

SIDELINES

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

Death of John F. Kennedy Jr. strikes many heart first

Allen G. Breed
Associated Press Writer

AQUINNAH, Mass. (AP) - The Kennedy family lowered its flag at Hyannis Port to half-staff Monday and expressed "unspeakable grief" at the death of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife and sister-in-law. Investigators said their plane dropped precipitously and faster than previously thought.

The small Piper plane dropped 1,100 feet in 14 seconds as it approached Martha's Vineyard, federal officials said after reviewing new radar data. In the waters nearby, searchers sought in vain to find the bodies and wreckage.

"We are filled with unspeakable grief and sadness by the loss of John and Carolyn and of Lauren Bessette," said a statement from Sen. Edward Kennedy. "John was a shining light in all our lives, and in the lives of the nation and the world that first came to know him when he was a little boy."

The single-engine plane piloted by Kennedy took off from New Jersey on Friday night. Kennedy and Carolyn Bessette Kennedy planned to drop off her sister on Martha's Vineyard en route to Rory Kennedy's wedding at Hyannis Port on Cape Cod.

Investigators sought to learn what went wrong. The latest radar data indicated that the plane's rate of descent was 4,700 feet per minute, which some pilots said was more like a dive than a descent.

"That airplane would not come down that fast in any normal configuration," said Warren Morningstar, spokesman for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. "The normal rate of descent you're shooting for as a pilot is 500 to 700 feet per minute for passenger comfort."

Robert Pearce, heading the investigation for the National Transportation Safety Board, was reluctant to characterize the drop as unusual. But experts said the high-performance Piper Saratoga 32 generally cannot handle a descent faster than 1,500 feet per

minute. The plane's gauge shows a maximum of 2,000 feet per minute.

Officials had said Sunday that the plane lost 700 feet in altitude within 30 seconds - or 1,400 feet per minute. The reason for the drop is unknown.

The NTSB said maintenance records show the plane was inspected on June 28 - less than

At the family compound in Hyannis Port, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's widow, Ethel, celebrated Mass and kept the flag at full staff as police divers and high-tech boats searched several spots off Martha's Vineyard where the plane may lie.

The flag, last lowered when Michael Kennedy died in a skiing accident a year and a half ago,

teams to search, said Coast Guard Rear Adm. Richard M. Larrabee.

Two National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research vessels were conducting an all-night search effort using sonar equipment.

"We thank in a very special way the men and women who have worked so well and long and hard in these past days to find John, Carolyn and Lauren," the Kennedys said. "We will never forget the dedication, the professionalism and the sensitivity they have shown."

As the search continued, mourners around the nation acted out now-familiar rituals of grief for the untimely deaths of the beautiful and famous. Some held flowers as they lined up to sign a sympathy book for Kennedy at the birthplace of his father in Brookline, outside Boston.

"It is a pity to see yet another Kennedy fall in his prime. They, the Kennedys, have endured lots of agony, and I pray that their future holds triumph. May JFK Jr. and all the Kennedys rest in peace. God bless them," wrote Daniel B. Becker, 13.

President Clinton said the tragedy affected him deeply.

"John Kennedy and his sister, and later his wife, were uncommonly kind to my daughter and to my wife," Clinton said. "This has been a very difficult thing for us personally."

Mourners left dozens of flower bouquets, notes and candles on the steps of the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston and on the steps of John and Carolyn Kennedy's apartment building in New York City.

Don Stoltz, 54, who in the summer of 1963 was an aide to a doctor caring for President Kennedy and his wife, stood on the beach in Hyannis Port on Monday morning staring up at the family compound.

"It's almost like waiting for something to happen with this family," he said, "because of the boldness ... the risk-taking, the wanting to live a full life."



JFK Jr. pictured as he was interviewed on the Larry King Live Show.

three weeks before the crash. On July 13, some additional maintenance was performed, including an adjustment of the aircraft's magnetic compass.

Before his statement was released, Sen. Kennedy was glimpsed playing basketball with the three children of Caroline Kennedy - his niece and JFK Jr.'s sister - at a hoop outside her house on New York's Long Island. Monday was the 13th wedding anniversary for Ms. Kennedy and her husband, Edwin Schlossberg.

In Connecticut, the Bessette family released a statement of sorrow.

"Each of these three young people ... was the embodiment of love, accomplishment and passion for life."

"John and Carolyn were true soul mates and we hope to honor them in death in the simple manner in which they chose to live their lives. We take solace in the thought that together they will comfort Lauren for eternity."

was lowered to half-staff at dusk, a confirmation by the family of the fate of JFK Jr., 38, his wife Carolyn, 33, and Lauren Bessette, 34.

"John had many gifts and gave us great joy, most especially when he brought his wonderful bride Carolyn into our lives," the statement read. "They had their own special brand of magic that touched everyone who knew and loved them. We are thankful for her life and for their lives together."

It ended: "We pray that John, Carolyn and Lauren will find eternal rest, and that God's perpetual light will shine on them."

The search for the plane has covered more than 9,000 square miles. It yielded indications of possible debris in an area of ocean near Nomans Land, a former military practice site off Martha's Vineyard. There were no major finds, but investigators were able to target three new sites for dive

Customs change for benefit of new students

Benita Holmes
Staff Reporter

Have you seen a lot of tour groups? Have you been asked for directions or what a building's acronym stands for? If so, there's a pretty good chance that you've come in contact with the future faces of MTSU. CUSTOMS, the University's summer orientation program is winding down this month with its last two sessions starting on July 26 and 29.

The concept of CUSTOMS started in 1991-92. University officials felt that incoming freshmen needed a more in-depth orientation process. Using models from other schools, a program was designed and the concept of dividing students into groups or countries was developed. Prior to 1991, the orientation was very brief and took place right before classes began in August. Now, CUSTOMS is a month-long program with sessions for first-time college students as well as transfer students. The program, which takes about a year to plan, received accolades from future students.

"Everyone here has been super-friendly, as nice as they could be, said Richard Montgomery, a transfer student from Rockwood, TN. "Everything was set up just right. They really pointed out exactly where you needed to go. The SOAs were great," Montgomery said.

Although the basic format of CUSTOMS has not changed, there have been some welcome additions to the program. Instead of a formal, structured banquet, there is a cookout on the first day until 7 p.m. "It's hard for them [students] to sit in a banquet-type setting, so we've changed that to a cook-out with a band," said CUSTOMS coordinator Stuart Eddings. In addition to the cook-out, new students can enjoy pick-up games in several intramural sports with current students. Eddings said that the biggest draw of the cook-out is that participants have a chance to win \$5,000.

In addition to more casual and involving activities, students have been allotted more time with their faculty advisors. Students are also given a Blue Raider Planner Handbook. The planner includes a copy of the Student Handbook and each day of the planner lists events going on at MTSU. "It's got a lot of good information in it. When they get here at the beginning of school there's so many things going on. They'll know how to get involved on campus," said Eddings. Also, the materials that students received were bound as opposed to the plethora of loose papers that have been distributed in the past.

Although CUSTOMS hasn't ended, there are still some changes planned for next year. Instead of starting in July, CUSTOMS will begin in the middle of June and will end earlier than in previous years. "As far as other improvements, we'll be looking at the evaluations that the students and family members fill out. Based on those evaluations, we'll change what we can for next year," Eddings said.

In addition to Eddings, the CUSTOMS staff includes 1 student coordinator, 20 Student Orientation Assistants, and 4 clerical staff. The student coordinator acts as a liaison between Eddings and the SOAs, who actually lead the new students through the orientation process.

Eddings not only coordinates CUSTOMS, she also coordinates Family Day and Welcome Week. In addition to coordinating events, she teaches University 101 and is a member of several University committees.

Former MTSU Financial Aid Director on trial in November

Melanie McWhorter
Staff Reporter

Former MTSU Financial Aid Director Winston Wrenn will go to trial on November 16 for his alleged embezzlement from MTSU.

Wrenn was the Director of Financial Aid at MTSU for nearly three decades before he was fired in November 1997 for his alleged misconduct. Wrenn's attorney, Frank Fly, states that Wrenn "has maintained he has done nothing wrong."

Wrenn was indicted on charges of granting himself a \$17, 760 federal loan between December 1994 and August 1995, and another loan of the same amount between December 1996 and August 1997; granting his son a federal loan for \$6,360 from August 1996 to May 1997, and another \$7,200 between April 1997 and December 1997; granting another son a federal loan for \$10, 080 between January 1996 and August 1997; and obtaining over \$60,000 from the U.S. government by providing them with false information to obtain a Pell Grant and other monies for which he was not eligible. According to the charges that he was indicted on, Wrenn also altered records and documents to conceal his theft.

"Prior to the release of the (state audit) report, under the direction of the vice president of Finance and Administration, there was a thorough review of the practices in the Financial Aid office and additional measures have been put into place," MTSU's president James Walker said of this situation. "We will continue to monitor the implementation of these actions to ensure compliance with the audit's recommendations."

Walker went on, "I have full confidence in the team that is in the Financial Aid office that they will work long and hard to appropriately service the students wanting to attend MTSU."

Nation's top debate coaches come to MTSU for Mid-State debate institute

Melanie McWhorter
Staff Reporter

More than 50 students and a dozen educators from 20 states and the District of Columbia will come to the MTSU campus July 29 for this year's Mid-South Debate Institute (MSDI). This ten-day workshop prepares the participating debate teams for next year's intercollegiate debate topic on U.S. policy toward rogue nations. The Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) will sponsor these debates.

According to Russell Church, Chair of Speech and Theatre, this institute will "provide a low-cost, high-quality workshop in staff and experience."

These debate teams come in all sizes and all skill-levels, and they

come from a diverse range of public and private colleges and universities. The Debate Institute provides all of these groups with equal opportunities by sharing a "debate ready" institute argument and evidence pool.

Church also said that MSDI will "give our students a head start for the debate season."

The staff of the MSDI is composed of some of the most accomplished coaches and teachers in intercollegiate debate today: Dr. Gina Lane, President of CEDA and coach of a second place national championship; Carl Engstrom, a coach for Gonzaga University and former debater at Harvard; Jeremy Hutchins, a former coach for Southern Illinois University and national competitive debater; Sean Harris, former national competitive

debater for Whitman College; Mike Kreuger, Director of Debate at MTSU, who also coached MTSU and led them to new national accomplishments last year; Michael Korock, former coach at Cornell and MIT; Sue Lowrie, coach at Pepperdine University; Gabrielle Prisco, coach at the University of Alabama (finished in 7th place last year in the National CEDA Sweepstakes); Jason Russell, former coach at Michigan State University and national competitive debater from the University of Central Oklahoma; Monte Stevens, coach at Kansas State University and former national competitive debater at the University of Missouri at Kansas City; Dr. Glenda Treadway, the first vice-president of CEDA and coach at Appalachian State

University; and Jessica Wojtyasiak, former national competitive debater for Cornell University.

MTSU finished among the top 25 debate squads in the United States last year. As MTSU looks to improve on that ranking, our students will be attending the Institute and reaping the benefits of the research and coaching pool to improve on their skills and prepare for another successful year.

"MSDI helps to increase awareness of MTSU in the debate community and helps to prepare debaters for the coming year," according to Mike Kreuger, Director of Debate at MTSU. "MSDI also increases awareness of MTSU in general by hosting this prestigious conference...it proves that MTSU is a leader in academic endeavors."

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WEATHER FORECAST

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FRIDAY
SHOWERS
HI 94/LO 73

Fish and Wildlife rep. raises environmental questions

Associated Press

Fish and Wildlife representative raises environmental questions over Dell Deal

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants to investigate reports of endangered species on the land to be rezoned for Dell Computer Corp. and is asking Metro Council members to delay voting on the company's incentive package.

The Council has scheduled a final vote Tuesday on the \$46 million deal that gives Dell sales tax rebates, property tax breaks and land near the Nashville International Airport to build a computer assembly plant, in exchange for relocating and creating up to 8,000 jobs.

But Lee A. Barclay, supervisor of the federal agency's Tennessee/Kentucky field office, wants the vote postponed for 60 days.

In a letter addressed to Vice Mayor Jay West and William Moore, chairman of the Nashville Airport Authority, Barclay said the extra time is needed to investigate reports of peregrine falcons nesting near the property.

The falcons are protected under both the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, he said.

State and federal agencies also need time to explore several caves that run underneath the property

to determine whether they support the Indiana bat or gray bat, both listed as endangered species, Barclay said. He added that the property also could support several species of migratory birds that are in serious decline, though not endangered.

Dell, based in Round Rock, Texas, announced plans in May to build the plant in Nashville. It would be the first U.S. plant outside Texas for Dell, the world's No. 3 computer manufacturer. ■

Serbia in political turmoil as new massacre victims arise from Kosovo

Coleen Barry
Associated Press Writer

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) - Hatred and violence in Kosovo are claiming new victims even as old ones are just being documented by international investigators gathering evidence of atrocities during the brutal Serb clampdown on the province.

Four ethnic Albanians killed over the weekend near Klina, in western Kosovo, provide stark evidence that the ethnic hatreds that led to the brutal Serb-Albanian conflict are continuing despite attempts by NATO-led peace forces to cap tensions.

Evidence of earlier brutality was unearthed Monday in the northern town of Podujevo, where local authorities exhumed the bodies of 19 victims of a Serb massacre - including 80-year-old Fariz Fazliu, who went missing on March 28, the Muslim holy day Bajram.

The old man's embroidered black and white belt, part of a

traditional costume from the region, was still cinched around the body.

"Even the grave is full of blood," said Nimon Fazliu, the man's nephew, believing he saw dark stains on the dank walls of the grave.

Hours after International War Crimes Tribunal investigators and British soldiers left the grave site to mourners, Fazliu's two sons and three nephews prepared to give him a proper burial.

A man dug a fresh grave only 10 yards from where Serbs had buried him, in a crude row of graves hastily dug in the dark earth. Fazliu's sons and nephews waited for local imam to finish another funeral to come tend to their uncle.

The bodies exhumed Monday included six members of the Bugujevci family and seven from the Duriqi family. Four of the dead were children.

Nimon Fazliu said he believes all the people were killed March 28, the same day

his uncle disappeared after going to pray at the town mosque. On that day, he said, Serbs rounded up people and took them to the Bugujevci family home, where they massacred them in the garden.

The graves will provide more evidence of the mass killings of thousands of ethnic Albanians during months of Serb terror, and war crimes tribunal investigators were present to document evidence.

Elsewhere in the province, American peacekeeping forces in Kosovo suffered their first deaths when an armored personnel carrier overturned, killing two soldiers and injuring three others, a spokesman said Monday.

The deaths of the peacekeepers - Spec. Sherwood B. Brim, 30, of Dallas, and Sgt. William W. Wright, 27, of Clearlake, Calif. - occurred near Dmorovce, 10 miles northeast of Gnjilane, where U.S. forces are based.

The accident came five

weeks after U.S. forces, now totaling about 5,000, entered the province along with other NATO troops under a peace accord.

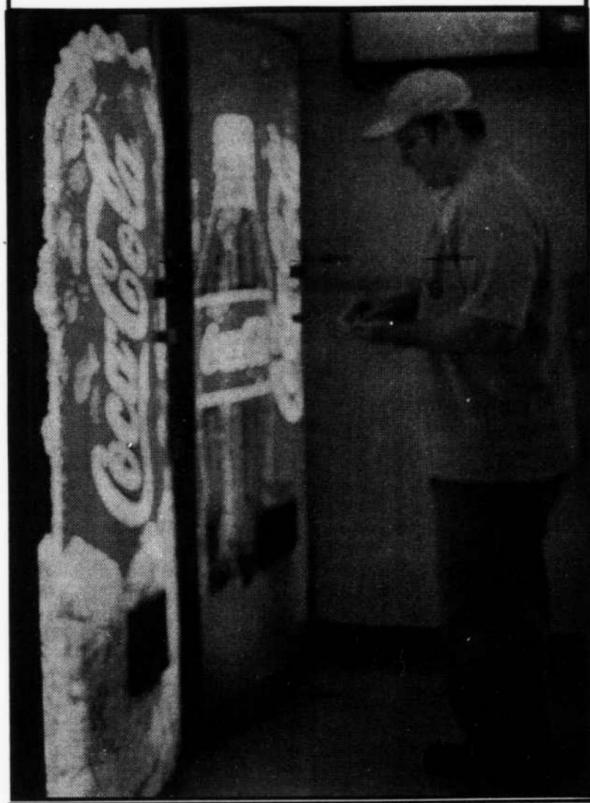
NATO has struggled to prevent ethnic attacks, both by returning ethnic Albanian refugees seeking revenge against Kosovo's Serbian minority and others by Serbs targeting Albanians.

As hatred and violence persist in Kosovo, political fallout from the war is mounting in Serbia.

For nearly three weeks, protests against President Slobodan Milosevic and his government have spread over much of Serbia as the opposition tries to capitalize on public anger over the defeat by NATO and de facto loss of Kosovo. But the opposition remains fractured.

In an interview with the Montenegrin Vijesti daily published Monday, opposition leader Zoran Djindjic rejected cooperation with rival Vuk Draskovic, who has said that Milosevic's ouster should not be the main opposition goal. ■

Coke prices have been bumped up to 65 cents



Staff Photo by Melanie McWhorter

Coke machine prices all over campus have been raised from 60 cents per can to 65 cents.

According to the Director of Procurement Services, Joe Hugh, the raise in price is due to the fact that "the price of the product has gone up, so we raised our prices along with the rest of the market."

Hugh went on to say that it was hard to predict, but he didn't think that drink prices would go up again anytime soon.

Scott Munsell, a senior at MTSU, (pictured) considers buying a coke.

When asked what he thought about the coke price raise, he replied, "any raise in prices is detrimental, because as college students, we value every penny." ■

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Columbia launch is called off

Marcia Dunn
Associated Press Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - An indication of a dangerous buildup of hydrogen gas in space shuttle Columbia's engine compartment stopped the countdown early Tuesday just 6 1/2 seconds before launch.

Eileen Collins, the first female space shuttle commander, and the four other astronauts were safe, but rushed nonetheless to turn off all shuttle systems and get out of the rocket filled with more than 500,000 gallons of liquid hydrogen fuel and liquid oxygen.

Columbia was to have blasted off at 12:36 a.m. EDT carrying the world's most powerful X-ray telescope.

The reading of excess hydrogen - which NASA suspects may have been faulty - was detected by onboard computers an instant before the three main engines were to ignite.

"Cutoff!" a launch controller shouted. "Cutoff was given," another replied.

NASA launch commentator Bruce Buckingham said depending on the problem another launch attempt might be made Thursday. At the very least, technicians will have to replace six igniters, needed to burn off hydrogen vapor below the engines before they are fired.

It was the first time in years that trouble struck so late in the countdown. At first, engineers considered the reading to be accurate but as they checked their data began to suspect there was no hydrogen buildup.

"Engineers in the firing room will continue to monitor the situation and strive to understand exactly what happened that caused this abort," Buckingham said.

It was a huge disappointment for the female notables on hand - and also for the astronauts.

"Sorry about the delay. We'll do it in a couple days, hopefully," a launch controller told Collins before she climbed out of the shuttle.

The U.S. women's soccer team, as well as Hillary Rodham Clinton, daughter Chelsea and Sally Ride, America's first woman in space, had gathered to cheer Collins on. A sign held by a female space worker summed up the mood on the 30th anniversary of the first manned moon landing, by Apollo 11: "Eileen - You go girl!!!"

"This really is the last barrier to be broken," observed Ride. She had called Collins earlier to wish her good luck.

The lengthy VIP list also included Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala; 15 members of Congress, 13 of them women; and Judy Collins,

who wrote a song for the occasion.

The \$1.5 billion Chandra X-ray Observatory is to be ejected from the shuttle. For five years, it will scrutinize stars, galaxies and quasars, search for black holes and study the so-called black matter that fills the cosmos.

Collins, 42, an Air Force colonel and a former test pilot, has flown before as a shuttle co-pilot. This week's flight would be her third.

Collins has said that she is honored to be the first woman to command a mission in 38 years of U.S. human spaceflight, and that a female commander is long overdue.

But she said she sometimes wonders: "Why would anyone be interested in hearing about me when the science and the exploration part of our mission, to me, is so exciting?"

The 45-foot Chandra is the biggest X-ray telescope ever built and the heaviest payload ever put aboard a space shuttle. With its attached rocket motor and support gear, Chandra weighs 50,000 pounds.

Columbia is the only shuttle big enough to hold it. NASA ran extra engineering studies to make sure the shuttle could sustain the weight if, because of some problem, it had to return to Earth with the telescope still on board.

NASA's top managers granted permission for the shuttle to carry

the observatory after the space agency stripped 7,000 pounds from Columbia by using lighter engines and discarding unnecessary gear.

After decades of working on the program, dozens of scientists gathered at the launch site in anticipation. The telescope should have flown last August but was grounded first by software problems, then bad circuit boards, then a suspect rocket motor.

Before the launch was canceled, Martin Weisskopf, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration astrophysicist in charge of the project, said he hasn't been so nervous since the day he got married. NASA's top space scientist, Ed Weiler, noted that like the Hubble Space Telescope, Chandra has 1 million parts. Hubble was launched in 1990 with a flawed mirror that wasn't discovered until the telescope was in orbit.

The entire Chandra project, including the shuttle ride and five years of orbital operations, comes in at \$2.8 billion.

Joining the team's scientists at the launch site was the 88-year-old widow of the Nobel Prize-winning astrophysicist for whom the telescope is named, Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar. The University of Chicago professor was known as Chandra, which is Sanskrit for "moon" or "luminous." ■

Forbes leads the spending race

Jonathan D. Salant
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Six months before the first presidential votes are cast, free-spending publisher Steve Forbes spent nearly \$3 million on advertising and is paying five advisers six-figure salaries.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush spent just \$38,000 on media in the first six months this year, but he did shell out \$712,177 to charter airplanes to travel around the country. Vice President Al Gore spent \$187,634 to reimburse the federal government for travel aboard Air Force Two, the vice-presidential jet, and almost \$600,000 on salaries for a campaign staff heavy on Washington consultants.

With the 2000 presidential campaign well under way, the financial disclosure reports filed with the Federal Election Commission last week offer a glimpse of how the various contenders are spending the money they've raised.

Forbes' \$2.7 million ad blitz in Iowa, New Hampshire, Arizona and California accounted for about a third of the \$8.2 million he has spent in the first six months of 1999, more than any other presidential candidate.

The ads emphasized such issues as tax reform and Social Security in an attempt to appeal to the conservatives who tend to dominate Republican primaries, which begin in February with the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary.

"We have a real conservative agenda with solid issues," Forbes' campaign manager, Bill Dal Col, said. "We believe we will set the issue agenda for the 2000 race. That's what we intended to do with the ad campaign."

Forbes also has hired several powerhouse campaign aides. One deputy campaign manager, Ruth Kistler, formerly was deputy political director for the Republican National Committee and chief of staff for the National Republican Congressional Committee. Another deputy campaign manager, Frederick Ahearn, worked for four Republican presidents and used to run 1996 GOP vice presidential nominee Jack Kemp's political action committee.

Another top aide, Tony Hammond, is a former RNC political director. All three are being paid more than \$100,000 a year, as is political director James Tobin, former northeast political director for the RNC, and campaign manager Dal Col. In Iowa, Forbes is paying \$73,380 a year to Stephen Scheffler, former executive director of the state Christian Coalition.

"We are in a battle and we intend to be well-armed," Dal Col said. On the other hand, Bush's campaign has attempted to hold down its spending. The campaign spent just \$1.2 million to raise \$37 million, taking in \$31 for every \$1 spent on fund-raising. That has helped Bush build a campaign bank account balance of \$30 million while four of his Republican opponents, including Forbes, are in the red.

"We realize it's not just how much you raise, it's how much you have in the bank," Bush campaign spokeswoman Mindy Tucker said.

The Bush campaign did reimburse the governor's father, former President George Bush, for \$3,947 in travel expenses.

And the campaign spent \$446,844 on consultants, less than half of the \$992,243 Forbes spent.

More than half the \$3.4 million spent by former Vice President Dan Quayle's campaign went for fund-raising. Quayle's campaign spent \$1.9 million to raise \$3.5 million.

Conservative activist Gary Bauer spent more than \$271,000 to qualify for federal matching funds. The FEC certified he will receive federal funds next year. ■

Students with drug, alcohol problems more likely to own guns study reveals

College Press Exchange

College students with serious problems linked to alcohol are more likely to own a handgun at school than those students whose drinking habits are under control, according to a study recently released by the Harvard University School of Public Health.

The study, based on a

survey of more than 150,000 students from 130 four-year institutions nationwide, found that 3.5 percent of students have a gun at school. That figure rose to 6.8 percent among students who reported drinking heavily, driving while impaired, damaging property while intoxicated or injuring themselves in alcohol-related fights or accidents.

Researchers called the

connection between gun possession and alcohol abuse troublesome and also noted that the association remained constant even after factors such as gender, race, residential region and membership in a Greek organization were taken into consideration.

The Harvard study concluded that the profile of an average college-age gun owner

looks a lot like that of the average American gun owner: white men living in the South or West. Only 1.5 percent of women reported owning a gun in college, while 6.4 percent of men did. Researchers also found that white students were more likely to have a gun on campus than Asian-American or African-American students. ■

PARKING NOTICE

On Friday, July 23, the following areas will be closed at the times stated in order to prepare for maintenance:

Parking Lot/Area

Time Lot will be Closed

Parking Spaces located on B Street (by Woodmore Cafeteria)	4:00 p.m.
Parking Spaces located east of Bragg Mass Communication Bldg. (at the corner of 2nd Street and D Street)	4:30 p.m.
Parking Spaces located at Peck Hall	4:00 p.m.
Loop Drive	4:30 p.m.
Parking Lot located North of the Todd Building and South of Jones Hall	4:00 p.m.
Womack Lane (parking area on street)	6:00 a.m.
Parking Spaces located on B Street (Parking Meters at KUC)	6:00 p.m.

We ask your cooperation in making plans to have your vehicle removed from these parking areas at the stated lot closing time on July 23.

The Womack Lane Apartments will re-open at 7:00 p.m. Friday, July 23.

All other areas should re-open and be available for parking at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, July 24.

In the event that vehicles are parked in these areas after the stated lot closing times or on Saturday, July 10,

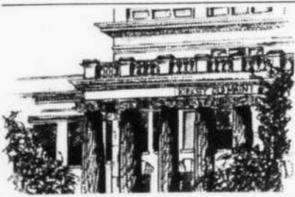
Parking Services will make an effort to contact the owner of the vehicle to ask for it to be moved.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Parking Services at 898-2850.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience on this matter.



OPINIONS

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

—Thomas Jefferson
Murfreesboro, TN

4 ■ SIDELINES

Editorial

Serve your purpose, give back to the world

Have you ever just sat and thought about what life is about? Have you ever thought about why you're here or what you're supposed to do with your life. Surely, these are questions that have crossed all of our minds at one point or another.

No one has all the answers to these questions but we all seem to have something to add to the evergoing debate on life's meaning. Life is about many things. It's about living. It's about learning. It's about failing. It's about succeeding. It's about finding enlightenment. It's about seeking knowledge. It's about loving. It's about having fun. It's about fulfilling your purpose on this earth, whatever your purpose may be.

Life isn't about drugs. It's not about sex. It's not about money. It's not about thinking you're better than someone else. It's not about fashion. It's not about the way you look. It's not about gossiping. It's not about what people think about you.

Life is about serving your purpose. It's about giving back to the world and helping others.

For those of you who believe wholeheartedly in God, you will already be aware of the fact that God has a plan for you. Some people spend most of their lives trying to figure out what it is that they are to do on this earth. If you're one of those people, don't worry, it's normal. But until you figure out what your calling is, you should do your best to try and realize it. We all have different purposes in life but they have common bonds. Throughout our lives, there have been people who have taught us, inspired us and guided us along this rocky journey we called life. Because someone was there for you, you should be willing to be there for someone else.

Remember that no matter what career you decided to pursue, there is a greater mission placed upon you by God to give back to people in one way or another.

Money, sex or drugs don't make the world go round, people do. As long as we serve our purpose - give back to the world, we can ensure a better life for our children and generations to come.

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MP3 changes music game for musicians, fans, labels

Tom Moon
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Several days last week, I engaged in a new wired-world ritual: I logged on to my computer, fired up a pager-size Rio PMP-300 personal music player, sent yesterday's tunes to the recycle bin, and headed off on an Internet safari for fresh music.

From all the hype, I knew I'd find music of artists eager for me to download their MP3 files. And sure enough, there were jazz-rock fusionists from Hong Kong, techno-geeks offering endless variations on the basic rave beat, a Juilliard grad who writes menacing music for video games and loves Swedish fjord horses. Many tracks were free; others cost between 99 cents and \$1.49. Some sites only wanted an e-mail address; others asked for exhaustive credit-application information.

Just a quick pass through this groaning, hyperlinked buffet was all it took to load up for the day. In about two minutes per song, my high-speed connection - the type used by many corporations, as well as universities whose students treat the PC like a boombox - allowed me to replace the music I'd grabbed for the morning commute with another batch of tunes encoded in the MP3 format, which compresses near-CD-quality audio data into small, easy-to-manipulate files. Downloading stuff isn't foolproof, but as these things go, MP3 is relatively straightforward - even those intimidated by technology can learn to transfer music to their PCs with a few simple mouse clicks.

After visiting the "MP3 for Beginners" site at www.mp3.com, it was almost a no-brainer to walk through the basics. First I located and downloaded a "player," software that plays the files from the Internet for little or no cost. Then I set up a folder to store the downloaded files. And several roadblocks later ("Permanent Fatal Error!") things were humming. I could track one of thousands of sites offering MP3 titles, save them or send them to friends via e-mail. All it took was a little time, though admittedly not nearly as much as it would have on my pokey home modem.

To play the music away from a PC requires a portable player. The Rio, made by Diamond Multimedia, is currently the easiest to find - the company says it has shipped more than 200,000 to retailers, where they go for around \$170 - but in coming months at least a half-dozen competitors will woo the millions of PC users believed to be downloading music. This ease of use offers ordinary music consumers a glimpse of a brave new world no longer dominated by the blockbuster mind-set that prevails at the major labels. In the more democratized MP3 universe, Johnny's basement musings can, with luck and the blessing of the cybergods, spread as rapidly as the latest heavily bankrolled teen-pop creation from Universal Records.

The labels that once had a choke hold on recorded music are no longer the only game in town. Fans can capture material the labels might have considered too risky for release, and offer comments on it instantly, while buying T-shirts or other merchandise.

In the words of Kevin Hause, an analyst at the Internet research firm International Data Corp., MP3 is "one of the first things we've seen that strengthens the relationship between artist and consumer. Today, they're at arm's length - the artist has no idea who's buying, because the label does the distribution. ... The opportunity to get closer to the fan base is very appealing, and so is the ability to create a tighter-knit family around the music."

It's this potential - which at its most extreme could cut labels out of the retail equation entirely - that has transformed "MP3" into the high-tech buzzword of the moment. The topic is the latest cover of Wired magazine and a thread running through the current Doonesbury. It's the niche of several imminent Wall Street IPOs and a search term more popular than "sex," according to a ranking service that tracks such things.

Short of stuffing the genie back into the bottle, the goal for the recording industry is to find a way to turn a profit with MP3 and to ensure that labels and signed artists aren't defrauded of revenue. The Recording Industry Association of America - which represents the major labels and larger indies - recently announced that its hardware/software consortium had developed a digital "watermark" that would protect recorded music against digital copying and ensure proper royalty compensation. The system should be active by year's end.

In the meantime, MP3 continues to explode. Next week, the New York funk-pop band They Might Be Giants will issue what it says is the first full-length album to be sold exclusively via the Internet, the 15-track "Long Tall Weekend." Shortly thereafter, Public Enemy, one of the most influential hip-hop acts of the '80s, will post "There's a Poison Goin' On," which, unlike the Giants' effort, will be sold through traditional retail channels.

To be sure, the quality of this megastore's offerings is erratic. I was delighted to pay a buck to hear new songs from Philadelphia's Three 4 Tens, whose swaggering guitar explorations are a breath of fresh air amidst the digitally generated drum machines. Only minutes later, I was disheartened to discover I'd wasted precious download time on an ordinary drum-and-bass loophole that seemed endless. You only need to hear one or two songs from a file to get the idea. (In fact, many industry observers predict the MP3 revolution, with its cherry-picking aesthetic, will accelerate the shift from album-length works to shorter, easier-to-capture bits.)

As I go on clicking, it's impossible to miss some fundamental questions the new technology raises. Does the appreciation for music change as the work becomes more disposable, easier to grab, then discard after a few spins? And what happens to the old-fashioned artist who doesn't want his or her work available in this frosty format, divorced from graphics and lyrics?

Mostly, though, I'm awed by the prospect of surveying music in an unfiltered way. For a long time, covering music has meant taking what the major labels and large independents are giving. No more: Now artists both new and established can circumvent the system and launch their songs out into the wide, wired world, where they will sink or swim on their own merits.

The new symbols of women's liberation is now found in sports bras, active wear

Lisa Lytle Liddane
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Less than two decades ago, women were burning their bras. Last Saturday, Brandi Chastain chose to show hers to the world. Before millions of people, the 30-year-old midfielder stripped off her soccer jersey to reveal a black sports bra and rock-hard abs after making the penalty shot that won the U.S. women's soccer team the World Cup championship.

Chastain called it a "moment of insanity." And that moment turned into what an America Online poll called the "Sports Bra Brouhaha."

Some people saw what Chastain did as an act of immodesty - one that was impudent or unsportsmanlike.

Others viewed it as a spontaneous act of pure joy and victory. I prefer to give Chastain the benefit of the doubt and see it exactly for what she said it was: being caught up in the euphoria of triumph, nothing more, nothing less.

I can't say the same, though, for Chastain posing in the nude with a soccer ball in Gear magazine.

But back to the sports bra.

After Title IX, the sports bra arguably has to be the best thing created for girls and women who exercise or play sports.

No matter what the cup size.

Being able to wear a sports bra has been one of the most liberating experiences for physically active women. The jarring movements of aerobics, running, soccer, basketball and volleyball can be extremely uncomfortable. Unlike a regular bra, a sports bra helps counteract gravity.

The best-constructed ones - such as the Champion Jogbras - give such sufficient support and coverage that some women can get away with not wearing an extra layer such as a T-shirt or tank top. That's especially welcome for a woman who tends to overheat and drench a T-shirt quickly.

Many female enthusiasts, such as runners and volleyball players, wear a sports bra with shorts in public, especially along the beach. Chastain's outfit is far from unusual. Triathletes, for example, wear little - briefs with sports bras for maximum comfort and aerodynamic performance.

So, really, what's all the fuss? Many sports bras easily qualify as outerwear.

Since the invention of the Jogbra, the choice in sports bras has widened considerably.

Here are some that provide a lot of support and coverage. All can be found in the Title Nine Sports catalog, (800) 609-0092:

-The Frog Bra: One of the best no-bounce bras, especially for women with C cups or bigger. It has one of the highest Lycra contents - 32 percent. You also get a lot of compression.

-Champion Underwire Sport Top: Provides support without that uni-breast look. It's made of moisture-wicking CoolMax.

-Champion Action-Motion Bra: A good classic multisports bra with a racer back or A-B cups.

-Moving Comfort's Meshbra: Made of lightweight mesh, it's ideal for those whose priority is sweat-management. Good for A-B cups.

A final tip: If you choose not to wear a T-shirt or tank top, choose darker colors. When you're drenched with sweat, the darker colors provide better coverage.

SIDELINES

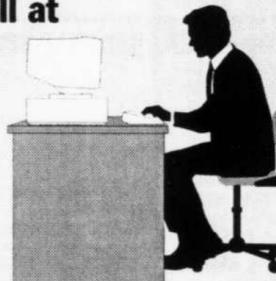
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FEATURES

The Talking Cure

by Jessica Chelekis/staff writer

Fed up with relationship woes? Try talking to your mate.

Romantic relationships make up about 90% of all the drama in human history. Empires, wars, religion, philosophy, science and Walter Kronkite fit into the shockingly small 10% with room to spare for media personalities.

What's the big deal? I mean, sure, we are biologically attracted to (and occasionally repulsed by) the opposite sex, but why all the drama? Why all the nonsense about male/female relationships? Why is it so hard for us to relate to and understand each other? What, in short, is the fundamental problem that has allowed authors to make millions of dollars selling books with titles like "Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus"?

The answer is, no one knows. The probability of any one person figuring it out is so remote that we might as well just give in to the utter futility. Well, I'm not so easily persuaded. After counselling a particularly depressed friend after a rather loud breakup with his girlfriend, I began to seriously consider this most confusing subject. For some reason or another, my friends hunt me down like a heat-seeking missile whenever they have relationship problems, and implore me to bestow upon them my much needed advice.

I don't ask for this. I hated the responsibility of doling out advice that will

magically fix whatever is wrong with the relationship. But after awhile, I began to discover a curious pattern in the myriad relationship problems I've had to endure: my advice was almost always the same. And apparently it worked, except for a few cases in which it actually sped up an inevitable break up.

But that wasn't my fault. Anyway, my advice was plain and simple communication.

"Why doesn't he understand how I feel?" "Why did she get so mad at me?" Or even the classic, "How come he/she doesn't even know I exist?" Hmm,

well, try talking to the person! That's right, from

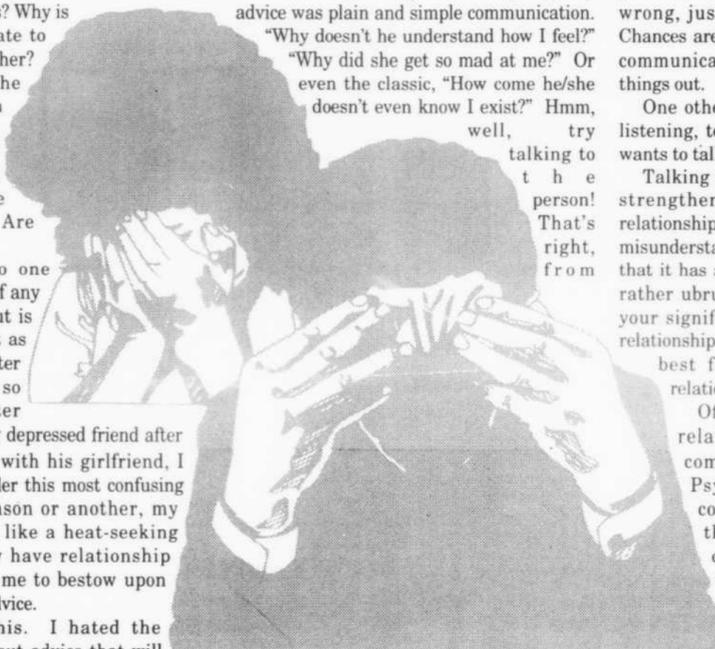
serious relationships, to relationships that haven't even begun, talking can work miracles.

And I don't mean talking about the weather, either. Almost all misunderstandings in relationships occur as a result of miscommunication or no communication. If there's something bothering you about your relationship, then instead of going around to all your friends trying to guess what on earth is wrong, just talk to your significant other. Chances are, unless there's a breakdown at the communication level, you'll be able to work things out.

One other thing. Communication involves listening, too. So if your boyfriend/girlfriend wants to talk, then its a good idea to listen.

Talking about concerns or problems have strengthened and even saved many relationships. But if communication clears up misunderstandings, then I'm obligated to state that it has also ended relationships, sometimes rather abruptly. Suddenly you realize what your significant other really wants out of a relationship. In these types of cases, it's usually best for everyone involved that the relationship ends quickly anyway.

Of course, there are other kinds of relationship problems that communication can't solve. Psychological problems and codependency spring to mind. In those cases, I have neither the qualifications nor the desire to offer advice, and you'd best seek professional help.



Slim (Jones), Mike (Eps) and Roland (Diggs) toast at Roland's wedding in *The Wood*.

series of flashbacks. While going down memory lane, the trio remembers when they first met, their famous school dances and the girls they danced with, bets, the clothes they wore, hairstyles (jheri curls and high top fades), high school sweethearts, the first time they had sex, fights, getting pulled over by the police, just the everyday things they encountered in the Wood.

After reminiscing and discussing the past

his two best friends in the world. After a good heart to heart talk from his friends, Roland realizes what he has to do. As for the ending, you'll have to go see for yourself.

"The Wood" was written and directed by Rick Famuyiwa, who based the movie on his own vivid childhood memories. Famuyiwa said the story idea originated when a friend announced his marriage. Later they found themselves talking about the "good ol' days," which is soon led to the making of this movie.

Famuyiwa attended the University of Southern California where he majored in liberal arts with an emphasis in political science and pre-law before switching to a major in film.

I definitely recommended going to see this movie. It really does have a universal theme that many people will be able to relate to. The movie can be best described as a "real good, feel good" movie. Like movies that have come before it like, 1997's "Soul Food" and 1998's "Hav Plenty," "The Wood" gives its viewers a warm feeling. Although the movie is not filled with a large budget, special effects and other elements that seem to dominate many of today's blockbuster smashes, "The Wood" is definitely good for the soul.

with his boys, Roland confesses the real reason he has cold feet about getting married. He is afraid that things will change between him and

effects and other elements that seem to dominate many of today's blockbuster smashes, "The Wood" is definitely good for the soul.

Fraternity Helps Bridge Gap For Deaf, Hearing Students

Elizabeth Nida
College Press Exchange

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CPX) — An eclectic mix of loud music, including Bon Jovi and Jewel, echoes through a hallway. A few guys gather in a nearby living room to watch a football game, and just down the way, some playful flirting takes place. In many respects it's a typical fraternity house.

But not entirely.

What sets Sigma Nu, a fraternity at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York, apart from most fraternities is that it is made up of students who are deaf or hearing impaired. "Living with other deaf students has helped me tremendously," said Scott Van Nice, a fourth-year student at RIT. "By being around my own peers, I feel comfortable with my own deafness and even secure in my own individuality. That has helped me with the way I carry myself."

It is a sentiment echoed by many belonging to one of the campus' three deaf fraternities - Sigma Nu, Kappa Phi Theta, and Delta Sigma Phi - and two deaf sororities - Tri Sigma and Alpha Sigma Theta. Ten percent of students at RIT are hearing impaired. As a result, the university is known for its efforts to help hearing students understand the complexities of deafness and the culture surrounding it.

"I can communicate with either hearing or sign language people, so I don't feel isolated, but it's still nice being in a fraternity where the members share so much in common and help each other out with problems," said John Nemeth, a third-year student in Sigma Nu who describes himself as "hard of hearing." "It's great to be a part of something special, and something that I know will endure long after I leave RIT."

"I grew up with very minimal exposure to deaf 'culture' and was culturally shocked when I enrolled in RIT," said senior and Tri Sigma sorority president Kathleen Allyn Davis. "As I became engrossed with the culture, I was able to accept my differences and accept who I am."

Indeed, a sense of comfort, unity, and security generally prevails for those who, often for the first time, live in a community that shares the same understanding of a handicap that is frequently misunderstood.

"We share the same difficulties and issues," said Javaughn Stewart Jr., a member of Sigma Nu. "We know that if we go out into the real world and look for a job we can't expect the boss to care about us or to want to communicate and learn sign language. This is a big issue because some of us might feel like the people we work with should want to learn how to communicate our way. The only thing that we can do is meet them halfway."

Because they have varying degrees of hearing impairment, students in deaf fraternity and sorority chapters sometimes depend on each other to help interpret. The majority use sign language, but some read lips, and others are proficient in both. As a whole, the deaf rely on the use of a "different language," one that includes a unique set of culturally ingrained rules, such as maintaining eye contact and always facing the people with whom they're speaking.

The dorms and apartments where the deaf students live are specially equipped to meet their needs. Strobe lights replace sound when doorbells are pressed and telephones ring; the phones are NTID equipped for typed conversations.

Deaf and hearing chapters occasionally interact, and deaf students said they're grateful for the experience.

"Just last night I went to a fraternity party and I talked with some of the frat brothers, and they made me feel welcome," Stewart said. "They are very respectful to me and treat me like a good person."

That respect is well deserved, said Jim Owens, chief administrative officer for the national Sigma Nu fraternity.

"Other chapters are inspired by the members of Sigma Nu at RIT," he said.

"It makes them realize how much they (those with hearing) take for granted."

Hearing students are free to join deaf chapters, but to be eligible, they must have knowledge of the deaf culture and be willing to accommodate and comprehend the needs of the deaf, Davis said. She quickly noted that she knows of no hearing students who have pledged a deaf chapter. Three institutions are currently known to have deaf chapters in the nation, including Gallaudet in Washington, D.C. and CSUN in California.

"The funny thing is that our fraternity creed is 'Love, Truth, and Honor,' and it really does feel like we all practice it towards each other," Van Nice said. "We're all very close and I once remarked to a friend that I considered my chapter my 'extended family.' In a lot of ways, I'm not sure what I'd do without my fraternity. It is, for the moment, a significant part of my life."

It's All Good in The Wood

Shawn Whitsell
Staff Writer

When I went to the movies last Friday to see "The Wood," I was expecting a real treat. How could you expect any less coming from a cast that includes Omar Epps (Juice, Mod Squad), Taye Diggs (How Stella Got Her Groove Back, Go) and Richard T. Jones (Event Horizon, What's Love Got to do with It)?

The Wood is a coming-of-age story about three twenty-something best friends reflecting back on their childhood in Inglewood, California. The movie begins right before Roland (Diggs) is about to get married. He has second thoughts, like most people before they take that major step into marriage, and runs off to his ex-girlfriend's (Tamala Jones) house. His best friends Mike (Epps) and Slim (Jones) goes to the ex-girlfriend's house, only to find their friend, drunk and nervous about marriage. While they are try to convince their him to get himself together and go back to the wedding, they stumble across a lot of memories that have them reminiscing on their days growing up in the Wood.

Their childhood stories are told through a



Slim (Jones), Mike (Eps) and Roland (Diggs) toast at Roland's wedding in *The Wood*.

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SPORTS

6 SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Umpires walk could halt progress

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

In the last two years baseball has become America's pastime once again. However, the umpires have said they plan to resign, effective Sept. 2.

Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa and the New York Yankees brought baseball back last year. McGwire hit 70 home runs and Sosa hit 66 as both men broke Roger Maris' record of 61.

Fans, it seems forgot about the 1994 strike as they watched every night to see if McGwire or Sosa went deep. Everyone watched in unison when McGwire hit no. 62 against the Cubs.

What followed was baseball mania. One could not go five minutes without seeing "Big Mac" or "Slammin' Sammy" on a McDonald's or Mastercard commercial.

Who could forget last year's run by the New York Yankees? New York won more games than any other team in history en route to a four game sweep of the San Diego Padres in the World Series.

And if that was not enough, David Wells pitched a perfect game.

San Diego was a success story in itself. In a business usually dominated by teams in larger markets, the Padres overcame a small payroll and advanced to the World Series.

This year's baseball season has been exciting, but there is now potential for another major setback as the umpires plan to resign.

Tony Gwynn, Wade Boggs and Cal Ripken Jr. are chasing 3,000 hits, and there has been an offensive explosion along with some heated pennant races. In addition, heat now exists between the owners and umpires.

Gwynn is 18 hits away from 3,000, while Boggs and Ripkin Jr. are also close to the magic number. This would be a great accomplishment for all three men, and it would brighten an otherwise dismal season, as the Padres, Devil Rays and Orioles have not played well.

Offense has been at an all time high this year. Numerous people, such as Mark McGwire, Jose Canseco and Sammy Sosa, have already hit more than 30 home runs.

Purists believe that the offensive explosion is bad for baseball. They think the explosion takes away from the strategy and that some changes must be implemented for the good of the game. Some options are raising the mound, calling higher strikes and raising the fences.

Fans, on the other hand, love the offensive explosion. They claim it makes the game more exciting.

This year has also featured some heated pennant races. In the NL Central, Houston and Cincinnati are battling for the lead. Houston is probably the better team, but Cincinnati has managed to stick around thanks to good pitching.

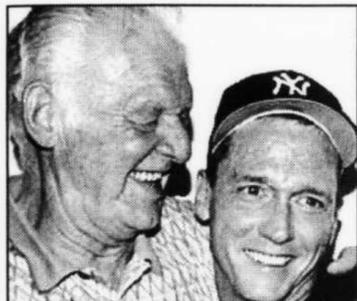
In only its second year, the Arizona Diamondbacks are giving the San Francisco Giants a scare. If Arizona can put together some offense the race could get very interesting.

And if all of this isn't enough, David Cone pitched a perfect game on Sunday against Montreal. This came on a day when former Yankee Don Larsen, who threw a perfect game against Brooklyn in the 1956 World Series, threw out the first pitch to Yankee great Yogi Berra.

Regardless of all this, baseball's progress could come to a screeching halt with the umpires resignations. If this happens, high school and college umpires would have to be used-but for how long?

Umpires claim they are being abused, but the owners do not seem to be taking the issue seriously.

They seem to believe that replacements will be sufficient. But what happens when the umpires form a new organization on Sept. 3?



Don Larsen, left, congratulates David Cone after Cone's perfect game Saturday against Montreal. Cone threw the perfect game 34 years after Larsen threw a perfect game in the World Series.

Kats push toward arena playoffs

Bleu Holden
Staff Reporter

The Nashville Kats knew exactly what was at stake before Friday night's final home game of the year against the San Jose Sabercats.

Hanging on to the eighth and final spot in the Arena Football League playoffs, they had to win the final three games on their schedule to clinch a place in the postseason for the third straight year. With the final two coming on the road, it was extremely important that they knock off San Jose-and that they did.

Before an announced crowd of 14,123 in "The Alley," Nashville brought their record to an even 6-6 with the 56-45 win. It was another close one, however it didn't come down to the wire as the Kats have become accustomed to.

"We've been in this type of situation a lot," WR Cory Fleming said. "This time we were just able to hold them off in the end."

Although the offense had its share of big plays to spark the win, including a kickoff return for a touchdown by Corey Johnson, the defense and kicking game of the Kats stepped up big when they needed to.

Prior to Friday night's game, Nashville signed a couple of extra defensive backs to help what was probably their weakest position on the field.

The backs answered any doubts by breaking up several passes that looked to be going for touchdowns. Two big break-

ups came from William Yarborough, one of the new signees.

Steve McLaughlin, who won an award as best place kicker in the nation while playing collegiately at Arizona, netted several big field goals, the first of which gave the Kats the lead at 3-0.

After San Jose cut the lead to 27-24 early in the third quarter, Nashville answered with a field goal and a touchdown pass from Andy Kelly to Darryl

Hammond to put them up 36-24.

San Jose fumbled the ensuing kickoff to the Kats, and former MTSU star Anthony Hicks took the ball in from the 2-yard line to give the team their biggest lead of the game. They held off the Sabercats in the last few minutes and sealed the victory.

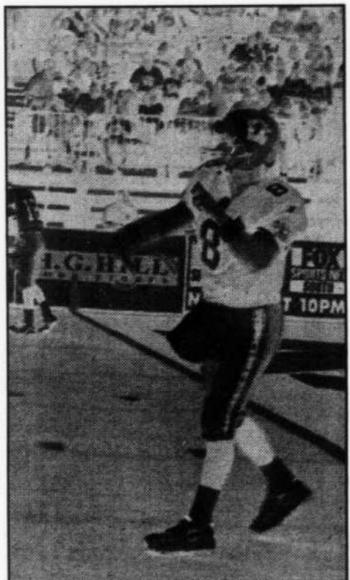
"Anything can happen once you get into the playoffs," coach Pat Sperduto said. "We just have to concentrate on getting in."

QB Andy Kelly finished the night 18-30 for 192 yards for the Kats. Leading the receivers were Fleming with eight catches and Hammond with seven. Fleming also added six tackles to take home MVP honors.

The Kats' final two games at Orlando and New Jersey will be broadcast on Fox Sports Net South. Both will begin at 6:30 p.m. CDT.



Tracy Hayworth runs through traffic, above, while quarterback Andy Kelly, right lets one zip during Friday's game. The Kats must win their next two games to make the playoffs.



photos by Bleu Holden

Armstrong still commands lead in Tour de France; Spaniard Escartin takes 15th stage of annual race

PIAU-ENGALY, France (AP) - Lance Armstrong lost more than a minute of his lead in the Tour de France today but remained in command following a victory by Spain's Fernando Escartin in the 15th stage.

Escartin made an early breakaway in the Pyrenees as cycling's most famous race briefly dipped into his home country. The Spaniard moved from fifth to second place in the overall standings, 6 minutes, 19 seconds behind. Armstrong led by 7:44 before today's stage in which he finished fourth.

Switzerland's Alex Zulle was second in the stage and is third overall. French climber Richard Virenque was third, moving up to fifth overall.

Escartin, riding for Kelme, led most of the 108-mile stage between Saint Gaudens and Piau-Engaly, high in the Pyrenees. This was his first major stage victory. He finished second in the Tour of Spain in 1997 and 1998, and was fifth in the 1997 Tour de France.

"I'm very happy," Escartin said. "But Armstrong remains a very difficult rival to beat since he has a strong lead."

The riders faced six punishing climbs, with the day's stage ending at a ski resort at an altitude of 5,940 feet.

With Escartin making his early break, Armstrong, Zulle and Virenque battled two minutes behind. With less than 6 miles left, Armstrong saw Zulle faltering on a hairpin turn, and suddenly powered away. But about 3 miles before the end, Zulle and Virenque passed Armstrong in the final

approach. Armstrong called the course "very, very tough" shortly after crossing the finish.

This was the first top-three finish for Virenque, whom the Tour tried to bar because of suspected drug use. He and his former team, Festina, were at the center of last summer's drug scandal that engulfed the race. Virenque now rides for Polti.

Virenque remains by far the most popular competitor on the Tour among French fans. Early in the race, he passed a field where a farmer displayed a mule with "Virenque!" dabbed in white paint on its side.

Armstrong remains overwhelming favorite. But he said the pressure of wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey has gotten to him recently.

He said the attention and medical tests mean less time for relaxation and massage. "That starts to wear on you," he said.

He is also angry with some reports in the French media that his performances are a result of banned drugs.

"I've been on my deathbed, and I'm not stupid," he said Monday, referring to his battle against testicular cancer.

On Tuesday, Le Monde reported that a number of riders had small amounts of anti-inflammatory drugs in their urine when tested earlier during the race. Corticosteroids are banned except when used for legitimate medical purpose.

The newspaper said Armstrong showed traces too small to be classified as positive. Armstrong insists he has taken no medication for several years and denied this latest report.

Woods eagle on 18th ties international match

Eagle gives American-British team 6-6 tie against Nordic All Stars Tuesday

RUNGSTED, Denmark (AP) - Tiger Woods eagled the 18th hole to give the American-British team a 6-6 tie Tuesday against the Nordic All Stars in the SAS Invitational Match Play Tournament.

Woods' spectacular finish on the par-5 hole at the Rungsted Golf Club north of the Danish capital enabled him to finish even with Denmark's Thomas Bjorn in the sixth and last match of the day.

"It was a good finish," Woods said. "We had a good match. Thomas and I really played well today. We made a lot of birdies; there were a lot of good shots in there. I think it was appropriate that we ended up even."

Woods never got to the 18th green Monday, losing to Sweden's Jesper Parnevik 2 and 1 in Stockholm during

the first day's action, which also included matches in the three other Nordic capitals of Copenhagen, Oslo and Helsinki.

The world's top-ranked player was in danger again against Bjorn.

A member of Europe's winning Ryder Cup team two years ago, Bjorn was one up with two holes left after making a birdie on the 16th.

After halving the 17th, Woods hit a perfect drive on the last fairway. His approach shot, using a 9-iron, was even better, stopping about 10 feet from the pin. Bjorn also had an eagle putt but missed.

"I wasn't really nervous, Bjorn played Tiger before," Hoving said. "We had a great match. He did what the No. 1 player in the world had to do - eagled the last hole."

Anssi Kankkonen, an

"We had a great match. He did what the No. 1 player in the world had to do -- eagled the last hole."

-- Thomas Bjorn

unheralded Finn who lost his European Tour card last year, was an unlikely hero.

Down three after 10 holes

against Stewart Cink of the United States, Kankkonen reeled off six birdies in eight holes and just missed an eagle putt on No. 18 that would have given him the victory. They finished even.

Mark O'Meara, the American-British team captain, beat Sweden's Patrik Sjoland 4 and 3 for his second win in two days.

Last year, when the U.S.-British team prevailed by 1 point, O'Meara lost both matches after having won two majors, the Masters and the British Open. This time he won both after missing the cut in the British.

Per Haugsrud of Norway, who upset Colin Montgomerie in Oslo on Monday, beat Andrew Magee of the United States 4 and 2 and Robert Karlsson of Sweden defeated Steve Stricker of the United States

2 and 1 for the Nordics' other victories.

Montgomerie, Europe's top golfer the past six years, edged Parnevik 2 and 1.

As in Stockholm, the gallery of 12,000 gave Woods a bigger salute than the local player during player presentations.

"The fans were just unbelievable, like in Sweden where I played yesterday," Woods said. "To see them come out and support us players, not only root for their home players but root for any good shot, that is, I think, wonderful."

"You can see that their etiquette is very good. I can't wait to come back. It's wonderful to expand the game and go places where we traditionally haven't been. To see the growth of golf in Scandinavia is wonderful."

Dodgers rout Pirates; Devil Rays squeak by Phillies in 13 innings

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Todd Hundley hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning and the Los Angeles Dodgers bounced back after ace Kevin Brown squandered a four-run lead to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 8-4 Tuesday.

Hundley followed Raul Mondesi's leadoff walk by connecting off Brad Clontz (0-3) for his 14th homer, his second in two games and seventh in 17 games.

Brown (10-6), who had been winless in four starts, struck out seven in seven innings but gave up Brant Brown's two-run homer in the fifth and run-scoring doubles by Warren Morris and Ed Sprague in the seventh.

Brown had lost three consecutive decisions to the Pirates, including an 11-1 defeat June 15 at Dodger Stadium that is among the worst in his career.

The Dodgers, winners of eight of 10 since slipping 12 games under .500, gave Brown a 4-0 lead by the fourth - normally an insurmountable edge for a pitcher whose 2.52 ERA is the best among major league starters since 1996.

Adrian Beltre had a two-run double in the second off Jason Schmidt and Mondesi and Todd Hollandsworth had RBIs in each of the next two innings.

In other action, Fred McGriff hit a sacrifice fly in the 13th inning, and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays beat the Philadelphia Phillies 5-4 Tuesday for just their fourth win in 18 interleague games.

Pinch-hitter Kevin Stocker walked against Steve Schrenk (0-1) leading off the 13th, Miguel Cairo sacrificed, Dave Martinez was intentionally walked and Herbert Perry was hit by a pitch.

McGriff, who also had a run-scoring single, flied to left and Stocker beat Ron Gant's throw, scoring without a slide.

Norm Charlton (1-2) allowed one hit in three innings. Tampa Bay relievers combined on 7 2-3 shutout innings.

Philadelphia, which had won four straight, finished interleague play 11-7. Scott Rolen went 0-for-3 with three walks after homering twice in each of the first two games of the series.

Sports In Brief

BASEBALL

BOSTON (AP) - One day after his worst start ever, Boston Red Sox ace Pedro Martinez said that he has stiffness in his right shoulder and will miss a start for the first time in his career. The MVP in last week's All-Star game, Martinez said his shoulder has hurt for the past month.

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) - Eight-time NL batting Tony Gwynn, who is closing in on 3,000 career hits, returned to the San Diego Padres' lineup after missing 41 of his team's last 48 games with an injured left calf. However, he went 0-for-4 in San Diego's victory over the Anaheim Angels and remained at 2,982 hits.

BASKETBALL

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - Gary Payton made 11 layups and scored 25 points, the most by any American in the Olympic qualifying tournament, as the United States defeated the Dominican Republic 107-71.

Payton played just 21 minutes and shot 11-for-13 with five steals and four assists. He missed his only two jumpers, but it hardly mattered as the United States outscored the Dominicans 59-35 when Payton was on the court.

FOOTBALL

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) - The San Francisco 49ers signed wide receiver Terrell Owens to a long-term contract and moved closer to making a much more controversial move - signing troubled tailback Lawrence Phillips.

Owens, who had a team-high 14 touchdown catches last season while surpassing Jerry Rice as the 49ers' go-to receiver, signed a seven-year, \$34.2 million contract

extension that includes a \$7.5 million signing bonus.

With running back Hearst out until at least late in the season due to a serious ankle injury, the 49ers are negotiating with Phillips to take his place in the backfield.

HOCKEY

NEW YORK (AP) - The New York Rangers continued their spending frenzy, signing defenseman Sylvain Lefebvre to a four-year deal worth \$10 million.

The 31-year-old Lefebvre became the sixth free agent to join the Rangers in the past two weeks and the third player to come to New York from the Colorado Avalanche.

Lefebvre's deal also includes a fifth-year option at \$3 million, bringing the Rangers' free-agent spending spree to about \$70 million.

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) - Ron Campbell was appointed president of the Tampa Bay Lightning in the latest effort by the new owner to shake up a team that had the NHL's worst record last year. Campbell, a vice president of the Detroit Pistons, has been the top officer for Palace Sports & Entertainment the past 15 years.

RUNNING

NEW YORK (AP) - A group of wheelchair racers filed suit against the New York Road Runners Club, claiming the club has discriminated against them in the New York City Marathon.

The wheelchair racers claim that for the past several years, they have been unfairly stopped and rerouted at various points along the 26.2 mile course which winds through the city's five boroughs.

Racketeering charges against McLain dropped

Case too hard to prove: prosecutor

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) Conspiracy and fraud charges against former baseball star Dennis McLain, who was indicted with John A. "Junior" Gotti, have been dropped, lawyers said.

The prosecution concluded that proving the case "would be very difficult" and filed papers today withdrawing the charges against McLain, Anthony Plomitello and Michael Zambouros.

McLain, 55, the last major league pitcher to win 30 games, will return from the Westchester County Jail, where he had been awaiting trial, to the federal prison in Lewis Run, Pa. He must serve about five more years of an eight-year sentence for a meatpackers' pension-fund swindle.

"He's happy now that this is behind him and now he's looking to just going back to the institution and doing what he has to do to get out," said his lawyer, Domenick Porco.

McLain, Plomitello, 35, of

Mineola, and Zambouros, 55, of Jupiter, Fla., were indicted last year with 36 other men in a roundup of alleged organized crime figures. The three men, with Gotti, allegedly had concocted a scheme to sell worthless telephone calling cards. Porco said McLain had actually been victimized by a lender who kept McLain's payments to MCI.

McLain was the only one not charged with racketeering and Porco worked hard to keep the baseball star from being tried with the notorious Gotti. McLain, much heavier than in his playing days, attended many of the pretrial court sessions with Gotti.

By the time Gotti pleaded guilty this year to racketeering and other charges - the phone-card charges were dropped - McLain had been separated from his case. Gotti's sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 3.

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