



The Gutter

Today's Weather

AM clouds/PM Sun

47/23



Average Price of Gas in Murfreesboro: \$2.11

Source: www.tennesseegasprices.com

Longhorn Finals Rodeo brings bull riders



Horses and bulls anxiously fight the steel holding pens as they wait for the chance to burst from the gate to fight a cowboy from their back.

As the holding gate slams open, an animal erupts from the pen, spinning and jerking in every direction to relieve itself of the cowboys' sharp spurs. The animals grunt and snort in irritation as they perform acrobatic leaps and bound with the cowboys desperately trying to hold their grip.

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Discussion planned by Raiders for Rationalism

On Thursday, November 17th at 7 p.m., CKNB 121 Raiders for Rationalism will be hosting a panel discussion titled "Pharmacists, Morality, and the Conscience Clause".

The panel will discuss the recent move among pharmacists refusing to fill prescriptions to certain patrons due to moral objection to the medication.

The event is free and open to the public.

Tickets for NC State Road Rally available

Tickets for the NC State Road Rally are still available through the SGA office in KUC 208. The trip is November 18-20 and the cost is \$70 and includes hotel room, transportation, game ticket, and t-shirt. Please contact SGA at 898-2464 for more information.

Solidarity hosts panel discussion

On Thursday November 17, Middle Tennessee Solidarity will sponsor a panel discussion, "Counter-recruitment, Occupation and the War in Iraq."

Panelists will be faculty and students from MTSU addressing the facts regarding military recruiting and the current occupation and war in Iraq. A short film on the U.S. assault on Fallujah will also be shown.

This event occurs in conjunction with educational activities and demonstrations happening across the country as part of "Not Your Soldier Day" sponsored by the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition.

The discussion will be held in 204 James Union Building on the MTSU campus at 4:15 pm Thursday.

For more information, contact Jessica McKee, 615-893-4206, jdm2c@mtsu.edu.

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MT Solidarity under fire for flyers

Coca-Cola bottling, local vendors upset over placement of anti-Coke leaflets

By Wes Murchison
Staff Writer

Coca-Cola and Nashville bottling division and local vendors are accusing members of MT Solidarity of illegally placing flyers on Coca-Cola and snack vending machines.

The student organization is leading a campaign in of Coca-

Cola's policy on the mistreatment and deaths of union leaders and members. Solidarity's grievances against Coca-Cola include a list of human rights violations, including the threatening, displacement and kidnapping of union members.

The complaint against flyers placed by Solidarity and other student organizations on the Coke machines has come from Max Cook, representative of Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated based out of Nashville.

Scott Young, a participant of the blind vendors program, which is run through the

Nashville Business Enterprise, said there have also been flyers on his snack machines at Peck Hall that he claims are illegal. Young also said that one morning, 10 Coca-Cola machines and five of his snack machines were discovered unplugged.

Solidarity claims to be following the MTSU's rules of conduct when posting flyers, Chris Comstock, Solidarity member and campaign organizer, said.

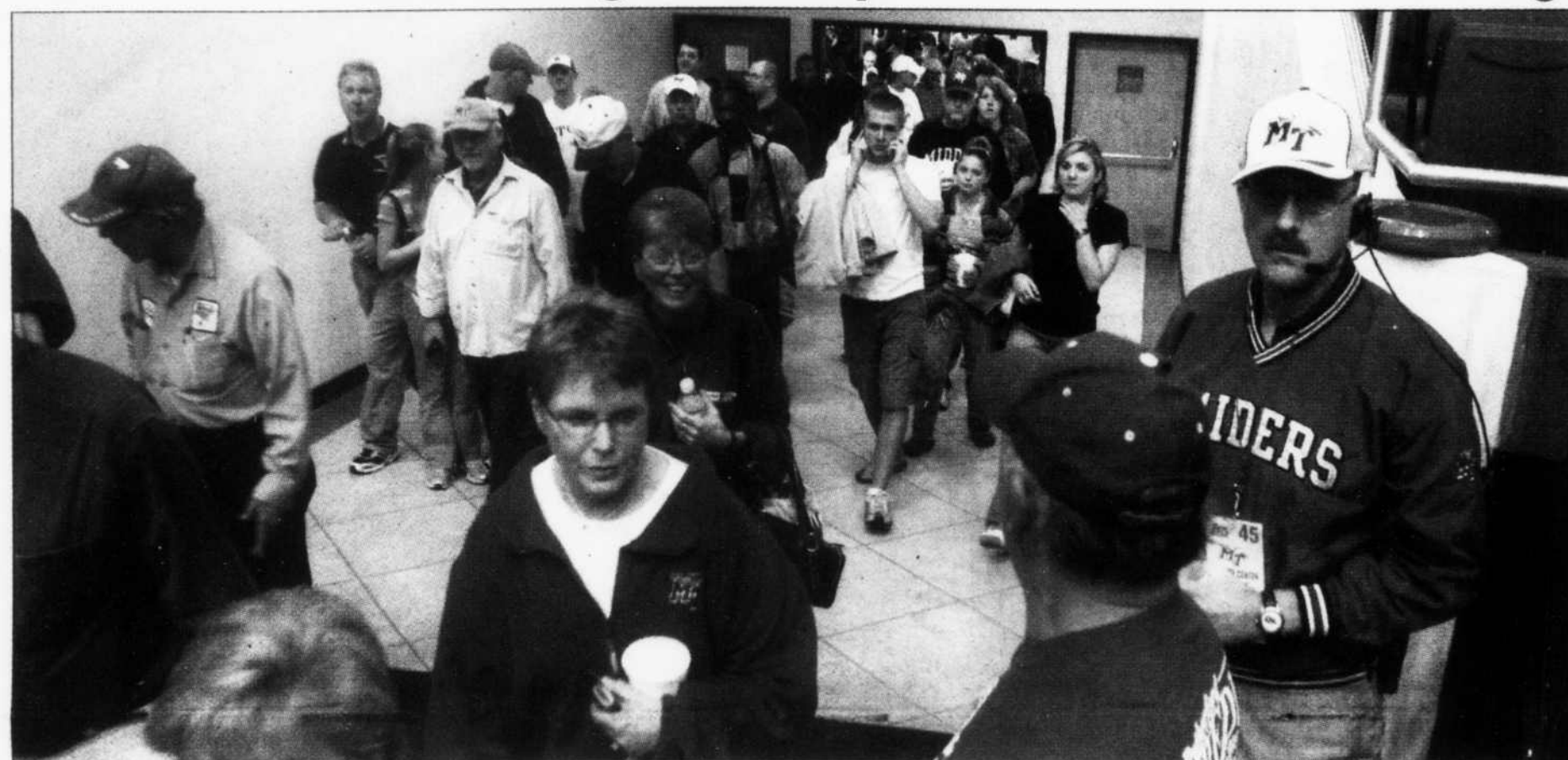
"I have personally watched where the flyers have been placed," Comstock said, adding that Solidarity does not

see Coca-Cola, page 2



Coca-Cola currently holds the soft drink contract for MTSU's campus. The agreement dictates location of vending machines, prices and advertising.

Came for a basketball game, stayed for the tornado warning



Basketball fans wanting to see the MT-Union University exhibition matchup were evacuated into the basement of Murphy Center during a Rutherford County tornado warning last night.

Volunteers tough out storms for Habitat

Wesley Foundation students stay overnight in shacks

By DeAnn Currey
Staff Writer

MTSU students braved lightning and tornado warnings last night to support Habitat for Humanity.

Participants in the Wesley Foundation's fundraiser "Shackin' Up" have been living in make-shift shanties on the knoll in front of the Keathley University Center since noon yesterday and will remain there, regardless of weather conditions, until tomorrow at noon.

"I'm not scared of storms," said junior aerospace major Julia Shreve. "I feel really bad for anyone who has to live like this all the time."

"I don't think it's going to be effective if we don't stick it out," she added.

After hearing tornado sirens last night around 8 p.m., some of the volunteers went inside the KUC to keep abreast of the weather alerts, according to

Karen Harden, a junior English major.

"If a tornado hits the shack, we'll build another one," Harden said. "We're here for the duration of the 48 hours."

Volunteers are stationed in front of the shacks to accept donations. Ninety percent of the money raised is going directly to Habitat for Humanity, while the other 10 percent is going toward an upcoming mission trip to Honduras.

The 10 percent going to the mission trip will be used for building supplies, not for students' travel expenses, Bill Campbell, United Methodist Campus Minister said.

"I want people that walk by the KUC to think, 'what are those people out there doing?'" Kevin Miller, sophomore electronic media communications major said.

"We're out here to do good, it's also a good excuse to give out fliers that's not for entertainment. This is something that is actually going to help others."

"We hope 'Shackin' Up' will raise an awareness of the living

conditions of some of our fellow human beings," Brown said. "Far too many people live in conditions similar to or worse than what we will be doing. While many people hear the stories and see the pictures, we expect 'Shackin' Up' to personalize those experiences."

"Living in a self-constructed shack for two days is both a good way to garner attention for our cause and a unique experience for me personally. I wouldn't miss it," Brown adds.

"This is often a need that goes unseen by many people," Campbell said. "We want to raise awareness with college students, that there are people that have to use pieces of scrap wood just to have a covering over their heads."

"I wanted to get involved this year because mission work is really important to me and this

see Shacks, page 2

Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Senior recording major Patti Mitchell prepares one of the shacks for imminent weather yesterday afternoon. The Wesley Foundation sponsors "Shackin' Up" for Habitat for Humanity.



Long-time friends come home

After a tour of duty in Iraq, soldiers return decorated

By Casey Phillips
Staff Writer

When they first met, Eric Rumsey and Justin Babb had no idea they would be a nearly inseparable pair.

In fact, they said they didn't like each other much at all.

"I was 13 when I started school, and I was the new kid when I met Eric," Babb said, in an interview from his home in Memphis, Tenn.

"I don't think he and his friends liked me because I had a coastal look, and because the girls liked me. They told me one day that they were going to fight me after school — I called my dad and told him to pick me up."

Things changed, however, and over the course of the next several years, Babb and Rumsey became as inseparable as Penn and Teller or Batman and Robin. They attended the same high school, and both participated in soccer and the ROTC program. Both Babb and Rumsey enrolled at MTSU in the aerospace program together, chasing their mutual dream

of flight.

The bond they developed over these years took them farther and through more than most friendships are forced to endure.

Speaking to Babb and Rumsey is a lot like speaking to two halves of the same whole. Even if those halves don't always think alike, they tend to follow the same course of action in the end.

"Both of our mothers say we were separated at birth," Babb said. "My dad describes it best. I'm a spur of the moment, jump up and do stuff kinda

see Soldiers, page 2



Justin Babb (left) and Eric Rumsey, were both awarded the Army Air Medal for their service in combat. The pair returned to Tennessee nearly three weeks ago.

From Shacks, page 1

really important to me and this is something that I can do to experience homelessness," Patti Mitchell, senior recording industry major, said.

Last February, was the first time the Wesley Foundation participated in "Shackin' Up" and raised around \$1,100, with 75 percent of the raised money going to Habitat for Humanity and the remaining 25 percent was used for a student led mission trip to the Dominican Republic. This year the Wesley

Foundation has increased their goal to \$4,000, which is about the average cost to build a new home in a developing country.

"Last year's event can be summed up in two words: cold and uncomfortable. Sleeping on plywood in the middle of February, while sick isn't most students idea of fun; it's definitely not mine," said Casey Brown, undeclared sophomore major. "But at the same time, the fellowship we experienced and the sense of accomplish-

ment we felt after it was all over made the whole project completely worth the trouble."

Student participants will be hosting a special fellowship service on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in front of the KUC. Youth groups from local services will be coming to participate in the evening service as well. All MTSU students and local community members are welcomed to join in at the fellowship service. ♦

From Soldiers, page 1

guy, and as long as everything is taken care of, I'll go and do it. Eric is more of a logical thinker and thinks about consequences."

"He's always wanting to do stuff as soon as it pops into his head," Rumsey said, echoing his friend's thought. "I just tell him to stop and think about it. That's why he joined first and I took more time."

Fortunately for these not quite twins, the Army has a program specifically tailored to close friends.

"The Army put us on the buddy system so that we trained together and were deployed to the same place," Babb explained. "It was a really hard decision to give up all the partying that other juniors in high school normally do, but knowing that we were going to do it as a team really strengthened our friendship."

From basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., to deployment in Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, Babb and Rumsey stuck by each other.

"We got alerted that we were leaving in late June, early July of 2004," Babb said. "At first, Eric and I had been separated into two different companies so I was kinda bummed. About two days after we found out, they called me and asked me to join the

flight company that Eric was in."

"That always happens with us, something happens to one of us, and then it happens to the other," he added. "That made it a whole lot easier on me. My whole attitude about it changed after that, and I began to get excited."

In November 2004, they arrived in Iraq as part of the 1st Infantry Division. Their combat experiences began almost immediately, and following their trend of doing all things in pairs, Babb and Rumsey were both commended for their heroism in combat situations, receiving the Army Air Medal for their actions.

In the first week of their tour of duty, their forward operating base was brought under mortar fire. Using his skills as a qualified Combat Life Saver, Rumsey helped stabilize an Iraqi injured during the attack, saving his life.

Babb faced a similarly dangerous situation when an Apache helicopter collided with his Blackhawk helicopter after landing, killing the two pilots of the Apache and destroying both aircraft. After dragging himself from the burning wreckage, Babb pulled an injured comrade to safety.

The two friends said Babb's

crash affected each of them deeply.

"I was flying a mission at the time," Rumsey said. "I heard the crash on the headset, and I knew it was our guys, but I didn't know that he was involved. I didn't find out until later that evening, but our aircraft couldn't fly, so I couldn't go. When you come close to losing your best friend, you're kinda like 'whoa.' It was pretty scary."

"After that happened, I didn't want to fly again," Babb said. "Eric was there to push me. He told me to think about how much I love to fly. It was a month before I was ready to fly again. After that, I couldn't log enough hours. After something like that, you have to thank God everyday because you know you should have died."

Babb and Rumsey returned to Tennessee on Oct. 27, and they said their time overseas has brought them closer than ever before.

"It was nice having a familiar face to talk to," Rumsey said. "We're kinda like brothers." Unsurprisingly, Babb's sentiments didn't stray far from his friend's.

"He's more like a brother to me now," he said. "I really love my two little brothers, but I'll never be able to have the kind of relationship with them that we have." ♦

Ga. looks at closing loophole that allows children to wed

By Greg Bluestein
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Ever since her 13-year-old niece wed a 14-year-old boy last year, Sharon Cline has sent lawmakers a slew of letters begging them to change a Georgia law that allows children of any age to marry — and without parental consent — as long as the bride-to-be is pregnant.

"Some of the lawmakers just didn't believe this could happen," said Cline, who lives in Weston, Fla. "It was very frustrating."

They're believers now. Lisa Lynnette Clark, 37, was charged last week in Gainesville with child molestation for allegedly having a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old friend of her teenage son. Just days before her arrest, she wed the boy under a Georgia law that allows pregnant couples to marry regardless of age and without consent.

Disturbed by the child groom, Georgia lawmakers may soon debate changing a law that many didn't know even existed. Geared toward preventing out-of-wedlock births, the law dates back to at least the early 1960s.

"I never knew it was in the code until this morning," Jerry Keen, the state's House Majority Leader, said Tuesday. "Our legislative counsel — the lawyers who draft the laws —

even had to look it up."

Still, Keen and other leaders in the Republican-controlled Legislature stopped short of endorsing a change to the state's marital requirements.

"It's very difficult to govern by exception. You have to govern by rule," said Keen, who is from St. Simons.

Instead, Keen and Senate Majority Leader Tommie Williams said the state's GOP lawmakers will focus on passing stricter penalties for those convicted of child molestation. Keen said the legislation would require convicts to spend at least 25 years in prison and wear an electronic tracking device within the state's borders after their release.

Democratic lawmakers, recently in the minority after more than a century in power, may hope a proposal to change the marriage standards will drive a wedge in the GOP majority.

State Rep. Karla Drenner of Avondale Estates said she plans to author a bill that would bar children under age 16 to marry regardless of the circumstances or at least require parental consent.

As the only openly gay elected official in Georgia's state government, Drenner said the irony of the lax marriage standards for minors is not lost upon her — particularly a year after lawmakers passed a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

"We're protecting society from the perceived threat of homosexual marriage, which was already illegal," she said. "But yet if you're pregnant, you can get married — and it doesn't matter if you're 9 years old or 10 years old."

Meanwhile, Daniel Sammons, Clark's court-appointed attorney, said he will likely use the marriage as a shield to prevent the boy from testifying against Clark.

Sammons said his defense is also bolstered by a 2004 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that restricted prosecutors from using a wife's taped statement to police to try to undermine her husband at a trial. The ruling, he said, will make it difficult for prosecutors to rely on a witness statement that the boy gave detectives.

Even before Clark's arrest grabbed national headlines, the state's law was last month lampooned on the TV sitcom "George Lopez." In the episode, the title character's daughter threatened to elope in Georgia because her parents didn't approve of her boyfriend.

Cline sent every Georgia lawmaker a transcript of the scene to remind them that her family's case is not an isolated incident and does not reflect kindly on the state.

"I hope someone starts listening to these stories," Cline said. "I hope they don't think it's a one-time thing. It's happening enough to where the law needs to be changed." ♦

Tornadoes spotted as severe weather sweeps Tennessee

By Beth Rucker
Associated Press Writer

PARIS, Tenn. (AP) — Tornadoes were spotted in Henry County as a severe storm swept across West and Middle Tennessee on Tuesday, causing at least a dozen injuries and serious damage to buildings.

No deaths were reported in Tennessee, but one person was killed just over the state line in Benton, Ky.

The storm moved northeast across Paris and Henry County, causing at least one accident on the roads where trees and power lines were downed countywide. Paris is about 90 miles west of Nashville.

"Our emergency management center received a direct hit from the tornado," Henry County Mayor Brent Greer said, forcing officials to relocate to another building to handle the disaster.

In Montgomery County, severe damage was reported in the town of Cunningham, just south of Clarksville, although it was not confirmed whether a tornado touched down there.

"Highway 13 looks like a war zone," Ted Denny, a spokesman for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department told WKRN-TV in Nashville.

In Henry County, "right now officers are out assessing the damage," said Faye Scott, spokeswoman for the Henry

County Sheriff's Department. "We have damage in the western part of the county, all the way down (out east) to Paris Landing."

The Henry County Medical Center treated 13 patients and admitted two with non-life threatening injuries, mostly cuts and bruises, said Sandra Sims, hospital spokeswoman.

Scott said she saw numerous homes with major damage along Highway 54 as she drove east into Paris. About 35 officers were surveying the county for damage and injured residents, but were being delayed by downed power lines.

"Numerous homes there were damaged, some completely destroyed," Scott said. "It's major destruction."

County officials also had reports of severe damage around Highway 218 and Highway 69 north, where two homes and a commercial building destroyed. Greer said they had a gas leak in that area, prompting officials to shut down that road.

The storm took the roof off the main shop at the Henry County's highway department, destroyed two smaller department shops and damaged Mohon International, a furniture manufacturer next door where three people were hurt, Greer said.

"We're very fortunate. Our highway department, when they received the hit, most of

our workers were coming in off their jobs and the workers who were there, they were able to get in the basement. We had no injuries," Greer said.

A manufacturing building northwest of Paris was severely damaged by the storm. Paris Industrial Services owner Ed Brazelton said there were seven employees in the building when a tornado struck.

"I could see (the tornado), and I could see that it had all kinds of garbage flying around in it," Brazelton told *The Paris Post-Intelligencer*. "I told the people in the main building to get underneath some steel tables and none of them got hurt."

In neighboring Weakley County, up to seven homes and trailers were damaged or destroyed by a storm that hit there just after 2 p.m., but no injuries were reported, said county Public Safety Director Jamison Peevyhouse.

Tennessee Emergency Management spokesperson Kurt Pickering said there also had been damage in Crockett and Gibson counties. He estimated eight to 12 homes were damaged in Gibson and trees were reported down in Crockett.

The National Weather Service in Nashville also reported that a tornado touched down somewhere in Benton County to the east of Henry County, but county officials there couldn't confirm the report. ♦

From Coca-cola, page 1

post flyers on doors, and that they get approval to post flyers when necessary.

Coca-Cola has notified campus police to watch for anyone posting flyers or vandalizing the Coke machines.

Regarding the unplugged the machines, Comstock said that Solidarity has not been involved in any illicit activity. According to Comstock, though, Coca-Cola vendors remove Solidarity flyers while leaving other flyers posted.

According to Cook, Coca-Cola's official position is that there are not supposed to be any flyers, regardless of the organization, on Coke vending machines. "It's a touchy subject," Cook said. "I'll talk to my contact at MTSU and tell them that no flyers will be allowed on the Coke machines."

Solidarity claims that it is their right to free speech to place flyers on the Coke machines.

"That's the place where we want to get the message out the most," Solidarity member Jase Short said.

Solidarity's campaign is part of a movement that includes 118 universities and 12 high schools around the world to get Coca-Cola to acknowledge and take responsibility for the deaths of

union leaders and coercion of union members by paramilitary organizations, who have been allegedly associating with bottling plant management.

So far, their campaign has consisted of informing the student body about what is happening in Colombia. Although Solidarity members boycott Coke products and have alluded to individual participation in their flyers, they have not called for a campus-wide boycott to protest against Coca-Cola.

According to Comstock, such a protest would include terminating the sponsorship agreement between Coca-Cola and MTSU. This agreement is an exclusive contract with Coca-Cola that determines location of machines, prices and advertising benefits with the Athletic Department.

Eighteen universities and high schools have terminated contacts with Coca-Cola.

The primary benefit for MTSU is a commission payment from revenue earned from product sales, which amounts to an average of \$200,000 after tax revenue annually.

The contract also provides that the Athletic Department receives \$40,000 for maintenance and purchasing of score-

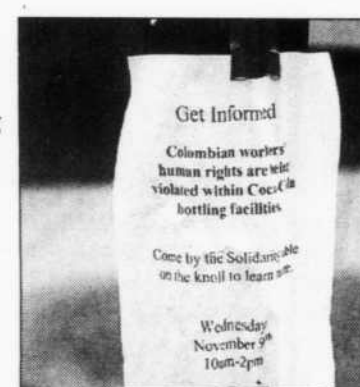


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Signs claiming foul-play on the part of the Coca-Cola Company have been posted across campus.

boards and \$92,000 for advertisement and marketing pieces, which helps the Athletic Department reach its budget, said Vice President for Business and Finance John Cothorn.

Solidarity's intentions are not meant to negatively impact the local economy or to increase revenue for MTSU, Comstock said.

"We just want to hold Coca-Cola to a higher standard," Comstock said.

If the Coca-Cola contract were terminated, it is possible that Pepsi could pick up the sponsorship. However, according to Cothorn, Pepsi would have to pay a higher cost for set-up. ♦

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World Briefs

By the Associated Press

Israelis, Palestinians OK Gaza border deal

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel and the Palestinians have reached a deal on Gaza border crossings, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced Tuesday.

The agreement was reached in marathon negotiations overseen personally by Rice who stayed a day longer than planned in Jerusalem to shepherd the deal to a conclusion.

Rice praised the deal at a news conference as a "big step forward" in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Under the deal, the Gaza-Egypt border would tentatively open Nov. 25, and construction of a Gaza seaport would begin, she said. Palestinians would be able to travel between the West Bank and Gaza in bus convoys through Israel.

An agreement gives the Palestinians control over a border for the first time and provides a much-needed boost to the shattered Gaza economy. It also marks an important breakthrough for the sides, who had failed to capitalize on the momentum created by the withdrawal.

Documents reveal Alito's abortion view

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito's own words are offering abortion rights and civil rights supporters new fodder in their campaign to impede his bid for a seat on the nation's highest court.

Documents released Monday show Alito in 1985 telling the Reagan administration he was particularly proud to help argue that "the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion," a statement senators want to know more about

before voting on his candidacy for the Supreme Court.

"This puts a much stronger onus on Judge Alito to answer questions on this subject," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who called the 1985 document "the strongest statement we've seen from a nominee on this very controversial subject for a long time."

Added Republican Susan Collins of Maine: "This is an area that should be further explored in his confirmation hearings."

The document, released by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on Monday, shows a young Alito applying to become deputy assistant attorney general and saying his previous government work had included helping "to advance legal positions in which I personally believe very strongly."

Blast outside KFC in Pakistan kills three

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — A powerful car bomb exploded outside the front entrance to a KFC restaurant in the southern Pakistan city of Karachi early Tuesday, killing at least three people and injuring 12 others, police said.

The bomb, which went off about 8:45 a.m., badly damaged the restaurant, part of the global American fast food chain, burning several cars along the street in front.

Mushtaq Shah, Karachi's police chief, told reporters the bomb was concealed in a car parked outside the restaurant.

Another police official, Sanaullah Abbasi, said three people were killed in the blast and 12 injured.

The bomb struck as commuters were heading to offices and shops in the crowded business hub. Hundreds of people gathered at the site near the

Pearl Intercontinental Hotel that is popular with foreign tourists and business people.

Teen sought in Penn. slayings captured

BELLEVILLE, Ind. (AP) — An 18-year-old Pennsylvania youth accused of killing his girlfriend's parents has been captured after a high-speed chase, ending a manhunt without making clear whether the 14-year-old girl beside him during the getaway was abducted or went voluntarily.

David Ludwig was taken into custody Monday after he crashed his parents' car head-on into a tree in Belleville, 20 miles west of Indianapolis, and some 600 miles from where the killings took place.

His girlfriend, Kara Beth Borden, was unhurt. It was still unclear whether Ludwig kidnapped her or if she left with him willingly after her parents, Michael E. and Cathryn Lee Borden, were shot to death early Sunday.

Police say Ludwig killed them after they and their daughter argued about her curfew when she came home late. The shootings happened at the family's home near Lititz, Pa., about 60 miles west of Philadelphia.

Ludwig could waive extradition, clearing the way for authorities to take him back to Pennsylvania to face charges. Otherwise, an extradition hearing would be held Tuesday or Wednesday, said Hendricks County Prosecutor Patricia Baldwin.

Strong earthquake rattles northern Japan

TOKYO (AP) — A powerful earthquake shook northern Japan early Tuesday, and small tsunami waves struck coastal

towns about 200 miles from the epicenter. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1, hit at 6:39 a.m. (4:39 p.m. Monday EST) and was centered just below the ocean bottom off the east coast of Japan's main island of Honshu, Japan's Meteorological Agency said.

Small tsunami waves measuring 12 and 20 inches hit the coastal city of Ofunato and smaller waves hit at least four other towns. Tsunami waves — generated by earthquakes — are often barely noticeable in the ocean but can rise to great heights once they arrive at shore.

Ross Stein, a geophysicist with the USGS in Menlo Park, Calif., said the swell amounted to "a surfable tsunami."

The quake hit at a depth of about 18 miles and was centered off the coast of Sanriku in northern Japan, 330 miles east of Tokyo, the U.S. Geological Survey said. It shook buildings across a wide area across northern and eastern Honshu, including Tokyo, and Hokkaido.

Audit faults FDA on morning-after pill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers are again accusing the Food and Drug Administration of putting politics over science in the long-running saga over whether the morning-after pill should sell without a prescription.

A congressional audit released Monday cited "unusual" steps in the FDA's initial rejection of over-the-counter emergency contraception, including conflicting accounts of whether top officials made the decision even before scientists finished reviewing the evidence.

The FDA is reconsidering the decision on the pill, sold under the brand Plan B. While the report by the Government Accountability Office, Congress' investigative arm, doesn't say that FDA made the wrong decision, it does raise the most serious questions to date about agency credibility — and increas-

es pressure to settle the issue.

"Regardless of how you feel about whether Plan B should be available in the community, the fact is the FDA decision should be based on science, not cultural controversy," said Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md.

"The FDA's mission is to improve our health, not play to a political base, and right now it's failing at its mission," added Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y.

Senate to consider Bernanke as Fed chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ben Bernanke, who once thought himself an "academic lifer," is poised to take his biggest step yet away from the classroom and toward becoming the most influential economist in the world. President Bush's choice to head the Federal Reserve after Alan Greenspan retires goes before the Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday.

Bernanke, a former Princeton professor and Fed governor who now serves as the top White House economist, is expected to win the panel's endorsement and get a positive vote in the full Senate.

The Senate fast track means Bernanke, 51, will be ready to take over as soon as Greenspan, 79, retires on Jan. 31 after 18-plus years at the helm.

The pace of Bernanke's confirmation is evidence of the lack of controversy surrounding his nomination. By contrast, Judge Samuel Alito, the president's nominee to succeed Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court, was nominated just a week after Bernanke but won't even have a nomination hearing until Jan. 9.

The choice of Bernanke, a leading economic thinker who has written extensively about the Great Depression, is seen as a safe one for Bush, whose job approval ratings are at record lows.

50 Cent to launch hip-hop book line

NEW YORK (AP) — 50 Cent will again turn his reality into fiction with a new line of hip-hop novellas and graphic nov-

els featuring his former G-Unit rap crew buddies, a publisher announced.

Pocket/MTV Books promised the venture would showcase "gritty" stories and cover much of the same terrain as 50 Cent's raps.

"These tales will tell the truth about The Life; the sex, guns and cash; the brutal highs and short lives of the players on the streets," the publisher said in a release over the weekend.

The G-Unit Books line of street fiction will feature G-Unit members Lloyd Banks, Tony Yayo, Young Buck and Olivia as characters, the release said.

Nikki Turner, author of "The Glamorous Life" and "A Hustler's Wife," will pen the line's first novella. It is set to be published in 2007.

Late touchdown helps Cowboys edge Eagles

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Donovan McNabb went to his knees and buried his face in the grass. The pain from his groin injury and his game-turning interception were far worse than anything Terrell Owens could've done. The Eagles' problems are much bigger than T.O. now.

Roy Williams intercepted McNabb's pass and ran it back 46 yards for a touchdown with 2:43 left, leading the Dallas Cowboys to a 21-20 comeback victory over Philadelphia on Monday night in the Eagles' first game since Owens was told he's no longer welcome.

"I'm tired of answering T.O. questions," McNabb said. "T.O. is not here."

At first it looked as if that didn't matter. Philadelphia was in control most of the game, showing poise, running the ball well and playing with the team-oriented balance they talked about all week.

Then Drew Bledsoe connected with Terry Glenn on a 20-yard TD pass with 3:04 left that cut it to 20-14. On the second play after the ensuing kickoff, McNabb's poorly thrown pass was intercepted by Williams, who outran McNabb as the quarterback tried to tackle him. ♦

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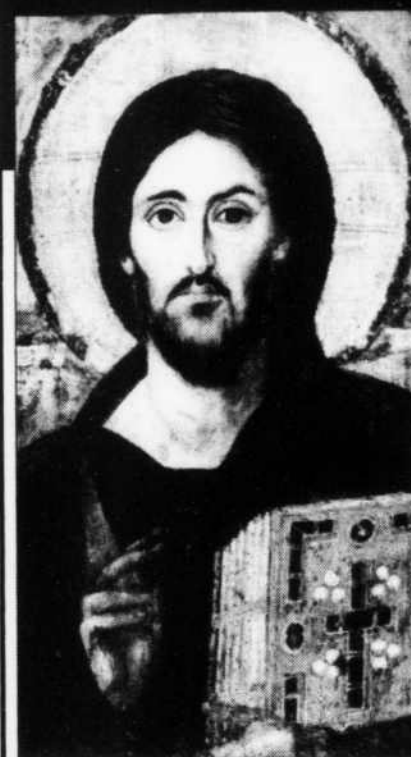
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Coca-cola protest pretty ridiculous

Turd Ferguson has it out for Acme Beverage Co. He spends too much time on the Internet, and read about an assassination of a union leader at the ABC bottling plant in Some Developing Nation. Ferguson is angry about the incident, so he decides to stick a sign in Liza Minnelli's yard.

Minnelli is an authorized distributor of Acme Beverage Co.'s most popular product, Loca-lola. Naturally, she yanked that sign right out of the ground and told Ferguson where to stick it. You don't cut into Liza Minnelli's profit margin and get away with it.

Instead of apologizing, Ferguson, turd that he is, kicks, screams and claims some vague grievance against his First Amendment rights. The neighborhood squints and scratches its collective head.

If that scenario actually played out, you might wonder about those poor, exploited workers. They only make \$300 a month. But then you'd move on, feeling sorry for poor Liza Minnelli and say what a Turd Ferguson is.

This actually happened.

No, Solidarity, posting flyers, on Coke machines in this case, is not protected speech. Write letters to the editor, start your own blog or give an impromptu speech on the Knoll. But don't put signs in your neighbor's yard and expect them to stay there.

It is unclear if the unplugged machines are related to the anti-Coke campaign, but whoever is doing it should be dealt with. We need our Diet Coke before class. Bring on the caffeine; bring on the cancer.

Even if the Coca-Cola plant was complicit in the para-military assassination of Isidro Gil, the Columbian plant operates independently of the U.S. division of the company. It's unfair to penalize local businessmen over an assassination that happened in another continent in - get this - 1996.

It's always nice to see students giving a damn - passing out flyers, talking about issues and agitating for change. But aren't there any local labor issues? Coca-cola is a pretty big company, why not just take on Mickey Mouse? If the Southern Baptists couldn't do it, the lefties sure can't.

Solidarity probably just has it out for capitalism - any monetary transaction is suspect. Most of us actually like money and materialism, both of which go down more smoothly with a nice, ice-cold glass of Coke. ♦

Rioters undermine goals when relying on violence

Amy Eisinger

Independent Florida Alligator

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. - What started out as the retaliation of angry teenagers against police turned fatal in France on Monday when a 61-year-old man died from injuries inflicted by rioters.

Although their anger is warranted, especially with France's overt job discrimination, violence will not dissolve prejudices.

The situation has turned into blatant pandemonium, affecting about 300 towns across the nation. Allegedly triggered by the accidental electrocution of two boys who were fleeing from police, the violence is no longer a reflection of this original incident.

Instead, the turbulence is the culmination of deep-rooted discrimination, joblessness and poverty among immigrants from North and West Africa and their French-born children. And the aggression shows no signs of abating.

Police can try their best to quiet the rage and arrest as many teens as jails can hold, but government intervention is the only way to end the unrest permanently. Rioters won't get attention unless they end this futile malevolence.

When the situation requires a group to operate within the means of a civilized society, rioting is never the answer.

France isn't dealing with the same kind of cowardly terrorism the United States witnessed on Sept. 11, 2001. This form of civil unrest is a direct result of the government's inability to recognize the mounting tension between classes and address racial discrimination, specifically among blue-collar workers.

So will this be the French version of the American civil rights movement of the 1960s? In order to be recognized as such, rioters need to form a cohesive and unified front and cease using violent means to prove their point.

The American civil rights movement was successful because of the unwavering conviction of an oppressed people to utilize nonviolent action even in the face of unjust brutality. If rebels continue to follow their current method of action, they will do nothing more than agitate police and give reason for revocation of what few social rights they have gained. Organization, composure and a concise list of objectives are key for movements like this. We've seen the effectiveness teenagers and college students can have on society in the last 50 years, and it can work in a country as civilized as France.

We've also witnessed the shortcomings of a non-unified front with the current Iraq anti-war movement. Disputes about the removal of troops exist even among those "on the same side."

However, if immigrants and minorities in France are truly concerned about the oppression they face daily, they need to organize themselves in such a way that the government will consider them a serious political threat.

The problem with the current violence, besides the widespread damage, is that teens have allowed themselves to become the focus of a political battle between Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin and Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, both of whom are hoping to succeed Jacques Chirac as president.

Due to the savagery, the focus is turning from a human rights statement into a game of who can quiet the restless youth most efficiently.

Once the anger subsides, the amateur revolutionaries will need to take a long look at whether they've abolished prejudice in the workforce. Horrific images of burning cars and charred buildings in Paris won't hide the fact that when the smoke settles, rioters will find that nothing has changed. ♦

Action necessary to end cult's treatment of sons

The imperative parts that make up our persons are family, community, religious beliefs and sense of worth. Imagine all of those qualities, gone.

This concept is earth-shattering and changes the very fabric of existence for a person. It is a reality for the nearly 1,000 young men abandoned by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS) located in Utah.

Dominant males in the community have kicked the "Lost Boys," some as young as 13, out of their homes, because these younger men are seen as competition for females.

The FLDS is a Christian cult that practices the socially unacceptable and primitive art of polygamy. Polygamy is the obtaining of multiple "wives" by men, who, in this case, are used as a bargaining chip to receive a reserved parking spot in heaven. In fact, by the FLDS standards, a man must have at least three wives to even get into heaven.

Now, the reasoning behind the expulsion of these male children is the ultimate flaw with an enclosed polygamist cult.

Eventually, if all men are "marrying" multiple women, the female population is going to decrease while the male population continues to grow.

The solution: the men that are higher up on the food chain have decided to remove the problem - they remove the boys that could take away from the low



Yeah, Whatever

Andy Harper
Staff Columnist

supply of women.

But God - I mean Warren Jeffs - forbid. This is not the solution.

Jeffs is the self-proclaimed prophet of God, word of the divine and leader of FLDS. If one would like to see his smiling face, it can be found on a poster located on the FBI Web site.

Jeffs' crimes: unlawful flight to avoid prosecution, sexual conduct with a minor and conspiracy to commit sexual conduct with a minor. Wow, God has sure done a super job picking out the most capable messenger for His word.

Luckily, there are some organizations that have become active in the fight to provide aid to the Lost Boys.

One such organization is called Smiles for Diversity and it is stationed in Salt Lake City. Smiles was founded by an ex-FLDS follower and has helped many of the abandoned children.

One of these kids, Gideon Barlow, was reported in the *Los Angeles Times* as saying, "I couldn't see how my mom would let

them do what they did to me. I am dead to her now."

That is the product of such illogical, unethical, immoral and unchristian behavior. It destroys these young boys, not only because have they been abandoned in the earthly world, but because according to their religion, they will never be able to marry multiple women, they will also be abandoned to hell.

That's not really the first thought one wants to wake up with every morning.

Yet, it continues to occur. The FBI is still looking for the evasive Jeffs and these older men - if they can be called that - continue to expel sons, nephews and neighbors, all in the name of perpetuating themselves into heaven by having more wives than the guys at work.

As a county, we spend so much time reflecting on the customs of other cultures. We scream for equality among Middle Eastern women because they have to cover themselves fully in public. We spend all of this time and we forget that although other cultures may have different traditions, charity begins at home.

How is anybody to deal with a situation of demeaning and archaic religious rituals when, as a county, we cannot even fix our own society? ♦

Andy Harper is a freshman journalism major and can be reached at sah3u@mtsu.edu.

Pharmacists: keep personal beliefs out of the workplace

Should a pharmacist be allowed to deny filling a woman's birth control prescription, just because they believe a woman should not use birth control as a way to prevent pregnancy?

Pharmacists all across the country are denying women the right to get their birth control prescriptions filled at local drug stores.

When did a pharmacist, who is most likely a complete stranger, suddenly gain the power to decide what medication I chose to get filled? Their job as a pharmacist is to fill medicine, not criticize what medication I am taking and what I am taking it for.

Not all women that are on the pill are sexually active. Instead, many are using the pill for medical purposes. So why is it that pharmacists across the country are denying women their right to get a birth control prescription that



Lucky One

DeAnn Currey
Staff Columnist

has prescribed by their doctor?

A pharmacist should not have the power to decide whether a couple should have a child or not, which is basically what they are doing when denying a woman her right to get a prescription for birth control filled. I thought a drug store's job was to make the customer happy and to take care of the customer's needs, not turn them away just because they don't agree with them taking the pill.

If a sexually active woman decides to take birth control in order to prevent an unwanted pregnancy, I applaud her.

At least she is taking responsibility for her actions to help prevent an unwanted pregnancy, or even an abortion.

According to an article in *USA Today*, in November 2004, the American Pharmacists Association has a policy that says any of their 50,000 drug-gists members can refuse to fill prescriptions if they object on moral grounds, but they must make arrangements so the patient can still get the pills.

According to a study on Planned Parenthood's official Web site, ninety-five percent of American women will use oral conception at some point during their reproductive years.

It does not matter what your job is, whether it is a pharmacist or a cashier at a local grocery store, you are not going to agree with everything that you come into contact with.

However, it is not your decision as a professional to cast your own personal judgments

against someone that does not believe in what you do. Your job is to take care of your customer's needs.

I do not want anyone to tell me whether I am allowed to take birth control or not, because that is putting my future and my life into the hands of a complete and utter stranger.

It is my right, as a woman to decide if I want to protect my body against an unwanted pregnancy. I will decide when the time is right for me to have children, not some random pharmacist that refuses to fill my birth control prescription.

If a woman wants to take birth control pills, let her. It is her body, her life and most importantly her choice. ♦

DeAnn Currey is a junior mass communications major and can be reached at jdc3v@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

SGA forum for valid parking concerns

To the Editor:

I am the Attorney General for the Student Government Association, and one of my responsibilities is overseeing the Court of Traffic Appeals. I deal with all of the parking appeals that are made through the SGA. Because of this responsibility, I am well acquainted with Parking Services, their current policies and their plans for the future.

The main problem on this campus is not a lack of parking spots, it's laziness. There is more than enough parking at this campus for each and every person to park their car and not receive a ticket. There is not, however, enough interior parking for everyone to park and not receive a ticket. So what? Students must realize they are not going to be able to park right next to a building when they are sharing a school with more than 20,000 other students.

The Editorial Board is right: MTSU isn't an amusement park. However, it is a university that has a higher undergraduate enrollment than any other university in the state. What do you expect? You're going to have to walk, period. And you're going to have to get over it, period.

In order to avoid getting those nasty parking tickets, students have to stay informed. As a previous *Sidelines* article pointed out, only six white lots on campus open to all decals at 5:30pm, the rest open at 6:30pm. Also, a new feature that has been implemented is a Pipeline announcement every time a lot closes or spaces are taken up for events on campus, so keep checking Pipeline to stay informed.

If you think that you have serious, valid concerns (read: not the "I don't want to walk a long distance" complaint) then contact your senator (www.mtsu.edu/~sga). Senator Chassen Haynes has been working very hard with Transportation Services to improve the bus routes so that they will be effective.

ive. That's why the SGA exists. If students actually utilized the student government here on campus, they would be amazed the changes that we can make. How often do you hear that from someone? Complain to us!

Kara Watkins

Junior, College of Mass Communications

New lot will not address parking issue

To the Editor:

I am thankful that my hard earned tuition is going to build a multi-million dollar parking lot in the middle of nowhere. It is a well known fact that there is not enough parking on campus, the university even sells a bumper sticker in the bookstore saying something to the effect of this: "If you see my professor tell them I am looking for a parking space."

I think the real fact of the matter is that no one wants to walk to class. Also, everyone expects to find a close parking spot. The gravel lot near Scarlett Commons hardly ever gets used. Occasionally, especially at the beginning of each semester, that parking lot has more than 20 cars in it, but it is never full.

We are spending millions of dollars to build a new lot when we have several lots on campus that are still gravel, and that aren't full on a daily basis. Are they are ever going to be paved, or will the university just pave the new, million dollar lot?

I understand that MTSU is the largest undergraduate university in the state, and we are growing bigger each year. Yes we need parking, but not in the middle of nowhere.

Elizabeth Lee

Senior, Recording Industry

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LONGHORN FINALS RODEO

BRINGS BULL RIDERS



By Kathrine Barrett
Contributor

Horses and bulls anxiously fight the steel holding pens as they wait for the chance to burst from the gate to fight a cowboy from their back.

As the holding gate slams open, an animal erupts from the pen, spinning and jerking in every direction to relieve itself of the cowboys' sharp spurs. The animals grunt and snort in irritation as they perform acrobatic leaps and bound with the cowboys desperately trying to hold their grip.

The spectacle seems unreal. Massive and angry animals are performing gymnastics while men willingly climb upon their backs time and again, with hopes of hanging on for eight seconds. However, men are not the only ones going for the ride.

Melissa Phillips, 44, is a 1993 Women's Pro Rodeo Association World Champion bull rider who began a five-month tour with Longhorn Rodeo Productions last week. Each night, Phillips mounted a bull that outweighed her by 1,500 pounds and rode for eight seconds two nights out of three.

"I love it," Phillips said, as she waited for the Saturday night show to begin. "I have been around rodeo for such a long time, I heard all the stories and I

learned from them."

Phillips said she has participated in barrel racing competitions since the age of six. In 1990, she rode her first bull, and by 1993, she was a WPRA world champion.

In the WPRA women's bull-riding competitions, women have the option to ride with two hands, unlike the male events, which require using only one hand to grip, Phillips said. Additionally, women are also expected to stay on the bull for six seconds instead of the men, who are required to ride for a total of eight seconds.

However, Phillips rode with one hand for the entire eight seconds on both Thursday and Friday. Riding with the same regulations as the cowboys entered in the Longhorn Bull Riding event, Phillips' scores on Thursday and Friday would have qualified her above the men's average score, giving her the lead in the men's bull-riding competition had she entered the event.

Before their turn to climb upon a living-breathing tank with horns, many cowboys prepare themselves up by yelling, slapping their legs or even hitting their own helmets. Phillips chooses to calmly prepare her gear and stretch for two events in advance before she scales the holding pen.

"I don't do that," Phillips said, shrug-

ging. "Different athletes have different ways of going about being successful."

"I stretch a lot and spend a little bit of meditation time; I don't know how long, it just depends on what's going on," Phillips said. "Getting mentally focused is how I do my psyching up. I pray, of course, and I'm in a zone."

For many, the bull-riding event is the most anticipated event of the rodeo. The Saturday night crowd gasped and cheered as they watched cowboy and cowgirl brave the back of an animal that could easily weigh more than a ton.

On several occasions, cowboys were slammed into the metal gates surrounding the dirt arena, or jammed into the sides of the holding pens if the bull or horse was anxious to be released.

Bareback broncos and saddle broncos began the rodeo, taking the cowboys on lengthier rides around the arena than the bulls that tended to flip and twist within one area of the rink.

With each throw or pitch, the crowd held its breath, waiting for the cowboy to move. Though the steer roping and wrestling events are seemingly less dangerous, a couple of cowboys suffered from horns smashing into their arm, or cheek. The bull and bronco riders were flipped over horses' heads or thrown into gates. The rodeo's announcer was glad to announce each night that the cowboys who suffered the minor injuries were fine and would still compete.

The special vest that each rider wears is designed to disperse the impact if a horse or bull steps on a rider, Phillips

explained, motioning to her own red, white and blue vest. Although Phillips climbed calmly on top of a bull each night during the Longhorn Rodeo Finals, she has sustained serious injuries during her bull-riding career.

"The worse one was when I got stepped on in Fort Worth," Phillips said. "I was wearing my vest, which is the thing that saved my life."

"He bucked me off and I fell underneath him," she said. "He stepped on me with both back feet in the chest, and he flipped me over and he got me again with his feet in my back. He broke seven ribs and punctured my lung, bruised my heart and tore my vocal cords. It was pretty serious that time."

The final night Phillips rode for only a few seconds before the bull was able to throw her off his back. Though her hand was still stuck in the strap, the two rodeo clowns immediately helped her escape before any injury occurred. Phillips smiled and threw her hands up in victory as she had done each night after her ride.

Though, the bull and bronco events were thrilling enough to keep any observer on the edge of his or her seat, the rodeo had many events that were family-oriented. The audience was entertained between events by a troop of performers who preformed acrobatic tricks on speeding horses. A cowboy took a 10-minute break to perform rope tricks resembling a Roy Rogers show, and for the first time for many rodeo observers, a female bull rider displayed her ability to stay on the back of a monstrous bull each night. ♦



Photo by David Alley | Contributor

Speedy Russom works for the Outlaw Hat Company and will be traveling with the rodeo throughout the year.

Work in your pajamas

Freelancing more than just relaxing at home on computer; pros, cons prevail in any career

By Haley Hughes
Staff Writer

Freelancing work – as a primary profession or when used to supplement another income – may seem like an ideal job to college graduates.

After all, who wouldn't like to set their own hours and work from home, lounging at the computer desk while still wearing pajamas from the night before? Essentially you can be your own boss, right?

Wrong. "Clients are always the ultimate boss," senior media design major Regina Stephens says.

She has worked for the Office of Minority Affairs and the American Economics Association as a freelance media designer for several years. She prefers working from home so she can still be in her pajamas while talking on the phone to clients.

Like every other job, freelancing has its pros and its cons. A freelancer could get stuck with a frustrating client or dry spells when no work is available. Freelancing does have its "feast and famine" periods as Ray Wong, professor of media design, calls them, because jobs

come in on an as-needed basis.

But Wong concedes freelancers take every job they can get.

"It's hard to turn down a job if you're a freelancer," he said. "You never know when you're going to get the next one."

And getting a job is not an easy task. A freelancer must be able to market him or herself, be proactive, do a lot of cold-calling and be prepared to present a portfolio of previous work, Wong said. Even then, the portfolio must be designed to suit the needs of the company who is looking to contract a freelancer.

"It is hard because different clients want different things," Stephens said.

Once a job is acquired, successful time management is instrumental in getting the project done.

"Your choice is, you have a deadline and the deadline is three or four days away, I can wait until the last day to do this or I can spread it out over the time," Wong said.

Stephens also admitted that time management is a big issue.

"You succeed or not based on your own efforts," she added.

However, an article written by

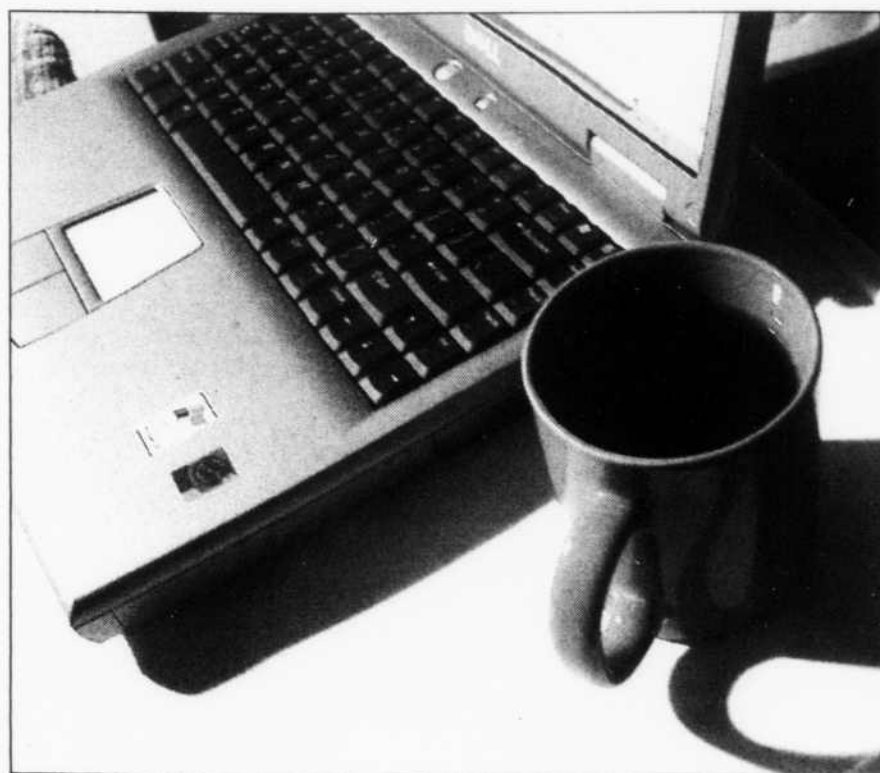


Photo provided by morguefile.com

Eric Garner featured on the Web site, www.allfreelancework.com, stresses that freelancers can use "non-doing" time to become more creative.

"Often we put a lot of busyness into a task only to realize later on that, if we'd stopped and thought about things, we could have found a smarter, quicker, or more produc-

tive solution."

When the job is finished, a freelancer must decide how much to charge the company. Factors such as an evaluation of the project as a whole, previous history and work experience and completion time must be added in to the calculation of the bill total. Oh, and there is the headache factor too, Wong said.

Stephens estimated \$50 to \$100 per hour is a reasonable range for freelancing work in Nashville these days. Do not worry too much about overcharging, future freelancers. Stephens is quick to add that if the quality of work is good, you are dependable and meet deadlines then the company that contracted you won't remember the price.

As a former freelance photographer who has done work for newspapers such as the *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*, Wong said freelancing requires a certain mentality, a certain mindset. You do work on your own time, it allows you to be flexible and you can control the pace.

"Now that I've been [freelancing] so often, it's routine and it's fun," Stephens said. ♦

★ Almost Horoscopes ★★☆☆

Aries (March 21 – April 19) – You bring excitement into people's lives, like you bring Arian Hugh Hefner, until they realize you're a big fat liar.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) – Not many people realize how easily wounded you are, you seem quite sissy.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) – People think you're interesting and amusing and like your sense of humor. Guess that's why your fellow Gemini Tim Allen was able to become famous, but just remember, George Bush the elder is one too.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) – People think you're always trying to fix other people's problems. Be like fellow Cancer Tom Cruise and take care of your own problems.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) – You seduce people and feed their fantasies with your fancy ideas. Guess that's why Madonna got ahead.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) – You're valued for your uncanny ability to get priorities straight. So was Virgo Queen Elizabeth I, which means you could be a monarch if you wanted.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) – You go along

with whatever anybody says because you want approval so bad. That explains the Yoko Ono effect on the Libra, John Lennon.

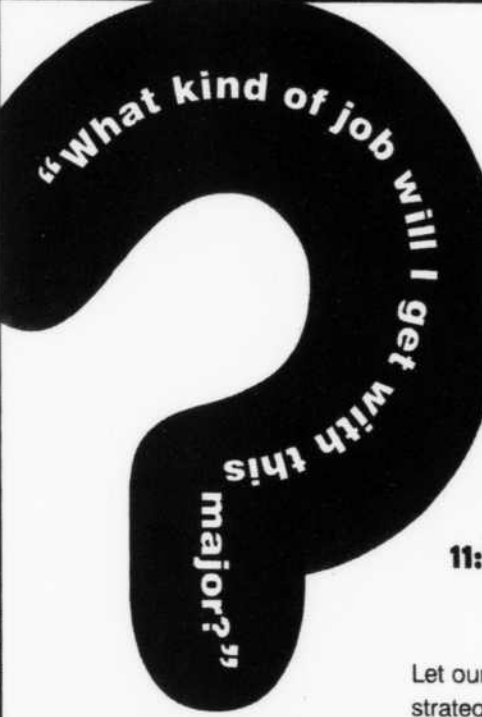
Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) – People fantasize about you as a lover because of your glowing sexuality. I wonder if people fantasize about Scorpio Hillary Rodham Clinton like that.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) – Everyone appreciates your willingness to do favors and volunteer help. Sagittarius Christina Aguilera doesn't seem to be one for charity though.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) – You're known for having a great sense of realism and your seen as an irresistible force. That's why everyone was so afraid of Capricorn Elvis' shaking pelvis back in the day.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) – People see you as a daredevil and as a bit eccentric. Aquarian Chris Rock is the man. You should be a daredevil like him.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) – Everyone thinks they have 100 percent of your attention even when they don't. Fellow Pisces Alexander Graham Bell invented the phone – just another advice to deceive people with. ♦



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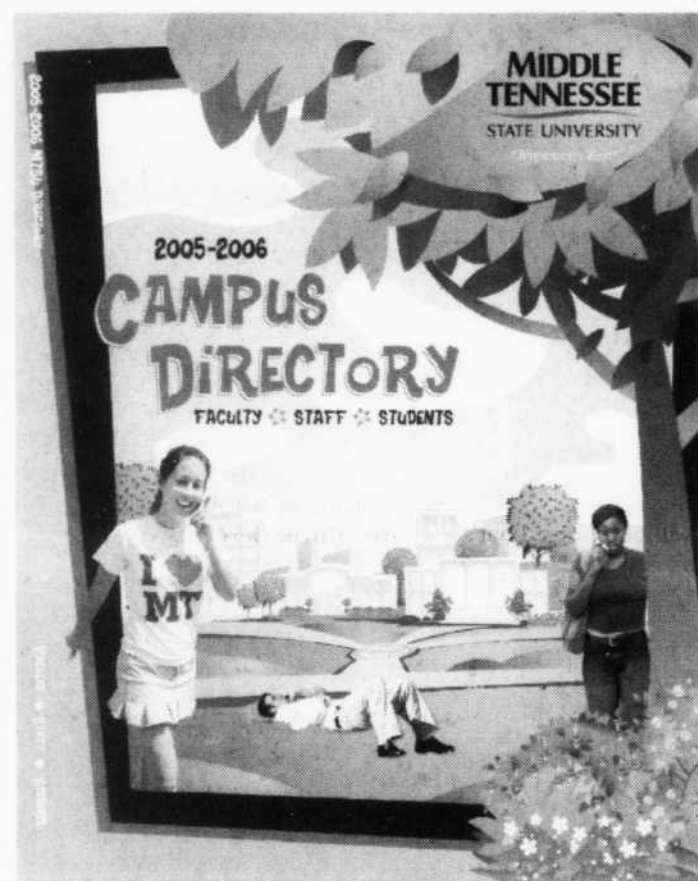
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Lady Raiders take on new coaches, challenges

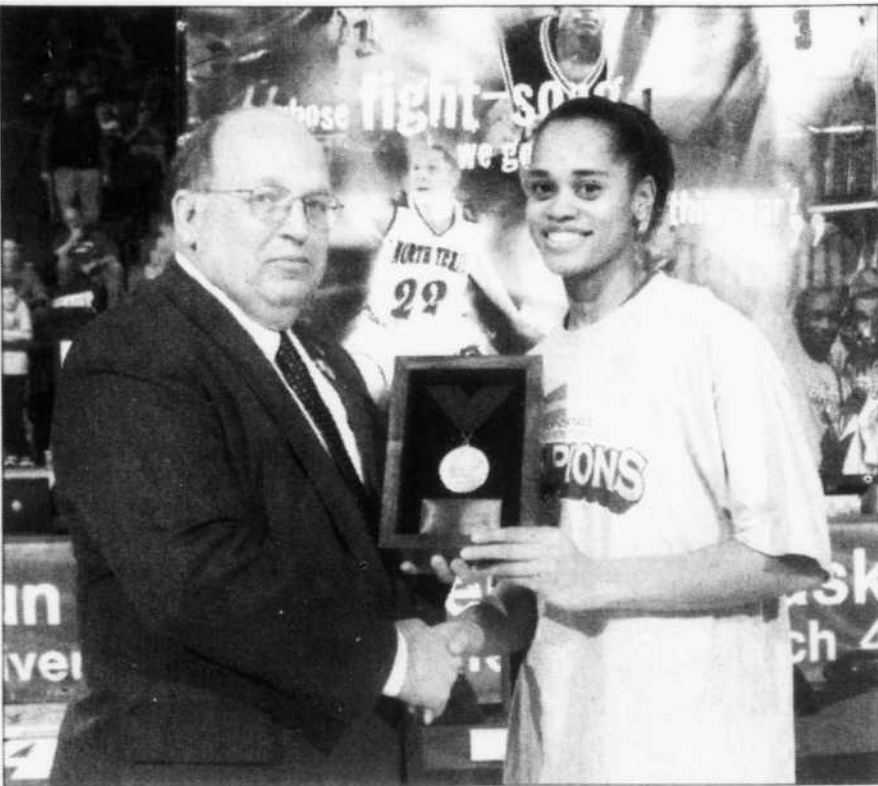


Photo provided by MT Media Relations
Tia Stovall receives an award from Sun Belt Commissioner Wright Waters. Stovall is one of the returning starters on the Lady Raiders squad.

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

Lady Raider basketball fans will see some new faces for the 2005-06 season including four coaches all in their first year at Middle Tennessee.

The Lady Raiders come into this season looking for it to end in pretty much the same way the past two years have: with a Sun Belt Conference Championship. However, they will have to travel that road of basketball glory with the help of new coaches, new recruits and, of course, MT basketball fans.

When former head coach Stephany Smith stepped down from her position, Director of Athletics Chris Massaro had a hard time finding a coach who could keep the momentum and stability of the Lady Raider basketball program alive.

He found that quality in a former Shelbyville high school basketball coach, Rick Insell who sent the Golden Eaglettes to 10 TSSAA Class

AAA State Championships. Insell is now the seventh women's basketball coach in Blue Raider history.

Insell wanted to bring in one of the top recruiting classes in the country. While competing with other Division I schools such as Tennessee and Vanderbilt, Insell managed to bring in the 10th best recruiting class in the country according to Blue Star report.

Insell will also be accompanied by three new assistant coaches, Myra Fishback, Allison Clark and Kevin McMillan all in the first year as assistant coaches at MT.

Insell recently signed scholarship agreements with guards Jackie Pickel and Chelsia Lymon and forwards Keke Stewart, Angelique Burts and



Insell

Brandi Brown.

Along with new faces, the fans will see top returning players including Tia Stovall, Krystle Horton and Chrissy Givens.

All three players were picked to the preseason All-SBC team.

Stovall, a senior forward, was picked first team while Horton and Givens were picked second team.

Stovall started all 33 games last season and led the team in field goal percentages with 52 percent. She also led in rebounds with 5.7 per game.

Horton, a junior forward, is ranked third on the team in points per game with 11.3 and led the team in offensive rebounds with 2.6 per game.

Insell told Media Relations that this season the team will be a "pressing basketball team on defense and force the issue."

The Lady Raiders kick off the season this Friday in Chattanooga, Tenn. against host Chattanooga. Tip off is set for 6 p.m. ♦

MT basketball looks to upcoming season with fresh faces

By Erika Davis
Staff Writer

With a 19-12 record for the 2004-2005 season, the men's blue raiders basketball team is looking forward to having another great season.

Head coach Kermit Davis joined the squad in 2002, with the team's winning approving since.

In Coach Davis' first year in Middle Tennessee the Blue Raiders were 16-14. During the 2003-2004 season, they improved to 17-12, with a 10-3 record at the Murphy Center. Coach Davis has taken over the men's basketball team after two consecutive losing seasons.

This year's team will be young. That's because six out of fifteen players on the roster are freshmen. Young players are going to be around for a while and build up the franchise.

"We wanted to go the high school route so we could build up a better foundation in the long term for the next 3, 4 or 5 years," says Coach Davis.

Having that many young players on the team means that they are inexperienced, but coach Davis isn't too concerned.

"This is the most inexperienced team that I've ever coached, but it will be a fun group to coach, because of how they listen, and they are trying to become a better practice team," says Davis.

For the freshmen, this will be a learning experience, coming in to play college basketball Davis hopes they can carry this team and set a good example for the future.

"The future of Middle Tennessee bas-

ketball is in the good of their hand. They have great character and are very receptive to coaching," Davis said regarding the incoming freshmen.

The team lost some key players from the 2004-2005 roster. Last year's seniors Mike Dean and Michael Cuffee both made the All-SBC honors.

Cuffee finished fifth in the Sun Belt Conference in rebounding, 14th in scoring, and 15th in free throw percentage.

Dean had a remarkable season as well, but half of his playing season was plagued by a toe injury. Despite the injury, Dean led the Blue Raiders in scoring and was able to make history for Middle Tennessee.

Dean was the fastest player for Middle Tennessee's history to reach 100 three pointers in a career. That record has placed him fifth on the career three point list. Also, the Blue Raiders were strong in rebounding in the Sun Belt Conference.

Middle Tennessee averaged 32.3 rebounds per game. That placed them

first in the conference with a plus 5.5 average. The Blue Raiders out-rebounded their opponents in 23 games.

In the 2004-2005 season, the Blue Raiders combined for 14 double doubles, in which Michael Cuffee and Steve Thomas led the way with five each. Both Mike Dean and Michael Cuffee's leadership roles will be missed. While both players have moved on to play basketball overseas, it is time for new players, including freshmen, to play their role.

"I wouldn't call this a rebuilding year, but more of a transitional year," Davis said regarding his expectations for this season.

The 2005-2006 season calls for a schedule that will have the Blue Raiders facing some top teams in the country.

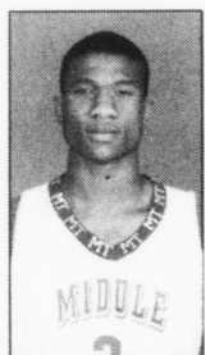
Middle Tennessee will face the newly arrived Big East team of Louisville on December 20th, and they will face Memphis on January 1st. The Tigers are ranked 12th in the country while the once Conference USA favorite Cardinals are ranked in the 8th spot.

So far, these two teams will be the only ranked opponents that Middle Tennessee will face this season.

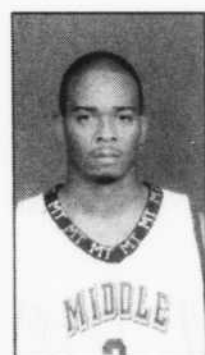
The team will open its season against Utah State on Monday night at the Murphy Center. Davis wants the student body to come out and support the team on opening night.

"We are really trying to have the largest opening day crowd. The student body makes our arena," Davis said.

With the fan support, the Blue Raiders hope to have another great season under their belts. ♦



Cuffee



Dean



Photo provided by MT Media Relations
Blue Raider head basketball coach Kermit Davis will lead the men's team into the upcoming season. MT will face such teams as Louisville and Cardinals this year.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
The Blue Raider volleyball team will face off against Sun Belt competition as the No. 2 seed in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament against Arkansas State Thursday.

Volleyball team earns No. 2 slot in upcoming tourney

Staff Reports

The Blue Raider volleyball team (26-3, 10-2 SBC) earned a No. 2 spot in the upcoming Sun Belt Conference tournament after a 3-0 win over South

Alabama (9-18, 2-11 SBC) in the Alumni Memorial Gym Sunday.

The win comes after a heartbreaking loss against Western Kentucky last Friday. With the win over South Alabama, Middle Tennessee notched a few firsts for the program. The

10 wins in the Sun Belt is the most in school history, and with the victory over the Jaguars, the Blue Raiders are assured a No. 2 seed in the upcoming Sun Belt Tournament, the highest seed the team has ever earned in the Sun Belt.

"It was our goal at the beginning of the season to play well and get a high seed in the tournament," said Head Coach Matt Peck. "We took care of business all season to get to where we are today, and now we have to play one

See Volleyball, page 8

Stewart holds first with one race left

Shifting Gears

Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist



With 35 of 36 races complete, Tony Stewart still leads the pack in the Chase for the Cup after the Checker Auto Parts 500 on Sunday.

The top five Cup contenders from last week kept their standings, with Jimmie Johnson staying in second place, Carl Edwards holding onto third, Greg Biffle keeping steady at fourth and Mark Martin maintaining his fifth-place standing.

Rookie Kyle Busch, who is not a contender in this year's Chase for the Cup, won Sunday's race at the Phoenix International Raceway. Kyle Busch started 15th in the race. Biffle, who started fourth, earned a second-place finish in Phoenix, putting him 102 points behind leader Stewart.

Jeff Gordon, also not a Cup contender this year,

came in third in Sunday's race. Gordon started the race in the 10th spot.

Stewart began the race in ninth and finished in fourth, holding on to his first-place standing with only one race separating him from the Nextel Cup. Stewart has 6,415 points overall.

Bobby Labonte finished Sunday's race in fifth place. Labonte started the Checker Auto Parts 500 in fifth place and is not a contender for the Cup this year.

Edwards started Sunday's race in the third spot and finished in sixth. Edwards is now 87 points behind Stewart with one race left.

Johnson finished seventh on Sunday, starting in second. Johnson is only 52 points behind Stewart heading into the last race of the season.

The last three in the top 10 are not Cup contenders this year. Robby Gordon started 12th and finished eighth in Sunday's race. Dale Jarrett finished ninth after starting 21st. Rounding out the top 10 was

See Shifting Gears, page 8

