

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2000

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Partly cloudy



Music with a little Soul

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Big recruit

Calloway looks to shine.

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An MTSU student competes in the Olympics - see the results.

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An editorially independent newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

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Exhibit to spark abortion debate

By Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum
Staff Writer

When he first saw the photograph of a pile of aborted fetuses in a dumpster, he was no longer ambivalent about the abortion issue.

Charles Nored, director of the Baptist Student Union, hopes the collection of billboard-sized photos of victims of genocide and abortion sitting on the KUC knoll

today and Thursday will do the same thing for some MTSU students.

"The pictures are real," Nored said. "This is what abortion looks like. It is educational and persuasive."

Other campus organizations are protesting the idea that pictures of Holocaust victims, murdered bodies in the killing fields of Cambodia, hanged African-Americans and aborted fetuses are a responsible method of edu-

cation about abortion.

"What concerns me... is that the result can do real harm to women who may be unprepared [to see the images]," said Candace Rosovsky, director of the June Anderson Women's Center. "We are encouraging people to walk past — to not engage in debate — to be aware if they want to discuss that they are discussing with people trained to manipulate."

The display has been shown on about 20 college campuses

around the country and was brought to MTSU by the Genocide Awareness Project, a division of the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, a private organization that strives for "prenatal justice."

GAP representatives will encourage debate with passersby about abortion and its relation to genocide around the world.

"The main premise is what

See Photos, 2



A student at the University of Tennessee Knoxville appears to be offended at the sight of an aborted fetus. The GAP exhibit appeared at UT last week.

Weekend FLASH!

Celebrating a hodge-podge of arts

Fest de Ville Nashville honors the 20th anniversary of TPAC



By Ruth Peltier
Staff Writer

For anyone interested in the Arts, all roads lead to Nashville this weekend. The Tennessee Performing Arts Center is hosting the "Fest de Ville Nashville."

This three-day festival will display all forms of artistic expression and will be the climax of TPAC's month long celebration of their twentieth anniversary.

Performance art will be presented on three outdoor stages in the streets and plazas around TPAC and on two temporary stages in the TPAC building as well as the three permanent theaters within TPAC and in the War Memorial Auditorium.

There will be special performances by each of TPAC's resident artist groups, Tennessee Repertory Theater, Nashville Opera Association, Nashville Ballet and Circle Players.

The season opener for the Tennessee Repertory Theater, "Wit," will begin on Sept. 20 and continue throughout the festival and beyond, closing October 1. Tandy Cronyn, star of television, screen and stage, will play the leading role in the Pulitzer-Prize winning play. "Wit" is the story of an English professor with a reputation for being "difficult" who is undergoing treatment for cancer by one of her former students. The play deals with contemporary problems such as patient's rights vs. research and quantity vs. quality of life.

Anyone who purchases a ticket to see "Wit" will have free admission to the festival and people attending the festival will have a chance to buy discounted tickets to see "Wit."

Friday at 8:30 p.m., the Nashville Opera Association will present "Opera Goes Hollywood." Especially written for TPAC's anniversary celebration, this production presents opera "hits" from well-known

See Fest in FLASH!, 5

School planes may be in air by end of week

By James Evans
Editor in Chief

MTSU's aviation program is currently inactive, but not for mechanical reasons as reported Monday.

In fact, the school planes are expected to be up and running normally in the near future, possibly even by the end of the week, said Stephen Gossett, interim chair of the Aerospace department.

The program was shut down late last week after a routine inspection by the Federal Aviation Administration. The inspection happens every five years for flight programs that use the FAR Part 141 school, which the MTSU program uses.

This type of school is more regulated than other forms, and lesson plans are dictated and approved strictly by the FAA.

As part of this inspection, the FAA will list items that are questionable, Gossett said. They had a list of items that they were concerned about with MTSU's program, so Gossett shut down the program so they could fix the problems.

Gossett didn't consider any of the problems to be major, and most of them are just procedural items.

"The main things they want us to look at are procedures," Gossett said. If there are any questions, then we don't want to operate."

These types of inspections are meant to supplement normal inspections which happen more frequently. Gossett said they are intended to act like a "second opinion."

"They identify things where there is a difference of opinion," Gossett said.

Gossett said he shut the program down with the students' best interests in mind.

He also said that with the aviation program's limited staff, it's hard for them to evaluate the FAA's suggestions and fly at the same time. By shutting the program down temporarily, they are able to address the issues more quickly.

See Aerospace, 2

Lecture series focuses on women

By Sarah Johnson
Lecture Series Beat Reporter

On Monday, the University Honors College welcomed Elyce Helford, director of Women's Studies and associate professor of English at MTSU to speak on feminism and women's movements as part of the Honors Lecture Series.

The topic for this semester's lectures is "Revolution." Helford focused on whether or not a revolution is needed to achieve equality for women in the United States.

Helford began by focusing on the way the media portrays women. She discussed how women are encouraged to spend time on superficial trivialities and become obsessed with society's

stereotypical airbrushed image.

Helford said that in order to understand "what women's empowerment is about, ...you have to have some place where you get other information." She suggested looking at larger numbers of women in different situations—aside from the media.

Helford then discussed women's roles in politics. With neither of the main party candidates carrying a woman on their ticket, Helford feels that, "it's still not true to tell every little boy and girl in America that she or he can be president someday." Although Helford advocates women's rights, she would not endorse a female over a male based solely on their gender. In order to have a credible female candidate,

more women must become involved in politics to counter the number of males.

Statistics were then presented showing male dominance in the economic world. In computer jobs, for example, equally qualified women are shown to make \$7,000 less than males in the same job. Women are also expected to present themselves in a conservative, feministic manner in the workplace in order to be treated as equal professionals.

Helford did recognize, however, that women are not the only ones in need of a revolution. She said that issues such as class, culture and education also need to be addressed. Helford reminded everyone that, "it's very easy to take for granted that things are basically good if things are basi-

cally good for you."

When referring back to the topic of revolution, Helford used the early women's rights movements as an example. "Many women spent their entire lives fighting for women's right to vote and did not see it happen." This revolutionary event did not happen with sheer patience—only with years of activism did women win that basic right.

Whether a physical revolution is necessary or not, Helford insisted, "we need a mental revolution to be fully aware of injustice."

The Honors Lecture Series takes place every Monday at 3 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 109A. The lectures are free and open to the public. ♦



Helford uses this advertisement as an example of the media's stereotypical portrayal of women in her lecture, "Feminism and Women's Movements."

Community gathers to celebrate donation to Honors College

By Randy Allen
Staff Writer

Local dignitaries, faculty and students gathered Thursday evening to honor Paul and Lee Martin for their \$2 million donation to the University Honors College.

Hosted by Honors College Dean John Paul Montgomery, the event's program included MTSU President James E. Walker, Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents Charles W. Manning, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Haskew and Vice President for Development and University Relations Linda Hare.

Paul Martin was the first graduate of the Honors program in 1975. Raised in Murfreesboro, Paul and his brother Lee remember MTSU's open campus as a part of their community. Their father instilled in them his belief

in the advantages of a quality education. Their success after graduation and their continuing relationship with the Honors College prompted their donation.

The university plans to match the Martin's donation by December 2001. This money will be used to build a new facility for the Honors College.

Montgomery said, "the building commission has approved the project, architects are being consulted and several sites are under consideration." The projected completion date for the building is 2002.

Under the leadership of June McCash, the Honors program was established in 1973 to provide students with smaller class sizes and hands on instruction. During the '80s, under the direction of Ron Messier, the program continued to promote the intimacy of smaller groups. The Honors program became the Honors College in 1998. ♦

Planes and pies



Photo by Becky Pickering | Staff Photographer
Senior FAE member Chris Markham takes a pie in the face to help raise money for his organization.

By Becky Pickering
Staff Writer

It's unusual to see a 747 in the middle of the Business and Aerospace courtyard. However, the Future Airport Executives have made it possible.

As a fundraising project, FAE members, David Love and Richard S. Hoff designed the plane with a face hole in its nose. Students and faculty are able to make a donation to FAE and throw a pie in the face of a fellow pupil or colleague.

Several students and faculty members supported the event yesterday. Senior Chris Markham was brave

enough to make his face a target. He tantalized students as they walked to class saying, "you don't have the arm to do it." No sooner did a pie hit him between the eyes.

Faculty members are signed up to be targets for most of today's event. However, students are still willing to put their face in for a piece of the pie.

Senior Sandy Catton said, "I'll let my professor throw a pie at me for an 'A' in his class."

The FAE will be set up today from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the BAS courtyard. The cost to students is \$2 and faculty is \$5 per throw. ♦

Photos: silent protest expected

Continued from 1

happened to the Jews before World War II... happened to those people because of who they were, not what they did," Nored said. "[Unborn babies] are being killed because they are unwanted, not because of anything they have done."

A silent protest, in which students will sit with their backs to the exhibit and wear green ribbons, is a suggested way for those with an opposing view point to constructively respond to the exhibit, Rosovsky said.

JAWC, along with the Counseling Center and Student Affairs, will have a crew of trained volunteer counselors at a table near the display ready to talk with any student who may wish to vent

frustrations or other emotions in response to the exhibit. Detour signs will also be posted for those who wish to bypass the display altogether.

Both Nored and Rosovsky agree that opposing viewpoints must be heard.

"We're all for discussion on this issue," Nored said.

"This isn't about free speech," Rosovsky said. "I think free speech is terribly important. But think if a woman has just had a miscarriage or abortion — that's my concern."

The university's First Amendment Statement makes all forms of lawful expression open on campus. GAP's program is sponsored by the Baptist Student Union and has permission to exhibit from MTSU. ♦

Aerospace: shutdown, crashes not related

Continued from 1

"We want to make sure that anytime a question is raised, that it's answered to our satisfaction," Gossett said.

He said he believes that one plane is

already back in operation, and that he expects the entire program to be back up soon.

Gossett said this shutdown is in no way related to the two MTSU plane crashes which occurred earlier this year. ♦



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From the staff Freedom of speech works both ways

Today and tomorrow, the Baptist Student Union, in conjunction with the Genocide Awareness Project, is holding an exhibit that will compare aborted fetuses to the Holocaust and slavery.

Many people will not agree with the message that this exhibit expresses. There will most likely be protests - some silent, some vocal. Some of the protesters will want GAP to be kicked off this campus.

We here at *Sidelines* are far too diverse of a staff to take a position on abortion in this editorial. But as a newspaper, we can take a stand on freedom of speech.

While GAP's message may be offensive to some, they should have a right to make their position heard.

It is easy for those who disagree to demand that these people not be allowed to speak their minds. It has become acceptable to limit "offensive" speech that may threaten someone else's security.

What has been branded

"politically incorrect" has been branded unspeakable as well.

In these people's attempt to minimize the offending of the oppressed, they are in the process chipping away at their Constitutional rights. These are the same rights that have allowed gay rights parades and Vietnam armband protests to occur.

It works both ways.

The staff of *Sidelines* is very protective of our First Amendment rights. We will fight whenever necessary to protect our complete editorial control.

In this light, we cannot justify any restriction of speech in any form, even if we disagree with its message.

This country was founded with the idea that the views of all, even the unpopular minority, will be heard.

The supporters of the GAP may or may not be in the minority, but both the Constitution and MTSU support their right to say what they wish, and so do we.

I'm a Republican - and I'm pro-choice

Campaign Commentary



Kevin Latta

Staff Columnist

column has garnered (okay...I hope to get some positive responses soon, and when I do, I know that I will enjoy them!).

However, in my discussions with professors, friends and even the strangers I've met in the neverending noontime lunch line at The Grill, I've found something troubling. I'm categorically impaired.

As it happens, I've always considered myself an ardent Republican. I was comfortable with this -- as a whole the views of the party were synonymous with my own. Fiscal conservatism. In my view, it is the responsibility of a government founded by men who tried to avoid creating a central government in the first place, for fear of the tyranny that could result.

This tyranny is ubiquitous in liberal policy-making in America today. Overtaxing Americans and then keeping the money for programs that as yet have not been invented is a crime. I believe even today that America is the land of opportunity, that success with as little interference from government as possible is an inalienable right that is being whittled away by liberal policy makers everywhere.

I am a laissez-faire capitalist. I want the federal government's "hands off" except in the powers expressly enumerated in the Constitution. Small government is good government. I'm a Republican after all. I was happy.

Then my friend, after reading a piece that I wrote against the flawed gun control movement, suggested that I write a piece on abortion.

"That would probably be good," I said to her, "since I am pro-choice, I could appease some of the people that I pissed off last week."

Since I began writing for *Sidelines* this semester, I've found myself explaining my positions on the issues with increasing frequency. I've enjoyed both the positive and negative responses that my

Suddenly the look on the face of my friend changed to something that I can't quite describe with the limited vocabulary that I possess. "You're not pro-choice," she declared. "You're a Republican!" I was stunned.

Don't get me wrong -- as a happy Republican I am well aware of the alignment that Ronald Reagan helped to solidify between the Party and various religious organizations. I'm aware that the very utterance of the word "conservative" denotes traditional Christian values. I know that these values are typically associated with a pro-life stance. But "...not a Republican?" Say it ain't so!

This gnawed at me over the course of a week. I'm 26 -- I've voted in every election for which I've been eligible since my 18th birthday, and I have yet to vote for a Democrat. I agree with 99 percent of the Party platform. I respect the Party leadership. When John McCain succumbed to George W. Bush midway through the primary season, I gladly threw my support behind Bush. All of this and I'm not a Republican?

This made me examine even further the reasons for my affiliation, and convinced me more than ever that I was right all along. True conservatism is evident by the lack of legislation that accompanies it. As conservatives, do we not believe that the people have the right to decide on most of the issues that face them on a daily basis? Are we not aware that if the proliferation of the liberal agenda is not stopped, that there could soon be laws mandating the minutest details of our lives? "Were you just brushing your teeth up and down? The law says right to left..." I'm afraid you'll have to come with me soon."

The pro-life stance of the Republican Party is a direct repudiation of the principles on which it was founded. My party, my happy Republican brethren, have allowed themselves to become distracted from the fact that by attempting to legislate morality, they have strayed from their conservative roots. No matter the intention, the fact is that by supporting a pro-life platform, the Republican Party is creating more laws and interfering in the lives of Americans.

This is not consistent with the laissez-faire ideals that attracted me to the Republican cause in the first place. Be careful my fellow happy Republicans, lest we wake tomorrow without the distinction that made us great in the first place. ♦

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Letters to the Editor

'Blobs of tissue' are not living human beings

I'm writing in response to Ms. Mathias' letter about abortion. In that letter, she referred to abortion as the "great lie" of our time that we will one day all look back on in horror and disgust as Americans.

Shame on her for speaking on behalf of me or my future children and grandchildren.

So Ms. Mathias has an agenda. This doesn't give her the right to state that after her little diatribe I and legions of others will cross over to her side and agree that abortion is wrong.

Maybe she sees a cluster of cells as a human. I don't. Nor will I ever. It doesn't think like a human, act like a human or feel like a human. Call me crazy, but an omelette isn't a dead chick-en.

Abortion is necessary in the society we live in. I'm sorry if this bothers some people, but it's the truth. Were abortion illegal, it would not suddenly go away. We would harken back to a time when inexperienced and unqualified doctors performed the operation. These procedures were always dangerous and often led to irreparable damage or death to the females who underwent them.

And those types of abortions, while often gruesome, were the SAFEST choice. We have all heard of coat-hanger abortions. There's no need to discuss them further. I will let the image of a rusty coat-hanger stand for itself.

If I do look at things from Ms. Mathias' angle and view a fetus as a human, it still makes more sense to lose one life than to risk losing two. Making abortion illegal does just that.

It would be great if we could just sit back and think that abortions would cease if we made the

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practice illegal -- the hard truth is that they will not. Prohibition certainly did not stop alcohol production or consumption. The same will be said about abortion if its legality is challenged and revoked.

Abortions were performed at high frequency, if not the same frequency, when they were outlawed. Why should we think that this will not be the case if Roe v. Wade is overturned?

I know this letter sounds harsh, but if you know me, you know that I'm not a hateful person.

I, like Ms. Mathias, do care about everybody. I don't hate anyone, although I think her holier-than-thou rhetoric might imply otherwise about anyone who is on the side of keeping abortion legal.

I also am not in the dark thinking that this letter won't stir up some sort of argument, so I won't even patronize you with that sort of talk.

The bottom line is this: I must concern myself with what I see as more important.

On the right: we have a cluster of cells; on the left: an already developed, thinking, breathing human being.

As is already abundantly clear, I'm going to lean to the left and pick the human female. She can make the choices for her life that she feels are necessary.

Shouldn't we question whether the life of an unwanted child would be better than stopping it before it has begun?

It seems to me that the pregnant woman could better answer that question than anyone else. Why not give her the choice to make that decision in a safe, sterile environment?

What's the difference between the holocaust and abortion?

The Jewish people who were slaughtered had been born already. They had grown up and

formed relationships. They had established bonds with others.

Life begins at birth, not conception. How many of you think back gleefully on your days in the womb? I'd imagine not many.

It doesn't make a damn bit of difference to that fetus. Maybe it shouldn't mean quite so much to the ones of us on the outside.

But, by all means, form your own opinion and speak for yourself. I speak for no one but me.

Thanks,
Kirk Gipson

Pro-lifers should be careful about terminology

Dear *Sidelines* Editor,

When I read Lydia C. Mathias' opinion that abortion is about children's rights and not women's rights, I felt saddened to see the phrase "these blobs of tissue" typed in her article.

Ms. Mathias states that fetuses are people, human beings who are alive and have the same rights as everyone else. I could not agree more.

However, if fetuses are humans, then do not call them "blobs of tissue." It is a phrase such as this one that dehumanizes the nature of the unborn, which makes it easier on the population to rationalize that abortion is not killing an unborn life.

By the way -- it does not flatter your article, Ms. Mathias, when you call fetuses "blobs of tissue" and then refer to them as children.

Luke C. Anderson
Aerospace Major

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The financial aid office proves its inefficiency

For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox
Staff Columnist

lack of chalk in Peck Hall.

The worst part is that it primarily affects prospective students.

I speak of the jokes that are the financial aid and scholarship offices.

I realize that at any school applying for scholarships is a time-consuming and often annoying process.

However, my personal experience with the process was frustrating to the point that I was sec-

ond-guessing my decision to attend MTSU before I'd even stepped on campus.

My story begins the second semester of my senior year of high school.

I must admit that I'm a bit of a procrastinator, and as such I was nearing the March 1st deadline for scholarship applications. To ensure that they would arrive on time, I sent them via overnight mail. I had a leeway of about 4 days.

Fast-forward to the middle of April.

Curious as to the status of my applications, I called the MTSU office. She looked up my file on the computer and told me: "Your applications were late."

Knowing this wasn't true, I argued my case. She, however, stuck with the position of her database file.

Exasperated already, I asked her to pull my actual applications. She did so and seemed surprised to find out that the applications were post-

marked and had arrived prior to March 1st.

Her next argument was that I was a transfer student and therefore not eligible for any of the scholarships for which I had applied.

My senior year I had taken College English (111 and 112) through my high school and Volunteer State Community College.

This course fulfilled both English 12 and 111 and 112 requirements.

A side note: I hadn't always been considered ineligible. My ACT was above the requirement for the Presidential Scholarship, but my GPA fell short, so I had been sent a rejection letter for that.

At this point, pissed doesn't do my mood justice.

After finally getting the point across that I was a freshman (I suppose that "Incoming Freshman" marked on the 30 or so applications I'd filled out wasn't enough), they understood the position I was in.

But at that point most of the scholarships had already been awarded.

This story does have a happy ending. A lady in the financial aid office spoke to her boss and got me a work study worth just less than half the cost of attending MTSU.

I thank her, but her benevolence does not compensate for the utter chaos of the system as a whole.

Having problems like this is especially dangerous to a university.

Prospective students who are considering two or more acceptance offers could very well see this as indicative of the way the university handles its students in all aspects and take their money elsewhere.

I don't think I'm alone on this issue. We are paying customers. No business would tolerate this kind of inefficiency, and neither should MTSU. ♦

Austin band rocks Nashville

Soulhat performs to a full house at Jack Leg' Friday night

By Sara Jane Vaughn
Staff Writer

Austin Band, Soulhat, rocked the house at a Nashville showcase and speakeasy Friday night. There was standing room only as the trio took the stage.

Their new CD, *Experiment On A Flat Plane*, released on September 12, was the focus. As the crowd chanted, the guys began with a funky rendition of "Gone," which was ironic because they have definitely arrived. *Experiment On A Flat Plane* is funky, Southern rock-n'-soul with an alternative twist that has a variety of influences.

After 10 years of mixing and matching band members and sounds, the band has ultimately fine-tuned their sound. The band includes veteran Kevin McKinney, guitar and vocals, with Johnny Vogelsang, bass and Brad Evilsizer, drums. Together, they sported sunglasses under the lights while singing the lyrics, "looking for the sun and praying for rain."

With Pearl Jam and Lenny Kravitz influence's, McKinney belted out "Bonecrusher" and you could see that he loved what he was doing. "Here we go again, faster than the speed of sound," are the lyrics to "Flat



Sporting retro shades, Kevin McKinney gets into "that deep, full-band groove" with bass player Johnny Vogelsang, right, and drummer Brad Evilsizer, background.

Photo by Heath Chitwood | Staff Photographer

Plane," and these will ultimately prove to be prophetic.

Rock-a-billy tune, "WNBA," was a hit with the Tennessee crowd, as it has the down home feel of "Rocky Top." During the middle of the show, the band broke into a 'sweet' rendition of Aerosmith's "Sweet Emotion" that sent the crowd into a simultaneous dance/jam session.

After listening to the CD, you can't help but hum the tunes in your head. And the band definitely has the gift of live performance. Although there isn't much room for originality with a three-man band, the songs are fun and the lyrics have some life experience behind them. The song, "Plastic," which takes a cynical look at careless human waste is proof that the band has finally reached a mature step in their career.

If you like Pearl Jam, Lenny Kravitz or Dave Matthews, *Experiment On A Flat Plane* is a CD worth adding to your collection. And track nine, "Microwave," is the best of the bunch.

This is the band's seventh release since beginning their career in 1991. Produced by Stuart Sullivan (Sublime, Meat Puppets, Reverend Horton Heat), it rocks! ♦

Theater delivers refreshing musical within a musical

By Ruth Peltier
Staff Writer

The sounds of dancing feet echo from the Johnson Theater in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center as Circle Players present their version of the 1933 musical, "Forty-second Street."

"Forty-second Street" is a musical within a musical. It concerns a new production by Julian

Marsh, a playwright who lost badly in the stock market crash and who expects "Pretty Lady" to recover his losses. Alan Stevenson effectively portrays Marsh as a gruff, demanding director who is impossible to please.

This is Stevenson's Nashville debut although he participated in theater in college at Southern Illinois University. We can look forward to many fine performances by this actor in the future.

Dorothy Brock, played by Amy Greenwell Guss, is an actress who has not had a hit in 10 years. She is starring in "Pretty Lady" because her "sugar daddy" is bankrolling the show.

Guss is not only a fine actress, she is also an excellent singer who makes the old familiar tunes from this musical seem fresh and new. She dedicates her performance to her father "who helped to deepen her love for this kind of music."

Kate Rose is Peggy Sawyer, a young, inexperienced dancer. She comes from a small town in Pennsylvania to audition for "Pretty Lady." It takes her an hour to work up her courage and by the time she enters the theater, she is too late. However, she is befriended by the cast and she eventually not only gets into the show, but she takes the place of the star when Brock breaks her ankle on opening night.

Rose is a magnificent actress, singer and dancer. It is a delight to watch the expressions of her character play across her face. She has appeared in numerous productions in Nashville and Knoxville, beginning at the age of five. Rose will move to New York in June to pursue her own dream of a career on forty-second street.

Circle Players has assembled a fine supporting cast of singers and dancers for this play as well as a seven-piece orchestra under the direction of Joe Lee.

This will be the fifty-first season for Circle Theater making it the oldest theater group in Nashville. They have made the Johnson Theater in T-PAC their home ever since it was constructed. This community theater group produces six shows a year.

"Forty-second Street" will be presented weekends through Oct. 1. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$14, seniors \$11, and students \$9. ♦

Breaking free from cookie-cutter thrillers

Mood and view, not message and destination, gives *The Way* originality

By Jared Wilson
Staff Writer

In *The Way of the Gun*, two career *Way* of the Gun (Ryan Phillippe and Benicio Del Toro) kidnap a pregnant surrogate mother Robin (played by Juliette Lewis) and demand a ransom for her unborn child from the father, a shady billionaire (played by Scott Wilson).

This is about as specific as *The Way of the Gun* gets. The film is all about action within atmosphere. The crime isn't really the plot; it's just something that happens. Anyone looking for the "point" in this work should look elsewhere. It's more mood than message.

Written and directed by Christopher McQuarrie, the Oscar-winning scribe behind *The Usual Suspects*, *The Way of the Gun* features an excellent ensemble of character actors in an original film of calculated intensity.

Taye Diggs (*Go, The Best Man*) and Nicky Katt (*Boiler Room*) play the billionaire's bodyguards/hitmen who attempt a rescue of the kidnapped mother-to-be. Kristin Lehman portrays the billionaire's trophy wife, a conniving puppet-master with secrets unknown by her husband. Rounding out the characters is Sarno, played coolly and close to the belt by James Caan.

McQuarrie's composition is patient and studied. The film lingers in spots, but these are deliberate rests separating the heat of action. There are the shoot-outs necessary in such action pictures, but they are exclamation points, not mindless, violent eye candy.

McQuarrie includes a car chase, perhaps the best car chase in recent film history if only for its low speed at one point the participants walk their cars. It's a clever move and part of the overall subtlety of the film. *The Way*

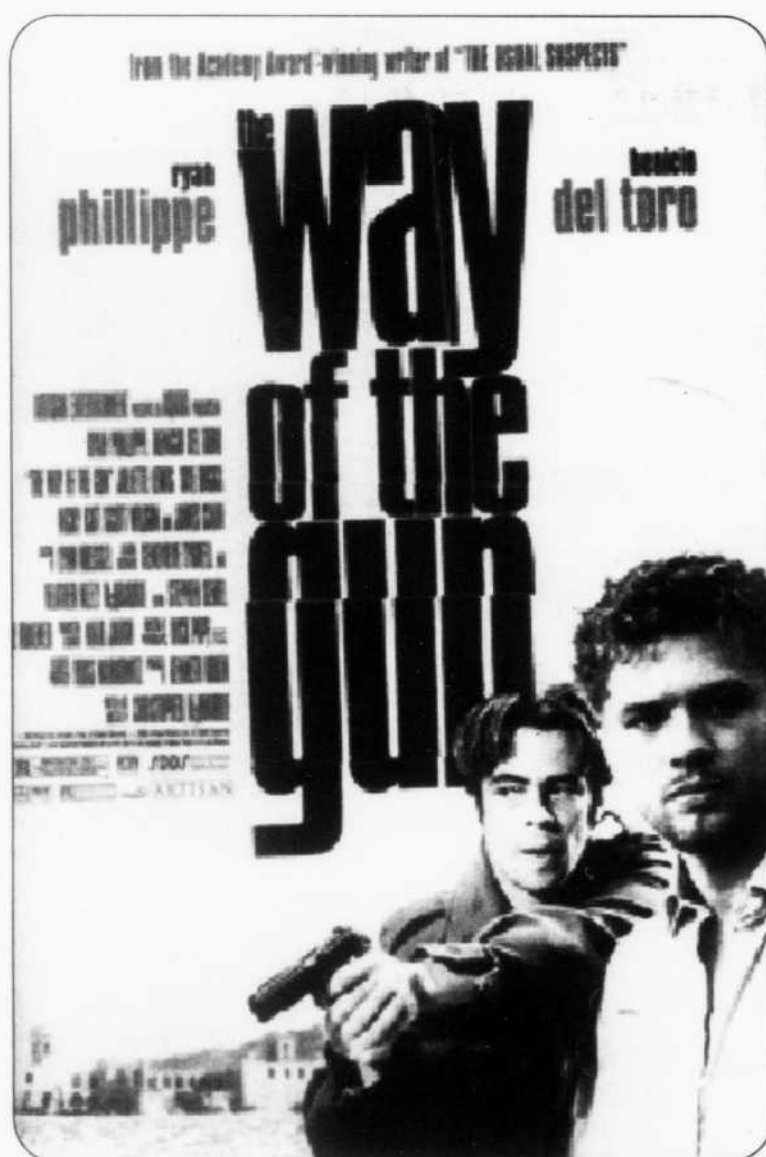


Illustration provided

of *The Gun* may be in the tradition of *Pulp Fiction* and all the films that inspired *Pulp Fiction*, but it is a unique marriage of these traditions.

Some scenes seem lifted from Hong Kong action flicks. Certain shots resemble others from spaghetti westerns. This Woo/Leone/Tarantino-inspired film is a lyrical homage to a general spirit in their works: the style is the substance. *The Way of the Gun* is rich and textured.

The best thing about *The Way of the Gun* is its determined ambiguity. It closes with many questions unanswered, seemingly important questions about the fates of characters and the relationships between them.

What exactly makes the shady billionaire so shady? Who does the wife really love? Who is "Abner" and how is he connected to Sarno? What is the relationship between Sarno and Robin? What is the relationship between

Dr. Painter and Robin? These are a just a sampling of the pretzel-logic interactions that enhance the movie's mystique.

The Way of the Gun says lots of things without saying anything definitive. "\$15 million is a motive with a universal adapter," says one character. "We are not seeking absolution," says another. These are revealing statements but indications of nothing.

One of McQuarrie's finest moves involves what he withholds about certain characters. Phillippe's thug has a hint of sweetness, but he's not the clichéd "criminal with the heart of gold."

Caan's Sarno, a "bag man" for the billionaire, radiates menace, but he's not some over-the-top, ranting lunatic. These and other treatments of characters are brilliant strokes by a capable director. In less able hands (evident in many straight-to-video crime thrillers), these characters would be walking stock-types.

This ride is about the view, not the destination. McQuarrie distinguishes himself here as a truly gifted filmmaker. *The Way of the Gun* is a highly original laid-back crime flick.

Steven Soderbergh, the director behind movies like *Out of Sight* and *Erin Brockovich*, attempted similar results with last year's *The Limey*, his foray into smooth L.A. neo-noir. But *The Limey* lost its punch somewhere within Soderbergh's jigsaw-puzzle structure; it was a victim of its editing. McQuarrie's *The Way of the Gun* is spicy Southwestern neo-noir, a film with punch and smarts.

The Way of the Gun is a dandy treat for filmgoers needing a lazy relief from the abundance of cookie-cutter thrillers. ♦

My grade: A-

FLASH! Events:

*So much to do,
so little time*

Music

Thursday
The Ranch featuring Keith Urban, Peter Clark and Jerry Flowers at 328 Performance Hall, 8 p.m. Call: (615) 259-3288.

Sonny Burgess performs at the Wildhorse Saloon, 8 p.m. Call: (615) 902-8200.

Friday
Gran Torino, Knoxville's high-energy rock/funk/jazz/soul/R&B nine piece

band will perform at Exit/In, 9 p.m. Call: (615) 321-4400.

Kings X, with special guests Podunk and Steve Shuffert at 328 Performance Hall, 8 p.m. Call: (615) 259-3288.

Hard Drive, will perform at Bluegrass Night, Cannonsburgh Village Concert Series in front of the Welcome Center at Cannonsburgh, 7-9 p.m. Call: (615) 890-0355.

Saturday
lujvOi, a new band fronted by Kenny Alphin, will perform at 12th and Porter's Playroom, 9 p.m. Call: (615) 254-7236.

Melissa Ferrick, recent winner of the Best Female Singer/Songwriter Award at the Boston Music Awards, will perform at Exit/In. Call: (615) 321-3966.

Sunday
John Mcvey, a new folk winner at the Kerrville Folk Festival & the National

Academy of Songwriters' Acoustic artist of the year, will perform at Exit/In, 8 p.m. Call: (615) 321-4400.

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email at sflash@mtsu.edu.

Fest: da ville's da place to be

Continued from 1

motion pictures, such as "Bugs Bunny," "Raging Bull," and "Pretty Woman." From Disney to Spielberg, movie producers have reached into opera for musical inspiration. There is a \$5 discount on tickets to "Opera Goes Hollywood" if you also attend the festival.

Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m., the Nashville Ballet will offer "Peter and the Wolf." This version of the ballet uses the famous Prokofiev score but it will feature sets and costumes designed by Tennessee artist Norris Hall. He has taken the classic Russian story and given it what he calls a "Tennessee twist." All ages will enjoy this performance, but it would be especially good as

an introduction to ballet for children. This production also offers a \$5 discount for festival attendees.

Circle Players will continue their production of the musical "42nd Street" that will run through Oct. 1. This is a small-stage version of the movie musical that set the country singing "Lullaby of Broadway" in the 1930's. Performances are Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

The "Fest de Ville Nashville," presented by CMT: Country Music Television and underwritten by a grant from the American Express Performing Arts Fund, will feature local artist groups and performers from Nashville and beyond.

Music will run the gamut from classical to country, stopping along the way

for jazz, bluegrass, and rock and roll. There will also be lectures, workshops and demonstrations of art in progress by local creators of visual art. Many forms of visual art will be on display.

American Airlines will sponsor the American Airlines World Stage. Featuring music from around the world, this smaller, more intimate stage will offer festival attendees an opportunity to participate and interact with the musicians and dancers.

According to Mike Dye, regional manager of passenger sales at American Airlines, "a stage that represents artistic performances from around the world was a perfect fit for American Airlines, as we encourage artists of all ages and all creative forums to reach for the sky. We are proud to sponsor the Arts in

communities in the United States and throughout the world."

Along with the American Airlines World Stage, American Airlines will sponsor a booth in the same area that will present demonstrations and displays of visual arts from countries around the world.

Tickets to the three-day festival are only \$10 this first year, according to Steven Greil, president and CEO of TPAC, because "we want people to come to the festival more than once."

"Every day there will be something new and different to see and experience," Greil added.

If you spend the weekend on campus or if you live in the Middle Tennessee area, Nashville is the place to be this weekend. Don't miss it. ♦

Be sure to check out these acts

Celtic Celebration with: Nashville Pipes and Drums, Ceili Rain, Kathy Mattea and Cherish the Ladies on Friday, 6 p.m. at the Bank of America Stage.

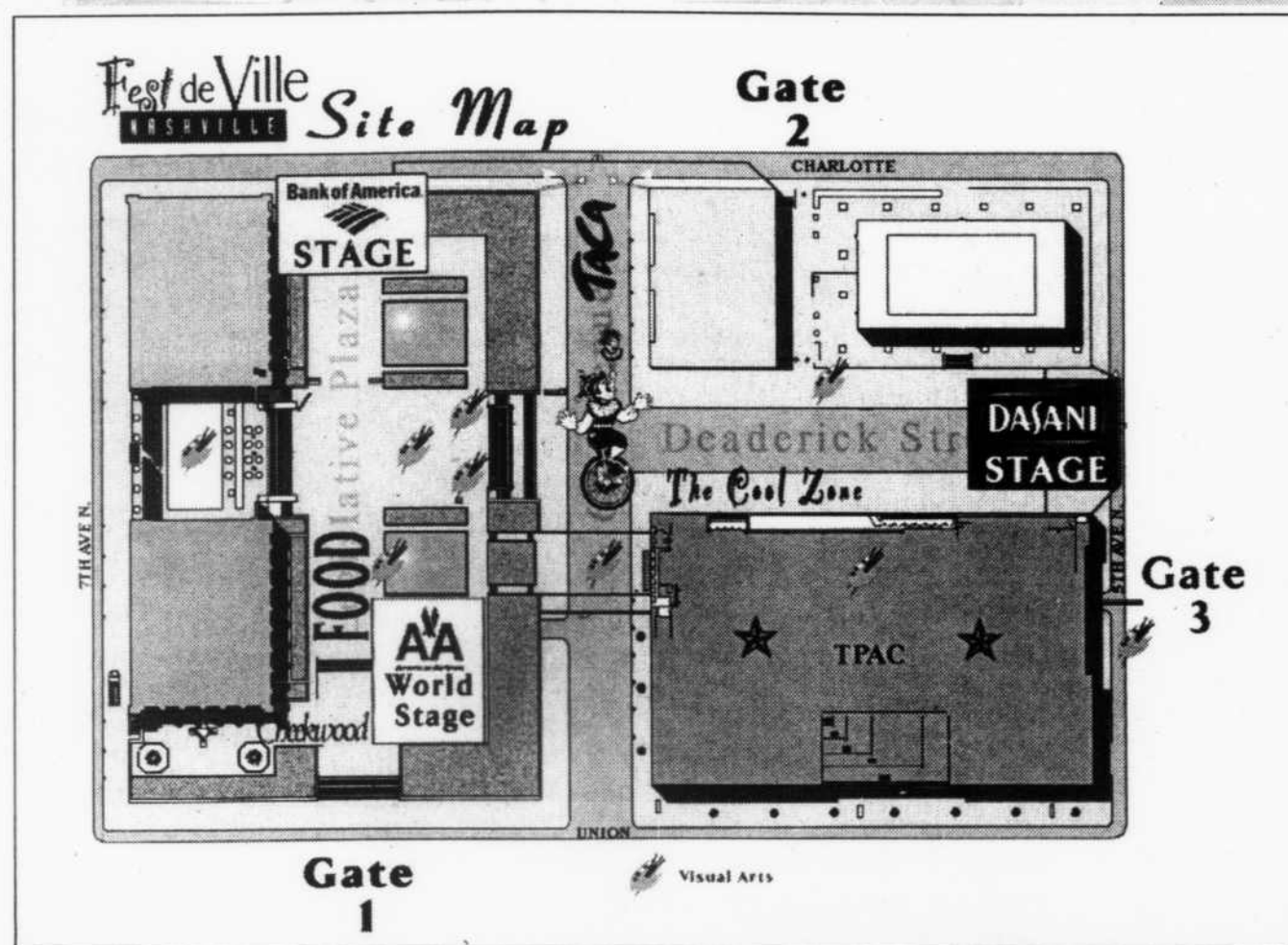
The Amazing Rhythm Aces on Friday, 9:45 p.m. at the Dasani Stage.

The Mike Plume Band on Saturday, 3:45 p.m. at the Dasani Stage.

Teren Bose and the Swing Set on Saturday, 6:30 p.m. at the Bank of America Stage.

Nashville Independent Film Festival presents The Tennessee Independent Spirit Award winners with "The Right Place," "Meter Man," "Hollerin'" and "Friends Seen and Unseen." on Saturday, 8 p.m. at Jackson Hall.

For a detailed schedule and list of attraction/performers go to www.festdevillenashville.com



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School legend steps in as athletic director

By Michael Edwards
Staff Writer

After a two year absence of power within the Middle Tennessee athletic department, the Blue Raiders have named James "Boots" Donnelly as the interim athletic director.



Donnelly

Although the interim position will only last a year, Donnelly is open-minded to the possibility of becoming the Blue Raiders fifth athletic director in school history.

"I took it for a year," Donnelly said. "I'm going to do the best I can for a year. What takes place after that, we will just wait and see."

Clearly no one around Middle Tennessee could have filled the position with more pride and love for the Blue Raiders than the former MTSU coach. Donnelly coached Middle Tennessee for 20 seasons, after he graduated from MTSU.

"I went to school here," Donnelly said, "and I have a great love for this university."

Not only does he love the school, but also he says he has a vision of MTSU being at the top.

"This university should be or should be at sometime will be one of the

top universities in the state," Donnelly said. "Day after day it's going to be competing with the University of Tennessee."

Many could ask, why didn't Middle Tennessee go outside the family for an interim? Donnelly says it would be difficult for an outsider to come in just for one year and continue the success established by Lee Fowler.

Being a long time Raider, Donnelly feels like he can do the job.

"Somebody that is currently here had to do this," Donnelly said. "I know what we want to do. I felt an obligation to do it."

Unlike some athletic directors at some state institutions, Donnelly feels like he can bring two key things to Middle Tennessee: honesty and integrity.

"I am going to do the best of my ability for this university," Donnelly said.

More questions arise when one looks at his background. Predominately, Donnelly has coached football and by his own admission it is what built his career. So, why would he not advocate football more than other sports?

"That's is something they don't have to worry about," Donnelly said. "I think it's a natural assumption, but I understand the value of every sport being successful. I also have the mindset of a coach."

Adding to his integrity and character, Donnelly understands the role of athletes at a university, character and academics first, then athletics.

"The first thing that we want for that young man is to be a quality person," Donnelly said, "and be as good academically and athletically as he can be. We will graduate everyone who wants to graduate."

The fair treatment of athletes and students has been another hot topic recently for universities. Donnelly admits the equality should abound on a university between athletes and regular students.

"Once a young man leaves the practice field or the stadium on Saturday," Donnelly said, "he has no right over and above a regular student."

One topic which seems to confuse everyone is, of course, the lack of student involvement.

"I wish I could answer that," Donnelly said. "We never quit talking about how to get the students involved."

It is something, however, about which he, like Fowler, is passionate. On top of that he says he is willing to do whatever it takes to generate support and pride for Middle Tennessee among the student body.

"I would love to meet with students and generate student involvement," Donnelly said. "I would love to hear what they want." ♦



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Sept 27 at Western Kentucky 7pm

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Sept 24 South Alabama 1pm

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Sept 22-24 Middle Tennessee Fall Invitational

GOLF

Sept 26-27 Raising Cane Classic
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WOMEN'S TENNIS

Sept 22-24 Furman Fall Invitational

*Students get in free to home games with ID.



Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

Don Calloway scores one of his two touchdowns against Murray State.

Big recruit looks to contribute

By Colleen Cox
Staff Writer

A big recruit by the Blue Raider football team, Don Calloway, looks to shine.

Calloway came to MTSU from Miller County High School, where he was named Georgia Class A State Player of the Year last year. Florida State, Georgia, Auburn and Memphis all recruited him.

He chose MTSU because "They told me I was going to get a chance to start when I got here instead of sitting out for three years before I got a chance to play."

Calloway brings quickness in the backfield and leadership to the Blue Raiders. He isn't a very big player, but he makes up for that with his strength. According to goblueraiders.com, he bench presses over 400 pounds and squats more than four times his weight.

Calloway also says, "I'm not very fast, but I'm quick."

Calloway is not discouraged about the recent losses the Blue Raiders have suffered.

"Right now we're a little shaky," Calloway said, "but I think we're gonna

come together and win a lot of ball games this year."

He admits there are some things the team can improve upon to help turn the season around for the Blue Raiders. Some of the improvements Calloway says the team can make are "stop making a lot of mistakes, execute on offense and defense, and keep control of the ball at all times."

Calloway looks to Dwone Hicks and Jamison Palmer as role models because they play his position and he learns a lot from them. He has an excitement about playing the game of football.

"I'm excited about every game," Calloway said. "It's the same."

Calloway describes his experience at MTSU as "Good, I like the school very much. There are a lot of opportunities for me here."

He isn't at MTSU just to play football, but also to get an education. His future plans are "to get a degree in sports medicine. If the NFL does come around and pick me, I'll take that instead."

Calloway doesn't put much emphasis on student support at ballgames. He downplays their role by saying, "They let us know that they're there, cheering us on and trying to help us win a ballgame." ♦

Fowler was not looking to leave

By Colleen Cox
Staff Writer

Athletic Director Lee Fowler, who leaves Oct. 1 for North Carolina State, was not looking to leave MTSU.

"I never applied for a job in the six years I've been here," Fowler said.

Fowler is quick to point out that he "got a call from a head hunter." He explains this statement by saying, "Someone recommended me for (the job). When they asked me if I was interested, I said, 'well, I would be if they're interested in me.'"

Fowler says there are many factors that made him choose to move on to North Carolina State University. Something that sparked his interests is the fact that the school is in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and is one of the best schools in the country not just athletically but also academically.

Another factor in Fowler's decision was his family.

"Raleigh is about an hour and a half from the beach and about two hours from the mountains," Fowler said. "The girls I have are really excited about that."

The main thing Fowler says he and his family considered was if it would be a place they could live the rest of their life and be happy.

"When I came to Middle I really thought I would be here the rest of my life and be happy with that," Fowler said.

Fowler describes his move as "a move up." He

explains that N.C. State is a program that is already established whereas MTSU is just getting started. He also points out that there is more money to work with there.

"They have a twenty-six million dollar budget where we have a seven million dollar budget," Fowler said.

Fowler believes the response to him leaving has been sad, but positive nonetheless.

"People are disappointed," Fowler said, "but they understand the process of moving up to a new kind of higher level."

The main challenge that lies ahead for Fowler is the lack of facilities at N.C. State. He also revealed the plan to build a new training facility here at MTSU.

"We're probably looking at 130 million dollars worth of fund raising to build buildings over there," he says. Another pretty obvious challenge is winning in the ACC.

The two defining moments of Fowler's tenure are the move to Division I-A in football and the switch to the Sun Belt conference for all of the athletic teams here at MTSU. "That was basically what Dr. Walker said we were going to do when I got here and that was what we really needed to do," Fowler says about the move to Division I-A. He also states that moving to the Sun Belt was "good for the university."

One of Fowler's fondest memories here was beating Vanderbilt, his alma mater, in basketball here. Fowler did not name someone he would like to see as his successor, but did say he thinks we will get a good Athletic Director.



Fowler



Photo Provided

Lee Fowler was instrumental in helping MTSU join the Sun Belt Conference.

"When I came here I looked at the history of athletic directors that had been here," Fowler said, "and they had all been here, lived here, coached here, became AD here, and never left Murfreesboro."

"Now at least they can see that somebody came here, did well and moved on to a higher level. So I think that opens up to a larger group of athletic directors that maybe don't know anything about Tennessee, but would come here because it's I-A and do well."

The football team's future might be better than expected.

Fowler said, "I don't think we're that far away from the lower SEC (South Eastern Conference) teams now. But the upper ones, you're not just talking about the top in the SEC but also the top

in the country and it takes awhile to get there."

"I think we're five to seven years away from those type things."

He contributes this to lack of budget and people getting to know what they're doing. Students play a key role in this whole process according to Fowler.

"The students are really important," Fowler said. "If they'll come to the games in four or five thousand instead of a thousand, it really would make a difference in the football team and getting there."

"If they fill up their stands, then the whole stadium looks like it's full. That brings in fans and recruits because they think they're going to miss something. We really need the support of the students." ♦

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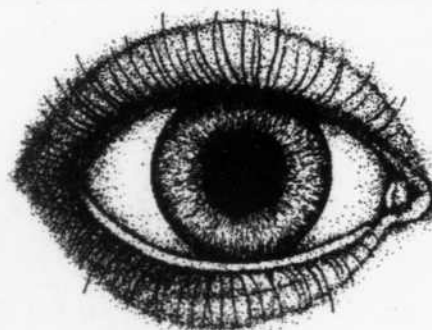
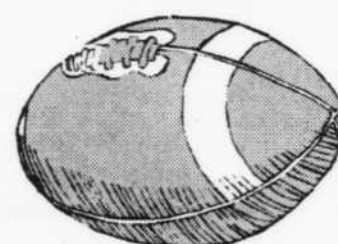
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