

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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Thursday, September 4, 1997

Graffiti an 'attack' on LAMBDA

□ Gregg Mayer/managing editor

Graffiti that is threatening and obscene to homosexuals was drawn in chalk on the concrete in front of the doors of Peck Hall sometime early Tuesday morning, a member of MTSU's LAMBDA organization told "Sidelines."

"You take it as a personal attack," said Allie Sultan, president of LAMBDA, MTSU's lesbian, gay and bi-sexual organization. "The graffiti was obviously written by someone who is not very informed on what gay and lesbian people go through."

Four messages like "LAMBDA MUST GO" were scrawled, and Sultan said she wants the university to officially respond to the incident. She said that if it were a racial slur written in chalk, the university would respond in some way or another.

"By not setting a precedent, [the university] is saying it doesn't care," Sultan said.

An officer in public safety said the chalking is not a "criminal matter" and will be handled by officials in Student Life. The officer explained that if the matter had been or becomes criminal, such as someone physically threatening violence, then public safety will investigate.

"We're not going to do anything at this point," the officer said, "but refer this matter to the administration."

Officers patrol the campus 24 hours a day on bike, foot and car, and Sultan has filed a formal harassment complaint with Public Safety.

"I really hope this is a single incident that will be isolated," Sultan said.

"I'm sure it was done by one or two individuals who do not represent the university's sentiments."

"I haven't had any complaints in the office [about the incident] yet," said Tom Burke, dean of Student Life, explaining he hasn't seen the chalking at Peck Hall but heard about it over e-mail.

Burke explained that the chalking may not be in violation of any university policy since there is no rule



Photo by Steve Purinton/staff

Graffiti threatening to LAMBDA, MTSU's lesbian, gay and bisexual organization, was drawn in front of the doors of Peck Hall earlier this week. The four messages, written by an unknown individual or individuals, were probably drawn early Tuesday.

against "hate speech," only the "Statement of Civility" which is not a rule but a recommendation on how students should act.

"If it is directed against a group, not an individual, it becomes a question of free speech," Burke said. "People could argue both sides of the issue."

The university does not have a specific policy condemning epithets directed against an individual's sexual preference. However, Policy I:01:22 has two general tenets that condemn similar epithets directed against an individual's race, gender or nationality. The Legal Office could not be reached to clarify whether sexual preference could be inferred from the policy before press deadline.

This is the first incident this

semester directed against LAMBDA. Last semester, during the February "And the Liberty For All" conference that attracted over 400 lesbians, gays and bi-sexuals from all over the country, LAMBDA received several threatening phone calls, including some death threats. One student, Micheal Grantham, filed a formal complaint with Public Safety at that time.

Chalking can be done by any student in areas that rain will wash it away.

A student who called "Sidelines" and reported the chalking said it must have happened sometime after 2 a.m. since he was walking home at that time and didn't see it then but saw it the next morning on his way to class.

Christian Student Center to break ground on new facility

□ Susan McMahan/news editor

The MTSU Christian Student Center is celebrating the groundbreaking of its new facility today after 30 years in the previous building.

The ceremony will be held today at 3 p.m. at 1105 Bell St., which is the site of both the old and the new buildings. Students are invited to attend the event.

According to Mike Stroud, director and campus minister at the Center, the old six building complex was torn down to build a new 6,300 square foot building.

The old complex consisted of four apartments, an office building and a student activities building.

Only one building in the old complex was saved. The new building will consist of a lounge, a recreation room and a meeting facility that holds 175 people.

Stroud said the new Center will have room for three student caretakers, but the apartments have been eliminated.

"We've been at this location since 1968, and the new building has been on the drawing board five years," said Stroud.

The new building should be completed sometime this spring. Stroud said that he is not sure of a definite date because the project is behind schedule.

The Christian Student Center is sponsored by Churches of Christ, but the services are open to anyone.

Stroud said 95 percent of the students who attend services are members of the Church of Christ. There is a core group of 50-60 students who attend services weekly, but Stroud said that about 150-200 students are involved at the Center over the course of the semester.

Activities at the Center are currently being held on campus in room 322 of the KU until the completion of the new building.

The Center holds activities for students every Monday through Thursday night.

The main meeting is Raiders for Christ, held every Monday at 7 p.m. Stroud said this includes are student and faculty guest speakers, Christian videos and dramas.

On Tuesday, the Center hosts Breadbreak, a lunch and fellowship at 12:15 p.m. The Center sponsors an Inner City Outreach at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Students meet on Wednesday night at North Boulevard Church of Christ at 7 p.m. for Soul Lift. On Thursday nights, students meet at 7 p.m. for F.A.I.T.H. Groups at the Center.

The groups have many activities including "adopting" grandparents and conducting service projects in different areas of the country.

In the past, the groups have gone to Maine, Washington, Texas and Canada. For the past two years, they have gone to the Navajo Indian Reservation on Ute Mountain in Utah.

New scholarship established for MTSU student killed in wreck

□ Chevonne Wrenn/staff

On May 4, 1997, MTSU student Anna Lee Wall, 21, was tragically killed in an automobile accident.

Wall and her roommate Caryn Foltz were going to the Outlets Ltd. Mall.

A young woman's car collided with Wall's at the intersection of Greenland and Tennessee. Wall was killed instantly.

Wall grew up in Hazelwood as an only child. She attended Motlow State Community College, where she was the editor of the campus newspaper and a member of the SEC Communications Club. Not only was she active in these two organizations, but she also taught economics to young students through Junior Achievement.

She then moved to Tennessee in order to attend Middle Tennessee State University to pursue a career in Radio-Television.

"She had a zest for life," said Thomas Berg, Wall's advisor. "She was delightful and out-going. She had high goals. She wanted to become equivalent to Oprah Winfrey."

While at college, she worked at Wal-Mart and had previously worked as a photographer and lifestyles editor at "The Herald Chronicle" in Winchester, Tennessee. She also belonged to MTSU's Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

As a memorial to this well-rounded young woman, family and

friends have established a scholarship in her honor.

At least \$5,000 needs to be raised in order to award the interest to one junior or senior female who has a Mass Communications major with a specialization in electronic media journalism and a minimum 3.0 grade point average.

"Tentatively, the first scholarship will be awarded the spring of 1998," Berg said.

"It will start out as one amount and will hopefully increase as time goes on."

"There are two ways we are going to raise the money for the Wall Scholarship," said Jonathon Hawkins, who is in charge of all memorial scholarships. "First, a direct mailing will be sent to all Radio-TV alumni this fall. In the spring, Alpha Delta Pi will send a mailing to all Alpha Delta Pi alumni."

Unfortunately, the scholarship only has a little under \$400 in its account.

Therefore, donations to endow this unique scholarship will be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made payable to the MTSU Foundation and sent to MTSU, P.O. Box 109, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

Please mark checks applicable to the Anna Lee Wall Memorial Scholarship. For more information, contact: Jonathon Hawkins at (615) 898-5032, Jana Turner at (615) 895-7920, or Dr. Thomas Berg at (615) 898-5867.

Honors Lecture Series to begin Sept. 8

□ Christi Underdown/staff

In an attempt to illustrate the necessity of cultural tensions, Ron Bombardi will introduce the Honors Lecture Series with his presentation, "Conflict and Confluence in Western Culture," at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8, in Room 109A of Peck Hall.

"I expect to do philosophy on a grand scale," said Bombardi, a professor in the Middle Tennessee State University Philosophy Department. "I want to present the big picture, rather than the technical difficulties."

Citing examples, such as the 17th century Dutch and the Alexandrine Greek empire, he will explain how a civilization comes into being through the ongoing growth of tension between contradicting and compatible ideas.

"If the tension is kept alive and the conflict remains unresolved, it will grow with the culture," he said. "We need to get people away from the notion that in conflict someone has to win or lose. It is the preoccupation of contemporary culture that a conflict is resolved only when one side wins."

Bombardi, a practiced speaker in the series, sees his presentation as an opportunity to give his audience a new perception on the series' theme, "Ideas of Conflict," and to lay a foundation for the numerous views that will be presented throughout the semester within the series.

The lectures, supported by the honors program, are presented every Monday afternoon. The program includes faculty representation from almost all the departments on cam-

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Empty Xpress



Photo by Celeste Castillo/staff

An empty Raider Xpress bus travels around campus yesterday afternoon. An empty bus is usually a rare sight in a parking lot and classrooms and afternoons during the week because many students rely on the bus to travel across campus from rare sight lots to classrooms.

Economic conference planned for next week

□ David Sutherland/staff

The economy in Tennessee seems to be doing good, yet there is still a budget crisis, according to today's economists. That is a topic of this year's Economic Outlook Conference held at MTSU on Friday, September 12, from 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. The conference is targeted to

business persons, business and economics faculty and students, and those interested in the economic growth of the southeast.

"Although our focus is Middle Tennessee, because of our distinguished guests we will also have the opportunity to look at the national and global perspective of things," said Jim Burton, MTSU accounting professor and associate dean for external relations for the College of

Business.

Panel speakers will include former Rep. John Bragg, who will serve as moderator, Stanley Chervin of the Tennessee Department of Revenue, Harry Green, Tennessee Advisory Commission on Inter-Governmental Relations, and professor of Economics and finance Albert DePrince Jr.

The conference will begin with an

Please see ECONOMIC, page 2

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GMAT
 Graduate Management Admissions Test
strategies course

Classes begin Sept. 26, and meet for four alternating weekends. Classes meet from 7-10 p.m. Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Basic GMAT/GRE Mathematics Preparation course, Sept. 5-6.

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THE MASSEY SCHOOL



BELMONT UNIVERSITY

Massey Graduate School information session, Sept. 3, 6 p.m., Jack C. Massey Business Center, Wedgewood at 16th

Economic
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official welcome at 8:45 by Rick Elam, dean of MTSU's College of Business. Ronald Ratajczak, director of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University, will lead off at 9:00 a.m. with a regional economic overview, followed by questions from the audience.

A 10:30 panel discussion, moderated by Burton, will deal with the outlook for startup and small business financing. Panelists will include Patrick Geho, director of MTSU's Small Business Development Center, Phil Duncan, Tennessee Small Business Administration, and Jim Bryant, senior vice president of the new Bank of Murfreesboro.

Following a second discussion, Edward E. Crutchfield, chairman and chief executive officer of First Union Corporation, Charlotte, N.C.,

Honors
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pus. In the next three weeks the series will be introducing "Worlds in Collision: The UFO Debate" by Jill Hague of the English department, "Probing the Personal Lives of Politicians: Searching for Character or Looking for Dirt?" by Mark Byrnes of the political science department and "Art and Conflict in Consumer Culture" by Don McComb of the journalism department. The presentations are free and open to the public.

Bombardi said he will provide extra time after his lecture to field any questions or discussion students may wish to pursue.

"I only worry, 'Will I have enough time?'" he said.

Got a news tip?

Call the

Sidelines

News Desk at

898-2336



On Campus

September 4
 The grand opening of the Graduate Student Multimedia Center will be held in room 101S of the LRC from 3 until 5 p.m.

September 6
 The National Coalition of Hundred Black Women will hold an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in KUC 322. For more information, call Nicole Moore at 898-3457.

September 8-9
 Gamma Beta Phi will hold its first meetings of the year on September 8 and 9 at 5 p.m. in Keathley University Center, room 314. Members can come to either meeting. Important information will be given out. For more information, contact Cindy Trail at 849-3603.

September 10
 The American Red Cross will sponsor a blood drive in KUC room 322. The drive will be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The blood drive is sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta.

September 11
 An American Red Cross blood drive will be held from 10 a.m. from 4 p.m. in room 322 of the KUC. The blood drive is sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta.

September 12
 The Red Cross is holding a blood drive in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

September
 The Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council would like to welcome all new freshmen to MTSU. We hope that your transition from high school to college has been good so far. We would also like to invite you to join us for rush. Panhellenic rush begins on September 3 and lasts until September 8, the last day to register for sorority rush is Friday, August 29. Fraternity rush begins on September 10 and lasts until September 19.

The Japan Center of Tennessee in cooperation with the Tullahoma Fine Arts Center will sponsor a Japanese Doll Exhibit at 401 S. Jackson Street, Tullahoma, Tennessee. The exhibit will be held during the month of September 1997. Museum hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. Evenings and weekends by appointment. \$2.00 donation appreciated. For more information please call The Japan Center of Tennessee at (615) 898-2229 or Tullahoma Fine Arts Center at (615) 455-1234.

Belmont University will offer Graduate Record Exam (GRE) review classes starting on Sept. 12. The class will be 30 hours and held on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings and afternoons. The course costs \$300 and enrollment is limited. The course will be taught by James R. Stelling and will meet in the Massey Business Center on the Belmont University campus. To register for the GRE course or for more information about the Massey School at Belmont, call Elizabeth Nuckolls, director of recruiting and career services, at (615) 460-5628.

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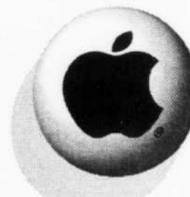
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Professor plans Amazon trip

Gregg Mayer/managing editor

While most students will be tanning themselves on the windy southern beaches of Florida this Spring Break, a philosophy professor will be leading a small party of student-adventurers through the mysterious Amazon jungle, fishing for piranha and swimming with exotic, pink dolphins.

David Zacker, assistant professor of philosophy, is planning to take at least six students (as many as 19 students) to the Amazon for an eight-day, seven-night tour during Spring Break, March 14-21; he is going through the Florida-based Amazonia Expeditions tour guide for the trip.

The trip is not sponsored by the university, and it is not associated directly with any class work, but Zacker said that students might be able to receive independent credit hours if they check with their advisors.

"I've been there, and I've enjoyed it," Zacker said, explaining he has been to the Amazon once before, and hopes to make this trip an annual event if there is enough student interest.

So far, several students

have called wanting more information (as many as five phone calls a day), but no one has laid down the required \$200 deposit. The deadline for the deposit is Nov. 1, but Zacker said the trip is first-come, first-serve. Total cost for the trip, Zacker estimated, is about \$1,800.

Among the many things students will experience on the trip, such as canoeing through tree tops during Amazon's spring high-water season, and spotting Caiman crocodiles at night, Zacker said that it is most important that students will see the delicate eco-system of the Amazon with their own eyes so they will have "first-hand knowledge" of the area and see the need for the jungle's preservation.

A class in the spring, "Images of Nature 480-1" taught by Zacker, will focus on some of the issues that the students will see first-hand on their trip. However, the course is not required to go on the trip.

As physically challenging as a tromp through the Amazon might sound, Zacker said there are no physical requirements, only that everyone should be at least 18 years old.

"They have taken people over 80 years old [into the Amazon]," Zacker said, explaining the trip can be laid-

back or strenuous depending on the student's desire.

While some students might want to go hiking one day, others will want to climb through the tree tops, and still others might want to fish for piranha.

"What one guy is doing may not be what I want to do," Zacker said.

Piranha fishing is something Zacker has done before on his previous trip to the Amazon. To catch piranha, he would take a large chunk of meat and stick it on a hook that dangles over the edge of the boat. The piranha would come and tear at the meat as he would pull it in.

Later, he cooked and ate the piranha, but said he couldn't really describe what it tasted like, only explaining, "It wasn't like chocolate."

There are no medical requirements for the trip, such as having shots or taking pills for malaria.

"The shots are not even recommended," Zacker said, adding he did not take anything for his previous trip.

Students who are interested in further information should call David Zacker at 898-2050.

"It will be an unusual adventure," Zacker said.

Do you like to take pictures? If you do, Sidelines needs you. Call the Photo Desk at 898-2336 or the Editor's Desk at 898-2337 for more information.



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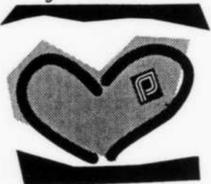
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Viewpoint

Be discrete with graffiti

Earlier this week someone took it upon themselves to chalk obscenities attacking the Lambda organization on the sidewalk at Peck Hall. As everyone knows chalking up the sidewalks with graffiti takes place all over campus.

Greek organizations, the Lambda organization, the religious organizations and many others have participated in this activity from time to time.

While the entire campus is entitled to take part in what has become known as "free speech," discretion should be used when writing graffiti on the sidewalks.

University policy has no rule governing this type of derogatory harassment, but we as students and people have an obligation to respect others whether we agree with their lifestyle or not.

As a diverse upwardly mobile campus, we need to put our prejudices aside. We are not here to judge our fellow students, but to take part in and contribute to the learning process as much as possible.

If someone's sexual preference offends you, just remember that as a student they have just as much right to be here as you do.

Evidently, the person writing the obscenities does not feel this way, but if you feel the need to attack someone why not do it in the open where everyone can see you. Since this graffiti was done sometime in the early hours of the morning the contributors were obviously ashamed of their artwork.

A mature person would show themselves to the public and would not have written the obscenities in the first place.



Sidelines

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Letters Policy

Sidelines encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Authors who want more than 300 words to express themselves should contact the editor. Sidelines keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, classification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) Sidelines reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel.

Liberal Arts education is a road map for life

Dr. Mary Magada-Ward
Professor of Philosophy



It's a pleasure to be the first contributor to this new Sidelines column, a feature I hope will contribute to and strengthen our university culture. I would like to thank the paper's staff and Jenny Crouch for providing me with this opportunity to express my perspective on the academic health of MTSU.

We have embarked upon a brand new semester, and as such, one might expect this essay to be warmed by platitudes about the exciting challenges and great expectations we are facing. Instead, after a little thought, I've decided to take this opportunity to be contrary and to devote this column to the praise of qualities most would assume are negative — discontent, perplexity, and indecision.

Unservice to the importance of critical reflection, historical awareness, and appreciation of ideas and perspectives often radically foreign to our own experience. What we don't do well, it seems to me, is to convey a compelling sense of their necessity and the sheer difficulty of acquiring these abilities. In short, we, as professors, administrators and student leaders, need to explain just why the value of a college education is more than a commodity whose chief value is to be instrumental to lucrative employment, and why the university should be understood as being more than an upscale vocational school.

To do so requires that we overcome our embarrassment in invoking the traditional justification for higher education. This is how it contributes to personal transformation, to acquiring the tools necessary to make a meaningful and worthwhile life.

I admit that to talk of personal transformation in these anxious times seems not only quaint but archaic. It is also a fact that personal growth is often painful. It is a daunting and ultimately exhilarating project, one that cannot be merely a pleasant diversion from the real business of making money. It is also, of course, inescapable.

That this is so reminds me of the best question a student ever asked me in an introductory philosophy class. We were discussing the allegory of the cave in Plato's Republic. The point of this allegory is to emphasize the transformative and liberatory potential of education. Plato realizes, however, that such

transformation and liberation come at the cost of often crippling self-doubt and public ridicule. This being the case, my student was prompted to ask if that didn't make the real lesson of the Republic to be that ignorance was, in fact, bliss. My answer was that even if so, blissful ignorance can be maintained - if one is very lucky - only until kindergarten. Think of the two most important moral rules of early childhood: Don't lie and Don't be cruel. Even very young children realize that these often conflict, that honest evaluation has the power to hurt, and that there are exceptions to every rule. They also realize, even if they lack the verbal sophistication to articulate this, that knowing what to do and how to live requires deliberation and experience.

We do our students a serious disservice if we treat them, condescendingly, as being ignorant of this, of forgetting something they knew by the age of five. Rather than providing definitive answers, we need to nurture this basic understanding that life demands navigation between often incompatible goods, and is a journey fraught with perplexity, discontent, and indecision. The goal of a liberal arts education is to provide the compass and rudimentary maps of this endeavor.

I am also reminded of a remark made by my friend and colleague, Ron Bombardi, in a discussion we were having about how uncomfortable it is to think seriously about issues of class, race, gender, and sexuality. It is uncomfortable because prolonged thought about these issues results in the realization that much of who one is is due to forces that may ultimately be arbitrary and accidental. Do I value certain traits such as nurturance because it is genuinely good to possess? Or, do I value it because I get reinforcement for conforming to social expectations?

Ron suggested that the best way to think about the project of self knowledge is to see ourselves as Neurath people, as creatures who construct ourselves plank by plank in the face of our uncertainty about how to be and what to do. It is imperative that we acknowledge the difficulty of this task and respect and value the struggles of our students in their redefinition of themselves. To do so, it is incumbent upon us to reaffirm the significance of the liberal arts as our traditional vehicle in this quest.

We need to stop assuming that our students already know what they want to be when they enter MTSU.

I have two modest suggestions to

help us accomplish this goal. First, I think that we need to stop assuming that our students already know what they want to be when they enter MTSU. My friend and colleague Mike Principle is right to insist that there is too much pressure put upon incoming freshman to declare immediately a major field of study. The first year or two of college should be a time of exploration, of becoming acquainted with who one is and where one wants to go. Rather than expecting students to come into the institution with well-defined career plans, let's acknowledge the value of sustained reflection and indecision that the first two years of college ideally provides. The encouragement of intellectual development and self-understanding should be one of our principal aims at MTSU.

Secondly, I think we need to stop presenting personal ennoblement and career preparation as incompatible goals. That we do so accounts, I think, for our embarrassment in talking about the former. We fear we sound elitist and unrealistic, that we are unaware that our graduates are typically of modest means and that they must seek gainful employment. But these goals are not incompatible. The very tools needed for self knowledge and personal transformation are the same skills that most contribute to professional success. The abilities to think reflectively, to understand the importance of context, to empathize with contrary views, to anticipate and glean human motivations, and to clearly articulate and understand one's own desires are the most valuable attributes one can possess in any setting, be it corporate, academic, or personal.

MTSU can be proud of the employment record of our graduates. At the same time, we, as an educational institution, need to emphasize what our students bring to the life of the community as a whole. To do so requires us to think beyond packaging the value of an MTSU education as simply effective vocational training. The best citizens are critical, reflective and compassionate adults who enhance not only their professions, but every facet of social democratic life. Discontent, perplexity and indecision are signs of being serious people in serious times.

No one should be object of inappropriate marketing

Trevor Tenpenny
editor



It was brought to my attention that a band advertisement containing explicit photographs of women in several degrading positions was placed on campus recently.

After viewing the band flyer advertising the band Very George or, "VG", and two other local bands, Action Figure and Glossary, I was appalled.

While exploitation, especially of women, has become the norm in our society it is amazing that we continue to tolerate it.

I realize that these pictures may not offend many, but on a campus with a female population outnumbering the male population in such vast amounts it is amazing that someone would attempt to advertise

in this manner.

Advertising in any form not pertaining to school functions is not allowed on campus except in designated areas. There are bulletin boards in Keathley University Center and James Union Building designated for this purpose.

Although advertising is allowed, offensive and degrading material such as the flyer VG drummer Darin Ledford accepted responsibility for posting, need not be placed on campus in any location.

Ledford stated that he felt nothing was wrong with the flyer until "everyone started crying about it." He also said that people offended by the advertisement "obviously had boring lives."

Another Very George band member Rick Perry said he was "absolutely furious" that the flyer was placed on campus and that he knew nothing about the band posting the flyer until he was contacted about it.

Offended or not people need to quit contributing to such types of

exploitation. Several groups on campus have expressed their concern that these issues be brought to light.

"I am certainly not opposed to erotica, but I find this type of blatant exploitation offensive to lesbians, heterosexual women and men. It is unfortunate that with the increased acceptance of sexual diversity, also comes commercial exploitation, exclaimed Jackie Eller, director of Women's Studies.

Upon visiting the "Boro" bar and grill on Greenland Drive, the location of the band performances advertised in the flyer, I was startled to see that although advertisements such as the one on campus were displayed, none of them contained the same pictures as the one posted at MTSU.

Why does the band feel they can display this advertisement on campus, when it cannot even be displayed in the location of their performance? Also, who are they trying to reach with this advertisement?

Dean of Student Life Thomas

Burke said he feels that the flyer depicted images that held no relation to the event they were advertising and that this was an "inappropriate marketing technique."

Not only is this an inappropriate marketing technique, it is an inappropriate advertisement and the campus is an inappropriate place to display such offensive material.

In our society women are constantly placed in positions where they become the object of desire and ridicule. While accepted in many places, our campus does not need to become a participant in such feeble minded activity. We need to remember that here everyone is equal and no one should become the object of such offensive advertising.

Allie Sultan, president of the Lambda Association, related that "this poster is yet another example of how women, and lesbians in particular, are constantly being degraded in a heterosexist and patriarchal society. The images in the VG poster add to the fallacy that

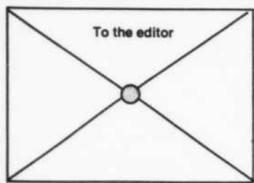
lesbians, and all women, exist purely for man's pleasure."

She also "urges other campus leaders to condemn this degrading portrayal of women on the MTSU campus, and calls on the band VG to make a public apology for their indecent behavior."

Maybe a public apology from the band is not such a bad idea. I am not sure if it could correct the damage that has already been done, but it might be a start. In the future bands or anyone else placing advertisements on campus need to take into consideration the campus population as a whole.

We cater to a large very diverse student population and the majority of them are female. Material that places them or anyone in compromising, offensive or degrading positions has no place on this or any other college campus, and advertisements of this nature need not be tolerated anywhere.





From the Mailbox

Christians have basic rights too

To Mr. Gillis,

Your column, though quite engaging, was quite erroneous in the August 25th edition of Sidelines. The church had for a long time was probably doing the students a favor, at the very least. As the very worst, they were getting more fed up about the kids that couldn't get up early enough to get a "good parking place." These people are just like any others, in that they would like to keep trespassers off their lot. I suppose you are aware of the expense of maintaining a parking lot? That is reason enough to limit the amount of traffic on the lot.

Another thought for you about Christians: "Just because you are a Christian does not make you a wimp!" — Nolan Ryan

I genuinely [sic] get tired of people throwing in our faces the "You're supposed to be LOVING to me, so be a doormat." That's baloney!! Christians have the same basic rights as any other Americans (NOT Homosexual-American, African-American, Female-American, etc.), and should be allowed to protect them as well. Thank you for reading my rant!

-Marcus Bunny Flatt

Students should respect church

To Mr. Gillis:

We are writing in response to your resent [sic] editorial titled "Church should not ban . . ." And more specifically to your comment "God even seems to have changed his mind about certain topics such as homosexuality . . . now it seems that those with an alternative sexual preference may actually get into heaven." God hasn't changed his mind. People have compromised their beliefs to fit a changing world. The Bible plainly states in Rom. 1:26-32 that homosexuality is a sin, but it's not more or less a sin than any other. Sin is what will keep people from heaven and God, not the judgement of men. But what does this have to do with parking? Don't use life's petty headlines as an avenue of broadcasting your biblical ignorance. If students had been respectful of the church's property they would still be allowed to park there, and that is the issue.

Sincerely,
Kristin Cather and Laura Hughes

Mayer is jealous of Honors program

To the editor:

This letter is in response to Mr. Greg Mayer's editorial of

25 August, 1997 blasting the Honors Program. As an honors student, I exception to accusations made by a person who readily admits to not having taken a single honors course. How can write honestly about a subject that he has not first hand experience with? I have completed twenty-one hours of honors courses, and have four more I am completing this semester.

Mr. Mayer says that "[the Honors Program] means very little to me" and yet he cared enough to write a quarter-page diatribe on the subject. He chose to recklessly use provocative words, such as "segregation," "inequality," and "elite corps," to try to make distinctions that the Honors Program does not. Segregation, in race or gender, is abhorred because it keeps people from achieving/fulfilling their potential, being "kept at heel."

The Honors Program, rather than keep people down and separate them, provides students with opportunities to excel. This is true of students who are Black, White, Hispanic, foreign, disabled, gay, straight, liberal, conservative, old, young, wealthy, poor, or any other classification you want to come up with. Just because honors courses are not everyone's cup of tea should not mean that those who do desire them should not have the chance to take advantage of them. Some people could look at college students as elitists compared to those who choose to go directly to work after high school or choose vocational training.

Some people go to college to party. Some go because their parents expect them to or they have nothing better to do. Personally, I am returning to M.T.S.U. after twenty years to finish getting my undergraduate degree. I am married, with two children, and consider myself a serious student who is here to get the highest quality education I can receive. There is a definite trend in America today to "dumb down" education.

Many schools have done away with the traditional A through F grading system because we would not want to make someone feel inferior by

rewarding effort and determination. "Let's treat everyone exactly the same," they say, and browbeat those who strive for excellence instead of mediocrity and the status quo. Are physicians, architects, lawyers, and those in the sciences elitists because their chosen fields require a heightened degree of learning?

It does not take an Einstein to be in the Honors Program. All it requires is a B (3.0) average. Also one can take any number of honors courses without graduating with honors. The same teachers who teach honors courses teach standard ones, contrary to what Mr. Mayer thinks. If someone is dissatisfied with his overcrowded classes he can do something about it.

Concerning the Honors Dorm, as long as I can remember this university has had special housing for athletes and disabled students. Are these groups considered elite? If Mr. Mayer is disturbed with the "animal house" behavior exhibited in other dorms, he can (along with others) formally complain to the appropriate campus authorities and changes will be made.

I would like to point out that it is Mr. Mayer who refers to those not in the Honors Program as "the unhonorable," "second best," "slighted," and "cheated." The Honors Program says the more the merrier! I personally do not know what pushed Mr. Mayer's buttons but I dare to say that he does not know what he is talking about. He seems to have either an inferiority complex or a bad case of jealousy.

Sincerely,
Brad Higdon

Mayer segregates, not Honors college

To the editor:

I am writing this in response to Gregg Mayer's "Honors College Segregates an Already Segregated University" editorial in the Monday, August 25, issue of Sidelines. I would have to agree with your polemics Mr. Mayer. You claim that participation in the Honors

Program is of little importance to you, yet you also state that "students not enrolled in it [have] a sense of being slighted, cheated." Which is the case? It seems to me that these two positions cannot be contemporaneously maintained. You also claim that the Honors Program and the Honors Living and Learning Center segregate students. You go on to state that, "I'm acquainted with many honors students, . . . would even call two or three my friends, maybe." The implication is that you wouldn't want your sister to marry one. Who is segregating whom, Mr. Mayer? If you referred to any minority that way, you would certainly be accused of discrimination. You claim that Honors students are no more willing to take up challenges than anyone else. That may be true. However, in order to graduate with University Honors, a student must complete twelve lower-division hours of Honors course-work, nine upper-division hours, and complete a three-hour Senior thesis project. I consider this to be challenging. I myself am attempting to perform this feat while raising a three-year-old daughter. I find your editorial to be offensive and misinformed. I suggest that you enroll in an Honors class, discover for yourself if they are more or less challenging than other courses, and then you will have some basis upon which you can form your judgements.

Sincerely,
Rebekah Brown

P.S. I find it a little bit ironic that you felt the need to call me, Gregg, to find out how to punctuate "Honors Program."

Dear Rebekah:

Do you agree with my polemics, or with the polemics of the opposition? "Which is the case?" An Honors's student should make that clearer from the start, shouldn't she?
-GM

Gillis needs an injection of prozac

To the editor:

This message is in response to one Chad Gillis. No Way Chad. You state in the Aug. 25 edition of Sidelines that the Baptist Church is not doing a Christian thing by closing their parking lot off to students. Well Chad, if you read in your own paper there had been reports of late night disturbances, littering, and misuse by those who don't even have a parking permit. Christians are supposed to be understanding, but not walked on at the same time. The parking area is private property and if the church decides to close it off, its there [sic] choice — bottom line. I know the parking situation is bad, doesn't take a genius to notice that. But why should a few students get free parking when the rest of us have to pay \$35 a piece anyways. In actuality, those of us who pay and can't even find a space on campus should be complaining. Your beef is not with the church, take it up with the parking authority for cutting our spaces.

Also Chad, I don't know which church you've been to, but I haven't seen one that openly accepts gays and lesbians. Even to go as far as to say that "heaven's gates await [sic] them". I don't know who your [sic] trying to fool, but Christian's know that law hasn't changed in the past 10 years or even in the past 2000 years. So come on, don't start losing your credibility with the first paper of the semester. Also, look into getting a new picture to go along with your column, some of my roomates think it looks like you need a prozac injection. And that's the bottom line.....

Robert "Fesluv" Ashburn
Business Administration



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207 SANBYRN DR. MURFREESBORO 444-7724	CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORES	846D BROAD ST. JACKSON HEIGHTS PLAZA MURFREESBORO
1429 WEST MAIN ST. (NEXT TO K-MART) LEBANON	BUY 1 GET 1 FREE ITEMS EQUAL OR LESS VALUE FREE BUY 3 GET 1 FREE ITEMS EQUAL OR LESS VALUE FREE SORRY NO RAJNCHECKS NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER OFFER	

Astronomy Professor Jay White searches at home and abroad for the keys to unlocking the universe ... and mankind's connection to it

STAR MAN

□ Adam Smith/design editor

"Perpetually fluid and ephemeral, these presents, scribbles and notions are joyfully submitted for your entertainment and education."

That's the greeting one receives when visiting "Jay's Spot," the home page of MTSU astronomy professor Jay White, and it is an appropriate introduction to such a dynamic personality.

Whether he's trekking to South America on an observing run, lecturing to a class about the cosmos, or listening to the wail of a tenor sax in his office, White enjoys his work to the fullest.

Born and raised in Lincoln County, Tenn., White discovered his love of astronomy at an early age, taking his telescope out to the fields near his home to look at the night sky.

"I knew when I was 8 years old that this was what I wanted to do," White said.

But a career in astronomy didn't come right away. After receiving BS in physics from Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama, White spent six months working with a

machine intelligence group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He then went to Colorado to obtain his master's degree, but found the pull of adventure too great, and took a year off to go climbing, backpacking and cross country skiing in the Rocky Mountains.

Following his brief leave from school, White spent two years working as a physicist for Hughes Aircraft Company.

He then returned to school, earning his Ph.D. in Astronomy from Indiana University in Bloomington in 1993.

It was also in 1993 that White came to MTSU, accepting a teaching position in the Department of Physics. This position provides him with a base from which he can conduct his astronomical research, a valuable commodity in a field that is so difficult to break into.

"There are less than 10,000 astronomers in the world," White says. "And the United States has the lion's share of them."

One reason for the low number of astronomers is the

misconception that physics and astronomy are separate sciences, White says.

"I get about one student a month who comes up to me and says, 'I want to go into astronomy.' And I tell them, 'OK, you have to go take these physics classes.' And they say, 'No, I don't want physics, I just want to study astronomy.' But that's what astronomy is, it's astrophysics."

Outside the classroom, White continues to work tirelessly as an astronomer, researching through observational investigations and theoretical studies questions such as, "Where does the iron found in the Cosmos and in our own bodies come from?"

One of his primary focuses is the study of "active" systems, particularly those that are experiencing novae or supernovae.

"I like things that explode," he says.

Another subject that has become a focus of his study is the nature of the scientific community itself, a focus which has given White an interesting perspective on the "language" of science. Those within the realm of the scientific community are allowed to be a part of the language, he says. For them it becomes a language of inclusion. On the other hand,

for those outside that realm, it is a language of exclusion. For this reason, he extols scientists like Carl Sagan, who are able to communicate outside the scientific community, and he tries to apply that principle to his own work.

"We have this idea that what we do is separate and distinct from the greater community... but we're embedded in it. The greater community funds and drives our research. If people weren't interested in the nighttime sky, we wouldn't have the Hubble Space Telescope."

Writing has a large role in White's work. He has written and cowritten a number of articles for scientific journals, and contributes to "Guest Observer," a regular column in "Mercury," the magazine of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. This column has grown into another project, a book focusing on the nature of science.

He also writes a monthly column for the "Daily News Journal," titled "Tennessee Skies," which has received a favorable reaction from the Murfreesboro community.

His career also gives him the opportunity to travel. In the summer of 1996, White visited Australia, New Zealand and Fiji on an observation run to the southern hemisphere.

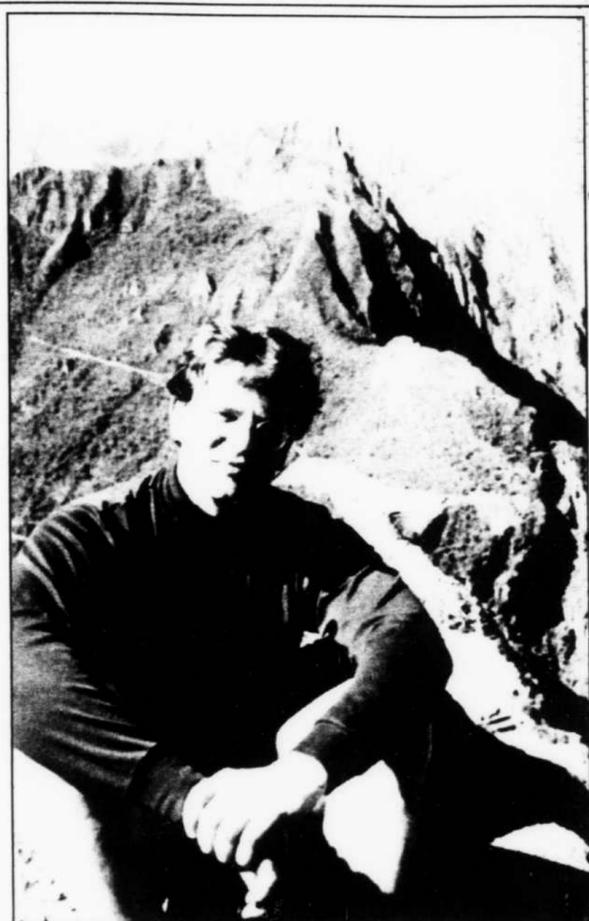


photo provided

Jay White in Machu Picchu in Peru, the site of an ancient Inca civilization. White visited South America on an observing run in Chile, then came to visit this and other ruins of the Inca and pre-Inca civilizations.

Last summer, he again ventured south, to spend a week making observations in Chile, where viewing conditions were ideal for the southern hemisphere, White said. Although the effects of El Nino made observing the system he was trying to study difficult, he was able to gather a good deal of data on two other systems. And he had the opportunity to explore another of his interests: archaeoastronomy.

"I thought, 'If I'm paying this much for airfare, I might as well pay more and see South America,' because I like adventure."

White's jaunt through South America continued into Bolivia, Peru and Patagonia. He visited Machu Picchu, the site of an ancient Inca observatory in Peru, and explored several other Inca and pre-Inca ruins. Another leg of his journey brought him to the Yucatan Peninsula, to visit the civilizations of the Maya — "the most time-sensitive people I've ever seen. They're as time-sensitive as we are."

His trip also allowed him the opportunity to explore the structure of science in developing nations.

"We take so much for granted in industrialized nations, as far as the scientific infrastructure," he says.

Astronomy isn't White's only love. His office is a mishmash of objects

representing science, art and fun, from posters of the moon to a miniature plastic skeleton sporting scientific goggles.

Near the end of his college career, he developed a love for jazz, which prompted him to buy a tenor saxophone and take lessons. But having very little time to devote to the instrument, spends more time listening.

He also enjoys drawing, and had the opportunity to do a lot of sketching during his South American tour.

"I like doing sketches, because it means you really have to pay attention to a scene," White says. He's also learning to use watercolors, and wants to try his hand at sculpture. White even gets the opportunity to hone his artistic abilities in class.

"I like to hand-draw all the transparencies in my class. I'll work for an hour on those sometimes."

He often uses cartoonish drawings to illustrate scientific principles. "I tend to view the world as cartoons," he says, and illustrates this by pointing to a caricaturish self-portrait hanging on his office wall. A fitting image, as he proves that learning can be fun, and MTSU is a good place to illustrate that image.

"I think I'm in a position now to just have as much intellectual fun as I can imagine... MTSU is such a dynamic place now. Just since the time I've been here, the changes are amazing."



photo provided

Machu Picchu at sunrise. White visited this site to explore the Incans' astronomical observation technology and practices.

Car targeted towards "Xers"

□ Matt dePaula/staff

The car seemed to greet me with a smile as I approached it with interest—the slats of its front air dam forming two perfectly straight rows of teeth, grinning between the two fog lights that could pass as dimples.

As I looked over the rest of the 2-door coupe and took in its stunning "Toreador Red" sheetmetal, I couldn't help but think to myself: "This is a Ford Escort?!"

The flashy styling, chrome-tipped exhaust pipe, and 15-inch aluminum alloy wheels of this car simply weren't what I expected from what has always been, to me, the king of cheap "econocars."

The all-new 1998 Ford Escort ZX2 that stood before me completely contradicted the frugal, mundane, and unexciting tradition of its predecessors. It is an inspiring sight to behold and looks much more

expensive than its \$13,145 base price. None of the exterior body panels are shared with its four-door sibling, but its 2.0-liter 16-valve DOHC Zetec engine is borrowed from the Ford Contour, its larger cousin.

The ZX2 almost performs as aggressively as it looks. It accelerates briskly when the 130-hp 4-cylinder engine is revved above 4000 rpm. This is because peak horsepower occurs at 5750 rpm with maximum torque coming in at 4250.

Fortunately the engine likes to be revved a lot and remains quite tractable and smooth all the way up to its 7000 rpm redline.

The racy 16-valve Zetec makes for a fun ride around town and, with its sport-tuned suspension, it's a blast to toss through twisty backroads.

The ZX2 does exhibit some noticeable body-roll when cornering, which tends to undermine its

handling prowess and sports-coupe image. However, this softer suspension is what enables the small car to handle so well over road irregularities. Bumps and pot holes are easily shrugged off, and the busy, jittery ride usually associated with cars in this class is totally nonexistent.

The extensively assisted power steering is another aspect of the ZX2 that keeps it from being a true performer. The steering is too light to execute at-the-limit maneuvers with confidence. It makes the car seem volatile through fast turns and allows it to easily wander off line.

Brakes, on the other hand, are braking-inspiring. The pedal is firm and braking input is easy to modulate.

The ZX2's five-speed manual

Please see Escort, page 7

In my humble opinion: a movie review of Hoodlum

Rebecca Reed/staff

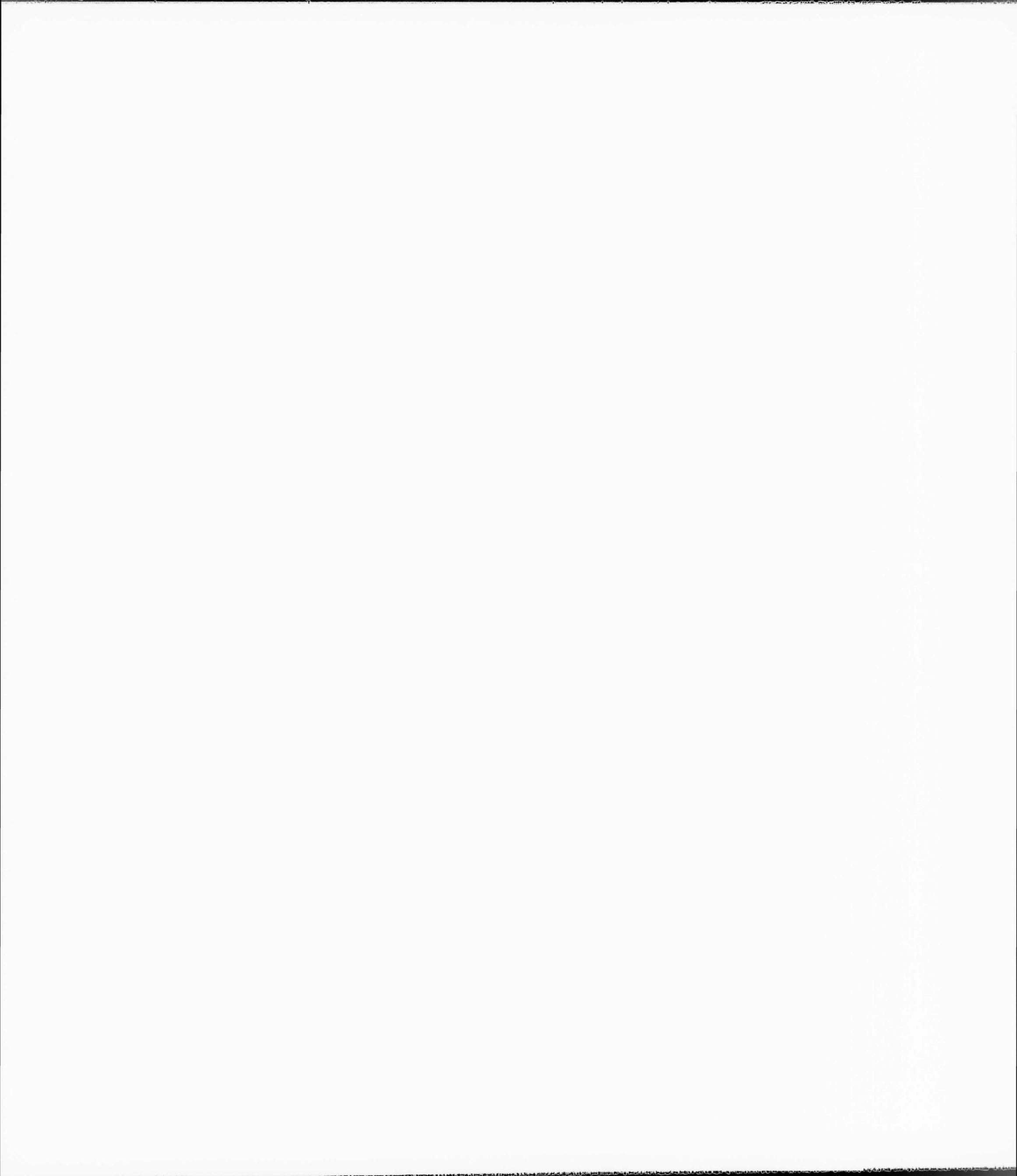
The movie Hoodlum starring Laurence Fishburne, Andy Garcia and Tim Roth is not worth the \$4.50 I spent to see it. The plot lacks luster and the characters are extremely weak. The movie is two-and-a-half hours of sheer boredom. I never thought I would say that about a mob movie.

The movie takes place in 1930's Harlem during the Great Depression. In order to make a living, "Bumpy" Johnson (Fishburne) runs an illegal lottery: numbers. "Bumpy" runs into trouble with the man called the "Dutchman" (Roth). The "Dutchman" is associated with "Lucky" Luciano (Garcia), who is the downtown connection of the numbers game. The "Dutchman" determines to take over "Bumpy's" operation as well as

"Lucky's." The "Dutchman" is an ill-mannered slob whose days are numbered. "Lucky" and "Bumpy" strike up a deal and that is that. The good guys win and all returns to normal in the Harlem hood.

Hoodlum could have been a much stronger movie. The movie jumped around and never really gave an explanation as to what was going on. The characters were never defined and the performance quality was stale. This movie tries to earn its stars with bloody scenes, class and Mafia-owned nightclubs. It's good versus evil in a bloody battle over money and power, but you never know who is good or who is evil.

My advice is to wait until Hoodlum comes out on video and split the cost with a friend. I give this movie one star, and that is for the performance of "Lucky's" miniature Doberman pinscher.



SPORTS & RECREATION

The Raider 2 Min. Drill

FWLER NAMES NEW ATHLETIC TRAINER

MTSU Athletic Director Lee Fowler announced last week the hiring of Arnold Gamber as the new head athletic trainer for the Blue Raiders.

Gamber comes to MTSU after serving as an assistant trainer with the Atlanta Falcons of the National Football League since 1994.

Fowler brought Gamber in to replace George Camp, who now heads the Blue Raiders health insurance administration. Camp, who was MTSU's first full-time trainer, had held the position since 1969.

In statement released by the athletic department, Fowler said, "We are confident we have one of the best around with the hiring of Arnold. His wide range of experience and expertise makes him fully qualified to handle our training program."

The 31-year-old Gamber is a graduate of Valdosta State University, where he worked as a student undergraduate trainer. He then was an undergraduate assistant at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga from 1986-87 before working with Falcons on a part-time basis before moving into a full-time role with the team.

FOOTBALL TICKETS ON SALE FOR TSU GAME

Tickets for the opening game of the Blue Raiders football season are now on sale on campus at both the Athletic Ticket Center at the Murphy Center or at the Keathley University Center Box Office.

The Blue Raiders open their season Saturday in Nashville against rival TSU. Game time is set for 6 p.m. at Hale Stadium.

Tickets are regularly priced at \$12.00, however, anyone presenting a valid student ID may purchase the ticket for \$6.00.

FOOTBALL RALLY

The MTSU Alumni Association is sponsoring a pre-game football rally Saturday in Nashville at the Big River Grille, 111 Broadway, at 4 p.m. Kickoff time for the MTSU-TSU game at Hale Stadium is 6 p.m. The rally is open to the public.

VOLLEYBALL SPLITS SEASON OPENER

The MTSU volleyball team split its first four regular season matches over the weekend at the Tennessee Preview Tournament in Chattanooga.

In the opening match Saturday, the Lady Raiders defeated UT-Chattanooga 3 sets to 1 - 15-9, 15-12, 15-17 and 15-13 - falling to Tennessee in the nightcap. The Volunteers handed MTSU a three set loss, winning 15-7, 15-9 and 15-11.

"Basically we struggled with mental breakdowns," Head Coach Lisa Kisse said.

The Lady Raiders started off Sunday's matches with 3-1 set loss to Tennessee Tech before a straight set victory over East Tennessee to end the invite.

"I was disappointed in our offensive production for the tournament," Kisse said. "If I made a change to boost the offense, the defense was hurt and vice versa."

Next on the schedule for the Lady Raiders is the Larry Conrath Invitational in Athens, Ohio beginning Sept. 12.

VOLLEYTIME CLINIC

Beginning Monday, Sept. 15 the Lady Raider volleyball team host VolleyTime.

The clinics, which will be at 6 p.m. every Monday through October 20, will be an hour and a half of skills and games instructed by the MTSU volleyball team and coaching staff.

The clinic is broken down into three divisions - Raider Tots 5 to 7-year-olds, Raider Rascals 8 to 11-year-olds and Raider Kids 12 to 14-year-olds. The \$35 entry fee also includes a free t-shirt.

For information contact the MTSU volleyball office 898-2230 or 898-8346.

Rec Center offers excitement

□ Matthew Pabreza / staff

Since its opening in the fall of 1995, the Campus Recreation Center has been a popular addition to MTSU.

On any given day of the week the Rec Center is "the place to be" for many students. The new facility offers plenty of outlets for the casual or diehard athlete.

An indoor track, basketball and raquetball courts, an olympic-size swimming pool, and a rock climbing wall are just a few of the Rec Center's features.

Perhaps the most popular attraction is the state-of-the-art weight room. Justin Tryon, a Recording Industry Management major from Murfreesboro, states that he lifts weights at least three times a week.

"As a student, it's cheap," explained Tryon. "All I have to do is swipe my card. It beats going to Golds Gym which costs nearly sixty dollars a month to be a member."

Jennifer Tippens, a junior from Boca Raton, Fla., uses the stairmaster about three times a week. She likes going to the Rec Center because the equipment is new and it costs nothing to get a decent workout.

"The equipment here is better than some of the professional gyms down in Florida," said Tippens.

The Rec Center is usually busier at the beginning of each semester. According to facility manager Charlie Gregory and it has been busier this year than in years past.

While the crowd usually tapers off by midterms, the Rec Center does have its share of regulars.

"We have everyday people committed to their workouts," Gregory said.

Cherri Tanner from Milton, Penn., tries to workout at least four times a week and likes the Rec Center because of its accessibility.



photo by Celeste Castille/staff

Eric Patton assists Jr. Ty Anderson, an agricultural science major, in the weight training room at the Recreation Center on Tuesday afternoon.

Not only does the facility provide students a place to go for good exercise, the Rec Center also sponsors sporting events, activities, and trips. With the influx of new students this year, the Department of Campus Recreation staff has been busy planning a variety of things for the fall and spring semesters.

Intramural flag football, soccer, and softball tournaments are just a few events they will be sponsoring in the upcoming weeks. They will also be

hosting a 5K run on September 28 and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament beginning in November.

Campus Recreation is also offering MTSU students a chance to get away into the wilderness. Trips to the Everglades, the Rio Grande River, and Steamboat Springs, Colo., are slated for this fall and spring.

If you are more of a spectator than an actual adventurer, Campus Recreation is offering students a chance to attend professional sporting

events. They are sponsoring trips to Atlanta on September 12 to watch the Braves and Rockies and September 28 to watch the Cardinals play the Broncos.

The Rec Center is a great place for students to get involved in campus life. Whether you're looking for a good workout or interested in the upcoming events, MTSU encourages students to take advantage of the new facility. For more information on Campus Recreation contact the Rec Center at 898-2104. □

Raiders to open against Tigers

The Schedule		The Opponent	
Sept. 6* at Tennessee St.	6:00	Tennessee State University Tigers	
Sept. 13 at UT-Chatt.	6:00	Sept. 6 at TSU, 6 p.m.	
Sept. 27* Murray State	7:00	Coaching Staff	Scorecard
Oct. 4 Jacksonville St.	2:00	Head Coach: L.C. Cole (Nebraska '79) Record: Overall 4-7-0; at TSU 4-7-0 Assistants: Jake Cabell (Def. Coord.), Johnnie Cole (Off. Coord.), Russ Ehrenfeld (OL), Willie Jones (DL), James Reese (RB), Tony Shoulders (WR)	
Oct. 11* at UT-Martin	1:30	Team Information	The Teams: MTSU 9, TSU 8 At MTSU: MT leads 1-0 At TSU: Tied 1-1 Last MTSU Win: 11-7 in '95 Last TSU Win: 24-14 in '96
Oct. 18* at Eastern Ill.	1:30	Basic Defense: Multiple Pro-Set Basic Defense: 4-3 Lettermen Returning: 44 (22 Offense, 22 Defense, 0 Specialists) Lettermen Lost: 22 (9 Offense, 10 Defense, 3 Specialists) Starters Returning: 14 (7 Offense, 7 Defense, 0 Specialists) Starters Lost: 9 (4 Offense, 4 Defense, 1 Specialist)	
Oct. 25* Southeast Mo.	2:00	Home Games in Bold	The Coaches: Donnelly vs. TSU: 8-3 Cole vs. MTSU: 1-0 Donnelly vs. Cole 0-1
Nov. 8* Austin Peay	2:00	*OVC Home Games All game times subject to change.	
Nov. 15* at Eastern Ky.	12:30		
Nov. 22* at Tenn. Tech	1:30		

Adam Smith/staff

Golf team young, but experienced

□ Keith Ryan Cartwright / staff

On paper, the young MTSU golf team have the appearance of being inexperienced.

However, nothing could be further from the truth.

Despite the fact they only spent one upper class year, the Blue Raiders do have a core of sophomores who all lettered last year as true freshmen.

"This is a very mature group for their age," Head Coach Johnny Moore said. "We have quite a bit of experience for being that young."

Leading the way are Brett Alexander, Richard Spangler and Whit Turnbow. Alexander is expected to play in the No. 1 spot in the lineup.

Moore is looking for Alexander to pick up the slack created by the graduation of Maine Brock, the team's No. 1 player a year ago.

"Brett led the country in eagles last year, he had nine of them. He's a big strong boy," said Moore of the Richland, Missouri native. "He's very positive, very optimistic."

"Of our returning players he clearly stands out."

The fact that three of the sophomores all spent time competing last year gives Moore a sense of stability despite their youth heading into the fall portion of their schedule.

"We have four players who are capable of stepping up and leading this team, and somebody is going to have to do that," Moore said. "We won a tournament last year with these freshmen, so they can play when they get on a roll."

In fact, the Blue Raiders defeated Columbus College at a tournament hosted by Georgia State, just three weeks before they won the NCAA Division 2 National Championship.

As for this season, the Blue Raiders first chance to show just how mature they've become after a summer of working out on their own will be Sept. 22 and 23. That's when

Davenport reaches first Grand Slam semifinal

□ Associated Press Service

NEW YORK (AP) — Serve tosses flew crazily in the breeze, groundstrokes flew crazily, napkins scudded across the court, and through it all Lindsay Davenport and Jana Novotna tried to tame their games in the whipping wind.

It was ugly and maddening tennis, yet grand theater at the U.S. Open. And the crowd roared and groaned with every shot.

Davenport blew a huge lead, Novotna let a match point slip away, then Davenport came on to drive one last forehand pass through that wind Wednesday to claim a 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5) victory and her first semifinal berth in a Grand Slam tournament.

"Just luck," Davenport said, summing up the way she finally beat

her doubles partner.

Maybe, but perhaps the 21-year-old Davenport deserved a little luck in her 22nd major. She won the Olympic gold medal a year ago, won 11 tour events, beat all the top players, yet the furthest she had ever gone in a Grand Slam was the quarterfinals four times.

Not this time. She can thank the wind that tormented her so much, or she can thank Novotna, whose propensity for letting matches slip away at the end remains a valuable advantage for her opponents. It's one thing to come from behind, as Novotna did so splendidly from 4-1 down in the third set and in her third-round match against Mirjana Lucic, and quite another to close it out.

Novotna served for the match at 5-4, fended off four break points, then

reached match point after the fourth deuce. Novotna charged in during the ensuing rally and sliced a backhand on a sharp angle out of Davenport's reach and, unfortunately for the Czech, out of bounds by an inch.

"The wind was blowing from that end," Novotna said. "When I hit the approach, I could see that ball just drifted away. There was nothing I could do. But there was no doubt that it was out."

Davenport glanced at the spot where the ball hit, saw the difference between winning and losing in the space of that inch, and considered her good fortune.

"She hadn't missed one backhand approach the whole match," Davenport said. "The wind was

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Golf...
 continued from page 8

the team opens up their season at the Mizuno/Peach State Invitational.

"This is the best schedule we've had since I've been here," said Moore, who is in his ninth year as head coach.

The Clarksville, Ga., tournament will help get the team on course for a busy October when they travel to three tournaments — Gunby Jordan Intercollegiate, Kroger Intercollegiate and the USA Fall Beach Classic.

"Every one of these tournaments we're in will have about 15 teams," said Moore, who sees it as an opportunity to take his team out on the road.

"That's the nature of golf, you never play at home. Even if you do play at home you can only play there one time."

All five of the tournaments on the fall schedule are south of Murfreesboro. This allows for the team to continue competing into November when they wrap up their fall schedule Nov. 3 and 4 in Laurel, Miss. at the Deep South Intercollegiate.

"All five of these tournaments are played on great golf courses," Moore said.

Moore isn't looking to power past any of the Blue Raiders opponents but he is hoping to fare well enough to get a good ranking come spring.

"The fall can make or break you," Moore said. "I don't know about anyone else right now, but I wouldn't swap my team for anybody else in the conference."

"I think right now coming into the Ohio Valley



Returning letterman Brett Alexander prepares for the upcoming fall season. photo provided

Conference, we can be considered contenders for that championship."

Should the Blue Raiders happen to win the OVC, it wouldn't be the first time. They had won the conference title three years running until a couple of years ago when the

program was hampered by the graduation of seniors.

"That was bad planning on my part," Moore said. "Now it's my job to make sure that doesn't happen to us again."

"Looking at this team right now, I have a good feeling about our future." □

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US Open...
 continued from page 8

actually going one way and she hit the ball the other way. That was very lucky for me that the wind didn't bring that ball back in. I thought I was gone at the point. I didn't think that was going out. I was very shocked when it did go out."

That opportunity gone, Novotna never had another. Davenport notched her fifth break point of the game with a volley on the next point, then made it 5-5 when she outlasted Novotna in a rally.

Davenport held at love to make it 6-5, and had a chance to end it a few moments later when she slugged a backhand pass for her 25th break point of the match and 19th of the set. But Novotna saved that with a forehand, and went on to push the set into a tiebreaker.

And what a strange tiebreaker it was. Balls sailed

and drifted, and holding serve became an event. Davenport held only twice, Novotna just once. Davenport clubbed a serve eight feet wide into the wrong box for a double fault.

Then at 6-5, Davenport whacked her best shot, a forehand crosscourt that flew past Novotna for a winner. Luck may have given Davenport that chance, but she made the best of it.

"Someone asked me what the turning point was," Davenport said. "I said there wasn't one until the ball went by her at match point. So many ups and down with the wind. It just played havoc with the ball. It was difficult to play. I'm just really lucky I got through."

Told that she had converted only six of 25 break point opportunities, perhaps the worst of her career, Davenport looked stunned.

"That's pathetic," she said with a laugh. "Wow, I didn't

know that. I seemed to play very aggressive. Then when I would have the break point, I wouldn't hit it or come in. Maybe I'd wait for her to make the error. I'll definitely have to work on that for the next match. Wow."

Davenport, seeking to become the first American-born women's U.S. Open champion since Chris Evert in 1982, will play the winner of the Martina Hingis-Arantxa Sanchez Vicario quarterfinals.

"Right now, at this moment, I'm very happy to be alive," she said. "Tomorrow, I'll take a different approach to it, I'm sure. When you win a match like this, for the first couple of hours you have to be happy that you won it."

In a men's quarterfinal, Greg Rusedski served at up to 142 mph, a U.S. Open record, to edge 1996 Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek 7-5, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5). □

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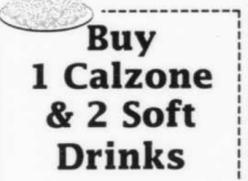
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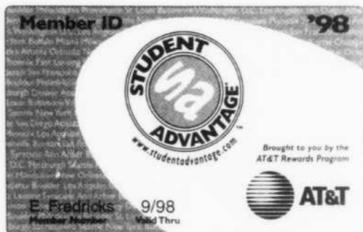
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