

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

No Doubt

pg.5



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In the news

ETSU president may ban smoking on campus

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (AP) — The president of East Tennessee State University says he plans to decide by July whether to completely ban smoking on the campus.

"It's a tough problem, and it's a touchy one," Paul Stanton told the Johnson City Press Tuesday. "If we move to restrict, which is the direction I think we're headed, I'm sure there will be some upset people. But I'm more interested in saving lives."

University Relations Director Fred Sauceman said the university's smoking policy is under review because of a number of complaints from faculty and students about second-hand smoke.

Last spring, the president approved a ban on the sale of all tobacco products on campus to begin Aug. 17. ETSU officials said at the time the administration had interpreted state law to say the university could not completely ban smoking from campus.

At a minimum, Stanton said ETSU should ban tobacco use in all buildings and around building entrances and exits. He said it would be a "giant step," however, to fully comply with the President's Council's recommendation for the ban to include all outdoor areas.

Man charged with church burnings loses appeal

CINCINNATI (AP) — A man who pleaded guilty to conspiring to violate the rights of black citizens by burning two churches and a tavern in rural Tennessee lost an appeal of his prison sentence.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday unanimously upheld Robert Lee Johnson's prison sentence of four years and nine months and a fine of \$20,000 in restitution for setting fire to the churches and tavern near Columbia, Tenn.

Federal prosecutors said Johnson and two other men burned crosses, the black-owned Sweetie Petie Tavern and two black churches, Friendship Baptist and Canaan African Methodist Episcopal, during a night of racial-hate attacks Jan. 19, 1995.

Henry Martin, the federal public defender in Nashville, Tenn., who represents Johnson, said he had not decided whether to appeal Tuesday's decision.

Federal Express sues for trademark infringement

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Federal Express is suing a man who operates a coffee cart.

Federal Express claims the coffee cart is violating the company trademark.

Greg Judish runs Federal Espresso, a sub-foot coffee cart parked inside a 12-hour grocery store. He says he doesn't see anything wrong with the name or his winged coffee cup logo.

Federal Express, with 127,200 employees, carries 2.5 million packages a day to 211 countries around the world. In its lawsuit, the Memphis, Tenn., company says Federal Espresso is improperly and unfairly cashing in on its name.

Judish hasn't hired a lawyer, although he said an attorney friend would help him write a reply to the lawsuit.

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Inside the Lines

Opinions 4
Features 5
Sports & Recreation 6
Classifieds 7

THEC recommends 6 percent tuition increase

by Susan McMahan
news editor

A recent recommendation by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) could have MTSU students paying more tuition to help offset higher education budget cuts.

THEC met yesterday by conference call and unanimously decided to endorse a six percent tuition increase for all public state universities, including MTSU, according to Jennifer Gamble, administrative assistant for public affairs at THEC.

Gamble said the 6 percent tuition increase means MTSU undergraduate students will pay \$51 more per semester. Graduate students will face

an increase of \$69 per semester.

THEC will recommend the increases to the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) and the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, which is in charge of setting the tuition for all branches of the University of Tennessee.

The tuition increases are expected to help Tennessee universities recover from \$40 million in budget cuts proposed by Gov. Don Sundquist earlier this year.

According to state Sen. Andy Womack of Murfreesboro, the Tennessee General Assembly earlier this year found \$17.5 million to help fund state institutions including MTSU.

Initially, Womack proposed a plan

to restore only \$10 million to the universities.

Womack said that when the senators were going through the budget at end of the Assembly session, it was decided an additional one time amount of \$7.5 million could be given to the universities.

"The added money was more addressed to growth institutions," said Womack, adding that MTSU, which is expected to have an enrollment of about 18,300 next fall, is considered a growth institution.

All state public universities were told to make 4.28 percent in cuts from their yearly budgets earlier this year.

According to a memo by Charles Smith, Chancellor of TBR, the universities will be spared from

making "severe cuts" from their budget because of the money from the legislature and tuition increases.

Some of the universities, including MTSU, will receive modest increases.

MTSU received \$64.5 million in funding in the 1996-97 school year, which means \$2.7 million was cut because of the 4.28 percent reduction.

With the tuition increase and the appropriations from the senate, MTSU's budget will increase by 1.5 percent.

"MTSU ended up coming out much better than anticipated," said Womack.

According to Womack, all universities will come out "pretty close to the same" because of the funding adjustments.

Don't look down...



photo by Steve Purinton/ staff

A young boy climbs the rock wall at the Rec Center during Parents' Night Out last Thursday. Parents' Night Out is held every Thursday night from 6:30 to 8 and offers students with young children a chance to work out while Rec Center employees watch the children.

MTSU chosen first in Middle Tennessee

by Susan McMahan
news editor

More middle Tennessee high school valedictorians and salutatorians chose to attend MTSU over all other universities.

In a study conducted by The Tennessean covering 94 percent of middle Tennessee high schools, 12 percent of the valedictorians and salutatorians chose MTSU.

The second and third place universities in the survey were the University of Tennessee-Knoxville with 10 percent and Vanderbilt with eight percent.

The study covered 51 public schools and 26 private high schools in a 10 county region.

Cliff Gillespie, dean of admissions, said he was "not surprised as much as

pleased" when he saw the results of the survey.

The results of the survey, he said, show "our continuing presence in the Nashville area."

"In this group, we really do compete with the best in the nation. These are students that can enroll anywhere," Gillespie said, adding that several of the high school students polled chose to attend Ivy League schools like Yale.

Gillespie said he attributes the results to MTSU's recruiters and scholarship program.

In the six years since Dr. James E. Walker was named MTSU president, scholarship funding has increased from \$500,000 to \$3 million.

MTSU has also raised admissions standards to a 2.80 high school grade

point average or a score of 20 or better on the ACT test.

"As an MTSU alumnus, I'm certainly glad they waited until now to raise the standard, or I might have been able to get in," joked Andy Womack, MTSU Foundation president.

"I'm excited about the growth and the quality of growth," Womack added. "Every year we're attracting a higher quality of student."

Womack said it is a "compliment" to the university that enrollment is improving not just by the number, but also by academic standards.

Over the past three years, entering freshmen classes have exceeded state and national ACT averages.

Sorority banned one year for hazing

by Celeste Castillo
staff writer

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has been banned from campus for a minimum of one year following a verdict of responsible on charges of hazing.

The MTSU AKA chapter founded in 1973 had ten current members late in the spring term when the hazing incidents occurred.

The sorority was cited for eleven violations by MTSU and Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc.

Hazing can be defined as making

an initiate do unusual, humiliating or painful things, but they may not necessarily be physical. Hazing and inappropriate behavior becomes a common ritual in many sororities and fraternities and the "cycle has to stop because those who continue, need to be held accountable for their part in such," according to Rodney Bennett, Associate Dean of Student Life.

"Anytime there are allegations of hazing, the University conducts a thorough investigation and notifies the national headquarters. We almost always suspend the responsible chapters," said Director of Greek Life

Vic Felts.

In a letter to the regional director of AKA, Dean Bennett stated, "MTSU doesn't condone/ support hazing or inappropriate behavior from students or student organizations, and when such activities are brought to the attention of the University, it is our intent to respond to those allegations fairly and swiftly."

Dean Bennett maintained that "it is past time for students and organizations to realize that hazing and/or inappropriate behavior is not constructive and has no place in the collegiate community."

Lawyers to start work on McVeigh appeal process

by Gwen Florio
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service

DENVER—The two years, one month and 13 days that led Friday's death

sentence for Timothy James McVeigh may prove to be the shortest part of his legal journey to the death chamber, if indeed it is ever completed.

This week, as the hundreds of people whose lives have revolved around his seven-week trial begin to refocus, lawyers will start work on an appeals process that could last through 2000.

"The trial was so compressed, so intense. The appeals will be spread out," said Mimi Wesson, a University of Colorado law school professor who watched much of the trial.

McVeigh was convicted two weeks ago of detonating a truck bomb in front of Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995, killing 168 people.

Like many among the attorneys, journalists, casual observers, and those most focused on the case the families of McVeigh's victims Wesson said she was wrestling with the odd letdown of the trial's end, and the realization that the real work was just beginning.

"It's like when I turn off my car engine," Wesson said Saturday, "but it keeps running away."

When the seven men and five women of the jury voted unanimously Friday that the 29-year-old McVeigh should die, they set in motion events that could take him well into his 30s before his case winds its way through federal appellate courts to the U.S. Supreme Court, and possibly even to the president.

But because there are only a handful of federal prisoners facing death sentences, his case should be resolved in what passes for quickly in the legal world, Wesson said.

The U.S. government has not executed anyone since 1963, when murderer Victor Feguer was hanged.

McVeigh's defense attorneys, who met with their client Saturday, haven't detailed their grounds for appeal. McVeigh hasn't even been formally sentenced yet, and won't be until standard motions to dismiss the sentence, and to seek a new trial, are filed. U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch set July 7 as the deadline for those motions.

Still, said Wesson, certain avenues seem likely. During the trial, Matsch barred testimony from Carol Howe, who had been expected to tell jurors that McVeigh was merely a low-level operative in a much larger terrorist organization. But Matsch said any testimony from Howe who once lived in the white-supremacist compound of Elohim City, Ariz., which McVeigh had visited was irrelevant.

"I'd expect that to be a prominent argument in any appeal," Wesson said.

Defense attorneys also could challenge Matsch's refusals for a change of venue.

The trial was moved to Denver after Matsch ruled that too many people in Oklahoma had been affected by the bombing to ensure an unbiased jury pool.

Clinton plans conference to combat hate crimes

by Jodi Enda
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Services

WASHINGTON—President Clinton announced Saturday that he will convene a White House Conference on hate crimes in November to battle violence based on race, religion, ethnicity and sexual preferences.

The conference, part of the president's initiative to improve race relations, will help America "confront the dark forces of division that still exist," Clinton said in his weekly radio address.

Clinton's announcement came one week before he is expected to unveil details of a race initiative that he considers a cornerstone of his second term.

That initiative, which he will discuss during a commencement address at the University of California at San Diego, will include town-hall meetings across the country and a presidential advisory board to study potential policy changes.

The president said Saturday that Americans have not "purged ourselves of all bigotry and intolerance. We still have our ugly words and awful violence, our burned churches and bombed buildings."

On Sunday, a combined Justice and Treasury Department task force is scheduled to release the results of an investigation into hundreds of church bombings across the country.

Clinton appointed the

National Church Arson Task Force last year to look into the causes of and possible links among a spate of bombings that began in January 1995.

Clinton's radio address came just days after Timothy McVeigh was convicted for bombing the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, an act prosecutors said was prompted by hatred of the government.

The 1995 bombing, which killed 168 people, was the most deadly act of terrorism ever on U.S. soil.

In recent months, Clinton said, the home of an African-American couple was sprayed with gunfire in suburban Atlanta, a gay man was severely beaten in Washington, and a Jewish student's

dormitory room was bombed in Los Angeles.

"Such hate crimes, committed solely because the victims have a different skin color or a different faith or are gays or lesbians, leave deep scars not only on the victims, but on our larger community," Clinton said. "They weaken the sense that we are one people with common values and a common future. ...

"As part of our preparation for the new century," he said, "it is time for us to mount an all-out assault on hate crimes, to punish them swiftly and severely and to do more to prevent them from happening in the first place."

Internet courses offered

by Cynthia Ryan
staff writer

Continuing Studies has created a new series of classes for the Internet impaired. Beginning this summer, they will be offering courses at various times to assist students in understanding the Internet.

The first course level, Exploring the Internet, will meet June 21 and July 12. This course is a one day, three hour meeting according to Dianna Schultz. Students should choose whichever day fits into their schedule best.

"There will be an instructor leading them and students need to be there for the whole three hours," said Schultz. This is a "very beginning Internet course. It is hands on, not lecture," she added.

This course "will cover topics such as Email, Telnet, File Transfer Protocol (FTP), and Gopher," according to News and Public Affairs.

A higher level course, Internet for Intermediates, will be offered Saturday, July 19, for those who feel comfortable with the basics. Internet for Intermediates participants will be provided with a temporary Internet account for the current semester.

"More students and people in the community rather than businesses" will be involved in this said Schultz.

The intermediate course will consist of an introduction to the Netscape browser, using NetSearch buttons, going to shareware sites, and decompressing and running programs. According to News and Public Affairs the workshops is designed for Internet users with basic experience.

Dianna Schultz, marketing coordinator for continuing studies, said there will be another course offered August 9 which will attract the business interest.

"Creating Your Web Page" will be a seven and a half hour workshop at which students can "learn to author your own multimedia web page," said Schultz.

Students will be taught "the basic of HTML, (Hyper Text Markup Language)" said Schultz. This includes developing hyperlinks, adding images, forms and tables.

These classes are of limited enrollment. of approximately 15 spaces per class according to Schultz. For more information call the Division of Continuing Studies at 898-2462.

Disney hot topic at SBC

by Madeline Baro
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — At First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif., 4 1/2 miles from Disneyland's gate, youth activities no longer include the theme park and at least a dozen parishioners have dropped their annual passes.

The Rev. Wiley S. Drake said Tuesday his church's informal Walt Disney Co. boycott began last year, after the Southern Baptist Convention identified the company as being "gay-friendly."

"We believe the Judeo-Christian principle of family is one man, one woman and children," Drake said. "Disney, by providing benefits, by taking a very proactive role in the homosexual lifestyle agenda, is taking an agenda against the Judeo-Christian principle of family."

As the SBC's annual meeting opened Tuesday, a potential Disney boycott of theme parks and stores was expected to be a top issue for the 15,000 delegates.

The Southern Baptist Convention is the country's largest Protestant denomination with about 15 million members.

Many Southern Baptists object to Disney's policy of giving health benefits to same-sex partners of employees. "Gay Days" at theme parks and the release by Disney and its subsidiaries of controversial books and films like "Pulp Fiction" and "Kids."

A recent complaint involved the revelation that Ellen Degeneres' character on the ABC sitcom "Ellen" was a lesbian. Disney owns ABC; the production company for "Ellen" is Walt Disney Television.

SBC President Tom Elliff, who was re-elected Tuesday without opposition, said a boycott would not just damage the company.

"The issue is not Disney coming down," he said. "The issue is Baptists going up to the level of God."

Elliff predicted the convention would approve a broader form of the resolution than now proposed. He did not elaborate.

Ken Greene, a spokesman for Disney in Burbank, Calif., declined to comment directly on the Baptist boycott measure.

"We're proud of the Disney brand," Green said. "We create more family entertainment of every kind than anyone else in the world."

At the 1996 convention in New Orleans, the Rev. Richard Land was asked to monitor Disney's progress for a year.

He was expected late Tuesday to present a resolution asking Southern Baptists to participate in a Disney boycott.

Drake has submitted his own resolution that would expand the boycott to local concerns like ABC affiliates.

"Sooner or later, the overall company will get the word," he said.

On Campus

The ACT-COMP exam will be given in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building at 8:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 21. All graduating seniors are required to take this test. For more information, please contact Ruth Watson at 898-2854.

Rutherford County's July 4th "Celebration Under the Stars" will be held at MTSU - free and open to the public. Picnicking and children's activities, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; program 7:25 p.m.; The Middle Tennessee Symphony and Nashville

Pipes and Drums, 8:00-9:00 p.m.; fireworks begin at 8:55 p.m. In case of rain, the Symphony will perform inside Murphy Center. Call 898-2919 or 898-5322 for more information.

Child Abuse Prevention of Tennessee needs volunteers to answer the Parent Helpline/Domestic Violence Hotline, to work with families of newborns in the Parent Pathway Program, and to work with children in the Children's Program while their parents are attending parenting classes. For more information, please contact Amy Garcia at 227-2273.

Continuing studies offers computer training courses

by Cynthia Ryan
staff writer

MTSU Continuing Studies has created new computer courses for students who feel a little behind current technology.

For those continuing students who wish to attend training at a time that will fit into their schedules, computer-based training (CBT) provides "in-depth, interactive, hands-on training of the computer program you have selected," according to News and Public Affairs.

CBT is not an instructor-led course. Instead, it simulates a personal tutor. This allows the student to pass over familiar material and work more intensively on new material according to Donna Schultz.

According to News and Public Affairs, the courses being offered include; Microsoft Word, Access, Excel, WordPerfect, Powerpoint, Quattro Pro, Lotus, Windows 95, and Presentations.

The software used for CBT is Skillware software which was developed by Manpower Training Services.

CBT explains subject matter, asks questions and evaluates responses, and provides practice sessions. The student uses these

practice sessions to monitor their progress according to Schultz.

Cindy Cooper, secretary for Continuing Studies, said the listing will be in the Continuing Studies book because they are non-credit courses.

These courses were created "to fill needs that were in the community and business community," said Cooper. "A lot of employers are sending their employees to these classes."

According to Schultz, the marketing coordinator for Continuing Studies, these classes are open enrollment with no beginning and ending dates.

The days for Summer Semester are June 7-August 2 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

Students should "call and sign up for individual meeting times and tell us what software they want to learn. If they don't complete it that day they can sign up for another time at their convenience," said Schultz.

These were set up to be more flexible to accommodate the typical busy student, whether it be a full time worker, a parent, or a traditional college student, according to Schultz.

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

College requires students to build web pages to graduate

by Adolfo Mendez
College Press Service

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—By the time freshmen at Kalamazoo College graduate, each will have a traditional liberal arts education. And a web page.

The new graduation requirement to design a personal web page impacts the Class of 2000 at the Michigan college.

"At first, students were like, 'Oh no. Can you believe this? Another hoop we have to jump through,'" recalls Emily Springfield, assistant to the vice president of experiential education, who created the Web page program. "But when they got into it, they were like, 'This is cool.'"

Springfield, a 1996 Kalamazoo

grad and English major, developed her own online portfolio her senior year.

At the time, she felt such work should be a graduation requirement, so students could have an updated portfolio ready for use when they made post-graduation plans.

College officials liked her idea, in part because it will help ensure that the 1,300-student body is computer-literate.

More than 40 software workshops were held this past year to train freshmen to design Web pages without the need to know HTML.

Although students are encouraged to be creative when designing their personal Web pages, college officials require students to document their achievements and activities for

every year they're at the school.

That amounts to about five hours of work each quarter, said Springfield.

College officials will use the students' online portfolios for individual career-counseling but others may want to misuse the data, Springfield admitted.

Students will be encouraged "not to allow the entire world" to see their Web pages by limiting access to on-campus viewing.

"This is a lot of personal information," Springfield said, noting that one student included letters to his parents about his first year in college.

Samples of the Web pages, called "K portfolio," can be viewed at <http://www.kzoo.edu:80/~pfolio/Example/>.

Clinton says United States education risks re-segregation

by Steve Holland
Reuter

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—President Clinton warned that the United States risks a return to racial segregation in higher education more than 30 years after the civil rights revolution.

Clinton sounded the alarm bell Saturday in a widely awaited speech that launched a yearlong look at ways of solving racial problems and bringing the country's diverse population closer together.

"Can we become 'one America' in the 21st century?" he asked an estimated 22,000 people attending an outdoor commencement ceremony at the University of California at San Diego under hazy skies.

Drawing on his own experience as a son of the South who witnessed the civil rights upheavals of the 1960s to end segregation policies at universities and elsewhere, Clinton acknowledged that "history reminds us that it will be hard" to breach the racial divide.

"We have torn down the barriers in our laws. Now we must break down the barriers in our lives, our minds and our hearts," he said.

He said a sign of a return to segregation in higher education was heralded by California voters' approval of last year's Proposition 209, which ordered the repeal of affirmative action programs granting preferences to minorities on student acceptance within the state's university system and on government hiring.

The directive has been ruled constitutional by a federal appeals court but has been blocked from taking effect by more legal action.

Still, Clinton said, the effect of the decision has been dramatic because it prompted minority enrollments in law schools and other graduate programs to plummet for the first time in decades.

"Soon the same will likely happen in undergraduate education. We must not re-segregate our higher education or leave it to the private universities to do public work," he said.

In his spoken remarks, Clinton skipped over one of the stronger lines in his prepared text: "I have seen the damage segregation brought to my native South. America cannot make that mistake again."

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said Clinton in his delivery did not mean to soften his remarks to take into account California sensitivities on the issue.

"He was just working on the wording right up until the end," Lockhart said.

On the platform sitting stone-faced as Clinton spoke was Ward Connerly, the chief advocate of Proposition 209.

He ran radio ads attacking Clinton's speech even just before Clinton delivered it.

Connerly was attending by virtue of being a regent of the university.

"To those who opposed affirmative action, I ask you to come up with an alternative," Clinton said. "I would embrace it if I could find a better way. And to those of us who still support it, I say we should continue to stand for it. We should reach out to those who disagree..."

Connerly's American Civil Rights Institute expressed disappointment in Clinton's defense of affirmative action saying it put him crosswise to the 54 percent of Californians who voted to get rid of racial preferences.

"We're disappointed that the president believes we should continue to divide Americans along racial lines," said Connerly's spokeswoman Jennifer Nelson.

With Clinton were the seven members of advisory board he appointed Thursday to conduct town hall meetings,

examine the state of race relations in the country and in a year give Americans a report outlining the problems and possible solutions.

Board Chairman John Hope Franklin, 82, told reporters the legacy of slavery must be addressed by all Americans but he stopped short of saying Clinton should issue an apology for Africans having been enslaved by white European settlers.

"Hear me, hear me now," Franklin said. "It's more than the slavery issue. It is the ideological underpinnings of slavery, the development of a philosophy that blacks were inferior, that they were physiologically and intellectually and ethically inferior."

Clinton said Americans face a choice more than 30 years after the civil rights revolution led to a description of the country as two Americas, one white, one black, separate and unequal.

"Will we become not two, but many Americas, separate, unequal and isolated? Or will we draw strength from all our people ... to become the world's first truly multi-racial democracy?" Clinton said.

Kweisi Mfume, director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said on CNN that Clinton's speech was "a good first step on the road to racial reconciliation" but said that it must be followed by an honest dialog among Americans on the subject of discrimination.

A Gallup poll this week found persistent gaps in attitudes and perceptions between blacks and whites.

For example it said whites characterized themselves as having very little personal prejudice against blacks, but that blacks feel whites have higher levels of racial prejudice than whites believe about themselves.

Scopes for schools brings world up close for kids

by April Jacobs
staff writer

For the second year, MTSU's Department of Biology is sponsoring Scopes for Schools, a program that loans microscopes to elementary schools in Rutherford County.

These microscopes, which are no longer adequate for university studies, are valued at \$5,000 to \$6,000 when first purchased.

Approximately 40 of the 100 microscopes that have been loaned to the schools are complete sets.

Other accessories such as hand lenses and micro viewers are also available.

Kim Sadler, biology instructor, who also works in the Center for

Environmental Education, develops specific curriculum for teachers to use the microscopes.

"Last year, we had a THEC (Tennessee Higher Education Committee) grant to operate the program," Sadler said, "but this year, it's compliments of our department chairman...we really are looking for more funding."

Sadler is assisted in the project by Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters, assistant professor, biology.

The program operates on a "per request" basis.

Microscopes may be checked out for as long as a teacher needs them, unless the demand is higher than the supplies, in which case a two week limit is applied.

"We try to be flexible," Sadler said.

"For example, a kindergarten teacher is going to take some microscopes for a whole month and float them through her school."

Sadler says the THEC grant was structured in such a way that the funds were tied up in physical workshops.

"I had 13 in-service workshops on how to use the microscopes," she said. "The body of my work last year was in training teachers on how to use them."

Sadler added, "The teachers who have gone through the training now have access to checking the scopes out. We often get feedback about the program and they say they love it."



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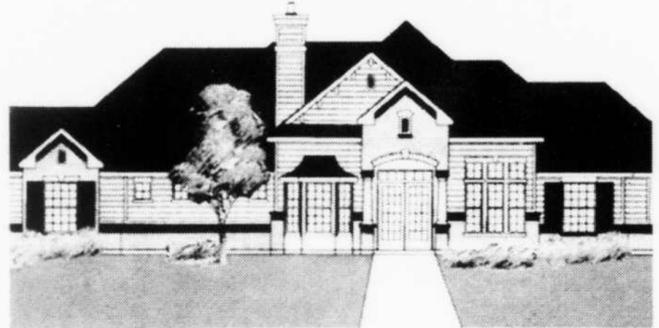
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OPINIONS

Page 4

Sidelines

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

20 somethings are loading up on debt

Reuter survey

NEW YORK—DEBT is not a four-letter word for members of the 20-something generation.

In fact, the growth in student loan volume and the proliferation of credit cards have combined to alter the behavior of young adults, compared to generations past, according to the June 9 issue of U.S. News & World Report.

The magazine said that between 1990 and 1995 the average outstanding credit card balance of households headed by someone under age 25 grew to \$1,721 from \$885.

The magazine said, in information made available June 1, carrying and using credit cards is the norm for 65 percent of college students. One-fifth of people under age 25 have four or more cards.

However, U.S. News said, they are more prone than other age groups to overspend, or "get in over their heads" in terms of debt.

Debt related to student loans for undergraduate and graduate schools has leapt since 1977 to about \$15,000 from \$2,000, the weekly news

magazine said.

"So far this decade, students have borrowed at least \$140 billion — more than total student borrowings over the past three decades combined," the magazine said.

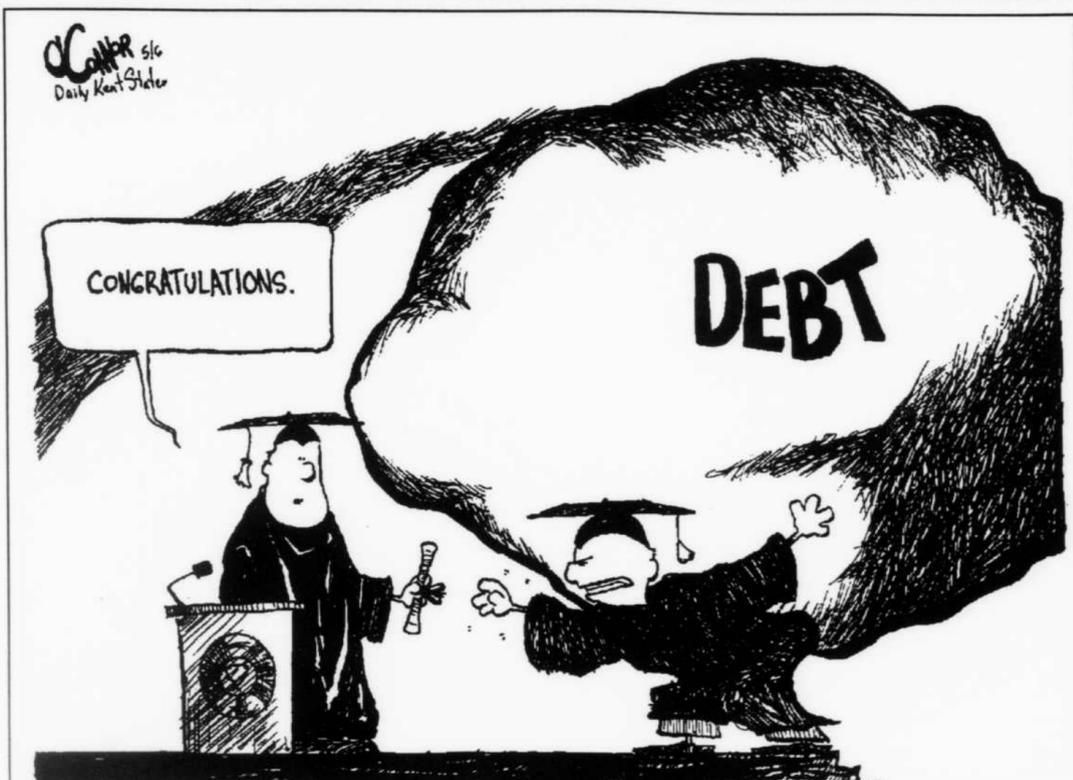
Part of the blame for out of control debt can be placed on students who, away from home for the first time and with credit cards in their pocket, can't resist the urge to spend.

"I guess I use cards to get stuff I want but don't need — or can afford," said a University of Texas student. The sophomore has 18 credit cards and a balance of \$12,000, U.S. News wrote.

In a separate report, Americans say they expect to retire by age 62 and live to age 84. Old age, they said, begins at 64, U.S. News reported in the June 9 edition.

In the survey commissioned by U.S. News and Bozell Worldwide, approximately half of the 1,000 respondents based their life expectancy on how long their parents and grandparents lived.

Despite warnings that Americans will have to work longer than their parents did to be able to afford retirement, on average, people say they expect to stop working at age 62. Fifty-eight percent of Americans



believe social security benefits will be available to them.

In addition, 66 percent of people ages 65 and over believe that their retirement will be more comfortable financially than their parents'.

Only 38 percent of people ages 40-

49 believe they will be more financially comfortable at retirement than their parents.

When asked about retirement savings, 37 percent of Americans said they are putting money into 401(k) plans, 37 percent in other retirement

funds such as IRAs, 30 percent in stocks and bonds, and 29 percent into mutual funds.

However, 47 percent of those ages 30-49 said they won't be financially prepared when it's their time to retire.

From the editor

Empty computers everywhere

As a learning community, MTSU MUST do something about the availability of computers for students on this campus.

It is absolutely absurd how many rooms on this campus are equipped with 10 or more computers -- rooms that could be used as computer labs. However, they sit vacant much of the time, because they are for classroom use only. Classroom use? With exception of only a couple of labs, most of these rooms host two, maybe three classes daily, and rarely are they used at night (the time students could really use labs.)

Students are trying to understand why these rooms are so off-limits. Why is it such a burden for a lab to be unlocked and have posted lab hours? And - heaven to bid - why can't a student be hired to sit in there and monitor the room and assist other students should a problem arise. After all, doesn't MTSU want to provide a little income to a struggling

student while at the same time providing an alternative to smashing into the KOM labs like a can of sardines?

We would hope that those in charge of any of these computer rooms on campus could possibly find a way to make them available to students during every semester, but particularly during the fall and spring terms when the demand is much greater. Now is the perfect time to plan for possible lab openings for this fall.

Perhaps we as a university should consider adopting a new computer policy, one that would put some kind of burden upon those persons in charge of computer rooms to have a minimum number of available hours for students to use the room.

We would hope that something could be done about this problem immediately. Thousands of students are counting on these changes, and they should.

Go ahead, smell her toilet

I have received a number of letters from readers complaining that I focus too much on "bathroom humor," instead of using this forum to educate my readers about important issues that are of deep concern to our nation. OK, fine. I can take criticism, and I admit that maybe I have become somewhat fixated. So today my topic will be: China.

China is a large nation located over in Asia. You readers should be more concerned about it.

Now, with what little space I have remaining, I'd like to talk about a fascinating newspaper-insert advertisement for Vanish brand toilet cleaner. You may have seen this ad; it features a portrait-style color photograph of a middle-aged woman standing next to a toilet. She's smiling and holding a package of Vanish, and next to her head is this quotation, which I am not making up: "I have the cleanest and nicest smelling bathroom in the neighborhood. If anybody doesn't believe me, ring my doorbell and you can smell my toilet." Pat Mayo, Hometown, Illinois.

This ad was sent to me by alert reader Lee Burtman, who states: "As a very busy teacher and mother of four (including two young boys just learning to aim) I cannot imagine encouraging people to ring my doorbell and ask to smell the toilet."

That was my reaction also. I mean, I don't want to get explicit here, but there are times when I don't want my own loved ones going near my toilet. If total strangers were to start coming to my door and asking for a whiff of it, I would purchase a Sears Craftsman brand home flame-thrower.



Dave Barry

Syndicated Columnist

So I decided to contact Pat Mayo of Hometown, Ill., which turns out to be a real place, right next to Chicago (a large city). Pat said that she did, indeed, invite people to smell her toilet; in fact, she makes the same invitation in a TV commercial. Here, as she explained it to me, is what happened:

A while back, Pat, who is a real stickler for housework, purchased some Vanish at the supermarket. She tried it and was very impressed with its toilet-cleansing properties.

"I threw away my toilet brush," she said.

She was so impressed that she called the Vanish people, and they decided to put her in one of those commercials wherein they use regular humans. As you know, with a lot of TV commercials, when you see "typical homemakers" getting worked up into an advanced state of torture over the cleanliness of their toilets, you are actually watching a paid professional actress who, in real life, would no more clean a toilet than they would French-kiss a leech.

Also, remember the Ty-D-Bol man? The guy who used to float around the toilet tank in a little boat? I hate to burst your bubble, but he wasn't real, either. He was just a professional actor who happened to be six inches tall. The REAL Ty-D-Bol man is only four inches tall and is always

watching you via a little periscope. Try not to think about it.

(Also, for the record, the so-called "Energizer Bunny" is actually Sylvester Stallone in a costume.)

But getting back to Pat Mayo: She told me that she was filming the Vanish commercial, and she was wearing a long-sleeved outfit under these hot lights, and they kept putting powder on her, and the director kept badgering her to say, in her own words, WHY she was so fond of Vanish, and finally she just blurted out a blanket invitation to the world to come and smell her toilet, and that's what they put on TV.

I asked Pat if anybody has actually taken her up on this offer, and she said that about a week after the commercial started running, she was cleaning her house, and the doorbell rang; it was two neighborhood boys on bicycles, and they said, "Hey Mrs. Vanish, can we smell your toilet?" So Pat let them in, and they flushed it a couple of times, and she gave them soda pops and sent them on their way.

"They were bragging around the whole neighborhood," Pat said. "We smelled the Vanish Lady's toilet!"

Yes, Pat has become a celebrity, and not just in her own neighborhood: She has been interviewed on several radio programs, and she even got mentioned by Jay Leno. You have to love a country where one day a person can be just a regular private citizen in Hometown, Ill., and the next day her toilet is being discussed on nationwide television. That is the beauty of the American way of life, in stark contrast to the way of life in China, where - even now, in the late 20th century - there IS NO Jay Leno.

Sidelines

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Sidelines is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published every Wednesday during June and July and Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or the university

Letters Policy

Sidelines encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Authors who want more than 300 words to view themselves should contact the editor. Sidelines keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, classification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) Sidelines reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. E-Mail letters to stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu. Send letters to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the Sidelines office in JUB Room 310.

Correction

In last weeks edition of the paper, we ran a story about the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority in which we had a jumpline saying that the story would be continued on page two. The story was not continued on page two. Our fault.

Horse coliseum the solution for MTSU

By Chad Gillis
staff

Every since I began attending MTSU in 1992, I have always wondered why doesn't this university have a \$23.5 million horse coliseum?

I mean after all, it's not like Nashville, Shelbyville, or even our own beloved campus has an adequate horse facility.

Having a \$23.5 million horse coliseum would be an enormous blessing. Just think of the potential advantages.

Not only would MTSU gain the recognition of having the finest horse facility in the free world, but also our parking problems would be solved. We all get horses.

No more talk of a parking garage, students would simply tie their own personalized creature of transportation to a tree and carry a big shovel.

No more parking permits (or Authority), no more Raider Express,

no more little yellow envelopes to remind students that "it can get worse."

If we could only find an extremely rich, elderly couple with no other ties to the university than the natural love of horses. Maybe they could find it in their hearts to designate \$23.5 million of their estate for this much needed facility.

Consider, it would take some time to build the coliseum, and to distribute some 18,000 personalized creatures of transportation.

But, the interest earned in one year alone would make that supposed "Great Biggie" \$2.8 million deficit cut look merely "Eligible."

In 1994 Elizabeth Miller, wife of John C. Miller, died.

She left in her wake some \$23.5 million to MTSU, and guess what? We all get horses!

Why the Miller Estate would leave even \$5 for a horse coliseum I'll never know.

But I do know that \$2.4 million was earned in interest by the Miller Fund during the first half of the 1996-97 fiscal year.

I also know that MTSU has projected an operating budget of \$163.5 million for the 1997-98 fiscal year.

And guess who is a prime candidate to pick-up that \$2.8 million order of fries—MTSU students, with a proposed 6 to 10 percent tuition increase in the fall.

Maybe officials at this university could use a little yellow envelope to remind them that "it can get worse."

Even if MTSU was accustomed to operating on a \$263.5 million annually, a \$5.6 million budget cut would seem "Great Biggie."

A \$2.8 million budget cut is a drop in the bucket to MTSU, but a 6 to 10 percent tuition increase would cause me to sell my bucket.

Hell, I may even have to sell my horse.

FEATURES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Sidelines

Page 5

Friday 13th Provides Rain Delay for No Doubt

by Cynthia Ryan
staff writer

Spilled beverages, slides in the mud, extreme weather and pouring rain could not completely dampen the excitement of the Friday 13th performance of No Doubt.

No Doubt opened their set with the highly energetic *Tragic Kingdom*. The excessive rain began almost simultaneously with the headlining performance.

Pouty, energetic Gwen Stefani jumping around the stage and showing her amazing vocal strength seemed to be the center of attention. Doubtless, the other band members; Tom Dumont, Tony Kanal and Adrian Young brought their own unparalleled musical

expertise to the performance. Unfortunately, due to the extreme weather, No Doubt's portion of the show was cut down to 45 minutes. Because of this, they were unable to perform their number one sultry ballad, *Don't Speak*.

They did, however, include *Excuse Me, Mister*, *Different People*, and *End It On This* in their set.

The atmosphere at Starwood was energized to an unmatched level. Everywhere you looked there were people dancing, screaming, singing, sliding, slipping, squishing, and dripping.

The wet hair slinging around as people danced, the soaking clothes clinging to the jumping concert-goers; these were the perfect evidence that

No Doubt was most definitely a hit. Nothing was going to stop these fans!

Between opening acts, the show was held for nearly an hour due to severe lightening. Finally, the crowd went back to the grass and Weezer took the stage. The pop-punk rock band, opening for No Doubt, performed a variety of tunes including their most popular hit, *Buddy Holly*.

No Doubt is still labeled pop-ska by the press, a term commonly defined as a fast-paced reggae. "We were labeled a ska band forever and



Above: No Doubt played Friday at Starwood. Red 5 opened the show with Weezer going on after hour long weather delay.

it was always something we were trying to get away from. We wanted to become our own sound. For the first time on this record I think we were able to do that - to mix up all the different influences without freaking people out," said Gwen Stefani according to *Access Magazine*.

Stefani's brother, Eric was originally the keyboard player for the band. He was Gwen's "biggest musical influence," according to *Access Magazine*.

13th Annual Intermedia Balloon Classic this Weekend at Warner Park

by Paul Wood
staff writer

The 13th annual Intermedia Balloon Classic will be held this Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Nashville's Edwin Warner Park.

The event, which benefits the EAR Foundation at Baptist Hospital, a program designed to assist those with hearing impairments as they adjust to life in the mainstream, will feature over 60 hot air balloons, as well as The Cellular One Balloon Glow, The TBS Birthday Bash, the Nickelodeon Game Lab Show and other fun family activities.

Headlining Friday's performance is Grammy-winner and Resound Records recording artist B.J. Thomas, who will be performing with The Nashville Symphony.

Marshall Chapman & the Love Slaves will perform Saturday. Both acts will be performing at 8:30 p.m. at the Thoroughbred Audi Stage.

"We're pleased B.J. Thomas and Marshall Chapman & The Love Slaves will be our headliners this year," said Eddie Thompson, executive director of the EAR Foundation.

Since the mid-60's, Thomas has sold nearly 50 million records, making him one of the most successful artists in American music. Among his other accomplishments are 15 top 40 pop hits, 10 Top 40 country hits, five Grammy awards, two Dove awards, two platinum and 11 gold records.

Many well-known artists have recorded songs by Chapman, among those Conway Twitty, Emmylou Harris, Joe Cocker, Sawyer Brown, Tanya Tucker, John Hiatt, and Jimmy Buffett. Her fans include authors Pat Conroy and Roy Blount, Jr.

The event runs from 5-11 p.m. on Friday, 6 a.m.-11 p.m. on Saturday and 6:30-10 a.m. on Sunday. The only time to see the balloons will be during early morning and late evening, weather permitting. Pets and coolers will not be allowed, and TomKats will offer concessions on-site, part of the proceeds going to benefit the EAR Foundation.

A three-day advance discount pass will be available through Friday at area Mapco Express stores and Union Planters Bank locations. Prices range from \$10 for adults to \$5 for children ages 12-16. Children under 12 are admitted free.

Further information about the event can be obtained by calling the EAR Foundation hotline at (615) 329-7807.

Sneak showing of Batman & Robin

by Chad Gillis
features editor

The fourth installment of the Batman series was shown via a sneak preview last night at Bell Forge Cinema in Nashville.

Michigan J. Frog entertained guests, along with members from KDF, by giving prizes to patrons before the showing.

As for the movie, the Dynamic Duo were once again fighting a crime spree to save their beloved Gotham.

All of the familiar characters were present like Commissioner Gordon, Robin, and even the indestructible Alfred.

Mr. Freeze is first to trigger the bat signal, as he breaks into the Gotham museum. Batman and Robin are alerted to the call and proceed to foil his plans.

But up his sleeve, Mr. Freeze has his mighty band of hockey freeze warriors. After the entire museum is blanketed in ice, the hockey freeze warriors begin skating the ice rink and playing a little slap stick with large diamond just stolen by the notorious Mr. Freeze.

As Joel Schumacher would have it, Batman and Robin have merely to click their heels and the Batskates appear.

Mr. Freeze, nevertheless, leaves with the stone and the rest of the movie is just a bunch of one liners by the prodigy of them all--Arnold.

George Clooney, Batman, is cool and mildly electric. Robin, Chris O'Donnell, is ginger and doesn't seem to have as many clever devices as Clooney.

Alicia Silverstone is introduced in connection with the great Alfred as his niece.

Just when Alfred is about to die he gives Silverstone a CD containing all the blueprints and knowledge of the Batcave.

Silverstone finds it and just as Joel Schumacher would have it, Alfred has already tailored her a Batsuit--along with some clever devices for her own use.

Luckily for the Dynamic Duo she already has the necessary skills to be a superhero.

With Batman, and his many mobiles, Robin and Batgirl on their blazing motorcycle, it appears that Mr. Freeze is about to be thawed.

Uma Thurman is the most valuable player, with her love dust and flowing red hair

Thurman plays a seductive Poison Ivy, whose kiss is laced with venom. She also has a sidekick named Bain.

This team signs Mr. Freeze on their roster and proceed to intrigue the Batteam into a showdown.

Will the caped crusader prevail? Of course he will, but go see it anyway.



photo by Steve Purinton

Peggy Heberlein, Larry and Lynn Cansler participate in the Motorcycle Safety Foundation course. The Foundation offers weekend courses, excluding July and August, across from Cummings Hall.

WHAT GOES ON

- Tonight** Fluid Ounces will be at Sebastian's starting at 9 p.m.
- Thursday June 19** Russel Brown O'Brien presents *Fellinisque Fling* "a circus of song, story and sexual shape shifting" at 12th & Porter
- Friday June 20** Dorothy Parker and the *Nian Clock Project* will be at the 'Boro
The Bongo After Hours Theatre presents *Elizabeth Cutler* at 8 p.m.
- Saturday June 21** *Los Lobos* will be at 328 Performance Hall--\$18 at the door
The Station Inn presents the *Cluster Pluckers*
- Sunday June 22** The legendary *Roland Gresham Jazz* will grace the stage at the 'Boro for an early show
- Monday June 23** At 5 p.m. 12th & Porter presents *Fern Showcase* with *Soltree* going on at 9 p.m.
- Tuesday June 24** Centennial Park in Nashville presents Movies in the Park with *Some Like it Hot* starting at dusk
- Wednesday June 25** *Whitewater* will be at the Station inn
The Ryman Auditorium presents *A Tribute to Chet Atkins*

328 Performance--328 4th Ave. South in Nashville--259-3288
Sebastian's--Maple Street on the square in Murfreesboro
The 'Boro Bar and Grill--Greenland Drive across from Murhpy Center
Station Inn--402 12th Ave. South in Nashville--255-3307
12th & Porter--114 12th Ave. South in Nashville--254-7236
Bongo After Hours Theatre--2007 Belmont Blvd. in Nashville--385-0575

SPORTS & RECREATION

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Sidelines

Page 6

Raider football schedule comes up short

by Ramona Stubblefield
staff writer

Middle Tennessee State University's football program may have to settle for just ten games this season instead of the usual eleven. The November 1 date is open and, as of Monday, the Blue Raiders had still not filled the slot.

According to MTSU's Athletic Director Lee Fowler, "Most conferences are playing on that date. We've had some interest from some schools, but they couldn't finagle around to meet our date. That's been the biggest hang-up."

Another obstacle in the way of securing an 11th game for the season is the limitations that the renovations on the football stadium are putting on the program. The seats on the side of the stadium (the east side) are scheduled to be finished by September 27, just in time for the Blue Raiders first home game against Ohio Valley Conference rivals Murray State. Such a late date for the opening of the spectator seats gets rid of any chance for August 31 and September 20 as choices for adding another game.

"We knew we'd have problems when we started construction," says MTSU Coach Boots Donnelly. "That

makes it complicated. But that's part of progress and moving forward. We'll try to get one even if it's late."

One of the major reasons for such an extensive search is former OVC member Morehead State dropping to non-scholarship status for football, and consequently leaving the league. "We'd like to have five or six home games, but with Morehead gone it creates a hardship for everybody," said Fowler. "We'd prefer not to play a Division II team since we're heading to I-A. But if we can get a game, we'd play whoever just to get one."

In prospect of the completion of the stadium renovations at the start of the 1998 season, MTSU plans to

move from NCAA Division I-AA to Division I-A in 1999.

The Blue Raiders will play four home games this fall and next. Jacksonville State, Southeast Missouri State, Murray State and Austin Peay will visit this year while Eastern Kentucky, Tennessee State, Eastern Illinois, and Murray will play the Blue Raiders at home in 1998.

"This was actually our year to host Tennessee State," Fowler said. "But with the stadium situation and everything, we thought it would be better to let them host this year and dedicate the stadium verses them in 1998."

MTSU Schedule

Sept. 6	Tennessee State, 6 p.m. *#
Sept. 13	at UT Chattanooga, 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 27	Murray State, 7 p.m. *
Oct. 4	Jacksonville State, 2 p.m. @
Oct. 11	at UT Martin, 1 p.m. *
Oct. 18	at Eastern Ill., 1:30 p.m. *
Oct. 25	Southwest Mo., 2 p.m. *
Nov. 8	Austin Peay, 2 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Eastern Ky., 12:30 p.m. *
Nov. 22	at Tenn. Tech., 1 p.m. *

#at Vanderbilt, * OVC game, @ homecoming. These games are subject to change.

Rugby seeks funding, support for the 1997-1998 season

by Nikki Bagwell
sports editor

The Rugby team at MTSU earned the title of the number one Rugby team in the Mid South for the second year in the row.

Why aren't they known on campus? Despite their unprecedented title, the rugby team can't seem to gain fair access to student activity funds.

Jason McAfee, an experienced rugby player, said that much of their funding comes from the Old Boys, which is an organization of MTSU Alumni that played Rugby during their collegiate years.

Dace Schuck, a former MTSU rugby captain, said they normally have a variety of fund raisers. "We are going to plan more philanthropic events," Schuck said.

Schuck is now affiliated with the Nashville Rugby Club, but still remains active with the MTSU team.

Schuck said that maybe the reason

they do not get campus support is that "I don't think they see Rugby as a big sport."

Since 1980, the MTSU rugby team has had a winning season every year, but they are still last on the list of priority sports. The players have no field to call their own therefore, they cannot keep a constant practice schedule. The lack of support has helped motivate team members to defend their status and gain recognition.

Schuck told us that they are not complaining, but they would like a little more campus support. "Rugby is an organized sport and organization takes time," said Schuck.

The current team players are working hard to dispel the campus conception of the rugby team, club and its members. This coming year the team plans to work more on fund raising for charity and hopefully gain funds to purchase new uniforms.

Let's get physical



photo by Steve Purinton/staff

Hayley Maddox, an Early Childhood Education major, got her aerobic workout at the Rec. center Tuesday. The Rec. center offers two step aerobics classes taught by Elizabeth Conrad-Pope (pictured left, middle.)

Boxing match draws fans to Alamodome

by Celeste Castillo
staff writer

Fans were in disarray on Saturday, May 14 in San Antonio Tx., as Oscar de la Hoya knocked out David Kamau in de la Hoya's first Welterweight title defense.

The crowd was tightly packed in the Alamodome with de la Hoya and Genero Hernandez supporters in abundance.

The undercard event, Hernandez vs. Alexandrov, found Hernandez retaining his Super Featherweight title after a 12 round split decision match with the former Russian Anatoly Alexandrov.

Another following match was the main event with a quick climax to a second round TKO for de la Hoya against the formidable Kenyan Kamau. Kamau's only loss in his 28-1 21KO's record, was to the legendary Julio Cesar Chavez in an ugly points decision, who Oscar had beat in an earlier fight.

In the post fight commentary de la Hoya already had his sights set on September challenger Hector "Macho" Camacho.

NHL expanding to Nashville, Atlanta, Columbus and Minneapolis-St. Paul

by Dick Brinster
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL is expanding to two cities currently without a major pro sports team and is giving a second chance to two others where hockey previously flopped.

Nashville, Tenn., and Columbus, Ohio, were the first-time cities to win endorsements Tuesday from the NHL's expansion committee. The league also plans a return to Atlanta and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Each new franchise will cost \$80 million.

The plan, which will expand the NHL to 30 teams by 2000, still must be approved by the full Board of Governors on June 25. A three-fourths majority of 26 is required, but that is considered little more than a formality.

Nashville — the only of the four cities with an arena currently considered suitable for major league hockey — would begin play in the 1998-99 season. Atlanta would start the following season, and Columbus and Minneapolis-St. Paul would join in 2000.

"I am confident that the strength of each of the recommended markets and ownership groups will lead to a successful conclusion of this process," said NHL commissioner Gary Bettman.

As part of the expansion plan, the league and the NHL Players' Association agreed to a four-year extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement through September 15, 2004. That also is subject to ratification by the governors and the union.

Losing out in the expansion sweepstakes were Houston and Oklahoma City.

The expansion would give the NHL as many franchises at the turn of the century as the NFL and major league baseball. The NBA has 29 franchises.

The new franchises would mean the league has grown fivefold since 1967, when it doubled in size from six to 12 teams.

"The expansion committee has worked extremely hard over the past 12 months to formulate an expansion plan that positions the league for significant growth and stability as we head into the next century," Bettman said.

Where it perceives that growth to be is obvious.

By adding four American cities, the league continued a trend away from its Canadian roots. Only six of 30 teams are located north of the border, and in two recent franchise shifts, the Quebec Nordiques became the Colorado Avalanche and the Winnipeg Jets moved to Phoenix.

Growing cities — particularly in the West and the Sunbelt — have been preferred by the league over Canada. Even the Edmonton Oilers, who had the league's most recent dynasty, are looking to relocate with apparently no prospects of remaining in Canada.

"This has been a very long and, at times, a very difficult process," said Craig Leipold, majority owner of the Nashville team.

Leipold and his partner, Gaylord Entertainment Co., were adamant that they start playing in 1998. They are seeking a marketing edge over the NFL's Tennessee Oilers, scheduled to play in their new Nashville stadium in 1999 after two seasons in Memphis.

Atlanta will begin constructing a \$213 million arena on the site of the Omni once that building has been demolished. St. Paul has arranged financing for a \$130 million arena, while a new building is about to be erected in the Ohio capital.

Columbus mayor Greg Lashutka immediately warmed to the task of promotion.

"Yes, the puck stops here," he said. Modern arenas played a part in the selection process, said New Jersey

Devis owner John McMullen, also a former owner of the Houston Astros.

"Apparently they (Houston negotiators) didn't live up to the commitments the other cities were willing to make," he said.

Although the league has repeatedly declined to comment on its selections, they came as little surprise to the applicants even prior to the announcement.

"Now we just have to figure out if Zambonis will work in a victory parade," St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman said Monday when asked how confident he was that the Twin Cities would be a choice of the expansion committee.

Originally, there were 11 applications. But the NHL earlier eliminated bids from two of three groups in Houston, and one each from Hampton Roads, Va., and Hamilton, Ontario.

A group from Raleigh-Durham, N.C., also applied, but withdrew when the Hartford Whalers announced they would play in the Tar Heel State next season as the Carolina Hurricanes.

The inclusion of teams in Minnesota and Atlanta would be the second shot for both.

The Bloomington-based Minnesota North Stars were part of the six-team expansion for the 1967-68 season. They moved to Dallas, becoming the Stars in 1993.

The return of the NHL removes the sting of the past in Minnesota.

"The NHL should be here," said Pat Forcica, former vice president of the North Stars. "The North Stars move didn't need to happen, shouldn't have happened. That's been a personal failure that's been hanging over my head for four years."

Atlanta joined the league with the New York Islanders in 1972-73 as the Flames, but the franchise moved to Calgary in 1980.

The expansion is the second massive one of this decade. From 1991-93, Anaheim, Florida, Ottawa,

Tampa Bay and San Jose entered — giving the league 26 teams. Those teams were added piecemeal, making Tuesday's announcement the biggest since 1967-68.

Increasing its TV base has been paramount in the NHL moves. Atlanta — where the franchise will be broadcast by the Turner Broadcasting System — is the nation's 10th-largest TV market. The Twin Cities are 14th, Nashville 33rd and Columbus 34th.

"It's an important market to them (the NHL)," said Harvey Schiller, president of Turner Sports, who led the Atlanta bid. "It plays very well into their growth pattern, certainly in television and the homes that are represented in this area that they didn't have before."

Oklahoma interests also believe the size of their market — 43rd in the nation — weighed heavily on the NHL.

"It was not a decision that Oklahoma City could not be successful," said Clay Bennett of the Oklahoma Sports Commission. "It all leads up to the television contract."

That apparently was not a factor in the rejection of Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city with the 11th-largest TV market.

"Houston has the demographics and the television market, all the ingredients that are so essential," McMullen said. "But I think the league just did not wish to commit themselves to play in the Summit."

The NBA's Rockets want to move out of that arena, and Houston Mayor Bob Lanier is hopeful a new facility can be built, but there appears little chance that will happen before 2003.

Expansion applicant Chuck Watson, who owns the minor league Houston Aeros hockey team, said the NHL was very interested in the Houston market.

"But the issue of an arena was a concern," he conceded.

MTSU students intern for professional football teams

by Nikki Bagwell
sports editor

Two Middle Tennessee Students prepare for career experience as they intern for professional football programs that started June 1.

Jahez Salahuddin and Tim Cole are students in the new athletic training program here at MTSU. Under the advisement of Dr. William R. Whitehill, the students were selected for the internships.

"Only a handful of students each year get to train with professional teams. We are lucky that we have two," Whitehill said.

Salahuddin is in his fourth year at MTSU and will be working for the Buffalo Bills of the NFL. He hopes to work on his master's degree in exercise science in Alabama.

"When I get out of school I want to be a coach," he said. Salahuddin came to Murfreesboro from New York on a track scholarship. Last Summer he worked at the Olympics in Atlanta as a student trainer.

Tim Cole, a sophomore, began working with the Nashville Kats of the Arena Football League. He will officially declare his major in athletic training in the upcoming fall semester.

According to Whitehill, the undergraduate minor in athletic training is the only one of its kind in Middle Tennessee. The program was developed four years ago.

Whitehill said that there is a great need for people who enter the field of teaching to have a certification in athletic training. The way it stands very few high schools in the state have certified trainer at daily practice.

Whitehill submitted a proposal to the Board of Regents to upgrade the athletic training minor to a major at MTSU. Currently, there has not been a decision made.

Men's studies gaining equal time in college classrooms

by Adolfo Mendez
College Press Service

When David Ulbrich went off to college, he expected to take courses in literature and chemistry. But the University of Dayton graduate says he never imagined he would sign up for a course whose central subject explores what it means to be gay these days.

So when he saw "Modern Men: Images and Reality" offered in UD's course catalog, his curiosity was piqued.

"I really wasn't sure what to expect," says Ulbrich, who's since graduated. "I was worried it would be undignified whining and complaining... 'Woe is me, I'm a man.'"

Despite his concerns, Ulbrich says he decided to enroll in the course and learned a lot. "It was a class on how men are perceiving social, cultural relationships and how they're perceived because they're male," he said. "The idea is to see how men are looking at the world through men's eyes."

Until recently, college courses on gender studies largely have focused on women's role in society.

"Male students pay the same tuition as female students, but the opportunities for men to study males in a gender-conscious way is just not there," says Eugene August, an English professor at the University of Dayton. August has compiled a bibliography of more than 1,000 books dealing with men's studies.

That may be changing. After 30 years of courses on women's studies, men are finally getting equal time in some classrooms. Through classes, workshops and lecture series, students are examining what it means to be male in a changing society.

Students are signing up for such courses as "The Nature of Men" at Ohio University, "King Lear and Fathering" at St. John's University in Minnesota; and the "Masculine Mystique" at Dartmouth College.

At Hobart College in upstate New York, students can enroll

in a course entitled "Theories of Masculinity." At Colorado State University, sessions on masculinity include subjects such as, "From Intimacy Phobic to Intimacy Junkie: A New Path for Men."

According to the American Men's Studies Association based in Youngstown, Ohio, the number of men's studies courses being offered on college campuses jumped to 300 in 1993 from 30 in 1984. Today there's about 500 courses offered, says Sam Femiano, association's founder. However, although students can earn a degree in women's studies, no college offers a major in men's studies, says Femiano, who works as a psychologist in Northampton, Mass. Many scholars say they view men's studies as a natural outgrowth of feminism.

"If you're doing gender studies, you have two genders and you have to study both genders. I see [men's studies] as the logical complement of women's studies," August says.

But some critics say they wonder whether classes in men's studies are necessary when traditional course offerings already reflect a male-dominated culture. Others argue that men's studies and its tenets are not an outgrowth of feminism—but a backlash against it.

Mimi White, director of women's studies at Northwestern University, says she is not necessarily opposed to the idea of men's studies but adds she would dispute the "facts" presented in such courses.

"I'm not sure we teach mothers' rights," she says, disputing the notion, for example, that men have a disadvantage in child-custody cases, a view taught in some men's right courses.

Generally, men's studies attempts to explain how the male gender has been shaped by social, cultural and historic factors, August said. But approaches to men's studies are as varied as "the feminisms," say instructors.

For example, Edward Barton, who just finished

teaching a class called "Men's Discussion Group" at Lansing Community College in Michigan, says there are three approaches to examining men.

"One is pro-feminist/gay affirmative," he says, "Another is mytho-poetic," an approach that explores the ancient rituals and symbols of manhood and at times encourages men to rediscover their roots by going into the woods, beating on drums and bonding.

"Third is the father's rights/men's rights approach," says Barton, arguing that in child-custody cases, courts are biased in favor of women.

In his course, students are encouraged to keep journals and discuss such topics as domestic violence, father's rights, men's friendships and work.

Barton admits that "men's studies can look at things that are not politically correct." For example, his class discusses studies that have found women to be as equally violent as men, he says.

August also says what he teaches is not always easy to swallow for some students.

"One issue that always causes some discomfort is the issue of men as victims," he explains. "Some people can deal with it easily; other people have a real problem with it."

"There's almost a total denial that there are battered men as well as battered women."

Still, August says, "I try to emphasize that men and women aren't enemies. Those people who try to set men and women against each other as enemies are doing a disservice to both sexes."

While the debate of the relevance of men's studies continues, some feminists say men's studies pull dollars away from women's studies courses.

"Women studies programs have been notoriously underfunded and have to struggle for resources," White says. "New programs, like men's studies, also require funding. So I think there's an indirect competition."

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26th International Country Music Fan Fair underway in the Music City

by Jim Patterson
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The slim man squinting in the golf cart Tuesday was definitely someone famous, his designer stubble throwing fans off for just half a second.

"Oh my God!" shouted a woman in the crowd lining the sidewalk at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. "It's Clint!" Clint Black the singer — that is — one of hundreds of country stars meeting-and-greeting this week at the 26th International Country Music Fan Fair.

On the other side of the 6 1/2-acre grounds, fans chanted "To-BY, To-BY" as a waving, grinning Toby Keith ("Should've Been a Cowboy") zipped away in a cart from an autograph-signing session to perform at a show sponsored by his label, Mercury Records.

Leaning against an exhibit hall watching Keith go by

stood a man in typical Fan Fair gear — shorts, belt buckle advertising The Nashville Network, western-style shirt, two pens in the shirt pocket for autographs, white tennis shoes and a red baseball cap. Don Paris, of Georgetown, Ky., said he came to Fan Fair each year to "just kick around" among other country music fans.

"I come just to get away from everything," Paris said, nearly drowned out by the chanting and cheering for Keith.

Ongoing threats of rain and occasional sprinkles did nothing Tuesday to deter the 24,000 fans who've shelled out \$90 for a week of stargazing. The event is sold out for the seventh straight year.

The performances and other activities continue through Friday. Among Tuesday's performers were LeAnn Rimes, Kathy Mattea and Trisha Yearwood.

"This girl I work with is

here for her fifth time," said Peggy Edmondson of Palmetto, Ga., while packing a \$17 Billy Ray Cyrus t-shirt into a bag.

"I came along with her this year, and I love it, I really do. I'd definitely come back."

Edmondson said she'd spent \$250-\$300 on the trip, with three days to go.

Manning the Lee Roy Parnell booth, 19-year-old Marie Stewart packed a camera under the counter to snap quick pictures of passing stars. She was doing steady business selling Parnell t-shirts, and advising fans when the singer would be signing autographs in the booth.

"I was here in 1992, and now I remember why I didn't come back," Stewart said. "It's fun, but it's really crowded. It's worth it, but I like it better back here (behind a booth). I've got some room to sit back and watch everything."

After 25 years in the U.S., Ramen Noodles are still an instant success

by John Lehndorff
Knight-Ridder
Tribune News Service

It's hard to imagine a world without ramen.

The 10-for-a-dollar instant noodles have become a staple in the pantry of every starved college student during finals.

At the very least, it has offered a viable alternative to boxed macaroni and cheese. It is no longer "foreign" food.

Yet it was only 25 years ago that Top Ramen, the instant Japanese noodle soup, was introduced to consumers in the United States. Ramen was invented by Momofuku Ando in 1958.

Over the years ramen has

become so ubiquitous that there is now an Instant Ramen Manufacturers' Association. The organization notes that more than 40 billion packs of instant noodles are sold each year. That comes to about seven packs for every man, woman and child on the planet. Ramen has come a long way from simple soba and miso soup.

Humble ramen has gotten so big that it even has its own month. Did you know that March was Ramen Recognition Month? And ramen has its own web site at: www.nissinfoods.com.

Ramen is so thoroughly domesticated that Butter

Stroganoff Ramen Pasta and Cajun Chicken Ramen flavors are now available in some markets.

Ramen is part of a larger noodle boom which is chronicled in Nina Simonds' excellent cookbook "Asian Noodles" (Hearst).

To celebrate ramen's 25th anniversary, Nissin has published the "Top Ramen Noodle Cookbook." To receive one, send \$3.95 postage and handling to: Cookbook Offer, Nissin Foods, 2001 W. Rosecrans Ave., Gardena, Calif. 90249. Recipes include Ramen Lasagna and Ramen Shrimp Risotto.



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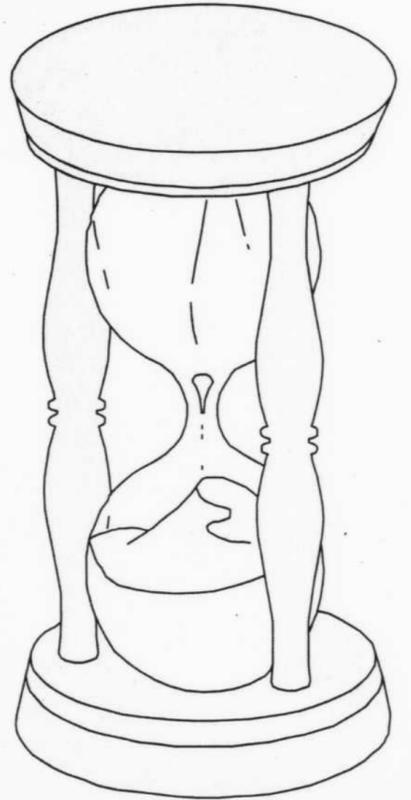
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