

MTSU plane crashes at airport

Robin Wallace
Flash! Editor

On Tuesday morning, the sleepy subdivision of Bradford Place became the scene of an unusual kind of accident: a Cessna 152 style aircraft crashed and burst into flames immediately after its two passengers emerged from the wreck in nearly perfect health.

Following a normal take-off, MTSU student pilot, Katja Kuehner, and MTSU student-flight instructor Don McKelvey, 23, of East Northfield Boulevard, began experiencing mechanical difficulties for reasons not yet determined.

According to accounts provided by Lt. Clyde Adkinson of the Murfreesboro Police Department, with the loss of power, the aircraft was unable to gain altitude, clipping two sets of tree lines before it caught the power lines, and a third set of treetops.

Based on information gathered by Craig Roberts, aviation safety inspector of the Federal Aviation Administration, the combination of the power lines and the third set of treetops caused a tumbling action, resulting in the plane's fuselage landing inverted, while the tail of the aircraft remained tangled in the wires and tree limbs.

Around 10:45 a.m., 911 Dispatch received a call from eyewitness Mike McQueen of Rowland Way, a Murfreesboro Street Department employee, who was working along the road as the accident took place.

"When we got here most of it

was already on fire, and we spent over 30 minutes before we could get it out using foam," said Captain Jerry Goodwin of Fire Station No. 8.

While Fire Station No. 6 was the first to respond to the call, station No. 8 has the engine equipped with aqueous foam, a technical word for a basic soap compound that separates the fuel from the fire.

Once the firefighters extinguished the flames, part of the wing and the tail caught in the trees and wires was all of what remained of the tiny 1979 C-152, owned by MTSU and insured for \$26,000.

Yet, the loss of the aircraft is far from the minds of MTSU Aerospace faculty and students. Their attention is focused on the fact that the pilots were merely treated and released from Middle Tennessee Medical Center — Kuehner for a sore neck and McKelvey for cuts and abrasions on his right hand and leg.

"What made this so unusual was that it happened so close to the ground that there was no room to maneuver. The only thing to do was to follow emergency procedure: go straight ahead, keep the wings level and try to make a "normal" landing wherever possible," said Paul Craig, an MTSU professor and author of several aviation and flight safety books, who also is a FAA recognized flight instructor.

Considering the nature and location of the crash, approximately 1,000 yards beyond the

See Crash, 3



Photo by Wesley R. Bush | Staff Photographer

It took more than 30 minutes for firefighters to extinguish the flames with foam to cool the metal and the area surrounding the crash site to prevent sparks from reigniting.

'Gas Out 2000' expected to fail

John Oberleas
Contributor

Angela White
Editor in chief

Increasing gas prices have led to "Gas Out 2000," an e-mail campaign calling for the boycott on purchasing gasoline from April 7-9.

A similar campaign was held last year, which called for a boycott on April 30, 1999. While that campaign was linked to an anti-petroleum industry Web site, this year's e-mail was sent anonymously and is not linked to any organization. There is, however, an "official" Gas Out Web site, located at www.gasout.com.

Another e-mail began circulating in early March that said the dates for the "Gas Out" had changed to March 24-26, due to the announcement by oil ministers from Venezuela, Mexico and Saudi Arabia that oil-producing countries should boost oil production to decrease gas prices. This was expected to be discussed during a Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting March 27, which led to the decision by nine countries in OPEC to increase production by seven percent.

However, the administrators of the site, InnerSoft Technologies, deny the date change.

The e-mail also claims that last year's boycott was a success. Critics see this statement as misleading.

"Well, if the first Gas Out was so goddamned effective, I wish someone would explain to me why we have to do it again," said Dave Emery, administrator of About.com's Urban Legends and Folklore Web site.



Photo illustration by Joel Moore | Staff Photographer

Some consumers are expected to fill their tanks in preparation for "Gas Out 2000," when they will boycott gas for three days.

Mitchell Erby of the Tennessee Commission on Aging agreed that last year's Gas Out was not very effective.

The theory behind the campaign is that lowering the purchase of gasoline during an extended time period will ultimately lower prices.

However, energy experts predict little effect on prices, and economic experts have pointed out that a "Gas Out" would only be effective if the boycott consisted of avoiding the purchase of gasoline altogether — currently, the e-mail encourages people to fill up either before or after the dates, whether than not fill up at all.

According to Erby, consumers would not see a difference in gas prices "until after the vacation months are gone."

"Consumers won't stand for the high prices any longer," Erby

said. "The Gas Out will continue."

Assistant Manager Dan Burkley of the Mapco Express on North Tennessee Boulevard is not concerned about the Gas Out. "Most of our sales come from inside the store, not from gas."

The campaign has become international with Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico following suit. Australia and New Zealand's Gas Out, however, is scheduled from April 8-10, and Mexico's just on April 30.

According to an About.com poll, people are evenly split on whether the "Gas Out" is a good idea, with 47 percent each saying yes and no.

A poll on the "New Jersey Online" shows 84 percent of respondents in favor of the Gas Out. ■

Marshall wins SGA presidential office

Mary Anna Brown
SGA Reporter

The results for the 2000 Student Government Association (SGA) elections are finalized and a willing and eager body of elected officials are making plans for the upcoming fall semester.

John Marshall was elected SGA President over Chris Montague in the run-off election which took place March 20-22.

Marshall said he has high expectations for the upcoming semester.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve and represent the student body," Marshall said.

"I am also thrilled to be working with such a dedicated and hard working group of people.

"My first priority is to take a good look at MTSU's SGA and

make sure it is effectively serving all."

During the presidential debate held on March 2, Marshall stressed the importance of communication between the SGA and the student body.

"We want to serve as many students as we possibly can," Marshall said. "Our goal is to give students tangible proof that SGA is working in their favor such as programs and services catering specifically towards them."

All of the newly elected officials have stressed their availability to the student body.

"We all want the student body to know that they can contact us whenever they need to," Marshall said. "You can reach us on the Internet at our homepage, by calling the SGA office, writing us letters, see-

See SGA, 5

Suspects for 'road rage' incident make first court appearance

Jenny Cordle
News Editor

Four Nashville residents charged with assaulting and robbing an MTSU student March 22 made their first appearance at the Rutherford County General Sessions Court yesterday after posting bond, and were advised to get a defense attorney in order to make a plea for for the May 31 hearing.

Nashville resident Desmond Cambridge of 3677 Chesapeake Drive, the fourth suspect, turned himself into

the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department around 2:30 p.m. after almost a day of avoiding the police, said Public Safety officer Lieutenant Jim Fanguy.

According to the police department incident report, Nashville residents Desmond and his brother Travis Cambridge of 3677 Chesapeake Drive, Preston Beddingfield of 3660 Chesapeake Drive and William Douglas of 3320 Parkway Drive "allegedly proceeded to 'jump' him and began kicking

See Rage, 3

The following list of SGA representatives is complete with the exception of three undeclared senators which the SGA is actively seeking:

- President**
John Marshall
- Speaker of the Senate**
Josh Pounders
- Speaker of the House**
Matthew Walker
- Election Commissioner**
Julia Graves
- Senators**
School for Basic and Applied Science
Ginny Barton
Travis Blunt
Samantha Marburger
Michael Shirley
Sarah Mac Wilson
- School of Business**
Mike Defere
Russell Henderson
Selena Hutchenson
Jennifer Jones
- School of Education**
Jonathon Bancroft
Mary Elizabeth Farrar
Jeremy Helton
Emmy Hickman
Richard Montgomery
- School of Liberal Arts**
Jamie Burns
Jason Michael
Tracy Johnson
Adam Tune
- School of Mass Communication**
Jocelyn Blue
Kelley Dodd
David Fletcher
Susan Wilson
- Undeclared**
Kelly Stuard
- Graduate Studies**
Jeremy Baker
Amanda Griffin
Nick Presbelos



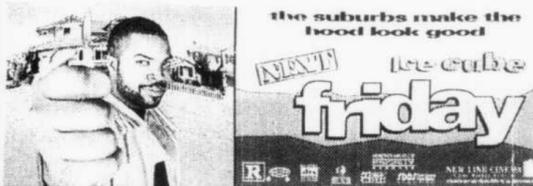
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Special Events



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KUC Theater

KUC Theater



Thursday - April 6
7 & 9:30pm Admission only \$2.00
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Next Week:

**Princess
Mononoke**

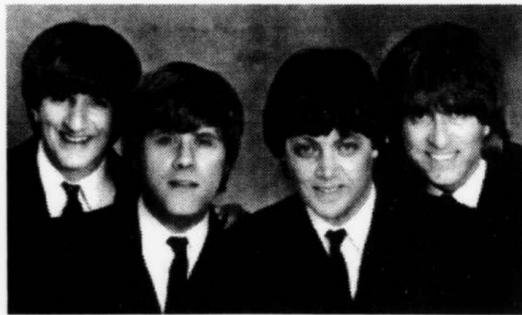


April 10/11/12/13
Mon/Tues/Wed/Thur
7 & 9:30 p.m.
Admission only \$2.00

MTSU Special Events presents

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Thursday
April 27
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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.

April 1-30

The Can Do Crew will be collecting used eyeglasses and lenses for the Lions Club. Donation boxes will be placed in Phillips Bookstore, Cope Administration Building, Room 217, Murphy Center Lobby and the Holmes Building. For more information, contact Karen Milstead at 898-5390.

April 3-7

The MTSU Goodwill Donation Drive will be held from 8-5 p.m. on the Knoll at the KUC. Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc. is a not for profit agency. The goal of Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee is to help people with disabilities and other barriers to employment prepare for and find jobs in the community. This goal is accomplished through the sale of donated items. Acceptable donations include usable clothing, furniture, books, computer equipment, housewares, pictures, shoes and electronics.

April 3-18

Registration for Campus Recreation sand volleyball will be available for a \$10 entry fee. A captain's meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the 18th and play will begin the following day.

April 9-16

Alpha Phi Alpha will be sponsoring the following events for "Alpha Week 2000:" 4/9, Brotherhood Bonding at 10:06 a.m., Brotherood Brunch at 2:06 p.m. and Gospel Explosion at 7:06 p.m. 4/10, Faculty Appreciation at 11:06 a.m., Ice Cream and Greek Paraphernalia Sale at 12:06 p.m., Community Service at 3:06 p.m. and Whistle While You Twerk Karaoke at 9:06 p.m. 4/11, Go-To-High-School, Go-To-College at 11:06 a.m., Greek Mixer at 8:06 p.m. and Alpha Set at 10:06 p.m. 4/12, Entrepreneurial Expo at 10:06 a.m., Temporary Tattoos at 11:06 a.m., "Get Ya Mind Right" Midday party Cake and Roses at 12:06 p.m., Comedy Show at 7:06 p.m. and After Party at 10:06 p.m. 4/13, Fitness/Animal Awareness at 11:06 a.m., Alpha Raffle at 12:06 p.m., Female Review at 7:06 p.m. and "Splash Down" at 10:06 p.m. 4/14, Cotton Candy at 11:06 a.m., Field Day at

12:06 p.m., AlphaNic 2000 at 5:06 p.m. and "House Party II" with the Sig Eps at 10:06 p.m. 4/15, Lunch with the Bruh's at 11:06 a.m., Basketball with Sigma Nu and Alpha Omicron Pi at 1:06 p.m. and Pajama Party at 10:06 p.m. (free with PJs.)

April 13

The Students of Objectivism present "An Introduction to Objectivism" by Andrew Berstein in the BAS, State Farm Lecture Hall at 4 p.m. Free for students and faculty and staff, \$5 for everyone else. <http://www.mtso2000.tripod.com>

April 14

Pi Sigma Epsilon is hosting a sales and marketing career fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the first, second and third floors of the BAS. Several area companies will be recruiting MTSU students for full-time careers and summer internships. For more information, call Dr. Scott Inks at 898-2436.

April 15

Student Athletic Trainers' Association will be hosting a charity 5K/1mile fun run/walk, benefiting the American Lung Association at 7:30 a.m. The cost will be \$15 for early registration and \$20 on the day of the race. Registration forms can be picked up at the Murphy Center Athletic Training Room or AMG, Room 217. For more information, e-mail Katiecahorrocks@edge.net.

April 17-25

Registration for the Campus Recreation Indoor Hockey Tourney will be available for a \$10 entree fee. There will be a captain's meeting at 7:30 on the 24th and play will begin on the following day. Contact Karolyn Braun at 898-2104 for more information.

April 25

The department of chemistry is hosting a Golden Goggles Lecture titled "Clean Fuel Through Solar Photochemistry at 7 p.m. in DSB, Room 100. Call 898-8251 for additional information.

April 27

The lune Anderson Women's Center is

sponsoring a free legal clinic from 7-9 p.m. The clinic is available to all MTSU students, faculty and staff. Appointments to speak with an attorney can be made by calling Candi Russell at 898-2193. Space is limited.

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, Robm 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 from 1:15 to 4:30 p.m. The group is also holding meetings Thursdays titled, "Looking Forward," a support group for survivors of sexual abuse, at the same time and location. For more information, call Mary Glantz at 898-5725. All contacts are confidential.

The Student Pagan Organization holds meetings every Thursday 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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Crash: rarity in 'boro'

Continued from 1

runway and 100 feet short of the Bradford Place subdivision on Dejarnette Lane, damages and injuries could have been much worse for both the pilots, as well as the bystanders and structures nearby.

This is the second accident that has happened at Murfreesboro Airport this fiscal year. The first was a fatal accident involving a visiting aircraft, which occurred in December at one of the airport's bi-monthly fly-in breakfasts.

While two serious accidents in a span of four months may make it seem like planes are just dropping from the skies over Murfreesboro, that couldn't be further from the truth.

Chad Gehrke, Murfreesboro Airport manager, attested to the fact that on average one accident per year takes place at the city's airfield that has 67,000 annual operations, the number of times an aircraft takes off or lands. However, unlike the recent accidents, the most serious of these "yearly" incidents are a malfunctioned landing gear, which results in a plane's prop being "nosed" into the ground.

Although a rarity at Murfreesboro Airport, Tuesday's accident is quite unusual throughout the entire field of aviation. (While the exact cause is still being investigated, the premature belief is that the cause was due to mechanical failure.)

"They are few and far between true mechanical failures and if you walk away from them, you made a good landing, which is a comical way of putting it," said Rick Martz supervisor of the air-worthiness unit at Nashville Flight Standard District office.

Gehrke also stated that Murfreesboro Airport's annual operations makes it one of the busiest 'general aviation' airports in the state, largely due to the MTSU's flight program which is based there.

Because aviation accidents are so scarce they tend to attract a lot of attention, which includes this one. Still, Craig believes that this accident will not tarnish the program's reputation, rather it may help, particularly in building the careers of the two pilots involved.

Craig said that student pilot Kuehner — based on statistics — is "the safest pilot going. But she's very conscientious and understands the situation, which will make her an even better pilot because of the experience."

Craig said that an employer will be glad to know that in an emergency McKelvey, as the pilot-in-command, kept his cool and did the right thing.

"It showed that our training for emergencies that may or may not ever happen in a pilot's lifetime really paid off, and those two pilots went unhurt because of the training that they had — that's got to be the silver lining of this whole thing."



Photo by Wesley R. Bush | Staff Photographer

Crews retrieve the tail of the crashed C-152 out the trees and powerlines, after the power was turned off.

Rage: Suspects arrested

Continued from 1

and punching" the student, while Douglas allegedly stole his CD case after the student "flipped" them off because Trevis allegedly ran a stop sign in front of Cummings Hall.

The four men fled the incident. However, Desmond allegedly got into the backseat of freshman Teonqua Crawford's car, "which was circling the area attempting to evade the police," according to the report.

The student then drove to Middle Tennessee Medical Center, where he was treated for a broken facial bone and multiple bruises, contusions and abrasions. He was released later that night.

The fleeing men were stopped by Murfreesboro Police Department officers and were later arrested by Public Safety officers.

Crawford was called in for questioning and later released.

However, public safety officer Lieutenant Jim Fanguy said Crawford could be considered an accessory after the fact.

"She was told if we did have enough evidence, she would be charged as an accessory to crime for hiding an alleged perpetrator," said Fanguy.

Originally, the perpetrators were to be charged with criminal trespass, but Fanguy said lack of sufficient evidence gave the judicial commissioner no reason to include that in the warrant.

"Criminal trespass requires that a person is told to leave property," said Fanguy. "If they refuse, then they are trespassing. Those men had been here without that warning. Therefore, we didn't have the elements of that crime."

The CD case was returned to the victim. One CD estimated at \$10 was reportedly missing.

Fanguy says as far as he knows, the victim is back in school.



Photo by Wesley R. Bush | Staff Photographer

Crews remove wreckage from site early Tuesday afternoon.

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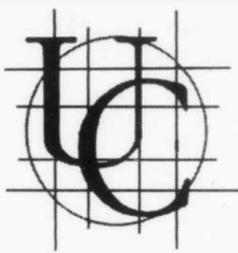
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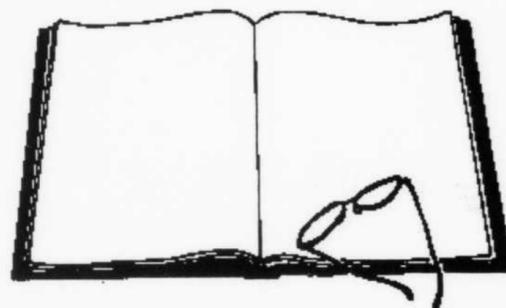
- have a minimum 2.7 cumulative grade point average (must be exact or better)
- be at least a second-year undergraduate student with a minimum of 24 credit hours
- have some media experience (on or off campus work applies, in any print or broadcast medium.)

To Apply:

- submit an application
- a 1,000-2,000 word essay on "The Death Penalty: Right or Wrong"
- submit a copy of your transcript
- submit three to five samples of your work, six copies of each (short tapes of broadcasts are accepted. Clips must be professionally presented.)

Applications will be available in JUB Room 306. Three finalists will be selected from the field of applicants and will be interviewed at a date to be announced. You will be notified if you are to be interviewed.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT FALL 2000 SCHEDULE BOOK CORRECTION



Beginning Fall 2000

**History 366
 Tennessee History
 will be
 History 266**

NEW COURSE SELECTIONS & CALL NUMBERS:

Section	Day	Time	Instructor	Room	NEW Call Number
266-01	MWF	8:05-8:55am	Colvin, F	PH-219	06030
266-02	W	3:00-5:40pm	Hoffschwelle, M	PH-219	06031
266-03	TR	8:00-9:15am	Colvin, F	PH-219	06032
266-04	TR	9:30-10:45am	Hoffschwelle, M	PH-219	06033
266-05	TR	11:00-12:15pm	Hoffschwelle, M	PH-219	06034
266-06	T	6:00-8:40pm	STAFF	PH-219	06035
266-07	S	8:00-10:40am	STAFF	PH-215	06036

Members of U. of New Hampshire PKA frat face criminal charges

Christine Tatum
TMS Campus

DURHAM, N.H. (TMS) - Nine members of the University of New Hampshire's Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity — or 20 percent of its members — are facing criminal charges.

Six members were arrested March 4 in connection with what police say was a really bad case of mistaken identity. They're scheduled for an indictment hearing next month.

The story investigators have pieced together goes like this: Two guys get into a scuffle at an off-campus party.

One goes back to his fraternity house, PKA, and relays

details of the encounter. Five guys decide to join him for the sole purposes of seeking retribution. Convinced their target is in a particular apartment, they break in and attack the four men sleeping there — beating one severely and stuffing another in a closet.

When they realize none of the people in their apartment is the person they're after, they immediately head one unit over.

After breaking in, they attack two other sleeping men, smashing one's head with a barstool.

Shortly after they realize that they still don't have their man — in fact, police say, he lives in another housing complex all together — they are arrested and charged with burglary and vari-

ous assault charges.

"After this, I'd really like to see their SAT scores," said Chief David Kurz of the Durham, N.H., police department.

The charges come on the heels of another alleged beating, which happened last month and involved three other PKA members, including the chapter's president.

Those members are accused of beating a non-student so severely that he lost four teeth and needed re-constructive surgery, Kurz said.

The university is conducting its own investigations of both cases. University officials have said all the students involved — and the fraternity chapter itself — face possible expulsion. ■

Student taunts cops into arresting him

TMS Campus

MADISON, Wis. (TMS) — It's almost as if some people just beg to be arrested.

Students at the University of Wisconsin are still laughing about Andrew D. Paulson, who was recently celebrating his 21st birthday in a local bar when he bumped into a couple of police officers on the lookout for underage drinkers.

According to police reports, Paulson was awfully excited to be of legal drinking age — so excited that he waved his ID under officers' noses, urging them to inspect it.

When that failed to get their attention, he started insisting — very loudly — that they buy him shots.

And when that didn't seem to generate interest, he started waving a beer bottle in their faces.

After repeatedly asking Paulson to back away and pipe down, officers decided to escort him out of the bar.

Paulson resisted, shouted that he was a pre-law student and that his father was an attorney, tossed in a few obscenities for good measure — and found himself arrested and charged with obstructing a peace officer.

He was released from the local jail and is awaiting a court hearing. ■

SGA: Marshall seeking "proactive SGA"

Continued from 1

ing us on campus and stopping by the SGA office.

"Our ears are always open to ideas and concerns the students may have."

Marshall also stated that the

desire of the newly elected officials is to have a "proactive SGA."

"I will take seriously all students' concerns and will be happy to address them," Marshall said. "We want real solutions no matter what the

issues may be."

There will be an SGA inauguration ceremony held on April 11 at 2:30 p.m. in the BAS Sun Trust room for the President, Speaker of the Senate, Speaker of the House and Election Commissioner. ■

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, TN

Thursday, April 6, 2000

SIDELINES ■

Thinking Globally

by Luke Waack, staff columnist

Disconnected

Ending relationships can lead to post break-up depression

A relationship is a connection. Everything has connections. It does not matter if you are an animal or a flower or a rock -- you're connected.

Until recently, I was connected with a smart thoughtful young lady.

Right now I am experiencing the wonder of P-BUD, otherwise known as post break-up depression.

Yes, that's right, P-BUD. You cannot escape it. Everybody gets it, even Rambo. Do you remember in Rambo II when Sly ties that piece of red sly around his head, puts on that jade necklace and defeats the whole Vietnamese Army single-handed?

That was P-BUD. The P-BUD will do tricks to your mind.

That's why Rambo thought he could do what the whole United States Military could not. P-BUD put that idea there.

Thoughts wander in and out of my mind all day long. Weird thoughts... thoughts like, "I wonder how the economy will shift in the next few years."

I am not now, nor have I ever been a stockbroker. The most attention I have ever paid to the Dow Jones was when I saw that movie with Eddie Murphy and Dan Akroyd, "Trading Places."

But I break up with my girlfriend, and all of a sudden I'm analyzing the state of global economics.

Who slipped the LSD into my poppart?

This P-BUD is some good stuff. I'm going to start dealing. You'll see me on the street corner, "Hey man, you need any P? I gotta fresh batch right here."

You want some depression? Guess what? George W. Bush is going to be the next president of the United States.

How's that for depressing? Wal-Mart will probably run a John Quincy Adams sale.

What does that say about a country when both father and son become presidents within twelve years? Are we that hard up for leaders? Where are our heroes?

Bill Bradley, basketball legend, was in the race for a little while. But he had to drop out because he could not get the

support Gore could get.

I have nothing against Al Gore, but he is not the man I see being our president.

America wants a leader, someone they can follow. Where are we gonna follow Al Gore?

He claims to have invented the Internet, for crying out loud. He must have got some of the P-BUD. Tipper must have told him, "Al, I really like you, but let's just be friends."

Depression sucks -- we all know it. Your mind's messed up. Your body becomes tired. You sleep a lot. You develop a habit for Ben and Jerry's ice cream. It starts off slow, just a pint here and there. Before you know it the third shift cashier at Kroger's knows you by name. Your roommates start calling you "Rocky Road."

This sucks. But the worst part has got to be the second-guessing. I have a hard time making decisions.

I will have an idea that seems good at first. Like watching a movie. I'll pick out a movie, be on my way to the VCR, maybe pop some popcorn or something, and just as I'm ready to push the play button, a little voice says, "You should really go to bed, Luke."

What? Where did that come from?

Go to bed nothin', I'm trying to watch a movie.

I push play. The credits appear, one by one. "Luke, Luke, Go to bed!"

I look over my shoulder. Ain't nobody there.

But the voice persists, and before I know it I am laying in bed trying to go to sleep while this other voice asks me, "Why in the hell am I not watching a movie?"

When did I get a curfew? I have been living on my own for four years, and all of a sudden I got a curfew.

When did this happen?

What's the deal?

Am I crazy?

Don't answer that.

But seriously folks -- break-up is hard to do.

I can only imagine the horrors the Jackson Five went through when they broke up.

Oh wait, I don't have to imagine, all I gotta do is take a look at Michael. Poor kid. ■

From the Staff Spring's here - are you ready?

Spring is here, and even though there are cold days, we guys sure appreciate the girls who like to take advantage of the sun by wearing less clothes. I've seen a lot of nice "tan lines" this week.

Even as interesting as those are, I've also found it interesting to see the number of students of both genders laying in Peck Forest cracking the books. It's nice to know now that spring break is over, more students are bearing down and focusing on their academics.

There's little more than four weeks left in the spring semester,

which is good and bad. For those students who have kept up with their studies on a regular basis, this last month is the home stretch, and all they have to do is kick back and ride the wave to finals. For the rest of us, this is the month where we have to schedule every minute of every day to get the grade we want.

If you have even a moderately good student, it's not too late to end the semester on a high note. All too often, students burn out and make resolutions for the next semester on how we "plan" to improve ourselves. Take it from me

— if you think this way, you'll end up in school a lot longer than you plan. When you think back on past semesters, all you'll feel is regret and disappointment.

My advice is this: suck it up, decrease your alcohol consumption by at least 25 percent and show yourself what you're made of. Don't do it for others — do it for you. The next thing you know, it'll be mid-May, and maybe you'll be able to find some time to relax and show some more skin.

James Evans
Managing Editor

Census takes a minute, lasts a decade

David Carleton
Contributor

It's time for students to stand up and be counted.

Actually, you can stand or sit, but it is essential that you be counted. It is census time, and being counted matters to you personally, matters to Murfreesboro and matters to Tennessee.

The Constitution requires that every ten years the Census Bureau take a complete count of every resident in the United States. Some of our residents are much easier to count than others. Those of us who own a house and live in one community for years are easy.

But, other folks present a real challenge: those on active duty in the military, migrant workers, the homeless and you.

College students are one of the

hardest groups to count. In part, this is because students simply move around a lot, and, in part, because college students have a very low response rate.

You can't change the fact that at this stage of your life you are highly mobile, but you can make sure that you respond. You can make sure you are counted.

In March, the Census Bureau began mailing out Census 2000 questionnaires to your dorm rooms, sorority and fraternity houses, and off-campus homes. All you have to do is answer a few confidential questions and mail the form back. Even the postage is covered.

It takes only a few minutes, but the impact is huge.

As a college student, the census matters to you right now. In papers and reports and in class, you use census data all the time, even if you don't realize it.

Census data and statistical profiles run through a great deal of work in political science, sociology, geography, demography and a wide range of scientific studies.

This is information you can and do use. A complete and accurate census improves your education.

And, for those of you about to graduate and enter the job market, employers use census data to understand their next generation of workers which will come from and what they are like. Further, they use the data to help decide where to build factories, stores and office complexes.

In other words, they use the census to decide where and when to create new jobs -- jobs you want.

By doing this self-interest, being counted in the census is good civics, good citizenship.

A complete and accurate census count has a real impact on Murfreesboro and Tennessee as a whole. The census affects both money and representation; it affects what the community will look like.

When the federal government distributes the money to states and cities for housing assistance, for road construction and transportation, for education, for health care, for recreational facilities, and for much, much more, it does so on the basis of the census.

When the state of Tennessee distributes money to local governments for K-12 education, for parks, for roads and infrastructure, and for much, much more, it does so on the basis of the census.

If MTSU students go uncounted, Murfreesboro and Tennessee will lose monies they are due -- monies needed to improve the community. ■

Journalists undeserving of bad reputation

Robin Wallace
Flash! Editor

A couple months ago I watched a film on the Berlin Wall. Although the documentary was filled with really interesting accounts, there was just one that burned, a lasting impression into my memory.

After months of secret correspondence, a woman and her child crossed from East Berlin into West Berlin by going under a wall through a tunnel constructed by her relatives on the side of freedom. She said that as she came out of the tunnel, she was immediately surrounded by the arms of her family as well as the flashing bulbs of the press' cameras. Seeing her family seemed like a dream, yet she remembered thinking that she must be in the West for "where else would the awful press be intruding into pri-

ate lives — it was ghastly!"

This comment, which was followed by my mom's statement, "See what I mean? The press are not well-liked at all, which includes you as a journalist," was disturbing.

Half bothered and doubting this general animosity expressed in the woman's comment and in my mother's affirmation, I believed this was only directed toward muckraking reporters and the notorious paparazzi of yellow journalism.

As a young journalist, my experience of reporting ranges from soft news through sports, so covering Tuesday's plane crash was my first real "hard news" story. Through covering it, I found that I was no exception to the type of disdain held by the masses about the press as expressed by the woman in Berlin.

I learned that my extensive

background and involvement in aviation didn't amount to a hill of beans when people learned that I was a reporter covering the incident. Instead of seeing an aviation enthusiast wanting to report a fair story, they saw a blood-thirsty journalist wanting to get a sensational story.

Although I was particular to be sensitive and accommodating to the situation, the atmosphere of the room turned cold and the expression of both officials and citizens turned wary at the mention of my "title."

Some continued to be helpful and polite in answering my questions, while others preferred to remain distant with no comments. It made me wonder — if the field of aviation was shutting me out as a journalist an individual family would I, just as a journalist, be received in a setting that I had no clue what the nor-

mal every day ins and outs were about?

Perhaps, it is the cold shoulder and tight-lipped brush-off that drive some journalists to desperate measures in getting those essential facts. Maybe these extremes give journalists the rap as being creeps and the reason why journalism is not regarded as a respectable profession. But then again, which came first, the chicken or the egg?

I pray that in the future, people won't perceive me as a threat or a yellow journalist, but rather as a detective trying to reconstruct the event in words by piecing together and finding out the 5 w's and the h. A veteran in journalism might read this and say that I am still green and starry-eyed. Yet, as journalism seeks to change the world by exposing the truth, I am seeking to change the perceptions the world has of journalism. ■

SIDELINES

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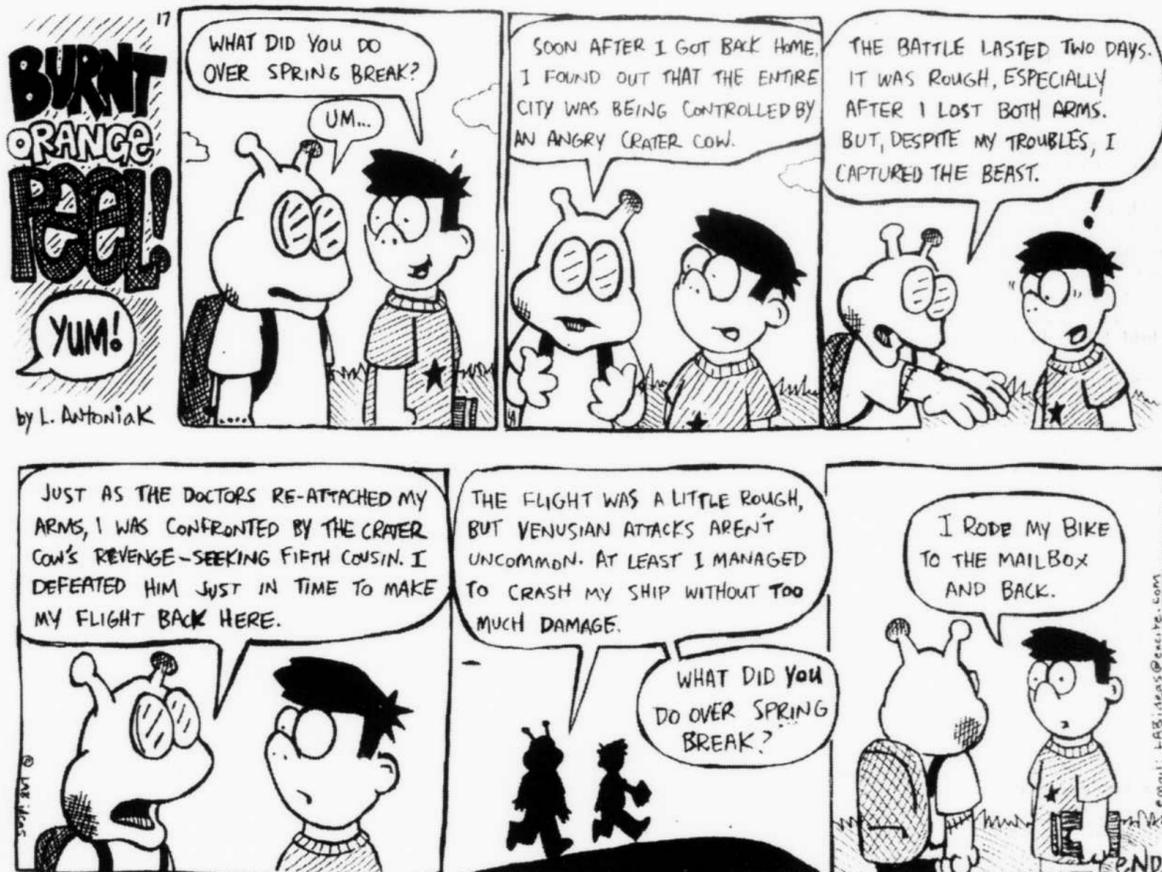
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FEATURES

Murfreesboro, TN

Thursday, April 6, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 7

International Culture Week celebrates tenth anniversary with banquet, entertainers

Buffet Menu

Main Dishes

Tamale Pie (Mexican)
Caucasian Chicken (Middle Eastern)
Penne in Cream Sauce with Sausage (Italy)

Breads

Irish Soda Bread (Ireland)
Sage Focaccia (Italy)
Loaf, Roll & Baguette Bread

Vegetables

Chinese Stir Fry veggies (China)
Potato, Celery Root and Cheddar Gratin (England)
Ratatouille (France)

Desserts

Tiramisu (Italy)
Chocolate Hone Mousse (France)
Ghent Cheesecake (Belgium)

Salads

Sesame Broccoli Salad (Asia)
Pasta and Pesto Salad (Mediterranean)
Asian Style Cole Slaw (Asia)

Gourmet Coffees and Iced Tea

Staff Reports

Saturday marks the end of International Culture week, and MTSU's International Programs is holding a banquet featuring several entertainers from around campus.

The banquet will be held Saturday, April 8 at 4:30 p.m. in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room.

For the last ten years International Programs has aimed to present the best international entertainment to the MTSU campus and the community constituency so that area residents would have some exposure to the culture and lifestyles of the diverse ethnic groups hosted by the university.

This year being the 10th anniversary, the event will showcase the best of entertainers from the campus. There will be a group of 12 unique and accomplished Ukrainian dancers coming from Wisconsin, 3-6 Latino musicians who have performed with some of the known choir singers, and also our Indian and Vietnamese student dancers. Before dinner and the performances begin, there will be cultural exhibits in the lobby. And, of course, there will be tantalizing assortment of ethnic foods for you to enjoy as much as you want.

The International Culture Week Banquet is one of the most colorful events on campus. The JUB lobby and the Tennessee room are decorated with flags from around the globe and with diverse cultural items. It is a formal setting so semi-formal wear would be the norm.

Please call the office for tickets at 898-2238; seating will be limited to 400 people only. There will be no ticket sales at the door but prepaid tickets can be picked up at the door. ■

Just browsing



Students gathered in the warm sun outside the Keathley University Center Wednesday afternoon to peddle books, incense and jewelry.

Photo by James Evans | Staff Photographer

'Erin Brockovich' is real person dealing with real problems

Eric Adler
Knight-Ridder Tribune

Talk to Frank Pattee, the real-life dad of the real-life Erin Brockovich, and he'll tell you nearly everything in the Julie Roberts' movie "Erin Brockovich" is true.

His daughter did wear flashy clothes.

She is twice depicted. And, as the movie depicts, she did, without any legal training, sign 600 plaintiffs in a case against the California utility PE&G, leading to the largest direct-action settlement in U.S. history: \$333 million.

But moviegoers also might be interested to know that not everything in the movie is true.

"Years ago I was Miss Wichita," says Roberts, playing Brockovich, "I thought it meant I was gonna do something important with my life."

Sorry, but Brockovich wasn't Miss Wichita. In California, she was named Miss Pacific Coast. As for Wichita, well, Brockovich (who grew up as Erin Pattee) is actually from Lawrence, Kan.

She's a 1978 graduate of Lawrence High School and, for a very short time, attended Kansas State University.

"It was one semester. She majored in partying," said her dad, a former industrial engineer who retired after 20 years with the U.S. Department of Transportation. Brockovich's mom, B.J. Pattee, was the onetime head of the University of Kansas Alumni Association's magazine.

Although both Brockovich's parents graduated from KANSAS, their daughter had other interests.

"It was pretty obvious," Pattee said. "Based on her grades and what was going on, college wasn't for her."

Brockovich headed to Dallas in 1979 to attend Miss Wade's Fashion

Merchandising School and graduated with an associate's degree.

"From there she went to the West Coast," her dad said. "Her older brother was living out there and working there. She was living with him."

Brockovich is the youngest of four children. Her older brother, Frank Jr., 52, lives in Topeka, Kan., working as a distributor for Oroweat Baking Co. Her older sister, Jodie Knight, 50, is a former Joffrey ballerina, teaching and living on a horse ranch in Silver City, N.M. Her brother, Tom, died of an asthma attack in 1994 at age 38.

While in California, Brockovich met her first husband, restaurant manager Shawn Brown. They married in 1982 and had two children, Matthew, 17, and Katie, 15.

"She was a housemother," Pattee said. "He was on the West Coast a short time and then they transferred him to Reno."

The couple divorced in 1987. Brockovich met Steve Brockovich in 1989 in a Reno stockbroker's office. They married, but the kids didn't accept him. Just as the divorce was finalized in 1990, Brockovich discovered she was pregnant with her third child, Elizabeth, now 9.

The movie depiction of Brockovich's life picks up soon after. In Reno, she has a car accident (the movie shows L.A.). After moving to L.A., she hires the law firm of Masry & Vittoe in 1991 to settle her accident claims. (In the movie she received no settlement; in life she did.)

"She was going through some tough times," Pattee said. "Three kids. No child support. No alimony of any kind. She's on her own and how is she going to survive?"

The movie, of course, tells how lawyer Ed Masry (played by Albert Finney) hires Brockovich as a clerical



Julia Roberts portrays Erin Brockovich, a real-life person on which the movie is based.

cal worker.

"She was looking for a job, and they felt sorry for her," Pattee said.

The rest is movie and legal history. At Masry & Vittoe, Brockovich helped prove that a rash of illnesses, from nosebleeds to cancer, plaguing the tiny town of Hinkley, Calif., was the result of water and soil contaminated with chromium VI used by the local Pacific Electric & Gas plant. She rallies the townfolk. A lawsuit is filed.

Brockovich, who turns 40 in June, went from earning \$800 a month as a clerk, to receiving a \$2 million bonus for her work on the case.

Hollywood got hold of Brockovich's story after co-executive producer Carla Santos Shamburg first heard it while at the office of a chiropractor whom Brockovich also sees.

In March, Brockovich

married 34-year-old actor Eric Ellis. At Masry & Vittoe, she's involved in several new toxic contamination cases.

Although more successful than she could have ever imagined, her 15-hour workdays have taken a toll on the family. Brockovich last year sent both Matthew and Katie to boarding schools after she discovered they were taking drugs and had been chronically absent from school. The children reportedly are doing better.

"I don't know what it was, a stroke of the Lord or something when she started that job," Pattee said. "She was never an outstanding student, but she was a smart-enough gal. She got started on this case, apparently — she must have a steel-trap mind. Talk to her today, you'd think she had a chemical engineer's degree." ■

MTSU students to perform, instruct at local elementary school in Dekalb County

Staff Reports

Some MTSU dance students are going to get the chance to preach what they practice.

Lisa Lewis, HPERS instructor, will take several MTSU students to West School in Dekalb County Friday, April 7.

These students will teach rhythmic dance activities to children in grades kindergarten through eighth. Each student will teach one class, with the other students serving as teaching assistants.

"The students selected which grades they preferred to teach, developed a lesson plan and will instruct that class," Lewis said. "These students are physical education majors and future teachers."

Students participating include Marty

Adkison, senior; Troy Cane, senior; Stacy LaRue, senior; Jill Byrom, senior; Alicia Burroughs, junior; Kellessa Caruthers, senior; Richard DiGianfelice, senior; Timothy Earle, senior; Keith Hatchell, senior; Jonathan Kimbro, senior; Ronald McKnight, junior; Carla Northcutt, senior; Cathy Powers, senior; Trisha Studdard, graduate student; and Jason Spray, junior.

Lewis will bring another set of students at 1:30 p.m., Friday, April 14 at West School to perform for the students there. Students performing are enrolled in beginning tap and jazz classes at MTSU.

"The MTSU students will gain experience in performing and provide an opportunity for surrounding counties to see our dance program demonstrated," Lewis said. ■

Soprano, pianist to combine talents for operatic concert

Staff Reports

Operatic soprano Dina Cancryn, accompanied by pianist Kris Carlisle of California State University, will present an 8 p.m. concert Friday, April 7 in Wright Music Hall.

Performing songs composed by Handel, Strauss, Berlioz and Rossini, Cancryn has said she "enjoys celebrating the contributions of various composers of art song literature."

During the show she will perform "Let the Bright Seraphim," from "Samson" by George Frederick Handel, French selections by Hector Berlioz from "Les Nuits D'ete," and Italian selections from Rossini's "Il barbiere di Siviglia (The Barber Seville)."

Also, English selections by William Grant Still and three arrangements of spiritual and sacred songs titled "His Name, So Sweet," "Deep River" and "Witness" will be performed.

"Dina has performed Mozart Requiem Soprano solos and the Poulenc Gloria with the Middle Tennessee Choral Society and did a splendid job in both," said Raphael Bundage, MTSU choral professor.

"Her lyric coloratura soprano was very impressive in her rendition of Donizetti's Lucia, which she performed with the Nashville Opera. Dina Cancryn is a very dynamic and engaging performer."

A native of Long Island, N.Y., Cancryn is a member of MTSU's music faculty. She earned a bachelor of music degree

from Eastman School of Music and a master of music degree from Indiana University.

Her awards include the district winner and regional finalist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions and she also was the recipient of the Elizabeth Stansel Goza Award.

As a soloist, she has been featured regularly with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra in performances of "The Impresario," "Requiem," Handel's "Messiah," Poulenc's "Gloria" and the Brahms "Requiem."

Her opera credits include the title role in Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor," with the Nashville Opera; Madame Goldentrill in Mozart's "The Impresario;" and Gilda in Verdi's "Rigoletto," with the Aspen Opera Theater.

Cancryn recently made her European debut as Susanna in Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro" in Rome.

Accompanied by Carlisle is a national and international competition winner, whose contest participation has included the Los Angeles Liszt Competition and the Rome Festival Competition, the latter of which he performed with the Rome Festival Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Fritz Maraffi.

Carlisle is one of the founding members of the Pacific Chamber Artists and was recently named music director for the Rancho Palos Verdes Artist Recital Series. Currently, he is a member of the music faculty at CSU, San Bernardino.

The concert is free and open to the public. ■

Research says finger length, sexual orientation connected

Stacey Burling
Knight-Ridder Tribune

In a move that will undoubtedly have people around the world comparing fingers and searching for rulers, a California researcher has concluded that there is a connection between finger length and sexual orientation.

In women, men are a lot more complicated. We'll get to them later.

This new study is the latest in a relatively recent type of research examining finger length — actually the ratio of the lengths of the index and ring fingers — and behavior. Previous studies have looked at fertility, left-handedness, musical ability, and skill at English "footballing."

The differences are subtle, and researchers use measuring tools far more precise than you are likely to have in the house.

There is also a lot of overlap between categories of people.

"This is not a test to be used on your friends and neighbors," Marc Breedlove, a psychology professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who led the study on finger length and sexual orientation, said in a statement.

The idea behind this new area of research is that exposure to androgens — male hormones such as testosterone — in the womb influences finger

length. Most women's index and ring fingers on the right hand are about the same length.

In men, the ring finger is, on average, longer than the index finger.

Breedlove found that lesbians' hands were more likely than those of heterosexual women to follow the male pattern: their ring fingers were more likely to be longer than their index fingers.

This, Breedlove concluded, is a sign that "at least some lesbians were exposed to greater levels of fetal androgen than heterosexual women."

The ratio of the lengths of these two fingers is determined before birth, said John Manning, a University of Liverpool biologist who three years ago was the first scientist to begin exploring the behavioral implications of this marker for androgen exposure.

The latest study, published today in the British journal *Nature*, will clearly add fuel to the highly emotional debate about the origins of sexual behavior.

Robert Trivers, an evolutionary biologist at Rutgers University who also has studied finger-length ratios, said that a graduate student at Rutgers got similar results in a study of lesbian and heterosexual women.

The average ratios for the two groups were different, he said, but there was considerable overlap between lesbians and straight women.

When they looked at men, members

of Breedlove's team found no significant relationship between finger ratios and sexual orientation.

But they did find something interesting: The more older brothers a man had, the smaller his ratio.

That means men with more older brothers had longer ring fingers in relation to their index fingers, a sign that they had been exposed to more androgens.

Breedlove believes that androgen exposure increases with each male fetus a woman conceives.

Previous research has shown that the more older brothers a man has, the greater his chances of being gay. In the California study, the gay men had considerably more older brothers than the straight men.

Breedlove also found that first-born sons, gay or straight, had the same average index-to-ring-finger ratio.

From all this, Breedlove concluded two things: One, factors other than fetal hormones contribute to sexual orientation.

Two, and this is the more surprising finding, some homosexual men may have been exposed to greater-than-normal levels of prenatal androgen.

High prenatal androgen translates into higher male hormones throughout life, said Manning, the Liverpool biologist.

In his paper, Breedlove said there was other evidence that at least some

homosexual men are "hyper masculine," which would be consistent with their having been exposed to extra male hormones.

Studies have shown, he said, that gay men have more sexual partners than heterosexual men in their lifetimes, that they have more circulating male hormones, and that they have larger genitals.

Still, Breedlove's findings mean nothing when it comes to individual people.

"There are plenty of gay men who are first-borns, many straight men with older brothers and many women whose fingers give no clue to their sexual orientation," Breedlove said.

Trivers, at Rutgers, said he found the evidence for "hyper masculinity" in the Breedlove study to be "very weak." In particular, he said, the fact that gay men have more sexual partners is simply a reflection that men are what he called the "nondiscriminating sex." Straight men would have more partners if women would let them, he said.

Trivers said there were unpublished studies in the works that contradict Breedlove's conclusions about men.

A problem with the Breedlove study, said Manning, the Liverpool biologist, is that it did not control for ethnicity. The California researchers measured the fingers of 720 adults who attended street fairs in San Francisco, an ethnically diverse area.

While men consistently have lower index-to-ring-finger ratios — that means they have longer ring fingers — than women, the average ratios vary considerably among ethnic groups.

In England, for example, the ratio for women is 1. That means the two fingers are the same length. In men, it's 0.98. The ratios are slightly lower in Germany and Hungary.

In India, the ratio for women is 0.97 for women and 0.96 for men.

Other ethnic groups tend to have considerably longer ring fingers, for both men and women. Jamaicans and Finns have the longest ring fingers Manning has found.

Their ratios are 0.93 for women and 0.92 for men.

In case you are wondering how the measuring is done, you go from fingertip to the last crease at the palm. Manning uses calipers accurate to .01 mm. To get the ratio, you divide the length of the index finger by the length of the ring finger.

Manning said previous research has found associations between lower ratios — that means longer ring fingers — and increased depression, left-handedness, male fertility, and exceptional ability at soccer and music.

Manning found that men who played in a symphony orchestra had "very, very long ring fingers, and their position in the orchestra was related to that."



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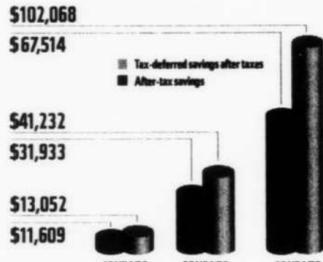
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SPORTS

Murfreesboro, TN

Thursday, April 6, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 9

Wide receivers working hard to improve

Recruits adding depth to talented staff

Michael Edwards
Sports Co-Editor

The back end of the "Air Raiders" will be deeper and faster than last year, while providing some deep play capabilities.

A year ago, quarterback Wes Cunniff had a field day throwing to his mates on the outside. Kendall Newson, Tyrone Calico, and Hansford Johnson headline a receiving group that hauled in 40 or more catches last season, which is a Middle Tennessee record.

"They can't live off of what they've done. They've got to make plays if we're going to be successful," head coach Andy McCollum said. "They've got to get to that next level to be great receivers. For us to be successful, they've got to be great receivers."

"They had a good year, and they broke a lot of records but the biggest record is the wins and losses," wide receiver coach Steve Bird said. "If this group is going to be all they can be, they are going to make wins and losses happen, and they are going to put the ball in the end-zone. You can have all the records in the world, I want

wins."

Calico caught 65 total passes last year and averaged over 10 yards per catch while scoring five touchdowns. Calico is a long target. He stands about 6-foot-4 and weighs over 200 pounds. His size improved over the offseason, along with his speed.

"With coach (Kacy Rogers) you ain't got no choice, but to get stronger and faster," Calico said. "We feel like the weight room, you ain't like a burden to come over here, you feel like you want to come over here."

Kendall Newson led the Raiders air assault last year with 69 caught passes and averaged over 13 yards per catch. He also scored five touchdowns. On the single season records list, Newson ranks first in receptions, second in receiving yards and tied for ninth in touchdowns. Calico and Newson will probably move to the top of the all-time receptions list after this season. Newson is 42 away from the top, while Calico is 46 shy.

The third record breaker for the Blue Raiders is Hansford Johnson. Last year, Johnson caught 47 passes for an average of 11 yards per catch. He averaged about 47 yards receiving



The Blue Raiders will be loaded with wide receivers.

per game.

The fourth receiver of the group that saw significant playing time is Craft. He is the only other Blue Raider receiver that averaged at least one reception per game. However, this spring the coaches say he has to improve on his play.

"Rashaad Craft has got to come on, if he plans on helping this football team, because he is not consistent enough right now," McCollum said.

Another Raider receiver who did not see much playing time last year is Nick Payne. However, this year the coaches believe that he can be vital to the offense especially with his performance in the off season and spring.

"Nick Payne is the most improved player we've got right now," Bird said. "If he keeps doing what he's going to do, somebody's going to lose their job."

The Raiders have a wide open offense, and use many receivers. The coaching staff feels that they all need to be play makers for the Raiders to become a successful football team.

At the beginning of the spring McCollum said that every position is up for grabs. No one has a starting job, yet. In the fall, things for the receivers will get a little bit tighter when two other receivers enter Middle Tennessee with their blazing speed.

"In fall camp, there ain't no ones; everyone is fighting for a position," Calico said.

The top recruit by the Blue Raiders was Kerry Wright. He was ranked 21 in the nation among high school receivers. His 4.4 40 yard dash speed should enable the Raiders to throw deep passes more often.

Another receiver recruit is Hasheem Joyner out of Georgia. Joyner will be one of the fastest Blue Raiders in the fall. He possesses 4.3 speed in the 40 yard dash.

However, Bird knows that he won't know what they can do until they get to the University.

The off season for the Blue Raiders was good and the coaches were pleased for the most part with their performance, but disappointment sums up the Raider spring.

"Right now, in spring ball, I'm not sure they have really stepped up the way they should," Bird said. "They've got the talent, and they've showed signs of making big plays, but right now they are just dropping to many balls."

"I'm disappointed at this point, not that they are not doing good, but they should do better," McCollum said. "It's not just them we've got to get the ball to them too."

The Middle Tennessee Blue Raider spring football game is April 15. It will precede by a barbecue contest. ■

Former Raider makes American League Debut

Ryan Simmons
Sports Information

It's been a long and winding road, but Jason Maxwell has ended up in the major leagues on the Opening Day Roster of the Minnesota Twins.

Maxwell made his debut as the Twins fell to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 7-0 before 43,830 fans in the Metrodome in Minneapolis. Maxwell entered the game as a defensive replacement at second base and did not record an at bat.

However, the important thing for Maxwell was being there.

"It has been a long road back for me, and I took the time to do a lot of thinking," said Maxwell.

Maxwell starred as a shortstop for Steve Peterson and the Blue Raiders prior to being drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the 74th round in 1993. That is the beginning of Maxwell's journey to big league baseball.

Maxwell spent six years in the Cubs organization and, in September of 1998, became the lowest drafted player in Cubs history to ever reach the major leagues when he was called up from the AAA Iowa Cubs. Maxwell's major league debut came on September 1.

On September 11 he hit his first big league homer against Bill Pulsipher of the Milwaukee Brewers. Making the moment even more special was that several Blue Raider faithful were at

Wrigley Field that day, making a stop to see Maxwell play as they were en route to the Middle Tennessee football game at the University of Illinois.

Up to this point everything sounds like a fairy tale, but here is the twist to the story.

A mistake by the Cubs front office made Maxwell a free agent at the end of the 1998 season. When the organization tried to option Maxwell back to the minors, he was out of contract options. The Cubs placed Maxwell on waivers, where he was claimed by the Detroit Tigers prior to the 1999 season.

Maxwell labored in the Tigers organization for a year, spending the 1999 season in Toledo, the Tigers AAA affiliate. September came and went without a late-season callup, leaving Maxwell with some questions.

Maxwell said, "I understood that baseball was a business before, but now I have a very clear understanding of what that part of baseball is all about."

Maxwell's collegiate head coach feels the same way.

"It just goes to show that if you have the talent to play in the big leagues then you'll find a place to play," said Peterson.

"Jason found out how the business end of the big leagues works."

On November 15, 1999, Maxwell inked a free agent contract with the Twins and was invited to spring training with the big league club. Despite

struggling at the plate in the Grapefruit League, Maxwell was named to the Twins' Opening Day Roster and made the trip north to open the season.

Maxwell's situation with the Twins has certainly brightened his outlook on his career. Even Peterson could tell a difference in his approach to spring training.

"I could tell that he felt happy and confident that the Twins were going to give him an opportunity. He knew he had a chance, although it was a slim chance, to make the club."

"He used that opportunity to show the Twins that he could help them."

Maxwell believes that he is a good fit with the Twins, an organization that has elected to go with younger talent in building a club that many baseball pundits believe can be molded into a playoff contender in a few seasons.

"I have enjoyed being with the Twins because there's not a lot of egos here. It's just a bunch of guys that want to go out and play hard everyday and win games."

Even though some fans might have been caught off guard in seeing Maxwell's name in the boxscore from last night's game, Maxwell said that he wasn't shocked at all.

"I wasn't really surprised that I got in the game, Maxwell said. "I know what my role is going to be here and that's part of it." ■

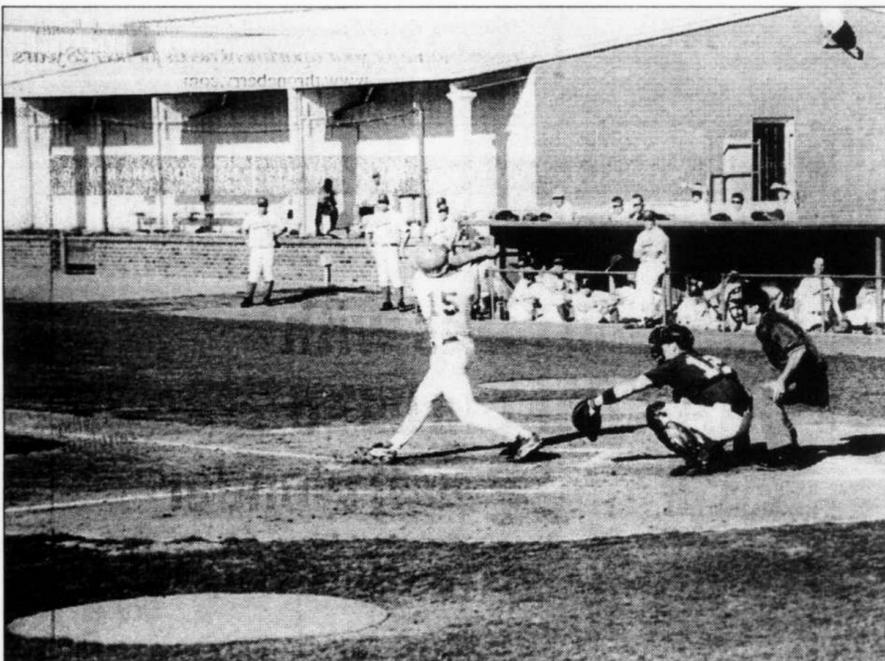


Photo by Grant Fletcher | Staff Photographer

The Blue Raiders managed only four hits against the Vols.

Vols squeak past Raiders in pitching duel

Josh Ezzell
Sports Co-Editor

A pitching duel occurred Tuesday night at Reese Smith field against the Tennessee Vols. Unfortunately for the Blue Raider baseball team, they came out on the losing end 2-1.

"Tonight was a big win for us," Tennessee catcher John Massey said. "It wasn't the way we wanted to come out and swing the bat, but it still goes down in the win column. We'll take it, and we're pleased with it."

Jamie Powers picked up the loss for the Blue Raiders. He pitched seven innings, giving up two runs, one earned - on two hits. He struck out six and walked one.

"Coach (Peterson) told me before the game to challenge them with some fastballs."

Powers said. "They're a team that likes to swing early in the count, which they did. Luckily, they swing pretty early and we got out of some innings with that."

Jamie Bennett pitched a complete game for the Vols, allowing one run on four hits. He struck out seven and walked one.

"I'm extremely proud of the way Powers pitched," MTSU head coach Steve Peterson said. "I had a gut feeling that he was going to pitch good. He wanted to come out and establish his fastball early. He pitched very good and stayed ahead of the count most of the time."

"The trouble is he faced one of college baseball's best in Jamie Bennett. Bennett and Powers locked horns - it was a dual match. They're both good pitchers. You have to credit both of them. It's a shame somebody had to lose."

Neither offense produced a run early on.

The Blue Raiders scored their lone run in the fifth inning when Brandon Johnson knocked in Justin Links - who got things going with a double - with a two-out single.

"I'm glad to see Justin Links get that double," Peterson said. "He really had to bat that at bat. He showing that he can hit good pitching."

"Brandon Johnson is a great surprise for us. He's got a lot of salt. His base hit wasn't impressive, but he got enough of the ball to get the run in."

The Blue Raiders stranded three runners and made two base-running errors - rightfielder Bryan Peck got caught stealing in the second inning, and centerfielder Jeff Parsons got picked off trying to steal second

See Baseball, 10

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Raider golf team finishes second in Amoco tournament

Sports Information

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. - Middle Tennessee fought less than desirable weather conditions to tie for second place at the 2000 Amoco Ultimate-Young Oil Intercollegiate. The tournament was scheduled for 54 holes, but due to heavy rains on Monday the event was shortened to 18 holes today.

The Blue Raiders fired a 303 on the par 72 Silver Lakes Golf Course to finish in a tie with host Jacksonville State. Both teams were four shots behind tournament winner Samford. Only one golfer, medalist Steve LeBrun from Florida Atlantic, shot under par, and only four were par or better.

"The weather really made it difficult to score today," head coach Johnny Moore said. "The

course was wet and soggy, and to top things off we had to deal with wind gusts of up to 30 miles per hour. But our guys have had a knack all year of coming up big in bad weather situations and today was no different."

Leading the way for Middle Tennessee was sophomore J.R. Wade and senior Richard Spangler. Both shot three over par 75 to finish in a tie for 12th, while senior Brett Alexander turned in a 76 to place in a tie for 16th. Matt McWilliams tied for 25th with a 77 and Whit Turnbow had an 81 to tie for 60th.

The Blue Raiders will now have off until the Ohio Valley Conference Championship on April 24-26. The winner of the OVC earns an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships.

Team Scores:

1. Samford (299)
2. Middle Tennessee (303)
3. Jacksonville State (303)
4. Valdosta State (304)
5. Florida Atlantic (304)
6. Troy State (307)
7. Columbus State (309)
8. Elon College (309)
9. Morehead State (310)
10. Tennessee Tech (312)
11. High Point (315)
12. Austin Peay (315)
13. Belmont (315)
14. Mercer (316)
15. Francis Marion (317)
16. Jacksonville University (317)
17. Tennessee State (338)

Middle Tennessee Scores:

- J.R. Wade (112th/75),
Richard Spangler (112th/75)
Brett Alexander (116th/76)
Matt McWilliams (125th/77)
Whit Turnbow (160th/81) ■

Announcements

Softball Time Change

The game time for Thursday's softball doubleheader against Tennessee-Martin has been changed to 2:00 p.m. The games were originally scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m.

Second Annual Women's Clinic Set for April 8

The Middle Tennessee football program will host the second annual Andy McCollum Football Clinic for Women on April 8. The event will take place in the Floyd Stadium Gameday Room on campus from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM for a cost of only \$25.

The Blue Raider coaches will go over in detail the offense, defense, and kicking game, while also giving an overview of the weight lifting and training programs. Following the lecture there will be a question and answer session with the Middle Tennessee position coaches. Participants will also be issued a drill book.

For those women who sign up early, the Blue Raiders will also include a free tee-shirt.

For more information, please contact Jan in the Middle Tennessee football office at 615-898-2570. ■

Baseball: Vols squeak past

Continued from 9

in the third inning. They only had one baserunner after the fifth inning.

Powers had a no-hitter until the seventh inning, when the Raiders lost the lead.

"In the sixth inning Powers got some balls up," Peterson said. "He was starting to get a little tired."

Designated hitter Jeff Christensen broke up the no-hitter. Rightfielder Justin Parker followed with a double. Christensen advanced to third.

Christensen scored on an error by shortstop Wes Whitehead and Parker advanced to third. First basemen Ryan Moffett then laid down a bunt, which scored Parker.

"In defense of Wes Whitehead, I wouldn't trade him for anybody," Peterson said while talking about Whitehead's error in the seventh inning. "He probably won't say this, but I think he got screened a little bit by the runner and he probably lost his concentration. He makes that play 10 out of 10 times usually."

"The safety squeeze play doesn't surprise me. We were pretty much going to let them do it. We were going to try to make them swing the bat."

With the loss, the Blue Raiders drop to 16-14 overall, while Tennessee improves to 27-10. The Blue Raiders will have another chance to improve that record at SEMO this weekend. ■

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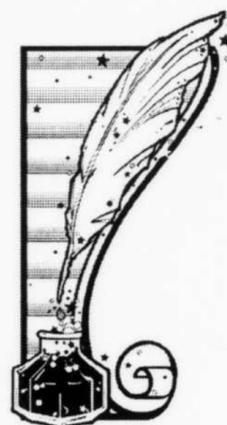
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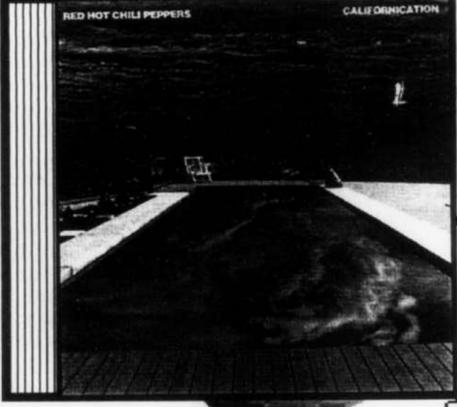
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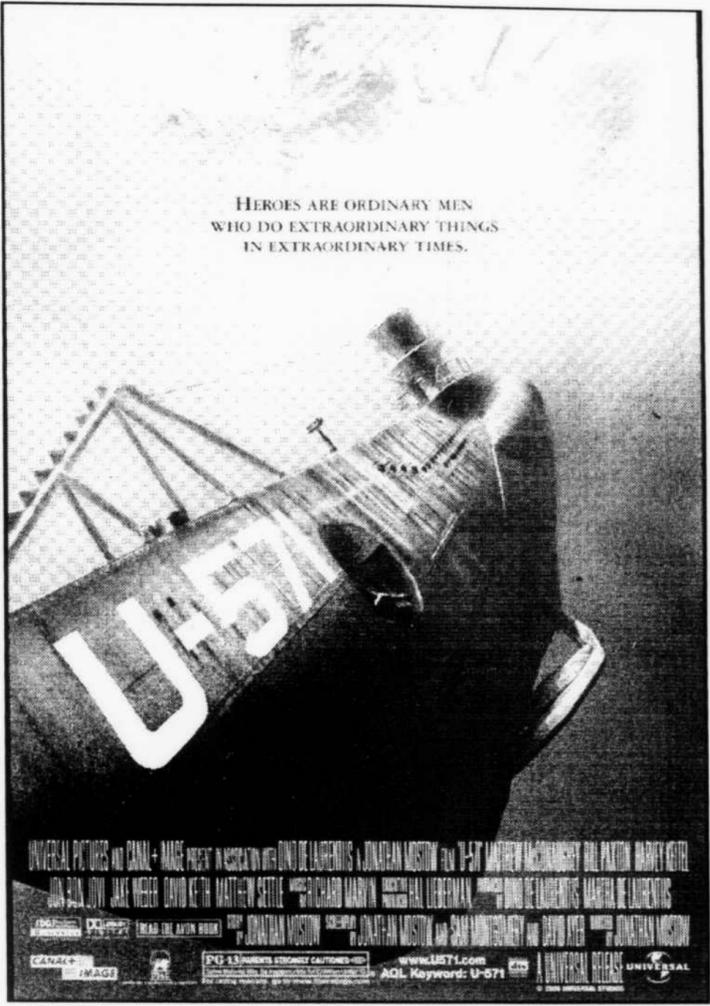
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- Must deliver papers on/off campus 6 - 8 am on publication days
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