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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

SIDELINES

Resources offered at MTSU

Melanie McWhorter
Staff Reporter

Many MTSU students do not know all the services that our university offers. All students should take advantage of these resources:

Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety at MTSU offer a wide range of services. If one is experiencing car trouble or has locked their keys in their car, they should call the MTSU police at 2424 for assistance.

The "Raider Escort" is an escort service provided by the Department of Public Safety. This service will escort a student across campus, to their car, or from class to class. The escort service is generally available 24 hours a day, and anyone interested should call the MTSU police at 2424.

MTSU's Department of Public Safety also offers physical defense programs for women. The "Rape Aggression Defense Program," or RAD, is a program of self-defense that includes defense training, awareness, and prevention techniques. This defense program

is being taught at many colleges and universities across the nation. For a schedule of RAD meeting times, go by the Haynes-Turner police building or call 2424.

Counseling and Testing

The Office of Counseling and Testing, located in KUC room 329, offers an array of counseling and testing services for students.

Personal counseling is one such service that is offered. The counselors will help students deal with personal development and growth. Whether the counseling needed is for a relationship, stress management, or learning how to adjust to college life, don't hesitate to talk to a counselor there.

Career and vocational testing is also offered by the Office of Counseling and Testing. This service is designed to help a student decide on a career or major. There are also tests available which help to reveal a student's occupational interests.

Testing services are also provided by the Office of Counseling and Testing. Tests to determine occupational interests or areas of skill are offered, as are

CLEP tests, which allow students to earn college credit by testing. For information on these and other tests, call the Office of Counseling and Testing at 898-2670 or go by their office in KUC 329.

Rec Center

MTSU's campus recreation center offers many services such as one-on-one training, physical fitness testing, weight-room orientations, aerobic classes, and a variety of sport clubs and intramurals. Some of these services carry a fee.

The Rec Center also offers outdoor pursuits such as kayaking, canoeing, rafting, and camping trips. Anyone interested should contact campus recreation at 898-2104 for scheduled trips and applicable fees.

Students looking for some summer fun should check out the Rec Center's new outdoor heated pool and sand volleyball courts.

Study Abroad

MTSU is a member of the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad, a higher education consortium that provides for the planning, coordinating, and

implementing for exchange programs.

Institutions that participate in exchanges with MTSU include Kansai Gaidai University in Japan, Gaidai University of Franche-Comte in France, University of Caen in France, Polytechnic School of the Army in Ecuador, Moscow State University in Russia, and Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz in Germany. For further information on these and other programs, contact the International Programs and Services office at 898-2238.

Women's Resources

The June Anderson Women's Center offers resources to help women reach their full potential here at MTSU. Among it's services, the JAWC offers counseling, information on Financial Aid for Women, monthly legal clinics during the academic year, and various programs, workshops, and conferences. There is also a small library concerning women's issues in the JAWC. For further information, call the June Anderson Women's Center at 898-2193. ■

MTSU student wins insurance scholarship

Staff Reports

Teresa "Tracy" Lea Myers of McMinnville has been named the first recipient of the new Elizabeth Lange/Microsoft Scholarship, a \$1,000 award given to a member of Gamma Iota Sigma, the national insurance fraternity.

Each chapter of GIS was invited to nominate a candidate for this special first-time scholarship, and Myers was selected out of a national field. She received the scholarship during the spring semester at the GIS National Management Conference in Dallas.

The Elizabeth Lange/Microsoft Scholarship was established by Scott Lange, an executive at Microsoft, in conjunction with the national chapter of GIS. He made a personal contribution of \$10,000 and Microsoft matched that amount.

Lange created this scholarship in memory of his wife, Elizabeth. When he wrote the scholarship guidelines, he based them on his wife's "unselfish contributions to family and the community and the strong values and principles that she projects." It was Lange's wishes that the recipient possess those same attributes. The Langes did not want the gift to be based on personal achievement but on character and values.

"I was so excited," said Myers, when asked about her being selected for the scholarship. "Since it was the first annual Elizabeth Lange award, I was especially proud."

Currently, Myers is a junior majoring in finance with an emphasis on insurance. She is also minoring in business management. She expects to graduate next December.

Myers' father has been an Allstate Insurance Agent for 34 years and she has been a Licensed Associate since 1986 with the Allstate-Newby Insurance Agency in McMinnville. She has been licensed to sell property, casualty, life, and health insurance in Tennessee since 1994. She is currently office manager and public relations officer for the agency in McMinnville.

Myers is a single mother with two children: Cindy, 14, and Casey, 8. She says that her best asset is her positive attitude and her ability to turn hard situations into learning experiences. She considers herself honest, hard-working, and reliable.

A 1997 graduate of Leadership McMinnville, Myers is a member of Leadership Warren, McMinnville Business and Professional Women's Club, and the McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce. Previously, Myers graduated from Warren County Senior High School.

The scholarship stipulates that each applicant respond to a questionnaire and write a paper that "evokes a sense of value above success," reflecting their beliefs and moral standards. Myers' nomination by her local chapter also had to be accompanied by letters from her faculty advisor and chapter president. ■

Justice to Decide if adult programming law is too much

Jan Crawford
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Monday that it will decide whether a 1996 law designed to shield children from indecent cable television programming violates the Constitution because it would limit the broadcast of sexually explicit programs to late-night hours in most areas.

In a case that pits the free speech rights of adults against the government's interest in protecting children, the justices will decide whether Congress went too far in passing a section of the Communications Decency Act aimed at adult programming on cable.

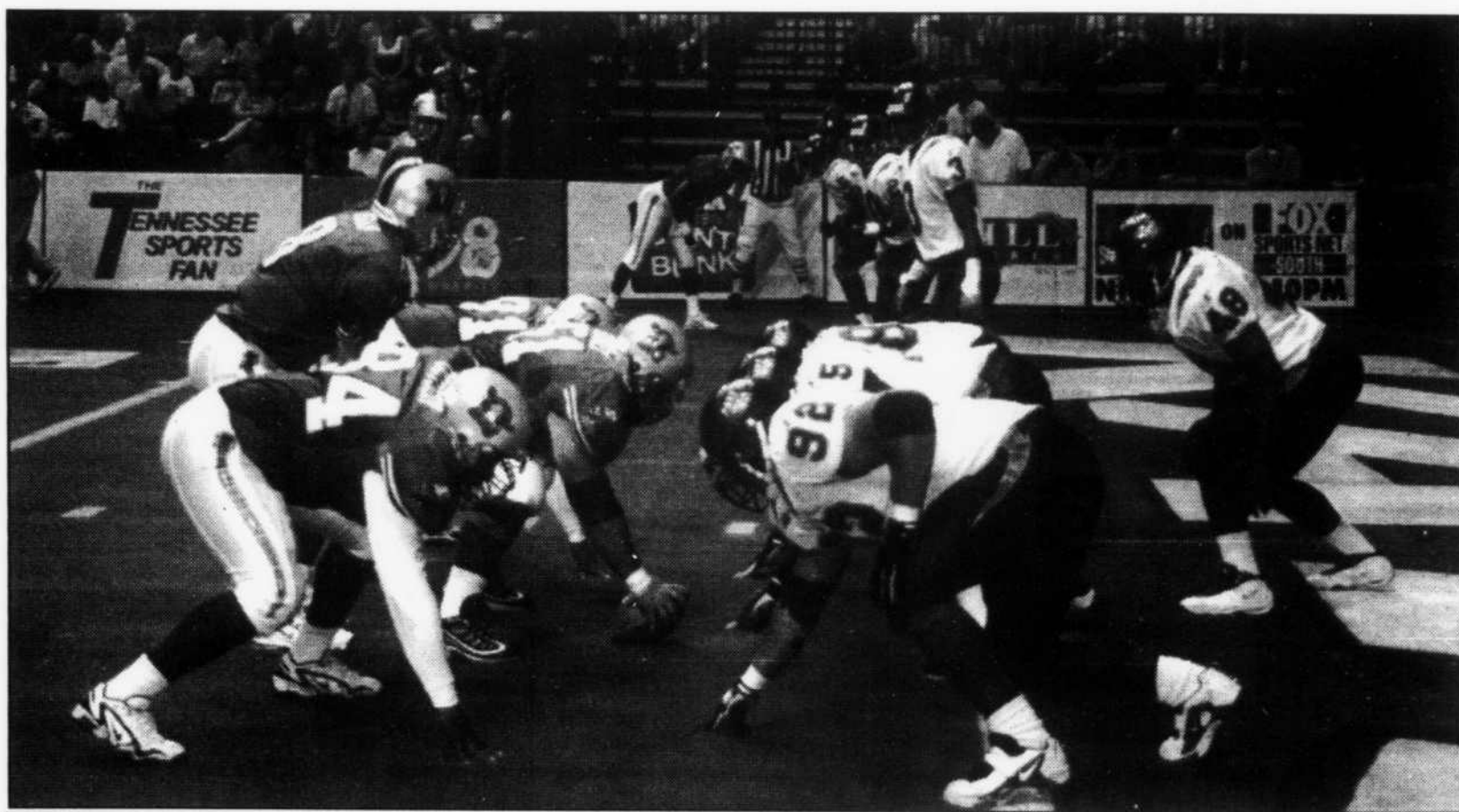
The practical effect of the act would be to greatly reduce the broadcast day for sexually explicit programming. The law requires cable operators to fully

block the transmission of adult programming in households that don't subscribe to premium channels like Playboy Television.

But most cable companies don't have the technological wherewithal to fully scramble the signal; part of it sometimes will "bleed" through, airing audio or revealing fuzzy images on the screens of non-subscribers. Those companies, about 70 percent, a lower court found, must shut off the signal entirely from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. or face penalties under the law.

Robert Corn-Revere, a lawyer for Playboy Entertainment Group Inc., which is challenging the law, said that requirement is overly broad and "substitutes the government's judgment for that of individual households for what is acceptable." He said the law has led some cable systems to simply drop the channels from their lineups, instead of offering them at such limited times.

Corn-Revere said the case raised important constitutional issues, both in terms of "what measures the government can take to restrict adult speech ... (and) what 1st Amendment protection to apply to cable television, in general," children, from receiving that programming. ■



Former University of Tennessee star Andy Kelly has the Kats in scoring position against Houston see story on page 6.

TBR to contemplate fee increase

Staff Reports

The Tennessee Board of Regents will have their regular quarterly meeting on the campus of Motlow State Community College at 9:00 a.m. Friday, June 25. The Board meeting will be preceded by meetings of the Board committees on Thursday, June 24 at 9:00 a.m. All of these meetings will take place in the Powers Auditorium on the Motlow State Community College campus.

During the June 24 meeting, the Committee on Finance and Business Operations will consider a proposed increase in fees for mandatory maintenance/tuition, other mandatory fees, and non-mandatory incidental fees. They will also consider the proposed 1999-2000 consolidated operating budget and reviewed audit reports from East

Tennessee State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee State University, University of Memphis, Volunteer State Community College, and Tennessee Technology Center at Livingston.

In their June 24 meeting, the Committee on Academic Policies and Programs will consider new programs, extensions of existing programs, program and policy modifications, and program terminations. Also on their agenda is a southern regional education board presentation on teacher supply and demand, a proposal by CSTCC to establish a permanent off-campus teaching facility in the Sequatchie Valley area, a status report on articulation initiatives, and a quarterly report on institutional accreditation activities.

The Committee on Personnel have several things on their

agenda for the June 24 meeting: proposed revisions to sick leave policy; a report on the task force on compensation; tenure and promotion recommendations at universities, community colleges, and technical institutes; and tenure and promotion recommendations at the Tennessee Technology Centers.

At their meeting on June 24, The Committee on Vocational Technical Education will review a report of membership in the International Electronics Technician Articulation Committee; a proposed policy revision to policy 1:03:04:00 councils; and proposed program terminations, modifications, and new technical program implementations.

The Tennessee Board of Regents meeting on June 25 will have reports from interim action, committee reports, a report from the Chancellor, and

reports from presidents and directors. Next, they will move on to unfinished business, which includes a report of the Chancellor's Evaluation Committee, and a report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Shelby State Community College and State Technical Institute at Memphis. Moving on to new business, they will review proposed criteria for the Tennessee Technological University Presidential Search, Naming of Middle Tennessee State University's Flight Education Building at the Murfreesboro Airport, Naming of the multipurpose wing of the Tennessee Technology Center at Ripley, resolution of appreciation for Douglas W. Hodge, and resolution of appreciation for Nancy Washington. They will also elect a chairman and a vice-chairman. ■

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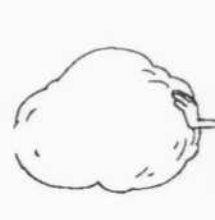
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WEATHER FORECAST



WEDNESDAY
PARTLY
CLOUDY
HI 90/LO 71



THURSDAY
AFTERNOON
T-STORMS
HI 86/LO 69



FRIDAY
PARTLY
CLOUDY
HI 90/LO 71

Education Dept. works to keep funding for students

Christine Tatum
Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON (CPX) — Faced with stiff competition from the private sector, the Education Department is trying to bolster its struggling direct-lending program with a package of discounts expected to save two million student borrowers more than \$600 each.

Supporters of direct lending, in which the government gives loans to students through colleges, praised the plan as a sound way to compete with increasingly aggressive banks and guarantee agencies, which have offered significant discounts to make traditional loans cheaper. So cheap, in fact, that several schools have

parted ways with the government's program.

To fight competition, the Education Department's plan proposes a three-pronged approach expected to cost about \$500 million over five years.

First, the plan would lower an "origination fee" borrowers must pay up front. The fee would drop from four percent to three percent of the total loan balance, saving the average graduate with a debt of \$10,000 and a standard 10-year repayment plan \$631 over the life of the direct loan.

Second, the plan would allow student borrowers in the direct-loan program to consolidate their loans while still in college — a move many higher-education advocates say would provide the

most substantial benefits to students. Such a provision would allow borrowers to lock in at the lowest interest rate available and then shave off another six-tenths of a percentage point once they left college and began making payments. That change would save students an average of \$374, department officials said.

Finally, the plan would cut interest rates by another quarter of a percentage point for borrowers who repaid their loans electronically.

Critics of direct lending say the government should stop fighting so hard to maintain a program that is having trouble holding its own against the private sector. They also say the department is pushing a plan that falls outside its

authority. To back their claim, opponents cite a review by the Congressional Research Service that concluded Congress was "clear and explicit" when it ordered Education Department officials to mandate that borrowers pay a four percent origination fee. Only federal lawmakers have the authority to change the fee, the research agency said.

Department officials say the Higher Education Act, which states private and public loan programs must offer money under the "same terms and conditions," entitles them to lower the fee.

"Providing students with similar benefits is good public policy and is consistent with our legal authority," said Education Secretary Richard W. Riley. ■

Murray State student accused of murder

College Press Exchange

MURRAY, Ky. (CPX) — A student rescued in September from a burning dormitory

at Murray State University was arraigned Monday on charges that he started the blaze, which killed one student and injured five others.

Jerry W. Walker, 23, a senior at the school and part-time youth minister, is charged with capital murder, first-degree arson and first-degree assault. Prosecutors said they are considering seeking the death penalty against him. Walker, who entered a plea of not guilty, was being held without bond in the Calloway County Jail.

His arrest comes several months after Kentucky authorities dropped charges against seven people, including five students, thought to have helped start the fire. Walker's family, friends and former teachers — quick to cite his good academic record, reputation and community service — say police again have the wrong man.

Some disagree. Joseph Green, the university's director of public safety, told The Courier-Journal of Louisville that police suspected Walker all along but didn't have enough evidence to charge him until recently. Now that they have, Green said authorities have an "airtight" case. Because of his suspicions about Walker's involvement with the fire, Green told the Courier-Journal that he asked Walker a few months ago to resign from the Racer Patrol, an affiliate of the campus police department.

Walker's fourth-floor dormitory room in Hester College was near a place where police believe someone used gasoline to start the fatal fire. After the blaze, a letter written by someone claiming to know who set the blaze was left on the windshield of one of Walker's former girlfriends. Authorities with the Kentucky State Police have said they are conducting DNA tests on the note.

Walker was majoring in education and history and was an intramural athletics director for his dormitory. After the fire, he wrote to letters to the Murray State News, the school newspaper. In one, he criticized the university for failing to implement more stringent safety precautions after a fire broke out on the same floor of the same building earlier in the same week.

"If precautions were taken after the first incident, the second may never have occurred," Walker wrote.

Dennis Lortie, Walker's attorney, said Monday that he wasn't prepared to comment about the case. A pre-trial hearing has been set for July 12. ■

Florida allows state paid tuition for private schools

Mark Silva
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — With Gov. Jeb Bush's signature Monday, Florida became

the first in the nation with a statewide plan allowing state-paid tuition for children in private schools.

Florida also becomes the newest battleground for a constitutional battle over "tuition vouchers," a lawsuit challenging the governor's "A-Plus" plan for education promised in Tallahassee today.

"This is the first truly statewide voucher program in the country," said Howard Simon, director of the ACLU in South Florida, one of many banding to challenge the law. "Ultimately, this is going to have to be settled by the U.S. Supreme Court."

The law, overwhelmingly approved by Florida's Republican-run Legislature, will assign every public school a grade from A-F

based on test scores and other factors — the state promising grades by month's end.

For children in "failing" schools, graded F for two years, the law offers alternatives. Children can switch to another public school graded C or better, or carry state checks for tuition — roughly \$4,000 a year — to a private school of their choice. This can include religious schools.

This fall, only students in two low-scoring schools in Pensacola will qualify for what the law calls "opportunity scholarships." By the following fall, children in many more schools throughout the state may qualify.

"We're in for a renaissance in public education, trusting parents in a way that has never happened in this country," said Bush, signing the law at a high-achieving Raa Middle School, where he proposed the plan in his campaign for governor last year. "We can begin the process to lead the nation away

from a focus on a system, and to a child-focused education."

As other states debate tuition vouchers — offered for low-income children in Milwaukee's public schools for several years — Florida becomes the first with a plan that could reach statewide within the next year.

The governor of New Mexico, Republican Gary Johnson, is waging a battle for vouchers with a Democrat-run Legislature rejecting them. In Ohio, whose state Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of vouchers in Cleveland's schools, the Legislature is addressing technical flaws in the law. Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge is promoting a plan of "school choice."

With Florida's move, "the dam has finally broken," says Fritz Steiger, president of CEOAmerica, an Arkansas-based organization underwriting plans for school choice nationwide. The "Children's Educational Opportunity

Foundation, formed in 1992 with major backing from Wal-Mart heir John Walton, finances Floridians for School Choice, a Miami-based group that lobbied to promote the new law and is pushing for vouchers schoolwide.

"What Jeb has been able to do... is to give a whole lot more encouragement to legislators and governors around the country," Steiger said Monday. "We're just seeing a tremendous amount of interest in moving more boldly than what we've seen in the past. It's ignited a real spark."

A legal team including the governor's lawyers, Attorney General Bob Butterworth and the foundation-backed Institute for Justice will defend Bush's "A-plus" plan. The Urban League of Greater Miami, partner with Bush in the creation of a charter school in Liberty City, is joining them.

"We're convinced the institution must be reformed," said T. Willard Fair, Urban League president. ■

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Mars Music • July 9th • 5pm

The Nashville Rescue Union Mission is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the homeless in Nashville by offering a variety of services. It's mission Acres and Downtown locations house 600 beds while feeding 3 meals a day totally supported by donations from the community. It's Family Life Center, Hope Center, Children Center, and Women Facility offer programs to council abuse and neglect victims, offering recovery and education to alcohol and drug users. The SRO - Single Resident Occupancy is a program to enter the homeless back into the work force by getting people back to work!

Mars Music and Waxing Records will hold a benefit on its main stage to collect food, clothing, and money donations in the form of a check or money order made to the Nashville Rescue Union Mission. The Union Mission is presently in need of can goods and clothing.

Performances by:
Piranah
the Lefties

For more info about the bands, check out www.voy.net/~waxing/

Schools again splitting along lines of race and class

Dale Mezzacappa
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

As the nation's student population grows more racially and ethnically diverse, the nation's schools are becoming more segregated by race and class, according to a new Harvard University study.

"Increasing segregation ... creates more unequal schools, particularly for low-income minority children," concluded the report by the Civil Rights Project at Harvard.

Citing increased testing requirements placed on students for high school graduation, college entrance and promotion from grade to grade, the report said such trends "will end up punishing students in inferior segregated schools, or even sending more children to such schools while simultaneously raising sanctions for those who do not achieve at a sufficiently high level."

Among the major findings:

- Latinos, the fastest growing

minority group, attend the most severely segregated schools.

- The South, whose schools desegregated at a faster pace than any other after passage of civil rights laws in the 1960's, have been rapidly resegregating for the past ten years.

- As blacks and Latinos move to the suburbs, they are being isolated in segregated schools, particularly in major metropolitan areas.

- While states with a high proportion of black students showed increases in desegregation in the 1970's, virtually all showed rises in segregation between 1980 and 1996.

- Segregated schools, except those for whites, almost always have high concentrations of poverty, which adversely impacts on student achievement.

- Among racial groups, whites alone attend schools overwhelmingly with students of their own race.

"I think that given the nature of segregated housing market and the growing minority population, you

can't have desegregation unless you have a plan for doing it and give it priority," said Gary Orfield, author of the report. "The forces of discrimination and demographic change are pushing us in the opposite direction."

Orfield said that the Supreme Court, filled largely with Reagan and Bush appointees, "is the principal enemy of desegregation now." It has authorized the termination of long-standing desegregation orders, and many cities have proceeded to do so. Federal appeals courts have also overturned at least one city's effort to increase desegregation, a Boston magnet school admission policy that relied partly on affirmative action.

At the same time, Orfield said, the Clinton administration, despite the president's national dialogue on race, "has presided over a period of substantial and continuous increase in segregation without any initiatives to offset these trends."

The report said polling and other research shows that most

people would like

to have their children in interracial schools - contrary to popular belief - but often don't have a choice. Suburbs, which are seeing a large influx of largely middle class blacks and Hispanics, are naturally resegregating in the absence of plans to counter that.

"If suburbs understand that in the absence of a plan, they'll become ghettoized, they will realize it is worth doing this," Orfield said. "But they need some leadership to explain that we know how to do it."

Cheltenham, in fact, after much debate and discussion in 1996 redistricted its schools to maximize integration.

"While debates over the exact academic impact of desegregation continue, there is no question that black and Latino students in racially integrated schools are generally in schools with higher levels of average academic achievement than are their counterparts in segregated schools," the report said. ■

Clinton Holds up Democratic Slovenia

G. Robert Hillman
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia - Facing thousands of Slovenians in a driving rain, President Clinton cited their new-found democracy Monday as a model for redeveloping the still-struggling nations of the region.

Even Serbia, the larger of Yugoslavia's two remaining republics, would welcome in "the new Europe," he suggested, if only its people rejected the "murderous rule" of President Slobodan Milosevic.

Serbs must "choose the path that Slovenia has chosen," Clinton said, where people reach across the old divides and find strength in their differences and their common humanity.

The president, sheltered from the relentless, chilly rain by a long trench coat and a big umbrella, addressed several thousand cheering Slovenians who crowded under their own umbrellas in Congress Square, where Marshal Josip Broz Tito, the longtime Yugoslav leader, used to hold forth.

"From the collapse of Austria-Hungary to the first Yugoslav state, from the fascist invaders to Soviet forces to Tito's Yugoslavia, think how many armies have marched through this square, how many flags have been raised over your city," Clinton said.

"Now, we look to you to play a crucial role as we build a better future for all of Europe."

Thousands of Slovenians, some holding small flags under their umbrellas, also lined the president's motorcade route from the airport. He offered the

rain-soaked crowd a plug of gratitude in the middle of his 12-minute speech.

"To people all over the world who will be watching this on television," he said, "do not be deterred by the rain. This is a wonderful country. Come here and help build them a future."

There were cheers and more cheers.

"This is great promotion for our country, and I expect much more connection with the United States and other countries," said Melita Jafosui, a 42-year-old school teacher who had taken the train to Ljubljana and waited three hours for the president to speak.

"I'm happy," she said.

Earlier, Clinton told reporters that he was eager for the "rest of the world to see a successful country in southeastern Europe that has done a good job of promoting democracy."

On Tuesday, on his way back home after a week in Europe, Clinton will visit Kosovo refugees in Macedonia and NATO air crews in Italy.

On Monday, though, he touted Slovenia, dwelling not so much on its tormented past as on what he sees as its prosperous future.

The small nation of only 2 million people broke away from the old Yugoslavia in 1991 and is now pushing to join the 19-member NATO alliance that waged the 79-day air war against Yugoslavia, now run by Milosevic.

Clinton made clear on Monday that he supported the notion, if not yet ready to outright embrace it.

"You have been a good partner," he said, "and you are an excellent candidate for NATO."

Noting that Clinton's visit was the first of a U.S. president to Slovenia, Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek said it was "confirmation of the excellent relations that we established during the last year."

"We cooperated in the southeast situation," he told the president. "The Kosovo crisis was another crisis." Clinton repaid the kind words in his address in Congress Square.

"For all you have done, I am very, very grateful," he said.

Clinton flew to the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana from Bonn, Germany, where he conferred with leaders of the 15-nation European Union who are considering the redevelopment of Kosovo and other areas in the Balkans.

UC - Davis teaching assistants vote to unionize

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - After years of struggle that included a recent six-day

strike, teaching assistants at the University of California, Davis have voted to unionize, but news was slow to spread through a campus dampened by the pall of final-exam season.

Teaching assistants, readers and tutors cast their ballots a few weeks ago, but their votes weren't counted until Thursday by the Public Employment Relations Board, which announced that UC Davis students had voted 382-183 for collective bargaining.

From the coffeehouse to graduate student offices, reaction to the results depended largely on which department a student belonged to: "We want to be treated with respect for the work we do," said Roy Kamada, 28, a third-year graduate student in English

literature.

This year, Kamada taught two English courses to undergraduates without the help of a

professor, a situation that's common in humanities disciplines. "We're the only ones in the classrooms. We figure out grades. I'm not assisting anybody."

But in some of the sciences and social sciences, many student employees contend they aren't in the same situation, that they lead only sections of classes or labs, and are treated fairly.

"I wasn't really convinced we needed union representation. I'm quite happy in this department," said Brent Donnellan, 27, a fourth-year graduate student in the Human Development Department.

About 44 percent of the 1,280 eligible student employees, most of them graduate students, voted over three days late last month. Teaching assistants and other student employees have been fighting for the right to unionize at UC campuses for 16 years.

In December, graduate students at UC Davis and seven other UC campuses walked out of their classes and onto picket lines for six days. The activists said collective bargaining could lead to better health benefits and pay for student employees, who are responsible for a majority of undergraduate teaching. Kamada, for instance, said he makes about \$1,300 a month as a teaching assistant.

The union, which is affiliated with the United Auto Workers, already has chosen a bargaining committee and surveyed graduate students about what they would like to see in a contract, said Jennifer Hoofard, a doctoral student in English and a union leader. Substantive bargaining should begin over the summer, she predicted.

UC Davis administrators said they will respect the students' decision to unionize, and are ready

to begin negotiating.

"The campus interest is, and has been, to ensure the best possible academic experience," said Dennis Shimek, associate vice chancellor for human resources. "This interest, support and commitment will not change."

In addition to tallying the Davis vote Thursday, PERB officials at the also announced the results from the election on the UC Irvine campus, where students voted for unionization by a margin of 353 to 225.

So far, students at UC Campuses in Berkeley, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, San Diego, Irvine and Davis have voted for unionization. PERB will announce results of the votes at UC Riverside and UC Santa Barbara votes today. ■

The last challenge of a socially conscious society?

Depression strikes millions— indiscriminately. Depression is simply a suppression of brain activity that makes life unbearable. And even though depression is readily treatable, only 1 in 5 ever seeks treatment. Why do so many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide? First, there's the lack of awareness of depression— as an illness and as the threat that it is to each and every one of us. Second, there's the unwarranted negative stigma attached to it. You know, the "mental" thing. It's time to collectively face depression. To know it's an illness, not a weakness. And it's a challenge that's long overdue. It's taken too many of us already.

UNTREATED DEPRESSION

#1 Cause of Suicide

Public Service message from SAVE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education) <http://www.save.org>

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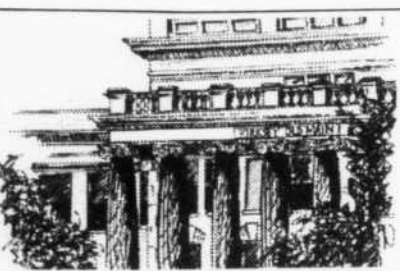
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OPINIONS

"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

Government should crack down on guns

Guns: tools of anarchy. There is a BIG difference between freedom and lawlessness, but the NRA just doesn't seem to get it. From what I've heard from the NRA lately, they would rather see more innocent people die than sacrifice any of their 'freedom.'

To the confused: gun control does not mean banning guns. It simply means tighter controls on gun sales, and cracking down harder on gun violence.

It only stands to reason that if there were tighter controls on gun sales, fewer guns would get into the wrong hands. Instant background checks (to screen potential gun buyers for felonies) should be accepted in all gun stores, gun shows, and pawn shops. But for some reason, the NRA sees this as encroaching on their constitutional freedom. Criminals forfeit their freedom! Why would a felon need a gun? And why is the NRA protecting felons? I wonder just how many NRA members are felons...

Perhaps these same people would feel much differently if they'd lost a child, friend, or relative to gunfire. Yet, they go on whining about their freedom with the "it will never happen to me" attitude. Let me tell you, when you lose a friend in a senseless act of violence, it wakes you up.

My senior year of high school, my 16-year old friend, Drew, was shot to death in our hometown, Birmingham. He had so much to offer the world and now he will never be allowed this chance. A couple of punk kids shot him and stole his car.

I personally think that one should show that they are capable of handling a gun in a proper and safe manner before they are sold a gun. This would mean stricter screening of potential gun buyers, and likely a lot of hassle. Gun violence is more than a crisis in this country, and desperate times call for desperate measures.

Along with preventative measures, stricter penalties for gun violence will also help to cut down on the incidence of gun violence. A criminal weighs the pros and cons of committing a crime, and if it's more likely that he will be caught and severely punished, he probably won't commit the crime.

This epidemic of violence will not change until we as a nation get over our apathy about the matter. If we always allow it to be "someone else's problem," someday, we will find that it has become our problem. So get up and do something about it and perhaps you'll save the life of a loved one. ■



Playing God gambles with life

Kevin Neal Fischer
Staff Reporter

Over the past weekend I received some tragic news. My grandmother, Nana, is dying. She's 87 years old and has always led an honest, christian lifestyle. Her health has been in decline for about 10 years. She has no control over any aspect of existence. She can wake up, and go to sleep but eating and drinking is difficult at best. She cannot speak, and in the last few days, even breathing has become a chore.

Our family is undecided as what to do next. In the last few days, she has had seizures where everything, including breathing and pulse, had stopped. My aunt, who is a registered nurse, has been able to bring her back each time. Her doctor has given no hope whatsoever for any type of recovery. He says there's nothing any hospital can do except give heavy painkillers to ease her suffering as she heads towards her death. Her prognosis is that she is weeks left to live, at best. What do you do?

Almost everyone is in agreement: if another seizure occurs, we're gonna let her go.

I am one of the dissenters. Yes, she is in pain and yes, the doctor gives no hope whatsoever for recovery. But if technology is available to prolong life, why shouldn't we use it? We have the ability nowadays to cure what were once called terminal illnesses. We can clone human beings and, in California, scientists have come up with a process whereby a person can be frozen at death and kept in a vat until the cure can be found, at which time the person would be brought back and cured. Early tests seem promising, so this is another example of modern technology at work.

The question is Are we playing God? I can know that my grandmother would be disappointed if she knew we were keeping her alive. She's been a Christian all her life, and in theory, Christians yearn for the day they die. That's when we go to join our creator to spend eternity in paradise. Nana spent her entire life as a missionary for Christ. She told us stories and painted glorious images of what awaits us when we leave this existence. She lent a hand to everyone she saw in need and never

shied away from preaching about loving others. It didn't matter if you were black or white, Nana would invite you in and offer you something to eat. My friends used to love gathering at my house cause they knew "Mother Jones" as she was known in the community, would be there to share with them. And she never disappointed them. I can remember Nana counseling us on the evils of alcohol and sex. Kids who wouldn't listen to their own parents would stop and listen to her. Yeah, people like my Nana are one in a million.

So now, as I write, she is near death. Friday, her physician told us to get her affairs in order and sent her home to spend her last days in the company of family. There is nothing else he can do. Nana has waited for this moment all her life and here it is. The problem is that we aren't ready to say goodbye just yet. None of us have the strength to let her go. The hospital near where she lives has a "no resuscitation" agreement with our family, this meant that when God comes for her, we will let her go. We all know this is what Nana wants. I can't tell you how many times she told us this back when we were children. Remember this song?

"When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be
Cause when we all get to heaven,
we're gonna praise and shout for victory!"
Nana used to love singing this song. She would lament about how there is no racism, no bigotry, and no illness in heaven. She loved telling us about God's mercy and goodness and how she longed to have all our family reunited in heaven (my mom died last year). Is it fair for us to stand in her path? Do we have that right? None of us consciously want to betray what would probably be her final request (if she could talk). But we can see the tears in her eyes; the sadness in them. Her doctor says she is in immense pain and he can't stop all of it. Absolutely no one has mentioned euthanasia because we are vehemently opposed to the taking of any human life. The question is do we interfere with God's calling her home? Do we jump in and resuscitate her back, (like my aunt has done) or do we kneel silently in prayer, heads bowed, asking God not to let her hurt any longer? ■



Don't question gay relations

Ian Palmquist
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

I'm sick and tired of hearing about how depraved and meaningless gay relationships are. But, since society seems to think it's just fine to question our relationships, maybe its time we started questioning heterosexual relationships.

On my more cynical days, I wonder if straight men and women really have anything in common besides sex. (When I consider it a little harder, I realize that I'm being harsh economic dependence is definitely another factor in many straight relationships.)

This may sound like a pretty shocking claim, but hear me out. From an outsider's perspective, it doesn't seem so far-fetched.

Our society has constructed male and female as a binary opposition, decrying anything that falls between these two extremes. As such, men and women are made into polar opposites, mysterious and strange to each other.

While mystery certainly can be exciting, I question whether its really a strong foundation for a lasting relationship. Call me a traditionalist but I think relationships should be based on mutual understanding connecting on mental, emotional, physical, sexual and spiritual levels.

While I see plenty of men and women connecting physically and sexually, the mental, emotional and spiritual connections seem absent a lot of the time whether were looking at the fraternity boy and his sorority girlfriend, or the businessman and his Junior League wife.

Because of our strict constructs of masculinity and femininity, it's a pretty big challenge for men and women to open the lines of communication necessary to achieve a mental and emotional connection to a person. We've all heard of the many studies and books written about men and women's difficulty understanding each other, with Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus among the best known.

So if men and women cant manage to talk to each other meaningfully, what's left? I can't think of much beyond sex and money.

Add thousands of years of patriarchy into the equation, and trying to claim that these are relationships based on give and take between equal partners seems dubious at best.

The power differential makes this focus on sex and money even more repugnant.

What makes me claim that gay relationships are any better? Well, knocking out the patriarchy issue and the economic disparity between the sexes is a start. A more equal footing is a better place to start a relationship based on mutual understanding.

Money and power aside, I believe that, unlike straight relationships, gay relationships are based on more than sexual desire. My central piece of evidence is, ironically, what happens when our relationships are over.

In most cases I've seen, our exes become our friends. At some point after the breakup, we remember that there was a reason we liked the other person in the first place besides the tight shirt and haunting eyes and use that as the foundation for lasting friendship. Even the most amicable straight breakups I've seen tend to end in a terse civility at best.

We, who often have been ostracized by friends and family form our own families out of our friends and exes. These create families are among the noblest aspects of gay culture.

Stranger still, we usually accept that those we date also have close relationships with their exes. That's something I certainly don't see in the straight world. All too often, straight men and women become livid when their partners admit that an ex was anything but completely awful.

I, on the other hand, would be wary of dating someone who didn't get along with his ex-boyfriends. If he wasn't basing his relationships with them on more than horniness, how do I know he's not treating me the same way?

This contrast in how gays and straights relate to their exes has an easy explanation: straight men and women have so little in common besides the romantic relationship, that when you take that away there's really nothing left.

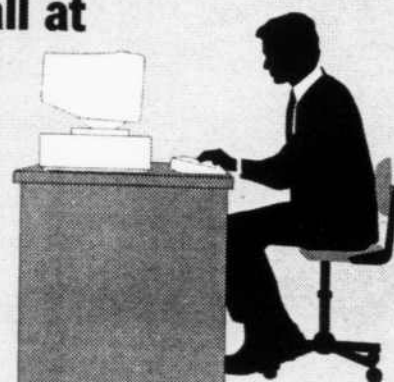
Sadder still are married couples who lost the romance age ago. All they have are the mortgage, kids college bills and joint checking account.

So am I trying to get all you straight folks to just give up and turn queer? Am I recruiting?

I couldn't if I wanted to. Relationships are a mess. They all have their strengths and weaknesses. Half of the fun of dating is trying to strengthen those weaknesses.

In that way, gay and straight relationships are pretty similar were all basically in the same boat. So that we don't rock that boat too much, I'll tell you what: you quit questioning my relationships, and I'll quit questioning yours. ■

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FEATURES

5 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

A BOOKSTORE WITH Personality



Bookstop: 310 W. Castle St, Murfreesboro

photo by Adam Click

by Tracy Moore/staff

Crowded lines. School supplies. Endless varieties of notebooks, planners and writing utensils. Sterile lights that expose intimidating text books that may as well read: "Ramen noodles and thrift-store clothes for the next four months." The antiseptic experience of Phillip's Bookstore or Blue Raider can send even the most well-balanced person reaching for Prozac. Fortunately, a place exists that makes you forget about all that, and it even restores the idea that a bookstore can have a personality.

Bookstop isn't just a bookstore; it's also an animal shelter, a mission, a yard sale and a bookstore all rolled into one musty, kerosene-scented, unorganized mess. Customers must navigate through a hodgepodge of merchandise, dodging unpacked boxes of clothing, toys, comic books and action figures, just to find a book—no mention the chirping birds, the foot-long meat-eating Savannah Monitor lizard that occasionally escapes, or one of the various cats seen wandering around the store.

Driving down West Castle Street, one is relatively un-struck by the industrial prefabricated metal buildings that populate the side street. Bookstop, a small, baby-blue aluminum building situated among them, is as easy to miss as the two's curiously absent from the building's moniker.

"Oh, they just fell off one day, and we haven't gotten around to putting them back on. Customers know who we are," says Darlene McDonnell, the fifty-ish owner of the store, in a matter-of-fact tone.

She is relaxed, propped up on a stool behind the dust-smudged counter at the front of the store. Today, like most days, she sits here reading, smoking Doral 100's and visiting with customers, most of whom have been wandering in and out with the cats since the store opened in Murfreesboro 15 years ago.

Her plain, low-maintenance appearance contrasts her eccentricities. She is dressed completely in gray — gray sweat pants, a gray sweatshirt with a gray T-shirt underneath. She wears oversized glasses and no makeup, and her short, frizzled gray hair is pushed back pragmatically off her face with a narrow headband. Even her eyes are a faint grayish-blue. Only two large turquoise rings adorning her ring and middle finger on her right hand offer any color to her otherwise drab attire.

Above her hang rows of Aliens, Super Friends and X-Files action figures that decorate the lowered ceiling like Christmas lights. Behind her are unpacked boxes of books, papers and files strewn about haphazardly. Isn't it difficult to keep everything organized?

"Oh, hell no," McDonnell says, scratching her disheveled gray hair. "Everybody knows what's theirs. And we've got a list in the file," she says, pointing to a shelf occupied by randomly stacked

manila folders, dusty books, and a half-eaten jar of peanut butter. The blue and yellow speckled English Budgerigar called "Budgie" chirps noisily in the cage by the front window.

A young man approaches the counter looking quizzically at a black and white beaded necklace.

"Make me an offer!" she barks.

"I don't even know what this sort of thing would go for," the man responds, a little taken aback.

"I have no idea," she says in an irritated, whiny voice.

"How about eight bucks or so?" he inquires.

"Sure! That's a good price. Whoever it belongs to thanks you," she says in a hurried voice, taking the money he has laid on the counter.

"It was sooooo nice to see you," she says sarcastically, rushing him out.

"He's a real jerk," she mutters to no one in particular, "but I'm nice to him."

McDonnell likes most of her customers. In fact, she enjoys them simply because they read. And she doesn't care what they read, so long as they read.

"I read voraciously," she says. "Anything. You know, if I get desperate, I'll read tubes of toothpaste and cereal boxes. It depends on my desperation and what's at hand."

She prefers science fiction; she is utterly bored by the classics, except Jane Eyre, which "still gets her." Despite her dislike for romance novels, she sometimes reads them just to be able to discuss them with her customers.

"In romances I've discovered a cute trick," she says, leaning forward as if to reveal some age-old tactic. "You read the first three chapters and the last chapter and you know the story."

"The strange thing," she continues, "are all the little blue-haired ladies who come in and read true crime. Some of these little elderly ladies that you know are in their 60's and 70's will bring a full bag of true crime and murder mysteries in, and complain about not me not having any for them to buy because they've read them all."

Not only do customers bring books in to sell or trade, they bring merchandise to set up in the store (thus the various boxes of clothing, toys and jewelry). In addition, they bring in stray animals they find. McDonnell takes them in once she approves them, of course, and allows them free reign until some animal-lover meanders in and decides to take one home.

"We've had 17 cats and kittens through here this year," she remarks. "I let them wander around so they get used to people, and then someone picks them up, and they're already housebroken."

And if that isn't enough, McDonnell and her customers have been sponsoring 153 needy

children in Appalachia for the past five years by providing clothes, toys, sheets, books and games to them each Christmas.

"Well, you don't want to get bored!" McDonnell says of her many activities.

Bookstop is certainly not boring. Wading through the mess makes reaching the back room, scattered with shelves of books, crates and tables, all the more rewarding. She sees no reason to clean up the many boxes that litter the path.

"People like to dig through the boxes," she says in her usual brash, matter-of-fact tone. "They think they're going to find wonderful things."

The back room is slightly more organized. For the most part, the books are on the shelves, and the shelves are, for the most part, clearly marked with the occasional torn and peeling label. However, books aren't in alphabetical order, nor are they necessarily in their designated sections. Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" lies curiously next to "How To Manage Your Rental Car" in the nonfiction section. A large, glossy "Sports Illustrated" football book is wedged between several copies of "The World According to Garp" in classics. Piles of books lay temporarily homeless at the foot of shelves. Crates litter the narrow pathways between bookshelves.

"You don't want it to be sterile!" McDonnell exclaims. "New bookstores don't want people sitting around on the floor, making piles. You might damage their stock. That doesn't matter here."

McDonnell doesn't buy that "garbage" about literature being dead. True, many have predicted the decline of books, especially after the invention of the bicycle, automobile, radio and television. However, people continue to read, sometimes even more as a result of pop culture's influence. McDonnell's proof of the vitality of books is in the many children who frequent the store.

"My thrill is when the children come in," she says, smiling exuberantly. "I give them cards with their credit on them and they plunk down their old pile of books up here and go back for more. These kids like reading and their parents aren't forcing them to do it. It's their own choice."

As long as people read, and as long as her customers have the courage to venture into such uncharted territory, McDonnell will sell books at prices as cheap as she can afford to. Hastings, Books-A-Million, and the like will not deter her from her love of books, animals, junk, and her customers.

"Books are tactile objects," she explains. "People like to own books. They prop up furniture, they can hold coffee cups. You can hold them, you can cuddle them, you can sleep with them. You can throw them," she adds, looking at the lizard, as though she is speaking directly to him.

She taps on his glass terrarium.

"Well, you don't want a sterile thing, do you?"

Family duo makes for great music

Lamont R. Gholston, Jr.
Staff Reporter

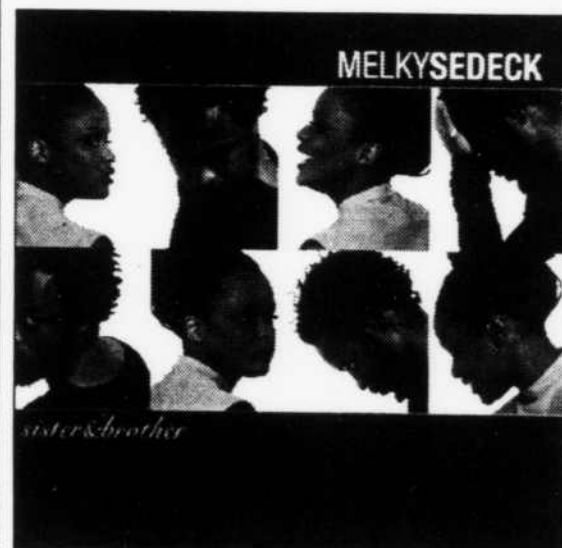
How many musical families do you know that keep it hot every time they enter the studio? The Jacksons, the Isley Brothers and Ashford & Simpson just to name a few of the greats. Well make room for the Jean Family from Haiti via New Jersey. Wyclef Jean and cousins Jerry "Jerry Wonder" Duplessis and Pras Mikael have been putting it down on the Fugee albums and Pras and Wyclef solo projects. But now Wyclef's younger siblings - sister Melky and brother Sedek - have released their opus Sister & Brother. With their debut, they continue to carry the family name proudly and honorably.

Though this is an R&B album, it is heavily influenced by hip-hop. With Sedek programming the beats on an Akai MPC 3000 and Melky's soulful Mary J. Blige-esque-but-more-powerful-and-versatile vocals, guest appearances by various rappers only seems natural. Supreme C gets it going on "Shake It." Mobb Deep rocks the gritty drum track "Raw." The album as a whole feels like a jam session featuring The Roots, En Vogue, Erykah Badu and Wyclef Jean. If you like the versatility of Wyclef's The Carnival, you will appreciate the skills of Melky Sedek as composers and songwriters.

But Sister & Brother is not strictly about humming over hip-hop beats. Melky shows love for her "#1 Guy" over a laid back acoustic guitar. Life's ironies are questioned "In Time" over some somber strings and crisp drums. "To Sir, With Love" is reminiscent of an updated 60's ballad. "Lady" tackles "the difference between a woman and a ho."

Sedek's immaculate production is enough to make this an interesting album worth checking out, but Melky's vocals are definitely the jewel of this album. If I could have one woman sing to me every day, I would definitely have to consider Melky. Her voice has such dynamic range and she has the ability to sing different genres of music, unlike many of today's R&B singers who sound like each other and have studied very carefully the sounds of their successful contemporaries i.e. Boyz II Men, Jodeci, En Vogue.

What can I say about the Jean Family - Wyclef; younger siblings Melky Sedek; cousin Jerry "Wonder" Duplessis - except that they are extremely talented and they are shaping the music of the new millennium. If you are a true lover of music, this is a must have for your collection. You can hear all CDs reviewed in this column on SNM or any other hip-hop shows on 88.3 FM WMTS. Check out the WMTS home page on the Internet at www.mtsu.edu/~wmts. Check the schedule to find the times of the shows you want. For more information, call the WMTS request line at 898-5051.



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 1999

SPORTS

6 ■ SIDELINES

Murfreesboro, TN

Wimbledon starts for '99'

Kevin Fisher
Staff Reporter

Will reigning Wimbledon champion, Pete Sampras revert to his 1998 form and cruise through despite being #10 the in world rankings? Or will Andre Agassi, who is recovering from a sore thigh which caused him to withdraw from a tournament in Germany, surge past Sampras and justify his ranking as the #1 tennis player in the world?

These questions, among many more will be answered as Wimbledon '99 begins this week in England.

Several Americans are making the trip: Agassi, Sampras and Todd Martin lead the list of men's participants, and Venus Williams, Lindsay Davenport and Mary Fernandez lead the American

women.

Sampras is trying to win a record-tying 12th Grand Slam title. Usually consistent and aggressive in his style of play, he has slumped of late. Yet, Sampras has won Wimbledon five of the last six years and trails only Roy Emerson in Grand Slam titles.

"I'm trying to mentally put the first four or five months behind me," Sampras said recently. "It's been an up-and-down year."

There are many who stand in the path Sampras. Agassi, who first won at Wimbledon in 1992, is seeking to become the first man to win both the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year since Bjorn Borg did it three times from 1978- 80. Unfortunately, Agassi has been hobbled of late from a sore thigh which has limited his range.

Remember Boris Becker? The three time Wimbledon champion, who hasn't won since 1989, is back for one last stand.

On the women's side, expect Anna Kournikova, the 18 year old phenom from Russia, to do well this year.

She is replacing Serena Williams, who withdrew Sunday due to the flu, and is currently ranked #12 in world. Possessing a menacing backhand and drop-dead good looks, Kournikova won impressively on Monday.

However, she is expected to be of little competition against the veteran players such as Venus Williams, Steffi Graf or Martina Hingis (the reigning Wimbledon champion).

Hingis will have to show herself to be competitive and on top of her game. She was booed and jeered

last year at Wimbledon for poor effort (even though she won), she was complaining and even resorted to underhanded serves.

And finally, for those of you needing some comic relief, John McEnroe will be playing at Wimbledon. "The Brat", as he was known in his tennis prime, will be teaming with Steffi Graf in mixed doubles competition. In a word, that should be "interesting".

Predictions for Wimbledon 1999
mens
womens

Kevin Fisher, Staff Reporter
Agassi Kournikova

Josh Ezzell, Sports Reporter
Sampras Hingis

New weight room opens this Summer

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

A new 10,000 plus square foot weight room, located adjacent to the north end zone of Floyd Stadium, is scheduled to open this summer. The weight room contains 20,714 pounds of plates and dumbbells. In addition, it contains nine Wynmor power racks, nine Wynmor platforms and nine York half-racks.

There is also an immense amount of Hammer Strength equipment in the weight room. The equipment includes the following: five ground-base ammeters, a dead lift, a leg press, a leg press, a leg curl, a leg extension, a bench press, a military press, a row machine, neck machine, pull-up and pull-over.

MTSU athletes will also get to work with an impressive array of dumbbells. Two sets ranging from five to 150 pounds are on racks around the room. Mirrors are all around the room to help athletes ensure they are using proper technique during their workouts.

Cardiovascular equipment such as treadmills and stationary bikes are also available.

While working out, student-athletes will be to enjoy cable television and a state-of-the-art sound system.

There are two offices for the strength coaches in the weight room along with restrooms and a hospitality area.

The weight room also contains a meeting room that serves many functions: It will be used by the football team to watch films and meet on game day. In addition, it will also be used for press conferences and HPERS classes.

Many people believe the weight room is better than those of SEC and Conference USA schools.

"This is one of the nicest weight rooms in the country," athletic director Lee Fowler said. "Our athletes will now have a better opportunity to improve their strength, stamina, and overall play with this state-of-the-art facility."

Kats defeat Houston on last second td pass

Bleu Holden
Staff Reporter

The Nashville Kats pulled off a narrow 78-74 victory over the Houston Bobcats in the final seconds Friday night at the Nashville Arena.

The win moved the Kats' record to an even 4-4 and put them in a tie for second in their division behind Tampa Bay.

Helping the team set eight individual highs and two more team highs for the Kats were QB Andy Kelly and DB/WR Darryl Hammond. Kelly was 35-42 for

356 total yards on the night while tying the league record with 10 touchdown passes.

Hammond, second in Arena Football League history with 421 tackles, showed his skills on the other side of the ball with 16 receptions (a team record) for 121 yards and four TD's. Three of Hammond's receptions came on the winning drive by the Kats, one of these was the scoring catch with one second left on the clock. The final drive was only possible because of Hammond's onside kick recovery with 46 ticks remaining.

The final drive, covering 28 yards in six plays, was guided by

the calm and experienced Kelly.

"We knew we could at least kick a field goal to tie it, but we just kept moving the ball and were able to get in for the touchdown," Kelly said.

Fans not accustomed to arena games began filing out when the Kats were trailing 74-64 with 73 seconds left. Then the Nashville offense brought those who remained to their feet with a display as awesome as the actual fireworks at the start of the game.

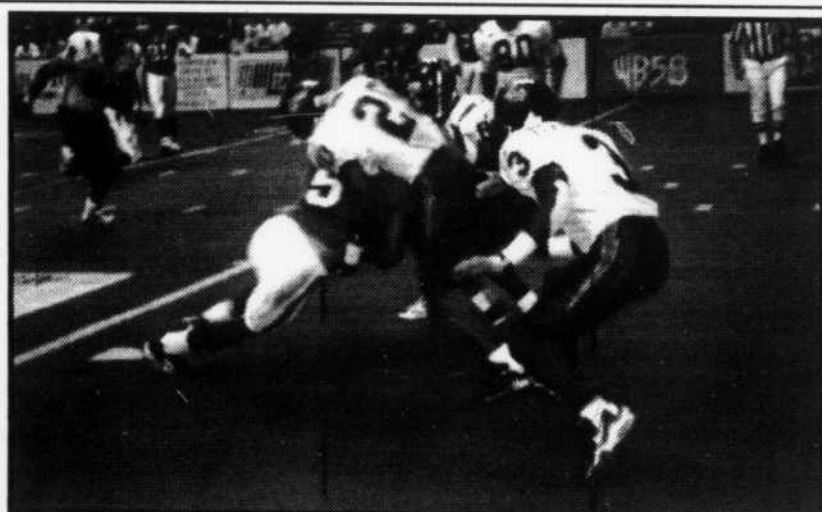
The defenses, on the other hand, were a different story. Houston, last in the league in both scoring defense and passing defense, was

expected to give up its share of points.

The Kats defense, though, had a very disappointing showing. The 74 points by the Thunderbears was the most ever by a Nashville opponent. Houston QB Clint Dolezel finished 35-39 for 326 total yards.

Kats DB/WR Jeff Russel, lost in the first half to a badly sprained ankle, will reportedly be out for at least a month.

Nashville hopes to extend its winning streak to three games next Friday at home against the Arizona Rattlers.



Larry Jones is tackled in a tight game with the Thunderbears.



Kats fight for more yardage toward the end of the tense game.

Perseverance pays off for athletes

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

After years of paying dues, David Robinson, Ed Belfour and Avery Johnson are finally living their childhood dreams.

Robinson has played in the NBA for ten years, but this year he is playing in his first NBA final. In his first nine years, he averaged 25.6 points per game. He played in many all-star games, was the league MVP, Defensive Player of the Year and scoring champion, but the had not received the highest honor- NBA champion.

This year he is averaging only 15.6 points per game. He is not receiving the same amount of

publicity he has in the past. He is not even the best player on his team. But this year, unlike others, he is very close to winning an NBA title.

This is because he has willingly stepped back and let Tim Duncan assume the role of team leader. As a result, his stats have suffered, but he seems to be happier than ever. The pressure is now off; he is no longer expected to carry the team on his shoulders.

Robinson has been a class act all year. He has not complained about his lack of publicity once. In fact, he seems to be relieved.

He has been a model for other athletes such as Jerry Rice of the San Francisco 49ers. Rice has

said that watching Robinson accept his role has helped him come to the realization that he might have to accept a lesser role for the benefit of his team.

Like Rice, Robinson will soon be a world champion.

Ed Belfour, like Robinson has played in his sport for ten years. Also like Robinson, he has been in many all-star games and won many awards. Until this year, he had never won any championships.

Also like Robinson, he has his critics. Sports writers said he would never win the Stanley Cup. But he kept his faith, persevered and proved his critics wrong. As a result, he is a champion.

Robinson's teammate, Avery

Johnson, has never been a high profile player. He was not even drafted coming out of college. He has played for six different teams in eleven years.

but he has still received plenty of criticism. Portland point guard Damon Stoudamire went as far to say no team would win a title with Avery Johnson as their point guard.

Nevertheless, he has proved his critics wrong. He has played great for the Spurs by making great decisions and hitting clutch shots.

He may not have the talent of a John Stockton and Damon Stoudamire, but he is about to own something neither one of them know-a title.

Associate Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - After three straight 8-8 seasons, Tennessee Titans coach Jeff Fisher is making it clear the status quo will not be tolerated.

He drove that message home Monday during the team's minicamp by not allowing defensive end Henry Ford on the field for practice and expressing displeasure with offensive lineman Jason Layman.

Ford, who has lost nearly 30 pounds, said the practice session night have helped him lose the rest of the weight.

"I knew I wasn't there, but I was kind of surprised by him sitting me out of practice," he told The Tennessean. "I think I would have been better if I practiced instead of sweating it off somewhere. But it wasn't my call to make."

Layman, who has had a history of nagging injuries during his three years with the team, wore a plastic boot on his right foot and did not practice. He played golf Friday and later experienced tendinitis, Fisher said.

Layman, the starter at right guard last year, is being shifted to left guard and Fisher said he needs work.

"For whatever reason, oftentimes these sort of things come up with Jason," Fisher said. "He's got to get that behind him. I don't doubt there is a problem, but it's hard to compete when you're not practicing."

Several other Titans reported to camp with injuries, including cornerback Darryll Lewis (hamstring), wide receiver Yancey Thigpen (hamstring) and defensive end James Roberson (foot). None practiced Monday.

Eddie George did, though.

The Titans' running back last week spent 12 hours in an Ohio hospital after getting dehydrated following three days of tough workouts.

"I didn't replenish my body well and it caught up to me," George said after running extra sprints at the conclusion of Tuesday's practice.

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Sports collector buys DiMaggio's collection

Paul Nowell
Associate Press Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - Ralph Perullo's office is now the home to Joe DiMaggio's personal collection of signed baseballs, jerseys and other memorabilia.

Perullo worked out a deal with Morris Engelberg, DiMaggio's close friend and attorney, to buy more than 10,000 signed items and more for a price "in the millions."

"At first I thought my chances were minimal," the affable Perullo said Tuesday about his bid for the late Yankee Clipper's collection. "But then I realized it was worth the price of a plane ticket to fly to Florida to see it. And once I did, I fell in love with it."

He and Engelberg came to terms Friday.

Perullo's packaging warehouse in south Charlotte brimmed Tuesday with rare DiMaggio collectibles, many being shipped to Philadelphia for an unveiling at a sports memorabilia show later this week.

While Perullo intends to sell

many of the items, the longtime Yankees fan from Bayonne, N.J., also plans to keep a large number of the pieces for himself.

On a large oak table, he showed off some of his favorites: a No. 5 Yankees jersey with DiMaggio's signature and "Yankee Clipper" written in his own hand underneath, a signed bat from 1941, several autographed baseballs and Joe DiMaggio baseball cards and photographs.

A metal rack in a small office held more signed Yankee jerseys. On the floor in the next office were signed prints, posters and black-and-white photos.

"Joe DiMaggio was an intelligent businessman along with being a great ballplayer," Perullo said. "When he would sign baseballs for a show, he always kept 50 or so for himself."

In an interview from his law office in Florida, Engelberg said DiMaggio never would have approved of carving up his collection strictly for the money.

"I know Joe is watching all the moves I make," he said. "I

know what I did was right."

Engelberg put DiMaggio's personal memorabilia collection on the block several weeks ago.

After conducting preliminary discussions with Christie's auction house, the QVC television network and other potential bidders, he soon realized it would be difficult to find a buyer for the entire collection.

Then Perullo entered the picture.

Introduced to Engelberg by a New York dealer, they hit it off immediately.

"I was impressed with Ralph the first time we met," Engelberg said. "He said he wouldn't do anything to hurt Joe's reputation. I trusted him."

Last Friday, they had a deal.

With each piece, Engelberg provided Perullo with a certificate of authenticity written on legal stationery from his law office.

"Whether you believe me or not, money was secondary," the lawyer said. "We wanted to make sure Joe got the respect he's entitled to get. This is someone I

broke bread with four days a week."

From his vantage point, Engelberg knows the value of some of the pieces Perullo was able to purchase. For example, DiMaggio signed the No. 5 Yankee jersey and added the words "Yankee Clipper" on Oct. 9, just before he was hospitalized with lung cancer.

Perullo also acquired 68 autographed baseballs that DiMaggio signed during his lengthy hospitalization. Some of the signatures are legible, but some are not.

"On some of them you can't make out his name, but I know he signed them because I was there," Engelberg said. "And they are the last items he ever signed before he died."

Perullo, 58, still has trouble believing he owns the collection of one of the game's greatest players. He remembers going to Yankee Stadium with his father as a child to watch DiMaggio play in the late 1940s.

"I'm still pinching myself," he said. ■

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The NBA will survive

Gabe Frankel
Staff Reporter

So how about these NBA Playoffs? They said, "without Jordan there will be no Playoffs." They said "without Jordan there will be no NBA." They said, "without Jordan the Banking

system would crumble, markets collapse, the world would cease to exist." (Or was that Y2K?) They also said that Mr. T and Menudo were fads. (well, they were right

about that one and where in the heck is Molly Ringwald?)

MJ was the best of all time. He could just hit the big shots. MJ thrived on the bloodcudling final seconds. That J over Ehlo, that assist to Weddington at the garden (when he scorched the Knicks for 55 points, days into his comeback), and that amazing Title winning last shot over Russell (just to name a few, and how about all those hit ups on Hip Hop records). MJ will never be replaced. Guess what though? Some new guy will take he spotlight. MJ has completely ruled the 90's. Remember the last decade though? The one that was a fashion nightmare? The 80's were ruled by Magic Johnson and Larry Bird (not to mention big hair, gold chains, and Nell Carter). You had guys like Dr. J, Wilt "The Stilt" (20,000+), Cousy and Kareem before them. The whole thing is a

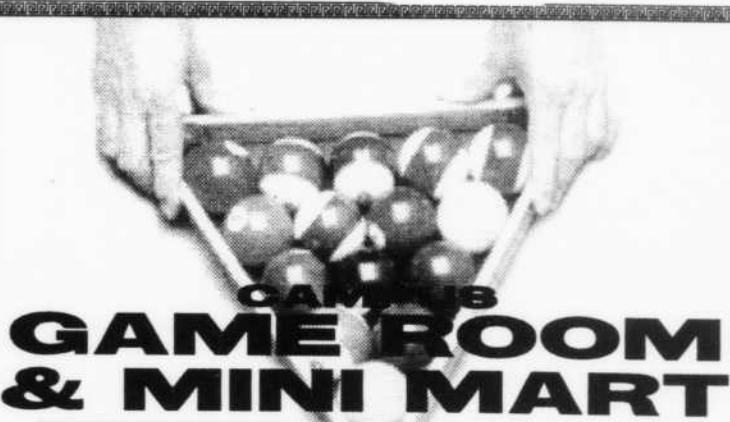
perpetual cycle.

The NBA, NBA Finals and 1999 NBA Draft are a testament to this cyclism. The Knicks have young stars like Marcus Camby, Latrell Sprewell (just stay on his good side, I'd like to see Van Gundy v Sprewell in a no holds- barred, steal cage- death match "the Little Leg Grappler v "the Deranged Strangler" where's Don King at?), and Allan Houston. The Spurs have a game, and he's so quick for size. (The Spurs also have a couple guys that have played in every minor league in the world: Jarren Jackson and Avery Johnson have been huge in these playoffs) Around the NBA, there are more stars. The young players are hungry to get a ring. They are like a pack of angry dogs that haven't eaten for days.

The Lakers are intriguing. There have been rumors of a Kobe-Shaq rift. The hiring of Phil Jackson may truly make this team to watch (as if we have not watched them enough. They were NBC more than my homeskillet Tom Brokaw). The Lakers have talent deep into the bench with Rick Fox, Harper, Horry, etc. I thought they were certainly going to do better than get swept in the semis. They canned Dell Harris and waived Dennis Rodman (will Rodman return to play for Phil Jackson? and will the flashy, "me

first" Lakers respond to Zen? Can Phil win without MJ? What will happen to Kurt Rambis? Where in the heck is Corey Feldman when you need him?) Anyway, watch out for young players like Vince Carter, Jayson Williams "White Chocolate," and Chris Webber (how could Wahington trade him for a free agent to be and a 38 year old? The Wizards are like the Clippers of the east). I could go on and on. New superstars will rise out the pack. The Draft has a potential superstar waiting to shine: Steve Francis.

Francis is lightning-quick. He can explode to the hole and has mad crossovers. He led U of Maryland to a 20 plus win-second place in the ACC-Sweet Sixteen season, and has that superstar million dollar smile. He is just fun to watch. I think that the Bulls would be totally wack if they didn't pick him. ■



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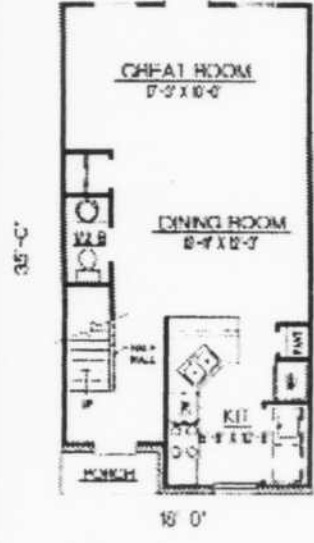
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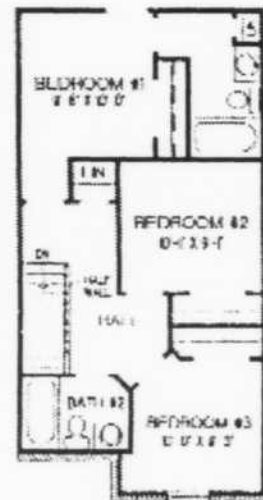
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