

# SIDELINES

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pg. 5



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## In the news

### Explosion rocks Indiana aerosol packaging plant

ELKHART, Ind. (AP) — An explosion ripped through an aerosol packaging plant Tuesday afternoon and released a toxic gas, killing one person and injuring 34.

Accra Pac officials said one person died in the blast. The cause of the explosion was not known.

Elkhart General Hospital treated 34 people and admitted five with more serious injuries, said spokeswoman Toni Ewing. Some were said to have suffered from respiratory distress caused by ethylene oxide.

The highly toxic gas is used mainly for sterilizing medical equipment. Medical texts say the chemical is an colorless gas used as a fumigant, insecticide and sterilizing agent.

Authorities evacuated a one-mile radius around the Accra Pac plant, which is in an industrial park. The 30-year-old factory employs about 600 people.

### "Family Affair" actor dies in apparent suicide

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Brian Keith, who played gruff Uncle Bill on the sweet TV series "Family Affair," was found dead Tuesday, a cancer victim who apparently committed suicide. He was 75.

Keith was found by family members in his Malibu home with a self-inflicted gunshot wound, sheriff's deputies said.

Keith appeared in movies throughout the 1950s and '60s, including such light comedies as Disney's "The Parent Trap" in 1961 and "With Six You Get Eggroll" with Doris Day in 1968.

In "Family Affair," which ran on CBS from 1966 to 1971, the burly, blond-haired Keith played a bachelor raising his three orphaned nieces and nephews — Buffy, Jody and Cissy — with the help of a proper English butler, Mr. French.

Keith played retired Judge Milton G. Hardcastle in the ABC crime drama "Hardcastle & McCormick" from 1983 to 1986.

The actor had been suffering from cancer, said a spokeswoman for his manager, Bob Schiller. Tabloid reports said Keith had lung cancer and emphysema.

### Trade sanctions with China upheld in House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Siding with the Clinton administration, the House rejected the latest effort Tuesday by China critics to impose trade sanctions as punishment for Beijing's human rights abuses and other disruptive behavior.

In a 259-173 vote, the House backed President Clinton's May 29 decision to extend for another year China's "most-favored-nation" status, which gives China the normal trade relations given to almost all other trading partners.

The margin, though substantial, was less than last year's 286-141.

The House measure introduced by lawmakers who say business as usual is wrong with a country tainted by persistent human rights, trade and weapons proliferation abuses, would have disapproved of Clinton's decision.

Clinton praised the vote, saying it "makes clear that the right way to encourage further progress in China is not to cut China off, but to draw China in."

## Solarraider misses pre-qualifying tests

by Susan McMahan  
news editor

The Solarraider team returned home this weekend after the solar-powered car failed to complete pre-qualifying tests because of a misunderstanding with Sunrayce 97 officials.

According to Basavapatna Sridhara, Solarraider faculty advisor, the car was being tested last Sunday on size, mechanics and engineering.

Jeff Allbritten, associate dean of basic and applied sciences, said that the Solarraider solar array was judged one of the best in the competition.

During a test of the brakes, however, the car was unable to stop from a speed of 25 mph in a time of 2.5 seconds.

The team was told to return the car the next day to test the car again.

When the team arrived at the race track last Monday at 6:45 p.m., they discovered the judges had left about 15 minutes earlier, said Allbritten.

Allbritten said Sridhara and the seven team members participating in the Indianapolis 1,200 mile race to Colorado Springs were not told Monday's cutoff testing time when they registered on Sunday.

Sunrayce 97 officials told the MTSU team, which was the only entry in the race from Tennessee, that the time was posted on the event's web page, Allbritten said.

Allbritten said that MTSU was not the only school who were not allowed to test. Three other schools, including the University of Toronto, were told they had missed the testing deadline.

Sridhara said that there were only 36 competitors in the race, instead of the 40 cars that were planned.

The team showed a "high degree of class under the circumstances," said Allbritten.

"[Race officials] were not going to allow them to even qualify," said Allbritten.

Sridhara said the team was "really frustrated" when they found out they would not be allowed to qualify for the race.



photo by Steve Purinton/ staff

Onlookers watch as Bryan Meadows of Parsons, TN, climbs out of the Solarraider at its June 3 unveiling at the Rec Center. The Solarraider failed to qualify for Sunrayce 97 last week because of a misunderstanding with race officials.

"Our car was running well," said Sridhara. "All we needed was a few more minutes."

The Solarraider team wanted to race their car along with the other Sunrayce entries, but were told that they could not by Sunrayce 97 officials.

Allbritten said the team, who had spent two years building and preparing the car for the race, decided to test the car about a mile behind the competing teams.

"We wanted to be sure our car could run the distance," Sridhara said, adding that the team followed the same route and faced the same weather conditions as the other teams.

The team raced the Solarraider

from Indianapolis to Terre Haute, Indiana, where they stopped to camp with the other race teams.

During the 65 mile trip, the car reached speeds varying from 20 to 50 mph.

Sridhara said the next morning the Solarraider team was "actively discouraged" by Sunrayce officials from continuing the race, and they decided not to finish the race.

The Solarraider team plans to compete in the next Sunrayce, which will be held in two years.

Sunrayce 97 was the second time a Solarraider was entered in the race.

The first Solarraider was entered in Sunrayce 95.

Unlike the first Solarraider that MTSU entered, the second Solarraider can be entered in the next Sunrayce instead of the team building a new vehicle. Sridhara said that the team will improve the car and test it in all possible ways before entering it in the next race.

Sridhara said the Solarraider team is "devastated" because they have to wait two years for the next race. He said the team went 70 hours without sleep and skipped many meals in the week before the race.

"We need to appreciate what they've done," Sridhara said. "Right now, they need all the encouragement they can get."

## Governor's school hits MTSU

by Cynthia Ryan  
staff writer

Young artists and musicians from across the state will be showcasing and honing their skills on campus for the next month.

Governor's School for the Arts has been taking place at MTSU since June 15, and will run through July 12. GSFTA consists of four weeks of elaborate study in one of four areas: music, drama, art, and dance.

"We [MTSU] are the largest of the seven schools and we have 247 students this year," said Trish Decker, Governor's School secretary. The students are sophomores and juniors from high schools all over Tennessee.

Governor's School students have to audition or submit portfolios and be selected to attend.

"I think it's a fantastic opportunity for high school students. I wish I had it when I was in high school," said Steve Jones, theater coordinator.

"It's an excellent experience for faculty and students. It's a month of intensified study in one subject," said Terry Jolley, professor of music at MTSU. Jolley added that everyone involved in Governor's School is awarded the opportunity to work with

others who specialize in their field.

GSFTA has been at MTSU for 14 years. Jim Brooks, department chair for the department, and theater department, recently replaced Tom Naylor as Director of Governor's School.

Students will attend special performances called convocations, also open to the public, by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, June 25; and mime Gus Gillette, July 2. They have already been treated to performances by the Uhuru Dance Company and the Nashville Wind Band.

Artist Steve Sanders and performing artist Ronlin Foreman are scheduled to appear July 1, as well as visual artist John Ashworth, July 7. Public admission for these performances are \$5 for adults, and \$3 for children under 12.

Governor's School has a total of seven specialties in the state. The other concentrations are: Humanities, Manufacturing, Sciences, Prospective Teachers, International Studies, and Tennessee Heritage.

The all-school banquet will be held July 9. Finale events including exhibits and performances are July 10, 11, and 12. For details contact the Governor's School office at 898-2223.



photo by Steve Purinton/ staff

Governor's school students Matthew Fuller, Jason Law and Allen Archer, from left to right, work on a platform in a stagecraft class. The platform will be used in the school's production of "Spoon River Anthology" to be held July 10 at Tucker Theater.

## Congress revamps Clinton's tax credit for college tuition proposal

by R. A. Zaldivar  
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON—President Clinton's middle-class tax breaks for college tuition are getting a makeover in Congress, and reviews are mixed.

Where Clinton focused almost entirely on providing tax breaks for college expenses, congressional committees also decided to provide tax breaks for college savings. That shift in emphasis would work to the advantage of people who are more frugal, or simply have more money to save.

While trying to fix some problems with Clinton's plan, Congress created others. One such change will result in community college students getting less of a break than students who

attend four-year colleges.

The final shape of the education tax breaks will emerge during the next few months. The House and Senate are to vote on their plans next week. Those versions then must be reconciled into a single bill.

In a break for those who are now in school, the Senate plan would allow people to deduct interest on student loans. "Our plan contains the most money for education assistance that I can remember," said Senate Finance Committee Chair William Roth, R-Del.

But the Clinton administration is complaining that Congress actually scaled back the \$35 billion in tax breaks over five years that were called for in the budget agreement.

"I don't think the president is very

impressed with the robustness of what has been put forward in Congress," said David Longanecker, assistant secretary for higher education. He said Clinton will negotiate to get legislation that is more to his liking.

Apart from the middle-class tax breaks, lawmakers are supporting Clinton's proposal to increase the maximum Pell Grant for low-income students to \$3,000, starting in July 1998. For the coming academic year, it will be \$2,700.

"Every politician wanted to get his fingerprints on it," said economist Martin Sullivan of Tax Analysts, a nonprofit organization based in Washington's Virginia suburbs. "The president plan's was complex enough, but Congress is going to make it more

complicated because political compromise breeds complexity."

Clinton's proposal calls for a \$1,500-a-year "Hope" tax credit for the first two years of tuition at a college, community college or technical school. The full credit would be available to single taxpayers making up to \$40,000 and married couples making up to \$80,000.

Beyond the first two years of college, the president proposed giving families a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 a year for tuition. While the deduction looks bigger, the tax credit is a better deal for most families.

The change doesn't mean much for students going to four-year colleges. Families would still get a \$1,500 tax credit, because their tuition bills are likely to be more than \$3,000.

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# Teen sentenced for impregnating girl

by Jim Chilsen  
Associated Press

PORT WASHINGTON, Wis. (AP) — A teen-ager labeled a sexual offender for getting his 15-year-old girlfriend pregnant was sentenced Tuesday to two years probation. His supporters then booed the prosecutor outside court.

Kevin Gillson faced up to 40 years in prison for sexual assault of a child, even though he wanted to marry his girlfriend, get a job and raise their child.

"The damage is done. I'm going to have to live with a felony on my record for the rest of my life," a weary but visibly relieved Gillson said afterward.

District Attorney Sandy Williams had told the judge she was unconvinced of Gillson's "willingness to take full responsibility," but didn't recommend prison time and said both the girlfriend and her

mother had asked that Gillson not be sent to prison.

Gillson's attorney, Doug Stansbury, said he would probably appeal and would seek a pardon from Gov. Tommy Thompson, who has not indicated whether he would grant one.

Without a pardon, or unless the state's sexual assault laws are changed retroactively, Gillson will have to register with local police as a sex offender. He must provide a DNA sample and is barred from doing such things as coaching youth baseball.

Gillson, 19, also was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service, get counseling and try to complete high school or get an equivalency degree.

Judge Tom R. Wolfgram also lifted an order that Gillson not see his girlfriend, now 16 and due to have the baby Wednesday. Her family has

kept her whereabouts secret and her identity was not released.

"I think the judge was very fair. Am I satisfied? I don't feel any sense of relief," Sue Gillson, Kevin's mother, said on the verge of tears. "That baby some day ... is going to know that its father was convicted of being a sexual felon. What a wonderful gift to give a child."

Before being sentenced, Gillson asked for mercy: "I have realized I have made a mistake. I should have waited. I know that. I care very much about that child."

The relationship came to authorities' attention when Gillson himself called police to break up an argument between his girlfriend and her mother and the girl revealed she was pregnant.

Gillson was convicted April 17. Some jurors said they regretted their decision but felt they had no choice despite his

girlfriend's testimony that the sex was consensual. Wisconsin law says no one under age 16 can consent to a sexual relationship. Gillson was 18 at the time and the girl was 15.

"We didn't realize we had a right to judge the application of the law," Amy Hoile, one of six jurors who wrote Thompson last month asking him to pardon Gillson, said outside the courthouse.

Gillson and his girlfriend attended marriage counseling, and Gillson quit school to take a job with benefits so his family wouldn't start out on welfare, said his minister, the Rev. George Jorenby of the United Church of Christ in Saukville.

More than 20 supporters gathered outside the courthouse in this community of 10,000 people 30 miles north of Milwaukee. Some carried picket signs reading, "A father is a terrible thing to lose."

## On Campus



The ACT-COMP exam will be given in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building at 8:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 21. All graduating seniors are required to take this test. For more information, please contact Ruth Watson at 898-2854.

Rutherford County's July 4th "Celebration Under the Stars" will be held at MTSU - free and open to the public. Picnicking and children's activities, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; program 7:25 p.m.; The Middle Tennessee Symphony and Nashville Pipes and Drums, 8:00-9:00 p.m.; fireworks begin at 8:55 p.m. In case of rain, the Symphony will perform

inside Murphy Center. Call 898-2919 or 898-5322 for more information.

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held next Tuesday at Peck Hall from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Association of Clerical Employees at MTSU. All donors will receive a free T-shirt.

Child Abuse Prevention of Tennessee needs volunteers to answer the Parent Helpline/Domestic Violence Hotline, to work with families of newborns in the Parent Pathway Program, and to work with children in the Children's Program while their parents are attending parenting classes. For more information, please contact Amy Garcia at 227-2273.

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## How much is this?



photo by Steve Purinton/staff

Family housing resident Heather Tovar, left, and family housing employee Kristy Breed examine baby clothes at a yard sale held last Friday. The yard sale, which was also held Saturday at family housing, was to raise money for the angel tree. There were about 15 booths present at the sale.

## Class attends conference in Washington

by Celeste Castillo  
staff writer

Candace Rosovsky and the 12 members of her Women's Studies Leadership class attended the National Conference for College Women Students Leaders at Georgetown University in Washington DC, June 4-8.

There were approximately 700 women's leaders attending the four days of workshops and entertainment.

Several countries—including South Africa and England—were represented.

One of the participants from MTSU, Ruth Chananie,

felt the "diverse colors, religions, backgrounds, ethnic groups, sex orientation, issues, educational levels, experience, and age made for an enjoyable learning environment in which issues could be discussed and a fantastic understanding for creating better equality for women and all peoples."

There were several Women of Distinction recognized, including Blanche Lambert Lincoln, a former congresswoman from Arkansas, and country music singer Mary Chapin Carpenter.

Lincoln quoted her father who always said to her: "Don't gripe about something unless

you're willing to do something about it."

The quote had a major impact on Amy Hill who said, "The best part was the people, they were always friendly and helpful. I departed with 11 classmates and one teacher, and returned with 12 best friends."

Participant Heather Hybarger found inspiration in Mary Gruven, a speaker who founded a magazine with no journalism experience.

"She gave me inspiration to be persistent in fulfilling my goal of starting my own magazine," said Hybarger.

The thirteen participants

visited Sen. Bart Gordon in his Capitol Hill office while in DC.

They also found great ideas and sources of information in which they will utilize when the group hosts their own Tennessee Women's Leadership Conference in April or May.

The students had to be accepted into the six hour credit, which spans two semesters.

The requirements for acceptance were: enthusiasm for learning about women's studies' leadership; leadership skills; and experience on past committees.

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# Gore speaks at Vanderbilt

by Marta W. Aldrich  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE— For many parents, involvement in their children's education is about as comfortable as sitting their adult bodies in a kindergarten's desk, Vice President Al Gore said Tuesday.

Even at the front door of most schools, signs direct parents to sign in first at the office.

"You get the feeling that maybe you're an interloper," Gore said as he readied himself for his sixth annual Family Reunion Conference in Nashville Wednesday. The vice president said America's educational format must become more family-friendly if U.S. students are to succeed.

"The information ... clearly shows that children do better when parents are actively engaged in their education," he said.

Family Reunion has focused in past years on the relationships between families and the media, workplace and fatherhood. This year's topic is education, and Gore promises that initiatives announced here Wednesday by President

Clinton "will have a profound impact on how families are able to relate to schools and the learning process."

During questions with reporters on Tuesday, Gore called for a return to a "seamless web" of parents, schools and communities to cradle youngsters throughout their school days.

"Over the last 40 years, we've seen a dramatic decline in the number of people involved in school boards and other organizations designed to affect the life of their schools," he said. He cited more women in the work force, along with more people focusing on their television sets instead of community work, as just some of the reasons.

Gore's wife, Tipper, who has helped organize the conference, said the trend has been to let schools handle education while parents take on child-rearing responsibilities. However, the vice president noted that the philosophy has broken down relationships between parents and educators.

"There's been an emphasis on specialization that tries to break things into parts without appreciating how things are

connected together in the whole community," he said.

By resuming a continuous dialogue involving parents, teachers and administrators, Americans can create "a seamless web from which that child is never very far. If a child does something wrong in school, the parents will know about it just like that. If the child has some special need, the parents will inform the teachers. The feeling is that there's one caring community for the child, and that's really the key."

About 1,000 parents, educators and corporate leaders have been invited to the conference at Vanderbilt University. Scheduled are 17 workshops including how families can accelerate learning in early childhood, families and schools using technology to advance learning and developing workplace support for school and family partnerships.

"We chose (this year's) topic because of the prominence of education in the national debate over how to prepare the United States of America for the 21st century," Gore said.



photo by Steve Purinton/ staff

Adam McChesney, 16, of Bristol practices the timpani for the Governor's school wind ensemble, which will be held at 7 p.m. on July 11 in the Wright Music Building.

## Company donates \$2500

by April Jacobs  
staff writer

The MTSU Russell Chair of Manufacturing Excellence received a \$2,500 donation from Aqua Bath, a small, privately owned company in Nashville.

The money will help fund the rewriting and re-submitting of a proposal for research into designing bathtub systems for the elderly and disabled.

One year ago, MTSU, Tennessee Tech, and Aqua Bath entered into a research and development partnership to create a product that would benefit the disabled and elderly population across the country. It was the first time in history for such a collaboration between a private enterprise and two Tennessee Board of Regents' institutions.

The project is part of TBR's public service mandate. The original proposal was submitted, and a full scientific review took place last summer.

"It passed scientific review and was returned to us for scientific re-review and re-submittal," said Dick Redditt, professor of industrial studies and holder of the Russell Chair, adding that the proposal "was not funded but we got close. Aqua Bath's funding along with matching funds from Myra Norman [director, MTSU Sponsored Programs], along with in-kind matching from the Russell Chair make up the triad which makes it possible for Sharon Scholtes [assistant professor, human sciences] and I to rewrite the proposal to re-submit to NIH [National Institutes of Health]."

The entire process is in three phases, with each of the

first two phases extending over a 12-month timetable. The initial phase is the gathering of research and data, which involves MTSU's Russell Chair. The second phase, involving TTU's Center for Manufacturing, is the actual design and manufacture of the product. The third phase is Aqua Bath's going out and marketing the product.

If the grant is accepted, up to \$100,000 will be allotted for the first phase. Up to \$500,000 will be available for the second phase. In each phase, Redditt noted, both institutions must contract to do 30 percent of the work, with the rest performed by Aqua Bath.

"There is a tremendous opportunity here if we can get behind it and make it happen," said George McAllister, Aqua Bath president. "[New] research is badly needed in this area. The research that has already been done was pulled out, the dust shaken off, and rerun again. We're using data research done on healthy soldiers back in the 40s. Old people are not healthy soldiers."

Aqua Bath, in business since 1993, designs bathroom products that are more accessible and convenient for the disabled and elderly.

"We try to understand the needs of these people in this particular area," McAllister added. "This research will help us to discover those needs ... people are living longer—that's what this research is all about, trying to find out these people's needs so they can stay in their own homes longer."

McAllister said he is grateful for the partnership

with MTSU and for the assistance from Redditt and Scholtes.

"I'm proud of both these schools," Rep. Bart Gordon (D-Murfreesboro) told the initial gathering of principal players last year. "In this time of reduced level of funds, these kinds of partnerships help us to work together. Maybe this can become a model of how we can put together other joint programs."

Earl Keese, MTSU dean of Basic and Applied sciences, said the project not only cuts across two disciplines within TBR but several disciplines within each university.

Jo Edwards, who holds the position of Adams Chair of Health Services at MTSU, agreed.

"The Adams Chair will be involved in field-testing the product in settings where we have geriatric patients, human sciences will be involved in the design based on the adaptation of models, and Ron Aday [professor of sociology, anthropology, and social work] will share his expertise in the area of gerontology."

"It's an extremely good dynamic to have this collaboration happen," added Ted Lundy, director of the Manufacturing Center at TTU. "We need to work together as much as possible."

Lundy said that manufacturing provides the majority of jobs in Tennessee.

"It is vital that we improve the educational level of people," he said, "so that they are better prepared for the manufacturing community."



photo by Steve Purinton/ staff

Michael Rogerson, Jr., a recording industry major, escapes the heat last Thursday by practicing his backflips at the Rec Center swimming pool.

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## Virtues, like hard work, get you where you want to go in the working world

by Robert L. Dilenschneider  
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service

NEW YORK— Professional life isn't quite what they told us it was at our college commencement. Hard work, persistence, creativity and drive don't necessarily get us that good job or promotion.

What does get those career goodies is something that's now being called "social intelligence" or "social IQ." "How to Make Friends and Influence People" guru Dale Carnegie called it "human relations," and personnel experts refer to it as "interpersonal skills."

When I was starting out in business, we were told it was called "learning the ropes." And the "ropes" were how to get up to speed on getting our jobs done through people.

But whatever you call it, people-savvy has always been the genetic code for success in professional life. Aristotle, Jesus, Queen Elizabeth I, Peter the Great, Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy all knew how to handle people, as do former first lady Betty Ford and Jack Welch, chief executive of General Electric Co.

Those who've fallen from grace seemed to be clueless about people. Just consider the philosopher Socrates, who pestered people with questions, and Bill Agee, former chief executive officer of Bendix and Morrison-Knudsen, who offended employees with his perks.

Yet, even today, the myth persists that all those old-fashioned virtues, such as hard work, will get you where you want to go. And many young people are still being misled.

However, there have always been some families, such as the Kennedys, that give it to their kids straight: Spend less time doing a good job and more time tending to the human issues surrounding the job.

Before downsizing, many newcomers to the workplace could still succeed, despite their naive assumption that performance would be rewarded. Organizations were horizontal, and it wasn't too hard to be pushed up that ladder.

Now, there are fewer slots to move into. And there's more competition even to get that first entry-level job. How many of our colleagues tell us grim stories about their children who graduate from Ivy League colleges and are unemployed or under-employed?

To get the message across to young people that there's more to work than work, we have to remove the taboo surrounding "politics."

Politics, at its core, is the art of compromise - and that's exactly how things get done in the workplace. But, unfortunately, the word "politics" has an unsavory connotation, meaning anything from "manipulative" to "sucking up."

We have to explain to young people

that it was politics that started the American Revolution and put an American on the moon.

We should lead young people in discussions about the kinds of strategies President Clinton and local government officials use to persuade the public. Let's have a video game called "Getting Legislation Passed." And we can encourage young people to do volunteer work for the party of their choice.

Second, let's start saluting role models who handle themselves well among other people. Enough already about the technical genius of Steve Jobs and Bill Gates. More about the schmoozing skills of talk show host Larry King and "Swim With The Sharks" author Harvey Mackay.

If young people analyze these new kinds of role models, they will find that the successful keep fine-tuning their ability to work with people.

Third, we have to let young people in on the secret that they must figure out who they are.

In the 1980s, before downsizing, IBM had its fair share of employees who were total misfits - but would have been great fits at Apple or Microsoft.

Why did this happen? In 99 percent of the cases it's because employees never took time to find out who they were. They wandered into IBM. They got an offer. They accepted. And miserable times started for both company and employee. One misfit is like a screen door banging hundreds of times a day.

Young people must look inward, and we must have the courage to say to them, "Joe, you're a great guy, but not great for Aetna. Why not try Kraft or Netscape?"

Fourth, organizations must become more forgiving. Early in our careers we all make big mistakes.

For instance, we might become so convinced of the rightness of our "cause" that we go over the boss's head. Usually, the penalty for that is severe: getting sidelined or getting fired. After that we go low profile for a couple of years—and maybe never get our confidence back.

Organizations have got to be more gentle with young people. Instead of executing them after a mistake, why don't we try coaching them?

If we see that young people are in the soup—or, better, before they get into the soup—let's take them out to lunch and "donate" some of our wisdom. In this wild and crazy global economy, not too many people are serving as mentors to newcomers to the workplace.

Let's explain to them the acceptable way to get around a boss. For instance, let them know that if a third party had intervened for them, they would probably have gotten what they wanted—and come out smelling like a rose.

And, five, we have to remove the stigma from failure. Given all the volatility in the economy, I don't know

one successful person who hasn't had a major setback.

Most bounced back because they didn't waste their energy beating themselves up. Rather, they learned from the experience and, if necessary, changed their strategies.

Just as organizations should forgive young people, we should help them become gentle with themselves.

Despite the odds against them, young people can succeed. The key is people. They can make or break us.

In political offices, in Fortune 500 companies, in brand-name charities and in local grass-roots movements there are many people who are getting ahead.

They put people first—and work second.



## How to tell if you're a compulsive gambler

You may have seen in the news that President Clinton (motto: "Building a Better America By Hugging") has appointed a blue-ribbon commission to study gambling in America and find out whether it is a bad thing or what. The commission, consisting of nine experts, was given a budget of \$5 million, which it immediately lost playing roulette.

No, seriously, the commission is going to study gambling for two years, then produce a detailed report, which, in accordance with federal laws concerning blue-ribbon commission reports on important issues, will be fed to pigs. But that does not mean this is not an important issue. Gambling is a huge industry that has caused many people to become addicted, possibly including you. To find out, take this: SCIENTIFIC QUIZ TO DETERMINE IF YOU ARE A COMPULSIVE GAMBLER

1. Do large men sometimes come around and break your thumbs?
2. Have you ever lunged across a table and tried to strangle a 73-year-old grandmother because she said, "Bingo?"
3. Have you ever, after gambling away all your money and pawning all your possessions, asked yourself, "Hey, why do I need TWO kidneys?"
4. Have you ever attempted to place a bet on the chariot race in "Ben Hur?"
5. If so, did you bet AGAINST Charlton Heston, your REASONING being that, hey, one of these times he has to lose?
6. Have you ever wagered money that you should have used to feed your children?
7. Have you ever wagered your actual children?

If you answered "yes" to any one of these questions, the odds (ha ha!) are that you are a compulsive gambler. The best treatment, in my opinion, is for you to fly to Las Vegas and attempt to learn the game called "craps;" this will cure your



Dave Barry

Syndicated Columnist

compulsion by causing your head to explode. I recently spent a night at a Las Vegas hotel-casino, and when I turned on the TV in my room, it was showing a program wherein a cheerful man demonstrated how easy and fun it is to play the various gambling games. He was explaining "craps" and it sounded like this: "...if the shooter throws a 2, 3, 6, 9, or 11, then that becomes the 'point,' unless the shooter has previously thrown a 4, 5, 10, 14, or 'boxcars,' except on Wednesday, when the shooter must throw 'snake eyes' unless there are two or more hotels on Park Place, in which case the shooter..."

This is why most people prefer slot machines, which are very simple: You put money in, you pull the handle, and then you put more money in. You keep doing this until finally - in a sudden, exciting explosion of ringing bells and flashing lights - your money, plus a lot more, comes pouring out of the machine about ten feet away, which is being used by the same 73-year-old grandmother whom you tried to strangle in the Bingo game.

But the slots are addictive. In Las Vegas, they have them right at the airport gates. Sometimes people get off their planes, start playing the slots right there, and never do get to their hotels. Sometimes departing flights can't take off because the pilots are busy playing the slots, or trying to get more money by pawning things ("Hey, why does the plane need TWO engines?")

Nevertheless I like going to Las

Vegas. A lot of people do, which is why every week or so somebody there builds a new casino the size of Czechoslovakia, but with more rooms. Most of the big casinos have some kind of classic theme - ancient Rome, pirates, volcanoes, naked breast, etc. The one casino theme you will NOT see is organized crime. Las Vegas is very sensitive about this, because at one time there was a large criminal element in the gambling industry, although I am starting right here in print that it has been completely eliminated, so please do not put a bomb in my car.

(Actually, I think a hotel-casino with an organized-crime theme could be a big hit; it could be called "The Godfather," and there could be fun little touches, such as a card that you'd hang on your doorknob to indicate whether or not you wished to wake up in bed with a deceased horse.)

The way organized crime originally got involved with gambling was by running numbers rackets, which are evil because they encourage people to throw their money away on lottery games with terrible odds. Numbers rackets should not be confused with the state lottery, which encourages people to throw their money away on lottery games with even worse odds than organized crime is offering. But this is good, because state-lottery proceeds are used for worthwhile causes, such as producing TV commercials urging people to buy state-lottery tickets.

All of these issues (Editor's note: WHAT issues?) will be considered by the blue-ribbon commission; let's hope that is comes up with practical ways to help those pathetic souls who cannot control their gambling addiction. And now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go watch TV; they're showing "Gone With the Wind," and I've bet my last \$500, plus both corneas, on the South.

## Right or wrong, SBC has the right to boycott Disney

by Scott Link  
special to Sidelines

Lately in the news we have heard much about how those silly Southern Baptists are trying to force their moral view on Disney, and the rest of us. I have heard many people say that they should not be boycotting Disney, and I have to ask why they think that.

We live in free market society. We each individually decide how to spend our money, especially when it comes to entertainment. I can, for any reason, decide to not patronize any business I choose. If my friends and I get together and collectively decide not to patronize a business, and to publicly tell the business why we will not be giving them any more support, that is our right. If it so happens that my friends entail the 14 million members of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, so be it. There should be no question as to whether the SBC has the "right" to boycott any business it deems worthy, in fact the only question is, assuming they feel they have a reason to boycott, whether the proposed economic embargo will be effective in achieving the desired goal.

So, why boycott Disney, the nation's most well-known family oriented company? The media has been quick to point out two reasons why the SBC might wish to boycott Disney, same-sex benefits for unmarried homosexual partners (but not for heterosexual roommates of the same sex) and "gay-day" events at the park. The press, it seems, would have

us believe that these are the only reasons they are boycotting.

When Walt Disney was alive we could count on anything being presented as children's fare by his company to be wholesome, and the company was not in the business of putting out movies which promote "immoral ideologies such as homosexuality, infidelity, and adultery." (Resolution on Moral Stewardship and The Disney Company, June 18, 1997, 10:10 am, Southern Baptist Convention) Since his passing the values he held and promoted in his business have fallen by the wayside. Those replacing him in the leadership of his company are motivated by greed, the opportunity to press their personal social agenda (in some cases the agenda is the normalization of homosexuality), or a mixture of both.

It is also bandied about that there is a double standard in effect, because many businesses are involved the same offensive practices Disney is. Why is the SBC picking on Disney alone? Well, it should be noted that Disney, by claiming to be a family oriented company, has called itself to a higher level of accountability to the consumer, and therefore should not be suprised when it is expected to act in a manner which reflects that. We could debate how Disney could be trying to relate to the family of the 90s, but the fact is 14 million American members of families feel that Disney is falling down on the job. Actually, it is more like they are not even trying. That aside, there is

another thing which is seldom mentioned in news reports.

"Be it further resolved that we encourage Southern Baptists to refrain from patronizing any company that promotes immoral ideologies and practices, realizing that The Disney Company is not the only such provider." (Resolution on Moral Stewardship and The Disney Company, June 18, 1997, 10:10 am, Southern Baptist Convention) Even though Disney is the only company mentioned by name, the called boycott applies to more than just Disney.

Will this thing be effective? If 14 million people stop giving your business money, you will know it, but will 14 million Baptists actually boycott? You might wonder why there would be a question. SBC affiliated churches are autonomous, and individuals within those churches are autonomous. So, the SBC does not force the churches which make it up, or the members of those churches, to boycott anything. Each church, each individual, must decide if they will join the boycott, personally. This is no edict from an undeniable authority, it is a call made by the messengers, sent to the convention by the churches which make up the convention, to the people which make up the churches.

Thus far, the reasons for boycott have not been effectively communicated to the individuals who make up the convention. Many of my fellow Baptists are either unconvinced of the correctness of this

please see SBC, page 7

## Sidelines

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### Letters Policy

Sidelines encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Sidelines keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, classification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) Sidelines reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. E-Mail letters to stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu. Send letters to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the Sidelines office in JUB Room 310.



# FEATURES

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

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## Student Unions Director lives up to five year old Promise

Chad Gillis  
features editor

Harold Smith, director of student unions and programming, kicked off his summer last Thursday by jumping from a plane at 13,000 feet above sea level.

The 58 year old MTSU graduate was simply fulfilling a promise made five years ago to his daughter.

"I made a commitment to Hilary when she was thirteen, that if she got through high school with flying colors and would not bungee jump that I would do anything that she wanted to do for her eighteenth birthday," said Smith. "And on her eighteenth birthday she wanted to go skydiving—that's exactly what we did."

Hilary graduated from Riverdale High School in May with "flying colors" and is planning to study horse science at MTSU this fall.

"I had second thoughts, but I



Harold and Hilary Smith pictured here outside the Tennessee Skydiving Center in Tullahoma—where they jumped from over 2 miles

photo provided

was pretty well committed to it. She certainly held up to her end of the bargain, it was up to the old man to hold up to his," said Smith.

The Smith's traveled to Tullahoma Thursday to jump tandem at the Tennessee Skydiving Center.

"I think she has gotten addicted to it. When we got there the guy asked me how old I was and I said 58. And he asked me if this was my first jump. I told him no it was my last, and it probably will be," Smith said.

Harold and Hilary Smith fell for one full minute. The parachutes opened at 5,000 feet and the Smith's continued to descend for seven or eight minutes.

"I had never been skydiving before. I don't think that it ever entered my mind."

"I asked her if she wouldn't rather have a Mercedes Benz, and she said I couldn't afford that, but I could afford to take her skydiving," Smith said.

Harold Smith graduated in 1968 from MTSU with his undergraduate and received his masters two years later.

Skydiving is just one avenue that Harold and his family are exploring this summer.

Monday the Smith's left to visit their son Hal in Anchorage Alaska. Hal is in the military and has been stationed in the North Pacific for over a year.

"We did it and we had a lot of fun," said Smith.

The Tennessee Skydiving Center is the only facility in the state open seven days a week for business. The cost for a tandem jump is \$175 with an optional video costing \$50. The Center can be reached at (615) 455-4574 and opens at 8:30 a.m.

"It went great," said Harold's wife Judi, who has works as a labor and delivery nurse at Middle Tennessee Medical Center. "He came home with a smile on his face."

## Chet Atkins Musician Days at Riverfront Park

by Paul Wood  
staff writer

Chet Atkins will be the guest of honor tonight when Nashville's Ryman auditorium hosts a tribute concert to his musical legacy.

The concert kicks off the Chet Atkins Musician Days, which will begin tomorrow at the Riverfront Park in Nashville, and run through Sunday.

The Chet Atkins Musician Days is part of the National Musicians Week, which began on Monday, and ends also on the 29th.

Appearances at the Ryman tonight will include old favorites such as Carl Perkins, Pat Boone, Janis Ian, and Ray Stevens, as well as more contemporary artists such as Suzy Bogguss, Travis Tritt, Marty Stuart, Ricky Skaggs, and Clint Black, among many others.

Hosting the concert will be Garrison Keillor, whose radio program "A Prairie Home Companion" on National Public Radio offers a taste of the old days of radio with music and stories of a place called Lake Wobegone, and Kate MacKenzie, a regular on his show.

On the final day of the week

long event, the Riverfront amphitheater will host "Descendants Day," which founder Charlie Howell says is "dedicated to the well-being of people we will never know."

The day will start off at the Riverfront amphitheater around 11 a.m. Descendant Day events include a First Amendment Speakers Corner.

Speakers will be able to offer their opinions about issues and problems facing the world today in addition to providing solutions to those problems.

The 'old time' musicians stage will feature the Down The Road bluegrass beginning at 2 p.m.

Approximately 25 booths will be set up on the grounds, focusing on different aspects of things that can be done to make sure the quality of life standard does not change for the next generation.

In addition, displays of holistic medicine and foods, yoga and meditation will be featured.

Howell first got the idea for "Descendants Day" in 1982 when he realized a negative outlook on the country's future expressed by young people.

"I wanted to give the younger generations some hope for the future," Howell said.



Fireworks are in fashion as this young entrepreneur sets up shop on the corner of Northfield and Memorial. Public Safety does not allow fireworks on campus.

photo by Steve Purinton/staff

## SANDRA BULLOCK ON SPEED

by Ian Spelling  
College Press Service

Sandra Bullock knows she has an image of being Ms. Nice.

"I'm nice. I can't help it," says Bullock, who's starring in the action thriller "Speed 2." "I can't help that I'm going to be the sucker every time ... because I give everyone the benefit of the doubt six times before I catch on."

But don't mistake niceness for being a pushover, Bullock warns.

"Once someone crosses the line, that's it," she says. "Someone I work with has a saying: 'Don't mistake my kindness for weakness.' It's so true. I'll be nice every time, but I know what to fight for when I have to fight for it."

Bullock didn't put up much of a fight when asked to appear in "Speed 2." In fact, even though the actress achieved superstar status since cruising to stardom three years ago with "Speed," she wanted to participate in the sequel. The idea, of course, was to reunite with co-star Keanu Reeves and director Jan De Bont, who also came into their own with the original film. Reeves then jumped ship in order to perform with his rock band and to avoid the action-star label.

"Keanu shouldn't have done it after doing 'Chain Reaction,'" the affable Bullock says as she sits for an interview at a hotel in Marina Del Rey, Calif. "I was committed, and I owed Jan. I wouldn't be sitting here if Jan didn't put me in the first one."

Although Bullock says she wondered at times whether boarding "Speed 2" was worth the trip, she still went along for the ride.

"When you make a commitment like that and the studio goes ahead and starts things, you either make the best of it or graciously pull out," she says. "There were a lot of times when I said to myself, 'What do we possibly have to gain from this?' But everyone likes to go to amusement parks, just not every day. Once a year it's good to go on all the rides, eat the cotton candy and go home exhausted. That's what 'Speed 2' was like."

With Reeves gone, the film's story changed drastically. Rather than picking up where the saga of Jack (Reeves) and Annie (Bullock) left off, moviegoers meet Annie three years later, as she and new beau Alex (Jason Patric)—whom Annie has just discovered is a daredevil supercop and not the beach patrol cop she believed him to be—embark on a cruise to the Caribbean. The problems start, of course, when a nutso computer mastermind (Willem Dafoe) seizes control of the ship, threatening to blow it up, crash it into an oil tanker and the like. To the rescue come Alex and Annie. Bullock reports that she always wanted to work with Patric, a serious actor and a serious guy, and that the two of them hit it off immediately. The actress goes so far as to call

Patric a hero, in part because he helped her several times when watery stunts grew dangerous. Speaking those words, she sounds genuine. "He's one of the most gifted, talented, dedicated, professional, loyal, morally correct heroes I've ever been around," she says. "He'd be a hero to

me [anyway], in terms of who he is as a human being, what he doesn't play into, and how he treats people. He's the kind of person every football team would want as their quarterback. He says, 'I'm a team player and I'm here for the entire crew.' He's quiet and keeps to himself. He doesn't have a lot to say unless he has a lot to say, and when he says it, it has a tremendous amount of thought, learning and knowledge behind it. The press hates it because they can't get any sound bites." With "Speed 2" in theaters, it's onto other things for Bullock and other matters of interest. First, there's the big is she/isn't she? marrying question about her relationship with handsome "A Time to Kill" co-star Matthew McConaughey. The answer, she swears, is no, but don't tell that to the tabloids. "I've been married several times," she says, laughing at her favorite rumors. "Apparently, it was fabulous. The honeymoon was great. Matthew swept me off to Las Vegas."

Finally, there's Bullock's next project, "Hope Floats," a film about which the actress couldn't be more excited. Bullock shares the screen with Gena

Rowlands and Harry Connick, Jr. under the direction of Forest Whitaker. The producer? Bullock. "It's taken me two years to develop, and it's what my entire life has been geared to doing," she says. "I play the daughter who's falling apart because she's based her life on very materialistic things that have nothing to do with anything. Her husband leaves her on national TV, and she starts falling apart with no regard for her three young daughters. Her mother (Rowlands) tries to help her get it together before she passes on."

"It's a difficult film, not about anything pretty. It's about how families, regardless of how ugly things get, are still families. It's a beautiful story."

In fact, Bullock says she considers "Hope Floats" one of the fringe benefits of making "Speed 2."

"That was another great thing about 'Speed 2,' actually," she says. "The studio wanted me to do it, and I said I would if they let me make 'Hope Floats.' It's not to their benefit to make a film like this, and it has to be done right. It's like 'Ordinary People,' 'Terms of Endearment.'"

"That's the liberty I have right now. If I'm going to be smart business-wise, I have to think, 'I want to enjoy myself on "Speed 2," but what else am I going to gain from it?' Later on in life I can say, 'It was worth it' because I did 'Hope Floats.'"

## WHAT GOES ON

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Tonight</b>              | <u>White Water</u> will be appearing at the Station Inn<br>Live jazz at the 'Boro with <u>Be-Blop</u>   |
| <b>Thursday<br/>June 26</b> | <u>The Screamin' Cheetah Wheelies</u> --Dancin' in the District<br><u>Crowd of One</u> opens for <u>Kim's Fable</u> at 12th&Porter              |
| <b>Friday<br/>June 27</b>   | <u>Aggy Coloured Karma</u> will be at Jonathan's<br>Bongo After Hours Theatre presents live theatre with<br><u>Home Free</u> by Langford Wilson |
| <b>Saturday<br/>June 28</b> | <u>Fools Rush In</u> to the 'Boro<br>Big Band Dance at Centennial Art Center<br>at 7:30 with <u>Jazz Probe</u>                                  |
| <b>Sunday<br/>June 29</b>   | The <u>Toasters</u> and <u>Javachrist</u> will be at 328<br>Performance Hall for an all ages show \$8 at the door                               |
| <b>Monday<br/>June 30</b>   | <u>Porcelain</u> will be at 12th&Porter \$3<br><u>Twisted Lester</u> every Monday at the Station Inn  |
| <b>Thursday<br/>July 3</b>  | <u>Gwar</u> will be at 328 Performance Hall, along with<br><u>The Electric Hellfire Club</u> and <u>Puncture</u> \$12                           |

328 Performance--328 4th Ave. South in Nashville--259-3288  
Sebastian's--Maple-Greenland on the square in Murfreesboro  
The 'Boro Bar and Grill--Greenland Drive across from Furber Center  
Station Inn--402 12th Ave. South in Nashville--255-3307  
12th & Porter--114 12th Ave. South in Nashville--254-7236  
Bongo After Hours Theatre--2007 Belmont Blvd. in Nashville--385-0575



# SPORTS & RECREATION

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Sidelines

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## Health

### Healthier ways to relieve the stress of summer jobs and summer school

by Jennie Treadway  
special to Sidelines

Now that summer is here, one would expect to feel a little relief from the school-year stress. However, a nine-to-five working day, even during the summer months, can bring on the same stress as a 17 hour semester workload.

No matter the month or season, the quirks of day to day life can grow a gray hair on anyone. Managing stress is not only essential to sustain sanity but to prevent damage to the body. Excessive stress is known to cause headaches, stomachaches, neck pain, insomnia, irritability, high blood pressure, and back pain. A low-stress lifestyle, as impossible as it may sound, can help prevent such related physical problems.

While we feed off the adrenaline of excessive stress, a majority of the working population want to avoid a high-stress situation.

"Unwinding with a glass of wine or an entire pint of ice cream might give you temporary relief, but if they become the primary means of coping, they can actually make things worse," according to Rachel Dobkin and Shana Sippy, authors of *The College Woman's Handbook*.

Pinpointing the cause of stress is a key step in eliminating the chances of a mental or physical breakdown. Alleviating stress begins with focusing on what causes the most stress and learning to manage that specific problem. For example, if the problem lies at home, deal with it at home and avoid bringing outside stress into the workplace.

After deciding what causes the frown lines and tummy aches, it is important to recognize the problem as highly stressful. When a strenuous situation arise at work or home, take a deep breath and a step back before focusing on a solution. Stress leads to irrationality as well as irritability.

Aside from recognizing and learning to manage a source of stress, relief is on the way. There are a million and one ways to break away from the jagged course of a stressful day. The key is to know how much stress is too much.

Taking time alone for a favorite hobby or pastime is always a stress-reliever. If reading or painting is a hobby of the past, revive it. Take an hour out of the day to page through a magazine or channel surf. Play with the dog or write a letter to close friend or relative.

"Exercising is not only one of the best ways to release stress, it's also an important aid in its prevention," say Dobkin and Sippy. According to researchers, a physically fit body is a better mechanism of managing the symptoms of stress. A brisk walk outside or quick swim in warm pool may be the boost your body needs.

"Movement during the day is important to the body," says Laura Welsh, M.D., director of occupational and environmental medicine at the George Washington University Medical Center. Walking away from your desk at work for a few minutes or take a break outside the house may prevent stress from accumulating inside your neck and spine, which then leads to those awful headaches.

Since it is summer, take advantage of the warm weather and spend time outdoors. Visit the community pool or go rafting down a river. Take a walk in a park or work in the garden for a few hours. If allergies or preference keep you indoors, take a yoga class or try a home workout video to get your body moving. Do a few laps around the mall or join a local gym.

Recall your grammar school summers and how they were spent. Make the effort to rest and relax. The fall, along with the next batch of semester hours, will be here far too soon.

## MTSU and SEMO repeat as OVC champions

by Ramona Stubblefield  
staff writer

The All Sports trophy, which is a symbol of overall athletic excellence in conference sponsored championships, was awarded to this year's Middle Tennessee State University's men's and Southeast Missouri's women's programs.

Both teams have repeated as champions of the Ohio Valley Conference for the 1996-1997 season, winning against ten other teams.

"It's one of the most coveted titles

awarded," said Ed Given, Sports Information Director.

MTSU has captured the trophy for the second year in a row, with an overall total of 116 points. Points are given in every sport in OVC and it is based on how we place in that sport. Our points for each sport range from 18 points to 11 points.

This is the fourth time Middle Tennessee has won the trophy in the schools history of being a member of the OVC.

Middle Tennessee took two championships-one in tennis and one

in baseball. They won second place in indoor and outdoor track and field and took third place in basketball and golf.

First year OVC member Eastern Illinois finished in second place in the overall standings with a score of 106. They also won a title in cross country.

In the women's division, Southeast Missouri won the trophy for the third consecutive year, with 108 for an overall total. They have only been a member of the OVC for six years.

Southeast won four championships in volleyball, indoor / outdoor track

and field and softball. They also placed second in cross country. Eastern Kentucky finished in second place overall, only two points behind SEMO, with total points being 106. They also took titles in basketball and cross country.

Given said that these awards reflect on the coaches and the athletes themselves.

Middle Tennessee's women placed fourth overall with points totaling 83. They won the championship in tennis and placed third in indoor and outdoor track and field.

## No pain, No gain

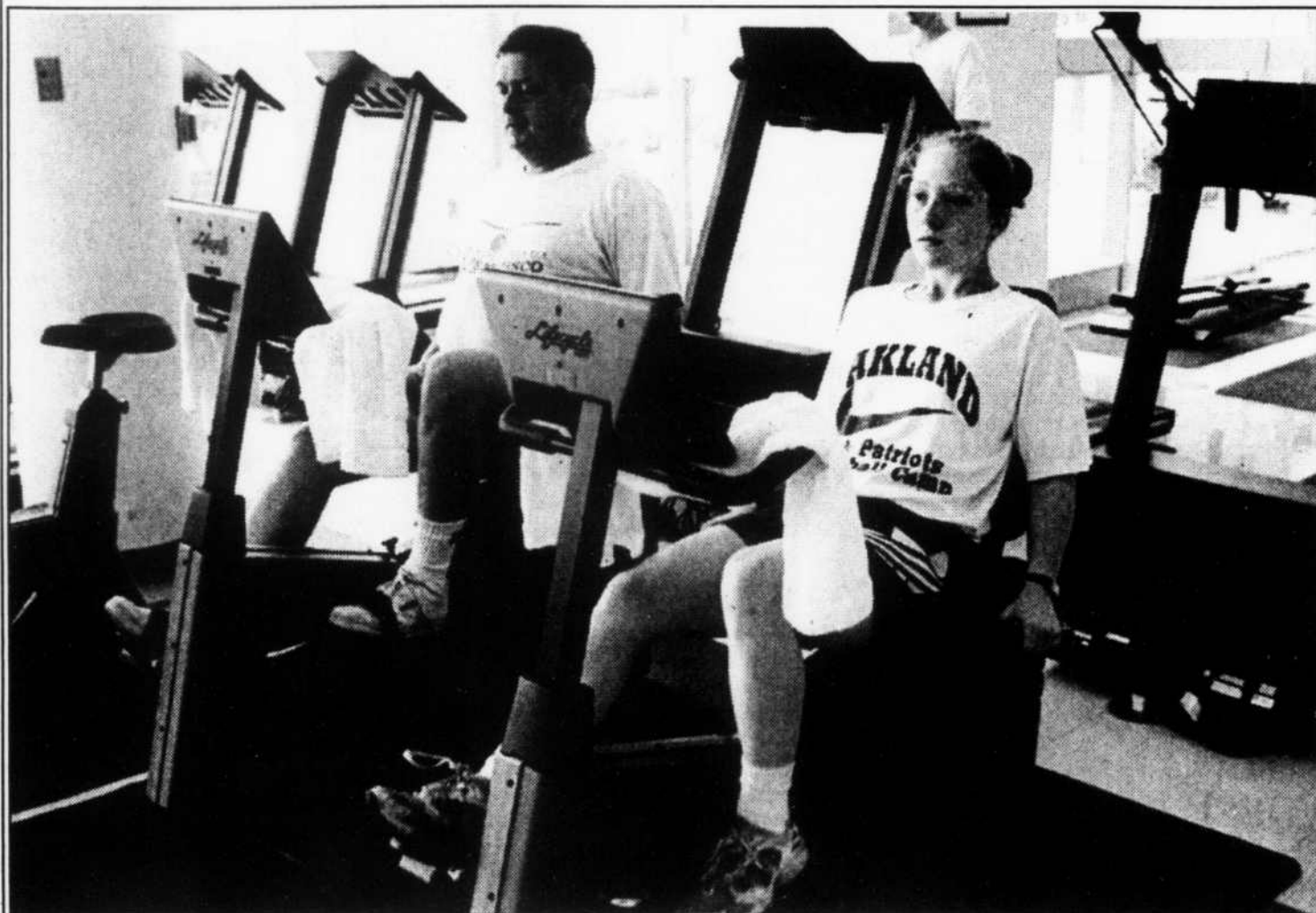


photo by Steve Purinton/Staff

Assistant chief of police John Wagoner and his daughter, Monica, working out on the Rec Center life cycles.

## Phoenix guard coming back for another season

by Tim Molloy  
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Phoenix Suns guard Kevin Johnson, who said last season he was retiring from basketball, is returning for at least one more year and a reported \$7 million salary.

After the playoffs by Seattle in the first round last month, the three-time All-Star said he would call it a career at age 31.

But he said talks with Suns president Jerry Colangelo and prayer helped changed his mind.

"I intended to play 10 years and that would be it. At the end of the season, I still felt that way," Johnson said Tuesday at a news conference at America West Arena. "But Jerry said we had to talk. I dug down deep in my soul for a decision and this is it."

Johnson helps the team shore up its lineup until the Suns can go after top free agents for the 1998-99 season. But Johnson said he was not just staying on to help the team through a transition year, he wants to lead the Suns to a championship.

"I want to win," he said. "I didn't come back just to play another year."

Johnson also refused to rule out staying for just one more year.

"I'm never saying final again,"

Johnson said when asked if next season will be his last.

If Johnson had retired, the Suns would have dropped their rights to him and used the \$7 million he was paid last season to offer deals to other free agents, including Phoenix players Rex Chapman, John "Hot Rod" Williams and Mark Bryant.

Johnson is expected to play next season for roughly the same \$7 million salary he did this year, according to published reports that Colangelo would not confirm.

Because Johnson will return under an extended contract rather than a new one, salary rules dictate he cannot earn more than 20 percent over \$7 million next year.

Colangelo met at least three times with Johnson since the end of last season in an attempt to get him to return to the Suns, who won 20 of their final 26 games to overcome an 0-13 start and make the playoffs.

"We had an exciting finish to the regular season. We want to continue that level of play and also be able to compete in the free-agent market next year," Colangelo said. "In this so-called transition year, we'll be very competitive. Whenever Kevin is on the floor, that's always the case."

Johnson, obtained by Phoenix in a trade with Cleveland late in his rookie season, has scored 12,611 regular-season points in 679 games

and 1,942 more in 92 playoff games. He is one of six players in NBA history with at least 11,500 points, 6,000 assists, 2,000 rebounds and 1,000 steals.

"He's probably had as much an impact on this franchise as anyone," Colangelo said. "We owe him a great debt of gratitude. He's had an outstanding career. He's glad to announce he is going to continue to play."

Johnson's days seemed numbered in December when the Suns acquired Jason Kidd from Dallas to take over the point guard spot.

Johnson, who missed the season's first 11 games after hernia surgery, finished third in the league in assists (9.3), 20th in scoring (20.1) and had the fourth-highest field goal percentage among guards.

Johnson has been hampered by injuries during the last part of his career, causing him to miss 33, 15, 35, and 26 games the previous four seasons.

Kidd has said he wanted another season to learn from Johnson, with whom he worked well. The two guards played collegiately at UC Berkeley.

Johnson said he was staying on not just to pass the torch to Kidd, but to "hand it to him and make sure he doesn't drop it."

## County commissioners approve Oilers' early exit from Houston

by Michael Graczyk  
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — With neither fanfare nor discussion, Harris County commissioners Tuesday unanimously agreed to accept \$3.5 million from the Houston Oilers so the NFL team can escape its Astrodome lease a year early and set up shop in Tennessee.

The action took just a few seconds and was included in several dozen items rubber-stamped simultaneously by the Harris County Commissioners Court.

"I'm pleased we have now got this behind us," County Judge Robert Eckels said after the 3-0 vote. "I think it's a fair deal for the taxpayers of Harris County. We come in with a practice facility and cash. I think we're coming out ahead of the game."

According to the terms of the agreement, the Oilers' lease at the

Astrodome will end July 31 and the Oilers' payments will be stretched over four years.

The first payment is due either the day the Oilers leave Houston or Aug. 15, whichever date comes first. The last payment is due Jan. 15, 2001.

The team also will turn over to the county its 7.2-acre practice facility near the Astrodome but the Oilers get to remove any weight machines, training tables and furniture.

Only the city of Houston's approval is now needed for the Oilers to be totally free to leave Texas for Tennessee.

The Oilers had sued the city, county and the team's leaseholder, Astrodome USA, to prevent them from interfering with negotiations for a new taxpayer-paid stadium in Nashville.

Under a court agreement, the Oilers need approval from the city, county and Astrodome USA, the

company that operates the county-owned stadium, before they could get out of the final year of their 10-year lease at the Astrodome.

To settle with their leaseholder, the Oilers agreed to pay \$350,000 to Astrodome USA and drop claim to \$2.5 million in revenue lost when a 1995 exhibition game was canceled because of AstroTurf problems.

City attorney Gene Locke has said talks with the Oilers were ongoing but has declined to discuss details.

"My understanding is everything is worked out," Eckels said.

But under the plan approved Tuesday, the county gets \$250,000 less so the Oilers can pay the city's legal fees. Mayor Bob Lanier had demanded the payment from a lawsuit brought by the Oilers.

"I'm relieved to get this behind us but it's really just one more step in the process to take care of the Astrodome complex," Eckels said.

## MTSU expands program to include women's golf

by Doug Malan  
staff writer

The Middle Tennessee sports scene could be enhanced in the coming years if plans to add women's golf come to fruition.

The university is currently studying the financial ramifications of the program and targeting 1999 or 2000 as the sport's first year.

With the recent exposure of Title IX and college athletics, MTSU has added softball and women's soccer in the last few years.

However, gender equity was not the main issue in proposing the idea of a women's golf team, according to athletic director Lee Fowler. "This is not something the OCR (Office of Civil Rights) forced on us," he said in a telephone interview. "I think this is a sport that will be supported."

"There is a large number of women currently playing golf in state high schools and Murfreesboro has had girls playing in college in recent years."

Fowler estimates that monetary support for the program could cost up to \$100,000 including the NCAA's allotment of 5 1/2 scholarships.

"Right now, this is a sport that we're definitely looking to add," Fowler said.

## Rec Center offers free trip on the Ocoee River

by Ramona Stubblefield  
staff writer

The Campus Rec Center is offering a free raft trip for University students, on the Ocoee River June 29th. The department will provide transportation, rafting equipment, raft coordinators, and lunch.

Wayne Taylor, assistant director of Campus Rec. said that the reason they are offering the trip for free is because the rafters will be doing conservation work along the Ocoee.

"We are offering this as an enticement for doing a good deed," Taylor added. The Rec center also has trail maintenance and Adopt A Highway litter pick up.

The rafters will meet in the parking lot of the Rec Center at 7:30am that morning, and leave by 8:00am. The trip to the river will take approximately three hours. There will be a stop off for lunch in Cleveland, TN. The participants will be on the river around noon and will raft for 3 to 4 hours.

According to Ocoee trip handout, "the river is excellent for white water rafting. It has many class three and class four rapids that challenge the rafters at every turn. The rapids will be at the mercy of rapids like Grumpy, Broken Nose, Double Suck, Double Trouble, and Hell's Hole."

The Rec center will provide a run through on safety procedures prior to rafting.

"It's a beautiful trip," Taylor said, "Heart rushing, water in your face, screaming good time."

If you would like more information on the trip, call W.T. or Andy at 898-2104.



# Smaller companies less likely to hire black job-seekers

by Sherwood Ross  
Reuter Press Service

NEW YORK—Fewer blacks are being hired by small and mid-sized companies than by larger ones, data from a study of 3,000 employers in four big metropolitan areas reveals.

By contrast, larger firms—employing 100 workers or more—actually employ a higher percentage of blacks than are found in the population of their metropolitan areas.

"Big firms are looking over their shoulder," explained economist Harry Holzer of Michigan State University in East Lansing, referring to equal employment laws affecting them.

"They face greater risks of class-action lawsuits or 'bad press' from charges of racial bias if they hire too few blacks," he said.

"The really small companies, having 50 or fewer employees, seem more likely to discriminate against blacks," said Holzer, author of the study. The smallest companies, those having 15 or fewer employees, are exempted from Federal EEOC statutes.

"Small establishments in the suburbs serving white clientele are the least inclined to hire blacks," Holzer added.

"If smaller establishments hired black applicants in the same proportions as do the

larger ones," he said, "there would be very substantial increases in blacks' employment and earnings," Holzer said.

"We really haven't done any studies ourselves," said Michael Widomski, spokesman for the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission in Washington, D.C. "But race continues to be the No. 1 basis for discrimination charges."

In fiscal year 1996, 34 percent of all charges filed with the EEOC—26,287—were race-based, he said.

"Larger companies have human resources departments and are better at focusing on equal employment issues," Widomski said. "That's not an excuse for discrimination but in a small firm you may not have somebody able to focus on human resources issues but who must deal with all aspects of the business."

Holzer investigated the race of job applicants and the recruitment practices of employers over two years ending May, 1994, in metropolitan Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, and Los Angeles. In aggregate, their percentage of black residents is 17 percent.

"The results show a very striking tendency for the percentages of new hires and overall employment accounted for by blacks to rise with establishment size," Holzer wrote.

Among companies whose

employees don't need a college degree, the larger the company, the greater the overall percentage of black employees, he found.

"The data indicate that the smallest establishments hire considerably smaller percentages of blacks than we find in the populations of these four metropolitan areas, while the largest hire somewhat more," Holzer observed.

"Those (businesses) in the second smallest category (21-50 employees) hire 7-10 percentage points fewer (blacks than do large companies)," he added.

Small establishments, Holzer pointed out, "receive fewer black applicants than do larger ones," particularly those located furthest from inner city neighborhoods. The ratio of "black employment to applicants is 10 percent to 30 percent higher among central-city than suburban firms," he said.

Establishment size itself "has a large effect on the hiring of blacks," Holzer summarized, stating that this is "at least somewhat related" to differences in the impact of EEO laws and regulations.

The findings "strongly suggest" the need for policymakers "to revise remedies for employment discrimination at small establishments," Holzer said.

## Quadruplets to head into four winds

Reuters News Service

WACO, Texas—Four identical sisters who spent four years at the same college are getting ready to go in four different directions after college graduation.

Alison Hansen, who is older than her youngest sister by 16 minutes, says it's "the last hurrah for a while, for us being quadruplets," as the sisters get set to head for graduate studies in Europe.

Alison, Darcy, Claire and Brooke Hansen, who were all born in 17 minutes at San Antonio's Methodist Hospital on October 24, 1974, plan to study in four different countries. They graduated from Baylor University in May.

The sisters say they welcome the relative anonymity they will find in Europe after being the unofficial "mascots" at Baylor, which recruited them with four full scholarships worth \$213,000. The free ride irked some students burdened

by heavy student loans who are underwhelmed by the sisters' notoriety.

Claire, who is going to Vienna, says she welcomes "being in a whole new climate, where nobody knows I'm a quad."

Alison goes to Madrid for graduate studies. Darcy goes to London to study International Relations; Brooke to pursue similar studies in the Amsterdam.

Alison says, "On October 24th, we'll all turn 23 alone."

SBC (from page 4)

action, or torn between wondering how this builds the kingdom of God and feeling the desire to stop the moral of this society into the moral cesspool. Will this boycott burn bridges which can never be repaired with people to whom we are called to be Ministers of the Reconciliation? Should we further jeopardize our society's precarious hold on morality by keeping silent, and not seeking to influence others, in order to keep the bridges intact? Those are question which, along with many more, I hope were

thoroughly discussed at this past convention. Whatever the discussion, the result was a vote to call for the boycott, and any bridges which might be burned by that call have already been set on fire. Hopefully, people can understand the SBC's motivation was rooted in trying to preserve values they believe are good and true.

The Southern Baptist Convention, unlike many people and organizations in our pluralistic society, is willing to take a stand for the values they hold dear, publicly denounce any attack on those values, and

back up their words with their wallets. Even if you disagree with their value structure, you can at least appreciate their conviction.

"We realize that we cannot do everything to stop the moral decline in our nation, but we must do what lies before us when it is right through a proper use of our influence, energies, and prayers, particularly when it affects our nation's children." (Resolution on Moral Stewardship and The Disney Company, June 18, 1997, 10:10 am, Southern Baptist Convention)

## Study: Star Trek fans may be highly addicted to show

by Colleen DeBaise  
College Press Service

Attention "Star Trek" fans: You might be addicted.

Sure, like most Trekkers, you often recount detail-for-detail your favorite episode about the Starfleet crew's battle with a lethal time warp or a close encounter with the Borg.

Or maybe you wax poetic about Jean-Luc Picard's sexy bald head.

But if you spend your free time learning, say, that the memory storage for main core of the Enterprise-D is about 630,000 kiloquads, then you really might be an addict.

About 5 percent to 10 percent of "Star Trek" fans meet the psychological criteria of addiction, says British psychologist Sandy Wolfson.

Wolfson, who studied the science fiction show's cult following for four years, says some fans are like drug addicts who suffer withdrawal symptoms if deprived of doses of their favorite show.

One woman Trekkers spent her entire vacation worrying that her VCR wasn't set

properly to tape the show; another spent \$10,000 on "Star Trek" merchandise every year, according to the study.

"They show withdrawal symptoms such as frustration and agitation if they miss an episode and develop higher tolerance levels, so they need increasing doses," Wolfson told the London Times.

On LineAmericaOnline, messages fly daily about "Star Trek" and its spin-off movies and series, including "Star Trek—The Next Generation" and "Deep Space Nine."

Many users scoffed at the study's comparison of Trekkers to drug addicts.

"There are extremists in every hobby and every culture," wrote one fan identified as CptBPicard. "But for some reason, you don't see them comparing people who search desperately for Isaac Asimov's autograph to drug addicts."

Another fan, known on AOL as AuntieMoo, called Star Trek "good clean fun, unlike the painful, unhappy situation of drug addiction, which should never be taken lightly."

Paul McElligott, 31, of Orange County, Calif., said he

became hooked on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" during his senior year at California State University-Fullerton.

"When 'The Next Generation' was cancelled, I was up all night seeing Tribbles crawl out of the walls," he said, in a reference to the series' furry white creatures that multiply rapidly.

Another fan said she, too, got hooked on the original series as a college student. "We all stopped everything to watch Trek," she said. "Mr. Spock was the idol of every nursing student in my class."

She suggested, however, that the show was merely "a way to ward off homesickness for those of us away from home for the first time."

Even the British study found something positive to note about some fans obsessive-compulsive behavior.

"Most Trekkies have made friends and even met spouses through their love of the series," Wolfson said. "They are intellectually challenged by the range of moral and ethical dilemmas presented in the show."

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## Mens' passion for sex shortens their lifespans, scientist says

by Myung Oak Kim  
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service

PHILADELPHIA—Why do men live shorter lives than women?

Blame it on raging male hormones.

Men are programmed to live longer than women, but don't because of their relentless pursuit of sex, a British scientist theorizes.

Based on a study of worms, men might be better off living alone. Lone male worms outlive the ones who spend much of their time chasing females.

The shortened male lifespan theory won some support May 28 from American

researchers, who said sex hormones seem to be the culprits that prevent men from living longer.

"The thing that is important is the protective effect of estrogen in women and the non-protective effect of testosterone," said Albert J. Finestone, a geriatrician and director of the Institute on Aging at Temple University.

Estrogen protects women from cardiovascular disease and bone loss, and may reduce the risk of Alzheimer's in postmenopausal women, although it is suspected of

promoting breast cancer. Testosterone leads to more heart attacks and strokes, and can promote prostate cancer.

The theory that men's zeal for sex shortens their lifespan comes from geneticist David Gems of University College London, who based it on studies with nematode worms.

Male worms, the researcher found, dramatically increased their lifespans when isolated. But when grouped with other male worms, they lived about 10 days—half as long as the isolated worms lived. The monkish worms' 20-day lifespan was even longer than the 16-day average lifespan for the hermaphrodites, which Gems considered females.

Gems said males in the group died young because they put so much effort into defending territory and competing for mates.

He bolstered his theory with a 1969 study of 319 eunuchs that showed castrated males had a median lifespan 13.5 years longer than intact males.

Not all scientists believe men are designed to live longer than women.

"There's certainly no evidence in humans that males are designed to live longer," said Steven Austad, a biogerontologist at the University of Idaho who just

published a book called "Why We Age."

"There's lots of evidence showing the reverse. Males die at a higher rate than females throughout their entire lives."

Men also get dumber than women as they age.

Ruben Gur, a University of Pennsylvania neuropsychologist, found that women consistently have higher blood flow in their brains than men. Men's brains shrink three times faster than women's brains as they age, Gur said.

Women have an average life expectancy of 78.9 years. Men live an average 72.6 years, according to the latest statistics provided by the National Institute on Aging.

An institute official called Gems' theory a leap of judgment. Anna McCormick, chief of the biology branch, said that because of the vast differences between humans and worms, no conclusions should be drawn at this point.

Even if it was proven that men could live longer than women if they castrated themselves, most men probably wouldn't embrace the life of a eunuch.

"It's not so much the length of life, it's the quality of life," Finestone said.





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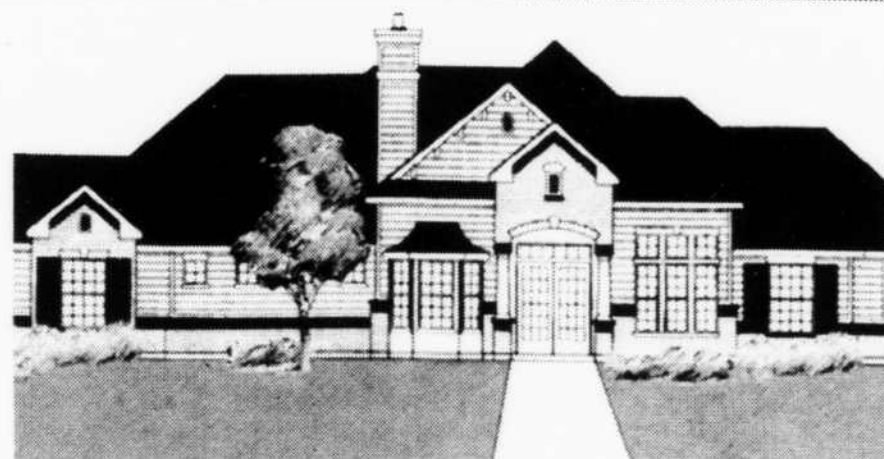
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