

THE SIDELINES

Another from Grisham
Rainmaker another thriller

Opinions *Scrap the stadium*

What'll you do for money?
Things students do for cash



Making money page 8

**THE LONELIEST
HIGHWAY IN AMERICA:
MOSQUITOES, SNAKES AND
ROAD HUMOR ON THE ROAD**

**HOUSING
EMPLOYEE
DENIED
REHIRE**

**BIKE LANES
TO BE
ADDED TO
GREENLAND
DRIVE**

Murfreesboro
Rutherford
County



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**MORE ON THE
I-75 EXPANSION**

ANOTHER ISSUE CHOCK FULL OF MTSU FUN!

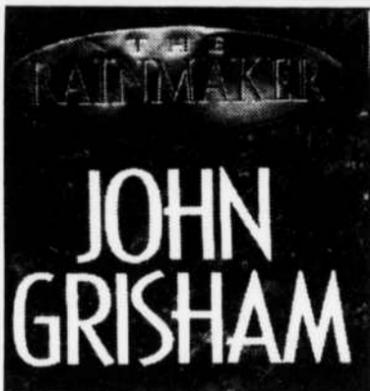
INSIDELINES

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor should be no more than 200 words long, and should contain sender's name, campus box number or e-mail address. *Sidelines* reserves the right to edit

letters for clarity. Send letters to MTSU Box 42 or e-mail to one of the addresses listed in the box at right. Please clearly mark all electronic correspondence "letter to the editor."

Inside



More courtroom drama from Grisham, page 10

Cover Photo by Todd Sorum.

News & Notes

Former Housing employee denied

Former Housing employee Charles Johnson has not been reinstated by MTSU in spite of labor department demand. **Mark Blevins** reports, Page 3

Reviews & Events

John Grisham's latest courtroom drama

What do you get when you combine insurance scams, lawyers and a cheesy, typical love story? John Grisham's latest book *The Rainmaker*, of course. **Brent Andrews** reports on this bestseller. Begins on page 8

Viewpoints & Opinions

Toss the stadium idea

In the first of a two-part series, **Warren Wakeland** says stop the fee increase. Plus, an assistant professor likes the stadium idea, but says we have questions to answer, Page 10

Features

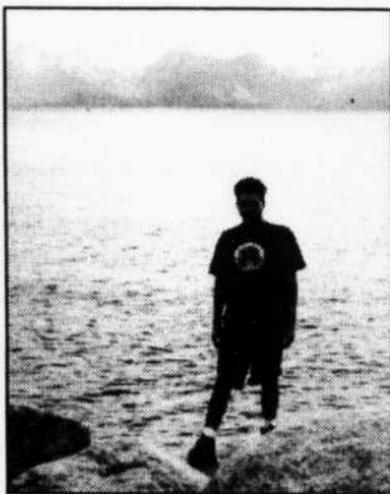
SEARCHING FOR AMERICA

The Loneliest Highway in America brings terror and mosquito swarms: another from the road, Page 5

What'll you do for \$\$\$\$

From security guarding to encyclopedia sales, students will do almost anything to make ends meet. Story and photos page 7

FROM THE EDITOR...



If you shift your gaze to the left a bit, you'll notice something different about my photo. This is obviously not a mug shot. Instead, I have placed a photo of me on the shores of Lake Tahoe, hanging out on a recent road trip (see story page 5). What are my reasons for this? Well, if you really want to know, pull up a chair and I'll tell you...

In a recent trip to my hometown of Franklin, Tenn., I had the

opportunity to talk to my big brother Victor about *Sidelines*. He is fortunate enough to have a subscription to the paper, so it comes right to the doorstep of his downtown office (three weeks late, most of the time). In our conversation, he pointed out the fact that my mug shot looked horrible, like I was a convict or something. I admit that I wasn't exactly in the running to be on the cover of *Vogue*, but I'm not a megalomaniac and it seemed to serve the purpose pretty well. I want my big brother to be proud of me, though, so I thought I'd throw in the Tahoe thing. Surely *that's* pretty enough for him. From now on, thanks to the constructive criticism of my *stylin'* brother (who drives a Lexus), you will be able to enjoy the photo that you see here.

Anyway, enough of that *licentiousness*. The real reason you all turned to this page is to listen to me gripe about something, and I shan't let you down. This week's topic: the movie theater at Nipper's Corner. If you're not from this area, then you might not know the place I'm talking about. It's a theater at Old Hickory Boulevard and Edmonson Pike in Nashville, a place where first-run movies used to be \$1.50. That was the idea behind the place when it was built: good movies at a reasonable price. It went that way for a while, with the folks at the theater promising to keep their prices low, then the price was raised a little. Movies at Nipper's corner were still cheaper than elsewhere, but the price had

been raised; a precedent for increasing prices had been set. I'm not sure what the price was raised to, but I remember how disappointed my wife and I were when we went to the theater and it was no longer \$1.50. We were so unhappy about the change that we spoke to a manager, asking if the price was going to continue to rise. We were told that the price would stay the same (I think it was \$2.50) forever.

Well, think again, Brother Beavis. It now costs \$6 to see a movie at Nipper's Corner, and \$4 for a matinee. The price was raised again, and as far as I know it hasn't affected the attendance at Nipper's Corner. When we went to see *Clueless* last weekend the line to get in was so long that it stretched nearly to the parking lot.

I'm not saying that Nipper's Corner (a Regal Cinema) does not have the right to charge whatever it wants. I don't mind so much the uncomfortable feeling that I've "been had" when I spend \$20 for a movie and a Coke, but I hate to be jerked around like that: If you're going to raise your prices, be straight with me about it from the beginning and there will be no problem. As it is, I will never go back to Nipper's Corner because I was lied to.

In other news (I just had to say that), *Sidelines* Summer Edition has almost come to an end (send condolences to my e-mail address). We have one more issue after this one with which to entertain and inform you, and we're going to do our best to do that. After next week, there will be no paper until the Back to School issue, which will come out sometime around the 15th of August. I know, I know: what are you expected to do with all that time? Well, maybe you can watch TV or something, perhaps read a book. I wish I could prevent the lapse in your entertainment, but what do you expect? The paper is free. And though our lives are devoted to bringing you the latest in MTSU news and entertainment, we need a Summer break too.

That's all I have for you today, but if you read on you will find that this issue is chock-full of cool stuff. I hope you stay a while, and happy reading!

T. Brent Andrews

Brent Andrews
Editor in Chief

SIDE LINES

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor
Brent Andrews

Managing Editor
Kris Wetzel

News & Notes Editor
Mark Blevins

Reviews & Events Editor
Chris Patterson

Viewpoints & Opinions Editor
Kris Wetzel

Copy Editor
Chris Patterson

Design
Robin Dixon

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Photography Editor
Don Goins

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager
Daniela Gopfert

Asst. Production Manager
Patrick Morgan

Production Worker
Samuel Richardson

Typist
Sue Mullin

ADVERTISING STAFF

Advertising Manager
Ray Myers

Account Executives
Jeremy Geiser
Lisa Parente

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR

Jenny Tenpenny Crouch

***Sidelines* is published every Wednesday by students of Middle Tennessee State University. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and not necessarily *Sidelines*.**

TO REACH SIDELINES CALL

News	898-2336
Sports	898-2816
Features	898-2917
Editor	898-2337
General	898-2815

OR BY E-MAIL

Editor

brent1@ix.netcom.com

News Editor

m_c_008c@frank.mtsu.edu

Photo Editor

radnar@ix.netcom.com

News & Notes

In Brief Students who lived in dormitories and non-family or non-married campus apartments can expect a partial rebate from their housing costs due to extended utility outages, according to Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs David Hays.

One weeks worth of rent will be returned to students for extended hot water and air conditioning outages.

There will be some more outages after graduation in August, according to Facilities Services Director Bill Smotherman.

Air conditioning will be out at buildings across campus for periods of time between 5 hours and 32 hours during that period.

Hot water will be out for approximately five days across campus except in married and family housing. ■

Former MTSU housing employee not rehired despite threat of litigation from Labor department

TOSHA, Labor reviews MTSU response

MARK BLEVINS
Sidelines

MTSU has decided to not re-hire a former housing employee despite a letter from the Department of Labor which instructed MTSU to do so or face litigation from the department.

Charles F. Johnson was a housing area coordinator until his employment was terminated in July 1994.

Johnson claims his employment was terminated for speaking out against some instances of asbestos removal from dormitories.

MTSU says he was fired for not following university policies not related to asbestos removal.

MTSU sent a response back to the Labor Department and issued a press release stating that the university is standing by its original decision.

"It is our position that

Mr. Johnson's termination was appropriate under the circumstances then prevailing," the release stated.

MTSU's response is under review by Tennessee Occupational Safety and

"It is our position that Mr. Johnson's termination was appropriate under the circumstances then prevailing."

MTSU press release

Health Administration (TOSHA) and then will be reviewed by the Labor Department's Legal Division, according to a Labor Department official. The decision to pursue legal

recourse on Johnson's behalf will be made after the reviews, the official said.

"They consider it a very serious matter that he has not been rehired," the official said.

The Labor Department's May 19 letter calling for Johnson's reinstatement stated that there was enough evidence to pursue litigation on the basis that Johnson was fired for speaking out against asbestos removal procedures.

"Mr. Johnson had exercised his rights under the TOSHA Act by complaining to management about occupational exposure to asbestos, and further by complaining that management, and the MTSU Safety Office, had taken little or no corrective action despite his previous complaints," the letter states.

"In his present complaint, Mr. Johnson submitted a transcript of his

pre-termination conference along with other evidence tending to show that his dismissal was in retaliation for activities protected under

"They consider it a very serious matter that he has not been rehired."

Labor Department official

the TOSHA Act."

Johnson has a \$500,000 claim with the state for "stress caused by concern over potential damage caused by asbestos exposure and by my termination because I reported the improper asbestos removal to TOSHA," the claim states.

Two other former housing employees filed claims with the state related to asbestos exposure.

Johnson also has two civil suits out against

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 4

Horse arena, new power plant close on MTSU building agenda

MARK BLEVINS
Sidelines

You've heard about the Business/Aerospace Building, stadium renovation and hopes for a new library.

But you may not know about a new power plant, the progress of the horse arena and the next phase of the utility project—projects that are financially close to reality.

While the Business/Aerospace Building is scheduled for ground breaking this fall, no one is sure if the state will appropriate funds for a new library. The \$25 million stadium renovation plans have been approved and a campus debate has ensued with some students asking why they are paying for it through a \$65/semester student activity fee.

Meanwhile, MTSU is looking at ways to upgrade its power supply, advertising to buy land for the horse arena and designing plans for the next phase of its utilities project.

■ The current phase of the utilities project is winding down with final systems work being fine tuned, according to Facilities Services Director Bill Smotherman. A "punch list" will be drawn and the contractor will have 30 days afterward to finalize work. That work will probably continue into the fall, Smotherman said.

The next phase of the utilities project involves creating ducts and manholes to make room for underground electrical lines.

There is no time schedule yet, but a little over \$1 million is on hand from the original utilities project funds to install the major underground ducts, Smotherman said.

This work will not include the actual installation of underground electrical lines to alleviate overhead lines, but it will provide the groundwork for that process. The repositioning of the cables will take place gradually, according to Smotherman.

■ MTSU began advertising for 200 to 300 acres to purchase as a site for the horse arena which is to built by funds donated to the university, according to MTSU Vice President of Finance Duane Stucky.

The Miller Estate was left to the MTSU Foundation in 1994 when Mary Miller passed away. The estate has been estimated between \$17 and \$20 million and consists of land yet unsold in Tennessee, Kentucky and Alaska.

The arena would be self-supporting, according to Stucky who said that MTSU's current livestock center is consistently booked. The current livestock center will remain.

While it is not clear where the arena will be built, Stucky said one of the requirements of the endowment is that it be convenient to MTSU.

A new horse science facility is in the works for MTSU's academic program and will be paid for by federal funds. Those funds have not been secured and no projection date has been set for construction of the facility, according to Stucky.

■ Ground breaking on a new power plant, which will run on natural gas instead of coal, will probably begin late next spring semester and could be finished in a year and a half, according to Stucky.

The plant would be efficient enough to pay for the structure through energy savings in 10 years, Stucky said.

"Here's a project that won't compete with that state funding."

Funding for projects is separated into capital projects and special projects. Capital projects are state funded and special projects receive non-state funds such as private donations, activity fees and federal grants.

SEE PROJECTS, PAGE 4

Bike lanes to be added to Greenland

MARK BLEVINS
Sidelines

Bicycle lanes are scheduled to be built on each side of Greenland Drive next summer when the city plans on widening the roadway, according to Murfreesboro Traffic Director Dana Richardson.

Greenland Drive will be widened to have a complete five lanes from the corner of Tennessee Avenue to C Street and will have a bike lane approximately five feet wide on each side of the road, according to Richardson.

All entrances will be closed except for the C Street entrance and a new one directly across from Old Lascassas Highway. A traffic light will be placed at the junction of the new entrance and Old Lascassas Highway which is also scheduled to be widened.

"It's a roadway improvement project to try to alleviate congestion and confusion associated with that area over there," Richardson said.

MTSU is giving the city a strip of its Greenland Drive parking lot that is approximately 15 feet wide from the corner of Tennessee Avenue up to the C Street traffic light.

"It's being a good neighbor," said MTSU Vice President of Finance Duane Stucky.

The roadway project will cost the city \$556,000, Richardson said.

MTSU will shell out \$300,000 to \$400,000 from its parking and transportation fund to modify the Greenland Drive parking lot, according to Stucky.

Those modifications include increasing the paved area at the southwest corner of the lot, reworking entrances, drainage work, curb work and resizing and repainting the lot to maximize parking spaces, according to Stucky.

Richardson said he hopes the bidding process will be completed by February and that the project is scheduled to begin soon after MTSU's spring semester is over to minimize impact on students.

The city is also currently looking at plans to make space for bicycle lanes on Tennessee Avenue, according to Richardson. He said that he hopes the plans will be completed this fall. ■

Campus Capsule

A necklace was found over two weeks ago in the paved parking lot behind the Mass Comm building. Parties should call 4279, or leave a message at 3005. Identify to claim.

The Japan Center of Tennessee is hosting "Photographs of Japan at the LaVergne Public Library in August. The exhibit features aspects of contemporary Japan. The public is invited to view the exhibit Mon. and Tue. from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Wed. - Sat. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Japan Center of Tennessee will sponsor an Origami Exhibit on the second floor of the Library in McMinnville in August.

Looking Forward is a free on-going group for female survivors of rape and sexual abuse. Topics such as safety, relationships, effectiveness of coping skills, and ending isolation will be discussed. The group meets Weds. 3 - 4:30 p.m. To register call Mary Glantz at 5725. Space is limtd. All inquiries are confidential, and confidentiality in groups is encouraged. Sponsored by the JAWC.

Roll out the lines, it's time to play ball



Photos by Todd Sorum/Chief Photographer

Everett Lewis (above) and crew (upper right) of Southwest Recreation painting MTSU's Horace Jones football field. The company will paint over 20 fields this summer. MTSU's first football game is at home and is scheduled for September 2 at 6 p.m. against TSU.



HOUSING

continued from page 3

housing employees. One is against former Director of Housing Ivan Shewmake and one is against area coordinator Richard Smith.

PROJECTS

continued from page 3

Other capital projects ranked in order after the library include: an art facility, renovation of the

Shewmake was recently move to the position of MTSU Student Ombudsman. That position was recommended by MTSU's accreditor and serves as a place for students to go for with help with problems of any kind.

Davis Science Building and Wisner-Patten Science Hall, renovation of Kirksey Old Main and an athletic field house and parking garage.

Special projects on MTSU's list include: a

MTSU Housing is currently undergoing an investigation by the State Auditing Division.

MTSU's asbestos removal procedures are currently under review by TOSHA. ■

Greek row, dormitory repairs, the Earthman House renovation, a day care facility, natatorium adaptive use renovation and food service facility renovation. ■

ATTENTION STUDENTS RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

New federal regulations related to the disbursement of title IV financial aid funds prohibit applying any credits against charges assessed to students in a prior term. This means that to receive any financial aid for the fall semester you must not have any balance outstanding prior to fall fees and charges. Any existing balance from any source including parking tickets, telephone charges, returned checks, housing rental charges, and short-term loans must be paid before you may have your new aid applied to your fall charges. To alleviate delays for you during fall fee payment, be sure your account is clear of any outstanding charges. You will not be able to use any 1995-96 financial aid to clear your account of charges assessed from prior terms.

A Domino's Pizza advertisement featuring the company logo, a large "\$9.99 PLUS TAX" price tag, and the text "ANY SIZE, ANY TOPPING PIZZA" and "CAMPUS AREA 896-0028".

THRONEBERRY PROPERTIES
7 Locations Open Daily

OAK PARK 1211 Hazelwood 896-4470	Natural landscaping, large garden-style & townhouse apts. 1&2 B.R. W/D hook ups, appliances. Pool & tennis.
BIRCHWOOD 1535 Lascassas 896-4470	Curtains, ceiling fan, outside storage and all appliances furnished. 1 and 2 bedrooms available.
WINDRUSH 1735 Lascassas 893-0052	Country setting. Low electric bills. Studio, 1-2-3 bedrooms. Pool & laundry room.
PINE PARK 1210 Hazelwood 896-4470	Dishwasher, stove, refrigerator, and garbage disposal. Large kitchen. 1 & 2 B.R. Pool & laundry room.
PARK IV 896-4470	Washer-dryer connections. 1 and 2 bedroom apartments.
HOLLYPARK 2426 E. Main 895-0657	1 and 2 bedroom apartments, townhouses.
ROSEWOOD 1806 W. Tenth 890-3700	1-2-3 bedroom, exercise room, pool and tennis court. Ceiling fans, W/D hookups, appliances and drapes furnished. Near VA hospital

Searching for America

BRENT ANDREWS
Editor-in-Chief

KILLER MOSQUITOES, SLITHERY SNAKES AND TRAFFIC JAMS ON AMERICA'S LONELIEST HIGHWAY

Between Fallon and Ely, Nev., lies roughly 250 miles of the Loneliest Highway in America, also known as US 50. It crosses desert sand and forested mountains, passes dry lakes as barren as the surface of the Moon. In the distance there are always mountains, and more often than not they are snow-capped peaks greater than 10,000 ft. Sometimes the mountains are jagged, tooth-like formations of solid rock; in other places the peaks are eroded into giant, smooth-looking humps.

The highway follows for most of its route the old Pony Express Trail, which was the first route through this inhospitable desert. The Pony Express Trail was followed by the railroad, which was, in turn, followed by the highway.

We were looking forward to a little isolation. Reno had been a hard thing to take, and our ears were still ringing from the bells and whistles of the slot machines. Our aching heads were in need of something monotonous to look at, and what better monotony than nearly 300 miles of desert highway...

The only problem was all the traffic. For the first 20 miles or so, we were stuck in the middle of a long line of cars and RV's headed East, while the Westbound lane was no less crowded. There were cars from Idaho and California, Colorado and Utah. Some were from Nevada, but it seemed that most of the cars were carrying tourists anxious for a little loneliness, escaping the smog of LA or the traffic jams of Phoenix or the school daze of Murfreesboro for a

THE NEVADA DESERT

lonesome desert road, where time stood still and the Sun cracked the pavement. Maybe they were expecting the same thing I was: At any moment, I thought, I would look off the side of the road and see the bleached skeleton of a luckless traveler, buzzards picking at the meatless bones and maybe a lizard or two slithering in the dust nearby. I was expecting to see 6' rattlesnakes shaking their tails on the road, and a few rusted-out cars that had run out of gas and been left behind. It wouldn't have surprised me to see a Sun-crazed man crawling into view over the dunes in the distance crying, "water, water." I was expecting—hoping—for anything but traffic.

But traffic was what we got, for the first leg of the trip at least. Between Fallon and Austin we were never out of sight of a car in front of us and a car behind us. At Sand

Mountain, a recreation area that is, literally, a mountain of sand, we stopped for a while and watched four wheelers and dune buggies drive around the surreal-looking landscape. It was almost dark, and we considered camping at Sand Mountain for the night.

When I got out of the car, the first thing I recognized wasn't the squeal of the four wheeler engines or the glowing fires nearby. It wasn't the warm glow of the campfires all around, or the way the Moon was rising over the mountains. I didn't have a chance to notice any of this at first, because I was immediately swarmed by a thick flock of



BRENT ANDREWS/Sidelines

mosquitoes eager to make a meal out of me. They were everywhere at once: in my eyes; biting my legs; flying up my shorts and feasting on my inner thighs; crawling toward my nether-regions. I fought them off as best I could, but it was a losing battle from the start. As I was slapping one on my arm, another landed on the hand doing the slapping and seemed to smile at me before it drove its proboscis deep into my flesh. Even my ears weren't forgotten in the feeding frenzy, and the bolder mosquitoes sought the softness of the skin inside my nose. As quickly as I could I got back inside the car, bringing a gray cloud of the insects with me. They immediately started feeding on my wife as well, and we spent 15 minutes trying to kill them all.

When we were confident that we had killed the majority of the bugs, we surveyed the battleground inside the car. There were smashed mosquitoes everywhere—on our bodies, on the seats—but most of them were on the inside of the windshield, where the mosquitoes had flown when they saw we were too much for them. It was littered with the half-smashed bodies of the creatures, some of them surrounded by small patches of blood that might



BRENT ANDREWS/Sidelines

Open Range: In the vast desert that surrounds US 50 in central Nevada, there is little need for fences. The land is so sparse and barren that it takes as much as 50 acres to sustain the life of a single cow. While you're there, watch out for snakes (above right).

Students will do almost 'anything for a buck'

MISTY NIGHTINGALE
Special to *Sidelines*

The undercover security guard paced across the tiny room keeping a watchful eye on the old man. "And what about that bottle of wine?" the guard accused. "This is mine, I didn't steal it!" the old man shouted. While the guard called the police the old man gulped down the cheap wine and raised the bottle overhead, threateningly. Just another every-day confrontation with danger in the inner city of Minneapolis.

But this guard isn't a trained professional—he's a kid. A college freshman trying to earn a buck.

The freshman, Vince Vannett—a criminal justice major at Middle Tennessee State University—laughs, saying "I did it mostly for the thrill of it, but the money was nice."

Every day college students do more than just go to class, study and drink beer. To some, money is a necessity for staying in school—to others it's just a luxury, but either way college students will do almost anything for a buck.

Vannett said he heard of the security guard position from an ex-Northwestern College football player (where Vannett was a linebacker) who was also head of security at Country Club Markets.

Vannett has seen more poverty than many of us can fathom. "Once I saw a homeless man make a paste out of coffee and powdered cream to have something solid to eat.

"I've caught people from 8 years to 80 years old, from that homeless man to the assistant principal of a local junior high school."

Now that he has moved to Nashville he has taken a less dangerous job as a sales clerk at a local men's clothing store. "It's not as exciting as inner city Minneapolis, but at least no one is smashing wine bottles over my head," he sighs.

Some jobs aren't quite so high risk. Todd Lester, a senior political science major at David Lipscomb University, sold *Basic Knowledge Quick Reference* books in Waterloo, Iowa.

Thomas Nelson publishes the books in Nashville and they are sold door-to-door throughout the Midwestern and Southeastern United States.

Lester grins, "I guess I adopted the 1950's role of a vacuum cleaner salesman, all except the tacky suit."

For six weeks two summers ago, while selling Nelson's reference books in

Iowa, Lester and two friends stayed (free of charge) with a family they had met at church.

"We built a lasting friendship in those six weeks. We are still in contact with them today."

The students were paid on commission per book sold.

"The money was good, but I also got to see a part of the Heartland that I wouldn't have normally visited."

SEE BUCKS, PAGE 6



TODD SORUM/Chief Photographer

Left to right: Tonya Anderson, Jr., Monica Milstead, Jr., Melissa Hartman, Jr., and Sara Long, Sr., working at Toots Sunday afternoon.

LONELY

continued from page 5

have belonged to one of us just minutes before. Here and there a lone mosquito struggled to pick itself up from its death spot, but these were quickly smashed with one of the napkins we had been using as weapons.

When the dust settled, we sat for a long moment in silence before discussing what to do next. Neither of us wanted to stay at Sand Mountain and get eaten alive by mosquitoes, but I didn't want to drive on either. It was dark outside now, and I didn't want to drive in the dark and miss the scenery. In the end, it was decided that we would rather save our blood and miss a little scenery. We drove on for a few hundred yards, creeping along the eroded drive that led to Sand Mountain, and came to another obstacle: A snake was sliding across the road in the splash of our headlights.

Here was a danger I could deal with. I could see it before it got me, it couldn't fly (we hoped) and there were two of us against one of it. I got

out of the car, kneeled in the dust and watched it from a safe distance, for the moment ignored by the mosquitoes. My wife was saying things like, "oh, okay, get bitten. I don't care. I can't believe you're being so stupid. that's a *snake*." I ignored her and crept closer. It was a black snake with yellowish-white rings. I thought maybe it was a King Snake, but I wasn't sure. I didn't think they were poisonous, but it looked deadly anyway, and I kept my distance. I was stooped there in the dust less than four feet from the front of the car examining the snake, ready to spring away and into the car in a flash if it made any sudden moves when it happened:

My wife, being a comedian, honked the horn.

I jumped into the air, my feet leaving the ground far behind and my heart flip-flopping in my chest. My mind went black, so I'm not sure if I thought I was being eaten by the snake or something else equally as deadly. I do know that I thought it was all over for me, that I had somehow gotten too close to a deadly poisonous creature. While I was soaring high above the car my mind had time to clear, and I landed in a



BRENT ANDREWS/Sidelines

Sevier Lake, a dry lake near the Nevada/Utah line, provides a quintessential desert scene.

ruffle. I turned to face the car and shouted profanities at my wife, who seemed to think the whole thing had been funny. We would be far down the road before my wounded pride would be nursed enough for me to laugh along with her.

The snake went on sliding across the road, and we waited in silence while it got out of the way. It

slithered into the grass in search of some unsuspecting rodent, and we slithered out onto the highway. I wondered if we had given the snake the creeps like it gave them to us.

We were still slapping occasional mosquitoes when we reached the highway, and in moments we had left Sand Mountain far behind. ■

CENTURY

21

CD'S * RECORDS *
TAPES * JEWELRY

New & Used CD's - Records
108 N. Baird Ln
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
(Corner of Baird & Main)
OPEN MON-SAT 11-7

SOUTHEAST PAWN
2215 N.W. BROAD ST.
MURFREESBORO, TN 37129
(615) 898-1090

NEED CASH?

WE LOAN CASH ON:
CARS
MOTORCYCLES
BOATS
MOTORHOMES
AND MORE!

SPECIAL STUDENT
DISCOUNTS
WITH STUDENT ID

IF YOU HAVE YOUR TITLE
WE HAVE THE CASH

FAST AND FRIENDLY!

BUCKS

continued from page 5

"Most of all I needed to get away at that time and I thought 'why not make money too!'" Lester said.

Making cash and getting away could be alluring. Some students try cruise ships or Alaskan fishing boats. Aaron McRogers escapes to a different place—the stage.

A future country music artist, Aaron McRogers—A.K.A. Mac Rogers—got his start winning talent contests while at Northwestern College.

"Local bars are always having some kind of gimmick, and singing karaoke got to be big stuff in Minneapolis," Mac says with a grin.

Anyone with the guts can jump on stage, grab a mic, and blast out a tune. It's the talented singers who get restricted.

Mac explains: "One person can't win at the same bar every night. If you know how to schedule it right you could hit three clubs a week and make \$50 to \$200 a night."

Rogers' friends say he got so good that at most bars he would be the winner, and then there would be a co-winner.

"When that would happen I would just get a free bar tab. Same thing as money in college," he adds.

If you aren't courageous enough to get on the stage, try selling tickets to people watching the show. (At a much-inflated price of course!)

An student at David Lipscomb, who wished to remain anonymous, said he could sell a \$30 ticket for \$225, standard.

This money may sound good, but be prepared to spend some up-front money and to take time to achieve "scalping" success: First, you have to wait in line for hours; then you have to buy a surplus of tickets; finally, you have to find the best way to market your tickets.

"I waited in line 18 hours for Pink Floyd tickets, but I met a lot of interesting people," the student emphasizes.

Timing is everything in marketing the tickets. If you put the word out too early you miss the last minute buyers. If you put the word out too late, you may be stuck with extra tickets on concert night.

The student says, "I usually start advertising in the newspaper about a month before the show date. It only costs \$12 for an ad to run one week."

"Last summer I made \$700 in two and a half months. That's straight profit."

Students also use their bodies to make money—don't worry, not through prostitution. Teaching aerobics or giving plasma can also be profitable.

A person can make around \$200 a month giving plasma, which would allow her to pay tuition off in less than five months, with an extra month for books.

Recently, I used my own body (and my truck) to make money by delivering phone books. Of course, at 10 cents per phone book delivered, there is no better way to get your exercise than to run up steep driveways on a Saturday morning.

I heard about it from a post card application in my phone bill. I thought 'how

hard could it be?'

It was hard enough for me to only do one route.

Although the bonuses were good—on your second route you get a 20 percent bonus and the third one you get a 30 percent and so on—my body and my poor old truck couldn't take any more hills.

The white pages phone book delivery time has come

to an end, but yellow pages should start delivery in May, if you're interested in some summer cash.

If boredom has set in at your current job—never fear. Just keep your eyes and ears open and something unusual is sure to come your way. Just watch out for flying cheap wine bottles—they could be deadly. ■



TODD SORUM/Chief Photographer

Robin Wilson, sophomore political science major, working as a cashier at Kroger on Broad Street.

Graduate student helps kids face gender roles, teaches self-respect

JULIA LYNN HARPER
Special to *Sidelines*

Mr. Chad learns psychology through working with kids

What am I?

I am painted brick. Mauve. On my back wall lies an alphabet with animals to match, a birthday tree and days of the month. On my side-walls stand coat racks filled with little hats, coats, blankets and bunnies. Parallel to this wall sits a bathroom with a toilet perched only a few feet off the ground, a water fountain with stool and a pathway to more subdivisions of me. My floor is carpeted. Maroonish. With interwoven lines of black. Tan. Gray. From my ceiling swings a mobile of crayons. Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple. Black and Brown. On my window dinosaurs roam. Tyrannosaurus and Triceratops. Next to my window looms a five-tiered black plastic rack covered with puzzles, toys and things to do. Atop of this rack sways an American flag. Next to my door sits a fish tank with one lone black fish floating through the bubbles.

Who comes to visit me?

Little hands. Little feet. Shades of color. Black and white. Brown and yellow. Those named Cassie, Johnna, Brittany and Jessica. And those named Nathan, Aaron, Justin, and J.D. Those who dress in pink and purple. And those who dress in blue pin stripes and hightops. Some are quiet and watching, others grope and reach.

Who takes care of all who come to visit me?

Mr. Chad does!

In an industry dominated by women, Mr. Chad is more than willing to take on the challenge of

working with and guiding preschool children. He is a daycare worker at Old Fort Academy in Murfreesboro, and a graduate student in clinical psychology at MTSU.

Mr. Chad is quick to point out why he chose to become a teacher, a leader of children.

"I've been baby-sitting for as long as I can remember. Because I'd been around kids all my life, I was fairly confident this was something I could do."

Growing up, Mr. Chad baby-sat for his 13 nieces and nephews and admits that through the years it was fascinating to watch his siblings' kids develop:

"Some are well adjusted, and some are not so well adjusted, and yet we all basically have the same genetics. It fascinates me to see how different environments affect kids."

One thing Chad has observed while working with kids is how early children develop gender roles. He feels these roles develop as soon as children learn to talk.

This disturbs him.

"When all the boys are playing Batman, and a girl wants to be Batman, they tell her she can't."

"I try to counter-act this by letting the girls play with Tinker Toys, and letting the boys play in House-keeping. I have always been very resistant to gender roles."

As Mr. Chad leans back against his chair, his arms folded in front of

him, he recalls one of the funniest things a kid has ever said to him:

"One day, as I was walking past my car, one of the kids said, 'is that your bomb?' I said, 'No, that's my car.' Then the kid said, 'Well, my Dad said you drive a bomb.'"

"The kid didn't know he had said anything wrong," Mr. Chad said with a chuckle.

Mr. Chad said the best thing about working with kids is the reinforcement he gets from them:

"When I'm worn out or stressed out, and one of the kids comes up and gives me a hug, it makes me feel better."

What is Mr. Chad's favorite age to work with?

"Four and 5-year-olds are my favorite age to work with, because at this age I can talk to the kids, and we can have real conversations. Also, at this age they haven't developed a smart mouth yet. Once they get into school, they develop attitudes real quick."

Though Mr. Chad loves working with kids, he feels there is a

lot that can be done to make daycares better:

"Daycares should be government subsidized, and there shouldn't be more than 8-10 kids per class."

Mr. Chad also feels that fathers should take more time off to be with their kids.

What are the two most important things to teach kids? In Mr. Chad's eyes, those two things would have to be self worth and self respect:

"I think it is important to say to

kids out loud—'YOU ARE A GOOD GIRL. YOU ARE A GOOD BOY.' That must be said explicitly and backed up with time and attention.

"Kids also need to be taught compassion. I don't think that comes naturally. That means respecting other peoples' property, as well as learning respect for living things [Mr. Chad may sometimes be found speaking to a child who has just killed a bug out on the playground]. This has to be taught by example."

In wrapping up our interview, I asked Mr. Chad, "If there is one thing you could tell parents, what would it be?"

As he sat back in his chair, he pondered the question for a moment, and then slowly and ever so slightly raised his hand to his chin as The Thinker would, and simply replied:

"Get involved. Find out what's going on with your kids. Make sure there isn't big contradictions between what's going on at home and what's going on at school."

"Be willing to ask questions. And then be willing to listen to the answers."

Maybe Mr. Chad's ability to work with children day after day comes from being the baby in a family of four sisters and one brother. Or maybe its from growing up in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and having happy memories of home.

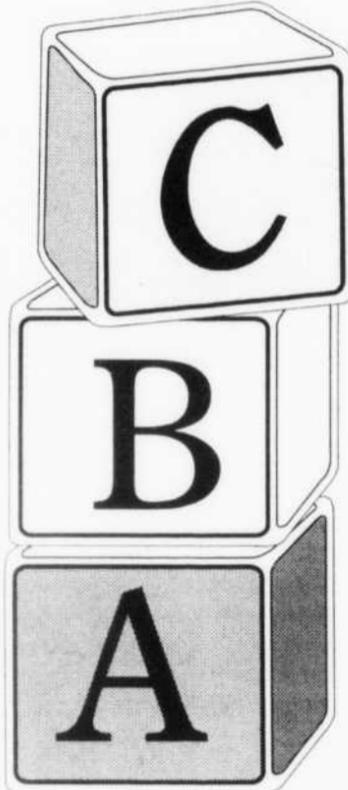
He may have acquired knowledge along the way from his undergraduate studies in Psychology at the University of Iowa, and his further studies in the graduate clinical psychology program at MTSU.

Though he's only one of a few in his field, this 24-year old daycare worker is one of the best I've ever seen.

They call him Mr. Chad.

So do I.

Out of deep respect and admiration. ■



BAND INSTRUMENTS
SALES & REPAIR
DAVID DYER
781-2283

ATTENTION STUDENTS:
WE'VE GOT WHAT YOU NEED AT
SKEDADDLE
BICYCLES
COME CHECK US OUT!
232 W. NORTHFIELD BLVD.
MURFREESBORO, TN 37129
896-4950


EASY TAN
SUMMER SPECIAL
7 Days - \$11.95
14 Days - \$21.00
30 Days - \$45.00
20% off REGULAR pkgs. with coupon
1513 EAST MAIN ST.
890-3096

WHY PAY MORE?
digital planet
MUSIC AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA
WE BUY AND SELL USED
CD'S
VIDEOS
CASSETTE TAPES
VIDEO GAMES
AND MORE!
LOWER PRICES, MORE FUN
111 1/2 W. LYTLE
(ACROSS FROM THE PANTRY)
898-1175

University Park
Regular rent: 2 bedroom \$400 per month
picnic area/ white sand volleyball court / swimming pool
playground for kids of all ages
Free basic cable and HBO!!
quiet atmosphere
Now accepting applications
No application fee
902 Greenland Drive
893-1500

Reviews & Events

In Brief

Capricorn Records has announced the opening of a Capricorn Records site on the World Wide Web. The site, located at <http://www.capri.corn.com>, will provide fans of Capricorn artists with bios, photos, soundbites, video clips, album covers, tour

itineraries, news on special events, upcoming release information, and an in-depth account of the label's history.

Future plans for the site include an online catalog, real-time audio, live video/audio broadcasts utilizing CU See Me teleconferencing software, and other special events.

Rainmaker another Grisham thriller

BRENT ANDREWS

Editor-In-Chief

The Rainmaker

John Grisham

Doubleday, \$25.95 hardback

Rudy Baylor is just your average third-year law student at Memphis State. He struggles with the idea of being jobless when school lets out; he worries about passing the Bar. He tries to stay out of the competition between his classmates, but is often dragged into the middle of it. He tries to avoid his creditors as much as

possible, and hopes he will not be evicted from his apartment before he can land a good job. Same old stuff.

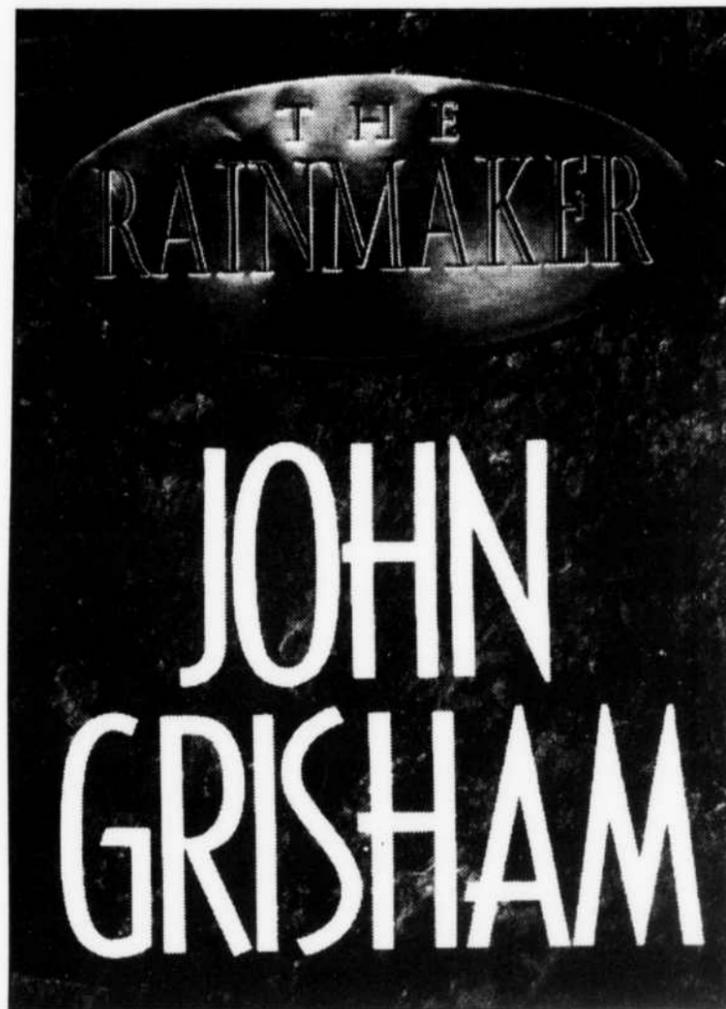
Until the day his Legal Problems for the Elderly class meets at the Cypress Gardens Senior Citizens' Center. That's when Rudy Baylor's life changes forever.

At Cypress Gardens Rudy meets Ms. Birdie Birdsong, a woman who donates her time to the center and seems to enjoy being around old folks, something Rudy cannot understand. The purpose of the class meeting at the center is that the students provide free legal advice to the elderly patrons, thus getting some experience and doing a public service at the same time. Rudy is bored with his assignment, and is critical of the people in the center until he finds out what Birdsong wants him to do: She wants him to help her redraft her will, a document whose entries add up to more than \$20 million.

Rudy is immediately interested. Birdsong has left her money to her various children and grandchildren in her previous will, and wants him to help her take most of them out. She doesn't want her children to get a penny of her money, because they don't care about her. The real benefactor of the will, she says, should be the Reverend Kenneth Chandler, a televangelist who works out of Dallas. When she refuses his advice that she seek a more experienced tax attorney to help her, Rudy agrees to see what he can do about Ms. Birdsong's will.

The next clients Rudy meets are Dot and Buddy Black, a couple with almost no money at all. Dot is the spokesperson for them, because, she explains, her husband "ain't right."

For Dot and Buddy Black, life has been hard lately. Their youngest son, Donny Ray, is dying, and there's nothing they or anyone else can do about it. Donny Ray has acute leukemia, and it's too late for him to get a bone marrow transplant. He was diagnosed in plenty of time for the transplant, and would probably have survived because his twin brother's marrow is a perfect match—but it's too late. He



is dying, Dot Black explains, because Great Benefit Life, their insurance company, has refused to pay for the transplant because of Donny Rays "pre-existing condition"—he had the flu five years before the policy was issued.

Rudy, not even out of law school yet, already has a cherry of a case, and he smells blood. Not to mention money.

Back at Memphis State, Rudy is informed by one of his classmates, F. Franklin Donaldson IV, that he may no longer have a job set up for him when he gets out of school. The firm that had promised him a job, Brodnax and Speer, has been swallowed by the company that Donaldson is going to be working for—a rich, powerful firm named Tinley Britt, the "largest, stuffiest, most prestigious and wealthiest firm in the state." Donaldson relays this information with obvious relish.

With a month to go before graduation, Rudy Baylor is out of a job in a city that is already overflowing with lawyers. His situation looks hopeless.

Enter Prince Thomas, Rudy's boss at a place called

Yogi's, a popular student hangout where Rudy has worked to keep himself in school. Thomas has lots of connections—many of which Rudy doesn't want to know anything about—in Memphis, and is rumored to be involved in the "skin trade." Thomas' lawyer, Bruiser Stone, is just as shady as Thomas himself, and the two often whisper quietly in the bar about whatever it is that they're involved in. Rudy doesn't want to know, the author doesn't really go into it, and we're left in the dark about what it is exactly that these two shady characters do.

Before Rudy meets with Bruiser Stone through Thomas, he is fired from a job with the firm of Jonathan Lake. He got the job by showing off the case of Dot and Buddy Black, and the Lake firm smelled money. They took Rudy on as a paralegal with a one-year contract, got the scoop on the Black case, then promptly dumped him. They weren't expecting much of a fight from a kid who hadn't even passed the Bar exam yet.

Rudy is angry at being fired, and makes a scene at the Lake firm in his anger. That very night, the building

the firm has its offices in burns down, and Rudy becomes a suspect. He is innocent, of course, and his friend Prince takes him to the office of Bruiser Stone. Stone then pulls some strings, helps Rudy avoid getting arrested, and offers him a job. We never find out who burned the Lake offices, or why.

Rudy has no choice but to take the job with Bruiser, and is introduced to the most unethical bunch of lawyers he has ever met. One of the better ambulance chasers in the bunch, a paralegal named Deck, befriends Rudy and warns him that Bruiser Stone and Prince Thomas are about to go down hard. He also teaches Rudy how to hustle clients by catching them in the hospital just after an accident. Deck, who has failed the bar 6 times and has no hope of passing, will stoop to great lows to get a case, and Rudy is offended with this unethical behavior. He continues to work with Deck, who proves himself to be clever and efficient, however unethical. While working for Stone, Rudy finds that he has passed the Bar, and is a bona-fide lawyer. When Stone and Thomas are indicted by the FBI and skip town, Rudy and Deck become partners in the Law Firm of Rudy Baylor.

Meanwhile, Birdie Birdsong (with the \$20 million will) is being tight-lipped about her money. She tells Rudy only a couple of things: 1. Her money is in Atlanta, in bonds and real estate mostly, and 2. It came from her second husband, who left it to her when he passed away. Rudy does some digging in Atlanta and finds out that Ms. Birdsong isn't really rich—in fact, the amount of money that she will have to give away in her will is closer to \$42,000 than \$20 million. Rudy understands that Birdsong is just pulling a strange stunt to get her family to pay her some attention, and the scheme works. The woman's children come to Tennessee for her and take her back to Florida, thinking they can prevent her from taking them all out of her will. Boy

**SEE RAINMAKER,
PAGE 9**

Events Around Town

Tonight

-Meranda Louise at the Boro

-Annie Tate at the Bunganut Pig

Thursday

-Bittersweet Irony and Fools Rush In at 527 Mainstreet

-Janie Grey at the Boro

-The Columbia Highway Bluegrass Band at the Bunganut Pig

Friday

-Red Rum and Passion Temple at 527 Mainstreet

-God Water and Tantrum at the Boro

-Mike Chandler and others at Comedy on the Square

-Mojo Men at the Bunganut Pig

Saturday

-Dancing Poetry and Adam's Garden at 527 Mainstreet

-Mike Chandler and others at Comedy on the Square

-Redstone at the Boro

-Jimmy Markham and the Jukes at the Bunganut Pig

REVIEWS & EVENTS

RAINMAKER

Continued from page 8.

do they have a rude awakening on the way.

For the amount of time Grisham spends on Ms. Birdie Birdsong, her character is very shallow and underdeveloped. In the beginning of the book she is the star of the show—because of the \$20 million—and Rudy even moves into an apartment over her garage and becomes her as suddenly as she appeared, Ms. Birdsong is whisked away to Florida and we hear very little else from her until the end of the book, when Rudy finds out that she is coming home because her children have discovered that she is not rich and are being mean to her. In the final pages of the book, Rudy leaves her a note on his way out of Memphis saying goodbye.

As for the Black case, it gets hotter and hotter. The evil of Great Benefit Life is endless, and Rudy discovers a scheme—with the help of a lawyer in North Carolina—that Great Benefit has concocted to "see how much money it could generate in a year." The idea is that the

company decline all claims—legitimate or not—for one year, then review each one and pay only the ones that might threaten lawsuits. Donny Ray Black has not been the only victim of this scheme, and the North Carolina lawyer is compiling a class-action suit against the company with 19 plaintiffs. If Rudy can win his case, he is told, the ball will be rolling and Great Benefit will pay for its devious behavior.

Rudy manages to land a brand new judge for his case, a judge that, as a lawyer, enjoyed suing insurance companies. The firm of Tinley Britt (known to Rudy as "Trent and Brent" because of its resemblance to a fraternity) is hired to represent Great Benefit. Before the jury has been selected, Rudy finds that Tinley Britt has tapped his phones, so he decides to fight back. He doesn't let on that he knows his phones are bugged, and he stages conversations with Deck about this or that potential juror. Selecting the ones that would be the most likely to side with Great Benefit, Rudy has rehearsed conversations on the phone with Deck in which they both

pretend to have talked to the jurors that would most likely be picked by Tinley Britt. For one reason or another all of them have grudges against insurance companies, and Leo F. Drummond (as the Britt lawyer representing Great Benefit) does not select them. His phone-tapping trick has blown up in his face.

Twisted into all of this is a quasi love affair Rudy is having with a woman he met in a hospital cafeteria while studying for the bar and supposedly trolling for injury cases for Bruiser Stone. The woman is beaten severely by her husband with an aluminum baseball bat, but is still (of course) beautiful to Rudy. Grisham throws in this very predictable love story seemingly to give his character Rudy Baylor something to do when he's not working miracles in the courtroom. The love story is typical: guy meets beautiful, married, beaten girl; guy wants to help girl but she refuses, going back to her mean old husband; husband nearly kills girl in the end, and she is convinced that what she has with Rudy Baylor (a man she has seen maybe 6 times) is true love. Rudy, of course, acts like he

wants to have this girl's babies all day long. The love story is so typical for most of its life that it makes you want to throw up—until Rudy and Kelly (the poor girl) kill her husband with his own aluminum softball bat. They lie about the whole thing, but of course they get off.

Rudy wins his case against Great Benefit, and the jury awards the Blacks \$50 million (which is, by the way, the largest settlement in Tennessee history). He gets one-third of that, so for a few pages he is rich, pending appeal. When he finds out that Great Benefit has filed for bankruptcy protection because they are being sued and investigated from all sides, he is no longer rich.

But he doesn't care, of course. Suddenly, all Rudy Baylor cares about is his happily ever after with Kelly. He leaves Memphis with a little bit of money and his girl, and they ride off into the sunset. They land in a small "college town" somewhere, where Rudy plans to teach history and be truly happy.

In the end, we find out that Bruiser and Prince have fled to the Bahamas, and that Deck has been enlisted to bring \$4 million that the

thugs have hidden in Memphis to Miami. For that, he will get 10 percent of the money, and will be semi-rich. With all that money, Deck will no longer have to chase ambulances, and will no longer need to work under a "real" attorney to make a living. Ms. Birdie is coming home to live out her old age in her own home, and will presumably spend her time with the old folks at the Cypress Gardens Senior Citizens Home. The Great F. Leo Drummond is bruised but not beaten, and will live to win more trials even though he has lost the Black Vs. Great Benefit case.

Grisham once again has written an intensely readable book. Though the fact that it takes place in first person, present tense sometimes grates on your nerves, it is no less a book that you will not be able to put down. With its twists and turns, the plot of *The Rainmaker* will keep you guessing (except for the love story thing) right to the final pages. You probably won't learn anything by reading this book, but it is intensely entertaining. I give it four out of five stars. ■

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Vanderbilt's Center for Fertility and Reproductive Research is seeking women (ages 21-35) interested in donating human eggs to help infertile women achieve pregnancy. Financial compensation will be given. Confidentiality assured.

For additional information, please contact Stephanie Bryan, R.N.C., at 322-6576.

Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

HELP WANTED



The Murfreesboro City Schools' Extended School Program is looking for responsible, flexible and creative staff who enjoy working with children in grades K-8.

ESP operates M-F from 2-6 with limited hours in the mornings. ESP is also great experience for education majors or those thinking of majoring in elementary education.

Application may be picked up between 9:00 and 4:00 at the Murfreesboro City Schools' Central Office located at 400 North Maple St.



SOME OF OUR STUDENTS ARE STAR PUPILS.

Learn 90210 to your zip code, safe motorcycle riding is essential. So take a *Motorcycle RiderCourse* like Brian Austin Green of Fox T.V.'s *Beverly Hills, 90210*. You'll learn techniques that not only make you a safer rider, but a better rider as well. Call 1-800-447-4700 to be the star of your class. MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION

FROM THE HOME OFFICE IN
NASHVILLE TENNESSEE:

TOP TEN REASONS TO DONATE PLASMA

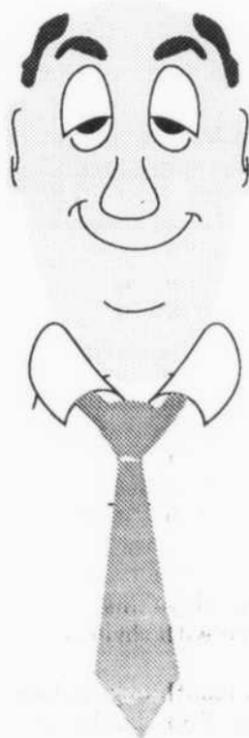
- #10-\$30.00 your first donation—who could argue with that?
- #9-what else is there to do in Nashville/Murfreesboro?
- #8-plasma is used to make medicine.
- #7-you can earn over \$2,000 a year in a few hours a week.
- #6-you never know, it could be fun.
- #5-INSTANT WEIGHT LOSS!
- #4-a need to be surrounded by people in lab coats.
- #3-chances to win cool stuff!
- #2-I really didn't want my plasma anyway.
- #1-two words: PARTY MONEY!!!

Call 327-3816 for more information.

plasma alliance

"people helping people"
1620 Church St.
Nash., TN 37203
college ID or TN drivers license required

Hours:
Mon-Thurs: 7a.m. - 10p.m.
Fri: 7a.m. - 7p.m.
Sat: 8a.m. - 6p.m.
Sun: 8a.m. - 5p.m.



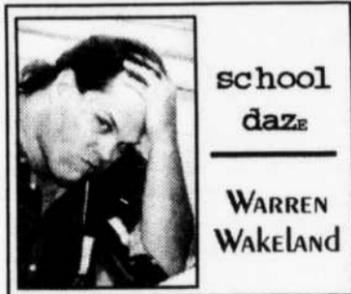
Viewpoints & Opinions

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor should be no more than 200 words long, and should contain sender's name, campus address or e-mail address. *Sidelines* reserves the right to edit

letters for clarity. Send letters to MTSU Box 42 or to the e-mail addresses listed on the second page. All letters should be marked "letter to the editor" so that they can be distinguished from other correspondences. *Sidelines* will print letters as space allows.

What's wrong with stressing academics?



school daze
WARREN WAKELAND

In the next two columns, we are going to look at reasons for both keeping and dumping the \$65 fee increase. Then you can make up your own minds. Today we are dumping the increase.

In a letter to the editor a few weeks back and at the SGA Senate emergency meeting held immediately after the bleep hit the fan, one student used the reasoning that a degree from MTSU would be more valuable in the job market if MTSU had a high-caliber Division I-A football program. It would provide for a better all-around sports program and give the school more national visibility.

There are other students who believe the letter writer is correct in saying that a degree from Alabama is worth more than a degree from MTSU, the reasoning obviously being that employers can identify more with Alabama due to hearing Keith Jackson yell "fumbuuuuulllllll!!!" on TV every fall Saturday afternoon at Alabama games.

MTSU Athletic Director Lee Fowler seemed to echo those thoughts in comments made to *Sidelines* last week where he is quoted as saying, "Being at that level (Division I-A) pretty much helps all your programs perception-wise."

Fowler said the University of Memphis, where he spent 15 years in athletic administration before taking the AD job here, is perceived as a better school than MTSU because of its highly regarded Division I basketball program.

As the late Sam Kinison used to say, "Oh-ohh-ohhhhhhh!!!"

First, let's get something straight real fast. Any high school senior (and the parents thereof) who does any research whatsoever concerning the two schools would have to be obscenely ignorant to perceive that Memphis is a better school than MTSU. The thought alone is insulting.

MTSU has higher admission standards, a higher cumulative GPA among its student body and many more top-rated academic programs than Memphis. The admission standards alone should tell any parent that MTSU is a better academic institution than Memphis.

In the Sears Director's Cup ratings designed to measure success of athletic programs (discussed in-depth later in this column), Memphis is rated No. 106 compared to MTSU's No. 109 rating. Using this measure, it would be safe to say Memphis and MTSU are on the same level athletically.

So let's clear the air right now. Memphis is not

considered a better school than MTSU by anyone who has half a grain of sense.

But of course, most parents do tell their kids, "Son, I think you should go to Memphis—they've got good basketball, so they must be a good school!"

Now that that fallacy has been crushed, let's get back to the letter.

Last week I received a copy of a program report that disproves all this garbage that a college degree is only worth as much as the ranking your football team receives in the weekly CNN/USA Today polls. The program is called the Sears Director's Cup and is coordinated through the National Association of College Directors of Athletics (NACDA), of which MTSU is a member.

The Sears Director's Cup program is a competition among NCAA schools that rates the athletic programs at the universities based on their performances on the athletic fields. They consider

There are already three world-renowned academic programs at this university... How many of you knew this fact? Not many. Why? Because MTSU doesn't do squat to promote these programs.

10 sports for men, 10 for women, and one "wild card" sport for each gender among sports in which only some schools participate. They use a formula for scoring results in each sport for each school that I will not try to explain here.

MTSU participates in seven of the sports scored for

SEE DAZE, PAGE 11

Letters to the Editor

Move to 1-A good idea, things to consider

Dear Editor:

First, I would like to state my support for MTSU's attempt to move to Division 1-A. I believe that the university administration does have MTSU heading in the right direction. One can look at the growth of the university in every aspect to verify this belief. As for the funding of the stadium, I am neutral and will leave those decisions to the administration and students.

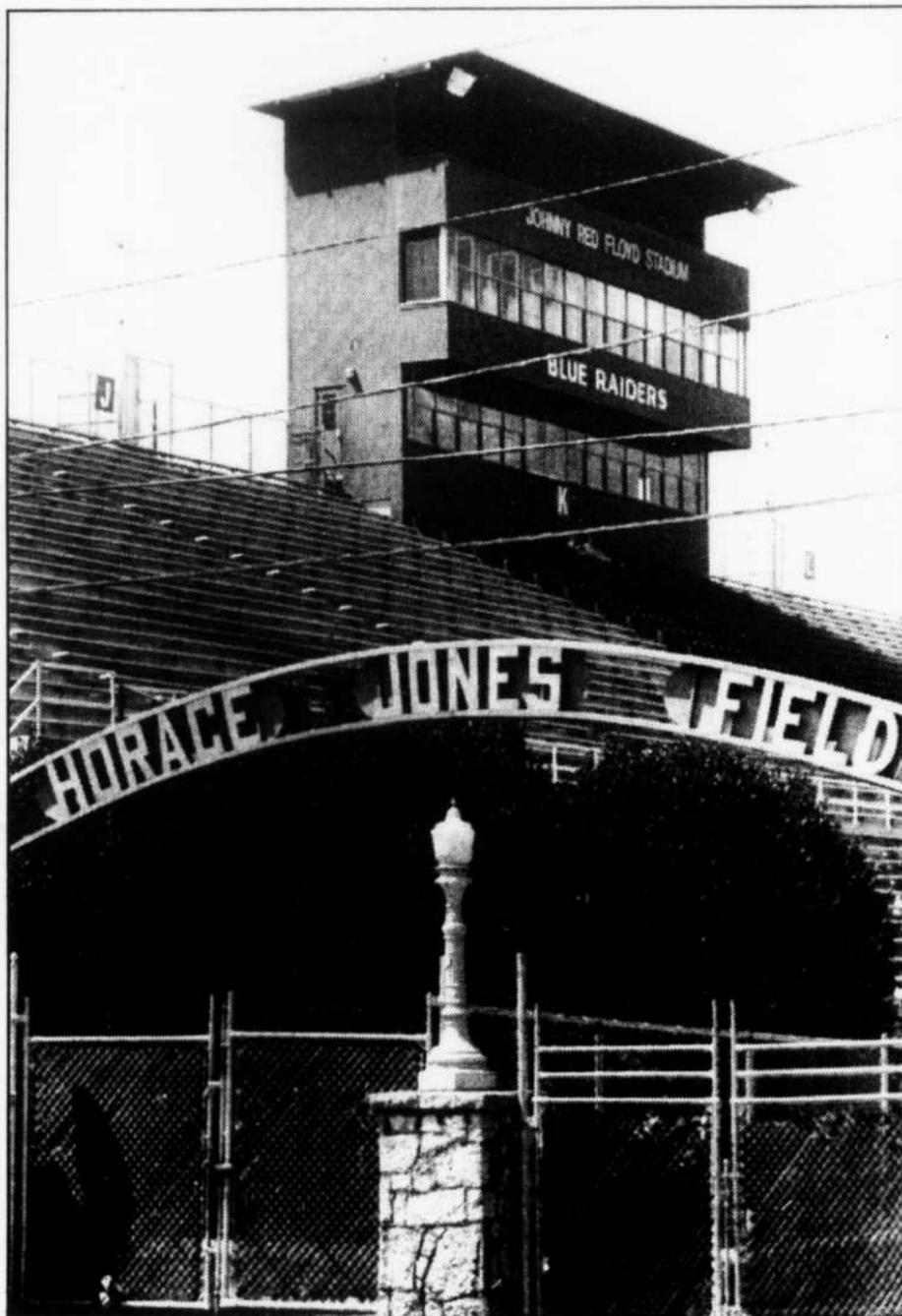
However, Athletic Director Lee Fowler's statement that such a move "helps all programs perception-wise" does puzzle me. I believe it does give programs more exposure but does not directly help them or give good exposure. I graduated from the University of Oklahoma where the university president once told the state legislature that he wanted "to build a university that the football team could be proud of." The irony is that Oklahoma's excellent academic programs are often downgraded because of it being considered a "jock" school. Few people know that OU is ranked fifth in the country for having merit scholars attend. The point is to realize that exposure does not necessarily help academic programs. These programs have a tendency to take care of themselves by producing outstanding graduates like MTSU is currently doing.

The one question that Athletic Director Fowler needs to answer is

just who is MTSU going to play at home when we move to Division 1-A. Without an affiliation with a conference, MTSU will most likely be "on the road, again, again, and again." I am sure that a lot of large Division 1-A teams would lick their chops to get a Division 1-A MTSU team to come to their place to play. They get a win, keep most of the money, and it would count toward their bowl win total. An example of this type of change is the University of North Texas which is making to move this year. They play Oklahoma, Alabama, LSU, Louisville, Missouri, Nevada and UNLV on the road. They play one home game against Kansas off campus at Texas Stadium in Irving. The lone 1-A opponent in Denton is lowly Oregon State which needs a win. The other two home games are 1-AA opponents—Idaho State and UAB. By the way, North Texas used to be in Division 1-A, already had the stadium, and fulfilled 17,000 average home attendance. They have joined the Bog West Conference starting in 1996 which will end their road circus.

I really believe that only Notre Dame can survive as an independent team in 1-A in the future. What Director Fowler needs to figure out is how is MTSU going to average 17,000 fans and what conference will MTSU enter. The "Field of Dreams" idea that if you build it they will come just doesn't seem to fit MTSU's situation. Again, I support the move if we know exactly where we are going.

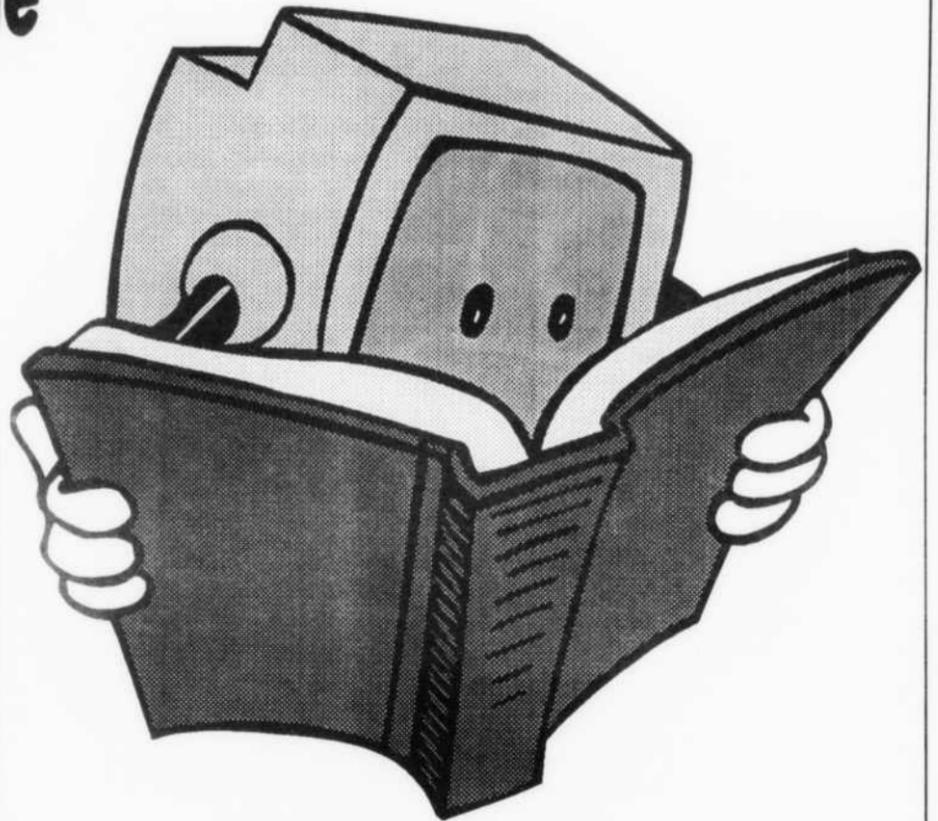
Tom L. Roberts, Ph. D.
Assistant Professor
robertst@acad1.mtsu.edu



TODD SORUM/Chief Photographer

Order a MIDLANDER now --MTSU's yearbook--

Get a head start on the next school year!



1995-96 Midlander Order Form

MTSU's Yearbook is \$20
Postage and Handling
(Optional) \$2.50

Date _____

Name _____

Social Security No. _____

MTSU Box _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

- Place my order for a yearbook at \$20.
- Add \$2.50 for postage and handling
- Total of order _____
- Please attach to my fall 1995 registration (or Spring 1996 registration if received after fall semester begins.)
- Please bill me.
- Payment enclosed.

A book in your name is being ordered with completion of this form. This is a commitment to purchase the Midlander at the stated cost of \$20. No refunds or credits will be applied unless a written cancellation is received by the Student Publications Office, MTSU Box 42, within 30 days of the posted date. The book is scheduled to arrive in August

Signature

Positions are available on the yearbook staff for the 1995-96 school year. The Midlander is also seeking dedicated photographers and staff writers. Come by James Union Building, 306, to pick up an application or call 898-2478 for more information. DON'T FORGET TO ORDER NOW!

The Midlander We're On Our Way...