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ONLINE

Do you agree with the death penalty?

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An editorially independent newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

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Campus Briefs

Aerospace looking, hoping for NASA grants

Marathon for Diabetes

Susan Hawkins, a MTSU graduate student, raised \$700 to be donated to the American Diabetes Association in an attempt to run 26.2 miles in a marathon in Kona, Hawaii. Her goal was to raise \$3,500 by April 24 in order to participate in the marathon. Although Hawkins did not meet the required registration fee, she donated the money collected to the association.

"Anything is better than nothing," Susan Hawkins said. "I was able to spread the word about diabetes and that's what important."

Sorority donates to fund

Alpha Delta Pi Sorority donated a \$2,000 check to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the sorority. A scholarship fund and a bench to commemorate the founding of the Alpha Delta Pi will be established from the donation, along with an additional \$3,000. Alpha Delta Pi was considered the "first secret society for women on any campus" and was founded on March 1, 1969.

MTSU hosts Gov. School

The Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts will host a four-week summer residence program for gifted and talented high school students. The students will study art, ballet, theater and music during the four weeks. The camp will run from June 17 to July 14. The students will demonstrate their talents in a three day finale, from July 12 to July 14, that will include a theater performance, visual art-art exhibit, opera scenes, a dance performance, concerts by the school's piano and wind ensembles, and an awards ceremony.

MT Police hold 'Night Out'

MTSU's Public Safety Department will host National Night Out Aug. 7. The event is designed to promote community awareness, participation in crime prevention and introduce neighborhoods to local law enforcement officers. Campus wide activities will begin at 4:30 p.m. and include live music and entertainment and children's activities.

Celebration under the Stars Annual fireworks and live music will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 4 on MTSU's Intramural Fields. Stephen Smith, a tenor vocalist will lead the audience in singing "The Star Spangled Banner." Concessions are planned and children's activities will be provided. The event is open to the public.

Students learn about beef

The Tennessee Beef Camp will be held at MTSU at the Livestock center from June 14-17 for 50 students between the ages of 10 to 18. Students will learn about beef cattle and the beef cattle industry. Some of the activities during the camp will include showmanship demonstrations, grooming and clipping, salesmanship and public speaking competitions. The MTSU Block and Bridal Club in association with the Tennessee Cattleman's Association sponsor the camp.

Funding would pump more than \$2 million into university

Chris Jones
Staff writer

MTSU representatives are expecting a final response from the National Aeronautic Space Administration regarding three grant requests the university has made.

NASA officials heard MTSU's requests for grants to

fund future programs of the College of Basic and Applied Science in May.

Since then, university representatives have made three trips to NASA headquarters for planning.

"Everything MTSU proposed, NASA is working on, and they are greatly interested in MTSU's proposition," said Frank Owens, director of NASA's education division in Washington D.C.

If approved, the funds will be greatly welcomed by the university.

"It will really be a boost for the aerospace department," said

Ray Phillips, interim dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

The money is divided into three separate grants that will be used toward basic scientific research, interdisciplinary studies (biology, chemistry and physics) and an aerospace safety center where NASA will do first-hand pilot training.

Totalling more than \$2 million, the grant embodies \$888,000 for aerospace, \$850,000 for science and mathematics, and \$385,000 amongst chemistry, biology and physics, which extends over a three to five year period.

"MTSU puts out the largest amount of teachers in the state. The grant would improve the training of those studying in math, science and technology," Phillips said.

Owens said Daniel S. Goldin, a NASA administrator, is very supportive of universities throughout the country because they are interested in education.

Owens also added that the original idea had been submitted by Congressman Bart Gordon's office, and he pulled MTSU and Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville together in the project.

"We looked at the linkage between them with NASA in a lot of areas, of which education is one," Owens said.

Larry Bilbrough, a MTSU alumnus and education division program manager for NASA, was one of the seven officials taking part with MTSU staff and faculty and other guests in May.

"We're definitely interested, and it looks like it will be a funded program," Bilbrough said.

Focus | New Students

MTSU Housing: Home Away From Home

The advantages of campus living

Charlene Callier
News Editor

The transition of moving away from home and onto campus is an important step in exploring the college experience, but some students shy away from dorm life in exchange for getting an apartment.

"I lived on campus when I attended college and I think it's part of the college experience," said Laurie Witherow, associate dean for residential education. "You learn a lot from living on campus, because you learn about yourself and living with people."

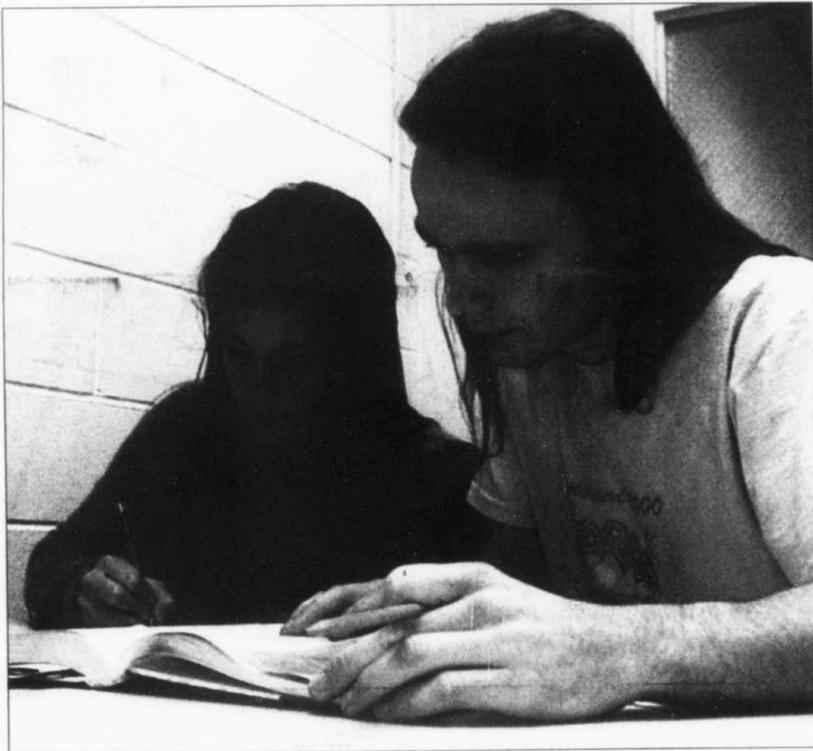
"You have plenty of time to rent an apartment or an house later on," she said.

Living on campus is a time that most students will enjoy — the comforts of living in residential housing and being accessible to the academic and recreational activities.

"I think that everybody needs that experience just once," said Kristie Williams, a junior majoring in Industrial Psychology.

The housing facilities on campus allow students to be in walking distance to the library, cafeterias, the recreation center and social events.

Each living area is unique by offering a different community that supports academic excel-



James Moore helps freshman Melissa Long with her algebra in the tutoring center in Corlew Hall.

lence at the university along with activities.

MTSU's Housing Office provides a package for freshmen's parents that discusses the housing rules, basic questions to discuss with their children before attending college and a list of expectations of the students from the university.

Housing lists three advantages of living on campus in the package, which are the academic, financial and social advantages.

The academic advantage is that freshman residents living in Corlew Hall and Cummings Hall have tutors available to them on every floor, and there

are academic advisors with offices in the building.

Studies have shown that students living on campus are associated with greater assistance to graduation, a greater attachment to the university and demonstrate school spirit.

The financial advantage of See **Housing, 2**

Welcome Week Schedule Finalized

SNL Comedian to highlight events

Amanda Maynard
Staff Writer

August marks the return to classes for most students, as well as the beginning of Welcome Week for MTSU.

New students as well as returning students can all enjoy an array of programs.

"We anticipate a better crowd this year because they will have a lot of things to choose and participate from," said Becca Wilson, a coordinator in Student Development.

Student Development took suggestions from students, Wilson said, to get an idea of what they wanted for Welcome Week activities by conducting surveys and adding students to the planning committee.

The week begins with the opening of the residence halls Aug. 17 at noon behind Corlew Hall. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in an Open Mic session.

Charlie's Angels will be shown as an outdoor movie between Peck Hall and the Cope Administration Building

See **Schedule, 2**

Food Services dicing up locations

Plan calls for new eatery in JUB, store in Corlew

Charlene Callier
News Editor

Taco Bell, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Subway.

These are some foods craved during the semester, but most students do not have the opportunity to leave campus and return in time for the next class.

Aramark Dining Services has provided MTSU with a variety of dining favorites that will satisfy student's cravings with the convenience of being located on campus.

"That's the reason we're here to serve the students," said Paul

Stuart, director of Food Services.

Students can choose from a wide selection of favorites, such as Starbucks, Chick-Fil-A, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Subway.

Food Services have made several renovations to meet the needs of students on campus.

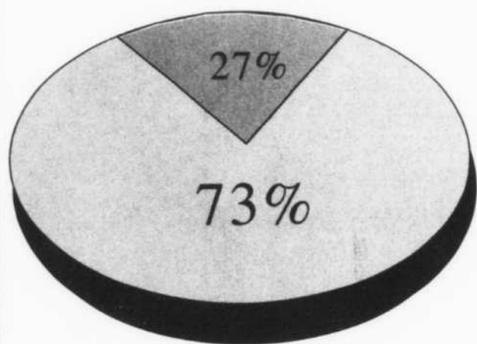
One of the first new changes will be the addition of a convenience store to open Aug. 17, located at the entrance of McCallie Hall in Corlew Residential Hall.

The convenience store will be stocked with a variety of items to meet every student's need.

"We will have everything

See **Food, 2**

Will McPhee make the grade?



Graphic by Kember R. Drew | News Designer

Sidelines Online asked readers last week if they thought MTSU would continue to thrive under the direction of President-elect Sidney McPhee.

Of those who responded, 73 percent said "Yes" and 27 percent said "No."

This survey is voluntary and as such is not scientific.

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Food: Taco Bell now at Cyber Cafe'

Continued from 1

from microwave dinners to laundry detergent," Stuart said.

The second renovation will be in the Mass Communications building, where a new food service area will be added in place of the cart located in the hallway.

The plan is to knock down a wall and add a glass door, turning the vending area into a permanent food service area where students can purchase salads, chick-fil-a sandwiches and more new items that will be available in the fall.

The set up, Stuart said, will be similar to the food area in the Business and Aerospace Building but on a larger scale.

Patio tables and umbrellas will also be placed in a hallway to provide a sitting area for the students.

Starbucks Coffee has been moved from the Cyber Cafe in Woodmore Hall to the KUC Grill.

Students can still get the original and decaf coffee from the Cyber Cafe, but the full line of Starbucks is up and running in the KUC Grill.

"This is where the majority of the students eat, and it's more convenient for them," Stuart said.

Taco Bell has moved from the James Union Building to the Cyber Cafe, providing longer dining hours for students by staying open later at night.

Bene Pizza will replace Taco Bell's place in the James Union Building and will serve items such as pizza, casseroles, lasagna and calzones.

Bene Pizza will also have display cooking with the hot line table to improve the way it's presented, Stuart said.

Food Services works directly with the Student Government Association to get input from students about their services.

They also conduct polls and surveys to assure their services are meeting the students' needs. For more information on MTSU's Food Services, contact Paul Stuart at 898-2675. ♦

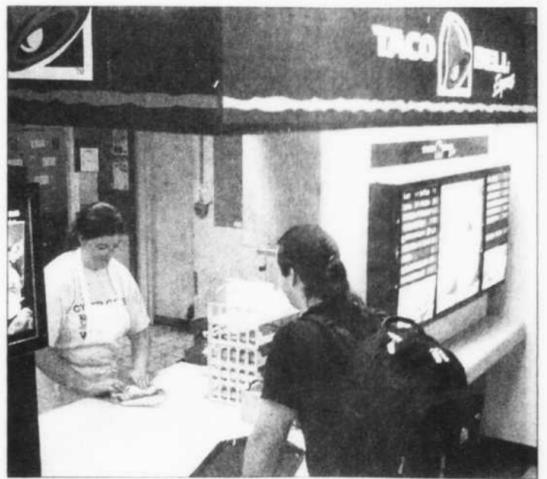


Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor
Margaret Wiles fixes and order from the new Taco Bell in the Cyber Cafe for Don Smith Tuesday afternoon.

Schedule: comedian to perform

Continued from 1

at 8:30 that night, and refreshments will be served.

There will be a dinner and street fair behind Corlew Hall Aug. 18 at 5:30 p.m.

The first day of classes - Monday, Aug. 20, - the President's Picnic will be held at 4 p.m. between Peck Hall and the Cope Administration

Building.

MTSU's Volunteer and Student Organization Fair is Tuesday through Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on The Knoll behind Keathley University Center.

The fair is an opportunity for MTSU's students to learn about different community service opportunities as well as different on-campus organiza-

tions.

There will be a Greek Fest at the Recreation Center Wednesday, Aug. 22 at 7 p.m.

Darryl Hammond, a comedian from Saturday Night Live, is scheduled to perform Friday, Aug. 24, in the Murphy Center at 8 p.m.

There will be an Honor's Challenge Aug. 25 and Summer Reading Discussion Groups

Sunday, Aug. 26, in

Wood/Felder Residential Halls.

Tuesday, Aug. 28, students will have an opportunity to meet merchants and organizations from the Murfreesboro community in the KUC Courtyard from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 29, there will be a Raider Rally and a performance by the Baha Men on

The Knoll at 5 p.m.

The last day of Welcome Week will close with the MTSU vs. Vanderbilt game Aug. 30.

Most events will take place during the evening, along with a few programs during the day.

Welcome Week is designed to inform and encourage MTSU students to become a part of campus life. ♦

Housing:

Continued from 1

living on campus is that, in most cases, it's cheaper than living off campus.

Laundry facilities, Internet connections, local phone service, cable, utilities and front desk assistants 24 hours a day are some of the services provided to on-campus residents.

The students are offered a variety of housing plans and meal plans that make it convenient for them to choose from.

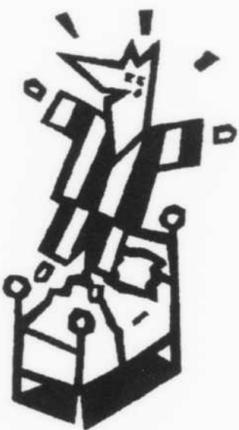
The social advantage of living on campus is that students are provided the opportunities to make lasting friendships by meeting new people.

Each housing facility offers students the chance to participate in on-site activities that promote healthy student interaction. ♦

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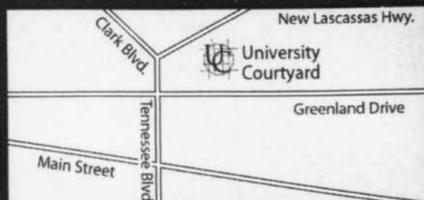
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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, TN

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

SIDELINES ♦ 4

From the staff Bush keep our money, use it wisely

As part of the \$1.35 trillion, 10-year tax-cut package just passed by Congress, many of us will be receiving tax refund checks from the federal government.

Individuals will receive a maximum of \$300, single parents could receive up to \$500 and married couples up to \$600.

In the next couple of months, everyone who filed a tax return for the year 2000 will receive a letter from the IRS telling you whether you are qualified for a refund, how much you will get back and when the check will be mailed. Checks will start going out at the end of July and probably continue through the end of September.

These checks are the result of a plan by President George W. Bush to jump-start our economy. The millions of dollars that this country has recently accrued in surplus are going to be returned to us, the public.

It's not going to go toward our trillions of dollars in debt. It's not going to go toward education, community services, crime prevention, the war on drugs or any other programs that could help better America.

It's going to go toward new clothes, food, gas, school loans, rent and other amenities of everyday life.

Now this money might be nice to have lining our pockets, and there probably won't be any return-to-sender envelopes coming in the White House, but greed aside, couldn't this money be spent on better things?

Those millions of dollars could help improve this nation for years to come. Our \$300 checks probably aren't going to last for a month.

There are going to be some that say we are crazy for looking a gift horse in the mouth. The point is that \$300 isn't that much.

It's a small price to pay for improving our country, and the beauty of it is, we've already paid it. ♦

All-natural inherently means good?

For Argument's Sake



Perhaps you have noticed the ever-growing number of herbal supplements and drugs that have appeared on store shelves in the past few years.

One bottle label (priced at only \$49.99) might read something like this: "Used by the Aborigines since the dawn of their culture to cure diaper rash, diabetes, pancreatic cancer and syphilis. This herb is from the

earth and is all-natural."

Ok, maybe that's a slight exaggeration.

I have two major problems with herbal medicine and the way that it is marketed today.

Packages such as the one above tell of how great it was for some people who lived centuries ago.

My first question is this: why does that inherently make a drug good? People who hate the idea of "unnatural drugs" entering the body tend to forget that the human life expectancy has been extended tremendously thanks to modern medicine. It is truly amazing what we can do now. On the other hand, many herbal drugs have not

proven their effectiveness in any documented way. I have often questioned the effectiveness of such concoctions.

However, more important is the fact that these herbal drugs do not have to undergo the same scrutiny by the Food and Drug Administration that prescription and over-the-counter drugs do. There are numerous factors that are neglected because of this loophole.

There has been at least one case where Echinacea, which is sold as a way to fight the common cold by means of boosting the immune system and has actually proven somewhat effective, caused a woman with an overactive immune system to

become very ill.

Granted, you'd have to be pretty stupid to take an immune system booster when you have an overactive immune system, but we've been having to safeguard the idiotic from themselves for many years.

No warnings were on the label, whereas if the drug had been regulated, there probably would have been one. There are also no documented side effects on most of the labels.

The whole herbal drug craze reminds me of the tonics marketed in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Ever heard of a smooth, sweet fizzy concoction that was marketed as a revitalizer? Why, we sell it in our very own

cafeterias today (without cocaine as the active ingredient, of course.) Sellout pop stars marketed on television. Coke was only one of many tonics sold that promised to give you a boost, calm your nerves, make your hair grow and make hair go away.

While I do think that herbal medicines can have a place in modern medicine, they should be subject to the same regulations that all other medicines are subjected to.

A final thought: if these drugs are so simple and natural, why are they so damn expensive? And they aren't even covered by my prescription plan! ♦

MTV awards nothing but mindless drivel

Canadian Bacon



For years now, conservatives have been calling for policing of the national media.

I always dismissed these calls for war as thinly-veiled attempts to promote a cookie-cutter Judeo-Christian view of how the world should be.

I believed that television networks and cable channels had the right to broadcast whatever they wished, without having to constantly check over their shoulders for *Big Brother*

and his cronies.

How wrong I was.

Did anyone else watch the MTV movie awards?

What mindless drivel. All I wanted to see was the greatest band in the world, Weezer, play one of their new singles. What I was subjected to was a shameless display of sexual innuendos, and in the case of the Wayans brothers' presentation of best female performance, repeated use of the word vagina.

This is supposed to be prime time entertainment? Brittany Spears had a cameo and told host Kirsten Dunst to "shut her hell up" and to "kiss [her] ass."

You can't tell me that the behavior and words of these young adults has no affect on our nation's young and pre-teens.

The day after the show aired, I watched in disgust and dismay as troupes of 10-year-old girls, many of whom were dressed in Ms. Spears' outfit of camouflage pants and white T-shirt, came parading through my movie theater using the same abrasive language they had seen on MTV the night before.

Now, I am not naive enough to believe that these girls picked up their crude behavior after one evening of commercial balderdash. But repeated exposure to that sort of, for lack of a better word, crap is enough to turn any innocent youngster into a potty-mouthed slave of the entertainment industry.

Art imitates life, and life imitates art. It's a vicious cycle that can only be

stopped when someone removes him or herself or is yanked out of the path. While it is the parent's responsibility to look out for their child, no family, not even one with a stay-at-home parent, can safeguard their child 24/7. That's why it's up to the television media to broadcast more wholesome events, or at the very least, show the rubbish after hours.

The media and parents aren't the only ones responsible for the sad state of affairs within which the rising generation is being raised. I blame the government as well.

I'm not only talking about the lack of laws to prevent once-trashed, now socially-acceptable shows from airing. I'm also talk-

ing about their unabashed support of shows like the MTV movie awards.

In all four of the sat-through before changing the channel for good, there were commercials for the United States Air Force. Not only that, right before commercial breaks, messages like "The MTV Movie Awards are proudly brought to you by the United States Air Force."

Proudly? My oh my, how standards of decency have fallen. Until families can once again afford to be a single-income household, it's up to the government what is and what is not acceptable for our youth to watch.

The industry obviously won't instruct themselves. ♦

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

The following is a response to the June 6 column by Jason Cox titled "Jeffords is a modern patriot."

While Jason Cox is certainly entitled to his opinion, I fail to see how he considers Jim Jeffords' defection from the Republican Party in the middle of a senate session the act of "a modern patriot." Patriots, by definition, are people who put aside their own desires and aspirations for the good of their community, state or country. Patriots are people who sacrifice for something greater than themselves. This does not apply to Jim Jeffords.

Senator Jeffords quit the Republican Party after just being re-elected by the people of Vermont for a third six-year term in November

2000. These voters chose to send a liberal Republican to represent their state in the U.S. Senate. By his action, Senator Jeffords undermined the will of hundreds of thousands of Vermont voters. While he certainly has the right to change his party allegiance, a true patriot would have resigned his seat and chose to stand for election representing his new positions. People throughout our country are fed-up with hypocritical politicians who say one thing while running for office and doing quite another once elected. The people of Vermont ought that senate seat, not Jim Jeffords. His action represents the height of arrogance and hypocrisy — not the traits of "a modern patriot." If Jason Cox does not like the agenda of the Republican Party, he should write a column detailing why it is wrong instead of praising behavior that invalidates the will of voters.

Jeff Coker

SIDELINES

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BURNT ORANGE PEEL!

ENJOY IT OR
EAT TEN WORMS

BY MR. LUCAS P. ANTONIAK



Correction

In last week's *Sidelines*, we misspelled Dewon Brazelton's names in the staff consensus. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

Everyone has an opinion, so let us read it.
E-mail us at slopinio@mtsu.edu
Speak your mind!

The hypocrisy called the death penalty

The way it should be



Pam Hudgens
Managing Editor

Monday morning, we, as a nation, took the life of a human being.

Yes, he did a terrible thing. He ripped through the lives of many people who will never be the same. He killed 168 innocent people who are missed dearly and will never be forgotten by their friends and families.

So don't get me wrong. Timothy McVeigh shouldn't go unpunished for the horrendous crime he committed. But who are we to decide that, in return, he too must die.

Does taking his life make up for what he did? Does it change anything? Does it make us feel

better now that we've gotten revenge?

Two wrongs don't make a right. As trite as that is, I honestly believe it.

In a way, it's the ultimate hypocrisy. Killing people is wrong, so we're going to punish murderers and teach them a lesson, by what, killing them?

Give me a break.

I guess the lesson here is do what we say, not what we do. We're not exactly setting a good example to be followed if the moral here is supposed to be "killing is bad."

I heard someone refer to it the other day as "legally murdered." The whole point here is supposed to be that murder is illegal. Not only illegal but morally wrong.

How can we actually sit here on our high horses and judge someone as immoral and then turn around and commit the same immoral act for which they are supposedly being punished?

Some people were actually

"elated" over his death. I think that's sick. I even feel a little sadness over his death. It is, after all, a wasted life, and no matter how I may feel about McVeigh personally, a wasted life is always a sad thing.

I have talked to many people - some who are generally against the death penalty - who think it's all right in McVeigh's case because of what he did.

The death toll was extremely high, the victims innocent and the pain almost unbearable.

They say that he should die to somehow avenge the suffering of those left behind.

But McVeigh's death will cause fresh suffering to some.

I feel just as sorry for McVeigh's family as I do for those of the Oklahoma City bombing victims. Not to be harsh, but the victims are dead. Is there really any need to hurt even more people.

We've had enough death. Why are we causing more? ♦

Denying our traditions

By Aaron Lalic
The Shorthorn

(U-WIRE) ARLINGTON, Texas - Saturday, my friend and I were talking and politics came up. I could see she was hesitating, but I wasn't sure why.

"I'm not very political," she said. "But I did vote for Bush." "Why?" I asked with real intrigue. "Because my parents did."

I asked her what agendas she shared with him and she didn't know.

That said it all. Following tradition restrains people, once again, from really understanding why they do things. How proud would the Republican Party be to hear that she voted because it's tradition in her family to vote Republican, no matter how two-faced the monster?

Hearing that stirred me as to what other things people do for tradition. I had to assume any choice that couldn't be made easily followed the same rationale. If people started questioning why they are doing something before they act, ultimately, they may find out their actions will differ. Things change when people redefine what they're "supposed to do."

Who they want representing their interests, why they marry or attend school and what they

do with their lives are all predetermined actions with social approval pending. Says who? These are not my laws. These are not my rules. Every action in my view is an extension of my faith where I act because I decide it is the right action. I voted for Ralph Nader.

In my opinion, his party's views on the environment, big business and government and the criminal justice system closely resemble my own, which I formed through experiences and education.

Voting blindly in an election where the agendas radically differ is like gambling in Vegas, betting it all on the first hand.

I'm not sure if I want to marry. I can see myself in love with one person for a long time but not united by those standards. Marriage is nothing more than a legality for the Internal Revenue Service and a ceremony conjured up by florists aiming to expand the marriage-arranging industry. Undying love can be celebrated but not put on paper. If I were walking down an arbor-filled road at sunset with someone, am I walking to get to the road's end or to enjoy the scenery?

I attend school because I want to be educated enough to make informed decisions and to learn about the world.

For the most part I actually

like school. Many people I talk to in class, at lunch or in a line somewhere say they are here to get a degree so they can get a job. Nothing is really wrong with that. Texas has a large demand for an educated workforce, and many jobs require a degree. But does becoming educated so life will make more sense ever enter the picture?

I want to be a writer. According to society-at-large, I'm supposed to get a job to make money so I can support a family.

Well, maybe I picked the wrong profession, because a friend told me once that being a famous writer is as lofty a goal as becoming a rock star. Not everyone is the next William Faulkner or the next Metallica, but yet they still try. Maybe there's more to life than material things. Maybe expressing oneself for the world to see is more important. If so, why am I not paid more?

People are different from their parents and their children will likely differ from them. Society needs to continually rewrite its laws and question the nature of its rules to progress.

Sometimes I feel like I'm drowning in repetition and no one will throw me a line because I am unconventional rather than traditional. ♦

Liar, liar, your ethics are on fire

By Evelyn Aschenbrenner
The South End

(U-WIRE) DETROIT - There have been some extremely obnoxious advertisements on the radio lately. And since the ads are on radio stations from 760 AM WWJ to 96.3 FM, it's been almost impossible to escape them.

Local disc jockeys have been hawking a product called Body Solutions, a "miracle" product that supposedly can make you lose weight overnight. However, in the ads, these DJs are purporting how well this product works and how much weight they've lost.

It's routine for DJs to read ads on air. However, when it's a product whose claims are as credible as those of Madam Cleo, the late night tarot card reader, it shows incredibly poor judgment on the part of the DJ.

It's one thing for a DJ to read something that is obviously an ad. But to read an ad, then throw in their own personal recommendation, is another. It's the difference between saying "Store X is having a sale" and "I really like Store X." When DJs give a product their personal endorsement, it gives that endorsement more validity. If the news they read is supposed to be true, other things they say on air carry weight as well.

Not to mention, there's no proof that this product works. Since the instructions say one can't eat anything three hours

before bedtime, it's no wonder that some weight may be lost. If someone was in the habit of eating a meal before bed, and stopped that habit, they would probably lose a little bit of weight. Whether some miracle pill had anything to do with that weight loss is open to debate. But I'll go out on a limb here and say most reasonable people would agree that most miracle weight-loss products are a bunch of hokey.

But the fact that DJs are endorsing such products shows they have questionable morals. These DJs are getting paid to read these ads - and they're getting paid more to read a personal endorsement. Also, they're pressured by Mark Nutritional, the company that sells Body Solutions, to sell its product.

Of course, giving it their personal recommendation lends credibility to what they're saying. Stating how well this stuff works will make it sell better.

And if this isn't enough, the DJs are given free supplies of this stuff. I guess this is to ensure that they'll have wonderful success stories to tell on the radio and to sell more weight-loss stuff. So the DJs can make more money. Does anyone else see an ethical problem here?

Excuse me, DJs are not paid to hock products. They're paid to read news, introduce songs, give weather and traffic

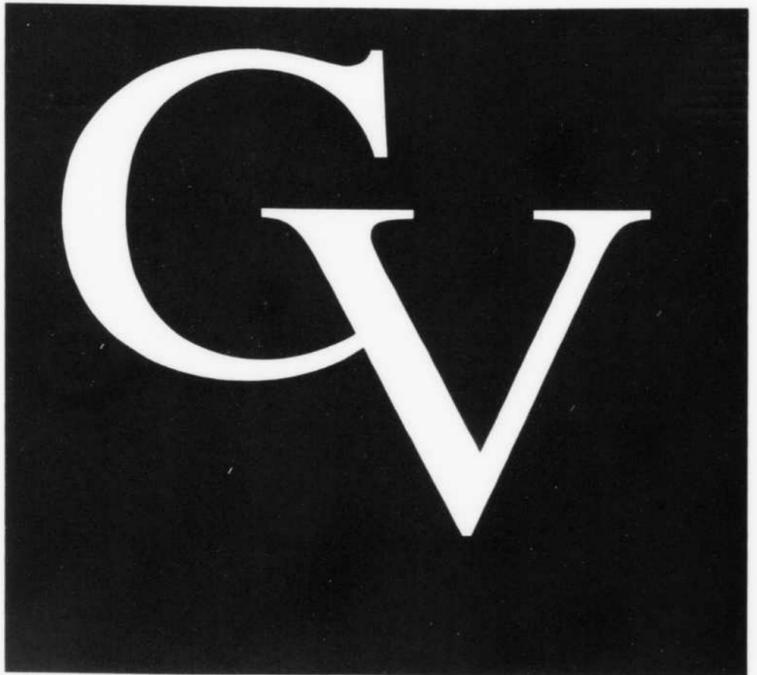
updates, and the like. But the only thing they should be selling is their radio station - to entice people to listen, and not go out and buy.

I have always found it odd that DJs routinely lend their voice for ads. Anchors on TV stations don't do ads, unless they're for their TV show. Journalists don't write ads, unless they write for USA Today. DJs appear to be the exception to this rule.

There should be a more distinct line drawn between what's an ad and what's a news broadcast on radio. While it's legal for the DJs in Detroit to be doing this, that doesn't make it right. It's one thing to lend your voice for an ad, but another to lend both your name and voice - and thus, what credibility you have.

It seems that most DJs in the area would rather get paid to endorse a bogus weight-loss product than retain any dignity or respect. When you're making claims like you can "eat as much as you like" and lose weight, your credibility goes right out the window.

While there are laws covering lies and slander in the media, there are no codes for how someone in the communications field should conduct themselves. There shouldn't have to be - people should be able to maintain a moral code without a law governing it. But I think that sometimes, I have too much faith in people. ♦



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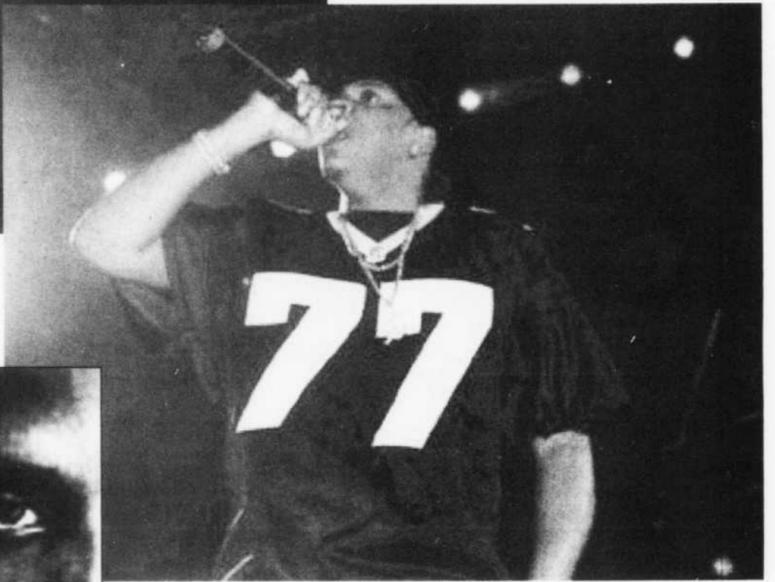
Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Murfreesboro, TN

Going 'Backstage' with Hip Hop



DMX (pictured above) performing his first hit, *Get At Me Dog*, during the *Hard Knock Life Tour* last year. The tour also featured Redman and Method Man.



Grammy Award-winning artist Jay-Z headlined *The Hard Knock Life Tour* last year, which became the subject of the Roc-A-Fella/Dimension Films documentary, *Backstage*. The tour was one of the most successful hip hop shows in history. The artists donated proceeds from the Denver show to the families of the Columbine shooting victims.

School of Review Hard Knocks



By Shawn Whitsell
Features Editor

Coming off the heels of the mega successful *Hard Knock Life Tour*, Roc-A-Fella Films recently released, *Backstage*, an in-depth look behind one of the most successful hip hop tours in history.

With acts such as DMX, Jay-Z and the dynamic duo Redman and Method, along with their various affiliates and proteges, the documentary is full of personal interviews, parties, backstage antics and concert clips, and it gives a view of the "real" side of the music business. This real side is something most fans and wannabe rap stars have no clue about.

It's the late nights and early mornings. It's riding from city to city to city in a sometimes-crowded tour bus. It's the business meetings and greeting fans when you're tired or angry.

It's dealing with industry snakes and opportunists. With a tour such as this, it could also be dealing with rivalry.

Backstage gives viewers a glimpse of every aspect of life on a hip hop tour — the good, the bad and the ugly. There's footage of groupies hanging out in hotel lobbies, artists smoking weed and drinking and a classic "disagreement" between Def Jam president Kevin Liles and Roc-a-Fella CEO Damon Dash.

The charismatic team of Red and Meth open the show, soaring through the air and later stage diving. The duo does more than simply warm up the audience for the headliners. They blaze it, which is what they're known for anyway.

Next comes the dog himself — Mr. Dark Man X. Unlike most hip hop sets, there's no entourage on stage; it's just X and his DJ Swizz Beats. Despite a guest appearance by fellow

Ruff Ryder Eve, X holds it down by his lonesome, and with his barks, growls, gritty rhymes and touching prayers, he proves that he doesn't need anyone else.

Last but not least, Jigga enters the arena from the back, catching the crowd off guard. While making his way to the stage surrounded by security, he continues to bless the mic, never missing a beat despite being pulled and tugged by fans. After getting on stage, Jay rocks every hit in his catalog and brings various members of his Roc-A-Fella familia out on stage to shine.

With Dash serving as the producer, the film is well put together. It's packed with high energy performances, intense interviews and humorous moments, like when Dash told Liles his teeth were "gray like a bad day" or when he told him that his "breath smelled like he'd been drinking a manure shake."

There's also footage of the Denver concert, where the artists decided to give the show's proceeds to the families of the Columbine victims.

The person that stood out the most in the film was Dash, which is ironic considering he's not one of the artists on the bill. However, Dash was definitely one of the driving forces behind the tour. He's shown making phone calls, being daddy to his young son, motivating and scolding those who need it, giving solid advice to DJ Clue and then hitting the stage as Jigga's hype man. Seeing Dash in action will definitely give viewers a greater appreciation for the people behind the scenes.

If you're a true hip hop fan, *Backstage* is a must see.

You can also get the accompanying soundtrack that was recorded on the road during the *Hard Knock Life Tour*. ♦

Break dancing club promotes hip hop culture at U. Florida

By Melissa Bartalos
Independent Florida Alligator (U. Florida)

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. - On Thursday nights, the University of Florida Reitz Union is transformed into a makeshift break dancing studio. Rhythmic music supplies the beat as about 20 people practice their barrels, hollowbacks and headspins.

They wear whatever will help them glide smoothly on the slick tile sweatpants, basketball jerseys, T-shirts, slick pants and tennis shoes. One break-dancer wears a bandana, not just for fashion or to catch the sweat, but to be

able to slide five feet across the floor on his head.

Often on the second floor, sometimes the group moves to the ground floor — in front of Freshens frozen yogurt store. It is a small area, but better for getting people to notice.

There, four dancers strut to the inside of the circle and break out with a series of break dancing moves. Legs fly in the air like windmills, and one dancer balances on his forearm with his body extended horizontally.

Some of the break dancers, who are mostly UF and Santa Fe Community College students, have been at it for

eight years or more.

The group chose the Reitz Union because without status as an official UF club, it has no permanent place. But for now the yet-to-be named hip-hop culture club meets wherever it can find a flat, smooth place to "break."

Acting president Kevin Tate, a UF psychology junior, hopes to increase membership and expand the club to incorporate all four expressions of hip-hop culture: emceeing, deejaying, break dancing and graffiti. Exposing the positive aspects of those expressions is the group's major goal.

"In my opinion, a lot of hip-hop

glorifies too much violence, greed and the degradation of women," Tate said. "We want to promote the kind of hip hop that encourages people to be more productive and do something with their lives."

The new club is an open forum for people who share those same thoughts — and for people who want to practice throwing a good jackhammer or windmill. The group also encourages beginners to come out and enjoys it when people come to "just hang out and be spectators."

Tate admits the club is not as organized as it should be, but he says he is

working on it. With a faculty sponsor supporting the group and a constitution underway, Tate said the club should be officially up and running in a few weeks.

The group is hoping to move into the martial arts room in the O'Connell Center when it becomes an official UF club.

Tate said the room's flat, padded surface and mirrors will be ideal for practicing. In the meantime, the club will take advantage of Reitz Union and hope it recruits some members. Tate

See Break dancing, 7

Break dancing: Club attempts to keep it alive

Continued from 6

said he already knows of 40 or 50 people interested in joining.

"We chose the Union because it's a convenient place and familiar to students," he said. "I know there are a lot of people interested in hip-hop culture that just don't know we're out there."

Tate says breakdancing could be popular in Gainesville because it has caught on in so many other areas.

Last month, Miami was a site for a break dancing competition.

It is "really huge" on the West Coast of the United States and "unbelievably big" in Europe. There are many national and international events and festivals that celebrate break dancing and hip-hop culture, like the Internal Breakdancing Battle, the B-Boy Expo, the B-Boy Summit and The Conference.

"A lot of people relate hip hop to gangs, but it's really a positive outlet," Tate said. "It started in the ghettos so people could have some healthy competition."

Tate, 24 and originally from Orlando, has been

break dancing on and off for four years. He said he always wanted to break dance after being exposed to it at clubs when he was younger.

"It looks insane at first," he said. "But I finally got up the guts to learn it and it's so much fun."

But breakdancing takes discipline, and people who plan to become artists have to practice regularly for a couple of years, usually for at least two hours a day, Tate said.

Riyaana Hartley, a UF student, started break dancing about four months ago. She started out learning the six basic floor steps and watching videos, and now she practices with more experienced breakdancers.

Hartley is one of two girls who comes regularly to the Thursday night practice sessions. It took some courage — only about 5 percent of break dancers are female, she estimated — but she wanted to try it.

"I was itching to do it and I told myself, 'Either go for it or stop complaining,'" she said. "Now I practice all the time. If you're human and you try hard enough, you can do it. It's a lot of fun when you really start to learn." ♦



Photo by Joan Marcus

Riverdance is a celebration of Irish music, song and dance, which is currently on a standing-room-only tour of North America. Riverdance returns to Nashville this week by popular demand.

'Riverdance' returns to Nashville

Staff Reports

Riverdance — the show, the original international phenomenon — has returned by popular demand to the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville.

Riverdance is a celebration of Irish music, song and the evolution of Irish dance. It also points out the similarities between Irish music and other cultures. Composed by Grammy winner Bill Whelan, produced by Moya Doherty and directed by John McColgan, the show combines the riches of music with the magic and sensuality of dance while drawing upon Irish traditions.

In its first trip to Nashville in 1999, Riverdance sold out in the second week of the engagement, making a mark as one of the best attended shows in TPAC's 20-year history.

"We want to provide another opportunity for everyone who wants to see the show in Nashville to do so," said Kathleen O'Brien, TPAC's senior vice president of marketing.

Riverdance continues to experience the success we enjoyed worldwide. Anything that sells out from Nashville to New York and to cities in Europe, Asia and Australia obviously has

managed to immerse itself in to suggest an age and cultural background. One aspect of the show's success is its high energy and fast pace, with production elements and special effects that match the quality of the music and showmanship of the artists.

We've received a great deal of feedback about the show, and the beginning of the show is a highlight for many.

The Nashville engagement of the show is sponsored by WSMV, as part of the Hermitage, Nashville, TN, Tennessee, DC, LA, New York and Cardiff, the 40th anniversary of TPAC.

The show is at 7:30 p.m. through Friday. The weekend show times are 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sundays. TPAC's Andrew Jackson Hall is located at 305 Drake St.

Budget 200 priced at \$20 and \$27.50 and can be purchased at the TPAC Box Office downtown, TPAC/Kidd Bookellers, or any Ticketmaster outlet. You may also log on to www.tpac.org. Call TPAC Group Sales for discounts and benefits for groups of 20 or more. ☎ 615-782-4000. ♦

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 OVERNIGHTS WITH
 BOB PARLOCHA

Four Raiders picked in draft

By J.P. Plant
Sports Editor

Although junior pitcher Dewon Brazelton stole most of the attention on draft day last week, two other Blue Raiders were selected on day one and another on day two.

Senior Josh Renick, a third team All-American, was selected first in the 11th round by the Minnesota Twins on day one of the amateur draft. Also selected on the first day was junior Jason Moates, picked 597th overall by the Detroit Tigers in the 20th round.

Renick ended his career as Middle Tennessee's all-time career leader in batting average, hitting .381 in his two years as a

Blue Raider. His .420 average with eight home runs grabbed



Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff
The Twins selected Renick with the 317th pick overall.

Sun Belt Player of the Week honoree and the second highest average in school history.

Renick says he is excited about the opportunity to play with the Twins considering his father won a World Series ring with Minnesota in 1987.

Renick, who was tabbed third team All-American by both the *Collegiate Baseball Newspaper* and the Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, joins fellow Blue Raider Brazelton, named to the first team by both, and freshman John Williams, who was named to the freshman team by the Writers Association.

Williams ended his first season as a Blue Raider with a 7-1 record and a 3.59 earned run

average. His seven wins are the most for a freshman since Brazelton won eight in 1999. Williams, a product of Oakland High School, will probably be remembered most this season for his contribution in the win over South Alabama in the regular season finale to clinch a share of the Sun Belt regular season championship.

Coach Peterson is expecting Williams to become a great pitcher before his career in Murfreesboro is finished.

Joining the list of Blue Raider baseball achievers is Jason Moates, who was also drafted on the first day along side Renick and Brazelton. Moates, a native of Columbia, Tenn., transferred from

Alabama after his freshman season. He compiled a 6-2 mark with a 3.19 ERA and by the end of the season had maneuvered his way into the Saturday starter in the weekend rotation against conference opponents.

This wasn't the first time, however, that Moates has been drafted. The Cincinnati Reds took the junior right hander in the 26th round last year but couldn't get him to sign. "Tommy John" elbow surgery and wanted to prove himself all over again to the scouts.

Moates does have one more year of eligibility left and could return next year to become the

See Draft, 9

BLUE RAIDERS IN 2001 DRAFT

Dewon Brazelton, p, Tullahoma, Tenn.
1st round - 3rd pick
Tampa Bay Devil Rays

Josh Renick, 2b, Sarasota, Fla.
11th round - 317th pick
Minnesota Twins

Jason Moates, p, Columbia, Tenn.
20th round - 597th pick
Detroit Tigers

Kris Lammers, p/1b, Manchester, Tenn.
24th round - 710th pick
Philadelphia Phillies

Disappointing losses end season

By J.P. Plant
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider baseball team ended its 2001 campaign with a pair of tough losses at the Knoxville NCAA Regional May 25-26.

All-American Dewon Brazelton threw his 22 career complete game in a 2-1 loss to Tennessee, while junior Jason Moates battled with Wake Forest in a 5-2 defeat.

The loss to the No. 1 seeded Demon Deacons from Wake Forest ended the career of 10 Blue Raider seniors: Josh Renick, Phillip Cambell, Kyle Skillman, Kyle Thomas, Scott Goodman, Nic Stone, Kevin Davis, Brandon Johnson, Kris Lammers and David VanWinkle.

The game two defeat to Wake Forest saw a line-up different to what Blue Raider fans are accustomed to.

Due to injuries to All-American Josh Renick and Justin Sims, the second leading hitter on the team, Nic Stone, Phillip Cambell and Kris Smith received starts.

Heading into the contest, Stone, Cambell and Smith had a collective batting average of .170, compared to a .398 average from Renick and Sims.

Both teams, losers of their first game, were in a do-or-die situation

Blue Raider

Team of the Week

with the loser going home. Wake Forest, with the No. 1 seed, was defeated by the fourth seed Tennessee Tech and faced the embarrassment of two and done.

Middle Tennessee, on the other hand, was coming off one of the more emotional games of the season, losing for only the second time with Brazelton on the hill.

Middle not only lost the game, but its two leading hitters as well in Renick and Sims. Picking up the slack from the two best hitters proved to be a monumental task, one the Blue Raiders were unable to accomplish.

Demon Deacon pitcher Cory Sullivan no-hit the Blue Raiders until the sixth inning when junior Marshall Nisbett cranked a solo home run to right field for his sixth of the season.

The solo shot by Nisbett brought the Blue Raiders within one run at 3-2. But that proved to be as close as they would get as the Deacons added single runs in the fifth, seventh and eighth innings to go on win 5-2.

"When you don't swing the bats well at this level you are not going to win baseball

games," head coach Steve Peterson said following the game.

The Deacons ended up losing to Tennessee who swept Eastern Carolina in the Super Regional and is playing now in the College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

Game one against Tennessee, in front of more than 4,000 fans at Lindsey Nelson Stadium on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, became a baseball purist's dream.

A classic pitchers duel inspired emotions exclusive to collegiate athletics. Dewon Brazelton and Wyatt Allen gave up four and two hits respectively, both going the distance in a 2-1 decision in favor of Tennessee.

Tennessee jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first when All-American Chris Burke led off the game with a triple down the left-field line. Burke later scored on a Stevie Daniel ground ball to second base putting the Vols on top early.

Both Brazelton and Allen proceeded to pitch five consecutive scoreless innings until the Blue Raiders tied the game in the top half of the seventh.

Freshman Chuck Akers reached base on an error by Burke and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by senior Kyle Skillman.

Akers move to third on a third-strike wild pitch to junior Jason Howarth who hustled to first base on the pitch.

Senior Phillip Cambell, who entered the game in the sixth inning after Renick was hit by a pitch on his left forearm, singled to left to drive in the Blue Raiders' only run.

Tennessee answered right back in the bottom half of the inning scoring the go-ahead run on a sacrifice squeeze by Burke to plate Ryan Moffett who entered the game as a pinch runner earlier in the inning.

"This was a great college baseball game," Peterson said. "It ranks right on top as one of the best college games I have been apart of."

Middle Tennessee (41-17) ended the season with its second best record under Peterson, as well as a Sun Belt Conference regular season championship, four players drafted in the June Major League Baseball amateur draft and three players given the title of All-American (Brazelton - 1st team, Renick - 3rd team and freshman John Williams - freshman team). ♦

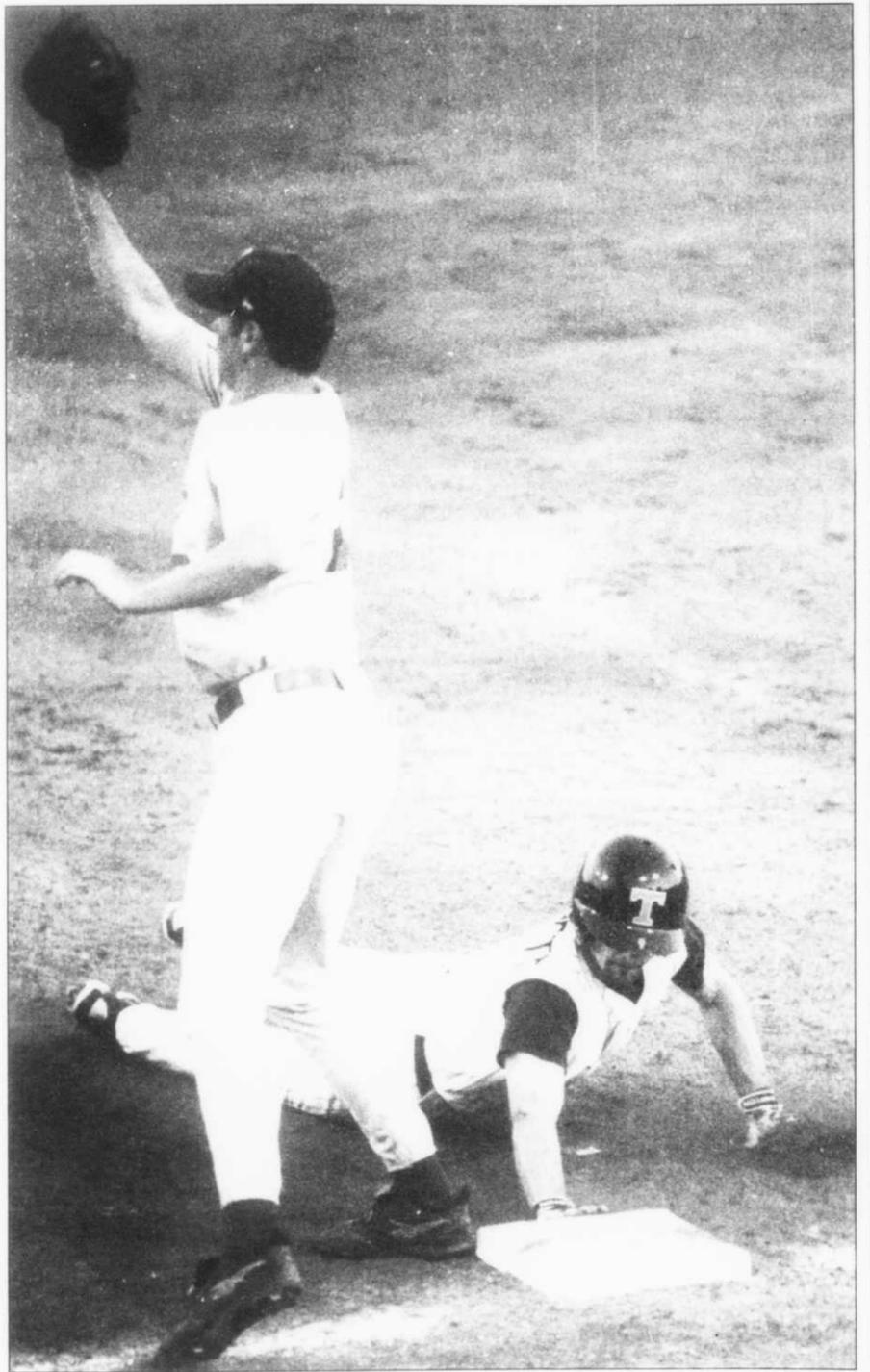


Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff
Kris Lammers attempts to tag Kris Bennett (9) in a 2-1 loss last week in Knoxville.

Players set to appear in court

By R. Colin Fly
Staff Writer

Seniors Kendall Newson and Jason Johnson were arraigned on charges stemming from a brawl at Oxygen, a Murfreesboro nightclub, in April.

Newson, the team's leading wide receiver last year, is charged with public intoxication and disorderly conduct and will be in court again July 9 for hearings on the incident.

Johnson, who started at quarterback last season, was charged with disorderly con-



Newson



Johnson

duct and will make his case to the court Aug. 6.

Interim Athletic Director Boots Donnelly has declined to comment about the players' status until after their court dates. ♦

Athletic program wins Vic Bubas Cup

MT Media Relations

At the annual Sun Belt Conference spring meetings, junior right-handed pitcher Dewon Brazelton was named the Sun Belt's Athlete of the Year, while MTSU was presented with the Vic Bubas Cup in its first year in the conference.

The athlete of the year is presented to the student athlete that achieves the highest success on the field and in the classroom during each academic year.

Brazelton has been the league's highest profiled athlete during the season, being featured in several publications including Sports Illustrated,

Baseball America, and Baseball Weekly, as well as national broadcast stations such as ESPN.

A native of Tullahoma, Tenn., Brazelton has helped lead the Middle Tennessee baseball team to its 10th NCAA Tournament. Brazelton is also a candidate for the nation's top collegiate baseball player, accumulating an impressive 13-1 record on the season with an ERA of 1.44.

Middle Tennessee's athletic

department was also honored with the conference's top award for excellence throughout the entire year. The Vic Bubas Cup is annually awarded to the institution that

accrues the highest point total among all Sun Belt sponsored sports.

"This is a great honor," interim Athletic Director Boots Donnelly said. "The student athletes and coaches deserve all the credit to be able to win this award in our first year in the

conference. They have done a tremendous job to get to this point as tough as the Sun Belt Conference is across the board."

With Middle Tennessee winning the Vic Bubas Cup, South Alabama had its stronghold on the award come to an end. USA had won the award the previous two years and 10 of the last 14 years dating back to 1988.

The Sun Belt Conference also honored student athletes in each individual sport with Sportsmanship Awards. Kelly Chastain (basketball) and Mark Pellerin (tennis) were honored as Middle Tennessee's institutional winners for the Sportsmanship Award. ♦



Draft: Renick, Moates, Lammers join Brazelton in draft

Continued from 8

No. 1 starter for Coach Peterson.

Rounding out the list is pitcher/first baseman, Kris Lammers. The senior from

Manchester was selected on day two by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 24th round. Lammers had joined fellow Blue Raider Kyle Thomas on the independent team, the Tennessee Tomahawks, of Winchester but

had to cut his stint there short due to the call from the Phillies. Lammers ended his career with a 14-14 record and a 5.29 ERA, while his career batting average was .282 with 7 home runs and 56 runs batted in.

With four players selected in the draft, it marks only the third time in school history that feat has been accomplished - 1988 and 1990 being the other two. ♦



Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff

Jason Moates (28) throws against Wake Forest in the Raiders final game of the season. Moates was selected in the 20th round by the Detroit Tigers while Kris Lammers (29) was picked in the 24th by the Philadelphia Phillies.

Career Stats of Drafted Blue Raiders

	Avg.	GP/GS	HR	RBI	SB		ERA	W - L	IP	BB	K
Josh Renick	.381	112/112	9	60	45	Jason Moates	3.60	7 - 3	80.0	58	72
Kris Lammers	.282	153/126	7	56	4	Kris Lammers	5.29	14 - 14	226.1	75	171

Catcher signs baseball contract

Staff Reports

Former MTSU catcher Kyle Thomas signed an independent league contract with the Tennessee Tomahawks of Winchester. He has already played his first games for the Tomahawks.

Thomas hit .278 in 198 plate appearances with five home runs and 31 RBI.

However, it was Thomas' defensive abilities at catcher that made him a vital part of the 2001 roster.

He earned a .985 percent fielding average while throwing

out 16 runners attempting to steal during the course of the season.

Kris Lammers also appeared once for the team before his selection in the amateur draft. However, his selection by Philadelphia will nullify his agreement with the team.

Finally, Blue Raider signee Josh Archer, a catcher from Henry County High School poised to replace Thomas, was taken in the 40th round by the San Diego Padres but is not expected to sign. ♦

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