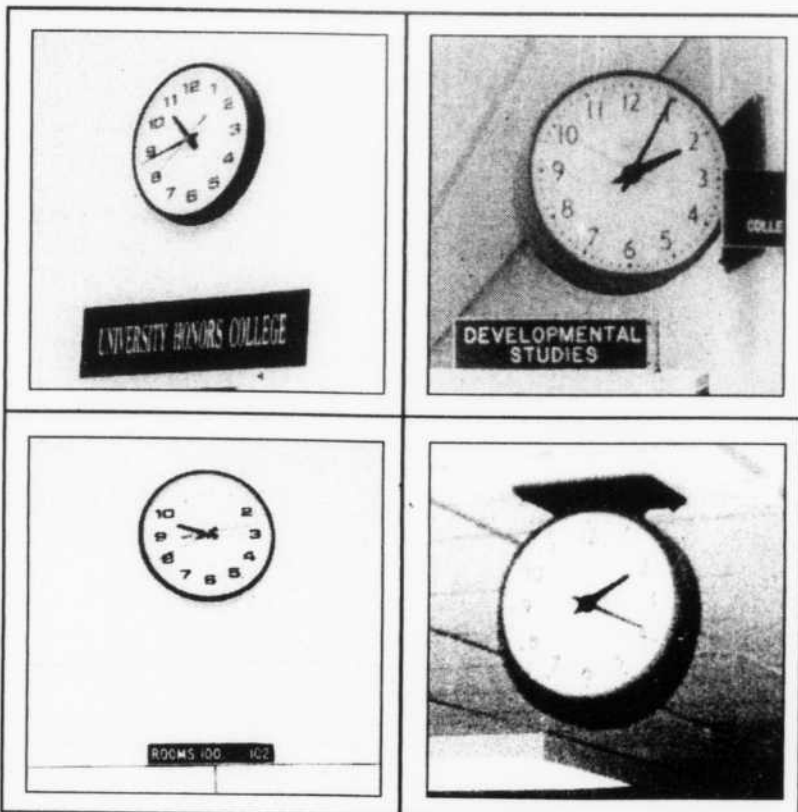
"There used to be a master clock system," Caudill said. "As part of the renovations, the master clock controller (device) was taken out. Due to budget constraints, the controller was never replaced."

Students are making do without the convenience of dependable clocks.

"My watch is 10 minutes fast," said Carolyn Anne Copenhagen, a senior radio-television major. "I don't depend on the clocks."

One Peck Hall clock located just between the door of the Dean of Liberal Arts office and the Developmental Studies office is off by a couple of hours, depending on which side of the clock is viewed.

"I've never had a bit (of trouble) because nobody pays any attention because everybody knows they're wrong," said John McDaniel, dean of Liberal Arts.



Photos by Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum | Staff Photographer
Clocks located in Peck Hall were photographed at 12:10 p.m. The KUC clock was photographed at 1:15 p.m.

No faculty member has ever missed a class due to the clocks, said McDaniel. Last week Gov.

Don Sundquist's budget proposal suggested spending \$320,000 for a new campus clock system.

Quiz Bowl will test students' knowledge

Staff Reports

The MTSU African American Student Association is sponsoring a Quiz Bowl: The Black Perspective, Wednesday, Feb. 9 at p.m., in the Learning Resources Center Multi-Media Room.

Everyone on and off campus is invited to come and watch several teams of five students each pit their knowledge against one another in areas such as black history, politics, sports, art, and culture.

"We are asking either a \$1 donation for admission or a canned food item," said Tyson King-Meadows, political science instructor, who will be one of the contest judges. "Food items will be donated to the Rutherford County Food Bank."

"We are trying to get freshman to participate to help them get acclimated to the

campus environment."

Prizes will include a trophy and several in-kind donations from area business, King-Meadows said.

Questions will be asked by Genora Reed, representing the AASA, and Chris Montague, a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Other judges will include Dr. Adonijah Bakari, assistant professor of history; Bonnie Shipp, assistant professor of English; and Ralph Metcalf, director of Multi-cultural Affairs.

The Quiz Bowl is part of this year's celebration of African American History Month, the theme of which is "Heritage and Horizons." Co-chairs of this year's AAHM committee are Mimi Thomas, director of Student Programming, and Dwight Patterson, assistant professor of chemistry.

For more information, please call Reed at 898-4085. ■

On Campus

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

Feb. 7

Psi Sigma Epsilon is holding a general interest meeting in BAS Room S126 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Scott Inks at 898-2436. Psi Sigma Epsilon is a national professional sales, sales management and marketing fraternity open to all majors.

Priority sign-ups for campus interviews for teacher recruitment week will be held in KUC Room 322 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 898-2500.

Feb. 8, 10

The Placement and Student Employment will continue the series of placement orientation meetings for seniors and graduate students regarding their career plans, the job search, resume writing, interview preparation and the services of the Placement Center. Two meetings will be held on Tuesday at 2 p.m. and Thursday at 11 a.m. These meetings are open to all students, but seniors and graduate students are encouraged to attend one of them.

Feb. 8, 24 / March 10

The General Studies Committee will be holding a series of open forums in order to give feedback before a final version of the General Studies Mission Statement is drafted. The meetings will be at Feb. 8

from 2-3 p.m. in PH Room 109A, Feb. 24 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in DSB Room 100 and March 10 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in BAS Room S126. For more information, call Bill Bradley, director of general studies, at 898-8416.

Feb. 7-16

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

Feb. 10

88.3, The Ultimate, is sponsoring a hip-hop urban renewal benefit show at 527 Main Street beginning at 9 p.m. Featured artists include Malik and Hype Unit, Mual The Pimp and Shawdy, DJ Silence, JAZ, Hypothetical and The Invisibilist.

Feb. 11

Entries are due for the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Awards in Journalism. Newspaper, magazine, TV and radio journalists may enter, as well as photographers. For information and an application, contact Kevin Koelling at 904-8193.

All international students are welcome to come to the

international student focus group, which will be held by the applied anthropology class from 1:30-2:20 p.m. in PH Room 318. The focus group will talk about the issues international students are facing at MTSU, which will lead to a needs-assessment analysis to be written that will benefit their experiences at the university. Refreshments will be provided. Contact Melissa Schrift at 904-8275 for more information.

Feb. 14

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

Feb. 18

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

Feb. 21

A teacher job fair will be

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

Interviews will be held in the KUC Tuesday through Friday for teacher recruitment week. For more information, call 898-2500.

Feb. 26

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

March 3-5

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

March 14

Campus Recreation is sponsoring a bench press contest. Participants must register by

March 10. The cost is \$5 for individuals and \$10 for teams (five to a team). Contact Allison or Jerry at 898-2104 for more information.

March 15 & 16

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

March 25-31

The Campus Recreation Center will host a ski summit to Colorado for spring break. There will be a pre-trip meeting on March 14. Two price packages are available. A \$200 deposit will reserve a spot. For more information, call Mitch, Sean or W.T. at 898-2104.

Ongoing

The Lambda Association welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight students to general interest meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in BAS Room S301. Contact Tony Gowell at 867-3658 for more information.

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

The MTSU Peer Education Program is currently accepting

new members. Credit hours are available. Applications may be picked up in KUC Room 303, or call 898-5453 for more information.

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

The Student Pagan Organization holds meetings every Monday in the second floor lounge of the KUC at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in Wicca, Paganism, Shamanism or any other alternative spirituality is welcome. For more information, contact John Bryan at 907-3328.

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

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Ideas? Call Sidelines News Desk - (615) 898-2336



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Regents confirm interim chancellor, respond to criticism about salary

Marta W. Aldrich
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - A Tennessee Board of Regents leader declared the higher education system will not settle for "second-rate funding" and fired off a stinging response to state lawmakers critical of attempts to raise salaries of key college administrators.

The comments from vice chairman Bill Watkins came Friday as the board confirmed the appointment of Sidney McPhee as interim chancellor to oversee the Regents' system of six universities, 14 two-year colleges and 26 technology centers. McPhee, previously the board's vice chancellor for academic affairs, immediately

announced his priority is more state funding for Regents schools.

Watkins used the occasion, however, to declare the system "will not settle for treatment as second-class citizens."

He keyed in on a comment last month by Rep. Matt Kisher who, when asked about raises of top college administrators at a time when higher education officials plead for increased funding to educate college students properly, referred to the "ivory tower of higher education." Kisher, D-Jackson, said he could not believe the board would "have the gall to be talking about the kind of increases they are talking about."

Watkins took issue.

"If wanting an average or below-the-mean salary for a

chancellor for the seventh largest higher education system in the country comparable to other similar systems and four times the size of our sister system means we live in an ivory tower of higher education and are out of touch with reality, so be it," Watkins said.

The brouhaha began with the board's plan to sign outgoing Chancellor Charles Smith to a part-time contract for specific duties for \$39,000 a year, in addition to his \$66,000 state pension, and also to raise the pay of his replacement by \$50,000 to \$250,000 a year, matching the salary of University of Tennessee president J. Wade Gilley.

Lawmakers lambasted the proposals, prompting Smith to announce last week he will not

sign the contract and his successor, East Tennessee State University president Paul Stanton, to refuse the chancellor's job.

Stanton's departure, a week after being picked by a search committee, prompted the board to tap McPhee as an interim chancellor and renew the search for a permanent replacement.

McPhee said Friday he will work to "present our case to the public and to legislators for providing more financial support" and will release details about his strategy early next week.

"We must not lose sight of our primary goal of educating over 182,000 Tennesseans annually. We must not be distracted or discouraged," said the former administrator at the University of Memphis. ■

Walker: Magazine says Walker in top 50 Presidents

Continued from 1

counter the effects of budget cuts made in educational funding by the state of Tennessee. He has logged countless hours battling for money to replace the Art Barn and improve the science building.

President Walker suggests that students who complain about antiquated housing and the lack of parking garages and resent the elaborate new football stadium, feeling the money

could have been spent on what they perceive to be greater concerns, may not understand the nature of government funding.

President Walker addresses those concerns by stating that in the eyes of the state, "you (students) don't need a parking lot... a dormitory... or a football stadium to get a college education," reminding students that state funding cannot be spent on parking, housing or athletics.

President Walker recently completed a \$33 million fund

raiser two years ahead of schedule, which is an example of the actions being taken to counter the lack of state funds. Money from the project will help purchase specialized equipment and computers, augment the library's book collection and generate scholarships.

President Walker feels that the continuing success of such money generating projects demonstrates that "we have friends and supporters out there who believe in this university

and want to see (it) do well."

President Walker ensures that MTSU will continue to proceed national reputation as a quality university. Through continuing support by the university's alumni and local community toward improving facilities and administration and faculty's dedication to consistently providing an exceptional level of education, the state and nation will increasingly exemplify MTSU as educational leaders. ■

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College student found dead in dorm; boyfriend kills himself

George Watson
Associated Press

NEW YORK - A university student was found dead in her dorm room on Saturday, and her boyfriend, considered a suspect in her death, died hours later after throwing himself in front of a subway train, police said.

Kathleen Roskot, 19, a Columbia University student from Long Island, was found dead in her bedroom with a stab

wound to the neck, police said. She was discovered by a resident assistant after she failed to show up for lacrosse practice, Columbia spokeswoman Suzanne Trimel said.

Authorities said a kitchen knife believed to be the weapon had been left in a bathroom. Roskot's wallet was found later Saturday in the possession of a man who died after jumping in front of a subway train, said New York Police Assistant Chief William Taylor.

The man's name was not released, but Taylor said the man, in his 20s, had been known to stay in Roskot's suite from time to time. The suites have rooms for four to seven students who share a common living room.

Police said several of Roskot's neighbors reported hearing some kind of disturbance early Saturday.

Lashauna Cutts, who shared the suite, said she heard loud noises around 1:30 a.m. but

thought nothing of it because the suite often was used for parties. She didn't realize something had happened until she saw blood in the hallway several hours later.

Justin Lappen, 19, a Columbia sophomore, said the eight-floor dormitory was generally considered safe. Anyone entering the dormitory, Ruggles Hall, must use a card-key to get inside, and a security guard patrols the area at night, Trimel said. ■

Miss Tennessee wins Miss USA pageant

Doug Johnson
Associated Press

BRANSON, Mo. (AP) - The newly crowned Miss USA says she hopes her accomplishment will serve as encouragement for adopted children.

That's because Lynnette Cole is an adoptee herself.

"One good thing about this title is that I can tell them that just because you are adopted does not mean that there is anything wrong - you're very special," the 21-year-old Miss Tennessee said Friday night after being crowned Miss USA 2000 at Branson's Grand Palace.

Miss New Hampshire, Bridget Jane Vezina, 19, of Nashua, N.H., was named first runner-up. Miss Alabama, Jina Mitchell, 22, of Trussville,

Ala., was second runner-up. Cole, a pre-law student at Columbia State Community College, amused the crowd after the pageant by answering some silly questions with a deadpan expression.

Asked why male beauty pageants are not popular, she answered: "Because they don't look good in dresses."

Asked where she was going to store her crown: "On my head."

Cole moves on to compete in the Miss Universe Pageant in Nicosia, Cyprus, on May 12, and becomes the Miss Universe Organization's official spokeswoman for breast and ovarian cancer awareness.

Carson Daly of MTV was the master of ceremonies. Grammy nominees Christina Aguilera and Brian McKnight and Lou Bega performed. ■

State's travel promotion for this year begins

Joe Edwards
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - There's a Smoky Mountain vista and waterfall. The curtain going up at the Grand Ole Opry. A riverboat plowing along the Mississippi.

Those are some of the images in new Tennessee tourism ads that begin appearing in earnest this month.

The TV spots and print ads are part of a \$1.6 million campaign this year designed to get travelers to visit Tennessee.

"I've never been happier with our ads," said John Wade, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. "There have been people in tears when we previewed them."

Some of the other scenes include excited children at the Tennessee Aquarium in

Chattanooga and a couple taking a horse-drawn carriage ride in Jonesborough.

The ads highlight the slogan, "Tennessee Sounds Good to Me."

But for the first time in three years, the state did not use celebrities in the promotion. Dolly Parton, Vince Gill, Reba McEntire and others have appeared in the past.

"It was time to move on to the next level," Wade said. "We wanted to focus on the actual

places."

The state is spending another \$1.3 million in cooperative advertising with convention and business bureaus across Tennessee.

Latest figures show 38.4 million people visited the state in 1998, down from 40.2 million in 1997 and 38.8 million in 1996.

The economic impact of tourism increased to \$9 billion in 1997, up from \$8.4 billion in 1996 and \$7.9 billion in 1995. ■

Haider says he'll abstain from government meddling

Marta W. Aldrich
Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria (AP) - Right-wing populist Joerg Haider said Sunday the new Austrian government in which his party shares power will take appropriate measures to compensate Holocaust victims.

In a televised interview, Haider also promised to moderate his tough talk and refrain from meddling in the coalition Cabinet post.

Haider's comments came two days after the new government - made up of his far-right Freedom Party and the center-right Austrian People's Party - was sworn in by a stone-faced President Thomas Klestil. The coalition came together despite a wave of protests and moves by the European Union and other nations to isolate Austria diplomatically.

Haider's remarks Sunday

were relatively conciliatory compared to the verbal salvos he has fired recently against foreign leaders.

He told his interviewers that the previous government led by Austria's Social Democrats had not really dealt with the Nazi past, including issues like the compensation of forced laborers. He said the new government would seek to redress their grievances and those of Holocaust victims.

"Where we have inflicted great injustice on our Jewish fellow citizens or wiped out their families, we must take pertinent measures," he said.

Haider won international notoriety for statements praising Adolf Hitler's "orderly employment" policies and lauding veterans of the Waffen SS as "decent people of good character" - comments for which he has since apologized. The rise to power of his party has polarized a society with dark memories of defeats in two world wars. ■

Tax: Ongoing debate about need for income tax

Continued from 1

However, Sundquist has vowed that he will not cut more items from his budget. His proposal already cuts spending for several state parks, among other items.

Some lawmakers feel higher-education administrators have contradicted themselves and criticize spending habits. Last month, the Tennessee Board of Regents proposed giving the incoming chancellor a \$50,000 raise and nearly \$40,000 in additional money to the retiring chancellor, Charles Smith.

Sundquist opposed the TBR proposal. Days later, the man expected to be chosen as the new chancellor, East Tennessee State University President Paul

Stanton, backed down, saying he is an educator and not a "political football." Smith also refused the extra money.

Other legislators say there needs to be a better study of how current money is being spent.

"It boils down to being able to point your finger and say, 'That's where the money went.' I'm not confident that can be done in a number of areas," said Rep. Matt Kisber, D-Jackson, who also chairs the House Finance Committee.

Other lawmakers say the state should not spend any more money, including funding for higher education.

"I'm hearing from taxpayers saying the government is taking enough. We should focus on doing more with what we've

got," said Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Brentwood, a strong opponent of Sundquist's tax-reform plan.

Blackburn and Rep. Bill Dunn, R-Knoxville, sponsor legislation that would create an alternative budget based on restructuring spending.

"People are asking whether they're getting their bang for the buck," Dunn said. "I'm trying to go back and find out. I want to see if we got the results we were promised when we increased spending."

There are, however, some legislators who agree with Sundquist's proposal, including Rep. Mary Ann Eckles, D-Murfreesboro, who said the most important thing is for her and her colleagues to make sure

voters really understand the issue.

"No one's ever come up with a better plan; nobody's come up with anything more efficient," Eckles said. "It's something we don't like, but it's what we have to do.... I don't think the public is hearing all the facts."

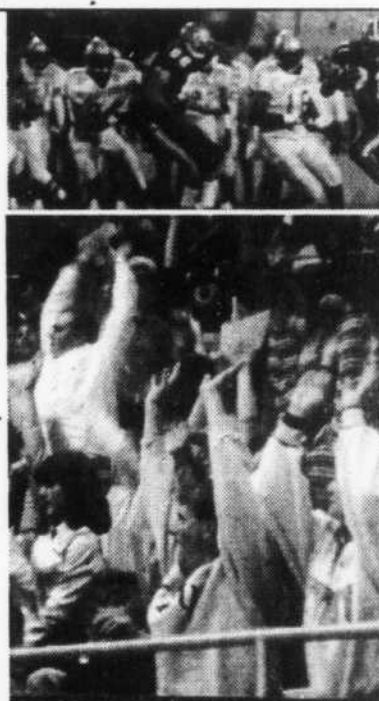
Walker agreed that few people truly understand the issue and the implications it could have, particularly for the higher-education system.

"I think a lot of people really don't understand the implications of what the governor's proposed," Walker said. "It's going to take a considerable amount of debate and understanding to get the legislators to go along with it." ■

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, TN

Monday, February 7, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 5

From the Staff

Income tax borders on socialism

The debate continues.

For the last several months, our fair governor, Don Sundquist, has proposed an income tax plan that, he says, would benefit education and TennCare. OK, let's cut out TennCare, because even the head of TennCare says it's broken beyond repair. I think I remember him saying that education would benefit from the sales tax hike a few years ago, and then he built Adelphia Colliseum with that money.

With all due respect to our president, James Walker, if MTSU is in such bad shape, why did he agree to build a football stadium?

If the university needed money so badly, why didn't he use the money that it took to renovate Floyd Stadium and put it to better use? It's not his fault, however. He is just like many others in Tennessee. For some reason, they can't seem to spend less than they make.

I would agree that this school needs to upgrade and fast, but an income tax is a form of socialism, taking away the democratic idea of choice.

With an income tax, you have no choice, but with a sales tax you do. It is better to raise the sales tax than add an income tax. Sundquist tries to appeal to the middle and lower classes in

Tennessee by saying that he would tax the rich more.

Let's get something straight: Sundquist is not Robin Hood, and that plan would take away the basis of capitalism: incentive. That is the driving force behind the economy of the United States. People want to be rich.

The affirmation that when they are they will be taxed more heavily, will take away their incentive to be rich or live in this state.

Is it fair to tax a person more because he or she has been successful? That's what an income tax would do.

- Michael Edwards

Views from the Crowd

by R. Colin Fly, Opinions Editor

As the crow flies

Iowa State deals with bird problem

We all have problems, but Iowa State has one for the birds. Those of you who regularly read my column know I write a serious column, an MTSU-based column or an off-beat column.

File this column under weird. What do most students fear most about returning to school from holiday break? Homework, new classes, expenses?

At Iowa State University they fear the crows.

In a story only Alfred Hitchcock could concoct, the large black crows have taken over campus. Funny, considering a crow is part of the school's mascot.

The pesky birds have overrun tiny Ames, Iowa, where the university is located. They've decided to take up permanent residence, and now the crows are causing a large problem.

First issue, the crows are noisy. During the mornings and late evenings, the birds are so loud that students can't study or sleep, unless of course they like the sound of crows. I can't imagine who doesn't.

Crows like to roost in large numbers, but why Ames, Iowa?

No one knows for sure, but the best guesses stem from the large buildings that break the wind, and the abundance of trees and food.

With the birds come the bird droppings. In fact, it has created a safety concern on campus that one might step in a covered area, slip and fall. Who would you sue, the birds or the university?

What's worse is the crows continually outsmart the staff trying to shoo the birds off campus.

"We've tried to stop the problem early on in the beginning of this season, but they must have a good memory of years past. They get used to the methods we are using," Curtis Johnson told the "Iowa State Daily."

That's the sound of defeat, I think.

The funny thing is that the university is now Wile E. Coyote and the crows have taken the part of the Roadrunner.

ISU has used a variety of "ACME" products including crow distress calls, shining floodlights, tying balloons in the trees and clapping boards together. Clapping boards together? Must be an Iowa thing.

The next secret ACME "weapon" against the crow population -- inflatable scarecrows.

Well, you can't blame them for trying.

That's the View from the Crowd. E-mail me at MTSUViews @ email.com or slopinio @ mtsu.edu.■



Letter to the Editor

Tatum should consider both sides of issue

I would like to see Chris Tatum's "In Moderation" column addressing abortion.

First of all, stereotyping all pro-choice supporters as "masculine women" angry with the male population is both inaccurate and unfair. Pro-choice supporters are from all walks of life, and are male and female.

Pro-life supporters could be stereotyped as religious fanatics that bomb clinics and murder doctors. Killing to prove killing is wrong (such a convincing argument, I assure you). So, now that I have established that those stereotypes are inaccurate, dumb and worthless, let's move on.

Let's address the issue of choice. The tone that you project in the article shows you are not well informed on both sides of the issue and are basing your opinion on scattered facts and emotions, neither of which is adequate to make a persuasive argument. Your contradictions in your thought-process is obvious: You value life as such a "precious gift," yet pro-life supporters have advocated the murdering of mothers and doctors. If a teenage mother does not have the right to "kill" her

unborn child, how are you any more qualified to judge the appropriateness of the deaths of mothers in back allies or doctors for performing abortions?

This is the first, of many, obvious flaws in your argument.

You have obviously not researched the adoption system. There are plenty of wonderful adoption agencies with wonderful children. Notice that they are not adopted.

Children are not always adopted. The potential family might not be approved, or the child might not be what the couple is looking for. Once children pass the age of six, their chances of being adopted drop drastically.

At the end of middle school, the chances are basically nonexistent. These children often float from foster home to foster home, wards of the state. After they reach 18 years of age, they are then released to fend for themselves. Adoption is not an absolute. Just because the mother gives her child to the agency does not guarantee that the child will ever end up in a good home. Some of these children are abused and neglected. I know that not all children are passed up, and not all foster children are abused, but the possibility is there. Presenting adoption as this worry-free

solution, a beautiful life-giving chance is, again, an inaccuracy.

Your statement that reality and morality elude the lives of pro-choice supporters is, again, inaccurate, a stereotype and basically a joke. This is an example of a common double standard. Supported by pro-life supporters. You're OK with a 16-year-old bleeding to death, but not terminating an unborn child?

You make such a compelling argument. I could go into the topic of "is it life upon conception," but I am sure that you do not have any more knowledge on that topic than you have the others, so it would be pointless.

Before you write another article such as this one, try educating yourself on both sides of the issue. Those who study both viewpoints make all successful arguments. Your article is inaccurate and poorly researched. Your opinion appears to be much the same: poorly thought-out, no grounds other than what you have heard and over-all disappointing. Your flawed points and glorious display of the contradictory mentality of most pro-life supporters is disgraceful.

I encourage readers of this article to actually educate yourselves on the issue and make a decision based on facts and sincere contemplation.

I am a fence-sitter on the topic. Since the details of my opinion are irrelevant, I will not discuss them. I just want to let the reader know that this opinion is not coming from a hardcore pro-choice woman who hates all men. I am educated on both sides of the issue, and have made my personal decision accordingly.

I would like to close by offering a few "points to ponder:"

What if the mother had been raped?

What if the child had a severe birth defect that he was undoubtedly going to die upon delivery?

What if the mother might die? Situations like this are common and very real-you might know more about them if you read some literature on the pro-choice end.

Another thought: Which is more inhuman, to abort a child before it is born or bring it into a situation where the best you can do is hope it gets adopted into a good family?

All you can do is hope. Sometimes death is a very merciful thing. Not always, but sometimes. It is these sometimes that we need to remember. Learn both sides of the issue, think of all the cases and then decide for yourself.

Erica Davis

Symbolic Speech offends in South Carolina, New York

Should future feelings rank above our heritage?

Jennifer Verner
Contributor

I'd like to take a poll.

How many people would agree with this statement: "In America, citizens have the right to protest government-funded, publicly displayed symbols they find offensive." I would guess that the numbers in favor would run somewhere in the 90s.

Who could disagree?

Among us would deny the right of African-Americans to protest the Stars and Bars atop the South Carolina State capital? It's a no-brainer.

Let's look at another recent example that's captured the airways.

Who supports the right of Roman Catholics in New York to protest the display of one of their most sacred symbols splattered in excrement?

"But that's different," the more enlightened among us would say.

The silliness just don't get the message the artist is trying to convey -- elephant dung is sacred in his culture, and the cut outs of female genitalia from porn magazines, well . . . they represent a) fertility b) the subjugation of women in a paternalistic society c) the joy of sex...who knows, take your pick. I can't help drawing parallels with the "heritage not hate" argument.

"For us, the Stars and Bars is

not a symbol of slavery, but of the sacrifice of those who died valiantly defending their homeland, what's offensive about that?"

Although the two issues have been adopted by opposing political camps, they have something very important in common. Both "Our Lady of elephant dung" and the "Stars and Bars" point out that symbols mean different things to different people, and have a way of getting beyond what may be the original intent and meaning behind them.

If I took another poll, I would suspect two disparate positions with high correlation. Many who think that the flag should stay up, would also support taking down art that inflames the feelings of believers.

The reverse position would also be evident. Most who feel that the NAACP is right on also feel that the Catholic League is encouraging a form of censorship that leads down the sordid path to "Soviet Art."

Both positions lend credence to the old axiom that we should be careful when forging a sword that our opponents can later use. They also raise an important question. Is it intellectually honest only to validate the wielding of that sword when it fits our own personal feelings and political agendas?

Since I don't think that the first position...flag up, painting down, is logically defensible, I won't address it. While the second position on its face seems to

"For us the Stars and Bars is not the symbol of slavery, but of the sacrifice of those who died valiantly defending their homeland."

be supported by the sacred shield of the First Amendment, it is likewise paradoxical.

As long as there is a First Amendment, there will never be a day when America is enslaved by "Soviet Art." Artists will always have self-expression -- but, equally as important, the artist will never be able to dictate how others should or should not experience her work. It's the risk the artist takes.

The right of citizens to protest what is displayed in state run museums is a defense against "Soviet Art" -- which in essence was nothing more than an elite dictating its taste and political objectives to the masses.

When a small group of artists, curators and critics is the sole arbitrator of what is displayed and what is not displayed in publicly funded museums, without any accountability of the public's taste and cultural sensitivities -- THAT is "Soviet

Art." In a free society, art and symbol that enters the public sphere is subject to the political process. We may not always like the results, but under our system, what are the alternatives?

In New York, the mayor conducted his opinion polls and focus groups and decided that it was in his political best interest to withdraw funding from the Brooklyn museum. Before First Lady Hillary Clinton issued her carefully worded statement in opposition, she did the same.

That's America. We'll have to wait until November to see who the voters of New York think is right.

The same is true in South Carolina. If the state legislature ignores the threat of economic boycott and polls that show that 70 percent of its citizens want the flag taken down, then they will have to face the consequences at the ballot box.

Like everyone, I have my opinion. I agree with writer Christopher Hitchens when he described the Sensations exhibit -- that contains the painting in question, as "tapped untalent." I also agree with Shelby Foote when he says that the Stars and Bars has been used for many causes that it was never intended for.

The banner that to some represents the valor of Confederate soldiers at Gettysburg was sullied at Ole Miss by segregationists who cowardly sniped at federal marshals who were only allowed to fire back with tear gas. Those who support "her-

itage" need to remember the words of Robert E. Lee when he said "a true man of honor feels humbled himself when he can not help humbling others." It's time for a few "true gentlemen" in the South Carolina legislature to recognize the feelings of fellow citizens who view a Confederate battle flag with the remembrance of a past that went far beyond "humbling."

In a gesture of reconciliation, they should retire the Stars and Bars to their "private" automobiles, homes and organizations, where they have a perfect right to pay homage in any way they wish. I see not defeat, but honor in this gesture.

In the same vein, an artist's right to self-expression, in a society that provides a myriad of venues, should never supersede a citizen's right to redress when he feels demeaned and degraded by publicly funded displays of symbol.

Private gallery owners have a right to show any piece of art they chose -- no matter how cliched, technically inferior or offensive. However, democracy does not end at the public museum's door.

In either case, since I'm not a voter in New York or South Carolina, I doubt my opinion carries much weight.

Even so, it would have to be balanced against those of millions of others who have the same right to one as I do. That's what America, and being an American means.■

SIDELINES

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FEATURES

6 ■ SIDELINES

Monday, February 7, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Is stress making you sick?

Students may suffer short-, long-term health problems as result of college-related stress

Part one of a three-part series

Angela White
Managing Editor

Your body is constantly fighting the war to stay in a state of equilibrium. It never wins a single battle.

Like it or not, stress is a part of your life. Without it we would never be motivated to accomplish anything. It's what makes us study for tests and go to class.

However, college students tend to get more than their fair share of the feeling.

Stress has been defined many ways.

According to Yahoo! Health, stress is "physical, mental or emotional strain or tension."

A pamphlet distributed by the American College Health Association defines it as "your physical, emotional and mental response to change, regardless of whether the change is good or bad."

There are two kinds of stress: eustress and distress.

Eustress is positive stress, the kind your body goes through after acing a test or winning a race.

Distress, on the other hand, is negative. Unfortunately, this is the kind of stress from which most college students suffer.

Stress can be caused by a variety of factors. School work can become overwhelming for some, especially when combined with other parts of life.

For Fred Bear, a senior liberal arts major, "balancing work, school and family" is a source of tension. Multiple tests and assignments due at one time also get to him.

When asked what stresses her out the most, Erica Elrod, a freshman nursing major, laughed as she said "class."

Senior history major Ben Briere focuses on "just trying to get all my studying done."

Some students become frustrated with the way the academic process works, adding to their stress.

"Being in liberal arts, you have to take a specified amount of certain classes," Bear said. "It takes away from the free will of what you want to learn in your education."

Senior physical education major Fifi Dadson wants tests to be given more frequently over fewer chapters, as well as more frequent quizzes.

These frustrations can lead to a decreased sense of fulfillment in one's education as well as other facets of one's life.

Students often get bogged down with too many responsibilities, which prevents them from focusing on the one or two things that are most important.

For some it may be maintaining a high GPA, dealing with working part- or full-time jobs while also taking a full load of classes, trying to keep their finances in check or involving themselves in too many extracurricular activities.

Another factor that can cause stress is a poor diet.

The on-the-run lifestyle can deprive students of necessary vitamins and minerals as well as fiber, protein and complex carbohydrates, all needed for the body to function at an optimal level.

Freshmen in particular are subject to the particularly tense problem of a sudden change in lifestyle and the separation from their family unit.

Whatever may be causing the stress, its presence will eventually begin to show on the body and the mind.

"I don't sleep as much, and I've been getting sick more," said Elrod when asked how her health has changed since she began college.

Stress can weaken the immune system, causing more frequent colds and infections and enlarged lymph nodes that can sometimes make the neck feel swollen.

Insomnia and stress often work in a vicious cycle, where the stress can cause loss of sleep, which in turn causes more stress.

Stress and sleep deprivation also tend to go hand-in-hand, causing fatigue, clumsiness and the inability to pay attention.

In other words, stress can make you fall asleep in the very class you are stressed about.

Stress can also shorten your patience, causing you to become irritable, frustrated and overly



Photos by Angela White | Staff Photographer

(Above) Erica Elrod, a freshman nursing major, studies psychology Saturday in the library.

(Right) Senior history major Ben Briere reads in a secluded area of the library.



irrational.

Strain on the body can be present in the form of increased heartbeat, raised blood pressure and adrenaline levels, shortness of breath, increased sweating and dilation of pupils.

Memory can also be affected, including disorientation, short-term memory loss and lack of efficiency.

Other physical symptoms include frequent headaches, tension headaches, digestion problems and muscle pain, tension and spasms.

Stress can also cause psychological problems, such as frequent nightmares and an overwhelming sense of fear or dread. Low self-esteem, indifference and withdrawal from others are also symptoms.

Stress-related health problems:

- Heart disease
- Physical, mental exhaustion
- High blood pressure
- Alcohol, drug abuse
- Depression
- Eating disorders
- Sexual dysfunction
- Suicide
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Asthma
- Uclers
- Stroke
- Herpes outbreaks
- PMS

Symptoms of stress:

- Weakened immune system
 - frequent colds
 - enlarged lymph nodes
- Sleep deprivation
 - fatigue
 - inability to pay attention
- Mood changes
 - irritability
 - frustration
- Raised blood pressure
 - increased heartbeat
 - shortness of breath
- Digestive problems
 - heartburn
 - stomach aches
- Memory problems
 - disorientation
 - less efficiency
- Psychological problems
 - indifference
 - withdrawal

Stress statistics:

- 45% of all adults suffer adverse health effects due to stress
- 75-90% of all visits to primary care physicians are stress-related
- Stress has been linked to all leading causes of death
- An estimated 1 million workers are absent on an average workday because of stress
- Nearly half of all Americans suffer symptoms of burnout

provided by the American Institute of Stress

Factors that cause stress:

- Responsibilities
 - school
 - work
- Poor diet
 - too much fast food
 - not enough protein, complex carbs
- Families and relationships
 - conflict with parents
 - breakups with significant others
- Sudden changes in lifestyle
 - moving away from home
 - new financial independence
- Having goals that are not important
 - struggle with GPA despite no graduate school plans
 - trying to complete all schoolwork regardless of importance
- Some medications or physical problems
 - chronic diseases
 - certain hormone supplements



Christian Student Center program connects children with worship

Ruth Peltier
Staff Reporter

All week, the Christian Student Center buzzes with activity, as students learn about God, minister his love to others and enjoy fellowship with like-minded students.

On Tuesday nights, the Murfreesboro inner-city ministry busses 15 to 20 second-through fourth-graders from the housing projects on January Street to the center for Bible study and fellowship.

Jennifer Dykes, a senior elementary education major, leads the children in games that teach Bible truths.

For example, a game that involved searching for items in the room with and without written directions was used.

It taught the concept that God has provided directions in the Bible to make it easier for people to do the right things.

Dykes has been working with the program for three years, and she has coordinated it for two years.

She said the thing she enjoys the most is seeing the look on a child's face when he or she first grasps a concept.

"Little light bulbs go off," Dykes said. She added that the children who come to the center are "hungry for attention, love and the word of God."

There are about 15 MTSU students who participate with the ministry each Tuesday, according to Dykes. Most people, who come more than once, become regulars, she asserted.

One of the workers, La'tanya Ligon, a junior administration major, said she participates in the program because "it is

"They see us in college, and they say 'I can do that.'"

La'tanya Ligon, junior business administration major

important for the kids to get out their neighborhood into a different environment."

The brightly lit, multipurpose room at the center, with its cheerful posters, fresh-looking tables and chairs and plenty of open space for active play, is a far cry from the homes where these children spend much of their time.

Ligon also sees herself and the other students who assist in the program as role models for the children. "They see us in college, and they say, 'I can do that,'" she explained.

Another student worker, Kimberly Cantrell, a senior psychology major, indicated that the children can "get really wild at times."

Because they do not normally attend Bible classes, workers at the center believe the children need the active, hands-on teaching methods that program provides.

Cantrell added that there is "a lot of action on the bus. The bus driver, Ken Resse, really knows how to handle the kids," Cantrell said.

The inner city ministries, both in Nashville and Murfreesboro, are sponsored by area Churches of Christ. Churches of Christian Murfreesboro also help to support the Christian Center, which ministers to

more than 100 students per week.

Monday at 7 p.m., students meet for "Raiders for Christ," a time of praise and worship that features different speakers each week.

On Tuesdays they share lunch and fellowship beginning at 11:45 a.m.

Wednesdays they eat together again at 12:30 p.m., followed by Bible study, Iron Men for male students and Girls Accountability Program (GAP) for female students.

Thursday students hold small group Bible study in the homes of area Christian families.

Various activities occur on weekends. Seventy-five students participated in a retreat this weekend at Getaway Gateway in Pensacola, Fla.

Mike Stroud directs the center aided by Sarah Johnson, women's counselor, and Brett Harrison, intern.

Harrison is working on his master's degree at David Lipscomb University in Nashville. He also writes a regular column for "Teenage magazine," called "Just for Guys."

At the beginning of each semester, the center sends letters to all international students, offering to pick them up at the airport and bring them to the Murfreesboro.

The center can provide international students help with housing; English lessons, taught by Johnson; fellowship and Bible study.

Stroud described the mission of the center in the words of its promotional brochure: "We are about reaching up to God, reaching out to the world, and reaching in to support each other."

Mathematical abnormality makes 2000 leap year

Martin Merzer
Knight-Ridder Tribune

Enjoy this February. It's the kind of month that comes along once every 400 years.

A mathematical oddity and the Earth's stubborn refusal to speed up its orbit are requiring astronomers and timekeepers to add a 29th day -- a leap day -- to this month.

Wait a minute, you say. We learned in school that any year divisible by four -- like 2000 -- has a leap day in February, so what's the big deal?

This is the big deal: To keep everything in sync, century years -- those that end in 00 -- generally are not leap years. There was no Feb. 29 in 1700, 1800 or 1900.

But once every four turns of the century we need a Feb. 29,

and here we are.

Leap years are required because the Earth refuses to neatly obey our Gregorian calendar.

It orbits the sun not every 365 days but every 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds.

That's roughly every 365.25 days -- the extra quarter day requiring a leap day once every four years.

But the roughly part of that sentence remains a problem. We're still off about 11 minutes per year, which can add up. So we skip three leap days every four hundred years.

Still with us? That pretty much fixes everything, though not entirely.

Once every 4,000 years, we skip another leap day.

Please try to remember that when it comes along.

Four groundhogs disagree on duration of winter

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (TMS) — Punxsutawney Phil, a part-time weather forecaster and full-time groundhog, saw his shadow Wednesday morning and predicted six more weeks of winter.

Spectators jumped up and down to keep warm in the 15-degree air. An estimated 8,500 showed up to hear Phil's fore-

cast -- as relayed by his handlers.

The Groundhog Day tradition is rooted in German superstition that if an animal casts a shadow on Feb. 2 -- the Christian holiday of Candlemas -- bad weather is coming. Since it emerged 111 years ago, the tradition has evolved into an elaborate hood-wink. In recent years, a group

known as the Inner Circle, which stages an annual midwinter festival in the groundhog's hometown of 6,700, voted the night before whether the animal would see his shadow.

Only 14 times has Phil predicted an early spring. His city cousin, New York's Staten Island's Chuck, agreed with the forecast. Chuck wandered out of

his hut at the Staten Island Zoo and saw his shadow around 7:30 a.m., a zoo spokeswoman said.

More optimistic forecasts emerged from more distant cousins. Georgia's groundhog, General Beauregard Lee, predicted an early spring from his home in Lilburn. He was backed by Jimmy the Groundhog of Sun Prairie, Wis.

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*** SCHOLARSHIP ***

The Amy Spain Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$500, will be awarded this spring to a graduating senior planning on attending law school this fall. Amy Spain was an alumna of Middle Tennessee State University and an active Alpha Delta Pi form 1982-1986. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree she went on to graduate with honors from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Amy obtained a position as an Assistant United States Attorney in Memphis. She held this position until a tragic automobile accident ended her exceptional life.

To continue Amy's legacy, some of her friends and family have established this scholarship. The Memorial Fund will be used to further the education of an MTSU Greek female who plans to attend Law School. Candidates must demonstrate the leadership, dedication, commitment, and integrity which characterized and described Amy.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please obtain an application from Ouida Plaisance, Vice President for Student Affairs Office, Keathley University Center Room 212. Deadline for applications is March 10, 2000.

Friends of Amy Spain

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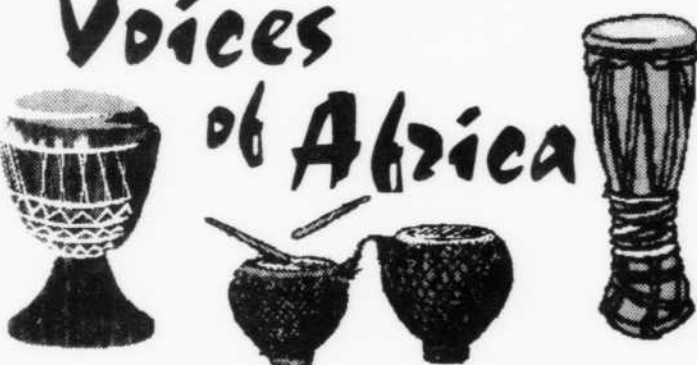
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SPORTS

8 ■ SIDELINES

Monday, February 7, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Raiders win 5th straight

Michael Edwards
Men's Basketball Reporter

With just under seven seconds left in the game senior guard Cedrick Wallace thought "Why me?"

The play was designed to go to junior guard Fernando Ortiz, but a little too much lane traffic prevented him from receiving it. Instead, junior guard Jonathan Whitworth found senior forward Cedrick Wallace in the left corner for the game winning attempt.

With around five seconds left on the clock, Wallace put up the last shot of the game. After about a second of waiting, the ball finally found nothing but the bottom of the net and a Blue Raider lead with a half second left in the game. Morehead heaved the ball down court, but Wallace was there to knock down the pass.

MTSU pulled off the stunner 69-67 to move their record to 10-10 overall, and 6-6 within the Ohio Valley Conference. The Raiders have now won five straight games and are moving ever so slowly to Southeast Missouri State University, who holds first place, and will take on the Raiders Tuesday in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Wallace led the Raiders with 18 points, four rebounds and five assists. His final points on Saturday was the biggest of his career.

"It was definitely the biggest shot of my career," Wallace said. "That year that I had off I would practice that shot in my backyard everyday, dreaming it would happen."

Whitworth and Ortiz added 14 points apiece, while junior forward Dale Thomas came up with eight for the Raiders. Junior guard Ron McKnight led the

Raiders in rebounding with six. Morehead State's Brad Cleaver poured in 20 points, including two big 3-pointers down the stretch. Kyle Umberger and Greg Hendricks cashed in on 14 and 10 points respectively.

The game started just like it ended with the Raiders and the Eagles battling for position going into halftime. As soon as Middle Tennessee would get a big shot the Eagles would answer with one of their own. The Raiders led 14-9 with 14:54 left in the first half. However, when junior center Lee Nosse left the game, Morehead went on a 10-1 to take a lead.

The Raiders never laid down as they might have about two weeks ago. Thanks to Wallace and his big shots, the Raiders began to creep back into the game. Wallace scored four straight points and cut the Morehead lead to two with just over five minutes remaining.

With under a minute left in the half, Brad Cleaver made a basket and got fouled to put the Eagles up four. Whitworth fired back at the Eagles with a three pointer and brought the Raiders within one point.

After a Cornell jumper, Lee Nosse passed up a two foot hook and passed to Whitworth for a game tying three pointer as the half closed.

At the start of the second half, Ortiz opened with a three pointer to put the Raiders up by three, 42-39.

After a three point play by Cleaver, sparked by Nosse's foul, the Eagles started a 9-3 run capped off by a Hendricks jump shot, giving the Eagles a six point lead. The Raiders, however, fought back and tied the game with 5:24 left in regulation, thanks to Ortiz hitting a slicing Wallace who laid it in.

After trading baskets, Cleaver



Photo by Josh Ezzell | Staff Photographer

The Blue Raiders won their 5th straight by beating Morehead State 69-67.

came back and drilled a possible dagger into the Raiders. With ice in his veins, Ortiz stepped up and buried a three pointer. Morehead would not die, though.

Coming out of a timeout, Kyle Umberger received a pass and scored on a short jump shot. The Raiders came the other way and failed to score, which took the air out of the their sails and the hopes out the crowd.

But with 13 seconds remaining in the game, Marquis Sykes dribbled to his left and alertly, Whitworth fouled him, stopping the clock. The Raiders hoped for a miss by Sykes and that is exactly what they got. Wallace corraled the rebound and called a timeout.

The final play could last no more than seven seconds, and it was designed to go to Ortiz. Morehead wanted to foul

Whitworth after some time elapsed off the clock but that's not what happened. Nothing was actually executed correctly during the play, but Wallace stepped up and made the shot of his life.

"I think if we continue playing the way we have been playing we are going to be real hard to beat," Ortiz said. "I feel very happy for me and for the team. It's a notch up for our confi-

dence. We just have to keep it up and stay focused."

"It feels good to be a hero. You know as the old saying goes there's always a hero and a goat," Wallace said. "Thank god I am the hero. I didn't come out here to be the goat."

"I was just praying and hoping it went in," Wallace said. "It looked good and it felt good and it went in. I was just running down the court so happy."

Lady Raiders barely squeak by Morehead State

Josh Ezzell
Sports Editor

A tale of two halves.

That's the best way to describe Saturday's game against Morehead State University. The Lady Raiders defeated Morehead 96-59 in Morehead earlier this season, so this game figured to be a cake-walk. Right?

Wrong. The Lady Raiders trailed 45-25 at halftime and needed a big second half to win 80-74 at the Murphy Center.

"We've got to feel good about this win," Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith said. "We showed perseverance."

Morehead dominated the first half in every possible way. They shot 61 percent from the field and 50 percent from 3-point range.

"We came out too loopy-goopy," sophomore forward Jamie Thomatis said. "We were lackadaisical. We weren't the aggressor—we were being aggressed."

Sophomore guard Heidi Daulton led Morehead with 13 points, and senior forward Vette Robinson contributed 12.

The Lady Raiders, on the other hand, shot 29 percent from the field and failed to hit a 3-pointer. They were outrebounded 22-12.

Thomatis and junior guard Kelly Chastain both scored six for the Lady Raiders.

"We just got rattled," sophomore forward Joanne Aluka said. "I guess we came in thinking we were going to walk all

over them. We weren't hustling. We weren't playing with heart."

Morehead jumped out to a 11-1 lead to start the game. The Lady Raiders didn't hit a field goal until the 16:16 point when Thomatis hit a jump shot.

Freshman guard Paula Penttila cut the lead to six at 11-5 on a layup, but the Lady Raiders failed to get any closer in the first half. By the 9:59 mark Morehead led 25-19.

Led by Robinson and Daulton, Morehead went on a 20-6 run to finish the first half.

"We got some good looks in the first half but, we didn't convert," Smith said. "Halftime was very monotone. We didn't respect our opponent."

Morehead picked up where it left off in the second half. Led by Robinson and freshman guard Cisha Brazley, Morehead had a 57-42 lead at the 10:30 mark. At this point Thomatis got the Lady Raiders back into the game.

She hit a 3-pointer, which cut the lead to 12 at 57-45, and she followed that with two baskets, which cut the lead to nine at 58-49. Aluka then cut the lead to seven at 58-51.

"Jamie (Thomatis) was really crucial," Smith said. "I think her 3-pointer is what broke the ice. Kelly's (Chastain) gave us a solid chance, and Erica's (Lufkin) put us over the top."

Following a 3-point play by senior guard Naomi Bronson, the Lady Raiders went on a 12-0 to take the lead 63-61.

Aluka sparked the run, and

See Morehead, 9

Raiders focus on area athletes

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

Following over two months of intense recruiting by the Blue Raider football coaches, they were rewarded with what some have said is the best that this school has ever seen.

The Raiders' head coach Andy McCollum said that the coaches knew they needed to "take care of their backyard," which they did by grabbing two players from Murfreesboro. Securing Murfreesboro would be beneficial to the program, considering the amount of talent that leaves the two high schools every year. Players like Alvin Duke, Antron Peebles and Fernando Bryant have left and gone to other major universities.

Other players like John Henderson and Kurtin Biggers are from the Nashville area, and they also headed east for college. All of these players but Duke were signed by Tennessee. Vanderbilt, of course, signed Duke.

The Raiders nabbed Ron Akins from Riverdale High School and Wardell Alsop from Oakland High School. Akins is a 6-2, 235 pound linebacker who is expected to make immediate impact for the Raiders his freshman year. Akins chose the Raiders over the University of Memphis and the University of Mississippi. In his three years at Riverdale, Akins led the Warriors to a 36-3 record including one state

championship in 1997.

In 1999 Akins was named first team All-State, while in 1999 he earned a spot as a Mr. Football finalist and the Daily News Journal Defensive Player of the Year.

Another hometown player is Wardell Alsop. This defensive back has 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash and has the ability to play receiver with his 5-foot-11 inch, 165 pound frame. Alsop picked MTSU over the University of

University originally out of high school, but he transferred to MTSU prior to enrolling at N.C. State. The Raiders expect him to make an impact at the tight end position in the fall.

The 5-foot-8 inch, 180 Don Calloway signed with the Raiders from Miller County High School in Georgia. The vertically undersized tailback lacks height, but he possesses a great deal of strength. Calloway can bench press

Florida, Louisiana Tech University and Oklahoma State. Coy is a great pass blocker and possesses excellent foot work.

Julius Gant stands 6 feet 5 and weighs 285 pounds. He has the ability of playing both offensive and defensive line. Gant comes from Southside High School in Atlanta, where he recorded 68 tackles and seven sacks. He is said to be a great run and pass blocker. Gant turned down Marshall to come to Middle Tennessee.

The Raiders have finished up signing days. However, they can still sign junior college players. The Raiders recruiting class is at 26 signees and is ranked 70 by Border Wars.com. The Raiders were ranked ahead of schools like the University of Houston, Colorado State University, the University of Wyoming, N.C. State, Louisville, Marshall University and the Air Force Academy. Only 19 spots separated the Raiders from Brigham Young University.

Vanderbilt, the football juggernaut, finished 67, while MTSU finished within ten spots of Baylor University, the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Hawaii, Central Florida, the University of Iowa, Washington State University and only three behind Louisiana Tech. Be sure to read the next two issues of Sidelines to catch the rest of the 2000 Blue Raider recruiting class.

"We wanted to take care of our own back yard first."

Head Football Coach,
Andy McCollum

Mississippi, the University of Louisville, the University of Memphis and Oklahoma State University. While playing at Oakland, he led the Patriots to a state title in 1998, while playing on defense and as a receiver. In 1999, he was moved on offense to quarterback, where he compiled over 700 yards passing and over 1100 total yards. The Tennessee named him to the 1999 defensive dream team.

From Huntsville, Ala., weighing in at 256 pounds and standing six feet five inches is Brett Bucher. Bucher attended Lee High School where he played tightend, was named to the 1998 All-State team in Alabama and posted a 3.6 grade point average. Bucher signed with North Carolina State

over 400 pounds and squat over four times his weight. In the first game of the 1999 season, Calloway managed to rush for 476 yards and eight touchdowns on 15 carries in one half of play. Calloway finished first four times in a national weight lifting competition over the summer. The University of Alabama-Birmingham, Georgia Southern University and Memphis were passed up by Calloway so that he could attend MTSU. He has 16 brothers and sisters.

The Raiders needed more size on the offensive line and got it from David Coy out of Kemper Military. Coy weighs 290 pounds and stands 6 feet 4. He enrolled at MTSU in January after turning down the University of Central



Photo by Michael Edwards | Staff Photographer

Chrissy Davenport battled against Morehead State on Saturday.

Morehead: Lady Raiders barely squeak by

Continued from 8

Chastain hit a crucial 3-pointer during the run.

"We just wanted to keep our composure and gradually chip away at the lead," Aluka said. "In the second half we came out, played with heart and hustled after everything."

Morehead gained the lead one more time at 65-64 on a jumper by Daulton, but sophomore guard Erica Lufkin gave the Lady Raiders the lead for good 67-65 with a 3-pointer.

Down the stretch the Lady

Raiders made free throws and played tough defense to complete the comeback.

"In the second half we did a good job of converting," Smith said. "Our defense played more intelligently. In the first half we played with a lack of respect. Because of it they penetrated, and they pitched."

"In the second half we denied passing lanes. We stayed between our man and the basket."

Thomatis led all scorers with

21 points. Lufkin scored 18, and Aluka contributed 18 points.

Robinson led Morehead with 20 points and Daulton contributed 1 points.

The Lady Raiders improve to 10-10 overall and 6-6 in the Ohio Valley Conference. Morehead falls to 1-20 overall and 0-12 in the OVC.

The Lady Raiders next play at Southeast Missouri State University, Feb. 8. ■

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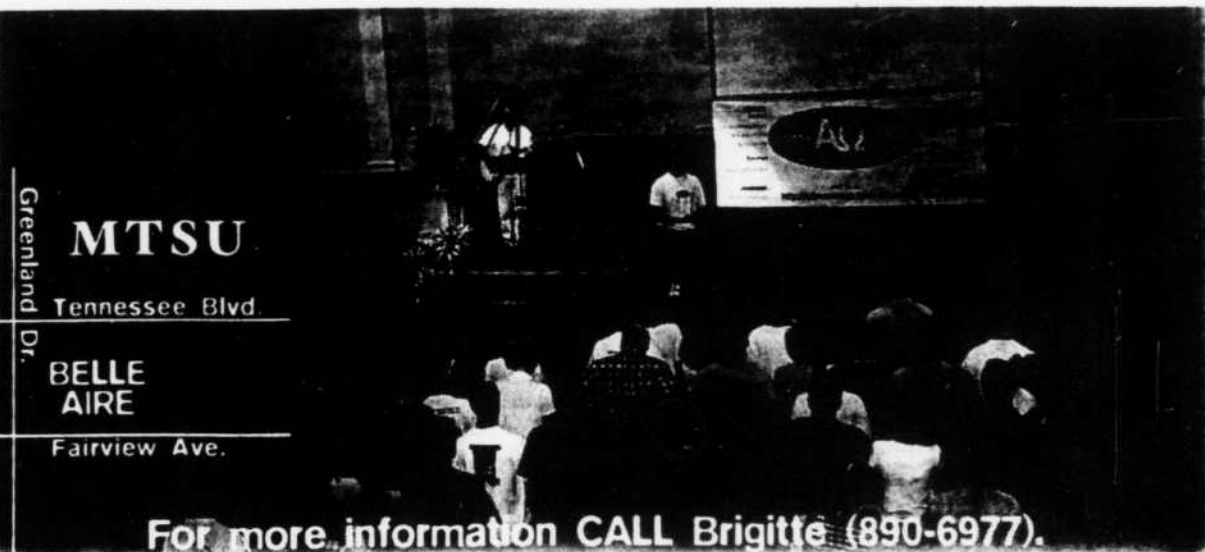
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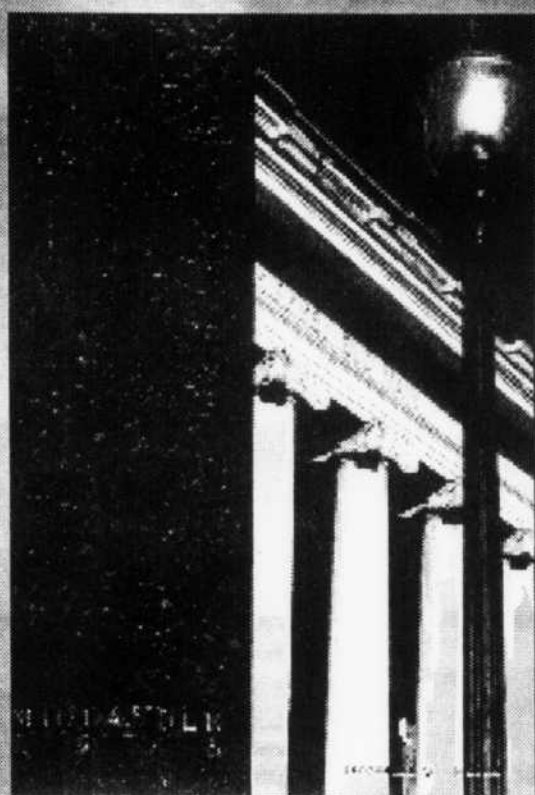
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