

THURSDAY
MARCH 7, 2002

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Middle Tennessee State University

An editorially
independent
newspaper

SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 77 No. 24

Actress talks of hard times



Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Staff

Former actress Jane Alexander spoke Monday night in the JUB about political pressures faced by the NEA.

By Courtney Hall
Contributor

Former chair for the National Endowment of the Arts, Jane Alexander, came to speak at MTSU this week about the controversies that occurred from 1993 to 1997.

Alexander spoke of art and politics and the lack of government support the NEA has been receiving over the past decade.

Alexander took over the NEA amidst controversy because of the nature of the art that the NEA thought worthy of funding.

One such work was Andres Serrano's "Piss Christ" that depicted a crucifix in urine.

"He was concerned that Christ would not be recognized today if he were walking along the streets of New York as a homeless person," Alexander said about Serrano's reasoning behind his work.

Alexander said she feels it is a violation of the First Amendment to censor

art, excluding pornography, which is not protected by the First Amendment.

"[The First Amendment] makes us the great nation we are," Alexander said.

She described her first meeting with Sen. Strom Thurmond where she began to realize the extent of what she was entering into.

"You gonna fund pornography barked the senator at me," Alexander said, using her best Thurmond voice.

"Aren't you a moral woman?" Alexander recalled Thurmond asking.

She admitted to the audience that the question took her aback, and that, yes, she considered herself to be a moral woman.

She explained to Thurmond, in reference to the roles she has played, "Moral judgment never came into it."

"First Amendment rights protect free speech," she later said to him.

Thurmond responded the First Amendment is an "excuse for people to do things they shouldn't be doing."

Alexander said it was not long after

this meeting that she learned this attitude was just as much a prevailing attitude in Congress as it was with Thurmond.

Alexander has been fighting for the survival of the NEA ever since.

The government is censoring art that they think will hurt or offend people because of the lack of decency they feel is in the art.

"What are general standards of decency, after all?" Alexander asked. "All art is in the eye of the beholder."

She concedes that "as long as we have breath in our lungs, human beings will find something to rail about."

"Artists espouse new and different ideas and are often the first to be suppressed," Alexander explained.

"How dull would life be if we didn't have any controversial work or art at all," Alexander said.

"Art seems to be a plus for all people in society."

She said it is the business of art to ask questions about our society. ♦

Campus to get wireless internet

By Amber Bryant
Staff Writer

A new wireless Internet service is available to student and faculty laptop computer users in the Keathley University Grill and lounge and parts of the library courtyard.

Information Technology plans to finish installing the service in the courtyard within a week, said Greg Schaffer, director of network services.

In order to access the service at MTSU, users must purchase a "WiFi" 802.11b compatible PC card, the modem used by wireless Internet. The card uses an antenna to transfer information like a cell phone.

To use the Internet, students must first register their card at www.mtsu.edu/~wireless. The Office of Information Technology then configures the card to MTSU's network and sends the user instructions.

Cards are available at OfficeMax and Staples for \$75 to \$150.

Schaffer said the new wireless Internet service would be very easy to use.

The first phase of installation was funded by technology access fees and cost approximately \$70,000. The necessary roof and ceiling-mounted antennas and radio transmitters have been installed on top of various buildings around campus.

Plans to expand the wireless service in the future to incorporate other areas of campus, including classrooms and the area where the modulars currently stand, are a possibility, Schaffer said.

He added that it would be

expensive to include the entire campus, therefore more common areas are more likely to be considered. Dormitories probably will not receive the wireless service because they are best serviced with wired connections.

"This service isn't replacing wire connections on campus; it's augmenting it," Schaffer said.

"Adding wireless service to the campus is a huge step forward for MTSU," said Lucinda Lea, vice president for the university's Information Technology Division and Chief Information Officer in a press release yesterday. It's just one more way we are working to provide the best possible IT services for our students, faculty and staff," she added.

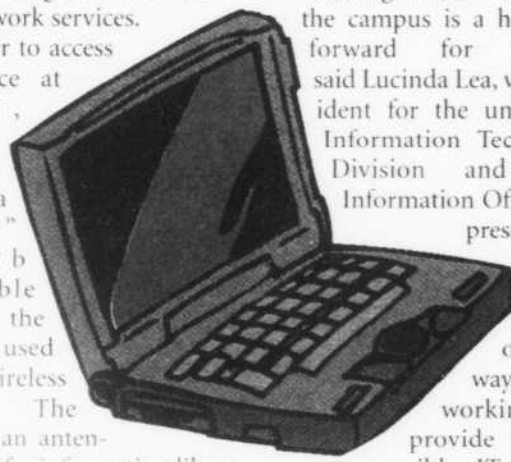
"[The service will probably] be popular with the amount of people with laptops on campus, if they can afford the hardware for it," said Stacy Story, a freshman computer science major.

"If other universities are an indication, then I think it's going to be quite popular," Schaffer said.

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville is currently using a wireless Internet program on their campus.

"The students and faculty at UT-K are really starting to take advantage of the wireless Internet service covering all of campus," said Dewitt Latimer, executive director of the Statewide IT Infrastructure in Tennessee.

"Since going live this August, we have sold more than 1,500 cards and entire degree programs, like the Masters of Business Administration, are integrating wireless into their instructional program." ♦



Students take home Best of Show at STAR

4 art majors
win with React
advertisement
campaign

Staff Reports

MTSU art students received the highest award, Best of Show, at the first-ever Nashville Student Talent Advertising Recognition competition yesterday.

The competition was sponsored by the Nashville Advertising Federation, a professional organization representing the advertising and marketing community. This year's president is Mike Murphy, sales manager at WSMV-TV 4.

Nearly 115 entries were received from seven different schools in categories ranging from illustration, photography, brochure, poster, CD cover, direct mail and Web site design.

Nick Butcher, Lane Edwards, Robert Kelly and Ben Rosson took home "Best of Show" at the



Blanz

organization that seeks to prevent domestic violence.

The group received a cash prize of \$150 from the NAF and will be honored as guests at the professional advertising organization's membership meeting later this month.

The React team also was recognized as having the Best Copy Writing entry along with another \$50 for a total of \$200 for the group.

Several other MTSU students were recognized for their work at the competition by the NAF.

Carrie Hirsch won the Best Concept entry for her brochure design titled "Bike Tire." She also took home a \$50 cash prize.

A.J. Buse, NAF board member, chair of the NAF Education Committee and owner of Brand New Day advertising, came up with the idea to have a Nashville student design competition after seeing a similar competition at the American Advertising Federation convention last year.

"I saw some really nice work come from other schools in the Southeast, but no entries from Middle Tennessee," Buse said. "I wanted to have an event so that the creative students from the Nashville area were recognized for their hard work, too."

STAR awards were given in each specific category leading up to the overall "Best of" winners.

Judges awarded silver stars for students whose entries were exceptionally well designed and gold stars for students whose entries were deemed as professional level work.

Students awarded gold stars were Amy Bogie for her "Blue jeans" brochure, James Holland for his "Parent Rage" multimedia campaign and Paul

Sternburg for his design of the STAR awards call for entries direct mail piece.

Silver star awards were given to Stephen Benton for his Mermaid brand oyster packaging label illustration, Carrie Hirsch for her "wine label" illustration, James Holland's Yak snowboard campaign and Brian Alvarez for his Dreamery Ice Cream illustration.

Susanna Baxter, Jaclyn Morrow, Henry Shipman and Jennifer Wright also were awarded silver stars for their "Up Close" ad campaign for the Nashville Zoo.

Judges for the competition were Chris Blanz of cabedge.com; Laura Powers, senior copy writer for Lewis Communications; Jody Waldrup, owner and creative director of Blue Sky Design; and Elvis Wilson, art director at Gish, Sherwood and Friends.

For more information about the STAR awards for the Nashville Advertising Federation, contact Buse at 279-6963 or Barry Buxkamper at 898-8411. ♦

EYESORE OF THE WEEK



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

This tree outside the Keathley University Center was rolled late Sunday night. The toilet paper remained in the tree until Tuesday, when maintenance cleaned it up.

"Eyesore of the Week" examines the inadequacies of our campus in hopes of drawing attention to flaws that need to be addressed. If you have seen any "eyesores" around campus, please let us know by calling 904-8357 or e-mailing slmedit@mtsu.edu.

From the left

POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

From the right

What's to blame for world poverty: radical leftists or exploitation?

Corporate pawns
dictate world's wealthBy Shasta Fite
Staff Columnist

Student protesters flooded the streets of Seattle recently, passionately condemning the evils of big corporations and the horrors that their sweatshop employees endure. Picket signs carried by the protesters labeled the World Bank and other international organizations as mere pawns of big corporations.

The students' mission was simple: unite so that the voices of those less fortunate would be heard.

However, given the students' intentions may have been, their approach fell short of the goal for "fixing things" and as a simple as shifting blame around.

Location is the whole idea of progressing towards a unified global economy is what drives the world's economic status.

One of the main reasons why the world is so poor is that the rich countries are not doing enough to help the poor. But the corporations are not the only ones to blame.

It is not the corporations that are the problem, but the way they are run. The corporations are not the only ones to blame.

The answer is complicated. For less developed countries with the most direct foreign investment and foreign trade have, for the most part, seen the largest reductions in poverty recently.

In East Asia, according to the World Bank, the number of people living on less than \$1 a day fell from roughly 420 million in 1987 to roughly 280 million in 1998. The number of desperately poor people decreased by about one-third in just more than a decade, despite a financial crisis.

The charity Oxfam has conducted studies that show that the overall number of poor people in the world has increased drastically. Twenty years ago, the ratio of average income in the 110 countries to average income in rich countries was 1-to-87. It is now 1-to-98 and the gap is widening. Oxfam said 40 percent of people living in the 110 countries still live on less than \$1 a day.

Currently, the average per capita income in the 110 countries is \$287, Oxfam said, which is less than one-quarter of the level for all underdeveloped countries.

As conditions in almost all areas progressively grow worse, the life expectancy of nations shortens. The average life expectancy in 110 countries is 53 years, 25 years less than in developed countries.

Studies of the world's poorest countries found that very

young factory workers who lost their jobs in Bangladesh often became beggars or prostitutes.

The way to improve economic conditions for everyone would be to push for basic workplace standards. This would help poor workers and then help American workers in the long run.

The same factors that make poor countries poor, such as low productivity, bad infrastructure and general social disorganization, mean that these countries can compete on world markets only if they pay wages much lower than those paid in the West. History shows that factor prices, including the cost of labor, equalize across areas with open trade.

However, if working conditions and wages were increased globally, then the dividing line between foreign and domestic goods would be erased. The prices of foreign goods would increase on their own to protect profits, making tariffs unnecessary.

Globalization is not the problem, exploitation is. Mankind as a whole will continue to suffer as long as the bottom line is still the bottom line and those with the most economic power stand by and watch.

Student protesters would have been better served changing the system from the inside than waving signs from the outside. ♦

Capitalism has
proven its worthinessBy Jeremy Davis
Staff Columnist

Wherever meetings about the global economy go, protesters follow. They claim to be speaking for the downtrodden across America and the world, but President Bush was right when he said these people do not help the poor.

Globalization is the expansion of free market capitalism across the world. The main opponents of globalization are radical leftists, organized labor and right-wing xenophobic nuts like Pat Buchanan.

These people fear the abuse of poor nations, the loss of American jobs and the dilution of American culture.

The one unifying point between these people is fear. They fear the rapidly changing world around them and are doing everything they can to stop it.

No amount of shouting, sign waving or civil disobedience can stop the natural evolution of human achievement.

The past two decades have provided ample proof of the power of capitalism. The leftists in America and Europe claim corporations are run by greedy old white guys who care about nothing but the bottom line. They claim capitalism is

destroying the world even though it has produced the greatest nation in the history of the world in just more than 200 years.

The protesters say globalization exploits the resources of poorer nations. Would you rather work 18 hours a day out in the fields and starve to death or work in a factory for 12 hours a day and feed your family? These workers work longer for less money than their American counterparts, but it is still a step up from starvation and disease.

Working for 50 cents an hour in Afghanistan at the American standard of 40 hours a week would produce an income 25 percent higher than the national average income in Afghanistan.

Relocating businesses overseas produces jobs for those who need them. Jobs bring dignity back to people who are tired of begging down on their knees and getting for handouts from the Western world.

If free trade cuts jobs, why did the lowest unemployment numbers in American history come directly after the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement?

At the onset of the Great Depression, the Hoover administration raised tariffs on imported goods to record highs and consequently produced record unemployment.

The next question is who is

going to fill the new jobs created at home? America has always had plenty of people to fill jobs because we have a never-ending supply of immigrants. Brave men and women from across the world risk their lives to come here and make a better life for their family, and we are a better nation because of it.

This nation has always been a refuge for people who couldn't make it in their homeland. It was the poor who came here and created the wealthiest country in the world. The Pat Buchanans of the world think immigrants come here to exploit our generosity and take our jobs. These folks forget that their families were also immigrants at one time.

American liberals want free thought without free markets, but you can't have one without the other. America is great and powerful, not because we are the largest or smartest country on earth, but because we are the freest country on earth.

Americans have a lot to be proud of, and it is our duty to share our success with the rest of the world.

Capitalism is not perfect as Enron so bluntly shows, but it is the best thing the human race has thought of yet. Socialism and communism are proven failures.

Freedom of economics is just as important as freedom of speech and it is time the liberals in this country understood that. ♦

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Students and Faculty Welcome

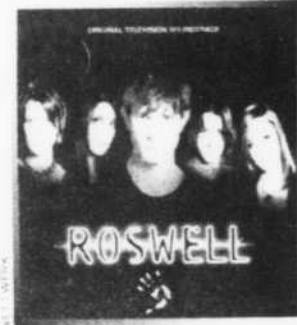
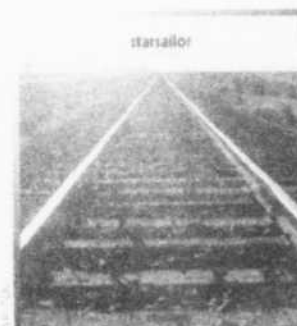
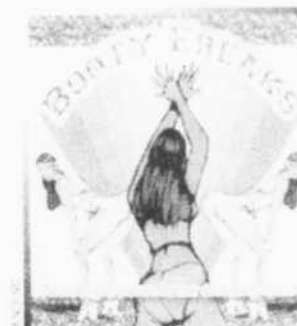
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England, Half English

SPRING BREAK SPECIAL

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, March 7, 2002

SIDELINES ♦ 3

Beaches, slopes popular Spring Break locales

By Courtney Gundry
Contributor

It's down for the count. With Spring Break less than a month away, the thrill of beach parties, ski resorts, amusement parks and trips home is swarming through the air.

Cancun, Miami, Santa Monica, South Padre Island and Panama City Beach are the top five beach locations for Spring Break this year.

Panama City Beach offers beaches, Gulf World, safaris, snorkeling, undersea museums, sailing and surfing. Miami attracts the partygoers with its wild nightlife on the downtown strips. It also offers cultural experiences with its art deco buildings and museums.

Santa Monica hosts spring

festivals and fairs. The beaches are decked out with shops and vendors. South Padre has festivals, concerts and a rich diversity of underwater adventures, including snorkeling or scuba, shore dives and boat dives.

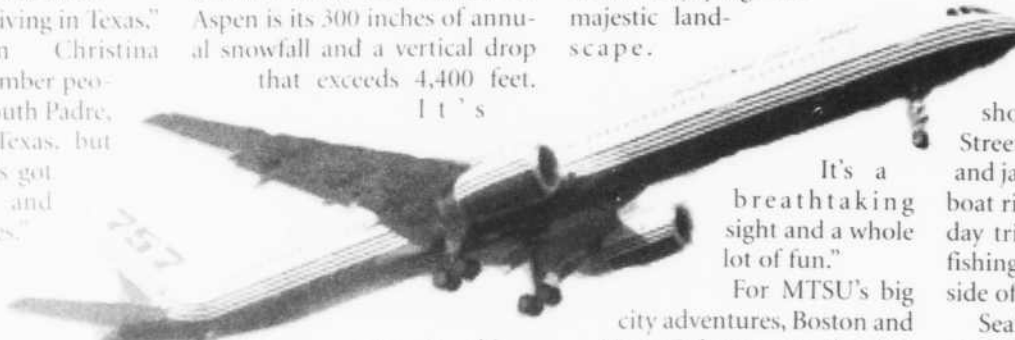
"When I was living in Texas," said freshman Christina Cassano, "I remember people flocking to South Padre, not just from Texas, but from all over. It's got great beaches and even better parties."

Cancun is rated No. 1 for Spring Break locations, according to Spring Break International. Vacationers can enjoy dancing, live music along the beaches, day spas and parties.

For those who aren't into drowning themselves in suntan lotion and waves, Aspen and Steamboat, Colo., are attracting MTSU's snowgoers.

Aspen hosts four major ski resorts. What calls skiers to Aspen is its 300 inches of annual snowfall and a vertical drop that exceeds 4,400 feet.

It's



It's a breathtaking sight and a whole lot of fun."

For MTSU's big city adventures, Boston and New Orleans are the hot spots this break.

New Orleans brings crowds of vacationers to Bourbon Street, which houses nearly every style of dance and music

clubs, bars, street musicians and ethnic restaurants, especially Cajun. The Dixie Land bands and original swing bring a historic element to the entertainment.

Boston attracts a cultural crowd with the art museums, historical landmarks, shopping on Newbury Street, coffeehouses, theaters and jazz scene. Also enjoyed are boat rides around the ports and day trips to Cape Cod, a small fishing village 45 minutes outside of the city.

Seafood is a prominent trait of this New England city. Restaurants throughout the town serve fresh lobster, crab, fish, shark and other aquatic delicacies.

"Boston's such an amazing

city," said freshman Sarah Jennins.

"I go there every year for Spring Break and have found something new and exciting to do every time. I love the dimly lit coffee houses, the music pouring into the streets from various bars, the art, the history, the culture ... pretty much everything about the city. At night it's almost like you're taken back to the 1920s. You almost expect to see a Private Eye walking the streets and jazz singers lying on piano's singing their melancholy tune."

So whether hitting the beaches, the city or the slopes, be sure to check out all the opportunities for making the best of your vacation destination. ♦

Does 'Girls Gone Wild' measure up?

By Jason Graffis
Contributor

Among college students, one week above all is looked forward to with bated breath.

Students suffer through months of classes and studying, all the while planning for seven days of sun, fun and debauchery beyond imagination. We call this week Spring Break.

In preparation for my Spring Break activities, I knew exactly what my first stop would be. Everyone knows that the *Girls Gone Wild* series is the ultimate resource for information on Spring Break. OK, so it

was actually an impulse purchase made late one night after having a few too many drinks while watching *Monday Night Raw*. Either way, it's purported to be a hard-hitting un-

video was the feigned protests made by the bulk of the girls. In one instance, a prospective flasher was very reluctant at first but was soon convinced to show everything her momma

gave her in the hopes that she would be rewarded with a *Girls Gone Wild* tank top. Throughout the video, other girls exhibited the same token reluctance with such statements as, "I'm a classy girl!" and "I'll be in the video, but not the com-

mercial."

In following with the current post-Sept. 11 patriotic

See *Girls*, 7



Photo courtesy girlsgonewild.com

The *Girls Gone Wild* series comes on strong, but the homogenous female features get repetitive quickly.

sored look at Spring Break activities, so it has to be a good purchase, right?

The first thing I noticed upon watching my *On Campus*

Wear sunscreen and other tips



Jason Cox
Special Section
Editor

Spring Break is often a great time and is a nice respite from school no matter what you do. Should you find yourself taking a trip this year, you should take the time to look at some of the things I've compiled to make your Spring Break as safe as it is fun.

No one wants to die, kill anyone, get busted or (gasp!) get a sunburn, so take some of these things into consideration.

1. Wear sunscreen. Just like the Baz Luhrmann song by a similar name, even a few minutes of unprotected exposure can cause severe skin irritation

and may eventually lead to skin cancer. Besides, you can get someone to rub it on you (don't get too excited).

2. Drink lots of non-alcoholic fluids. Regardless of whether you plan to drink alcohol on your trip, it's a good idea. Alcohol can cause the body to become dehydrated. If you do like to party hard ...

3. Take a multi-vitamin every day. Again, this is a good idea either way, but it's even more important if you drink or engage in other miscellaneous party activities.

4. Drive safely. There's no point in driving like an idiot. Especially in beach towns, traffic is often very congested. Don't drink and drive.

5. Don't be dumb. If you're underage and drinking, don't carry around a beer bottle. Don't smoke crack in front of an elementary school. Keep the noise down in your hotel room.

So many arrests happen because people are nonchalant about their activities.

7. Keep an eye on your friends. If someone's been partying a lot, watch out for him or her. Even if no one's partaking in the party atmosphere, it's still not a bad idea to keep them fairly close or at least know where they are.

8. Know the laws. The drinking age is 21 in every state. If you plan to travel abroad, know the law of the land. Being a U.S. citizen won't get you out of jail for violating local laws, and not all countries bother with the due process afforded to defendants here.

9. Don't be a narc. Narcs suck.

If you follow these tips, I offer no guarantee of a good time, but at least you'll make it back alive, healthy and without a criminal record. The fun part is up to you. ♦

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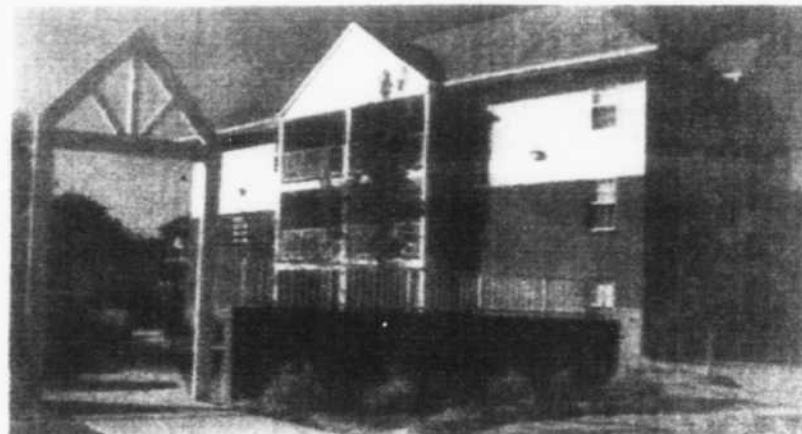


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Editorial

Inauguration unnecessary

President Sidney McPhee's upcoming inauguration is set to be a grand occasion. But isn't it a little strange that his inauguration is being held eight months after he took office?

While we aren't clear on whether eight-month-late inaugurations are customary at universities, we certainly hope they aren't. We are well aware that things generally run behind schedule at universities, but eight months is scheduling it for a ceremony.

Don't get us wrong; we think McPhee is entitled to fanfare of sorts for becoming president. But we tend to think that the fanfare — especially now — comes at an awkward time. He had a reception Aug. 5, which we all thought was his inauguration.

In an e-mail sent to all students and faculty, McPhee said he has asked his inauguration committee to "be very frugal and creative in their plans" because "the issue of costs must be uppermost in our considerations."

If cost is an issue — and it always is — why is an inauguration even necessary? McPhee said the ceremony is being paid for by private dollars — namely, by two major donors. With all the needs of this campus (office buildings for the recently booted graduate teaching assistants and professors, an art and science facility and much more), having donors spend money on a ceremony seems a little superficial and unnecessary.

Instead, why can't the donors direct their dollars to the more needy departments and programs on this campus?

More controversy surrounds the inauguration. *Sidelines* was told by McPhee that the ceremony has nothing to do with his recent decision to remove the modular buildings that house GTA offices. Yet we have talked to several GTAs who contend that they were told the inauguration was the specific reason for their removal.

It's not clear yet which story is true. McPhee's e-mail does say that, among the events during his inauguration, it will be the grand opening of the quadangle. Hopefully, the decision to remove the modulares has nothing to do with McPhee's weeklong inauguration ceremony. However, if it does, it just illustrates this university's aptitude for placing image above the needs of the student body. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Computer virus foolish attempt to combat sexism



*There once was a girl with a virus.
"Oh women! Let's get men to hire us!"
So she cracked Microsoft's code,
Infected computers young and old,
Soon people were left with only papyrus.*

A hacker with the handle "Gigabyte" has set out to improve the lives of women everywhere by writing a virus based on Microsoft's new .NET Web services platform.

She proclaimed she wrote her virus, called the "Sharpei" worm, to prove that women could write viruses just like men and to combat sexism.

Call me kooky, but I think that it's a wee little bit of a stretch to believe that infecting innocent bystanders' computers will advance important causes like equal pay and equal rights.

I'd even go so far as to

say that it was a big waste of her time. I'm not a computer expert, so my estimates may be a little off here, but I'd guess that it took Ms. Gigabyte at least a couple of days to learn the ins and outs of the .NET platform.

Quick lesson — .NET is a new platform that lets anyone with the needed knowledge write programs that can allow software to be accessed online with any device, like toasters.

Add a day or two to write the virus, and you have four days in which Gigabyte could have worked at a real job to earn money to get a lawyer and sue for equal rights.

She also could have used her time to write grammatically correct letters to Microsoft and other major corporations expressing her concerns about women's issues in the workplace.

Point is, cyberterrorism, like real-world terrorist acts, helps no one and only causes a lot of people to get very upset. For real progress to be made concerning sexism, protesters must act as maturely as they'd like to be treated. ♦

Raising smoking age an exercise in futility

For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox
Staff
Columnist

Ah, to be idealistic.

In a move that should prompt more laughs than serious thought, the California Medical Association recently voted to urge the state legislature to raise the tobacco purchasing age from 18 to 21. Some state lawmakers are jumping on the bandwagon and plan to introduce the bill during this year's session.

It's nice that the CMA wants to reduce youth smoking, but raising the age is absurd. Most people who smoke started before they were 18 anyway.

Raising the age would likely do nothing to reduce the rate of youth smoking and would only clog law enforcement agencies with the increased number of illegal tobacco sale complaints and having to step up monitoring tobacco sale to those under 21.

According to USA Today, Leonard Klay, a Santa Rose obstetrician-gynecologist, said raising the age would encourage youth to stop smoking because it is easier for smokers who have not been smoking a long time to quit.

This makes absolutely no sense and is not related to the issue at all. Maybe the writer, who paraphrased Klay's words, did not accurately represent what Klay said. I hope so, because if not, this person is administering medical

treatment, and that is a far worse crime than underage smoking could ever be.

Colleges would be part of the deal as well. With most of California's undergraduate student population being under 21, this would place universities in the role of enforcing these laws, which, if smoking in California is anything like it is here, would require dozens to be on smoking patrol each day.

The American Lung Association, which spends millions of dollars every year on anti-tobacco campaigns, has not taken a position on the idea but has said California's money would be better spent enforcing existing tobacco laws and continuing education on the dangers of smoking.

OK, if you can't get the ALA on your side for a

smoking issue, you're in trouble.

Even Philip Morris USA, America's largest producer of tobacco products, is staying out of the fray, and the rest of the industry is following their lead. According to California state Sen. Joe Dunn, the industry is not protesting the idea because it would "have no impact on smoking rates."

Dunn continues to say that "raising the age won't cure the problem, but it's just one more weapon."

Let's review: This proposal is not being supported by the ALA, the tobacco companies aren't worried enough with it to bother and even legislators know it won't have a significant impact.

The only potential changes from this law is that local courts will be

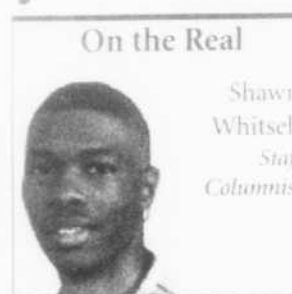
clogged with tobacco violations by adults who have consciously made the decision to smoke and cops will have to take on a ridiculous and largely symbolic burden. No state has the resources to enforce such a law, much less California, which is in financial trouble as it is.

There's no reason to create laws just to have them. Pragmatism must sometimes win over idealism, even in California, where pragmatism has largely gone the way of the dodo bird.

California would be wise to keep up its aggressive tobacco education program and let adults choose for themselves. ♦

Jason Cox is a sophomore journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at jrc2r@mtsu.edu.

Be a man about your business



On the Real

Shawn Whitsell
Staff
Columnist

By Shawn Whitsell
Staff Columnist

Sometime last semester, I had two females ask me the same question within the same week. The question was, "What makes you a man?" Though I knew the answer to the question, I had never been asked before so it was a little challenging to articulate my answer.

So, I collected my thoughts, and I told the first young woman that I was a man because I live my life in the nature that a man should. Then I elaborated.

See, my parents separated so early in my life that I don't even remember them being together (though they didn't legally divorce until I was 12). My father was a card-carrying member of the National Society of Deadbeat Dads.

Not only did I inherit the man's eyes, but because of his negligence, I also inherited the responsibility that he chose not to live up to, being that I was the oldest child.

Although I didn't lose my innocence completely, growing up in a situation like that forces you to mature mentally, far more rapidly than Mother Nature will allow your body to mature. I straddled the fence between just being a kid and being an adult.

My mother did the best she could to make sure I held on to as much childhood as possible. However, she always felt a little guilty about my having to fill my father's shoes.

But I'm not bitter about it at all because I know that that's the way God intend-

ed for it to be. I was supposed to grow up that way in order for me to be who I am to today and who I will be in my years to come.

I always tell people I was divinely put into a position of leadership because, as the oldest, I had to set the example for my siblings, especially considering that we were in a single-parent home.

People always tell me that they're amazed at how active I am and that I'm good leader but I don't get a big head about it. As a matter of fact, it humbles me because I know that my leadership abilities started at home, helping my mother care for my little brothers.

I don't get a big head when someone tells me how much they enjoy my writing because I'm grounded in where I came from and what situations I've lived through.

So for Shawn Whitsell, being a man is accepting the charge that God has put on my life and fulfilling it. Being a man is handling my responsibilities, accepting and correcting my mistakes and handling situations in a mature manner. It's a lot of things, but most importantly, being a man is staying true to God and myself.

My mother once told me, "No matter what situation you're in, you walk in as a man and you walk out as a man." I carry those words around with me every day.

It's because of this that I was able to forgive my old man for what he's done and share with him a beautiful relationship as father and son and as friends.

So to all the men reading this, as you go through your life, no matter what happens, whether it is good or bad, be a man about your business. ♦

Shawn Whitsell is a senior recording industry major and can be reached via e-mail at lionist99@hotmail.com.

Administration must get priorities straight, fix the here and now

By Adam Petree
Guest Columnist

I am a biology GTA in my sixth year at MTSU. I am currently teaching two Biology 1110 labs as well as taking 14 credit hours. My very busy semester was interrupted Monday by a message in my mailbox that informed me that we were being kicked out of our trailer. All of the biology GTAs had five days to evacuate their offices in Modular A.

President Sidney McPhee's inauguration is scheduled to occur in the newly built courtyard in front of the library in April. The administration has decided that the modulares are too much of an eyesore to be present for the ceremony (that was the reason we were given). So, they gave us a whole five days to pack up our stuff and move out in the exact middle of the semester.

OK, so we are being kicked out so that McPhee's inauguration will be a magical experience. I can almost deal with that. I realize that our university is growing by leaps and bounds, and that in this frenzy, people will be shuffled around. I accept that.

However, to kick us out with no place to go in the middle of the semester with five days notice seems a bit inconsiderate. Not to mention the fact that they have a perfectly good place that they could put us.

Last August, our offices were in the old Todd Library, tucked in a little corner and under the stairs. We were content with our modest accommodations, having up to 12 people in a very small area. However, the administration decided that we could not have this meager space.

Todd had to be immediately refitted to accommodate the ailing art department.

I was all for this idea. I know some art majors. The Art Barn is a cramped, archaic firetrap. I was glad to give my office up for them to get a new building. So, my fellow GTAs and I moved over to Modular A and looked forward to the miraculous revamping of the guts of Todd into a huge artist's loft.

It never happened. In fact, there has been nothing done to Todd since we

were forced to move out. In fact, some of our quizzes from last spring are still strewn about on our old desks with a thick layer of dust accumulating on them.

So, we were rushed out of Todd and moved to the modular for what? Todd is still empty, and we are without offices.

We have been denied permission to move back into Todd for undisclosed reasons. Thus, the aesthetics of a ceremony and the theoretical move of the art department are more pressing than our students having a place to get help in biology.

We will be unable to hold office hours, and our students will have extensive trouble tracking us down. We are not the only ones harmed in this injustice.

At first, I thought that this was just an isolated incidence of the administration failing to see the needs of its students. However, upon some thought I realized that this has been the administration's policy toward its student body for many years.

Our university has become so focused on making us a major national university that it has lost sight of its duty to its current students. Greek Row, the stadium, the new courtyard and the new road signs are all attempts to make us a legitimate contender to attract new students.

That's great. But the university cannot take care of the students it already has. Parking and office space are in short supply. The art and science buildings are in terrible shape. Jones Hall lost its third floor. You almost have to get an appointment to get a pizza at the Grill. There are too many of us already.

The administration must focus its attention and resources on its current students instead of some theoretical students that have yet to graduate high school.

The administration should realize that we need more parking, not more students. They should realize that we need new academic facilities, not new courtyards. They should realize that the biology GTAs should be allowed back into Todd, not left without offices.

They should get their priorities straight. ♦

The Sidelines opinions editor will not run any letters, columns or submissions of any kind about TSSAA parking. That is his solemn vow. So don't send any.

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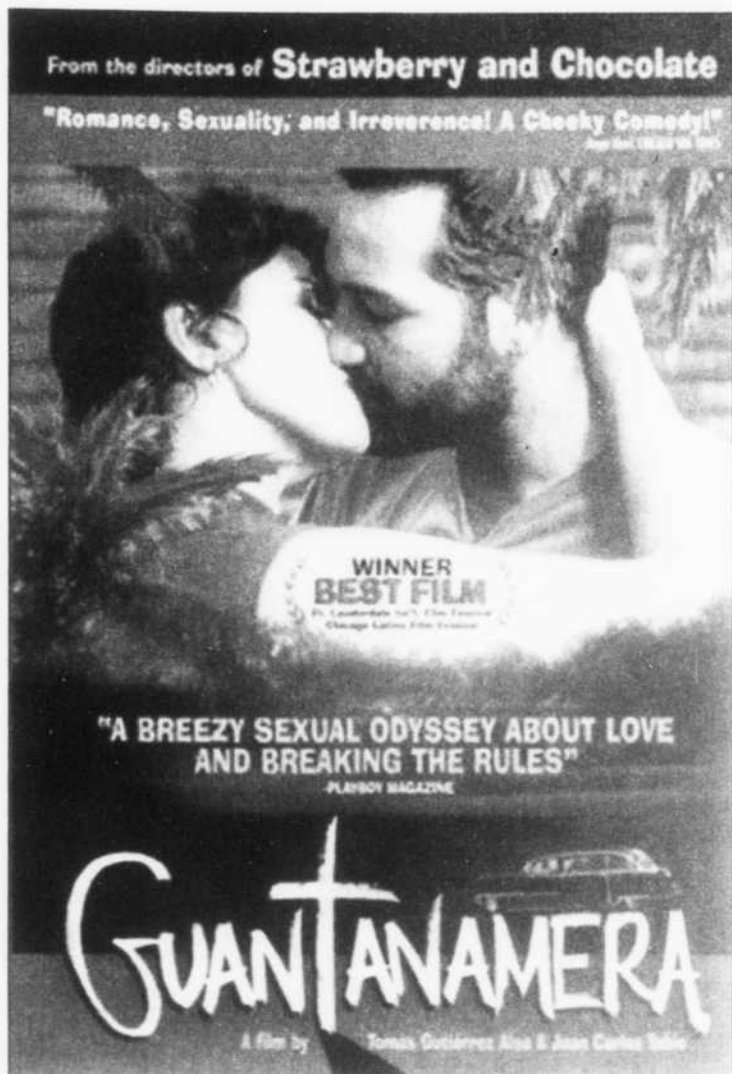
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Cuban films depict life during revolution



Strangers become friends and lovers in *Guantanamo*.

Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

"Four vignettes in Batista's Cuba dramatize the need for revolution; long mobile shots tell almost wordless stories."

This is the tagline for *I Am*

truly heart- and back-breaking work and the sacrifices and struggles endured in the name of independence.

I Am Cuba was originally filmed in 1964 and released under different titles in several countries, including Cuba and Russia.

Other names are *Soy Cuba* and *Ya Kuba*, two statements repeated by female narrators throughout the film as each storytelling scene comes to a close.

Because the story is told in segments, it is also a bit misleading.

The almost silent stories range from a married prostitute bringing back a rich man to her small home and a hard-working farmer having his land snatched away from him to outspoken university students dying for their cause.

Before shifting to another story, the two female narrators say "Soy Cuba" and "Ya Kuba," followed by a few poetic words. The screen then fades to black and stays that way before continuing to the next scene, which makes for several false endings.

Although there are very few words spoken in the film, it is surprisingly easy to get used to after watching the film for about 20 minutes.

The movie seems to be almost a sort of propaganda film against communist control of Cuba and the need for economic reform.

Hailed by many for its early techniques in cinematography, with never-before-used camera

angles later imitated in films such as *Goodfellas*, *Soy Cuba* was the Winner of the Archival Award at the 1996 National Society of Film Critics Awards, USA.

The Keathley University Center Theater will be showing two more Cuban films in the coming weeks.

Memories of Underdevelopment (*Memorias del subdesarrollo*), starring one of the main actors from *Soy Cuba*, Sergio Corrieri, will play March 10.

Released after *Soy Cuba* in 1968, *Memories of Underdevelopment* examines life in post-revolutionary Cuba from Sergio's point of view. He decides to stay in Cuba even though his wife and friends flee to Miami.

This film was the winner of both the Don Quijote Award and the FIPRESCI Award at the 1970 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. It also won the Richard and Hilda Rosenthal Foundation Award at the 1974 Film Critics Awards, USA.

The more recent film, *Guantanamo*, will be shown March 17.

Released in 1994, the film tells the story of members of a funeral procession and truck drivers who take the same route and begin to talk amongst themselves about important beliefs.

They end up discovering that life for both of their groups holds many differences but also many similarities.

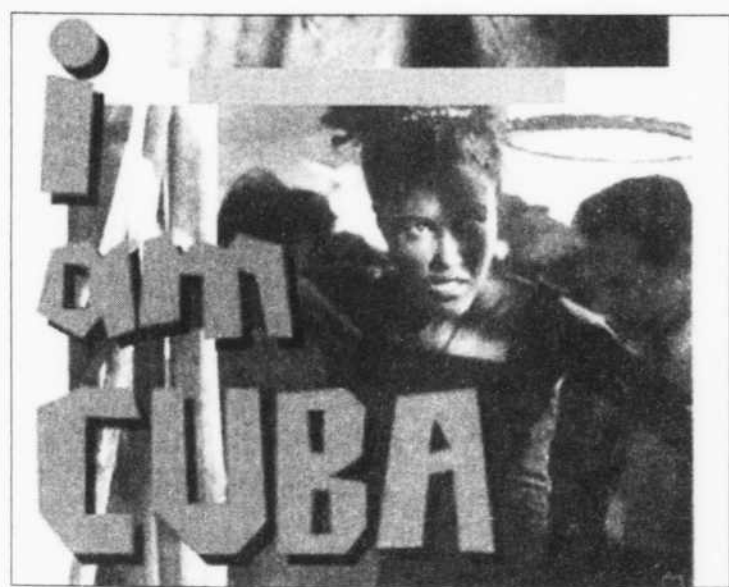


Photo provided

(Above) *I am Cuba* depicts the struggles and sacrifices different classes go through to gain their independence.

(Right) *Memories of Underdevelopment* tells one man's experience of Cuba after the revolution, while his family takes refuge in Miami.

Guantanamo won an honorable mention for a Latin American Cinema Award at the 1996 Sundance Film Festival and the Jury Award for Best Foreign Film at the 1996 Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival, among other awards.

Memories of Underdevelopment and *Guantanamo* will be shown at 7 p.m. in the KUC Theater. Admission is free.

For more information on these films, call 898-2551. ♦



Imaginary Baseball League hits homer

Friction source of creativity

By Eric Cook
Contributor

Amidst the carpeted and wood grain walls of studio A in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building, singer/songwriter Aaron Robinson and drummer Ryan Rayborn take turns answering questions about past struggles and future aspirations as they are interrogated about their band, Imaginary Baseball League.

Lead guitarist Keith Childrey places the finishing Wurlitzer touches on their latest recording, which is for their friend's senior recording project, as Robinson and Rayborn give an oral history of their musical endeavors.

These three individuals, along with bassist Ben Evans, have come together through circumstantial fate to provide Murfreesboro with a band that does not hold to the trappings of the typical indie scene, for which the town has become known.

For Robinson and Childrey, the realization of the Imaginary Baseball League began early on. Both attended Cleveland High School in Cleveland, Tenn., where they played in several of the same bands. After graduation, they enrolled at MTSU, where the puzzle that would



Keith Childrey, Ben Evans, Aaron Robinson and Ryan Rayborn are Imaginary Baseball.

later become Imaginary Baseball League began to take shape.

Robinson and Evans met in a shared class, while MTSU's campus radio station WMTS saw Rayborn enter the picture. Rayborn interned with Robinson to procure a spot on WMTS's airwaves and then began practicing with Evans and Robinson.

Soon, a haphazard show under the name of Braille Rumor took place. Childrey,

who was rooming with Robinson at the time, was asked to join the trio as the lead guitarist.

After Childrey joined the band, Robinson felt that the puzzle was complete.

"Keith made the music totally different by adding textures," Robinson said. "He made it sound more like a band."

It's this motif of friction that personifies Imaginary Baseball League. From their variances in musical taste to their unclassifi-

able sound, the band maintains its creative outflow and its stability from this friction.

Robinson and Evans have always had a different preference in music from each other. Childrey came from a background that enjoyed music with instrumental depth and layers of guitars and keys, while Robinson sought out the more simplified, personal sound of a singer/songwriter style. Such examples of variety exemplify why the band would either

work extremely well or self-destruct in its early stages.

Obviously, after many years of friendship and more than a year of musical comradery, the members of Imaginary Baseball League have laid a foundation that has stabilized the future of the band.

"What kept me working with him is the differences in musical taste," Evans said of Robinson. "I always saw it as a challenge. That kind of friction has helped us out and has expanded our view."

Imaginary Baseball League's distinct sound is a sonic expression of the conglomeration of these different personalities.

According to Robinson, Imaginary Baseball League started out in more of a singer/songwriter tradition, with his lyrics and melodies driving the rest of the band. As they have matured, Robinson feels that their sound has transformed in to that of a band, where everyone's role combines equally to form each song.

Robinson said that's the reason the band has matured and developed into a cohesive unit, instead of a doomed-before-they-start typical musical venture.

"That is just what happens when you play a lot with somebody," Robinson said. "The songs sound more cohesive, more directed."

While the band has had varied influences such as Failure, Wheat, Ryan Adams, Elvis

Costello, Death Cab For Cutie and Jeff Buckley, they defy the ever-popular genre attributing trend with their exceptional songwriting that is set to a modern sonic landscape.

From the slower musical poetry to the more melodically progressive rock songs, Robinson's descriptive lyrics and emotion-evoking voice attract the attention of a first-time listener but also contain the depth required for repeated listening. This unique ability has earned Robinson a chance to represent Murfreesboro at the Nashville Songwriters Association International.

"Aaron is going to get the chance to play with Michael Acree, Joey Kneiser from Glossary and Matt Pelham, the guy with The Features," Rayborn said. "We're real proud of him."

After listening to the band's record and its live performance, as well as talking one on one with each of its members, a person will find few shortcomings pertaining to the band.

As time and experience are achieved, though, even these shortcomings may disappear.

Imaginary Baseball League plays March 11 at Springwater in Nashville and March 22 at The Red Rose. Aaron Robinson can be seen independently March 21 at The Red Rose. For more information on the band, visit their Web site at www.imaginarybaseball.com. ♦

Television diets lack proper nutrition

By Wendy Kale
Colorado Daily (U. Colorado)

(U-WIRE) BOULDER, Colo. — Have you joined Jared's Subway Army? Have you started the Special K two-meal-a-day diet? Or have you portioned out your meals on the Diet Plate?

It's spring time and the television is overflowing with those fad diets. Some of these plans are sensible, and others provide a guaranteed ticket to bad health.

But how do you know which diet is healthy and what essential nutrients you'll be missing?

The one common denominator in these TV diets is the lack of proper nutrition.

Nutrition is the great secret of dieting because no matter how much weight a person loses, everyone needs the proper vitamins and nutrients to keep their body running. In the past, that was regulated by the food-group pyramid that divided up the portions of grains, meats, fruits and vegetables a person should eat per day.

"The pyramid has changed these days," explained Kristine Farrell, a registered dietician at University Hospital in Denver. "Now, we believe that you need five servings of fruits and vegetables, plus minerals and fiber. The ratio now should be more whole grains, fruits, and vegetables, and less protein and sugars

to get to your ideal weight."

Farrell says most people also need a good multi-vitamin and extra calcium because all the sodas we drink leech calcium out of our systems.

"If you go on a diet full of empty nutrients, you will cause harm to your body, because of all the sugars and chemicals," she said.

So are these TV diets really healthy? These local nutritionists may have the answers.

You have to be living under a rock not to have heard of Jared Fogle from Subway. The chunky pitchman for the sandwich franchise dropped from 425 pounds to 190 by eating two 6-inch low-fat Subway subs a day,

Fogle ate a 6-inch turkey sub, baked potato chips, "vats of diet pop" and Snackwell cookies for two meals, seven days a week. This diet became a marketing dream come true for Subway and started "Jared's Army."

"The Subway diet is actually one of the best out there — if you do it in moderation. You're getting good meats and veggies — but you have to watch out because that is processed bread they're putting it on," Farrell said.

Two weeks ago, the Special K cereal company came up with their new promotion called "The Special K Kick-Start Diet." This plan claims that participants can "lose up to 6 pounds

in two weeks" by having a bowl of Special K with skim milk for breakfast and lunch.

The cereal meals are supplemented with one regular meal and fresh fruit or veggie snacks. The theory is, if you eat less at a meal, you'll lose weight.

Kat Oldfield has been a nutritionist for 12 years and advises customers at Whole Foods Market in Boulder, Colo. She believes that you are what you eat and that good nutrition is essential to any diet.

Oldfield feels that the Special K diet works, because the plan concentrates on one type of food.

"The Special K plan will work — but any single food that

has low sugar content would also work," Oldfield said.

She adds that Special K is good because it's low-sugar, low-fiber and low-sodium, but that it will only work for a short while. After about two weeks, she says, the body will go into preservation mode and this diet won't work.

Farrell, on the other hand, is adamantly against the Special K diet.

"No way this will work," she said. "It's not providing you with a balanced diet. And even though it provides you with fortified vitamins, they're all in supplemental form. You'd be

See Diet, 6

Diet: Experts agree Slim-Fast Plan most notorious of all TV diet fads

Continued from 5

better off eating whole foods." Both diet pros agree that the most notorious diet on the tube is the Slim-Fast Plan. That's where you have a shake for breakfast and lunch and a "sensible dinner."

"The only good thing about this diet is that it makes you portion out your food, and that helps you limit your caloric intake and structure your diet."

But this stuff is loaded with artificial everything and the sugar content is off the charts," Oldfield said.

Farrell agreed that Slim-Fast isn't the most sensible diet plan, and said she'd rather refer her clients to Jared's Subway plan. However, she does like the concept of portioning out foods and was pleased with the new Diet Plate.

Recently introduced on CNN news, the Diet Plate was

invented by a woman in England to keep her portion-sizes to a minimum. The earthenware plate is divided for effective portion control. This way a user can only fill the portion of the plate allotted to the food group, and it gets rid of the calorie guesswork.

"Anything that gives a diet structure will work," Oldfield said. "People need guidelines. If it's constant, people will use it and the less decisions people

have to make, the more likely they are to keep to a dietary program."

Farrell liked the Diet Plate, but wasn't thrilled by the Weight Watchers or Jenny Craig plans. She felt that the Jenny Craig diet was bad because it trained clients to rely on the company's processed-food products.

And the latest diet that TV is sporting is the no-carbo diet favored by soul singer Luther

Vandross. This diet tale was recently featured on ABC's *Downtown*.

The news program featured a newly slim Vandross spouting "I've never been more healthy than I am now. I am proud of my weight loss, and I'm proud of my health improvement."

The singer claims the secret to his weight-loss is a no carbohydrate policy on eating. He says that he stays away from bread or pasta, stating the carbohydrates caused his enormous weight-gain.

"People are not educated on what a carbohydrate is," Farrell explained. "Fruits and veggies are carbs - and Luther Vandross is not educated about these."

Farrell said the premise of Vandross' diet is good - he does eat lean meats, fruits and veggies. But she added that the brain does need carbohydrates to function properly, so this is not the best diet to be on.

Oldfield said this no-carb

diet is actually toxic to the body. She says that if the body keeps burning muscle mass, eventually toxins will spill into the body, and put stress on the kidneys.

So what's the best new diet? The ladies on the cover of *People* magazine a few weeks ago had the right idea - eat a sensible diet and exercise. Time and again this formula has been proven to be the best weight-loss solution.

"A healthy diet is the way to go," Farrell said. "Eat your lean meats, fruits and veggies, fiber and water. Just stay away from processed foods."

The rule of thumb is, she said, is if you can pull it from a tree or out of the ground, it's probably going to be healthy to eat.

"No one is going to get thin eating bagels," Farrell said. "You also have to have a healthy lifestyle, and that means you have to move. Eat small portions and move. That's the secret."

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CAMPUS EVENTS

Compiled by Leslie Fike | Features Editor

Thursday, March 7

MTSU Films presents *Harry Potter* in the Keathley University Center Theater at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Thursday and at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$2. For more information, call 898-2551.

The Learning Resources Center's Baldwin Photographic Gallery will be exhibiting "Astral Allusions," which features 60 16-by-20 inch chromogenic color prints by New York photographer Jane Schreibman, through April 24. The exhibit will be available for viewing between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and between 8 and 11:45 a.m. Saturdays and between 6 and 9:45 p.m. Sundays.

Student Organizations will be hosting an Honor Society Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Keathley University Center, Room 322. Organizations participating in the fair are: Phi Sigma Pi, Gamma Beta Phi, Pinnacle, Mortar Board and Golden Key Honor Society.

The Martial Arts Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 until 10:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center's aerobics room. Everyone in the MTSU community is welcome to start or continue training in various martial arts throughout the semester.

Friday, March 8

There will be a benefit concert for Take Back the Night at 8 p.m. at the Red Rose Cafe. The event will feature performances by Forget Cassettes, Cuddlecore, Perfect World of Cranes and Sincerity Guild. Also, Amie LeeKing will show a 30 minute documentary titled *Don't Need You* about the riot grrl movement that happened in the early '90s. There will be a \$5 donation at the door.

Monday, March 11

Violinist Elisabeth Small will perform with the Tennessee Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra at the "Challenge of the Titans" concert in Tucker Theatre at 7:30 p.m. For information regarding tickets, call 898-1862.

MTSU's Survival Honors Lecture Series presents "Gutenberg Revisited: Reading in the Era of RAM" with guest speakers Larry Burris and Kathleen Burris. The lecture will be from 3 to 3:50 p.m. in

Peck Hall, Room 109A. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 898-2152.

Wednesday, March 13

The Victory Campus Ministries (Champions for Christ) will host a Bible study in Room 104 of the John Bragg Mass Communication Building at 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 898-4281.

The General Studies Committee will host an open forum in the Faculty Senate chamber at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Kim Sokoya at 898-2352.

Alpha Kappa Alpha will host the Mr. Esquire Pageant in the Wright Hall at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For more information, contact Lataya Franklin at 898-3964.

The premiere of The Wesley Foundation's Spring play, *Blithe Spirit*, will be performed through March 17 at the Wesley Foundation.

Thursday, March 14

The physics and astronomy department will host a lecture with guest speaker Gerrit L. Verschuur, from the physics department of the University of Memphis, at 7 p.m. in Room 100 of the Davis Science Building. The lecture will discuss "Impact: The Threat of Comets and Asteroids."

Verschuur will give an additional lecture on "Interstellar Matter: From Holes in the Heavens to the Stuff of Life" Friday, March 15, at 2 p.m. in Room 220 of the Wiser-Patten Science Building.

Both lectures are sponsored by the American Astronomical Society Harlow Shapley Visiting Lectureships Programs.

Saturday, March 16

Alpha Omicron Pi and Alpha Tau Omega will host the third annual Alpha Jam, which is a three-on-three basketball tournament to benefit the American Juvenile Arthritis Organization on the basketball courts of the Recreation Center. There will be a men's and women's tourney, as well as a slam dunk and three-point competition.

Students can register for the event in the KUC, Room 310, the Greek Life Office, by March 8.

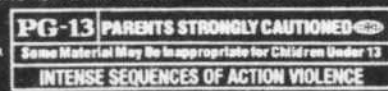
There will be cash prizes, gift certificates and trophies for all winners. For more information, contact Tim Peterson at 898-4057.

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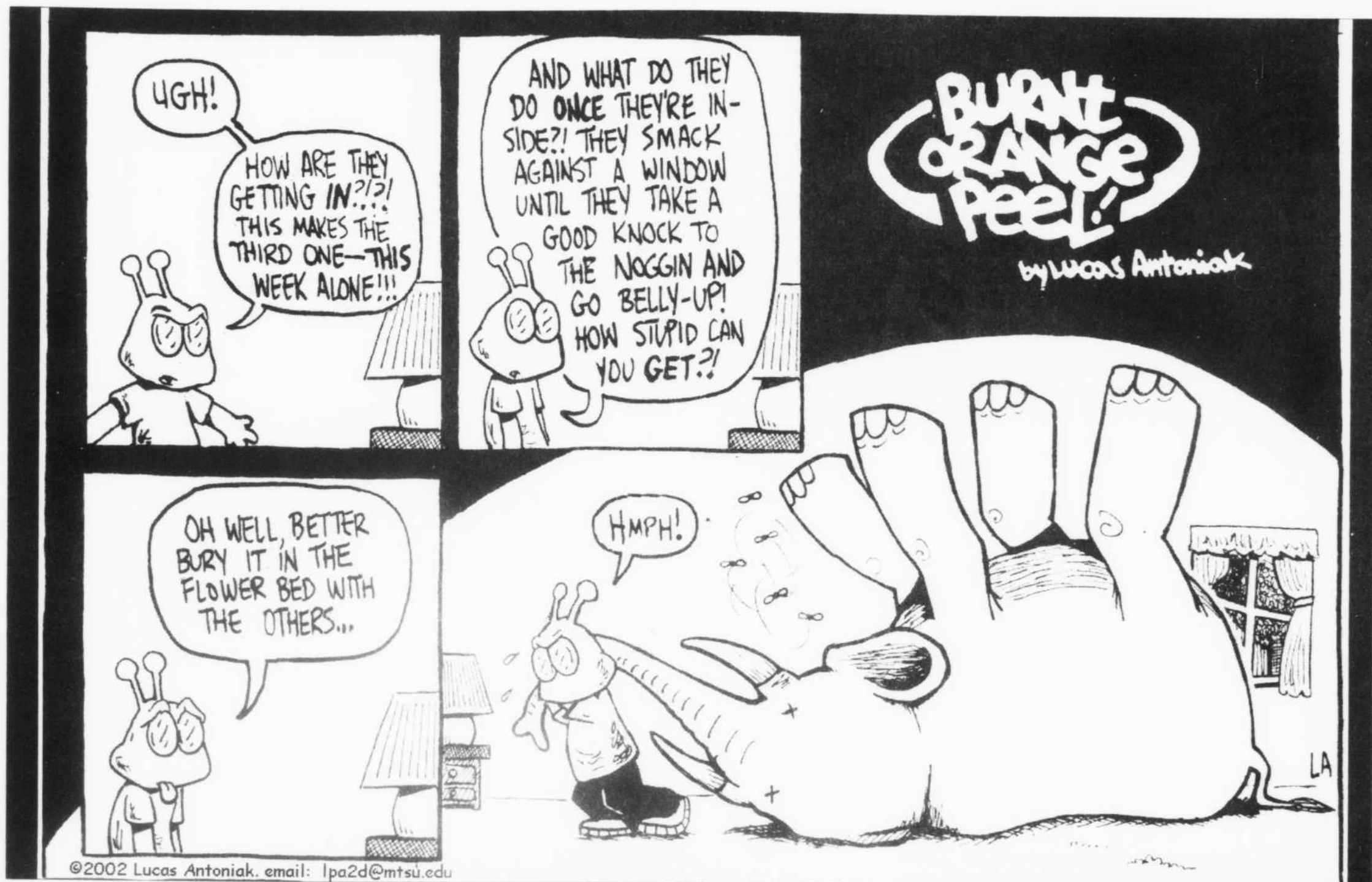
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Girls:

Continued from 3

mood, even *Girls Gone Wild* is doing its part. Many girls removed their shirts so that the cameraman could write the letters USA on their breasts. This patriotic marking was received by much cheering and applause from the onlookers.

One thing I noticed about this video was the overwhelming presence of the typical all-American white girl. Throughout the movie there were many blond-haired blue-eyed girls, but I only saw one black girl and one girl that might have been Hispanic. I find this lack of variety rather mundane and repetitive.

Another interesting trend in the movie was the portrayal of girls who were obviously under 21 and smashed beyond belief. What started out as an attempt at a strip tease usually ended up being an embarrassing fall from a barstool or shaky endeavors to stay perched on a swing. Maybe no one ever told these girls that being obviously drunk in public isn't the biggest turn-on.

Overall, I have to say that I was slightly disappointed in this video. You can only see a girl flashing so many times before it gets slightly monotonous, although it does give me high hopes for my own Spring Break. I would say that the best way to watch this video is to borrow it from a friend and watch it in 10-minute increments. ♦

Jason Cox contributed to this article.

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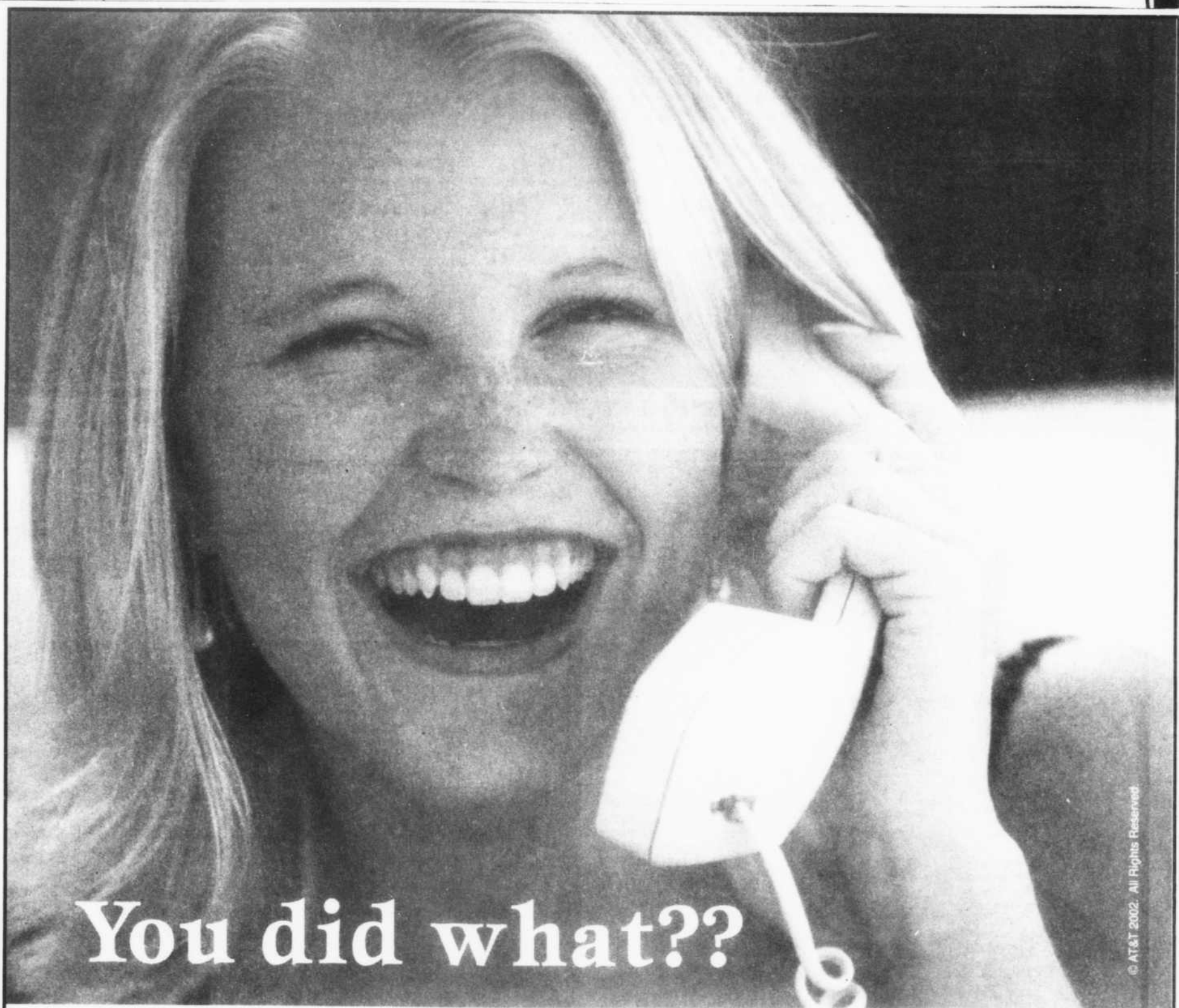
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Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, March 7, 2002

SIDELINES ♦ 9

Softball team splits games with Lipscomb

By Brandon Gregg
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider softball team got two firsts Tuesday. Middle Tennessee (7-6) got their first-ever win and their first-ever loss against Lipscomb University (5-13). MT split two games, losing 2-1 and winning 3-0 against the Lady Bisons.

In game one, junior Stacey Preactor (1-4) had another tough outing, giving up a home run in the top of the third to put the Bisons up 1-0. Lipscomb would again score in the fifth when Ashley Denton scored from second from an error.

MT's bats were quiet for most of the game, scoring their only run in the last inning. Middle Tennessee spoiled a shutout when right fielder Laura Brockman doubled and scored after a wild pitch and an error by catcher Denton.

In game two, however, the Lady Raiders jumped ahead early. After a Lisa Sherman single and a strikeout from Kristina Hieb, pitcher Jennifer Martinez helped her own cause at the plate by belting her fifth career home run.

MT would push one more across the plate in the third, when Hieb made up for her earlier strikeout by collecting a homer of her own.

This proved to be enough as MT kept the Lady Bisons scoreless for the remainder of the game.

Jennifer Martinez improved her personal record to 6-1 as she combined with a stellar defense to allow only 2 hits in the day. Martinez went the distance, striking out 8, walking none and giving up no earned runs.

The Lady Raiders are off until Friday when they begin a three-day tournament at the Florida State Invitational in Tallahassee.

MT plays Auburn University, Florida State University and Iowa State University in the tournament. The first game starts at noon. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Jennifer Martinez had a two-RBI home run vs. Lipscomb in game 2.

Lady Raiders head to Tallahassee invitational

By Colleen Cox
Sports Editor

The Lady Raider softball team hits the road again in search of wins when they travel to the Florida State Invitational in Tallahassee, Fla., this weekend.

Middle Tennessee (7-6) picked up its first home win Tuesday with a 3-0 defeat of Lipscomb University. Jennifer Martinez shined in the victory with a 2-hit shutout and a 2-run home run. She also struck out 8 batters.

Martinez leads the Blue Raider offense with a .447 batting average, 17 hits, 29 total bases, a .500 on base percentage and a .763 slugging percentage. Danielle DeCamino ranks second on the team with a .345 batting average, 12 total bases, a .414 slugging percentage and a .345 on base percentage. As a team, the Lady Raiders are batting just .226 with 39 runs scored in 13 games.

Martinez is also a force on the mound. She posts a 0.59 ERA and a .164 opponent batting average. She has struck out 52 batters while walking only 6. Stacey Preactor has struggled this season, winning only 1 game. She has a 2.23 ERA and a .269 opponent batting average.

The Lady Raiders are 6-3 at neutral sites this season. MT begins the tournament with a game against Auburn

University.

Auburn (15-4) won its last two games and beat Sun Belt Conference team Florida International 5-3 in its last game. Ashley Moore leads the Tiger offense with a .367 batting average, 14 runs scored, 18 hits, 33 total bases, a .673 slugging percentage and a .411 on base percentage.

Sarah Dean posts a .327 batting average with a .481 slugging percentage and a team-high 12 RBIs. Kasey Angulo bats .314 and has a .510 slugging percentage. As a team, the Tigers hit .258 and average just more than 4 runs a game.

Kristin Keyes anchors the Tiger pitching staff with a 0.88 ERA, a .157 opponent batting average and 59 strikeouts. Jennifer Lofton posts a 2.38 ERA with a .249 opponent batting average. The pitching staff has a 1.41 ERA and has struck out 122 batters. Opponents bat .197 against them. Auburn is 3-3 in neutral site games.

After their game against Auburn, MT plays host Florida State University. FSU (16-7) has three hitters batting more than .300. Brandi Stauro leads the Seminoles with a .388 average and .612 slugging percentage. Stauro has stolen 21 bases in 22 attempts this season. Jess van der Lind hits .371 with a .565 slugging percentage. Kimmy

See Softball, 12

Baseball team wins 18-7 over Lipscomb

By Kevin Rose
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee baseball team (7-2) used a 5-run first inning and a 6-run third inning to cruise to an 18-7 victory over David Lipscomb University Tuesday afternoon at Dugan Field. The big first inning marks the sixth game in a row where the Blue Raiders have scored at least one run in the first inning.

"I think what it does, especially on the road, is put you ahead," said MT head coach Steve Peterson. "Five runs right there was huge, especially when we got into a little trouble in the first inning. It allows me to stay with my starting pitcher a little bit longer when offense scores something for him real quick."

Bison starter Matt Edwards walked three consecutive Blue Raider hitters after getting a fly ball out to open the game. With the bases loaded, Marshall Nisbett ripped an RBI single, scoring 2. Brett Carroll followed with a three-run homer to left, his third home run of the season, to make the score 5-0.

MT starter Steven Kines was touched for 1 run in the first when Ryan Abrams doubled home Brian Passons, who had reached on a single. After early

trouble, Kines settled down to allow only two more runs in the win. Kines pitched 6 solid innings, giving up 3 runs on 8 hits. The win was the first for Kines after three years as a Blue Raider.

"It's been three years coming," Kines said. "It felt really good to get my first win. I know there will be better teams coming up. Just to get the first one under my belt gives me a lot of confidence going into the next time I pitch."

The Blue Raider offense put the game away in the third inning with a 6-run inning highlighted by a Justin Sims grand slam homer, which wrapped around the right field foul pole. Edwards' control haunted him again in the third when he walked 1 and hit 2 before the Sims blast.

"They walked a lot of guys all day," Sims said. "With two outs, the guy hung a curve ball, and I got a good swing on it and finally hit the ball hard one time."

With the Blue Raiders ahead 13-3, pinch hitter Chris Leguene highlighted a 4-run eighth inning by hitting a base-clearing double down the left field line, putting the game out of reach by a score of 17-3. Kyle Sparkman entered in the seventh after a short outing by



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Justin Sims slides into second base against Eastern Michigan. The Knoxville native is in his third year with MT.

Jason Kuhn. Sparkman was effective in going 1 1/3 innings, allowing 1 run on 3 hits in his first action of the year. "His arm looked very healthy," Peterson said. "His command wasn't real good, but his arm looked very healthy. He looked aggressive he

looked composed, and it's good to have him back."

The Bisons got 3 runs off reliever Jeff Marcus in the ninth for the final of 18-7. Marcus was seeing his first action of the year. Matt Edwards (0-4) took the loss for the Bisons after

going three innings and giving up 11 runs, all earned. The Blue Raider offense was paced by Nisbett with 4 hits, 3 runs scored and 4 RBIs. Sims had 4 RBIs to go with 2 hits. Carroll added 2 hits, and Nate Jagers scored 3 runs. Over the week-

end, the Blue Raiders play a home-and-home series against Tennessee Tech University. Saturday's game is in Cookeville at 2 p.m. Sunday the Eagles will travel to Murfreesboro for a 2 p.m. start. ♦

Blue Raider Notebook

By Shane Marquardt
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee baseball team held onto a 12-9 lead against Eastern Michigan to secure a victory in the Austin Peay Governors Classic Saturday.

On a Roll:

The Blue Raiders are on a four-game winning streak and will strut into Nashville Tuesday with a 6-2 record to take on Lipscomb before returning to the 'Boro Wednesday for another battle with the Bisons.

Blue Raiders to Watch:

Chuck Akers plays all over the field, making him a strong possibility for an All-Sun Belt Candidate. With a 3-hit performance like he

had against Eastern Michigan, Akers only bolsters his stats for the nomination. Other candidates are outfielder/pitcher Marshall Nesbitt, who pounded a 2-run homer Saturday to begin the run frenzy by the Blue Raiders, and infielder Jason Howarth. Representing the pitching staff in the All-Sun Belt running is Jeremy Armstrong, who not only bolsters an already potent pitching rotation, but carries an excellent last name for any man making his career from the mound.

All-American Watch:

Keep your eyes on pitcher John Williams, a freshman All-American, and outfielder Justin Sims. They hope to carry the big titles when the season is over, which will hopefully trickle down to the team's success. ♦

Baseball team faces weekend series with Tennessee Tech

By Kevin Rose
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee baseball team (7-2) will renew an old rivalry over the weekend when they play Tennessee Tech University in a home-and-home series. Saturday's game will be in Cookeville, while Sunday's will be at Reese Smith Field. Start time for both games is 2 p.m.

The match-up presents two teams that were bitter rivals when the Blue Raiders were members of the Ohio Valley Conference. Another interesting component of the rivalry is that both teams participated in the 2001 NCAA Regional in Knoxville. Tech advanced to a regional after winning the 2001 OVC Tournament. The Blue Raiders advanced after winning the Sun Belt league championship. The Eagles posted a regional upset by beating No. 1 seed Wake Forest University in the opening game. The Eagles were eliminated after losses to the University of Tennessee and Wake Forest. The Blue Raiders lost to the Vols and the Demon Deacons in regional play.

Spearheading the regional upset against Wake Forest was pitcher Bubbie Buzachero, the winner against the Demon Deacons. The Blue Raiders will likely see him Saturday or Sunday. The hard-throwing righty should provide an interesting match-up between MT starting pitchers Adam Larson or John Williams.

Larson will start for the Blue Raiders on Saturday with Williams getting the start at home. Larson has also experienced success in regional play. At Mississippi State, he picked up a win and a save during the Columbus regional. Williams did not see

See Baseball, 10

MT ruggers take another

By Maura Satchell
Staff Writer

The Moosemen of Middle Tennessee scored another big victory last weekend, beating 2001 Division II National semifinalist Arkansas State University 13-0 on MT's rugby pitch under threatening skies.

The teams split the past two matches, and the first half was a close contest in which tension mounted and tempers flared.

MT coaches observed that the Moosemen seemed off balance. Arkansas State dominated nearly every scrum and managed to gain possession after most lineouts. In addition, MT's usually deadly backs were noticeably silent.

The Tribe of Arkansas State have a powerful weapon of their own in player Matt Huckaby. Huckaby is an All-American and a member of the United States National Team, the USA Eagles. That team played against South Africa's national team in a highly publicized stateside match in December and has competed around the globe against such powerhouses as England, Wales, New Zealand, Ireland and France, where most national team players are professionals in the sport.

Huckaby plays in the flanker position, which is within the forward "pack," both for the ASU Tribe and for the USA Eagles when they compete against other countries.

His presence within the scrum was clearly felt by the Moosemen. "ASU had a nice shove in the scrum that caused MTSU some problems," said Tony Neely, MTSU head coach, in an e-mail summary of the game. "Credit has to go to ASU for their disruption."

Thanks to the able kicking skills of MT's own All-American, team captain and fly-half Cayo Nicolau, the Moosemen ended the half ahead by a single penalty kick that gave the team a three-point lead.

In the second half, Nicolau was able to put another penalty kick on the board, and the remainder of the game was one tightly contested match.

Fists flew several times, and players from both teams ended up in the "sin bin," the rugby equivalent of the penalty box in hockey. The sin bin, however, is located directly under the team's goal posts where the player is forced to stand out of the game for a specified period of time and the team plays short one man.

Late in the second half, MT rugger Colby Wright stumbled ASU when he touched down the ball for the only try scored in the game. Wright gracefully slipped by the grasp of opposing players and ran for the try from the 5-meter line. Nicolau made good on the conversion, giving the Moosemen a 13-0 victory.

"It took some damn heart to turn that game around, pack player Phillip Maddox said after the game. "It could've gone either way."

"We picked it up and did what we had to do," assistant coach Robert Keith agreed.

The team hosts Dayton University this Saturday in non-conference play at the MT Rugby Pitch on Main Street. It will include season-opening matches of the Tennessee High School Rugby league as well.

MT will play against the University of Florida at 3 p.m. in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in the South Territorial Collegiate Division I Championship semifinal game March 23. Should the Moosemen win that game, they'll take on either the University of Georgia or the University of North Carolina, which they beat previously this season, for the territorial championship and a berth in USA Rugby Collegiate Division I quarterfinals competition. ♦

Sidelines is looking for a sports designer. Call 898-2337 if interested.

Baseball: Raiders' offense looks to shine against OVC team

Continued from 9

action at the Knoxville regional because of the Blue Raiders' early exit.

The Eagles brought a 5-6 record into the weekend series before yesterday's game with Georgia State.

The Eagles lost to future Blue Raider opponent Vanderbilt University (8-2) to open the season.

Offensively, Tech is led by a

pair of .400 hitters. Casey Benjamin and Cole Helms are hitting .444 and .426, respectively.

The staff ace is Buzachero, despite a 1-2 record and 4.68 ERA.

Despite these numbers, Buzachero is rated as one of the top 100 junior prospects for the 2002 draft.

He also is considered the best prospect in the OVC according to *Baseball America*.

On the mound for the Blue Raiders, Williams sports a 2-0 record in 3 starts to go with a 3.32 ERA.

Larson has 1-0 record in 2 starts with a 3.94 E.R.A. to go along with 1 save.

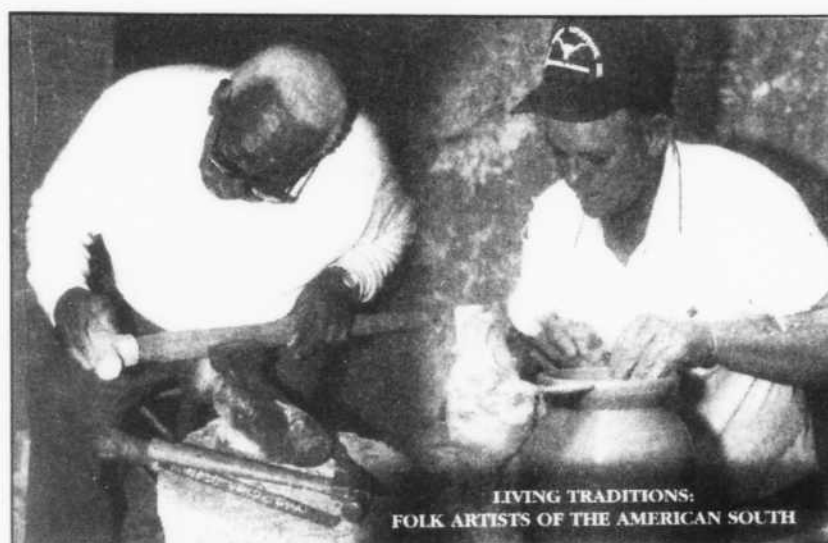
On offense, the Blue Raiders are led by the trio of Justin Sims, Marshall Nisbett and Brett Carroll. As of Tuesday, Sims, Nisbett and Carroll are batting .486, .464 and .425, respectively.

All three are tied for the team lead for home runs with three each.

MT has already faced one OVC opponent this season. The Blue Raiders defeated Austin Peay State University 6-5 to open the season.

Tuesday, the Blue Raiders will travel to Memphis for a two-game series with the University of Memphis. Tuesday's and Wednesday's games will start at 3 p.m. ♦

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