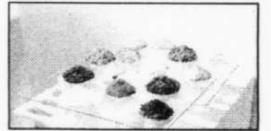




SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Art Barn exhibit features work by faculty

Some SGA offices to be determined by run-offs

Mary Anna Brown
SGA Reporter

At 11 p.m. last Friday evening, the Web MT polls officially closed, and the votes for the 2000 Student Government Association elections had been tallied.

For the most part, the student body made very clear from whom they wanted to seek representation, with the exception of the presidential office and graduate and liberal arts senators.

Run-offs for these offices will be held March 20-22 on Web MT during the same hours as the previous elections.

The offices that were determined in the recent election include speaker of the Senate, speaker of the House and election commissioner.

Speaker of the Senate Josh Pounders plans to tackle the referendum first while in office.

"I am in favor of the unicameral system, and if it is passed, I plan to add senators to spread out the legislation," Pounders said. "However, I have a friend who is the SGA president at UTK, and they are trying a joint unicameral/bicameral system that in theory, could have the potential to work. I am going to do some research and see if this system would work at MTSU."

Pounders states that he wants

to continue to pass legislation benefiting students and wants to open the lines of communication between the SGA and student publications and media outlets.

"I will be working to have all SGA meetings televised live on Channel 10," Pounders said. "People who could not make the meetings can watch them on TV."

Pounders also said that he is looking forward to working with the other elected officials.

"I am already friends with most of them, and I think we will be able to get things done efficiently."

"Though Matt [Walker] and I disagree about whether or not SGA should be a unicameral or bicameral system, I know we will come to a compromise."

"I want to keep students interested and involved with SGA," Pounders continued. "When new bills are brought up, I want to be interviewed, and I want the other officers and senators to be interviewed as well, so that students know where SGA stands."

Matthew Walker plans to instill an honor code for the student body while he is in office as speaker of the House. He is also concerned about the degree of student regard for SGA.

"We must strive to make the SGA an organization that speaks for the students and has their respect," Walker said. "Although it is a huge task, we must make the SGA into a viable organization."

Walker also has plans for bringing more legislation to the table in order to better serve stu-

See SGA, 3

Meth labs popping up across state

Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum
Staff Reporter

Methamphetamine production has mushroomed in Tennessee over the past four years. Officials at the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Nashville Drug Enforcement Agency haven't got a clue why.

"Twenty years ago, meth wasn't east of the Mississippi River," said Ed Holt, assistant director of TBI. "In Tennessee along the Cumberland Plateau north of Chattanooga is a hot spot. And no one knows why."

The first clandestine, or underground, meth lab in Davidson County was discovered and taken over by the Nashville DEA March 1 in the affluent north Nashville town of Goodlettsville.

"Generally these labs are in rural areas where the smell can't be detected," said Dan Salter, task force supervisor of Nashville DEA. "But we did just shut down our first lab in the Nashville area."

On the MTSU campus, it's a different story.

"It's going in the opposite direction here," said Lt. Ben Bennett, MTSU narcotics division. "Other 'rave' narcotics like LSD, ecstasy and Xanax are more popular. Availability and price are the two main factors. Meth is very expensive."

No one has ever been arrested on the MTSU campus for production of methamphetamines, but because of the volatile nature of the ingredients used to make the drug, problems could arise if meth were ever manufactured on campus.

"We've had to shut down entire apartment buildings and rebuild because of meth production," Salter said.

When an apartment, or potentially a dorm room, is used to produce meth, the chemical ingredients involved can remain in carpet, for example, and cause health problems for future unsuspecting residents, Salter explained.

Meth is a dangerously addictive drug, which affects the central nervous system and

creates imaginary feelings of euphoria and is often seen in powder or chunk form, similar to cocaine.

Pseudoephedrine, the active ingredient in over-the-counter cold and allergy medicines, and anhydrous ammonia, a commonly used farming fertilizer in gas form, are the two key ingredients required to produce methamphetamines via the Nazi method.

The Nazi method is a "cold cook" procedure in which heat from a chemical reaction creates the drug.

Anhydrous ammonia is the final ingredient. Without anhydrous ammonia, meth is merely an oily soup.

"My guess is they are probably using anhydrous as a reducing agent," said Norma Dunlap, professor of chemistry.

Reducing is the process in which the meth oil is mixed with anhydrous ammonia, leaving it in its final chunk or powder form.

The formerly more common red phosphorus method is the "hot cook" method. But because phosphorus is a highly government regulated material, it is very difficult to acquire. Meth producers have gone so far as to purchase thousand of bulk matches, shaving off the ignitable tips to acquire the needed phosphorus to make meth, explained a TBI agent who preferred not to be identified.

The Nazi method is being used more prevalently than in previous years in Tennessee mainly because it can produce large quantities of meth in a matter of hours and requires no electricity or special tools.

The red phosphorus method takes about eight to 12 hours and requires an established heat source, such as a stove.

Both methods are highly dangerous, but the use of anhydrous via the Nazi method is in some ways worse than the red phosphorus method. If red phosphorus gets too hot, it can easily explode like dynamite, but anhydrous fumes are extremely toxic and potentially more harmful, a TBI source

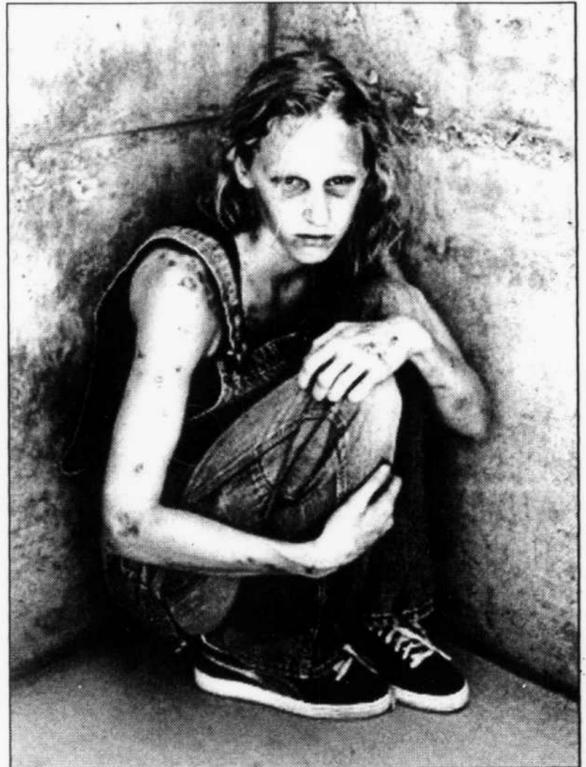


Photo Provided

Besides psychological effects, long-term meth use can leave the body in a deteriorated state.

said.

Ironically, no farmers use anhydrous ammonia in the Cumberland Plateau area, where the vast majority of discovered meth labs are located.

"It's a matter of the size of the farms," explained John Duke, fertilizer department manager for the Tennessee Farmers' Co-op. "You've got to have a pretty good-size field to use anhydrous. Most of the farms in East Tennessee are smaller for tobacco and such. Farmers out there use ammonium nitrate — a dry fertilizer."

Fertilizers used inappropriately appear to have become unknowing agents of harm. Ammonium nitrate was a key component used in the truck bomb that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City in 1995.

Anhydrous is a necessary

ingredient for the newest and fastest way to make this very harmful and addictive drug.

In West Tennessee, where farmers grow corn and the fields are much larger, stealing anhydrous ammonia has become a problem.

"Anhydrous is a gas," Duke said. "They come up to the tanks and fill up propane coolers. Thank goodness they are turning the valves off, though."

If the valves were left on, anhydrous ammonia would escape into the atmosphere potentially causing ill environmental effects.

"It wouldn't kill anybody, but it could contaminate the land in the area," Duke said.

While individual farmers have had anhydrous stolen from their tanks, the problem

See Meth, 4

Political science department experiences beneficial year

Heather A. Brown
Staff Reporter

The 1999-2000 school year has been a successful and eventful one for the political science department here at MTSU.

From the mock trial and Model United Nations teams to the large number of graduates who move on to hold prestigious jobs, there is no question that MTSU is the place to go if students are interested in the field of political science.

The department may face a number of changes in the future that will continue to uphold this reputation.

For the last eight years, the mock trial teams have placed among the top ten teams at national competitions. This year is no exception. After placing first and second in regional tournaments, they are on their way again to the national level.

At the Missouri Invitational Tournament earlier this year, an MTSU team brought home first place. Next month, they are headed to Milwaukee, Wis. for a special invitational tournament.

Clyde Willis, associate professor, Professor Tom VanDervort and John Vile, professor and chair of the political science department, all work closely with the mock trial teams.

"We are quite proud of our

students," said Vile.

He also said he had heard three mock trial participants had received scholarships from major law schools.

The Model United Nations team has also enjoyed a prosperous year. They participated in a competition in Philadelphia, Penn., in the fall semester and

For the last eight years, the mock trial teams have placed among the top ten teams at national competitions

are planning to compete at the University of Virginia.

Associate professors Anne Sloan, Steve Livingston and Steve Robertson are actively involved with the team.

Three law schools in Tennessee have especially high numbers of MTSU graduates.

At the Nashville School of Law, there are more students from MTSU than any other school represented there.

At both the University of Memphis and University of Tennessee at Knoxville, MTSU comes in second.

The International Relations graduates also fare quite well in the professional world. Furthermore, MTSU is home to one of the largest internship programs in the nation.

Mark Byrnes and Lisa Langenbach, both associate professors of political science, direct interns in the state legislature and in numerous other agencies.

The department has also filed an application with the Board of Regents to offer a Master's degree in political science.

"This proposal appears to be on hold, pending resolution of whether this program might conflict with similar programs at Tennessee State University," said Vile.

This is due to the Geier stipulation.

After it has been decided that the Master's programs will or will not conflict with TSU, a decision will be made about the program at MTSU.

There will be faculty changes in the future, as well. Professors VanDervort and Jack Turner have retired, but at the moment are still teaching a reduced class load.

"Turner's retirement has been especially painful for us because he has played such an important role in our international relations major," Vile said.

The department is currently interviewing for Turner's replacement. They are also conducting a search in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe for a new faculty member. ■

Put 'em up!

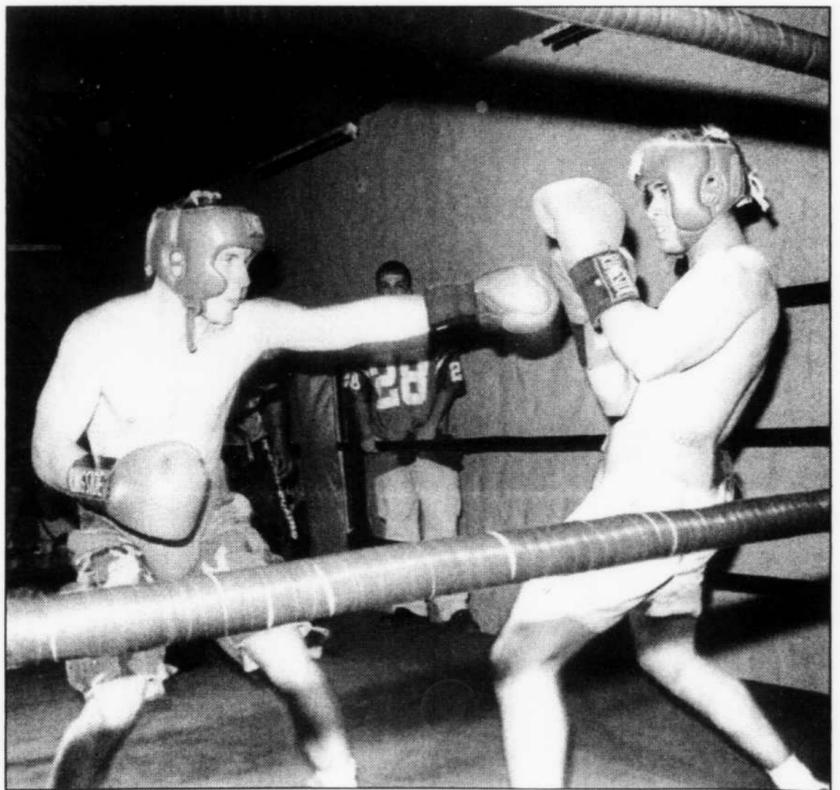


Photo by Rory White | Staff Photographer

Two fighters square off for charity at the annual Pike Fights last Thursday at Riverdale High School.

On Campus

To submit an announcement for On Campus, come by the James Union Building Room 308. Due to limited space, some announcements with later dates may be held.

March 13-17

Safe Spring Break Week 2000 will be hosting several events. To participate in Alcohol 101, The Condom Carnival and self-defense demonstrations, stop by the KUC Grill. For more information, call Gina Poff or Kerry Lane at 898-2454.

March 13-31

The Heart of Tennessee Chapter of The American Red Cross is holding a series of blood drives throughout the month. Dates and locations include the following: March 10, 410 W. Lytle, from 1-6 p.m.; March 13, Union Planters Bank, Shelbyville Community, from 2-7 p.m.; March 15, Southeast Baptist Church, 708 Minerva, from 3-8 p.m.; March 16, MTSU, 3rd floor of KUC from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; March 17, 24 and 31, Red Cross, 410 Lytle St., from 12-6 p.m. If you would like to volunteer for a blood drive, call 893-4272.

March 14

Campus Recreation is sponsoring a bench press contest. Participants must register by March 10. The cost is \$5 for individuals and \$10 for teams (five to a team). Contact Allison or Jerry at 898-2104 for more information.

March 15 & 16

Two faculty open forums are scheduled to be held in BAS, State Farm

Lecture Hall, Room S102/204 at 1:30 p.m. The faculty is encouraged to attend these meetings to discuss faculty issues or other university matters of interest.

March 16

Alpha Omicron Pi and Student Development, in conjunction with Safe Spring Break Week 2000, will be hosting "Mock Around the Block," a night with "mocktails" and educational information about the effects of alcohol. The event will take place on Greek Row at 8 p.m. All students, faculty and staff are invited. Contact Kerry Lane at 898-2454 for more information.

Omega Phi Alpha is hosting a blood drive that will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the third floor of the KUC.

March 21

The seventh annual Nashville Area College Career Fair will be held from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the I-24 Expo Center. The fair is sponsored by area universities and the Nashville Area Chamber Commerce. It is open to seniors, graduate students and alumni of participating universities. MTSU students and graduates who are registered with the Placement and Student Employment Center may obtain free tickets to the fair. For more information, tickets and rosters, contact MTSU

Placement and Student Employment Center in KUC, Room 328, or call 898-2500.

A Death Penalty Teach-In, sponsored by the Wesley Foundation, will be held from 12-1 p.m. The TN Coalition to Abolish State Killing will have an information table set up on the quad outside the KUC to distribute TCASK literature, have students sign petitions and inform about upcoming events.

Tim Wise of Nashville TCASK, Joe Ingle of the TCASK Neighborhood Justice Center, Harmon Wray of Restorative Justice Ministries and Ron Kristy of Journey of Hope will speak on death penalty issues and present videos from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in KUC, Room 314. There will be a viewing of "Dead Man Walking," followed by a panel discussion from 4-7 p.m. in BAS, Room S272.

March 23

The Students of Objectivism present a video-lecture at 7 p.m.: "The Mind as Hero in Atlas Shrugged" by Andrew Bernstein. Everyone is invited for an evening of stimulating ideas and exciting discussion. Info: <http://www.mtso2000.tripod.com>

March 25-31

The Campus Recreation Center will host a ski summit to Colorado for

spring break. There will be a pre-trip meeting on March 14. Two price packages are available. A \$200 deposit will reserve a spot. For more information, call Mitch, Sean or W.T. at 898-2104.

March 25-April 2

Outdoor Pursuits is hosting a raft, canoe and funyack trip of the Rio Grande. The cost is \$199 for students with a limit of 15 participants. For more information, call W.T. at 898-2104.

April 13

The Students of Objectivism present "An Introduction to Objectivism" by Andrew Berstein in the BAS, State Farm Lecture Hall at 4 p.m. Free for students and faculty and staff, \$5 for everyone else. <http://www.mtso2000.tripod.com>

Ongoing

The MTSU Peer Education Program is currently accepting new members. Credit hours are available. Applications may be picked up in KUC, Room 303, or call 898-5453 for more information.

Raider Victory Ministry and Champions for Christ are holding weekly Bible meetings on Mondays at 7 p.m. in Scarlett Commons, Room 317. Contact Delvin Pikes at 896-2348 for more information. They are also

holding worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. in AMG Alumni Gym. The service is open to students, faculty and the community. For more information, contact Delvin Pikes at 896-2348.

The MTSU Crime Stoppers Board is currently looking for people interested in joining its board of directors, especially graduate and undergraduate students. If you are a full-time student or employee at MTSU and wish to apply for one of these openings, pick up an application at either the campus police department or KUC, Room 303.

Students for Environmental Action invite all students to weekly meetings every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Peck Hall, Room 201. For more information, e-mail Lori Bruner at greenmind@home.com.

Part-time campus jobs are available in food service, catering, concessions, student patrol and dispatch. Students interested should contact the Placement and Student Employment Center in KUC, Room 328.

The Martial Arts Club of MTSU is holding weekly meetings in the Recreation Center aerobics room on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. For more information, call Billy Colepaugh at 898-2104.

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SGA: Newly-elected officials take office after spring break

Continued from 1

“We must enact legislation that will impact student life,” Walker said. “Otherwise, we will remain an organization that merely ‘plays government’ because any government only exists by the consent of the governed.”

Walker has expressed his excitement about working with other officers, and he feels that the SGA has to work together internally to make itself stronger.

Walker also still stands firm in supporting the current bicameral system.

“I hold that student life is only as good as the organizations on campus, and the organizations should have a voice in the campus government,” Walker said.

“Why would we want to weaken the SGA by dissolving the House while we are attempting to make it a more useful and meaningful organization?”

“We have the potential to make MTSU a truly great university. I challenge everyone to

get involved.”

As election commissioner, Julia Graves plans to revise the Electoral Act.

“There are many complicated stipulations about elections and the electoral process that I am concerned about, and I would like to change,” Graves said. “I also want to change the election process for the Homecoming Queen.”

Graves will be responsible for organizing and planning all elections for Student Government, working with the election commission and working with the other officers to keep SGA running smoothly and to meet students needs.

“I want to increase voter turnout and students awareness of elections and their candidates running for their respective offices,” Graves said. “I would like to see more publicity and student excitement concerning SGA and elections.”

The fate of the presidential candidates has yet to be decided.

“There had to have been a 50 percent plus one vote for the original presidential election,”

current Election Commissioner Julie Shew said. “For the run-off, the winner is determined by a total vote count.”

John Marshall had 642 votes, Chris Montaque secured 359, and Nathaniel Mills had 329 votes. Marshall was just short of the presidential title by 24 votes.

As the run-off nears, a previous candidate has chosen to voice his support for the remaining presidential candidates.

“I am supporting Chris Montaque,” Mills said. “People need to put any party affiliation aside and vote for the only remaining candidate who isn’t afraid to speak his mind. For once, I just want the SGA to get off the couch and do something.”

Presidential candidate Marshall thanks everyone for the support he received.

“I’m proud of the people who supported my ideas for SGA president,” Marshall said. “I can’t afford to let up now even though I have received a positive outpouring from the student body.”

Marshall said he won’t take anything for granted.

“The run-off vote begins at zero,” Marshall said. “All I can do is keep on campaigning because anything can happen.”

Montaque simply said he wants everyone to come out and vote.

“For the most part, Marshall and I have the same goals — we just have different strategies for accomplishing those goals,” Montaque said. “What is important is that whoever is elected sets realistic goals that can be accomplished.”

“No vote is a vote indeed,” Montaque said. “I just want people to practice their right to vote.”

Megan Smith, the current speaker of the House, said she thinks the student body did a good job choosing the people who will represent them.

“Matt seems like he is very enthusiastic about the upcoming semester, and I’ve seen Josh work hard in past offices he has held,” Smith said. “I have no doubts that they will do their jobs to the best of their abilities.”

Smith also said she thinks the presidential candidates are both qualified for the job and will do

their best to support the values of the student body.

Some of the senatorial positions must be determined by a run-off as well.

Five senators were chosen to represent the School of Basic and Applied Sciences: Ginny Barton, Travis Blunt, Samantha Marburger, Michael Shirley and Sarah MacWilson.

Four senators were chosen to represent the School of Business: Mike Defere, Russell Henderson, Selena Hutchenson and Jennifer Jones.

Five senators were chosen to represent the School of Education: Johnathan Bancroft, Mary Elizabeth Farrar, Jeremy Helton, Emmy Hickman and Richard Montgomery.

Four senators were chosen to represent the School of Mass Communications: Jocelyn Blue, Kelley Dodd, David Fletcher and Susan Wilson.

Four senators were chosen to represent all undeclared majors: Amy Ford, Josh Graham, Kelley Stuard and James E. Word.

Jamie Burns, Tracey Johnson and Adam Tune were chosen to represent the School of Liberal

Arts.

There will be a run-off between Kyle Dodd and Jason Michael.

Nikolaos Presvelos was chosen to represent Graduate Studies, and there will be a run-off between Jeremy Baker, Amanda Griffin and Amy Patchen.

The newly-elected officials will take office sometime after spring break is over.

“A date for the installation ceremony will be set sometime before spring break,” Shew said. “Everyone on campus is welcome to the afternoon installation ceremony.”

Shew said she was pleased with the voter turnout, but expects less of a voter turnout for the run-off.

“The turnout was about the same as in past years, drawing in 1,200 to 1,300 student voters,” Shew said. “The number of voters for the run-off depends on how hard the candidates work and campaign for the votes.”

The results for the run-offs will be posted on Web MT next Thursday afternoon. ■



WEEKDAY FEATURES

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- “FRESH AIR” WITH TERRY GROSS (4-5PM)
- OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHA

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Meth: Meth incidents down on MTSU campus

Continued from 1

mainly exists at the distribution level.

"Most dealerships are taking precautions with locks and gates," Duke explained. "But it's still happening. People cut the locks. Some distributors have installed video cameras."

One possible solution to the problem is creating an additive that would allow anhydrous ammonia to continue functioning as a fertilizer, but prevent its use as an illegal drug ingredient.

"Until the industry finds a solution, like an additive to stop the ability to make the drug, it's going to continue," Duke said.

While the production boom is in the eastern region where anhydrous isn't used in the farming industry, the anhydrous ammonia is being stolen primarily from the western part of the state. Meth labs have been discovered in the western Tennessee region, but not nearly as often as in the Cumberland Plateau region.

"They could be transporting the anhydrous or bringing it down from Kentucky,"

Duke said. "I suspect they do it out east because it's harder to get caught in the rural areas."

Duke theorizes the stealing and selling of anhydrous may be becoming an industry in itself.

"Farmers pay \$210 per ton for anhydrous," Duke explained. "I've heard the people who steal the stuff sell it to the producers for up to \$200 per gallon."

Anyone can purchase anhydrous ammonia from a farmers supply cooperative or distributor, but Duke believes the people stealing anhydrous don't want to risk being identified.

"Most distributors know the farmers who buy the anhydrous," Duke said. "I think (the perpetrators) don't want a record of buying anhydrous. They don't want to be recognized."

Most meth is produced by addicts supporting personal habits. Unlike other narcotics like cocaine, which is more often produced and sold to make a profit.

"In Tennessee, (meth) is more to support the habits of the makers," Salter said.

Meth producers tend to be

low-income white males ranging from 20 to 40 years of age.

"I call them 'Bubbas,'" Salter said. "But tons of women get strung out and go buy pseudoephedrine and give it to the guys to cook it."

Meth users, on the other hand, come from a variety of age groups, lifestyles and backgrounds. Teenagers and college students, as well as long-haul truck drivers, have all been known to use methamphetamines, according to the Methamphetamine Control Strategy of Arizona's Web site.

California and Arizona currently have the highest number of meth abusers and producers, though the problem has rapidly moved eastward into Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Tennessee, explained Holt.

TBI confiscated or purchased just over 1,200 grams of methamphetamine in 1998. Almost twice as many grams of cocaine were obtained and only 29 grams of heroine, according to TBI's Web site.

Tennessee legislators are attempting to get a handle on the meth problem by passing

laws associated with both anhydrous ammonia and publicly used buildings, such as apartments and hotels.

Just last year, Sen. Roy Herron drafted a bill, which passed the House and Senate in July 1999, making theft of anhydrous ammonia a Class E felony and carries a sentence of one to six years and may carry a fine of up to \$3,000.

In January of this year, Sen. Herron filed another bill at the request of TBI, which increases the punishment of meth production to a Class D felony "for possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia to manufacture methamphetamines," which carries a sentence of two to 12 years and can carry a fine of up to \$5,000.

If methamphetamines are produced on "property open to the public lodging," it may become a Class C felony and the sentence increases to three to 15 years and may carry a fine up to \$10,000.

The bill has not been scheduled for review by the state House or Senate at this time. ■

Nazis create meth as weapon of war

Methamphetamines were originally formulated by the Nazis during WWII, and later used by Great Britain and the United States to keep servicemen awake and energized for days on end during the war.

This introduction has led to production and use of meth by the general public and created a national drug issue.

"No one knew 50 years later we'd have a drug problem," said Ed Holt, Assistant director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Until the 1990s, biker gangs in California were the only meth producers in the United States.

"The Hell's Angels used meth using PCP years ago," Holt said.

Congress passed a law in the early '80s making PCP a controlled substance in attempts to control the meth problem. The gangs then altered their recipe and used ephedrine from over-the-counter decongestants as their main ingredient, Holt explained.

Congress went on to pass laws controlling ephedrine in attempts to stop meth production. Pharmaceutical companies created pseudoephedrine so as to continue the availability of cold and allergy remedies. Now meth producers use pseudoephedrine as the key ingredient.

Despite efforts by federal and state legislatures, meth production and use continues to be a growing problem in Tennessee.



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The United States Constitution mandates a census every 10 years to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. But community leaders use it for everything from planning schools and building roads to providing recreational opportunities and managing healthcare services.

Every year over \$100 billion in federal funds are awarded to localities based on census numbers.

When is it?

- 1998-1999: Developing the address list for Census 2000 and recruiting workers for census jobs
- Beginning mid-March 2000: Census questionnaires delivered
- APRIL 1, 2000: CENSUS DAY

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For additional information about Census 2000, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at <http://www.census.gov> or call one of our Regional Census Centers across the country.

Education department reverses stance on mistaken winner

TMS Campus

WASHINGTON (TMS) — The U.S. Education Department has changed its stance on awarding prestigious fellowships to 39 students who were mistakenly told they'd won them.

The department has decided it will give the Jacob K. Javits Fellowships — awarded to graduate students in the arts, humanities and social sciences — to the students after all.

Last month, a contractor for the department sent letters mistakenly telling the students

they'd won the fellowships. A few days later, the contractor called each student to say that he or she had, in fact, been named an alternate and would receive the fellowship only if winners declined.

College-aid administrators and lobbyists who monitor the federal scholarship fought on the students' behalf and pointed to a provision in the law that they said clearly showed the students were entitled to the awards. The provision, included in the Higher Education Act of 1992, states that a fellowship

applicant who is notified that he or she is a winner and then subsequently told that the fellowship has been withdrawn "shall receive such fellowship" unless the applicant "submitted fraudulent information on the application."

Department officials contend that the law doesn't pertain to "clerical errors," but decided to award the fellowships anyway.

"It was the right thing to do," a department spokeswoman said.

The department estimates that it will have to dish out

about \$700,000 for the extra fellowships, but Republican lawmakers who oversee the department say that figure could rise as high as \$4 million. They're quick to note that the fellowships cover students' educational expenses for four years and provide stipends of up to \$15,000 a year depending on a student's need.

Department officials said they are considering filing a lawsuit against the contractor to recoup some of the money. ■

College president reverses decision to suspend student government

Knight-Ridder Tribune

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (TMS) — When student government leaders at City University of New York Medgar Evers College acted in a way that the institution's president, Edison O. Jackson, found fiscally and verbally irresponsible, he wasted no time in suspending every last one of them from office.

Jackson reversed the suspension Saturday, nine days after the sanctions took effect. In a letter to the student government association dated March 2, he accused members of failing "to represent the interest of students through (their) failure to provide timely allocations of student activity fees" to campus organizations. He also cited "vulgar, insensitive language" SGA

members used toward each other during a school-sponsored trip to the Legislative Black and Hispanic Caucus of the New York Legislature last month.

"This event was the culmination of a litany of actions during this academic year that proved to be detrimental to this institution," Jackson wrote, adding that the suspension was designed to "restore integrity to

the Student Government Association."

The students, backed by lawyers who said they planned to take legal action if the suspension wasn't rescinded, said Jackson overstepped his authority. They returned to their offices this week. ■

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Hi! Watch for us! Special Events

MTSU Student Film Festival 2000
April 17-20, 7 p.m.
KUC Theater

All MTSU students are eligible to submit entries for the MTSU Student Film Festival 2000 sponsored by MTSU Films. For guidelines and submission forms please go to KUC Room 308. Deadline for entries is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 3.

KUC Theater

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Thursday - March 16
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Announcement for
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Concerts Chairperson - Fine Arts Chairperson
Ideas and Issues Chairperson

Applications are available now in the Special Events office, KUC 308. All applications should be filled out and returned to the same office by 4:30 Monday, March 21st. All applicants will be notified by phone regarding the time and date of their interview for the selection process. Interviews will begin during the week of April 3rd. All applicants must be members of MTSU Special Events for consideration of open positions. Position descriptions are available in KUC 308. For more information, call 898.2551.

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OPINIONS

6 ■ SIDELINES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Thinking Globally

by Luke Waack, staff columnist

Power Trip

Abuse of power cost one company a valuable worker

I used to work at Papa John's. I enjoyed the job. The company's founder impressed me as being an entrepreneur, a man I could look up to.

My hours were simple, and there was always pizza to eat. Then, one day, something happened that eclipsed all that.

Last Friday, I went down to the store on Mercury Plaza to procure my earnings from the previous week.

First, I said hello to my manager, Jeff. Jeff is from Lebanon, Tenn.

He stands about five feet, has 10 inches off the ground. He is a barrel-chest and a pronounced stomach supported by chicken legs.

His hair hangs in six-inch curls that are perpetually dirty.

I asked Jeff for my paycheck. Jeff asked if I was scheduled to work. "No," I replied.

"Do you want to work tonight?"

"No thanks," I said, "I have plans."

He did not go to the office to locate my check.

So, to put the time I was there to good use, I copied down my schedule for the following week and did some work in my employee handbook.

After about a half-hour of being at work without receiving my pay, I asked Jeff again if I could have my check.

He replied, "Yes, you can have your paycheck. You can have it when I want to give it to you. That's why I'm the boss."

I shrugged my shoulders and turned towards the office. He followed.

In the office, Jeff looked through a Federal Express envelope filled with checks.

"Do you want to work tonight?"

"No thanks, I have plans."

I had already made plans to see my girlfriend, Bekka, in Kentucky. I would not trade that for anything.

"Well, you know, plans can change."

"Yes, they can," I agreed, "Why, did someone call in sick?"

"No, I just know we're going to be busy."

"Friday night," I sympathized.

Jeff pulled my check from

the bag. Just as I was reaching for that white envelope with my name on it, he pulled it away.

"But you know, sometimes plans change. Like you know how I was planning on giving you your check? My plans could change. I might just hold onto it until eight o'clock tonight."

It was about 4:30 p.m. I wanted to leave Murfreesboro by 6:30, at the latest.

"Yes, you could do that," I said with a sigh.

I did not want to play this game with him. But if I had to, I wanted him to receive as little satisfaction as possible.

Finally, with a gummy-looking smile, he handed me my paycheck. I thanked him and left.

That night I went to see Bekka. We watched a band and had a great time. The drummer was amazing.

The next morning, as I was driving back to Murfreesboro, I had plenty of time to think about what had happened.

I knew I did not want to work with Jeff any longer. The way I felt when I was around him was a mixture of frustration and anger.

So, instead of wasting my time with those negative emotions, I empowered myself. I called him collect from a pay phone, and I quit.

If we have relationships that are power struggles, we will always struggle.

Jeff played keep away like a child. He enjoyed feeling that sense of control.

I saw it in his face. It was evident in the way his fat cheeks were undercut by an ear-to-ear grin.

He would not give me what I worked for without power tripping.

I have learned a lot from this experience. In the future, I will express my emotions before making decisions.

I will also give my employer two weeks notice before leaving.

In the end, Jeff did get to me. His play for power was successful.

I have recovered from those two words.

"I quit." ■

From the Editor All drugs should be legalized

Today we're running a story about the production of drug, in Tennessee.

Naturally, the production of this drug is illegal. So is the production of many other drugs.

The question I pose is, why?

I believe that all drugs, addictive or not, should be made legal.

What gives the government the right to tell anyone what they can and cannot do to their own body?

If someone is stupid enough to punish themselves with the use of these drugs, then by all means, let them do it.

In fact, let's make some money off the deal.

Legalize the production and

distribution of drugs, then tax the hell out of them.

They can do the same with prostitution while they're at it.

Our putanistic society seems to live solely for not only judging the actions of others, but restricting those actions that they do not see as "fit" as well.

As far as I'm concerned, they can get over themselves.

As long as an action does not harm another, no one should be allowed to keep someone from doing it.

They're called "victimless" crimes for a reason.

Some people say that there is a victim involved -- the drug addict.

I don't buy that. No one forces

anyone to begin doing drugs. No one is forced into prostitution. There are always other choices, other alternatives, despite the situation.

I'll take this opportunity to point out that the entire staff does not agree with me on this. Of course that should be pretty obvious.

The concept of suppressing the "immoral" actions of others comes so naturally to a great deal of us. We've been raised with these "ideals" stamped to our forehead.

Sometimes it takes more than simple logic to change one's mind.

Angela White
- Editor in chief

Childish ridicule extends from high school to college

Jeffery J. Henshaw
Contributor

Several weeks ago, I finally decided to do something about my long locks and opted for something a little shorter, more conservative and easy to deal with. We guys are usually a bit intolerant of lengthy morning preps. I now have a little more time in the morning to do more important things (like sleep a few more minutes).

I like my new 'do, although there is one thing it had done for me that I never dreamed it would: bring back unpleasant memories. It has brought back those early years when I was the new, nerdy kid in middle school. A time when revelers would tease me for whatever reason (i.e. to make themselves feel better). These jeers I managed to shrug off and I went on with life, thanks, in part, to rather thick skin. So how could my new haircut pull these past recollections up again?

Well, it happened on my way to the MTSU library a couple of days after my initial cut. While passing a couple of other students, I heard one chuckle out "chicken-head" in my general direction. I looked in his general direction, but he and his chum clamed up and stared at the ground.

The last time some called me a name was in the eighth grade. I'm at a university now. I'm all for revealing that kid inside us every once in a while and having fun, but they displayed a total lack of maturity and respect. And that's not the only time I've been denigrated here.

The most recent incident occurred last week while I was sitting outside on campus;

enjoying the sun and studying.

I was not looking up and would not have known there were two women (and I use that term loosely) walking by had one of them not quacked. That's right, she looked at me, quacked like a duck, and then she and her buddy laughed on by. The only possible reason I could think of as to why she would do such a thing is because my hair is a little too thin on the sides and my hair spikes on top when wet in the morning. An "adult" college student was actually ridiculing me for a bad hair day!

I was shocked. I thought my days of being taunted were left behind in grade school.

I enjoy MTSU. It's a fine university. But I'm starting to wonder about the maturity level of some of its students. Never in a million years would I think about demoralizing someone based on their appearance, whether they fit into my mold of how others should look.

Why would someone do that? Maybe a psychology major could tell me because I'm baffled.

Maybe I was the nerdy kid in elementary school and high school, but can I not be allowed to be one in college without mockers laughing me to scorn? This harassment was the very reason I abhorred in high school.

So to those students who are attending MTSU to gain a degree and better themselves while still having fun and enjoying college life: kudos.

To the others who are here because mommy and daddy are making them, or for whatever reason, and only wish to browbeat and screw off at others expense: grow up. ■

Utah's plan to ban sex ed spells trouble

Daily Illini

Masturbate long enough and you'll be blind, right?

If the Utah state legislature has its way, that will be the extent of Utah schools' sex education - what they may hear on the playground.

Last week, the Utah House passed legislation that would limit sex education to telling kids to remain abstinent before marriage, and faithful to their partners afterward.

Although their intentions may be good, the Utah legislature is doing a terrible disservice to the children of Utah.

In the U.S., 75 percent of women are sexually active before age 20 - they will be sexually active whether there is adequate sex education or not.

But an informed population of young adults will result in fewer unwanted pregnancies and fewer STDs.

Ignoring the fact that young people have sex does not make the problem of teen pregnancies or HIV disappear if anything it exacerbates it.

Supporters of the Utah measure say that giving condoms to young people is akin to handing someone a rubber glove and then telling them to go play with a chainsaw.

With good sex education, however, that young person will be much less apt to approach the chainsaw in the first place.

There is no problem with teaching students that the only way to be 100 percent STD-free is to practice abstinence.

Even condoms will not completely guarantee protection for sexual partners from STDs. Schools have an obligation to tell both sides of the issue.

By not telling students that they have safe options if they do choose to engage in sex, the Utah legislature is throwing up its arms in the face of a serious problem.

Denying students access to information that might greatly affect their lives smacks of irresponsibility on the part of Utah lawmakers.

Ignoring the problem won't make it go away. ■

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor. Simply drop them by JUB 310 or email them to studpubs@mtsu.edu.



Letters may be edited for length or grammar.

SIDELINES

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FEATURES

Murfreesboro, TN

Thursday, March 16, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 7

Displays of modern-day culture

Art Barn gallery exhibition allows faculty to voice contemporary social commentary

Rory White
Staff Reporter

The Art Barn's current faculty exhibit confronts many of today's pressing cultural issues, from industrially revolutionized diets to the exposition of secret sexual abuse.

The faculty has produced art that, with a few exceptions, solidly represents the infamous mark of combined ingenuity and controversy.

It is unlikely that a visitor will leave the exhibit without facing a challenge to his or her own idyllic perceptions of the world — especially when encountering Tanya Tewell's untitled painting depicting a woman tortured by a traumatic past full of vacancies for a host of demons whose purpose is to serve as reminders.

Her character sits bound on a wooden stool next to a jar containing Mother Mary, whose wooden incarnation seems oblivious to the plight of the victim beside her.

Blood streams down the character's legs, alarming us that we are now aware of a sobering secret — the kind that has to be shared for the sake of keeping it from happening in someone else's life.

Tewell makes a proclamation with her paintbrush that no one wants to hear, but one to which we must listen.

Lou Nuell's "An Evening of Solitude" makes another, less personal but still poignant statement. On a plate labeled "Today's Special" sits a cellular phone encased in cellophane packing tape. It is a stout expression of disgust towards people's disregard for one another in the cellular age, reminding us of a passion that many of us have: a pas-

sion for true, undivided, personal communication.

Lou's feelings towards people who choose talk on their cell phones while driving are rather strong.

In his own words: "They should be shot; they should burn in hell."

Humor is not devoid in the faculty show, however, as it is successfully used in Christine Nell's three post-industrial age commentaries on the American diet.

Christine unloads the answer to "What's for Dinner, Ma?" with a vernacular that most of us will never understand, and perhaps never even pronounce.

The words are actually common, everyday ingredients to some very popular dishes that people all over the world put in their mouths on a daily basis without thinking twice. Nell makes us think twice. What are we really putting into our bodies?

Other interesting works include Vicki Terry's "Colony" and her "Water Table Prototype," a piece that reminds us of what the creators of Frankenstein might create if forced into horticulture; Barry Buxkamper's "Paradise Wrecked," depicting revamped versions of Ken and Barbie during the fall of man; and Janet Higgins' "Stitches from the Heart," a woven stitch work that recalls the practice of corporate stitching and female bonding.

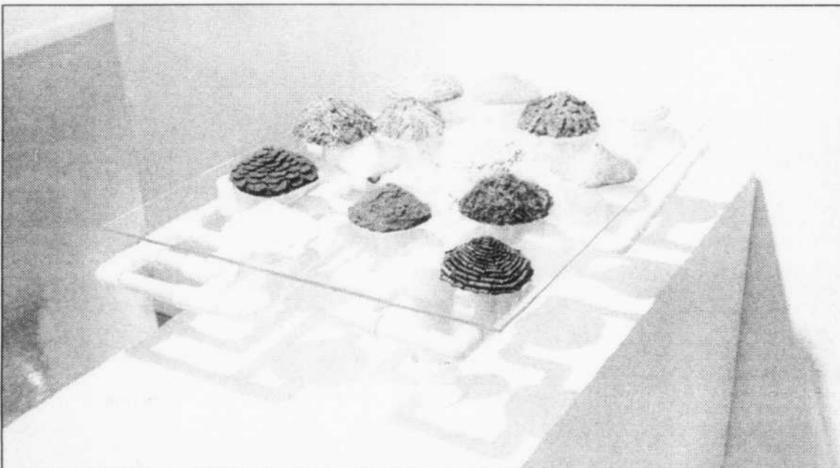
The exhibit, held in the Art Barn gallery, began last week, and is still running. The pieces were created by faculty from the art department. The event is free and open to the public. ■



Photo by Rory White | Staff Photographer

(Above) Students view artwork at the Art Barn gallery exhibit.

(Left) "Colony" by Vicki Terri was one of the many pieces displayed.



Bidis catching on with younger crowds

Valerie Danner
Columbia College

CHICAGO (TMS) — Ernest Castle, Jr. said he was smoking marijuana with some friends five years ago, when someone decided to pull out a strawberry-flavored bidi.

The thin, brown cigarette, imported from India, resembled a joint, so Castle said he decided to try it.

"I was curious," Castle, a 22-year-old senior at Columbia College in Chicago said. "It made me mildly high for five minutes; it helped me unwind."

Castle said he was hooked on bidis from that moment on. He even credits his first puff on a

bidi with helping kick his marijuana-smoking habit.

He isn't the only one loving bidis these days. Figures on bidi use in the United States are still in their infancy — but are slowly trickling in as bidis' popularity rises. Researchers consider the preliminary results disturbing. A study published last year in the "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report" showed that in a survey of 642 youth in Massachusetts, 40 percent said they had smoked a bidi in their lifetime, while 16 percent said they had lit one up at least once in the previous 30 days. Of those surveyed, 23 percent said they smoked bidis primarily because of their taste.

The flavorful tastes of bidis

are seductive, but pack a mean punch, according to researchers at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. The CDC reports that bidis contain less tobacco than traditional cigarettes but still have three to five more times the amount of nicotine and tar. CDC researchers say bidis — which are unfiltered — also release more deadly chemicals, such as ammonia and carbon monoxide.

In India, where bidis are manufactured, it is estimated that 500 billion of the cigarettes are produced and consumed each year. Bidis consist of tobacco, which is hand rolled in tendu leaves giving the cigarette a brown, herbal-like appearance — but a low combustibility,

which causes a smoker to inhale more deeply. The smokes' seemingly harmless facade and shredded tobacco has earned bidis a spot on shelves in both tobacco shops and health food stores. Critics of bidis say consumers are being duped by manufacturers' claims that bidis are a "more natural" smoking alternative.

Smokers — particularly young ones — are lured by bidis' cheap cost, too. They sell for \$2.20 for a pack of 25 compared to \$2.50 to \$3 for 20 cigarettes. And they come in a variety of flavors — everything from chocolate and vanilla, to more exotic flavors such as mango and lemon. The United States is the only country that adds flavor to the cigarettes.

"They are something new and different, and they've gotten recent attention from the media," said A. Jenny Foreit, an associate in research for the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. "They're slightly forbidden, and they are flavored so they're easier to smoke."

Bidis started out big on the West Coast, in particular California. However, they are now creeping across the country and into major cities, such as Chicago, which last month became the first city in the nation to ban the sale of bidis.

"Teens are influenced by a lot of things," says Jonathan Swaine, chief of staff for Chicago Alderman Terry Peterson, who introduced the bidi-ban bill. "This type of cigarette is more powerful, and in addition to that, is flavored, which markets it towards children. What was done in Chicago was a preemptive strike."

The state of Illinois is following suit. A bill to ban the sale of bidis statewide recently passed in the state house and is currently pending before the state senate.



Photo provided

Bidi cigarettes from India, shown here at Tobacco Road Smoke Shop in Kansas City, Kansas.

Bidis have been imported into the United States for at least 20 years, but only recently have found widespread popularity. Between 1995 and 1998, the value of cigarettes imported from India increased by 400 percent.

Amanda Serafin, 20, also has witnessed the popularity of the bidi. Last year, she worked a part-time job as a telemarketer. There was a room set aside for smokers to take a break. It had only one small air vent, Serafin said.

"The fan wouldn't suck up the bidi smoke," Serafin recalled. "I'd come out of the room smelling like a bidi. The smell just lingered." Though she was turned off by the smell, curiosity did get the best of her, and she said she did try bidis. However, she says they made her feel horrible.

Castle is aware of the health risks, but he said he's addicted to bidis.

"I quit a couple of times, and I never smoke more than 3 a day," he says. "It just becomes very addictive."

After nearly two years of smoking bidis, he started experiencing respiratory problems and

headaches, ailments that he links to his bidi-smoking habit. So, Castle switched to clove cigarettes, which are dipped in honey and rum and are typically bigger than a bidi, but still pack a punch.

"It just gives me a slight, sensual little lift," Castle says. "You have to be really not to inhale too deeply. There's no buzz if it's not inhaled properly."

"When you do it right, your toes should tinkle," he added. "It's a nice little buzz." Clove cigarettes are not a part of the ban in Chicago. However, Foreit said the clove cigarettes can be just as harmful as bidis and more traditional smokes.

"The clove releases chemicals that act like an anesthetic," Foreit said. "It makes it easier to hold [the toxins] in the lungs for a longer time."

It is still too early to tell whether the ban in Chicago will have an effect on the growing popularity of bidis or even if other cities will follow. But ban or no ban, people often find what they want no matter what, and bidis are no exception. The Internet holds several Web sites for bidi vendors. With a credit card, it's easy to get a pack. ■



Photo provided

Bernard Bradford lights up a Bidi, an East Indian cigarette that's gaining popularity among teens and the 20-something crowd.

Girl scouts kicked off University of Kentucky campus

LEXINGTON, Ky. (TMS) — Girl Scouts can't get a break at the University of Kentucky. University officials recently booted Troop 141 from campus after the scouts were caught trying to sell their famous cookies to students.

Their leader, an elementary education major at UK, said she was "told bluntly" to take her Thin Mint-pushing girls else-

where. University officials said school policy allows only registered student organizations and student organizations working with outside companies to solicit on campus. The only exceptions made, Dean of Students David Stockham told the Kentucky Kernal, are for sales of two local newspapers.

Corporate solicitors, such as Sprint, are also allowed on campus when students run their campus promotions and when they donate a portion of their proceeds to student organizations. The scouts, determined to raise money, took their cookies just off campus, where they still managed to find plenty of student buyers. ■

Boston University professor doing all shopping online

BOSTON (TMS) — Bruce Weinberg, an associate marketing professor at Boston University, has only seven months to go on his vow to shop only in cyberspace.

He's made only one slip up since he started his virtual purchasing in September — and he apologizes for it profusely. Weinberg said he strayed into a store last fall when one of his bike tires blew, and there wasn't a computer in sight.

Otherwise, he's managed to avoid bricks-and-mortar stores,

buying everything from a bottles of stomach medicine and hot sauce to a vintage Rolls-Royce and ruby earrings online. His goal is to give his electronic-commerce students an inside glimpse at what works and what doesn't when selling over the Web. Weinberg keeps a detailed diary of his purchases, and awards "Brucies" to companies that do an especially good job and "Noosies" to those that don't. He runs two Web sites detailing his purchases and providing consumer information:

www.people.bu.edu/celtics and www.ecommerceandmarketing.com.

There are plenty of online buying options for Weinberg. Last year, businesses sold about \$177 billion in goods and services to other businesses over the Internet — an amount that's expected to jump to \$2.7 trillion by 2004, according to Forrester Research Inc., which analyzes technology trends. The agency also reported that businesses sold \$20 billion in goods to consumers last year. ■

Goucher College newspapers among latest stolen from racks

Dane Schiller
Knight-Ridder Tribune

BALTIMORE, Md. (TMS) — Police are investigating the theft and destruction of several hundred copies of Goucher College's student newspaper, the "Quindecim."

Editors said they suspect the newspaper's coverage of student government might have prompted someone to swipe the free bimonthly publication, many copies of which were found missing from news racks on Feb. 23. The following day, a student found stacks of the papers burning on a concrete staircase near a dormitory.

Police said they have no suspects. The case is only the latest in a string of student newspaper thefts on campuses across the country. In the last six months, thousands of newspapers have been stolen at Brigham Young University, California State University at Sacramento, Ohio State University and the University of Missouri.

The good news is that paper thefts in the last

six months are down from previous years, said Mark Goodman, executive director of the Student Press Law Center in Arlington, Va. The early to mid '90s saw several student publication thefts; at their peak, almost 40 were reported in both 1993 and 1994.

When such thefts hit three Maryland campuses — Johns Hopkins University and the College Park and Baltimore County campuses of the University of Maryland — state legislators enacted the nation's only law making it a criminal offense to steal free publications.

University officials also are cracking down on petty newspaper thieves. For example, a student disciplinary panel at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is now determining sanctions against wrestling team members caught stealing about 2,000 copies of the student newspaper, "The Echo." And at Ohio State University, athletic department officials paid that campus' newspaper, "The Lantern," \$2,000 in after acknowledging that an athletic adviser was involved in the theft of hundreds of newspaper copies in October. ■

Got milk? Get beer!

PETA campaign praises benefits of alcohol

CHICAGO (TMS) — If you've been searching for justification for drinking more beer than milk, you'll find it from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

The animal rights group is launching a new anti-dairy effort hinged on what it calls a "fun and titillating" ad campaign urging college students to wipe off their milk mustaches and replace them with foam from a brew, not a "moo."

PETA argues that drinking beer is healthier for humans and for cows.

To drive home the point, activists are giving away beer bottle-shaped bottle openers that say, "Drink responsibly. Don't drink milk." and "Save a cow's life" to students who visit www.milk-sucks.com.

"If you drink milk, you are supporting a product that is horrible for human health, catastrophic for the environment and a living nightmare for the animals involved," said Bruce Friedrich, PETA's vegetarian campaign coordinator.

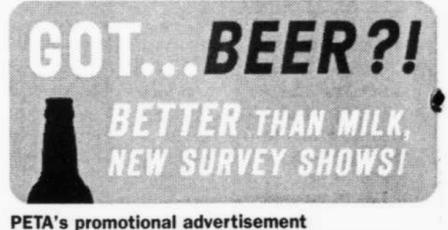
Yeah, right, many in the dairy industry and the medical profession say. They are calling PETA's "Got Beer?" campaign ridiculous and irresponsible. So are Mothers Against Drunk Driving, who sent a letter Friday asking PETA to pull the cam-

aign for fear it would encourage underage drinking.

PETA's campaign outlines numerous reasons why beer is superior to milk. Among them are "beer has zero fat; milk is loaded with fat" and "beer has zero cholesterol; milk contains 20 mg of cholesterol in every 8-oz. serving."

Susan Ruland, a spokeswoman for the dairy industry's "Got Milk?" ad campaigns was quick to note that moo-juice contains 30 percent of the calcium, 16 percent of the protein and 25 percent of the vitamin D recommended daily.

And, unlike beer, milk is not known to kill brain cells or lead to drunk-driving charges. ■



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SPORTS

Murfreesboro, TN

Thursday, March 16, 2000

SIDELINES ■ 9

Lady Raiders top Western Kentucky

Michael Edwards
Sports Co-Editor

Domination.

That's the word that best describes the Lady Raider's pitching performances this year. Heading into game 20 of the 2000 season, the Lady Raider staff has shut out five teams, held three more teams to one run and stifled two more teams by allowing only two runs. Ten teams have been held to two runs or less by the Lady Raiders.

The battle against Western Kentucky would be no different. The Lady Raiders started freshman pitcher Stacy Preator. She pitched all eight innings allowing only one run while striking out 15 Hilltoppers.

"As long as our pitching and defense stays strong, we've got a chance to win every ball game," head coach Karen Green. "[Preator] has stepped up. Her intensity level has stepped up. I am very pleased at what Stacy had been able to accomplish the last few weeks."

Preator got herself in trouble in the top of the first inning after throwing a wild pitch. Cassie Palmer then stepped up and singled to centerfield. However, Preator came under control and started to mow down the Toppers. The Toppers began to get



Photo by Robin Wallace | Staff Photographer

The softball team is riding high going into the Capital Classic Tournament, starting Thursday.

things going in the top of the second when pitcher Amber Garlington doubled to right, and was followed by a sacrifice bunt by Laura King. Garlington moved to third, just before her pinch runner was singled home by Jessie

Richardson, giving Western Kentucky a 1-0 lead.

The Raiders hit the ball through out the game, however, hits in timely situations were not available. Middle Tennessee had five hits, but four of the five came with two

outs in the inning. The Lady Raiders stranded 11 base runners on the day, and both of the Lady Raider runs came off of Western Kentucky wild pitches.

"I'll take winning runs any way I can get winning runs,"

Green said. "That's part of the game."

"We capitalized on their mistakes," senior catcher Melanie Manley said. "They made a couple mistakes and we capitalized on them."

The Lady Raiders headed

to California on Wednesday morning at 4:30 to play in a tournament in Sacramento. The meeting with Western Kentucky was slated to be a double header, but with the 40 degree temperatures, the tardiness of the umpires and the Lady Raiders early flight, the second game was canceled, but could be rescheduled later in the season.

Middle Tennessee improved their record to 13-7 and started a rivalry with the Hilltoppers that will continue considering they will be an opponent when Middle Tennessee athletics joins the Sun Belt conference later in the season.

"They are going to be in our SunBelt Conference next year," Manley said. "That kind of starts the precedent that we are going to mean business. We got that first win under our belts, and it was a one run game so it starts a rivalry."

Momentum will be a key for the Lady Raiders as they head to the west coast and into the Ohio Valley Conference play.

"You got to get momentum," Manley said. "I think we got momentum from this game. Everybody's excited about California and I think we are going to have a good time and we are going to play well." ■

Track teams aiming for another title

Adam Sparks
Staff Reporter

The MTSU track teams will kick off their outdoor season March 17 with a new running track and high hopes for another conference title.

The new track should add order and better conditioning to a team who has suffered through several injuries and mediocre facilities the past few years.

"One of the big things about having the track this year is that we can go outside a lot," head coach Dean Hayes said. "It will cut down on injuries, especially back injuries and stress fractures, because there's a lot softer surface on the [outdoor] track."

"[The new outdoor track] makes a tremendous difference in terms of attitude and in having a central place where the team can be," added assistant coach Roger Kerr.

The men and women's track teams, both fresh off impressive indoor seasons, look to be even stronger during the outdoor schedule. The teams boast some experienced upperclassmen along with a promising number of young athletes.

The men's team features the talented foursome of Rob Jordan, Albert Ageymang, Jasper Demps and Godfrey Herring. Jordan, the two-time Ohio Valley Conference Track Man of the Year, has been the best triple- and long-jumper in the OVC since his college career began. Ageymang, a semi-finalist in the 1996 Olympics, is the conference indoor 55- and 200-meter champion.

Jasper Demps currently holds the title of fastest 55-m hurdler in the OVC. Herring, the OVC 400-meter indoor champion, runs the anchor leg for the fastest mile relay team in the conference. Jordan is also on the relay team, along with



Photo by Michael Edwards | Staff Photographer

The track team hopes to soar past the competition beginning Friday at the Florida State Invitational.

freshman sensation DJ Spann and senior Mario Paul.

Others to look for include: Steve Reid and Kareem Bland, the two best triple-jumpers in the conference besides Jordan; Haneef Sharif, an excellent 55-m hurdler; Tanko Braimah, the top challenger to Ageymang in the 55 and 200; and Geoffrey Lagat, a long distance runner from Kenya.

The women's team includes some freshmen phenoms like Kim Freeman and Willisa Heintz and a returning star in Andrea Ribac.

Heintz and Freeman, both freshmen, have looked more like polished seniors this year. Heintz, a sprinter from Texas, breezed her way to the indoor 55- and 200-m conference titles.

Freeman, a triple- and long-jumper, also was a force this winter, usually finishing second only to her teammate Ribac. Ribac is the OVC triple-jump champion and a 1999 All-American. Doriesha Davis, Tori Blanders, Jameka Collins, and other standouts should add depth to the women's team.

"With our team, it always makes a big difference when we go outdoors," coach Hayes said. "Even with the championships our program has always been aimed towards outdoor."

Both the MTSU men's and women's teams will be among the favorites to win the OVC title. They open their season March 17 at the Florida State Invitational in Tallahassee, Florida. ■

International players produce
Tennis players adjust to America and win matchesJosh Ezzell
Sports Co-Editor

College is a transitional period for most students. They move away, meet new people, and try new things while preparing for their future professions.

That sounds tough, right? Yeah. Especially if you're moving to America from another country and you're an athlete.

Both the men's and women's tennis teams consist of players in this situation. The men's tennis team has seven international players on it, while the women's team has six.

"It can be tough on players when they first get here," women's tennis coach David Thornton thinks out loud. "They go through the trials and tribulations of college, but they go home for Christmas and they reflect on the semester. They adjust to college just fine."

The men's tennis team has only four American players, and the women's team has only two. The men's team has three from Sweden—Olle Nystrom, Robert Gustafsson and Daniel Klemetz. It has one player from Morocco—Mehdi Belbacha. Oliver Foreman hails from England, Michael Lancefield comes from Australia, and Mark Pellerin is from Canada.

Similarly, the women's team features an abundance of international players. Three are from Germany—Tanja Buchheim, Sarah Grohner and Katja Kuehner. Michaela Gridding hails from Austria, Niger Kaur comes from Nigeria, and Tina Hojnik is from Slovenia.

But why recruit international players so heavily? According to men's tennis coach Dale Short and Thornton, it makes sense to do that.

"American players want to visit the campus," Short explains. "Some want to be wined and dined and that's expensive. You don't have to do that with international players. With international players you just talk to them on the phone and send them letters."

"Tennis and track are truly international games, unlike football. With tennis you don't have to recruit in America."

Thornton says he thinks that recruiting international players enables the women's program to succeed.

"The big reason for recruiting international players is that we want to play at the highest level possible," Thornton emphasizes. "It's not realistic for us to get the best American players."

"A lot of American women are looking for professional schools such as law and medical. By recruiting international players we can get the top kids that will help us get to the next level."

The kids have, indeed, taken the programs to the next level.

Since Short took over the men's program in 1988, the men's team has gone 214-124 overall and 78-6 in the Ohio Valley Conference. They won

eight straight OVC titles from 1991 to 1998 and made the NCAA Regional from 1995 to 1997. Fred Niemeyer finished fourth in the country in 1997 in singles competition.

Chamberlain, Foreman and Gustafsson—all freshmen last year—earned All-OVC honors during the 1998-1999 season.

The women's team also has been successful since 1995, the women's team has compiled an 84-59 record. Kaur and Gridding were All-OVC in 1999. Kaur's 19 wins and (.559) win percentage led the team last year. She won the Middle Tennessee Fall Classic in 1999 and was named the 1999 female athlete of the year at MTSU.

In some cases, international players stay in the United States and coach.

Thornton, a native of Galway, Ireland, was an all-conference

See Tennis, 10

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Earnhardt is back

Mike Harris
AP Motorsports Writer

Coming off his victory last Sunday at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Dale Earnhardt looks serious about winning a record eighth Winston Cup championship.

Earnhardt, for the most part a nonfactor since taking NASCAR's top division in 1994, is third in the series standings and running strong as the circuit moves to Darlington, S.C. His win in Hampton, Ga., was his fourth in the last 30 races.

In recent seasons, the 48-year-old driver has been far off the pace at many tracks, leading to talk that young stars like Jeff Gordon and Bobby Labonte — and older ones like Mark Martin and Dale Jarrett — were now better. But Earnhardt kept plugging away in his black No. 3 Monte Carlo — and now he's back.

"I never had any problem being determined," The Intimidator said. "I work hard trying to stay focused on the job at hand."

But that can be difficult these days with increasing obligations to his team, sponsors and own businesses.

For Earnhardt, 39th in the latest Forbes magazine ranking of the world's top 100 celebrities in overall earnings and power, there are many distractions. Although he still drives for longtime car owner and

friend Richard Childress, Earnhardt now owns his own team, which fields Chevrolets for son Dale Jr. and Steve Park.

"Richard and everyone in the garage will tell you there's a lot more going on than there was in the '80s," Earnhardt said. "There's a lot of things happening now that a driver didn't have to contend with before."

"How do you focus on all of it and keep it going in the right direction?"

That's where Don Hawk comes in.

He's the president of Dale Earnhardt Inc., a growing business empire that includes the racing team, souvenir sales and other businesses unrelated to stock car racing.

"I take as much off his shoulders as I can," Hawk said. "But Dale Earnhardt is a man who likes to keep his finger on things and wants to know everything that's going on."

"But he has the ability to put things aside and concentrate on his main job — driving that race car."

For a while, that didn't seem so easy. The victories stopped coming, and just a top-10 finish was becoming acceptable to the legion of Earnhardt fans.

But he won three times last year and had 21 top-10 finishes. Now, after his No. 75th career victory, Earnhardt is truly on a roll.

After contending in the season-opening Daytona 500, a lack of drafting help left him

21st. The next week, he was second, then eighth, then a winner.

In that victory, Earnhardt held off Atlanta master Labonte by less than 2 feet to win the Cracker Barrel 500. He trails series leader Labonte by just 68 points after four of 34 races.

Earnhardt appears to have made a complete recovery from a career-worst 59-race winless streak that ended in the 1998 Daytona 500. Winning NASCAR's biggest race after coming up short in 19 previous tries got Earnhardt moving forward again.

His spirits peaked after Childress shifted crew chiefs in the middle of that season, moving established Larry McReynolds to Mike Skinner's team and bringing over upstart Kevin Hamlin.

"There was nothing wrong with Larry," Earnhardt said. "He's a great crew chief and a good person. But with Kevin, we just seem to have a way of knowing what the other one wants."

Whatever the reason for his resurgence, Earnhardt now must be considered a serious threat to break his tie with Richard Petty and win his eighth championship.

Childress wouldn't be surprised.

"Dale Earnhardt can still win plenty of races," he said. "And we can't forget about that championship, either." ■

Tennis: International players produce

Continued from 9

performer at MTSU from 1991-93. He's been the women's coach since 1995.

"It was always a dream of mine to play in America," he recalls. "I was recruited by a school in Florida, but that fell through. Through contacts I ended up at MTSU, and I'm glad I did. The program here is so much better than the one in Florida."

While tennis is an international sport, it's similar to American sports in that coaches still rely on recruiting services and contacts.

"I played in Germany for a club," Hojnik matter of factly says. "The president of the club had information about MTSU. Coach (Thornton) contacted me and I told him I'd give MTSU a shot."

Even players help out in certain situations.

"Fred Niemeyer lived like 10 minutes away from me," Pellerin recalls. "We were good friends, and he told me about MTSU."

While the international players have been successful, they've had to adjust to life on and off the court.

"Here they play from the baseline," Klemetz remarks. "There are good serve and volley players here and they play from the baseline."

"It's a constantly changing process," Grohert explains. "You have to practice with a team more here. In Europe you

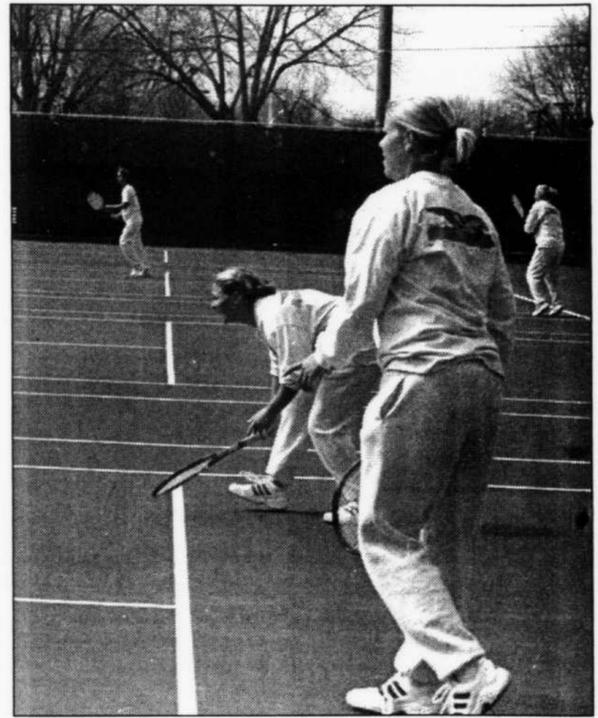


Photo by Robin Wallace | Staff Photographer

International players have contributed greatly to the tennis teams.

might practice twice a week and you have to organize it yourself.

"Mentally it's different here. Everything is so big. I like the atmosphere in Europe. I find it easier to get in touch with people."

It can be difficult once students get here, but they adjust and have fun.

"I was 16 when I got here,"

Pellerin reveals. "In Canada you graduate after your junior year. It was rough at first, but now I'm a 19-year-old junior."

"In high school I started thinking that I wanted to come to the States and play. I wanted to get a free education and possibly join the pro tour. I think college was the best way to go." ■

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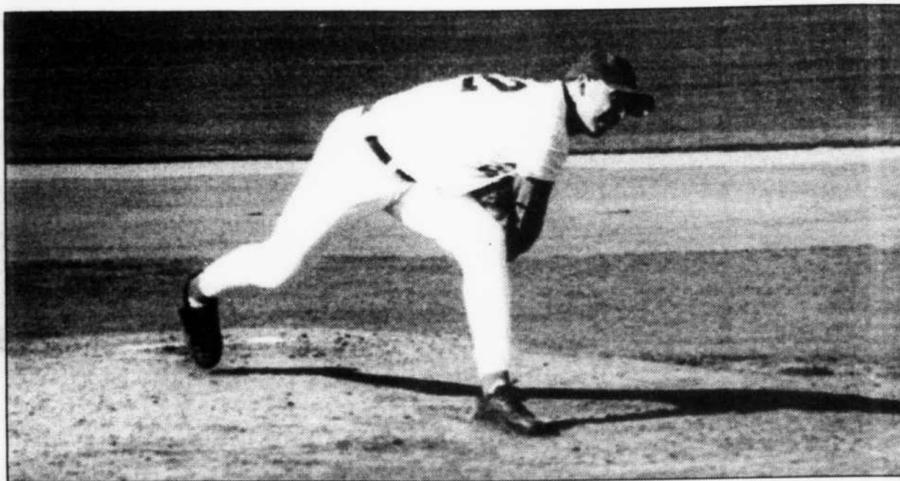


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The baseball team faces Yale today at 3:00 p.m. and UT-Martin Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

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