

Wrenn punished for illegal doings

Jenny Cordle
News Editor

The extensive record of MTSU's former Financial Aid director will be expunged after he serves a probationary period of six years, repays \$100,000 in student loans and pays \$10,400 restitution in funds he obtained while serving as director.

During a hearing in Circuit Court Tuesday, Winston Wrenn entered a pretrial diversion agreement for five counts of official misconduct and one count of theft over \$10,000.

Wrenn, 58, was fired in November 1997 after the Tennessee Board of Regents staff notified the Division of State Audit of the possible over-award of financial aid to one of Wrenn's relatives for the fall 1997 semester, according to a report issued by the state Comptroller of the Treasury.

After reviewing Wrenn's activities, officials realized other evidence of misuse of funds.

It was found that Wrenn also allegedly altered student financial aid application forms and replaced institutional scholarships awarded to students with Federal Pell Grant and Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant funds while hiding his illegal activities from university, state, and federal officials.

"He got pretrial diversion,"



Wrenn

said Flynn, Wrenn's attorney. "There was no entry of any guilty plea."

According to a news release from State Attorney General Paul G. Summers, Wrenn plead guilty to official misconduct and theft. However, Flynn said that there is no connection between a guilty plea and a pretrial diversion. Therefore, Wrenn did not plead guilty to the charges.

After all the terms of probation have been met, "his slate will be wiped completely clean," Flynn said.

"A pretrial diversion is a program prior to trial to divert individuals out of the system," said Frank Lee, chair of MTSU's criminal justice department. "It is to give individuals a period of time to show good behavior."

Junior Cory Hollandsworth said he was completely unaware that the financial aid he received in spring of 1997 during Wrenn's employment was awarded illegally.

"I was working a night job," Hollandsworth said. "I needed money for school, and he really helped me out because I wouldn't have been able to attend school had I not received financial aid."

Hollandsworth said he found out about Wrenn's termination in 1999 and read about the charges against him in the newspaper.

"I felt really bad because I was one of the people who he helped out," said Hollandsworth. "It is really kind of sad."

Wrenn was accused of obtaining five student loans distributed to his two sons and himself from December 1994 through January 1996.

He was also indicted by the Rutherford County grand jury for obtaining more than \$10,000 in Federal Pell Grants.

Circuit Court Judge James Clayton signed the diversion agreement during the Tuesday hearing.

According to officials of the office of the Attorney General, "if Wrenn violates his probation, he will be brought back before the Rutherford County Criminal Court for sentencing and possible incarceration."

Census brings student jobs, university funding

Mary Anna Brown
Staff Reporter

MTSU students will have the opportunity to participate in the upcoming "Census 2000" in more ways than one. Students can work for the U. S. Census Bureau, and help the university acquire appropriate funding by

filling out the census survey, beginning in mid-March and continuing through May.

The U.S. Constitution mandates a census every ten years to be conducted by the Bureau, which should account for every U.S. resident, no matter where they live or what language they speak.

MTSU students will be

included in the "Census 2000" even if they are not permanent Murfreesboro residents.

"Participating in the census is in everyone's best interest," said Kim Belker, U.S. Census Bureau assistant manager of recruiting. "The best way to make sure people such as yourself are repre-

See Census, 2

Campus tornado warning system up

Jenny Cordle
News Editor

Last month, Tim Burns caught himself thinking about the tornado that destroyed his house three years ago. Burns, a computer programmer for the Office of Information Technology, came home from work Jan. 24, 1997, to find his home "split apart" and his personal possessions strewn across his lawn.

Eight tornadoes struck nine counties that day, Rutherford County being the hardest hit. Fortunately, there were no deaths and few injuries.

Although the tornado didn't affect MTSU's campus, last October university officials constructed an outdoor tornado warning siren behind the McWhorter Learning Resources Center to warn students about the dangers of possible tornadoes.

"The greatest potential for harm is if you are outside and don't know that there is a tornado coming," said Bill Smotherman, director of Construction Administration.

The siren will be tested monthly in order to educate students and faculty about the alarm and its use.

"Any kind of advanced

warning system is beneficial to the entire campus," said Burns.

There are other contingency plans for warning the MTSU community about tornadoes. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio stations consistently broadcast severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings.

"We've recommended that each department get NOAA weather radios because the siren doesn't penetrate into the buildings," said Smotherman. "If it did, it would damage people's ears of those who are close to it."

Smotherman said the buildings most vulnerable to the tornado damage are "whichever one the tornado hits first."

"I know that's a safe answer, but when forces are tremendous, they can be so powerful," he said. "A more substantial building would more likely hold up, but you never know."

University officials are currently revising the Emergency Operations Plan which includes organizational plans for different types of catastrophes, such as the destruction caused by tornadoes.

Burns said he never knew anyone who experienced a tornado prior to the one that damaged his home.

"But once it happens to you, you are always more mindful

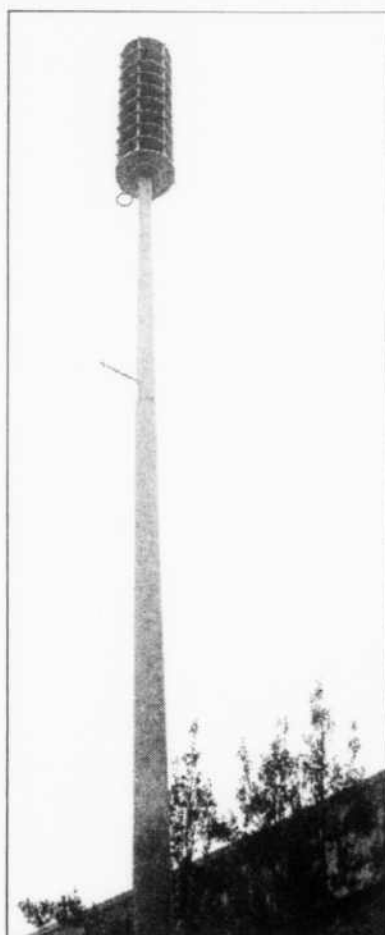


Photo by Grant Fletcher | Staff
The tornado siren is located behind the LRC.

when you hear about the weather and you always have an extra eye open."



SGA Speaker of the Senate Megan Smith prepares for Wednesday's Senate meeting.

SGA stands firm, denies re-vote

Mary Anna Brown
SGA Reporter

Student Government Association Election Commissioner Julie Shew denied sophomore Douglas Moore's formal complaint Monday concerning how last week's referendum vote was conducted.

Shew denied Moore's request for a re-vote on the basis that the SGA referendum was accurately promoted.

Moore claimed the vote was tainted after he saw a sign posted next to a voting table in the Keathley University Center that read, "Vote For Referendum Here."

"I didn't find that the sign had the intention to persuade the voter," Shew said. "It was simply advertising the voting location."

In his complaint, Moore also protested the manner in

which the referendum vote was publicized.

"I looked deep into the matter and did research to see exactly how SGA went about publicizing the issue," Shew said. "There was insufficient evidence to support his claim."

Shew stated that many attempts were made to report the issue of the SGA referendum to the student body.

"The referendum was first announced back in September at the joint session meeting," Shew said. "Plans were not finalized yet, but the issue was brought to the table."

Shew explained that 500 signatures were needed to put the proposed referendum to a vote.

"SGA Senate members had been obtaining those 500 signatures since last October," said Shew. "At least 500 people knew about it, but yet just half of the petitioners chose to

vote."

An official explanation of the referendum and its objectives had been reported in SGA newsletters since the proposal was slated toward the end of fall semester, 1999.

"The referendum was announced on January 18 at the town hall meeting in the Keathley University Center," Shew said. "A huge sign was also posted in front of the KUC a whole week before the voting."

"All organizations should have known about the referendum and what it was proposing. Their house members are responsible for attending the meetings and reporting the synopsis of the meeting."

Because Moore's request was denied, the SGA will run as it did last semester with a bicameral governing system.

Moore was unavailable for comment at press time.

Be weather wise

Tornado Watch: A tornado watch is the first alert message issued by the weather bureau. It is issued when the conditions are favorable for the formation of a tornado. The local National Weather Service office will issue a bulletin to the local authorities and the local media.

A "watch" specifies the potentially affected areas and time-frame during which tornado formation is highly probable.

Watches are not warnings. Until a warning is issued, you should not interrupt your normal routine except to stay tuned to the radio or television and look for threatening weather.

Tornado Warning: A tornado warning is issued when a tornado is actually sighted in the immediate area by radar. A warning gives the location of the tornado at the time of detection, the area through which it is expected to move and the time period during which it will pass the area.

When you see a tornado ...

When a tornado warning is issued, persons in the path of the storm should take immediate safety precautions. If you actually sight a tornado funnel, move to shelter immediately.

In open country - Find a ditch or culvert and lay down flat. Cover your head with your hands for protection.

In homes or small buildings - Go to the basement or to a small, interior room on the lowest floor like a hall or bathroom closet. Use heavy furniture for shelter or cover yourself with a blanket.

In vehicle - Abandon it and go to a substantial structure or place of safety. Never try to out run a tornado by automobile.

In schools, hospitals or shopping centers - Go to designated shelter areas. Interior halls on the lowest levels are usually the best. Stay away from gymnasiums or auditoriums.

* information provided by the National Weather Service

Tornado siren test schedule

The following schedule has been set for testing of the tornado siren this semester.

Feb. 8 12:20 p.m.; Mar. 8 11:10 a.m.; Apr. 11 12:20 p.m.; May 10 11:10 a.m.

Rowland to seek state house seat

Staff Reports

Murfreesboro resident Donna Rowland has announced she will seek election to the Tennessee House of Representatives for the 49th district.

Rowland, who was the Republican nominee for the seat in 1998, plans to focus her campaign on restoring the voice of the people in state government.

"The citizens of the 49th district deserve a legislator who will represent their views on the many important issues facing our state," said Rowland. "I will represent their views by strongly opposing a state income tax and supporting efforts to reform wasteful spending."

Rowland also announced the unveiling of her campaign's Web site. The Web site, www.donnarowland.com, will be updated with information regarding the race throughout her campaign.

"Our Internet site will be used to provide information to the voters about our positions on issues, and will also provide a means by which voters can give feedback and become

See Rowland, 2

On Campus

To submit an announcement for On Campus, come by the James Union Building Room 308. Due to limited space, some announcements with later dates may be held.

Feb. 4

Applications are due at 4:30 p.m. for director of Homecoming 2000. They are available at the SGA Office in KUC Room 208. For more information, contact Julia Graves at 898-2464.

Feb. 6

Raiders Victory Ministry and Champions for Christ are hosting a celebration/worship service at 10 a.m. in AMG Alumni Gym. There will be special music and guest appearances of two NFL stars. The admission is free, and lunch will be provided. Contact Delvin Pikes at 896-2348 for more information.

Feb. 7

Psi Sigma Epsilon is holding a general interest meeting in BAS Room S126 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Scott Inks at 898-2436. Psi Sigma Epsilon is a national professional sales, sales management and marketing fraternity open to all majors.

Priority sign-ups for campus interviews for Teacher Recruitment Week will be held in KUC Room 322 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 898-2500.

Feb 7-16

Registration for Innertube Water Polo will be held in the Campus Recreation Center. A captains' meeting will be held Feb. 17 at 5 p.m., and the play begins on Feb. 21. For more information, contact Karolyn at 898-2104.

Feb. 11

Entries are due for the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Awards in Journalism. Newspaper, magazine, TV and radio journalists may enter, as

well as photographers. For information and an application, contact Kevin Koelling at 904-8193.

Feb. 14

Frances Weaver, a noted author and lecturer, will be speaking in Wright Music Hall from 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. The lecture, entitled "I'm Not as Old as I Used to Be," is sponsored by MTSU, the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services and the Center for Health and Human Services. Reservations can be made by calling Lawrence at 898-5950. There is no charge for the event, but space is limited.

Feb. 18

Faculty proposals for summer and fall of 2001 classes are due to the Board of Trustees of the Cooperative Center of Study Abroad (CCSA). Appropriate courses in all disciplines are welcome.

Feb. 21

A teacher job fair will be held at the Vanderbilt Stadium Club from 3-7 p.m. Representatives from approximately 100 school districts will be present. Directions and free parking permits are available in the Vanderbilt Placement Center, UC Room 328. For more information, call 898-2500.

Interviews will be held in the KUC Tuesday through Friday for Teacher Recruitment Week. For more information, call 898-2500.

Feb. 26

Campus Recreation is sponsoring a trip to the Nashville Predators vs. Tampa Bay Lightning hockey game for MTSU's disabled students from

4:30 p.m. to around midnight. A pre-game meeting will be held at the Campus Recreation Center at 4:00 p.m. Contact Molly or Ray at 898-2104 for more information.

March 3-5

Campus Recreation is hosting a backpacking and rappelling trip to Sipsey Wilderness, Ala. A pre-trip meeting will be held at the Campus Recreation Center March 1 at 5 p.m. Contact Mitch, Sean or Karolyn at 898-2104 for more information.

March 14

Campus Recreation is sponsoring a bench press contest. Participants must register by March 10. The cost is \$5 for individuals and \$10 for teams (five to a team). Contact Allison or Jerry at 898-2104 for more information.

March 15 & 16

Two faculty open forums are scheduled to be held in BAS State Farm Lecture Hall Room S102/204 at 1:30 p.m. The faculty is encouraged to attend these meetings to discuss faculty issues or other university matters of interest.

March 25-31

The Campus Recreation Center will host a ski summit to Colorado for spring break. There will be a pre-trip meeting on March 14. Two price packages are available. A \$200 deposit will reserve a spot. For more information, call Mitch, Sean or W.T. at 898-2104.

Ongoing

The Lambda Association welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight students to general interest meetings

every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in BAS Room S301. Contact Tony Gowell at 867-3658 for more information.

Cyber Cafe at Woodmore presents "Open Mic Night" every Monday from 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

The MTSU Peer Education Program is currently accepting new members. Credit hours are available. Applications may be picked up in KUC Room 303, or call 898-5453 for more information.

The June Anderson Women's Center will be hosting a weekly support meeting, "Women: Food and Body Image," Tuesdays in the CKNB Room 124 at 3:15 p.m. The group is also holding meetings on Thursdays titled "Looking Forward" at the same time and location. The JAWC is a support group for people with eating disorders. For more information, call Mary Glantz at 898-5725.

The Student Pagan Organization holds meetings every Monday in the second floor lounge of the KUC at 7 p.m. For more information, contact John Bryan at 907-3328.

Raiders Victory Ministry and Champions for Christ are holding weekly Bible meetings on Mondays at 7 p.m. in Scarlett Commons Room 317. Contact Delvin Pikes at 896-2348 for more information. They are also holding worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. in AMG Alumni Gym. The service is open to students, faculty and the community. For more information, contact Delvin Pikes at 896-2348.

Census: New jobs offered

Continued from 1

sented in the census is to complete your questionnaire and encourage others to do so."

The census will provide funding for MTSU to be solely used for the improvement of campus facilities, transportation, parking, technology and more.

The census also provides valuable funding for the city of Murfreesboro to be used for schools, libraries, hospitals, senior citizen centers, playgrounds, transportation and the expansion of Murfreesboro.

Organizations and businesses such as Head Start; Air Pollution Control Program; Women, Infants, Children; water and waste disposal systems; agricultural experimental stations; Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program; Capital Assistance Program for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities; Education for Homeless Children and Youth; Rural Housing Preservation; and more will receive funding directly based on results from the census.

Two types of census forms, a short and long form, will be distributed.

"About 83 percent of respondents will receive a short form, which asks name, sex, age, relationship, race and housing tenure (whether the home is owned or rented) and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete," said Belker.

"One out of six students will receive the longer form, which asks about 34 subjects including education, ancestry, employment and disability and takes about 40 minutes to complete."

The official date of "Census 2000" is April 1. However, forms will be mailed out to students' campus mailboxes prior to this date.

Students who have two resi-

dences in Murfreesboro, such as a permanent address and a campus address, will be surveyed at their permanent address.

The Census Bureau is actively seeking bilingual volunteers and recruits to conduct the census.

"Working for the census is a great way to earn money while serving our community," said Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn. "Finding well-qualified workers will be critical in achieving a fair and accurate count for Rutherford County."

The Census Bureau offers flexible hours for both full-time and part-time work and/or daytime or evening work.

"Clerk positions will answer phones and assist in data entry and payroll, and will make \$8.25 an hour," Belker said. "Enumerator positions will go door-to-door surveying, and are paid 32 cents per mile to cover gas expenses and \$10.75 an hour."

Interviews for Bureau positions will be held at MTSU on Feb. 8, 15 and 29, at 3 p.m. in the Keathley University Center Room, 305.

Applicants will be asked to complete 28 multiple-choice questions designed to measure the skills required to perform a variety of census jobs, such as reading, math, following instructions and map-reading skills.

Students need to bring two or more of the following forms of identification to testing centers: U.S. passport, driver's license, school ID with photograph, voter's registration card, U.S. military card or draft record, U.S. social security card or birth certificate.

For more information about "Census 2000," see the Census Bureau's Web site at [http://www.census.gov/dmd/wwww/2khome.htm](http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/2khome.htm) or contact the U.S. Census Bureau at 848-0514.

Rowland: Seeks election

Continued from 1

involved in the campaign," Rowland said.

Rowland, an administrative coordinator for a local manufacturing company, attended Smyrna High School and MTSU. She has been active in

the Rutherford County republican party as well as other civic and charitable organizations.

The 49th district is comprised of the western half of Rutherford County, which includes portions of Murfreesboro and Smyrna.

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Unsung Heroes



Photo by Photographer | Staff Photographer
Bill Easley, Willa McIntyre Vaughn, Nathaniel Watts, Dora Rucker, and James Isaac Mitchell were honored at the Unity Luncheon Tuesday.

Health Fair at MTSU to offer free services

Staff Reports

The Community Health Education and Promotion Fair will be held at MTSU Friday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. The fair will offer a variety of free health services to the public.

The event is an annual program held during the Black History Month celebration.

Services will include blood pressure checks, vision screenings, skin fold measurements and sickle cell testing, as well as

information on pregnancy, alcohol risks, HIV/AIDS education and organ donation awareness.

There will also be a limited number of free glucose and cholesterol checks. For an accurate glucose reading, however, a person should not eat or drink anything eight hours prior to the test.

The Black History Month committee is assisting in sponsoring the program.

For more information, call 615-443-5180, Cheryl Ellis at 898-2893 or Ralph Metcalf at 898-2967. ■

www.sidelines.mtsu.edu

Interim Board of Regents chancellor to be appointed

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - An interim chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents will be announced Friday during a conference call, said two Regents.

The appointee will be Sidney McPhee, the vice chancellor for academic affairs for the Board of Regents, said Regents Bill Watkins and Leslie Pope on Tuesday.

"I have a great deal of confidence in working with our institutions," McPhee said. "I'm confident ... we'll not lose ground."

The Board of Regents oversees a \$1.27 billion budget and more than 182,000 students at six universities, 14 two-year colleges and 26 technology centers. The previous chancellor, Charles E. Smith, retired Dec. 31 and plans to run for governor in 2002.

The need for an interim chancellor arose Friday when the candidate selected for the job pulled out. East Tennessee State University President Paul Stanton withdrew after angrily claiming state lawmakers were using him as a "political football."

Stanton was reacting to lawmakers who blasted Regents proposals to raise the pay and retirement stipends of top administrators while pleading for more state dollars to educate college students properly.

Stanton said he understood the concern, but that the salaries proposed were less than most other systems in the United States.

Watkins said the Regent's search committee for a permanent chancellor should reconsider the other three finalists who lost out to Stanton. They were Thomas K. Anderes, inter-

im chancellor of the University and Community College System of Nevada; Richard A. Crofts, commissioner of higher education in the Montana University System and a former ETSU administrator; and Charles W. Manning, chancellor of the University System of West Virginia.

A contract with Korn/Ferry International, an executive search firm, will be extended until a new chancellor is found, said Regents spokeswoman Julie Walker. ■

Sundquist proposes \$18.2 billion budget

Tom Sharp
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Gov. Don Sundquist wants lawmakers to envision a future in which Tennessee invests more heavily in education and health care - a dream many lawmakers share.

But Sundquist's future Tennessee is reached with a state income tax. And that's a path with few friends among the legislators who packed the House chamber for his State of the State and budget address on Monday night.

Sundquist presented an \$18.2 billion budget that he called "fiscally and morally responsible," and proposed to pay for it with a 3.75 percent income tax. The governor challenged lawmakers to put aside their differences, perhaps even their reelec-

tion hopes, and get behind his program.

His response was tepid, to put it mildly.

"The governor is proposing an \$18.2 billion wish list," said Senate Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Haynes, D-Goodlettsville. "... The people of this state have made it clear they don't want an income tax."

The budget Sundquist presented for the fiscal year beginning July 1 would be \$1.5 billion more than this year's budget. It would add \$132 million to TennCare, \$113 million to higher education, and \$88 million to K-12 education.

It would invest in programs for at-risk youngsters, and provide at-home care for the elderly who would rather not go into a nursing home. It would provide 3 percent pay raises for state employees, and 6 percent pay

raises for college professors.

"We must decide whether we want to take pride in the history we are creating," Sundquist said during his 39-minute speech. "Do we really want the history books to reflect the year 2000 as the year that Tennessee began to fail Tennesseans?"

Sundquist pointed to successes in the state's road program. He introduced three youngsters who went from at-risk students to the top of their classes and boasted of improved test scores and technology in the schools.

"We can't stop investing in the progress we're making," he said.

Lawmakers agreed the state should invest in its children. They just don't seem convinced an income tax is the best way to do it.

"We have got to be sure the

systems of accountability, the systems of governance, whether they be in child care, TennCare or higher education, are working," said House Finance Committee Chairman Matt Kisher, D-Jackson. "I'm not convinced we're there yet. We're going to focus ... on those systems of accountability that taxpayers expect from us, so we can say with a high degree of comfort that their tax dollars are being spent efficiently."

Sundquist said failing to increase higher education funding would make tuition increases continue carrying the burden of rising university costs. And he said more professors would leave the state for better salaries, while the state's best high school students would continue to follow them across the border.

See Budget, 3

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remainder see into the heart of Mexican culture in
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Time: Pre-trip meeting: 5:30pm, May 2
Cost: TBA <see Mitch for details>

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the ruins of the Mayan temples of Chiche's
Itza and Tulum, and observing the tropical
birds and fish in Mexico's 2nd largest park-
Sian Ka'an.

Time: Pre-trip meeting: 5:30pm, March 13
Cost: \$1100/1200/1300
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and ruins fees)

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Time: Pre-trip meeting: 5:30pm, April 12
Cost: \$125/160
(includes everything but food and fishing
gear- tackle can be rented in Ely)
Limit: 10-12

For more information, contact Campus Recreation at 898-2104.

Budget: Income tax push

Continued from 3

"We can't price our citizens out of a college education," he said. "We can't afford to stay 48th in the nation in the number of adults with a high school education. And we can't afford to stay 48th in the nation in the number of adults with a college degree."

Sundquist's tax plan calls for a 3.75 percent personal income tax, based on adjusted gross income. "Without fundamental changes in our tax structure we will be unable to prepare our people for tomorrow," he said.

The tax plan also would remove the state's 6 percent sales tax from food, reduce the general sales tax to 3.75 percent, and eliminate the Hall Income Tax on certain income.

"Even with these changes Tennessee will remain one of the lowest taxed states in the nation," Sundquist said. He said the deductibility of a state income tax from federal taxes, plus the payments of people who live out of state but work here, would mean that, "Collectively, Tennesseans will

pay less in taxes than they do right now."

"That's reforming taxes, not raising taxes."

It is same tax plan Sundquist proposed in a special legislative session in November. It never got out of committee. His latest effort has been pronounced dead on arrival by leaders in both houses of the Legislature.

"I refuse to accept that pronouncement," Sundquist said. "I think it's time for Tennesseans to speak up and help me fight for our children. If the future of Tennessee is not worth fighting for, what is?"

Finally, he encouraged legislators to take the high road.

"We all recognize that the tough decisions we must make now may cause political discomfort in the short term," he said. "But when future generations look back on what happened in this place at this time in the executive and legislative branches, they will understand we did what we necessary to choose opportunity over decay. We did what was right."

"Invest or regress. That is our choice." ■

Punxsutawney Phil predicts six more weeks of winter

Todd Spangler
Associated Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP) - Groundhog Punxsutawney Phil - weather prophet without peer - saw his shadow shortly after sunrise Wednesday, predicting six more weeks of winter.

With 11-degree temperatures and wind blowing over fresh snow, even a groundhog could see that winter wasn't departing right away.

Forget that there was little sunlight in the overcast skies to cast a shadow. Phil was greeted with a chant of "Bring out the rat."

"It doesn't matter what we want. It doesn't matter what Phil wants. It's what he reads in the skies," said Bill Cooper, president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club Inner Circle, and who is charged with inter-

preting Phil's predictions.

The crowd for this year's Groundhog Day on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney was smaller than in recent years. Inner Circle members estimated that the mixture of families and college students hit the predicted 15,000, but the Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce said it was closer to 12,000.

The Groundhog Day tradition is based on a German superstition that an animal casting its shadow on Feb. 2 - the Christian holiday of Candlemas - means another six weeks of winter is coming. Otherwise, it suggests an early spring.

In this central Pennsylvania town of 6,700 people, Phil sees his shadow most years. Wednesday was the 90th time Phil has seen his shadow in the past 114 years. ■



Do it for someone you love

Coaching a major league team is a full-time job and so is my responsibility to my family. That's why I eat plenty of healthy foods like veggie burgers, spinach and bean burritos, and vegetable lasagna. The more vegetarian meals you include in your routine, the better. So play it safe for your team.

Tony LaRussa, Manager of the St. Louis Cardinals

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, TN

Thursday, February 3, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 5

From the Staff

Wrenn deserves more

Robert Wrenn, former director of MTSU's Financial Aid office, is a thief.

The 24-year finance veteran stole more than \$100,000 of state and federal education funds to finance his own sons' educations and pay personal bills. His illegal and unethical behavior was discovered and reported by a Business Office clerk in October 1997.

Wrenn, "Sidelines" has a message for you from the people of MTSU. Go home, and don't come back.

You are one of those classic characters who takes advantage of your power and position to further your selfish goals. You were trusted by the institution, the state and the students.

Apparently, all elements were in error.

Wrenn will be on probation for six years and must repay the stolen funds.

He is ordered to pay \$75 per month until the debt is paid in full.

At this rate, it will take 111 years to remedy the situation.

Wrenn will have it all paid back the year he celebrates his 169th birthday.

For all you students out there, perhaps your great-grandchildren will benefit from this "agreement."

How comforting.

Just recently, Wrenn and his attorney squirreled a deal in which after Wrenn completes the probationary period and repays

the funds, his record will be wiped clean.

Out here in the real world (not the protected white-collar one) this behavior is referred to as "theft" and requires you move into an institution called "prison."

MTSU will be left to wonder, how much of the stolen money was used to pay your defense attorney?

And we have one more brilliant idea, let's promote the Business Office clerk who turned Wrenn in. There's always an opening for honest people in Financial Aid.

- Elizabeth
McFadyen-Ketchum
Staff Reporter

Modern Dysfunction

by Rob Evans, Staff Columnist

Parking Pyramid

Where are we going to put our cars when enrollment increases?

I am fired up. I am mad. I am serious.

Want to know why?

It's for the only reason that students get upset on this campus (aside from other student affairs like SGA and Greek Row).

Parking. That's right, I got three parking tickets last week.

Yeah, I am going to sit here and type and whine and complain until the cows come home and not get anywhere. Right? Wrong.

The more I became upset over some stupid tiny infraction, and because I hadn't checked my car for four days, the more I became frustrated with the entire parking situation. I reason that this problem is more than just pavement thick.

This problem involves the future of this campus.

It involves campus planning.

It involves housing.

And it especially involves the growth of this campus.

As I see it now, parking is a major problem. If you live around a dorm, forget about trying to find a space that allows you to take anything short of a back-country hike.

If you commute to school, as I am sure many of you do, you have to take this hike everyday.

But then this is the bane of attending a commuter school.

But as the university continues to grow, this problem is only going to become worse. If the predictions hold true, this university is going to have to deal with 20,000 undergraduate students in the very near future.

This figure only counts undergraduates. It doesn't count graduate students or faculty or staff which are needed to run this school everyday.

Can we see the apocalyptic parking problems to come?

What proportion of new students are going to live on campus? How many of them are going to drive cars? How many of them are going to commute?

I have heard that there are great expectations coming along with this growth. But where are the plans to accommodate this growth?

The more you get into this subject of parking, the more complicated it becomes.

Campus planning needs to become more involved in informing students about the plans, if there are any, of the

future layout of this campus.

So instead of just whining, I can see many solutions to current problems that exist, and potential solutions for other problems.

1. Pave the gravel parking lots. This one is easy; no one wants to mess up their clothes when the monsoon season arrives by walking through this mud pit.

2. Post and keep standard running times for the Raider Express. I would utilize this service provided to us if I knew how the freaking thing operated. If there was a brochure that listed its stopping points and estimated times of arrival at points on campus, I think it would be more convenient.

3. MTSU should run its own parking company instead of contracting the work out. These contractors don't care about the student, only the bottom-line. They do not care how many tickets a student gets. It is more money for them (this should be numero uno). But hey, there are people who pay for tuition by taking away money from ours.

4. Which brings me to another point. ONE TICKET IS ENOUGH! Those of us with the infraction will still feel the sting. If I can barely afford tuition how can I afford a ticket every 4 hours?

5. All of the parking rules need to be revised because of the frustrating nature here on campus. My suggestion is that those living in housing have a special sticker and parking areas (around dorms preferably) that would be a neutral zone in regards to tickets and keep commuters out. Or build a parking garage. Ezell and Abernathy Halls aren't good for anything else anymore. Just tear them down.

6. Build new dorms. If Scarlett Commons and Greek Row are paying for their new living quarters through rent, why can't new dorms be built on the same idea?

7. Planning, Planning, Planning. I want to see a current plan for the future of the campus. Like where are you going to put all of these people? Especially their cars.

Letters to the Editor

Changes in GPA policy anger students

Once again the apparent political correctness of the administration at MTSU and the indecisiveness of Dr. Barbara Haskew, vice president of academic affairs, has made a mockery of the recent grade system changes.

Upon reading the article "Grade system changes GPAs" in the Thursday, Jan. 27, issue of "Sidelines," it came as no shocking surprise to see how inadequate and inconsistent the grading system will become beginning next fall for undergraduate students.

Then again, indecisiveness has steadfastly become one of Haskew's trademarks since arriving on the campus.

It's not as though I am even against the new system, which will allow students to receive A+, A, A-, and so on, instead of the customary A, B, C, D or F.

However, under the new plan the system will not be instituted across the board. Instead, instructors will be given the leisure of choosing whether or not to use the system on a class by class basis.

In fact, an instructor who teaches several sections of the same course can choose to use the system in one section and not the other, meaning a student in one class with the same grades on all assignments could receive 1.67 quality points toward their overall GPA while a student in another section may receive 2.00 quality points for the same work.

Adding to the problem is the fact that students could wind up with only select courses each semester that actually use the new system.

Even more distressing is the fact that instructors vary the percentages it takes to earn certain grades in their respective classes.

For instance, some instructors gives As to students who earn 90 percent or better, while others require students to earn 92 percent or better.

If we're going to be adequately graded on our work, the standard by which we are all graded should be consistent throughout the entire university.

It's amazing that the administration can't decide whether they want the school to remain as MTSU or change it to the University of Middle Tennessee, but they can feel good about themselves after having adapted such a pitiful grading system with more loop holes than Johnnie Cochran found in defending O.J. Simpson.

Changes like this should be made for the betterment of the student body as a whole. Whereas this seems more like a politically motivated move in which Haskew wanted to appease everyone that is satisfied with the current system and allow those who wanted the change to feel as though they too were made to feel happy as well.

There is absolutely nothing regarding the way this new system was passed that is remotely close to being in the best interest of students.

After straightening her spine and standing tall, I'd like Haskew to help me explain to prospective employers that three-quarters of my GPA was figured one way and that during the final year a handful of my grades were calculated another way.

I'm not against change at all. In fact, evolving is part of growing, expanding, learning and keeping with modern times.

However, if you choose to change something, at least believe firmly enough in it that you can take a stand on one side of the issue and still sleep soundly at night.

Nonetheless, thank you very much for the beneficial grading system!

Keith Ryan Cartwright
Junior, Mass Communication

Cagnina in need of reality check

I am writing in response to Steve Cagnina's article, "Voting on campus waste of time" in the Thursday, Jan. 27 of "Sidelines."

Mr. Cagnina should be thankful for the things the Student Government Association can do instead of complaining about what they can't.

If they did everything he wants them to do, the college wouldn't last a year.

As for lowering the "ridiculous credit requirements," should this college produce a bunch of half-educated imbeciles that cannot get a job in the competitive world?

As for "a darn parking garage," good grief. My sister and I commute everyday, and we have never had difficulty in finding a parking place.

I am tired of hearing people complain just because they can't park right next to every building in which they have a class. Walk. Make use of the legs the Good Lord gave you. As for "lowering tuition," Mr. Cagnina needs to go to Vanderbilt or Belmont and have a reality check.

MTSU has one of the lowest tuitions of the universities in this state. Nothing worth having comes cheap. Should we stop paying the professors or go back to the dorms which were condemned?

Just look around and see all the improvements that have been made without a huge tuition increase.

Now "in the final analysis," the reason we do not have the power to do these things is because obviously some of us do not have the intelligence to make wise choices.

Now Mr. Cagnina, "You got my sarcasm, and you deserve it."

Jennifer Williams

SIDELINES

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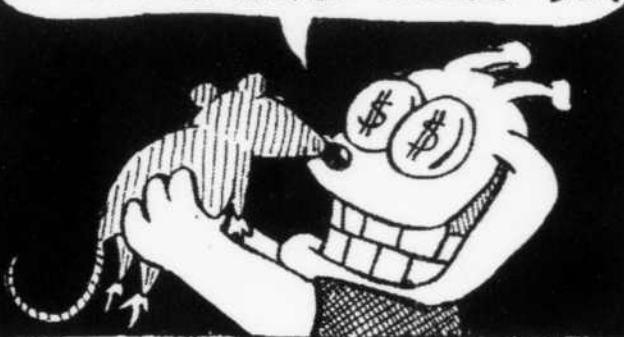
BURNT ORANGE Peel

by Lucas Antoniak

KATHY! I'VE JUST CARRIED OUT THE PERFECT CRIME!!! I'M GOING TO BE RICH!!! W-W-WHAT DID YOU D-D-DO???



I'VE KIDNAPPED THE CITY GROUNDHOG! WITHOUT HIM, NOBODY IS GOING TO KNOW HOW LONG IT'LL BE UNTIL SPRING. EVERYONE WILL PAY ALL THEY'VE GOT TO GET THEIR BELOVED FORECASTER BACK!



UM... I HATE TO BREAK THIS TO YOU, BUT THERE ARE TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH YOUR "PERFECT" CRIME. FIRST OF ALL, GROUNDHOG'S DAY WAS YESTERDAY...



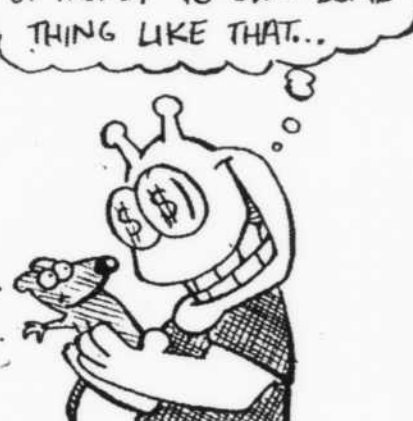
SECOND, YOUR FRIEND THERE ISN'T A GROUNDHOG AT ALL - IT'S A RAT!



I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S A GROUNDHOG...



MAYBE HE'S A... PEOPLE WILL PAY LOTS OF MONEY TO OWN SOMETHING LIKE THAT...



IS SOMETHING WRONG?

KATHY, FOR A SMALL FEE, YOU CAN OWN THE WORLD'S ONLY MUTANT GROUNDHOG THAT LOOKS LIKE A RAT!



FEATURES

6 ■ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 3, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Not just horsing around

MTSU student equestrians compete despite freezing weather

Ruth Peltier
Staff Reporter

Teams of riders from 26 colleges in 18 different states clashed at the equestrian winter nationals held Saturday in the Tennessee Livestock Center at MTSU.

The temperature hovered around the freezing mark, but it felt much colder inside the building. The competitors and their coaches and friends huddled under blankets. Even the dogs wore sweaters.

The dismal weather was unable to quench the spirit of these athletes.

Their excitement was contagious as they helped one another dress in distinctive gray jackets, tan britches and the shiny black boots that came almost to the knees. They carefully tucked each other's hair under their riding helmets, then strode toward the stables, ignoring the blast of cold air just outside the open doors.

Lara Catz, captain of the University of North Carolina - Greensboro team, stressed the spirit of cooperation necessary in this sport.

Each school can enter riders in three levels of competition. A student who has never ridden before college competes at the

walk, trot, canter level, and points earned at this level are no less valuable than the points earned at the intermediate and open levels.

Catz maintained that a state school is really in a more competitive position than an elite, private school with no new riders.

In intercollegiate tournaments, it is the riders who compete, not the horses, according to Anne Brzezicki, director of Agribusiness and Agriscience and coach of the MTSU Equestrian team.

Each rider draws for the horse he or she will ride in each event and usually draws a horse that he or she has never ridden before the tournament.

"They are tested on their ability to scope out an unfamiliar horse," Brzezicki explained.

Only one student from each school competed in each event.

The entrants were divided randomly into two groups, each containing 13 competitors. The rider who place first in each group competed against the winner in the other group in a championship challenge.

Sophomore Allison Brannon won first place in her group, and then won the championship challenge to be named the 2000 Open Equitation Over Fences Champion.

The MTSU team placed eighth out of the 26 schools that participated.

Brzezicki said the NCAA has declared that collegiate riding is an emerging sport. This tournament is another step toward taking its place among other college-level sports.

Thirty of the 40 horses in the tournament belong to MTSU, MTSU students or Brzezicki. The rest came from other colleges.

The MTSU horse science department breeds Tennessee walking horses.

In addition, the college owns thoroughbreds, quarter horses, Appaloosas, European Warmbloods and Arabians.

According to Brzezicki, about 50 students are majoring in horse sciences at MTSU, and many more have chosen the program as a minor.

They are studying both breeding horses and riding them. Forty of those students participate in the equestrian program.

Collegiate riding will return to the TLC Feb. 26 and 27, when MTSU will host the regional competition.

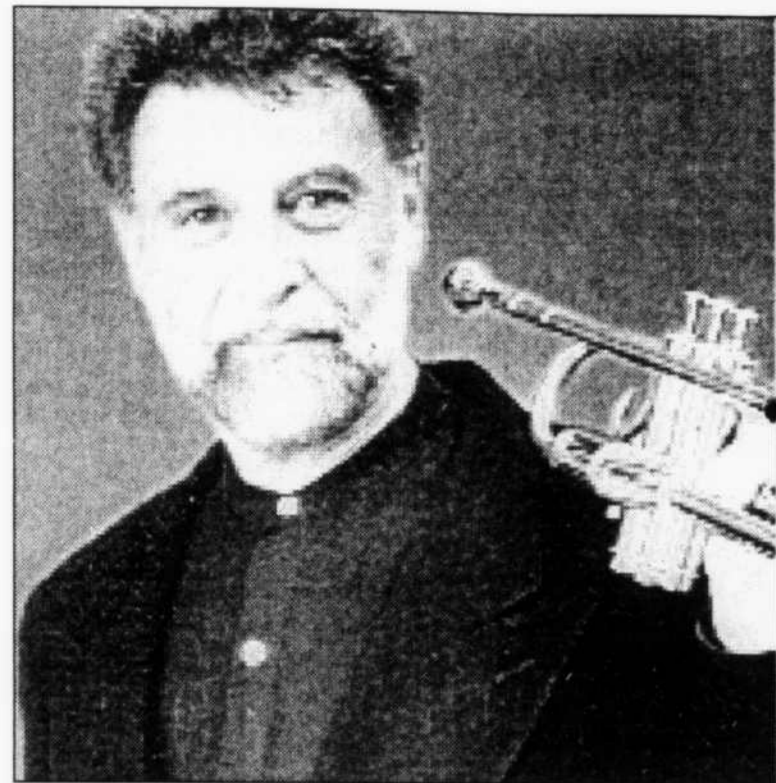
There, Brzezicki and the MTSU Equestrian Team will compete for their third straight regional championship.

Hopefully, the weather will have improved by then. ■

MTSU scores

- Dara Newman, sophomore, third in her class, Intermediate Equitation Over Fences.
- Jessica Schultz, senior, third in her class, Intermediate Hunter Seat Equitation.
- Tara Elmore, freshman, seventh in her class, Novice Equitation Over Fences.

Also riding for MTSU were freshman Erica Horner, sophomore Christy Bishop, sophomore Susan Shemwell and senior Taylor Kearney.



Stamm

Jazz trumpet virtuoso to perform with MT jazz orchestra

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee Jazz Orchestra will present the second of three jazz concerts tonight at the Wright Music Hall.

The performance will feature jazz trumpeter Marvin Stamm, a Memphis native and New York resident.

Stamm has performed in many big-bands with Stan Kenton, Woody Herman and Thad Jones.

He has also recorded with jazz greats such as Bill Evans, Freddie Hubbard and Charles Mingus, and toured with the late Frank Sinatra.

"We're honored to have such an exciting artist joining us for this concert," said Dana Landry, coordinator of jazz studies and assistant music professor at MTSU.

Stamm plans to play standard jazz pieces such as "You Don't Know What Love Is," "Softly, as in a Morning Sunrise" and "Emily."

He said Stamm will also play "Nutville," composed by Horace Silver and "Lowdown" by Thad Jones.

"The band is fired up to play with Marvin Stamm, who many feel is one of the best jazz trumpet players around," Landry said.

Also performing will be MTJO soloists Don Aliquo, tenor sax; Lee Herring, trombone; Roy Agee, trombone; Jim

Williamson, trumpet and Vincent Ciesielski, lead trumpet.

A contemporary jazz arrangement featuring the five trombones and a rhythm section consisting of piano, bass and drums will also perform.

Selections include "It's Just Talk" by Pat Metheny, "I Dreamt of You" by Vince Mendoza and "Knuckle Ball" by Charlie Gray.

"We're privileged to have first-rate professional musicians throughout the band who are committed to giving high-quality performances," Landry said.

"Many of the members drive an hour each way for our weekly rehearsals."

Now in its second year, MTJO members include professional musicians from the entire Middle Tennessee area who focus their repertoire on the music of great contemporary composers and arrangers of big-band music.

The 16-member orchestra's concerts include Latin rhythms and fusion grooves, as well as straight-ahead swing and blues.

General admission to tonight's performance by Stamm and the MTJO is \$12 per person.

Advance tickets can be purchased by calling 898-2724. MTSU students, faculty and staff will be admitted free with the appropriate university ID. ■

Sniffing out the competition



Photo provided

Two dogs, Curtis, right, and Tailore, left, confront each other outside a polling station in Hancock, New Hampshire Tuesday. Tailore is wearing a McCain sticker and Curtis a Bradley blanket. New Hampshire voters went to the polls Tuesday in the state's presidential primary election.

Bill would ban bets on college, amateur sports

Rick Alm
Knight-Ridder Tribune

Betting on college and amateur sports would be illegal anywhere in the United States under a bill introduced Tuesday by Republican Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas and a bipartisan list of supporters.

If approved, the measure would outlaw any bet placed on a high school, college or Olympic sporting event -- including through Nevada's legal sports betting industry.

Proponents -- including Democratic co-sponsor Sen. Patrick Leahy of Virginia and Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain of Arizona -- hope a ban will curb point-shaving and problem gambling on college campuses.

Opponents say the bill would do no good and might actually hinder law enforcement efforts.

Brownback said the bill was a response to last year's National Gambling Impact Study Commission report, financed by Congress, which recommended a total ban on collegiate wagering.

"This is not about winning and losing," Brownback said in an interview. "The problem is large bets and people approaching athletes about shaving points."

"There have been more point-shaving scandals at our colleges and univer-

sities in the 1990s than in every other decade before it, combined.

"For teen-agers, sports gambling is the gateway to get into more gambling," Brownback added. "There's a big concern on college campuses."

Leahy said, "A national ban on amateur and college sports betting may help prevent these ravages of sports wagering."

The bill would expand the reach of a 1992 law passed by Congress that prohibited wagering on all amateur and professional sports except in a handful of states where the activity was already legal -- Nevada, Delaware, Oregon and Montana.

In a statement Tuesday the American Gaming Association pledged to fight the bill, which it termed it "an ineffective Band-Aid on a cancerous tumor."

The national casino lobby said the National Collegiate Athletic Association acknowledged widespread betting on its games. The casino lobby urged the NCAA to devise a "long overdue strategy" to clean up the problem without penalizing a legitimate industry.

NCAA President Cedric W. Dempsey endorsed the bill Tuesday at a news conference with Brownback and others in Washington.

But Gaming Association President Frank J. Fahrenkopf Jr. said that legal Las Vegas sports books had helped expose collegiate point-shaving scandals by alerting authorities to unusual

"There's more than a million kids in this country with a gambling problem who are under 21."

Arnie Wexler, reformed sports gambling addict

betting patterns. The NCAA acknowledges it maintains a computer link to Nevada sports books itself to monitor suspicious betting.

Those safeguards would disappear if all betting on collegiate sports was driven underground, Fahrenkopf said.

"The bill introduced today only addresses the narrow legal issue of Nevada's 'grandfather' status" under the 1992 law, he said Tuesday, "and will not make the slightest dent in illegal sports wagering."

But Brownback said he didn't expect the measure to kindle an underground Prohibition Era of sports gambling.

"Legal gambling increases substantially and provides legitimacy to illegal gambling," he said. Outlawing betting on amateur sports will give pause to many, he said.

And Brownback said a stiffer law might persuade news organizations to stop publishing Las Vegas oddsmakers'

college point spread predictions, which he said underpin the illegal bookmaking industry.

"I hope this sends a signal to the public," said Brownback.

It probably won't, said Arnie Wexler, a reformed sports gambling addict, counselor and national lecturer.

Wexler said the bill "won't hurt." But it also won't curb gambling on campus, which Wexler says is epidemic and getting worse.

"You can find a bookie on a college campus in 20 minutes," he said. "I've worked with young kids who have stolen things, sold their cars to support their gambling habit."

"College athletes caught up in shaving scandals lose their scholarships. I know one who's working in a grocery store today."

"I got a call Monday from (a student bookie) at a school in Florida," he said. "He lost \$3,600 on the Super Bowl. He really liked St. Louis and was giving 8 points."

But St. Louis won the game by 7 points, and the student doesn't have the money to pay off all the bets he was holding.

"There's more than a million kids in this country with a gambling problem who are under 21," said Wexler.

Kansas City has had its share of illegal gambling scandals. In 1975 a federal grand jury indicted 10 men on charges of conducting an illegal bookmaking operation following a five-year

sting operation that included FBI wiretaps of area businesses and residences.

Among others, that case brought down the late Nick Civella, longtime boss of the Kansas City mob.

According to news accounts at the time, the tapped telephone call that sealed Civella's fate involved bets on the 1970 Super Bowl -- the year the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Minnesota Vikings.

In 1989, federal authorities raided 28 Kansas City addresses on the eve of the NCAA's Final Four college basketball tournament. That resulted in the indictments of 16 persons in two sports betting rings.

The Missouri General Assembly that same year rejected legislation that proposed converting Union Station to a casino.

In 1990 federal authorities raided 11 Kansas City taverns, some linked to organized crime figures, and seized a dozen video gambling machines.

Two years later Missouri voters legalized such devices -- and more -- when they approved riverboat casino gambling.

Estimates of illegal sports betting in the United States range anywhere from \$80 billion to \$380 billion a year, said the Gaming Association's Fahrenkopf.

Office pools, Internet bookies and all other non-licensed sports betting in the United States are already illegal under various federal, state and local laws that are rarely enforced. ■

For the health of it Don't let the flu bug you

by Autumn N. Spence



It's not too late to get a flu shot if you happen to be one of those people who procrastinate.

Rutherford County is currently under an influenza watch, which means that the flu has

been identified here and is currently spreading.

A Student Health Services employee said that some cases of the flu have been reported here at MTSU following the Christmas break.

People who travel, whether they have received the flu shot or not, are at a greater risk of catching the flu since the influenza virus and vaccine varies from one region to the next.

Flu shots are still available at the Rutherford County Health Department, and other places such as drug stores, for about \$15.

Student Health Services said that the Rutherford County Health Department administered over 600 flu shots on campus during the past semester, but will not be offering this service again until next fall.

Although it is not too late to get the flu vaccine, it takes about two weeks for the body to build up antibodies against the flu.

The growing antibodies from the shot can cause reactions in the body such as chills which are often mistaken as the flu.

The flu is caused by viruses that affect the respiratory tract. Symptoms include a fever of 102-104 degrees, headache, bodily aches, weakness, exhaustion, cough, stuffy nose, sore throat and sneezing.

Bronchitis, pneumonia and death are potential complications of the flu.

Seek medical attention as quickly as possible if you suspect that you have the flu.

It can be controlled with an antiviral drug that is only effective within the first 24-48 hours. ■

Students bring rude behavior, cell phones into classroom

Christine Tatum
TMS Campus

CHICAGO (TMS) — Someone answers a cell phone while someone else, knife and fork in hand, dives into a blue-plate special.

Just down the way, three more people are passing the day's newspaper around, eager to complete the crossword puzzle, and a woman is painting her fingernails.

Hubbub in the student union?

The dining hall?

Nope. Try the classroom.

Complaints about society's loss of civility are nothing new. For years, professors have said students are disrespectful, even downright rude.

Heck, in the 13th century, professors at the University of Bologna were so afraid of students -- who beat them up if they didn't like their grades -- that they formed unions to protect themselves.

And then in the 1820s, students at Yale University staged the "Bread and Butter" rebellion. Upset with their difficult classes, they took to throwing food and silverware at their instructors.

Those incidents made history books, but many of today's professors -- and their students -- say students' rudeness and lack of consideration is so commonplace it's scarcely worth a mention in the campus newspaper.

These days, actions once considered worthy of suspension, such as napping in the back of a room or whispering throughout a class, are mild affronts that happen every day.

Professors say they're now dealing with students who hurl profane insults in class and even threaten violence.

A case in point: One professor at Virginia Tech reported a voice mail message he received from a student. "You fat f*** with yellow teeth!" the student shouted. "You hump!" Her problem? She couldn't resell her textbook.

So, when and how did the decorous world of academe disintegrate into this?

It seems everyone has the answer for that: poor parenting, grade schools and religious groups falling down on the job, substance abuse and a myriad of media images.

"We shout first and think later," said Donna Halper, a journalism instructor at Emerson College.

"And on TV, we pull out a gun and blow the other person away. No wonder kids are con-

"If [a cell phone] goes off and interrupts us, I confiscate it."

Donna Halper,
journalism instructor at
Emerson College

fused. Civility and courtesy are not valued the way they once were."

Agreed, said Christopher Martin, a student at Truman College of Chicago.

"Let's blame it on the 60s and its bra-burning and candid freedom of expression," he said. "Then toss on top of that the 90s and its lack of discipline in the home, parental fear of adolescents and the rebellious behavior that is often given a thumbs up by media."

The money students are paying for their education may also figure into the lack of incivility many instructors sense, said Alan Deardorff, an economics professor at the University of Michigan.

"... They (students) are paying so much more, in real terms, for their education than students did years ago," he said. "Therefore they feel more like customers and less like students who ought to look up to us. That doesn't bother me too much. But when they are rude to their fellow students and make it harder for others to get their money's worth, that does bother me."

Many instructors say they can overlook incessant student chatter, but find other instances of rudeness and inconsiderate behavior more difficult to ignore.

"Some students come to my office outside of office hours and just start talking without asking first if I have time to see them," Deardorff said. "I do invite them to interrupt if my door is ajar, but to me, politeness still requires that you ask if a person, any person, has time to talk to you."

Jane Piliavin, a sociology professor at the University of Wisconsin, said she didn't take too kindly to undergraduate students who last year called her by her first name without her suggesting or encouraging them to do so.

"It was rather startling considering my age," she said.

Halper said she's not fond of ringing cell phones.

"If one goes off and interrupts us, I confiscate it," she said.

"In most cases, students don't do it on purpose; they just forgot to turn the bell off. But all it takes is one incident usually, and it seldom if ever happens again because I make a big deal out of it."

Though realizing they'll probably never pinpoint the exact problems causing students' egregious misbehavior -- much less solve them -- many universities are trying to prevent bad situations from getting worse.

Student insolence among undergraduate students got so bad at Virginia Tech that the institution's faculty senate established a "Climate Committee" to explore the issue.

At Montana State University, the problem grew so bad that the institution formed a task force to study disruptive classroom behavior, particularly in large classrooms, where professors say they have the hardest time maintaining students' attention.

Cavernous lecture halls filled with up to 300 students at a time are indeed the worst, many instructors and students say.

The large classes provide safety in number for students who want to act up and act out. They're also too big to invite much meaningful discussion -- which only exacerbates students' disengagement.

As a result, many institutions, such as the University of Michigan, are striving to reduce class sizes.

"It's hard to say if leaving early or arriving late is really a function of bad manners because who knows what that particular person may have to do that day?" said Deveron Sanders, a student at the UM whose economics course has about 250 students.

"But one thing is still the same: Students who are late tend to sit near the back of the class, and those who come to learn sit near the front. It seems as if more people are always carrying on their conversations at the rear of the class."

Sherri Richards, a student at the University of North Dakota, said she longs for the more chivalrous and polite society she's heard about from her parents.

"Times have changed, and I feel students' attitudes have changed for the worse right along with them," she said. "We don't call people 'sir' or 'miss' or stress the golden rule as much as we used to -- and we should." ■

Hi! Watch for us!! Special Events



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As the star of numerous racially charged films of the '50s and '60s, Sidney Poitier played the young black man who, through intelligence, charm, reason, and right, won over bigotry both overt and subtle. In this comedy from socially conscious director Stanley Kramer, Poitier faced one of the late '60s' hot-button issues: interracial marriage. The Oscar-winning script by William Rose displays a fine comic touch. (108 minutes, color, 1967)

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SPORTS

8 ■ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 3, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Top recruits pick MTSU

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

The game within the game became final Wednesday with the Blue Raider football team completing the best recruiting class in school history.

According to media relations director Mark Owens, the Raider class could indeed be the best class ever with additions of some key signees like Wardell Alsop, Kerry Wright and Rashard Lee.

The Blue Raider coaching staff began the long journey at the conclusion of the 1999 football season, which ended with a win against East Tennessee State University back in November.

Middle Tennessee did their most successful recruiting in the state of Georgia. Coach Andy McCollum picked out 15 players from the peach state to round out his 26 man class. McCollum and staff also took only five from Tennessee including to players from Murfreesboro, Alsop and Ron Akins. Both of them are expected to step in and play immediately.

Alabama contributed two players, and Missouri, Virginia, Florida and Texas each added one player apiece. MTSU signed 21 freshman, two sophomores and two juniors, which

is a much different make-up than last year which contained half junior college players.

The Raiders were looking for speed and they seem to have gotten it. The Raiders have at least five signees with sub-4.5 speed in the 40 yard dash. The Raiders desperately needed speed on the defensive side of the ball. Alsop was timed at 4.4 seconds, while future Blue Raider teammate Michael Woods sets the mark for the Raiders with a 4.35 40-yard dash.

Coach McCollum and his staff are pleased with the effort of his staff and with the outcome of the recruiting season.

"We made a commitment when we took the job here that we were going to go after the best in the country," McCollum said. "We took knocks, we gave some knocks. The thing that we knew was that if we were going to get beat by somebody it was going to be somebody."

MTSU signed 14 defensive players and 12 offensive players, but many of the men can play on either side of the ball. The Raiders signed five defensive backs, three linebackers and six defensive linemen. The Raiders desperately needed help in the secondary and it appears that they have picked it up, with the additions of these

See Football, 9



Photo by Rory White | Staff Photographer

Head Coach Andy McCollum talks about MTSU's recruits.

Lady Raiders hope to end disappointment

Josh Ezzell
Sports Editor

As a result of losses to Murray State University and the University of Tennessee-Martin last weekend, the Lady Raiders find themselves in a four-way tie for third place in the Ohio Valley Conference.

The Lady Raiders — 8-10 overall and 5-5 in the OVC — are looking to rebound this week.

Standing in the way are Eastern Kentucky University and Morehead State University. EKV defeated the Lady Raiders 90-70 on Jan. 6, while the Lady Raiders defeated Morehead 96-59 on Jan. 8.

"If we score more than our opponent, I think we'll be all right," said junior guard Kelly Chastain. "We played hard [in the] last game, but the shots just didn't fall. We just need to get everybody's shot going and get the inside-out game working, and there should be no problem."

Lately the shots haven't been falling for the Lady Raiders. They shot a combined 36 percent from the field against Murray and Martin last week, while shooting 15 percent from three-point range.

Murray and Martin, on the other hand, shot a combined 47 percent from the field versus the Lady Raiders, while hitting 48 percent from three-point range.

"Basically everyone needs to play their game," said sophomore forward Jamie Thomatis. "A lot of people are kind of ancy. We just need to get back into the groove of things."

EKU — 9-10 overall and 6-4 in the OVC — enters the game in second place. They lead the OVC in scoring offense at 79.4 points per game, and they force 27 turnovers a game while committing 17.

EKU also leads the OVC in steals with 14.84 per game. Freshman guard Teresa McNair leads with 3.79 steals per game.

Senior guard Marla Gearhart leads EKV — and the OVC — in scoring and assist/turnover ratio. She averages 20.6 points per game while dishing out 4 assists and committing only 1.9 turnovers per contest.

"I definitely think she [Gearhart] can be stopped," said Thomatis. "Anyone can be stopped on any given day. We really have something to fight for with the 20-point loss that we suffered."



Photo by Grant Fletcher | Staff Photographer

Eastern Kentucky and Southeast Missouri will travel to Murfreesboro to battle the Lady Raiders and guard Paula Pentilla.

In the previous meeting with EKV, junior center Candice Finley led all scorers with 23 points. Gearhart scored 20, and sophomore guard Zoey Artist contributed 20.

Sophomore forward Joanne Aluka led the Lady Raiders with 15 points, and Chastain scored 11.

EKU shot 85 percent from the free-throw line, hitting 29 of 34 attempts. The Lady Raiders shot only 53 percent from the free-throw line, hitting only 17 of 32 attempts.

"I think our defense is improving every day," said Chastain. "The pieces are all there. We just need to get them all working together. We've got something we'd like to prove to Eastern Kentucky."

"We went over there, and they beat us pretty badly. We're looking forward to having them come to our place."

Saturday's opponent, Morehead State University, is 1-18 overall and 0-10 in the OVC. They are either first or second in every rebounding category, and they lead the OVC in made three-pointers per game with 5.37.

"Everybody needs to go to the boards, not just one person," said Aluka.

Sophomore forward Tasha Gales leads Morehead with 16.7 points per game. Senior forward Vette Robinson is second on the team with 14 points per game.

The Lady Raiders dominated their previous meeting with Morehead. They shot 59 percent from the field and 55 percent from three-point range. They outrebounded Morehead 37-30.

Junior guard Nicole Perkins led the Lady Raiders with 23 points, and Aluka contributed 16.

Morehead, on the other hand, shot 32 percent from the field and 17 percent from three-point range. Gales led Morehead with 14 points, and sophomore guard Heidi Daulton contributed 11.

"We're trying to move on uphill and get a higher ranking in the OVC than we are right now," Aluka said.

MTSU head coach Stephany Smith is confident about the Lady Raiders chances against EKV and Morehead.

"We're not playing poorly—we're extremely competitive," said Smith. "We just need to sustain the leads that we've had and start making shots. I like our chances against anybody we play."

The Lady Raiders host EKV tonight at 5:45 at the Murphy Center. They host Morehead Saturday at 4:30 p.m. at the same location. ■

Tough road ahead for Blue Raiders

Michael Edwards
Men's Basketball Reporter

A three-game winning streak for the MTSU men's basketball team vaulted the Raiders from last place to the middle of the conference race.

MTSU began last week with a 1-6 conference record. However, after some motivation and a win against Tennessee State University, the Raiders have begun anew.

This week the past is where it needs to be, and the Raiders are forced to focus on the present games against Eastern Kentucky University and Morehead State University.

Eastern is in the same place that the Raiders were earlier in the year, while Morehead State isn't playing well.

"[EKU] has played bad lately, and hasn't won a game since they beat us last time," sophomore forward Iiro Tennngren

said. "So we have to take it to them, and let them know they are not going to beat us on our home floor."

The Raiders lost a two-point decision to the EKV back on Jan. 6. Junior guard/forward Fernando Ortiz scored 16 points, and senior forward Cedrick Wallace added six rebounds.

The Raiders bounced back the next week and beat Morehead by four points. The Raiders were again led by Ortiz, who poured in a season high 23 points, while junior guard Ron McKnight grabbed eight rebounds.

EKU is led by sophomore forward/center Sam Hoskin and freshman center Chris Garnett. Hoskin is 6-foot-8-inches, 240 pounds and averages almost eight rebounds per game, which is good for fifth in the conference, while pouring in 16 points per game.

Garnett will give junior center

Lee Nosse all he wants with his 6-foot-10-inches, 265 pound frame. Garnett also pulls down six rebounds per game.

Sophomore guard Whitney Robinson, the EKV guard, averages nearly 13 points per game and four assists.

"[Hoskins] is a good player. He's a good battler. I think it'll be a good battle," Tennngren said. "He's the kind of guy I like to play against. I don't like to play against little 6-4 guys."

The key for the Raiders will be to control the rebounds and allow EKV only one shot per trip down the floor.

EKU is one of the best rebounding teams in the conference with nearly 39 rebounds per game. Almost half of those are offensive. Eastern leads the conference in offensive rebounds with 16 per game.

"I think we match up with Eastern Kentucky pretty well," Tennngren said. "We have to play a really good game against them."

The second game of the two-game home stand pits the Raiders against the Morehead State Eagles.

The Eagles are coached by former Kentucky Wildcat stand-out Kyle Macy. His third season has seen him start the year off with eight wins and 11 losses.

The Eagles have struggled all year, but also have achieved some bright spots, especially with their guard play from senior guard Brad Cleaver and senior guard Brett Bohanan.

The two have combined this season to average nearly six three-pointers per game. Cleaver is averaging nearly 17 points per game, while Bohanan chips in when he is needed.

Another big-time player for the Eagles is 6-foot-7 inch sophomore forward Kyle Umberger. He is averaging over 12 points per game.

"They have really good shooters with range. That's their strength," Tennngren said. "We

have to get out on them and make sure they don't see any day light."

The Eagles like to run a slow-down type of game with a lot of motion and screening involved in their offense.

The Raiders are confident about the game, but they admit that motion offenses have given them trouble in the past.

"We've had problems with these teams in the past, but I don't think that's going to be a problem," Tennngren said. "We beat them at Morehead, so we should do a trick on them here, too."

The match-up in size is even, and both teams have had their share of trouble rebounding this year. But the battle of the boards will be very crucial for the team that wins this game.

MTSU has played extremely well on the glass over the last three games. But they will be tested in the next two games.

The Eastern Kentucky game

may be the most meaningful to the Raiders, simply because they beat them last time they played. It was a game that Middle Tennessee should have won, but instead lost in the closing minutes. The Raiders should be fired up this week.

Morehead is a team that does not turn the ball over very often. If the Raiders' pressure defense can force them to make turnovers, they have a great shot.

But if they get into Morehead's style of play, they could have trouble.

After the homestand, MTSU will go back on the road against Southeast Missouri State University, a team that beat them at the Murphy Center the last time they played.

Thursday the Raiders host Eastern Kentucky at 7:45 p.m. The game on Saturday against Morehead State will be televised on Fox Sports South. The Morehead game starts at 7 p.m. ■

Senior Cedrick Wallace holds off a defender as the Blue Raiders continue their winning streak.

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