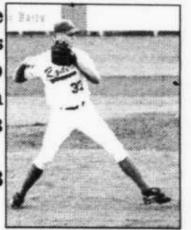




SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Murfreesboro, TN

Volume 75 No. 53

Professor crusades to abolish death penalty

Matthew Kelly
Contributing Writer

Standing on a busy downtown street corner last month as a torrent of Thursday afternoon commuters flows by, MTSU journalism professor David Eason doesn't seem to mind the steady rain, the 45-degree temperature, or the gusting wind that, despite his umbrella, makes it virtually impossible to stay dry.

From the endless stream of passing cars, a motorist honks and gives Eason a thumbs-up. Another driver stops to offer words of encouragement.

"I've never done anything like this before in my life," Eason says.

As he has nearly every Thursday for the past six weeks, Eason stands on the corner of 8th Avenue and Broadway in downtown Nashville with a sign that reads, "Execution is NOT the solution."

Eason, along with other members of the Tennessee Coalition Against State Killing, is protesting Tennessee's death penalty.

The first execution in Tennessee since 1960 is scheduled to take place Thursday. Robert Glen Coe, 43, is set to be put to death by lethal injection for the 1979 kidnapping, rape and murder of 8-year-old Cary Ann Medlin.

Coe's lawyers filed papers Wednesday with the U.S. District Court in Nashville seeking a stay of execution, asking that the federal court review the state court findings that Coe is legally competent to be executed.

In order to be judged competent, Coe must understand both that he has been sentenced to death and the reasons for that. A Memphis judge in January determined that Coe meets these standards. Coe's attorneys and death penalty opponents, however, cite Coe's history of mental illness.

If the execution does take place, Eason says he would feel terrible if he hadn't done something.

"I come out here and stand on this street corner," he says, "because I feel someone should be doing something to send the message that this is wrong."

"I'm against the death penalty because it's inherently unfair," Eason explains. "It's not shown to be a deterrent."

According to TCASK, only one in every 100 convicted murderers is sentenced to death, and those who do receive the death penalty are not necessarily those who commit the most heinous crimes.

"Most of the people on death row are poor," says Eason, "and in their first trial they had bad legal representation."

According to TCASK literature, more than 90 percent of those currently on death row were unable to afford their own attorney.

TCASK also cites a racial disparity among death row inmates, noting that nearly half of all U.S. death row inmates are either African-American or Hispanic, while those groups constitute only 18 percent of the general population. The organization also found that since 1972, 83 percent of those executed were convicted of killing a white person, even though half of all of the homicide victims were black.

It is also a common myth, according to TCASK, that there aren't mistakes with death sentences. Since 1977, 78 people sentenced to death in the United States were later found to be innocent. In 1993 alone, seven people were found innocent and released from death row.

"There is strong evidence that one of the people due to be executed (in Tennessee) is innocent," Eason says, referring to the case of Phillip Workman.

Workman, 46, is set to die April 6 in the electric chair for the 1980 murder of Memphis police officer Ronald Oliver. Workman claims that the fatal shot was fired by another officer on the scene.

As recently as March 9, Workman's attorneys filed a

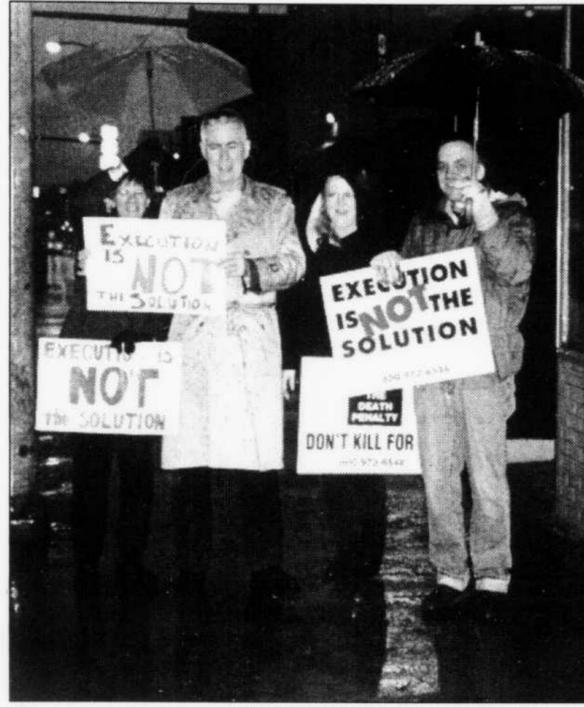


Photo by Matthew Kelly | Contributor

TCASK members Nanette Bahlinger, David Keefe, Tammy Unruh, and professor David Eason protest the death penalty on the corner of 8th Avenue and Broadway in Nashville.

request that the courts reopen the case because of a newly discovered X-ray that was taken during the slain officer's autopsy. Workman's lawyers claim that the X-ray shows that the bullets used by Workman do not correspond to the type of wound that killed Oliver.

Concerned over the number of innocent people being sent to death row in his state, Illinois Gov. George Ryan declared a moratorium January 31 to halt

all pending executions in his state. Since 1977, when Illinois reinstated the death penalty, 12 death row inmates have been executed, while 13 have been exonerated.

"Until I can be sure that everyone sentenced to death in Illinois is truly guilty," Ryan says, "until I can be sure with moral certainty that no innocent man or woman is facing a lethal

See Abolish, 3

Death debate hits campus

Matthew Kelly
Contributing Writer

The death penalty debate comes to MTSU Tuesday as TCASK joins a number of campus groups to host a day-long "teach-in" on the topic.

Guest speakers, petition-signing, and a showing of the movie "Dead Man Walking" are just a few of the scheduled events.

An information table will be set up outside the KUC from 12-1 p.m. to provide literature for anyone who is interested. Passers-by will also be able to learn about upcoming TCASK events and have the opportunity to sign a petition.

A number of speakers will talk about various aspects of the death penalty from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in KUC Room 314. Tim Wise, state director of TCASK, will talk about the current situation in Tennessee, projects that TCASK is working on, and how interested individuals can get involved.

One of the projects he will talk about is a report due to be released next month that, according to Wise, voices "concerns that we have regarding a number of people on death row despite very, very strong

See Campus, 3

Students question MTSU's commitment to Education program

Randy Allen
Staff Reporter

Students currently enrolled in the Education program fear their department has been forgotten because they are meeting in basement classrooms in some of the oldest buildings on campus.

"There are too many students sitting in uncomfortable desks in one room," said Kerri Kahtz, a junior Business Education majoring.

Originally, MTSU — then called Middle Tennessee Normal School — was founded to educate teachers. When the school opened in 1911, it offering a two-year training program for teachers. In 1925, it became a four-year teachers college offering a Bachelor of Science degree.

The university made a sharp departure from its founding purpose in 1943, according to the History of the University included in the 1999-2001 undergraduate catalogue. That's when the Tennessee General Assembly designated the institution a state college and opened the door to an expanded curriculum.

Some say the education program lost its priority with the change in the school's mission and the program has suffered ever since.

Robert A. Bullen Jr., a professor in Educational Leadership, said that some of the chairs in the classrooms are left over from the 50s and instructors have to struggle to get operational teaching environments.

"We never expect to have our own building, but we do expect to have classrooms appropriate for our program."

Alexander Kurz, a senior

majoring in Special Education, said he was surprised at the conditions considering the stress placed on teacher education by the teacher's application. He said he believes environment affects learning.

"Teacher education is in academic steerage," said Bullen.

Some of the problems stem from the continued use of older classrooms, professors said. Classroom 163 in the basement of Kirksey Old Main is referred to by Bob J. Womack, professor of Educational Leadership, as "the roughest classroom on campus."

He said he has had to move classes out of the room because of the poor conditions.

"Turning out teachers is the most important role of this university," Womack said.

"This department has a great impact on society by training teachers who prepare leaders."

He said students' perspectives are very important to members of his department.

Kahtz said she wonders why she is paying the same tuition as other students, but is forced to learn in lower quality classrooms.

"Education majors are not valued here," she said. "Aerospace and business majors are more valuable."

Janice C. Hayes is a professor of Educational Leadership, a three-time recipient of the University Outstanding Teacher Award, and the first person to receive the Outstanding Higher Education Award for the State of Tennessee.

"Classes are spread out all over the place, including Forrest Hall, Murphy Center, Kirksey Old Main, Jones Hall,

See Teach, 4

Womack Lane residents evicted Housing officials plan renovations for summer

Camille Y. Murray
Staff Reporter

Some people never imagine they could end up homeless, but for some Womack Lane residents, the nightmare has become a reality.

In a letter from Housing and Residential Life dated March 3, approximately 500 residents were given an eviction notice for renovations plans.

The notices may not have been pink, and it may not have had the word "eviction" bold-faced on the cover, but some of the students said it has left them with a feeling of betrayal, abandonment and homelessness.

Womack Lane Apartments have sheltered families for more than 30 years, but this summer, buildings D, E, F, G, H and I are going to be vacated for repairs, which will take anywhere from three to five weeks, according to Housing.

These renovations are just the first stage. During the summer of

2001, housing plans to renovate buildings A, B, C, J, K, and L.

"We regret this inconvenience, but it will be required in order for us to complete the necessary work," Deb Sells, director of Housing, wrote in the letter to residents of Womack Lane.

Family housing residents are mostly disturbed because they feel they were not given enough prior notice.

"I think it is a good idea, they just didn't give people enough time," resident Tanea McClain said.

Sells said the Housing staff is committed to helping and assisting the residents of Womack Lane Apartments in any way possible during the renovations. To aid the residents, Housing is planning to relocate them to other Womack Lane apartments. However, Sells said in the letter that there may not be enough available apartments for everyone.

"We are already aware that we may have more students wishing to remain in Womack

Lane over the summer than we will be to accommodate," Sells wrote.

Some families may have to move from a two-bedroom apartment to a single, some single students may have to move into a shared apartment with another single student and others may have to move from the area altogether.

Some students said they have simply given up and are planning to move from Family Housing.

According to the letter, the renovations taking place are as follows: replacement of all windows, screen doors, roofs, and where necessary, replacement or repair of deteriorating stairwells. In addition, they will start an Internet wiring project that will add direct computer connections to each apartment to allow residents to plug directly into the campus computing system.

The starting date of the renovations has not been announced, because the project

schedule has not been finalized, according to Housing.

"We are continuing to meet with architects and project managers for the renovations, trying to find the best possible way to schedule work in order to avoid the greatest disruptions," wrote Sells.

The renovations are costing MTSU approximately \$1 million, and are intended to "greatly enhance the quality of life in the Womack Lane area." Until the completion of the renovations, student families are going to have to find means to cope.

Womack Lane Apartments serve students, families and children. Some students said the summer relocation is not a problem because they alternative summer living arrangements. Still, others said they have nowhere to go.

Housing officials said they are doing everything that they can to ensure that this situation is taken care of promptly and effectively with as little disruption as possible. ■

Police Academy recruiting students

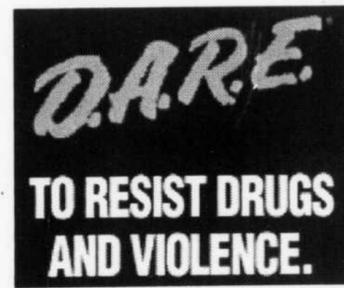
Staff Reports

The Murfreesboro Police Department is currently taking applications for the first Citizens Police Academy class to begin Thursday, March 27.

"Some of the goals of the academy will be to educate the citizens, exchange ideas, inform the public about general law enforcement duties and the various aspects of training," said Commissioner Bill Jones.

"The classes will place a special emphasis on problem solving of crime and the welfare of public safety."

The classes will be held on Monday nights from 6-9 p.m. for 12 consecutive weeks, and will be held in the Police Annex



training room located at 324 South Church Street.

There will be a variety of topics covered in the academy including ASP, OC, and Handcuffing Tactics, Communications, Community Oriented Policing Services, C.O.P.S. Philosophies, Criminal

Investigation, D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program, Domestic Violence, Field Training Evaluation Program, Firearms and Safety, Internal Affairs, K-9, Overview of Management and Supervision, Public Relations, Records, Ride Along Program, Special Operations Unit, Tour of the Police Department,

Traffic, Uninformed Division, Vice and Narcotics, and Special Presentations from both the District Attorney's Office and the Public Defenders Office.

"The academy is not meant to train or certify students as police officers," said Deputy Chief Glenn Chrisman.

"Instead, it is designed to educate citizens of the various services that a police officer is trained for and how those services are offered to the public.

The academy will charge students a \$50 enrollment fee to offset some of the costs. However, the prospective applicant may request that fee be waived if it poses a hardship on the student.

We are looking for a good cross section of our community to participate in the academy."

For an application, contact Officers Melvin Cunningham or Tracy Scantland at 895-3874.

For those not able to participate this semester, the Police Department will host the second academy class sometime during the fall semester. ■

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.

March 21

The seventh annual Nashville Area College Career Fair will be held from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the I-24 Expo Center. The fair is sponsored by area universities and the Nashville Area Chamber Commerce. It is open to seniors, graduate students and alumni of participating universities. MTSU students and graduates who are registered with the Placement and Student Employment Center may obtain free tickets to the fair. For more information, tickets and rosters, contact MTSU Placement and Student Employment Center in KUC, Room 328, or call 898-2500.

A Death Penalty Teach-In will be held from 12-1 p.m. The TN Coalition to Abolish State Killing will have an information table set up on the quad outside the KUC to distribute TCASK literature, have students sign petitions and inform about upcoming events.

Tim Wise of Nashville TCASK, Joe Ingle of the TCASK Neighborhood Justice Center, Harmon Wray of Restorative Justice Ministries and Ron Kristy of Journey of Hope will speak on death penalty issues and present videos from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in KUC, Room 314.

There will be a viewing of "Dead Man Walking," followed by a panel discussion from 4-7 p.m. in BAS, Room S272.

March 23

The Students of Objectivism present a video-lecture at 7 p.m.: "The Mind as Hero in Atlas Shrugged" by Andrew Bernstein. Everyone is invited for an evening of stimulating ideas and exciting discussion. Info: <http://www.mtso2000.tripod.com>

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.

March 25-April 2

Outdoor Pursuits is hosting a raft,

canoe and funyack trip of the Rio Grande. The cost is \$199 for students with a limit of 15 participants. For more information, call W.T. at 898-2104.

April 3-7

The MTSU Goodwill Donation Drive will be held from 8-5 p.m. on the Knoll at the KUC. Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc. is a not for profit agency. The goal of Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee is to help people with disabilities and other barriers to employment prepare for and find jobs in the community. The goal is accomplished through the sale of donated items. Acceptable donations include usable clothing, furniture, books, computer equipment, housewares, pictures, shoes and electronics.

April 13

The Students of Objectivism present "An Introduction to Objectivism" by Andrew Bernstein in the BAS, State Farm Lecture Hall at 4 p.m. for students and faculty and staff, \$5 for everyone else. <http://www.mtso2000.tripod.com>

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. Call or 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 from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. The group is also holding meetings Thursdays titled, "Looking Forward," a support group for survivors of sexual abuse, at the same time and

location. For more information, call Mary Glantz at 898-5725. All contacts are confidential.

The Student Pagan Organization holds meetings every Thursday 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.

The MTSU Crime Stoppers Board is currently looking for people interested in joining its board of directors, especially graduate and undergraduate students. If you are a full-time student or employee at MTSU and wish to apply for one of these openings, pick up an application at either the campus police department or KUC, Room 303.

Students for Environmental Action invite all students to weekly meetings every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 201. For more information, e-mail Lori Bruner at greenmind@home.com.

Part-time campus jobs are available in food service, catering, concessions, student patrol and dispatch. Students interested should contact the Placement and Student Employment Center in KUC, Room 328.

The Martial Arts Club of MTSU is holding weekly meetings in the Recreation Center aerobics room on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. For more information, call Billy Colepaugh at 898-2104.

Lawmakers seek relief with trough-style urinals

Phil West
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Sellout football crowds at Adelphia Stadium left men, not women, standing in long restroom lines, a gender role reversal that has state lawmakers searching for relief.

Again. This is the second time in four years that Capitol Hill has tackled potty parity, which first captured attention when women won the right to have two toilets for each men's urinal in public restrooms.

With men now fighting long lines, lawmakers — who this session are also considering massive budget cuts, a state income tax and nursing home reforms — must weigh the health risks of public trough-style urinals.

"People think it's a joke, but it's not," said House Majority Leader Jerry Hargrove, D-Cookeville, the bill's sponsor. "It's a very serious public health problem."

The bill, which unanimously passed the House and Senate, would allow trough-style urinals in public buildings. The law would override any city ordinances banning the troughs, which is the case in Nashville, home of the Tennessee Titans' new Adelphia Stadium.

The bill now awaits the signature of Gov. Don Sundquist, who is likely to sign it despite warnings from public health officials.

"If someone's standing next to you, you're probably going to get wet," said Brent Hagar, director of Nashville's Bureau of Environmental Health Services. "With today's standards of health and hygiene, waste from a human is potentially hazardous."

He said even though the trough-style urinals would have continually flowing water, they would be difficult to disinfect and clean.

Rather than troughs, Hagar recommends more individual urinals spaced closer together

than the current ones at the coliseum. Dividers would also stay in place, he said.

But Hargrove said trough-style urinals work at the University of Tennessee's Neyland Stadium in Knoxville, where 107,000 people go to see football games and don't have long waits at restrooms.

The nearly 68,000-seat Adelphia Coliseum, built in 1999, has twice as many women's toilets as men's in accord with the first potty parity law.

That's a problem at the coliseum, where men usually outnumber women for football games. Women breeze in and out of restrooms during games, while men stand in line and grumble — or worse.

Hargrove said some men frustrated with the lines will urinate in beer bottles and toss them in the trash. That's much worse than troughs, he said.

If the bill becomes law, the decision on whether to install trough-style urinals is up to the Titans organization, which owns the coliseum.

"This measure gives us greater flexibility with larger crowds," said Tony Wyllie, Titans director of media relations. "We'll look into it and will make adjustments."

Wyllie would not say whether the Titans organization requested the legislation.

Hargrove, meanwhile, recalled standing in a long restroom line at the stadium last fall when one man near the end of the line said, "I'd like to see the idiot who did this."

"I turned around and said, 'I would, too.' I didn't want him to know what I did," Hargrove said, referring to the first potty parity law.

Meanwhile, female Titans fans can continue their speedy rest stops while men, for the time being, squirm.

"We've had to stand in line for years," said Titans fan Bonnie Birney of Nashville.

"I notice the men standing in line, and I feel sorry for them," she said. "But then, I lie a lot." ■

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The Student Publications Committee is now taking applications for

SIDELINES SUMMER EDITOR FALL EDITOR

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- Provide three letters of recommendation, a current transcript and no more than five examples of their work, professionally submitted.

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Equal Housing Opportunity

Abolish: Eason against death penalty

Continued from 1

injection, no one will meet that fate."

Eason calls Ryan's actions "significant" and believes that similar problems exist in other states, including Tennessee.

"The reason they're discovering the problems in Illinois," he says, "is that Illinois has better legal representation for inmates down the line."

Tennessee is one of 38 states that use the death penalty. Like 25 other states, Tennessee currently uses lethal injection as the means of execution. Three states use the electric chair, and nine states currently authorize the use of either lethal injection or another means: the gas chamber, electrocution, a firing squad (Idaho and Utah), or hanging (Washington).

Also like a number of other states, inmates in Tennessee convicted prior to a certain date may choose between the current execution method and the method in use at the time of their conviction. In Tennessee,

inmates sentenced prior to Jan. 1, 1999, may choose between lethal injection and electrocution.

Workman has refused to choose between the two, saying that his religious beliefs prevent him from making a choice. Consequently, he faces the electric chair.

Tennessee currently has 103 inmates on death row, 101 men and two women. Statewide TCASK director Tim Wise believes that about 15 percent of those inmates may have been wrongly convicted.

"We are looking, at this point, very closely into 18 cases," says Wise. He called those 18 only the "slam-dunk cases," and indicated that there may be others.

Wise thinks that a moratorium like the one Illinois has instituted is not out of the question for Tennessee. He believes that Gov. Don Sundquist is simply not aware of the problem.

"I think when the governor becomes aware of a lot of this," Wise says, "I would hope he

would be inclined to put the brakes on this process."

Back at the corner of 8th and Broadway, TCASK member David Keefe moves to stand on another corner, and shortly thereafter the driver of a white Ford Explorer stops to vocalize his support.

"You're right!" he shouts, pointing at Keefe's sign.

Eason says that there are normally more TCASK members, as many as 10 sometimes, staging their silent protest. The rain and people's conflicting schedules have thinned the numbers this day.

And despite the overwhelming positive response from motorists today, Eason says that's hardly the norm. "We get fewer thumbs-up than people yelling 'Fry the bastards!'" he says. "We have more who yell negative things."

But that doesn't deter Eason or the others.

"Looking at who gets sentenced to the death penalty," Eason reflects, "it just doesn't add up." ■

Coe to begin 'death watch,' judge denies delay of execution

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The "death watch" over condemned child killer Robert Glen Coe is to begin Monday after a federal judge refused over the weekend to delay his execution.

Coe, scheduled to die by lethal injection at 1 a.m. CST Thursday, is to be moved during the morning from his death row cell to a never-used holding cell at Riverbend Maximum Security Prison in Nashville.

It is the first step of the three-day "death watch" period of procedures leading to an execution.

Coe, 43, would be the first person executed in Tennessee in 40 years.

He lost one avenue of appeal Saturday when U.S. District Judge Aleta Trauger ruled she does not have jurisdiction to consider the petition filed last week by Coe's lawyers.

Trauger transferred the petition, which asks for a stay of execution and to review a decision by Tennessee courts that Coe is mentally competent to be executed, to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

Coe's attorneys filed a similar petition last week with the

U.S. Supreme Court. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, who handles emergency matters from Tennessee, has not yet ruled on that matter.

Coe also is seeking clemency from Gov. Don Sundquist.

He is scheduled to die for the rape and murder of 8-year-old Cary Ann Medlin of Greenfield in 1979.

"It looks like Robert is running out of rope," said James Marty, one of Coe's attorneys.

"I would certainly hope he'll get a stay of execution, but it doesn't look like that's going to happen," Marty told The Commercial Appeal.

At a sanity hearing in Memphis in January, Coe was ruled competent enough to be executed, and the Tennessee Supreme Court agreed.

His lawyers are arguing now that, among other things, Tennessee used too lax of a standard in determining sanity. They plan to turn their attention Monday to the federal appeals court.

"We'll be working around the clock doing everything we can do to save Mr. Coe's life," said attorney Robert Hutton of Memphis. "It's all new territo-

ry, so we're exploring every possible avenue."

Charlotte Stout, the victim's mother, said she plans to travel to the prison Wednesday to witness Coe's execution unless it is stayed.

"I really think it's going to happen this time, but it's going to be a yo-yo week with all these things the defense will be filing," she said.

One prosecutor in the 1981 trial is calling for an end to the appeals.

"I remember telling Mrs. Stout it would be a long process of appeals, but I had no idea I would be talking about it 20 years later," Memphis attorney Leland McNabb said.

Prison officials are preparing to carry out the sentence unless instructed otherwise by the courts.

"We're just going ahead on the assumption that the last valid order we've gotten is for execution," said John Organ, spokesman for the state Correction Department.

"We don't know how many protesters and how many supporters we're going to have out there, but we're going to keep them some distance from the main entrance." ■

Campus: TCASK hosts 'teach-in'

Continued from 1

claims of innocence."

Joe Ingle, of Nashville's Neighborhood Justice Center, will also speak. The center is a city-funded organization that assists low-income individuals by attempting to mediate disputes outside the courtroom.

Harmon Wray, director of the United Methodist Church-affiliated Restorative Justice Ministries, will also speak. His organization advocates that wrongdoers should be held accountable for their actions not by means of punishment such as

the death penalty, but through retribution to their victims and to the community.

The group Journey of Hope will be represented at the event by speaker Ron Kristy. The organization is a coalition of family members of murder victims and members of the clergy who are opposed to the death penalty.

The day's events will conclude with a showing of "Dead Man Walking" in BAS Room S272. The movie tells the story of a nun who befriends a death row inmate and reaches out to the families of his victims. It

traces the nun's inner struggle as she cares for the man while trying to come to grips with the crimes he has committed.

The day's events are being sponsored by MTSU's Catholic Student Center, Episcopal Campus Ministry and the Wesley Foundation.

Vanderbilt University's Prison Project, a student group that assists the families of incarcerated persons, is also sponsoring a debate on the death penalty. Their event will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Vanderbilt's Wilson Hall, Room 103. ■

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April 3-8, 2000

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Monday	Study Abroad Fair KUC, Bookstore Level Hallway	9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Tai Chi Demonstration	Outside KUC- grass area
Wednesday	Coffee Hour JUB, Hazelwood Dining Room	3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	Cookout Campus Recreation Center Volley Courtyard Area	5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday	Latin Music KUC Courtyard <if weather permits>	
Saturday	Banquet, Tennessee Rm., JUB	4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ticket prices: Adults - \$12.00 MTSU students with valid ID - \$6.00 Children 12 years and younger - \$10.00 Other college and university students- \$10.00 with valid ID

Buffet Menu

Main Dishes	Tamale Pie (Mexico) Caucasian Chicken (Middle Eastern) Penne in Cream Sauce with Sausage (Italy)
Breads	Irish Soda Bread Sage Focaccia (Italy) Loaf, Roll, and Baguette Bread Display
Vegetables	Chinese Stir Fry Veggies (China) Potato, Celery Root, and Cheddar Gratin (England) Ratatouille (France)
Desserts	Tiramisu (Italy) Chocolate Honey Mousse (France) Ghent Cheesecake (Belgium)
Salads	Sesame Broccoli Salad (Asia) Pasta and Pesto Salad (Mediterranean) Asian Style Cole Slaw (Asia)

Gourmet Coffees and Iced Tea

Contact International Program and Services Office at 898-2238 for more information and to purchase banquet tickets. Seating is limited. Last day to purchase tickets will be Thursday, April 8, 2000.

(Monday through Friday events are free and open to the public)
Professional entertainment will be provided by Ukrainian Dancers of Milwaukee, Wis., and San Rafael Band of Nashville. Other entertainment will include: Student Performers, Parade of Costumes, and Foreign Country Exhibits



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Special Events

MTSU Student
Film Festival 2000
April 17-20, 7 p.m.
KUC Theater

All MTSU students are eligible to submit entries for the MTSU Student Film Festival 2000 sponsored by MTSU Films. For guidelines and submission forms please go to KUC Room 308. Deadline for entries is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 3.

KUC Theater



"EXHILARATING, AUDACIOUS AND WILDLY IRREVERENT!"
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Announcement for
Special Events leadership positions:
Program Council Chairperson
Concerts Chairperson - Fine Arts Chairperson
Ideas and Issues Chairperson

Applications are available now in the Special Events office, KUC 308. All applications should be filled out and returned to the same office by 4:30 Monday, March 20th. All applicants will be notified by phone regarding the time and date of their interview for the selection process. Interviews will begin during the week of April 3rd. All applicants must be members of MTSU Special Events for consideration of open positions. Position descriptions are available in KUC 308. For more information, call 898.2551.

MTSU Fine Arts presents

NATIONAL WOMEN'S
Sunday, April 2
3 pm KUC Theater
FREE & OPEN



All About My Mother

A Greek saying states that only women who have washed their eyes with tears can see clearly. This saying does not hold true for Manuela. The night a car ran over her son Esteban, Manuela cried until her eyes ran completely dry. Far from seeing clearly, the present and the future become mixed up in darkness. This impressively rich, evocative film is an examination of women in intimate relationships through themes of female vulnerability and solidarity. It combines camp and compassion, a flair for the dramatic, and keenly observed characters in an inspired story of resiliency and forgiveness. (1999, R, color, 105 minutes, Spanish with English subtitles)

MTSU Ideas and Issues presents



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Three dead in Bloomsburg University frat house fire

George Strawley
Associated Press

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. (AP) — A fire in an off-campus fraternity house near Bloomsburg University killed three people early Sunday, while others jumped to safety in their underwear from a second-story window.

Six male fraternity members were sleeping in the Tau Kappa Epsilon house when the fire broke out about 6 a.m. Three managed to get out safely, university spokesman Jim Hollister said.

Hollister said it was too soon to tell whether the bodies were those of the missing students. He said the victims would be identified through dental records.

"It didn't set in with me until I went down to the scene," said Jason Starling, a member of the

university. "Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. 'You had people out there camping out. You had the (surviving) brothers out there.'"

The cause of the fire was not immediately clear. The two-story wooden house is located in a hilly neighborhood about two blocks from campus.

Red-eyed students in sweatshirts huddled in small groups and talked quietly as fire officials and construction equipment sifted through still-smoking ruins. A neighboring white three-story home was scorched, and police said it sustained severe damage inside.

Bloomsburg University President Jessica Kozloff said the building was owned by the fraternity and had been maintained well. She said the university had revised its procedures to offer education and training for off-campus students after a fraternity house fire in 1994

killed five students.

City officials cleared the house for occupancy after noting a dozen code violations in October, including a battery missing from a smoke detector, five electrical heaters being run on an inadequate electrical system, a missing doorknob and an empty fire extinguisher, said code enforcement officer Dean Van Blohn. He said the violations had been corrected by late January.

The house was required to have three smoke detectors, Van Blohn said.

Two students escaped by jumping from a second-story window in their underwear, and a third fled out the front door, police said. All reported awakening and finding heavy smoke in the building; one reported hearing a smoke alarm.

Classes have been canceled for two hours Monday morning,

when the university president will address the students.

Tau Kappa Epsilon, dormant on the Bloomsburg campus for some years, was restarted in 1997 with 18 members. It was in good standing with the university and the fraternity's national headquarters, Hollister said.

Another fraternity house fire killed five Bloomsburg students on Oct. 21, 1994. A smoldering sofa was blamed for that blaze. Batteries had been taken out of smoke detectors in the Beta Sigma Delta house, a common practice during smoky parties.

Earlier this year, a Jan. 19 fire in a dormitory at Seton Hall University in New Jersey killed three students and critically injured six others.

Bloomsburg, founded in 1839, is a state university about 100 miles northwest of Philadelphia with an enrollment of about 7,500. ■

Western Kentucky set to privatize dorms

TMS Campus

FRANKFORT, Ky. (TMS) — Western Kentucky University doesn't have enough money to cover expenses tied to all the dormitory repairs and renovations it needs to do, so it's planning to spin off the buildings to a private foundation. The organi-

zation, WKU Student Life Foundation Inc., would take ownership of the 17 dorms, then float a \$61 million loan. The money would be used to pay for the halls' remaining debt and to finance a five-year makeover. Work needing to be done includes installation of fire-safety systems, new lighting and wiring, upgraded elevators

and all-new utilities. Rooms would be reconfigured into suites in seven of the buildings. "This is a huge safety and quality-of-life issue," university President Gary Ransdell said. "Doing nothing quite simply is not an option." The university doesn't have the debt capacity to take out the loan needed for the work, so the foundation was cre-

ated last year. Ransdell called the arrangement a "creative way of solving our problems without asking the state to do it for us." State lawmakers have to sign off on the deal — and some have qualms about it. Many have said they need more information about the terms of the loan's repayment before making a decision. ■

Teach: Students tired of old classrooms

Continued from 1

and the old Todd Library Building," said Hayes.

Some students refer to the classrooms in the basement of the Todd library as a jail compared to those in other buildings. These classrooms are lacking a sufficient number of outlets and technology.

"The Curriculum Library was left behind when the new library was built," Hayes said. Since this library is used prima-

rily by the Department of Education, some students asked about the implied-meaning of this oversight.

Some professors said they find it difficult to move equipment from building to building to meet the needs of scheduled classes.

"The education department has equipment, but it is difficult to carry a VCR and other needed materials across campus in 12 minutes," said Barbara Young, associate professor of

Educational Leadership.

Bullen said Education is the largest program on campus and is the largest undergraduate program for teacher education in the state.

"Their figures indicate that 22 percent of all students enrolled at MTSU have declared Education as their major," said Cornelia Wills, director of Institutional Research. "This figure does not include students who have a minor in education."

Minor improvements have

been made to some of the classrooms. These improvements include the replacement of a decrepit table, a faulty outlet was disconnected and KOM 160 was updated, but the disc drive doesn't work.

"Teaching is an honorable profession and they require teacher education students to be trained in 17th century classrooms," Bullen said. "This is a shame and a disservice to students who aspire to be public servants." ■



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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, TN

Monday, March 20, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 5

Views from the Crowd

by R. Colin Fly, Opinions Editor

Movie Madness

When good lines go bad

I got to catch a sneak preview of the new Julia Roberts flick, Erin Brockovich. The movie was good, but I'm not a film critic and certainly don't plan on sounding off about the entertainment business in general.

Suffice to say, I thought supporting actor Albert Finney had a terrific role as the lawyer.

However, it was the events of the night in general that got me thinking. First off, my friend and I were approximately 100th in line 30 minutes before the feature began. It's really funny to see a whole lot of people in line.

First off, the manager of the theater came up and told the crowd, "It would be really great if you could move the line around the corner so we can get people into see their movie." The herd moved.

The problem was when we moved the line around the corner, no one really knew why everyone was standing in line, at least there were about 15 senior citizens who "pretended" to have no clue and cut in front of us. I really hate having to pick a fight with the elderly.

A. It makes me feel bad.
B. When I think about throwing a few punches, I'm scared I'll knock them down and then in true Bob Barker v. Happy Gilmore style they'll fight back.

Next, my friend couldn't get off a Seinfeld subject. The conversation was so Seinfeldesque that I felt like it was a very bad episode of the sitcom.

She wanted the name of the parents of George Castanza. No, not Jerry Stiller and that other woman, but their actual "stage" names. So, I suggested we poll the people in line, which did not go over very well with my friend.

So, she used her cell phone to call someone to find out the information. She received no answer and the situation intensified.

Well, the herd began to move before I tapped the first person on the back. Now, I've seen those wildebeest nature shows on Discovery where they all rush and cover huge amounts of ground in very, very short time.

The African Savanna couldn't contain these eager movie fans. I think the problem was in the fact that the movie was free and there was no way in hell they'd miss it.

There were about 20 people trying to hand a pass to the attendant and stuff their fat asses through the door. It was a quite pathetic sight.

So, as we watched the spectacle, I couldn't help but think, "Wow, this is America."

Not only are we a land of prosperity and immense wealth, but also we are so accustomed to free handouts that we believe that they are our God given right.

First off, the movie was free. Second, the theater sits 434 people. So, why are the first 20 people so damn eager to get in? Is there only "one" perfect seat in the whole theater? They're obviously getting in, so why the rush?

Sometimes, I just don't understand people. Tuesday night was one of them. Wait patiently, take the freebies, but don't abuse them and finally, reap what you sow.

That's the view from the crowd. Have a terrific spring break. ■

E-mail comments to slopinio@mtsu.edu or MTSUviews@email.com.

From the Staff

State's reaction to Coe a sign of guilty conscience

There hasn't been an execution in Tennessee since 1960. Thursday the state plans to end that 40-year stint. Robert Glen Coe, 43, is set to be put to death by lethal injection for the 1979 kidnapping, rape and murder of 8-year-old Cary Ann Medlin.

For the last several months, Coe has become a household name. Why is that? Law makers have made it legal in Tennessee for people to decide when it's appropriate for another person to die. So, what's with all the fuss? Could it possibly be that the state and its residents are suffering from a guilty conscience?

In Coe's defense, his attorneys have tried to argue whether he was mentally

competent. With the constraints of the legal system, they don't have any alternative. But it's not a legal issue, it's a moral one. On some level, every person in the state knows it's wrong for us to kill when we see fit. How dare we be so arrogant to think we should know when it is appropriate and necessary to kill another human.

More importantly, is the death penalty really a punishment? After Thursday — if the state holds true to its agenda — Coe is going to be free.

Should Coe die for what he did to that little girl? No one can answer that question with complete certainty, and uncertainty is the cause of the guilt Tennessee is experiencing.

In the back of everyone's mind, there's a little voice asking, "Are you sure this is the right thing to do?" That's because we all know that death is absolute and final and that there's no margin of error allowed. Those are odds that no businessman in the world would take, but apparently, we will.

If we stand by and let this man die, there's no turning back. We'll never know if we did the right thing, until the day we meet our maker. Let's punish this man but let's do it the way with the least amount of uncertainties. Let him become institutionalized in federal prison where he can live out the rest of his days in his own temporal hell.

Be reasonable, 25 handicap parking spaces plenty

Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum
Staff Columnist

Yesterday, I had to turn in some library books. I hurriedly drove across campus to the library on my way to a million other things I had to accomplish that day.

As usual, parking was a bear. So, in a rushed moment, I opted to park in a handicap spot, though I certainly have no need for a blue parking sticker.

As I got out of my car, another person parked two spaces down from me in the deserted blue row was eyeing me suspiciously as I flustered about opening and closing car doors and gathering my books.

"That's not blue," she said snidely in reference to my lack of the right to park in a handicapped spot as she strode by.

"I just have to turn in some library books," I said.

"It's still not blue," she remarked.

"I guess that's too bad," I replied.

Now before you all start typing out furious letters to the editor about my lack of consideration for handicapped students that need those parking spots, let me offer this.

Guilty as charged. I parked illegally.

Let me also mention that there are about 25 parking spaces designated for handicapped students outside the library. Two of them were occu-

pled when I committed the indiscretion and chose to "break the law."

Spoke, you would have thought crippled children were forced to walk 20 miles due to my lack of consideration.

Uphill.

I scampered into the library, turned in my books on time so that other students may use them in their desperate rush to complete necessary class papers

and pulled away in three-and-a-half minutes flat.

Yes, I timed it, thank you very much.

I support the state policies that enable handicapped students facilities so they may access an education.

I also support the idea of being reasonable, which most people seem to have forgotten in their quest for "rights."

How often are all, or even a majority of those spaces filled?

Excuse me for not being "politically correct," but I favor being frank.

I have no plans to park illegally again. And I am sure there are hundreds of readers out there who are wiping their brows in relief at that statement.

Just because something is a "policy" doesn't automatically mean it makes sense.

Handicapped students have a need and a right to park close to all buildings. But I could do without being made to feel like a thief who stole a starving man's last can of Campbell's. ■

The West Wing

by Adam Tune, Staff Columnist

Vote on issues, not on perception

Do you really know your vote?

There are three questions that can be asked when voting time comes around.

1. Did you vote?
2. Who did you vote for?
3. Why did you vote for him?

The main question is the latter.

Why are you going to vote for the person that you choose?

Some of the answers that are given include "I always liked his daddy!" or "He likes the environment," or even "Because my family has always voted Democrat."

Do you really know why you are voting for that person?

Most of the time others have decided for us. Dan Quayle might have been a good president. He might have been able to make a comeback and run this year, but everyone said that "he's an idiot, and couldn't think on his feet."

Just because he couldn't spell potato?

Can you spell potatoe?

Some say "Al Gore is the blandest most boring person in the world with no personality."

Why because the newspaper said he didn't wear flashy suits?

"Bush is against inter racial dating!" Yeah, I guess you're really researched that one.

When individuals give answers like this, they come off as people who know

absolutely nothing about what they are talking about. Now if there are good reasons, then that's very different.

But most of the time, they come from gossip.

If you are asked if you voted, make sure your answer is yes. If you are asked whom you voted for, then I hope you will state someone that you think is prepared for the job, because you know the facts.

It takes a little more time to really examine this, but we as Americans need to take more time to learn about our future. That is exactly what your vote is.

The Future.

We the people decide who helps run this country, at least for the next four years. So we the people decide on our future. This strategy can also be applied not only to voting but to our atmosphere as well.

Why do we choose certain things?

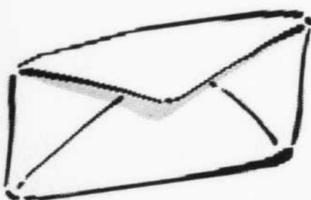
Why do we go to certain places?

Why are we with the people that we are with?

Is it because we know that is what we want, or we think that is what we want, because someone else does?

Do you make your decisions?

Or, do you let someone else do that for you? I hope that's not, at least on the political scene. In closing I encourage you to not only vote, but also to know who and what you are voting for. ■



We take your letters! Email them to stubs@mtsu.edu or drop them by JUB 310.

Letters may be edited for length or grammar.

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"Sidelines" is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published on Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and every Wednesday during June and July. FLASH!, the entertainment magazine, is published every Wednesday during the Fall & Spring semester. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of "Sidelines" or the university.

Local student governments should follow Aussie lead

Brett Wingeier
Tulane University

It's apparent that local control of your university is something of an illusion.

Since 1966, the federal government has guaranteed more than \$493 billion worth of student loans; the yearly total rose 6 percent in 1999 alone.

Grants from the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation totaled more than \$17 billion last year and decided the future of thousands of graduate students, professors and departments.

Federal policies have affected every aspect of our universities, from hiring practices to the quality of incoming freshmen.

Perhaps, as students, we should take this into account.

We have formed student governments (SGs) with dual roles of advocacy and programming. Both are essential.

Often, though, the advocacy role is under-served.

And most of our effort is directed locally.

It makes sense in some ways; local issues are important, easier to understand, and easier to use in campaigns.

But this approach ignores the tremendous influence — and potential — of national policy.

Unfortunately, national advocacy is a little out of the scope of the average student government.

It would require a larger organization, supported by a broad base of SGs. And many countries, including Australia and most of Europe, have just that.

In Australia, it's called the National Student Union (NSU), and it has successfully lobbied for cuts in university fees and increases in the national (Austudy) student stipend.

The Australian NSU represents 500,000 students — approximately 80 percent of the student population.

Their national budget of just under \$1 billion U.S. dollars is used for both student services and political activity.

According to Nathan Murphy, the NSU Vice-President for Welfare, the NSU is nonpartisan, but by virtue of

the issues involved (and in battle with the current right-wing Liberal government) it tends toward a left-of-center ideology.

Of course, an American version might be different in several ways.

Thanks to Australia's mandatory voting, all 500,000 students vote in every election, and thus are more politically powerful.

Our hypothetical American Student Union might find half its work in encouraging students to vote and in identifying student-friendly candidates.

But other factors here might work in our favor; for instance, American campuses — despite claims of student apathy — are remarkably self-aware and already well-organized for local advocacy.

Other issues, such as cost, are solvable. Of our many universities, it would take relatively few schools, at first, to support a national body.

Funding could be initiated by a consortium of student governments, limiting risk to individual SGs by requiring a "critical mass" of ratification before financial commitments are

made.

A clear charter for such a group — defining the scope of issues addressed — would make it more attractive to ideologically-divided SGs.

There is also an important role for graduate students, many of whom feel marginalized by undergraduate-dominated SGs. With experience in advocacy and leadership both on and off campus, graduate and nontraditional students might be the key to a thriving "ASU."

Certainly, the issue of federal funding for the arts and sciences vitally affects graduates.

In the Australian model, a separate organization represents 137,000 graduates: the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations, or CAPA.

The separation is partially because the NSU engages in some undergraduate-specific activities; the two often work together and might easily be combined in an American system.

And graduate students are in fact at the vanguard of a new trend in student advocacy;

University of California grads have been unionized since June to fight for better working conditions.

Finally, an ASU might reasonably expect the support of university administrations and other organizations — such as the Association of American Universities — involved in higher education.

The Australians I spoke to have received this support; they agree that while local SGs often find themselves at odds with their school, at a national level their interests tend to coincide.

Certainly, federal involvement in our universities is pervasive and growing.

And, as a society, we seem to be re-evaluating our priorities for higher education.

The next decade will see debate — and almost certainly change — involving corporatization, declining research funds, and issues of teaching quality.

An American Student Union would make sure our voices are heard.

Will your student government take the lead? ■

FEATURES

Murfreesboro, TN

Monday, March 20, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 6

She's at home in the world . . . and she has the award to prove it

Lynne K. Varner
Knight-Ridder Tribune

Long before Paulette Thompson could read a map, she knew an entire world existed beyond Seattle. Growing up in graduate housing with her parents, who were students at the University of Washington, Thompson played with children who went home in the summer to Taiwan, Jamaica and other locales.

And while the 1970s continued an era of community activism, Thompson thought of the world as her community. Unusual to some perhaps, it was only normal to this young black girl that she would join the Peace Corps and teach school in Morocco.

"African Americans have a history of community activism, and it just depends on where you see your community as being," Thompson says.

The Peace Corps has honored Thompson's brand of internationalism with its first award to outstanding African Americans who have worked in the volunteer organization.

Thompson, who received the Franklin H. Williams Award, was selected from Corps volunteers in California, Montana, Idaho and Alaska. Williams was a Peace Corps regional director for Africa and the U.S. ambassador to Ghana before his death in 1990.

Thompson, now a teacher of French and history at Garfield High School, embodies the

Peace Corps' primary goal of educating Americans about other cultures and promoting an ethic of community service.

In addition to French, the 36-year-old is fluent in Arabic, Berber and Tashelhayt, a Berber dialect.

Her philosophy of internationalism guides her teaching. When she created a curriculum that included lessons on Canada, she was named regional teacher of the year by the national Consortium for the Teaching of Canada. Thompson, now a nonactive-duty Peace Corps member, brings in fellow Corps volunteers for Garfield's annual Peace Corps Day and helps organize the school's World Food Day.

Elizabeth Daruthayam, a Garfield junior, says Thompson's classes are vivid and instructive because the teacher speaks from real-life experience rather than a lesson book.

"She would relate experiences from her own travels," Daruthayam says. "She really made us think about cultures other than our own."

Peace Corps officials agree. "Paulette, every day that she works as a teacher and does volunteer work, she embodies that goal," says Josh Fliegel, the regional manager for the Peace Corps' Northwest recruiting.

As a black woman, Thompson also is the Corps' best example that it is shedding its largely white image for a more diverse one. There are 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers

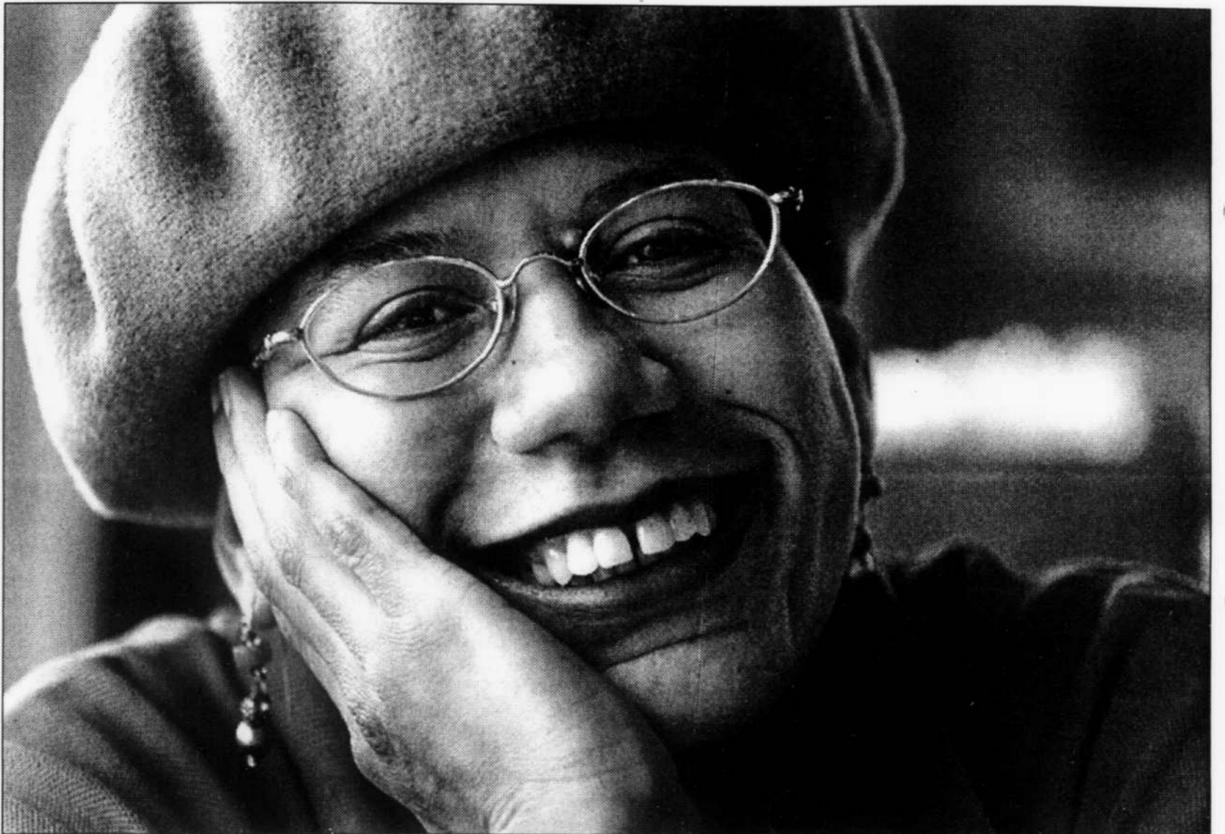


Photo by Steve Ringman | Knight Ridder Tribune

Paulette Thompson, a teacher at Garfield High School in Seattle, Washington, will receive the Peace Corps' first Franklin H. Williams Award for her work with the organization. Williams was a Peace Corps regional director for Africa and a former U.S. Ambassador to Ghana.

working in 77 countries. Fewer than 300 are African American.

"We all know that African Americans have a tradition of service, (but) it tends to be local; we want them to know of opportunities overseas," Fliegel says. "We want the Peace Corps to reflect America, and our best recruiters are our volunteers."

The Corps also is reaching out

to Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans. While they have not created an award for those groups, the Corps does hold regional events that allow minorities to meet each other.

But a hindrance to recruiting, minorities or otherwise, is that many people don't remember the all-volunteer organization created by President Kennedy in

1961 still exists.

At job fairs, "people will come and give our information table a double take and then say, 'We're so glad you guys are still around,'" says Carla Semmler, a spokeswoman for the Peace Corps' Seattle office.

For Thompson being a Corps volunteer has meant defying some stereotypes.

She recounts a story of traveling in the Australian outback with her mother and coming across an American couple who looked at the two black women in amazement and asked how they had come to be in Australia.

"We love the plane," was Thompson's response. ■

Recent translation of 'Beowulf' winning new fans

TMS Campus

Thanks to a new translation of his epic journey, Beowulf is scoring new fans in classrooms around the world.

The ancient Anglo-Saxon poem appears in "The Norton Anthology" recently released by Farrar, Straus & Giroux. Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney translated the piece, and Indiana University English professor emeritus Alfred David edited it.

Their work already has propelled the ancient tale to the top of best-seller lists in England and has also won the esteemed Whitebread Prize. Last week, the new translation hit shelves in the U.S.

David told the Indiana Daily Student that the new translation is sure to win Beowulf new fans — and delight older ones.

"It's written by a real poet," David said. "It captures the density of the texture in a way that no other previous translation has done. He (Heaney) makes it move and read a bit like modern poetry."

In the book, Heaney credits David's editing with much of the translation's immediate success.

"Al's responses were informed by scholarship and by a lifetime's experience of teaching the poem," Heaney wrote. "So they were invaluable."

"Beowulf," the oldest surviving epic in British literature, tells the adventure of the Scandinavian warrior who saves the Danes from a monster, who battles to become a king and dies in old age after battling a dragon. More than 3,000 lines long, the poem is believed to have been written some time before the 10th century. The tale has only one manuscript that is now stored in the British Library in London. ■



Grendel, the monstrous man-eating descendant of Cain in the Old English poem "Beowulf," fighting with his ultimate opponent, Beowulf.

Illustration by Hector Cassanova | KRT

Poet-teacher encourages Latinos to 'break chains' through words

Lynda V. Mapes
Knight Ridder

Falling snow quilts the lines of the poems on the Poetry Pole in Jim Bodeen's garden.

The author and high-school teacher will eventually bring these poems inside and put them with the others — four fat folders full of yearning, loss, confession and intimate observation.

Bodeen, 54, put up the Poetry Pole four years ago. He put it close to the road, with pins in the soft wood for people to leave their work. And they have, by the hundreds — from up the street and around the state. The poems are carefully typed or scrawled on a scrap of paper. Some are signed with a flourish, others are left anonymously, like a prayer.

"It's our first impulse at worship and devotion, that's what poetry is," Bodeen said. "It's so true, like being in a confession."

The same is true in his Latino literature class at Davis High School.

Bodeen uses the classics of Latino literature and poetry to stimulate his students' exploration of their lives along three major themes: looking for America, making new paths and breaking the chains.

He doesn't define the chains, the paths or the ways of looking. His students do.

For some, the class is a way to connect with their Latino heritage, rooted in the Yakima Valley back four generations. They read and write only in English.

Others are bilingual and on their way to becoming bicultural, moving fluidly between their lives in the United States and Mexico. Other students, newly

arrived from Mexico, read, think and write in Spanish.

Their writings document a struggle to make sense of life, sometimes in a completely new country. Bodeen calls them "abrecaminos" — people who make a path where there is none.

Consider Alma Varela. She arrived in the United States alone at 14 to live with her sisters. She learned English and gradually made the transition from living with her parents in Mexico City to Moxee, a farm town of 1,050 in Eastern Washington. Now 20, she has kept writing through it all.

Varela has since graduated from Davis High School and works full time as a receptionist at the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic while taking a full course load at Yakima Valley Community College.

She remembers Bodeen's class as a refuge. "It was very welcoming. Everyone just knew each other had the same background. Their parents might be here, or not. We left something behind, and we came here not knowing what to expect."

The class helped her think about that and write about it. "It was a way to say something. Not just do an assignment but to say something that really means something, and learn that our past is important."

Bodeen has published several books of his poetry, including "This House," a new book of poems published through an independent press he operates from his home with his wife, Karen, a Yakima banker.

A native of Bowbells, N.D., Bodeen was a dreamy kid marooned amid farm fields. He knew he wanted to be a poet early on.

"I always had the poetry. It was the only thing that made

sense," Bodeen said.

He works his students like a kind of drill instructor of the heart. He pushes them to step up to the front of the class and offer up poems that examine their lives, their hearts, their families, their pasts and their futures.

Some pace, stamping their sneakersed feet with nervousness. But they fight it, determined to read their work. "I want to rant like crazy old Bodeen," one student reads from his poem, slipping a sly smile at his teacher.

"Keep it moving," Bodeen urges when the room falls silent, as dozens of awkward adolescents squirm. "Read the page. Go! Let's show what we've got."

A student translating his Spanish verse into English asks how good it has to be to get up and read. "As good as you can get it. That's how I want it," is Bodeen's response.

The students applaud each other as they walk to the front, and most give full attention to the reader. Bodeen tells them not to bolt when they finish but to stand there, look their fellow students in the eyes and accept their applause. "That's the love," he reminds them.

A wall thick with their poems, taped one over the other, floor to ceiling, sighs with the press of a hand. They call it the Breathing Wall.

The collection of poems on the Breathing Wall is just part of the class's archive. Bodeen has collected six years of his former students' poems, short stories and writings in a book called "With My Hands Full/Con Mis Manos Llenas," published last fall by his independent press.

"This wall will die unless you put your poems up here; it won't breathe," Bodeen said. "And I will die as soon as I quit listening to you." ■

Sidewalk artists chalk it up

Kate Santich
Knight-Ridder Tribune

There were 175 of them, mostly young and earnest, laboring on their hands and knees in a hot sun and rude wind. They toiled for the better part of three days, until their backs and thighs ached in protest, until their hands and faces and clothes were smeared with chalk, until before each of them, on the broad concrete steps of city hall, was a work of art.

They did all this knowing that their creations would be at the mercy of inline-skaters and baby strollers, of passing dogs and meteorological whimsy, knowing that someone, surely, would plant a foot squarely in the face of their subject, whether it be Abraham Lincoln or Austin Powers, Mr. T or Jesus.

Worse yet, they knew that within a week or two their masterpieces would be intentionally hosed down a sewer drain.

Such is life when you're a sidewalk artist. You give birth to something that leaves you when you have barely caught your breath from the delivery.

This particular event, the Orlando Street Painting Festival, concluded just two hours before a fickle downpour moved in to ravage the painstaking detail.

"I want to cut up this slab of concrete and take it home with me," confessed Carolyn Schultz when she'd finished a spectacular scene of two wood storks in flight over a mangrove swamp. "I always tell myself I'm going to paint it again later, but I never

do." Her work won the festival's top prize — but would be immortalized only in snapshots and memories.

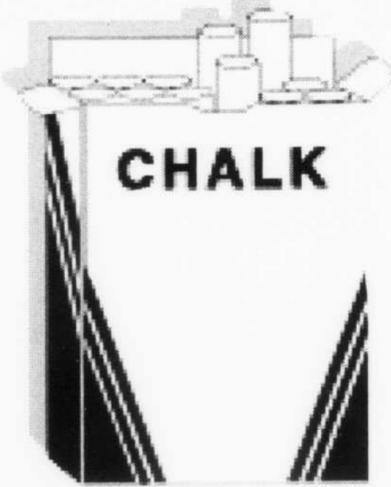
The practice actually began in the 1500s in Italy, where the International Street Painting Festival is still held

e a c h August in the village o f G r a z i e d i C u r t a t o n e . But it has also grown increasingly popular across the United States — from Santa Barbara, Calif., to H o t S p r i n g s , Ark.

I n Europe, a sidewalk artist can make a humble living off the donations tossed by passers-by. But in this country, where there is so much effort for so little tangible reward, it's easy to wonder why anyone does it. After all, amid summoning your muse, there may be fire trucks roaring by, sirens wailing, traffic sputtering between downtown stoplights, and blustery winds sending a constant assault of dead leaves skittering across a most unforgiving canvas.

"Your back hurts, your knees hurt, but on the other hand, people get to appreciate it while you're doing it," said Cindy Smith, whose Alaskan sea lion, popping its head above the water, was also an award-winner.

Smith took



pictures of people taking pictures of her work.

For Lee Jones, there was both an affinity for the crazy elements and a golden advertising opportunity. The owner of a graphics business, she had started chalking to prepare for the first Orlando festival in 1996 — and found the medium irresistible.

"For weeks my husband would come home from work and find me in the driveway

chalking," she said. She soon turned it into a career — "Chalk It Up" — doing street painting for everything from day-care centers to corporate promotions. She was one of the few artists to set a stack of business cards in the corner of her painting, which featured a photo-like reproduction of her 2-year-old daughter standing on a piece of cloud.

"It does bother me if somebody steps on it," she admitted. "I try not to let it, but it's like, I just spent eight hours working on that, and you just walked all over it."

One hopes, at least, the offender bothered to glance down.

The indignity is one reason why many artists won't do street painting. Then there's the physical toll of stooping and bending and crawling around on the ground.

"I'm getting too old for this," said Michael McConnon, a 48-year-old Winter Park muralist who was working on a 14-by-14-foot scene of cherubs. He was only half-joking. "But I like that it's out here in public. I don't think artists should hide their work."

For some artists, such as an enormous canvas — crude though concrete may be — was enticing, too. You do not often get the chance to work on such a scale. It's a bit dicey, after all, trying to fit that over the living room sofa.

There is the egalitarian nature of street painting, which brings together everyone from high school students to professionals whose art hangs in prestigious

galleries. They work side by side, each battling time and the threat of foul weather, holding down their layers of fragile chalk with liberal doses of cheap hairspray. (Rave seemed to be a crowd favorite.)

But, ultimately, as muralist and sculptor Tara Murray said, there was a chance to make a statement to those who might never set foot inside a museum.

"What a great forum to reach people you would never reach otherwise," she said.

Free-lance illustrator Ethan Long — who did a happy, whimsical piece of vibrant orange, purple and turquoise wildlife — even vowed to return for the pressure-washing destruction down the road. Maybe, the free-lance illustrator said, it was a sort of morbid curiosity, maybe it was a tidy sense of closure.

"I want to see my image fade and disappear," he said, grinning at the thought. "I think it'll be cool."

Sadly, the rains would blanch his work long before the hoses finished it off. The day after the festival, when the crowds had gone and the downpour subsided, a handful of the curious showed up to see what they had missed. But half the images had vanished altogether, and, among the rest, the exquisite detail had been blurred, the vibrant hues left ashen.

A guy pulled up on his bike, paused and shook his head. "Oh, well," he said. "I guess there's next year." ■

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U.S. puts finishing touches on system that tracks foreign students

William Lee
Western Illinois University

The threat of terrorism has prompted the Immigration and Naturalization Service to implement a surveillance plan aimed at tracking foreign students in the United States.

The plan, called the Coordinated Interagency Partnership Regulating International Students program, ended its trial status with INS on Feb. 22 and has since been extended nationwide. The program, tested at institutions such as Auburn and Duke universities, requires foreign students and scholars in the U.S. on temporary visas to pay colleges and universities a \$95 fee. Institutions forward that money

to INS to pay for a database tracking the foreign scholars as they move within the country. The database is expected to be fully functional in 2002.

INS officials say CIPRIS will help modernize and streamline the current process of bringing foreign students and scholars into the U.S. It also will enable colleges and universities to share important information about students — such as their fields of study and the means by which they're paying for their education — with governmental agencies.

But several professional associations, such as NAFSA: Association of International Educators based in New York, say the program unfairly targets foreign students as potential threats to national safety and

security. "I am concerned about the message that we'll be sending out to other nations," Daphne Osayade-Dumas, associate dean of multicultural affairs at Santa Lawrence College told the "Westchester County Weekly." "I think it sends the wrong message."

So does Mary C. Martin, director of the University of Chicago's office of international affairs. She said the database overshadows the positive contributions foreign students make to their campuses and surrounding communities.

"International students add billions to the economy," she said. "They don't just pay tuition. They pay for their apartments, they buy groceries, they take public transportation, and

you can really see the impact in small (college) towns."

Aside from unfairly targeting foreign students, university officials also say the INS tracking program also requires already

beleaguered foreign-student advisers to complete a mountain of paperwork — something Martin said they shouldn't be required to do. ■

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SPORTS

Murfreesboro, TN

Monday, March 20, 2000

SIDELINES 78

Blue Raiders sweep Martin

Michael Edwards
Sports co-Editor

The boys of summer for Middle Tennessee made quick work of the Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks on Saturday by downing the birds in a double header at Reese Smith Field.

Middle Tennessee entered the Ohio Valley Conference slate on the back of a five game winning streak, while Martin had lost 18 of 22 games to start the year. Head coach Steve Peterson said earlier in the year that the only big games during a season are conference games. If that's true then the Blue Raiders have found their money pitchers.

In game one, Sophomore right hander Dewon Brazelton smoked the Skyhawks with 11 strike outs and only one base on balls. However, the Hawks were able to pound 11 hits, but managed to score only three of those men.

In game two junior left hander Kris Lammers allowed no earned runs and two hits all day, while striking out six, and walking two. His fate may have been sealed in the first inning when he struck out the first two Skyhawk batters.

Middle Tennessee jumped on the Skyhawks early in the second game. Junior Josh Renick walked and stole second just before senior Jeff Parsons doubled to left, scoring Renick. Senior Josh Pride followed Parsons with an RBI double, and senior Bryan Peck singled scoring Pride. The Raiders scored three in the inning and that's all Lammers would need.

"It's always important to a lead early," Parsons said. "The way [Lammers] threw, getting



Photo by Jessica Norton | Staff Photographer

Pitcher Matthew Griffith makes a play against Yale, Thursday.

up on them early kind of set the tone for the game."

Lammers cruised through the Skyhawks until the top of the sixth when Desmond O'Quine reached on a three base error, and scored on a throwing error by Peck. Lammers would strike out the next batter, but walk the next two, mixing in a wild pitch

in the midst.

"Up to that point he had command of everything he did," Peterson said. "He just totally dominated them."

Peterson made the call to the bullpen, and in came the Raiders stopper, Brad Howard. The next two Skyhawk batters fanned and the inning ended.

The Blue Raiders tacked on four more runs in the bottom of the sixth just for insurance, but Howard would not need it.

"When you've got a cushion like that it makes it a lot easier," Howard said. "It makes my job a lot easier, knowing if I do make a mistake, it's not going to beat us."

A lazy ground ball to second, and a weak fly to right preceded Howard's third strike out of the game, which ended it, and gave the Raiders the win.

"We had Brad out there closing. One run is enough on most, but the more you get the better you feel," Parsons said.

The first game of the double header began shaky for Brazelton. In the top half of the first inning, UTM drew a lead off walk, followed by a double by Lanier English. Troy Crawford singled to right, but a strong throw by Junior Bryan Peck nailed Crawford at second. Slack and English both scored on the hit, however. The following two Martin batters reached base on hits, but Brazelton was able to mow down the final two batters with back to back strike outs, retiring the side. Martin left two stranded but managed to tack to runs on the board.

After the Blue Raiders were sat down in order, the Skyhawks threatened again in the second. Martin, on a two out rally, loaded the bases, but again, Brazelton struck out Brian Baker to end the inning. All three baserunners were left standing.

With the heart of the order due up for the Blue Raiders, runners were bound to cross the plate. That's exactly what happened. Six of them scored. Junior Kyle Thomas singled to left center, and Senior leftfielder

Jason Conchin belted a two run homer to left field tying the game at two. Senior centerfielder Jeff Parsons singled, and Brandon Johnson walked a batter before junior Kris Lammers singled to right scoring Parsons. With two runners on base and two outs, Josh Pride just did what he was supposed to do, hit the ball out of the park. The blast gave the Blue Raiders a 6-2 cushion heading to the third.

Brazelton retired five of the next six, and the Raiders struck again in the bottom of the fourth inning. With the bases loaded and two outs in the inning junior Kyle Skillman singled up the middle scoring juniors Josh Renick and Johnson and adding to runs to the Raider onslaught.

A run scoring double by Baker gave the Skyhawks their final run of the game as Brazelton retired nine of the next 10 batters. The Raiders, though were not done. Middle Tennessee tacked on one more insurance run in the fifth when senior Wes Whitehead scored on a wild pitch.

The Blue Raiders finished Saturday with a 2-0 conference record and a 10-9 record overall. Middle Tennessee had won seven straight.

"I think this is the first time in a year we've been over .500 for a total record," Parsons said. "But to be 2-0, and off to a good start in the conference is important."

Middle Tennessee and Tennessee-Martin were scheduled to play one more on Sunday, but rain prohibited the game from starting. A third game will be made up later if it is necessary. The Blue Raiders are 2-0 and tied for the conference lead. ■

2000 Baseball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
3/21	UAB	6:05 PM
3/22	UAB	3:05 PM
3/24	Wisconsin-Milwaukee	2 PM
3/25	Wisconsin-Milwaukee	2 PM
3/29	UAB	7 PM
3/29	UAB	3 PM
4/1	Austin Peay* (DH)	2 PM
4/2	Austin Peay*	2 PM
4/3	Western Kentucky	7 PM
4/4	Tennessee	7 PM
4/8	SE Missouri* (DH)	2 PM
4/9	SE Missouri*	2 PM
4/11	Memphis	7 PM
4/12	Memphis	7 PM
4/15	Morehead St.* (DH)	2 PM
4/16	Morehead State*	2 PM
4/18	Vanderbilt	7 PM
4/21	Murray St.* (DH)	2 PM
4/22	Murray State*	1 PM
4/25	Jacksonville St.	2 PM
4/26	Western Kentucky	6 PM
4/29	TN Tech* (DH)	4 PM
4/30	Tennessee Tech*	1 PM
5/2	Vanderbilt	7 PM
5/6	Eastern KY* (DH)	2 PM
5/7	Eastern Kentucky*	2 PM
5/10	Tennessee	6 PM
5/13	E. Illinois* (DH)	1 PM
5/14	Eastern Illinois*	1 PM

Times to be announced:

5/18-20 OVC Tournament
5/26-28 NCAA Regionals
6/2-4 NCAA Super Regionals
6/9-15 NCAA College World Series

Bold denotes Home Games
* Denotes OVC Games

Put me in, coach

View from the Top
A sports commentaryMichael Edwards
Sports Co-Editor

It's almost spring time again, and all sports fans know what that means. It's time to break out the leather, the song "Put me in, Coach" and head to the ball parks. It's baseball time once again.

The boys of summer will be taking the field once again this year, and some great races should be seen within each division.

In the American League East, there are the New York Yankees, who still may have the best team in all of baseball despite some key losses on the mound. However, they will not be alone. The Boston Red Sox have revived the great teams that once were, and they can thank their success to one man, no not Tim Wakefield. Pedro Martinez is a man among boys in Major League baseball. This guy can finesse batters or just flat out mow them down.

The additions of Carl Everett and Rod Beck and the resurgence of the once dominant Ramon Martinez will have the Sox in the hunt for the AL East pennant in

September. The Yankees, though, are still the team to beat in that division. Until someone knocks them off, they are still the champs.

Don't forget, however, that the Red Sox owned the Yankees in the regular season last year. Losing guys like Joe Girardi, Chad Curtis and Daryl Strawberry will hurt their offensive production, but Derek Jeter is still the best clutch hitter in the game. Just ask the Red Sox. Don't forget about the Orioles either.

Baltimore has one of the highest payrolls in baseball, and that is for a reason. They have some of the best players in the game. Oh yeah, Mike Hargrove will get to be the manager that he is capable of, with the talent he has in Baltimore. Albert Belle will have a great year, and the Orioles will make a run at the Wild Card slot in the AL. Unfortunately for them, they are in the division, with two of the best three teams in the game.

In the central division, Cleveland rocks. The Indians will not be dethroned this year, even though the White Sox have done a good job of keeping their young talent in house. Frank Thomas and Maglio Ordonez can not score enough runs to make up for a lousy pitching staff. That staff couldn't shut out the Vanderbilt baseball team, and that's sad. Their offense is still good though, and they will climb over the .500 mark at the end for the first time in a while.

The west will be won by the Oakland A's. They are flat out the best team to watch in baseball. The Rock may be the people's champ, but the A's are the working man's baseball team. Oakland has a payroll close to Kevin Browns annual salary, and they still win. They are dollar-for-dollar the best team in baseball, but then again this is America, where we have tel-

evision shows, based on rubbing poor people's noses in other's riches.

Don't forget about the Rangers. They still have a solid pitching staff and one of the best closers in the game. John Wetteland, remember, won the 1996 World Series with the Yankees. The Rangers won't miss Juan "I have a booboo" Gonzalez, because guys like Will Clark and Gabe Kapler will step up and take his place. By the way, Anaheim still stinks, and so will Seattle. The M's pitching staff is worse than the Whitesox, and that will cost them dearly. Question. Why did the Mariner's build a pitcher friendly ball park, sign a terrible pitching staff, and give up the best all around power in the game? Well, I guess the Kansas City Royals have to win some too.

How do you spell National League Champion? A-t-l-a-n-t-a B-r-a-v-e-s. The Braves will be, again, be chopping all the way to the World Series. No one in the National League will compete with them again. The closest team is the New York battery throwers, I mean the Mets. New York's other team is slowing moving to New York's team. The Mets have made some key signings, but they have lost more important pieces.

No one may see it now, but letting John Olerud get away will be huge in the late part of the year. Signing Mike Hampton was great, since he shut down the Braves every time he faced them, but Olerud scores runs and drives them in. Without him in the order in the NLCS, Atlanta sweeps the series last year. Another guys they will miss, albeit not as much is Roger Cedeno.

Why did they keep Henderson and deal Cedeno. Let's under thirty years of age or forty? All hustle all the time, or all hustle when he

See Column, 9



Photo by Michael Edwards | Staff Photographer

Senior catcher Melanie Manley earned All-Tournament honors in the Capitol City Classic.

Huskers blank Lady Raiders

Staff Reports

Middle Tennessee had no answer for Nebraska's Leigh Ann Walker, who pitched the Cornhuskers to an 8-0 victory over the Lady Raiders in the consolation round of the Capital Classic Tournament. She pitched five innings, giving up only two hits with seven strikeouts.

Jennifer Martinez got the start for Middle Tennessee, pitching the first 4.1 innings before being relieved by Amanda Kendall. Martinez gave up seven earned runs on 12 hits, striking out two and walking three. Kendall finished the fifth with one walk and one hit.

Kerry Allen and Tamara Davis each picked up a single

hit for the Lady Raiders.

Steffi Silva provided the lone highlight for Middle Tennessee in the fifth inning. With one out and runners on first and second, Silva dove on a sharply hit grounder to second base, making the unassisted out and turning the double play at first to finish the inning.

Melanie Manley, who hit .437 (7-for-16) in the tournament with four runs scored, was named to the All-Tournament Team. She also raised her overall average to a team-leading .309.

"I was pleased overall," said head coach Karen Green. "Going 3-3 overall in national caliber tournament is a success for us. Our goal coming into the tournament was to win a few and hopefully upset some-

one, and we accomplished all that. Playing teams like Nebraska tells us how far we need to go and what we need to get there. But yet, when we play our complete game, we can compete with them. I think we'll learn from it and get better because of it."

Middle Tennessee will take a couple days off before hosting the University of Tennessee on Wednesday, March 22. The double-header is scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m.

Following the games versus the Lady Volunteers, Middle Tennessee will travel to Atlanta, Ga. to battle teams at the Georgia Tech Buzz Classic.

That tournament precedes the first Ohio Valley Conference tournament game, which will take place over spring break on March 30. ■

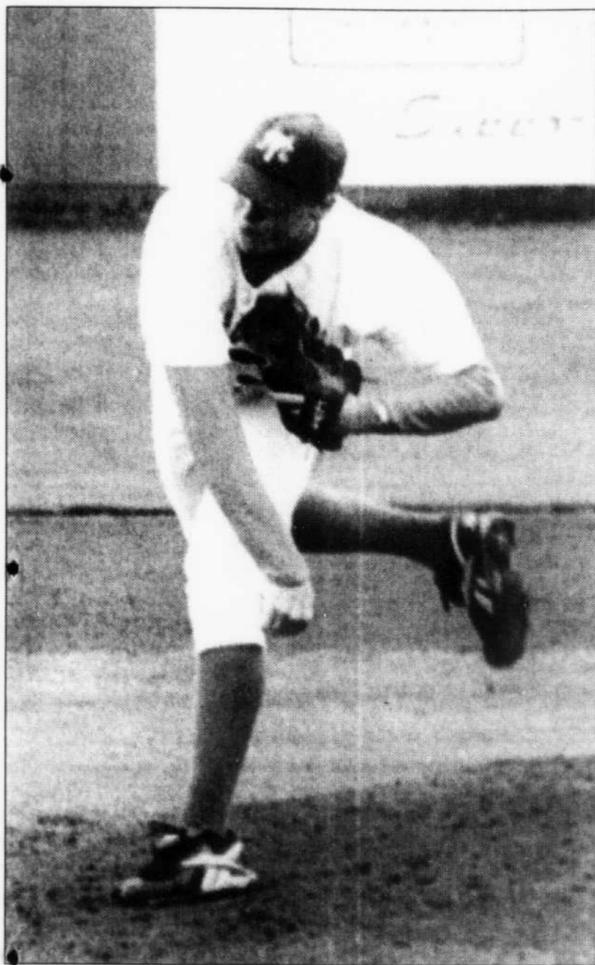


Photo by Jessica Norton | Staff Photographer
Right-hander Matthew Griffith won his first collegiate game Thursday, against Yale, 11-2.

Column: put me in, coach

Continued from 8

wants too? I would take the latter in each situation. Cedeno brings that every time, Ricky only some of the time, and old is still old.

Atlanta will win the NL East, of course, but why? Two words: John Schuerholtz. He made moves that will turn out to be the best of all the moves made, excluding the Griffey deal. Adding Reggie Sanders, Quilvio Veras and Wally Joyner to the already potent lineup should be illegal, but it's not and Uncle Ted has lots of money. Reggie Sanders will be a great addition to the lineup with his combination of speed and power in left field. He's a 30-30 guy waiting to bust out. Veras has speed and a decent glove at second. He will be a good guy at the top of the order.

Of course, the MVP is Chipper Jones and he will have a better year than last year, with the Big Cat, Andres Galaraga, Brian Jordan, Javy Lopez, Andrew Jones, on a occasion Wally Joyner, and of course the new guys hitting around him. That is a deadly batting order. Sanders, though he is hitting .304 against the Mets lifetime, he is only batting .111 against Hampton.

The Braves pitching rotation was dealt a bad blow when John Smoltz won't play but young talent has the Braves in good shape. John Rocker will be the same as he was before his suspension, cocky, arrogant and unshittable. Kerry Lightenberg will be tough as soon as he gets his arm healthy but that could be a while. Watch for the Braves young talent, they will be the key to Atlanta's success, and watch for the Braves to make a push for Sterling Hitchcock.

The central will belong to the Reds this year. No not because of the Junior signing although that helps. The Astros lost Mike Hampton. He is so important to them, but Chris Holt will do well to fill in. Other pitchers are going to have to step, like Jose Lima. However, I think you can put him in the drawer with William Van Landingham as one hit wonders. Jeff Bagwell and crew will miss Derek Bell, since he headed to New York with his teammate.

Ken Griffey will not make

that big of a difference for the Reds, however, he can when them five to 10 extra games, which will give them enough to when that division. His bat will be good, though not as good as it has been since he will have to face real pitchers in the National League. Let's face facts, the American League is gorilla ball, and the National League is baseball. The Reds pitching staff is not that good, but not bad enough to lose them the pennant. The pennant, by the way is their's to lose.

The Cubs are still the Cubs, and you can't spell Cubs without the letters s, u, and c. St. Louis's additions will help them make a push for the wild card, but the Mets will when that again. Their best chance is to win the division, which they can do with their bats and the pitchers they added. Remember Daryl Kile and Andy Benes. Kile used to play on the ground and Benes used to be a great young talent until he went to Arizona. St. Louis has a shot at the pennant.

In the west I have but one thing to ask. Why? Why is there a ballpark in Colorado. It's like someone said on a sports talk show. Baseball is not meant to be played in the mountains. More stupidity by a general manager was shown when the Rockies GM said he wanted to play with more speed and less power.

Will someone please tell him that his staff will never be any good, because of the altitude. Just look at what it did to Kile and Pedro Astacio. Pedro was good in Los Angeles. Breaking balls hang in that air, then they fly in the seats. Power is the only type of baseball that can win in Coors Field. If their was a book on how to make your team awful, and lose 150 games in one year, the Rockies could write it.

In the West count on the Diamondbacks and the Giants to battle it out for the pennant. Don't forget to feed your knowledge, and attend the church of baseball, Sunday nights on ESPN. ■

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Boosters rally around Knight

Christine Tatum
TMS Campus

CHICAGO (TMS) — One student at Indiana University referred to men's basketball coach Bobby Knight as "immature and sadistic." Another suggested that his days are "about over."

But even in light of allegations that Knight has verbally and physically abused some of his players, Hoosier faithful are rallying around their man. They're particularly upset about the timing of some former players' accusations, unleashed at the start of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's national championship tournament.

In an interview with CNN, some former Hoosier players painted Knight as a Jekyll-and-Hyde personality just as capable of raising millions for children's charities as he is lashing out in profanity-filled tantrums that trip into getting too physical.

"He had me by the throat for ... about five seconds," Neil Reed, who signed on to play with the Hoosiers in 1994, told CNN about a practice that happened three years ago. "I grabbed his wrist and started walking back, and by this time people ... coaches ... grabbed Coach Knight and pulled him away."

Knight, who has spent the last 29 years at IU, reacted to the charge Wednesday by saying he couldn't recall choking Reed.

"Maybe I grabbed Neil Reed by the shoulder, maybe I took him by the back of the neck, I don't know," Knight told WTHR television of Indianapolis. "I don't remember everything I've done in practice."

University officials rejected Reed's claims three years ago, but said they would re-examine the alleged incident in light of what they called "new allegations." Reed left the Hoosier team in 1997, complaining that he had received "physical assaults" from Knight.

A former coach and several former and current Hoosiers sprang to Knight's defense.

"I was an assistant when Reed was playing, and his allegation that I had to separate him from Coach Knight is totally false," former Indiana assistant Dan Dakich, whom Reed named as one of the coaches who witnessed

his tussle with Knight, said in a statement.

But three people at the practice to which Reed referred backed up the former Hoosier player. They refused to appear on camera for CNN because they worried that would damage their careers.

Many people say Knight's legendary temper makes it difficult to defend him. He has long been known for his tirades from the sidelines — largely the reason many players said they decided to transfer from the IU program. Since 1990, 11 players — including some of Knight's prized recruits — dropped IU for other schools. Indiana is fast to point out that that number of early departures is no greater than that of other Division I schools, but over the last three years, the Hoosiers have watched three key starters leave. When Jason Collier announced his departure in 1997, he said he could no longer take Knight's relentless yelling and constant criticism.

Knight has also made headlines for some of his skirmishes off the court, too. Last summer, a Bloomington man accused Knight of choking him in a restaurant parking lot. The man said Knight lunged at him after he told Knight that Knight's profane conversation had disrupted his meal. The county prosecutor refused to file charges, saying Knight was provoked.

Word of the allegations was nothing new to many IU students and fans, who have established an annual debate over whether Knight — the only active men's coach with three national championship wins — should stay or go.

"I find it appalling that as soon as an athlete decides to leave ... all of the talk turns to coach Bob Knight-bashing and questions about his coaching status at IU," Doug Whitaker, who graduated from IU last year, wrote to the Indiana Daily Student. "He, unfortunately, has the luck of recruiting touted players who can't take a good yelling at, and, who, from day one, have been told that they are better than they really are."

Ummmm, not exactly. Gene Kemmerer of Seattle told CNN.

"I am not surprised by any of Knight's antics; he has done this for years," he said. "Why play for him?" ■



Careful how you use those NCAA terms

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — March Madness Meatloaf? Not a chance. NCAA Nachos? Forget about it. And even a friendly little Big Dance Brewski at one of the local watering holes would be, it seems, absolutely unconscionable when the Final Four comes to town.

When the men's college basketball tournament brings the fanfare of its championship to Indianapolis this year, restaurants, shops, hotels and bars must follow rigorous guidelines to capitalize on the fervor.

It's part of the NCAA's vigorous efforts to protect trademark terminology, including the terms Final Four, March Madness, NCAA, and even Big Dance.

This leaves few ways for downtown Indianapolis businesses to squawk about one of the biggest sporting events around.

"It just takes all the fun out of it for us," said Brad Everett, manager of the Rock Bottom Brewery. "It's almost ridiculous how many things are on the list that we can't say or do."

The NCAA also has asked the city to enforce a downtown "clean zone." That means no street vendors, strict enforcement of unlicensed product sales and no hanging of signs or banners — unless they're the \$50-a-pop, NCAA-sanctioned ones sold by the local Final Four committee.

A city ordinance passed in 1995 requires the downtown area to accommodate certain requests in order to attract high-profile events like the Final Four.

"The city obviously benefits a great deal from these events," said Steve Campbell, a spokesman for Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson.

Scott Bearby, an NCAA assistant general counsel, said the clean zone is designed to provide fans with a noncommercial, non-threatening environment.

"We don't want them harassed and inundated with commercial activity," Bearby said.

Bearby said the NCAA fears that if it allows one trademark infringement, oth-

ers will follow. And the organization has reason for concern, says Thomas Bowers, co-director of the Sports and Entertainment Academy at Indiana University.

"If they don't take care to prevent use by other people of their marks, the marks in a way lose their distinctiveness," Bowers said.

Bowers also said problems could develop with NCAA sponsors if other businesses were allowed to use trademarks freely. He said even the innocent use of a NCAA buzzword on a menu or in an advertisement could ruffle sponsors' feathers.

"The NCAA has to give full value to its partners in this," Bowers said. "If they don't do this, they will get back from their partners, 'Why should I pay all this money when one of my competitors can use the NCAA trademark and not pay?'"

Concerns over trademark violations are not new to Indianapolis. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway has exclusive rights to terms like

"Brickyard," "Indy 500" and even the phrase, "Gentlemen, start your engines."

David Moroknek, the Speedway's director of consumer products, said the struggle to protect names is constant. During race weeks, investigators fan out across the city in search of violations, though Moroknek acknowledges they go easy on small-time offenders.

"We definitely look at the use and see if it's something that's just promoting community spirit," Moroknek said.

Of course, clever marketers always attempt to beat the system. March Mayhem and March Mania have been floating around as alternatives. To that, Bearby issued a warning: "We watch those knock-offs as well because there's a notion of unfair trade."

And that would mean a death knell for the Big Boogie and the Final Four Falafel — two more unusual ideas that probably will never come to pass. ■

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Lady Raider tennis has won 7 straight

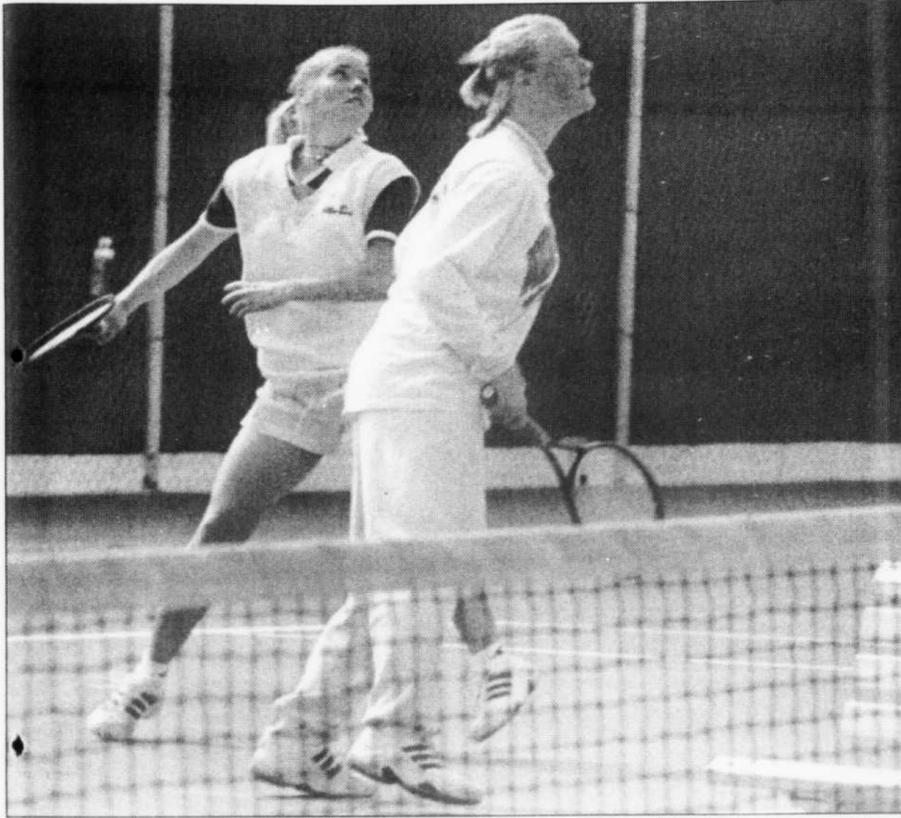


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Lady Raider tennis is preparing for a match against UT-Chattanooga Tuesday.

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