

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2001

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Partly Cloudy



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An editorially
independent
newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

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Campus Briefs

Shakespeare at Tucker

MTSU Theater will present William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* today through Saturday at Tucker Theatre on campus.

The play is inspired by a Roman comedy and revolves around two sets of twins, one pair of servants and one pair of masters.

The performances are at 8 nightly, and MTSU students will be admitted free with a valid MTSU student ID. Admission for MTSU staff and non-MTSU students is \$4, senior citizen admission is \$6 and general admission is \$8. Tickets are available at the door.

For more information, call Richard Hansen at 898-2267.

Environmentalists to meet

The Students for Environmental Action, MTSU's student environmental group, will meet today at 4:30 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room S305.

The meeting's purpose is to elect officers and discuss the group's agenda.

For more information, call James Tardy at 848-0324.

Volleyball club seeks players

The MTSU Women's Volleyball Club is seeking members for a club team that will compete in the winter.

The club anticipates competing with clubs from the University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University and the University of Georgia, among others. While former high school volleyball players are preferred, all students are invited to try out.

For more information, call Jaime Hutton at 896-6258. There will be a booth in front of the Keathley University Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and tomorrow with information.

Get your music critiqued

The Urban Music Society will conduct a music-listening session tonight at 7 p.m. in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building, Room 104.

Artists who compose urban music (R&B, soul, hip hop, reggae, gospel, jazz, etc.) are strongly encouraged to participate and receive constructive criticism. All participants are required to donate a canned good that will benefit needy families during the holiday season.

To sign up, contact Kevin Mabin at 898-4573.

UMS also will set up a table today in the Keathley University Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to collect canned food and money donations for the needy. For more information on UMS, visit www.mtsu.edu/~ums.

Muslim Food Day tomorrow

The Muslim Student Association will sponsor a Muslim Food Day tomorrow in the Keathley University Center from noon to 2 p.m.

The activity will consist of a variety of dishes from the Muslim culture. ♦

Student Judicial Board being appointed

By Lindsey Turner
News Editor

The possibility of a Student Government Association presidential impeachment has officials in the Division of Student Affairs hoping to get a Student Judicial Board in place soon.

Though the Student Judicial Board has no formal involvement in an impeachment process for elected SGA officials, the chair of the Student Judicial Board is directly involved.

According to the SGA Constitution, the chair of the Student Judicial Board shall preside over elected officials' impeachment hearings. MTSU currently has no Student

Judicial Board in place, and consequently no chair to preside over a hearing.

Gene Fitch, associate dean of Student Life, said the SGA planned to have the judicial board in place sooner, but student interest has been low.

"We have tried for several weeks to get that committee in place," he said.

Student Affairs began taking applications in August, but student interest waned and there are still some seats to be filled. Instead of relying on student applicants, officials are "down to an appointment process," Fitch said.

Article VII, Section 5 of the SGA Constitution provides for the appointment process in the

event that not all seats on the board can be filled through an application process. Fitch, Dean of Student Life David Hays and SGA President John Marshall are responsible for appointing Student Judicial Board members.

Fitch asserts that the Student Judicial Board, the judicial branch of the SGA, will be in place before any possible impeachment hearing, and that the talk of such a trial will not prompt hasty decision-making on the part of officials appointing board members.

When in place, the board, consisting of nine students and three alternates, will hear student misconduct cases, similar to the Student Supreme Court

that existed previously.

"It should be a solid, diverse board," said John Dickerson, assistant dean for Judicial Affairs.

The impeachment process – prompted by three executive SGA officers who allege that Marshall failed to submit a budget in accordance with the SGA Constitution, among other offenses – begins long before it reaches the chair of the Student Judicial Board.

A resolution calling for investigation will be submitted to the Senate, and upon a simple majority approval of the resolution, the speaker of the Senate will appoint a committee of five senators to investigate the charges.

The committee will gather evidence related to the charges brought against the elected official in question. They have no real power to convict or acquit, Fitch said; they simply present evidence in favor of conviction or acquittal.

According to SGA Constitution Article IX, Section 3-B, "If the committee determines that their findings support the accusations, the committee shall present to the floor a resolution outlining formal Articles of Impeachment. If this resolution passes by a simple majority, then the chair of the Student Judicial Board will preside over the final impeachment

See Board, 3

On an island in the sun



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Photo Editor

A student takes advantage of the afternoon sun on the steps of the James Union Building.

Poll finds Tennesseans support retaliation, forfeiting liberties

Most residents feel safe from anthrax, bio-terrorism

Staff Reports

Tennesseans are extremely supportive of military action in Afghanistan and would forfeit some civil and media liberties to fight terrorism, according to the fall Middle Tennessee Poll.

More than 93 percent of respondents said they approve of military action. Two-thirds believe the military campaign will last at least a year and a third believe that it will last more than two years.

Tennesseans are almost evenly divided over whether they would like to see those responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks captured and tried or killed in a military action. About 45 percent say they would rather see the perpetrators killed in a military action, while 47 percent say they would prefer a trial.

The poll also found that 61

percent of Tennesseans are willing to sacrifice some of their own civil liberties to fight terrorism, and more than 78 percent said the news media should give up their liberties.

Around a fourth of self-described Christians said they believe retaliation is wrong based on biblical instructions to 'turn the other cheek,' and 55 percent believe Christians and Muslims pray to the same God. More than three-fourths (76 percent) don't believe God favors the United States above other nations. However, 31 percent of those who identify themselves as Pentecostals, fundamentalists or evangelicals support the "chosen nation" theory, as opposed to only 10 percent of moderate Protestants, Roman Catholics and others.

Nevertheless, a slight majority (55 percent) said God will

support the United States in its current "campaign against terrorism." More than two thirds (69 percent) among those who attend religious ceremonies every week said America has God's support, compared with 45 percent of those who attend less frequently or never.

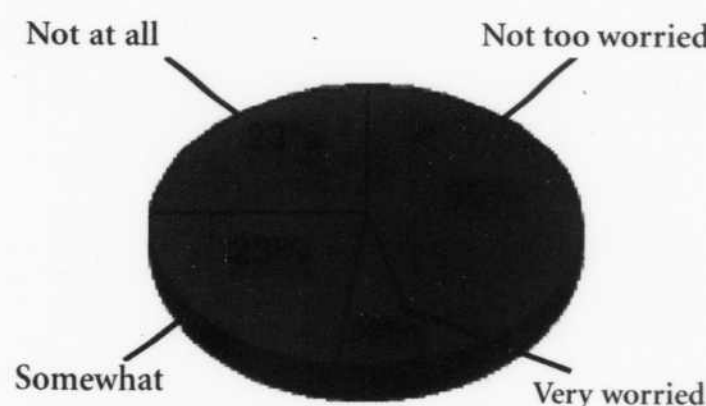
On the home front, most Tennesseans said they feel either very safe (23 percent) or pretty safe (40 percent) from anthrax

or other bio-terrorism methods. Twenty-three percent described themselves as "somewhat worried," and only 12 percent said they are "very worried."

Half of all Tennesseans said they are very worried or somewhat worried that events like the Sept. 11 attacks could happen in Tennessee. Almost two-

See Poll, 3

Do Tennesseans fear anthrax?



Mock trial team earns honors

By Amanda Maynard
Staff Writer

MTSU held the nation's largest mock trial tournament over the weekend and earned several awards.

MTSU's team was awarded Best Team Overall for the teamwork of Lisa Collins, Kevin Latta, Meagon Feltes, Marilyn White and Caressa Pugh.

"The competition was a little more difficult because we had more teams" to compete against, said sophomore and team captain Lisa Collins.

"But we did our best and that was good enough," she said.

Many students took home awards at the conclusion of the tournament. MTSU seniors Virginia Vile and Kevin Latta were awarded the Outstanding Attorney award and the Outstanding Witness Award, respectively.

MTSU's mock trial team coaches, chair of the political science department John Vile and associate professor of political science Clyde Willis, presided over the event.

"I don't know an equal action where you find as much excitement," Vile said.

The tournament featured 46 teams from throughout the United States.

The four-round tournament lasted two days.

MTSU relied on local judges and attorneys to judge the event, and approximately 10 of those judges were MTSU alumni.

Funding for tournaments of this size as well as the mock trial team in general is provided by the Student Government Association and John McDaniel, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

The event was previously held in the Learning Resources Center, but was moved to the Business and Aerospace Building this year to better accommodate the participants.

For more information on the mock trial team, contact John Vile at 898-2596 or Willis at 898-5457. ♦

POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

Political Briefs Compiled By Jason Cox — Assistant News Editor

From the left

Don't trust the government

By Angela White
Staff Columnist

Americans need to remove the wool from their eyes. The fall MT Poll revealed that 61 percent of Tennesseans surveyed are willing to sacrifice civil liberties to fight terrorism. The current trend of blind patriotism in this country makes it safe to say these sentiments are felt nationwide.

Like a vulture moving in for the kill, the government is sensing our fear and acting accordingly. Attorney General John Ashcroft announced a new rule published Oct. 31 in the *Federal Register* that allows monitoring of telephone calls and mail between prisoners suspected of terrorism and their attorneys. Ashcroft must conclude that there is "reasonable suspicion" that the conversations and correspondence are "for the purpose of continuing terrorist activities."

The rule was imposed "on an emergency basis" and went into effect a day before it was made public. A "taint team" will supposedly filter irrelevant confidential attorney-client information.

Needless to say, civil libertarians were stunned and furious over the blatant dismissal of the Sixth Amendment right to counsel. Other issues include of whom the taint team will be composed and the lack of prior judicial approval. A filtering team consisting of members of the same department will hardly be objective in deciding what is "relevant." The rule also places great power solely in the hands of one division of government — the Justice Department — which, if left unchecked, may eventually build a foundation of tyrannical control in the name of national security. The Justice Department is "sliding toward being what we condemn other countries for," Irwin Schwartz, president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, told *The New York Times*.

Ashcroft's freedom-restricting move falls swiftly on the heels of the passage of the USA Patriot Act, loaded with anti-Constitutional legislation. According to the *Washington Post*, the bill "gives the government a freer hand to conduct searches, detain or deport suspects, eavesdrop on Internet communications, monitor financial transactions and obtain electronic records on individuals."

Passed as emergency national security, the Patriot Act intrudes upon the privacy rights of anyone merely suspected of any kind of terrorism without the benefit of checks and balances by the judicial branch. It overwhelmingly passed in both the House and the Senate, with minimum nays in the former and only one lone dissenter — Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis. — in the latter.

Civil liberties organizations from the ACLU to the NRA have feared such a backlash since the Sept. 11 attacks. The FBI and Justice Department's detainment of 1,100 people suspected of terrorism — an average of 21 per day — without access to attorneys or to their families began to confirm such fears.

In addition, these so-called suspects were held for days with little to no evidence for such reasons as a common foreign name.

Blind trust in the government is misplaced, especially in times of national crisis. Never do governments have less public restraint on power, and it will take advantage to expand its domination over its citizens. Whether it's McCarthyism, detainment camps or racial profiling, victims of the government's wrath somehow fall between the cracks of "national security."

Blind patriotism for one's country is misplaced: Americans should be fighting to protect the Constitution on which this country was built, not supporting a government intent on stripping away those rights. ♦

Political Briefs

Bush cheers Taliban withdrawal from Kabul

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials are hailing the Taliban's retreat from Kabul as a breakthrough in the war in Afghanistan but remain concerned that rebel forces entering the capital could prompt more fighting.

Heavy U.S. bombing helped opposition fighters break through Taliban lines and come within miles of Kabul Monday.

By yesterday morning, most Taliban fighters had fled the capital.

Anti-Taliban Northern Alliance forces began moving into the capital in pickup trucks loaded with soldiers early yesterday. There was no shooting as the opposition forces took over a military barracks that only hours before had been in Taliban hands.

A senior Bush administration official said U.S. pleasure with the retreat was tempered by concern that large numbers of Northern Alliance troops would stream into Kabul and destabilize the city and its delicate balance of competing tribes.

U.N. under pressure to get Afghan parties together

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations is rushing to get Afghanistan's disparate groups together to form a transitional government following the sudden Taliban retreat from the capital.

The U.N. envoy for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, said Monday he hoped "a representative sampling" of the Afghan population can meet within days to work out arrangements to replace the Taliban government.

He was to brief the U.N. Security Council on his efforts yesterday.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said key foreign ministers who met Monday "stressed the need for speed ... to bring the political aspects in line with the military development on the ground."

U.S. optimistic that WTO will allow global trade talks

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — With a deadline looming, movement on two issues important to the United States raised hopes Monday that the World Trade Organization would clinch a deal allowing a new round of global trade talks to get under way.

Progress was reported on the text of a document that would assure poor countries that WTO rules protecting patents on pharmaceuticals developed by big drug companies in the West don't prevent them from responding to public health crises like AIDS.

On the fourth day of a five-day meeting, officials also said they moved forward on another hot-button issue for Washington: tightening antidumping rules, which are used to block imports sold below the market price.

Trade ministers from the WTO, which sets international trade rules, had given themselves until last night to complete a final declaration and launch the new round of global trade talks. ♦

From the right

Liberty is not evaporating

By Jeremy Davis
Staff Columnist

One of the most cherished parts of American life is our freedom. One of the most cherished things for anybody is their life. Currently, there is a conflict between these two fundamental rights. We don't want to sacrifice an ounce of freedom, but we also don't want to lose any more lives.

Attorney General John Ashcroft is taking a lot of criticism for supposedly stepping on the civil liberties of some Americans. I don't believe he has crossed the line yet.

The federal government is privy to a vast amount of information concerning threats to Americans that the media is not.

It is not fair to judge the actions of Ashcroft unless we know what he knows.

This is why we must trust the Senate Judiciary Committee to keep an eye on the Justice Department.

Sen. Pat Leahy, D-Vt., chairs that committee and is a staunch partisan Democrat who would like nothing more than to catch a Republican administration abusing its power. In this situation that is the best thing we could have. It ensures a good balance between security and liberties.

Leahy is frothing at the mouth over Ashcroft's monitoring of terrorist suspect's private conversations with their lawyers.

Ashcroft claims there are 13 suspects who he believes are passing information related to further attacks on Americans to operatives through their lawyers.

If this is true, then Ashcroft's actions are justified. If it is not true he should start looking for a new job.

The American government's primary purpose at any time and especially in times of war is to protect the American people. Sometimes the limits of government bend a little, but they never break.

Our founding fathers created a system of government where no one person or agency can abuse its power without another finding out and holding them accountable; just ask anyone who worked for Nixon.

We entrust our leaders with the responsibility of protecting our lives as well as our freedoms.

The hard part comes when we don't know exactly what is going on, like now.

Recent polls say Americans now trust their government to do the right thing more than they have in decades. Trust is hard sometimes, but it is essential.

Whenever a president or his administration make mistakes, the opposition party and the media will be all over it.

Clinton got it for Lewinsky and Whitewater. Reagan got it for the Iran-Contra scandal.

Nixon got it for Watergate.

Even FDR got it for Japanese detention camps.

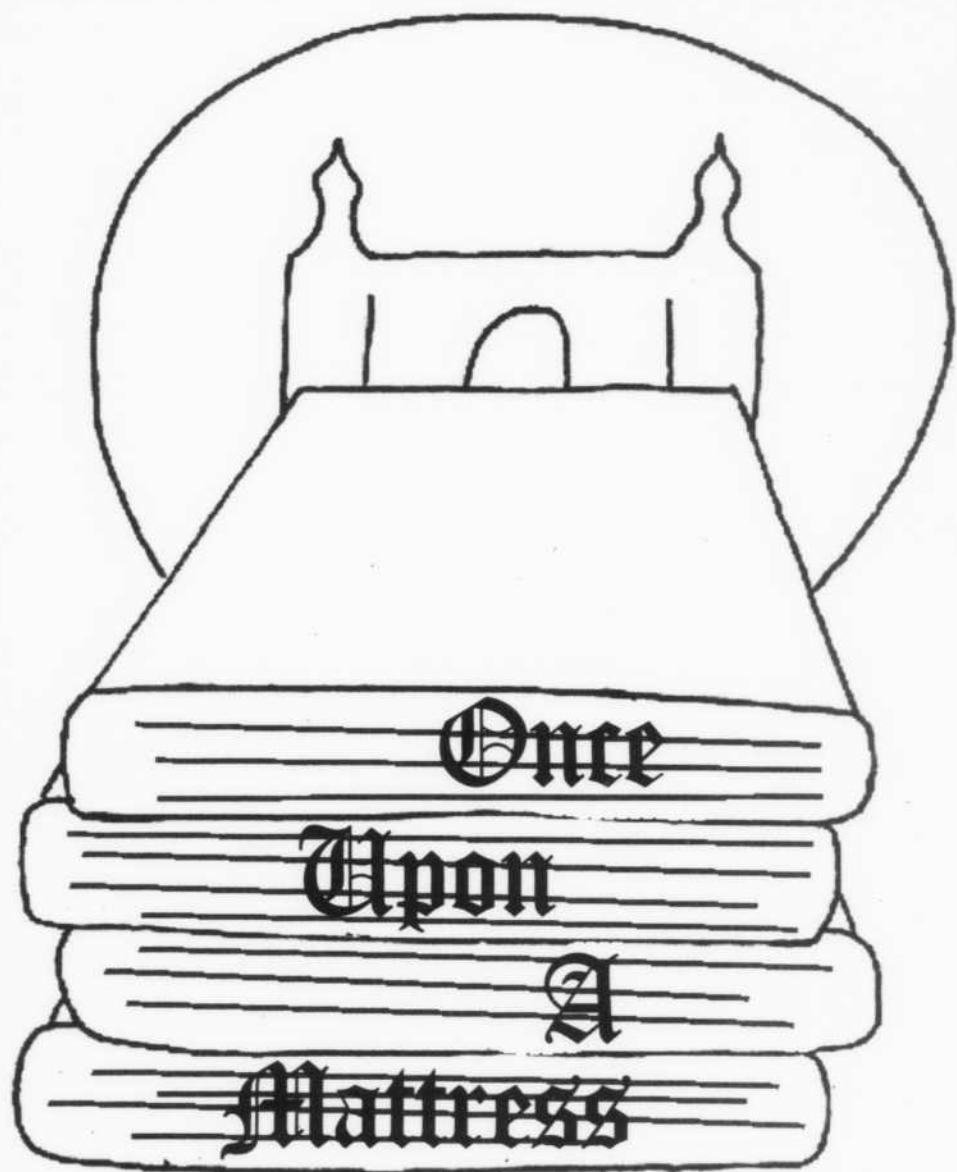
Remember, we must trust our leaders while holding them accountable.

Civil liberties are not evaporating before our eyes. The critics are mostly partisan, though some are legitimate.

Public sentiment is strongly on the government's side and will most likely remain that way.

If President Bush and Ashcroft truly threaten freedom, remember it when you vote in 2002.

If nothing changes, remember it when you vote in 2004. ♦



A musical based on the fable *The Princess and the Pea*

Music by Mary Rodgers Lyrics by Marshall Barer
Book by Jay Thompson, Marshall Barer & Dean Fuller

November 14 - 16

8:00 PM

November 17 Dinner Theatre

6:30 PM

November 18 Matinee

3:00 PM

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Coty Wells

Andrea Werner

Lauren Youngblood

Liz Zettergren

Whitney Frazier

Blake Mansfield

Erin Russell

Jennifer Greene

Katie Skalski

Holly Haggard

Kirsten Holbrook

Carlie Stephens

Lindsey Brown

Sommer Bullion

Kim Bursing

Laura Clark

Lauren Clark

Kyla Cole

April Cox

Jennie Forte

Christy Gentry

Forum voices perspective critical of war, bombing

Philosophy professor: United States is world's biggest terrorist

By Victoria Cumbow
Staff Writer

A critical perspective of war not often heard through mainstream media was showcased Monday afternoon in a forum titled "What is Terrorism?"

MTSU professors Amy Staples, Michael Principe and Andy "Sunfrog" Smith presented their pro-peace views to an overflowing classroom in the James Union Building, Room 202.

Local attorney Liz Sodergren opened the forum by expressing her concern about the "Patriot Act," which critics say infringes upon basic rights to privacy.

"Look around, because according to the 'Patriot Act,' this room if filled" with terrorists, she said.

Sodergren discouraged its support claiming that it will take away many of Americans' civil liberties. Under the act, homes, student records and

mental health records can be searched without a search warrant, she said. Also, non-citizens can be detained.

She then encouraged everyone to look the act up on the Internet to learn more and become more involved.

Staples gave a historical perspective of terrorism. The word "terrorism" came of age in the English language in 1795, she said, during the French Revolution.

"President Bush's war on terrorism is not something new," Staples said.

She added that many groups start out as terrorist groups, but then later they become known as a "normal" legal organizations.

She also supplied the FBI definition of a terrorist: "Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives," she said.

According to Principe, the United States is the biggest terrorist in the world.

He said the U.S. government claims they bomb military targets, but that simply means anything the United States deems appropriate.

Principe said the United States kills innocent people and the bombing of Hiroshima was a huge terrorist attack.

The United States is bombing a country that, even before Sept. 11 had a major percentage of their people dying of starva-

tion, and now the starvation has increased because of the United States, he said.

"That puts us in a nasty position," Principe said, "in the role of terrorism in the world."

He relayed stories of assisted-living facilities being destroyed, children wrapped in bloody clothes and already-starving people now with no hope.

Principe, who is a member and advocate of Solidarity – a campus organization devoted to environmentalism, feminism and anti-racism – was concerned with the concept of true justice.

"By doing this, how have we brought terrorists to justice? We're creating anger," he said.

Andy "Sunfrog" Smith, an adjunct professor at MTSU and Tennessee Technological University opened his lecture up by thanking everyone for coming and for being open to new perspectives by "getting together to talk."

"What about presenting all sides?" Smith said of the media. "Since the Gulf War, there's

been sort of this cozying up between major media and the Pentagon. When the reporters are over there doing their job as our government wishes them to do their job, they get taken around by the Pentagon PR people and they get information that the Pentagon wants them to get.

"What you're going to see on CNN, FOX and most major newspapers in this country is not going to be the full-story, bottom line. The best thing is to go out and dig for yourself. This idea of finding the truth is fundamental to our responsibility as students and teachers."

Smith also mentioned the School of the Americas and the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation – two controversial military training institutions. He briefly described soldiers and their duty to kill the innocent, causing a stir from student Ben Petzinger.

"The feeling-based response by a civilian when asked whether their life is more important than another's is a

decision they're not required to make," Petzinger said. "That's why we have a military, why they risk their life, why we don't have to. The greatest thing on Earth is young men defending freedoms like that."

After the forum concluded, Sodergren was pleased with the outcome.

"We didn't really know what to expect from tonight," Sodergren said. "We were trying to get some people together to get some talk going on because we think that's really the most important thing. You should talk and consider other options and not just take what you're fed."

"With this group, you're never going to hear someone say that they don't want to hear your point of view. If we don't totally agree with it, maybe some part of what they say will influence our way of thinking. So, I think we can't preach being open-minded enough and we need to be open-minded ourselves." ♦

Erin Edgemon contributed to this article.

Ag program changing with the times

By Laren Anderson
Contributor

Agricultural diversity helped enrollment swell at Middle Tennessee State University's School of Agribusiness and Agriscience despite declining family farm ownership, the school's Director Harley Foutch, said last week.

Agriculture is shifting to meet social trends, he said. Horse breeding and golf courses increase along with urbanization, he said.

"Most folks think of the Farmer's Market when they think of agriculture," Foutch said, "but that relates to the hobby."

Foutch said agriculture is more than simply farming, and the school recognizes that.

It educates students in all agricultural aspects, such as advertisement, packaging and marketing, Foutch said.

"In 1987, we had 198

majors," he said. "We now have 436."

Percentages indicate that the school has grown more than all other MTSU programs, but students are turning away from farming, he added.

"There is a shift from family farming to much larger operations,"

Only five to 10 percent of agriculture students pursue farming, Foutch said.

Those students, he said, have access to family farms.

Only 2 percent of farms are family controlled, he said. And Foutch predicted this number to further decline.

But he isn't concerned, Foutch said. Innovation is key to the school's survival.

"There will be more and more golf courses," he said. "There will be more and more horses."

Foutch said he doesn't expect the enrollment boom to level off soon. ♦

Poll: Most residents recognize budget crisis, oppose income tax

Continued from 1

thirds of Tennesseans said they are very worried or somewhat worried that events like the Sept. 11 attacks could happen in Tennessee.

Almost two-thirds of Tennesseans said they are very worried or somewhat worried about future acts of terrorism in the United States as a whole.

Other questions participants were asked involved taxes, the economy and slavery and American Indian reparations.

A majority of Tennesseans (59 percent) said the state is facing a budget crisis, but 50 percent of them oppose an income

tax. Fifty-four percent of all interviewed oppose a state income tax.

While most Tennessee residents (59 percent) see a worsening national economy, 60 percent think their personal fortunes will improve in the coming year.

Fifty-eight percent of Tennesseans oppose U.S. government reparations for African-American descendants of slaves. However, nearly 70 percent support the government's decision to provide reparations for American Indians whose treaties were violated.

However, Tennesseans are not against all forms of com-

pensation for descendants of U.S. slaves.

Fifty percent of Tennesseans felt comfortable with the federal government issuing a formal apology to descendants of slaves. Sixty-six percent said they feel comfortable with a federal monument acknowledging slavery's occurrence in America, and close to three quarters of those polled said they are comfortable with a museum dedicated to educating visitors about slavery in the United States.

The Middle Tennessee Poll was conducted by telephone from Oct. 22 through Nov. 2, 2001, by MTSU's Office of

Communication Research. Students interviewed 614 people age 18 or older, chosen at random from across Tennessee. The poll has an estimated error margin of ±4 percent at the 95 percent level of confidence. Communication Research faculty were responsible for the questionnaire, sampling method and results.

The poll is conducted once during the fall semester, and again in the spring, and is sponsored by the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence and the School of Journalism.

To view the complete results, visit www.mtsu.edu/mtpoll. ♦

Board: Students will be picked

Continued from 1

hearing."

Fitch said the charges brought against SGA President John Marshall by his three executive officers are serious.

"If they prove to be true, they

certainly could be" worthy of impeachment, he said.

An SGA special session will be held today at 4:30 p.m. in the Keathley University Center, Room 314. The meeting is open to the public. ♦

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OPINIONS

SIDELINES ♦ 4

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Editorial

Student rights demand an inquiry

Tonight the Student Government Association will meet to discuss a very serious matter – whether a hearing should be held to determine the fate of SGA President John Marshall's term.

At issue is the large amount of funds that are unaccounted in the budget prepared under Marshall's watch. According to the SGA officers leading the charge, the amount in question exceeds \$99,000.

It is our belief that the SGA must vote to hold a hearing. Omissions of this kind cannot be ignored without dire consequences. This editorial board has no desire to convict Marshall before a fair and just trial can be held, but allegations of this nature warrant a query.

Someone is responsible for the funds floating in the SGA's account, but absent from the budget. These are funds to which we have all contributed. It is the right of every student to know exactly in whose budget, pocket or purse his or her activity fee ended up in.

No senator should oppose the formation of an investigative committee, least of all Marshall's "hand puppets" (see letter to the editor). If that committee finds that Marshall is innocent of all charges, then give the truth a chance to be revealed. The truth will set him free.

However, if the committee discovers that Marshall is at fault, then the Senate will have done every student at this university a service by illuminating how corrupt the system is.

We also urge all students to attend tonight's special session. By showing up, you will be giving the senators the support they need to decisively evaluate the need for an investigative committee. This support is key, because unless it is apparent that students care about how their money is spent, wanton and reckless budgeting will be the behavior of choice for all future SGA presidents. ♦

Pepsi or Coke? Taking on the Pepsi Challenge

For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox
Asst. News
Editor

"Take the Pepsi Challenge," said commonly seen Pepsi commercials not so long ago.

These commercials, in case you are not blessed with the greatest retention skills, depicted 'real' people taking a blind taste test to determine whether they prefer the taste of Pepsi or Coca-Cola.

The 'player' would step up to the challenge booth, where two identical cups were sitting side by side, one filled with Pepsi, one with Coke, both with wonderful teeth-rotting goodness. The 'player' basically began by telling the booth

worker that he prefers Coke over Pepsi. After being instructed by the worker, the 'player' would take a drink of each.

The 'player' is then asked to identify which one is his favorite. He chooses his preference, and, since it is a Pepsi commercial, he chooses Pepsi. He acts as if he has just found God.

The booth worker, delighted that the 'player' chose Pepsi as his or her favorite, hands a near-full Pepsi can to the 'player,' who gratefully chugs the bubbly brew down.

And there's me, the cynical bored late-teen-ager lying on the couch. "What a dumbass," I would think to myself. "Are grown people really that ignorant of their soda preferences? I could whip the Pepsi Challenge."

My chance came at a

concert at Starwood/First American/Amsouth Amphitheater.

While there for a concert, I stumbled upon the Pepsi Challenge booth. I knew that I had something to prove to myself.

When I reached the front of the line, there was a small crowd gathered around. The booth worker, though not quite as perky or photogenic as the ones I'd seen on television, was sufficiently pleasant.

A notable difference from the commercial was the size of the sample cups. Whereas the cups in the commercial appeared to be roughly seven or eight ounces, the cups here were about the size of a ketchup cup at Wendy's.

I stepped up to the booth, knowing that the outcome of this moment was going to affect my way of thinking for a long time.

Was I really smarter than the guy on television or am I just another armchair critic? After years of consuming thousands of sodas, was I really the connoisseur I thought I was?

The worker prepared the samples and set them in front of me. A guy roughly my age (that's 19) was standing behind the booth, trying to help me cheat on the challenge.

No, I said to myself. I can justify cheating on high school vocabulary tests and my taxes, but this was a far more noble cause. I took a drink of the first sample. "Pepsi," I immediately thought to myself.

I had a drink of water, which they provide so as to get the first sample's taste out of your mouth, and took the second one.

After a brief moment of contemplation, I looked

up at the booth worker, who didn't seem to find the situation as monumental as I did.

"Coke," I said. "I prefer Coke."

While remaining civil, the booth worker was obviously not terribly pleased with the result. I asked if I could finish off the Coke, like the guy does with the Pepsi in the commercial. She declined my request and asked for the next in line.

I stood close by and watched the next few people take the challenge. Interestingly, everyone I saw take the test chose Coke.

In the end, I feel that I validated myself both as an armchair critic and a soda connoisseur, which is usually more than I accomplish in a week.

It was, indeed, a good day. ♦

Fairness should dictate Tennessee's tax policy

Bathroom Stall Graffiti



Nick Fowler
Staff Columnist

On Monday, my colleague Patrick Chinnery published a column denouncing the state income tax he once supported. I offer a rebuttal to his argument against the income tax, which, as it turns out, is not much of an argument but a series of fallacies which lead to erroneous ideas about our government and civil liberties.

First, Chinnery asserts that support of the state income tax is derived from selfish motives. Presently,

Chinnery will benefit from lower sales taxes. The income tax will even pay to better his education at MTSU.

Some day Chinnery will graduate from college and get a real job. Then, he would have to pay the income tax. At this point Chinnery would be paying in taxes for more benefits than he is receiving.

If one uses a bit of foresight, one can see that supporting an income tax is not selfish but socially responsible.

"You did not earn it. You will never repay it," he wrote. Clearly we would repay it. That is how social programs are supposed to work. Though we receive many benefits such as education, we will repay them when we put that education to use.

Chinnery then goes so far as to write: "It is never an honest or noble venture to take what is not yours." Plato refuted a variation of that argument a few thousand years ago. "Suppose, for example, a friend who had lent us a weapon were to go mad and then ask for it back. Surely anyone would say we ought not to return it."

Chinnery failed to notice the error in his thought and was led to believe that "nothing that infringes upon the rights of an individual can be morally justified by stating that it would help the well-being of all humankind."

Wrong. Government is an infringement upon individual rights for the well-being of the citizens. Citizens give up a certain amount, if not all, of their

rights for the security government provides.

Given that we have a democratic government, we can choose to exchange our right to spend our money as we please for an income tax that will pay for services we have come to expect from government.

The argument that an income tax is a violation of our fundamental rights isn't even relevant in today's society. We already have a federal income tax. Apparently the federal government does not feel it's violating our fundamental rights.

Furthermore, Chinnery's argument is an argument against all taxes. How are we to pay for the government at all?

We cannot tax the citizens because that would be

violating their rights. We cannot tax imports into the state; that is unconstitutional. I doubt donations to the government would be adequate.

We must tax because for the government to exist and protect our other fundamental rights it needs money. If we were to have a government without taxes Chinnery could have his right to spend his money as he sees fit, but the government would be unable to protect any of his other rights.

Taxes are not perfect; they are a compromise. The proposed tax plan is more fair than our current tax policy.

If we are going to have taxes, we should try to have the most fair and just tax policy possible. ♦

Correction

In the Nov. 12 issue of *Sidelines*, a photograph of Don Aliquo Jr. was incorrectly identified as David Liebman. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

SIDELINES

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Letters to the Editor

Income tax is the 'fair' course of action

To the Editor:

This letter is in reference to Patrick Chinnery's column titled, "Income tax violates fundamental rights." He feels an income tax is unfair because it, "punishes the rich for being successful." I respectfully disagree with the column. I have many problems with Chinnery's column because I see many flaws in his argument.

First of all, Chinnery attacks people who support an income tax. He says, "Those who support an income tax are nothing but looters." I take offense to this because I support the income tax because it is fair and just.

Right now the state of Tennessee is greatly in debt and gets its revenue from an outrageously high, not to mention a regressive, sales tax. Most of the sales tax is collected on groceries and clothing. An article in the June 18 *Citizen Tribune* reported that, "John Mikesell, a sales tax specialist at Indiana University, found that 'lower income people spend more of their budget on food, and the huge bulk of the benefits go to high income people.'"

An income tax would get rid of this sales tax that I see as regressive and totally unfair. Therefore, an income tax gets rid of a sales tax on food, clothes and non-prescription drugs that are all very important if not essential items to living.

Second, Chinnery blames his previous support of a state income tax on, "ideals that the tax-friendly liberals were espousing." This argument doesn't hold water because several Republicans also strongly supported the income tax.

Third, Chinnery's solution is the easy way out. He suggests we cut programs that happen to be essential to many people – mainly the poor. Chinnery suggests we cut TennCare. TennCare is a health-care program for 1.4 million people in the state of Tennessee, many of who are poor children.

Those insured by this program are either uninsured or uninsurable. This means clients of this program are among the poorest in this state. Cutting this program would not solve any problems but would put these children's lives in limbo from the start. So, if we cut TennCare, the poor would once again come out on the losing end.

My solution is a flat income tax. Yes, the rich would pay more, but with a flat tax, everyone pays the same percentage from their income. It is not fair if an income tax takes 99 percent of your income. The Rochelle-Head income tax plan, which Chinnery refers to negatively in his column, calls for about 3-6 percent. This is the fairest solution to the problem. Also, the money from the income tax would go toward education. That would allow for better conditions in classes here on campus and the hiring of more teachers. All this equals to better conditions and less over crowding. Apparently Chinnery wants to keep the rich rich and the poor poor by getting rid of programs that would somewhat help even out the playing field.

Once again, the income tax is the right answer just because it is fair and equal. I understand it is not a popular idea, but it reminds me

of the saying, "what's right isn't always popular and what's popular isn't always right." I hope everyone understands what is at stake with this state income tax debate. It's about more than money; it's about equality and our educational system in Tennessee. It's about our future.

Sincerely,
Benton McDonough

Marshall's actions must be investigated

To the Editor:

It would be very interesting to MTSU students to know where the more than \$100,000 SGA gets each year (that comes from the Activity Fee we all pay) is. It certainly is not accounted for in the budget the SGA president is required to present to the Senate.

This is one of many problems in SGA a few senators refused to look into at Wednesday's meeting. When a bill was being presented by SGA Speaker of the Senate Susan Wilson – co-sponsored by the SGA Vice President for Administration & Public Affairs Jamie Burns, SGA Election Commissioner Daryn Thornbury and a SGA Senator – to impeach SGA President John Marshall, Speaker Pro Tempore Jason Searles objected to the reading of the bill before it could even be presented to the Senate for their consideration. This only created confusion among the senators. These are not things the Senate deals with regularly.

This was no doubt done at Marshall's request. The questions now are these: What is Marshall so worried the Senate will discover? Why are Marshall and his handful of puppets in the Senate making an extraordinary effort to prevent this from even being brought before the Senate to consider? If there has been no deviance from university policy or the SGA Constitution, then Marshall should encourage an investigation to clear him of any wrongdoing.

The fact is that there are several improprieties in the SGA, all of which the executive officers have tried to address and resolve and all of which have a common denominator: The problem is Marshall.

From interfering with elections to the dishonesty and deceit with which the SGA is infected, we (Wilson, Burns, Thornbury and other SGA officials) have tried to address the problem for months, and ultimately, with no other choice, we were forced to write legislation to remove the cancer that is consuming the organization we take so much pride in. But the Senate didn't even get a chance to hear about the malfeasance of their president.

If you would like the Senate to investigate these and numerous other allegations, please come by the SGA office, Keathley University Center, Room 208, and sign a petition to demand the Senate attend to this matter. If you have any questions about the specific charges, please contact either of the SGA vice presidents or the SGA election commissioner at 898-2464.

Thank you,
Daryn Thornbury

Got a squishy feeling? We want to know.

E-mail slopinio@mtsu.edu

FLASH

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

sidelines

What it's like for a bug



Local theater group adapts Kafka novella

By Leslie Carol Boehms
Staff Writer

Franz Kafka's novella *The Metamorphosis* has recently been adapted by a local Nashville ensemble, the People's Branch Theater.

The play opened the season for PBT Nov. 2 at the Nashville Gulch, located at 405 12th Ave. S.

PBT co-founder Matt Chiorini, who also wrote the loosely based adaptation, directs *The Metamorphosis*. Brian Niece stars in the production as Gregor Samsa and is also the artistic director. Niece was recently named "Best Young Actor" by the *Nashville Scene*.

Other cast members include Holly Allen, Mikael Byrd, Jane Stoub, Mark Tankersley and Arita Trahan.

The People's Branch Theater was founded April 3, 2001, and is entering its second season. Last year, the group performed *My Own Brother*, *Vincent*, *Krapp's Last Tape*, and *The Zoo Story*.

According to the PBT Web site, the main goal of the group is to be "dedicated to enriching the life of its community through immediate, intimate and dynamic performance."

In *The Metamorphosis*, Kafka depicts the life of Samsa on the morning he awakens as a human dung beetle.

The story continues as the Samsa family attempts to go on with life pretending that there is nothing abnormal about their family or their new beetle relative. Samsa, however, has another thing in his small, now insect, mind.

The Metamorphosis runs Wednesday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m. through Nov. 17. There will also be late-night performances at 10 p.m. Nov. 9 and Nov. 16.

Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$8 for students. To pre-order tickets or for more information, call 254-0008 or visit the PBT Web site at www.peoplesbranch.org.

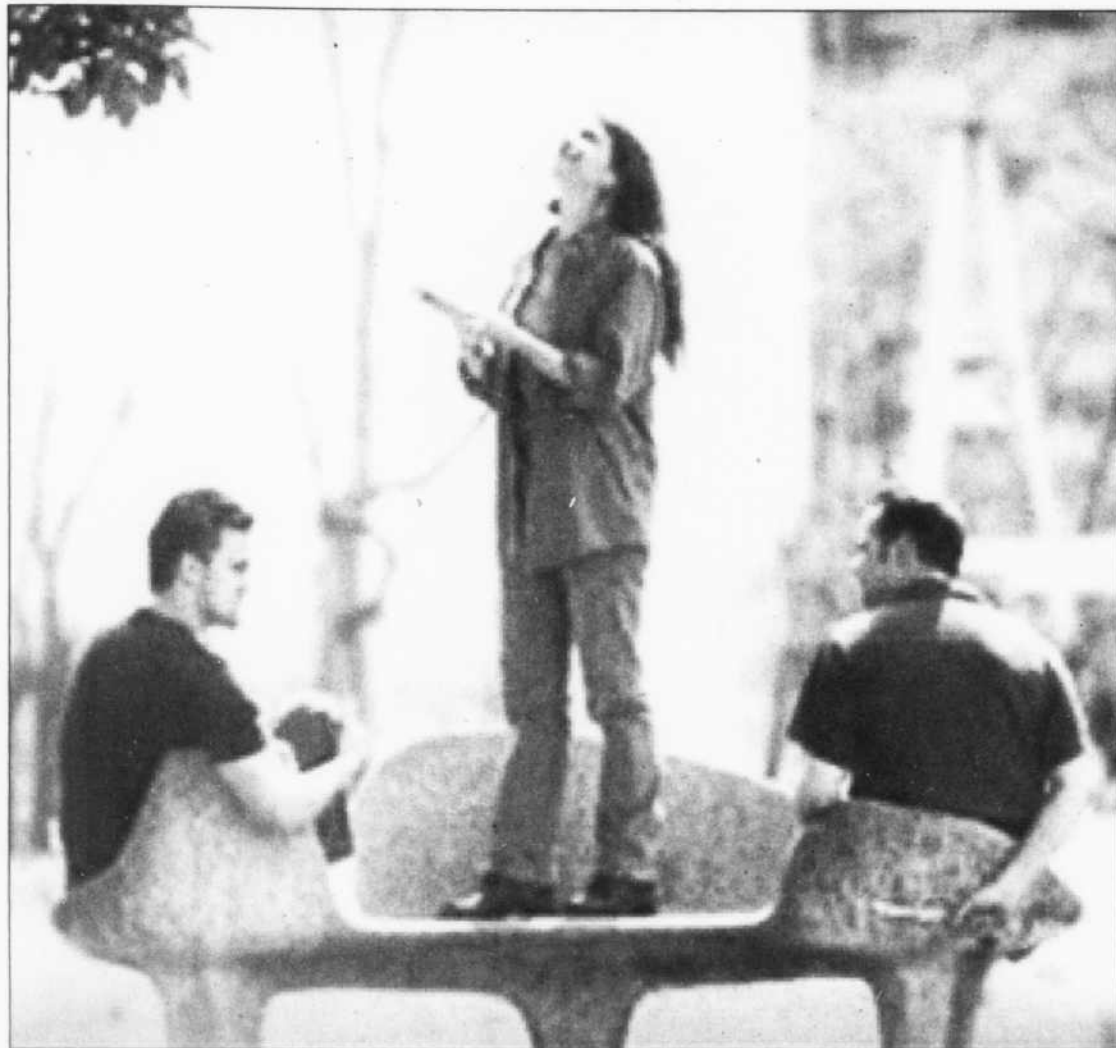


Photo Provided

Brian Niece, Denice Hicks and Matt Chioini all work in various areas of the People's Branch Theater. Niece stars in *The Metamorphosis*, and Chioini directs it.

KRS-ONE reflects on the advancement of 'Hip Hop'

By Lindsay Bane
The Pitt News (U. Pittsburgh)

(U-WIRE) PITTSBURGH — According to legendary hip-hopper KRS-ONE, "Hip Hop" is not a black thing. It is not rap. The "Hip" does not stand for "trendy" and the "Hop" does not stand for "dance." It is capitalized as Italian and Irish would be capitalized, because "Hip Hop" is a culture, a collective consciousness.

When he stepped up to the podium in the William Pitt Union's Assembly Room at the University of Pittsburgh Thursday night, he greeted the crowd by saying, "Now throw yo' hands in the air." But instead of performing, KRS-ONE followed his lyrics with a lecture.

For two and a half hours KRS-ONE, Knowledge Reigns Supreme Over Nearly Everyone, gave lessons in spelling, history, philosophy, ethics and what it takes to really be "Hip Hop."

Hip hop is everything from "Breakin'" to "Grafitti" to the clothes you wear, he said, emphatic about the fact that the two are capitalized proper nouns. It is a way of living, KRS-ONE said as he raised laminated cards with the correct spelling of several commonly misspelled hip-hop words.

"It is important to know what Hip Hop is because no matter what you do, especially in the U.S., you are going to be approached by this term," KRS-ONE told his audience.

Thick books of history timelines sat on the table next to him. Though he could trace hip hop's history back to the initial "needle-dropping technique" in 1972, the books failed to mention hip hop until 1990. As a critical part of hip hop's history, KRS-ONE told not only his side of the story, he said, but also the real timeline behind it.

KRS-ONE said he could recall the years when hip hop was illegal. Children would get arrested or beaten by the police for "Emceeing" or "Deejaying" in the park, he said. In 1979, when The Sugarhill Gang put out "Rapper's Delight," hip-hop art was permitted on the streets.

"If it makes money for white corporate America, it's legal. I saw it with my own eyes," he said.

According to KRS-ONE, hip hop makes enough money to finance a war. By 2004, it will be a \$3 billion industry, enough to buy South Africa, KRS-ONE speculated.

"You must be willing to find ways to exist outside of white supremacy," KRS-ONE said. He

said you don't have to be a minority to be trapped in white supremacy. "White supremacy traps white people too."

According to KRS-ONE, "white kids" were a large part of the demographic that chose to listen to rappers such as NWA over more socially conscious music. Radio stations are now more inclined to play artists with less positive representations of the black community, he said, because they make the most money.

Though he confronted a wide array of social and political issues, KRS-ONE broke his lesson down to one message: "Never accept what's in front of you. Know it. Be prepared to transform it."

He traced the basis of this idea back to pioneer rap artist Grandmaster Flash, and once more to French philosopher Rene Descartes, "I think, therefore I am."

With little sign of exhaustion after two and a half hours of speaking, KRS-ONE left the room with a final thought on what defines hip hop.

"Hip Hop is victory over the streets, and it is open to anyone who wants peace, love, unity and happiness." ♦

INSIDE THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT



By Shawn Whitsell

Fox considers '90210' union

With the success of reunion shows, the powers that be at Fox are considering filming a reunion show for the cast of *Beverly Hills 90210*.

Though networks may be ready, the cast doesn't seem to be in a hurry. According to Jennie Garth, who played Kelly on the long-running series, the cast has already received the casting call. Garth also said she felt it was too soon, but she does think it will happen eventually because "our love for each other and Aaron Spelling is so strong." Spelling's daughter Tori, who played Donna, said she has too much on her plate at the moment, including a possible television show.



O.J.'s mother succumbs

Eunice Simpson, mother of former football star O.J. Simpson, was found dead Friday in the San Francisco home her son purchased for her. According to the examiner's office, the elder Simpson, 80, died of natural causes. O.J. was reached at home in Florida and had this to say, "If anybody deserves to be in heaven, it's her. She raised four kids virtually alone. I never heard her have an argument or say a bad word about anybody."



Ginuwine sees 'Differences' in his life

After many hardships, popular singer Ginuwine is seeing the light at the end of the tunnel with his hit single, "Differences." In the last few years, the singer lost his father to suicide and his mother to cancer. Then in August, he lost someone who was like a little sister to him, Aaliyah.

However, things are looking great in his career. "Differences" is his biggest hit, and his last album, *The Life*, is soaring its way to multi-platinumhood. Ginuwine is also considering offers to tour with Mary J. Blige and Jagged Edge. In his personal life, Ginuwine is also enjoying his new family with rapper, Sole.



Stiller, Taylor expect first child



Comedic actor Ben Stiller and his wife Christine Taylor, of the *Brady Bunch Movie* fame, are expecting their first child. The couple wed in May of last year and recently starred together in *Zoolander*, which was written and directed by Stiller. Ben's father, Jerry Stiller, learned of the pregnancy while on the set of his show, *The King of Queens*. "He said, 'You're going to be a grandfather.' I said, 'I'm so glad, so happy, but I still have to learn my lines!'" said the older Stiller. There is no news yet on the baby's due date. ♦

Local entertainment briefs

Boo Dogs play Bongo Johnny's

Eighties and '90s cover band Boo Dogs will play at Bongo Johnny's tomorrow at 10 p.m. Admission to the show is \$5.

AASA to sponsor poetry slam

The African American Student Association will sponsor its regular open mic poetry slam, "Expressions" Sunday at 7 p.m. The poetry slam will be held at the Keathley University Center Theater and will feature a special guest poet. The slam is open to everyone. For more information, contact Shawn Whitsell at 898-4121.

Fashion show to be held

Anastasia's Attic is sponsoring a fashion show tomorrow at The Boro Bar and Grill. The free show will feature '80s and '90s inspired fashions and will begin at 8 p.m.

Crank Like Frank to play the Boro

Crank Like Frank will play at The Boro Bar and Grill Saturday at 11 p.m. The cover charge is \$5. The band consists of Matt Cahill, Ray Dunham, Dave Harder, Bob Marchman, Joe Marlow and Jeff Servais. For more information on the band, go to www.cranklikefrank.com.

Alishewa Records debut artist to perform Saturday

Alishewa Records recording artist and CEO, Craig, is scheduled to perform at a Rickey B and 4Given gospel concert Saturday at 7 p.m. The show will be held at Mercury Plaza (next to Shear Soul).

Look in tomorrow's issue of **Sidelines** for the housing guide special insert.

CD review:

Michael Jackson returns with average 'Invincible'

By Barry Schwartz
The Diamondback (U. Maryland)

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Undisputably the greatest living performer and the purveyor of the purity of pop music, Michael Jackson is, and forever will be, the King of Pop. Dance to it, have the chorus memorized before the song ends, and sing along at high decibels. Michael Jackson is the standard by which all true pop music is influenced and compared to. This is not some bout with nostalgia.

People love to hate pop music. It has become a national pastime. But occasionally an artist releases songs that fall into the elusive category of "undeniable." Our beloved "Bootylicious" was undeniable, as was "Livin' on a Prayer" and Toni Basil's "Hey Mickey." Michael Jackson created the concept. Now it appears the oft-troubled Michael Jackson, the "gloved-one," Jacko, is back-o, unleashing his first proper album since 1991's *Dangerous*.

Anyone can easily reel off a list of the oddities of Michael Jackson: Elizabeth Taylor, elephant man bones, oxygen tanks, crotch-grabbing, plastic surgery to near-mutilation, alleged sexual molestation and pedophilia, LaToya Jackson, Tito, Lisa Marie Presley, the mask, the glove, the statue, the Neverland Ranch, that monkey Bubbles and his most recent addiction to painkillers.

But isn't moonwalking cool?

Jackson has been around for more than 30 years so maybe he is invincible.

You, the reader, most certainly own "Thriller." You probably own "Bad," and I am sure you marveled, just as I did, at the video for "Black or White." "People are too fickle these days, too cool, and far too concerned with Jackson's off-the-field antics to appreciate his new album for what it is. 'NSync and Britney's signature brand of dirty pop are still the overlords of the mainstream and Michael is back to show them how it's done.

Invincible is the sound of an attempt at perfection, molding it, shaping it, producing it (and overproducing it), pouring his soul deep within, spending over \$20 million and placing the result into a compact disc. The album is far from perfect it's no "Thriller" or "Off the Wall," and not even a Bad. "Invincible" is the sound of a falling star desperately trying to hold on. Sometimes you urge him on and root for him, hoping he will swing you back to your living room when you were eight years old. Other times you shudder with embarrassment. You almost feel sorry for him, and you're not supposed to feel sorry for international superstars.

"Invincible" is by no means a retro-record with the slick sounds of the '80s courtesy of Quincy Jones. If anything it is a record that may firmly return Jackson to a vital artist in the current world of entertainment.

It could be a resurrection.

Rodney Jerkins, who can now truly be deemed a pop production genius, fuels most of "Invincible" with his staccato rhythms and distorted bubblegum sound effects. The opening track, "Unbreakable," is vicious, a banger. This song alone is an incredible start to a comeback, eclipsing anything he has done within the last 10 years. Its most easily recognizable relative is "Scream," only add more of a hip-hop flavor and replace Janet with a sampled verse by the late Notorious B.I.G. The result is something truly spectacular. Lo-fi has no business in the realm of Michael Jackson and "Unbreakable" is studio wizardry at its finest.

"Heartbreaker" is easily as satisfying as "Unbreakable." It is pure pop with an incredible chorus, and a bridge that will lift your spirits even if your life sucks. The production is comparable to the best of 'NSync instrumentals on steroids. Michael Jackson's rhythmic voice is on full display, with all his signature "dah"s, "uh"s, and "ho"s used to perfection.

"Invincible" and "Break of Dawn" are polar opposites. The title track is another banger in the same ilk as its predecessors, with a chorus of "she's invincible" repeated over and over, featuring one of Jackson's better vocals performances. "Break of Dawn" is the first ballad to appear on *Invincible* and believe me it will not be the last. "Heaven Can Wait" is simply beautiful. As a slow reprieve, it

halts the frenzied momentum of the record thus far and does it exceptionally, swelling around Michael's vocals. It is one of the most chill songs he's recorded this side of "Liberian Girl."

If Jackson knows anything it is how to deliberately control the ebb and flow of an album. The album's first single "You Rock My World" is placed perfectly, and the song itself is an instant classic. It is exactly what one should expect from Jackson: A heartfelt, passionate, thumping, and catchy tune. Immediately following, "Butterflies" echoes the finest soul of Al Green. I recommend parking in a car with your very special lady or boy-toy and maybe kissing one another in unspecified areas. Hey now!

The first half of the album is excellently sequenced, and if it were to end here it would be a triumph in every sense of the word. Unfortunately this 77-minute album falls deep into a dark abyss of cliché ballads and sub-par R&B.

You may cringe from the melodramatic string arrangements and children's choirs. Each song on the second half of *Invincible* oozes with the expected and typical Michael Jackson obsessions. He whines of saving the world, saving the poor children and, of course, getting the scavengers of the media off his back. Despite my glowing praise thus far, I would never assume that people still care about Michael Jackson, so "Privacy" is doubly troubling and confusing in that he still

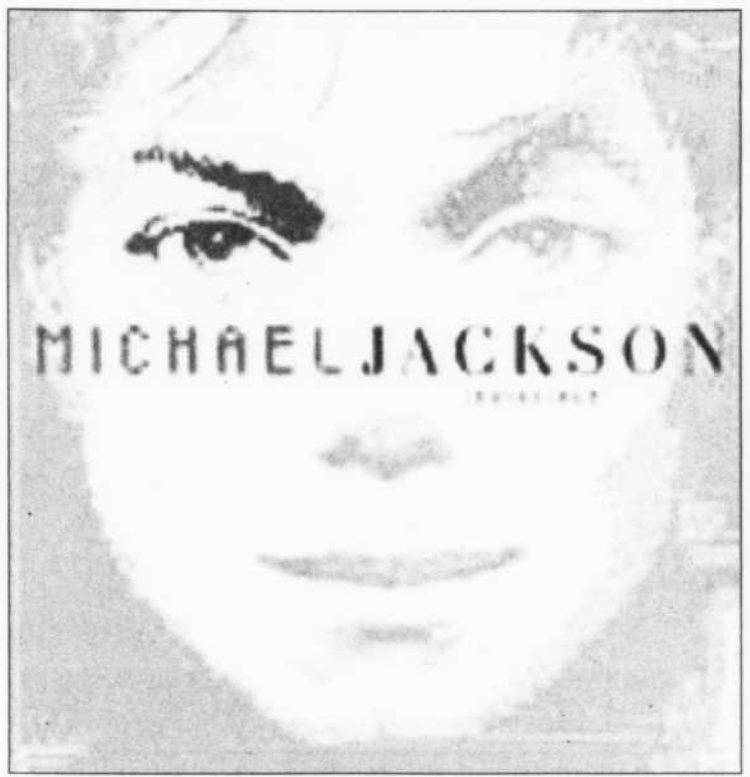


Photo Provided

Michael Jackson's latest album *Invincible* debuted at number one on the Billboard charts.

wants us to leave him alone.

Yet despite the quality of this album, no song on *Invincible* can claim the distinction of being among the best in the Jackson catalogue. That is both a testament to his artistry but also a curse. You can never defeat your past, and Michael Jackson has had quite a past. "Invincible" is excessively long, overloaded with boring ballads, and weighted with far too many trite attempts at pseudo-pop anthems.

Still, there was no way he could possibly live up to the

expectations and heavy anticipation. When you have achieved the highest levels of success in pop music, both artistically and commercially, the only possible option is a pathetic, often undeserved, downward spiral.

The bright moments far outweigh the not so bright ones and each song is well-crafted and indelible. Undeniable pop music will never go away, nor should it, as long as artists like Michael Jackson are in the studios, but with "Invincible," we are left with a shrug. It's good, but not great. ♦

Flash! e-mail

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There will be an informational meeting about this program on Tuesday, November 13, 2001 at 3:30pm in Peck Hall room 211 and Wednesday, November 14, 2001 at 4:30pm also in Peck Hall room 211.

For applications and Further Information,

Contact:

Dr. Tyson King Meadows
Department of Political Science
Peck Hall 250
904-8232

Book review:

'Infidelity' runs deep in family history

By Beth Gillette
The Daily Cardinal (U. Wisconsin)

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. — *Infidelity, A Love Story*, by Ann Pearlman traces the path of infidelity through three generations of women in her family. This brutally honest biography details the emotions and betrayal caused by the men in Pearlman's life.

Beginning in her childhood, she slowly begins to recognize how her unfaithful grandfather and father destroyed her grandmother and mother's lives.

Fearing that infidelity runs in her blood, Pearlman intends to prove otherwise. She overcomes her family's criticism of an interracial relationship and infertility while building a life and marriage in Madison. Pearlman proves a relationship is what one puts into it and that one can control the path his or her life takes.

As a renown marriage and

sex therapist, Pearlman revels in her secure marriage. She helps hundreds of married couples find happiness after infidelity and believes she has figured life out.

She discovers, however, she is more like her mother and grandmother than she expected. After finding out her husband has been unfaithful to her, she sets out to learn what she needs. Pearlman realizes that she relates to what her mother and grandmother had told her all along about relationships and life.

She is happier being herself rather than revolving her life around someone else. Despite her frustration with marriage and family, Pearlman optimistically concludes that as long as there is life, there is possibility.

This biography of Pearlman's life lets the reader rejoice in the author's discoveries about herself and her strengths. She is honest about every emotion she feels and struggles to compre-

hend how she let this deception creep into her life.

The book will leave the reader questioning why the author's quest for an honest relationship went awry. It's frustrating to see Pearlman's efforts go to waste while wondering what she could have possibly done differently when it appears she did everything "right."

The book unfortunately implies that no one can possibly know whether or not his or her relationship makes them happy until the relationship is over. Pearlman's painful descriptions of her hardships prove life cannot be dictated by how much one wants something or how much one knows.

Pearlman finally learns that her life is determined by how she deals with what life gives her and only she can determine how happy she'll allow herself to be.

Infidelity, A Love Story is published by Broadway Books. ♦

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WEEKDAY FEATURES

MORNING BEAT (6-9AM)

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHA

Lady Raiders tip off regular season

By Steven Finley
Staff Writer

A new season breathes new life into the Middle Tennessee women's basketball team.

That new life is in the form of eight newcomers that will join head coach Stephany Smith and six returnees to vie for the Sun Belt Conference title and a slot in the NCAA tournament.

Last season the Lady Raiders finished a respectable 17-13 while earning an invitation to play in the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

That success has led the Lady Raiders to be predicted by many to finish third in the SBC's eastern division; a compliment considering the perennial basketball powers that are also in the division.

"It's not really about the numbers or how they pick you," senior forward Joanne Aluka said. "If you play hard and to the best of your abilities you can always improve."

"Any time you're mentioned in the upper echelon of a conference that is as strong as the Sun Belt is, you have to consider it a compliment," Smith said.

The two teams ranked ahead of them, Florida International and Western Kentucky, are two teams that is a compliment to be mentioned with in the same breath with. FIU is near, if not already in, some experts' top 25 list, and WKU is just seasons removed from its Final Four run.

MT hopes to have similar success this season with a group of four returning starters that



Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

Pentilla defends the ball.

includes unanimous All-Sun Belt first team selection Jamie Thomatis.

Thomatis is near or at the top of many of MT's career records. She has led the team in scoring each of the last three seasons. This season she hopes to lead both herself and the Lady Raiders to a new level.

"It was a blessing, I can certainly attribute all of it to my teammates because they lifted me to where I was last year," Thomatis said of her selection to the All-Sun Belt team.

"Jamie has made a lot of noise in the Sun Belt Conference," Smith said. "She ranks high in almost every statistical category not just on the team but also in the conference and in the nation."

Thomatis will be joined in her quest by fellow seniors Jessica McClure and Aluka. McClure played in 30 games while starting 16 last season. She also had seven double-digit scoring games last year, netting a career high of 12 on two separate occasions.

Aluka started all but one of last season's contests while ranking second on the team in scoring and rebounding. Her abilities allow her to swing the momentum of the game almost quietly. She will grab timely offensive rebounds and compliment Thomatis's scoring, shown by scoring double figures in 21 out of last season's 30 contests.

Three other returnees plan to do all they can to help the Lady Raiders reach new heights. These players are sophomore Keisha McClinic and juniors Mia Parniainen and Paula Penttila.

McClinic started six games for the Lady Raiders last season while leading the squad in steals 12 times. Helsinki, Finland native Parniainen started 12 games and scored a career high 15 points against Tennessee Tech. Penttila, also from Finland, averaged a team-high 33.3 minutes a game last season. Her career high in points, 20, came against FIU.

This year's recruiting class

includes freshmen Cartia Bailey, Tiffany Fisher, Ciara Gray, Renee Hall, Patrice Holmes, Eboni Kirby and Jessica Schueter. Also new to the team is junior college transfer Jennifer Justice.

"All of the newcomers have really impressed us by coming in everyday and working hard, putting out the effort," Aluka said.

All hope to assist the Lady Raiders in continuing the upward swing the program is taking. With only six returning players with experience, the newcomers will be looked toward for both minutes and scoring.

"I can imagine that there will be a couple different freshmen that will start at different times this season," Smith said. "We will probably go back to a nine or 10 man rotation that was in place during the first season I was coach here."

Looking at the upcoming schedule, the Lady Raiders don't have many breaks and their schedule is one of the toughest in the conference. Road contests against Georgia, Austin Peay and Xavier all come early in the season and will test the Lady Raiders' resolve.

"It's a pretty phenomenal schedule, one of the strongest in the country," Smith said.

Winning those games will be key for the Lady Raiders' momentum entering conference play. They will also have to improve on last year's 5-9 road record if new successes are expected.

If the Lady Raiders can fix their road woes and get quality play from their rookies then the season will shine bright for MT.

Their journey for an NCAA tournament berth begins Nov. 16, when they open their regular season at Tennessee State. Smith commented on the expectations of the upcoming season.

"We are a team with an extreme amount of depth, talent and athleticism and it should be an extremely exciting season. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

Jennifer Justice takes the ball to the hoop in an attempt to score two points.

Raiders win final exhibition game at MT

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team closed out its exhibition schedule with a 70-55 win over West Florida Monday.

The Blue Raiders got things started on defense. MT forced a shot clock violation, blocked three shots and held the Argonauts to 0-of-6 shooting in the first two minutes of the game.

WFU didn't score a basket until the 10:15 mark of the first half, allowing the Blue Raiders to jump out to a 19-4 advantage.

"We were active and forced turnovers early," said head coach Randy Weil. We were able to run our offense and get the ball inside when we could. Our big guys played pretty well in the first half."

The Blue Raiders slowed down in the second half as Weil tried to find his top eight or nine players during the exhibition schedule.

"I want to go with the guys that I feel are the top eight or nine. We accomplished what we wanted to tonight because we got to take a look at some guys in different combinations."

William Pippen led the Blue Raiders with 18 points on 6-of-10 shooting.

Iiro Tenngren scored 16 points and grabbed 5 rebounds. Bryant Mitchell led all MT rebounders with 6.

MT plays Bryan College Saturday night at 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Staff

John Humphrey comes off the floor for a three-pointer.

Blue Raider Notebook

By Shane Marquardt
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee football team awaits Connecticut for the final game of the Blue Raider season in Floyd Stadium Saturday.

The finale could net MT an 8-3 record while possibly sending the Huskies scurrying home with a 2-8 season. Either way, both teams will be looking to take their previous losses out on each other.

Blue Collar Workers:

The offensive line will not be facing Southeastern Conference-type athletes when the Huskies come to Murfreesboro, but they will get a UConn defense that sacked its last opposing quarterback seven times last weekend. But the MT crew has seen it all after a season peppered with North Texas, Ole Miss and Louisiana State University. A slew of Huskies will hardly give them pause after the MT offense followed the big men for nearly 400 yards in the Tiger Stadium. But regardless of the diminished talent the Huskies bring to Floyd Stadium, the Blue Raiders will not likely win the game Saturday unless they can muster some rushing touchdowns.

Big D:

The Tigers did what they wanted early in the game Saturday against the multiple personality of the MT defense,

but the second half showed the evil Blue Raider D as they held the Tiger Den silent with a lone field goal. UConn is not the kind of offense MT wants to allow to get comfortable. Linebacker Scotty Brown got the lone sack against LSU, and it will take a host of other Blue Raider defenders to keep the Huskies harnessed.

All-American Watch:

The two may not receive national recognition as All-Americans when the season concludes, but both wide receiver Kendall Newson and running back Dwone Hicks have provided plenty of highlight reels on the turf of Floyd Stadium. The Husky defense better come with some bite because Hicks tallied 117 yards against a nasty Tiger defense. Hicks is not only playing the last game of the year, but he needs just 13 yards to reach the 1,000 yard barrier for the season and 2 touchdowns to break Joe Campbell's school record of 45. To make it worse on the visitors from Connecticut, Newson is playing in his last game ever as a Blue Raider with a 42-game reception streak on his hands. Newson didn't see the end zone against the Tigers, and senior quarterback Wes Counts may be looking to hook up with a wide receiver he has been throwing to for four seasons. ♦

MT tries to end season on high note

Commentary by Shane Marquardt
Staff Writer

Blue Raiders' closing statement

The Middle Tennessee football season is coming to a close this Saturday with one final battle looming within the confines of Floyd Stadium.

The Blue Raiders have already secured rings as co-champions of the Sun Belt Conference, as well as their second winning season in as many years. But that doesn't mean they're not going to stick it to the Connecticut Huskies, who limp into Murfreesboro this Saturday with the intention of taking a win out of Blue Raider country.

Both teams come in to the match-up following a loss. The Blue Raiders fell under the attack of a Southeastern Conference big cat as the Louisiana State University Tigers made themselves bowl-eligible with a 30-14 victory

over MT. The Huskies were thwarted a come-from-behind win against Utah State and are looking to take a 2-7 season record out on somebody.

Floyd Stadium is the wrong place to come when looking for redemption or a win.

The Blue Raiders have a 10-game winning streak when playing in the raucous sea of blue and are known to put up basketball-type scores when playing on their home turf (note the NCAA record in total points, 128, when they played Idaho). Not to mention there are 16 seniors on the Blue Raider squad who are not about to walk off their home field without adding to their already impressive 7-3 record.

Against the rest

Other than a fatal slip against North Texas, the Blue Raiders have made a ritual of demoralizing their fellow Sun Belt Conference opponents, posting a 5-1 record in conference play.

The losses? Well, the rest of the nation should take note because it took two SEC teams to slow the Blue Raider attack. If MT can whip the Huskies, they will secure a 3-2 record against non-conference opponents.

The Sun Belt barrier

The Blue Raiders were practically in the process of inscripting personalized belt buckles for their destined Sun Belt Championship run early this season. They carried one of the top offenses in the nation, two All-American candidates and a 5-0 record into North Texas. But they swallowed a Green Wave as their vaunted offense was smothered by an unimpressed NT defense.

MT's hopes of a trip to the New Orleans Bowl rest squarely in the hands of the Idaho Vandals, a team that helped them climb into the NCAA record books when they tangled in Floyd Stadium. But as the score in Murfreesboro indicat-

ed, Idaho is not what football minds would label a defensive juggernaut.

If the Green Wave could knock the Blue Raiders from their perch, the odds aren't great that the Vandals' luck will be any better. But MT fans will have to pull together in support of past nemesis, IU, when they butt heads with the top dog of the Sun Belt Conference. Unfortunately, as fellow Sun Belt Conference opponents will admit, beating NT is not exactly the Big Easy.

Attendance scenario

Murfreesboro does not have the reputation as a great football metropolis. The city seems to disappear on Saturdays. One columnist for a Murfreesboro paper even went as far as to poke fun at the Blue Raider fan support. It didn't totally go without warrant.

MT boasted a 4-0 record coming into the Idaho game in October and yet the sound of

coach Andy McCollum's spit could be heard hitting the carpet in Floyd Stadium.

This Saturday marks the last Blue Raider football game of the year. At 7-3, the Blue Raiders haven't earned much national coverage, but they do have a track-meet offense with talent that has been getting national attention. MT's quarterback Wes Counts has one of the top completion percentages in the nation, and running back Dwone Hicks was listed in *Sports Illustrated* as a dark horse Heisman Trophy candidate.

Still not enough?

OK, the game will be televised locally on WSMV, Channel 4, and if you would like the opportunity to see your face on television, come down to Floyd Stadium.

Bring your 'Hi Mom' smiles and your Blue Raider face paint and send the Connecticut Huskies home whimpering when they hear the united voice of Murfreesboro. ♦

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Applications will be available in the JUB Room 306. Three finalists will be selected from the field of applicants and will be interviewed. Interviews will be held

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Male roommate wanted: to share 1330 sq.ft. 2 br, 2 bath apt. 3 min. from MTSU. Completely furnished. Must be neat, quiet, and non-smoker. Christian preferred. \$400/mo. Includes all utilities. No deposit or Application fee. Move in immediately! Call Jesse at 615-867-9332, please leave message.

Roommate needed...will give a discount on first month's rent. Lease lasts till the end of July. A four bedroom four bath apartment. Call 848-7195 or 519-8916 and ask for "Andi"...short for Andrea. Need a female roommate.

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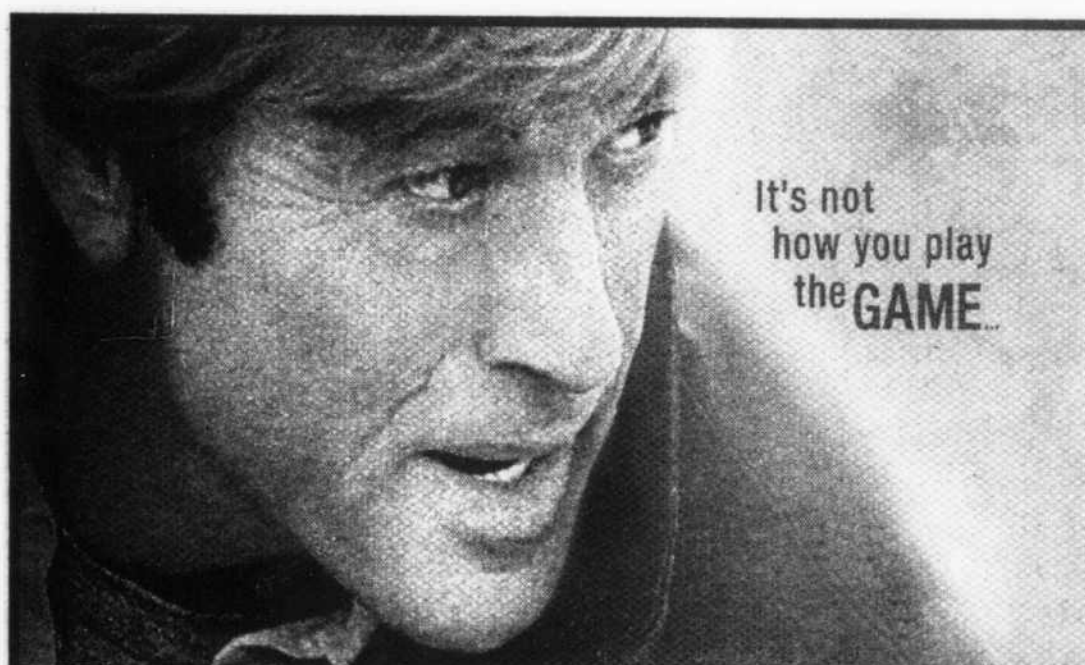
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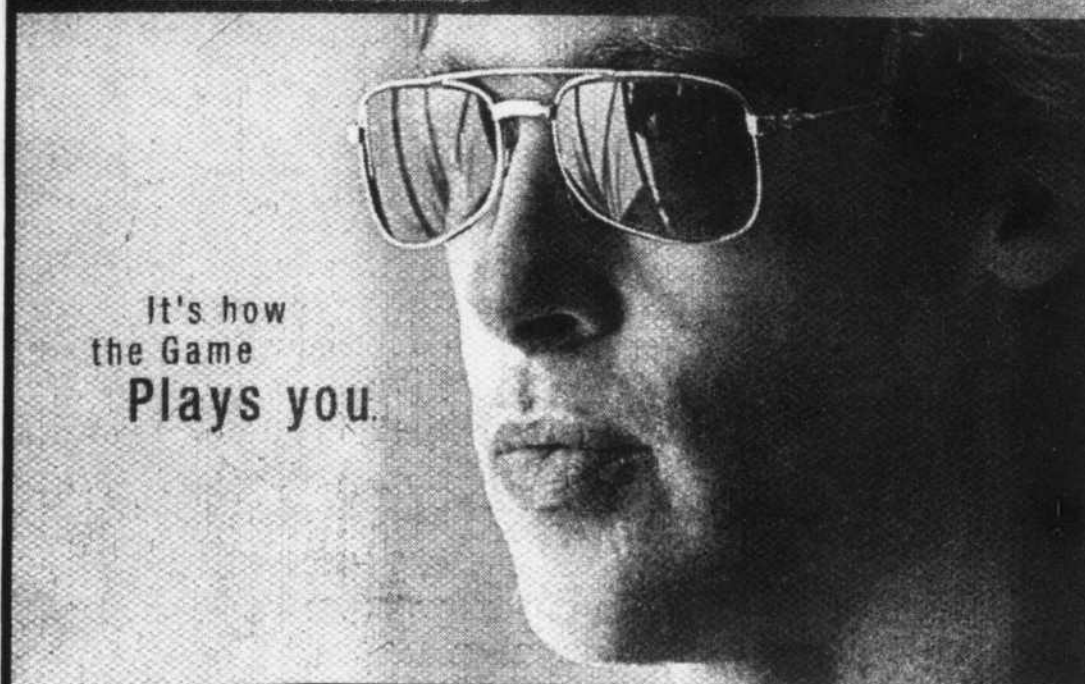
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