



This week's poll question at www.mtsusidelines.com

Where were you when the fifth installment of the *Harry Potter* series hit shelves?



Laugh your blues away

In Living, page 4

The university's editorially independent student newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 6

\$2.5 million appropriation for Dyslexia Center approved



Photo by Jamie Lorance | Staff Photographer

MTSU's Dyslexia Center plans to use new appropriations to fund a project aiding Department of Defense schools.

By Jennifer Davis
Staff Writer

The House Appropriations Committee approved phase one of a \$2.5 million allocation for the Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia at MTSU last Thursday.

The proposal would allow the MTSU Dyslexia Center an extended influence in teacher preparation across the globe for the Department of Defense school system, which is composed of schools on U.S. military bases.

"We're pleased that the first steps toward garnering dollars that would permit the project to

go forward was a success," said Diane Sawyer, director of the Center for Dyslexia and holder of the Chair of Excellence in Dyslexic Studies.

"We want to see the Dyslexia Center at MTSU expand and become even more nationally prominent," U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon said.

"But also, this is a way we can help a lot of children that are in the Department of Defense schools around the world."

However, to initiate such a comprehensive project, a different approach to provide instruction is required.

Various forms of technology will be implemented, including interactive digital video disks to

share information and assess teachers' knowledge base of dyslexia.

Furthermore, printed manuals, satellite uplink presentations, online contact follow-up and teleconferencing will be used to promote communication, education and training for teachers confronted with dyslexia impediments.

"This grant would permit us to inform teachers of American children around the world about the characteristics of dyslexia that make learning to read, write and spell so difficult despite good intelligence," Sawyer said.

The Tennessee General Assembly established the center

through appropriated funds in 1993.

The Dyslexia Center provides free services via educational workshops for teachers, diagnostic examinations for students and consulting services for Tennessee residents.

Dyslexia is a neurological disorder that roughly affects 15 percent of the population, including Cher, former President George Bush and Tom Cruise.

Children with dyslexia usually display difficulties in learning the alphabet, sounding out words, specific word detection, handwriting, listening and

See Center, 2

Japanese musician to rock on campus



Photo provided by The Record

Hiromitsu Rokuya appears at the Keathley University Center to deliver a unique rock 'n' roll set on the lute.

Staff Reports

In a concert to be held on campus, Hiromitsu Rokuya, a unique Japanese musician, will perform his fusion of classical Asian music with rock and rap.

Rokuya, founder of his own school of music, rocks out on a shamisen, a three-stringed lute, which dates back to the 16th century.

The shamisen was originally played in the theater and during puppet shows.

In addition, Rokuya performs in a futuristic silver wardrobe complete with a matching helmet.

Rokuya is the stage name for Hiromitsu Kinoya and comes from a family with a long history of preserving classical Japanese performing arts.

He invented the style of rock shamisen in 1999 and has played at major theaters similar to the size and prominence of Carnegie Hall.

Three women will accompany Rokuya on stage and dance in kimonos to some of his songs.

The concert runs 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Keathley University Center on Monday, July 14.

A reception and potluck dinner with the performer will be held the same day from 6-8 p.m. at the MTSU Foundation Reception House on Thompson Lane. Both the concert and the reception are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the director of the Japan-U.S. program, Kiyoshi Kawahito, at 898-2229 or kawahito@mtsu.edu.

Hours cut

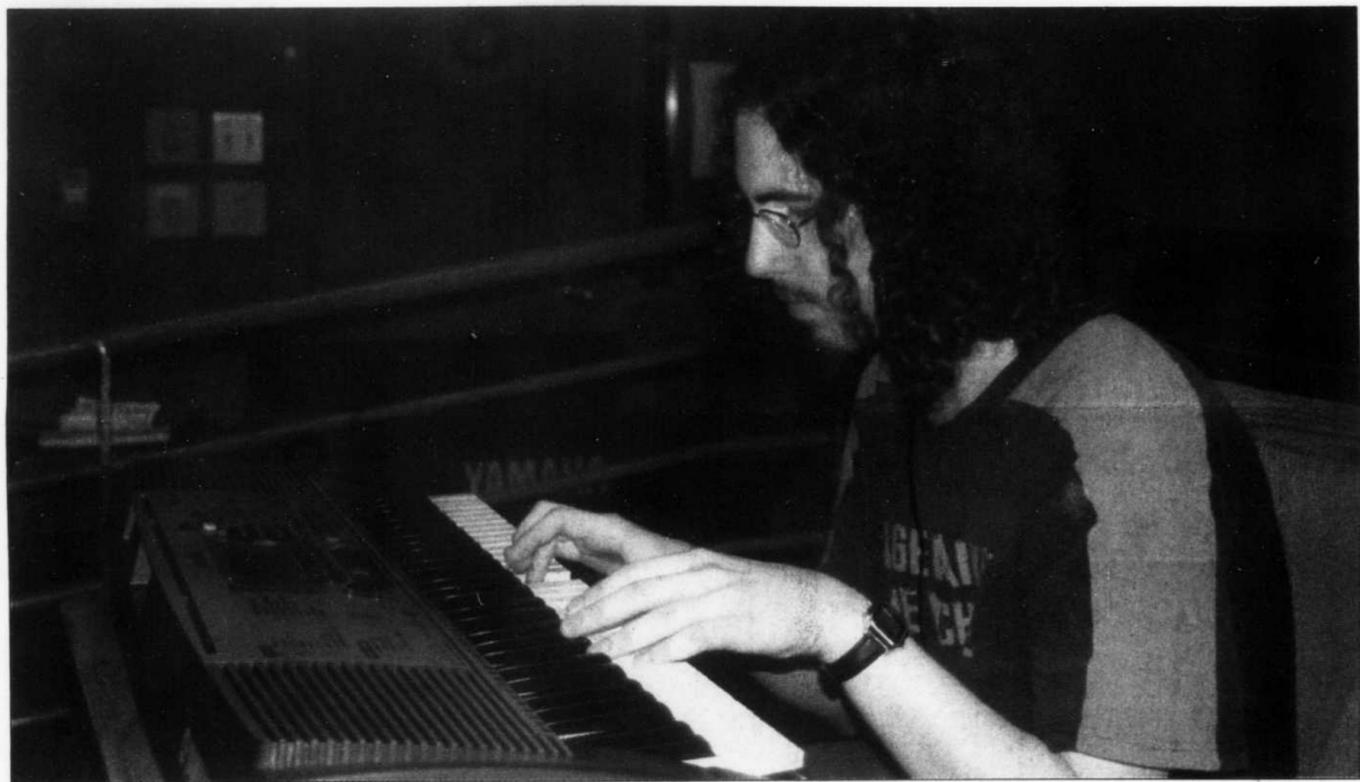


Photo by Dana Stoneking | Staff Photographer

Junior Justin Muschinske participates in his Musicianship for Engineers class. Minors and hours for graduation in this program have changed.

RIM program alters requirements

Majors need fewer hours, one minor beginning this fall

By Julia Reynolds
Staff Writer

In response to a state mandate and economic pressures from the job market, the department of recording industry recently implemented two changes in its degree program.

First, recording industry majors are now required to have one minor instead of the previous two compulsory minors. This brings the total credit hours required down to 120 from 132.

The Tennessee Board of Regents recently mandated that bachelor's degree programs at Tennessee public universities only require one minor.

The move is in response to the recent growth in enrollment at MTSU and other Tennessee public universities.

"All the departments in the university will have to make this change," said Recording Industry Department Chair Chris Haseleu.

"We are just implementing it one year ahead of everyone because we have such limited space."

The changes will have little or no effect on current recording industry seniors, many of whom have almost completed the old two-minor requirement.

"It really won't help or hurt a lot of us," said Chris White, senior recording industry major.

"I've nearly completed my second minor anyway, so I will go ahead and finish with two minors."

Current freshmen and sophomores in the department should benefit from

the change and be able to graduate sooner.

"Hopefully, it will save students some money and ensure they can graduate in four years," Haseleu said.

The second change is to place a limit on the number of students granted upper division candidacy in the recording industry program, which will take effect in the fall 2003 semester.

The available upper division candidacy slots will be limited to 110 in both the spring and fall semesters, for a total of 220 per year.

The 110 seats per semester are further divided by degree concentration, with 60 slots per semester allocated to music business students and 50 for production and technology students.

Because as many as 175 students apply for upper division candidacy each semester, this new limit will mean that some students will be denied

immediate entrance into the upper division courses.

"The candidacy changes are tough. We may eliminate 20 to 30 percent of lower division students who won't be able to move into the upper division courses because of these hard limits," Haseleu said.

Students have to meet several criteria before entering upper division courses.

Candidacy requirements include completion of all developmental studies requirements, all high school deficiencies, 45 hours excluding developmental studies courses, the math requirement of college algebra or higher level math with a minimum 2.0 grade point average and core courses JOUR/EMC 1020, RIM 3000, RIM 3010 and RIM 3600 with a minimum

See RIM, 2

ROTC students compete nationally with other cadets

By Matt Orenstein
Staff Writer

While many MTSU students took summer off, some students involved in ROTC are spending their time earning awards and learning new skills.

The campus ROTC program sent 26 students to six camps and schools this summer, where they offer students specialized training in advanced areas of learning.

One of the major camps was the National Advanced

Leadership Camp, held in Fort Lewis, Wash.

The 14 juniors sent by MTSU were compared and ranked against other cadets from 270 ROTC programs at colleges and universities across the country. This amounts to around 3,500 cadets, as well as 100 British cadets.

"Your whole junior year in



ROTC is designed to prep you to go to this camp," Lt. David LeMay said.

The cadets were tested and evaluated on their leadership abilities and shown the different possibilities for military careers.

"They are tested in basic military skills," Maj. Charles Giles, assistant professor of military science, said about the NALC

course.

"They test physically, mentally, emotionally and compare you to all the other cadets there."

Two students, Cadets Jesse Hill and Amy Johnson, did very well at the NALC.

They scored a perfect 300 on their fitness tests. The minimum score for this test is 180.

"That is one of the major things that the Army looks at, because physical fitness is very important," LeMay said.

After the NALC, the students

made their decision as to which field or branch of military service they wished to enter after graduation.

They also got to choose their first duty assignment.

The Leader's Training Course, for sophomores, was held at Fort Knox, Ky.

"They do things like marksmanship, wind navigations, a lot of team building exercises and confidence building exercises like rappelling," LeMay

See ROTC, 2



Photo by Dana Stoneking | Staff Photographer

Instructor Joseph Akins, left, advises student Casie Johnson in Musicianship for Engineers.

RIM: New candidacy quota set due to limited resources

Continued from 1

2.0 GPA in each.

Students may apply for candidacy at the end of the spring and fall semesters. Those not granted candidacy may appeal or reapply in a following semester.

The candidacy quota was implemented due to the limited availability of instructor, classroom, laboratory and studio resources.

"It was necessary to insure well qualified graduates. We needed to make sure students got enough studio time," Haseleu said.

Graduates from the recording industry are facing a challenging employment market.

While there are some jobs available in live music production and audio engineering, recording jobs are down.

"The record labels are cutting back," Haseleu noted. ♦

Center: Program to benefit instructors, dyslexic children

Continued from 1

reading comprehension.

Initially, individuals with this learning disability appear bright and eager to learn but become frustrated because of their inability to master word-reading skills.

Though dyslexia is incurable, with in-depth instruction in the sound system of word expression, dyslexics are better able to read and write.

Moreover, these individuals can advance in higher forms of education and succeed in areas that demand a more advanced understanding in written language.

"Right now there are about 100,000 children that are in these schools and they have little or no access to information about dyslexia," Gordon said.

"And their instructors by and large really have no information about how to deal with children with dyslexia."

The scope of this project will provide DOD teachers worldwide with an overall enhanced understanding of dyslexia, for-

mal and informal assessments in recognizing the learning disorder and instructional programs focused on improving reading, writing and spelling among students.

"The benefits of this program will enhance the teaching of these children for years to come," Sawyer said.

The \$2.5 million appropriations will be a much-needed resource, since the proposal will require a substantial amount of technical and ongoing support for teachers to combat the damaging effects of dyslexia.

"It will also provide the capital infrastructure that will then allow the Dyslexia center to expand its services with little additional overhead," Gordon said.

The House of Representatives must approve the bill for either the full amount or some portion, and then the Senate negotiates the proposal.

The Dyslexia Center will be notified of allotted funds in late September or the beginning of the new budget year on Oct. 1. ♦

ROTC: Participants learn rappelling, parachuting skills

Continued from 1

said.

"It is actually a basic introduction to the Army."

MTSU sent three cadets this year to experience being in the army and how to be successful in the world.

Seven other students have gone to other camps across the country.

One MTSU sophomore student attended the Mount Warfare School in Vermont.

This school's goal was to teach teamwork in mountain climbing, use of ropes and rappelling gear and rappelling with equipment and evacuation.

The Airborne School at Fort

Benning, Ga., also for sophomores, taught four other cadets about parachuting. The students make multiple platform jumps, as well as five jumps from a plane at 1,200 feet.

"That's our big one. We send more cadets there than anywhere," LeMay said.

Another traveled to Hawaii for training at the Air Assault School. There, the student learned about helicopters and how to rig equipment, various hand and arm signals and how to rappel from a helicopter.

One cadet from MTSU went to the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., to learn how to be an officer in the Army. ♦

Uranium plant causes controversy

By Shana Hammaker
Staff Writer

Trousdale County has become the center of a controversy surrounding a campaign to build a uranium enrichment plant.

Thursday night, County Commissioners in Hartsville, Tenn., passed into law several restrictions known as the Good Neighbor Guidelines that may convince a Louisiana-based energy company to cancel its plans.

"This is a huge deal, but I'm not going to rest," said Syd Lashbrook, Hartsville resident and vocal opponent of the plant.

Lashbrook and her husband founded Citizens for Smart Choices, an organization dedicated to stopping Louisiana Energy Services from building the plant in Hartsville.

Outside the courthouse, the Citizens for Smart Choices wore matching T-shirts with the slogan "LES: We don't want it!"

Located approximately two hours north of Murfreesboro, Hartsville is a small town with a population of 2,386. The unemployment rate is 8 percent, com-

pared to the national average of 6.4.

LES has promised the county commissioners the plant will create 200 permanent jobs. Some residents feel this fact makes the risk of having such a facility less significant.

"Some people think this (the uranium enrichment plant) is the goose that laid the golden egg," Lashbrook remarked.

"Well, yes, the egg is gold, but the goose is diseased and radioactive."

Bill Rickman, area resident and nuclear expert, created the Good Neighbor Guidelines that were passed into law Thursday. He was asked by the Trousdale County Commission to provide them with a formal recommendation on the matter.

Rickman codified his recommendations after a thorough investigation into LES, including a trip to visit the company's European plants.

The guidelines do not restrict LES from building a plant in Hartsville, but they carry strict environmental standards, including an outright ban on air and water emissions, as well as a three-month limit on the storage of radioactive

waste, an amount equal to about 2,000 tons.

LES stated it wants to have a storage capacity of between seven and 10 years.

A crucial aspect of Rickman's guidelines is the requirement that the energy company must first obtain a permit to build a uranium conversion plant before it can obtain a permit to build the contested uranium enrichment plant.

The conversion plant would be the destination of radioactive waste generated at the uranium enrichment plant. The waste would be reacted with water, yielding uranium oxide, a product that is less harmful.

While Rickman conceded to the commissioners Thursday evening that he would be willing to negotiate the maximum storage time for the radioactive waste, he remained firm in his recommendation that LES must build the conversion plant before the enrichment plant.

"They need to have some place for the uranium tails (the leftover radioactive waste) to go," Rickman said.

In making this point, Rickman demonstrated that the public health ramifications of

radioactive waste storage go beyond Hartsville or Trousdale County.

He explained that the U.S. government possesses 800,000 tons of radioactive waste and no place to permanently store it.

It is moved from one landfill to the next and will continue to be until the government can find a facility willing to take it, Rickman said.

The county might build a conversion plant, then buy the toxic and volatile waste from the federal government or other companies to convert in Hartsville.

Rickman acknowledged that he had not considered the possibility of radioactive waste being shipped into the state from all over the country and driven into Hartsville on Tennessee highways.

He cautioned the commissioners to be mindful of that possibility when voting on the Good Neighbor Guidelines and in all future dealings with LES.

The meeting resulted in the county commission voting unanimously to approve Rickman's Good Neighbor Guidelines. ♦

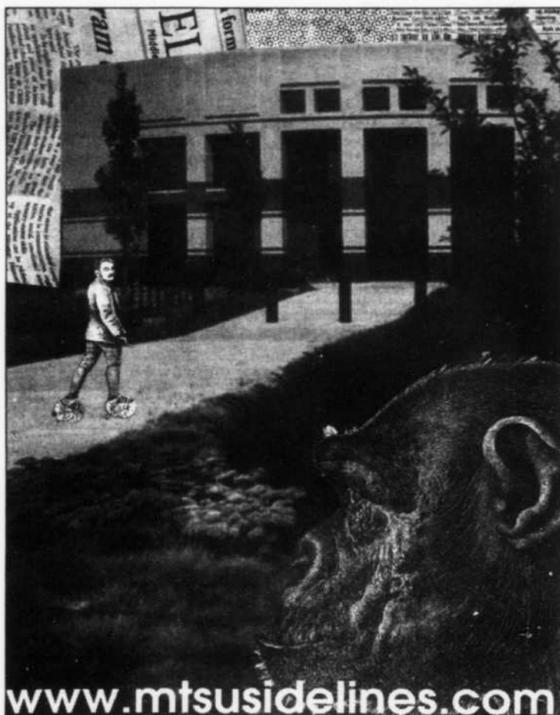
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From the Editorial Board School should follow RIM department's lead

Let it never be said that we don't give credit where credit is due. The recording industry program has taken the initiative and revised its degree program to more accurately reflect the economy of the state and the needs of the industry for which the program trains young minds. We only hope the other departments of this university quickly follow suit.

Every student attending MTSU costs the school, and consequently, the state, money. You didn't really think your tuition and fees covered everything, did you? With the pathetic level of funding that higher education receives, it's only proper to graduate students a semester earlier.

The money saved from this program revision will allow one more student to enroll in the program for every eight already taking classes at a minimal cost to the university. Bearing in mind the goal of educating as many Tennesseans as possible, the economic ramifications of this change are wonderful.

The RI program has also eliminated the double minor requirement.

For many students of all majors, the second minor is little more than a burdensome chore to be endured while taking classes in one or two subjects of real interest. These students will lose nothing by completing only one minor. Of course, nothing in the RI change, or in future university plans, is stopping those students that wish to take another minor. Students can always stay past the 120-hour mark if they want to.

It's also a good move to create a 110-student-per-semester limit on the number of enrollees who receive candidacy. When a program such as the RI's has achieved a level of national prominence, it's in the best interest of the program to make sure only the best qualified students are admitted. This will help ensure that MTSU grads will continue their established tradition of excellence, at least in that field.

Again, this is something other departments should consider. Why not let only the best students advance immediately into the upper division courses? This could only serve to help build a reputation as an academically demanding university.

After all, we have to start somewhere, and it seems that the RI program is on the right track. We hope the rest of the university follows soon. ◆

'Designer babies' cause for alarm

Thoughts While Driving



Gary Morrison
Staff Columnist

Usually congratulations are in order when a couple has a baby. However, when a British couple gave birth to a healthy baby boy a few days ago, I felt more disgust than happiness for them. Jayson and Michelle Whitakers' newborn second son is being billed in newspaper articles as a "designer baby."

Their first son, now four years old, has a rare blood disease that requires a bone marrow transplant and the parents were hoping for a sibling that offered a match.

Hoping is hardly what the parents were doing. In fact, the Whitakers did everything scientifically

possible to ensure their latest offspring would provide the necessary marrow match for their older son.

What did they do? They had embryos created through the in-vitro fertilization process, and those embryos were genetically tested to see which ones had the highest likelihood of providing the genetic match that the elder son needed (in-vitro fertilization is the process in which embryos are created in a lab and then placed into the mother's womb).

In-vitro fertilization isn't new. Genetic testing isn't new. What is new is the process of testing the genetics of several embryos in order to find the one or two with the greatest likelihood of matching a sick sibling.

Britain has a regulatory body for this type of process, and the Whitakers were denied permission

for this procedure. So, they came to America, where the process is not so strictly regulated.

There are a few issues that bother me about this entire process.

First, what happened to the embryos that were not deemed genetic matches?

One news article stated that doctors chose from ten Whitaker embryos. This particular aspect is not unique to the Whitaker case, but it is to in-vitro fertilization in general.

It brings up the "when does life start?" argument. Were several lives sacrificed in order to choose one or two that would potentially meet the wishes of the parents?

Second, a particular embryo was chosen over others specifically for desirable traits. Choosing one embryo over another for the ultimate purpose of saving a life may sound

noble, but I disagree. What's the difference between choosing an embryo for compatible stem cells (which is what the Whitakers' son needs) and choosing an embryo that has the genes for blue eyes? There is none.

Choosing an embryo for a specific trait is just that, and it doesn't matter what that trait is. But, here's where the Whitakers go beyond merely choosing a trait.

The Whitakers are going to great lengths to try to ensure that their newest child has a trait that will be compatible with his or her older brother for the purpose of saving the elder's life.

Again, saving a life sounds very noble, but is it really so in all cases? Is it justifiable to create a child in order to use some of its biological parts to try to save another child?

If you had a 4-year-old

child who needed a kidney transplant to live and found out that your 2-year-old child was a perfect match, would you make the decision to take a kidney from one to save the other? Should a parent have that right?

If you didn't already have another child who was compatible, would you get pregnant again, hoping your next child would be a match?

That's basically what the Whitakers did, only they hedged their bet a little by using modern genetic technology and throwing out a few undesirable embryos.

The process of choosing specific genetic traits has begun. Where will it end? When, if ever, is it justified? ◆

Gary Morrison is a graduate student in English and can be reached via e-mail at gwm2c@mtsu.edu.

Legal system works only if people get involved

Guest Commentary



Chance Meyer
Guest Columnist

When I told my grandfather I wanted to attend law school, he said, "That's just what we need - another lawyer in the family." (He was proud to be so clever).

It got me wondering why so many people view the law as something devious and slimy? Why, on occasion, do I? Is the law somehow heartless or disconnected from the human experience?

We distrust the legal system because it often seems unfair or utterly absurd to us. We witness the appearance of injustice and resent the law for it. It seems like the law is made by a bunch of isolated old men in horsehair wigs pontificating about academic theories instead of simply being fair.

O.J. Simpson is guilty of civil wrongfulness but not criminal murder, obese people sue fast-food chains for causing their obesity and corporations enjoy free speech despite their abilities to monopolize channels of mass communication.

Is there not a disparity between the huge intellectual effort invested in the law and these preposterous results? Does not all this unfairness prove that the law cannot separate wrong from right?

The thing is, the law's that. More difficult than that. Wrong and right, truth and falsehood - these are things that exist to a degree on both sides of every conflict. There is seldom a clear line between them. So, the law does not separate them - it balances them. It compromises and infringes on them here and there for the greater good of holding our society together.

In trying to do this, things sometimes get screwed up. The trick is not to feel contempt for the system merely because humanity is still struggling with its infinite problems.

Injustice is a sad consequence of a chaotic universe and it will always exist, but at least our legal system offers a counterforce.

Humanity is the prime agent of this injustice. We are made up of a dangerous cocktail of pride and fallibility, so we are inevitably harmful if given absolute power. Our legal system offers an alternative to absolute power. Ironically, we designed our legal system to combat the same human flaw for which we hold it responsible.

The law seems unfair, but it is we who are unfair. The law provides an intellectual system for resolving conflict without involving emotions.

Yes, the law is heartless. But, it is intentionally heartless because human passion is an awful way to determine fairness. Whether we like it or not,

we all do a little 'witch burning,' vilifying and filtering the world through our moral fabric. It took centuries of social evolution just for us to realize it.

We have designed the law to be unfixed so we can correct our mistakes. The result is a nebula of evolving ideas. It is vast, multi-cultural and always churning and growing. It is a living reflection of our evolving society, and even though it is sometimes pulling up the rear, it is always being reconciled with society's will.

On its margins (and occasionally within its core) exist these absurd states of law, maybe volatile and young in evolution. Instead of blaming the law for these problems, it's in our best interests to pray that this experiment (the law) works and is not ultimately unreliable but merely temporarily unbalanced.

Nevertheless, we have to participate as active citizens to make it work. Apathy, not corruption, is the greatest threat to fairness, because we have the power to make things right if they get "out of whack," so to speak.

The law is not a long, codified list of rules buried somewhere deep in a library. Rather, it is an exciting opportunity for we the people to better humanity. ◆

Chance Meyer is a senior recording industry major and can be reached via e-mail at chancemeyer@hotmail.com.

WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

Sidelines' occasional watch for mutton-heads.



Play basketball in front of people, cameras and the media? What's an 18-year-old multimillionaire to do?

If you took Aaron Goodwin, agent for LeBron James, at his word, you'd think that poor old James was exploited more than, say, a collegiate athlete.

The agent has whined to www.espn.com that James should get a chance to play competitively in private before exposing him to all those nasty fans and cameras.

"This is supposed to be a learning experience, but it's hard for it to be when there will be more than 10,000 fans there and more than 100 members of the media," Goodwin told ESPN. "Before this year, the Magic's summer league was closed, but now they've opened it up (for a day) and in doing so, James' every move will be watched, his every dribble, his every shot."

"I know LeBron welcomes the challenge, but I also realize he's just 18 years old," Goodwin continued.

Well, last we checked, an 18-year-old man is not a kid. It wasn't clear whether Goodwin was reflecting the wishes of his client, but are we really supposed to feel

sorry for James?

Mind you, this isn't a knock at James. His talents are not exclusive to the basketball court - he's articulate, seemingly intelligent and a great budding businessman. The astronomical deal with Nike proves that.

Goodwin is the schmuck here. His client is going to be earning unprecedented sums from his endorsement deal, not to mention a great salary from the beleaguered Cleveland Cavaliers, who are hoping that James will be their savior.

Goodwin cannot and should not expect James to be treated with kid gloves. We certainly don't handle collegiate athletes gently - just read a newspaper in this state when the Tennessee Volunteers lose a football game - and those guys aren't getting paid a dime.

Don't cry to us about James being exploited; after all, Goodwin's the one laughing all the way to the bank. ◆

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SIDELINES

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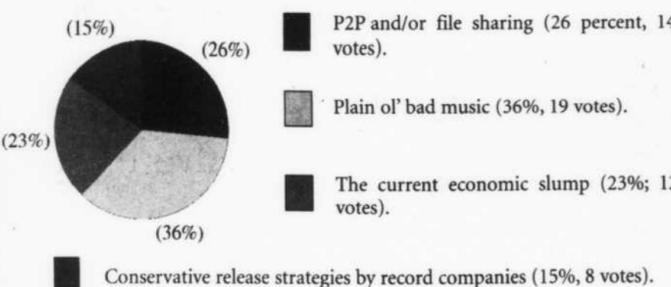
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Let us know!
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Philosophy of 'Fight Club' with Wesley Jackson only at www.mtsusidelines.com

Sidelines online poll results

Last week we asked, "What do you think is the cause of declining album sales in the record industry?" Here's what you said:



Be sure to visit www.mtsusidelines.com and vote on next week's poll question: "Where were you when the fifth installment of the Harry Potter series hit shelves?"

Letter to the Editor

Why pamper terrorists?

To the Editor:

Terrorists have bombed the Trade Center twice, Air Force barracks in Saudi Arabia, a U.S. embassy in Africa, the Pentagon and the USS Cole. Muslims have been profiled because they have been the people responsible for these attacks.

They're prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, as well as illegal Arab aliens who have broken the law. They have Muslim food, prayer mats, access to priests and can send mail out. The have any rights not protect them and they do not have any rights so they are deported or executed as terrorists.

They have been treated humanely, so why is everyone concerned about them and not the thousands of people they have killed in their terrorist acts? Contrast that with how they treat our prisoners and Daniel Pearl. The Arab people treat women like dirt and execute adulterers by chopping off their heads in their countries.

Why not be concerned for the mothers, fathers, sons and daughters killed instead of murdering terrorists and illegal aliens who have broken the law. There are not any prisoners in terrorist prison that have not broken the law.

The sooner they execute them and send the illegal aliens back to their countries, the better off we'll be.

John Hixson



Photo provided by Wendy Bryant, Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce

Bass player Mickey Harris and guitarist Rob Percy play backup for a contestant during last year's Uncle Dave Macon Days music contest.

Laugh your blues away

By Melissa Coker
Staff Reporter

The 26th annual fun-filled festival in celebration of the "Dixie Dewdrop" is ready to kick up its heels.

And in case you were wondering, Dixie Dewdrop isn't a type of sugar or the name of a beauty contest. It was the nickname given to Uncle Dave Macon, a shimmering star of the Grand Ole Opry who hailed from Rutherford County.

His honorary celebration is known as Uncle Dave Macon Days, and it takes place in Murfreesboro's Cannonsburgh Village July 11-13.

Macon began his career as a performer, entertaining family and friends while operating a transportation company between Murfreesboro and Woodbury.

In 1920 and at age 50, when the gasoline-powered truck was introduced, he retired his mule teams to chase a career as a full-time entertainer.

He joined the Grand Ole Opry in 1926 and became the first individual performer featured there.

Uncle Dave died only a few weeks after his last performance at the age of 81. In 1966 he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, and in 1979 he was nominated for a Grammy Award.

This Grammy nomination was for a recording called "Laugh Your Blues Away" and it was produced by English professor Charles Wolfe. In addition to his production work, Wolfe has authored or co-authored

some 20 or so books which discuss Uncle Dave.

Wolfe has been a part of Uncle Dave Macon Days since the very beginning, whether as a judge, a planner or in various other capacities. What keeps Wolfe excited about the event is the down home feel of the festivities.

"Uncle Dave is truly a grassroots effort; there is nothing else like it. Everyone is a volunteer. It's the eddy of the community," he says.

Each year, the festival directors present the prestigious Heritage Award to an individual dedicated to the preservation and advancement of old-time music and dance.

Wolfe received this recognition in 1989 and shares this special honor with such names as Bill Monroe, Marty Stuart and Roy Acuff.

But Uncle Dave Macon Days are hardly all history. The festival is also a lot of fun. The main events are the dancing and music competitions, but other offerings include a juried arts and crafts show, a motorless parade, impromptu jam and dance sessions, children's activities, and of course, food. Some of these competitions are the national championships of their category.

Entry fees range from \$5 for individuals to \$20 for bands, and this year there is more than \$6,000 in prize money.

Dancing styles include clogging and buckdancing, which is a version of clogging that is more flat-footed and closer to the ground. Music competitions include the banjo (Uncle Dave's specialty), fiddle, harmonica, dobro,

old time band and the blues, which is new this year.

There's real talent here. Just ask current Student Government Association president Michele Butler, who competed annually from 1997-2000 and has danced with the Grand Ole Opry Square Dancers (formerly the Melvin Sloan Dancers) for nearly two years.

"I guess my secret's out," she laughs.

"Opry dancers aren't allowed to compete but I do plan to attend Uncle Dave Macon Days this year. I'm looking forward to seeing and supporting my friends; we're like family."

Uncle Dave Macon Days was named one of the Top 100 Events in North America for 2003 by the American Bus Association, a title that is only given to two events per state. (Dollywood's Winterfest was the other chosen from Tennessee).

The legendary Kitty Wells will perform at this year's show. It's a weekend of Americana that shouldn't be missed. 650 WSM is set to broadcast from the event, and 95 WSM-FM joins the juncture too.

"As a former college student myself, I know I would want to take part in Uncle Dave Macon Days," says publicity director Wendy Bryant.

"After all, it's free!"

That's right, it's free. Not only is there no cost to attend, but free parking is available as well.

Cannonsburgh Village is located on Front Street behind the Shoney's Restaurant on Broad Street. For more information, call 893-2371 or 800-716-7560. You may also visit www.uncledavemacondays.com. ♦

Harry Potter casts his spell on readers

Young and young at heart enjoy the 'Harry Potter' book series

By Wendy Caldwell
Assistant News Editor

Kids of all ages awaited the June 21, 12:01 a.m. release of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, the latest novel in the *Harry Potter* series.

Dressed in wizard robes and pointed hats and carrying wands, eager fans of the *Harry Potter* books flocked to bookstores worldwide to purchase the fifth installment in this captivating series.

Fans participated in costume and trivia contests to pass the time before the book's release. Some large bookstores had magic acts and other themed activities as well.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, released three years after the previous book, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, contains nearly 900 pages and more words than the King James Version of the New Testament of the Bible.

However, loyal readers were not deterred.

"I don't even know how big of a crowd we had," recalls Sara Pattison, head of the Murfreesboro Books-A-Million children's department.

"We had lines from the front of

the store all the way to the back of the store."

"People were doing the wave waiting in line," Pattison adds.

Not only did fans flock to bookstores to obtain the newest in the best-selling series, but they also eagerly waited for delivery trucks to bring Harry's fifth year at Hogwarts into their homes.

"This girl was sitting on the porch from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. when the driver pulled up, reading the fourth book," says Brad Turner, senior manager of FedEx home delivery in Nashville.

According to Turner, his district experienced a sizable upsurge in deliveries on the day of the *Harry Potter* release.

"It was probably about 120 percent over our normal volume," Turner says.

"Most people were ecstatic," he recalls. "Children were very excited." However, *Harry Potter* fever doesn't stop with children. Across the globe, teens and adults are also enjoying the series.

"It was spread out," Turner says of the recipients' ages.

"It was adults, teenagers and chil-



Photos by Jamie Lorance | Staff Photographer
(Above) Holly Vetter, winner of costume contest, poses with judges Sarah Pattison and Ashley Phillips.

(Right) Tim Baker, Books-A-Million employee and MTSU student, assists Jason Rogers with his purchase.



dren." Pattison agrees with Turner's profile of anxious *Harry Potter* readers. "It was about even, adults and kids," Pattison says of the midnight crowd on June 21.

Pattison, who graduated from MTSU in May, has also read the *Harry Potter* series, claiming the first book is still her favorite.

What draws teenagers, college kids and adults to the series?

It could be the imaginative world author J.K. Rowling creates, the classic battle between good and evil or the vast assortment of creatures like Dobby the house elf or Buckbeak the hippogriff.

Most likely, though, people just

See Potter, 5

Sorting Hat Quiz

By Wendy Caldwell
Assistant News Editor

Murfreesboro may not have a Sorting Hat, but you can still find out which Hogwarts House you would be sorted into.

1. Which group is the best asset to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry?

- A. Pureblood wizards
- B. The brave and adventurous
- C. The studious and intellectual
- D. Everyone is equally beneficial

2. The *Harry Potter* character you most relate to is:

- A. Draco Malfoy
- B. Harry Potter
- C. Hermione Granger
- D. Ron Weasley

3. The best part of a Quidditch match would be:

- A. Being the team captain and having others follow
- B. Playing Seeker and risking injuries to win
- C. Refereeing and knowing all the rules
- D. Watching and cheering everyone else

4. Which of the following would you most like to have?

- A. A great broom everyone else would be jealous of
- B. An invisibility cloak so I can roam around after curfew without getting caught
- C. A great collection of really informative spell books

See Quiz, 5

Let the Ebay buyer beware



The highs and lows of online auctions

By Kimberly Jones
Contributor

A point and a click to www.ebay.com reveals a world where designer clothes, vintage vinyl and Pez dispensers coexist online.

Ebay is the largest online auction house, where all the buying and selling is conducted from the comfort of a computer chair.

In the seven years that Ebay has existed, it has managed to make a name for itself among companies and consumers. The site puts perspective buyers and sellers in direct contact with each other, allowing them to buy a variety of items from people all over the world.

Since the product list is so extensive with prices to fit nearly every budget, this updated spin on the old adage "one man's trash is another man's treasure" makes even a one-stop-shop like Super Walmart seem obsolete.

Selection, price and novelty are particularly enticing to college students, who usually have limited funds and trans-

portation, but possess that risky competitive spirit. Thus, they are naturally attracted to Ebay.

One such student is Andraea LaVant. A look inside LaVant's room makes her Ebay addiction evident.

From her 1986 Whitney Houston poster hung on the wall, to her Jennifer Lopez-inspired hat flung over the door, to her Coach accessories scattered about, it's clear that the online marketplace has added a unique flavor to the sophomore public relations major's decor.

"I like having something unexpected that makes people exclaim, 'That's a Whitney Houston poster!' and 'Where did you get that?'" LaVant says.

"You can find things that might otherwise be unattainable."

Suffia Johnson bids on items from movies to a new pair of Air Force One sneakers. Although this senior political science major has yet to successfully win an auction, she still finds it to be a competitive hobby.

"If you really want an item, you will do anything to get it, even bid more than you were initially planning on," Johnson says.

Recently, this insatiable hunger for items has prompted some registered sellers to auction off items deemed by many to be inappropriate.

Among these are body parts from the recent Columbia explosion, a human kidney, wreckage from ground zero and a half-eaten piece of French toast apparently bitten by teen dream Justin Timberlake.

"I would not put my heart or leg [on the auction block] and let someone bid. There should be a limit — some stipulations against offensive material like a code or membership," Johnson says.

To their credit, Ebay removes questionable or unconscionable items as soon as they find them. But the sheer number of auctions on the site makes it difficult to find them instantly.

The large-scale task of monitoring the auctions and those individuals desperate enough to own them is where LaVant feels there is a problem.

"I know that if I type in 'watch,' I get like seven million returns, so I can imagine how

many items there are out there," LaVant says.

Business on the Web site is conducted between registered members who are rated according to feedback from past buyers and sellers.

Feedback comes in the form of positive or negative. Too many negatives serve as a warning to others that they might not want to do business with this particular individual.

Still, the site's help page warns members, "We are not involved in the actual transaction between buyers and sellers. We have no control over the quality, safety or legality of the items advertised the truth or accuracy of the listings, the ability of sellers to sell items or the ability of buyers to buy items."

Simply put, "Let the buyer beware."

LaVant echoes Ebay's warning.

"It's the person's fault that buys it. There are a lot of things that I don't agree with, so I don't participate."

Scams aside, there are plenty of treasures to be found on Ebay. And many of the site's loyal shoppers eagerly look forward to the phrase, "Going ... going ... gone." ♦



Photo by Jamie Lorange | Staff Photographer

Despite the late hour, many fans turned out for the release of the new Harry Potter book.

Potter: Readers remain under Harry Potter's spell

Continued from 4

While there is no timeline yet for the sixth or seventh books, there's no doubt that fans will wait to see what's next for Harry. In the meantime, Muggles (those who don't practice magic) will have wait patiently for the next Hogwarts Express from Platform 9 3/4. ♦

like a good read, even if it is nearly 900 pages.

"I think a lot of adults want to read kids-type stories anyway," Pattison suggests.

"There are so many other people reading this book. It's just a very accessible story," she says.

Quiz: Which Hogwarts House are you in?

Continued from 4

D. Some really great friends that aren't all like me, but all have something to offer

5. What is the greatest sweet treat?

- A. Whatever I can swipe from the kid next to me
- B. Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans
- C. Chocolate Frogs with collectible wizard cards and fun facts
- D. I'm content with anything sweet

Now it's time to sort yourself into a House. Count how many times you picked each letter, and then look below to see your results.

Mostly As: Congratulations, you're a Slytherin! Slytherin House was founded by Salazar Slytherin, a wizard who felt purebloods were most fit to attend Hogwarts. Slytherins have the determination and drive to accomplish many great things — they don't give up easily.

Head of House: Professor Snape
House Ghost: The Bloody Baron
Famous Slytherins: Malfoy, Crabbe, Goyle, any bad witch or wizard (but don't let that discourage you)

Mostly Bs: Congratulations, you're a Gryffindor! Gryffindor House was founded by Godric Gryffindor, a wizard who felt that brave students were especially important to Hogwarts. Gryffindors are brave and adventurous, although some have problems following the rules.

Head of House: Professor McGonagall
House Ghost: Nearly Headless Nick
Famous Gryffindors: Harry, Hermione, the Weasleys

Mostly Cs: Congratulations, you're a Ravenclaw! Ravenclaw House was founded by Rowena Ravenclaw, a witch who felt intelligent students would always succeed at Hogwarts. Ravenclaws are intelligent and studious.

Head of House: Professor Flitwick
House Ghost: The Grey Lady
Famous Ravenclaws: Cho Chang, Roger Davies, Padma Patil

Mostly Ds: Congratulations, you're a Hufflepuff! Hufflepuff House was founded by Helga Hufflepuff, a witch who believed all students should be accepted into Hogwarts, regardless of their ancestry. Hufflepuffs are loyal, friendly and accepting.

Head of House: Professor Sprout
House Ghost: The Fat Friar
Famous Hufflepuffs: Cedric Diggory, Justin Finch-Fletchley, Ernie MacMillan

Frugal Stu wants to know...

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SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

MLB announces roster for '03 All-Star Game

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Reporter

With July 4 almost a week behind, the Major League Baseball All-Star roster was selected and announced Sunday.

The game is set for July 15 at 7 p.m. at US Cellular Field in Chicago. US Cellular Field is home of the American League Chicago White Sox.

In order to bring some excitement back into the game, the winning league will get home-field advantage for their representative in the World Series. The

move was made after last year's game ended in an 11-inning 7-7 tie.

"In the past, the game has been an afterthought," AL All-Star Alex Rodriguez said to *The Associated Press*.

"A lot of times, by the sixth or seventh inning, the guys were showered, packed up and on their way back home. Hopefully, this year, the fans are going to get a much better game with a lot more intensity."



Another change was in the voting. The players, managers and coaches had a chance to put their voices in the selection of players for the first time since 1969. Each team also received two extra spots to fill on the roster, from 30 to 32 players.

Both teams will have members who will make their first appearances in the game. A total of 29 players will make their All-Star debuts, the most since 30 in

the 1988 game.

However, some well known players were not chosen to participate in this year's game. Some include Mike Piazza, Randy Johnson, Roger Clemens, Tom Glavine, Greg Maddux, Ken Griffey Jr., Pedro Martinez, Derek Jeter and Curt

Schilling.

A big surprise came when Sammy Sosa was in second in votes for the National League Outfielder last Tuesday. In the final week of voting, Albert Pujols jumped from fifth to first with 2,030,702 votes. Sosa was not named to the team and will not play in the game. This is the first game Sosa has missed since 1997.

"Sometimes when this kind of situation happens, it happens for a reason," Sosa said to the AP. "I'm very happy for

See Game, 7

THE EVOLUTION OF MT'S MASCOT

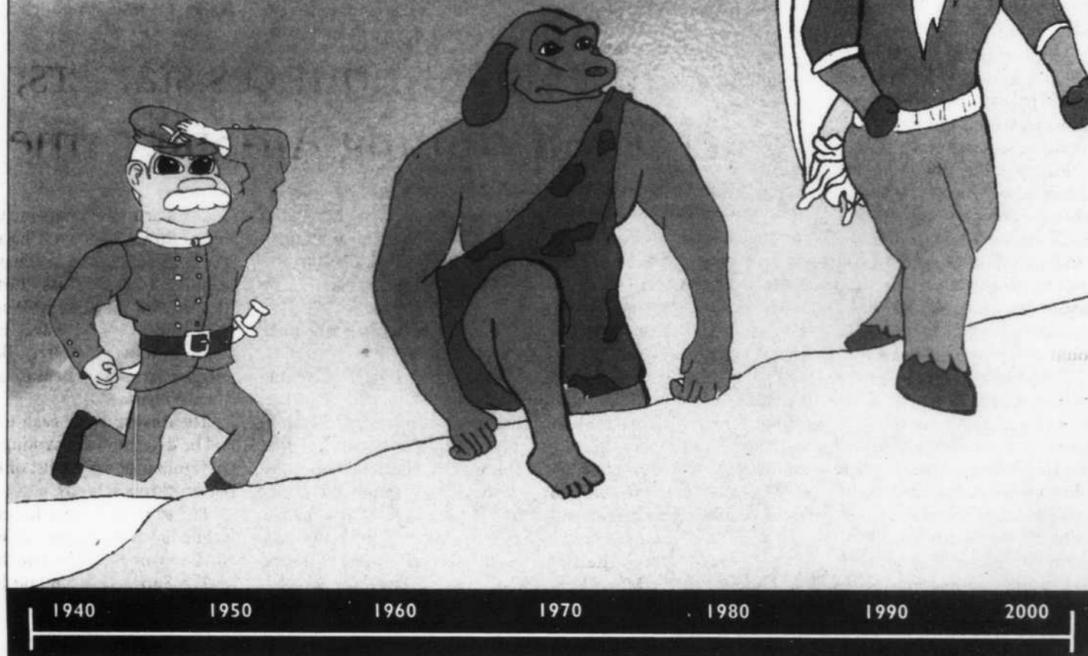


Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

A variety of mascots have been used throughout MT's athletic history.

Blue Raider mascots get facelifts over years

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Reporter

Middle Tennessee has gone through many changes in reference to the athletic nickname, logo and mascot over the years.

However, since 1998, a winged horse named Lightning has been the representation that is noticed at Blue Raider sporting events.

MT first received an identity in 1945 when the university used the symbol of a confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest. Forrest, who was seen on a horse, held the look of the Blue Raider nickname.

Twenty years later, the Forrest mascot was no longer used because of the sentiment of those who felt it was insensitive to the African-American community.

The actual name of the Blue Raiders also has a history behind it. Before 1934, the teams went by different nicknames, including the Teachers, the Normalites and the Pedagogues.

The Daily News Journal had a contest for the choosing of the nickname. Charles Sarver, who was a member of the football team at that time, chose the nickname that won the

contest and a prize of \$5.

Sarver took the name from the Colgate Red Raiders and switched the Red to Blue. The name has been used ever since.

Following the removal of the symbol of Forrest, the Blue Raiders used an unofficial mascot named Ole Blue.

Ole Blue was a cartoon-like blue tick hound that roamed at all the Blue Raider athletic events.

Starting in 1996, Former MT President James E. Walker decided that MT needed a facelift.

A logo and mascot committee was then formed because the members of the university community felt the unofficial mascot was not a proper one.

The committee that was made up of students, faculty, staff and MT supporters met several times during a 23-month period.

During the meetings, discussion of changing the Blue Raider was suggested, but the committee decided to keep it along with the colors of royal blue, white and silver.

"We looked at several different things, several different variations, we discussed different things, ran different drawings. It wasn't anything that was done in a real short period

of time," Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Doug Williams said.

With the help of the firm of Dye, Van Mol and Lawrence, the selection of the logo and mascot was down to two choices and were ready to be announced.

The committee was able to make a selection for the new logo and mascot. The revealing of the new logo and first official mascot was Jan. 17, 1998, during the halftime of a men's basketball game against Tennessee State University.

In the time leading up to the unveiling, there was a campaign including a billboard in Nashville, a commercial on ESPN and posters put up all over campus with the words "Lightning Strikes Murphy Center."

"Certainly, athletics is an important part of a university. Lightning plays an important role, being a symbol and helping provide entertainment," Williams said. It is the first official logo in the university's history.

According to Greek mythology, the winged horse possessed superior cunning and speed.

The thundering horse of



File photo

Lightning strikes a pose during a game last season. Lightning was adopted as the official mascot in 1998 by a committee.

the gods was entrusted to carry lightning bolts and could only be harnessed by a noble being with a pure heart. The current MT logo was designed by Chris Brady.

There are no predicted changes in the upcoming future for Lightning or the athletic MT logo. ♦

Sports Briefs

Compiled by Amy Jones
Sports Editor

Student tickets for MT-Georgia game go on sale July 9

The Middle Tennessee ticket office will begin selling tickets to students for the Blue Raiders' game at Georgia today.

The ticket office has reserved 750 tickets for students, and they will be sold until the allotment is gone. Any unsold tickets will be returned to Georgia prior to the game.

Tickets are \$32 and can be purchased only at the Floyd Stadium box office near gate 1A just off Faulkinberry Dr.

There is no limit to the number of tickets that students may purchase, but each student must present an MT ID in order to buy tickets.

Students with questions about tickets should call the MT Ticket Office at 898-2103 or 1-888-YES-MTSU.



Raider Roundup Auction set to raise money for athletics

The 11th annual Raider Roundup will be held Saturday, Aug. 16. The event, chaired again this year by Dr. Liz Rhea, will begin at 6 p.m. in the stadium tower at Floyd Stadium.

The Raider Roundup is put on each year to raise money for scholarships and other program needs. As in the past, there have been a number of quality auction items donated by area businesses to assist in the success of the event.

This year, the auction will be highlighted by a change of venue. In recent years, the event has been held at the Middle Tennessee Foundation House, but will move to the stadium tower at Floyd Stadium this year.

Making this year's event possible is a volunteer group consisting of 22 individuals. The volunteers are: Liz Rhea (chair), Judy Myatt (co-chair), Beth Binkley, Brenda Wunder, Ed DeBoer, Ginger Corley, Sharon Thomas, Chuck Shaw, Hanna and Don Witherspoon, Diane Gower, Cindy Flippin, Susan Quesenberry, Anita Pirtle, Rita Ash, Linda Watson, Lisa Halliburton, Lillian Rucci, Linda Tackett, Julia Sullivan, Carol Donnelly and Bunny Wolf.

The festivities will also include an open bar, music and food provided by Outback Steakhouse. The cost per person is \$50.

Guests may dress in casual attire. For more information, please call the BRAA office at 898-2210.

MT women's basketball announces 2003-04 schedule

The MT women's basketball program has set its ledger of games for the upcoming 2003-04 season. The Lady Raider coaching staff has put together a schedule that includes 13 home games with 17 games in Tennessee.

In non-conference action, the Lady Raiders will face five teams who saw action in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament, which include Manhattan, Austin Peay, Xavier, Georgia and South Carolina.

Of the three SEC schools Middle Tennessee is playing, the Lady Raiders will host South Carolina and Alabama.

Other notable non-conference games the Lady Raiders are hosting include Southern Illinois, Chicago State and Tennessee Tech.

The Lady Raiders will travel to in-state schools Tennessee State and Lipscomb. The team will also participate in a tournament hosted by Florida Atlantic University, which will include Manhattan and Norfolk State.

The 14-game conference slate includes home-and-home matchups with Florida International, Western Kentucky, Arkansas State, and Arkansas-Little Rock. South Alabama, New Orleans and North Texas will visit the Murphy Center this season, while the Lady Raiders will take to the road for contests at New Mexico State, Louisiana-Lafayette and Denver.

The conference race will have added intensity down the stretch, as only eight teams will qualify for the post-season Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

The Lady Raiders begin the season on Nov. 11 when MT will host Georgia College and State University in an exhibition game. ♦



Photo by Rick Kersmarki
Staff Photographer

A student-athlete works at the athletic study hall at Floyd Stadium. Athletes are required to attend sessions at the study hall as part of their scholarships.

NCAA revises student-athlete standards

By Kentral A. Moore
Staff Writer

As is the case every year, the NCAA made some changes that will have an impact on collegiate sports.

One of the changes is to increase the minimum percentage of degree requirements that a student-athlete must satisfy to be eligible for competition from 25/50/75 to 40/60/80, for student-athletes in a five-year degree program.

For those not familiar with the NCAA lingo, the 25/50/75 is the old system in which a student-athlete entering his or her third year of collegiate enroll-

ment has to have completed successfully at least 25 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. The new system of satisfactory progress requires 40 percent of the course requirements to be completed.

Possible proposals include changing the percentage of a student's degree that must be completed by the third, fourth and fifth years, Jane Jankowski, NCAA spokesperson, said to *The Daily Texan*.

"One of the suggestions is to require that student athletes meet a 40, 60, 80-percent degree completion requirement with the GPA required to graduate,"

Jankowski said.

A student-athlete entering his or her fourth year of collegiate enrollment would have to complete at least 50 percent of the course requirements. Now, with the new system, student-athletes will have to complete no less than 60 percent of the course requirements.

As for student-athletes entering their fifth year of collegiate enrollment, they can no longer have at least 75 percent of their course requirements completed but must now have completed 80 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program.

Another change adopted by

the NCAA is the increase from 13 to 14 minimum core-course units for a qualifier and requiring one additional core-course unit be earned in English, math, natural/physical science, social sciences or additional academic courses.

To establish an initial-eligibility index based upon a core-curriculum grade-point average of 2.550 and a composite SAT score of 400 or an equivalent ACT sum score to be determined by the ACT testing agency.

New proposals for eligibility have also been brought up, with

See NCAA, 7

Sexual assault allegations force Bryant to surrender

By Judith Kohler
Associated Press Writer

EAGLE, Colo. (AP) — Prosecutors need more time before deciding whether to bring charges against Kobe Bryant, who is accused of sexually assaulting a woman at a resort near Vail last week.

"Sometimes it takes while to get through everything," Eagle County District Attorney Mark Hurlbert said Monday.

"It may be beyond the end of the week."

He said Bryant might not be charged at all, but he refused to discuss details of the allegations against the five-time NBA All-Star.

Bryant's lawyer, Pamela Mackey, said the Los Angeles Lakers' guard "expects to be completely exonerated," and she accused the sheriff's office of rushing the case against the advice of prosecutors.

According to an arrest warrant, the 24-year-old Bryant attacked a woman June 30.

Authorities said only that it happened at a hotel, but a bellman at the upscale Lodge & Spa at Cordillera in nearby Edwards said Bryant was a guest there June 30 and July 1.

The accusations against Bryant made headlines nationwide and stunned the sports world. Dozens of reporters and camera crews descended on this mountain town about 100 miles west of Denver.

Since entering the NBA straight from high school, Bryant has drawn comparisons to the league's greatest players. He was married in 2001 and became a father earlier this year.

Bryant surrendered to authorities Friday and was released after posting \$25,000 bond. Mackey said her client had been in Colorado for surgery on his right knee at Vail's Steadman Hawkins Clinic.

Mackey accused the sheriff's office of "complete bias," saying it ignored the wishes of the district attorney in obtaining the

arrest warrant.

"We were told that the matter was under consideration by the district attorney's office but that there was insufficient information to issue a warrant or to file charges," she said in a statement.

Mackey did not return calls seeking elaboration.

At Monday's news conference, Hurlbert refused to address Mackey's claims.

"What's done is done," said Hurlbert, standing a few feet away from Sheriff Joe Hoy, whose office is leading the investigation.

"I'm not going to comment on whether it was prudent or not. A judge found probable cause."

The sheriff's office sought the arrest warrant from a judge instead of making the request through the district attorney, which is the usual practice.

Only the district attorney's office can file charges.

Hoy said his investigators learned of the case July 1 and spent nearly 30 hours on it before contacting Bryant. Defense attorneys were notified on the Fourth of July, and Bryant returned to Colorado that day.

"There wasn't any urgency. We felt we were doing the right thing for everyone involved," Hoy said.

"We wanted to give people the time to themselves to adjust because of the holiday."

Hurlbert said he talked to the woman, who "seems to be doing OK, considering the circumstances."

The case against Bryant unfolded as details of two other NBA players' legal troubles were released.

Orlando Magic guard Darrell Armstrong was arrested after being accused of fighting with a female police officer outside a Florida nightclub, and Portland Trail Blazers' Damon Stoudamire was accused of trying to pass through an airport metal detector with marijuana.

Bryant helped lead Los Angeles to three consecutive titles from 2000-02 and he was the MVP of the 2002 All-Star game.

Along with his determination, Bryant has often shown the dignity and heart many fans feel are missing from other NBA stars.

When the Lakers were eliminated from the playoffs by San Antonio in May, Bryant wiped away tears as he left the court.

"I hate this feeling, I don't ever want to feel it again," he said.

He married Vanessa Laine in April 2001.

The two met on the set of a music video where Laine was working and got engaged while she was still in high school.

Vanessa gave birth to their first child, Natalia Diamante Bryant, in January.

Bryant wore his hospital ID bracelet in a game the day after his daughter was born.

Bryant speaks fluent Italian and has a camera-friendly smile that's helped him land television advertising campaigns. Last month, he signed an endorsement deal with Nike.

Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said the allegations were completely out of character for Bryant.

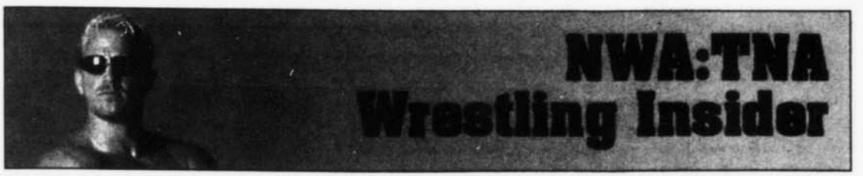
Former teammate Cedric Ceballos said he was shocked when he heard the news, thinking, "This can't happen to him."

David Carter, head of the Sports Business Group, said Bryant has a rare global appeal for marketers, but that the case could certainly hurt his image.

Carter also was surprised that a player with such a clean image off the court was at the center of the accusations.

"This reminded me of Magic Johnson's AIDS announcement, knocked the wind out of everybody," Carter said.

"While this is still speculation, there's the connection to the Lakers and the same feeling around town." ♦



By David Lawrence
Staff Columnist

To paraphrase the once great Roddy Piper, just when you think you know the answer, life changes the question. I carried this thought with me as I watched the latest installment of NWA:TNA.

First a brief recap to clear the way: America's Most Wanted successfully defended their World Tag team titles against Sonny Siaki and David Young. There was a solid effort from both men, although it just couldn't compete with their match last week.

The masked wrestler who attacked Erik Watts last time finally made his debut. Calling himself the Abyss, he and Kid Kash have been going after Erik Watts and the women of TNA for the past few weeks.

As for the match itself, the Abyss did most of the high-risk moves, with Watts sticking choke slams and big boots. The Abyss managed to pin Watts with the help of his mentor, Kash.

The match showed off the

limited move set of Watts, but he covered it by getting the crowd on his side. Watts may not be the best wrestler on the TNA roster, but the man can work a crowd.

In a "Russian Chain" match, Jerry Lynn beat Justin Credible. The stipulation of the match is that both men must be chained together. Lynn proved once again he is one of the best all-around wrestlers in the business today after flipping Credible using the chains. Lynn pinned Credible in just seven minutes, which was longer than their previous matches together.

In the Hard 10 finals, New Jack fought the Sandman. Only one word could adequately describe this match—bloody. Seeing New Jack shoot staple after staple into the Sandman's head made me realize how much I missed out by not seeing them perform live in ECW.

The battle continued until both men were almost literally drenched in blood, but like all good things, it came to an end involving a table. The Sandman won the match when New Jack was flung over the catwalk rail-

ing and, after doing a flip in mid-air, landed face first into a waiting table.

The main event had World Heavyweight champion AJ Styles taking on X-division star Frankie Kazarian. This one match made the price of admission all worth it. Styles retained the title, judging from the words spoken by D-Lo Brown at ringside. There might be a new surprise next week in the main event.

The show itself was solid enough, although it just couldn't compete with the spectacle last week. The chain match was a nice throwback to the older days, and everything was more or less smooth, especially since Russo decided to put himself in only one segment and leave the rest of the show alone.

If you want to see the show live, then you can go to the Nashville State fairgrounds on Wednesdays. General admission is \$10 and ringside is \$15. For those of you who can't make the drive, then you can order the show on pay-per-view on either Indemand Cable or Direct TV. ♦

Game: MLB announces starters, roster for upcoming All-Star game

Continued from 6

him. ... I'll be there next year."

The AL starters include Carlos Delgado at first, Alfonso Soriano at second, Rodriguez at shortstop, Troy Glaus at third, Jorge Posada behind the plate and Edgar Martinez at designated hitter. Ichiro Suzuki, Manny Ramirez and Hideki Matsui round out the lineup in the outfield.

The reserves for the AL include Garret Anderson, Hank Blalock, Bret Boone, Nomar Garciaparra, Ramon Hernandez, Melvin Mora, Mike Sweeney, Vernon Wells, Carl Everett and Dmitri Young.

The AL pitchers are Esteban

Loaiza, Roy Halladay, Jamie Moyer, Mark Mulder, Barry Zito and C.C. Sabathia as starters. The relievers include Brendan Donnelly, Keith Foulke, Eddie Guardado, Lance Carter, Shigetoshi Hasegawa and Mike MacDougal.

The NL starters include Todd Helton at first, Marcus Giles at second, Edgar Renteria at shortstop and Scott Rolen at third. The outfield will have Pujols, Barry Bonds and Gary Sheffield. The backups for the NL include Jim Edmonds, Rafael Furcal, Andruw Jones, Paul Lo Duca, Mike Lowell, Richie Sexson, Jose Vidro, Preston Wilson, Aaron Boone, Luis Gonzalez and Rondell

White.

The starting pitchers include Kevin Brown, Shawn Chacon, Mark Prior, Woody Williams, Jason Schmidt, Russ Ortiz, Randy Wolf and Kerry Wood. The bullpen will have Eric Gagne, John Smoltz, Billy Wagner, Armando Benitez and Mike Williams.

The final spot for each team will be determined by voting on www.mlb.com from a list of five players through today.

The starting pitcher for each league has not yet been selected. The game will be televised on Fox Sports at 7 p.m. on July 15. ♦

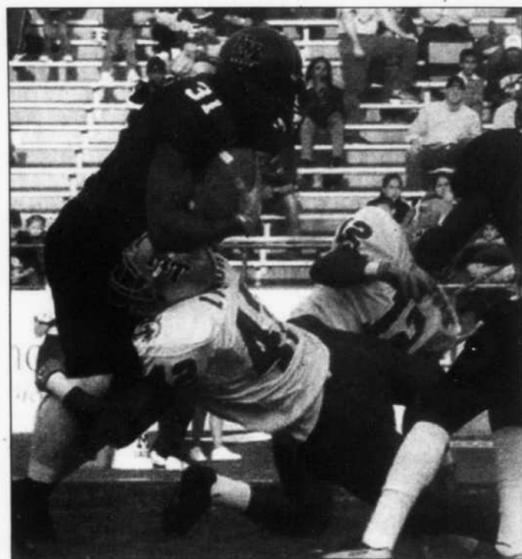
NCAA: League makes standards tougher for athletes

Continued from 6

most of the concerns surrounding tougher requirements in the first two years, a period experts have deemed critical in identifying who will graduate and who won't.

Some think the proposals calling for second-year athletes to have successfully completed 24 credit hours with a 1.800 GPA and then 40 percent of degree requirements with a 2.000 GPA by the start of the third year are too firm.

Many basketball coaches have been the most outspoken in that regard, even the board recently wondered whether a softer second-year GPA requirement would be more feasible. ♦



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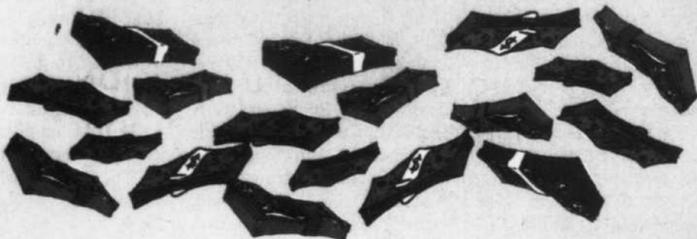


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