

Sidelines

Wednesday, November 30, 2005

An editorially independent newspaper

Volume 81 Number 42



The Gutter

Today's Weather

Mostly Sunny
49/30



Average Price of Gas in Murfreesboro: **\$1.98**

Source: www.tennesseegasprices.com

Trash bags, box fan make for good time



Many have seen it. Some have partied in it. A few have even watched a movie or two in it. It's the Bubble Tent. But its creator, Andy Harness, says there's more to the story than most would think.

Harness, a sophomore media production major, is the man in charge of the most current series in the ever-going Bubble Tent production. Although he and his two friends, Casey Latiolais and Jeremy Justice, purchased the garbage bags, duct tape and fan, the design itself started many years ago.

page 6

No NCAA tournament for MT volleyball

Despite being denied an



at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, the Middle Tennessee volleyball team and Blue Raider fans celebrated one of the greatest seasons in school history.

Prior to the season, the Blue Raiders were picked to finish third in the Sun Belt Conference's East division.

page 8

Muslim Association hosts presentation

The Muslim Student Association will host a lecture, "Inspiration, Fabrication or Corruption: Introducing Islam to Christians and Atheists," Thursday at 6:30 in the Business and Aerospace Building, State Farm Room.

Finals begin next week

Finals begin Friday, Dec. 9 and will continue through Dec. 15. Thursday, Dec. 8, there will be no classes, held to give students an opportunity to study for finals. For a complete list of dates and times for finals, see the Fall 2005 schedule book or log on to www.mtsu.edu.

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Enrollment down for University 1010

Task force reports on effectiveness of first-year programs

By Jeni Harju
Staff Writer

MTSU's procedures regarding first-year students need adjusting, according to an evaluation by an academic task force last year.

The task force, made up of 19 professors and administrators in two phases, reviewed the university for a year. At the end of the year-long review, the task force

compiled a final report, "Hallmarks of Excellence in The First College Year."

"The final report was given to the provost, and on the basis of that, there have been several other study groups that are currently in place," Deb Sells, associate vice president of Academic Support Services. "There's a vice provost council looking at retention issues, and there's another group looking at academic advising issues."

The final report immediately calls for a philosophy statement for the first year experience. The task force concluded that this would

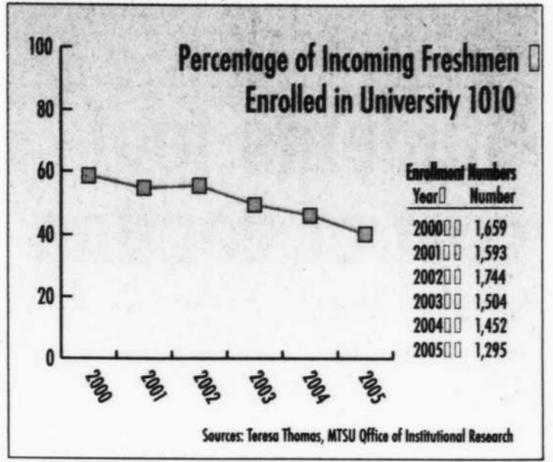
significantly help guide decisions related to first year policies and programs, according to the report.

The report contains nine specific recommendations for improvement, but the biggest shock the task force discovered was one of simple unfamiliarity.

"We were surprised at how many good programs are offered for freshmen on this campus, but how unknown many of them are," Sells said.

Among other concerns, the task force also took notice that there is a widespread lack of

see Hallmark, page 2



Dean resigns, will leave MT at year's end

Rao to assume position at Florida University

By Dale Martin
Staff Writer

The dean of graduate studies has resigned to take another position.

Abdul Rao, who is also vice provost for research and sponsored programs, wrote the Tennessee Board of Regents vision for research. He is leaving at the end of next month.

Rao will start in January at the University of South Florida in Tampa as the senior associate vice president and vice president of research of health science in the College of Medicine.

"I am sad and elated at the same time," Rao said in the press release.

"Sad because I will be leaving MTSU but elated because of all the potential that exists here and what greatness," Rao said. "I remain convinced that MTSU is poised to attain new levels of excellence."

Rao said he first came to MTSU because it was an opportunity for him to be in a senior leadership role and also because of the way that research was progressing at MTSU. Rao also received his tenure at MTSU.

"This university gave me the opportunity to appreciate a social science to a level that was not there before," Rao said.

"I have no regrets about coming to MTSU," he said.

While at MTSU, Rao, along with faculty and graduate students, accomplished a decade worth of research and work in a year and a half.

"I appreciate all the good work that Dr. Rao has done for Middle Tennessee State University," said President Sidney McPhee in the press release.

"His positive leadership in the College of Graduate Studies and his energy and enthusiasm toward research at all levels have laid a strong foundation for significant contributions from MTSU in a broad range of academic disciplines in the coming years. I am sure I speak for the entire university when I say I wish him the very best."

"This is a great opportunity for me and the timing is right for me to leave MTSU," Rao said.

"This university will always be a part of me," Rao said.

Rao came to MTSU in July 2004 from Drexel University and has a tenured appointment as a biology professor.

He received his medical degree from Dow Medical College, Karachi, Pakistan. He obtained his M.A. degree in physiology from the Boston University School of Medicine and received a Ph.D. degree from the University of Oxford. ♦



Rao

Reaching out

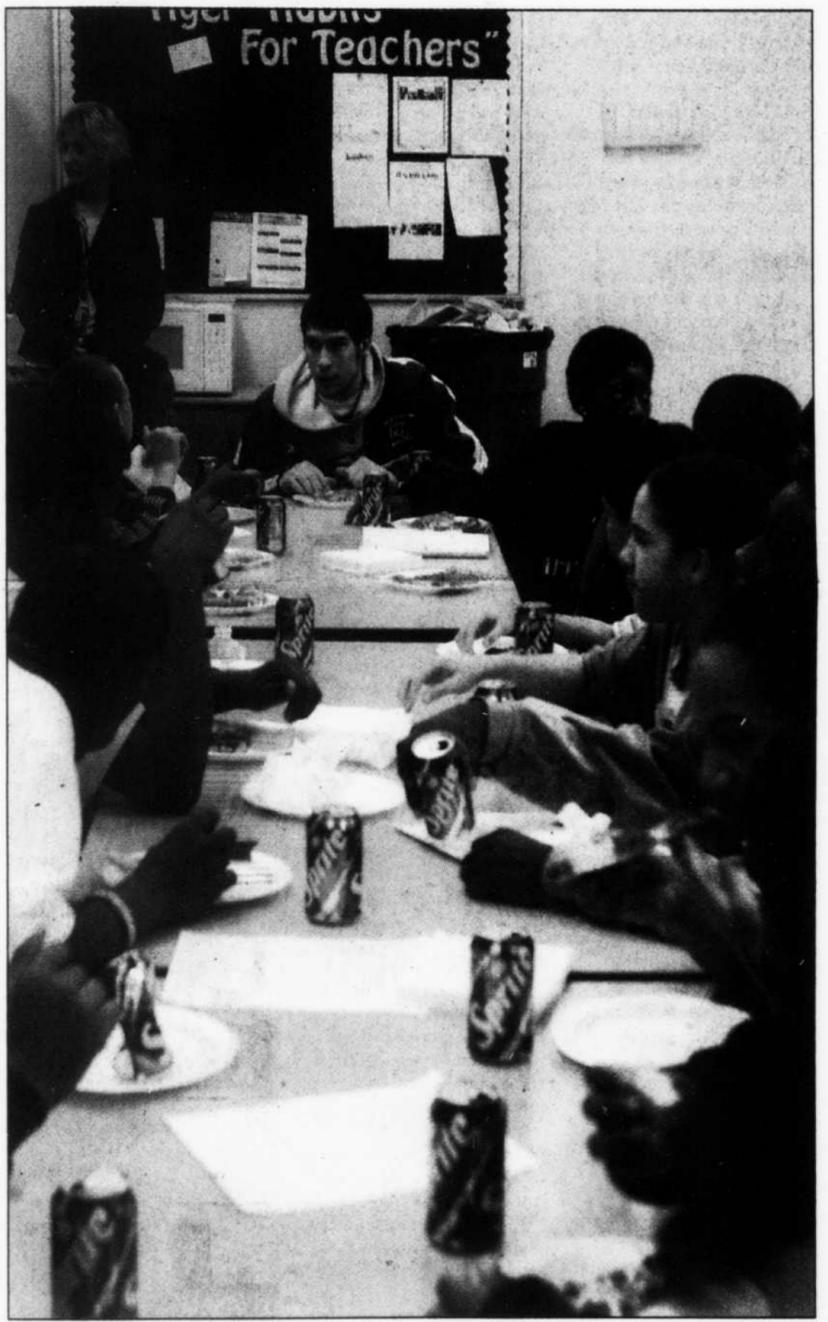


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

The MT men's basketball team is beginning a mentoring program in which they will act as role models for students at Central Middle School. The team held a meet-and-greet over pizza with students yesterday.

On a mission from God



Photos by Carrie Fort | Photo Editor

Mennonite families like Lisa Brown and her children, Mary and Joy, above, approached students on the Keathley University Center to distribute religious tracts. The religious solicitors have become a regular fixture on the Knoll.

New signs approved

Signs to be placed around the city to help visitors find their way

By Andy Harper
Staff Writer

The county commission approved a grant to implement a program that would provide the county with 135 visitor and tourist themed signs.

The Signage Task Force, has been working on the Wayfinding Sign Program since 1997, said Mona Herring, Rutherford County director of the convention and visitors bureau.

"Due to all the building and expansion and road constructions, signs have been taken down or moved," Herring said. "We really felt that we needed a family of signs with a unique identity that would clearly identify to the visitor that this way would get them to their sites."

Stones River Battlefield Superintendent Stuart Johnson said he agreed with Herring and the need for more tourists to be able to find Rutherford County landmarks.

"The biggest issue is out-of-towners and visitors having difficulties finding the battlefield," Johnson said. "I'm really looking forward to the Wayfinding project because it will really help with the problem."

"We believe that visitors, who otherwise might get discouraged in looking for certain places, will eventually give up," Johnson said. "The idea is to make it as logical and easy as possible for any visitor to find their way, even if it is for 30 minutes to take look at the battlefield or spend the entire day. The point is to get them here as easy as possible."

Johnson said that over all, the new signage would definitely lead to an increased number of visitors to Stones River.

see Road signs, page 2

From Hallmark, page 1

enrollment in the University 1010 course, which is designed to inform first year students of the importance and roles of a university.

"There has been a decrease in enrollment," said Teresa Thomas in Records.

Enrollment in the class has dropped by about 450 people since its creation in 2000.

The task force alerted the provost of their concern in the report, which suggests that the reduction of graduation requirements to 120 credit hours discourages students from enrolling in the

University 1010 seminar.

With a lack of enrollment in the course, students depend on the academic adviser and advisee relationship to satisfy their first year needs and questions, the report says.

The task force also found that the academic advisers are not well-informed.

"There are a lot of good things happening, but they're not very well coordinated," Sells said. "We'd like to not broadly know amongst all of the faculty and all the people who are serving as advisers to first

year students. Part of the issue at this university is getting everyone who works with first year students to be aware of what is available here on campus."

The task force, which met weekly, was created as a result of MTSU participating in a first-year study, the American Associate of State Colleges and Universities Affiliate Institution in the Foundations of Excellence in the First Year of College project, which is a national study.

Sells and others have taken steps toward resolving the

problems by forming groups focused on improving the first year experience.

"Obviously, making those kinds of changes involves large numbers of people across the whole campus," Sells said.

Sells is involved in two of them, one of which focuses on academic advising.

"We could do a much better job making sure that advisers and those that work with first-year students are well informed of the resources that are available," she said. ♦

Hastert wants Christmas tree, not holiday tree

Associated Press

If it's a spruce tree adorned with 10,000 lights and 5,000 ornaments displayed on the Capitol grounds in December, it's a Christmas tree and that's what it should be called, says House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

Hastert, R-Ill., in a letter to the Architect of the Capitol, recommended that the annual Capitol Holiday Tree, as it has been called the past several years, be renamed the Capitol Christmas Tree.

"I strongly urge that we return to this tradition and join the White House, countless

other public institutions and millions of American families in celebrating the holiday season with a Christmas tree," Hastert wrote to assistant Alan Hantman.

His office said the tree began to be referred to as the Holiday Tree in the 1990s. Spokesman Ron Bonjean said the reasons were unclear.

On Dec. 8 Hastert will flip the switch to light the tree, a 65-foot Engelmann Spruce from the Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico. On Tuesday workmen were erecting the tree on the West Front of the Capitol. ♦

Students feel cost of heating

Students notice higher electric, gas costs

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

As temperatures finally begin to cool, students feel the pinch of higher gas prices in their heating bills.

Denise Manning, Public Affairs Manager for Atmos Energy Company, said prices for gas have risen nearly 15 percent, or 14 cents per cubic foot, since last winter.

Dana Adams, a senior studying nursing, said she has noticed about a 10 percent increase in her gas bills. She said the price she pays for her hot water heater has increased since the summer.

Adams said she has already noticed that her budget has been tighter and there is not as much available money.

"It will be rough on anyone who pays gas bills," Adams said. "They will have to spend more time figuring out the budget."

She said the owners of her apartment complex in Marshall County have discussed replacing the gas heaters with electric heaters to save money.

Ryan Smith, a senior in English, said his rent has gone up from last winter due to the increase in gas prices.

"The landlord wants to make up for the extra cost in heating," Smith said.

He said his landlord left a note on all the tenants' doors to notify them of the change for the winter months. If the winter is mild or the cost is not as high as expected, Smith said the tenants will be reimbursed. He said the house he lives in, which is divided into seven apartments, is heated by one furnace.

Smith said though his rent was increased by \$20, he will not be affected.

"I'll just have to pay \$20 extra. I think I'll make it," Smith said.

He said although he is not very concerned, the increase in heating prices will be a burden on a lot of people. He is more concerned for his parents whose bill has increased more dramatically.

According to Manning, Atmos Energy serves about 26,000 customers in Rutherford County for water and central heating as well as clothes dryers, cooking and

gas fire places.

"I know [they] are concerned," Manning said. "It will put a burden on many of our customers."

John Vandenberg, a freshman in criminal justice, said the only gas bill he pays is for the hot water heater. He said the bill is about \$10 a month and is split among seven roommates, so it is not a major concern.

Vandenberg said he worries more about his electric bill, which has been about \$235 a month. Since he lives in a nineteenth-century house with no heating, he said he and his roommates rely on electric space heaters.

Cindy Cook, the office manager for J.S. Properties, said most new apartments are heated by electricity rather than gas. She said the use of gas varies by the age and type of property.

Cook said when her company rents to students, they typically have roommates that split the cost of utilities. She said all tenants are required to be on the lease so they are equally responsible for the bills.

Though the prices of heating may pinch students' wallets, Manning said the prices could be falling.

"The odd thing is, from November to this month, the cost of natural gas actually went down," Manning said.

She said since it has not been so cold lately, the price increase has not been so difficult to bear for many Atmos customers.

Manning suggested several methods to help save on heating bills. She said customers worried about their budget should practice conservation of gas or sign up for Atmos's budget billing plan.

The plan allows customers to spread their winter heating bills over the course of a year to avoid large payments that come in the span of a few months.

Smith said although he is a believer in big business, the apparent price gouging will cause problems.

"I think the problem is that there's a monopoly on sources of oil and fuel," Smith said.

Manning said the prices fluctuate daily because Atmos buys and sells gas in an open market trading program. She said prices drop as the supply of gas increases and producers produce more. She said she hopes the prices will continue to fall. ♦

From Road signs, page 1

The program had to be applied to TDOT for experimental sign status and has been approved and granted \$416,000, Herring said.

"We have definitely had to jump through hoops when it came to the Tennessee

Department of Transportation," Herring said. "We are going to put up the signs, do reports on them and see how effective they are and most likely the signs will be approved." ♦

Computer replacement nears end

First round of four-year update cycle nearly done

By Andy Harper
Staff Writer

MTSU is nearing the end of their desktop replacement project, a task that will, on its completion, have replaced 400 faculty and staff desktop computers.

"We have a similar program in place for the replacement and updating of student computers," said Lucinda Lea, vice president of information technology.

Lea said the student program

consisting of a four-year cycle to replace and update any MTSU student-accessible computers has been in place for a number of years. Recently, it was decided that faculty and staff also needed a regular update cycle for their computers.

"The faculty computers need to be updated just like the students," Lea said. "The computers need to be up on current software so that faculty technology is on the same level as student technology. The teachers also need good access to reliable machines."

"We anticipate on completing all installations and replacements by the spring semester," Lea said.

Three hundred of the 400

computers on campus have already been, Lea said. Most of the computer units are PCs, although there is a small percentage of Macintoshes also being replaced.

"All old computers were rolled out of MTSU near the end of October and beginning of November," Lea said. "An inventory list of all faculty and staff computers was obtained and because it is a four-year replacement cycle, any computer bought prior to June 2001 was subject for replacement or update."

Lea said replacement is also determined by the specific discipline the computer is being used for. The use will determine what type of computer is

needed and how powerful the unit has to be.

The inventory list of which computers are subject to replacement is given to the department chairmen or to the college deans to figure out what needs to be replaced within their apartment, Lea said.

"The total cost for the program is going to be around \$450,000 to \$500,000," Lea said. "However, this was a one-time money fund using left-over money from last year's budget."

Currently, the program has no source of continuous funding. Options are being explored to allow the program to become self-sustaining within a couple of years, though, according to Lea. ♦

VA workers face bribe charges

2 accused of taking kickbacks on sales of security tape

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Two Veterans Affairs workers were charged Tuesday with taking kickbacks on the purchase of 100,000 rolls of red tape.

Joseph Haymond and Natalie Coker were arrested in Murfreesboro, Tenn., and charged with taking bribes in exchange for buying the tape, which normally sold for \$2.50

per roll, for \$6.95 per roll, U.S. Attorney Jim Vines said in a statement. The two got kickbacks of a \$1 per roll for purchases made between 1999 and 2001, he said.

Haymond is the director of the VA's Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy, which mails prescription medicines to veterans. Coker was the assistant director of the program at the time but now has a different position with the VA pharmacy.

The red tape, stamped with the word "security," is supposed to be used to deter tampering, according to the criminal com-

plaint.

"The kickback scheme described in the complaint gives new meaning to criticisms of governmental red tape," Vines said in a statement. "It is troubling when those who are charged with serving our nation's veterans choose to profit at their expense."

The VA's Office of Inspector General and the FBI conducted the investigation that led to Tuesday's arrests.

Haymond and Coker could face up to 15 years in prison each if convicted. ♦

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TennCare safety-net in place

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - State officials said Tuesday they're working to promote a so-called "safety-net" program for people kicked off TennCare, but also need people familiar with the initiative to help spread word to those who aren't.

Commissioner Jim Shulman, who oversees the safety net program. "We encourage anybody who has access to folks to let them know that there are safety net provisions available." Shulman was among several state officials who went before the TennCare Oversight

Committee to discuss the transitional medical assistance program Gov. Phil Bredesen put in place to help former TennCare patients. The governor has removed 191,000 people from the TennCare rolls and reduced benefits for thousands of others to control costs of the \$8.7 bil-

lion public health care program for 1.3 million poor, uninsured and disabled individuals. To soften the blow, the state appropriated \$104 million for the safety net initiative. However, advocates for those cut from TennCare say not only are former enrollees unaware of the program, it's also inadequate. ♦

School paper goes to press after conflict

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. (AP) - A censored version of an Oak Ridge High School newspaper will be printed after administrators confiscated an earlier edition that they considered offensive. Superintendent Tom Bailey said Tuesday.

Administrators at Oak Ridge High School went into teachers' classrooms, desks and mailboxes a week ago to retrieve all 1,800 copies of the student-produced newspaper. An article about birth control and another on student tattoos and body piercings were cited by administrators as the reason for the seizures.

Bailey said in a statement Tuesday the edition will be reprinted on Wednesday with an edited tattoo story.

The recall of the newspapers sparked debate inside and outside the school and sparked student protests at a board of education meeting Monday.

"The administration appreciates the sincere interests of the students in challenging the action of the system," Bailey said in the statement. "However, considering the legal latitude granted to school officials and the concerns of the administration with the graphic nature of the articles and the varying ages of the student population, the school system believes that the appropriate response has been made."

David Stuart, a lawyer for the student journalists, said he does not know what they will do, but that they could file a lawsuit in state or federal court seeking an opinion on whether the seizure violates the First Amendment guarantee of free expression. If the court rules in their favor, they could win an injunction against future seizures.

"The administration made it clear they were willing to talk to the students, but that they were going to have the final say on the matter," Stuart said.

The Oak Leaf's birth control article listed success rates for different methods and said contraceptives were available from doctors and the local health department. Bailey said the article needed to be edited so it would be acceptable for the entire school.

At the school board meeting, parent Jackie Moreno said parents should give their children information about sex.

"It's my responsibility to educate my children about sex and birth control," Moreno said.

The story's author, Krystal Meyers, defended her work. "A lot of kids don't know that is their right," to obtain birth control without parental permission, Meyers said. "That was me letting them know what their rights are."

"That article talks about subverting parental authority," parent Joseph Oswald said. ♦

Despite improvements in equality, UT women still lag

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Full-time women professors at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville make three-quarters as much as their male counterparts, an annual faculty salary study shows.

Moreover, more than 80 percent of full professors and more than 75 percent of tenured faculty members are men at UT-Knoxville, the main campus for the 42,000-student, five-campus UT system.

"This is not a big secret," said Mary Popke, an English professor and vice chair of UT's Commission for Women. "As long as there is that kind of inequity, women are perceived as somehow inferior, as not deserving the same that men get in the university."

Vice Provost Anne Mayhew, UT's top academic administrator, said that while the current culture for female faculty members is far better than it was 50 years ago, women still lag.

"It's really a long term culture battle to be won," she said in a series of stories produced by The Knoxville News

Sentinel and WBIR-TV this week. "It's very difficult all over the country."

UT-Knoxville has been studying whether women faculty members are being paid comparably to similarly situated men since 1971.

In the most recent study, full-time male faculty members overall had an average salary of \$74,529, while the women averaged \$55,811 - a difference of \$18,718.

Knoxville Chancellor Loren Crabtree said one of his top priorities is to have gender equity in terms of salaries.

The annual study easily records the gap but doesn't explain it.

"That's a complicated question, and there's no simple answer to it," Crabtree said.

Administrators and faculty said several factors are responsible.

They said women didn't start graduate school in large numbers until the mid-1980s and are only now beginning to work their way into high-level positions. Also, women historically were hired at lower

salaries than men.

Family responsibilities tend to fall more heavily on women and result in employment gaps that hold down salaries.

Men dominated the fields of business, engineering and the natural sciences, Crabtree said.

"Those are higher-paying disciplines than say, child and family studies would be, or English or history," he said.

"So if you are looking at gross numbers, that's going to skew it pretty substantially," Crabtree said.

UT administrators say they want to hire more women in the sciences.

In UT's 2003-04 Faculty Salary Study, male faculty outnumbered women 161-31 in the natural science departments and the currently outnumber them 113 to 7 in the College of Engineering.

"I think there is (competition for qualified women) and what comes into play is money," said Christine Boake, head of UT's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. "Another university

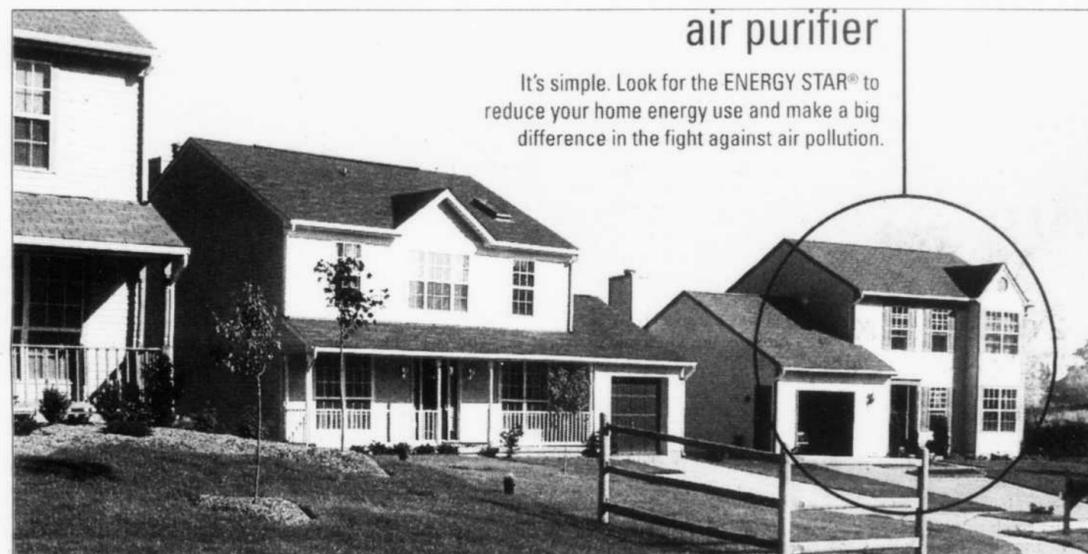
may have a way to accommodate a spouse or may be able to get a much fancier piece of equipment than we can afford."

Even though more women are entering graduate programs in science-related disciplines than in years past, the number of women professors in those fields remains small.

"We have only three because it is very difficult to find women in this field," said Soren Sorensen, head of UT's Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Despite attempts by university leaders to encourage qualified women to apply for jobs in those fields, he said sometimes the only qualified applicants are males.

"People try," said Claudia Mora, head of UT's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. "I mean UT, I've watched them run some searches in biology where they find very good women and they try very hard, but they aren't able to hire them because someone else makes them a better offer." ♦



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World Briefs

By the Associated Press

Economy Afghanistan World Bank Election Process Supreme Court Election Process Genocide Supreme Court

German woman missing in Iraq; Christian group confirms others missing

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A German citizen was likely kidnapped in Iraq, Germany's chancellor said Tuesday, and a television station broadcast photos that appear to show the blindfolded woman with her captors.

Germany's ARD television said the pictures were taken from the video in which her captors demanded that Germany stop any dealings with Iraq's government. Germany has ruled out sending troops to Iraq and opposed the U.S.-led war.

Susanne Osthoff and her driver have been missing since Friday and "according to current information we have to assume it is a kidnapping," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters in Berlin.

Osthoff's mother, identified only as Ingrid H., told Germany N24 news station that her daughter is an archaeologist working for an American aid organization distributing medicine and medical supplies since before the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq. ARD reported that the woman speaks fluent Arabic.

Separately, the aid group Christian Peacemaker Teams confirmed in a statement Tuesday that four people from the group had been taken hostage on Saturday and that Norman Kember, a 74-year-old Briton, was among them.

The group said it has had a team in Iraq since October 2002, working with U.S. and Iraqi detainees and training others in nonviolent intervention and human rights documentation. Kember and another person were part of a visiting delegation, while two of the group's staff based in Iraq were also taken, the statement said.

Martin's Canadian government toppled after no-confidence vote

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian politicians will hit the campaign trail this holiday season after opposition parties seized upon a corruption scandal to bring down the minority government of Prime Minister Paul Martin in a vote of no confidence.

Monday's loss means an election for all 308 seats in the lower House of Commons, likely on Jan. 23. Martin and his Cabinet will continue to govern until then.

The Conservative Party teamed up with the New Democratic and Bloc Quebecois parties to bring down the government, claiming the ruling Liberal Party had lost its moral authority. Recent polls have given the Liberals a slight lead over the Conservatives, with the New Democrats in third place.

The same surveys suggest the Bloc Quebecois would sweep the French-speaking province of Quebec, making a majority government unlikely no matter which party wins the most seats.

Martin is expected to dissolve the House of Commons on Tuesday and set a firm date for the elections. Canadian law sharply restricts the duration of the campaign.

"The vote in the House of Commons did not go our way," Martin said. "But the decision of the future of our government will be made by Canadians. They will judge us."

Bush trying to help GOP congressional candidates, promote troubled agenda

PHOENIX (AP) — Despite his low standing in the polls, President Bush is working to help Republican House and Senate candidates build their campaign war chests while he is promoting

his own troubled agenda.

The president is expected to assume the campaign role more often in the coming months as the 2006 congressional election year begins.

"I fortunately, have had my fill of campaigns, but there's nothing like walking into a room full of enthusiastic supporters to give you that spirit, to kind of put that wind behind your back," the second-term president told about 1,300 people at a dinner fundraiser for GOP Sen. Jon Kyl in Phoenix on Monday.

The president's appearance was expected to bring in at least \$1.4 million for the Republican incumbent.

On Tuesday, Bush was slated to appear at a fundraising luncheon for Republican Rep. Marilyn Musgrave in Denver at the end of a two-day swing to pitch his immigration reform proposal.

After Ca. congressman resigns, prosecutors say case is far from over

SAN DIEGO (AP) — After months of insisting he had done nothing wrong, Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham tearfully acknowledged saying \$2.4 million in bribes, saying: "The truth is I broke the law."

The eight-term Republican and former Vietnam fighting ace pleaded guilty to graft Monday and resigned, admitting he took money mostly from defense contractors in exchange for government business and other favors.

"In my life, I have had great joy and great sorrow. And now I know great shame," a tearful Cunningham said after the plea. "I can't undo what I have done but I can atone."

But Cunningham, who could get up to 10 years in prison at sentencing Feb. 27 on federal charges of conspiracy to com-

mit bribery and fraud, and tax evasion, may not be the only person ensnared in the case. Prosecutors have indicated they have more than him in mind.

"There's more work to be done," Assistant U.S. Attorney Phillip Halpern said Monday. Cunningham has promised to cooperate.

In the plea, Cunningham, 63, acknowledged working with four co-conspirators to take bribes from defense contractors and others. Prosecutors said the bribes were paid in a variety of forms, including checks totaling more than \$1 million, cash, antiques, rugs, furniture, yacht club fees and vacations.

Prosecutors said he used his influential position as a member of a House Appropriations subcommittee to secure defense contracts worth tens of millions of dollars for those who bribed him.

Miami police announce 'in-your-face' tactics to deter terrorists

MIAMI (AP) — Police are planning "in-your-face" shows of force in public places, saying the random, high-profile security operations will keep terrorists guessing about where officers might be next.

Deputy Police Chief Frank Fernandez, who announced the program Monday, said as an example, officers might surround a bank, check the IDs of everyone going in and out, and hand out leaflets about terror threats.

"People are definitely going to notice it," he said. "We want that shock. We want that awe. But at the same time, we don't want people to feel their rights are being threatened. We need them to be our eyes and ears."

Howard Simon, executive director of ACLU of Florida, said the Miami initiative appears aimed at ensuring that

people's rights are not violated. "What we're dealing with is officers on street patrol, which is more effective and more consistent with the Constitution," Simon said. "We'll have to see how it is implemented."

The operations will keep terrorists off guard, Fernandez said. He said al-Qaida and other terrorist groups plot attacks by putting places under surveillance and watching for flaws and patterns in security.

Rescuers work to find missing Chinese miners after explosion kills 146

QITAIHE, China (AP) — Rescuers in northeast China worked in subfreezing temperatures Tuesday to search for three coal miners who were trapped after an explosion killed 146 others.

The blast in the Dongfeng Coal Mine late Sunday prompted national leaders to demand stricter enforcement of safety rules in China's mines — by far the world's deadliest, with thousands of fatalities a year in fires, floods and other accidents.

On Tuesday, roads leading to the mine were blocked several miles away, with police officers and vehicles standing guard.

Search efforts were still going on at sundown.

The chance of survival was low because of a high concentration of poisonous gas in the tunnel, Song Kaicheng, an engineer with the group that owns the mine, was cited as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Inside the mine compound, rescue workers wearing orange jumpsuits and respirators could be seen making their way to the mouth of the coal pit. Seventy-two workers have been saved, state media said.

Xinhua said 146 were killed and state television said two more people died above ground

in the blast. It wasn't immediately clear if they were miners.

Supreme Court deals with capital punishment appeals

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court under new Chief Justice John Roberts has issued opinions in two death row cases, and both went against the inmates. Starting next week, the court is tackling more significant capital punishment appeals.

Justices said Monday that an appeals court was wrong to throw out the conviction and death sentence of a U.S.-British citizen in a fire that killed an Ohio toddler. Last month the court held that death row inmates don't have a right to a jury trial to determine whether they are mentally retarded.

"These cases are not yet a trend of where things are going," said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center. "The metier issues are still unpredictable at this point."

The unanimous opinion Monday against Kenneth Richey came in a case that had stirred international attention, including a letter from the late Pope John Paul II and a motion signed by 150 members of the British Parliament.

More capital punishment appeals are being argued in December and January, with the possibility of 4-4 ties because of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's pending retirement.

Executions are scheduled over the next few days in several states, including what is expected to be the 1,000th since the Supreme Court brought back capital punishment in 1976. Unless there are delays, Virginia inmate Robin Lovitt would be the 1,000th inmate to die. ♦

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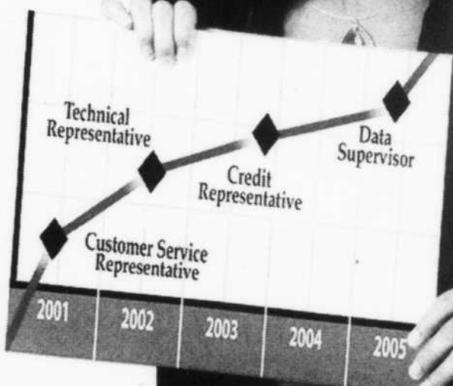
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Opinions

From the Editorial Board

Conservatives: the new 'PC' police

It's the Holiday Season - oh wait, the conservative movement is up in arms - it's should be called the Christmas Movement. Pardon us for being Godless pagans.

The conservative watchdogs across the country have begun policing the "PC police." They have become what they set out to stop. Any store that has holiday sales or shopping should be boycotted until they put the word Christmas on their displays.

Christmas is one day, and the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is considered the Holiday Season. For many Christmas is about Jesus' birth, but for many more it's about one thing: stuff. It's a reason to fuel the capitalist idea that shopping is wonderful.

In the end, it doesn't matter if it is Holiday shopping, or Christmas shopping. It doesn't matter if the tree is called a Holiday Tree or a Christmas Tree. This is the time of year when people are supposed to enjoy time with family and friends, and think of others instead of themselves. Now, thanks to the conservative movement, it's a political tool. Having a Holiday sale or signs that say holiday instead of Christmas is not an attack on Christianity, and should not be taken as such. While many people celebrate Christmas, there are others who do not.

By recognizing that not everyone celebrates the same holiday in the Holiday Season stores are not attacking Christianity; they're being capitalists.

Some people celebrate Christmas, some Hanukkah and some celebrate Festivus. This does not take away the meaning of the holiday an individual is celebrating; it includes all the others.

No one gets upset about the day after Thanksgiving sale because it is not called a Christmas sale. Holiday shopping is just the time of year when retailers plan to make a lot of money.

So, call the season what ever, and it will still be the same for everyone. It is unnecessary to complain about the words used to describe a sale.

If you want to avoid helping the companies just using the time for their own gain, start celebrating Festivus around the metal pole and don't go Holiday shopping. Spend quality time that does not involve purchasing material goods to prove you care. ♦

What values does it take to be an 'American Girl'?

Lisa Waananen
Daily Evergreen

(U-WIRE) PULLMAN, Wash. When I heard the phrase "American Girl doll" the other day, it immediately evoked fond childhood memories of afternoon adventures and slumber parties.

Oh, those were the days, back when I didn't know what a Democrat or a Republican was, and I didn't care. Back when I read the newspaper and laughed over the funnies without sighing over the front page.

But times have changed, and apparently even symbols of childhood innocence are no longer sacred from political ideologies in this country.

Two groups - the Pro-Life American League and the American Family Association - are starting a grassroots boycott movement against the American Girl Company. The controversy started because American Girl donates money to Girls Inc., a national non-profit youth organization that allegedly is "pro-abortion" and "pro-lesbian."

I looked at the Web site for Girls Inc., and I found that their motto is "inspiring all girls to be strong, smart and bold," not "inspiring all girls to get abortions and have romantic feelings for other girls."

They offer programs around the country, particularly in low income and inner city areas. Their programs "address math and science education, pregnancy and drug abuse prevention, media literacy, economic literacy, adolescent health, violence prevention, and sports participation."

But don't be fooled, they also "help girls understand who they are" - even if they're lesbians - and help them "make smart, informed decisions about their lives" - even if that means choices about unwanted pregnancy.

I used to think that people deserved at least a little respect for actually living by their values, regardless of what those values were. It was admirable when people lived by and acted upon their beliefs, even if I didn't agree with them.

But times have indeed changed, and it is glaringly obvious that I was wrong when the ones with the conviction became suicide bombers, terrorists and intolerant radicals. I cannot respect these

organizations that are depriving their daughters of valuable life lessons. American Girl historical fiction books are educational and inspirational.

I was a subscriber for the very first issue of the *American Girl* magazine, a rare publication for younger girls that doesn't have glossy fashion ads and a section devoted to hair and makeup. American girl dolls are wholesome and realistic - and fun.

My friends and I created stories with our dolls for hours, and in case the Pro-Life Action League and the American Family Association are wondering, I have yet to get an abortion or become a lesbian.

I looked at the Web sites for both protesting groups as well, and I really can't figure out what kind of convoluted values lead them to believe American Girl has an "anti-life, anti-family agenda." American Girl is apparently not putting the welfare of girls and children first.

I'd like to see a "pro-life" group attack Barbie dolls, since it's been proven that no one could live with those body proportions. There's material there for the "pro-family" folk as well, since it's been rumored that Ken is gay.

But really, how many of these protesters are letting their sons virtually shoot people every day after school while playing violent video games?

Beyond the inanity and possible hypocrisy of their claims, I can't help but feel that this is the saddest indicator of our country's polarization. When little girls are going to be disappointed this holiday season just because their parents extrapolate threatening political agendas, something is wrong.

And what exactly is American Girl doing to support Girls Inc.? They are selling an "I Can" band for a dollar, with 70 cents going to Girls Inc. According to the American Girl Web site, this bracelet serves as a "reminder that - when you believe in yourself - anything is possible."

I wish that every little girl who is affected by this boycott could still receive that message, perhaps with caveat: Just don't believe in yourself and your beliefs so much that you hurt others and grow deaf to reason. ♦

Supreme Court's building, balance falling apart

The Supreme Court is falling apart, literally. A soccer ball sized chunk of marble fell from the sculpted pediment above the entrance to the highest court building in our wonderful nation. This further confirms liberal reports that the Supreme Court and their values (or at least their building) are crumbling under a Republican president.

The piece that fell was a structural portion over the sculpture representing "Authority." Somehow the irony of this right now is just too much. Does this represent authority over the Supreme Court falling apart, or the authority of the Supreme Court dissipating?

Just last week, a friend of mine was ranting about how the Supreme Court was going to be destroyed by conservative judges. Boy, was he wrong. God will destroy the Supreme Court and he or she (for you dirty liberals that believe God could be a woman) will do so without needing the help of mere mortals.

The statues and the exterior facade of the building were created in 1935. The building, which is now approaching the



So It Goes...

Benjamin Cooley
Staff Columnist

ripe age of 70, is getting ready to undergo a \$122 million dollar and five year restoration project.

The Supreme Court has been under fire in recent months dealing with the loss of two justices, both of which were older than the building itself. But fear not: the 80-year-old ideals of the former Chief Justice Rehnquist will be preserved in Chief Justice Roberts, or Rehnquist Jr. as they call him. Now, that's what I call progress. As for the somewhat moderate Sandra Day O' Connor, she will most likely be replaced by Judge Samuel Alito.

Judge Alito is so conservative he's referred to as Scalia-lite, or Scalito. This is in reference to the most conservative justice, Antonin Scalia. Justice Scalia and his lack-

ey, Justice Powell are often the voice of the founders of our country. What's better than having 200-year-old dead philosophers run our country? After all they were right about slavery, women's suffrage and the power of a private militia. Their values are just as good today as they were then.

If Samuel Alito is confirmed, our Supreme Court will be graced with seven males and two females, with a mere one of them being a minority. That seems like a pretty accurate representation of our countries demographics. Seven males to every two females, that sounds about right. No wonder it's so hard to find a date on Friday night.

Pinko-liberal-commies everywhere are fearful that many of the previous Supreme Court decision will be overturned with so many conservative judges at the now-falling-apart building.

Be that as it may, I'm just glad that in our ever so moderate country we don't allow polarization in our highest court. ♦

Benjamin Cooley is a senior political science major and can be reached at brc2h@mtsu.edu.

Marriage should be more than just entertainment

First, it was Brad Pitt and Jennifer Anniston. Then, it was Kenny Chesney and Renee Zellweger. Now, Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson, after three short years of marriage, are the latest celebrity couple to add to the list of Hollywood marriages gone wrong.

Every time you turn on the TV you hear about the latest Hollywood marriages and divorces, who cheated on whom and who's having so-and-so's baby.

The trend in Hollywood right now seems to be "love'em and leave'em." Why is it so hard for Hollywood couples to stay together? What happened to, "as long as we both shall live?" and "until death do us part?" Vows should be changed to "until someone better or with more money do us part."

According to Fox News, a young married couple that they interviewed recently chose not to include "until death do us part," because they believe that their marriage only has a 50/50 chance of lasting that long.

I have a problem with that. If you get into a marriage with that kind of attitude, then you should not get married. When I get married, I am not going to look at it as, "well, if it works



Lucky One

DeAnn Currey
Staff Columnist

fine; if not, oh, well, someone better will come along..."

When a person enters a marriage, whether a celebrity or an ordinary person, you are making a vow to each other. You are promising to the other person that you will love them unconditionally, no matter how good or bad things may go along the way.

People are too quick to jump into a marriage and even quicker to file for divorce when things aren't going perfect. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, fifty percent of first marriages will end in divorce.

Also according to the Bureau, most divorces occur within the first five years of marriage. Relationships take work, leaving a relationship is the easy way out. I can't help but wonder how people in

Five years of marriage is a short time to be married to someone. The old saying, "until the newness wears off," is true in this situation.

I believe that if you truly want to make a relationship work, whether it is a marriage or a dating relationship, you will do whatever it takes to make it work - no matter how hard it may be.

If people are as head-over-heels in love as they claim to be, why are they so quick to end things when they hit a bump in the road or when things aren't going their way?

People need to realize that relationships aren't always going to be a bed of roses. Every relationship has to face its share of problems.

People need to realize this, especially before deciding on getting married. It is up to the people involved in the relationship to be mature and decide how they are going to handle the hard times.

Relationships take work, leaving a relationship is the easy way out. I can't help but wonder how people in

countries where marriages are arranged can somehow can make their marriage work, even if they did not know their spouse before the big day, yet Hollywood couples who have everything they could ever want can't make theirs last.

Maybe it's because those in arranged marriages know that a divorce is not an option, and they have to make their marriage work.

Hollywood seems to consider weddings as a form of entertainment. Every celebrity tries to out-do the last Hollywood couple to tie the knot. Maybe if they focused on their relationship more than how to have the "wedding of the year," they could make their marriages last for more than five minutes.

Celebrities and ordinary people need to quit looking at theirs and others' weddings as a form of entertainment. Instead, they need to see them as sacred oaths being made to another person.

Marriage is something that should not be taken lightly. If this trend continues, marriages in the United States will only be seen as a joke. ♦

DeAnn Currey is a junior mass communications major and can be reached at jdc3v@mtsu.edu.

Comfort zones protect people from considering death

The thought of death crosses our minds once in awhile; extreme incidents like car crashes, terminal illnesses or natural disasters.

But what about a kiss? A kiss of death. Unfortunately for Canadian 15 year-old Christina Desforges, her death was the result of just that - a kiss.

According to CBS News, Desforges had a severe allergic reaction last week as a result of kissing her boyfriend, who, nine hours before, had eaten a peanut butter sandwich.

Desforges' death was an extreme situation, but obviously not an impossible occurrence. So, situational irony aside, this event brings a rather disturbing question to mind. Was this tragedy a result of fate or just a freak coincidental accident?

It seems mass culture would lean towards the latter. With movies like *Donnie Darko*, *The Butterfly Effect* and *Final Destination*, it would stand to reason that death is viewed more as fate.

The fact that is often overlooked is, whether fate or not, death is the inevitable end to life. It is not fate that guides a living creature to the grave, but rather, nature.

The only time fate is ever called into question is when the events that lead to death seem entirely to coincidental, par-



Yeah, Whatever

Andy Harper
Staff Columnist

ticularly in the case of Desforges.

Although she was allergic to the peanut butter, it had been a substantial time period since her boyfriend ate the sandwich and, although a shot of adrenaline was administered almost immediately, she still died.

Eerie quarks and one-in-a-million chances might point to some higher power pulling the strings, but, more or less, it is easier to categorize this as a freak tragedy. Another scary realization when reading stories like this is the possibility that it could happen to someone we know, perhaps even to ourselves.

However, this is the wonderful defense mechanism that humans have made - the ability to comprehend the concept of death, but the inability to fully comprehend our individual deaths.

Can anyone honestly wake up in the morning and look at themselves in the mirror and say: "I am going to die" and

grasp the full weight of the realization?

It is an intimidating concept. No one wants to picture the inability to eat, sleep or converse with others; not being able to walk around, sing, fight, smile or cry.

Now, we can justify the existence of religion. Since no one wants to think about not being alive, humanity has created an existence after death.

Take your pick, there are plenty theories to choose from, ranging from heaven to reincarnation. Whatever your preference, everyone has a purpose after their untimely end.

And it works - it feeds the defense and the inability to comprehend individual death. It gives much-needed comfort to the elderly and strength to the young so they will not fear death.

Religion in comforting people about their own impending deaths, also provides the perfect security blanket for coping with death in general. Phrases like "he is in a better place now," put a stopper in grief over the loss of a loved one.

The lesson learned, with or without religion, is that death comes eventually. So why take life so seriously? We'll all never get out alive. ♦

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Trash bags, box fan make for good time

Spontaneous bubble tent on campus down for winter; movie parties end

By Kevin Doyle
Contributor

Many have seen it. Some have partied in it. A few have even watched a movie or two in it. It's the Bubble Tent. But its creator, Andy Harness, says there's more to the story than most would think.

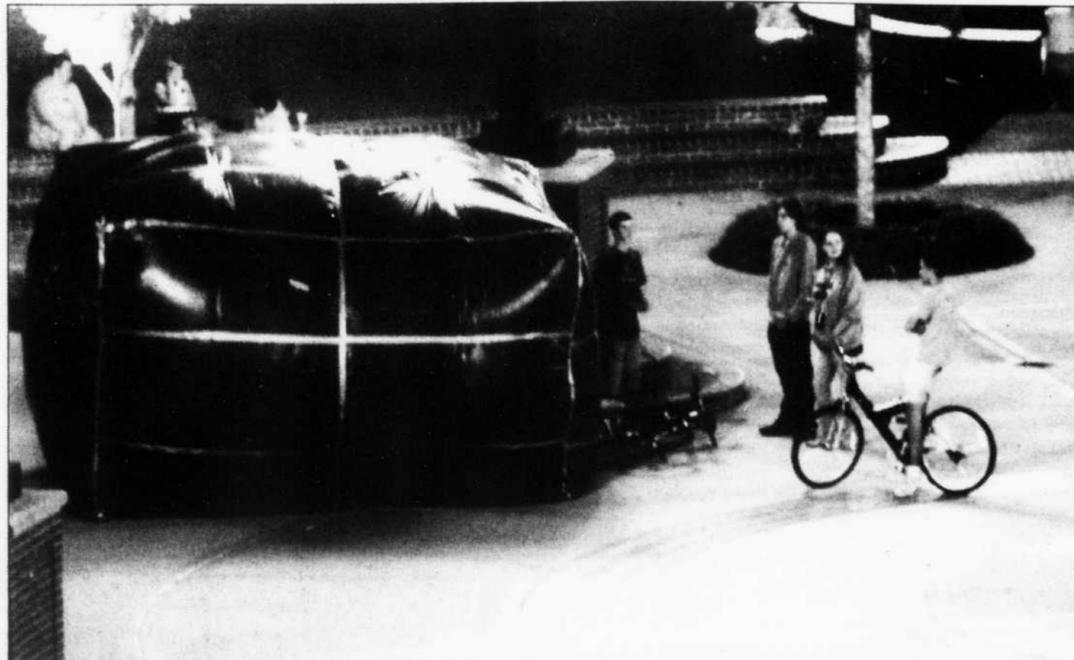
Harness, a sophomore media production major, is the man in charge of the most current series in the ever-going Bubble Tent production. Although he and his two friends, Casey Latiolais—and Jeremy Justice, purchased the garbage bags, duct tape and fan, the design itself started many years ago.

In spring 2002, Chris Ryan, a graduate from Nashville's Watkins College of Art & Design, says he was talking to his design teacher, John Watts, and from there, the Bubble Tent was born.

"It was actually John's idea," Ryan says. "He had the idea in his head for awhile, but never really did anything with it until our design class."

Built mainly as a result of boredom and curiosity, the original Bubble Tent was created in the school's 3-D design room by cutting simple black garbage bags, taping the edges together to create a structure and attaching a fan at one end to inflate the entire structure.

From there, Ryan says, the project moved to the house of friend Andy Duensing. Along with their buddy Adam Jeckel,



Co-creator of the bubble tent, Andy Harness, stands beside the contraption while explaining it to curious passers by in the quad.

they created a long, snake-like version of the bubble in Duensing's front yard.

"I think since Andy lived back in the suburbs, we never really encountered the police," Ryan says. "But we always had a few excuses ready just in case."

The three created many other versions of the bubble, in various sizes and forms, which were inflated by only the power of a single box fan. They even constructed a see-through version of the bubble for use in a movie they filmed.

It's here, Ryan said, where the story of the Bubble Tent

becomes a bit hazy. How the bubble arrived at MTSU is a mystery that remains unknown to both Ryan and Harness. But on Sept. 20, MTSU's first Bubble Tent was constructed in the middle of the quad.

Created seemingly as a test design by some anonymous group, the makers have never resurfaced.

But that September night, Harness and his friends happened to be wandering around campus and stumbled across the bubble. Seeing what others could accomplish with so little, Harness says they were deter-

mined to construct their own. "We even added a door and window to our tent," he says.

Unfortunately, after bringing in a TV and watching three movies in their tent, which they deemed a public party, the police became interested in the situation.

"A cop showed up and thought we were doing bad things in there," Harness says with a smirk on his face.

"Ever since, we've had no problems with the police."

In addition to co-creator of the Bubble Tent, Harness is an avid moviemaker, which makes

sense since not all of his creative energy can be directed at bubble tents. In fact, with two friends from high school, Jon Dodson and Chris "Waldo" Trentham, Harness formed his very own production group, W.A.D., in the trio's high school video production class.

"It used to be W.A.D.—Waldo Andy Dodson," Harness said of the group moniker. "After awhile, the acronym was kinda lost."

Having lost the other founding members in the transition to college, the group is now known simply as WAD and has

spread to include many of Harness' friends and family members.

Harness says he is now involved in a few movie projects around campus, often accepting new WAD members with every project.

"We have a Web site, though, www.wadstudios.tk," Harness says, admitting the plug.

Although he concedes the Web site is still under construction, one may view a few of their videos and photographs, including photos of their version of the Bubble Tent.

As for the future of WAD Studios, Harness says that the videos will continue, even through the winter break.

"We're doing a small Frankenstein love story during Christmas break," Harness says. "And we're actually working on some Web series right now."

Harness also says he is considering doing his own Batman movie.

"There are plans to do an adaptation of the Batman storyline, Hush, but it's still in pre-production," Harness says.

So what's happening with the Bubble Tent now?

"It's gotten really cold now," Harness says, "so we're holding off 'til spring before we start the bubble parties again." ♦

Violent video games = juvenile deviance?

Juvenile crime down since 1996 Playstation introduction, research shows

By Lexie Rogers
Guest Commentary

Juvenile violent crime in America is at an all time low. In the era of violent video games and Columbine, youth continually demonstrate that though their entertainment maybe intense, it is not compelling them to kill.

Contrary to popular opinion, the gaming culture is not "Training our Children to Kill." Instead, they are creating a community for youth to compete, create and cleanse themselves of toxic teenage hormones by way of virtual reality.

A child of the digital millennium doesn't play cowboys and Indians on the front lawn like his forefathers did. As society and technology evolve, boys play with new toys. Modern-day minors have traded grandpa's pistol for pixels. Yet the game that they play remains the same. Children continue to create complex fantasy worlds of strategic play. It is a game of good versus evil. It is a game of critical thinking, creativity and intense competition that delivers that rush of adrenaline that children of all ages crave. The times and technologies may have changed, but the motives of the minors have not.

Critics of digital play have capitalized on the fact that video games offer a modern interpretation of tension discharge. They contest that video games coerce children into aggressive, deviant behavior by bombarding them with graphic representations of violence in a first person perspective. According to this theory, aggressive competitive play, like that involved in video games, translates into aggressive, anti-social behavior in everyday interactions.

Though nearly 300 studies have attempted to confirm such theories, no one theory has conclusively found that video game play is directly related to increased juvenile violence. In fact, the representation of electronic gaming as corruptive to children is in direct contradiction with research compiled by the FBI's Unified Crime Report, the United Nations' UNESCO, and numerous international scholars.

"Neither the quantity nor the quality of research on video games does much to inspire confidence in solid conclusions about their effects," said Jeffery Goldstein, American Psychological Association member and director of the Department of Social and Organizational Psychology at the University of Utrecht, in the Netherlands.

Societal trends simply indicate a direct contradiction to the notion that video gaming is corrupting Generation Y.

If video games lead children to aggressive behavior, then our current console playing kids would consequently be committing more crime. Though intense media coverage of tragic events such as Columbine, might lead the average American to believe that such an increase in juvenile crime has occurred, it in fact has not. Juvenile crime continues to decrease, according to the 2004 Unified Crime Report.

Why then the heated debate over violence in video games creating juvenile deviance? Media bias is partially to blame. American media often misrepresent facts by associating gamers with the violent minority of juveniles. Coverage of child-perpetrated crime, no matter how isolated, is catapulted to top priority simply because of the shocking nature of the news. In an attempt to comprehend the corruption of our youth, we seek to identify the evil influence that forced innocence away. Enter the manipulative media, most specifically violent video games, as the scapegoat for child deviance.

"Much criticism of youth culture reflects the belief that there are vulnerable groups who will be affected by the media in ways that go against their grain, a 'magic bullet' that will turn good kids bad," Goldstien said.

If violent video game sales are any reflection of that magic bullet penetrating the collective conscience of gamers, then crime would subsequently rise along side distribution of such games. Crime instead does the exact opposite. Juvenile crime rates as reported by the UCR dramatically declined upon the introduction of the Playstation in 1996.

Critics of RockStar's *Grand Theft Auto* series express concern that the highly graphic game encourages children to steal cars and shoot police. Facts remain that during the series' reign as the number one selling video game in America, crime continued to decline.

The decline can be attributed, in fact, to the introduction of video games as positive channels for childhood creative competition. The games, especially the popular multi-player versions such as *Halo* and *Quake*, allow children a safe, social environment in which to compete and release their excess of aggressive teenage angst.

Healthy Adaptation theory says that "shifting anti-social behavior to fantasy equals healthy adaptation."

This can be related to the video-gaming phenomenon by explaining that "average people harbor both appropriate and anti-social outputs that they need to send to their muscles and expel from their systems as to not become actually twisted. Healthy adapta-

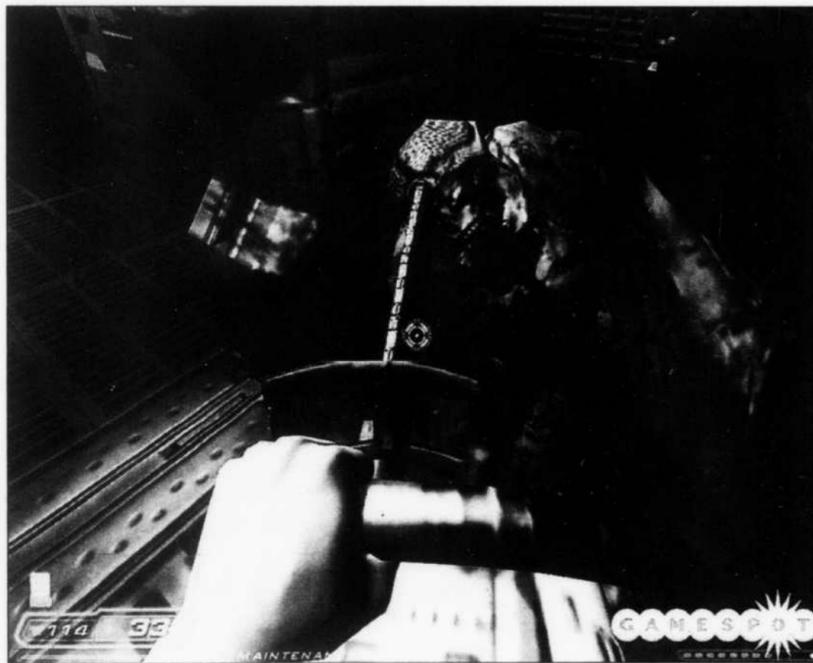


Photo provided by gamespot.com

tion is having means of expelling the anti-social impulses in fictionalized and gaming situations so as to be more able to behave appropriately in non-fictional social situations where it counts, combined with recognizing the difference between the two situations."

It is the age-old instinct that drives young people to create fantasy worlds of good and evil in which to compete. In the 1950s, it was cowboys and indians; in the year 2000, it is virtual aliens and astronauts.

This sort of play is wholly natural and healthy for children to participate in, according to Konrad Lorenz's instinct theory. This theory posits that competition and the adrenaline rush of aggression that it produces serve a biological instinct in man. By competing, we allow ourselves to be cleansed of this inborn drive which Sigmund Freud states is similar to sex and hunger.

Research also states that children are indeed capable of differentiating between what exists in fantasy and what exists in reality. Scholars of the UNESCO International Clearinghouse on Children and Violence explain the phenomenon by stating a Danish social-psychological study of 5-to-17-year old gamers that reported the following:

"The violent elements [of video games] fascinate some children, but this fascination

should not be mistaken for a fascination with violence in the real world. On the contrary, all children in the investigation repudiated real-life violence. The violent elements in computer games are attractive as spectacular effects, but also because they prompt excitement and thrill. Computer games are, thus, in line with genres known from the film industry: action movies, animation, thrillers and horror movies."

"Computer games have inherited the content of violence from a cultural tradition within fiction...Generally; these effects contain an element of exaggeration, which is fully recognized by children. In relation to this, the act of playing violent computer games can be seen as a parallel to the violent and 'rough' play traditionally found among boys."

Boys will boys, as the saying goes. They will play. They will compete. And they will do so in accordance to the technology available to them. Video gaming is the natural evolution of sport. It encourages the youth of the modern age to innovate newer, better ways to play. It grants them an equal arena in which to safely demonstrate their skill and release tension. Despite what data the media may like to entertain, the fact of the matter is that gaming is creating a world where kids can compete with out crime. ♦

★ Almost Horoscopes ★☆☆

Aries (March 21 – April 19) –You have an intense drive to succeed and remain under constant pressure. I hope you explode.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) –You cut yourself off from “fresh” experiences because the unfamiliar makes you insecure. Dude, deodorant is not a bad thing.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) –You tend to have a nervous temperament because you're so aware of your environment. I thought you reminded me of a poodle.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) –You always imagine the worst outcome to a scenario. Guess you doom yourself before you even get started.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) –You see any project as an extension of yourself. So remember, when your work sucks, you really do suck.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) –Apparently you like feeding stray animals. That doesn't excuse you from feeding your baby you freak.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) –You smile at people while you secretly hate them. Lying is not becoming.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) –Your instincts tell you you're destined to do something important. Don't trust those silly things.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) –You'll say yes to a suggestion without weighing consequences because it lifts your spirits. Good for that psychotic hitch hiker.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) –You always ask yourself if you're self-reliant enough? If you're masturbating more than once a week, you know you're too self-reliant.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) –You want everything – love, happiness, a fulfilling job and cool friends. That's too much to ask, you greedy turd.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) –You're greatest strength is giving to others. Why don't you go help out Mr. or Mrs. Capricorn this week?♦

Donating blood, bone marrow helps sickle cell patients

By **Tori Harris**
Contributor

Each year St. Jude's Hematology department has a Christmas party for their sickle cell patients. The excitement on the young patients' faces when they congregate and reunite to celebrate Christmas seems like a sense of comfort and reassurance. They are comforted by the presence of others who face similar struggles, physically and emotionally. They are reassured from the hugs, kisses and gifts given to them by the St. Jude staff.

Each day there is a sickle cell patient in need of a blood transfusion or bone marrow transplant says Sylvia Harris, Registered Nurse for St. Jude's Children Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

She says donations to local blood donor centers or various blood drives, allow many patients diagnosed with sickle cell disease a greater chance at life.

April Kizer, an MTSU freshman majoring in pre-pharmacy lives with sickle cell anemia. Although she has never had to undergo a blood transfusion or bone marrow transplant, she realizes the importance of donating.

"Had it not been for people who donated blood, I wouldn't have some of my friends today," Kizer says.

Sickle cell anemia is hereditary disease caused by an abnormality in blood cells. Unlike normal red blood cells, which have a shape designed for the flow of blood, sickle cells have a crescent type shape that restricts the flow of blood.

Sickle cell patients have enough to worry about, but whether or not there is enough blood for their blood transfusion or surgical operation can be alleviated with a donation.

When giving blood at a local donation center, a person can request or specify exactly who or where they would like their blood to be donated, Harris says. Some sickle cell patients receive blood transfusions each month with the help of blood donations, so donating to sickle cell patients on a regular basis is helpful.

Another way sickle cell patients' lives can be saved is by bone marrow typing. While at a center giving blood, a donor can be put on a national registry that doctors and nurses can choose from for a bone marrow donor.

When a sickle cell patient qualifies for a bone marrow transplant, there are a series of steps for the patient. The first and one of the most important steps is matching the patient with a donor that has the same marrow. Sometimes,

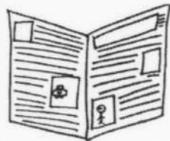
According to nybloodcenter.org:

- 4.5 million Americans benefit from life-saving blood transfusions each year.
- 38,000 pints of red cells are transfused each day in the United States.
- Each donation of blood can help save 3 lives following component (red cell, platelet, plasma) separation.
- Bone marrow transplants may require platelets from more than 100 donors and red cells from more than 20 people.

a patient's full blood sibling can be the donor. If the sibling is not able to donate, then doctors and nurses begin looking at the registry to try and find a match. A Bone marrow transplant is the only cure thus far for sickle cell disease, Harris says.

However, there can be some potential adverse effects when donating. According to Lifeblood Phlebotomist Mary Shine, while giving blood specifically, light-headedness and stomach sickness can occur if the donor does not eat prior to donating. Also, pain or bruising at the injection site can occur.

"A universal donor is O positive and negative, Shine says. "We need all types of blood."♦



There will be an Open House Monday, December 12 at 6pm for anyone interested in being involved with MTSU's student newspaper.

For more information please contact Sarah B. Mullen, Sidelines Spring '06 Editor at 931-797-2628 or email: sbm2p@mtsu.edu

Sidelines is located in Mass Comm Building Room 269

Sidelines Open House Dec 12

IF YOU SAVE A HERO WHAT DOES THAT MAKE YOU?

More men and women on the front lines are surviving life-threatening injuries than ever before for one reason: We have the most elite nurses in the world. As a U.S. Air Force nurse, you receive the most advanced training and have access to the best medical technology on the planet. And whether you're treating Airmen on foreign soil or their families on bases here in the U.S., you can put all of that training to use. If you're interested in learning more about a better place to practice medicine, call or visit us online.

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HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2006 / SPRING 2007

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2006/Spring 2007 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$200 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2006/2007 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2006 at 4:00 PM.**

Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$200 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at www.mtsu.edu/~housing. The \$200 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$10 non-refundable service fee charged for processing the payment online.

To obtain a **HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM**, please come by the Housing and Residential Life office during office hours, 8AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center, Room 300.

For additional information or questions, please contact Housing and Residential Life during office hours at 898-2971.

Classifieds

Employment

Bahamas Spring Break Cruise! 5 Days from \$299! Includes meals, MTV Celebrity Parties! Cancun, Acapulco, Jamaica from \$499! Campus Reps Needed! PromoCode: 31
www.springbreaktravel.com 1-800-678-6386

Jam Band VINYL SOUP is auditioning for PIANO/ORGANIST for live and studio work. Must be able to sing backups.
www.vinylsoup.com 615-790-7578

Now hiring full-part time for front desk help. All shifts open. Please apply in person prefer experience. I-24 - Exit 64 Waldron Road, Super 8 - La Vergne. 615-973-9999

For Sale

CONN. PATTO. \$775 YEAR LEASE. PAUL 373-9739

Fully furnished house with two bedrooms off campus. Large one \$425.00 Small one \$200.00. Washer and dryer Cable and phone furnished. Four miles from MTSU. Rick Armstrong 337-2831

Campus Crossings Apt. for rent. Bathroom per room. Shuttle to and from campus. Two very nice roommates. Call 867-7110 for more info. REFERENCE ADS.

2 BDRM/1 BA Duplex for rent. Cat ok, non smoker. 3672 Meadow Wood Dr. 8 miles from MTSU Avl. now. 494-5226 or 893-4045

House for rent Dhrionline.com to view. 2022 Bradyville Pike Murfreesboro, TN 37130. Close to

Roommates

Female roommate needed to share 3 bedroom, 2 half bath townhouse at Victoria Place. Includes private bathroom and bedroom. Rent: \$319 + 1/3 utilities/cable. Lease begins Jan. 1. Call 731-394-3167 or 423-506-6428!

For Rent

SMYRNA TOWNHOUSE - JUST OFF I-24 GREAT FOR ROOMMATES!!!! 10 MINUTES TO MTSU. TWO BEDROOM, 2.5 BATHS. W/D

MTSU, Wal-mart & Bi-Lo \$950 a month, \$500 deposit ready to move in, more info email Tara.metcalf@regions.com

Sub-Lease

3bdrm/3ba at Campus Crossings! \$439 a month, all utilities, basic cable, internet & fully furnished. Shuttle to & from campus. If interested, call Meagan at 931-215-6430.

LEASE SIGNING BONUS OF \$100. Private BR/BA+storage in 4 BR apt near MTSU. \$425/mo Incl. util., W/D, Pool, gym, hot tub, Bball & volleyball, computer lab, free shuttle to campus. Avl. Jan. Call 865-803-1101.

General

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Policies

Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the Sidelines office in Mass Comm, Room 269, or faxed to (615) 904-8193. For more information call (615) 904-8154 are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.



Arkansas State headed to 2006 New Orleans Bowl

Indians to take on Conference USA team in their first bowl game in 35 years

By David Hunter
 Staff Writer

The Arkansas State Indians are going bowling for the first time in 35 years. This past Saturday, ASU knocked off North Texas 31-24. The winning score came on a touchdown run from one-yard out by running back Antonio Warren with 30 seconds to go. Warren had rushed for 105 yards in the victory. He missed part of the second and third quarter with a foot injury.



The victory gave the Indians a share of the Sun Belt Conference title, and a berth in the New Orleans Bowl. They won the tiebreaker over Louisiana-Lafayette by defeating them on Oct. 13 36-

36. ASU will take on an opponent from Conference USA. That team will be announced at a later date. The game will be played at Cajun Field on the campus of ULL instead of the usual location at Louisiana Superdome on Dec. 20. The game will be shown on ESPN beginning at 7 p.m. It is the first contest of the bowl season. The last bowl game ASU participated in was the Pecan Bowl in 1970, where ASU defeated Central Missouri State 38-21.

Right now, the Indians are 6-5 after finishing the regular season last week. Before this year, the SBC only team to make it to the New Orleans Bowl was North Texas who has a 1-3 record in bowl play. In 2002, they defeated Cincinnati 24-19. They lost to Colorado State in 2001, Memphis in 2003, and last year to Southern Mississippi. This week's SBC Players of the Week include ASU strong safety Tyrell Johnson who had a league record 25 tackles, 20 of those were

solo. His performance earned him SBC Defensive Player of the Week. He won the same award on Sept. 5. On offense, ULL freshman running back Tyrell Fenroy had a career-best 164 yards and three scores in the 54-21 win over Louisiana-Monroe. He was the first running back in school history to run for over 1,000 yards in a season. On special teams, ULL kicker Sean Comiskey converted seven extra points and nailed a 24-yarder in the victory. ♦

MT volleyball ends 2005 without trip to NCAA tournament

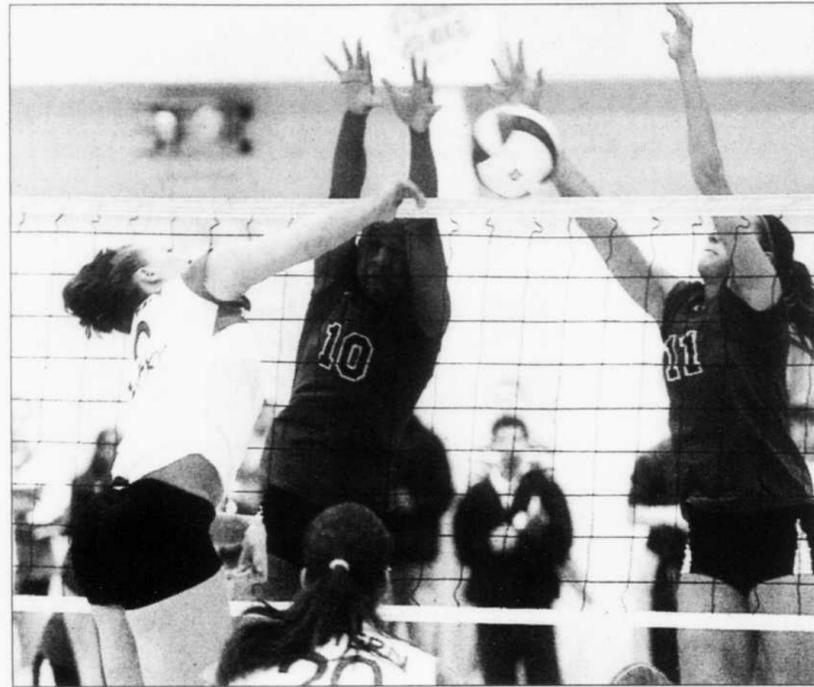


Photo by Jon Richardson | Chief Photographer
 MT's Quanshell Scott (10) and Vicky Monasterolo (11) were both instrumental in the team's success during the 2005 season. The Blue Raiders will look to improve upon their 28-4 overall record next season.

By Jon Leffew
 Assistant Sports Editor
 Despite being denied an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, the Middle Tennessee volleyball team and Blue Raider fans celebrated one of the greatest seasons in school history. Prior to the season, the Blue Raiders were picked to finish third in the Sun Belt Conference's East division. However, behind the leadership of second-year head coach Matt Peck, the team finished the year with a 10-2 conference record, good enough for a No. 2 seed in the SBC tournament. The team eventually lost to Western Kentucky in the SBC championship match, but their 28-4 overall record had many people hoping for the at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

ond match of the year and the remaining three came at the hands of the Lady Toppers. The Blue Raiders went undefeated during the entire month of October, and defeated high-profile opponents like Georgia and Washington State. Despite the team's tournament snub, this year's edition of the Blue Raiders racked up several remarkable accomplishments. The team's No. 2 seed in the SBC tournament was the highest since joining the conference, and their .875 winning percentage ranks as the best in school history. In addition to this, several Blue Raiders enjoyed successful seasons. Alicia Lemau'u was named the SBC's Player of the Year, while Andressa Lyra (first team) and Ashley Adams (second team) were named to the All-Conference teams.

Junior setter Megan Sumrell broke the school record for career assists in the team's shutout of Arkansas State on Nov. 6. Sumrell, who tallied more than 1,400 assists for the second straight season, now has 3,569 career assists, nearly 300 more than the next highest total. Lemau'u, a sophomore, became the fastest player in school history to tally 1,000 career digs. Lyra, a junior, became the fifth player in school history to record 1,000 career kills. Her 536 kills in 2005 rank as the third most in a season in Blue Raider history. Despite all of the success surrounding the 2005 season, many feel that next year could be even better. Peck will return all six starters and the team's libero, and three top-notch recruits

See Volleyball Review, page 10

Power play helps Dallas capture victory against Preds at home

Saturday, November 26

Predators 1
 Stars 3

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The Dallas Stars did just enough on their many power-play chances to beat the Nashville Predators.

Jere Lehtinen and Antti Miettinen scored power-play goals and Marty Turco made three saves to help the Stars beat the Predators 3-1 on Saturday night.

The Stars were 2-for-12 on the power play.

"There was so much in

terms of the power play it is hard to really critique it," Dallas coach Dave Tippett said. "Our power play came up with some big goals. That was the difference in the game. You have to like that.

Stu Barnes scored for Dallas, coming off a 4-1 home loss to Phoenix on Friday night. The Stars are 9-2-0 in their last 11 games and 8-2-0 in their last 10 road games.

"We've been in scenarios in this building where everything goes against us," Tippett said. "We left our building on a frustrated note. We just had to come in and get all that cleared out. Stuff is going to happen during a game. You

just have to deal with it."

Dallas pulled away with a pair of second-period goals. Lehtinen opened the scoring on a power play at 5:45, beating goalie Tomas Vokoun with a wrist shot. Barnes made it 2-0 with 1:47 left with a shot from the left side of the net that slid between Vokoun's pads.

Nashville cut it 2-1 on Scott Hartnell's power-play goal at 3:39.

But 13 penalties kept the Predators from getting into any kind of offensive flow.

"You're not going to have success sitting in the box all night long," Nashville coach Barry Trotz said. "You have to learn to adjust. You have to stay on task, adjust and play smart. We did not adjust enough and it cost us the game."

Dallas completed the scoring at 6:04 on Miettinen's power-play goal. Nashville had nine power-play chances.

"It was important for us to have a workman-like attitude," Turco said. "And that attitude showed up. The penalty kill was such a huge part of this game." ♦

Quick Facts:

The Stars have at least one power-play goal in 14 straight games, the longest streak in the NHL.

The Predators have scored at least one power-play goal in their last seven games.



Photo provided by the Nashville Predators
 Dallas Stars captain Mike Modano gets whistled for holding Dan Hamhuis. The Predators were unable to stop the Stars in the 3-1 loss.



Photo provided by UTSports.com
 Volunteers Head Coach Phillip Fulmer walks to the field with Colts quarterback Peyton Manning before the South Carolina game on Oct. 30. In Fulmer's letter to the fans he said that the 2005 season was "unacceptable."

Coach puts disappointment in writing

By Elizabeth A. Davis
 AP Sports Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer has repeatedly said on the radio and television and in speeches that the 2005 season was "unacceptable," and now he has put it in writing.

Fulmer wrote a 300-word letter to fans that was e-mailed Tuesday to about 38,000 season ticket holders and other fans signed up to receive periodic newsletters from the athletic department through its Web site.

"I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the great support you give our team. Your passion and pride for our program is what makes us special," Fulmer wrote.

"This year was a disappointing season for everyone in the Tennessee family. We started this season with great expectations and failed to live up to those expectations. I assure you that no one is happy about our season - especially me, and I know that our fans deserve better than what we produced this year."

The letter was gleaned from 10 pages of notes from a speech Fulmer gave Monday to the Knoxville Quarterback Club. That speech also expressed his concern over finishing 5-6, the first losing record and lack of a bowl bid since 1988.

"Coach Fulmer was trying to find a way to communicate to fans," athletic department

spokeswoman Tiffany Carpenter said Tuesday. Fulmer wrote that he is taking an audit of the program.

"We grossly underachieved offensively, and special teams were erratic at best. As I've said before, the results this year are unacceptable and accountability starts with me," he said. "No stone will be left unturned and no question left unanswered as to what went wrong."

On Monday, Fulmer took one step in what he hopes will turn around the program by introducing David Cutcliffe as the new offensive coordinator to replace Randy Sanders. Cutcliffe was on Tennessee's staff with Fulmer for 17 years - offensive coordinator from 1993-98 - before leaving to be head coach at Mississippi. He was fired at the end of last season.

Fulmer also fired two assistants - receivers coach Pat Washington and offensive line coach Jimmy Ray Stephens. Sanders resigned on Oct. 31.

"I appreciate the support and patience I've received from the administration and Tennessee fans everywhere to make the adjustments I need to make to get back to where I believe we should be," Fulmer wrote. "We had many great moments, games and seasons together and will again. Tennessee football is about pride, and it's my first priority to restore that pride." ♦

Letter printed in full on next page.



Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee



Lady Raiders host Georgia on \$1 Ticket Night

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee will put its three-game winning streak on the line when the Blue Raiders host No. 17 Georgia at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Murphy Center.

The Blue Raiders enter the contest 3-1 and will try a snap at 10-game losing streak to the Bulldogs. Georgia is currently 3-2 on the season with losses to defending champions Baylor and UCLA.

"It is hard to overlook you are playing a team like Georgia, because they are one of the premiere programs in the country," said Head Coach Rick Insell. "You have to look at it like you are preparing for any other team, but still in the back of your mind, subconsciously, you know you are playing Georgia. To me that is exciting."

Middle Tennessee will try and stop Kodak All-American Tasha Humphrey, a sophomore and leader in leading the Bulldogs with 21.6 points per game and 8.8 rebounds per game. On November 18, Humphrey recorded a career-high 38 points against Santa Clara.

"I have watched her play since she was 12-years-old and she is a special player," Insell said. "She is absolutely unstoppable one-on-one, and we are going to have to come up with some type of scheme to off-set her."

The Blue Raiders have their own 30-point performer in Chrissy Givens, who scored a career-high 30 against Eastern Kentucky on November 26. The junior guard from Monroe, Louisiana also had a career-high nine steals. Overall, she is averaging 19.8 points and 9.8 rebounds per game.

"I'm not surprised in Chrissy's performance in the last few games," Insell said. "To whom much is given, much is expected so no, I am not surprised."

Middle Tennessee received one vote in the recent AP poll. All tickets to the game against Georgia will be \$1.

Littlejohn to play in All-American Classic

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee defensive lineman Jeff Littlejohn has accepted an invitation to play in the 5th Annual Las Vegas All-American Classic January 14, 2006, at Sam Boyd Stadium.

The Classic will have 100 of the top college athletes from around the country, making it the largest college all-star football game in the nation. Eighty-five percent of the all-stars are graduating seniors from NCAA Division I programs. Former NFL Coordinators and NFL Europe Coaches will serve as head coaches of the East and West squads.

Included among the week-long activities are the skills and measurement combine for the NFL scouts. This year's game will be broadcast nationally by CSTV. The game is one of five all-star contests highlighting graduating seniors for professional football organizations.

Littlejohn will become the second Blue Raider to participate in the all-star game after wide receiver Pedro Holiday played last season.

McNamara Returns as Assistant

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Former Middle Tennessee All-American David McNamara is returning to his alma mater as an assistant men's tennis coach, his second stint in that capacity, announced this week by head coach Dale Short.

McNamara spent the past three seasons as an assistant at Middle Tennessee, helping the Blue Raiders to the 2005 Sun Belt Championship and the school's seventh NCAA Tournament appearance. The Melbourne, Australia, native took a position as an instructor in New York in May after graduating with his master's in Sport Management from Middle Tennessee.

As a player McNamara helped Middle Tennessee to its first three NCAA Tournament appearances, in 1995, '96 and '97, earning All-America honors with Julius Roberts in doubles when both were seniors in 1998. The duo claimed the school's first collegiate grand slam title, winning the 1997 All-American Hardcourt Championships in Austin, Texas.

"I am thrilled and excited to have David back in the fold with us at Middle Tennessee," Short said. "With his talents and expertise, we had one of our best years of winning and the conference championship. He brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the program, and the kids are excited to have him back as well."

McNamara is second in school history in combined wins with 179, and ranks fourth in singles victories (85) and third in doubles triumphs (94).

He spent four years on the ATP tour traveling the world, claiming 13 doubles titles and one singles crown in Bath, England, in August 2001. He left school in 1998 one semester short of graduation and returned in 2003 to finish his bachelor's in Exercise Science.

Middle Tennessee begins its spring dual match season January 28 versus Chattanooga at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro.

Women's Tennis Inks Yusupova

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee women's tennis coach Alison Ojeda announced the signing of Elvira Yusupova to scholarship papers this week for the spring semester.

The Ufa, Russia, native will enroll in January and play for the Blue Raiders this spring in dual matches. The 5-foot, 5-inch Yusupova graduated from Linguistic Gymnasium in Ufa, Russia, this past year.

Yusupova won the 2003 Ufa Open and was a finalist in 2003 and 2004 in the Russian Team Championships for coach Smirnov Sergey.

"We're really looking forward to Elvira joining our program," Ojeda said. "She is an accomplished player who really understands the game and is solid on both sides. She should be able to step in and be a major contributor on this year's club."

The women's tennis team begins dual match action January 27 at UT-San Antonio. The Blue Raiders open the home schedule February 4 against East Tennessee at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro.

Groundhog Day Luncheon Set

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - The annual Groundhog Day luncheon has been set for Thursday, February 2, at 11:30 a.m., in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building on the Middle Tennessee campus. The event is sponsored by the Blue Raider baseball team and the BRAA and is a kickoff for the 2006 season.

"This luncheon is a great way to begin getting the fans excited about the season," said head coach Steve Peterson. "We have such great baseball fans at Middle Tennessee and it's good to see the numbers keep increasing each year."

The meal includes ham hocks, white beans, tomato salad, green onions, corn bread, chocolate cake and ice cream. All tickets bought in advance are \$15, and all tickets purchased the day of the event are \$20.

Reservations may be made for the Groundhog Day Luncheon by calling the BRAA office at 615/898-2210 or the Middle Tennessee Ticket Office at 615/898-2103 or 1-888-YES-MTSU. The last day to reserve a seat for the luncheon is Friday, January 27.

Podlesny Adds Catcher Ives to Signing Class

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee Head Softball Coach Leigh Podlesny announced the addition of Jessica Ives to the 2006-07 signing class.

Ives, a 5-9 catcher from Chattanooga, Tennessee, comes from Boyd-Buchanan High School. As a junior, Ives was named to the Chattanooga Times Free Press Best of Preps First Team. She was also voted to the All-State Team, All-District Team and named All-District Tournament MVP.

"Jessica impressed us with her catch and life and life during the recruiting process," Podlesny said. "She has good size and power which will help our team on offense and defense."

Ives joins outfielder Corrie Abel and pitcher Lindsey Vander Lugt.

Track Signs Metelus

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee track coach Dean Hayes announced the signing of sprinter Neksy Metelus to a national letter-of-intent on Monday, the first signee for the Blue Raider track program this year.

Metelus attends Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, Ala., where he runs for coach Stan Narewski. The 5-foot-9, 150-pound sprinter holds school records in both the 100- and 200-meters at Ft. Lauderdale High School in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., where he ran for coach David Martin.

"Neksy can really run. There's no doubt about that," Hayes said. "We originally signed him out of high school but he had to go to junior college because of grades. He will be a welcome addition to our team next year and should add to the 100 and 200 as well as the relays."

The Middle Tennessee track teams begin the indoor season on Saturday, December 10, with the Christmas Invitational at Murphy Center. ♦

Briefs Courtesy of MT Media Relations



David Cutcliffe, who coached at the University of Tennessee for 17 years, recently signed on as the team's offensive coordinator. Cutcliffe will have the task of revamping the Vols' anemic offense next season.

Cutcliffe back as offensive coordinator

By Elizabeth A. Davis
AP Sports Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - David Cutcliffe is back in his old job at Tennessee with the task of revamping the Volunteers' lackluster offense.

Coach Phillip Fulmer introduced his former assistant as the new offensive coordinator on Monday.

Cutcliffe, 51, replaces Randy Sanders, who resigned Oct. 31 during Tennessee's four-game losing streak. Speculation centered early on Cutcliffe and never wavered, making the announcement mainly a formality.

Cutcliffe, a very close friend of Fulmer, was on the Vols' staff for 17 years and coached such quarterbacks as Peyton Manning and Heath Shuler and then Eli Manning at Mississippi.

"I am extremely excited about the opportunity to get back to work with an outstanding group of coaches," Cutcliffe said. "Three or four months ago this wasn't even an option. ... Circumstances changed obviously and this became a reality again. I have a great love for the University of Tennessee."

"I had made a decision I wasn't going to go

back in as an assistant coach but there was only one place out there I would be honored and thrilled to do that."

Tennessee finished the season 5-6 with a victory at Kentucky on Saturday, marking the first losing season since 1988. The Vols' streak of 16 straight bowl games was snapped.

They began the season No. 3, but the offense struggled throughout the season and was among the least productive in the Southeastern Conference and Division I-A.

"Obviously a change was needed. One important item for me in this process was to hire one of the best and brightest offensive minds in the country and I needed a person that was an outstanding teacher, communicator and particularly in the Southeastern Conference," Fulmer said. "We have all these things in David Cutcliffe."

While Cutcliffe was offensive coordinator from 1993-98, the Vols went 63-11 and won three SEC East crowns and two SEC championships.

Cutcliffe was the offensive coordinator at Tennessee in 1998 but was hired away to be

Continued on 10

Fulmer issues letter to fans

A letter from Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer to fans

(AP) - Here is the text of an e-mail sent Tuesday to Tennessee fans from coach Phillip Fulmer

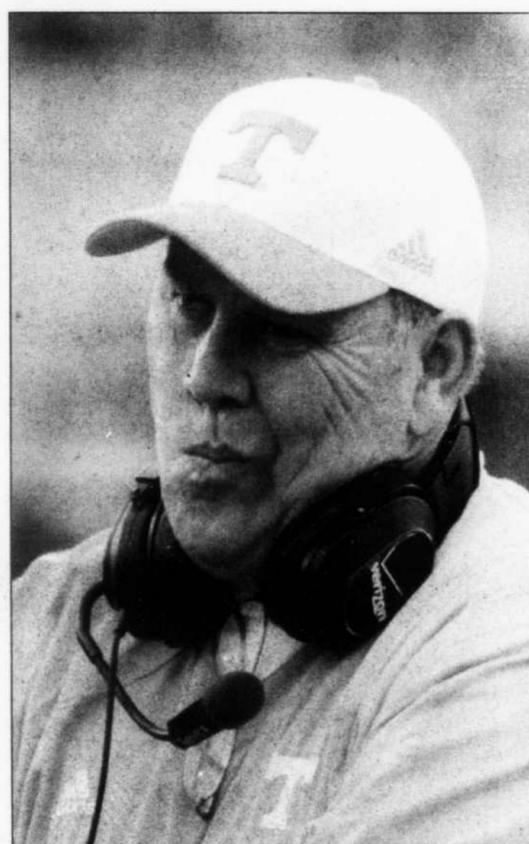
Phillip Fulmer Fans,
I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the great support you give our team. Your passion and pride for our program is what makes us special!

This year was a disappointing season for everyone in the Tennessee family. We started this season with great expectations and failed to live up to those expectations. I assure you that no one is happy about our season - especially me, and I know that our fans deserve better than what we produced this year.

Now that the season is over, I am taking a step back and re-evaluating the entire program. We're doing a lot of things well - especially our defense, but obviously not enough. We grossly underachieved offensively, and special teams were erratic at best. As I've said before, the results this year are unacceptable and accountability starts with me.

My staff and I have great determination to get things back on track. In order to get things turned around, we first have to look at what happened this season. I'm doing a complete audit of everything in our program. No stone will be left unturned and no question left unanswered as to what went wrong.

I've taken some steps already and others are in short order. I have made some coaching



Volunteer Head Coach Phillip Fulmer reacts to a play called Tennessee's 27-8 victory over Kentucky on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2005.

changes to move forward. I feel the addition of David Cutcliffe as offensive coordinator is a great step forward for us. He is a great football coach, but better yet he's a leader and teacher. He will challenge our thinking, be creative with our offense and very demanding of our players.

I appreciate the support and patience I've received from the administration and Tennessee

fans everywhere to make the adjustments I need to make to get back to where I believe we should be. We have had many great moments, games and seasons together and will again. Tennessee football is about pride, and it's my first priority to restore that pride.

Go Vols!
Phillip Fulmer

From Cutcliffe, page 9

head coach at Mississippi at the end of the regular season and did not coach in the Vols' national championship win over Florida State. Sanders succeeded Cutcliffe.

Cutcliffe led Ole Miss to a 10-3 record in 2003 with Eli Manning at quarterback. The Rebels fell to 4-7 last season, and Cutcliffe was fired. He was hired by Notre Dame's new coach Charlie Weis to be an assistant earlier this year. But Cutcliffe resigned that post a few months after he had triple bypass heart surgery.

Cutcliffe and his family moved back to Knoxville this summer, and he has kept himself busy as a fixture on several radio and television sports talk shows. His son, Chris, is a student manager for the Tennessee football team.

Cutcliffe signed a two-year contract for \$300,000 annually, which includes \$275,000 in base salary and \$25,000 for media and apparel.

After Sanders' resignation,

Cutcliffe said he was still interested in pursuing a head coaching position but would consider returning to Tennessee.

On Sunday, Fulmer fired two assistants — receivers coach Pat Washington and offensive line coach Jimmy Ray Stephens.

Washington, a former Auburn quarterback, was hired in 1995, and Stephens joined the staff in 2002 after being on Steve Spurrier's staff at Florida for nine seasons.

Sanders remained on the staff through the end of this season as the quarterbacks coach.

One of Cutcliffe's main jobs will be preparing quarterbacks Erik Ainge and Jonathan Crompton for next season. Ainge rotated as the starter this season with Rick Clausen, a senior. Crompton sat out his freshman year to recover from shoulder surgery.

"We're going to start back from scratch," Cutcliffe said. ♦

From Volleyball Review, page 8

will join the Blue Raiders next year.

Setter Leslie Clark, who was the Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year, joins outside hit-

ters Savannah Pegg and Ashley Mead as the 2006 MT signing class. ♦

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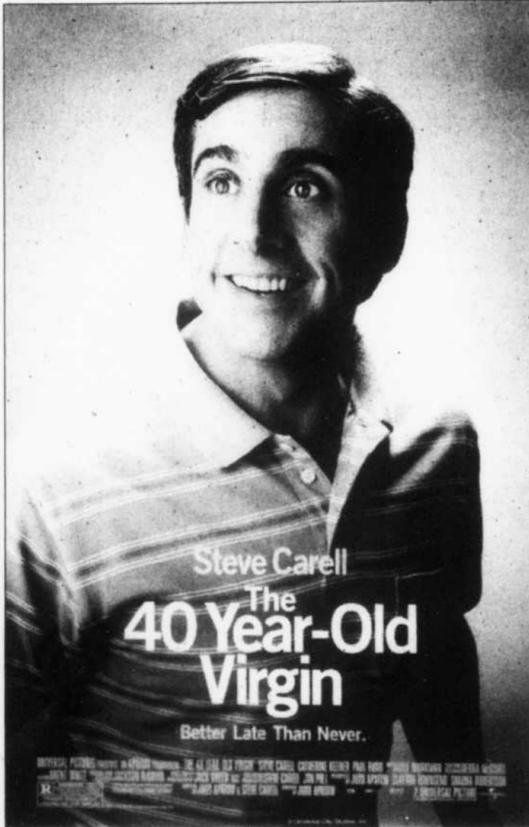
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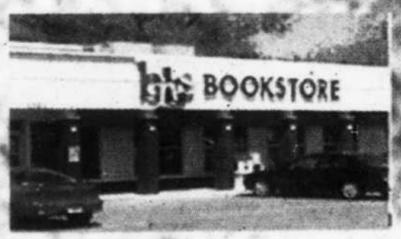
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