



SIDELINES



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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

Meters cause tickets, confusion for students

Brian Forrester
Staff Reporter

Students began to wonder why Parking Services placed 17 meters at green parking spaces in front of every dorm on Nov. 13, causing both confusion and tickets for them.

When the meters were installed, Parking Services issued 113 tickets between Nov. 13 and Jan. 21 at those 17 new metered spaces. Each overdue parking ticket at a meter costs \$10 and puts a hold on a violator's account until the ticket is paid.

"I've wondered about parking there," said John Galbreath, resident of Felder Hall.

The meters were placed in parking spaces that had green curbs creating confusion for students with a green parking permit.

The curbs were not painted a neutral color until Jan. 21, when Parking Services said they were made aware of a "possibility of confusion at the parking meters."

Parking Services placed an announcement in Sidelines concerning the meters on Nov. 19 and 23.

Connie Hagberg, manager of Parking Services, said the announcement should have made students aware of the meters. But the meters were installed 6 days before the announcement was made.

"The whole parking situation makes no sense," said MTSU student, Tiffany Fowler.

Jeff Jewell, attorney general of the Student Government Association, said, "It is confusing because of how they [parking meters] are designated." He said students who challenge a ticket must prove either the ticket was issued wrongly or the person had parked illegally for an emergency.

Jewell said the SGA's traffic court's "hands are tied," and it is not able to dismiss tickets issued for failure to pay parking meters regardless of the green curb.

However, SGA President Jason Lawson, said, "I certainly think that every ticket [from the meters] should be

voided."

Jewell said that a proposal had been made to reinstate "reasonable excuse" as a possibility for dismissing a ticket issued. It used to be a possible defense for students and faculty until last spring,

"I certainly think that every ticket [from the meters] should be voided."

- Jason Lawson

when the University Rules committee eliminated it for the fall semester.

Lawson said that the proposal to reinstate "reasonable excuse" was denied. "I was very disappointed," said Lawson concerning the denial.

Hagberg said, "Our department and Campus Planning are working to eliminate painted curbs." Instead of painted curbs, Parking Services is reviewing the possibilities of removing the color from curbs and going to a signage package to indicate all parking, including parallel parking.

Signs placed at the entrance to parking lots indicate designated parking, but some curbs are still painted to indicate who may park there.

"It's going to take a little time, but they need to be clear with what they are doing," said Jewell.

In the meantime, students like Gerardo Blanco believe that when situations dealing with confusion in policy occur, students "will use the policy and the book as something to fall back on if they get ticketed."

According to the report, Parking Services does not make the parking and traffic rules and regulations. Instead, that responsibility falls on the University Traffic Committee, which is composed of faculty, administration, staff and

students.

The committee made the recommendation based on the suggestion from a student, that the meters be placed at resident halls for short-term parking for on campus residents.

SGA said the idea of placing the meters in front of dorms had come from a City Hall meeting. Jewell said that 70 - 80 people attended the meeting and no one disagreed with installing the meters in front of the dorms.

However, Galbreath said, "I really don't see a point in putting them there. It just takes away a parking space. It's always empty."

Student Tara Scheidegger agrees, saying, "I don't know why they put a meter there."

"I still feel that is appropriate for them to appeal," said Hagberg, "Whatever their [SGA] decision, we will honor."

"If anyone was confused regarding this or any other parking matter, we welcome them to call our office," said Hagberg.

The telephone number for Parking Services is 898-2850. ■

Luncheon to be held for Distance Learning faculty

Staff Reports

The Third Annual Distance Learning Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 12:15 p.m. Sponsored by the Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service, the luncheon will recognize faculty and department chairs who have instructed distance learning classes via compressed video, telecourses, correspondence, on line or desktop video classes during the 1998 year.

Faculty awards will be given to Kenneth Blake, Duane Graddy, Elyce Helford and Paul Lee.

Blake, assistant professor of journalism, is being recognized for being one of the pioneer faculty in teaching on line courses at MTSU. He instructed media writing during the fall semesters of 1997 and 1998.

Graddy, professor of economics and finance, is being recognized

for his willingness to use new technologies in his teaching. He was the first professor to teach a graduate desktop video class and will be offering another class this summer. He was a pioneer in the area of desktop video classes and has served as a compressed video instructor.

Helford, associate professor in English, began teaching a correspondence course in Women's Studies in Fall 1997 and has continued to teach the course since then. Over 50 students enrolled in her course in 1998.

Lee, associate professor of physics and astronomy, continues to deliver class content in new and innovative ways by using video technology. He incorporates real-time interactive science experiments into his lectures. He has instructed video compressed science courses since fall 1997, and his classes at MTSU and CSCC are always full.

William Connelly of the

English department and Jill Austin, chair of the management and marketing department, will be given chair awards.

Connelly will be recognized for his support in telecourses at MTSU, which can count for a reason in the growth of the telecourses in the English department. The English department offers two telecourses, English 211 and 223, each semester, enrolling over 180 students in 1998.

Austin will be recognized for her outstanding support of distance learning at MTSU. She has been a long-term supporter and instructor of compressed video courses.

The management and marketing department recently approved a correspondence course for fall 1999 and will be the first department to deliver a desktop video course to Shelbyville next fall. Austin is known for her flexible schedule and for being easy to work with. ■

Making music



Staff photo by Derrick Wilson

Regan Mitchell practices with the MTSU Blues Crusade Wednesday afternoon in Wright Music Hall. The Blues Crusade's concert will be Tuesday at 8 p.m. in WMH.

Democrats, Republicans want Justice probe of Clinton aide

Pete Yost
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Several Democratic and Republican senators demanded Sunday that the Justice Department investigate whether an aide to President Clinton committed perjury by denying he spread a story that Monica Lewinsky was a stalker.

The allegation against Sidney Blumenthal came Saturday in an affidavit by British journalist Christopher Hitchens, released by House impeachment managers. He repeated the charge on television Sunday, saying Blumenthal told Hitchens and other reporters: "Monica Lewinsky was a stalker."

"We will insist that we have an expedited consideration by the Justice Department," Republican Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas said. Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, said "certainly the truth should be uncovered with respect to whether or not Sidney Blumenthal told the truth under oath."

In testimony at the Senate impeachment trial and to prosecutor Kenneth Starr's grand jury,

Blumenthal denied passing to the news media President Clinton's assertion to Blumenthal that Ms. Lewinsky made sexual demands.

Responding to Hitchens, Blumenthal issued a statement Sunday that focused on a part of his testimony in which he said he spoke of Ms. Lewinsky to "friends." That category, the statement said, included Hitchens.

"When I saw" Blumenthal "for the first time since the scandal broke, that's what he said to me and to my wife and has said to many other people, that Monica Lewinsky was a stalker," Hitchens said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Hitchens also said that in the same conversation, Blumenthal said "some ... unpleasant things about poor Kathleen Willey," the former White House volunteer who alleged Clinton made an unwanted sexual advance.

Blumenthal said, according to Hitchens, that Mrs. Willey's poll "numbers are high now after the accusations she's made, but they won't be so high later on."

Following Willey's televised accusations, the White House released cordial correspondence

See AIDE, page 3

Seminar teaches nurses latest heart disease information

Mike Barton
Staff Reporter

Registered nurses will have the opportunity to update themselves on the latest information about coronary artery disease and heart failure in an upcoming seminar sponsored by the MTSU nursing department.

The department is coordinating a one-day seminar for health care professionals called "Coronary Artery Disease: Consequences and Complications, an Update" on Saturday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 a.m. in the Carson Kennedy Nursing Building.

The program's featured speaker will be Penny Vaughan, RN, MSN.

A critical care nurse and educator for 27 years,

she is currently the administrator of the Critical Care Program at the University of Tennessee.

The four-hour program will include sessions on the following topics: "The Spectrum of Coronary Artery Disease: Plaques and Platelets," "Recognition and Management of Unstable Angina," "Q-Wave vs. Non Q-Wave Myocardial Infarction (MI)," "Reperfusion Strategies in Acute MI" and "Congestive Heart Failure: Understanding Pharmacologic Management."

These sessions are designed to present the most current understanding of the mechanisms of the diseases of the heart and coronary system, according to Assistant Professor of Nursing Marge Kopp.

Nurses and students interested in attending the seminar can get more information by calling 898-5950. ■

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SPORTS

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ON CAMPUS



NATIONAL NEWS



WORLD NEWS

LOOKING AHEAD

FEB 9
Phi Beta Lambda will meet for lunch at the local Cooker restaurant at 11 a.m. for lunch between classes. For more information contact Amy at 849-1313, or Melanie at 907-8996.

FEB 10
Surprise Parties Love Baskets will have a booth at the KUC selling lotions and potions for Valentines Day. The booth will be at BAS-south side on the 11th.

Phi Beta Lambda will have a member meeting in BAS S276 at 4:30 p.m. There will be a guest speaker. For more information call Amy at 849-1313, or Melanie at 907-8996.

FEB 11
The Middle Tennessee Students of Objectivism is debating what "Romantic Love" is. All are invited to learn what novelist/philosopher Ayn Rand's ideas are on "Romantic Love." The meeting is at 7 p.m. in KUC 313. Those who might be interested may contact Luc Travers at 895-2312 for more information.

ARMS will have a meeting in the Mass Com bldg. at 5 p.m. in room 104. There will be a speaker from the placement center to discuss how to write a resume. For more information, contact Brandy Moore at 898-2088.

Phi Beta Lambda is going ice skating at the Nashville Centennial Sportsplex at 7:45 p.m. Call for meeting location and time to confirm that you will attend. For more information call Amy at 849-1313 or Melanie at 907-8996.

FEB 12
MTSU SMPTE chapter will present Mixin in 5.1 Multi-channel Surround. Mike Sokol from EQ magazine will give the presentation at 4 p.m. in the Recording Industry Studio lab A, Mass Comm room 174. For more information, call Chris Nelson at 849-3649.

ON GOING
Presbyterian Student Fellowship will host dinner and discussion

on Wed at 6:30 p.m. located at the Fellowship House on 615 N Tennessee Blvd following the study there will be wallyball at 9 p.m. at the Rec Center. For more information call Rich Zeigler at 893-1787 or Andrew Lee at 867-7370.

Raider Victory Fellowship will have weekly meetings and Bible sessions on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Corlew Hall room 719. They will meet on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Cummings Hall lobby and at 8 p.m. at Felder Hall room 208. Contact Ricky Walters at 317-4541.

Dragon's Guard School of Sword Fighting and Reenactment teaches swordfighting techniques and swordplay. The school meets for practice at 7 p.m. at Middle Tennessee Christian School gymnasium on Tuesdays and Fridays. For more information contact Hunter Jones at 896-4596 or e-mail at shadowh@bellsouth.net.

MTSU Fencing Club will have practices every Monday at 8:30 p.m. till 10:30 p.m. in the Aerobics Room located in the Rec Center. The practices are geared to students of all skill levels. Contact Michael "Hunter" Jones at 896-4596 or e-mail at shadowh@bellsouth.net.

The Kingwood Heights Church of Christ College Class will host monthly devotions every second Thursday at 6:30. Kingwood Heights Church is located at 115 East MTCS Road. Contact Chuck Mullins at 898-1086 or Alan Welken at 890-0940 for more information.

The Student Pagan Organization will have meetings Monday at 8 p.m. The meetings will take place on the 2nd floor of the KUC in the lounge area. For more information contact John Bryan at 898-3734.

The MTSU women's rugby team will have practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 till 7:30 p.m. The practices will be held at the Rec Center or the intramural fields if the weather is permitting. Contact Shannon Bustillos at 867-3592 or e-mail at sib2a@mtsu.edu.

Raider Victory Fellowship will

hold Sunday services at 10 a.m. in the Murphy Center. Contact Ricky Walters at 907-4079 for more information.

Lambda Organization meetings will be on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in room 316 of the Business Aerospace building. For more information go to www.mtsu.edu/~mtLambda.

Attention May Graduates!
Graduating seniors will need to complete a 10 minute survey at the Graduation Fair that will be held Feb 15-19 in the Alumni Center. The times are as follows: Feb 15, 10-6 p.m./ Feb 16, 10-6 p.m./ Feb 17, 10-6 p.m./ Feb 18, 10-3 p.m./ Feb 19, 10-3 p.m. Surveys need to be completed at the Institutional Research table. For more information call Ruth Watson at 898-2854.

Campus Crusade for Christ will meet on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in KUC room 322. Those interested may contact Courtney Rushlow at 849-7899 for more information.

The "Right to Life" group of Tennessee will hold an outdoor revival concert in the KUC courtyard on March 5, 6. They are looking for music groups, religious organizations, gospel singers, etc. Contact Kevin Fisher at fac0019@frank.mtsu.edu or mail him at Box 6003.

Homecoming Director applications are now available in the SGA office located in the KUC room 208. The applications are due on Monday, Feb 22. Contact Maggie Prugh at 904-8418 for more information.

Alternative Spring Break applications are available in the KUC 306. The application deadline is Feb 12. The trip is going to Franklin, NC on March 14-18. The cost is \$100. For more information call Maggie Prugh at 904-8418.

"Up Till Dawn" is a fundraising event benefiting the St. Jude's Hospital. Committee applications are due on Feb 9. They may be turned in at the KUC 306. Contact Office of Student Organizations and Community Service for more information at 904-8418.

Three of five missing boys walk out after storm at ski resort

SANDPOINT, Idaho (AP) - Three 15-year-old boys, sick and suffering from frostbite, slogged through waist-deep snow to safety Sunday after being stuck overnight in a howling snowstorm at a northern Idaho ski resort.

Two other youths in a separate party were still missing. The boys said they had been snowboarding and had not seen out-of-bound signs before they got lost in the storm. They had spent the night inside a snow cave they had built and started walking downhill around dawn at Schweitzer Mountain ski resort.

They were suffering from frostbite and one was "pretty ill," Bonner County sheriff's Cpl. Bob Howard said. The boys were taken to a hospital in Sandpoint for treatment.

Searchers, meanwhile, geared up Sunday to look for the two teen-age brothers from Canada. Blowing snow, the remnants of a snowstorm the day before, hampered their efforts.

The weather had been expected to be much better than Saturday, when wind gusts of up to 50 mph combined with 18 inches of new snow to create extreme avalanche danger and snow drifts up to 10 feet high. Temperatures at the base of the resort dipped to 23 degrees overnight.

The three returned teens had been on an outing with a church group from Spokane, Wash., about 70 miles southwest of here. They said they followed train whistles to find the base of the mountain.

They eventually reached the home of Bill Finley, a member of the sheriff's search and rescue team who was home sick. "They were soaked clear through and shaking," said Finley. "Their hands were pure white."

The two Canadian boys, ages 13 and 15, were on a family ski outing at the resort and were reported missing by their father Saturday afternoon.

The Schweitzer resort has more than 2,400 acres of ski runs and is located in the Selkirk Mountains. The peaks near the resort exceed 6,000 feet. ■

Months of preparation come to head with pilot's trial

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP) - Twenty-two Italians who say they saw a Marine Corps jet flying too low shortly before it sent 20 people in a gondola to their deaths are expected to be the first witnesses in the court-martial of the jet's pilot.

Capt. Richard Ashby is charged with 20 counts of involuntary manslaughter in the February 1998 accident in which his EA-6B Prowler jet snapped a gondola car cable over the village of Cavalese.

People from Italy, Poland, Belgium, Germany, Austria and the Netherlands were killed.

Opening arguments were to begin Monday morning, with at least 21 relatives of victims expected to attend at United States' government expense.

Ashby, 31, of Mission Viejo, Calif., says he didn't know the cable was strung across the valley until seconds before hitting it. Ashby and his three-man crew were based at a the Cherry Point Marine Air Station and assigned to the Aviano, Italy, air base for flights over Bosnia.

A military investigation concluded the jet was flying recklessly low and too fast, in violation of flight rules. Jets were not supposed to fly lower than 1,000 feet in the area. The cable was 370 feet high.

Defense lawyer Frank Spinner said Ashby's map didn't have the gondola on it. He said the pilot was also hampered by an optical illusion that made him think he was higher than he was.

There also is a question about whether the plane's radar altimeter was working properly.

Ashby faces a maximum possible sentence of more than 200 years in prison if convicted of all 20 counts as well as charges of destruction of private and military property and dereliction of duty.

Ashby's navigator, Capt. Joseph Schweitzer, 31, of Westbury, N.Y., faces the same charges as Ashby. His trial is scheduled to begin March 1. ■

Jordan mourns much-loved monarch, looks to untested new king

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) - Jordan crowned an untested new monarch Sunday and plunged into mourning for its beloved King Hussein. Distraught citizens sobbed in the streets and world leaders converged on the desert kingdom, united in grief for the statesman who built bridges for peace in the turbulent Middle East.

The deep political divides between those planning to attend Monday's elaborate state funeral served as a powerful reminder of Hussein's far-reaching abilities as a mediator and leader - skills that lifted Jordan into a place of international prominence.

"Even the sky is crying," an announcer on Jordanian television declared as a rare, dripping fog shrouded the city after the king died at 11:43 a.m. (4:43 a.m. EST) from cancer in a hospital.

Hussein, who survived repeated assassination attempts as he walked the tightrope of Mideast politics, succumbed after a seven-month battle with lymphatic cancer. He had lingered unconscious on a respirator for two days after returning home to Jordan last week to die.

Courtiers, Jordanian officials and members of the royal family, including his dozen children and his wife, the American-born Queen Noor, had kept a vigil at the king's bedside while thousands of citizens sobbed at the hospital gates.

In keeping with Islamic tradition, the funeral will be held quickly - an enormous procession through Amman just 24 hours after Hussein's heart gave out.

President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton were among those planning to attend.

Underscoring Jordan's determination that the transition be swift and smooth, Hussein's eldest son Abdullah, 37, was sworn in just four hours later in parliament.

Abdullah's first official decree, issued late Sunday, was to name Queen Noor's eldest son, 19-year-old Prince Hamzeh, as crown prince. ■

Celebratory mood broken by Russian warnings on NATO

MUNICH, Germany (AP) - A weekend of cordial talks among allied officials looking ahead to NATO's 50th anniversary could not hide one mood spoiler: Russia.

Led by the United States, NATO is intent on "destruction of the existing world order," a senior Russian official declared in Sunday's gloomy close to an otherwise celebratory European conference.

Yevgeny Gusearov, the deputy foreign minister of Russia, told the Munich Conference on Security Policy that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should not even think of expanding after it inducts Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic at an April summit in Washington.

He said Moscow had drawn a "red line" on further eastward expansion of NATO into lands of the former Soviet Union, such as the Baltic states of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. "Expansion to the east will inevitably lead to emergence of new dividing lines," Gusearov said.

None of what he said was new, but it served as a timely reminder that for all the self-congratulatory talk in Munich this weekend, the NATO alliance that was created in 1949 as a bulwark against the Soviet empire still has a "Russia problem" years after the Cold War ended.

In his remarks to the conference on Saturday, Defense Secretary William Cohen did not mention tensions with Russia. "We intend to continue to work with both Russia and Ukraine, understanding that there can be no stability throughout the continent without a stable Russia," he said.

Asked on Sunday about Gusearov's advice for NATO not to cross Russia's eastern "red line," Cohen said the alliance understands Moscow's worry. But Cohen said NATO will not allow the Russians to stop qualified former communist nations from joining the alliance if they choose to apply.

"The door remains open" to other interested candidates, Cohen said. ■

To submit an announcement for On Campus, submit information in person at James Union Building Room 310, mail information to campus box 42 or fax information to 904-8487. Due to space constraints, priority will be given to submissions with earlier deadlines.

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Anti-drug programs focus on educating young people

Pete Yost
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Hammering home the need for a drug-control strategy that measures success and failure, the Clinton administration is announcing a five-part plan designed to cut the size of the nation's drug problem in half by 2007.

In a three-volume report to Congress, White House drug policy director Barry McCaffrey said drugs cost the country more than 14,000 lives annually, despite a nationwide effort that includes close to \$18 billion spent this year by the federal government.

President Clinton said that while "there is some encouraging progress in the struggle against drugs, ... the social costs of drug use continue to climb."

In a message to Congress, Clinton said that among the positive signs are a growing view among young people that drugs are risky and a continuing decline in cocaine production overseas.

"Studies demonstrate that when our children understand the dangers of drugs, their rates of drug use drop," said Clinton.

The five parts of the administration plan are educating children, decreasing the addicted population, breaking the cycle of drugs and crime, securing the nation's borders from drugs and reducing the supply of drugs.

The blend of strategies is aimed at reducing the use and availability of drugs by 50 percent by 2007, 25 percent by 2002. Achieving the goal would mean just 3 percent of the U.S. household population aged 12 and over would be using illegal drugs. The current figure is 6.4 percent. In 1979, the rate was near 15 percent.

Vice President Al Gore said "this strategy takes us into the next century with a goal of dramatic

reductions in the supply and demand for drugs and a real chance of giving our children drug-free communities in which to grow up."

A major piece of the drug-control effort: an advertising campaign that generates more than \$195 million a year in matching contributions from media companies.

"The strategy seeks to involve parents, coaches, mentors, teachers, clergy and other role models in a broad prevention campaign," said McCaffrey, head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

A cornerstone of the strategy is accountability for the wide array of current anti-drug programs, with boosts for those that work and the ability to identify swiftly and repair those that aren't producing results.

"In the past, Congress had been critical because there were no specific measurements for success," said Bob Weiner, a spokesman for McCaffrey. "There was some real heat in the government" resisting demands for accountability, but "no longer do we only measure the people working the issue and the dollars spent on it. Now you've got to prove bang for the buck."

The goals for the period ending in 2007 are to reduce the rate of crime associated with drug trafficking and use by 30 percent, and reducing the health and social costs associated with drugs by 25 percent.

McCaffrey also wants to expand alternatives to jail for drug users - an approach based on studies showing that prisoners who get treatment are far less likely to commit new crimes than those who don't.

"Efforts to break the cycle of drugs and crime will pay for themselves through reduction in prison costs, social costs associated with drugs and crime and through the money no longer wasted on purchase of drugs," according to the new drug-control strategy. ■

Scientists prove AIDS virus came from chimpanzees

Daniel Q. Haney
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Where did the AIDS virus come from? Scientists believe they have solved this lingering mystery. The answer: chimps.

In a presentation Sunday, researchers from the University of Alabama at Birmingham said they have convincing proof that the virus has spread on at least three separate occasions from chimpanzees to people in Africa. One of these cross-species transmissions was the start of the epidemic that now infects about 35 million people worldwide.

Chimps, which have probably carried the virus for hundreds of thousands of years, apparently do not get sick from it. Figuring out why could be important.

"This is excellent science with biological and virological importance. If we understood how the chimp has dealt with this infection over time, that could

have implications for human medicine," said Dr. Kevin DeCock, an AIDS expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

While chimps have long been suspected as the source, "there have been a lot of loose ends that made people uncomfortable drawing that conclusion," said Dr. Beatrice Hahn.

Whatever its origins, HIV is a recent affliction of people. At last year's Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Dr. David Ho and others from the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center at Rockefeller University presented evidence that the virus probably first infected humans in the 1940s or early '50s.

At the opening of this year's meeting, Hahn made the case that this event almost certainly occurred in west equatorial Africa when someone caught the virus from a chimp, perhaps after killing the animal for food.

Hahn said her team nailed down the connection by analyzing

frozen tissue saved from a chimp named Marilyn that died from complications of childbirth at a U.S. Air Force primate center 14 years ago.

The chimp version of the AIDS virus — the microbe now thought to be the grandfather of HIV — is called SIVcpz.

It is extremely rare among chimps in U.S. lab colonies, apparently because these animals are removed from the wild as babies and so are never exposed to the virus sexually.

Until recently, SIVcpz had been isolated only three times.

The fourth turned up when a colleague cleaning out a lab freezer ran across Marilyn's specimens and sent them to Hahn. Her team was able to perform various kinds of genetic analysis that were unavailable when the chimp died. Then the Alabama team used molecular analysis techniques to study all four examples of the virus.

See AIDS, page 4

NASA launches comet chaser to bring back comet dust

Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - A comet-chasing spacecraft named Stardust rocketed away Sunday on a seven-year, 3 billion-mile quest to bring back precious comet dust.

Stardust began its formidable journey one day late, soaring into a clear afternoon sky aboard a Boeing Delta rocket. A last-minute radar problem on Saturday caused the delay.

NASA's Stardust mission is the first attempt to gather material from beyond the moon and return it to Earth.

It is also the first time NASA has sent a robot on an extraterrestrial pickup and delivery mission. The last time the agency went after samples in outer space was Apollo 17 in 1972, the last of the manned lunar landings.

"Not only do we have to get to where we're going ... but then we've got to turn around and come home again," said Carl Pilcher, NASA's science director for solar system exploration. "This certainly adds a new level of complexity and difficulty."

Scientists feel it's worth the extra effort and risk.

Comets are frozen time capsules; the icy, rocky bodies are thought to be pieces of the original building blocks of the solar system and may well contain compounds from which life formed. Abundant in water and carbon-based molecules, comets continually bombarded Earth some 4 billion years ago.

"Comets can tell us about the history of the early solar system and the early history perhaps of our own Earth," explained the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Martha Hanner, an astronomer taking part in the \$210 million Stardust mission.

Stardust is to meet up with Comet Wild-2 in January 2004, passing within some 90 miles of the 2 1/2-mile-diameter iceball. The comet is named for its discoverer, retired astronomy professor Paul Wild, pronounced Vilt, who traveled from Switzerland for the launch.

Tiny comet fragments - no bigger than a grain of salt - hopefully will be trapped by a pop-up collector that's covered with a transparent, ultralight glass foam called aerogel. The most vulnerable parts of the 850-pound spacecraft, about the size of a large refrigerator, are shielded to protect against the swirl

See COMET, page 4

AIDE
continued from page 1

between the Richmond, Va., woman and the president from the years after the time she alleged the incident with Clinton happened.

Democratic Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan predicted a Justice Department inquiry into whether Blumenthal lied, and Democrats Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia said there should be a probe.

Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California said, "I would hope that he isn't lying. I think if he is, it's serious."

"I think one of the most difficult parts of this for me has been the concept of Monica Lewinsky" being called "a stalker, because that has a certain diabolical ring to it," Feinstein said. Spreading such derogatory information, she said, "isn't a nice thing to do."

Feinstein, Gramm, Snowe, Lieberman and Rockefeller appeared on NBC. Levin appeared on Fox News Sunday.

Blumenthal's lawyer, William McDaniel, issued a statement quoting the presidential aide as saying "I was never a source for any story about Monica Lewinsky's personal life."

"I did not reveal what the president told me to any reporter. As I testified to the Senate I talked every day about the stories in the news concerning Miss Lewinsky to my friends and family, just as everyone else is doing."

"Though I do not recall the luncheon with my then-friend of 15 years Christopher Hitchens and his wife, the notion that I was trying to plant a story with this rabid anti-Clinton friend is absurd. My wife and I are saddened that Christopher has chosen to end our friendship in this meaningless way." ■

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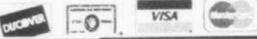
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NEW YORK (AP) - Those steep prices that have kept many kids from getting the latest interactive playthings that giggle and wiggle are coming down.

Thanks to falling costs of computer chips and other technology, toymakers are finally starting to slash prices without sacrificing innovation.

As a result, many new high-tech toys and games will sell for well below \$50 this year.

"It's easy to build a great toy, but it's hard to sell it at the right price," said Sean McGowan, a toy analyst at the investment firm Gerard Klauer Mattison. "This year, we are seeing great use of technology at really affordable prices."

Toymakers have stepped up their high-tech offerings in recent years to make playtime more entertaining and challenging for

today's computer-literate kids.

Innovation hasn't come cheap. Many of these toys - especially the most advanced - have been selling for more than \$100, above what most value-conscious Americans will pay for a single toy.

Entering 1999, however, high-tech toy prices are going the way of computer prices: Better products for less.

"A (computer) chip you could buy in 1980 for \$4,000 is now selling for under a \$1," said Doug Glen, chief strategy officer at Mattel Inc., the world's biggest toymaker. "None of us could do what we are doing now at a reasonable price just a few years ago."

Many toymakers also watched the success of Furby last year. Consumers were amazed by its ability to speak 800 words and phrases, and to interact with kids.

And most shoppers paid only \$30 for the furry, Gremlinlike toy, although some spent thousands in the fervor of the Christmas rush.

"The whole point of technology is to raise the bar on what is magical to kids," said Chris Byrne, a toy consultant. "Furby managed to do just that and it was affordable - a perfect combination."

Toy manufacturers showcase their new products for retailers at the American International Toy Fair, which begins Monday, and this year low-cost toys with unbelievable innovation are more prevalent than ever before. Most will appear on store shelves beginning in the second half of 1999.

One new company, Zowie Entertainment, has a line of three \$50 CD-ROM-based computer adventure games that are

controlled by plastic playsets which plug into the computer. In one of its titles, "Redbeard's Pirate Quest," children navigate a ship on the computer screen by steering the wheel on a playset that also is shaped like a ship.

And they manipulate characters on the screen by moving freestanding dolls around on the playset.

Hasbro has also come up with four new CD-ROM-based computer games. With the Playskool Store, for instance, kids place a template of a cash register over the computer's real keyboard, and use that to interact with on-screen shoppers.

"Consumers are looking for value when they buy toys, just like they do when they shop for everything else in their lives," Bryne said. "This year, they will find what they are looking for."

COMET

continued from page 3

of particles.
 "We're going as close as we can without getting killed," said Stardust's chief scientist, Donald

Brownlee, a University of Washington astronomer.

If all goes well, the comet samples - along with interstellar dust gathered en route to the comet - will reach Earth in January 2006.

The return capsule will separate from Stardust at an altitude of 69,000 miles and parachute into the Utah desert; Stardust will remain in orbit around the sun.

By then, comet discoverer Wild will be 80 years old. He hopes to be

around for the celebration.

"If it all works very well, of course, that will be gorgeous," Wild said. "But there are many possibilities of failure or partial failure."

Scientists expect to get less than a thimble full of comet dust back, but that would be plenty for the kind of detailed analysis that's planned.

Even the fanciest science instruments on spacecraft cannot begin to compare with the electron microscopes in laboratories on

Earth.

This is the first U.S. mission devoted solely to a comet. NASA plans three more over the next four years, two of which will attempt landings.

Going along on Stardust are more than 1 million names etched onto a pair of silicon chips.

People from around the world submitted their names via the Internet; one chip also contains the approximately 58,200 names inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.

AIDS

continued from page 3

They found that three of the four were genetically extremely similar to the human AIDS virus. They included one gene, called vpu, that also is part of HIV but not of other AIDS-like viruses that infect monkeys.

All three samples came from Pan troglodytes troglodytes, which is one of the four subspecies of chimp in Africa. These animals live in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo and Central African Republic, the region where AIDS is thought to have started.

The fourth sample, much less like HIV, came from another subspecies of chimp that is native to East Africa.

Among humans, there are three major groups of HIV, code-named M, N and O. M is the variety that has spread around the world, while N and O are seen

only in west-central Africa. The natural habitat of Pan troglodytes troglodytes exactly overlaps the area where these three groups were first recognized.

The researchers believe that each group arose from a separate chimp-to-human transmission of SIVcpz.

"We conclude that this subspecies is the natural host and reservoir for HIV-1," the AIDS virus, said Hahn, whose work is also being published in this week's issue of the journal Nature.

She said a French team, headed by Dr. Phillippe Mauciere of the Pasteur Institute, recently found three more chimps infected with SIVcpz at a game sanctuary in Cameroon. One sample has been genetically analyzed and it, too, closely resembles HIV.

"That nails it," said Hahn. "The only possible criticism is that we had made too much out of four animals."

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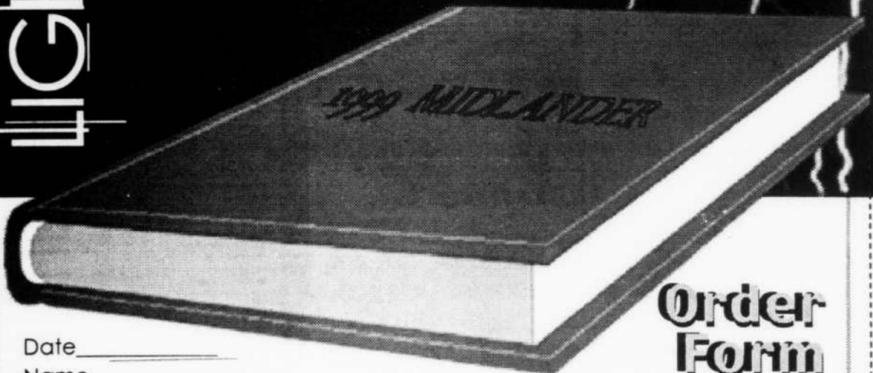
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OPINIONS

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

—Thomas Jefferson

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5 SIDELINES

Editorial

Carpe Diem with Love

The gift of life is the experiences we have and the experiences we share with others. Without both components, life is shallow and meaningless.

A student at Purdue University was killed Thursday. He was 21.

He was at a movie rental store with a fellow fraternity brother when a van ran into the building — crushing him.

His sister had been killed five years earlier when she was 21. Now their parents have out-lived both children.

We never know when death will take our last breath. Before it does, we must attempt to be ready for it. Live life to the fullest; take advantage of everyday in everything you do. Most importantly, live life with other people.

Don't get caught up in work and schedules which make you forget about why life is so important to begin with. Believe me: when you stay busy, it is easy to forget about other people.

We should humanize life as best as possible. Strangers we see out on the streets or hold the door open for have feelings, hopes and dreams. Get to know a stranger that you see everyday. Saying "hello" to someone could be the start of something that will enrich your life beyond imagination.

There are wonderful people in this world with great stories and experiences. Get to know them. Break out of your comfort zone and take a chance. I wonder what sort of advice people who have had untimely deaths would tell those who have another day to live.

Is there ever a timely death? We never wake up and go through a mental list of things to do during the day and finish it off with, "...and go to bed and die."

Without people to share things with, life is often cold and unconnected with things which are important to us individually.

I try to live life as best I can. However, I am painfully aware of everytime I put effort into something that I am proud of and there isn't someone there to share the moment with.

Maybe this is a tribute to a student who died that I have never met. For me, he has no name or face, but when reflecting on his death I have to wonder what his life stood for to him. What does my life stand for to me?

—Brian Forrester, assistant news editor

Heckler deserves medal for voting advice

Sandy Grady
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Who says there are no heroes in the trial of the president? Surely, one candidate for a halo should be the heckler who stood in the Senate gallery and bellowed, "God Almighty, take the vote and get it over with!"

Cracked Tom Harkin, Iowa Democrat: "Must be a senator up there."

The fed-up critic, Richard Douglas Llamas, faces 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine for disrupting Congress. Instead, he deserves a statue for speaking truth about this sluggish ritual that has frazzled public patience.

Not to worry. Even before Llamas' truculent outcry, senators were feeling Americans' anger hot on their necks. Everyone's known, with 45 solid Democratic "no" votes, chances of convicting Bill Clinton were zero. So the Senate moved with untypical briskness to get this horse in the barn by Feb 12.

But first, one last dollop of Monica.

Face it, the trial's always hinged on Lewinsky. Would she stop cushioning Clinton? In bitterness about notoriety heaped on her by the man she called "The Big Creep," would she damn him as lying contriver? Would her dewy-eyed X-rated

confession in the Senate well seal Clinton's fate?

That steamy drama isn't going to happen — even Republicans balked at the Rodeo Drive vixen shattering the Senate's 210-year decorum.

House managers fumbled their gamble on Monica's live testimony. They admitted she'd stonewalled them. The truth may be: Lewinsky is still mushy about the president who used, abused and dumped her.

"Her testimony is tinted, some may even say tainted, by a mixture of continued admiration for the president, her desire to protect him, and her personal views of right and wrong," said her inquisitor, Ed Bryant, R-Tenn.

Translation: Monica's soft on the prez who made her an eternal locker room joke. Twenty-five Republican senators broke ranks for the first time. No thanks, they didn't want Lewinsky turning the trial into a Jerry Springer weepathon.

For junkies who need a Lewinsky fix, there's still "Monica: The Movie." Or at least squibs of That Woman's three-hour videotape that House managers throw on the Senate screen tomorrow.

One guess is that when Lewinsky heard the Senate vote, she pumped a fist in the air and yelled, "Yesss!" Spokeswoman Judy Smith said the ex-intern and family are happy she can skip "the painful and humiliating ordeal."

Sure, the truncated Lewinsky tape, replayed over and over, will be an embarrassment to the Clintons. It can only dramatize her youthful vulnerability in the sordid sexcapade. As Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., who's watched her tape, said, "Every person will see a daughter or sister and what a great shame it was."

For Clinton, though, the day brought other victories. No wonder his spokesman Joe Lockhart decreed there would be no celebrations: "The White House is a gloat-free zone."

The prez had fretted about a "finding of fact," a harsh gizmo to condemn his guilt

before the final vote on conviction. But Republicans bickered over the words, lost nerve at an unconstitutional gimmick, or feared a partisan melee.

"It's just a way of politicians protecting themselves," said Phil Gramm, R-Texas, admitting the idea was a sop to the party's right wing. "The only way out is vote guilty or not guilty and live with it."

When Pete Domenici, R-N.M., told a private Republican meeting, "The finding of

backlash would blight 2000 hopes of regaining the presidency. Or hanging onto the House. Time to cut their losses, do something meaningful about Social Security.

"Let's get to a vote and move on," snapped Trent Lott, Republican leader weary of riding herd on this chaos.

Ironically, the key to Clinton's survival had been Democrats who hung tight, frustrating any hope of 67 votes to convict.



fact is dead," he cleared the track. The Senate mood shifted: Let's kill this turkey fast. Why the rush?

First, Republicans couldn't escape their battered image in polls. The prolonged morass was the most damaging event since they closed down the government. As Democratic leader Tom Daschle warned, "Every day it goes on, it becomes a Republican trial."

Second, they ran out of tolerance for the House prosecutors - the Lost Platoon stubbornly driven to save face and inflict pain on a president it could not convict.

Third, they were jittery the trial's

These are Dems who do not uniformly like Clinton, felt doublecrossed by him, or held contempt for his sexual recklessness.

Yet their repugnance turned to loyalty in a tribal war.

Sure, there'll be more lawyerly jabber, the Lewinsky and Vernon Jordan tapes, three days of final argument. Let's hope, if they want to save their vaunted dignity, the senators open that debate to the world.

Then comes political spin over a trial without glory...

And what about Monica?

Leave her to heaven. Or Barbara Walters. ■

SIDELINES

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"Sidelines" is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published every Wednesday during June and July and on Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. 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 "Sidelines" or the university.

From the Mailbox



Hi. My name is Kevin, and I'm the new president of the Right to Life group here at MTSU. Yes, (in case you're wondering), I'm a Republican, and I'm African American. (Despite popular misconceptions, they fit together perfectly!) I hear many times, both on campus and in society, so many popular myths and distortions about Christians and the Pro-Life movement, I decided to take the time to clarify my group, its beliefs and put to rest any misconceptions about us.

Abortion is wrong. I find abortion to be (personally) morally wrong as a measure of birth control and overtly racist. Of course, there are exceptions. I would not ask a woman who has been raped to carry the child to term, nor would I ask a woman to lay

down her life for the child (that's a moral decision). These two instances account for less than one percent of all abortions performed in 1998. That means the other 99 percent were for birth control purposes. Is that fair?? Should innocent children lose their life [sic] because the man and woman were irresponsible? Pregnancy doesn't occur out of nowhere: its not a virus, you can't catch it from a handshake. Unless, you're cloned (which we only do to sheep) or done in vitro, some type of sex has to occur in order to be pregnant. Why not take responsibility for your actions?? Most people take precautions and should be commended. But to that 95 percent of 1.4 million mothers who aborted their children due to inconvenience, I feel no pity for them. Just the children. Being pro life means more than just anti-

abortion. To myself, it means enjoying all the blessing which are associated with life. Love, friendship, brotherhood, and peace are just a few of the precious qualities of life. To be able to share in each, to communicate, and to interact with others brings out the joy of life.

I thank God everyday for my beautiful son, two good jobs, knowledgeable [sic] teachers and friendly neighbors. I'm not rich, by any means. But I am immensely [sic] happy with my life.

And maybe, very lucky as well. All of you reading this have the opportunity to enjoy life. 1.4 million kids lose this opportunity each year.

Choose life.
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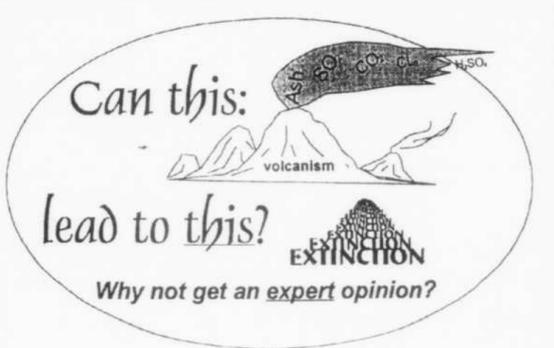
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FEATURES

Book Review

Anne Rice frightens, delights with "The Vampire Armand"

Chris Crockett
Staff Reporter

Ever since reading "Interview with the Vampire" by Anne Rice, there has been one character in The Vampire Chronicles that I could never read enough about.

It wasn't Louis with his self-absorbed whining, nor was it Lestat with his huge over-blown ego. No, the vampire I always wanted to know more about was Armand.

It was much to my delight when I discovered that the subject of Rice's most recent book was to be the eternally young vampire known as Armand. It was only a matter of time until I purchased "The Vampire Armand" hard-back edition and stayed up all night reading it in one sitting.

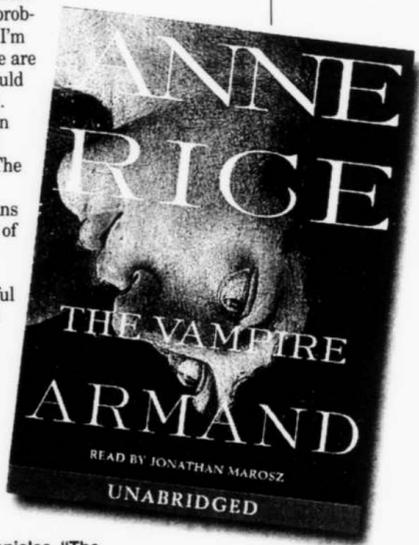
In her latest installment of The Vampire Chronicles, Rice takes the reader on a journey through the life of one of her most beloved creations. We are guided from ancient Russia to the splendor of Venice, through the dark world of nineteenth-century Paris and finally to the modern United States. The reader sees a beautifully detailed world through the eyes of Armand and enters the gorgeous and disturbing world of his psyche.

The novel starts with Armand's life as a child and leads up to his meeting with his mentor Marius. It tells of Armand's transformation into a vampire and how he is separated from his beloved creator. We learn of his years with a coven of vampires in Paris, and finally "The Vampire Armand" brings us up to date by telling us of Armand's struggle to survive after his exposure to the blazing sun. Details of Armand's existence are provocative and enlightening.

The tale of Armand's life is elegant, erotic and horrifying, but it is always entertaining. Although I was not offended by anything in the book and most of Rice's fans probably won't be, I'm sure that there are those who should be forewarned. Bearing that in mind, I would recommend "The Vampire Armand" to fans of Rice, lovers of vampires and anyone who enjoys beautiful literature and is looking for something new and exciting. ■

Anne Rice's latest installment in The

Vampire Chronicles, "The Vampire Armand," takes the reader on a provocative journey from the character's childhood to his recent struggle to survive.



Students:



Don't let unscrupulous travel promoters spring one on you

Lisa Carden
Knight-Ridder News Services

If college students aren't careful, spring break could turn out to be a harsh lesson in Scam 101. But Ed Perkins, the American Society of Travel Agents' consumer advocate, wants to make sure students end up acing this particular exam.

Students hungry for fun in the springtime sun are prime targets for unscrupulous travel promoters who make promises they don't intend to keep, he says.

"Scam artists target everybody," says Perkins, but some single out students, who are less experienced at buying travel, and "typically, about as dollar-conscious as any travel class you're bound to find. So when somebody comes around with a deal, the student says, 'Gee, this sounds great.'"

Unfortunately, if a deal sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

Perkins says spring break travel offers usually come in the form of advertisements in student publications, direct-mail offers or notices posted on bulletin boards or telephone poles on or near campus. Some travel suppliers even employ "young people" to approach students, who may be more likely to trust someone their age, he says.

Spring break offerings usually include air fare/hotel packages. And though

many offers are legitimate, some suppliers may inflate promises or even "take the money and scoot," leaving the student with nothing to show for his or her hard-to-come-by cash, says Perkins.

How can you keep from falling victim to a scam?

Do your homework, Perkins urges.

First, find out if the travel supplier you're considering is affiliated with a professional organization.

"The best single reference is United States Tour Operators Association or ASTA affiliation," Perkins says. Such organizations hold members to codes of ethics and offer consumers an avenue for filing complaints.

If you're interested in a particular offer, Perkins recommends that you have it evaluated by an ASTA-affiliated travel agent. Agents work with a variety of tour organizers and travel suppliers and will know their reputations, good or bad. Agents also might have knowledge about the accommodations offered with a package; if not, they often have the resources needed to find out more about a hotel or motel.

If you don't have a travel agent, you can call ASTA's consumer affairs department ((703) 739-8739) for advice or to find out if a member business has had any complaints lodged against it.

You should also check for complaints about the supplier by calling the Better Business Bureau or consumer protection agencies in the area where the business is based.

Once you've settled on a package, get the details in writing, including total cost, restrictions that may apply, cancellation penalties and the names of hotel and airlines included in the package. (ASTA travel agents are required to provide this information upon written request, Perkins says).

If the package includes a charter flight, ask for the charter operator's name and address, and check that they are registered with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Consumer Affairs in Washington, D.C.; call (202) 482-5001.

Charter operators are required by law to have escrow accounts, which protect consumers' money should the company not fulfill its promise. After checking with the bank to make sure the escrow account is valid, make your check payable only to the account. "You should not write the check to anyone else," Perkins warns.

Students are rarely contacted by phone with travel offers, Perkins says. But if you are, and you're tempted to seize on what seems like a great deal, step back. Ask that the information be sent to you so you can scrutinize it without pressure. Above all, never give out your credit card number over the phone to a company or person with whom you're unfamiliar.

"Our advice," says Perkins, "is that there are very, very few deals, if any, that are legitimate that you can't buy through a travel agency." ■

In this professors' writing contest, it's good to be bad

Ron Grossman
Knight-Ridder News Services

CHICAGO - A University of Chicago professor has been named to the academic world's equivalent of Mr. Blackwell's worst-dressed list.

Homi Bhabha, an English scholar, was cited not for any shortcomings of his wardrobe but the impenetrability of his English prose style. At least, that's how Bhabha's writing reads to Denis Dutton, editor of the scholarly journal Philosophy and Literature and founder of the annual Bad Writing Contest.

"Everybody was bemoaning how our students' writing ability has gone down the tubes, but nobody was saying a word about how the professorate has become enamored of a precious and tendentious form

of expression," said Dutton, explaining why he established the competition four years ago and perhaps slipping into the linguistic swamps of his entrants.

Indeed, Bhabha's writing can be evocative of the kind of term paper that has long inspired teachers to grab a red pen and fill the margins with scrawled comments such as: "Can't you just say this in plain English?"

Bhabha was awarded second place in this year's Bad Writing Contest for a sentence from his book "The Location of Culture":

"If, for a while, the ruse of desire is calculable for the uses of discipline soon the repetition of guilt, justification, pseudo-scientific theories, superstition, spurious authorities, and classifications can be seen as the desperate effort to 'normalize' formally the disturbance of a discourse of

splitting that violates the rational, enlightened claims of its enunciatory modality."

As with the Nobel Prize, scholars can't sponsor themselves for Dutton's competition, which, according to the entry form, "celebrates the most stylistically lamentable passages found in scholarly books and articles."

Bhabha was nominated by John D. Powers, a faculty member at the University of Iowa. In support of Bhabha's candidacy, Powers touted his colleague's sentence, with perhaps a touch of irony, as "quite splendid: 'enunciatory modality,' indeed!"

Bhabha similarly reacted with tongue planted firmly in cheek to his prize, which is to be announced in the forthcoming spring issue of Philosophy and Literature. "The only thing that would bring me more New Year's cheer is a good

bottle of New Zealand's Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc wine," he said alluding to the fact that Dutton is a professor of philosophy in New Zealand.

Lurking just behind the humor is a cultural war that has come to divide many a faculty club. The nature of the conflict can be seen in any library with large holdings of academic journals. Pick up a volume from 25 years ago and it reads much as most college graduates from that time will remember their professors lecturing.

But the more recent volumes seem written in a virtual foreign tongue. They can leave the uninitiated aching for some version of the old Captain Marvel Decoder from the days of radio. To Bhabha and his allies, this shift in the language of scholarship only reflects the fact that his generation

has bitten into tougher issues.

"The complexities of these issues become obscurities," Bhabha said.

Even some acolytes of the new scholarship will confess that it's tough sledding. Among them is Warren Hedges, an English professor at Southern Oregon University, who maintains a web site with mini-biographies of current campus superstars such as Bhabha. When Bhabha's prize-winning sentence was read to him by phone, Hedges replied: "That doesn't make a lot of sense to me."

He attributed his being stumped by a hero's words to his not being himself an expert in Bhabha's specialty, "Post Colonial Studies."

Indeed, college catalogs now list fields that might surprise someone who graduated even a few years ago. Some are described in language that once would have mandated an appearance before a

campus disciplinary committee.

First prize in this year's Bad Writing Contest was awarded to Judith Butler, a professor at the University of California at Berkeley, well-known in the academy for her contributions to "Queer Theory," the philosophy of homosexuality.

Her entry concluded with the following mouthful: "... the insights into contingent possibility of structure inaugurate a renewed conception of hegemony as bound up with the contingent sites and strategies of the rearticulation of power."

With Dutton just such an entry in mind, Dutton takes pains to guard his contest from spoofs. Eligibility is limited to real articles from serious scholarly books and journals. "Deliberate parody," the

Academy Award wishlist

Although I hate to admit it, the Academy Awards are not perfect. They are rarely fair. Justice is seldom served upon the handing out of the golden boy called Oscar. Each year, I anticipate the Awards with nervous glee. I am usually entertained, but I am often disappointed by who the "chosen ones" turn out to be. (I mean, come on — "Titanic" Best Picture? Please.)

This year could be different (I say this every year). The Golden Globes, perhaps the best awards show indicator of who goes home happy in March, rewarded some worthy efforts. But just in case the Academy gets it (mostly) wrong again, I offer my two cents. The following is not a prediction. It is merely a suggestion and, yes, wishful thinking. Consider it a potential blueprint for an Academy

ready to do the brave (and right) thing. The following are my offerings for the best work of 1998.

Best Actor: Jim Carrey, "The Truman Show." Jeff Daniels, "The Big Lebowski." Joseph Fiennes, "Shakespeare in Love." Tom Hanks, "Saving Private Ryan." Brad Pitt, "Meet Joe Black."

Best Actress: Cate Blanchett, "Elizabeth." Judy Davis, "Celebrity." Anne Heche, "Return to Paradise." Gwyneth Paltrow, "Shakespeare in Love." Meg Ryan, "You've Got Mail."

Best Supporting Actor: Jeremy Davies, "Saving Private Ryan." Joaquin Phoenix, "Return to Paradise." Giovanni Ribisi, "Saving Private Ryan." Billy Bob Thornton, "A Simple Plan." Steve Zahn, "Out of Sight."

Best Supporting Actress: Lauren Ambrose, "Can't Hardly Wait." Judi Dench, "Shakespeare in Love." Lisa Kudrow, "The Opposite of Sex." Laura Linney, "The Truman Show." Uma Thurman, "Les Miserables."

Best Director: Shekhar Kapur, "Elizabeth." Terrence Malick, "The Thin Red Line." John Sayles, "Hombres Armados." Steven Spielberg, "Saving Private Ryan." Peter Weir, "The Truman Show."

Best Original Screenplay: Michael Hirst, "Elizabeth." Andrew Niccol, "The Truman Show." David Mamet, "The Spanish Prisoner." Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, "Shakespeare in Love." John Sayles, "Hombres Armados."

Best Adapted Screenplay: Scott

The Movie Guy™



Jared Wilson
Staff Reporter

Frank, "Out of Sight," (based on the novel by Elmore Leonard). Mark Steven Johnson, "Simon Birch," (based on the novel "A Prayer For Owen Meany" by John Irving). Terrence Malick, "The Thin Red Line," (based on the novel by James Jones). Scott B. Smith, "A Simple Plan," (based on his own novel). Rafael Yglesias, "Les Miserables," (based on the novel by Victor Hugo). ■

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Sports betting a growing epidemic on college campuses

Stan Hochman

Knight-Ridder News Services

PHILADELPHIA - Ernie Wexler started pitching pennies on a street corner at the age of 7, started sneaking into race tracks at 14, started stealing to support his gambling habit at 17.

"Studies show that 96 percent of recovering compulsive gamblers," Wexler grumbled, "started gambling before the age of 14. I was one of 'em. And I kept on gambling."

"When our baby was born I asked the doctor the weight. He told me seven pounds, one ounce. I called my bookie and bet the 7-1 daily double. It got so bad I owed 32 people three years' salary and I had \$8 in the bank."

Wexler made his last bet on April 10, 1968. That's 11,257 days ago, because that's the way recovering addicts keep score, one day at a time. Wexler is a certified compulsive gambling counselor now. Does workshops and seminars and is thrilled when a college coach invites him to talk to the players about the sickness that is compulsive gambling and the temptations that are out there, classmates dealing in insidious poisons.

"Gambling is a bigger killer on college campuses than drugs or alcohol," Wexler said bluntly. "It is easier now to make a bet on a college campus than it is to buy a pack of cigarettes or a six-pack of beer. They did a survey of 55 campuses and 50 of 'em had student bookmakers. The bookie is a kid in the next dorm. Or the next room in your dorm. He's some kid who got in debt gambling and now works it off for his bookmaker. Or he's somebody who decided to try it on his own."

The Arizona State point-shaving mess is a prime example of what can happen.

Stevine Smith, the point guard, won some money playing video basketball with a campus bookie. Jumped into betting on real games and drifted into a \$10,000 debt. The bookie suggested shaving points, Smith and a teammate went along with the scheme.

Victimless crime, right? Favored by eight, you win by six, who gets hurt?

The university is making millions off your sweat and you don't have six bucks in your pocket to take your girl to the movies and they won't let you take a job and the coach just bought a new house with his sneaker money."

"Bullbleep," Wexler screeched. "Those kids are in school to learn how to make money after they graduate. If they were on some playground playing ball, who would know who they are? They're getting an education, they're getting the chance to be seen, to improve."

Basketball players at Northwestern were involved in the most recent scandal. Northwestern, wasn't that the school with the rigid entrance exams? Who's next?

"It's the tip of the iceberg," Wexler said. "I spoke at Northwestern years ago. I guess some of those kids (point-shavers) were in the audience. The problem is getting worse and I'll tell you why."

"We have become a nation of gamblers, trying to become millionaires by pulling a slot-machine handle, by buying a lottery ticket. How many times have you seen a kid standing alongside a parent rubbing the spots off a lottery ticket."

"Uh-huh, parent wins a free ticket, gets all excited, the kid's eyes light up. Years later, he's off to college, he's told to be good, don't gamble."

"Television has helped create the problem. Newspapers running betting lines help create the

problem. And the pie-in-the-sky, something-for-nothing mood in the country creates the problem."

Check out the story line in the Philadelphia Daily News comic strip, Gil Thorp, where art often imitates life. Coach Thorp has some kids on his Milford High School basketball team who are hooked on gambling, headed for trouble.

The University of Michigan funded a survey that showed that one out of every three student-athletes playing in Division I has wagered money on sports during their college career. The survey concluded that gambling was pervasive in America. Forty-five percent of the male athletes said they had gambled on sports. And 5.2 percent of the men said their involvement in gambling had actually affected their teams, either through providing information to others for gambling, gambling themselves or taking money to play poorly.

"And a Cincinnati survey," Wexler said glumly, "said that 25 percent of college athletes gamble on college sports."

And if you know a compulsive gambler give him the 24-hour national hotline number, 1-888-LASTBET. Be the best tip you've ever given someone. ■

BADWRITING

continued from page 6

rules specify, "cannot be allowed in a field where unintended self-parody is so widespread."

Yet for all of Dutton's annual put-downs, the battle of the books is clearly going in favor of his opponents.

Two years ago, Newsweek magazine named the University of Chicago's Bhabha as among 100 creative individuals most worthy of watching.

Still, some people would find it a lot easier to keep an eye on Bhabha rather than on his prose. His book, "The Location of Culture," is laced with sentences that initially seem headed toward meaning only to detour into forests of jargon.

For example: "The hideous extremity of Serbian nationalism proves that the very idea of a pure, 'ethnically cleansed' national

identity can only be achieved through the death, literal and figurative, of the complex interweavings of history, and the culturally contingent borderlines of modern nationhood."

Up to the verb "achieved," that makes sense. We've all seen televised examples of how horrors of "ethnic cleansing." But how in the dickens do "the complex interweavings of history" die? What tourist has had his visa stamped at a "culturally contingent" borderline?

Bhabha's prose is laden with invented words, such as "dissensus," "alterity," "historylessness," "seriality" and "hybridities."

Already 50 years ago, George Orwell decried professorial attempts to blow away the average reader with big words. "A mass of Latin words falls upon the facts like soft snow, blurring the outlines

and covering up all the details," Orwell wrote in his classic essay, "Politics and the English Language."

As the title implies, Orwell attributed the jargon of his generation to political motives: Many professors were then sycophants of Stalin.

Today's professors are differently motivated in their linguistic outrages, argues Debra Knight, a judge in the Bad Writing Contest.

A philosopher at Queen's University in Ontario, Knight has watched her humanistic colleagues turn green with envy at the grants scientists get. She thinks English foundations hope to convince the foundations that the new literary jargon is the fundable "equivalent" of scientific terminology.

In any case, the bad writing competition has brought Knight an unexpected fringe benefit.

"After reading the entries," she said, "it's a pleasure to go back to my students' papers." ■

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SPORTS

Raiders recruiting campaign successful

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

As I promised, the second half of the MTSU recruiting is as good, if not better, than the first half. The Blue Raiders had a very successful campaign overall, for a school that just entered Division 1-A football.

Leading off is a 300-pound offensive lineman from Brentwood Academy. Josh Willoughby is a dominant run blocker that was chosen to be the first team all-state by the Associated Press. He turned down Memphis, Baylor, South Carolina, and Arkansas State to join the Blue Raiders.

Jermaine Francis is a defensive back from Miami, Florida. He ran the 40 yard dash in less than four and a half seconds. Francis will be an impact player for the Raiders next year. He is transferring from Butler County Community College, where he won the 1998 National

Championship.

On defense, the Raiders signed Ray Miller from Powder Springs, Georgia. He is 6' 2" tall, 245 pounds and plays defensive end. Out of high school, the youngster bench presses 400 pounds and cleans 340. He was named the class 4A defensive player of the year in Georgia.

Another hog on the offensive line is Corey Crane from Tyler Junior College. He stands 6' 5" tall and weighs 285 pounds. The transfer was honorably discharged from the Army before going to Tyler.

Also on the offensive line is Gil Mattias III. Mattias was a teammate of Corey Crane at Tyler Junior College. Mattias is 6' 4" tall, weighs 300 pounds and is expected to contribute immediately to the Raiders' offense.

From Philadelphia, Miss., is Brock Lillis. Lillis is another lineman that weighs in at 283 pounds and stands at 6 feet

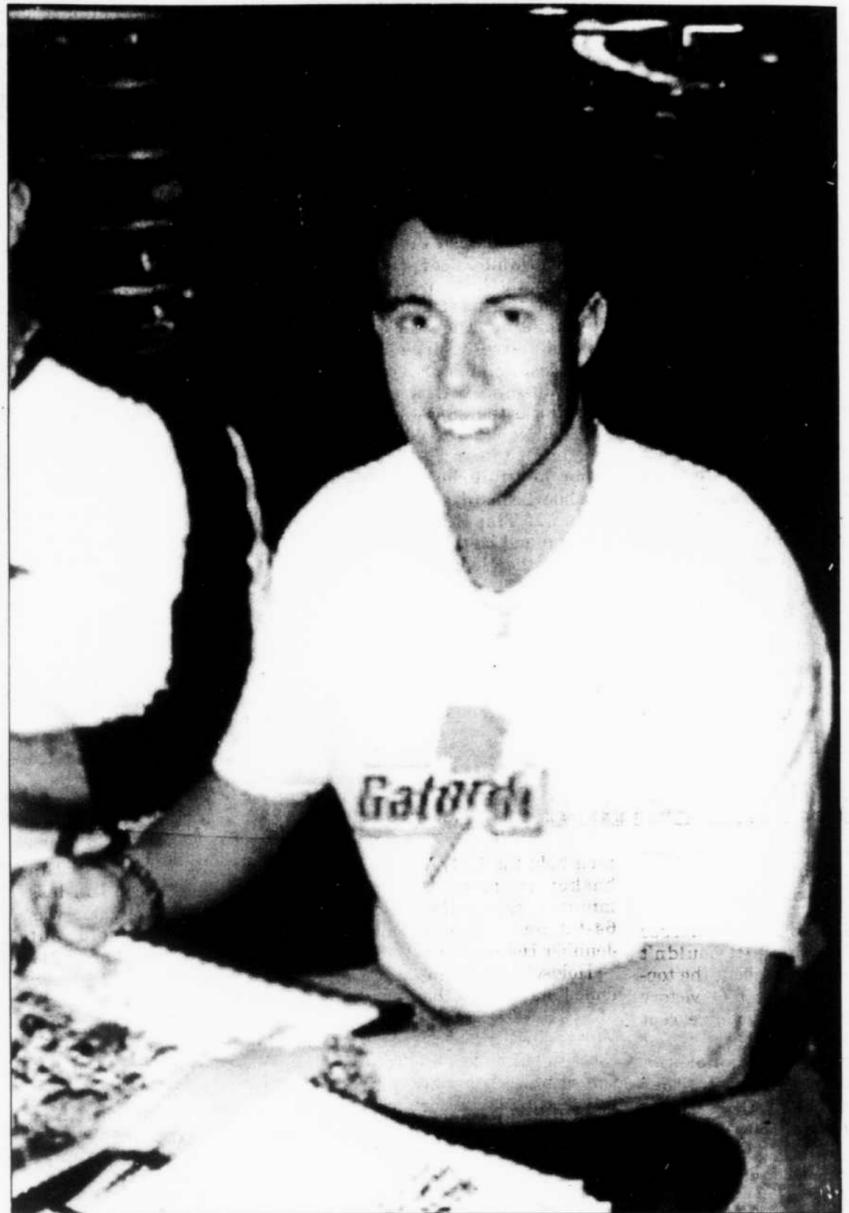
and 2 inches. He was named to the second team junior college All-American team.

At the linebacker spot, Chris Gatlin should fit right in. He runs a 4.45 40 yard dash, and is a great open field tackler. In his final year at Klein High School, he recorded 87 tackles and seven sacks in 11 games. He turned down Houston and Tulsa to sign with the Raiders.

Jamison Palmer passed on Missouri, UTEP, South Carolina, and Tulsa so that he could play for Coach Andy McCollum. The 210-pound running back rushed for over 1,500 yards and 21 touchdowns for Hutchinson Junior College. While playing future teammate, Jermaine Francis and Butler CC, Palmer rushed for 200 yards in the first half.

Curtis Daniely chose MTSU over Auburn. Daniely is a 6' 4", 260-pound defensive end. The 18-year-old bench presses 325 pounds and squats 405. ■

The smile of a National Champ



Staff photo by Derrick Wilson

Former Tennessee Volunteer football player Jeff Hall bides his time awaiting the NFL draft by signing auto-graphs Saturday at Books-A-Million in Murfreesboro. Hall reigns as the Southeastern Conference all-time leading scorer. Peerless Price will visit Books-A-Million Saturday from 3-6 p.m.

Seven return to lead softball team

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

On Friday, Feb. 19, the softball team will open its season against Troy State in a tournament at Troy State. Also in the tournament are Stetson, Auburn, Georgia Southern, Coastal Carolina, and Furman.

There are seven returning players, with no seniors. These players include: Melanie Manley at catcher, outfielder/designated hitter Shea Haskel, Rachel Atkinson at second base, third baseman Tamara Davis, pitcher/outfielder Courtney Wallace, Amanda Candle, and outfielder Stephanie Cox. Candle will miss the season due to a shoulder injury.

There will also be some new faces on the team this year, including: pitcher Jennifer Martinez, center fielder Laura Brockman, first baseman Misty Martin, first baseman Ashley Way, catcher/outfielder Charissa Chavez, outfielder Carrie Allen, and Stephanie Silva.

The Raiders will be tested early, with contests against Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama A & M, and nationally ranked Illinois-Chicago. After these games, the Blue Raiders will compete in the Georgia Tech Buzz Classic. Also in the tournament are: Georgia Tech, Florida A & M, Butler, and the nationally ranked North Carolina Tarheels.

After these games, the Blue Raiders will embark on the conference portion of their schedule. Teams such as Tennessee Tech, Morehead State, Austin Peay, and SEMO loom ahead.

The team is young, but coach Karen Green believes that the softball team might have its best season ever.

"Previously, we have had only ten players. This year we have fourteen, which gives us depth at all positions. Our practices have been competitive, with everybody trying to earn a spot in the starting lineup. I expect us to have our best season ever," said Coach Green. ■

Women's tennis falls to Illinois

Staff Reports

The University of Illinois tennis team routed MTSU Feb. 3 at the Atkins Tennis Center, winning every singles match without dropping a set for an 8-1 victory. The win marks the first dual-match victory for Head Coach Sujay Lama.

"It's always special to get that first win," said Lama. "I'm most happy for the team, because they needed this win after a tough weekend. For them to have success on the court, after all the hard work they have put in, means everything. I hope we can build from this win and keep moving forward."

Illinois received an early boost from the under-manned Lady Raiders, as an injury to one of MTSU's six players gave the hosts a default win at both No. 6 singles and No. 3 doubles. With an early 2-0 lead, the Illini won the remaining five singles matches easily to seal the win.

At no. 1 singles, Simone King edged MTSU's Jennifer Bryans, 6-3, 6-4. Carla Schapiro and Carla Rosenberg both earned straight set wins at the nos. 2 and 3 spots to help Illinois dominate. Freshman Brooke Ferney earned her team leading second dual match win by rolling past Lady Raider Esther Eisenbarth, 6-0, 6-2. ■

Singles		
No. 1	Simone King def. Jennifer Bryans, MTSU	6-3, 6-4
No. 2	Stacy Schapiro def. Alex Toelle, MTSU	6-2, 6-4
No. 3	Carla Rosenberg def. Michelle Gridling, MTSU	6-3, 6-2
No. 4	Brooke Ferney def. Esther Eisenbarth, MTSU	6-0, 6-2
No. 5	Megan Wise def. Niger Kaur, MTSU	6-0, 6-2
No. 6	Natalia Manasova def. Joey Hall, MTSU	default
Doubles		
No. 1	Rosenberg/Ferney def. Bryans/Toelle, MTSU	8-6
No. 2	Gridling/Kaur, MTSU def. Kung/Manasova	9-8
No. 3	Gottlieb/Schapiro def Eisenbarth/Hall, MTSU	default

The Lady Raiders tennis team is lacking players due to injuries. The team will be holding an open tryout for any interested students. For more information, contact head coach David Thornton at 898-5154.

Tough golf schedule prepares team for OVC tournament

Keith Ryan Cartwright
Staff Reporter

The Blue Raiders golf team is about to embark on the spring portion of its 1998-99 season.

Beginning today, the team will take part in the 54-hole Bridges All-American hosted by Southern Mississippi in Bay St. Louis, MS.

"This is a strong field," head coach Johnny Moore said. "We have to be realistic about where we are as a team. We want to go down there and beat some of the teams but we know we aren't going to beat all of them."

In fact, 10 of the top 25 teams in the country are slated to participate in this week's tournament.

The Bridges All-American is the first of seven spring tourneys in which the Blue Raiders will participate. After a four-tournament fall schedule, the Blue Raiders are hoping to improve in a few areas and display the experience they've gained.

Moore hopes his team can compete on a more consistent basis which also means

improving their first-round averages. Unfortunately, the Blue Raiders found themselves, all too often, having to fight their way into the top half of field.

"We're quite honestly, not as strong as we were in the fall," Moore said.

The Blue Raiders will no doubt look for defending Ohio Valley Conference champion Brett Alexander to lead the team this spring.

Alexander's best finish this past fall was at the Precept Peach State Intercollegiate where he had a three-round 211 total for second place, just a single stroke off the lead.

In his first two years of collegiate competition, Alexander recorded 10 top-10 finishes, including three first-places finishes. During the fall, the junior from Richland, MO., recorded three top-10 finishes.

"Brett and Steve (Ressler) will have to step up," Moore said. "Not that they haven't stepped up before. I guess they're going to have to step up some more."

"Brett is playing with more confidence. With him, the sky's the limit."

If the Blue Raiders are to improve as a team, other members will have to step up and display the well-rounded game Alexander has thus far.

One aspect Moore will focus his attention towards is concentration. Other strong contributions need to come from upper-classmen Richard

Spangler and Steve Ressler. "They're playing much better," Moore said. "When Brett stumbles, we all seem to stumble. We're going to try to be more focused as a team."

"We seem to get behind and have to play catch up. And, we've been a good catch-up team. Maybe we need to be more conservative. Every shot stands on its own. We'll have to take it one shot at a time."

The Blue Raiders, however, will be without the services of sophomore sensation Dane Randle, who twice has put together three consistent rounds of golf to finish in the top 10. Randle is ineligible for the entire spring.

Taking Randle's spot will be red-shirt freshman Stuart Pate, who qualified third on the team.

"He's got to get his feet wet sometime," Moore said. "Now's as good a time as any. He doesn't need to be the hero. He just needs to help us out a little bit."

"With Dane Randle gone, somebody needs to step up."

Although the Blue Raiders' schedule looks tough, it was purposely set up that way to prepare the team for the Ohio Valley Conference tournament. The Blue Raiders will host this year's OVC tournament at the Springhouse Country Club in Nashville from April 19-21. ■



What's the word?

Commentary by Michael Edwards/ Staff Reporter

NBA plays fast break post-lockout

The National Basketball Association tipped off its first season in the P.J. (post Jordan) era, and judging by the attendance in the arenas Friday night, no one cares about the lock out.

The season has moved from its usual marathon to the current sprint style. That is due to the dropping of 30 games by each team. However, the season has started with a bang.

To be totally honest, I like the new style. The teams are going to play four games per week and, in the case of the New York Knicks, nine games in 12 days.

My pick to win the NBA title, the Los Angeles Lakers, are playing three games on television in four days. The Lakers will play close to 24 games on television this year. That's almost half of their games. Michael who?

In the Western Conference's Pacific division, the Lakers will dominate. With the addition of Derek Harper at the point guard and the departure of the inconsistent Nick Van Exel, L.A. is solid at every position.

Shaquille O'Neal will be his usual dominant self at the center position. You can hate him if you want, but his stats speak for themselves. The kid, Kobe Bryant, is going to emerge this year as the heir to Jordan's throne.

With starters Rick Fox and Robert Horry out for the opener, Bryant stepped into the starting lineup and scored 25

points, grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked three points. O'Neal had 30 points, 14 rebounds and six assists. All he does is dunk, right?

The Utah Jazz are going to have their hands full with the newly revamped Rockets in the Midwest Division. The Jazz are still the favorite in the division, but the Rockets, if they stay healthy, will be tough down the stretch. However, neither of these teams will be able to tame the "Lake show."

My sleeper in the Western Conference will be the Portland Trailblazers. The Blazers have stayed together since last year. Rasheed Wallace and Damon Stoudamire are the stars, but look out for the other O'Neal, Jermaine O'Neal.

In the Eastern Conference, the Indiana Pacers will run away with the conference. No one in the east looks very intimidating. The Knicks have added Latrell Sprewell, but they lost John Starks who, in my opinion, is better suited for the Knicks than Sprewell.

The Miami Heat are going to be tough to beat. They have some key injuries, including Voshon Leonard, that can hurt them. If Tim Hardaway can step up and be the star that he can be, the Heat will give the Pacers a run.

The Pacers have the best player in the East, the best supporting players in the East, and the best coach in the league. Larry Bird is the best coach in the league, hands

down. Although many people loathe Reggie Miller, he is the best clutch performer in the entire league. He is a winner, and he won't be denied a chance to win the Eastern Conference.

No one can stop the "Dutchman," Rik Smits. He has moves on the inside, and he can shoot from the outside. He can't be stopped very often.

Travis Best is going to be huge for the Pacers this year. Their success relies on his ability to get the job done.

My sleeper pick in the East this year is the Atlanta Hawks. The Orlando Magic have a great coach and some good players, but ever since Shaquille O'Neal left, they haven't been the same. The Orlando fans said that they would be better without O'Neal, but that is just a joke.

People said that Penny Hardaway could carry the team, but he has proven year in and year out that he can't do it without the "Diesel." He is good, but he is not a big time player that can carry a team like the O'Neals and the Jordans and the Olajuwons of the league.

The Magic added some players this year that can give them a boost, like Michael Doleac and Matt Harpring, but that is not going to be enough.

My prediction: In April, the NBA will be singing the praises of the Los Angeles Lakers and the "Diesel" Shaquille O'Neal in what will be his first of many NBA championships. ■

Lady Vols scrape by Vanderbilt, 66-60

Tom Sharp
AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE - Tennessee coach Pat Summitt couldn't find much to like about the top-ranked Lady Vols' 66-60 victory over Vanderbilt Sunday except the bottom line.

"There was nothing impressive about that, other than the opening minutes and the final score," she said after watching her team blow most of an 18-point second-half lead before hanging on for its 20th straight win.

"It was uncharacteristic, but you take it and learn from it. We're not going to beat ourselves up over it."

Tamika Catchings scored 26 points to carry the Lady Vols (22-1, 11-0 Southeastern Conference) on an off-day from Chamique Holdsclaw, who tied her second-lowest output of the season with 12 points, nine below her average. It was Tennessee's first victory by fewer than 10 points this season.

Vanderbilt (12-11, 5-6) trailed 52-34 with 10:47 to play,

then held the Lady Vols to one basket in more than four minutes, slicing the deficit to 64-60 on a free throw by Jennifer Holmes with 1:22 left.

Holdsclaw was intentionally fouled and missed the front end of a one-and-one, but Vanderbilt couldn't get two shots to fall and Catchings iced the win with a pair of free throws with 1.4 seconds left.

Tennessee beat Vanderbilt by 61, 31 and 42 points last season. Point guard Ashley Smith said the Commodores were determined not to let it happen again on Senior Day.

"We wanted to do it for the seniors and we didn't want to get embarrassed," she said. "They took our pride last year."

Vanderbilt controlled the boards in the second half, outrebounding Tennessee 20-10. It was the first thing Summitt checked when she saw a stat sheet.

"The second half we were one-and-out," she said. "We missed a lot of easy shots, but we didn't get enough second chances."

Tennessee won its 25th

straight SEC game, third in four days and second in less than 24 hours. The game was played before a sold out Memorial Gym crowd of 15,311 about evenly divided between fans of the two schools.

"Maybe this was a step in making this not a neutral court next year," said Jillian Danker, who led the Commodores with 15 points. "We want this to be a home game next year."

Summitt said she didn't believe fatigue was a factor. "I don't think that's an excuse," she said. "We just lacked intensity."

Zuzana Klimesova was the only other Commodores player in double figures with 11 points.

Michelle Snow, subbing at center for injured Teresa Geter, had 12 points for the Lady Vols, and Kristen Clement added 10.

Holdsclaw needs 18 points to become the all-time leading scorer at Tennessee, man or woman. Current New York Knicks guard Allan Houston holds the school scoring record with 2,801 points. ■

Classifieds

Notice

Sidelines recommends that you use discretion before sending money for any advertised goods and services. We recommend that you get in writing a full description prior to sending money.

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Employment

The Receiving and Moving Services is once again looking for a student employee. We need someone who is capable of performing moderate to heavy physical labor, willing to learn the ins and outs of the receiving, shipping and moving business, and has a flexible schedule. If you are a student, or know of someone, who fits the above qualifications, give me a call. I can be reached at ext. 2959, or mobile phone 714-5014.

Position Opening for Student. The Continuing Studies Department has an opening for an assistant gymnastics instructor for Children's classes. The classes are held on Monday afternoon/evenings. For more information contact Chris at 5168.

Third Baptist Church needs Child care workers for Sunday and Wednesday nights. Pay \$7.00 hr. If interested call Toni Downs at 893-8192 or 848-1735.

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Roommate

Need a roommate? Students with noncommercial interest may place ads at no charge in the Sidelines Classifieds. Come by our Student Publications office in the JUB room 306.

Personals

Students!! Play MTSU's free dating game. Place your personal ad today. Call Sidelines at 2815 or come by our office, JUB 306.

Respond to all personal ads by writing to MTSU P.O. BOX 42 with ATTN to the appropriate address.

Mysterious male looking for a smart, crazy, sexy, cool female. Respond to ATTN: G-100

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Services

FREE INFORMATION is available through the MTSU Placement Office, KUC Room 328. Come by and receive your complimentary copies of catalogs, pamphlets, and guides to learn how to write a resume and cover letter from various samples, gather information about a particular company, and help with interview preparation. Video tapes are also available for you to view in the Career Library.

The Placement Center is using a computerized registration system and resume preparation program called RESUME EXPERT. The benefits include:
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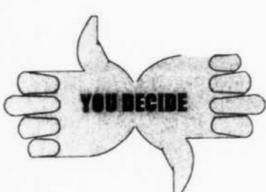
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Commodores squeak by Razorbacks, 73-69

Frank Baker
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE - Vanderbilt coach Jan van Breda Kolff needed a victory. Badly.

Heading into Saturday's game with No. 23 Arkansas, the Commodores had lost four in a row and seven of eight. There were questions about whether van Breda Kolff would be back next season or even last this one.

The Commodores responded with a torrid opening 10 minutes that saw them build a 23-point lead. But what looked to be a sure victory nearly turned into the season's most heartbreaking loss as Vanderbilt blew the lead before coming back to win 73-69.

A jubilant van Breda Kolff grabbed a courtside microphone immediately after the game and thanked the crowd for its loud support, then ran off the floor high-fiving fans.

"We obviously needed, from a confidence standpoint, to have some good things happen early," he said. "We've been kind of snake-bit."

The Commodores (12-10, 3-7 Southeastern Conference) made seven of their first eight 3-point attempts to build their early lead. Arkansas (16-7, 5-5) cut the deficit to 18 at halftime, then used pressure defense to force turnovers and whittle the lead in the second half.

The Razorbacks took a 63-60 lead on Pat Bradley's 3-pointer with 5:16 remaining. Dan Langhi made a nifty left-

handed hook to give Vanderbilt a 68-67 lead, then teammate Vince Ford hit a baseline jumper.

Sergio Gipson got Arkansas to 70-69 with 1:22 to play when he rebounded an air ball and scored. The Razorbacks didn't score again. Bradley, the team's leading scorer who was held to eight points, missed a layup and a 3-pointer down the stretch.

But it was a key play by Vanderbilt center Greg LaPointe that sealed the game.

He blocked a turnaround jumper by Derek Hood and was fouled. He made one free throw with 6.4 seconds left, and teammate James Strong grabbed the rebound of the missed second shot and was fouled. He made both free throws.

Langhi led Vanderbilt with 22 points. Ford scored 15 points and Strong added 14, while LaPointe, who missed the last three games with an Achilles' tendon injury, had eight points.

"I've said all along the one person we could not afford to lose was Greg LaPointe," van Breda Kolff said.

Gipson scored 15 of his 16 points in the second half, while Hood added 14.

Vanderbilt, which has played lethargically in recent games, started hot. The Commodores made their first four shots and led 10-3, prompting Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson to pull his starters.

He reinserted them a minute later, but Vanderbilt continued

its torrid shooting. Langhi and Atiba Prater made consecutive 3s and Vanderbilt led 20-5 barely six minutes into the game. Ford then made a 3-pointer, put back a rebound and, after a 3-pointer by Sam Howard, made another 3 to give the Commodores their largest lead, 35-12.

Trailing 44-26 to start the second half, Arkansas turned up the pressure. Richardson sparked his team with a timeout, barely a minute into the half. He got in the faces of his starters and implored them to play tougher defense.

They responded, holding Vanderbilt to eight points over 8 1/2 minutes.

"I took the timeout to tell them again we're not an aggressive team," Richardson said. "We must be able to get into our street-fight type of game."

Fueled by their defense, the Razorbacks cut into the lead and tied the game at 58 on a 3-pointer by Brandon Dean with 7:35 remaining.

Vanderbilt was ragged much of the second half, but pulled itself together down the stretch behind Langhi, Ford and LaPointe.

Ford said the team has tried to ignore the criticism directed at it and van Breda Kolff.

"We didn't really think about outside things," he said. "We came out solely for us and for the coaches."

Vanderbilt shot 52 percent, while Arkansas was held to 41 percent, including just 7-of-24 3-pointers. ■

Chavis chooses Vols over Colts offer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - University of Tennessee defensive coordinator John Chavis said Saturday he's turning down an offer with the Indianapolis Colts and staying with the Vols.

"It was an excellent opportunity that I considered seriously," Chavis said. "There were a number of factors that went into my

decision, none more important than my relationship with the players and coaches on this team."

Under Chavis' direction, Tennessee's defense has consistently ranked high nationally and in the Southeastern Conference.

In the Vols' 1998 national championship season, the Vols ranked 17th nationally

in total defense and sixth against the run. Over the last three years, Tennessee has ranked first, third and second in the SEC in total defense.

A University of Tennessee graduate, Chavis, 43, enters his 11th season with the Vols this fall. It will be his fifth season as defensive coordinator. ■

STARTING FEB. 22... LET'S PLAY IT SAFER

With the reopening of Faulkinberry Drive— and to ensure the safety of all campus pedestrians— the MTSU departments of Public Safety and Parking Services agree that the section of Loop Drive that runs along the east side of the Cope Administration Building to Peck Hall should once again be closed to vehicular traffic.

Therefore, the traffic "arm" east of Cope will again be activated Monday, Feb. 22, closing East Loop to all vehicles except safety vehicles and campus shuttles.

When Faulkinberry Drive was closed for the stadium construction, it was necessary to provide another access route into campus— and east Loop Drive was opened in order to reduce traffic congestion.

With Faulkinberry Drive now accessible, the large tree-lined, grassy area that is the original part of campus will once again be a safer environment for campus pedestrians.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions, please contact Public Safety at 898-2424 or Parking Services at 898-2850. Thank you.

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