



SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Dance program makes entrance

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Murfreesboro, TN

Mock trial teams receive national bids

Mary Anna Brown
Staff Reporter

MTSU's two mock trial teams have both received bids for April's National Mock Trial Competition, following recent wins on the regional level.

"The team has been really looking forward to the upcoming nationals," Dr. John Vile, Political Science Chairperson said. "We expect that we will do well."

Mock trial teams compete on invitational, regional and national.

Invitational competitions take place at schools across the nation and serve as scrimmages for competing teams.

MTSU hosts an invitational in November each year and last year was named the second biggest tournament in the nation with 40 teams in attendance.

Team one, consisting of Senior Captain Kim Gulden, Sophomore Douglas Sadler, Sophomore Virginia Vile, Junior Jason Michael, Junior Jodi Dudding, Junior Allison Vantrease and Junior Jarrod Stone, won first place overall at an invitational hosted by the University of Missouri at Columbia, Jan. 21 and 22.

The team competed against 13 other teams and prevailed with a record of seven wins and one tie.

Michael, of team one, and Senior Rebekah Stephens, of team two, were both awarded a spot in the top 10 best witnesses, and Junior Kyle Dodd, of team two, was awarded a spot in the top 10 best attorneys.

MTSU's team one placed first in a regional tournament, held Feb. 4 - 6 at Samford University in the Cumberland Law School, and secured a bid for the national competition.

The team finished with a record of seven wins and one loss and competed against 15 other teams.

Gulden was named in the top 10 of all-regional attorneys, and Michael and Vantrease were

each named top 10 in best witnesses.

MTSU's team two, consisting of Captain Dodd, Stephens, Sophomore Maya Nitis, Freshman Angela Casassa, Freshman Scott Griswold, Senior Rebecca Lashbrook and Senior Nick Harris, placed second at another regional tournament held at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, and in turn received a bid to participate in the national tournament.

Stephens and Casassa were named among the top ten best attorneys, and Griswold and Lashbrook were named among the top ten best witnesses.

"A new award this year, called Spirit of AMTA (American Mock Trial Association), was given to MTSU's team two," Vile said. "The award was given on the basis that they exemplified sportsmanship, fair play and justice in competition."

The national competition will be held April 14-16 in Des Moines, Iowa, at the Drake Law School.

MTSU has participated in the national competition for the last 10 years and has placed in the top 10 for the last eight years.

"In order to prepare for the national competition, we will be attending an invitational in Milwaukee on March 17-19," Vile said. "We will also be practicing a lot during the weeks leading up to the tournament."

Teams alternate year-to-year between civil and criminal court cases. This year, teams are trying a murder case.

Anyone interested in participating in mock trial can register for PS 201, a one-hour course offered only in the fall.

Students are required to become a member of a mock trial team and will compete in MTSU's November invitational.

"Mock trial requires quite a bit of time," Vile said. "We work very hard. Each student contributes approximately 10 to 15 hours per week."

For more information about mock trial, contact John Vile at 898-2596 or email him at jvile@mtsu.edu. ■

Genetics lecture debates controversial topics

Staff Reports

The hotly debated subject of mapping human chromosomes and its implications will be the topic of a lecture by Lewis Gordon, the first speaker in the ninth annual Applied Philosophy Lyceum series at 3:30 p.m. Friday in the James Union Building, Room 304.

A member of the African-American Studies and Philosophy faculties at Brown University, Gordon's 90-minute lecture is titled "The Social, Political and Ethical Implications of the Human Genome Project." A reception will immediately follow the presentation.

"Gordon Lewis has become one of the more important black philosophers in the United States," said Michael Principe, MTSU professor of philosophy.

"When he was here a few years ago, he gave an intellectually stimulating and thoroughly engaging talk on racism, so we thought it was about time to bring him back. We're looking

forward to him bringing the same kind of critical sensibilities to his discussion of the Human Genome Project."

Lewis is the author of several books, including "Fanon and the Crisis of European Man: An Essay on Philosophy and the Human Condition," "Her Majesty's Other Children: Sketches of Racism from a Neocolonial Age," "Bad faith and Antiracist Racism," among others.

Regarding Gordon's highly controversial lecture topic, Principe said, "There are certainly a lot of ethical issues involved in the Human Genome Project. Some of these include confidentiality of genetic information and who has access, genetic testing, and the possibility of genetic enhancement. Also, we will have to confront in a serious way what constitutes normalcy," he said. "What human traits are to count as diseases or abnormalities?"

The lecture is free and the public is encouraged to attend. ■

The MTSU African American Student Association sponsored a Quiz Bowl called the Black Perspective, Feb. 9 in the Learning Resources Center

Multimedia Room. Winners included Liz Newsome, Tiffany McGee, Charles Lyons, Shannon Fouse, and LaTaya Franklin.



Photo by Rory White | Staff Photographer

The MTSU recycling program, started by the biology club in 1972, is still going strong. This recycling station, located at the corner of Greenland Avenue and C Street, accepts newspaper, magazines and aluminum cans.

Music moves over the ages

Turner Hutchens
Staff Reporter

Craig Werner, author of "A Change is Gonna Come: Music, Rage and the Soul of America," told an MTSU audience Tuesday about the importance of traditional African-American music in modern society.

Werner is white and teaches African-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin. He said that the difference in race is not a hindrance for him. He has been deeply influenced by black music and literature.

When he grew up, it was the only music that could speak to him, he said.

"It's music that quite literally saves my life," said Werner. "It keeps me sane."

Werner divided black music into three categories: blues, gospel and jazz.

According to Werner, blues is about surviving.

"As long as you haven't killed you," said Werner, "they haven't killed you."

He said the blues, though not at its strongest, is still alive. Rock and roll and hip-hop, at their best, are the blues.

"Blues is about the 'me,'" said Werner. "Gospel is about the 'we.'"

"Gospel is about why we can change the world — we will change the world. Gospel is that part about changing the world — about reaching a higher ground."

Werner also said gospel is the deeper, more spiritual music.

"Most of the soul music of the '60s and '70s came out of gospel," said Werner.

According to Werner, jazz is about doing things that have never been done before. It's about creating a reality "radically different from the world we live in," he said.

Unlike blues and gospel, Werner believes jazz is not racially specific.

"Almost every jazz artist I talk to is into

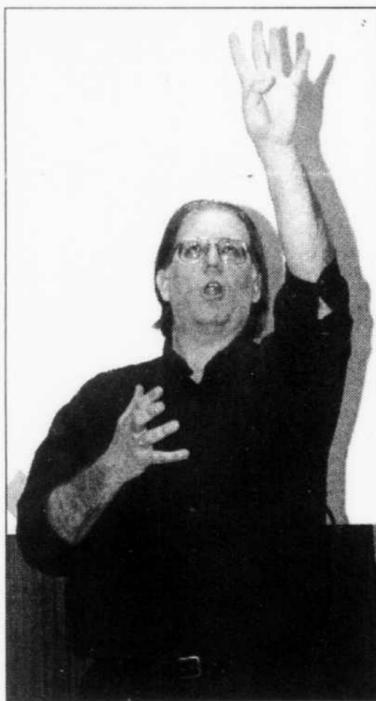


Photo by Rory White | Staff Photographer
Werner

multiculturalism," said Werner. "They don't see the differences between cultures."

"They see the connections between cultures."

Werner introduced the idea of syncretism: A new cultural concept of building on past cultures instead of replacing them.

"It's not a conflict of old and new. It's layer upon layer. You're never replacing a

previous work. You're taking what has gone before, and saying, 'this is how it works in my world.'"

"You don't recreate the past," continued Werner. "You redefine it to fit the world you're in."

Werner played cuts of music to illustrate his point. He started with Donny Hathaway's 1970s funk song "Ghetto."

Buried in the rhythm of the song was the tune of "We Shall Overcome," a freedom spiritual.

"'We Shall Overcome' is about the strongest gospel you can find," said Werner.

Werner then played a cut from the gangster rap artist Too Short, also titled "Ghetto." The piece sampled music from Hathaway's song, but the lyrics focused more on the harsh realities of life in the modern inner-city, like drug abuse and violence.

"Now that's pure blues," said Werner.

He explained that each song took elements and emotions from the older songs, but put them in the context of a new time, layering new on old.

Even the gangster rap has some of the gospel "on the inside, at the core of it," he explained.

Werner played other samples of music in which the same situation occurs.

Older music was incorporated into new, and that in turn having samples, rhythm or words taken from it for even newer music.

He explained that gospel music was constantly moving through funk or soul into hip-hop and rap.

According to Werner, this type of thing was happening all the time in different ways. He believes it is of vital importance to keeping strong culture alive.

"You've got to pass the stories," said Werner. "Pass the culture down. You've got to keep the syncretism alive." ■

College of Graduate Studies awarded \$153,000 federal grant for math, science

Staff Reports

A \$153,000 U.S. Department of Education grant will enable MTSU to enroll 24 students in graduate programs, U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Murfreesboro said.

"Initially, both MTSU and TSU will enroll 12 students who will complete their master's degrees and then proceed to doctoral study at other partnering universities," Gordon said.

Vanderbilt University, University of Tennessee at Knoxville and University of Memphis complete the

Tennessee Regional Consortium.

MTSU's College of Graduate Studies received the three-year grant under the U.S. Department of Education's Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program. The purpose of the program is to increase the number of doctoral degrees in biology, chemistry, computer science and mathematics.

"The consortium marks the start of a statewide system of graduate education in the sciences where each institution can focus on what they do, and students get the education they want while staying in the state,"

said Mary Martin, professor and assistant chair of the department of mathematical science.

An advisory board will monitor the program and the fellows' progress. By keeping the group of students together, MTSU officials said they hope to increase the students' chances of completing their doctoral degrees.

"Every time there is a change in institutions or benchmarks, such as high school to college, bachelor's degree to master's degree, there is a tendency to lose people," Martin said. "This program puts the emphasis on long-term graduate education.

We really need more doctorates to help the educational level in the sciences."

Martin said the program wants to increase the doctoral population of women and minorities who are under represented in these fields.

"This is an investment in Middle Tennessee with potential for a much larger return," Gordon said. We need to make sure that these opportunities are available because you never know — one for the students we help may find the cure to cancer." ■

On Campus

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

Feb. 18
Faculty proposals for summer and fall of 2001 classes are due to the Board of Trustees of the Cooperative Center of Study Abroad. Appropriate courses in all disciplines are welcome.

Outdoor Pursuits is offering a canoeing trip to the Espey Cave at 2:30 p.m. MTSU will provide helmets and head lamps. The cost is \$10 for students and \$12 for guests with a limit of 10. For more information, contact Mitch or Sean at 898-2104.

Feb. 21
A teacher job fair will be held at the Vanderbilt Stadium Club from 3-7 p.m. Representatives from approximately 100 school districts will be present. Directions and free parking permits are available in the Vanderbilt Placement Center, UC, Room 328. For more information, call 898-2500.

Interviews will be held in the KUC Tuesday through Friday for teacher recruitment week. For more information, call 898-2500.

Feb. 24
The June Anderson Women's Center is sponsoring a free legal clinic on January 24 from 7-9 p.m. The clinic is available to all MTSU students, faculty and staff (men are also welcome). Appointments to speak with an attorney can be made by calling Candi Russell at 898-2193. Space is limited.

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

Feb. 25
Entries for the Society of Professional Journalists Green Eyeshade Excellence in Journalism awards are due. Print and broadcast journalists may enter. For more information, call Kevin Koelling at 898-8193.

Feb. 26
Campus Recreation is sponsoring a trip to the Nashville Predators vs. Tampa Bay Lightning hockey game for MTSU's disabled students from 4:30 p.m. to around midnight. A pre-game meeting will be held at the Campus Recreation Center at 4:00 p.m. Contact Molly or Ray at 898-2104 for more information.

Feb. 29
Campus Recreation is hosting a free-throw and 3-point contest. Participants may sign up prior to event at the Campus Recreation Center or on Court 1 on the day of the contest. Contact Chris Gravle at 898-2104 for more information.

March 3-5
Campus Recreation is hosting a backpacking and rappelling trip to Sipsey Wilderness, Ala. A pre-trip meeting will be held at the Campus Recreation Center March 1 at 5 p.m. Contact Mitch, Sean or Karolyn at 898-2104 for more information.

March 9
Campus Recreation and Human Services is sponsoring a Nutrition and Fitness Awareness Fair from 1-4 p.m. in the Campus Rec Lounge. Find out your body composition, weight, blood pressure, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness. Nutritional and fitness educational materials will be available to all participants. For more information, call Jerry or Allison at 898-2104.

March 14
Campus Recreation is sponsoring a bench press contest. Participants must register by March 10. The cost is \$5 for individuals and \$10 for teams (five to a team). Contact Allison or Jerry at 898-2104 for more information.

March 15 & 16
Two faculty forums are scheduled to be held in BAS, State Farm Lecture Hall, Room S102/204 at 1:30 p.m. The faculty is encouraged to attend these meetings to discuss faculty issues or other university matters of interest.

March 25-31
The Campus Recreation Center will host a ski summit to Colorado for spring break. There will be a pre-trip meeting on March 14. Two price packages are available. A \$200 deposit will reserve a spot. For more information, call Mitch, Sean or W.T. at 898-2104.

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.

Ongoing
The Lambda Association welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight students to general interest meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in BAS, Room S301. Contact Tony Gowell at 867-3658 for more information.

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

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

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

The Student Pagan Organization holds meetings every 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, please pick up an application at either the campus police department or KUC 303.

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

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

Seton Hall dorm not inspected since 1998

Associated Press
SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (AP) - No fire inspection had been done since October 1998 at the Seton Hall University freshman dormitory where a blaze killed three students, the township's attorney said today. In addition, no report was made of that inspection because no violations were found, South Orange township attorney Edwin A. Matthews said. The township knows that an inspection occurred then, he said, since it's mentioned in the monthly report of its fire chief and because it billed Seton Hall about \$700 for it. The fire inspection records

were to be unsealed today. Two newspapers sued under a state right-to-know law to inspect the records but at a hearing last week, the Essex County prosecutor's office asked a Superior Court judge to seal the records for 90 days so investigators could interview witnesses without possible media interference. Today prosecutors dropped their objections. The cause of the Jan. 19 fire at Boland Hall has not yet been determined. One inspection is conducted each school year, Matthews said. The inspection for the 1999-2000 school year had not yet been done. ■

Tennessee Board of Regents makes chancellor selection

Associated Press
The Tennessee Board of Regents on Wednesday hired Charles Manning at a salary of \$195,000. He also gets a temporary housing allowance of \$2,500 a month for three months and use of a state car, estimated to be worth \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year. The Regents oversee six universities, 14 two-year colleges and 26 technology centers with 182,000 students. The system has a budget of \$1.27 billion. Here are some comparative figures from neighboring states:

ALABAMA
University of South Alabama President Gordon Moulton was the highest paid college president last year at \$240,000. He does not get a house. University of Alabama at Birmingham President Ann Reynolds got \$214,830. University of Alabama President Andrew Sorensen received \$208,320, and Auburn University President William Muse was paid \$206,700. All three were furnished homes.

FLORIDA
There are 10 universities in the Florida State University System. The chancellor of the

138,000-student system, with a budget of \$2.35 billion, is Adam Herbert. He makes \$255,000 a year, with a \$20,000 housing allowance and \$30,000 annuity.

GEORGIA
The chancellor of the University of Georgia system, with more than 20 colleges, 200,000 students and a \$1.6 billion budget is Stephen Portch. He makes \$254,800, with a \$60,000 housing allowance.

KENTUCKY
Kentucky does not have a state-wide system; it has eight individual universities. There is a council that provides

administrative oversight. By law, the council president makes 10 percent more than any of the university presidents. The current salary is \$273,000 a year, plus a car. The council president does not get a house, whereas all the university presidents do.

NORTH CAROLINA
The North Carolina system has 16 campuses. The president of the system, which has 156,000 students and a budget of \$2.4 billion, makes \$282,880. She also gets a house and access to a state car. ■

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Jergenson's illness shocks, stills campus

Marta W. Aldrich
Associated Press

Rachel Lavender, president of the Student Government Association.

"It's a given. All over campus, when we go to sleep, when we wake up, she's in our hearts."

Several students quickly organized a round-the-clock prayer vigil, asking classmates to sign up to pray for Kaia in 10-minute segments.

"We wanted at least one person to be praying for Kaia at all hours of the day," said Pat Ford, a sophomore computer science and Bible major from Athens, Ga.

"I worried the overnight hours wouldn't get covered and had planned myself to fill whatever segments were free. But it filled right up. In fact, some spots were double- and triple-signed."

It was an impressive commitment of their faith in an age of countless distractions and demands. And the students expected results.

"I wanted to see Kaia wake up, be healed and walk out of that hospital," said Chris Nelms, 20, who had the 4:40 a.m. shift. "I prayed that I'd one day see her running the basketball court again."

The Apostle Paul wrote to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and they did. Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given you" (Matthew 7:7), and they asked. Christ said, "All things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23), and they believed. They believed and they prayed for a complete recovery.

On Jan. 19, a week after the vigil began, surgeons amputated both of Kaia's legs below the knee.

Doctors at Saint Thomas Hospital said they were trying to save Kaia's life by removing dead tissue and muscle from her limbs. Her condition remained critical.

The surgery shocked Nashvillians who had followed Kaia's illness in the news. But nowhere was the shock more acute than on Lipscomb's small campus tucked away in an upscale area of town.

"We're in college. We hardly think about something this serious," said Lavender. "Most of the time, we worry about tests and boyfriends or girlfriends."

Ford, who organized the prayer vigil, said he was "crushed."

"I think for all of us here, it kind of shook our faith. It made us question what God's will was," he said.

The double-amputation was especially anguishing because the 18-year-old Kaia was an athlete. Described as the "emotional leader for the team," Kaia had averaged 12.5 points and 5.5 rebounds per game during her short career at Lipscomb.

"I thought she was going to be a great player," coach Bennett said.

At Gallatin High School, a prep basketball powerhouse just outside of Nashville, she averaged double figures and was named tournament MVP when Gallatin won the state crown last year.

"She was a hard worker," recalled Gallatin coach Kim Kendrick. "I can honestly say I don't remember having to ever get on her for not hustling. That's rare at this level."

Off the court, Kaia was an A-B student with aspirations of becoming a doctor. She loved to

sing and go to movies with friends and was still brimming with excitement about a high school trip to Europe last summer.

Lipscomb teammate Shelley Sims echoed a frequent description: "She always had a big smile on her face - even when she was running down the court."

But Kaia no longer would run. She no longer would play college basketball. In fact, she was still fighting for her life. And by extension, Kaia's classmates were struggling in their own way.

Professor Earl Lavender, who teaches theology and mission classes in the Bible Department at Lipscomb, quickly noticed a difference in his students in the new semester.

"Their ability to verbalize what they believe seemed shaken," Lavender said. "They could do it fairly simplistically before this. Now they have had to reconsider. They used to think they were in control of their life. They have had to come to terms with the fact they aren't."

Questions flowed: Why did Kaia lose her legs when so many were praying for her to be healed? Does prayer work? What is the nature of prayer? How does God respond?

Lavender noticed more and more students dropping by to talk one-on-one. "They'd sit down and talk around things and eventually get to 'What is my life all about, anyway?'" he said.

But more so, the nature of class discussions changed. He found students more spiritually attuned, hungry for understanding and less tolerant of quick and easy answers.

Fairness or faith. The physical body vs. the spiritual body. Confronting suffering in a feeble good culture. Finding divine strength in earthly weakness.

"These issues no longer have a nameless face. Now when they ask themselves these questions, they think of Kaia," he said.

"We are struggling together on campus as Kaia struggles in the hospital."

Meanwhile, people found other ways to help.

Fund-raisers flourished as the school established a medical fund to help Kaia's family with expenses beyond insurance coverage through her father's job in the printing business and her mother's job as a physical therapist.

A tailgate party before one game, a bake sale by the cheerleaders, dormitory donation drives, an empty milk jug in the campus snack store for students to dump change.

In the Nashville area, radio stations solicited contributions. Gallatin High School designated one basketball game "Kaia night" and donated gate receipts. Tennessee Titans owner Bud Adams donated two Super Bowl tickets to auction.

"We've gotten pledges from as far as Syracuse, N.Y., and calls from as far away as a Los Angeles radio station. Somehow or other, they've all heard about Kaia," said Lipscomb spokesman David England.

Kaia's family has asked for privacy throughout the ordeal.

On Feb. 9, they released a statement reporting Kaia was finally conscious and her condition upgraded from critical to fair. Doctors said there was no apparent brain damage.

The family thanked all those

who had prayed for Kaia.

The day after the news, Lipscomb Bible professor John York opened chapel services on campus:

"Oh God," he prayed, "we are grateful beyond words that you are still active in our lives - that you hear our prayers. ... We hurt with her, Father, but we also celebrate with her."

The prayer vigil is still on. Students say they still believe in the power of prayer. But the nature of the petitions has changed. And more often than not, so has the outlook of the students.

"I pray that she doesn't blame God," Nelms said. "I pray that she can return to a good and fruitful life. I know that God has a better plan for her than just playing basketball at Lipscomb University."

Ford listens more and talks less. He holds fast to Jesus' prayer on the eve of His crucifixion "to remove this cup from me," and then in the next breath, "Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42)

"I've moved from just assuming whatever I think is God's will ... to 'Thy will be done,'" said Ford.

Mark Jent, a senior business major, said praying for Kaia will be one of his most important experiences from college.

"I will never forget this," Jent said. He paused and repeated again slowly, "I will never forget this."

Contributions to the Kaia Jergenson Medical Fund can be mailed to Lipscomb University, 3901 Granny White Pike, Nashville, TN 37204-3951. ■

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Kaia Jergenson was pumping iron in the weight room.

It was Jan. 3, and the 6-foot-2 freshman basketball player at Lipscomb University had returned to campus early from the holiday break for practices. She was feeling optimistic. "Things are really starting to click for me," she told Coach Frank Bennett.

But that night, she started to chill, then vomited and called her mother to warn she probably had a stomach virus.

The next day, Kaia (Kye'yuh) was hospitalized, unconscious and in critical condition - her life in the balance from meningococcal meningitis, a bacterial infection in her bloodstream.

Her family released a statement asking for prayers.

Prayer is no stranger to most of the 2,600 students at Lipscomb University.

Associated with the Churches of Christ, the four-year liberal arts school requires students to attend daily chapel services and Bible studies. Many professors open class with prayer. Throughout each week, there are optional groups for prayer, devotions and Bible study - all led by students.

As students heard of Kaia's sudden illness, restoring her health became their daily supplication. In classes, at chapel, in small groups, individually, they bowed their heads. It was an earnest discipline they have maintained for weeks.

"In every prayer I hear, Kaia is at the top of the list," said

"I wish I would have a real tragic love affair and get so bummed out that I'd just quit my job and become a bum for a few years, because I was thinking about doing that anyway."

- Jack Tardey

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Campaign donations raise controversy

Larry Margasak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - Vice President Al Gore's 1996 appearance at a Buddhist temple was not planned as a fund-raiser, but individuals who attended were asked for contributions once a separate money-raising event was canceled, a former Democratic Party official testified Wednesday.

"It became a very mixed matter," John Huang told a U.S. District Court jury at the trial of a Democratic fund-raising colleague, Maria Hsia.

Huang said he was to attend a money-raising event the same day on a Los Angeles trip, but that appearance was canceled because of the vice president's "tight schedule."

In consolidating the two planned appearances into one, Huang said a luncheon - originally to be part of the fund-raiser at a restaurant - was moved to the "community outreach event" at the Hsi Lai Temple. "The event at the temple ... was never a fund-raising matter," Huang said.

Later, however, Huang testified that fund raising became mixed with the community event. He said he had already received "commitments" before the April 29, 1996 temple appearance from individuals who originally were to give money at the fund-raiser.

Under cross-examination

from Hsia attorney Nancy Luque, Huang said he also was informed by a Hsi Lai official that she was contacting people to donate and finding it "quite hard" to get people to contribute.

In a trial that mirrors an event that has dogged Gore in his current run for the presidency, Hsia is charged with five felony counts of causing false statements to be filed with the Federal Election Commission about the true source of campaign donations. Prosecutors have described the immigration consultant's actions as a scheme to illegally reimburse contributors for more than \$100,000 in donations they made to the Clinton-Gore 1996 re-election campaign and the Democratic Party.

Huang said he had hoped to bring back \$200,000-\$250,000 from Gore's West Coast fund-raising trip and, while raising it, he would not reach his target, asked Hsia for help.

The day after the temple appearance, Huang said, Hsia handed him an envelope with \$100,000 in checks but added he wasn't aware at the time that some of the donors had been reimbursed. Huang, who has testified before Congress and spoke numerous times to prosecutors, answered "no ma'am" when asked by Luque whether Hsia "did anything improper with respect to these contributions."

To demonstrate that there originally were two separate events, Hsia lawyer Nancy Luque showed Huang his invitations to the restaurant. Huang said he had sent some out before the event was canceled.

Huang's description of the temple appearance as a "community outreach event" matched the description originally used by Gore. More recently Gore has said, "I have acknowledged my mistake in attending" the event.

Huang said that in planning the temple event, he thought that having a dignitary like Gore would be "a plus factor" for the Asian-American community. He acknowledged that he personally hoped "some of the wealthier Asian-Americans would open up their wallets" - although "not necessarily at that time."

Huang said that when Gore arrived at the temple, a vice presidential aide asked what Gore should talk about. Huang said he suggested remarks on "being more inclusive" and "having more religious tolerance."

The chief Asian-American money raiser for the Democratic National Committee in 1996, Huang said many in that community leaned toward the Republicans and he hoped the temple event "could inspire" people to be "drawn to the Democratic side." ■

McCain wins Bauer endorsement; Bush refilling campaign warchest

Mike Glover
Associated Press

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) - Pushing toward Saturday's primary, Sen. John McCain won endorsements Wednesday from former rival Gary Bauer and a California official switching from George W. Bush. The Texas governor laid plans for a fresh round of fund raising after running through \$50 million.

While McCain crowded out gathering enthusiasm, Bush rebuffed suggestions that he had too little to show for his money, saying he was already campaigning in every state and "I've got a good chance of winning."

Bush was sharply criticized by one of his numerous congressional supporters, Rep. Peter King of New York, who said the governor offended him as a Catholic by speaking at Bob Jones University, controversial for anti-Catholic and racial remarks by past president Bob Jones Jr.

Polls put Bush and McCain in a dead heat just days before the important Republican primary in South Carolina.

Bauer, who quit the race two weeks ago, announced his support for McCain at a rally at Furman University.

"He is our best shot" at winning the White House, Bauer said, arguing McCain has a fix on "the moral idea of America."

Bauer, who was an adviser to President Reagan and whose own campaign focused largely on opposing abortion, is an important force in the competition for social conservatives' votes. Bush has sent repeated

mailings to social and religious conservatives questioning McCain's commitment to opposing abortion.

"There's been so much doubt raised about my commitment to some of these issues," McCain said about the Bauer endorsement. "He'll dispel that."

Also signing on was California Secretary of State Bill Jones, the highest elected Republican in that state, which votes March 7 as part of the big round of primaries that could well settle the GOP presidential nomination.

Jones, whose own election in 1998 relied on independents and Democrats, said he switched his endorsement because McCain's message of campaign finance reform would reach beyond Republican stalwarts and help build the party. He complained that some Republicans in South Carolina were sending the message that "your vote doesn't count as an independent or crossover unless you vote for Bush."

Rep. King, R-N.Y., said he was "reconsidering my support for Bush" because his appearance at Bob Jones University was hard to defend and made Bush seem "almost blind to Catholic sensibilities."

Aides said Bush was set to report he had about \$20 million left from his vaunted \$70 million campaign treasury. That's about twice what McCain said he had left in the bank. Bush already has set a new record for primary-season spending.

Bush was revving up his fund-raising machine after a lull, seeking a refill to compete in looming and expensive big

states. McCain has been fund raising heavily since his surprise blowout in New Hampshire.

"We have a plan in place that's going to enable me to stay in this race for the long run," Bush said, noting he was campaigning in more states than McCain. And he suggested McCain was breaking the rules by surpassing state-by-state spending caps imposed on candidates who take federal matching funds. Bush isn't subject to the limits because he declined taxpayer funds.

McCain, who has sworn off negative ads, began airing a campaign-closing TV spot in South Carolina designed to convince Republicans that he can defeat both Bush and the eventual Democratic nominee. The upbeat ad features adoring crowds, patriotic images and a voiceover calling McCain "a Republican like Ronald Reagan who can win."

Bush, whose campaign has grown increasingly aggressive, started a new ad that accuses McCain of unfounded negative attacks and of waffling on public financing of congressional elections, which both candidates say they oppose.

McCain was rolling through inland South Carolina from town meeting to town meeting, beaming confidence and arguing he'll be able to press ahead regardless of what happens Saturday.

Once 20 points behind, McCain said now "the polls show us in the margin of error" and he hoped a backlash against Bush's negative ads would boost him further. ■

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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, TN

Thursday, February 17, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 5

From the Staff The vaccinations are in...

Kaia Jergenson, a David Lipscomb University student, lost her lower legs and almost her life to a preventable disease: bacterial meningitis. "Sidelines" reported on the issue and discovered MTSU's Health Services department does not offer students the opportunity to prevent this disease. Those are the facts.

"Sidelines" Managing Editor Angela White went on to criticize the health center for its lack of preparation ("From the Staff," Jan. 27). White makes the point that the university requires students to prove they have been vaccinated against diseases such as measles and hepatitis B, so why not meningitis?

In Vice President for Student

Affairs Robert Glenn's letter to the editor, he suggests that the cost of vaccinating the entire student body would be far too much for the university's budget. We agree. White's editorial never suggested that the financial burden of vaccinating the student body fall on the university. But by not offering the vaccination at all, the university is negligent.

Glenn has since instructed the health center to acquire 25 meningitis vaccinations for students who care about their health but cannot visit a family doctor at this time.

People love to criticize the media. And we can hardly blame them.

The institution of journalism is experiencing a "credibility crisis."

Just like a child who lies, the media must prove to the public that it is worthy of their trust. The fundamental purpose of the media is to inform the people of events in the world around them.

The media's secondary purpose, and I would argue the most important, is to act as a voice for the community, in our case the students, and the ultimate watchdog of the powers that be, in our case the administration.

Glenn has done the right thing. And in doing his job, he has proven that we have done ours. Now quit complaining about the \$60 and go get the vaccination. It could save your life.

Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum

Modern Dysfunction

by Rob Evans, Staff Columnist

GPA injustice

New grading system unfair

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking."

"The plane you are currently on is leaving for the dark cold island of lower grade point averages, and today's in-flight meal will be an increased work load."

"Unfortunately this is the last flight of your college career. Seems like the faculty of your fine university took up all the seats on the last flight to the sunny destination of your future without informing you or any of your academic peers."

"I have just been informed that there is no turning back that plane around. It is too far on its way to stop it, and it would cost somebody dearly to prevent it from going through."

"On the other hand, the flight attendant has informed me that the in-flight movie is entitled 'The Dumbing Down of an American University.'"

And that is about the sum of it. As undergraduates, we will have to fight harder than ever before to keep our grades up. That on top of working (for us souls without scholarships), extra-curriculars and life in general.

Personally, I don't want to take that flight, but unless some divine intervention takes place, or I transfer schools, whichever comes first (I am guessing transferring schools), it is suffering that all of our GPAs will suffer.

But what ticks me off the most is the fact that a new GPA format was presented to the Faculty Senate without any warning to the student body. They (the Faculty Senate that is), having no reason to reject it (see: No Protest.), went ahead and passed it.

According to Barbara Haskew, vice president of academic affairs, the "new grading system gives faculty the ability to grade more discreetly using a more descriptive system."

For some reason I don't see how discreet and descriptive fit together.

Does this mean the student that works their tail off can get a 3.33 instead of a 4.0, but then the student that goes off can get a 2.67 instead of a 2.0?

If you care to explain this to me, Haskew, it would be greatly appreciated.

I would like to understand

why we give those who do less work a chance to improve their standing and bring the average gap together.

As Ryan Cartwright's letter to the editor pointed out, even within the same course grade could be different depending on the feeling the instructor has.

Isn't that a form of social promotion?

Is that supposed to make me feel all bubbly inside knowing some jack is riding on my coat-tails?

Please tell me, I want to know. Many students have expressed concern that this new system will hurt them in the long run.

They are distressed because it seems to be nothing they can do about it. At least those that know about it.

Because of the students that are unaware, how are you going to control the angry mob at the end of the fall 2000 semester when they receive their grades?

Many seniors are relieved they did not have to go through this. Of course these graduating seniors have nothing to complain about. They got into the graduate school of their choice.

If all goes un-according to plan, I may have to settle for whatever graduate school will accept me.

Sure I made the same grade as a student from [fill in any university here], but will the graduate school sit and compare letter grade for letter grade with another qualified applicant?

Of course not. If my GPA doesn't make the cut, then my application (as well as dreams) go in the rejection form letter pile.

MTSU wants to continue to grow and become a much more renowned university.

How will this happen with an inconsistent grading system and a student body that is against it?

This on top of the fact that MTSU has one of the most stringent credit hour requirements of any other school in the country.

President Walker, you were named among the top 50 in leadership of universities in this country.

I admire this leadership, but I have one question. Are you going to help the student body address this problem? ■

Letters to the Editor

University not responsible for student vaccinations

I am responding to the editorial opinion expressed in the Jan. 27 issue of "Sidelines." In the editorial, Angela White, managing editor, expressed the opinion that the university was not taking a responsible position in regards to vaccinations for meningitis.

Ms. White believes the university should provide the vaccine for its students, and in failing to do so indicates that the university is "gambling with the health of its students." I disagree with Ms. White's opinion and would like to offer some additional facts to consider.

First of all, Ms. White suggests that there is an increasing threat of meningitis. She indicates that there are approximately 3,000 cases of meningitis each year in the United States.

This would mean that students have roughly a one in 8,000 chance of contracting the disease. She also refers to two highly publicized cases in Tennessee, which are in close proximity of time and place to one another.

These two items appear to be the crux of her argument that there is an increasing threat of the disease. I would suggest that the threat of the disease is not increasing, but rather our awareness of it.

This does not suggest that the threat of contracting meningitis is not a serious one. Quite the contrary, it is serious. For freshman attending the university, statistics appear to indicate that the risk is higher

than that of the average person. We do believe that it is appropriate to encourage students to consider seeking a vaccination through their personal physician.

Starting with this summer's Customs program, we will be encouraging parents to make a decision about vaccination, if possible, prior to returning in the fall. There does not appear to be, however, sufficient impetus to declare an emergency.

Ms. White also seems to scoff at the cost involved to secure the vaccination. She cites a local drugstore that can provide the vaccine for \$80 per dose.

Simple mathematics would indicate that the cost for vaccinating our entire student body would be approximately \$1.5 million.

Even if we confine immunization effort to just the freshman class, the cost would be approximately \$250,000. Such a sum of money is simply not available to secure vaccines for the students, particularly in light of the relatively rare occurrence of the disease.

It would seem more prudent to educate students and parents about the disease and encourage them to take responsible action on an individual basis.

A final restriction on the university's ability to provide widespread vaccination is the availability of the vaccine itself.

When the university contacted the manufacturer of the vaccine, we were told that the maximum number of doses we could purchase at any one time is 25 doses per

week. Consequently, even if the university wanted to secure sufficient vaccines to vaccinate a large number of students, it would not be able to do so in a timely fashion.

In response to all of the above restriction, I have instructed the Health Services Center to keep 25 doses of the vaccine for meningitis on hand. We have already ordered and received a shipment.

The purpose of keeping the vaccine on hand would be to assist those students who are unable to go home and receive vaccination in a timely manner.

Otherwise we are directing students who are seeking vaccination to secure it from their personal physician in their home town.

Again, we will be encouraging students and parents who go through future Customs session to consider whether or not they wish to get a vaccination and make a decision prior to their return in the fall.

I believe that the university has chosen the most proper course of action.

I hope that others, including Ms. White, will concur once they consider all of the facts.

In any event, I would strongly declare that Ms. White's assertion that the university is callous toward the needs and safety of students is both unfounded and unfair.

Robert K. Glenn
Vice President for Student Affairs

Correction

A track team member was mistakenly identified in a photograph in the Feb. 14 issue. The photograph was actually one of Stephany Reid. "Sidelines" regrets the error.

Firefighters deserve some respect

This letter is in response to Michael Edward's "From The Staff" comment on Monday ("Sidelines" Feb. 14).

I would like to make things a little clearer for Mr. Edwards who obviously does not understand the emergency response system and how these responses are carried out.

I am a volunteer for the Rutherford County Rescue Squad and the response time/protocol is similar to that of the Murfreesboro Fire Department. Like many of people in your situation, your level of patience in an inconvenient emergency situation decreases rapidly. Here is an example of the time it takes to respond to an MTSU fire call in the middle of the night.

Alarm sounds. 30 seconds to one minute for the MTSU dispatch system to recognize the alarm, notify the city and for the city to dispatch a fire company. These firefighters are

doing the same thing that you are doing in the middle of the night -- sleeping. They do not sit in the truck and wait for a call. One to two minutes must be allowed to get out of bed and don all personal protective gear (about one minute), because a firefighter who dies or is incapacitated due to lack of protective gear is of no use to you.

Once all firefighters are prepared and in the truck, there is the response itself. These fire trucks are not Ferraris -- they will travel at relatively high speeds (maybe 70 mph), but they stop like an ocean liner. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that his crew arrives on scene safely in order to deal with the situation.

The city fire department responds to MTSU from Mercury Boulevard. The response time to area IV could be as long as three to five minutes. In all, the time that elaps-

es between the alarm sounding and the fire department arriving on the scene legitimately could be five to eight minutes.

These firefighters do a heck of a job, and you should give them some slack. It is no different than anywhere else in the country, if not better.

Plus they deal with lousy students who think it is funny to pull fire alarms.

They are deserving of a lot more credit for putting their life on the line for yours. In response to the false alarm that occur, the housing department has a great system called area government that is set up to allow people like you to aid in making changes.

Maybe you should attend a meeting in your area and bring this up instead of using the issue as a means to bash firefighters in the newspaper.

Chris Bauerle
Senior, Recording Industry

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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.



FEATURES

6 ■ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 17, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Sharing the spotlight

Dance program moves from HPERS department to speech and theatre

Amanda Virgillito
Features Editor

After patiently waiting in the wings, the dance program finally takes the stage with the speech and theatre department.

The speech and theatre department now offers the dance program, a long awaited welcome as the two prepare to join forces and make some major improvements.

"We really look forward to seeing dance develop and thrive as a partner of theatre and as a program in its own right," remarked Russell Church, chairperson of the speech and theatre department.

Church explained that the dance program's move will enable dancers to focus on "dance as an art form as opposed to a social or physical activity."

"Both aspects are not completely gone, but that is our focus," Church added.

Lisa Lewis, an instructor in the HPERS department, agreed with Church.

She claimed dance will be "focusing more on the performance aspect of dance as opposed to education."

Several dance classes will remain in the HPERS department, such as beginning tap, jazz, ballet, modern and skills and technologies of rhythmic activities. However, most of the dance classes have already been moved to speech and theatre.

Anne Holland, the associate professor for the dance program in the HPERS department for more than 30 years, has been working toward this for as long as she can remember. Although

she retired last semester, she still plans to teach part-time.

Holland explains that the HPERS department focuses on athletics, which received most of the funding.

"We never got any [money]," Holland said. The move to speech and theatre excited Holland because she feels they put their funds more toward production and art. She explained that they support costumes, lighting and stage use.

One thing the dance program lacks is expert guidance. The speech and theatre department is looking for "a new curriculum," Lewis said.

"We're doing a national search," Church elaborated. "Hopefully they can get started in the fall."

"This will pretty much determine how the department will work from this point on," Holland commented.

Along with a new faculty, the dance department will offer more classes while working more closely with speech and theatre.

According to Church, the dance class requirements have been rewritten to more appropriately suit speech and theatre. The number of required credit hours will also increase, he said.

"A lot of the courses that were there before are still there, and some have changed more than others," Church explained.

The stage has been set. Now it's time for the group to take action.

Church anticipates the possibility of a dance major, either in itself or combined with theatre.

In the next few years, Church

hopes to see "the department restructured and seeing theatre and dance start a new college of its own."

"It'll be a slow process," Lewis agreed. "But I think in five or 10 years it'll be a good, solid progression."

In the meantime, dance and theatre plan to join forces to produce shows, such as ballets and Broadway musicals, that will showcase many talents.

Seanna Parrish, a dance minor, is excited about the possibilities the move brings.

"We'll be working with people who have a different insight," Parrish said. "We'll get more in-depth with the musical story lines."

Holland is also certain that many musicals will be produced in the future. She emphasized the need for many diverse people to make such a production successful.

In addition to the dance program, the MTSU Performing Arts Company, commonly known as dance club, anticipates the possibilities.

Angela Armstrong, a graduate student, instructor and leader of dance club, remembers how the dance program has changed since she began school in 1988.

"There really wasn't a sense of unity," Armstrong recalled. "There definitely wasn't the sense of family that we have now."

Armstrong graduated in 1994 and began working on her master's degree. She returned to the dance program in 1997 to teach.

"There were 12 members [in dance club]," Armstrong recalled. "We did everything together."

She and the other members



recruited dancers from the classes.

"Since then we've just blossomed," said Armstrong. "I have a lot of passion for dance, and people pick up on that."

There are presently over 60 members attending dance club.

Armstrong also observed how the classes themselves have grown.

"People learning as they go along gives them a sense of accomplishment," she said.

Armstrong believes that the key to their success lies in atmosphere and structure. She takes pride in the sense of family the dancers share.

Though many factors must be considered before making this move truly successful, the team players involved believe that the show must go on. The final bow is now here in sight. ■



Photos by Amanda Virgillito | Staff Photographer

(Top) Lynn Hearn puts his dance shoes on to prepare for practice Sunday.

(Bottom) Angela Armstrong, Gin, and Nykie Sweeney practice a spiritual dance from "The Color Purple." Armstrong is choreographing this dance for the Black College Dance Exchange, which takes place in March.

Teens benefit from 'Learn to Postpone' program

Judy Hammond
Knight-Ridder Tribune

MONTEREY, Calif. — The teen-ager on the poster poses with her baby. Her message: "I wasn't planning on having sex, it just happened. Just once."

The posters, in Spanish and English, are being placed at kiosks, on buses and in schools by Postpone, a Monterey County, Calif., Health Department project to prevent teen pregnancies.

In Monterey County, where the teen pregnancy rate is one of the highest in the state, Postpone encourages teens to put off having sex until they are financially and emotionally ready to handle parenthood.

A common belief among many teenagers is that they cannot get pregnant the first time they have sex, said Gary Rodriguez of Salinas, Calif., who trains high school students to talk to their classmates about birth control, sexually transmitted diseases and remaining pregnancy free. They are called peer mentors.

"It is not unusual for seventh and eighth graders (13- and 14-year-olds) to get pregnant," said Rodriguez, 32, who is also a counselor at Planned Parenthood in Salinas.

Getting accurate information to teens is the key, said Rodriguez, who runs the training sessions under a grant from Postpone. The mentors talk to classes as well as individual students.

"They are more likely to listen to their peers than adults, and we want them to be able to give the right information," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez also runs a peer counseling program at California State University at Monterey Bay, where five mentors concentrate on sexually transmitted infections as well as birth control and pregnancy.

Preventing teen and unwed pregnancies and promoting the involvement of fathers in the support of their children is the goal, said Susan Schiavone, educator for Postpone. The project was started in 1996 and is funded by a \$210,000 annual grant from the California Department of Health Services and community contributions. The 30-hour training is followed by

weekly meetings with Rodriguez.

They receive \$25 after completing the initial training and \$10 for each presentation. Any student can apply to be a mentor, as long as they are enrolled in the school. None of them at Alisal is a teen parent.

Ivan Romero, 15, an Alisal High sophomore, is one of two boys who are peer mentors at the school.

Only a few in a class of 32 say they are able to talk to their parents about sex, he said.

"The only safe sex is no sex," Romero tells his classmates. "If you do decide to do it, use protection for yourself and those you love."

Norma Leon, 15, also an Alisal sophomore, said that many teens "our age are getting pregnant. I thought they would listen to someone their own age."

Despite the delicate subject, the peer mentors appear before their fellow students with confidence, said Travis Stuart, health teacher at Alisal High and Postpone adviser. There are chuckles at first, he said, but that dissolves once the mentors start talking about reproduction, AIDS-HIV and wearing condoms.

"They have learned the subject and are confident," Stuart said.

Although teen pregnancy is down in California and nationwide, the teen birth rate in Monterey County is higher than both the state and national average, Postpone's Schiavone said.

With a large migrant population working in agriculture and seasonable unemployment, Monterey County has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in California, said Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo.

The 40-year national low in birth rate for high-school-age teens is attributed by analysts to fewer teens having sex, use of more reliable birth control methods, including long-lasting implants and injections. Fear of AIDS has increased the use of condoms.

One in three California children is born out of wedlock, and among teens it is two in three, Schiavone said.

Teen pregnancies are more common among poor families, and among families who do not approve of birth control or abortion, Schiavone said.

Reaching younger students before they enter high school is critical, Rodriguez said, but there has been reluctance on the part of some middle schools to invite peer mentors to give presentations.

If the younger students do not have the right information about birth control and pregnancy by the time they are of high school age, it may be too late, Schiavone said.

For parents who are uncomfortable discussing sex with their children, Postpone offers a packet on birth control, pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Topics include "101 Ways to Make Love Without Doing It" and "Encouraging Abstinence." Postpone also offers an "askable parent" class for community groups, parents and schools.

The message is for boys too, said Rodriguez. "They're not the one to get pregnant, but they will end up being financially responsible."

An important part of Postpone's message is to get fathers involved in the lives of their children, Schiavone said. Usually it ends up on the shoulders of the girl, who often must drop out of school to care for the child. Teen parents are less likely to finish school and more likely to live in poverty, she said.

Some teen mothers are able to continue high school because of child care offered on the campus. This is the case at Seaside High and Mt. Toro High in Salinas.

The Seaside High infant-toddler center serves teen parents throughout the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, said teacher Pat Wilson, who started the program in 1983 and still runs it.

The teen parents, including boys, attend regular classes and parenting classes at the infant-toddler center where their child is also learning development skills.

There are seven parents currently enrolled and that is expected to double by March, Wilson said. The parents range in age from 14 to 18.

The program, which receives the majority of its funding from the state, is in danger of being cut because of district budget woes, Wilson said. If the \$49,000 it receives from the district is



Photo provided

Mylissa Archuleta, 19, shops with her three-year-old daughter, Krista. Archuleta is a volunteer with Postpone, a project of the Monterey County Health Department.

cut, state funding will be withdrawn, which could spell the end of the program, Wilson said.

For most teen mothers, the baby is their future, said Patty Solis, 18, senior and peer mentor at Alisal High. "Most

of us have friends who have become pregnant," she said. "Most of them drop out of school because they have no help."

Their future plans? she asks. "The baby is their future plans." ■

Swim meet generates money, necessities for fire victims

Ruth Peltier
Staff Reporter

It only takes a few minutes for your life to be torn apart, never to be the same again. For Patsy Farless, those minutes came Feb. 4 at 11:30 p.m. while she was at work. Her two daughters, 18 months and 7, died in a fire that destroyed her rented home. Life flight transported her husband and son to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where they remain in critical but stable condition. While nothing can restore Farless the things she has lost, the Murfreesboro community has come together to aid her in meeting the challenges she now faces, said Sherry Thomas of Cellular Concepts. Cellular Concepts, a cell phone company in Murfreesboro, has appointed Thomas to coordinate their efforts to provide the material things that this family will need to bring their lives back to normal. Thomas said Murfreesboro individuals and businesses have rented a house for Farless and paid the first six-months rent

and have donated almost all of the large items of furniture needed for the home. "Except for a brief trip to approve the house before we rented it, Farless has remained at the hospital with her family," said Thomas. In order to make it easier for people to donate the many smaller items that Farless will need, Thomas and others have registered Farless at Target, JC Penney Department Store and Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse, as if she were a bride. For example, at Target, people wishing to help with this project can choose a gift from the list on the computer at the front of the store. Store personnel will deliver the gift to the purchaser at the check out line. Thomas stressed, "We chose the list of things needed. Farless did not request these items." Farless' husband, Billy Farless, 29, was severely burned in his attempts to rescue the children, and remains in critical but stable condition, said Thomas. Farless' son, Benjie Raussin, 10, whose lungs were blistered by the fire, is still hos-

pitalized but improving rapidly. The MTSU community will have a chance to express their concern for this family at the Second Annual Winter Blast Adult Invitational Swim Meet, Feb. 19. Ed Woodall of campus recreation announced that the proceeds from this event would go to the Farless family. In addition, each participant and spectator can bring a can of food or other items to give to the Farless family. The swim meet is open to all adult swimmers 19 and older. The entry fee is \$6, and each swimmer can participate in three individual events and two relays. Warm-ups will begin at 9:30 a.m., and the first event will begin at 10 a.m. Those wishing to participate can sign up at the Recreation Center. Anyone wishing to help the Farless family can also bring gifts of items or money to Cellular Concepts, 1407 N.W. Broad St. Donations can be taken to any Cavalry Bank of Murfreesboro, which is gathering donations to help with this family's enormous medical expenses. The Farless family has no medical insurance. ■

Popular 'Millionaire' show makes debut on Internet

Richard Huff
Knight-Ridder Tribune

ABC's ratings juggernaut "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" will roll out an Internet component next month to let viewers at home play along with Regis Philbin as the show unfolds on the air. Starting in March, viewers can log on to www.ABC.com and attempt to beat the players on the TV show. "Our application is going to be very much like the game," said Jonathan Leess, vice president, general manager and executive producer for ABC's Enhanced TV. "It's designed to allow the viewer to play along with the contestant in real time." Online players will be competing against each other for yet-undefined prizes. The final format of the Internet game will be hammered out in the coming weeks as ABC tests the system with Internet users and in focus groups. Plans call for "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" producers to turn over tapes of the pre-recorded telecasts to Enhanced TV staffers, who then will create a specially produced Internet game. The key for viewers at home will be to answer the questions as quickly as possible.

To avoid cannibalizing the ABC telecast's audience, the Internet game will go to commercials of sorts at the same time as the TV game. At these breaks, the Internet players will get questions that refer to what's going on in the TV game. For instance, during a commercial break, Internet players would be asked what color tie host Regis Philbin is wearing. To succeed, players would have to keep an eye on the television at all times. "It's going to be a virtual live experience," Leess said. The online game will be paced with the TV version. "We don't want to create a distracting situation. It'll be synchronized to the show, and changed and amended as needed," he said. The "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" game is the latest step for ABC's Enhanced TV project, which has until now been used exclusively for sporting events, with viewers getting game statistics and participating in online games during "Monday Night Football." According to Leess, the online component of "Millionaire" was in the works long before the show became a smash hit. The online play-along game is just the latest expansion of the "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" franchise. ■

Smooching students make university reconsider PDA

SEATTLE (TMS) — Some students at Seattle Pacific University have been so kissy-face with each other that other students are reviewing the campus' rules on public display of affection. The public groping has embarrassed many students, who say they're tired of being confronted with it when they're walking down hallways or into other common areas, such as the student lounge. Their complaints have prompted a student-led

committee to review to consider posting signs reminding students what is and is not appropriate behavior. One sign posted on the campus' chapel door already informs students that the chapel is "not for making out. Please be an adult." Kimberlee Campbell, director of residence life for the university, told "The Falcon" she hopes students will use good judgment and resolve their conflicts before getting her staff involved in the issue. ■

Chicago university offers unorthodox courses online

CHICAGO (TMS) — Sending a golden opportunity to spread word about their institution worldwide, officials at John A. Logan College in Illinois are offering distance-education courses in offbeat subjects, such as the history of the Beatles, UFOs and wine-making. The college's face-to-face classes rarely attract students from outside its home state, but the new

online courses have enrolled students from seven countries and four continents. Logan College works with 13 other Illinois colleges to attract students. The partner colleges advertise the courses, register the students and pass along \$15 per student to Logan. Courses include chat rooms, streaming video and audio elements. ■



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SPORTS

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Murfreesboro, TN

8 ■ SIDELINES

Baseball team slugging for title

Michael Edwards
Sports Co-Editor

The boys of summer are back for the Blue Raiders as the baseball team will start off play Feb. 18 against the University of Southeastern Louisiana.

Expectations are high for the Raider baseball team this year, as they have been picked by several organizations—including Baseball America and the Ohio Valley Conference—to win the conference title this year. This would give MTSU eight conference titles in 11 years.

"We should compete for the conference championship, both regular season and in the tournament," head coach Steve Peterson said. "We should be in the hunt for the league and tournament titles."

The Raiders will return a solid pitching staff that features pitchers Dewon Brazelton, Jamie Powers and Jason Moates. Brazelton led the team with eight wins last year and will be the number one man for the Raiders rotation at the beginning of the year. The pitching depth is a great asset for the Raiders.

"Adding Moates is like adding ice cream to the cake," Peterson said.

"He's one year better. He's bigger, stronger and older.

There's no doubt that he earned the opportunity," Peterson said about Brazelton. "You are looking for a bell cow in pitching. You have got to have solid pitching."

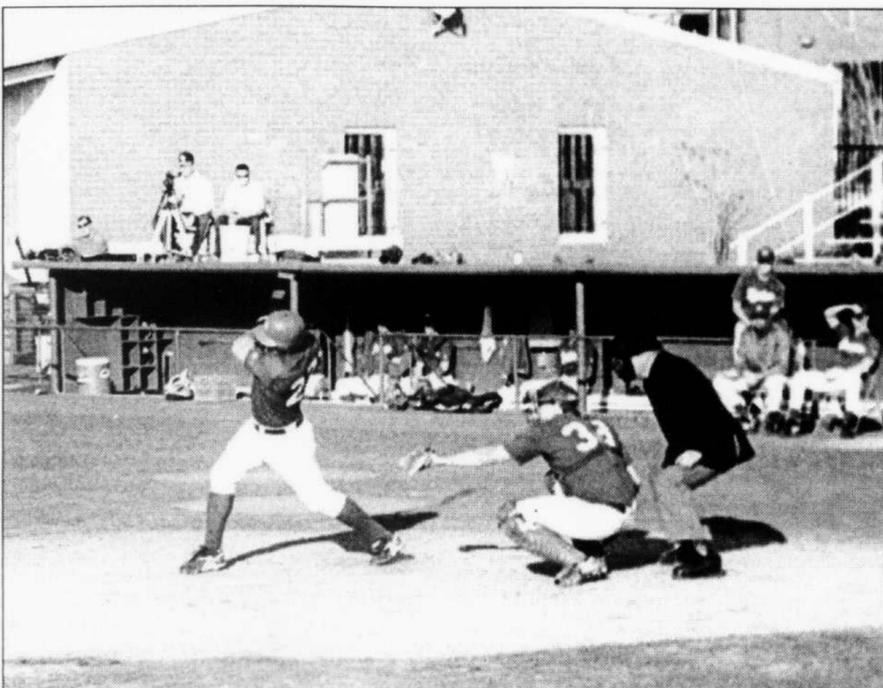
The Raiders have added Josh Renick, who is the son of Pittsburgh Pirate assistant coach Rick Renick. Renick will be a designated hitter for the Blue Raiders when MTSU travels to its first game.

Moates is coming from the University of Alabama where he played two years and will enter the Raider rotation as a junior. He is expected to hold down the final leg of the rotation.

Peterson expects the right field position to be a platoon job by several different people, but the other positions are sewn up. Renick will be the lead-off hitter and be the designated hitter, while Kris Lammers will play first base and bat second. Peterson says Renick is a "proven stolen base guy out of junior college."

Catching and batting third is senior Josh Pride, who was named third team All-America by Collegiate Baseball. Bryan Peck will bat fourth and play third base, and Justin Links will man left field.

Next to him is senior Jeff Parsons from Hendersonville High School in Hendersonville,



The Raiders are the pre-season favorite to win the OVC title. Their season begins Friday at Southeastern Louisiana.

Tenn. Parsons will play center-field and bat seventh. Second baseman Jason Howarth will bat eighth, while his double-play partner, Wes Whitehead, will bat ninth.

The right field situation is going to be a platoon job. Peterson says, "nobody jumped out" during the preseason.

"We're a year older, and need a lead off hitter that can steal a

lot of bases," Peterson said. "The middle of the order can hit for power." The Raiders home opener is at 2 p.m. Feb. 26 against Indiana University. ■

2000 Baseball Schedule

2/18	...S.E. Louisiana	6:40 PM
2/19	...S.E. Louisiana	1 PM
2/20	...S.E. Louisiana	Noon
2/26	...Indiana	2 PM
2/27	...Indiana	2 PM
2/29	...Memphis	3 PM
3/1	...Memphis	2 PM
3/3	...S.W. Missouri	2:30 PM
3/4	...S.W. Missouri (DH)	Noon
3/5	...Yale	3 PM
3/7	...Southern Mississippi	3 PM
3/8	...Southern Mississippi	3 PM
3/11	...Dayton	2 PM
3/12	...Dayton	2 PM
3/15	...Jacksonville State	3 PM
3/16	...Yale	3 PM
3/18	...UT Martin (DH)	2 PM
3/19	...UT Martin	2 PM
3/21	...UAB	6:05 PM
3/22	...UAB	3:05 PM
3/24	...Wisconsin-Milwaukee	2 PM
3/25	...Wisconsin-Milwaukee	2 PM
3/28	...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
4/4	...Southeast Missouri (DH)	2 PM
4/9	...Southeast Missouri	2 PM
4/11	...Memphis	7 PM
4/12	...Memphis	7 PM
4/15	...Morehead State (DH)	2 PM
4/16	...Morehead State	2 PM
4/18	...Vanderbilt	7 PM
4/21	...Murray State (DH)	2 PM
4/22	...Murray State	1 PM
4/25	...Jacksonville State	2 PM
4/26	...Western Kentucky	6 PM
4/29	...Tennessee Tech (DH)	4 PM
4/30	...Tennessee Tech	1 PM
5/2	...Vanderbilt	7 PM
5/3	...Eastern Kentucky (DH)	2 PM
5/4	...Eastern Kentucky	2 PM
5/10	...Tennessee	6 PM
5/13	...Eastern Illinois (DH)	1 PM
5/14	...Eastern Illinois	1 PM
5/18-20	...OVC Tournament	TBA
5/26-28	...NCAA Regionals	TBA
6/9-15	...NCAA College Wld. Series	TBA

Softball team to compete for crown

Michael Edwards
Sports Co-Editor

Winter is now over and the ladies of summer are gearing up for a run at the Ohio Valley Conference championship.

The Lady Raider softball team is coming off a second place finish last year in the conference, with a 38-22 overall record and a 19-7 mark within the conference. Hopes this season are high, as head coach Karen Green expects greatness from her athletes.

"We are going in expecting to win the conference," Green said. "We have more depth this year, especially our outfield and pitching."

Anchoring that pitching staff will be Jennifer Martinez. A year ago, she was named as the conference's best pitcher and best freshman.

Along side Martinez on the mound is Courtney Wallace. She is from Yuma, Ariz. which is home for the Yuma Proving Grounds, but this year Wallace's proving grounds will be at MTSU. Wallace finished with a record of 18-11, while Martinez finished with a 20-11 mark. Martinez was the more overpowering pitcher as she rang up 273 strike outs in only 205 innings.

This year the depth of the staff is a great asset for the Lady Raiders. First year Lady Raiders Stacy Preator and Kelly Cormier are both freshmen, and will help the pitching staff. Last year the Raiders featured only two pitchers, but this year MTSU can put as many as five on the mound.

"Pitching is our strength," Green said. "Our pitching is one of the best in the OVC and South region. I always tell our batters that if they can hit our pitching they can hit anyone's."

"I don't expect our pitching to dominate, but our defense can keep them from having big innings."

As for the rest of the team, the Lady Raider outfield is another area that is deep. Right fielder Erica Buhl will get the start in their first game Feb. 18 at Troy State. Laura Brockman returns for the Lady Raiders as

an outfielder. In 1999, Brockman hit .341 with six homeruns and 25 RBIs.

When Brockman is not pitching, Wallace will play left field. Wallace hit .298 with 11 doubles and 27 runs batted in. She was also second in walks with 19.

Although the pitching and the outfield is the perhaps the deepest, the infield is the most talented. Starting at first base for the Lady Raiders is senior Shay Haskell, at second is Carisa Chavez, at shortstop is Steffi Silva, and at third base senior Tamara Davis. Behind the plate is senior Melanie Manley. Chavez started 39 out of the 48 she played in last year.

Haskell, a senior from California, was third on the team in fielding percentage out of those players getting over 100 chances. She put out 262 out of the 275 chances she had.

Davis started in 59 games and hit .253 seven doubles and 27 RBIs. At her left is Silva. Silva was sixth in batting with a .296 batting average. She drove in 23 runs and scored 36, which was third on the team. Catcher Melanie Manley finished with the teams third highest average at .309.

The Lady Raiders have added speed this season, which will help in the effort to score more runs than last year. Outfielder Kip Phillips will be the main person, but she will start at designated hitter this weekend. Usually, the freshman play outfield.

"For the last eight years we have either led or dominated in the speed categories," Green said. "Kip (Phillips), when she gets on, we will be able to move her over."

The Lady Raiders first home game is March 1 against Troy State University.

Although Green expects to win the conference title, the rest of the OVC does not view it that way. Southeast Missouri State University was picked by the coaches of the OVC to win with 61 total points. MTSU finished second with 53 points, and Eastern Illinois University was picked to finish third. ■



Photo by Grant Fletcher | Staff Photographer

Senior Melanie Manley and the softball team are picked to finish second in the OVC.

2000 Softball Schedule

Feb. 18-20	Troy State Invitational	TBA
Feb. 23	...Belmont (DH)	2 pm
Feb. 25-27	Georgia Southern Reebok	TBA
Feb. 25	...Tennessee	12 pm
Feb. 25	...Coastal Carolina	6 pm
Feb. 26	...Elon	10 am
Feb. 26	...Georgia Southern	12 pm
Feb. 27	...Single Elimination Play	TBA
Mar. 1	...TROY STATE (DH)	3 pm
Mar. 3-5	MIDDLE TN INVITATIONAL	TBA
Mar. 11	...ALABAMA A&M (DH)	2 pm
Mar. 13	...WESTERN KENTUCKY (DH)	5 pm
Mar. 16-19	Capital Classic Tournament	TBA
Mar. 22	...TENNESSEE (DH)	5 pm
Mar. 24-26	Florida Tech Buzz Classic	TBA
Mar. 24	...Florida Atlantic	12 pm
Mar. 24	...Illinois-Chicago	5 pm
Mar. 25	...Ohio	7:30 am
Mar. 25	...Rhode Island	2:30 pm
Mar. 25	...Single Elimination Round	7:00 pm
Mar. 26	...Single Elimination Round	TBA
Mar. 30	...TENNESSEE STATE (DH)	5 pm
Apr. 1	...Morehead State (DH)	12 pm
Apr. 2	...Morehead State	12 pm
Apr. 4	...Austin Peay (DH)	2 pm
Apr. 6	...TENNESSEE/MARTIN (DH)	5 pm
Apr. 12	...Tennessee Tech (DH)	2 pm
Apr. 15	...SOUTHEAST MISSOURI (DH) 2 pm	
Apr. 16	...SOUTHEAST MISSOURI	1 pm
Apr. 19	...Tennessee State (DH)	5 pm
Apr. 22	...EASTERN KENTUCKY (DH)	1 pm
Apr. 23	...EASTERN KENTUCKY	1 pm
Apr. 25	...TENNESSEE TECH (DH)	5 pm
Apr. 27	...AUSTIN PEAY (DH)	5 pm
Apr. 29	...Eastern Illinois (DH)	1 pm
Apr. 30	...Eastern Illinois	1 pm
May 6	...Tennessee/Martin (DH)	2 pm
May 11-13	OVC Tournament	TBA
May 19-21	NCAA Regionals	TBA

DH - Doubleheader, *OVC Opponent, All Times Central

Tennis teams to meet their match

Adam Sparks
Staff Reporter

After opposing momentum shifts, the MTSU men's and women's tennis teams both take their nationally ranked teams to Mississippi this week. The men's team will face-off against the University of Mississippi in Oxford, while the women will travel to Starkville to take on Mississippi State University.

The men's team, ranked 49th in the nation, was defeated Sunday by the 13th ranked Mississippi State Bulldogs, 0-7. The crushing loss ended a winning streak that had pushed the Blue Raiders to a solid 6-2 record.

"We didn't lose our confidence, but we lost a lot of pride," Mark Pellerin said. "We just went down to a team we could have had a real good win against."

To beat Ole Miss, the MTSU men will have to play better than average and much better than they did against Mississippi State. Ole Miss had little trouble defeating Mississippi State just last week.

"Ole Miss is very, very good," men's head coach Dale Short said. "They probably are a true contender for the national title. We're going to have to give it our best performance to have a chance to be competitive."

The Blue Raiders dropped to a 51st national ranking after the loss to Mississippi State, but see themselves, possibly, rising up the polls again.

"I feel strongly that we can

make a run into the top 30 in the country," Short said. "With hard work, I think we can, and should, win the conference, as well."

"We expect to play better," Pellerin said. "We're just going to focus more on playing better than on winning."

The MTSU women's tennis team had much better luck this past week, thrashing the University of Memphis team, 9-0. The win evened the Lady Raiders' record for the year at 4-4 and moved them into the 66th slot of the national poll.

"We played good doubles and singles," Sarah Gronhert said. "The result says it all. We played pretty well."

"I think the Memphis match was a confidence booster for us," women's head coach David Thorton said. "I think we've made improvements throughout our whole game, individually and as a team. I hope, we can take that momentum into this weekend."

The women's team will also need outstanding play to be victorious this weekend. Their next two opponents, Mississippi State and Auburn University, are both ranked above the Lady Raiders.

"I think we're capable of beating them," coach Thorton said. "But they'll both be a test for us."

The MTSU men's tennis team is currently 6-2 and will play Saturday against Ole Miss at Oxford. The women's team is 4-4 and faces Mississippi State at Starkville Friday. ■

Thomatis player of the week

Brian Albertson
Sports Information

Jamie Thomatis scored 22 of her team high 25 points in the second half as MTSU snapped league leading Tennessee Tech's 13-game OVC winning streak with a 90-82 upset.

The sophomore forward hit 10-of-17 field attempts, including a pair of three-pointers in

the waning minutes of the game, to seal the Lady Raiders' victory.

Earlier this week, she posted a 20-point, 10-rebound effort in MTSU 67-58 win over Southeast Missouri. For the week, Thomatis shot 56.2 percent from the field and 62.6 percent from the foul line. ■

Lady Raider guard sets example on and off court

Josh Ezzell
Sports Co-Editor

"She takes care of her business. She doesn't have to be told what to do. She's a good student. She had all A's and B's in her first semester which is a great feat, especially since she was having to do translation."

Penttila is liked off the court and is successful on it. She was the Rookie of the Year in the Finnish League in 1998 and was the 1998 MVP in the Southeastern of Finland and MVP in division one—the second highest women's basketball league in Finland—in 1996.

She is averaging 5.3 points a game for the Lady Raiders—with a career high 12 points against Texas Southern University—and is second on the team in assists with 51.

See Penttila, 10

Mature. Self-sufficient. Responsible. Those words usually are not used to describe college freshmen.

Lady Raider guard Paula Penttila is an exception. Unlike many freshmen, Penttila is a 20-year-old, 5-foot-9-inch point guard. Unlike many freshmen, she is from Lahti, Finland, and has toured the United States with the Finnish Junior National team.

"She's a great kid—self sufficient," women's head basketball coach Stephany Smith asserted. "If I had one word I'd say self-sufficient. She's a cute kid. She has a cute personality."



Photo by Grant Fletcher | Staff Photographer

Freshman Paula Penttila, a valuable player on the Lady Raiders basketball team, leads the attack.

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**Penttila: Lady Raider guard sets
example on and off court**

Continued from 9

"She is extremely athletic," Smith explained. "She ranks in the top three athletes on our team. She's very quick and she has good size."

Penttila believes that playing in Finland helped prepare her for college basketball.

"It helped a lot because when you play other countries, like in Europe, they are really good teams," Penttila noted.

"With the national team I mostly played with older people. There might be 30-year-old women on your team. It's different than college basketball."

Penttila is one of four Finnish basketball players at MTSU. Also on the women's basketball team is Helsinki native Mia Parviainen. Iiro Tenngren and Jani Hiltunen—both from Helsinki—are on the men's basketball team.

While in Finland, she played with Parviainen on the Finnish Junior National Team. Parviainen describes Penttila as a responsible person.

"She always does homework and everything that has to be done," Parviainen explains. "She might seem like a quiet person, but once you get to

know her she's outgoing."

Penttila also knew Tenngren before coming to MTSU. Tenngren—along with HPER Instructor Jon Scarlett, who knows somebody in Virginia with European connections—were instrumental in bringing Penttila to MTSU.

"We talked on the phone prior to her visit here," Tenngren said. "I told her how I felt about the place and that it has been good to me and I told her to come for a visit and see for herself. She decided to come for a visit and I met her at her hotel room. I showed her around a little bit and told her what I've experienced since I've been here."

"She's a very delightful person all around," he emphasized. "She's very considerate of others."

Since she had been to the United States before she began college, adjusting to life here was not difficult.

"I had been here earlier, like three times," Penttila reflected. "I think it was pretty easy."

Even though her parents are in Finland, they are able to see how Paula is doing on the court.

"I look at her statistics almost everyday on the Internet," pondered father Olli Penttila. "The

Internet is so fast and easy to use."

But Penttila is not on the court all of the time.

When off the court she enjoys reading, shopping and playing other sports.

"I like to shop for clothes," she said, laughing. "I just hope that I don't spend all of my money."

"I don't have anything special that I like to read, but I like to read. When you're on a bus for six hours there's not much else to do."

While her major remains undeclared, she hopes to do something in the field of science.

"Her greatest strength is her mind," Smith endorsed. "I can talk to different players on our team and some of them are in la-la land when I'm talking to them, some of them are listening to me, but don't quite understand me."

"Paula's like a sponge. She stares you straight in the eye and she's trying to absorb. And even when I'm not trying to explain something to her, if she doesn't understand, she'll come to me and ask. She came here to play basketball and get an American education and she's taking it very seriously."

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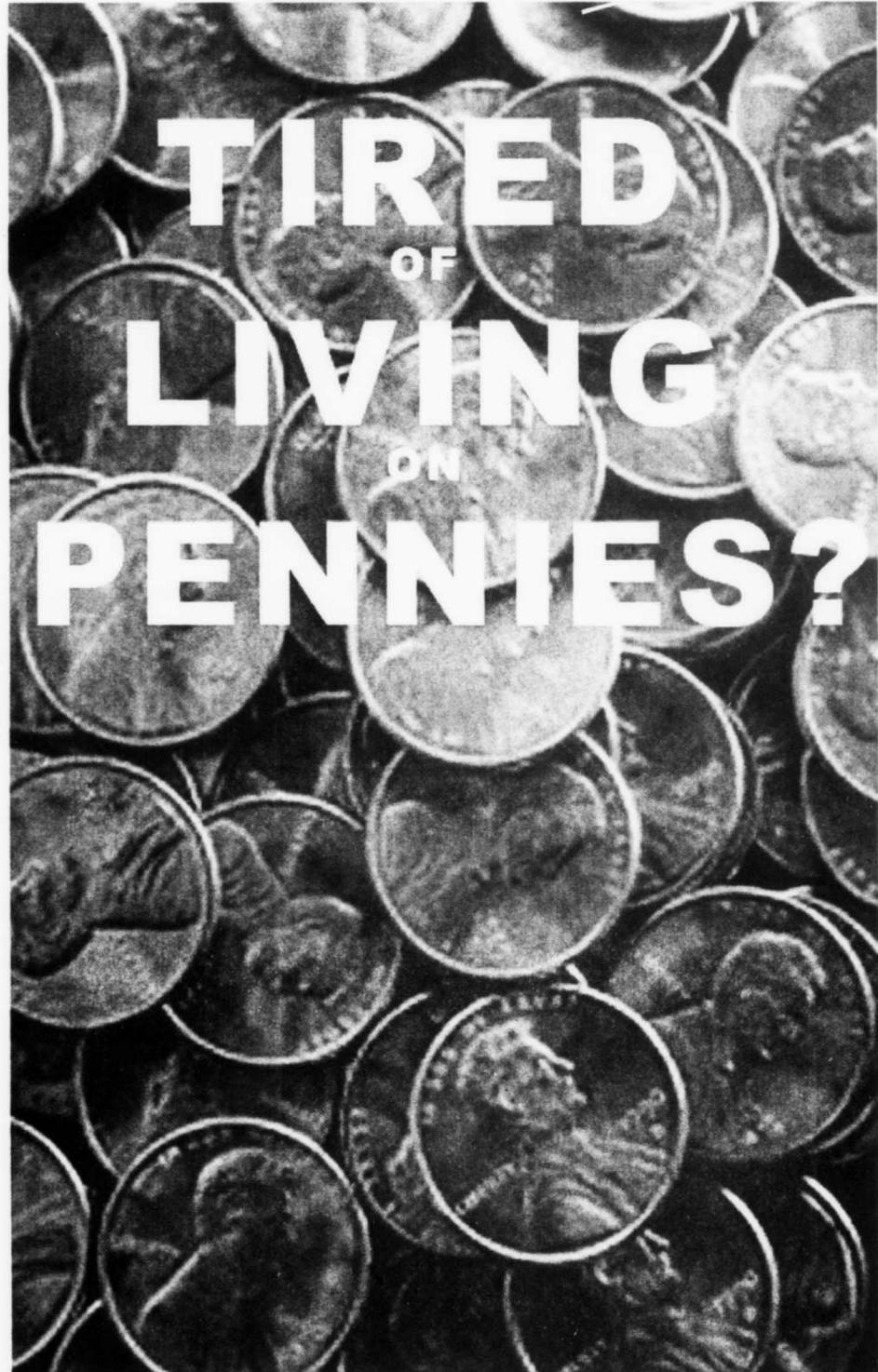
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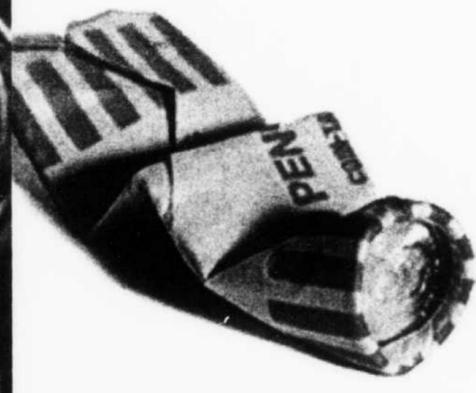
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