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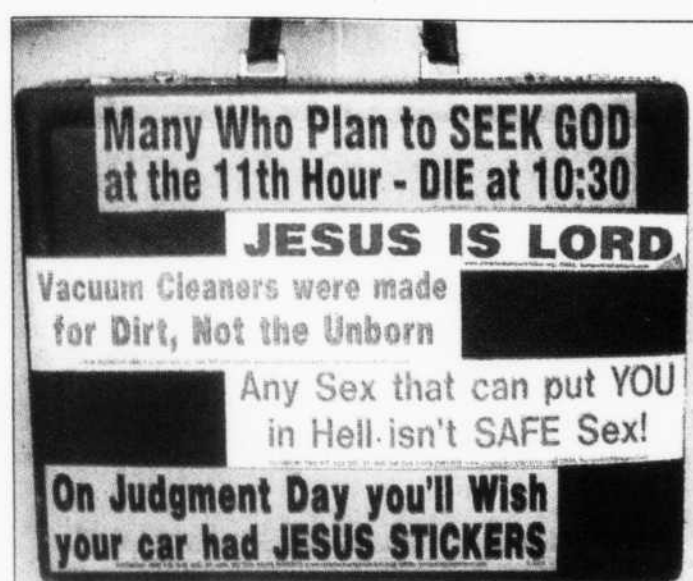
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SIDELINES



Ministers from the Texas-based Open Air Outreach left the KUC Knoll Wednesday afternoon after university officials informed them of their need for a permit to speak publicly. The three preachers had assembled a crowd of about 50 students.

School officials pass judgement



By Andy Harper
Campus Life Editor

An unscheduled visit by three preachers resulted in university officials requesting the ministry to end their sermon and leave from the Keathley University Center Knoll.

Miles Lewis, Eli Brayley and Evan Schaible visited MTSU Wednesday in representation of their Texas-based ministry, Open Air Outreach.

"We've been on many different public campuses that are always open forums," Brayley said. "We've never had problems using our First Amendment rights but we chose to abide by university

regulations. We might take the issue up in court later."

After preaching and attracting a small crowd, a young woman approached the trio and claimed that she had reserved the Knoll and that the group would need a permit if they wanted to stay.

"I believe that this is unconstitutional," Lewis said. "Free speech should be spontaneous and anonymous."

Gene Fitch, vice president for Student Affairs, was asked to speak to the group, and after informing the ministry of university policies, the group concluded their sermon and left.

"They had gathered a group of about 50 or so people," Fitch said.

Texas-based evangelists booted from campus for preaching on knoll without permission

"I explained our policies and asked them if they would like to reschedule a time to reserve space on the Knoll. However, I did inform them that the Knoll was reserved for the day and asked them to leave, and they complied peacefully."

The argument raised by the ministry with Fitch was whether by asking them to leave he was violating their First Amendment rights.

"It is not a violation of the First Amendment," Fitch said. "In fact, in a recent court case, a university's policies were upheld and allowed the university to restrict any event to a reasonable time,

See Judgment, 3

Administrator considering move to Arkansas State U.

By Amy D'Andrea
Contributing Writer

Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost, is being considered as one of six finalists to become the new Chancellor of Arkansas State University's Jonesboro campus.

Gebert has been interviewed for the position of chancellor at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

Kaylene Gebert has been Middle Tennessee State University's executive vice president since March of 2003.

Gebert explains that she has not been offered the position officially or unofficially, she has simply applied for the position and that they are still interviewing other candidates for the position. She is, however, very interested in the opportunity.

If the job is offered to and accepted by Gebert, it will not be her first time move to another school for a different position.

Gebert was the vice president of Academic Affairs at the University of North Alabama, and also held administrative position at the State University of North Alabama. Middle Tennessee State University was not her first job

within Tennessee she worked as an administrator at the State University and Community College System of Tennessee as assistant vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. After that, she moved to Pennsylvania where she Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs at the State System of Higher Education.

Gebert considers this job to be a wonderful opportunity. Regardless, she still feels saddened by the thought of leaving Middle Tennessee.

"MTSU has really become my home," she said. "I love it here. I love MTSU. I love my home. I have great friends."

As reluctant as Gebert may be about leaving Murfreesboro, she appreciates the time she spent here and the things that she learned. She also feels as though she has made her contribution to MTSU in several ways.

MTSU is currently waiting on a review from the Southern Association of Colleges.

According to McPhee, Gebert has been played an invaluable at MTSU with her skills in managing faculty.

"She has demonstrated skills in finding, recruiting, and retaining

talented faculty, which is the core of any university. She is a well-earned asset to the leadership team at MTSU," McPhee said.

Gebert's leadership skill has also been an asset as the school has grown over the years.

"[She] is an outstanding leader who has excelled in academic and administrative roles at several comprehensive and research universities. She is intimately familiar with the Tennessee Board of Regents system, having served as assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, and worked on several system-wide programs," McPhee said.

According to McPhee one of Gebert's major contributions to the improvement in education at MTSU has been the push for technology to improve work environment for students and faculty.

"She also understands the importance of technology in higher education and was one of the leaders at the TBR in working with distance education," said McPhee.

Gebert said that right now she does not know when she will be announced who Jonesboro is the new candidate.



Photo by Andy Harper |
Campus Life Editor

(Above) Liz Estes, senior philosophy and English major, and Stefanie Cobb, recording industry 2006 alumna, were on the KUC Knoll Wednesday to promote homecoming elections. Estes is running for Homecoming Queen. "We are celebrating school spirit with a punk rock cheerleading dance," Estes said. The cheer rally was sponsored by WMFS, where Estes is a disc jockey. "Homecoming should be creative and school spirit is shown in different ways," Estes said. "The point is always to have fun."

(Right) Many other Homecoming candidates staged campaigning ventures on the Knoll, as well, passing out flyers and soliciting votes.



God Save The Queens

Regents emphasize international studies

By Blake Boldt
Staff Writer

The Tennessee Board of Regents is emphasizing the importance of international study in colleges and universities across the region, and a new program has been developed to improve their efforts.

The board has created a consortium that will help develop international education in college and university curriculums across the state. This group was recently formed in order to increase the activity within the exchange program.

Allan Edwards, the president of Pellissippi State Technical Community College and member of the consortium said that, "[We] deal with two things: the



Grimes

and one of the main objectives is to increase participation in the exchange program.

exchange of students and faculty and the development of an international curriculum."

According to Edwards, the current international education plans of all institutions have been examined to give some insight into the direction of the new program. Chaired by Regent Frank Barnett, the consortium focused on improving the level of international education within the member schools,

"Many colleges had an interest, but didn't know how to go about it," Edwards said.

Barnett, who has served as a member on numerous boards concerned with international relations, is hopeful about the creation of this new group.

"The biggest thing we've done in the last 18 months is to create awareness in the need for international education," Barnett said.

He notes that many institutions have organizations in place, but that the lack of coordination has allowed for limited success.

"In essence, many of the universities across the country have done more than Tennessee has," Barnett said.

The Board of Regents, concerned about students'

lack of knowledge about the global society, decided to hire a leader to manage these efforts.

Approximately 25 applicants were interviewed, with Edwards agreeing to organize the selection process. Milton Grimes, the executive director of the Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS), was selected to serve as the leader of international exchange programs.

"We feel so fortunate to have him come and help us with this program," Edwards said.

Barnett agreed, noting Grimes' efforts as a scholar, writer and lecturer as a true indicator of future success.

See International, 3

Drug convictions cost students financial aid

By Erika Davis
Staff Writer

A federal law preventing college students convicted of drug violation may keep students convicted of past drug violations from receiving financial aid.

"About 3 students this school year couldn't get aid because of their drug convictions," said David Chambers, associate director of the Student Aid Office. "It's not fair to single out students who have drug related offense."

"Have you ever been convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs?" is question 31 on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid application, the form used by the government to determine eligibility for financial aid.

If a student answers yes, the government sends a worksheet to the student, who will then fill out and return the form. The government will take the form and determine whether or not your conviction affects eligibility for financial aid.

However, an organization was formed to protest the law. The group, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to overturn the law. SSDP has roughly 70 school chapters in high schools, community colleges and four-year universities.

"Our first chapter was in 1998 at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York," said Tom Angell, SSDP campaign director. "We realized that the war on drugs targets young people and that it was taking away aid from students with drug convictions."

On Nov. 17 through 19, the national group, along with members of their chapters, will hold an international conference in Washington D.C. to discuss the issue of denying financial aid to students with past drug convictions.



Illustration by Blake Arnold | Art Director

"Around 300 activists from Canada and the U.S. will discuss the war on drugs ending on campuses, and they will talk about how students from the chapters can talk to the media on these issues," Angell said. "On Friday, Nov. 17 our students will meet and talk to legislators on Capitol Hill."

The history of the law extends to the Higher Education Act of 1965, a law supported by President Lyndon Johnson to increase the affordability of individuals in low-income households to help pay for postsecondary education.

Pell Grants and Stafford loans were created in response to the law for students to continue their education.

The "Drug Provision" was added as an amendment to the HEA in 1998 and excluded students with drug convictions from receiving aid.

Recently congress decided to reword the law to read that if a student is attending college and

they get convicted of drug violations while receiving federal aid, they will have their aid canceled.

The law was also altered to read that if a student has a drug conviction before attending college then they are eligible to receive aid after review of their FAFSA form.

According to the SPPD Web site, 175,000 students have already been disqualified from receiving aid.

The law itself applies to minor convictions, like misdemeanors, as well as major violations like felonies. The site continues to note that students with possession of a controlled substance as a first offense will receive one year ineligibility. A second offense equals two-years of ineligibility and a third offense will result in a student eligibility becoming indefinite.

However, a student can get their financial aid back if they complete a drug rehabilitation program. The cost of the program is not provided and must be paid out of pocket by the student.

Faces in the Crowd



Photo by Andy Harper | Campus Life Editor

Sporting a magenta Mohawk and her favorite homecoming candidate, Cristina Brito, freshman studio art major, was hanging out on the Knoll Wednesday afternoon.

Your hair is rather interesting, what was your inspiration?

I've always liked Mohawks and crazy hair.

So what are you doing on the KUC Knoll?

I'm passing out flyers for a benefit show and promoting Liz Estes for Homecoming Queen.

What's the show benefiting?

The radio station is putting on the show as a fundraiser for the station.

Why are you supporting Liz?

She is the only candidate not in a sorority and because she is unbelievable positive and friendly.

Are you passing out lollipops for any particular reason?

Well, actually, I just have to many of them and they are all up in my way. So I guess I'm passing them out for no good reason.

Validity of Disney internship questioned

By Christin Pepple
Staff Writer

Six hundred miles south of Murfreesboro there is a program many MTSU students have taken part in under the pretense of furthering their careers in hopes of finding a magical experience.

Students can go to Disney World to participate in an internship program for up to three hours of college credit, but the worthiness of the program has come into question by several students.

"It didn't really help me, it's not even a real internship," said Chris Clark, a concrete management major who interned at Disney as a lifeguard. "It's like the biggest joke ever [and] it didn't get me anywhere close to my future."

According to promotional material from Disney, the internship is for every major.

"The lessons you learn participating in the Disney College Program can provide you with the keys to a successful professional future," said Al Weiss, President of the Walt Disney World Resort and Worldwide Operations for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.

The program is only of value to those who take advantage of opportunities, such as classes, said Lauren Short, a graduate communications student at MTSU who participated in the Disney internship in 2001.

Students who do not also take other courses while working may not get the full value of those who do. Classes such as communications, experiential learning, hospitality management, human resource management and marketing are available to take while involved with the internship and are offered on a pass or fail basis.

Short participated in classes during the four months that she stayed in Florida working for

Disney.

"I was in marketing at the time, but after I went down there and took a class in communication, I changed my major to communications," Short said.

The program consists of college students from all over the world who come to the theme park or resort and work in exchange for minimum wage. Each student is provided with a place to live and the rent comes out of the students' paychecks.

"At MTSU, the School of Journalism offers internships to Disney such as public relations opportunities to writing opportunities," said Marcie Hinton, journalism internship coordinator and assistant professor at MTSU.

Any major can participate in the internships ranging from criminal justice to marketing to biology and gain college credit for the experience.

"I worked a ride called 'Alien Encounters,' but you aren't limited to just operating rides," Short said, adding that other jobs include working in beverages, medical services or shopping centers.

"Internships are all about learning stuff for your future career, you don't learn anything from this," Clark said. "It's just a whole bunch of partying."

According to Karen Austin, the career coordinator for educational and behavioral science, the internship would be beneficial for a student's resume.

"It adds value to the resume [because] it's going have the Disney brand name. It's internationally known," she said.

The Disney Corporation consists of not only Disney itself, but also companies such as Touchstone Pictures, Miramax Films, Pixar, ABC, ESPN, Lifetime television channel and Discover magazine.

Disney professional internships may offer the experience of a lifetime and the possibility of gaining insight into a chosen field of study within a

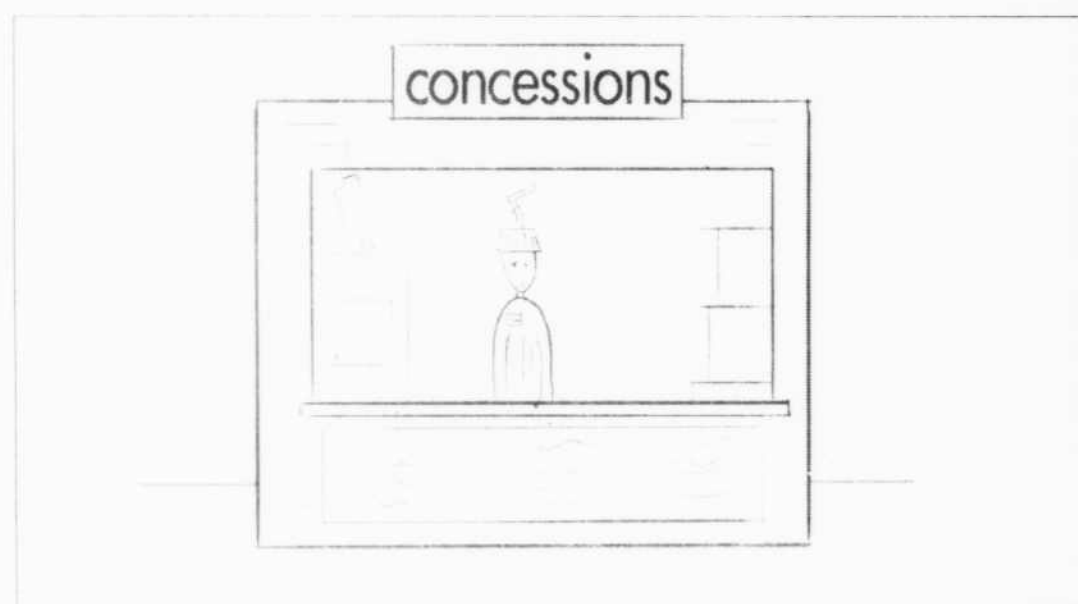


Illustration by Blake Arnold | Art Director

respected, world-renowned Fortune 500 company, the Disney corporation stated on the official website for the program.

"If a student wants to get college credit for any internship, the program must be approved by the department granting credit or admissions as the student would have to register and pay for the credit hours," Austin said.

Some colleges on campus, such as the political science department, no longer offer credit for the internship.

"I've heard it's the number one party place in the country and from the stuff I saw going on there, I'd say it's true," Clark said. "The true thing that can be said of it is that you do meet people. I met people from Paris, London, Puerto Rico, everywhere."

Austin said she believes the internship is a worthwhile, unique experience.

"I don't believe that it is a waste of time at all, but everyone is different. It's a good program," she said.

According to Short, the fact that it is at Disney World makes the program worthwhile.

"It was hands down the best experiences that I had in college," Short said. "I'd suggest it to anyone, it's such a great experience."

The next season for internship begins in 2007. It runs from approximately January to May. More information on the actual program and applications can be obtained through the MTSU representative for Disney recruiting or from the website for Disney internships.

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State senator speaks to class on campaigning

By Dana Owens

Community News Editor

Tennessee State Senator Jim Tracy (R-Shelbyville) spoke to Electronic Media Professor Dennis Oneal's senior seminar class about media and politics yesterday.

Tracy, who has served in the senate for the sixteenth district for the past two years but is not up for reelection this November, outlined how politicians in the current races have been using the media to get their message out.

Though politicians commonly use television, radio and direct mail to reach voters, Tracy said the most important method is face-to-face interaction.

"[Door-to-door campaigning] is still important for an incumbent so people know your out there and working for them," Tracy said.

During his campaign two years ago, Tracy said he actively went out to give "stump speeches" and knock on doors.

"If nothing else, it gets them talking," he said, adding that there were many new registered voters

in Rutherford County since it is growing so rapidly.

He said meeting his constituents in person allows them to see that he is not "fake."

When he ran for his seat in the senate two years ago, Tracy had people holding up signs at busy intersections in the morning to generate discussion.

The next most important tool for politicians during a campaign is television advertisements, but the cost can be prohibitive.

Negative ads directed at opponents do not seem to be as popular as they once were, Tracy said. Though in the race between Bob Corker and Harold Ford, Jr. for U.S. Senate, they have been prevalent.

"That's the sad part of politics today, it's gotten way too harsh," Tracy said, adding that perhaps this is why there is so little excitement over the 2006 elections.

Being able to connect with an audience is also important. Politicians who have been especially good at this include former presidents Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan, Tracy said. Though President George Bush is

not as good on television, he connects with people in person, he added.

"I think Ford is articulate and good on his feet," Tracy said.

Communication is important when it comes to public debates. Tracy said this allows people to not only hear a politician's philosophy, but also to "see them in action."

Historically, the Tennessee candidates for U.S. Senate debate each other three times in during elections. Ford has been challenging Corker to a debate and using the subsequent refusal to his advantage, Tracy said.

Since his district is so large, encompassing Bedford, Moore and Rutherford Counties, Tracy said it is important to develop relationships with the people in each county because they all have different needs.

"You have to try to be careful not to alienate anybody," he said.

When voting for issues in the legislature, Tracy said he always tries to keep his constituency in mind.

Judgment: Christian ministry ousted from Knoll

Continued from 1

place and manner."

The court case referred to by Fitch was Gary Rowman v. University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, a civil rights lawsuit in which Bowman alleged that policies held by the university restricted his freedom of speech to preach on campus at any time.

The Arkansas court concluded that the university was a nonpublic forum and upheld policies for it to reasonably regulate time, place and manner of organizations using campus property.

However, the court did find that it was unconstitutional for a university to regulate the number of times a speaker appears on campus a semester.

MTSU policy is similar and requires an organization to reserve a space at least five days in advanced by filling out a reservation form with Student Affairs.

"This procedure is so we can accommodate everyone," Fitch said. "If, one day, there is a lot of activity reserved for the Knoll,

then we can help an organization schedule for a different day."

In addition to the unscheduled appearance by the ministry, student reactions were not the most welcoming to their preaching.

"I interjected while Evan was speaking about believing in Jesus and told him my love of philosophy," said Anthony Tabor, freshman undeclared. "His arguments were to prove the existence of God. My opinion was that he did not succeed."

The Open Air Outreach ministry is not unfamiliar with objections to their subjects, Lewis said. Some common topics the groups cover are homosexuality, drunkenness, fornication, moral relativism and other religions.

"Our main goal is to preach the gospel, the Bible and Jesus," Brayley said. "We travel from university to university and we just came for University of Tennessee at Knoxville."

The main complaint among students seemed to be overall presentation of the message.

"I'm glad they have such strong faith and that is a good thing for a lot of people," said Amanda Allison, freshman computer science major. "But how they were doing it was wrong, it was too much fire and brimstone."

According to Allison, the group was picking out people who would purposely engage in arguments.

"One girl who proclaimed herself Christian was blatantly called out and asked if she had sex," Allison said. "They also accused someone else of only wearing a cross because the design looked cool."

"Personally, as a Christian, they were really harsh," said Anastasia Marston, freshman graphic design major. "What I believe he should have done was preach about the love first."

As the ministry left campus, Lewis mentioned the group was headed to either Little Rock or Fayetteville, Ark.

"This is definitely an awesome campus," Brayley said. "It's a shame, we'd really have liked to stay."

International: Board of Regents creates consortium

Continued from 1

Grimes' experience includes over thirty years of teaching foreign language and extensive research in international studies and German language and literature. He has worked at Murray State University since 1990.

As the founder and executive director of the KITS, he developed a regional consortium that promotes quality international education by providing study abroad opportunities and professional and faculty development programs.

Edwards noted that his lengthy experience in the field, specifically his understanding of the international program structure, would give the program an immediate boost. He also cited Grimes' ability to use his established international contacts as a prime reason for his selection.

"He already has contacts that will help us move quickly," Edwards said.

The next step for Grimes will be to further develop contacts in Tennessee universities and colleges. He sees an opportunity to take the best practices of existing programs together in order to benefit all colleges and universities.

"What we must do is bring the strengths of all our campuses together as much as possible in order to benefit all," Grimes said.

Grimes is eager to build upon the current efforts of the Board of Regents system, and notes the great potential that is available.

"It is important to remember that there is a huge amount of international expertise on all of our campuses and at some of these institutions there is a long tradition of international involvement," Grimes said.

His first goal is to understand the needs of all institutions and develop programs that suit these needs, such as international internships, international management training and special study abroad programs for specific target groups.

In February, the Board of Regents is hosting a statewide conference at Pellissippi State Community College. The conference will focus on a number of issues, including development of more internationalized curriculums and promotion of study and faculty abroad programs. Discussion will focus on the need to incorporate these students and faculty into developing the education on all campuses.

Barnett wishes for all institutions involved to take advantage of the knowledge provided by students and faculty who have previously completed the abroad programs.

"They can be used as great resources for further education," Barnett said.

Students remember



Photo by Andy Harper | Campus Life Editor

MTSU's chapter of the national organization Up 'Til Dawn constructed a Cancer Memorial wall outside the Keathley University Center this week on which students could write personal messages.

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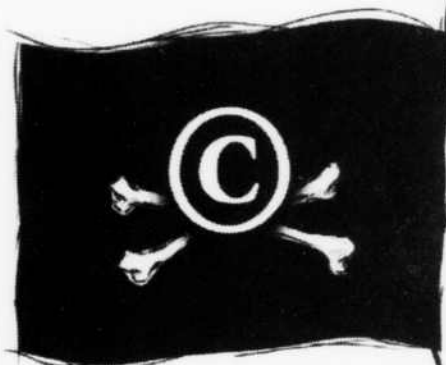
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CRIME BRIEFS

Wednesday, Sept. 6 - 8:42 a.m.

Monahan Hall

Theft Under \$500

A construction worker called advising he believes someone broke into the construction site over the weekend and took some copper.

Wednesday, Sept. 6 - 12:19 p.m.

Lyon Hall

Simple Assault

Residence Assistant called requesting an officer to speak with a student who was assaulted by a male subject.

Wednesday, Sept. 6 - 1:14 p.m.

Art Barn Annex Lot

Leaving the Scene of an Accident

There was a hit and run. Damage was done to the vehicle.

Wednesday, Sept. 6 - 3:06 p.m.

MTSU Police Department

Miscellaneous

Subject came in and advised he was in an accident on campus earlier that day.

Wednesday, Sept. 6 - 4:28 p.m.

Smith Hall

Simple Possession/Casual Exchange of Marijuana
Matthew Allen Smith, 20, of Meadowview, Va., was issued state and dean citations for simple possession of marijuana and for drinking underage.

Thursday, Sept. 7 - 10:35 p.m.

Business Aerospace Building

Theft Under \$500

There was a theft of a cell phone.

Thursday, Sept. 7 - 10:42 p.m.

James E. Walker Library

Theft Under \$500

There was a theft of a bike tire.

Friday, Sept. 8 - 1:51 a.m.

East Main Street

DUI First Offense

Anthony Rumbaugh, 18, of Sevierville, Tenn., was arrested for a first offense DUI and simple possession for marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Friday, Sept. 8 - 9:05 a.m.

Faulkberry Drive

Driving on a Suspended License

Lorien M. N'Dinda, 20, of Nashville, Tenn., was charged on a suspended license and simple possession of marijuana.

Friday, Sept. 8 - 1:07 a.m.

Gentleman Jim's

Public Intoxication

Officers were busy in the construction zone behind Gentleman Jim's. Unit was advised there

was a subjected passed out in a vehicle in that construction area. Michael Jones, 27, of Spring Hill, Tenn., was charged with public intoxication.

Saturday, Sept. 9 - 1:22 a.m.

Off Campus

Harassing/Threatening Phone Calls

Police were advised there were individuals from Knox County who were making threatening phone calls to an individual on campus.

Saturday, Sept. 9 - 5:13 p.m.

Davis Science Building Lot

Criminal Trespassing

Christina Terry, 23, of Hume, Mo., and Shannon Coryat, 18, of Elkhart, Ind., were both charged with criminal trespassing.

Saturday, Sept. 9 - 9:45 p.m.

Jim Cummings Hall

Harassment

A person walked into the office to file a report about a woman who has been repeatedly calling him and harassing him.

Sunday, Sept. 10 - 1:33 p.m.

Greenland Drive

Daniel T. Clendenon Moving Violation

Daniel T. Clendenon, 25, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was issued a state citation for failure to comply with financial responsibility law.

Sunday, Sept. 10 - 5:35 p.m.

Floyd Stadium

Vandalism Over \$500

The athletic director advised that someone drove the golf carts and wrecked them.

Monday, Sept. 11 - 7:23 a.m.

Cummings Annex Lot (Jim Cummings Hall)

Vandalism Over \$500

Officers were at the Cummings overflow lot. A vehicle in the lot had been broken into, and the rear window was broken out.

Monday, Sept. 11 - 8:41 a.m.

Student Recreation Center

Vandalism Under \$500

The garage door was vandalized, and a used spray paint can was found.

Monday, Sept. 11 - 1:38 p.m.

MTSU Police Department

Simple Assault

Subject came to the station to fill to a report in reference to being assaulted on campus.

Monday, Sept. 11 - 10:17 p.m.

Wood Hall

Consuming Alcohol Under 21 Years of Age

William C. Davis, 19, of Old Hickory, Tenn., was charged with underage consumption.

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

University respects rights of free speech, but get permission

Free speech that best serves democracy should never be spontaneous and anonymous, as Miles Lewis from Open Air Outreach believes. Speech that serves a purpose to the larger debate should be deliberate, owned and sincere.

While we respect the First Amendment rights of the Open Air Outreach ministry to speak freely, we disagree that they have the right to do it whenever and wherever they choose. MTSU is not an open forum because of our need for order and balance. If this wasn't the case, arresting students for drunken ramblings while on campus could be construed as a violation of his or her First Amendment.

When the Open Air Outreach ministry took over the knoll in front of the KUC, they were infringing on the rights of the SGA. The Supreme Court has ruled in many cases that speech and the right to assemble can be regulated in regards to time, place and manner.

MTSU has a good track record when it comes to allowing free speech on campus. In April, the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform was allowed to display photographs of aborted fetuses. And who can forget the local Mennonites with their sign and booth outside passing out their literature, peacefully and with permission?

The point here is that the Open Air Outreach ministry should respect the MTSU students by complying with the same rules and regulations as everybody does, and not doing so is nothing more than stirring controversy for the sake of publicity.

Bigger not better, learn responsibility

Like a spoiled child whose parents are putting their foot down, the United States must learn to cut back.

For years, since the post-WWII boom, our country has not asked "why," but rather "why not?"

In these uncertain times of increasing population, war, scarcity of natural resources and an unsteady economy, Americans continue to consume more goods, services and resources than ever before. A step is missing from our collective decision-making, the question – "we could, but should we?"

The same reasoning that applies to our everyday actions must also apply to consumption. Does the ability to cut class make it a good idea? Does simply having the resources to buy a Hummer make it a good idea? The triple-bacon cheeseburger may be half-price one day a week, but is eating it a smart idea?

In some ways, the Wal-Mart "bigger is better" mentality has corrupted our purchasing conscience. If a pound of chips in a big bag costs less than two half-pound bags, the consumer will tend for the bigger bag. A short drive to suburban Nashville and one observes neighborhoods of 8,000 square-foot homes being constructed. Never mind the prices of electricity and natural gas are extremely high and that 8,000 square-foot can house a small army.

Often, people buy SUVs because of obscure tax loopholes that enable them to save some back-end money. Never mind that if a family has only one child, it most likely does not need a three-ton, seven seat 'land-barge.'

In response to publicity about over-consumption, global climate change and SUV's, Reverend Jerry Falwell replied that not only was global warming a hoax, he also urged us to purchase SUVs immediately. Why? One tenet held by many Evangelical Christians is God keeps the Earth pure for humanity's use. Theoretically, we could pave the rainforests and guzzle limitless amounts of fuel, and the Earth would magically stay as pristine as the days of Eden.

We could, but should we?

In the United States' race to



Tenacious E

Evan Barker
Staff Columnist

keep up with the global 'Joneses,' the old mentality of "bigger is better" and high consumption is actually intensified. "Frugal" is seemingly a dirty word. In comparison to Europe's sky-high fuel prices, Americans still demand more SUVs. It stands to reason that, eventually, prices will catch up to Europe's, and a little prudence may be called for. Until then, Americans are going to keep grabbing the fistfuls of resources we somehow feel entitled to.

This is certainly a situation that will be judged from a "hindsight is 20/20" perspective. Our children will wish we were more frugal, as we wish our forerunners were.

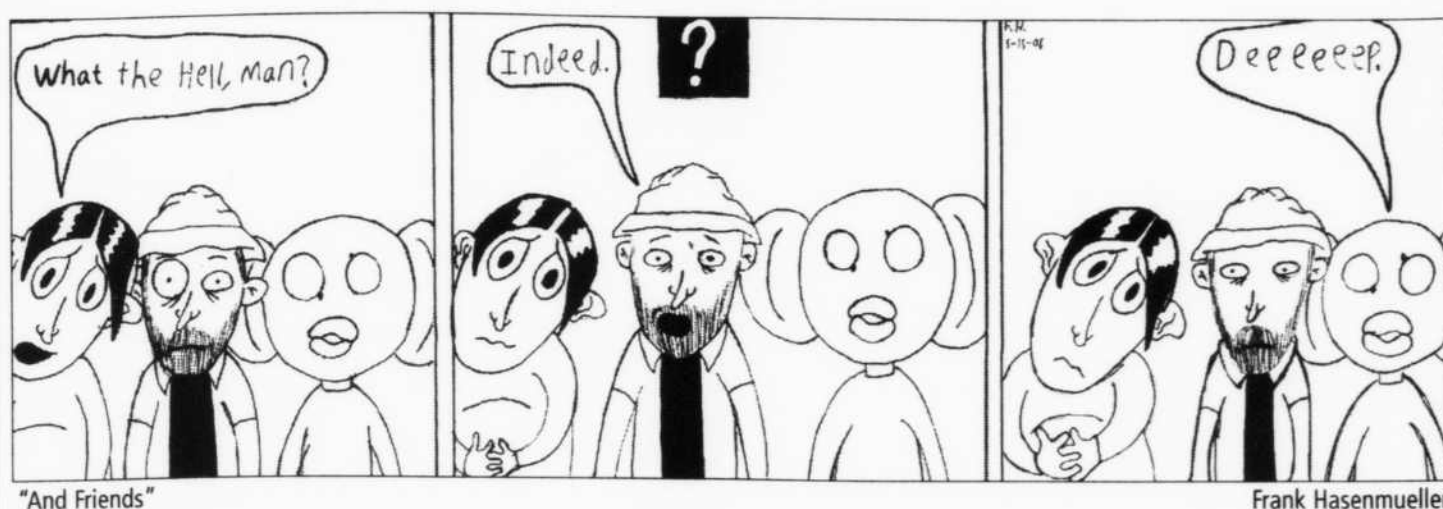
The SUV trend proves that change will have to come from the individual, however.

Alarmingly, the Falwell philosophy of limitless resources seems to apply to our bodies. We opt for the half-pound bacon mega-burger over the standard 99-cent "regular." The massive portion not only costs more, it's proportionally worse for your body. A reasonably small cup of soda can cost more than a gigantic one.

Don't get me wrong. The bigger, faster U.S. mentality is an essential ingredient in our national identity. Foreign tourists and immigrants flock to our great nation for their slice of the pie. With the great abundance at our fingertips, many people can be cared for. Why hoard all of our resources, to the detriment of our wallets, environment and bodies?

We must resist the urge to buy big simply because we can and, instead, use our resources, both personal and national, more effectively. The access to riches comes with the moral responsibility to use them effectively. Just because one can blow one's hard-earned money however one chooses in this free country, should they?

Evan Barker is a junior music performance major, and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu



"And Friends"

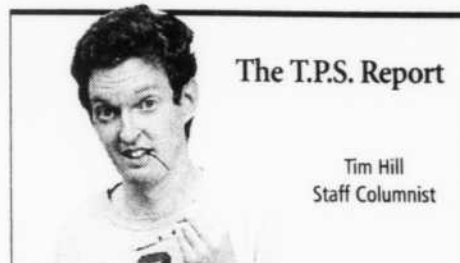
Frank Hasenmueller

Conservatives have election choices

To paraphrase a scene from "Fight Club," let's pretend that you are a conservative Republican and the media informs you that this nation's Congress was retaken by the Democrats. I'd be very careful how much you celebrate this fact because that party is very dangerous. This new Congress may be composed of people whose antics you have known for years. And now that they have their power back, they will stalk from liberal cause to liberal cause, pumping dollar after dollar into new programs.

Last week's laundry-list of reasons the Republicans deserve to lose control of Congress brings up a new debate. What would happen if the Democrats took over? With President George W. Bush in the White House, a Democratic-controlled Senate would only accept Harriet Miers and Harriet Miers Lite if any more Supreme Court nominees pop up. That would be bad for the justice system because the last thing we need in the courts are former Democratic council members of major metropolitan cities.

If the Republicans keep the Senate, Senator Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. – a staunch opponent of campaign finance reform – would most likely become majority leader. He's also the husband of current Labor Secretary Elaine Chao. In foolishly accommodating liberals, Chao would probably resign her Cabinet position as to avoid conflicts of interest. Too bad Linda DASHCIE didn't stop lobbying the airline industry in the wake of Sept. 11, 2001. Senator Harry "Dingy" Reid – as Rush calls him, D-



The T.P.S. Report

Tim Hill
Staff Columnist

Nev. would become the new majority leader under a democratic Senate. He's better than the alternative, which in this case would be Dick Durbin of Illinois.

Obstructionism would run the day in a Democratic-controlled Congress. Unlike some conservative voices in the media, I don't get confused between obstructionism and progress. We have a re-elected president, who has, by all angles, "apologized for winning [his] second term." The Democrats are saying that they want to take this country into a "new direction." "Uncle Rico" wants to know if it will be backwards or front.

If Representative Nancy Pelosi, D-Cal. becomes speaker of the House, then fiscal discipline will not be common place. San Francisco would be the recipient of hundreds of millions of dollars in pork barrel projects. Yet, that happens regardless of who is in control. Social Security payroll taxes would be raised, and Harry Reid would agree. Iraq and counter-terrorism funding would be cut back or be subject to burdensome "open government" requirements, and the Senate would

agree. The president would have to retreat too early from Iraq, just as Nixon did in Vietnam when Democrats gave up on our allies over there. History would repeat itself because the Republicans would let it.

Who can conservative Republicans turn to this November? My friend Jacqueline wants to know if it will be the Democrats or the communists. Really, she wants to know.

In Tennessee, we're faced with Bob Corker or Harold Ford, Jr. They will both disappoint conservatives, in my opinion.

"Harold Ford supports the flag burning amendment. I guess that means he's a conservative!" Well, in 2004, John Kerry bragged about owning SUVs just to please a different Ford audience and then claimed to be on the side of environmentalists. The point is that we don't need politicians who are two-faced.

If you were pro-choice in 1994, 'Mr. Mayor,' then Bill Frist and others remember that. If you were a friend to the Clinton administration, Congressman, then the new voting patterns in this state will reflect that.

Conservatives have a choice this November. They can stay home and not miss any shows during November sweeps, or they can take a risk with all of these "fly-by-night moderates" who want to represent the values that Americans care about.

I'm still deciding.

Tim Hill is a senior liberal arts major and can be reached at governorhill@gmail.com.

Letters to the Editor

Student center would benefit campus

To the Editor:

During the Student Government Association fall elections, Oct. 3-5, students will be casting their votes for the Homecoming Court, Freshman Senators and Graduate Senators.

In addition, they will be able to vote "yes" for a new student center to be constructed on campus at the old intramural fields next to Jim Cummings Hall. On Sept. 21, the 69th Congress of the SGA Senate unanimously voted to place the referendum on the fall election ballot.

Currently, the Keathley University Center serves as a student union. However, the capacity of the KUC is only about one-third of MTSU's current – and still growing – population. Students on MTSU's campus are also not receiving the same student center services that most universities of the same size receive.

The state of Tennessee does not currently provide funding to construct facilities that are not academic in nature, and as a result, several buildings on the MTSU campus that students enjoy daily were constructed with funding from student fees, such as the Recreation Center.

When students vote "yes" to support the construction of the new student center, they will be agreeing to a student fee, not to exceed \$125, that will aid in the expenses for designing, constructing and maintaining the center. The costs of the new student center are not yet known, which means that the \$125 student fee could possibly be quite less. The \$125 amount is merely a cap to ensure that students are not faced with any surprises.

The SGA has chosen to fully support this referendum so that future students, current students, alumni and the community alike will be able to benefit from the services and space the new student center will have to offer. The SGA encourages you to vote "yes" this week to improving the quality of student life at MTSU by supporting this referendum.

The SGA Executive Cabinet

Parking plentiful if rules are followed

To the Editor:

Just say the word "parking" to anyone on campus, and I'm sure you would get an ear-full. Statements about lack of parking places abound, and confusion when parking in gravel lots is plentiful.

Every year parking services hands out a Traffic and Parking

Regulations manual. On page seven, sections three through five, it states, "Vehicles are not to be parked at any time where parking is not designated, where curbing is painted yellow, where sidewalks intersect streets, on sidewalks, across parking lines, on campus lawns (grass), or other places where signs indicate no parking. Parking is allowed only in clearly designated parking spaces. Vehicles that are parked or waiting in a fire lane will be towed. In gravel lots, legal parking spaces are designated by concrete bumper blocks, except for those painted yellow."

Below are tips that will help you to find parking, park appropriately and save you money:

When searching for parking the thing to keep in mind is if it is questionable, then don't park there. In gravel lots, only park in front of a concrete, gray bumper block. If there is no bumper block, there is not a space. Just because there are other green decals parked in a certain manner does not mean that it is appropriate parking.

Parking is plentiful in the Rutherford Gravel lot and the new Rutherford Paved lot. Both have shuttles that can transport you to your classes. The following lots are problem areas and are heavily scrutinized because of parking violations – the Art Barn Lot, Coral Lot and Horseshoe Lot.

If you have any questions regarding parking regulations you may contact parking services at 898-2850 or Lora Hortert at 898-5634.

Lora Hortert,
SGA Attorney General
Junior, College of Liberal Arts

Article invites students to get involved

To the Editor:

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for the article, "How to get involved now" [Oct. 2.]

When I was at MTSU, only two years ago, we worked very hard to get the message out to students on how to get involved on campus. This article is wonderful. Sarah Russell did a great job of portraying all of the facts, and it was very well written.

Chassen Haynes is my little brother. Chassen loves MTSU and all of the students on the campus. He has such a vision for the growth and potential for the campus and all of those that choose to get involved. Thank you again for everything and have a wonderful week.

Candice Haynes
MTSU Alumna

CORRECTION

Biology Professor Anthony Newsome is researching a gas used to sterilize sports equipment of the bacteria that cause staph infection, not an antibiotic for the infection. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

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FEATURES

Thursday: **Technology**

Text messaging finally hits it big

Recent headline stories spotlight simple tool

By Andrew Johnson

Staff Writer

I'm sitting on the quad by the Mass Communications building, minding my own business. A girl walks up to me with a desperate look in her eyes and asks me if I can text message on my phone.

I inform her that I can, and she asks me if I can send a text message to her boyfriend that says "I love you."

I ask her if he will look at this text message and find it odd that he is receiving a text from a random phone number. She says no, because she is sending a whole bunch of these texts to him, all of which say "I love you." She walks away, and I watch her approach every person sitting on the Quad as she asks the same question.

Isn't this a faux pas? It's like a guy showing up at your house with 50 roses. He's doing too much to win you over and you can read that fake vibe inside of him. It's possible that she and her boyfriend got into a fight and she is trying to show him that she really does love him. But I know that I would get annoyed after checking the fifth text

message that says "I love you." I would not be impressed if I were her boyfriend.

Not all of us are that crazy, but many students are sending texts all the time, and some students even prefer text messages to a regular phone call.

"I use them when I'm bored and when I don't want to talk to people on the phone," said Nicole Wilbanks, a junior recording industry (business) major. Wilbanks sends and receives about 100 text messages a month with Verizon Wireless. "A quick message is more efficient, especially when I don't feel like having a conversation."

Cell phone companies such as Verizon Wireless have recognized the rising popularity of text messages. They offer bundled text message plans to their users.

"We offer unlimited text messaging to other Verizon Wireless users and 500 text messages outside the network for an extra \$10 on your monthly bill," said Valerie Adcock, sales operation supervisor for the Verizon Wireless store located at 1965 Old Fort Parkway. "We also offer 1000 texts for outside the network and unlimited texts to Verizon Wireless users for \$15, and even more for \$20."

Adcock stressed the fact that these bundled plans are much cheaper than paying 10 cents for each individual text message.

Some students have taken advantage of unlimited text messaging with other cell phone services.

"I go through 200 text messages in two days," said Kate Collier, a freshman interior design major. "With Sprint, I have unlimited text messages for an extra \$10 on my monthly phone bill."

Text messaging technology is evolving rapidly. Now one can send picture and video messages as well as sending text message from a computer to someone's phone or vice versa.

In addition to that technology, the Google Web site allows cell phone users to receive different information in the form of a text message such as local business listings, weather conditions, movie show times and definitions.

"The cell phone industry is turning into a data device rather than a voice device," said Jack Fanning, manager of the

See **TXT MSG**, 6



Photo Illustration by Chris Carver
Staff Photographer

Text your friends for free? Sure thing!

Unless Mom and Dad are footing the cell phone bill (and let's admit it, you know who you are), you're probably paying extra for text messaging service, whether it be a flat monthly rate or per message.

But fear not, there is another way, and its name starts with free! That's right, there is a way to text message for free, but there's something of a catch: You'll need a computer and Internet access.

Okay, now that you've crawled out of your cave and obtained those necessities, open up AOL Instant Messenger. I know, I know: You haven't used that thing since your junior year in high school, when you and Bobby Bigsmile used to IM into the wee hours of the morning.

What? That was last week? Oh, okay.

Anyway, now that you've found AIM (or iChat, if you're a Mac user), start a new conversation. In the Buddy Name box, type in the entire number of the person to whom you want to send the message, including the number 1 at the

beginning of the number (as if you were dialing a long distance number from a land line).

Now that you have a 10-digit number, you're almost done. Before the number, add a + sign, so that you have something like the following: +16157777777

Now type your message and send, just as you would a regular text message. You'll get a confirmation note if the message is successful, and your recipient will be able to respond to your AIM screen name. Of course, your friend will still have to pay to send his text message, but hey, you're riding on his dime!

Oh, and remember that your recipient will only be able to read the maximum number of characters per message that his or her phone allows. That means that if you feel like sending a text message for kicks and giggles, your so-called friend will likely be receiving text messages until Tuesday.

Come to think of it, that is pretty funny.

— COLBY SLEDGE

Bible enters new era

Australian 'translates' Scripture

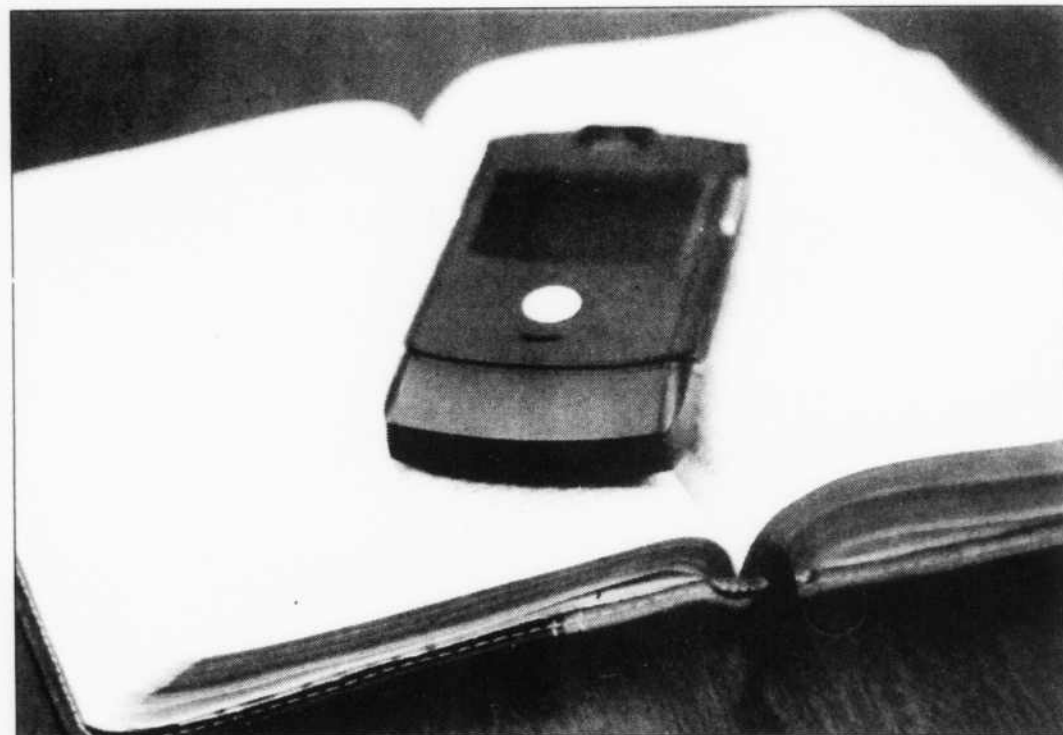


Photo Illustration by Chris Carver | Staff Photographer

The Bible Society of Australia has written all 31,173 verses into Short Messaging Service language, also known as text message language. Michael Rodriguez was the only person who worked on the project, which took six weeks to complete.

By Casey Brown

Staff Writer

Hve U evr wntd 2 send Bbl vs. 2 ur frnds?

Thanks to the Bible Society of Australia, you have that opportunity.

The organization, led by National Scripture Director Jorge Rodrigues, offers a full download of the Contemporary English Version of the Bible on its website. The twist? It is written in SMS ("short messaging service"), or "text message" language.

For example, in the CEV Bible Genesis 1:1-2, the very first words read "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was barren, with no form of life; it was under a roaring ocean curved with darkness."

The SMS translation, by comparison, states that "In da Bginnin God cre8d da heavens & da earth. Da earth waz barren, wit no 4m of life; it waz unda a roaring ocean curved wit dRkness." Got that?

The Bible Society hopes that the download will serve as another effective way to reach a larger chunk of the population. According to Rodrigues, the SMS Bible is the next logical step for a book that has historically been at the forefront of communications technology, as was the case with Johannes Gutenberg and the arrival of the printing press.

"It is appropriate that the latest technology be used to pass on the Bible's message to every generation, because it is an eternal and vital message for all generations," Rodrigues says.

The organization could scarcely have selected a more rapidly expanding medium, as anyone who spends ten minutes walking across campus can attest. According to the Mobile Data Organization, 1.1 billion text messages were sent in 1999; by 2004, that number had risen to 26.2 billion, with no end in sight to the growth.

"Just as the invention of the printing press allowed ordinary people to read the Bible," Rodrigues says, "So the fast-expanding SMS-text technology has the potential to enable people to engage with God's Word on a greater scale than ever before."

Rodrigues' son, Michael, tackled the arduous task of condensing all 31,173 verses into SMS-speak. The process took six weeks to complete, and the younger Rodrigues had no assistance.

But will his work be in vain? The 7.7-megabyte download has been available for about a year, and while media interest has been piqued by the project, the actual number of users has been relatively

See **Bible**, 6

Tech Briefs

Compiled from AP Wire

Man charged in text message rescue case faces additional charges

A man accused of holding a 17-year-old boy against his will on the man's west Georgia sheep farm also had pictures of underage, nude children on computer disks and solicited sexual contact from a child in a mall bathroom, authorities say.

Ted Roy Williams now faces additional charges of sexual exploitation of children and enticing a child for indecent purposes, Troup County Sheriff's Department spokesman Lt. Rick Massie said Wednesday. Williams, 58, remains in jail with bond set at \$1 million, and a judge issued an additional bond of \$50,000 on each of the new charges.

Massie said investigators have located "pictures of underage children that were depicted in sexual poses on computer disks that were seized from Williams' home." Investigators have also said Williams solicited sexual contact from a child in the bathroom at the LaGrange Mall.

Williams was arrested Thursday on charges of false imprisonment and aggravated sodomy after a 17-year-old Massachusetts boy he met online text-messaged his family and claimed he was forced to stay at Williams' home. The boy said he met Williams on the online networking site MySpace.com three weeks ago and that Williams bought him a plane ticket to visit Georgia.

Massie said Williams picked up the teen Thursday morning at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, took him to his rural home and immediately began sexually abusing him.

The boy said he felt he was unable to leave the house, although he was not physically restrained or held at gunpoint, according to authorities, but when he was left unattended after several hours in the home, the boy sent a text message from his cell phone to his family in Bourne, Mass., asking for help and giving the farm's address, Massie said. The family told the police in Bourne, who notified Troup County authorities.

TiVo in court battle

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit granted EchoStar's request for a stay on an injunction that would have banned the satellite TV provider from making or selling DVR products in the United States, TiVo said.

As a result, the ban, which also would have forced EchoStar to disable machines already found in customers' homes, will be postponed, pending the outcome of EchoStar's appeal.

TiVo sued Englewood, Colo.-based EchoStar in January 2004, alleging EchoStar and certain subsidiaries violated TiVo's "time warp" patent that relates to the storage and playback of television programming. A jury ruled in April that EchoStar

infringed on TiVo's patented TV-viewing technology in making set-top boxes for its customers.

In August, the federal district court judge who presided over the jury trial in Texas issued the injunction against EchoStar and ordered the company to pay TiVo \$89.6 million in damages.

EchoStar appealed and said Tuesday it was "pleased" the appellate court blocked the Texas decision pending its appeal.

"This action by the Federal Court reinforces our belief that the Texas court made significant errors during the trial process and we look forward to complete vindication of our position," EchoStar said in a statement.

TiVo, based in Alviso, downplayed the appellate decision as a routine legality.

"We are confident that the jury's decision in TiVo's favor will be upheld once the Federal Circuit has the opportunity to review the entire record in this case. It is important to note that most injunctions in patent cases are stayed pending appeal, and the appeal itself will be decided on a totally different standard of review," TiVo said in an official statement.

More Sony batteries recalled

Japanese electronics maker Fujitsu Ltd. said Wednesday it is recalling 287,000 laptop batteries manufactured by Sony Corp., the latest in a massive global recall of the batteries that can overheat and catch fire.

Affected are 224,000 laptops sold overseas across 10 models, including the popular Lifebook series, according to Fujitsu spokesman Masao Sakamoto. The remaining 63,000 were sold across 17 models in Japan.

Fujitsu was still working out recall logistics, Sakamoto said. He did not know how much the recall would cost Fujitsu.

Almost every major laptop maker has told customers to return Sony-made lithium-ion batteries, which can overheat and catch fire.

The largest recalls have been issued by Dell Inc., with 4.2 million batteries affected, and Apple Computer Inc., with 1.8 million batteries. Sony expects costs of at least \$170 million related to the Dell and Apple recalls.

According to the Tokyo-based company, the batteries can short-circuit because shards of metal were left in their cells during production in Japan. Dell's recall came after six instances of overheating or fire involving Dell systems with Sony-made batteries.

Sony's battery woes have been one of many headaches for a company struggling to regain its reputation for high quality.

Sony has been trying to overhaul its electronics operations under Welsh-born Howard Stringer, the first foreigner to head the company, and has found success in its flat-panel television and digital camera operations.

But a delay in the launch of its much-anticipated PlayStation 3 video game console and weakness against rival Apple's iPod in portable music players has cast doubts on whether the maker of the legendary Walkman can regain its former glory.

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TXT MSG: Service grows

Continued from 5

Cingular store located at 202-E North Thompson Lane. Cingular offers text, picture, video, and instant messaging as a bundle. For 200 messages a month, \$4.99 is added to the monthly bill.

And if one has a friend overseas and is a Cingular user, one can send him or her an international text message for 50 cents. Fanning explained that text messages use Unicode, which is a basic computer language. Therefore, you can send someone a text message in Japan and they will be able to understand it.

Sometimes text messages can be more valuable than we think. A recent story on ABC explained that a young girl was captured by Vinson Filyaw, an accused sex offender, in Lugoff, S.C., and had been placed in a 15-foot bunker.

Filyaw used her captor's cell phone to text message her mother and inform her mother of where she was.

The message she sent read as follows: "Hi mom. I'm in a hole near Charm Hill where the big trucks go in and out. There's a bomb. Call the



Photo Illustration by Chris Carver | Staff Photographer

police." The police subsequently used cell phone towers to trace the call and find the girl.

Afterwards, the girl's father explained that he was happy that his wife knew how to check text messages, because he couldn't figure out the technology.

Bible: Now in SMS form

Continued from 5

underwhelming due to its targeted audience, according to Rodrigues.

"Although we had amazing interest from the international press," Rodrigues says, "we have a modest level of downloads, as the SMS CEV Bible is aimed at Church group leaders."

With so many different translations of the Bible available for public consumption, the integrity of each version's language is usually scrutinized, especially as far as contemporary takes on Scripture are concerned. The SMS Bible, it must be noted, does not alter the context of the verses.

Rodrigues emphasized that "not a single word nor a single verse is deleted. There is no change to the Scripture as found in the complete Bible."

Still, one must wonder if a backlash is inevitable, as traditionalists regularly criticize what they view as attempts to steer farther away from original manuscripts.

A recent example is Eugene Peterson's *The Message*, which paraphrases the Bible by using contemporary, almost conversational language and more or less abandoning the numbering structure of books and verses.

Though awareness of the project at MTSU appears to be practically nonexistent, the general sentiment seems to be favorable.

Neil Honey, former MTSU student and intern at Raiders for Christ, has an open mind concerning the download, but feels that in order for it to be effective more work has to be done.

"I don't think it's a bad idea ... maybe the thing to do would be making sure they follow up on it," Honey says. "Just sending someone a verse

in a text isn't going to help anyone understand it."

Fellow RFC member and junior journalism major Drew Hill agrees.

"It's a good attempt to spread the word and get the Bible out to more people who might not otherwise be as accepting of it," Hill says. "In most cases [spreading Christianity] comes through relationships and showing people who Jesus really is, and the love you have for them."

"You don't get to see that just through a few text messages."

Cole Turney, a senior mathematics major and RFC member, shares his feelings succinctly.

"If more people are exposed to the Bible because of it, it's a good thing," Turney says.

Even the majority of campus ministers are seemingly unaware of the Bible Society's efforts. Amber Vaden, the campus minister at Baptist Collegiate Ministry, admitted that she would need to be more informed to render judgment, but remained somewhat skeptical.

She said that translations are typically written by groups of Biblical scholars who are well versed in early manuscripts, but added, "I wouldn't necessarily dismiss it as a bad thing."

And that, for Rodrigues, is a good start. The Bible Society's main objective is to reach as many people as possible with Scripture, and with Bible versions already published for children, teens, EMS personnel, the military, and sports fans, among others, the SMS Bible is, indeed, a logical step.

"The CEV SMS Text Bible will serve to remind 'SMS-generation people' of God's words of encouragement, wisdom and caution during their busy schedules," Rodrigues says.

To download the SMS Bible or for more information, visit www.biblesociety.com.au.

GRADUATING?

~ Not Returning to MTSU?

The Housing and Residential Life Office is currently accepting housing CANCELLATIONS for the Spring 2007 semester from students who are graduating from MTSU and will be taking no additional classes and from students who are not returning to school at MTSU after the Fall 2006 semester.

The deadline for submitting CANCELLATIONS for prepayment refund is Monday, October 16, 2006. Requests for cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Housing Office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300 or mailed to Box 6, MTSU, faxed to the Housing Office (615-898-5459) or emailed to housing@mtsu.edu by the deadline. For additional information

contact Housing and Residential Life,

615-898-2971.

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SPORTS

MT to host Louisville at LP Field

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

Amazing what a week can do. After a humiliating 59-0 defeat at the hands of Oklahoma, Middle Tennessee put it all together last weekend, emphatically yanking a thorn out of its side with a 35-0 whitewashing of North Texas on the road. With the win over the Mean Green, the Blue Raiders suddenly find themselves being mentioned among the favorites to take home the Sun Belt crown.

Tomorrow, MT will take center stage nationally for the first time, facing off against No. 8 Louisville at LP Field in Nashville on ESPN2. The high-octane Cardinal offense is averaging 44 points per game. What kind of impression will the Blue Raiders make on the inhabitants of TV land?

When Louisville runs

Filling in for a Heisman hopeful is never an easy task, but Kolby Smith and George Stripling have done a decent job. The running back-by-committee approach has been necessary for the Cardinals since Michael Bush went down with a season-ending injury.

Smith and Stripling are both speedy, elusive backs with home-run ability on every touch. Fullback Brock Bolen was a surprise in UL's last game, rushing for 53 yards and a touchdown on just five carries.

The Blue Raider defense held North Texas to just 103 yards of offense, and completely shut down Mean Green back Jamario Thomas, the nation's leading rusher in 2004. Linebacker J.K. Sabb is receiving national attention for his stellar play.

Still, with a stable of backs with which to rotate in fresh legs, the Louisville ground game will likely find success moving the chains, eventually causing the Blue Raiders to tire.

Advantage: UL

When Louisville passes

The Cardinals will be without another offensive star behind center after quarterback Brian Brohm injured his hand against Miami on Sept. 16. UL is averaging 528 yards of offense per game, but a certain amount of concern has been voiced among Louisville supporters after the team only managed 24 points against an average Kansas State team.

Backup quarterback Hunter Cantwell is tough and has experience, and was a respectable 18 of 26 for 173 yards and a touchdown against the Wildcats. The Cardinals like to throw deep, and the receiving corps is solid with Mario Urrutia and Harry Douglas leading the way.

Pass defense, a major weakness of MT in previous years, has been a strength of the program so far in 2006. Jonathan Harris and Reggie Doucet both intercepted passes against UNT, and the defense as a whole has generated plenty of turnovers.

UL didn't exactly light up the skies against KSU, but one would assume that Friday night will see the Cardinals get back on track.

Advantage: Louisville

When MT runs

The Blue Raiders have had a few pleasant surprises in the running game, namely DeMarco McNair and Desmond Gee. The pair has helped keep Eugene Gross fresh and added some offensive pop of their own.

MT combined for 212 yards on 57 carries against the Mean Green, and any time the team runs the ball that much, it's a good sign.

A solid effort against the run is a main reason the Cardinals have only surrendered 13 points in three games since allowing Kentucky to score 28 in the season opener. Generally overshadowed by their offensive counterparts, UL's defense still ranked 23rd nationally last season, and 21st against the run.

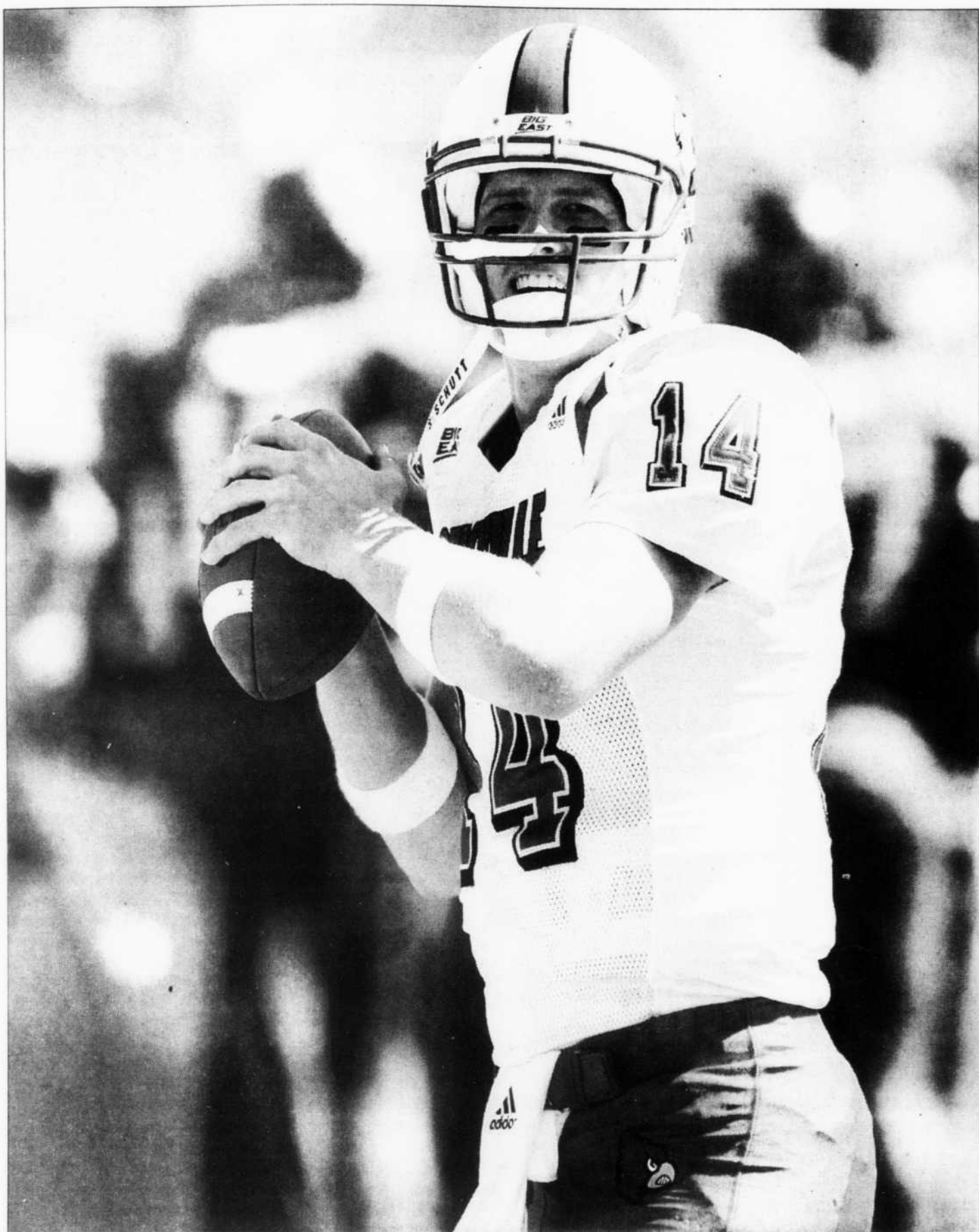
There are no standouts at linebacker for the Cardinals, but there are no liabilities as well. Former special teamer Malik Jackson is a ball hawk, and seniors Abe Brown and Nate Harris are as solid as they come.

Advantage: Louisville

When MT passes

MT looked like a different team on offense Saturday, and one of the most dramatic differences could be seen in the passing game. Clint Marks had an efficient, effective day, finishing 13 of 18 for 154 yards and a touchdown and most importantly, no interceptions.

Wide receiver Jonathan Grigsby hauled in a 53-yard pass and looks ready to step up and contribute consistently. MT will need Marks to play mistake-free football to stay in the ballgame. And while such a request would have seemed laughable a few weeks ago, the performances against the Mean Green are a reason for optimism.



Sophomore quarterback Hunter Cantwell in the season opener loss 59-28 to Kentucky. Cantwell threw one pass for 14 yards

The secondary is probably the weakest link of the Louisville chain, if anything about this team can be referred to as such.

The Cardinals do boast one of the Big East's best cornerbacks in William Gay, but the safeties are somewhat inconsistent. Unfortunately, the Blue Raiders don't have the kind of consistent weapon to exploit that weakness.

Advantage: Louisville

Special Teams

Middle Tennessee, meet Arthur Carmody. The junior is one of the nation's best kickers, having connected on all five attempts from beyond 40 yards last season. He has already kicked five field goals and 23 extra points this season.

Punting will also be solid with the steady leg of junior Todd Flannery. Flannery doesn't generate a lot of hang time, but rarely causes touchbacks. Douglas will take over return duties, as UL hopes to utilize his breakaway speed.

Colby Smith did not have to attempt a field goal on Saturday thanks to the red-zone efficiency of the Blue Raiders, but did connect on all five extra points. Smith only punted four times, averaging 39.1 yards per kick.

MT may have a chance to break a big return tomorrow night, as the Cardinal coverage has been shaky at times.

Advantage: Louisville

Coaching

Whatever Rick Stockstill is doing, he has his players believing. When was the last time MT shut out a tough conference opponent on the road? Anyone?

In all seriousness, Stockstill has transformed MT's image. The Blue Raiders are now a disciplined team that fights hard, a far cry from the talented-but-underachieving squads of the Andy McCollum era. It now appears that the lopsided score in the Oklahoma game was more the exception than the rule.

On the other sideline, fourth-year head coach Bobby Petrino has done a superb job of keeping the ship afloat after losing an All-American caliber quarterback and running back. On the other hand, Louisville has had the talent to win it all before, and failed to do so.

Who will prevail in a battle of wits between the offensive guru and the defensive mastermind?

Advantage: Even

Intangibles

There's no shortage of intrigue here. This game will be the first full nationally televised contest for the Blue Raiders, and the pressure must certainly be felt to make a positive impression for the sake of recruiting.

The game might as well be held at a neutral site, because LP Field will offer little in the way of a home-field advantage. Louisville always travels well, and the game is receiving a lot of hype up there. Petrino has to be concerned about further injuries to his players, however.

After last week's letdown is entirely possible for MT, but this bunch seems better equipped to stay consistent than Blue Raider teams of the past.

Advantage: Even

The skinny

If the Blue Raiders play a flawless game, they will win. Unfortunately, things like that don't happen in the real world.

Louisville will most likely have a conservative mindset with conference play about to begin and depth becoming something of an issue at the skill positions. That will allow MT to keep the game respectable, but the Cardinals will win on talent alone.

This one certainly won't be another Oklahoma, but the Blue Raiders won't be upsetting a Top-10 team anytime soon.

The pick: Louisville 31, Middle Tennessee 13

A tale of two programs, press conferences



The Cynic

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

The difference between Bobby Petrino's Louisville and Rick Stockstill's MT teams seems astronomical.

No. 8 Louisville is a national title contender, while MTSU is glad to be playing for a shot at the snickered-at Sun Belt Conference title. Louisville sells t-shirts at games, and we hand them out. Louisville has two Heisman candidates; we have depth issues at every position. Even with those two Heisman hopefuls injured, Louisville's search for a title will collide this Friday at LP Field in Nashville.

In boxing, 'tomato cans' are easy opponents that fluff up your record to enhance your posture in the search for a championship belt, ring, or title (see Mike Tyson's entire winning record for more examples). Recent history has shown the Cards to be a powerhouse, and the Raiders to be more of the Campbell's soup variety.

But for some reason, the coaches, players and staff at MT are all smiling. They know precious few teams fight their way out of obscurity to become household names, and their opponent

this week is one of them. It can be done. And don't be mistaken, that is their goal. As coach Stockstill said Monday, the team is building confidence week by week, and "the more confident we get, the better we will play."

The Cardinals have played on national television many, many times in recent years. That coverage has helped them to gain exposure, respect and recruiting opportunities. They've used the position of underdog to shine in both upsets and near-misses. And now everyone knows about them.

MT has yet to get that chance. While nearly every game this year has been televised, the coverage has, up til now, been on real-life equivalents of ESPN 8, 'the Ocho'.

Earlier this week, Bobby Petrino talked briefly about MT's marquee defense. "Middle Tennessee looks good on video; their defense blitzes all the time. They fly around. They completely

shut North Texas down ... they haven't given up a lot of plays or a lot of yardage."

But a majority of his time was spent discussing the gaining prestige of the Cardinals and how they can maintain it. Petrino admitted to the importance of Louisville having played so many week-night games, and yet he complained of having to compete with high school football for coverage on a Friday night.

Coach Stock's Tuesday press luncheon was a bit different in tone. While this year is very important to the coaches and players, you can sense that building up the prestige of the Blue Raider program is the priority.

The MT players are ecstatic to have this chance. To them, a national game is a national game. They know if they plan to mirror Louisville's rise to the top, they need time in the spotlight. Win or lose, it will be a fight for exposure.

MT could play exciting, disciplined

football, and still fall short of a W against such a talented team. But you don't need a win to convince people you are close to breaking out. And you don't need a win to send a message.

Defensive lineman Trevor Jenkins, who has become one of the team's unofficial spokesmen, talked about the enthusiasm that has helped them to "play so well lately ... As a defense we just want [people] to know that we're going to come [to play] whether we win or if we lose. It's a pride thing."

His sentiments were echoed by tight end Clinton Corder.

"I think it's a really good opportunity for the program to get our name out there," Corder said. "It's going to help with recruiting a year or two from now."

MT's march to recognition and Louisville's search for a title will collide this Friday at LP Field in Nashville.

Intramural sports scores

Tuesday Night:

Soccer:

Men's A League (6-7 p.m.):

Team 1 beat Joga Bonita 9-1
Kurds beat Ninja Turtles 4-3
Tsunami and Easy L tied 3-3

Men's B League (8-9 p.m.):

Better Than You beat Felder First Floor 6-4
The Shiny Pennies and Poker Players tied 2-2
Saint Mina beat Better than Sex 4-3
Alpha Omega beat Poker Player's 9-1

Men's A League (10-11 p.m.):

Top Gunz beat Don Thava Team 3-1
Latin Lovers beat International Athletes by forfeit
Free Agent 1A beat Bust-A-Nut 8-1

Flag Football:

Men's A League (6 p.m.):

Make it Rain beat Fun boyz 31-14
Speed Kills beat A&W Salvage Junkies 31-0
Alpha Omega (#2) beat Sirs Cheef A Lot 33-12

Women & Sorority League (7-8 p.m.):

The Tightends beat A D Pi (2) by forfeit
Alpha Chi Omega beat Alpha Omega by default
Chi Omega (2) beat Kappa Delta (2) 26-0

Sorority League (8-9 p.m.):

Delta Zeta beat Kappa Delta 14-6
Chi Omega beat ZETA 26-0
A O Pi beat A D Pi 13-7
Alpha Chi Omega beat A O Pi (B) 19-0

Men's B League (10-11 p.m.):

Fire 303 beat Discombobulators 27-6
Tha Show beat Out of Shape White Guys 20-14
Warrior Face beat Bang Bang 21-16
Jackhammers beat Gentlemen of PSE by forfeit
Soul Train beat Valsalva Maneuver 27-7

SBC preview notebook

Teams face inter-conference matches, stiff competition in title pursuit

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

Louisiana-Monroe (1-3) at Arkansas State (2-2)

ASU continues to defend their Sun Belt title at home as they play against ULM this Saturday.

Quarterbacks Corey Leonard and Travis Hewitt were able to move the chain against Florida International last weekend.

This weekend might be a challenge for the Indians, since ULM beat them in a heartbreaker last year 31-27. They are 6-0 in conference openers, however, and have won their last three SBC games.

The Indians are 1-0 in the SBC this year, and ASU has recorded an interception in every game they have played this season.

The Indians have tied for 12th in the nation in interceptions before they played FIU. On the defensive side, ASU under head coach Steve Roberts has held the opponents offense to 17 points or less. Roberts is 12-2 as ASU's coach.

ULM is coming off of a heart-breaking loss to Florida Atlantic, 21-19. The Warhawks won their first game in four tries against ASU last season.

For ULM, this will be their first trip back to Jonesboro since they entered the SBC five years ago. ULM offensive line is currently ranked sixth in the nation for sacks allowed

by a team with three this season.

ULM running back Calvin Dapson currently is ranked 27th in all-purpose yards with 121.25 ypg.

Louisiana-Lafayette (2-2) at Houston (4-1)

ULL hasn't won a game against Houston in the last five years, but they beat Houston twice before 1970.

ULL had a couple of scoring opportunities in their last meeting, which ended in a 21-14 defeat in Lafayette back in 2003. This time, the game is in Houston. The last time they played there, ULL lost 36-17. For the first time in two years, ULL is 2-2 and is looking to improve to 3-2 on the road. The last time that happened, the Ragin' Cajuns beat FIU on the road.

The ULL defense held Eastern Michigan to 70 yards and four first downs last week. Their offense had 298 yards of total offense.

Houston is coming off a depressing 14-13 loss to Miami (Fla.) last weekend. The Cougars had a chance to take the lead late in the third quarter until senior running back Jackie Battle fumbled.

Miami took over and controlled the game from that moment on. Houston was held to 276 total yards against the Hurricanes. The Cougars will be looking for revenge in their meeting with ULL Saturday.

Florida International (0-5) at North Texas (1-4)

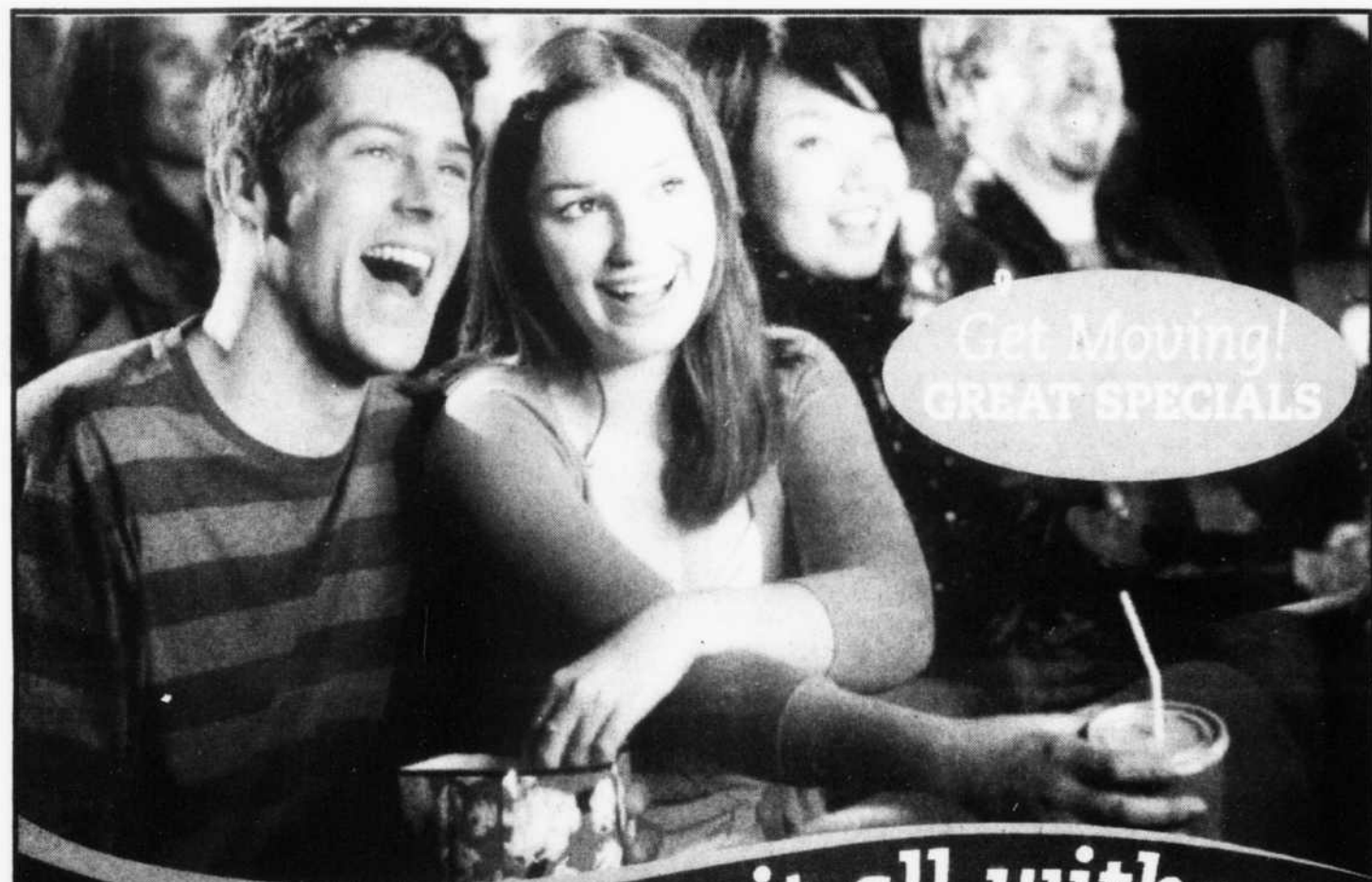
After being routed by ASU 31-6 last weekend, FIU will be playing a team that was shut out for the first time in six years last week by Middle Tennessee.

This time around, FIU might be able to get revenge for the 13-10 win that UNT got last year. The Golden Panthers are looking for their first win of the 2006 season and trying to get back into the hunt for SBC title.

Sophomore A'mod Ned has 706 career rushing yards and moved into a tie for third on the FIU career rushing list. If things go in FIU's favor, he could pass Adam Gorman who has 886 yards and is currently second on the list, within the next two games.

UNT suffered their first loss to MT in four years. Despite the 35-0 final score, it wasn't their worst loss ever. Boise State took care of that back in 2000 with a 59-0 win. Back then, UNT was playing in their final Big West Conference game, and they haven't forgotten that.

The Mean Green have been outscored of late by opponents in the opening quarter, 48-7. This time around, UNT will not sit back and let another SBC team run all over them. They are expected to rebound, but the game could be a close one.



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Continued from last column

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