

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



MTSU student
makes learning fun
See page 6

Murfreesboro, TN

BAS projectors stolen

Angela White
Managing Editor

Three classrooms in the Business and Aerospace Building were discovered to have been stripped of their overhead projectors on the morning of Thursday, Feb. 3.

Dwight Bullard, associate dean of the College of Business, reported the theft at 9:12 a.m. after he noticed two projectors were missing from Rooms S316 and S328 while doing a routine inspection of the classrooms.

A staff member pointed out the third missing projector taken from Room S260.

Daniel Reynolds, a business

professor who uses one of the rooms for class, was with Bullard when Public Safety officials arrived.

Public Safety officials said they have no suspects.

The crime is reported to have happened some time late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning.

The projectors had been initially installed during the semester break, according to the police report.

They were reported as being worth \$6,060 each, totaling \$18,180 in stolen goods.

The projectors were unscrewed from the ceiling brackets, which gave the appearance that they were removed for

repairs. However, no work was ordered on them.

The remote controls for the projectors were missing as well.

Officer Andrew Watts responded to the initial call. Officer Darrell Collins is currently following up on the investigation.

The replacement projectors have arrived on campus, and as of press time were in the process of being installed.

The new projectors were bought from Technical Industries, the same company from which the originals were purchased. According to Watson Hannah, financial management analyst for Academic Affairs, less than a year had passed since

the initial purchase, so no new bid was needed.

According to Reynolds, the attempts of James Burton, dean of the College of Business, to increase security measures are proving to be ineffective.

"We just got an email last week from the dean [saying] to lock everything," Reynolds said.

However, Reynolds said when he entered the building last Thursday night to check on one of the classrooms, that wasn't the case.

"I went all the way around the third floor. [In] every room the lights were on. The doors were unlocked, including this one [S328], at midnight. Nobody else [was] in the building. All

the janitors were on the other side," he said.

"Security is still very lax. There is no evidence of increased security measures from my observation."

Although the BAS is usually locked by 10 p.m., it is often reopened by faculty or students.

"It's kind of hard to lock the building," Collins said. "We lock the building at the appropriate time, but it is usually unlocked because of activity."

"It's very difficult to have [the building] open to students," Reynolds said. "Students like to meet in these rooms. Student organizations have their meet-

See Stolen, 2

SGA election packets are now available for students interested in running.

The following positions are included:

Senate President
Speaker of the Senate
Speaker of the House
Election Commissioner
Senators

Pick up election packet in SGA office, KUC 208.

Election packets are due in the Election Commission office by 4:00 p.m. on February 15.

Elections will be held March 6-10.

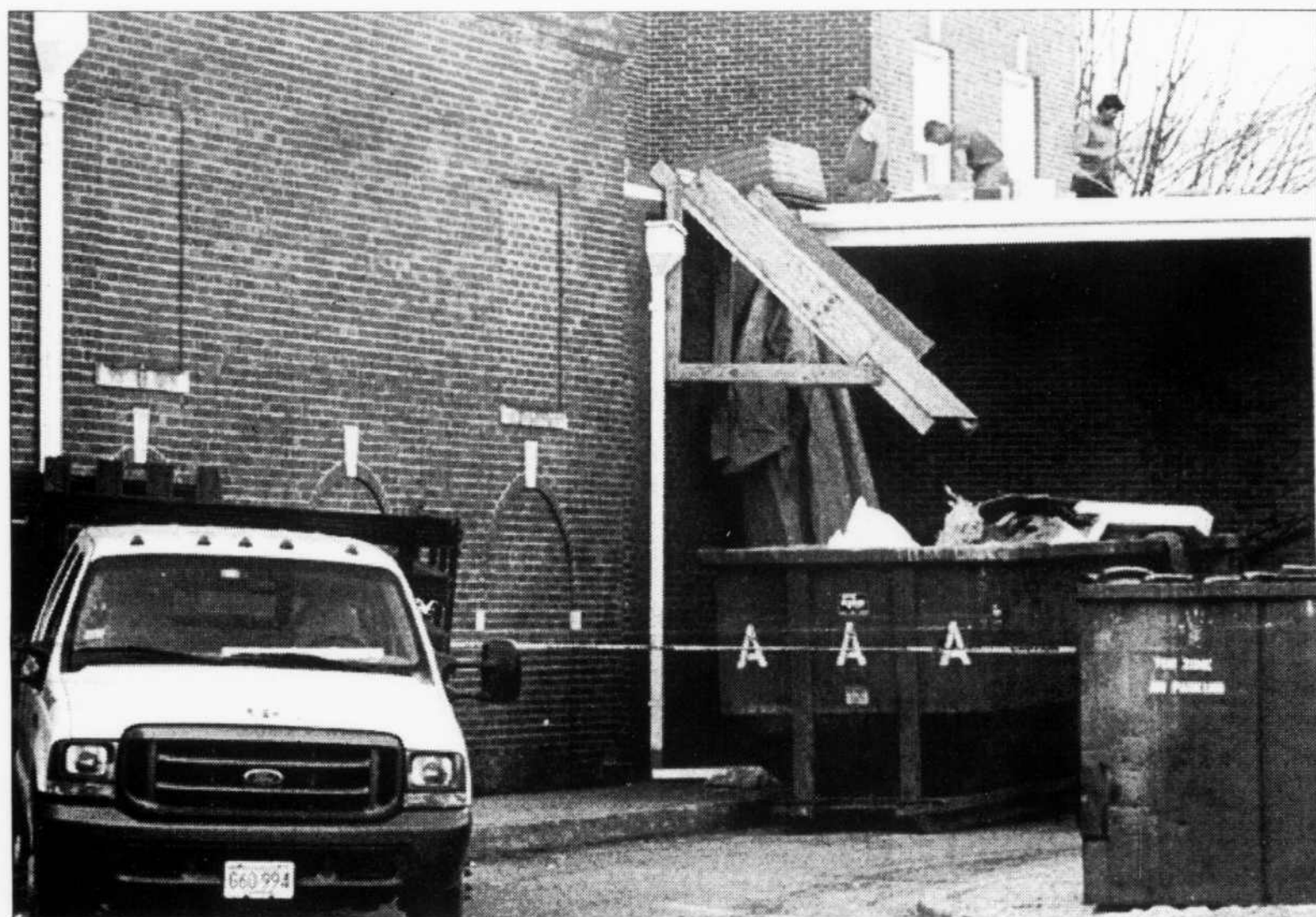


Photo by Pam Hudgens | Photo Editor

Workers remove the old roofing from Strobel Annex behind Wiser Patten Hall.

Heads up -- six buildings get new roofs

Staff Reports

Construction workers are in the process of installing new roofs on six MTSU buildings. Installation began Wednesday

on the Wiser Patten and Strobel Annex.

"The old roofs are several years old and deteriorating to the point where they could leak," said Bill Smotherman,

director of Construction Administration.

The old roofs are being removed and placed in roll-off dumpsters located at the back of the buildings. Students are

advised to avoid the area between the Wiser-Patten Science and Davis Science buildings as much as possible. Parking will also be restricted in this area. ■

Japan Center finally at home

Mary Anna Brown
Staff Reporter

The Japan Center of Tennessee has merged with the U.S.-Japan Economic and Educational Partnership Project (UJEEPP) and has now officially become the Japan Program of MTSU, located in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room N340A.

The Japan Program of MTSU is focused on aiding students, faculty and the Murfreesboro community in cultural and educational information about Japan.

"UJEEPP offers opportunities for internships and field studies as well as study-abroad programs for students," said Kiyoshi Kawahito, Ph.D., professor of economics and director of the Japan Program.

"It also provides information about Japan to kindergarten through 12th-grade schools in Tennessee, administrative assistance to the Japanese Supplementary School and Web site-based nationwide information services."

The Japan Center underwent changes when it evolved to the Japan Program, including to whom it provides information, and it will now retain only education-related services from the Center and most UJEEPP functions.

"We will no longer provide information and assistance services on non-academic and non-educational matters, even if they are related to Japan, including translation, employment, housing, business opportunities, art appraisal and shopping," Kawahito said. "Also, the program will not engage in publication and mass mailing of periodicals and in turn will rely increasingly on the Internet for dissemination of information."

Due to recent budget cuts in all Tennessee and Japanese government grants, as well as a drop in contributions from Tennessee businesses and from Japanese connections, the Japan Program was forced to cut staffing to just one member.

"The Program will strive to do all of the above with one-third the manpower and one-fourth of the budget of the Center two years ago," Kawahito said. "It will be work, but hopefully we can succeed."

For more information about the Japan Program, check out the UJEEPP home page at www.mtsu.edu/~kawahito.

The Web site includes news and updates from Kawahito, information about U.S. relations and quizzes to test students' knowledge of Japanese culture. ■

Haskew finalist at Northern Illinois

Staff Reports

MTSU's provost and vice-president for Academic Affairs for five years was recently nominated as one of the four finalists in the bid to become Northern Illinois University's 11th president.

Barbara Haskew has served as dean of MTSU's College of Business and chair of the department of economics and finance.

She also served as interim vice-president for Development and University Relations, as well as president of the MTSU Foundation, for one year.

Haskew directed MTSU's first major capital campaign and

established a minority-recruitment program to direct private support to scholarships for well-qualified minority applicants.

Haskew began her teaching career in the department of economics and finance at Memphis State University. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

The presidential search committee also nominated Robert L. Hampton from the University of Maryland at College Park; Peter J. Nicholls from Kansas State University; and John G. Peters from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

"These are outstanding candidates, and we are very proud to forward their names to the

Board of Trustees for consideration," said Robert Boey, search committee co-chair. "These committee members have worked diligently for more than six months, and the results we [announced] reflect that dedication, as well as the high regard in which this institution is held nationally," he said.

"We believe these four finalists represent an impressive range of backgrounds and an excellent breadth of experience," Boey said.

"All have held positions of faculty leadership in which they have developed new academic programs, all have been involved in programs for minority students and all have substantial fundraising experi-

ence," he said.

Boey said the Board of Trustees is expected to announce a campus-interview schedule soon.

According to a presidential search press release, "Boey said his fellow trustees want to make sure that candidates are able to meet with a wide representation of the campus community."

The board is expected to choose NTU's next president in March.

The current president will replace president John La Tourette, who has served as NTU president for 14 years.

La Tourette is currently the state's longest-serving public university president. ■

Brewer selected to receive national scholarship

Staff Reports

Keri Brewer, a second-year graduate student in the Psychology Department at MTSU, has recently been awarded the Society for Human Resource Management

Foundation Scholarship.

The national organization awards two \$5,000 scholarships to students who excel in academic achievement, are active in the organization, and have at least 12 hours of graduate work in this area.

The organization is dedicated

to furthering the personal and professional lives of students interested in careers in Human Resource Management.

Brewer is currently fulfilling an internship with Bridgestone/Firestone's corporate office in Nashville as well as working part-time at MTSU's

Development Office.

She plans to graduate in May and start work on a Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

She plans to pursue a career as a consultant or in higher education. ■



Photo by Pam Hudgens | Photo Editor

Al Bartolotto secures a sign dedicated to the celebration of Black History Month.

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. 10

88.3, The Ultimate, is sponsoring a hip-hop urban renewal benefit show at 527 Main Street beginning at 9 p.m. Featured artists include Malik and Hype Unit, Mual The Pimp and Shawdy, DJ Silence, JAZ, Hypothetikal and The Invisibilist.

The Placement and Student Employment will continue the series of placement orientation meetings for seniors and graduate students regarding their career plans, job search, resume writing, interview preparation and the services of the Placement Center. Two meetings will be held on Tuesday at 2 p.m. and Thursday at 11 a.m. These meetings are open to all students, but seniors and graduate students are encouraged to attend one of them.

The MTSU Society of International Affairs/Model United Nations will be holding an interest meeting for prospective members in KUC, Room 305 at 7 p.m. Students of all majors and class standing are invited to attend. For more information, contact Lon Maxwell at siamun@home.com or Nathan Allen at jnallen@netscape.net.

Feb. 10-16

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 Carolyn 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.

All international students are welcome to come to the international student focus group, which will be held by the applied anthropology class from 1:30-2:20 p.m. in PH, Room 318. The focus group will talk about the issues international students are facing at MTSU, which will lead to a needs-assessment analysis to be written that will benefit their experiences at the university. Refreshments will be provided. Contact Melissa Schriфт at 904-8275 for more information.

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. 24 / March 10

The General Studies Committee will be holding a series of open forums in order

to give feedback before a final version of the General Studies Mission Statement is drafted. The meetings will be at Feb. 8 from 2-3 p.m. in PH, Room 109A, Feb. 24 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in DSB, Room 100 and March 10 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in BAS, Room S126. For more information, call Bill Bradley, director of general studies, at 898-8416.

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 KKNB, Room 124 at 3:15 p.m. The group is also holding meetings on Thursdays titled "Looking Forward" at the same time and location. 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. Anyone interested in Wicca, Paganism, Shamanism or any other alternative spirituality is welcome. For more information, contact John Bryan at 907-3328.

Raider 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.

Stolen: Police have no leads on suspects; security questioned

Continued from 1

ings in this building. So it's awfully hard just to lock the building.

"That's what the building is for. We have computer labs here. So it's a very difficult problem for whoever's responsible for making this a secure building."

Night classes also pose a problem, according to Reynolds.

"Many of our night classes are taught by part-time teachers, and most of them don't have keys," Reynolds said. "Therefore, they are not going to be able to lock the doors. And most of them aren't on the dean's email list, so they didn't get the security alert."

Collins said that the current lack of security could lead to more crime.

"Campus is not going to be safe until people decide to not run in and out of the doors," Collins said.

According to Collins, thefts, although not usually of this magnitude, do happen occasionally on campus.

"We have equipment go missing from time to time," he said. "[The building is] not really secure. It's a crime opportunity."

Although the projectors have been missing for only a short time, professors like Reynolds have still felt their absence.

"We were encouraged to modify our teachings and to incorporate all this electronic stuff," he said. "I have 30 or 40 percent of class time now mixed in with the use of this electronic equipment."

"[The electronic methods]

make the material more interesting, and therefore students absorb more."

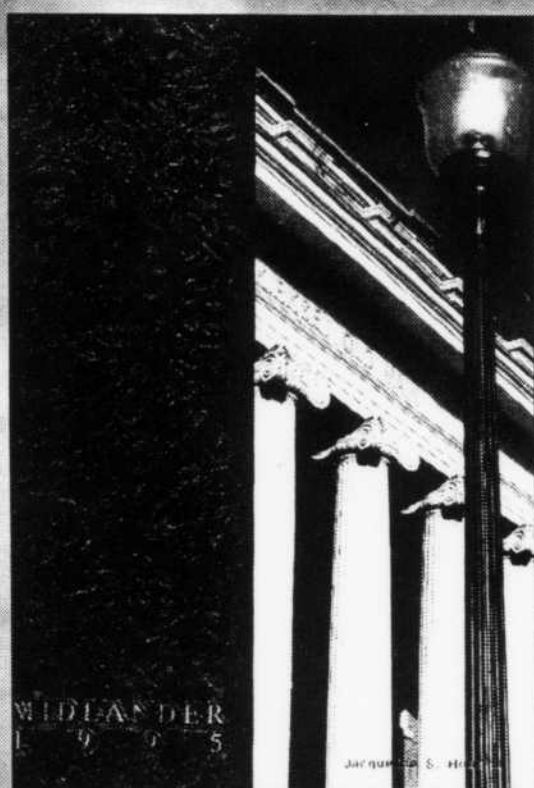
The liquid crystal display projectors, made by NEC USA, Inc., are used to display images from the computer and the VCR onto the projection screen. The College of Business uses model number MT1030, which weighs in at around 16 pounds and features 1024 x 768 resolution. ■

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Crime Log

Arrests

When: Tuesday, Feb. 1
Where: Off Campus
What: Person arrested for simple possession of marijuana

Assault

When: Saturday, Feb. 5
Where: Deere Hall
What: Female reported she was raped in dorm by a known acquaintance

Theft/Burglary

When: Tuesday, Feb. 1
Where: Corlew Hall
What: Subject reported a theft at the dining hall at Corlew at the loading dock

When: Tuesday, Feb. 1
Where: Peck Hall
What: Wallet Missing

When: Wednesday, Feb. 2
Where: Alpha Gamma Rho — Fraternity Row
What: Parking services report they have a boot for a car stolen

When: Wednesday, Feb. 2
Where: Loop Drive — Monohan

What: Parking Services report they had a stolen parking pass in a vehicle and needs assistance

When: Sunday, Feb. 6
Where: Cummings Hall
What: Subject advised someone had stolen her cell phone and boom box from her car while she delivered a pizza.

When: Monday, Feb. 7
Where: Tennessee Livestock Center
What: Stolen vehicle

When: Monday, Feb. 7
Where: Mass Communications Lot
What: Items missing from automobile

When: Monday, Feb. 7
Where: Front steps of KOM
What: Purse missing

Traffic

When: Sunday, Feb. 6
Where: Nicks Hall Lot
What: Female hit dumpster, called complaining of blacking out and unaware of location, finally advised was at Nicks

Hall Lot Person described problems with her medication and ambulance arrived to transport.

Trespass

When: Saturday, Feb. 5
Where: Sims Hall
What: Fight; Four subjects issued trespass warnings

Harassment

When: Tuesday, Feb. 1
Where: Scarlett Commons
What: Resident receiving harassing phone calls

When: Wednesday, Feb. 2
Where: Keathley University Center
What: Verbal threat in front of bookstore

When: Monday, Feb. 7
Where: Cope Administration Building
What: Harassing phone calls

Miscellaneous

When: Wednesday, Feb. 2
Where: Murphy Center — East Side Loading Dock
What: Subject dislocated

finger

When: Thursday, Feb. 3
Where: Keathley University Center
What: Grass fire on south side of building

When: Thursday, Feb. 3
Where: Old Lascassas Pike
What: Billfold found

When: Friday, Feb. 4
Where: Scarlett Commons
What: Subject called and his friend was choking on a chicken bone.

When: Saturday, Feb. 5
Where: MTSU Police Department
What: Lost wallet

When: Sunday, Feb. 6
Where: Monohan Hall
What: Subject called and needed an ambulance. Said her head was hurting and had an upset stomach.

When: Monday, Feb. 7
Where: Todd Library
What: Subject had an asthma attack

New scholarship open for aviation students

Staff Reports

The AOPA Air Safety Foundation is accepting applications for its 2000 McAllister and Burnside Memorial Scholarships. Each scholarship awards \$1,000 annually to a college junior pursuing a degree in aviation.

"ASF wants to encourage young aviation students to give serious thought to significant ways we can improve general aviation safety," said Bruce Landsberg, ASF executive director. "These scholarships are also important because they help us remember the safety contribu-

tions of some dedicated and pioneering aviators."

The McAllister Memorial Scholarship was established in 1979 and honors Eugene and Dorothy McAllister, two pilots from California who worked in pilot training. The Donald Burnside Memorial Scholarship was started in 1991 to honor the aviation pioneer and co-founder of the Burnside-Ott academy in Florida.

College juniors or seniors applying for either scholarship must maintain a 3.25 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Applicants must also write an essay answering the question,

"What one item could be changed to improve student pilot training?" (for the McAllister Scholarship) and/or "How should the Air Safety Foundation educate pilots on avoiding VFR flight into instrument conditions?" (for the Burnside Scholarship).

Both annual scholarships are administered jointly by the Air Safety Foundation and the University Aviation Association.

Information and applications for Year 2000 McAllister and Burnside Scholarships can be obtained from the AOPA Web site at www.aopa.org/asf/scholarships.html or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Scholarship, AOPA Air Safety Foundation, 421 Aviation Way, Frederick, MD, 21701.

The scholarships will be awarded in July. Completed applications for both scholarships must be received by March 31.

The nonprofit AOPA Air Safety Foundation conducts General Aviation safety research, produces educational materials and provides courses for continuing pilot education nationwide.

It is funded by donations from individual pilots and organizations who support the cause of improved General Aviation safety. ■

Hi! Watch for us!! Special Events

MTSU Fine Arts and MT Anthropology Society present

African/Edenic Heritage Museum



February 21 and 22
JUB Tennessee Room
9 am - 7 pm
Free and Open

"Exploring the African Presence
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This traveling research exhibition is thoroughly documented, visually attractive, multi-cultural, and cross-disciplined and truly interactive with a trained curator to explain exhibit components. The museum features a continuously playing video presentation that introduces the issues and centralizes the focus of analysis on the African/Edenic world. The exhibit is FREE and OPEN to the public. Special lecture presentation T.B.A. For more information, please call 898-2551.



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Wednesday, February 16
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Award-winning Philo recording artist Lilianne Labbe combines a rich repertoire of traditional French, Cajun, and French-Canadian stories, songs, fiddle tunes, dances, clogging, spoons, and percussion with a wry and winning stage manner. Fiddler Donna Hebert and guitarist Tom Hodgson join Labbe to bring to stage the irresistible heart of New England's French culture for "la soiree franco-americaine."

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David Lipscomb freshman conscious

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - David Lipscomb University freshman Kaia Jergenson is fully conscious at St. Thomas Hospital and no longer requires life support, her family said Wednesday.

Jergenson's condition has been upgraded from critical to fair and she has been moved to the special care unit.

The basketball player has been at St. Thomas since Jan. 4, after contracting meningitis.

Last month, doctors amputated her legs below the knee.

"Kaia's road to recovery will be a long one," her family said.

They thanked supporters "for the outpouring of love, prayers and gifts bestowed on our family by the community."

Jergenson was one of Lipscomb's top players this season. She won the Class AAAA Tournament MVP while playing for Gallatin High School last year.

Lipscomb University said a fund for Jergenson's family has raised over \$81,000.

Federal aid can't keep up with rising costs

Anjetta McQueen
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - Senators complained to university officials Wednesday that more federal student loans and aid seem to be enticing colleges to raise their tuitions, and students and government cannot keep up.

"It is incumbent on us to take a serious look at the effect of this government spending on tuition rates," said Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., chairman of the Government Affairs Committee.

Tuitions at public and private schools overall have doubled in the past 20 years, after inflation, making college unaffordable for many families despite the \$41 billion in annual federal grants and guaranteed loans, Thompson said.

Senators said they fear more federal aid could simply drive up college costs even more, speculating that states could

raise public tuition caps - figuring more students could afford it because of a larger loan, a higher grant or a potential tax break on their bill.

Senators also said private schools might reduce their campus-based programs in favor of students who can afford to pay their own way with the help of federal loans and tax deductions.

College officials denied Wednesday that they were driving up tuition costs to take advantage of increases in federal aid and said there's little government can do to control costs.

"Tuition price controls will not work and will be destructive of academic quality in higher education," said William Troutt, president of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn.

"It's hard to believe that parents would welcome a decision by the federal government to curtail severely their access to loan capital," said David Breneman, an education school dean at the University of Virginia.

Soaring price tags can be blamed on a handful of the most-expensive private schools catering to students who don't need aid, said Harvard economist Caroline Hoxby.

"There is no evidence that students are being forced to enroll in inexpensive colleges that are inappropriate for their level of preparedness," said Hoxby, pointing out that Education Department data also shows that since 1970, tuition at the least-expensive schools has actually dropped 15 percent.

Private schools cost an average \$15,000 per year; public colleges charge about \$3,300 annually. Nearly half of 14 million U.S. college students receive some sort of aid. About 60 percent of the help a student gets to pay these bills comes from loans that average \$3,000 a year, while grants make up less than 40 percent of available aid.

"If college becomes a luxury that an increasing percentage of our population cannot afford, it will expand the economic

divide between the higher education haves and have-nots and stunt our economic growth," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., the committee's top Democrat.

During the two-day hearing, that began Wednesday, the committee also plans to discuss merit-aid programs that offer discounts for high-performing students who may not be among the neediest, and scholarship scams that ask parents for money to search for financial aid.

Rising student loan debt is another concern, said college graduate Jamie Pueschel, who told lawmakers that government budget surpluses should be used to boost grant programs.

"I have little ability to save money and have no idea when I will be able to afford a car let alone buy a house," said Pueschel, a lobbyist with the United States Student Association. She has a \$19,000 debt and a \$25,000 annual income.

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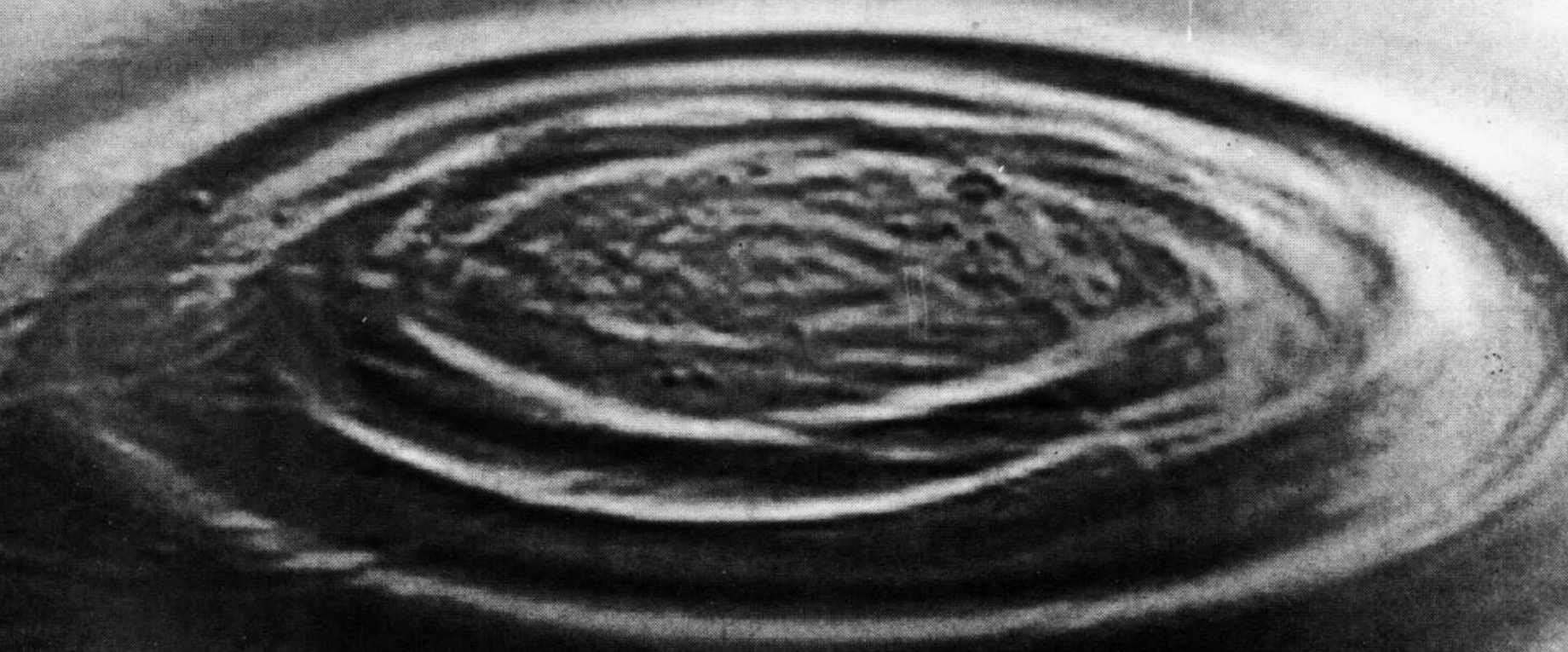
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Bring submissions to JUB 308 Monday through Friday, 8:00am- 4:30pm..

OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, TN

Thursday, February 10, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 5

From the Staff Campus needs more security

The stolen projectors from the BAS show blatant irresponsibility on the part of individuals in charge of securing the building.

Furthermore, Public Safety and some other faculty members in the business building seem to be making excuses concerning the robbery. Instead of placing blame on any one person for the \$18,180 heist, security measures need to be increased to prevent this from happening again.

While accidents do happen, the entire BAS, as well as every other building containing high-end technology, should be locked after hours.

The thief or thieves were obviously not concerned about being caught.

Calm and calculated, he, she or

they seemingly attempted to find every unlocked door on the second and third floors of the BAS. They found three unlocked rooms -- three too many.

Furthermore, they also made sure to take the remote controllers of each of the three projectors.

Rooms S260, S316 and S328 are now part of one of the largest thefts of all time on campus.

Daniel Reynolds, a business professor, stated in the article on the front page that students enjoyed using the meeting rooms in the building.

Why did we build and furnish that \$32 million library? I've been there a few times, and the meeting rooms are quite nice.

Furthermore, if meeting space

is an issue, why isn't there a major push to expand the library's restrictive hours?

Officer Darrell Collins made a comment in the article that it was hard to secure the building.

The inconsistencies in architecture between on-campus buildings are immense.

The library is a virtual fortress, while the BAS seems to have more doors than all of the Scarlett Commons complex.

The BAS is a big, pretty building that we cannot secure or protect without an increase in security.

Take charge, Public Safety and protect our state's investments, I've got 18,180 reasons why.

R. Colin Fly

Modern Dysfunction

by Rob Evans, Staff Columnist

Choose or Snooze?

It's poll time. Are you going to vote?

Indecision 2000?

Rock the Vote?

Choose or lose 2000?

No matter what name it goes by, it is time again to do our patriotic duty and go to the polls and select our next president, among other insignificant political positions.

It is also time to select our next SGA president, among other insignificant SGA positions.

But are you really going to vote?

"I mean, dude, I was gonna vote, but you know, it was the only day of the year that I wash the dog, oh, and I had to go learn how to polka dance."

Who am I to question what you do instead of voting? Why should you vote? What is there in voting that is truly going to benefit you?

I believe what I am getting at is the general feeling of apathy among us, college-aged people and those younger, because we find that the political system is backward, broken and doesn't do anything anyhow.

That's partially true.

Think back to the old high school student councils.

Did you seriously believe that the principal and faculty would listen to a bunch of upstart youngsters lay their demands down in a high school?

And then give in to the demands? Yeah, that one was funny.

Now look at the current situation at MTSU. Yes, Andrae Crismon and other SGA officers have done very much for this campus. He demonstrated this in many letters published in this paper. But one thing he has failed to do is unite the student body.

Keep in mind this is not a direct attack on Crismon.

I respect him very much and I admire the difficulties of the position he is in. But it demonstrates the disgust many people feel when they go to vote.

It ties in to why a majority of people don't vote in major elections. No one likes to hear the bickering, the fighting, the mudslinging and especially the pointing of the finger and the passing of blame.

If the "blame game" stops and someone finds serious initiative to bond the student body together, we can look at how to make this campus a much better place.

The same holds true on the national level. If politicians took their hands out of their pockets and stopped giving colds to babies something might happen in Congress besides bickering along party lines and trying to find scandals to pass the time.

But the only sure fire way to get the "right" people in office is to go out and vote. You can bitch, but you can act as well. ■

In Moderation by Chris Tatum, Staff Columnist

W.W.J.D.? Death penalty not right

It's not at all surprising to me that so many Americans favor the use of capital punishment. What does amaze me is how many of them are professing Christians who believe it's a biblically sound practice.

I grant you that in biblical times executions were commonplace, especially under the law of the Old Testament. This is where it gets hazy for me.

I, too, am a Christian. The very word, "Christian," implies New Testament, under a new covenant with Jesus Christ. We no longer live under Old Testament law but under the grace afforded us by Jesus' death on the cross.

That grace is extended to everyone, even to the condemned man on death row. Capital punishment goes against the grain of everything Jesus stands for.

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it more abundantly." In his 33 years on this earth, he healed the sick, touched the untouchable and loved -- oh how he loved -- even those who, by our human limitations would've seemed unlovable.

And by his death, he redeemed the sinful, worthless humanity in all of us. I find it hard to believe that this kind, loving Jesus would deem a per-

son worthless, fit only to be killed, for a wrong she has committed. He saw that special part of God that's instilled in all of us. And although that part of us sometimes gets covered up by the heap of garbage we amass in our human existence, it is the special quality we should look for in each other.

No, Jesus was a victim of capital punishment, not an advocate.

He gave us a glimpse into the depth of his compassion concerning capital punishment. When a woman was caught -- literally -- committing adultery, she was dragged into the city where her punishment would be meted out. It was an open-and-shut case.

According to Old Testament law, the woman was to be stoned to death. The vicious mob had already begun picking up the biggest rocks they could find to hurl at the poor woman. But when Jesus spoke, they dropped their rocks and walked away. He said to her would-be executioners, "he who is with-out sin among you, let him cast the first stone." Then Jesus lovingly sent her away with the assurance that he had not condemned her for her wrongdoing. "Go and sin no more," he told her.

Perhaps if any man deserved

to be executed after Jesus lived among us, it was a man named Paul. Paul was a threat to the early development of Christianity. He abhorred Christians and mercilessly persecuted them, killing them or dragging them off to prison. And yet Paul, himself, was converted to Christianity on the road to Damascus and in time, perpetuated Christianity around the world and wrote much of the New Testament.

While most Christians of the time feared Paul, bothering to look no further than the vile, crusty, murderous exterior, Jesus looked into his heart.

He looks into the hearts of men and women on death row, too.

In fact, Jesus peers so deeply into every heart that he knows our guilt or innocence.

Neither we nor our judicial system can flawlessly reach such a conclusion. Look at the judicial system of the state of Illinois. Illinois Governor George Ryan has suspended all executions in his state for a review and overhaul of Illinois' law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial procedures.

Of course, he didn't make such a move because he finds fault with the death penalty. Instead, considering that since 1987, 13 Illinois death row

inmates have been proven innocent of the crimes for which they were sentenced to die, he was afraid of executing an innocent person. That is what shut down Illinois' so-called wheels of justice. And President Clinton is considering halting all federal executions while the federal court system is overhauled.

He, too, appears to want to ensure that no one who's innocent is executed. Sadly, there have been far too many "mistakes" already made in our rush-to-justice society. Life is a precious gift. Once we take it away, we can't give it back.

I am, by no means, excusing the acts for which some of these people have been condemned to die. They should -- must -- be punished. But killing them doesn't benefit anyone. The grieving mother whose daughter has been cruelly murdered will feel the same grief the day after her daughter's killer is executed that she felt the day before.

The ONLY catalyst that promotes healing and, for a victim's family, both for an outraged society, is forgiveness.

And it's not easy. But it's a sound answer to the question so many people seem to be asking these days: What would Jesus do? ■

Veteran says canal issue not settled

James A. Sandman
USN Ret.
Special to Sidelines

"The Canal is obsolete as a military asset"

Rear Admiral Clarence A. Hill (Ret.)

"The Panama Canal issue is far from over," Representative Helen Chenoweth-Hage stated last month.

And she is still right. She and Lt. Gen. Gordon Sumner (USA Ret.) testified on Capitol Hill Feb. 2, urging Congress to rescind the invalid Canal treaty.

William Jasper, noted author and political scientist, has echoed her declaration, noting the many justifications heard recently for Americans not to be concerned with this illegal transfer of the Canal.

As a retired submariner who had the privilege of transiting the Canal, I am also compelled to say it. Here are some of the current fallacies:

1. "We can't break the treaties." This is precisely why we must repudiate the 1977 Carter-Torrijos Treaties. They are not legal or valid.

Their nullity was fully established in the Senate hearing of June 23, 1983, since Panama and the U.S. did not agree to the same treaty text. Since when does that constitute a valid treaty?

2. "It's too late now." Dec. 31, 1999, has passed. But although the issue is more politically sticky now, it's not irreversible.

Write and ask your representatives to cosponsor House Joint Resolution 77, the Panama and America Security Act, which would declare the 1977 "treaty" null and void.

Before the new millennium came, 27 House members had already done so, and now there are 32, including three Democrats (Bart Gordon not included).

I applaud Tennessee Representatives Zack Wamp and John Duncan, Jr. in their support of it.

3. "If H.J. Res. 77 passes, President Clinton would just veto it."

Actually, ending a treaty is different from other legislation. It is not subject to presidential approval or veto. Granted, "Slick Willie" will try to find some over-paid legal authorities to back him up. But that is no reason to give up.

4. "Hutchison Whampoa (the Chinese shipping company

which 'won' the lease for the Canal in 1997) won't block the canal, or secretly stockpile weapons at its Canal ports." That sounds like "The Japanese are not planning an attack on Pearl Harbor," or "Castro is a benevolent reformer, not a Communist."

Have we learned from the Cuban Missile Crisis? Like all Chinese businesses, Hutchison Whampoa is heavily regulated by the communist government and its Ministry of State Security (MSS), the Chinese equivalent of the KGB.

The company could easily be pressed into service against American shipping. China has already called the United States its "number one enemy."

Admiral Thomas Moorer, retired former Joint Chiefs Chairman, and other authorities warn that Panama could be turned into a missile base by China. Let's learn from our mistakes, not repeat them.

5. Lastly, "The Canal is obsolete as a military asset, and wasn't even used during the Kosovo War or Desert Storm." Rear Admiral Clarence A. Hill (Ret.) answers this one best. "You call Kosovo and Desert Storm 'wars'?"

We lose, less than 100 lives, mostly to our own fire, and they call it a war?"

That's the kind of patent nonsense we keep getting from supporters of the Canal giveaway. In a real war, things would be different.

Though our aircraft carriers do not go through it, "they are still dependent upon logistics through the Canal." He ought to know. He commanded the USS Independence and served as assistant chief of Naval Operations.

If the U.S. gets into a real war, he warns, we will quickly learn how utterly foolish -- and deadly -- our cavalier dismissal of the Canal's military significance has been. ■

We want letters! Send them to stupubs@mtsu.edu or bring them to JUB 310.

SIDELINES

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FEATURES

6 ■ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Reaching out with helping hands

Special education major spends time creating learning aids for disabled children

Ruth Peltier
Staff Reporter

Innovative visual aids energize teaching of special education students, according to MTSU senior Jerry Scott, who has built a train set to use in teaching disabled children.

Scott built his train set from items readily available at hardware and craft stores.

He believes the project is adaptable to any population of students, even those in regular classes.

The train travels through a varied countryside, past a train station, a house and a barn, then enters a tunnel. This gives a teacher the chance to teach everything from spatial concepts to traffic safety.

"I tried to make it as realistic and functional as possible," Scott said.

"I wanted it to mimic what they might see in real life."

Scott believes that the best way to teach any child is to discover the child's interests and then expand on them, to offer the child new challenges and to open the child's mind to new possibilities.

When he read in a publication by the Autism Society of America that trains fascinate autistic children, Scott knew he had an idea on which he could build.

He does not want to teach using a structured system based on what other people believe a child is capable of achieving.

Scott has adapted several other teaching resources for use with special-education classes.

To build on student's interest in food and cooking, Scott has adapted the children's book "Cook A Doodle Doo," by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel, for use in special-education classes.

The book tells of a rooster who wants to make a strawberry shortcake.

None of the traditional farm animals will help, so he enlists the aid of a turtle, iguana and pig.

They follow a simple recipe to make the shortcake and share the cake with everyone on the farm, not just those who helped.

Scott purchased utensils, like a wifter and an oven mitt, that were as much like the illustrations in the book as possible.

He will use the book to teach the names of utensils as well as simple cooking skills to children, from freshening up to teaching

children to extend friendship to those who have not been friendly to them.

Using a fishing pole with a magnet on the end of the line and a bucket of fish with paper clips in their mouths, Scott hopes to teach math concepts.

He said he will put math problems on the fish and, when the child answers correctly, let them count out goldfish and eat them as a reward.

This not only teaches math but also gives a child in a wheelchair the opportunity to experience fishing.

According to Dianne Gower, associate professor of elementary and special education, Scott is an exceptional student.

"I have taught since 1991, and I have never had a student like him," she asserted.

Scott will graduate in December and plans to teach in a self-contained classroom in an elementary school. His students will probably either be severely retarded or severely learning disabled.

While the school might mainstream them for art or physical education, the disabled children will spend almost all of their school day with him.

He intends to teach from a vocational perspective even at the elementary school level because he feels it will be his responsibility to prepare them for life in the real world.

Scott maintains that he chose special education as a career because of his philosophy of life.

"I want to go where I am most needed," he asserted. "I want to follow Christ's example of love without selfishness. Special education workers exemplify selflessness."

According to Scott, there is a critical need for special-education teachers in the United States and particularly in Tennessee.

He encouraged any student who is still undecided about their major to consider special education.

The attitude of many people toward people with disabilities concerns Scott.

The general public and even traditional teachers are afraid of them and believe they should be living in institutions, he maintained.

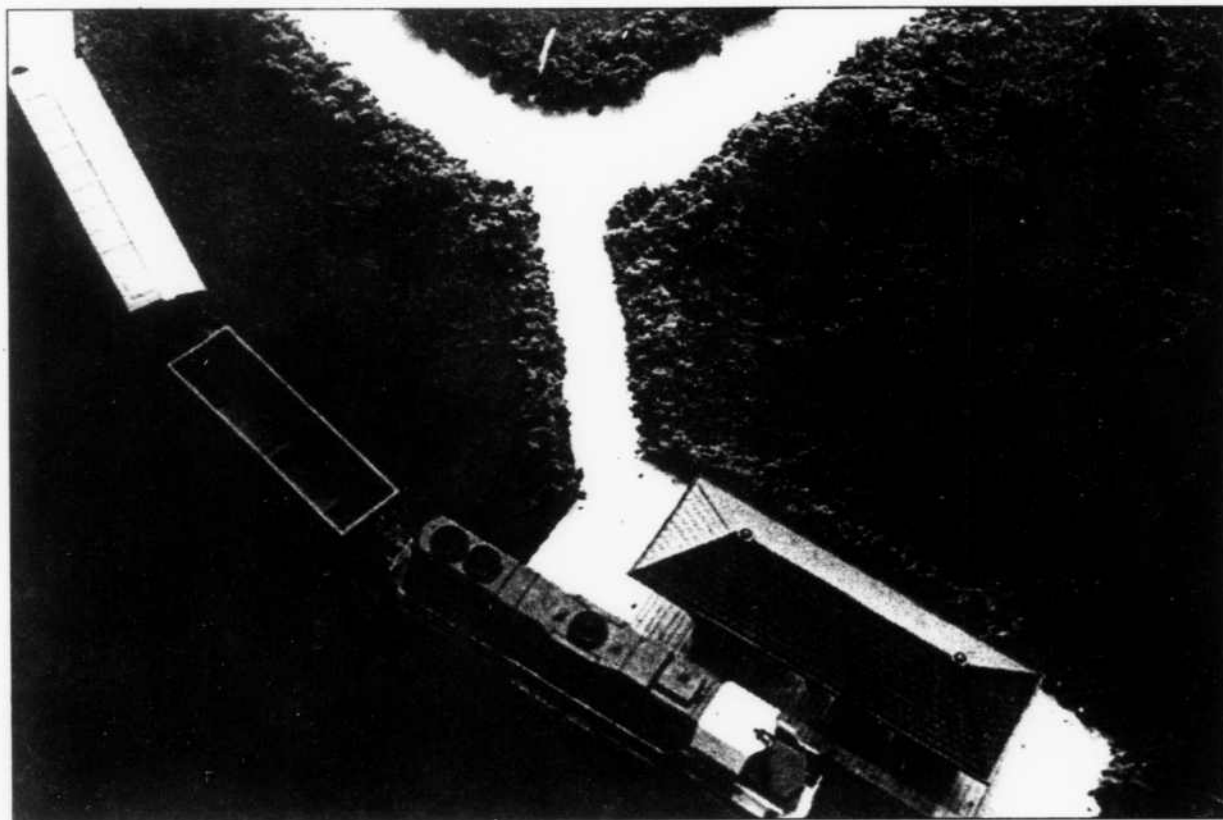
"Horror movies have been particularly harmful to people with disabilities," Scott said. "Deformities are represented as evil."



Photos by Robin Wallace | Staff Photographer

(Above) Jerry Scott poses with some of the props he uses to teach disabled children.

(Right) The train Scott designed is intended to help teach various subjects.



Chicago high school student creates after-school gay club

Tracy Dell'Angela
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The weekly meeting of Naperville Central High School's newest student group started with the usual fare -- a few bags of munchies, a Web-site update, a discussion about a skit for a freshman program, a debate on how to publicize for new members and, of course, a little gossip.

But then the talk turned to the reality that explains why this simple gathering has become a lifeline, albeit a risky one, in the students' high school world.

The members detailed the times someone yelled "dyke" or muttered "fag" in the hallways. One girl told how her head was smashed into a water fountain after classmates learned of her involvement in the group, while another member outlined the ruse she has created to keep the club meetings a secret from her parents. And members joked about the fact that of the 600 membership fliers they've hung in the school since September, only about seven have not been ripped down.

The Gay-Straight Alliance was launched last fall at Naperville Central with a few members and one influential backer, the school's assistant principal, Pam George. Sister high school Naperville North had started its GSA a year earlier and has already weathered the heat from a rash of parent and student complaints.

"The GSA will make this hell a little

more tepid for me," said Tom Wartell, a founding member and a senior who said he has endured four years of verbal and physical harassment at school since coming out when he was a freshman.

"If you hear enough negative stuff, and if it's never balanced by anything positive, you start to believe it," he said. "I thought I was a freak. I thought I was getting what I deserved. It's taken all my high school years to make a dent, but it's finally happening."

Naperville Central and Naperville North are not the only high schools to recognize the need to offer a safe place for gay and lesbian students. Nationally nearly 700 Gay-Straight Alliances and other related groups are registered with the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network, a national organization dedicated to fighting homophobia in schools. Illinois has about 35 registered groups. The greatest concentration of organizations is in Massachusetts, where schools are required by law to address homosexual bias.

"This GSA model has really spread, and the numbers are increasing all the time," said Jim Anderson, spokesman for the New York-based group. "Ten years ago, few schools even acknowledged they had gay and lesbian students."

For George, the watershed moment arrived in September, after a conversation with a former student about how much harassment a gay friend endured. She asked the student to spread the

"The GSA will make this hell a little more tepid for me."

Tom Wartell, founding member of The Gay-Straight Alliance

word that she wanted to talk to gay and lesbian students about their school experience.

Over three weeks, more than 40 students showed up at George's door. Some stayed only a moment, and others talked for more than an hour. They all identified themselves as homosexual, and they were all scared. They told George they didn't feel safe in a school where "gay" is used as another word for "bad," where teachers ignore homophobic harassment or even encourage it.

"That sent up a flag for me," said George, who was a special-education teacher before she became Central's assistant principal four years ago. "If there are kids who don't feel safe here, then we need to do something."

George talked to Wartell and another senior, Meg Sievers, about starting a GSA chapter. After research on the Internet and contacting other student groups, the founders started holding meetings in October. Thanks to George's advocacy, the group was supported by Central's top administrators.

For the first couple of months, the

members worked quietly on getting the word out, relying mostly on the grapevine and fliers. The group recently took a more public stance when it asked to be included in the club announcements broadcast weekly in the school. The GSA in May will be among a variety of organizations promoting a message of diversity to freshmen.

George said she knows that this kind of outreach might fuel a wave of protest and ignite fears the group is "recruiting" kids to be homosexual, which is what happened when Naperville North's fledgling group spoke to freshmen last spring.

The furor died down after North Principal Jack Lorenz made it clear he supported the group, which has become larger and more active this school year. North adviser Kermit Eby said the group includes about 25 members -- who will appear in the school yearbook this spring -- and is working on anti-discrimination proposals for consideration by the school board.

Anna Sievers, one of GSA's more outspoken members, said it is important that the organization not be perceived as a gay-only group. She joined because she wanted to show support for her twin sister, Meg, who is a lesbian. As one of the group's straight members, Anna said she believes she can be a powerful ambassador when it comes to challenging homosexual bias because students and teachers don't dismiss her as having an agenda. She

recalled the apologetic response she received after challenging a teacher who made comments in class suggesting homosexuality is deviant behavior.

Although George's exposure to the gay community and culture was limited before she decided to sponsor the group, she is getting a lot of underground support from her "silent partners" -- Central teachers who have told George they are homosexual but are afraid to publicly support the organization. George said it would send a powerful message if one of these homosexual teachers could lead the group and be a positive role model, but she said she understands it is much safer for a non-homosexual educator to take that leadership role in the beginning.

"Kids have always come first for me," she said. "The issue is that they were gay and they were scared. That's what compelled me to get involved."

The group allows students to have a comforting place to shake off their fears. Junior David Soria said his involvement with GSA inspired him to open up to his parents about his sexual orientation, a decision he does not regret.

Wartell said the group has not only given him a chance to hone his leadership skills but also nurtured a rich sense of belonging. He recalled a conversation with a friend who confided why the group was so important to her.

"She told me it was the first time in her life she was happy," he said. "That just blew me away."

For the health of it Use herbal supplements with caution

by Autumn N. Spence, staff columnist



Just how safe are herbal supplements? Tryptophan, pills marketed for insomnia, were taken off the market after being linked to 1500 cases — 38 resulting in death — of a painful ailment of the connective tissue and blood.

The "Journal of the American Medical Association" published an article that said after a woman took chaparral, a drug marketed to cure cancer and purify blood, for 10 months, her liver was so badly damaged that she needed a

liver transplant.

Herbal supplements are sold in retail stores near vitamins and over-the-counter drugs, so they must be safe, right?

You be the judge.

At least that's what Congress has determined in the Dietary Supplemental Health and Education Act of 1994: "Consumers should be empowered to make choices about preventive health care programs based on data from scientific studies of health benefits related to particular dietary supplements."

Congress also decided that dietary supplements do not have to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

This means that herbal supplements do not have to endure the expensive 10 to 20 years of research on both animals and humans that drugs usually undergo before they are approved.

In addition, herbal supplements are not regulated.

This means that they are not tested for effectiveness, safety, amount of active ingredients in each dose, what the inactive ingredients are or the consistency of ingredients from one bottle to the next.

In fact, product makers do not have to prove that their product is safe at all.

It's up to the FDA to prove that a product is unsafe if enough problems have been reported to suggest a health hazard.

However, the FDA does regulate claims made on printed labels.

Herbal marketers are allowed to claim that a product may affect a structure or function of the body, but they cannot claim that a product treats, diagnoses, cures or prevents a disease.

For example, while a product cannot claim to cure

Alzheimer's Disease, it can claim to improve absent-mindedness.

Despite the possible risks, herbal supplements generate a growing \$1.5 billion per year in sales.

While herbal supplements are not guaranteed, if the words "standardized" and "assayed" are on the product label, the manufacturer has apparently made an effort to maximize its effectiveness.

If you must use herbal supplements, here is a list of some of the ones that are believed by professionals to be safe:

Black Cohosh — treats menopause and hot flashes
Chamomile — treats an upset stomach and irritation of the mouth
Cranberry — prevents and treats bladder infections
Echinacea — boosts immune system and helps prevent

colds and infections
Feverfew — treats hot flashes
Ginger — treats nausea
Ginkgo biloba — helps improve memory and thinking
Kava — reduces anxiety
Saw Palmetto — treats benign prostatic hypertrophy
St. John's wort — treats depression
Valerian root — treats insomnia and reduces anxiety
Vitex — treats pre-menstrual syndrome

Sticking with brand-name supplements may increase the chances of the supplement being safe and effective.

Treat herbal supplements like any other drug, and talk to your doctor before you begin taking them.

Don't combine herbal supplements with any type of drugs and/or other herbal supplements before consulting with your doctor. Doing so could cause severe reactions. ■

Valentine's Day gifts receive romantic twist

Bonnie Bing
Knight Ridder Tribune

Just when you thought you were finished with the whole gift-giving regimen for a spell, bingo! It's time to find the perfect present for your favorite Valentine.

A card and a sweet kiss are nice, but whether you have \$10 or less, \$10,000 or more, it's still important to give happy heart day some thought.

Don't give up if your billfold is a bit flat these days. If you have a gift in mind, you can find it in your price range if you're willing to do some bargain shopping.

But first, Valentine cards. They're going fast, so go buy the perfect card for your sweetheart early, before the good ones are gone.

If you make a card on the computer, be sure it's very personal so the receiver knows you weren't trying to save a couple of bucks and a trip to the store.

All right, ready with your pen and paper?

Here are a few suggestions for happy heart day gifts. Just remember, whatever the gift, put a romantic twist on it, if at all possible.

These gifts are available in a

wide range of prices:

— A new date book is a great gift, especially if you write some date nights and even a trip or two in it. If your special person already has an appointment book, get a special red one and fill it with notes and special dates.

— A bird watcher might like new binoculars and a heart-shaped birdhouse.

— If your sweetheart is a cook, a jar of special olive oil and a new pasta pot will be a welcome gift.

— Like to hit the road? A red tote bag full of everything you'd need for a day trip or a weekend getaway would make a Valentine very happy. For some getaway specials, contact your travel agent.

— A little evening bag is fun to give and to receive, especially if it has a special invitation for a night on the town in it.

— A picnic basket or one of the new picnic backpacks is a welcome gift to anticipate warmer weather. Want to picnic now? Light a fire and spread a blanket by the hearth.

— If you and your main squeeze love wine, buy a great bottle to share on Feb. 14. Put it in a wine rack and include a special wine bottle stopper to remember the day.

— If you are going to send flowers, splurge a bit and get a beautiful vase instead of the inexpensive standard issue. And remember, men like flowers, too.

— A whimsical serving plate full of cookies is a welcome gift.

— Picture frames can be heart-shaped but don't have to be. And put a photo in it, even if it's temporary one.

— A red umbrella will keep your Valentine dry when spring showers start to fall.

— Cushy pillows in luxurious fabrics are fun to receive and use on the bed or couch.

— If you're set on candy, don't restrict yourself to buying chocolates in a heart-shaped box. Get his or her favorite candy, regardless of what it is, and put it in a candy jar.

— Desk or dresser accessories will be a constant reminder of you, the giver.

— If she is Imelda Marcos the second, get her a red pair of shoes.

— Window-sill flowerpots filled with tiny plants or planted seeds will be fun to watch grow and will keep that romantic spirit alive with each new bloom.

— Drinking tea is taking the place of the coffee break for many. A variety of tea is available, and some teas come in exquisite wooden boxes. Or how about a new teapot? Buy one that suits the personality of the receiver.

— If a bottle of bubbly is on the agenda, get new champagne flutes to make it extra special. You can go all out and get a new bucket and Valentine towel as well.

— Lingerie is a sexy gift; just make sure the size is right. Remember, you're taking a risk if you choose babydoll pajamas when she's a gal who will only wear flannel.

— If you're afraid of the lingerie department, what about a new red swimsuit?

— Male or female, who doesn't

love a thick, fluffy robe in a favorite color? Put a suggestive note in the pocket.

— Boxers for your favorite guy come with hearts, sayings and other prints. Why not put them in a bright red grooming kit with a sack of candy and other surprises?

— A book is a nice gift, whether it's romantic or one that covers a favorite subject. Or choose the latest release by a favorite author. Make sure you write a little something in it.

— Gifts with a Victorian look, such as silverplated boxes, lace items and jewelry, will always bring Valentine's Day to mind.

— It's traditional to give jewelry with hearts on it, but it doesn't have to have a heart to be well-received. Put small items in heart-shaped boxes.

— Children love Valentine's Day. Have them help you make or address Valentines.

— Books, a new T-shirt, a stuffed animal, heart-shaped snacks and Valentine socks to wear on the 14th are some favorites. ■

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SPORTS

8 ■ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Raiders sign electrifying players

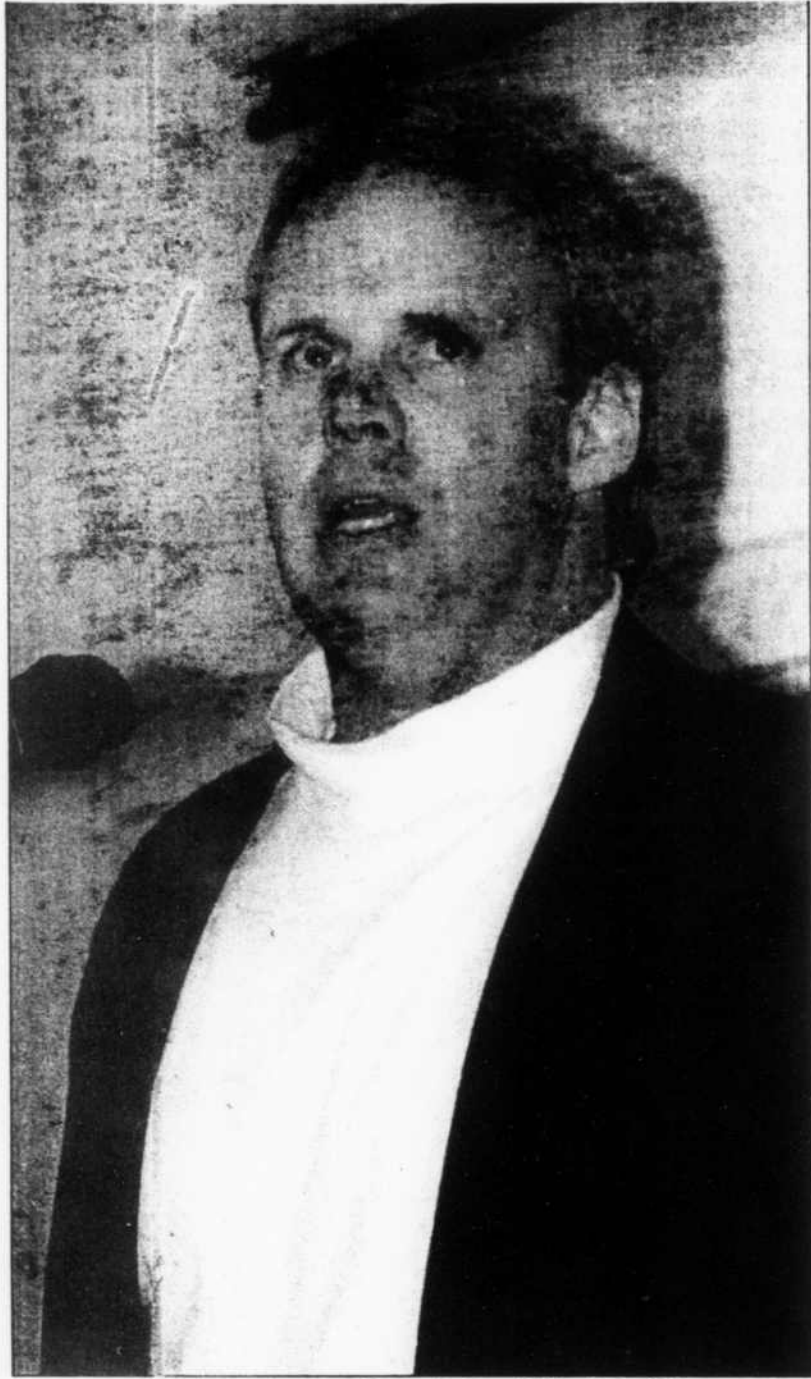


Photo by Rory White | Staff Photographer

Head Coach Andy McCollum talks about this year's recruiting class.

Michael Edwards
Sports Co-Editor

If you thought that the first installment of Blue Raider football recruits was good, just wait until you get a load of the second batch of former prep stars.

All the way from Hempstead, Tx., he spent two years at Blinn Junior College. The 6-foot-3 inch, 232-pound Anthony Hood will join the Raiders for the 2000 edition of football. The coaches say he possesses great speed. Hood will play defensive end for the Raiders. While at Blinn, Hood converted 12 sacks and 43 tackles while being second in voting in his league for the defensive player of the year.

As a senior for Lovejoy High School in Lovejoy, Ga., the 6-foot-3-inch, 220-pound linebacker amassed 13 sacks, while leading his school to the state playoffs in Georgia. His 4.7 in the 40-yard dash will allow him to add the needed quarterback pressure that the Raiders lacked a year ago.

Adrian Johnson passed on Auburn University, the University of Louisville and the University of Southern Mississippi, just to name a few. MTSU picked up Johnson, who is said to have great speed and ability. He stands 6-foot-1, a good height for a linebacker, but only weighs 212 pounds. He left Eufaula, Al., to come to MTSU.

Jason Johnson was a decorated junior-college player, being named to the Junior College

All-America team. He has a great arm and has the ability to run the football as well. Newport News is his hometown, much like Virginia Tech's Michael Vick. However, Johnson attended Northwest Mississippi Junior College and will enter MTSU as a junior. Arkansas State University and the University of Houston missed the opportunity for this talent. While at Northwest Mississippi, Johnson led them to an average of more than 500 yards per game, which led the country.

This 255-pound defensive lineman passed up one of the best defensive teams in America, Mississippi State University, to attend MTSU. Thomas Johnson is from Memphis and was voted All-City in high school. Although he possesses great size, the lineman runs a 4.8 40-yard.

The next athlete is truly all that. He runs a 4.3 40-yard dash, possibly the fastest on the team. Hashem Joyner is a wide receiver who could help the Raiders with the deep threats they have needed. This will add to the already deep receiving corp of MTSU. Joyner also stands out as a defensive back and can play that position very well. In high school at College Park, Ga., he had 60 tackles and broke up 12 passes.

Rashard Lee is ranked number 66 at the rivals100.com recruiting Web site and could be one of the best players on the Raiders' recruiting list. He has great size for a running back at 6 feet tall and weighing almost

220 pounds. Some people in Georgia believe he is the best athlete in the state. He is also a great quarterback who runs a 4.3 40-yard dash. Lee passed on Florida State University, the University of Georgia and Clemson University to attend MTSU. His senior year at Brunswick High School, Lee was named offensive player of the year by a television news station, probably because of his 670 yards rushing, 1,600 yards passing and more than 20 touchdowns.

Another Georgian is Brandon Lynch. He will be able to play cornerback with his 4.3-second speed. MTSU's secondary was pathetic last year due to the lack of speed, but the addition of Lynch and others will make the defense as a whole much improved from a year ago.

In this batch of recruits the Raiders signed many players who have great speed and the ability to play great defense. That is what MTSU coaches wanted to do. They wanted to address the problems on the defensive side of the ball and judging from the first 16 players who have been introduced, they have done it.

Be sure to check out the final group of recruits in Monday's edition of "Sidelines." That group will include players like DeShaun O'Neal, who is ranked 57 by Rivals100.com, Jerry Vanderpool from Brentwood Academy, and Kerry Wright, who just might be the most exciting player at MTSU in a long time. ■

Volleyball team announces two signings

Brian Albertson
Sports Information

The Middle Tennessee volleyball program has announced the signing of two incoming student-athletes to national letters of intent.

Karisse Baker, a 5-10 middle hitter from Hume Fogg in Nashville, is a Class A-AA Tennessee Sports Writers Association All-State Volleyball Selection. Her team won the state championship last season and made it to the quarter finals this season. She is a middle/right side hitter and is currently playing for the Spike club team in Nashville. She has also been chosen to play in the Coaches All Star Tournament in Knoxville in July.

"She is the catalyst for our team and is very dedicated to playing volleyball," said Hume Fogg head coach Nate Hill. "We've won over 120 matches in the three years that Karisse has joined the team, losing less than twenty. Lisa Kisse is getting a very talented and athletic young lady."

"Karisse is very quick and strong with a powerful arm swing," said MTSU head coach Lisa Kisse. "She's a dynamic player, capable of contributing immediately at right or middle. Her team has attended our team camp for years, so we've gotten to know her and seen her develop as a player. With the same

See Volleyball, 10

Georgia's blue-chip player signs with Raiders

Staff Reports

If there's anyone out there who hasn't already heard of Don Calloway, they will now.

At 5-foot-7, the Colquitt, GA, native may have been easy to overlook, but Andy McCollum and his entire coaching staff at Middle Tennessee knew they had stumbled upon one of southern Georgia's top blue-chip recruits.

Calloway's stock has just gone up. After racking up 6,385 career yards rushing — just shy of Herschel Walker's all-time career mark — Calloway was named Georgia's Player of the Year by the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association.

"He jumped out in front, and he stayed there," said Ray Broadaway, executive director of the GACA, in regards to Calloway's honor.

The award was voted on by a representative from all 32 of Georgia's regions. The number-one ranked coach from each region attended a meeting last Thursday in Macon, Ga., to put together nominations for the upcoming all-star game, along with Player and Coach of the Year honors. Calloway represented region A1.

"When the coaches make that kind of selection it really stands out and means something," Broadaway said. "To be named the top player in our state is quite an honor."

Calloway was already named Georgia Class A State Player of the Year. In the season opener, Calloway established records for yards and touchdowns in a single game with 476 yards and eight touchdowns — all with only 15 carries in the first half.

"This is a tremendous honor for Don and his family,"

McCollum stated. "He had a great year and is very deserving of this award. It says a lot when you are voted the best player in Georgia because that state produces some great football players."

With 4.4 speed and the ability to bench-press 400 pounds and squat four times his weight, Calloway is expected to make an immediate impact with the Blue Raiders next season. However, Calloway is just one of 15 players from Georgia the Blue Raiders snatched.

"Andy has done a great job down here," Broadaway said. "That whole staff needs to be commended for their efforts."

"We heard Middle Tennessee mentioned more than we ever have before."

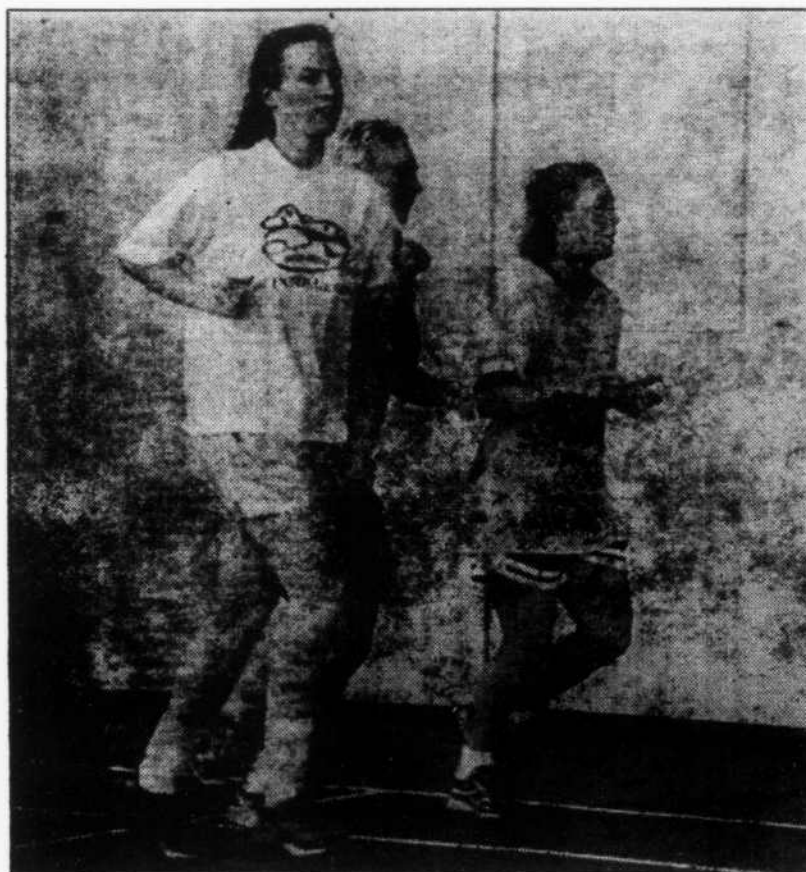
The Blue Raiders received good — if not great news — regarding wide receiver Kerry Wright.

Wright, the nation's 21st rated receiver, has been selected by the same panel of 32 coaches to play in the potent Georgia-Florida All-Star Game at Georgia Tech this summer on June 17.

"That game is the greatest collection of high-school talent in the country at any one site," Broadaway said.

Rivals100.com gave Wright four stars out of five when ranking the top players in the country after hauling in 58 catches for 1,341 yards for Tri-Cities this past season. The Atlanta Journal Constitution rated Wright as one of the five best receivers in the state.

"To get a guy who has just been named the best player in the state by the coaches and another who's playing in the Georgia-Florida game," Broadaway said. "I think it's safe to say Middle Tennessee is clicking on all cylinders." ■



The track team prepares for the Blue Raider Invitational III this weekend.

Track team ready for Saturday

Josh Ezzell
Sports Co-Editor

The track team looks to separate itself from the rest of the Ohio Valley Conference Saturday at the Blue Raider Invitational III.

Both the men and women performed well at the Indiana Track and Field Invitational. The women finished second, and the men finished fourth. The Raiders finished fourth overall.

"Based on what we did at Indiana last week, we're doing a good job," head coach Dean Hayes said. "Probably the best race for us out of the whole meet was Kapreia Kirk, who ran a great 600. She looked very strong."

"The mile-relay time looked very good for the women also," Hayes said. "Kim Freeman had a good day in the long and triple jump, and Willis Heintz had a good day."

The Lady Raiders had two first-place finishes. Senior Andreja Ribac won the triple

jump with a leap of 40-6 3/4, and junior Kapreia Kirk won the 600-meter with a time of 1 minute and 32.47 seconds.

The Lady Raiders also placed well in the triple jump. Freshman Kim Freeman, sophomore Jameka Collins and freshman Stephany Reid finished fifth, sixth and seventh.

"I think we surprised some people," freshman Tiffany Purham said about the Indiana Track and Field Invitational. "We did good, but there's always room for improvement. We could always do better."

Collins, Freeman, Reid and Purham placed in the long jump. Collins placed second with a jump of 18-7. Freeman, Purham and Reid placed third, seventh and 12th.

"As far as jumps we did all right," Freeman said. "We did all right as far as performance. We came in second as a team, but we have a long season to go."

Freshman Willis Heintz finished third in the 200-meter dash with a time 24.94 and fourth in the 60-meter dash with

a time of 7.61.

Junior Naomi Ansah placed fourth in the 400-meter dash, and Kelley Smith finished fifth in the 60-meter hurdles. The 4x400 relay team finished third.

The Lady Raiders feel confident about Saturday's meet.

"If everybody does what they're supposed to do, we'll do really well," Purham said. "We have a lot of talented players."

Hayes believes the women are in for a battle Saturday.

"The biggest battle will be with SEMO's women and our women," Hayes said. "They're the two teams that are favored to win the OVC, so it'll be close. We'll fight it out with Eastern Illinois on the men's side."

The men's team had fewer qualifiers than the Lady Raiders at the Indiana Track and Field Invitational, but they still placed fourth.

Junior Godfrey Herring placed first in the 400-meter dash with a time of 47.75, and sophomore Jasper Demps finished first in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.03. The 4x400 relay team finished first

with a time of 3:16.37.

"Jasper (Demps) has been running really well," Hayes said. "He's been consistent — he's been doing a good job."

"We played real well there," junior Haneef Sharif said about the Indiana Track and Field Invitational. "The only reason we didn't come out on top is because we're missing people in certain events."

Sophomore Rob Jordan finished second in the long jump at 24-4 1/4 and 50 4 1/2 in the triple jump.

The men's team is confident about Saturday.

"The guys should win easily, but the girls should have competition from Southeast Missouri," Christian Nsiah said. "Whoever wins this weekend has the best chance of winning the conference championship. Hopefully the women can pull it out."

"The main thing we're trying to do is get ready for the OVC meet. It's our last meet. We'll take the next weekend off."

The Blue Raider Invitational III is Saturday at 11 a.m. ■



Photos by Chris Nichols and Grant Fletcher | Staff Photographers

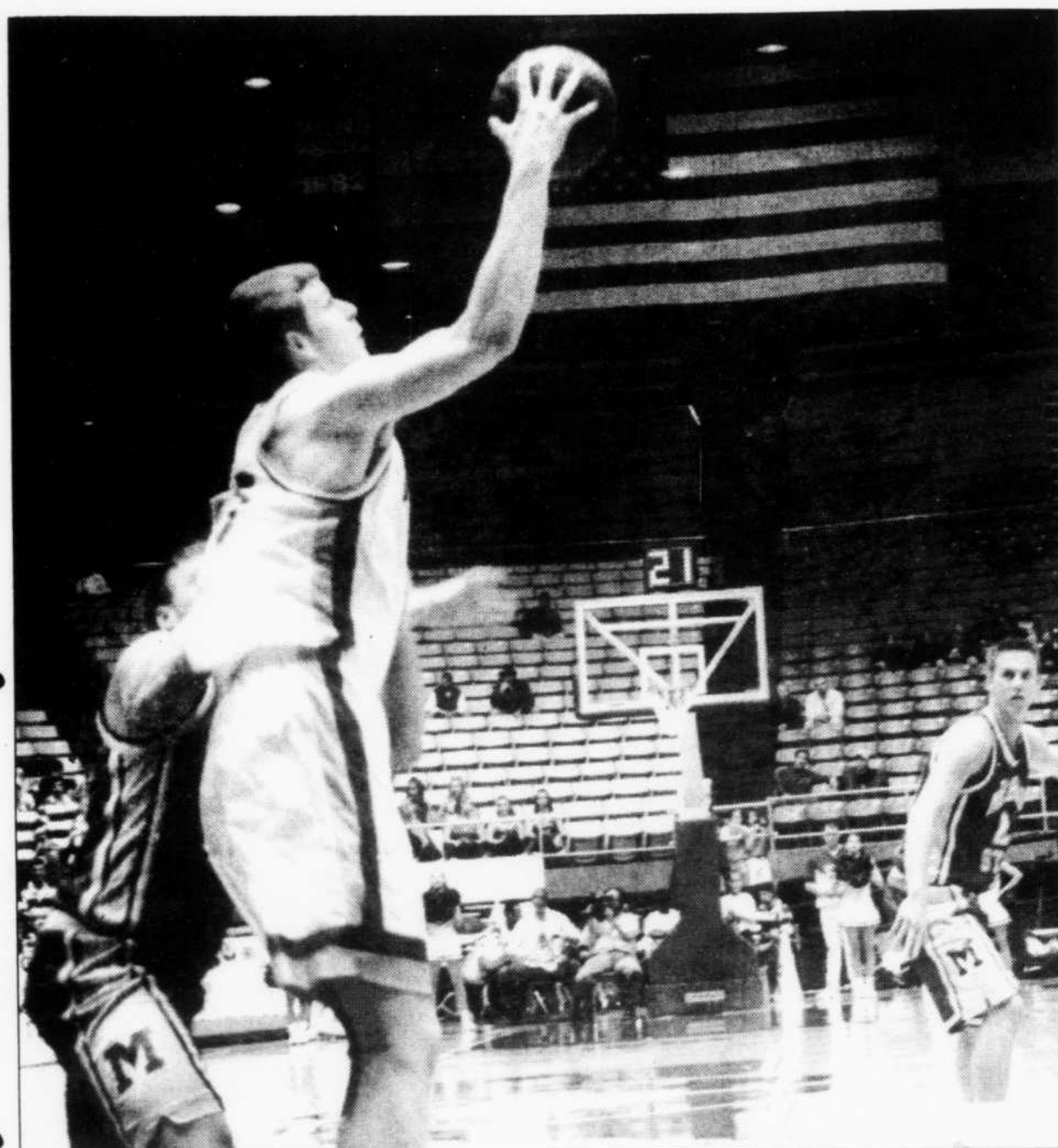


Photo by Robin Wallace | Staff Photographer
The Blue Raiders hope to rebound from Tuesday's 76-56 loss to SEMO Saturday night against Tennessee Tech.

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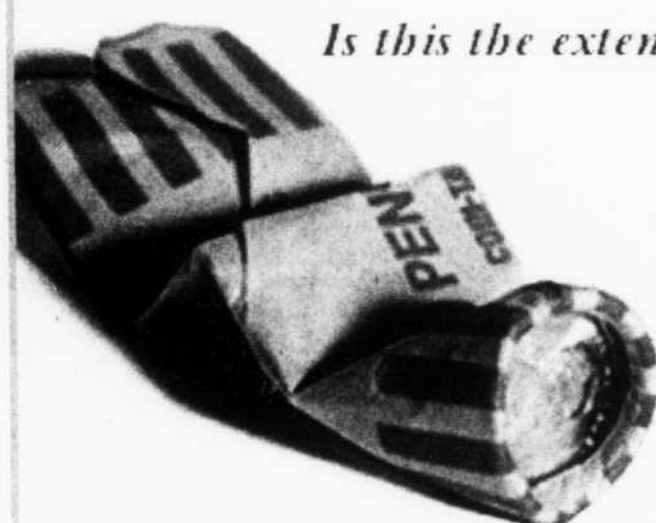
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Volleyball: two signings

Continued from 8

degree of development at the collegiate level, Karisse will enjoy an outstanding career."

Goldie Bilyeu, from Ozark, Mo., is a 5-8 setter. She was named Second Team AAA All-State and First Team All-Conference (Central Ozark Conference). She played in a 6-2 system allowing her to play both setter and hitter. She finished last season with 170 kills, 203 digs and served .900 with 46 aces.

"She's a great floor leader and a great role model," said Ozark High School head coach Teresa Wise. "She's very agile, quick and smart. She led our team last year and we'll miss her a lot."

Bilyeu is the first female division-I athlete to come out of Ozark High School and is currently playing for the Springfield Juniors club team in

Springfield, Mo. She also participates in basketball and track and will play in the Missouri All Star Match in Columbia, Mo., in June.

"Goldie is incredibly quick," said Kisse. "She's a powerful, well-conditioned athlete with great leaping ability. She is the most athletic setter I've ever recruited at Middle Tennessee. I have had the good fortune to coach Goldie in summer camp since she was a fifth grader and am amazed with her ability to elevate her level of play and those around her. Goldie will enjoy a successful career in the Sun Belt Conference."

"Both of our recruits come from very supportive families, strong academic schools and good high-school coaching. They will be outstanding citizens in the Middle Tennessee community."

John Rucker back in New York

Ronald Blum
Associated Press

John Rucker is back in the city he hates, trying to overturn his suspension for offensive comments against homosexuals, minorities and foreigners.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig has banned Rucker until May 1, saying the Atlanta Braves' top reliever "offended practically every element of society" with his comments in a December issue of Sports Illustrated.

The players' association quickly appealed the decision, setting up today's hearing in New York before Shyam Das, baseball's new arbitrator.

"Just be patient," Rucker repeated today as he walked

into the commissioner's office in midtown Manhattan, far from Shea and Yankee stadiums, where taunting fans irritated him so much last year.

Das was to hear testimony from Selig and Braves president Stan Kasten. Gene Orza, the union's chief lawyer, will argue on Rucker's behalf, and union head Donald Fehr is expected to testify on past suspensions. It was unclear if Rucker would testify.

There's no indication how quickly the arbitrator might rule, but the union most likely will ask for a decision by the start of spring training. The Braves' pitchers and catchers report to camp at Kissimmee, Fla., on Feb. 17.

Rucker told Sports Illustrated in December he would never play for a New

York team because he didn't want to ride a subway train "next to some queer with AIDS." He also mocked foreigners and called a Latin teammate a "fat monkey."

Bill Fugazy, chairman of the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations Foundation and a close friend of New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, today called on Das to deny the appeal.

"At a time when Rucker should be showing all possible remorse for his words and actions, he shows no regret and that he has no regard for anyone but himself," Fugazy said. "His appeal clearly demonstrates that he has no concept of what he has done wrong."

In 1981, St. Louis shortstop Garry Templeton was sus-

pended and fined \$5,000 after making obscene gestures toward heckling fans at Busch Stadium.

Two days later, an arbitrator ruled the suspension should be lifted when Templeton checked into a hospital for treatment of depression.

Without Rucker, the Braves are holding a prespring training pitching camp at Turner Field.

While Atlanta has mentioned the possibility of trading Rucker, several general managers have said no serious talks have occurred.

For now, the Braves are facing the possibility of heading to Florida next week without the pitcher who saved 38 games last season, one short of the franchise record.

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With 2 Toppings
AND 2 12 oz Drinks!

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KUC 2nd floor lounge

Seniors call 2815 for appointment