

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Murfreesboro, TN

TBR hikes tuition 10 percent for fall Increase in faculty salaries intended

Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum
Staff Reporter

MTSU students will pay an extra \$202 in tuition annually beginning this fall, but what most of that money will be used for is anybody's guess.

A good portion of the new funds will finance a 3.5 percent pay raise for all faculty and staff, but the Tennessee Board of Regents voted Tuesday to up tuition 10 percent before university officials had even decided where to spend it.

The university president, provost and the associate vice president in the business office couldn't say Tuesday where the funds will be used.

"I think they will take that budget back and determine what to do with it," said Doug Williams, director of news and public affairs. "All the universities put in needs they have and TBR decided on the increases from there."

"About a 15 percent increase was needed for the university to break even," said Barbara Haskew, provost and vice president of academic affairs. "This will leave the university in a tight spot."

The hike is not unique to MTSU — the Tennessee Higher Education Commission has approved a system-wide 8 percent increase. Even with a 10 percent increase for TBR institutions, MTSU's tuition remains

lower than all other state 4-year colleges and universities. The only exception is East Tennessee State University, which costs approximately \$30 less than MTSU if fees are factored into the mix.

"My recommendation to the board is an 8 percent hike to all university sectors," said Charles Manning, the Board of Regents chancellor, "and an additional 2 percent because of the distance that the universities really are in resources...compared to peer schools."

"We're pretty far behind," Manning said.

Students have varying reactions to the increase.

"Nobody wants a tuition hike," said Brian Farr, a senior

history major, "Just like nobody wants a tax hike. It's a necessary evil if you want improvement. I think the quality of education at MTSU is very good compared to the cost."

"I think it's kind of like taxes," said Pat Nixon, a junior education major, "It's too much and it's mismanaged."

The 10 percent hike adds up to about \$3.9 million in total funds.

Some new faculty may be hired for the fall, said Haskew. The university now lacks about 60 professors.

The state also appropriated approximately \$9 million to renovate the Todd Building — formerly the Todd Library.

"We have a plan for Todd

How we stack up

TBR Regional Universities (10% increase) MTSU, ETSU, APSU, TTU, TSU	\$2222
University of Memphis (10% increase)	\$2484
University of Tennessee Knoxville (8% increase)	\$2812

Graphic by Raymond Hutzler | Chief Designer

Library," said James Walker, university president. "The plans are to renovate it and move the art department there until which time the state will provide us with adequate resources to build a new art building."

Part of the Todd Building will continue to house the curriculum library and some faculty offices, Haskew said.

TBR also approved a \$25 increase toward the technology access fee. ■

Business college marries Jennings, takes his name

R. Colin Fly
News Editor

In a ceremony July 10, the College of Business was renamed the Jennings A. Jones College of Business after the former mayor of Murfreesboro.

"I consider it quite an honor," said Jones, "that I have been recognized in this way. I've been happy with how [MTSU] has used what I have given to the program. I think they're right on track."

The ceremony celebrated Jones' many contributions to MTSU and the surrounding community.

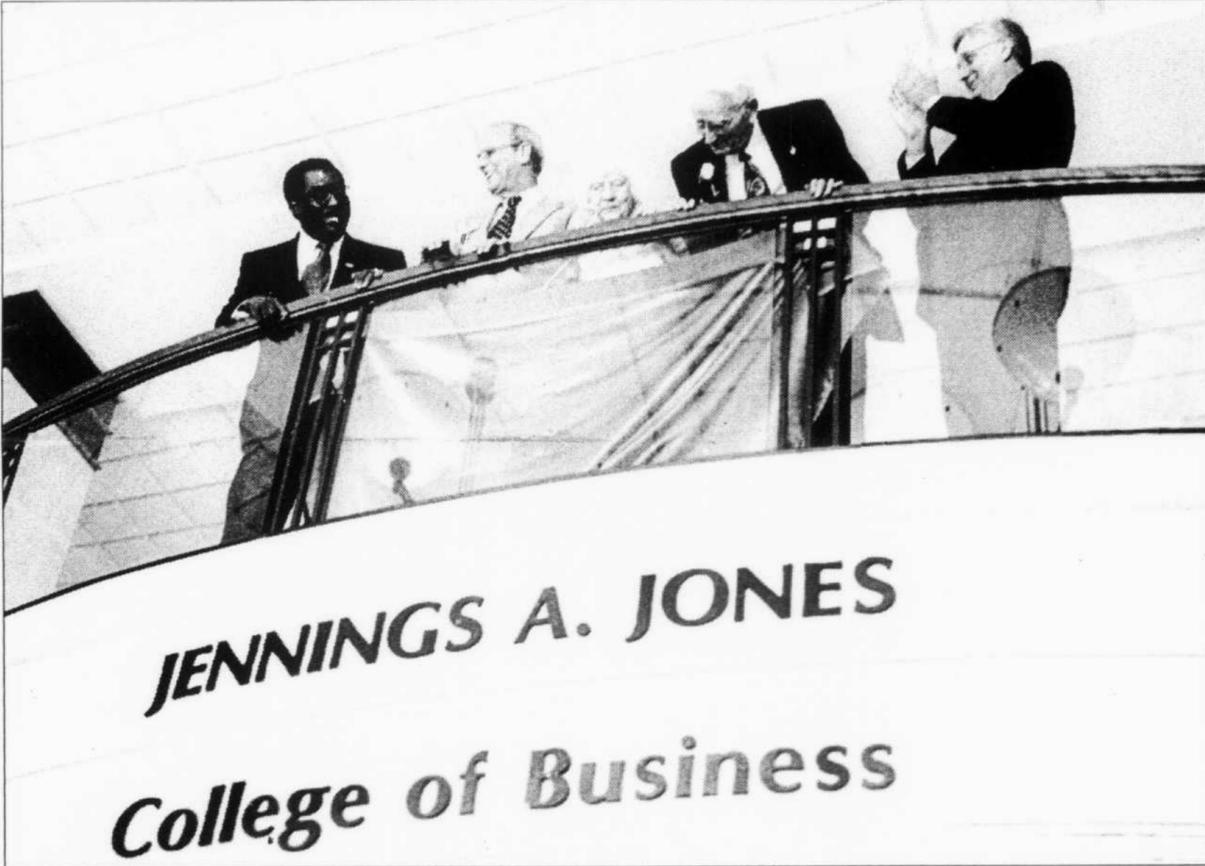
James Walker, president of MTSU, stressed that more important than their financial contributions, Jennings and Rebecca Jones are giving of their time. He also stressed their impact on the lives of students.

"Their dollar contributions in terms of chairs of excellence, institutes, scholarships and money for computers are very meaningful to students in terms of enhancing their education and changing their lives," Walker said.

"However, I think equally as important is the Jones' willingness to give of their time to attend functions, and sponsor special institutes and speakers to come to the campus."

Joe Rodgers, former chair of excellence in free enterprise, which Jennings A. Jones funded, spoke of the Jones' kind and generous contributions "not only to the university, but also to the community" and praised Jennings for his vision and success.

Earl Swensson, former chairholder of the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning, said that



James Walker, Charles Manning, Rebecca and Jennings Jones and James Burton unveil the College of Business' new nameplate in the south lobby of the Business and Aerospace Building.

Jennings always understood human nature, time and investment.

"He understood investment, not only in time and money, but also in holdings."

After the unveiling of the plaque, Jennings Jones thanked MTSU.

"It is quite and honor to have

one's name connected with a university which has gained so much stature and respect as MTSU."

Jones, 90, has been active in the Murfreesboro community for more than 60 years. He served as the mayor of Murfreesboro from 1950-1954.

Jones held leadership posi-

tions with the city of Murfreesboro's Water and Sewer Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Rutherford Hospital Board and Middle Tennessee Medical Center Development Foundation.

Jones' influence in education has had key roles in development of Mitchell Neilson

Primary and Elementary, Hobgood, Bradley and Bellwood Schools. He also helped in the funding of the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Academy for Teachers of the Gifted that is ongoing on campus.

Walker presented Jones with the MTSU President's Award during the 1999 spring com-



Jennings and Rebecca Jones

ment for his work with the community.

"Jennings' life and work experiences and the gifts he has made to university programs have made us richer," said Barbara Haskew, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Jones was born in 1909 in Del Rio, Tenn. A high school graduate at age 16, Jones attended the University of Tennessee where he studied electrical engineering. He graduated in 1931.

In 1939, he opened his own business, Jones Locker and Cold Storage System.

Jones met his wife, Rebecca Ransom Jones, while working with Tennessee Electrical Power in January of 1937. They married in June of that same year.

In 1941, Jones was called to serve in the Army and attained the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Jones chaired the Murfreesboro Planning Commission from 1946-1950 before becoming mayor in 1950.

"Beyond MTSU, the Jones' investment in education has quite literally raised the bar on the quality of life for thousands of children, young people and older citizens who have lived and worked right here at home in Middle Tennessee," Walker said. ■

Student dies in plane crash

Staff Reports

An MTSU student died Wednesday, July 4, from injuries caused by a plane crash.

Patrick Michael Couch, who was a flight instructor with SDS, Inc. in Murfreesboro as well as a student at MTSU, was flying with Mitchell Clark Herndon, a student of Couch's, when the plane clipped a house and crashed into the front yard of Dave M. Hearn Jr.'s home at 1718 Dover Court. The plane then caught fire with the two trapped inside.

Neighbors, along with Murfreesboro police officer Eddie Burgess, rescued Herndon while Murfreesboro firefighters freed Couch. They were then flown to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where Couch died at 12:28 p.m. Herndon

was in critical condition.

The plane, which took off from Murfreesboro Airport, was a Cessna single-engine aircraft owned by SDS worth \$25,000.

It was moved to a secure hanger at the airport, where FAA officials are investigating the cause of the crash.

According to George Huddleston Jr., chair of the Murfreesboro Airport Commission, an engine problem is suspected in causing the crash.

This is the third plane crash near Murfreesboro Airport since December. The pilot in the first incident died Dec. 18 when the plane crashed on Leaf Avenue. An MTSU student and instructor pilot survived the second crash April 4 on DeJarnette Lane.

Couch was from Macon, Ga. He had 500 hours of flight time logged before his death. ■

Hearing on higher education desegregation lawsuit scheduled

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - Mediation in a decades-old higher education desegregation lawsuit has apparently continued past a June 30 deadline, but time may be running out.

The 32-year-old case, now called Geier vs. Sundquist, is scheduled for trial in U.S. District Court in Nashville on Aug. 1.

Rita Sander Geier was a professor at historically black Tennessee State University in Nashville when she filed a federal lawsuit accusing Tennessee of perpetuating a dual higher education system for black students and white students.

The state and plaintiffs reached a court-approved agreement in 1984 that set tar-

gets for black and white enrollment and employment at Tennessee's higher education institutions.

Last year, plaintiffs in the lawsuit argued the state has not done enough to desegregate Tennessee's colleges and universities.

Since Feb. 1, Carlos Gonzalez, a mediator under the direction of U.S. District Judge Thomas Wiseman, has worked with the parties in the lawsuit, trying to reach a settlement and get the state's higher education system from under litigation for the first time in more than 30 years.

The mediation agreement requires "the parties will not discuss any matter relating to the mediation with the media... except by express written

permission of all parties and the mediator," according to court records.

Under Geier, TSU has received almost \$113 million in state taxpayer money since 1988 for a library, student center, performing arts building and other projects that traditionally white institutions enjoyed.

Also under Geier, the University of Memphis in 1999 awarded 206 scholarships to black students. The university used \$246,680 in institutional funds and \$263,000 in state desegregation funds, according to the state Desegregation Monitoring Committee's annual report released in May.

Those are just two of the

ways the state has sought to integrate higher education.

TSU has a court-mandated goal to raise its nonblack enrollment to 50 percent.

The Nashville university had 1,121 white students and 122 students of other non-black races last fall, 17 percent of 7,277 undergraduates - down from 21 percent in fall 1997.

Numeric goals and litigation remain the most effective way to eliminate "racially identifiable" institutions, maintains George Barrett, a Nashville attorney who filed the original Geier suit.

"There's a lot of distrust on the part of the plaintiffs," said Barrett, who spoke Thursday about the case with his client, Geier. ■

Internet music debate goes to Senate

Jesse J. Holland
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich - an outspoken critic of Internet music sharing - told a Senate committee Tuesday that government intervention is needed to stop what he called Internet music "piracy."

"I don't think there is a way this can be worked out without your involvement," said Ulrich, whose band led the charge against Napster Inc., whose service allows computer users to make perfect copies of digital recordings over the Internet.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, led by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah - a songwriter himself - asked musicians, record company representatives and Internet company executives to explain the industry's fight with companies like Napster and Gnutella, a similar service.

"I think we must let the market work and let history be our guide in not squashing this technology too soon," said Napster CEO Dave Barry, noting that copyright complaints had been worked out with the arrival of radio, television and satellite television.

Barry was backed up by a former member of the folk rock group the Byrds.

"I think the market will sort itself out," said Roger McGuinn, who uses the Internet to promote his current solo career.

Hatch, along with ranking Democrat Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., say they are still trying to decide whether government intervention is truly necessary.

"We must protect the rights of the creator," Hatch said. "But we cannot, in the name of copyright, unduly burden consumers and the promising technology the Internet presents to all of us."

Metallica and rapper Dr. Dre have been the artists most critical of Internet music "duplication," and the recording industry has sued to stop companies like Napster and MP3.com, which already has settled some of the lawsuits against it.

Napster lets users swap songs for free by trading MP3 files, a compression format that turns music on compact discs into small computer files.

Free duplication means that artists won't get paid for their work, Ulrich said. "Napster hijacked our music without asking," he said. "They never sought our permission, our catalog of music simply became available as free downloads on the Napster system."

However, Barry said Napster users who "sample" free music

ultimately help artists by going out and buying music.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said the time would not be far off when whole books and movies are being duplicated over the Internet using companies like Napster without compensation to movie companies and authors.

But Barry said the same things had been said about compact discs, video cassette recorders, double deck tape recorders and other technology. "The terrible things that have been prophesied have never come," he said.

Gnutella software developer Gene Kan said the software community - the "pirates," he admitted - would not be stopped by mandating encryption, setting up licensing fees or trying to mandate that people identify themselves online.

He also pointed out that people like downloading music. "We just infringed rights now, and everybody just chuckled about it," he said.

Hatch had downloaded a song from the rock band Creed using Gnutella for the audience to listen to while he and Leahy left for a Senate vote.

"I don't think we infringed rights," Hatch retorted. "It was for education and governmental purposes." ■

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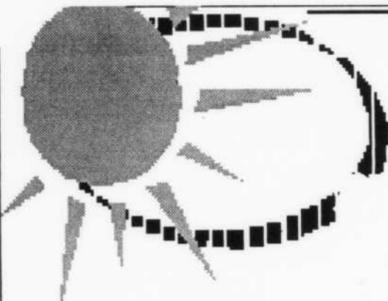
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OPINIONS

4 ■ SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

From the Staff

State government sinking higher education's future

"It's bad and it sucks!"

That was the general reaction from the editorial staff when they heard about the 10 percent tuition increase that the Tennessee Board of Regents approved yesterday. But after the sarcastic remarks died down, the staff started talking about the bigger problem.

You see, for some time now this university has been regarded by most as a good value.

We had the least expensive tuition in the state, but for the most part, still offered high quality programs. That now seems to be a diminishing advantage.

No, a 10 percent increase isn't that detrimental to most students, but there is a larger issue looming overhead.

The problem can be summed up in three words:

the Tennessee legislature. Make that five words — Governor Sundquist.

If the current trend continues, the state government and their partisan, inefficient ways of doing business are going to ruin any future our higher education systems may have. It's not like we can slip too far.

We're already ranked the 49th state in the country for quality higher education.

You would think that we had no place left to go but up.

Guess not, though. Donnie's not going to be satisfied until we're dead last.

Until then, we can continue giving our faculty small pay increases every few years, while their peers in other states are getting more of what is deserved.

Barbie begins campaign trail for U.S. Presidency

Alex Ross
Tulane University

Finally, a viable candidate for president. Time to send off your campaign donations. Unfurl your gaudy banners, launch your China-made red, white and blue fireworks.

Rejoice, my friends, for the next Lincoln, the next Teddy, the next FDR is ready to take over the fledgling presidency.

That's right — you guessed it. Barbie is running for president. With the hopes of introducing girls around the nation to politics, The White House Project recently announced that it will be working with Mattel and Girls' Inc. to create a Barbie doll that will challenge the sexism rampant in our contemporary political system.

This radically new doll, complete with short blond hair, a typical Hillary Clinton-esque blue business suit and even an "enlightening" five-point platform for her term, has announced her candidacy for President.

But don't worry. She still has her smile, that "I'm-from-California-and-I-think-I-thought-once" gleam in her eyes, and that blonde "No-wait,-I-didn't-think-once — Ken-does that-for-me" hair.

Oh, not to mention her 26DD chest. Indeed, a revolutionary Barbie doll. I decided to ask Barbie herself to debate Al Gore and George W. Bush, Jr. to see if her candidacy is indeed a "public awareness campaign," as the official press release states, and not a mere ploy on Mattel's part to sell more Barbie dolls to overcome its \$171 million first-quarter loss.

Here are a few excerpts from their debate:

Mediator: What are your views on crime, punishment and the death penalty?

Gore: "It seemed [once] that the struggle against crime was insurmountable. But we came up with an approach that we applied steadily and relentlessly, and the problem has yielded."

Bush: "I support the death penalty because I believe, if administered swiftly and justly, capital punishment is a deterrent against future violence and will save other innocent lives."

Barbie: "You know what's a crime? Like, when I was in the mall this girl in my biology class was wearing a brown shirt and I was like, 'Hello? It's April and that's sooo October,' and everybody laughed. Not only that, but it was real slutty, and her hair was way skanked out. Seriously, where were that girl's parents? It's that whole Columbine thing with the parents not being there or something. You know what I mean? Like, my Mom always calls me on my cell just to make sure I'm not, like, wearing a brown shirt or skanked out. She helps me avoid social dee-saster."

Mediator: What do you think about Animal Kindness?

Gore: uhhh...

Bush: errr...

Barbie: "Like, 'yay, animals!' I love to hug them, especially the little puppies. Baby polar bears and baby lions are, like, sooo cute, too. But my favorites are the white tigers. I want to get one and dress it up in little baby clothes and rock it to



The Barbie for President doll

sleep. Like, ooohhhh, I get goose-bumpies just thinking about it!"

Mediator: Thank you Mr. Gore, Mr. Bush. Any last words, Barbie?

Barbie: Go The White House Project, Mattel and Girls' Inc. for fighting sexism in the government! Yeah! I also have a message for the young girls out there: Running for president, like, isn't as hard as I thought. Any girl can do it. All you have to do is believe in yourself. Oh, and let Ken do the talking. ■

SIDELINES

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Gen Xers must fight for what's theirs

Julie Chen
University of Texas at Austin

Every generation has a nametag. For most twentysomethings at the University of Texas, it's likely a toss-up among "generation Xers," "post-Boomers," or, ahem, "Super Seniors."

Whatever you call them, they are "the most politically disengaged in American history," according to a recent issue of Atlantic Monthly magazine.

Sounds like an incurable disease. Ted Halstead, the 30-year-old author of the article and creator of various think-tanks, believes he has an explanation for why today's young adults are not getting involved in politics.

Here's what he's saying: He starts with the statistics: a mere 32 percent of eligible Xers (aged 18 to 24) voted in the 1996 presidential elections. Such anemic participation extended to political activities like calling or writing elected officials, attending candidates' rallies, and working on political campaigns. Xers' general knowledge about public affairs is also unimpressive.

In terms of voting, 44 percent (of those who did in 1996) identified themselves as independents and as the least likely to favor maintaining the current two-party system. Most of their support went to Ross Perot in 1992 and to independents like Jesse Ventura in 1998.

What do all the numbers mean? It basically leads Halstead to believe that Xers are not responding to the two political parties because their interests are not being addressed, much like teenagers who build walls around themselves to tune out Mom and Dad — parents, and parties apparently, just don't understand.

Halstead takes it a step further and attributes this avoidance to an "acute economic insecurity" developed

Xers see no leadership on the issues that concern them; rather, they see self-serving politicians who continually enslave themselves to the highest bidders.

during childhood years — the Reagan and Bush years — that leads Xers to "turn inward and pursue material well-being above all else." Translation: Xers have a grim outlook on life due to the now-weakening economy. Maybe.

Analyzing the annual returns of no-load mutual funds, however, is not likely to fit into the daily routines of an average beer-guzzling "Undeclared" major.

What rings more true is this observation: Xers see no leadership on the issues that concern them; rather, they see self-serving politicians who continually enslave themselves to the highest bidders.

Indeed, Xers can't seem to find the perfect party (all jokes aside). They want the fiscal restraint of the conservatives but, like the liberals, they want to fight for the little guy, too.

So like the jeans that didn't fit quite right, politics

gets hung back on the rack as Xers move on to do things they enjoy. They recycle to save the planet. They invest to evade the pitfalls of Social Security. They are determined to help themselves in making it on their own. They turn the other cheek on politics.

So what is the panacea for such a devastating illness? Halstead introduces "balanced-budget populism."

The central tenet to this theory is a combination of financial prudence (or a pay-as-you-go philosophy) and government intervention to reverse income inequality. This is not old-fashioned politics.

Traditionally, the Republican right calls for lower taxes, smaller government and reduced assistance to the neediest. The Democratic left adheres to tax-and-spend liberalism and big government.

Xers, on the other hand, likely prefer helping the needy (but without running a deficit) and cutting taxes only if it doesn't take from the surplus. However, this new type of political agenda remains unheard, as current politicians all but ignore the potentially most influential segment of the population.

Instead, politicians pander to the Baby Boomers, visit the retired, and fall at the feet of corporate interests.

Why? Because they get involved. They speak up. They vote.

The only way to reverse the political anorexia of Xers is for them to realize their power to bring change to the system.

There is already proof that if a candidate can inspire young adults they will do their part: Gov. Jesse Ventura. His election victory was a result of Minnesota's same-day registration law, which also made possible record turnout at the polls.

So, Xers need to crawl out from under the covers and enter the very political arena that they loathe. Xers must integrate themselves into the process.

They must bite the hand that forgot to feed them. ■

FEATURES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 5

Murfreesboro, TN

With fake ID use on rise, clerks taking closer look

Shalise M. Manza

The Providence Journal

The young man standing before clerk Lori Bardsley with \$93 worth of alcohol, including vodka and gin, looked young.

Too young. Bardsley asked for his identification. The young man produced a New Jersey driver's license that said he was 21. She consulted a reference book with pictures of the proper IDs from every state. She still wasn't sure.

The license looked authentic. But the customer did not look 21.

So the clerk produced the store's "minor book." Asking potentially underage customers to sign it shows that the establishment, Christy's Liquors, questioned an individual's age or the validity of their ID.

Bardsley held the New Jersey license as the young man filled out the form, making sure he got all of the information — middle initial, address, etc. — correct. When he did, Bardsley served him.

But the uneasy feeling remained. Bardsley peered outside as the young man left, and noticed that the driver and passenger of the car he got into looked even younger than he.

She called store owner Kevin Kitson, who notified the Gloucester, R.I., police about the incident.

Officer Kimberly Bertholic saw the car and questioned the young men. Bertholic confirmed Bardsley's suspicions: all three were only 17 years old, and they were from West Warwick, R.I., not New Jersey.

While at the police station, the boy with the fake ID told the police he had used it over the Internet.

Using false identification to buy alcohol or gain entrance to a nightclub is not a new trick.

In years past, minors likely borrowed an older sibling's license or that of a friend with similar features.

But in this age of rapidly advancing technology, anything is available over the Internet.

And with the right tools, in stock at your local computer store, the Web isn't even necessary for making nearly flawless false identification.

The ID used in this case "almost

exactly matched the (reference) book," Bardsley said.

Sophisticated computer methods aren't the only way, however.

Some minors go to the Department of Motor Vehicles, fill out a driver's license application using information from a friend of legal age, but have their picture taken for the document.

No matter how they are obtained, the incidence of fake

Christy's owner Kitson has been involved in the family business for nearly 30 years.

A vocal advocate for preventing underage drinking, Kitson believes 21 is the legal age for a reason.

"I was in business when the drinking age was 18," he said. "Kids were dying left and right. They can't handle it."

Kitson was proud of his clerk's actions during the recent incident.

"She did things textbook," he said.

"It's important for people to know that if you're uncomfortable for any reason, you can have (the customer) sign the minor book. If you're still uncomfortable, you can refuse the sale."

The minor book is part of a Rhode Island statute regulating liquor sales, and it works to protect licensed liquor establishments.

If something happens after a sale, a store owner or bartender can produce the book to show that he or she questioned the individual's age.

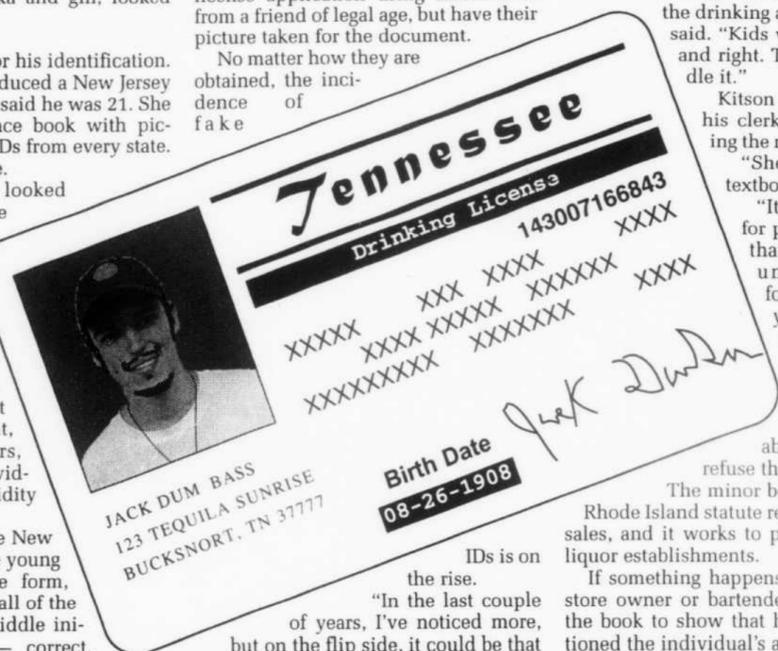
Brenda Amodei, a program coordinator with Rhode Island's Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals' division of substance abuse, said the state received a federal Department of Justice grant to increase enforcement of the false identification and underage drinking laws.

Police departments in every community were given some of the money, allowing officers to work undercover as clerks in package stores, and also to patrol parking lots for evidence of the other method used by teens to get alcohol — having someone of age buy the goods for them.

Using false identification, a misdemeanor, can lead to a fine, and having the offender's real driver's license suspended. Buying liquor for or selling to someone not of drinking age carries a \$250 fine for a first offense.

In the case of the West Warwick youths, the teen who bought the liquor was charged with misrepresentation of a minor and possession of alcohol; the driver was charged with transportation of alcohol by a minor. The third boy was not charged.

"I have no problem making a profit off alcohol," Kitson said. "But I don't do it to have some kid get crushed on a tree someplace." ■ **Graphic by James Evans, Managing Editor**



IDs is on

the rise. "In the last couple of years, I've noticed more, but on the flip side, it could be that we are better at detecting (fake IDs)," said Gloucester Police Chief Jamie Hainsworth. "Access to the Internet has a lot to do with it, too. Everything is at your fingertips."

Visiting a search engine and typing in "fake driver's license" turns up no less than 10 sites, all offering "photo ID souvenir cards" or "novelty IDs." Templates are available for all 50 states and numerous foreign countries. For an added fee, you can purchase the corresponding hologram, which assures "authenticity."

One company brazenly states, "If it is a novelty card you are after to show off to your friends and have a laugh then this is not the place for you, if however on the other hand you want the Photo I.D. to become someone you are not and need exceptional quality material to do so, then this is the site for you."

But why pay someone else if you can do it at home?

"If you have a laser printer and a good flatbed scanner, you can make one yourself," said one high school senior, adding that "we're much too crafty" to spend the \$30 or more Internet sites ask for access to templates or to make an ID.

"They're not only easy to buy and easy to make, but they're easy to use," added another student.

Students can't do without cell phones

Claire Zulkey

TMS Campus

Cellular One has conducted a survey that examines college students' motivations and attitudes toward owning cell phones. The survey was commissioned through the College of Business at Arizona State University, and, although it is supposed to reveal all students' attitudes towards the modern conveniences, some students had thoughts of their own on the study.

SURVEY SAYS: Overall, 50.1 percent of students surveyed owned cell phones.

"Yes, I own a cell phone, and I love it," says Fielding Smith, a senior at Georgetown University. "Actually, I own two, one for each of my two favorite continents."

SURVEY SAYS: Of students who did not own cellular phones, 57.6 percent would like to own one. 55.4 percent of non-owners cited cost as the primary barrier to becoming a cell phone owner.

Claire Weingarden, a senior at Syracuse University, wouldn't mind having a cell phone, least of all for what she calls the "Roommate share-a-phone." "But I'm realistic," she says. "I go to Syracuse, where everybody lives within six blocks of each other. And I know that those free minutes that come when you purchase the phone can be tempting, but they will be gone in no time."

SURVEY SAYS: Almost 15 percent of cell phone owners believe cell phones make them look stylish, 28.3 percent believe that cell phones are a necessity for a good social life, and 22.8 percent believed cell phones are perceived as good status symbols.

Yes, sometimes it feels that way," says Fielding. "But the flip side is the sheepishness felt when the cell rings in certain situations. It can be embarrassing."

SURVEY SAYS: About 74 percent of the students interviewed who own cell phones pay their own cellular bills.

"Yeah, right," says Weingarden, disbelieving this statistic. "Daddy pays them."

SURVEY SAYS: 20.8 percent stated that parents paid for their service.

Fielding is one of these people. "I have a very tight family and the bill is much cheaper as a result of the cell phone. Long distance doesn't exist—calls to anywhere in the country cost

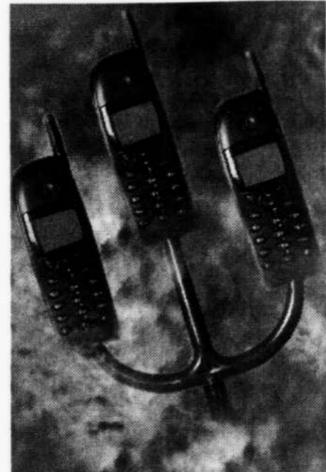


Photo provided

While most students view their cell phones as good and necessary, others see inherent evil in their lecture-interrupting ringing, especially when the call is not for them.

the same; they are deducted from the minutes I pay for monthly. This makes it not only affordable, but also convenient to stay in touch with family, since I can do it from anywhere."

SURVEY SAYS: The four most important reasons for purchasing cellular phones are, in order of preference: 1. To keep in touch with family members (58 percent) 2. Emergencies (47 percent) 3. To contact significant others (44 percent) 4. To coordinate social activities (32 percent.)

"For fun, for friendship, for those numbers you gave out one night at a bar," ruminates Eduardo Trocha, a senior at Florida International University, on the additional uses of his precious cell phone. Trocha has recently crafted a story dedicated to his phone, entitled "The Day I Lost My Cell Phone: A Non-fiction Horror Story in New York City."

Still, not everyone sees the need to bring cell phones everywhere they go. "I leave mine at home when I'm going to class," says Ellen Anderos, a senior at Elmhurst College. "I'm only going to be gone for a couple hours at most. Whoever needs to get a hold of me can wait."

Joseph Ricci, a junior at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, agrees. "I hate when someone's phone rings during a lecture or a test," he says. "I hope I never think I'm that important." ■

Colleges lowering standards for males

Meg McSherry Breslin

Chicago Tribune

In the especially tough college admissions season that just ended, an unlikely and even controversial group of high school seniors proved to have an edge: boys.

High school admissions counselors across the country said a growing number of colleges have recently begun admitting boys over girls to achieve some balance on campuses dominated by women.

The new focus on boys brings a strong reaction from some higher education leaders who worry that qualified girls are being treated unfairly.

In light of the privileges afforded men in the workforce and the struggles women face in breaking through the glass ceiling, some say it's disheartening that men are now considered worthy of affirmative action.

"It's clear when looking at admissions policies that colleges are dipping lower into their male pools than they are with their female pools," said Margaret Miller, president of the American Association of Higher Education.

Women have slightly outnumbered men on college campuses nationally since the 1970s, but in recent years the gap has been widening rapidly, for reasons that remain unclear.

Miller noted a certain irony in the fact that this predominance of high-

achieving women has caused such a reaction.

"Universities have just opened up more to women in my memory, and nobody seemed to be particularly concerned about that for decades and decades," Miller said.

Admissions officials for at least three Midwestern liberal arts schools — Lake Forest College, Macalester College in St. Paul and Kenyon College in Ohio — acknowledge that they have given preference to boys over girls on their waiting list.

A number of other college officials say gender is not considered in the general admissions process or with wait-listed students, an assertion that one admissions official scoffs at.

School leaders "truly aren't being honest" if they deny considering gender for wait-listed students, said Brian K. Smith, a Lake Forest College admissions official.

"Everybody gets in a room after the May 1 deadline and looks at their gender balance," he said. "If they have this many people on the wait list, they have to do something about it, which means taking males over females."

At Lake Forest, the wait-list preference affects only a handful of students. It was intended to help address a growing imbalance of men, who make up about 43 percent of the student body.

For high school college counselors, even the slightest edge for either sex can be troubling, especially during an admissions season that was already

"It is the ultimate irony that if women have overcome discrimination to the point where they're now excelling, that we would say, 'Don't succeed too much.'"

Lee Parks, attorney

among the most competitive in recent history.

James Conroy, a counselor at New Trier High School in Winnetka, said it was clear that many of his female students were denied admission over males who were less qualified. But if confronted on it, the colleges often argue that they simply had more highly qualified males that year, or that other factors, such as the boy's leadership or extracurricular activities, played a role, he said.

"It's certainly something that is an issue, and we're seeing more of it," Conroy said. "But the hard part is that with all the subtleties of the college

admissions process, it's hard to quantify.

"Colleges can't say gender is not a consideration," he said. "The problem is many colleges are dancing around it."

To that point, Smith conceded Lake Forest officials have been quiet about their use of preferences.

While they've looked to boys on the wait list for three years, they have not notified high school counselors about the change unless they asked about it, Smith said.

"It's really not something we share with anyone," he said. "If they ask and it's a counselor we have a rapport with, we'll tell them chances are the male will get off quicker than the female would."

Instead of turning to wait lists, some universities say they consider gender only for students applying to particular colleges, and this can work to the benefit of both women and men. At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, for example, boys applying to the predominantly female education school have been given preference in recent years. At the same time, girls are favored over boys in the male-dominated engineering school.

Meanwhile, a number of other Midwestern schools, including DePaul University, have stepped up their recruiting efforts for boys, targeting male candidates with extra phone calls and mailings. Smaller schools have introduced football teams or academic

programs that appeal more to males, such as engineering and business programs.

Higher education officials disagree over whether the male preferences are legally defensible for public and private universities.

The University of Georgia last fall dropped an admissions formula that gave boys extra points over girls after a female student filed a lawsuit claiming the policy was discriminatory. The student, Jennifer Johnson, argued that she was denied admission over less-qualified males because of the policy.

A day after the lawsuit was filed, the university admitted Johnson, but she had already decided to attend another school.

Lee Parks, Johnson's attorney, said they are still pursuing the case in federal court to set a legal precedent.

"To me it is the ultimate irony that if women have overcome discrimination to the point where they're now excelling, that we would put in the proverbial glass ceiling and say, 'Don't succeed too much,'" Parks said.

Some students who just endured the competitive admissions season also are turned off by the practice.

"I don't think it's necessarily living up to their reputation," said Marc DeMoss, a senior at Lake Forest High School who's bound for the University of Chicago. "It's kind of hypocritical when they're taking less competitive students over some students who could contribute a lot more." ■

SPORTS

6 ■ SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Coach McCollum: Recruit or Lose

Jay Carlton
Sports Editor

Anyone who has had the opportunity to talk to MTSU head football coach Andy McCollum about the program's future has reason to be optimistic.

The 41-year-old McCollum, who is entering his second season as the Blue Raiders' head coach, is considered by many of his peers to be one of the top recruiters in college football.

"I think recruiting is work ethic," said McCollum, who played collegiately at Austin Peay from 1977-80. "If you're not recruiting, you're losing. It's a matter of pride within yourself."

McCollum has every intention of building a team that can consistently challenge for a Sun

Belt championship by recruiting top-notch student-athletes.

McCollum's colleagues are quick to point out his ability to relate to players and how important that is in regard to the recruiting process.

"Andy's always been a hard worker," said Director of Football Operations Tom Fiveash. "He was like that when he was with us in the 80s. He really knows how to relate to the kids nowadays."

While possessing the necessary skills to effectively recruit desired players, McCollum's job has been made easier with the renovation of Floyd Stadium, new weight training facilities, and locker room improvements.

"The upgrading of our facilities has been important," said McCollum. "We're doing the things that will draw a guy to Middle Tennessee. I think we

have an easy sell here."

Having a state-of-the-art stadium, training facilities, and all the other amenities that players desire is helpful in the recruiting process, but a coach's ability to relate to prospects is key. McCollum effectively does that. He has the ability to make people feel comfortable, at ease, and important.

McCollum is approachable. He's the kind of guy who will call someone by their first name, greet them with a firm handshake, and look them in the eye while talking, the kind of guy you can just sit down with and shoot the breeze. Don't let this nice guy fool you: He can be tough too.

"He will lay the law down if he needs to," said MTSU starting quarterback Wes Counts. "Basically he's a player's coach. He wants you to have fun while

taking care of business."

Taking care of business is exactly what McCollum does. Being the head coach of a Division 1-A football team is a year-around job. Realistically, there isn't an off-season for coaches.

The obvious chores of recruiting, game planning, and dealing with the media are responsibilities that fall mainly on the shoulders of McCollum, but he has a staff of assistant coaches who help out tremendously. However, there are other behind-the-scenes responsibilities that are important too.

McCollum says he tries to create a family atmosphere within the football program. The father of two young children, he understands the importance of spending quality time with loved ones. He makes it his business to ensure that members of

his staff are able to spend time with their families.

"As a head coach I've got to make sure that my assistant coaches are getting the time with their wives and children that they need," said McCollum. "It's all family to us here. This whole team is our big family."

McCollum, who claims he learned his work ethic from legendary MTSU football coach Boots Donnelly, is dedicated to putting in the hours necessary to fielding a winning team. However, his family comes first and he tries to keep them involved as much as possible.

"I want my kids involved with this program," said McCollum. "There comes a time when I just have to stop things and spend time with my own family. I'm learning to do better at that."

After a family vacation to

Florida this summer, McCollum plans to jump right back into the rigors of preparing for the upcoming season. With away games versus Florida-time opponents Illinois, Florida, Maryland and Mississippi State, there's a lot of work to be done.

With the Blue Raiders now playing at the highest level of college football, McCollum has a tall order in front of him. It will be a work-in-progress. Realistically, the team is probably a couple of recruiting classes away from making a name for themselves. However, with coach McCollum's work ethic, this team will go places in the years to come.

"We're going to get this thing turned around," said McCollum. "People around the country are going to take notice. We want people all over to be talking about the Blue Raiders." ■

Baseball signs JuCo outfielder

MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee's head baseball coach Steve Peterson has announced the signing of junior college outfielder Seth Yarbrough.

Yarbrough (5-11, 185) is a right-handed hitter that has been a staple in right field for Coach Tim Hulsey at Enterprise (Ala.) State Junior College. He earned Junior College All-American honors as a freshman after hitting .466 with 10 homers.

Yarbrough, a native of Montgomery, Ala., again was in double digits in round-trippers, smacking 12 during his sophomore campaign.

"He's a great player. In fact, he is the best outfielder we've had here in several years," said Hulsey.

"He hits as well to the right side as he does to the left. Defensively, he's strong as well. I believe he had six outfield assists this year, which is outstanding."

Peterson exudes the same excitement about Yarbrough.

"He's a good all-around player who hits for power and has hit double figures in home runs each year," said Peterson.

"We needed someone with power and he will provide that in the middle of the order, plus he has very good speed." ■

Titans close to resigning George

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Eddie George of the Tennessee Titans is closer to becoming the highest-paid running back in the NFL, his agent said Tuesday.

The Titans and George's agent, Lamont Smith, have been talking in recent weeks about a contract extension for the Pro Bowl running back who will become an unrestricted free agent after the upcoming season.

Smith said he talked with the Titans again Tuesday and made what he called "substantial progress."

"The next 24 hours or so will tell us where this is," Smith said.

The Titans have made an extension for George their top priority after signing coach Jeff Fisher to a new deal last month. George has said he wants a new contract before the season starts or that he will wait until the season ends.

George is seeking a six-year contract that would give him a signing bonus larger than the \$14 million cornerback Ty Law received from the New England Patriots.

Last year the Indianapolis Colts signed rookie Edgerrin James to a seven-year, \$49 million contract, while the St. Louis Rams signed Marshall Faulk to a seven-year, \$45 million deal. Jamal Anderson of the Atlanta Falcons picked up a five-year, \$32 million contract last year. ■

Wiel of fortune

Fowler happy coach stays, does not go to North Carolina

Jay Carlton
Sports Editor

There was a Wiel, but there wasn't a way.

MTSU head basketball coach Randy Wiel interviewed yesterday for the vacant coaching position at the University of North Carolina, but it was announced last night that Notre Dame's Matt Doherty would inherit the title of head coach of the prestigious basketball program.

"Matt's been at Notre Dame and people see him all the way in California," said Wiel. "Matt has a big upside. Matt's very popular, he's a good coach, he's coached a year and proven he could do it."

The resignation of Bill Guthridge as the Tar Heels' head coach has set off a domino effect that has impacted basketball programs on the collegiate and professional levels. Kansas coach Roy Williams, who was an assistant under former North Carolina coach Dean Smith, was the first choice. To the surprise of many in the basketball world, Williams turned down the opportunity.

South Carolina coach Eddie Fogler, another assistant under Smith, also declined to accept the job.

Other coaches with strong North Carolina ties also took their names out of consideration, including Philadelphia 76ers' coach Larry Brown and Milwaukee Bucks' coach George Karl.

While playing from 1976-79 as a Tar Heel, Wiel lettered every year. During that four-year stretch, North Carolina won three ACC championships and made one appearance in the NCAA championship game.

The 49-year-old Wiel, who graduated UNC with an A.B.

degree in education in 1979, has been in the Tar Heel family for many years. From 1985-86 he served as a graduate assistant at North Carolina. From 1986-93 he was an assistant coach. The Tar Heels won the national championship in 1993.

Wiel forged a close relationship with longtime coach Dean Smith. The fact that Smith still serves as a consultant to the basketball program and his loyalty to those in the Tar Heel family contributed to Wiel's consideration for the job.

"Dean Smith is very close to Randy Wiel," said Steve Kirschner, UNC director of media relations. "He stays in close contact with all his former assistant coaches."

Wiel took over as head coach at MTSU in 1996. In Wiel's four years, the Blue Raiders have compiled a record of 65-53.

"I'm not really surprised by North Carolina's interest in coach Wiel," said MTSU senior center Lee Nosse.

Considering his close ties with the university, Nosse said he thought that Wiel was deserving of the job.

During the 1999-2000 season, Wiel led his troops back from a 5-10 start. The Blue Raiders won 10 of their last 13 games to qualify for their fourth straight OVC semifinals.

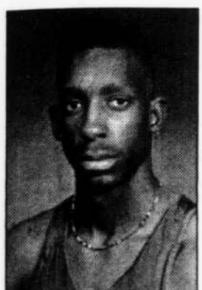
MTSU athletic director Lee Fowler said he understood all along that Wiel was a very strong candidate for the position.

"We are happy for North Carolina that they found a coach, but we are elated to keep Randy Wiel a Blue Raider," said Fowler. "What we have known since day one is that he is a great coach and now everybody else knows the very same thing." ■



Randy Wiel

Photo Provided



Roland McGee

Track stars attempt to make Olympic team Thursday

MT Media Relations

Several current and former Blue Raider track and field standouts will look to make the 2000 Olympics in the coming weeks.

On Thursday July 13, Godfrey Herring and Roland McGee will be competing in the United States

Olympic trials.

Herring, who earned All-American status during the 2000 Indoor season will attempt to qualify in the 400-meters. Herring battled a hamstring injury during the end of the year limiting his performances during the Outdoor season, however, he did run one of the fastest collegiate times on the

year in the 400-meters.

McGee will be attempting to qualify in the long jump. He still holds school records in the long jump as well as the 100 and 200-meters.

Three other Blue Raiders will also compete in Olympic trials in Ghana. Albert Agyemang, Tanko Braimah, and Christian Nsiah will

be competing for the right to represent Ghana at the 2000 Olympics.

Agyemang and Braimah finished first and second, respectively, at the OVC Championships in the 100 and 200-meters this past season. Agyemang also placed second in the 100 and 200-meters at the Sun Belt Championships.

Nsiah, a former sprint champion was a two-time All-American for the Blue Raiders. Nsiah earned All-American honors in the 200-meters in 1996 and ended his Indoor career by earning All-American in 60-meters in 1999.

The 2000 Summer Olympics are being held in Sydney, Australia and will begin on September 15. ■

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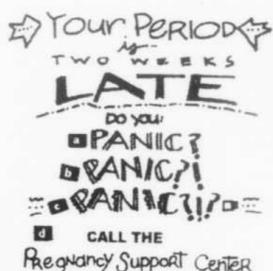


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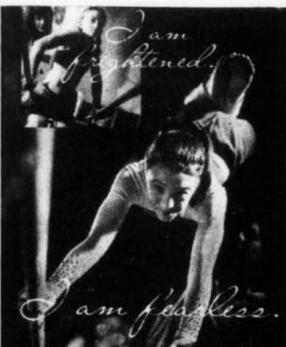
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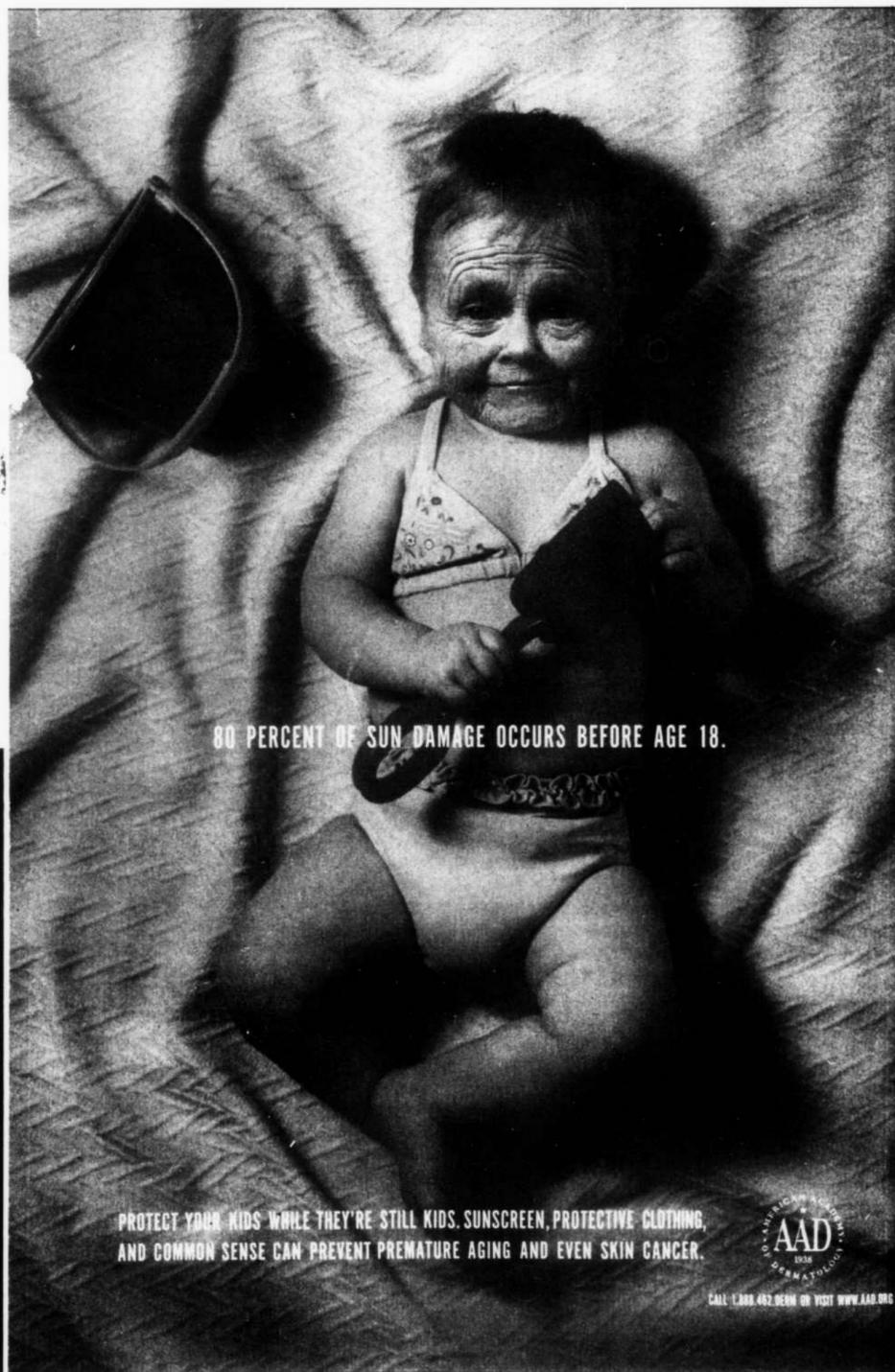
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