

Wednesday

July 5, 2000

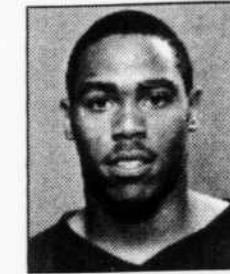
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Volume 75 No. 66

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Senior
Mario
Kelso
kicked
off team
for next
season

Page 6

Murfreesboro, TN

Red Cap honorees look ahead to Heart Walk

Jenny Cordle
Staff Reporter

The largest fundraiser in Rutherford County is a heartbreak away from preventing the number one killer in America from attacking again.

As an eight-year sponsor of the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, MTSU remains on the forefront of such a task, said County Executive Nancy Allen.

Allen said the Heart Walk committee hopes to raise \$110,000 for American Heart Association research, but more importantly they're aiming to open the public's eyes to what nearly 60 million Americans suffer from — cardiovascular disease. Sponsored individuals commit to walk the miles at the Sept. 17 Heart Walk down Main Street.

"Forty-one percent of more than 2.3 million Americans suffer or die from it," said Allen, who has a family history of heart disease.

As chairwoman of the Heart Walk committee, Allen began preparing for the walk in March by gathering new teams of college students to participate. But fundraising for research begins as early as elementary school children, when children "Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart."

The American Heart Association names Red Cap honorees each year in different age groups who have battled with the disease.

This year's Red Cap child honoree struggled with heart trouble since the day he was born.

Five-year-old Larry Douglas Brandon II, nicknamed L.B., underwent open-heart surgery after doctors discovered a miss-

ing valve at the base of his heart. The experience had a profound effect on his family.

"It makes you appreciate life," said father Larry Douglas Brandon I, MTSU assistant professor of accounting and an attorney, whose 55-year-old sis-

ter died of a stroke two months before L.B. was born.

Brandon said his wife and son walked in the Heart Walk last year and are looking forward to walking it again.

The female Red Cap honoree is Rhonda Smith. It will be her fourth year participating in Heart Walk.

Smith, who has been a

Rutherford County resident for 45 years, suffered from a heart attack in 1998 and has been watching her diet ever since.

She said her objective as an honoree is "to increase public awareness."

Such is the goal of male Red Cap honoree Joe B. Jackson, an MTSU graduate who served as a city council member, vice mayor and mayor of Murfreesboro during his 16 years of public service.

Jackson, who has lived in Rutherford County since 1951, has used a "pacemaker the size of a silver dollar" as a precautionary measure to regulate his heartbeat for two years after it fell short one Sunday after church.

"I remember when my neighbor used a pacemaker the size of a jewelry box," said Jackson.

"How far [researchers] have

come in the last fifteen years is amazing to me," he said, referring to when he received his modernized pacemaker.

"Research has prolonged all of our lives and must continue to be ongoing in order to develop new technology designed to combat these problems," Jackson said. "It helps the longevity of our lifestyles."

MTSU campaign leaders Doug Winborn and Deborah Gentry, organizers of the August 29 campus kick-off at the Alumni Center, plan for students to get involved in Heart Walk through the Student Government Association and various courses that lend themselves to such a topic, such as nursing or exercise science.

Although Winborn has no family history of heart disease, he's been "very active" in the American Heart Association for

years educating people about heart-related problems.

"American Heart Association helps the beginning researcher who might not be able to access such funds elsewhere," said Winborn, professor of health, physical education, recreation and safety.

"The primary goal of the AHA board is to help educate all citizens about the effects of heart disease and stroke as well as the efforts being made to conquer it," said Tom Tozer, president of the Rutherford County AHA Board.

"Raising funds is certainly vital, but those funds need to be used to educate, inform and raise awareness of the huge strides researchers have made in fighting this disease."

The Heart Walk will begin at 1 p.m. on MTSU's campus and continue down Main Street. ■

House approves commuter rail to Lebanon, 'Boro next in line

R. Colin Fly
News Editor

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a \$6 million appropriation to build a commuter-rail line from Nashville to Lebanon.

The line is the first of the five-leg Nashville Area Regional Commuter Rail System, which plans to link Murfreesboro in the second leg of the project. Gallatin, Franklin and Kingston Springs will complete the rail system.

"Our roads and interstates are an absolute nightmare during morning and afternoon rush hours," said Bart Gordon, U.S. Representative. "A commuter rail system would help alleviate the region's gridlock and enhance quality of life. This appropriation, if approved by the full Congress, will allow construction to begin on the first line of the five-leg rail system."

The Nashville-to-Lebanon line, also called the Eastern Corridor, would be built on existing track owned by Nashville & Eastern Railroad Corp. Gordon and congressman Bob Clement have already secured \$2 million in federal funds for preliminary engineering work and \$8 million in federal funds for future rail stations.

"[The funding] fell short of the Administration's request of \$8.8 million for the project," Clement said. "However, the funds [appropriated] will be used to bring us closer to becoming operational along the East Rail Corridor."

Mike Cochrane of Greshman, Smith & Partners said that the architecture and engineering company was in the middle of the design phase for the Eastern Corridor.

"The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) put out a request for qualifications several



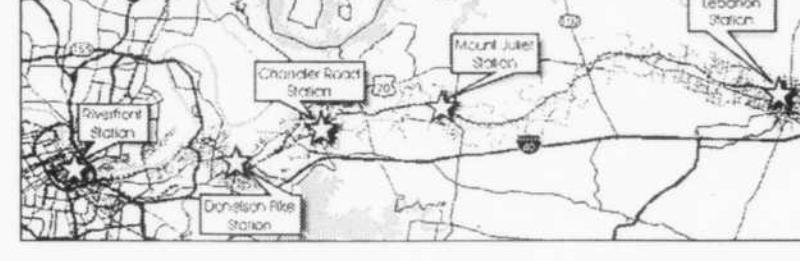
months back to study the best possible route for a commuter line," Cochrane said. "We won that contract with the STV group."

STV Incorporated is a specialized group of engineers, architects, planners and construction managers who work primarily with transportation systems. The group has done rail work in New York City, Boston, Mass., Bridgeport, Conn. and Allentown, Pa.

"The RTA then put out a request for qualifications to design a rail system, which we also won," Cochrane said. "We are designing the rail lines, the terminals, the parking lots, the whole bit."

The bill must go before the full Appropriations Committee, the House and Senate, before October 1 before the funding will be finalized.

Lebanon residents will bene-



fit from the new rail immediately, MTSU could be next. If more legs of the project are approved, then future rails could directly impact the MTSU campus.

Deborah Roberts, director of parking in the finance and administration division, said that a commuter rail may offer an innovative answer to parking problems on campus.

MTSU and the RTA work closely together, including the Relax and Ride program, which provides bus service to and from Nashville.

Another possibility is run-

ning shuttles to and from the proposed rail station in Murfreesboro.

According to a report by the Regional Transportation Authority and the Metropolitan Transit Authority, which serves Metro-Nashville, rail travel is an important tool in the battle for clean air.

Rutherford County alone would see a reduction of 1,471 pounds per day in daily automobile emissions through the creation of the Murfreesboro Corridor of the commuter rail system. ■



(Top Left) This train is similar to the one being proposed for Nashville's rail system. (Top Right) A sign in Donelson marks one of the future stops on the proposed rail. (Above Left) A map of the proposed route to Lebanon. (Above Right) Nashville's future rail stations may look like this one.

Testing to get harder for future Tennessee grads

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - Though many students struggle to pass the tests now required for high school graduation in Tennessee, harder exams are coming.

The so-called Gateway tests in algebra, biology and English will be required for students beginning high school with the 2001-02 freshman class.

Educators say the tests, which must be passed before graduation, will be harder than the exams now required under the Tennessee Comprehensive

Assessment Program or TCAP.

TCAP tests are first given to students after the eighth grade and must be passed before they finish high school.

Statewide for the 1998-99 school year, more than a third of students taking the TCAP tests failed on the first try. In Memphis, 10 percent of students finish the 12th grade without passing the tests.

Educators say they are already working on plans to help students with the harder tests.

Individual school systems will decide if students will be promoted if they fail the tests but pass the course work on which those exams are based.

A recent clash over one high school's graduation in

Avron Fogelman, a member of the state Board of Education requiring the new tests, said they should not lead to more school dropouts if educators work harder with students to prepare them.

As with TCAP, students will be given several tries at passing the new tests.

Individual school systems will decide if students will be promoted if they fail the tests but pass the course work on which those exams are based.

A recent clash over one high school's graduation in

Memphis led critics to ask how students can finish the 12th grade but still fail tests based on eighth-grade work.

Because of such complaints, Memphis educators will now require tutoring for students who fail the TCAP tests. In the past, tutoring was offered but not required.

Memphis schools also are doing away with basic math courses that allowed students to bypass algebra. The Gateway tests will gauge what students have learned in basic algebra, biology and second-level English. ■

TBR clears Music Department name change

James Evans &
Raymond Hutzler
Staff

The MTSU Department of Music has received approval from the Tennessee Board of Regents to officially change its name to the School of Music.

The name change is purely cosmetic, said music chair Roger Kugley, and is only intended to reflect the size of the department.

"I think it's an appropriate designation to

describe the department," Kugley said.

The size and various degrees that are offered through the department, he said, warrants the change. Currently, MTSU has approximately 30 full-time faculty members, 35 adjuncts, 300 undergraduates, seven undergraduate degrees and three graduate level programs.

To complete the process, it has to be approved by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Kugley said he thinks THEC will decide on the issue at its next quarterly meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 13. ■

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S curve to be straightened

Construction to straighten the C Street S-curve by the co-generation plant began last Thursday, causing traffic to be re-routed until mid-September.

Areas closed to traffic include C Street at the four-way intersection near the white hay barn and the B Street entrance to the Jones Field parking lot.

Parallel parking will no longer be permitted on C Street to allow for two-way traffic. The Jones Field parking lot will be open for white permit parking and the Cason-Kennedy Nursing building gravel lot will be paved as part of the project. A new gravel lot will be constructed near Greek Row, which will provide 120 green permit spaces.

The total cost of the project is \$447,787. ■



Photo by Angela White | Editor in Chief

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Professor, students research for Jefferson Springs project

Ronald Kates, English professor, and several of his students in an honors research and creative writing course will be present at the Uncle Dave Macon Days Friday and Saturday.

Beginning at 5 p.m. Friday, Kates and his students will host an exhibit describing research on Jefferson Springs that Kates' class will be focusing on. The display will be located in the museum area of Cannonsburg.

They will also be present Saturday at 9 a.m. to record any stories people may have about Jefferson Springs.

Jefferson Springs was a resort area famous for its "healing waters." Kates' class, which will meet this fall, will be writing a fictional novel about the resort.

Sociology professor, students uncover history of slaves in Middle Tennessee

Thanks to the excavation efforts of Kevin Smith, sociology professor, and 16 students in his archaeological field school class, information about the African-American

slaves who resided at what is now the Wynnewood State Historic Area has been uncovered.

The archaeological dig began June 5 and will continue through Thursday. Smith and his students hope their excavation of the slave quarters will garner new insights into the contributions of African-American slaves to the history of Middle Tennessee.

Located in Sumner County, Wynnewood was created in 1828 and served as a mineral springs resort and a stagecoach inn run by Alfred Royal Wynne. The inn was also the home to the Wynne family. In 1973, the two-story log inn was named a National Historic Landmark.

It has been reported that the log quarters once held four slave families from 1830 until the Emancipation.

EPA to clean up contaminated College Grove properties

The Environmental Protection Agency are in College Grove cleaning up designated lead-contaminated areas.

High levels of lead contamination were discovered around a pile of old battery cases on CSX railroad property near U.S. Highway 231A and Harper Street last August.

College Grove resident Joe Bellenfant allowed the agency to use his property as a staging area for treatment during the cleanup activities, which is expected to cost

more than \$3 million.

By using Bellenfant's property, the EPA will be able to bring the contaminated materials from each property to one area and use their own labor to treat it. Afterward, the nonhazardous materials will be taken to a landfill.

Since June 19, the EPA has cleaned up two of the 16 properties that require attention.

New journal focuses on study of country music

The University Press of Kentucky recently published the first issue of what will be an annual journal devoted to the study of country music.

The publication, Country Music Annual, will be the first academic journal of its kind to be printed on a yearly basis, according to Charles Wolfe, founder and co-editor of the journal.

The inaugural issue, Country Music Annual 2000, came out in May.

In that issue, Wolfe and Jim Akenson, co-editor, selected studies of Minnie Pearl and the Southern humor tradition to Nashville studio musicians of the '60s, the structure of country songs and the linguistic aspects of country lyrics to the role that music plays in Lee Smith's novels.

It also features writings on "line-dance Nazis" as well as discussions on Tennessee Ernie Ford, Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, Emmylou Harris and Shania Twain. ■

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Credit card bill dies on last day of General Assembly

NASHVILLE (AP) - Opposition from the banking lobby on Wednesday killed a bill in the Tennessee Legislature to limit solicitation on college campuses by credit card companies.

"We thought we had a conference committee report but we got too much lobbying from the bankers," said House Speaker Pro Tem Lois DeBerry, D-Memphis, the bill's sponsor.

The measure would have prohibited companies from giving free gifts to students who sign up for credit cards, and from using student or alumni organizations to solicit customers.

The bill also would have required colleges to offer personal credit counseling, and it would have given students the option to indicate in college directories that they did not want solicitations from marketers.

Any school contracting with a company for a card bearing the university's name or logo would have had to disclose annually how much money it received from the company and how it was spent.

DeBerry and others on the conference committee formed to reconcile differing versions of

the bill passed in the House and Senate worked until the last minute but could not reach a compromise. The Legislature adjourned for the year Wednesday afternoon.

DeBerry vowed to bring the bill back next year.

"Credit cards are ruining our young people," she said. "It is absolutely wrong to let credit card companies go on our college campuses and lure kids with T-shirts or a boom box. One thing we can do for our young people that won't cost us any money is to allow them to graduate from college debt-free."

The University of Tennessee and other state universities opposed the bill because they have multimillion-dollar contracts with companies to issue credit cards with school logos and names.

The UT system has a seven-year contract for \$2.3 million per year with First USA Corp. that allows the company to use the UT logo on its cards and to solicit on campus on a limited basis.

Schools in the Board of Regents system also have contracts with credit card companies. ETSU and MTSU each get \$1 million per year. ■

House and Senate override governor's budget veto

Karin Miller & Tom Sharp
Associated Press

NASHVILLE - The long, divisive budget battle on Capitol Hill finally ended Wednesday with the Senate voting to override Gov. Don Sundquist's budget veto - avoiding a government shutdown and sending the Legislature home.

Sundquist vetoed the \$18.3 billion budget Tuesday because it didn't contain tax reform, including the state income tax he wanted, and because it relied heavily on optimistic state revenue growth and paid for annual expenses with non-recurring money.

The House overrode his veto 78-19 Tuesday. The Senate concurred with a 20-9 vote Wednesday.

Then the 101st General Assembly - marked by bitter differences, short tempers and a chorus of tax protesters' honking car horns - adjourned, ending one of the Legislature's longest sessions in history.

"Boy, those are good words to hear," said Sen. Bobby Carter, R-Jackson, after Lt. Gov. John Wilder adjourned the Senate "sine die," which is Latin for "without another day."

Sen. Joe Haynes, D-Nashville,

sponsor of the budget bill, said contrary to what critics might say, lawmakers did right by the people.

"Because we're doing this without a tax increase. And they said it couldn't be done," he said of the budget, which includes:

-\$445 million more state spending than last year;

-\$210 million for TennCare, the state's health program for the poor, disabled and uninsured;

-\$110 million to provide 3.5 percent raises for teachers and government employees;

-\$16 million for nursing home alternatives for the elderly; and

-\$81 million more higher education.

But Senate Speaker Pro Tem Bob Rochelle, D-Lebanon and a tax reform advocate, said counting on revenues above official estimates when the economy may be slowing is not smart.

"You've got a great big glass that ain't got a drop in it. You're forecasting it's going to run over the sides by the end of the year," he said.

Sen. Doug Henry, D-Nashville and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said the budget will "tear up 60 years of hard work" to make the state one of the best fiscally managed in the nation.

He said state officials must

meet next month with bond agencies to discuss the status of Tennessee's Triple A rating. Tennessee is one of nine states, and the only one without an income tax, to have the highest rating from all three major bond rating agencies.

"If they go up there next month and this bill we're talking about has become law, you know what happens?" he asked, his voice breaking. Then he shredded a piece of paper with three "As" written on it and tossed it.

If the rating is lowered, it will raise the cost of borrowing money to the state, its cities and counties.

Sen. David Fowler, R-Signal Mountain, said he didn't like some aspects of the budget, but it was time to go home.

"Sometimes when you go to Vegas and stay too long you crap out. We've stayed at the table too long," he said. "This is not the best work we could have done, but it's the best work we can do under the circumstances."

A full or partial government shutdown was in the balance if the Senate had chosen to uphold the governor's veto. The state constitution requires a balanced budget before July 1, the start of the fiscal year.

Sundquist said after the Legislature adjourned that

although lawmakers accomplished some great things during the session, he was disappointed it ended without meaningful tax reform.

"We have missed an opportunity to do what's right for Tennessee," he said. "We've missed the opportunity to move Tennessee forward with tax reform, juvenile justice reform, charter schools legislation and a real commitment to higher education."

Sundquist has pushed for tax reform since last year and called two special sessions to address it. On Wednesday, he did not rule out the possibility of another special session this year, especially if revenues are lower than expected.

The governor has said an income tax is the most equitable way for the government to raise money, but that he is willing to consider other tax reform.

In return for an income tax, Sundquist had proposed exempting food from the state's 6 percent sales tax, eliminating the tax on interest and dividends, and reducing the overall sales tax to 3.75 percent.

The governor has argued that Tennessee is too dependent on sales taxes, which account for 57 cents of every state tax dollar. ■

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OPINIONS

4 ■ SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 5, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

From the Editor**Prayer ruling necessary to protect unpopular beliefs**

The Supreme Court recently decided that organized prayer at school events – even off campus – violates the freedom of nonbelievers.

Writer Joseph Loconte believes that the court went too far in its decision, and that students under the former system had every opportunity to go against the norm and refuse to pray.

Loconte obviously does not remember what it is like to be in high school.

Freedom of choice can lose all meaning when peer pressure is at hand. It is hard enough to be in the minority, but religion is its own separate beast – to not believe makes you not only different, but immoral and damned as well.

The Supreme Court made the right decision to protect the rights of the coerced. While it is true that no one is forcing these children to pray

if they wish not to, the threat of being social outcasts if they do not is far too overwhelming for many of them to do otherwise. Teenagers simply have not developed the self confidence or independence to assert their unpopular beliefs, especially in public.

No one was hurt by this decision. There is no need for a public declaration of one's faith at every turn. There is church, bible study and other places of worship reserved for that aspect of one's life.

People have begun to accept respect for nonsmokers by banning smoking in restaurants and other buildings because they wish not to be exposed to such toxins. The same could be said about prayer.

Angela White
Editor-in-chief

Joseph Loconte
Knight-Ridder Tribune

For both sides in the nation's church-state battles, the Supreme Court's recent ruling against school prayer was a bridge too far.

Opponents of classroom prayer have strangely redefined voluntary religious speech as coercion. Supporters, by exaggerating the importance of public benedictions, have invited a crackdown on legitimate religious expression.

The Santa Fe School District in Texas called its prayer policy at football games a reasonable compromise: Students, not school officials, would decide whether to choose a student speaker before the games.

Students, not teachers, would elect the speaker. And the speaker, a student, would decide whether to offer a nonsectarian prayer or no prayer at all.

In a 6-3 decision, the high court said the policy entangled the school in religion, while opening the door to a majoritarian approach to public worship. But based on prior court rulings, the approach looked more like an accommodation of religion, not an establishment.

In the crucial 1992 Lee v. Weisman case that struck down high-school

graduation prayers, the justices objected to prayers orchestrated by public officials — but upheld the practice of student-led petitions.

The more serious problem is the exotic claim about the alleged psychological "coercion" of student prayers. The majority of the court worries about "immense social pressure" to participate, but neglects the fact that no one is compelled to attend after-school sports events.

The justices essentially argue that in the wide orbit of public education, religious speech — unlike political speech or even profanity — is inherently coercive. The remedy: Use the power of government to keep faith in the closet.

But that cannot be the thinking behind the Establishment Clause. People do not have a constitutional right to never hear speech they might disagree with. Public schools used to be a place to learn that basic civics lesson.

The push for school prayers has gotten off track. Supporters often link the decline in public morals to court decisions banning classroom prayers and Bible reading. Jesus said the prayers of the faithful can move mountains. But surely it will take more than watered-down prayers to an undefined Deity to promote piety or

greater respect for faith.

"For 12 years students see all subjects through a secular lens," says Charles Haynes, a First Amendment scholar at Vanderbilt University. "Public education is deeply flawed by its failure to take religion seriously."

Religious liberals should do a little soul-searching. For all the talk of coercion, how exactly does it bruise anyone's conscience to stand respectfully for a benediction at an after-school event?

The Rev. Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, has actually suggested that classroom prayers could produce the kinds of alienated youth who stage a Columbine-style shooting spree. In the name of civility, these activists are poisoning civic discourse.

Surely Justice Scalia got it right in his dissent in Lee v. Weisman: "Maintaining respect for the religious observances of others is a fundamental civic virtue that government ... can and should cultivate."

Government seems more interested in cultivating public schools as religious-free zones than in molding students into well-rounded citizens. Maybe it's time we prayed the Supreme Court got out of the school-prayer business altogether. ■

Supreme Court went too far in school prayer ruling

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University and is published on Monday and
Thursday during the fall and spring
semesters and every Wednesday during
June and July. FLASH!, the entertainment
magazine, is published every Wednesday
during the fall and spring semester.
The opinions expressed herein are those of
the individual writers and not necessarily of
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Elian goes home, so they say

Elian Gonzalez and his father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, wave as they board a plane taking them back to Cuba. The jet, originally believed to be provided and paid for by the Cuban government, was supplied by an unidentified wealthy Cuban-American woman. Elian was returned to Cuba without a trial or hearing in U.S. family court.

Elian goes home, so they say

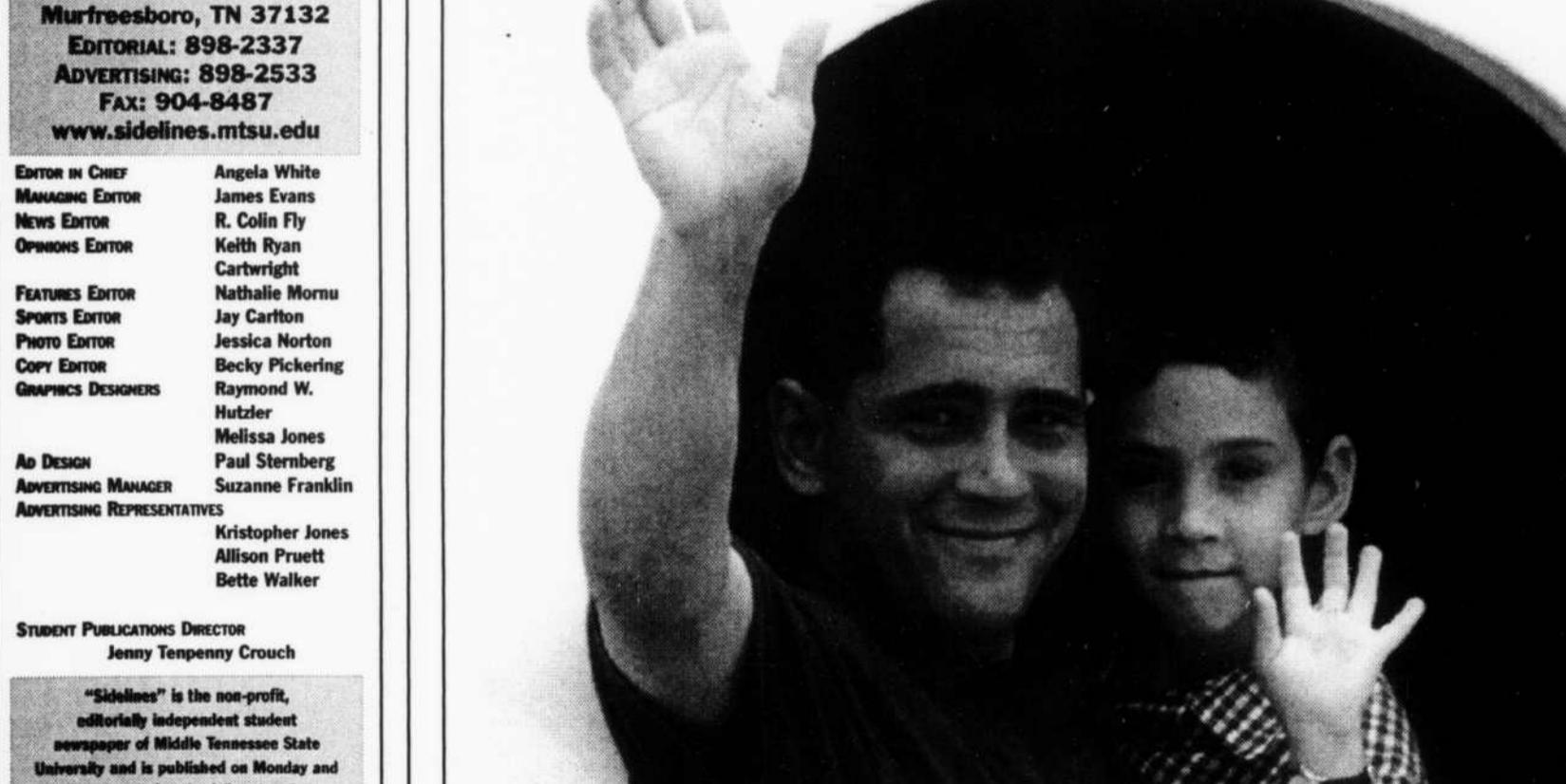


Photo by Chuck Kennedy | KRT

Separation of church and TV

Mormon may pay for stint on 'Real World'

Claire Zulkey
Georgetown University

If you check the MTV Web site, you'd know Julie Stoffer, "remains a committed Mormon and plans to go to church every Sunday."

Despite her commitment, however, she may be in trouble with her school, Brigham Young University.

"Coed living is not cool with BYU," said the blonde 20-year-old from Delafield, Wis., during the season premiere of MTV's "The Real World."

This, of course, conflicts with the entire premise of the show, where seven young men and women live together in a mansion in New Orleans.

The school's honor code, however, forbids even entering the bedroom of a member of the opposite sex, on or off campus, let alone living with one.

Early on, Stoffer knew that

the school, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, would have problems with coed habitation.

"I might even get kicked out," she said on a casting special that aired a week before the show's season premiere.

"While [the regulation] is part of the honor code," says Carrie Jenkins, a spokesperson for BYU, "No decision has yet been made."

"We have yet to hear some of Julie's concerns."

Julie's father, Jim Stoffer said that the school "hasn't said anything. So far there hasn't been much communication. Julie does have plans to go back to school, though."

Mr. Stoffer added that he believes that the whole conflict between Julie and BYU was somewhat "fabricated."

According to the latest issue of TV Guide, Julie is planning to move to Los Angeles. ■

Laughs by the gross: Are they supposed to chuckle or retch?

Chris Hewitt
Knight-Ridder Tribune

Why is everybody getting their undies in a bunch about gross movies?

All of sudden, every newspaper writer who has ever stroked a key feels compelled to weigh in on how spitty and pukey movie comedies have become. That list includes George Will, who railed against vomit last Sunday, suggesting that the rising tide of bodily fluids on film is another sign of the decline of civility.

He could be right. Maybe every time we see a star peeing on screen or Jim Carrey nursing (as he does in "Me, Myself and Irene," which opened Friday), it's another nail in the coffin of polite society.

Or maybe not. Isn't it possible that there's a point to all those unpleasant substances spewing at the movies? Isn't it possible that grossness has something to say?

Back in 1729, Jonathan Swift thought so. His classic, "A Modest Proposal," could be considered the Genesis of Gross, the place where it all began. But there was a point to his grossness. When Swift wrote about eating babies, he wasn't really talking about dining out on our young, but about poverty, ignorance and heartlessness.

He simply used gross analogies to make his point. In general, we accept

that kind of thing in dramatic movies, but not comedies.

When David Lynch begins "Blue Velvet" with the image of a rotting, severed ear, we may be repulsed for a moment or two, but then we start to think about why it's there — why Lynch finds beauty in decay and why he sees the ear as a symbol of the claustrophobic town in which it's putrefying.

"The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover," with its vile eating scenes, and "Happiness," with its multiple metaphors that employ the same substance Cameron Diaz uses as hair gel in Peter and Bobby Farrelly's "There's Something About Mary," are other examples of smart directors getting our attention with a little bit of disgustingness and then using it to explore something more interesting.

So why shouldn't comic movies follow Swift's befouled path, too? If "A Modest Proposal" is the Genesis of yucky humor, then "Animal House" is the Gospel of Matthew.

There had been deliberately disgusting scenes in movies before "Animal House," but it was the first film whose entire point was to celebrate grossness (its rallying cry of "Fat, drunk and stupid!" pretty much sums up the movie careers of the Farrelly brothers and the cast of "Saturday Night Live").

Now, is the behavior in "Animal House," much of it disrespectful and

destructive to personal property, behavior to emulate?

No, but the message its flatulent frat boys convey to their buttoned-down pledges is worth listening to: Loosen up, live a little, don't be so uptight about everything. And, come to think of it, why do folks like Will get so uptight about gross humor?

In his Sunday column, he even admitted that it can be an amusing albeit guilty pleasure to laugh at those kinds of scenes. And I'm going to go out on a limb here and guess that Will has, at some point in his pinstriped life, sneezed or broken wind.

They're natural behaviors — most gross-out humor either has to do with a body part or a bodily substance — and Will's abhorrence of them ends up coming off as a 1950s, Lucy-in-one-bed-Desi-in-another, could-we-just-pretend-that-we-all-came-out-of-the-womb-finally-dressed? Skittishness.

Will, who seems to be spanking himself even as he admits to chuckling at the occasional booger, is right about the "guilty pleasure" part. Gross humor is all about guilt, both the guilt we feel when we engage in gross behavior and the guilt we feel when we laugh at other people doing it onscreen.

Will's mistake is that he writes about bowel jokes as if we can make them go away, but, since gross-out humor tends to be about things that actually happen in real peoples' lives,

that is unlikely.

Its popularity will undoubtedly peak and wane, as it did after all the "Porky's" rip-offs 20 years ago, but poor jokes will always be with us.

Heck, as babies, they're among the first jokes we learn. Much better, then, to talk about bodily issues and, by talking about them, rob them of their power to embarrass.

In that vein, some of the high points in lowbrow humor have told us to stop pretending that gross things don't happen: Yes, people pass gas, says the bean scene in "Blazing Saddles." Get over it. Yes, it's possible to get an awkwardly obvious erection at the most inconvenient time, says Ben Stiller's pup tent scene in "Flirting With Disaster." Hasn't it happened to you (well, 49 percent of you)?

Yes, women do gross things, says "There's Something About Mary." They're people, too. Yes, parents, you'll probably find evidence that your kids masturbate, says "American Pie."

How about talking about it with them instead of making them learn about it on the playground? Or at the pastry shop?

There's something else about gross movies. Sometimes, they are capable of doing the best things movies can do, which is to show us the details of other peoples' lives so artfully that they help us realize that we are not alone, that we're not the only people who think or

do those things.

Take the current "Road Trip," for example. Many of its jokes are simply recycled from "Animal House" and "American Pie," but it pushes the envelope in one interesting new way.

It's a scene that stars Seann William Scott as a prolifically heterosexual man who discovers that he enjoys an activity that most straight men would consider off-limits. It has to do with the human body, it's completely consensual, and it doesn't hurt anyone, and "Road Trip," by venturing into territory that has previously been restricted to questions in Penthouse Forum, says that it's OK to talk about.

Now, is "Road Trip" trying to blaze trails in the discussion of human sexuality? No.

"Road Trip" is trying to show something new and gross that has never been shown on film. It just happens that, by accident, it stumbled on something that makes people feel uncomfortable and that's worth bringing out in the open.

It's definitely possible to carry this argument too far, and this article will end soon, before it does just that. Certainly, it's to be hoped that Martin Lawrence doesn't try to pass "Big Momma's House" as an exploration of the restraints society places on heavy people and that Jim Carrey never tries to argue that his butt-talking scene in "Ace Ventura" was meant to be a metaphor for free expression. ■

FEATURES

Wednesday, July 5, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 5

Blending paper, light and creativity Local artist displays her work at Center for the Arts

Nathalie Mornu
Features Editor

Joy Smith wends her way through her studio, a space packed with completed or nearly finished sculptures, foam models, experimental samples of fiberglass and paper and scads of implements.

Her sculptures have impact because of their large size and their primal forms. They look weighty and weathered, seemingly made of leather or metal, or carved from stone or wood.

However, they can easily be picked up with one hand -- because they're made mostly of paper, her works are surprisingly lightweight.

Smith uses paper for a practical reason.

"I have a bad hip and a bad back, and I can't lift," said Smith. "I've always wanted to be a welder, but it's very hard to lift large pieces of iron or steel."

"I began to see ways to use materials like paper that were lightweight and make them look like metal, plaster or other materials. This is the wonderful thing about paper. You can make it look like wood, cement, metal or stone."

Paper-making as a visual art is relatively new, said Smith. While paper has existed for thousands of years, only in the last 50 years or so has it been used to make three-dimensional images other than kites.

"[Artists] are exploring this new material and combining [it with others]. Paper is being used in new ways," she said.

She uses cotton, abaca or flax fibers because each material has different characteristics. Smith treats cotton, for example, so that it resembles metal, clay or leather. Abaca can copy the look of marble, wax or flesh, and flax has a rough grittiness.

Smith makes her pieces using construction, carving and casting techniques. She carves the positive shape out of styrofoam. Using a reverse casting method, she then covers the surface of her model with fibers chosen for their specific characteristics.

While the fibers are still wet, the artist sometimes embeds other materials into it, such as wire or wood.

Smith focuses on surface treatment, texture and form. Color, she says, isn't so important as an element of design in her work because it isn't interesting to look at for a long time.

After the paper has dried, Smith carves out the styrofoam model from inside its shell. Though most of her sculptures have no armature, Smith sometimes applies fiber pulp directly to a mesh armature that does not get removed.

Many of the sculptures get lit from within, so that they glow.

"It's mysterious," said Smith. "It gives the work a different dimension. I was interested in working with light as an additional factor. In the visual arts, you want to use whatever you can to attract and hold attention so you can say whatever it is you're trying to say."

Smith quotes film director David Lynch, best known for the television series *Twin Peaks*, to explain what her art is all about.

"He said, 'That's just my take on what's passing by.' So you're getting things from your environment or what you see around you, and you're sort of wondering about them, and saying, 'this is my reaction.' I'm



Photos by Jessica Norton |
Photo editor

(Top) Artist Joy Smith examines photographs of her sculptures in her home studio.

(Right) Smith's work "Curling" will be on display with the rest of her *Paper and Light* show at the Center for the Arts July 6-29.

interested in my reaction to what I see."

In her artist's statement, Smith explains that ideas for creating art can spring from all kinds of sources. She transforms a gesture, a fragment of conversation or a part of a thought into a sculpture.

For example, a piece entitled *Insect Violence* describes Smith's reaction to an encounter she had with a very large cockroach in Arizona, and her attempts to kill it.

Because the sculptures aren't strictly representational, people who see her work often make their own associations and draw their own interpretations of her art.

"These things are clues to anyone's thinking, depending on what [they've] done in their life," said Smith. She hopes her sculptures will stimulate thought and reaction from a viewer.

"Art stimulates the imagination. It stimu-

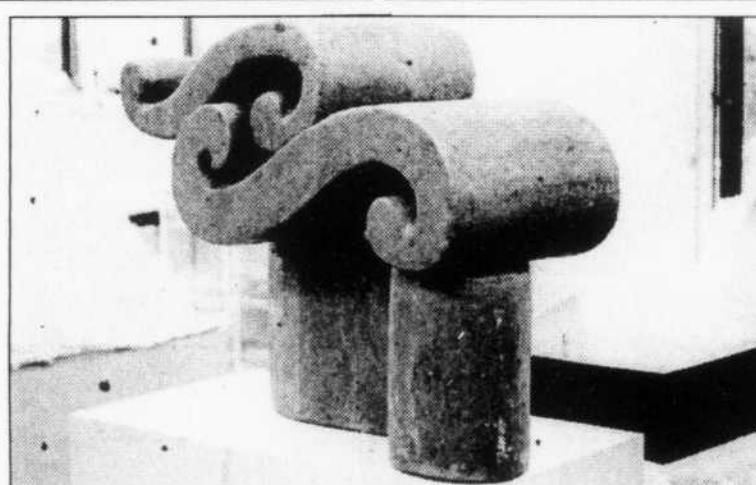
lates seeing and taking in information visually," she said.

Because it's so stimulating, Smith believes strongly in art education in schools. She received her Master of Arts in Teaching degree from MTSU and taught an art education course at the university for four years in the mid-1980s.

"Art-making is a first-hand experience of how to use tools. It teaches awareness of the world around you. It's not second-hand experiences that come to you from the tube."

The Center for the Arts will display a free exhibition of Smith's sculptures July 6-29. The show, named *Paper and Light*, will feature both two- and three-dimensional works.

The Center for the Arts is located at 110 West College St. For more information, call 904-2787. ■



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Most students unaware of loan changes, refinancing

Claire Zulkey
Georgetown University

Students with outstanding loans could save bundles of cash by refinancing their loans. Unfortunately, many of them aren't aware of the opportunity.

As of July 1, the interest rate on student loans will increase by 1.25 percentage points. Due to increases in interest rates set by the Federal Reserve Board over the past year, the rate that borrowers must pay is going to increase to 8.25 percent, the maximum rate that most borrowers are responsible for paying under federal student-loan law.

This new rate hike will affect almost all borrowers in repayment, as federal student loans have variable interest rates that are adjusted annually, no matter how long ago the loan was taken out. Education Department officials, however, say that borrowers can take advantage of the current lower rates for the duration of their

loans if they consolidate them before July 1.

By consolidating multiple loans into one, borrowers can receive a fixed interest rate that is based on the weighted average of the rates on the underlying loans.

Since rates have been at a historic low, department officials say, refinancing could save borrowers with \$20,000 in debt about \$1,500 in interest charges over the lives of their loans.

"I think I should have been told that," said Sarah Mallin, a graduate student at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, of her lender, Student Loan Servicing Center. Sarah, like most other students, was not aware of the impending rate hike, and the window of opportunity to make use of the old rates.

"We think that students should consolidate now, if at all possible," said Corye Barbour, legislative director at the United States Student Association. "There is and should be a notification process." ■

Chelsea Clinton debuts on mom's Senate campaign

William Goldschlag
Joe Mahoney
New York Daily News

with a folded piece of paper for relief from the broiling sun.

Afterward, Chelsea kissed her mom goodbye on Broadway and went off to see friends in the city.

Some political analysts believe Chelsea can be a campaign asset — and the Republican candidate, Rep. Rick Lazio, has put his wife and two young daughters front and center in speeches and TV ads to underscore his standing as a family man.

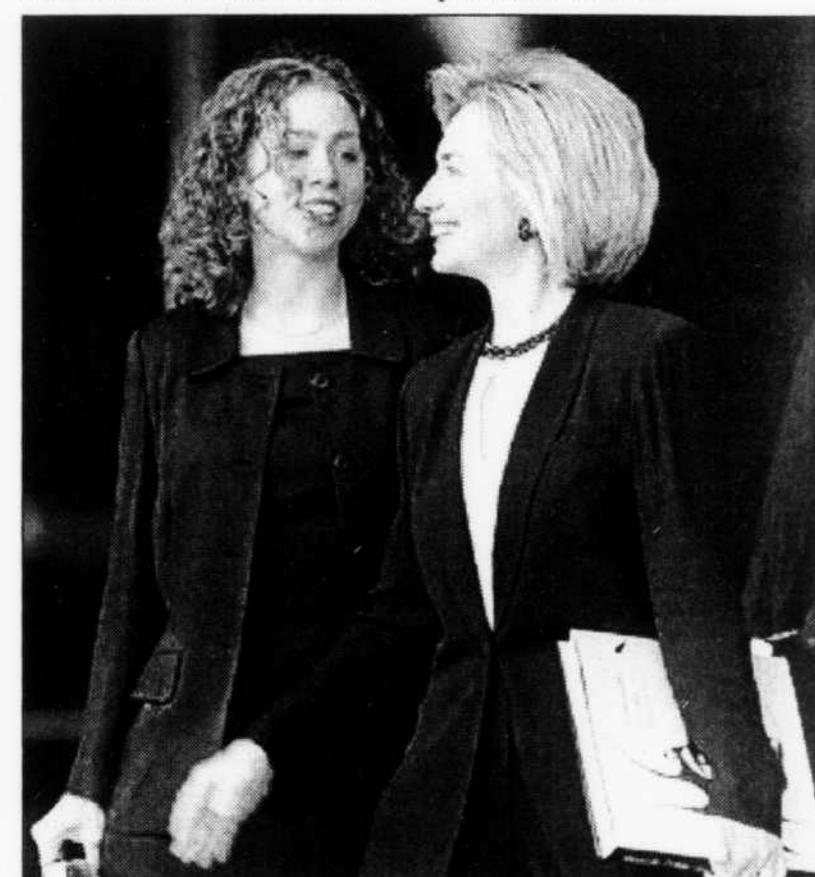
Hank Sheinkopf, a veteran Democratic political consultant, said Chelsea is helpful "simply by being alive and just standing there." He said she is viewed as a well-adjusted, successful college student, and her presence "helps to show there is some normalcy" to the first family.

Pollster John Zogby disagreed.

"Everyone, including detractors, gives the Clintons high marks for being good parents," he said. "But I think any reminder of their family life is a net negative for Hillary."

Kieran Mahoney, a GOP strategist, has said the Clinton campaign team would not have to worry about anyone taking potshots at Chelsea. "The only result would be to engender sympathy," he said.

"Broadly speaking," he added, "it would be good to have her, but it doesn't matter much. It in fact matters so little that it is properly viewed as a family decision as opposed to a political decision." ■



Chelsea and Hillary Clinton

Flipping burgers becoming thing of past

Claire Zulkey
Georgetown University

Summer jobs for young people are stereotyped as big drags. Flipping hamburgers in McDonald's, bagging groceries at Safeway or fetching coffee at a hankless internship (all for minimum wage, or even worse, unpaid) are not exactly the most sought-after ways to spend a sunny summer.

Fortunately, these types of jobs are becoming a thing of the past (at least for now.) Thanks to

booming economy and, in some local situations, smaller mounts of the demographic aged 18-24, entrepreneurial students are freer to find, or even reate, exactly the kind of jobs they want, instead of settling for whatever they get.

Students are starting their own companies, seeking out interactive internships, receiving better pay and perks at traditional jobs or simply not working at all, preferring to invest wisely.

"We're not looking for the quick, make-money-fast jobs. We want something that's going

to help us out in the future," Chris Brynes, a 17-year-old from South Milwaukee, tells the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Chris owns his own Internet company with two other teens on its payroll.

Chris didn't fall into this company simply as a hobby: he worked part-time at Kmart just long enough to raise \$7,000 in order to start his company, Jeah Communications. Currently, the company hosts 47 Web sites worldwide, with another 150 customers subscribing for easier computer access.

As also told to the Journal Sentinel, Kevin Delray says, "I think a lot of people are starting to figure out earlier in life that money isn't the only reason to have a job. You also have to like your career."

A high school senior from Sheboygan, Delray owns his own seventh-month-old service called "Music in the Night," where he hires himself out to play the piano at parties, restaurants, yacht club gatherings, and other events. During busy seasons, he plays every night for about three hours at \$30 an hour.

College students are finding the same encouraging market. For many of these more experienced entrepreneurs, selling oneself is almost as important as the job itself.

Billy O'Keefe, a junior at Columbia College, is one such student. He runs two Internet businesses, one selling his cartoons and one offering Web design help, which promote each other and his other skills. "The latter is brand new; the former is actually quite successfully, considering its modest goals," O'Keefe says.

Andy Argyrakis, a junior at Benedictine College, has his own business as a freelancer, although the job of self-promotion seems to be another occupation in itself.

"I have a mailing list that sends out weekly updates where customers can find me either in print or on-line. Plus, I have posted fliers around my college promoting specific stories pertaining to student interest. I also have business cards, a letterhead, a business phone, and business email."

Meanwhile, students are hunting internships carefully,

choosing them as they would choose their professional career. "This summer I lucked out with my internship," says Tiffany Black, a senior at UNC. As a content producer for the online department of the Raleigh News and Observer, she's been assigned important tasks such as helping redesign the site and launching other regional sites. "I want to be an online content manager or webmaster. I can take the skills I've learned here and apply them anywhere. The really exciting part is that I've only been here for one month and I have two and a half months left to learn even more."

With the job market so favorable to young people, the usual summer job pools are thinning out.

Ross Hamilton, director of student employment and student organization services at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, told the Associated Press that companies are being more flexible with students' schedules and offering them perks such as casual dress environments, free shuttles, and even tuition reimbursement programs and stock options. ■

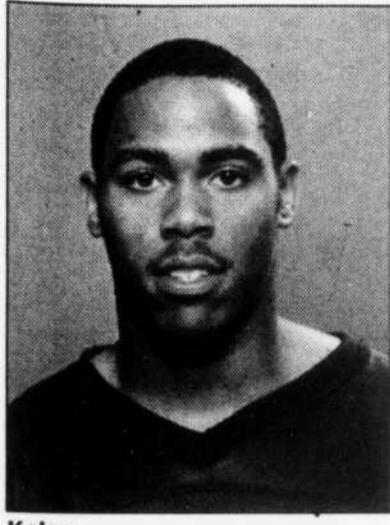
SPORTS

6 ■ SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 5, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Kelso suspended from play Free safety position up for grabs next season



Kelso

Jay Carlton
Sports Editor

As the Middle Tennessee State University football program enters its second year of Division 1-A competition, it will do so without the services of starting free safety Mario Kelso.

It was announced June 27 that the 21-year-old Kelso was ruled ineligible to play in the 2000 season by the NCAA. Kelso was unavailable for comment, and head coach Andy McCollum refused to discuss the specifics of the situation. Kelso appealed the suspension, but the NCAA

denied it. He will be eligible to play again in the 2001 season.

"It was a mistake, something he should've known better than to do, but he didn't," said Andy McCollum, who is entering his second season as the Blue Raiders' head coach. "It was tough on Mario. He just made a mistake."

This marks the second time that Kelso has been ineligible to play for the Blue Raiders.

He was forced to sit out the 1997 season due to academic reasons.

The 6-foot, 189-pound Kelso is coming off a spectacular season, when he led the team in tackles

with 106. He is one of the hardest hitters on the team and is constantly around the ball while playing the free safety position.

Kelso's contributions on the field will be missed, but the Middle Tennessee secondary has plenty of depth to rise to the occasion. Sophomore Kareem Bland, who is currently listed No. 2 on the depth chart, will have plenty of competition for the starting nod.

"There are no guarantees by a long shot for the starting free safety position," said Mike Woodford, who coaches the secondary and serves as an assistant coach to Andy McCollum. "The

starting player will win the position in two-a-days. The bottom line is performance."

Besides Bland, the Blue Raiders have senior Delvin Pikes, sophomore Chris Johnson and freshman Joe McLendon, all of which will be ready to do battle in the fall for a chance to play in the defensive backfield.

"We went through spring practice with the idea that this situation with Kelso might happen," said McCollum. "We've been preparing to replace Kelso if it came to this."

Kareem Bland, who is from Conley, Georgia, got limited playing time in 1999. The 6-foot, 188-

pounder had three touchdowns while at the free safety position last year, one of which was a fumble recovery that he ran back for a touchdown against Louisiana Tech.

"When Bland stepped in last year, he never hurt us," said Woodford. "Kareem is a big-play type of guy."

Odds are that the starting job is Bland's to lose. Regardless of who wins, they will be expected to perform at the best of their ability.

"Whoever wins the free safety position will really have to step up their play," said Woodford. "Like I said, the bottom line is performance." ■

Heintz to play for national team

Jay Carlton
Sports Editor

For some student-athletes entering their freshman year in college, things don't always go as planned.

Middle Tennessee State University freshman Willisa Heintz's first year in college has gone much better than she could've ever predicted. She helped her fellow Lady Raiders' to the University's first-ever Sun Belt Championship in May.

As if one championship wasn't enough, Heintz is now going for the gold...literally.

After placing fourth in the National Junior Championships held in Denton, Texas, June 26, Heintz qualified for the USA National Team.

"My main goal this year was just to win the OVC championship," said Heintz. "My plan was to win the OVC this year, and then make the national team next year. I'm just so excited."

This past May, Heintz and her teammates represented MTSU for the first time ever in the Sun Belt Championship held in Miami, Florida. Heintz won second place in both the 100 and 200-meter races.

"Willisa has done a good job of getting up and preparing to compete against the best competition," said women's head track coach Dean Hayes. "Willisa doesn't like to lose."

The USA National Team will compete against the Canadian National Team, as well as several other teams from the Caribbean July 17-23 in Montreal, Canada.

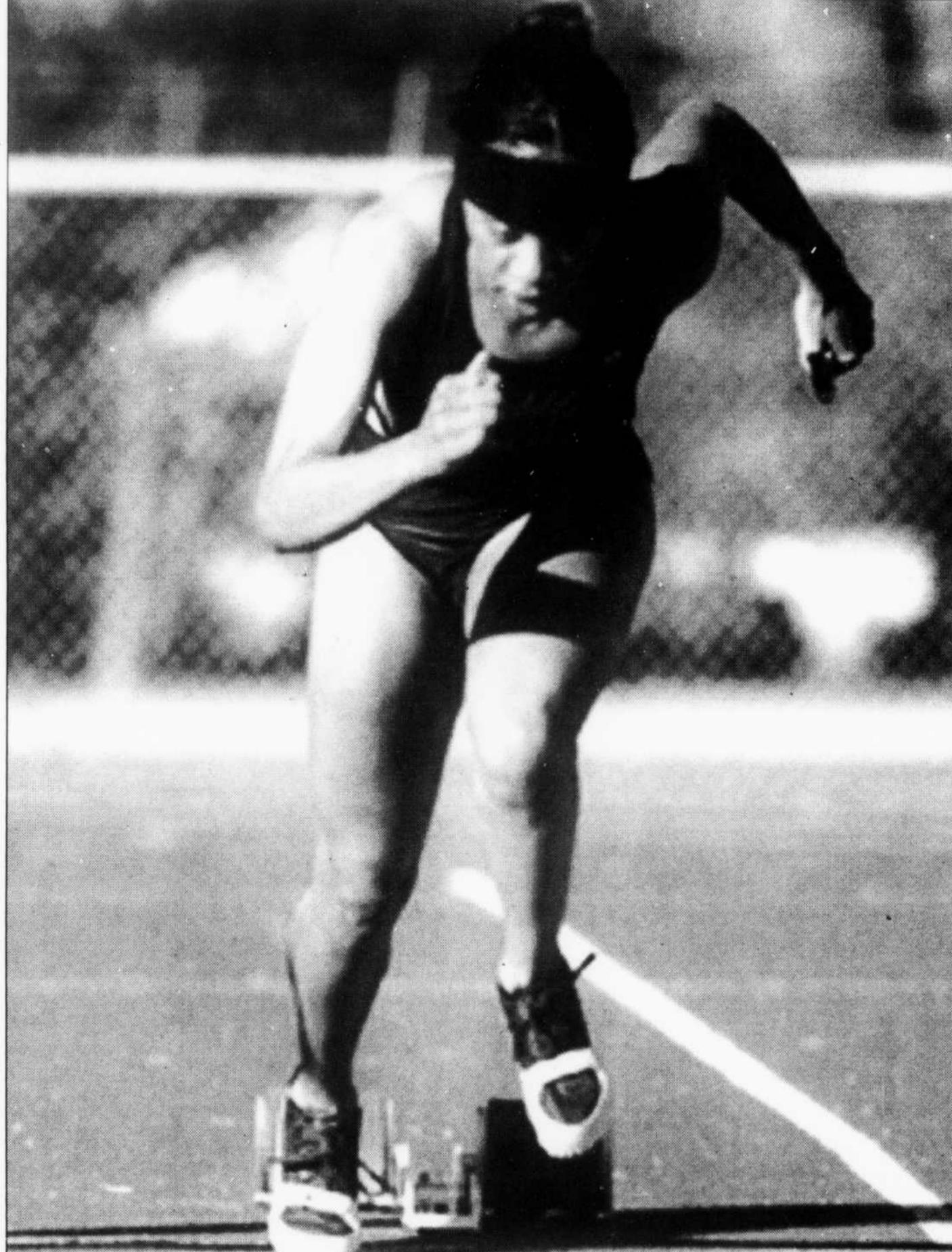
The National Team is made up of the best athletes in the 19-and-under age category.

Hayes cites several qualities as the secret to Heintz's success this year: Her preparation, desire to win and the fact that she maintains a levelheaded approach to competing.

"Willisa can say that she closed out her freshman year on a very good note," said Hayes.

Heintz, who has never been to Canada, is very excited about the possibility of performing well for her country.

"We will probably win everything," said Heintz. "The United States doesn't take a back seat to anybody." ■



Willisa Heintz

Photo Provided

Rocker's trip to New York uneventful

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — John Rocker and the New York Mets could find something to agree on after his return to Shea Stadium.

"I'm glad it's over," Rocker said Sunday after the Atlanta Braves beat the Mets 10-2 to earn a split of the four-game series.

Mets manager Bobby Valentine was happy about only one thing: "That it's over."

"We had to deal with a lot of nonsense that wasn't part of the game at all," Valentine said. "And the game came to the forefront."

Rocker — the most hated

player in the city after his remarks last December disparaging gays, minorities, foreigners and women — ended the weekend with little fanfare, playing catch in left field and not taking the mound the final three games.

"I think he had a great weekend," said teammate Brian Jordan, who called Rocker a "cancer" last month after his run-in with the Sports Illustrated reporter who wrote the article that caused all the commotion around the reliever.

"He did a great job apologizing on the big screen to the fans. I don't know how it went over, but it was good he did it."

Jordan, who said last October that he "couldn't stand New

York," also had praise for Mets fans, who did little more than boo loudly and throw a couple of balls from the stands Thursday night.

"In the back of my mind, I thought something might happen," Jordan said. "New York did a great job with security and the fans were really studious. They love their Mets and they showed it."

Rocker entered the weekend talking about taking the No. 7 train to Shea and mingling with the same commuters he insulted.

He settled for a police escort to the stadium, although he did go out on the town with his girlfriend — Staci Sutton, daughter of Braves announcer Don Sutton

— for dinner on Saturday night.

"It all happened perfectly," teammate Tom Glavine said. "He got into the first game and the 300 people covering the game was cut in half. That alleviated a lot of it. I don't think the fans will ever forget and that's fine. But both teams just want to talk about baseball and it got a lot calmer after Thursday night."

Rocker opened the weekend by reading a statement to Mets fans on a 26-foot high screen and pitching a perfect inning of relief. He dodged a few balls on his jog to the mound and smirked at the fans as he left, but nothing else happened.

"It's a credit to New York fans," said Kevin Hallinan, the

head of security for baseball. "They took the high road this weekend."

Rocker, unavailable to pitch the past two games after splitting open a callous on his left thumb Friday, wasn't needed Sunday because the Braves broke out to a big lead.

"I could have pitched," said Rocker, who warmed up in the ninth.

"I was ready to pitch but they didn't need me. I think in the long run they do need me."

The despised reliever made a brief appearance on the field by warming up left fielder Reggie Sanders before the eighth inning.

The crowd of 45,261 booted as Rocker played catch with

police protection. He then tossed the ball into the stands and walked back to the bullpen and sat down under Rocker's Roof — the specially constructed awning to protect him. A fan threw Rocker's ball back on the field, drawing cheers from the Mets fans.

Gregory Sweeney, 25, was arrested on charges of reckless endangerment for throwing the baseball.

Much preparation went into the weekend. There were more than 10 times as many police officers at Shea, surveillance cameras were placed around the stadium, and the visitor's bullpen was protected by an awning and a 6-foot high picket fence. ■

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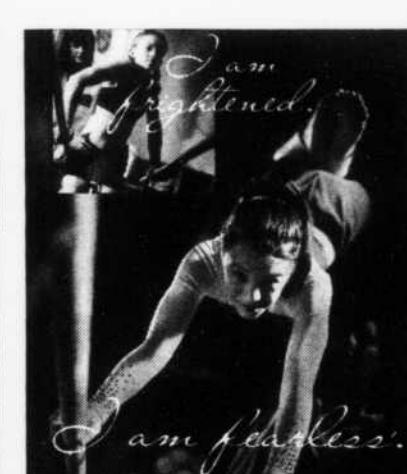
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FREE INFORMATION is available through the MTSU Placement Office, KUC Room 328. Come by and receive your complimentary copies of catalogs, pamphlets, and guides to learn how to write a resume and cover letter from various samples, gather information about a particular company, and help with interview preparation. Video tapes are also available for you to view in the Career Library.

The Placement Center is using a computerized registration

system and resume preparation program called RESUME EXPERT. The benefits include:

- * professional, typeset quality resume which can be easily updated

- * user-friendly

- * IBM compatible. The computer labs on campus can be used. After purchasing your software in Phillips Bookstore, it must be brought to the Placement Center to load your information in the database for resume referrals to employer. Once registered via RESUME EXPERT, the Placement Center is able to track which companies individual resumes are referred and inform the individual upon request.

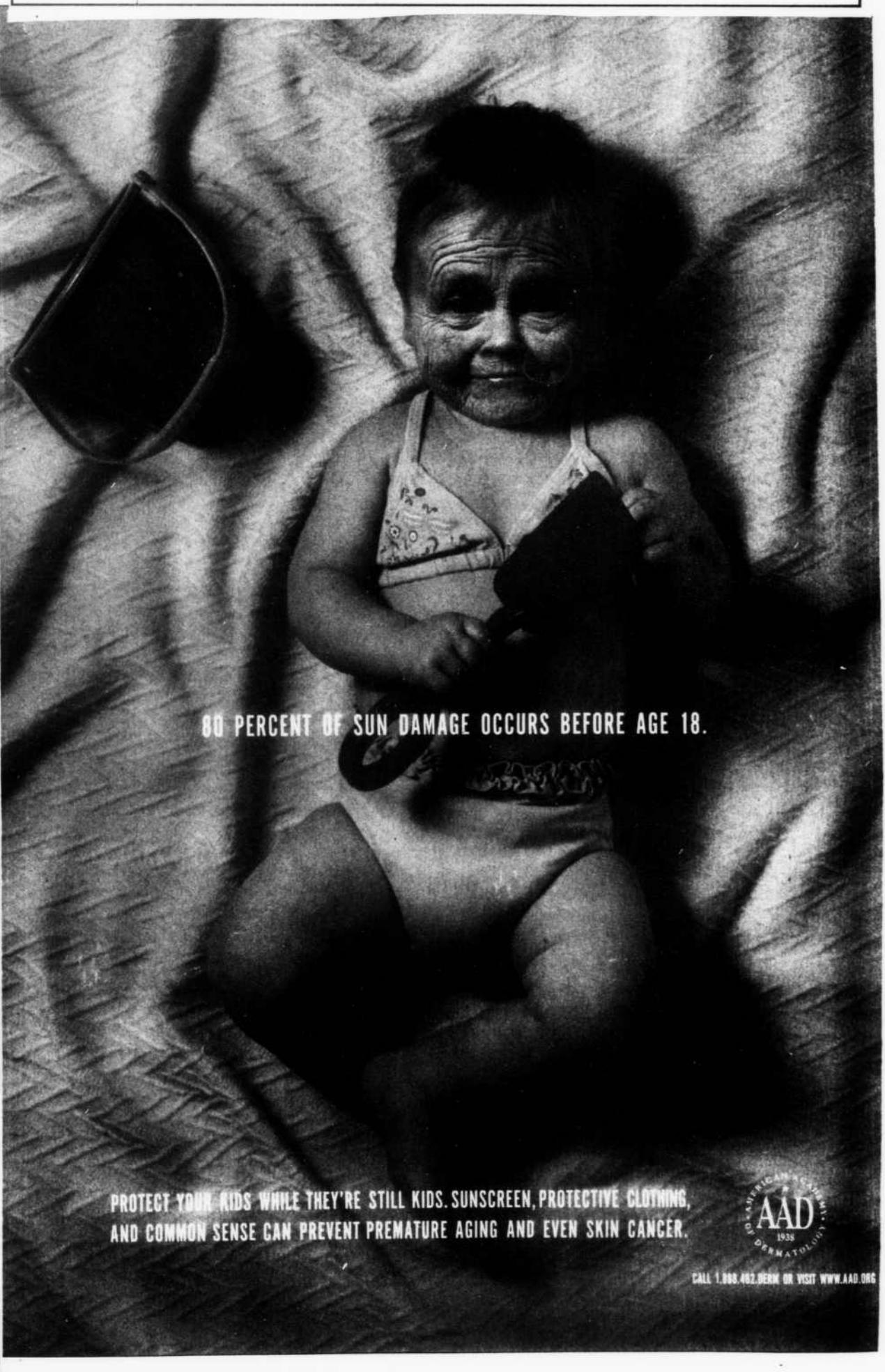
Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology Industry Guides Second Edition, Institute for Biotechnology Information. Guides to access Drug Companies, Bio-Tech Firms and more. Come visit the Placement Center to look at this publication.

Policies

Sidelines will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations.

Sidelines reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason.

Classifieds will be accepted on a prepaid basis only. Ads made by placed in the Student Publications office in James Union Building room 306, by mail to Sidelines Classifieds, MTSU Box 42, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or faxed to 904-8487. For more information call 904-8154 or 898-2815. Ads are not accepted over the phone.



CALL 1-800-462-DERM OR VISIT WWW.AAD.ORG

