

Ford focuses on energy, Iraq

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ford also encouraged schools to help prepare students with multiple skills instead of concentrating on one skill set. He explained his point of view that the nation's educational department is a key to building a stronger America. Ford remarked on the idea of the national educational policies that they needed to, "change dramatically."

In an interview, Ford discussed a few more subjects which included the problem of outsourcing jobs. He stated his concerns with the tax rebates received by the companies who out sourced jobs.

Another issue which Ford addressed was a proposed plan about the inheritance tax. He proposed to not completely eliminate the tax, but rather to raise the exemption levels and reduce the tax rate to 20 percent.

Kenyatta Lovett, Vol State's webmaster who attended the speech and Q&A session, commented that Ford "discussed some issues and what upcoming issues are."

Lovett went on to say that Ford did a "very good job of discussing the

national debt and the problems we face with it."

Though Lovett commented he would have liked to hear a little more about Tenn.'s TennCare problems and the problems Tennesseans face with it.

Ashley Parsons, a Vol State student, commented on Ford's demeanor, "He seemed open and honest about his policies and agenda." She went on to say "however, he was somewhat cocky and arrogant, which was disappointing."

Parsons also voiced concerns about the problems his plan for higher education would create.

Angie Jowers, the director of public relations at Vol State, said that the "first thing that impressed her was that Congressman Ford recognized that we have several thousand voters on campus and took the time to meet and talk with us that day."

Jowers also commented that the turn-out was good considering the short notice given and the fact that the public relations office could not advertise for this event because there must be equal representation of all the candidates.

This was not possible since some candidates have not taken the time to speak to the campus while they were here to film "Inside Politics."

Vol State president, Dr. Warren Nichols, released a statement, through the Vol State Public Relations Office, about Ford's visit.

The written statement said, "It was an honor to have Congressman Ford on our campus. I'm glad to see that 'Inside Politics' has the reputation to draw political figures like Mr. Ford. It is a testament to the quality of our facilities and programs here at Vol State."

Leonard Assante, associate professor, chair of the department of communications and faculty adviser of the College Democrats, noted that Ford was "very impressive", citing his good speaking skills and his openness to people as reasons that "he's the kind of guy that will be effective."

Assante also stated that he thought Ford's strategy of visiting colleges throughout Tennessee was a great way to reach a class of people with whom he would not normally have contact.

AASU and admissions accepting pop tops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This will be the first year that the AASU has participated in the Ronald McDonald House's meal program, according to Evans.

"We are going to cook a meal and entertain children down there, just a chance to help out," said Thompson.

"I love children and think the Ronald McDonald House does a great thing, helping out families who do not have the money for a hotel," said Evans.

"We are run solely on donations. The more you can give the better for us. We have a wish list which you can find on our website.

"We have 200 volunteers here and only seven staff. The volunteers help out with fund raisers and different events. We have an application you can find at our website if you want to volunteer or learn more about donations. Our website is rmhnashville.com," said Lawson.

"It's an awesome thing," said Mattson.

The Ronald McDonald Programs are set up to help people who are in need.

"Families who stay here, children must be in critical condition."



MATTSON

Top three are premature babies, heart transplants, and children with cancer. There also other conditions these are just the top three. Our families always have to live outside of Davidson County. Our waiting list is full all the time. The Ronald McDonald House is like a really big, over grown house," said Lawson.

"If anyone wants to volunteer just give us a call," said Lawson.

Anyone who wants to donate pull tops can drop the tops off at the office of admissions in the Ramer building. Anyone wanting to donate to the food drive can go to the campus center in the Woods building.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House can call them at (615)343-4000,

New schedule would shorten school week to two days for some

By SARAH KINGSBURY
Assistant Editor

Vol State is considering shifting its academic schedule to a four-day school week, says Dr. Charles Lea, vice-president of academic affairs.

Lea cites rising gas prices as one of the chief factors in the decision.

"When Katrina hit and we saw the rising gas prices and saw the possibility of a shortage of gasoline, it raised our concern of how are our students going to even get here? And at what cost?" says Lea. "If [we] can reduce the number of trips that you have to make in a week by 20% then you offset some of that additional cost."

"I think it's one of those things that we hear rather frequently every semester during registration time," says Scott McMillan, professor of humanities at the Livingston center. "You know I really don't want to come here everyday if I don't have to."

Beginning next semester, classes will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays to determine whether students would be interested in the change.

"We're going to see what we can do to help students that come five days a week, [to] come only four days," explains Lea.

The new schedule may have disadvantages for some students who learn better going to school three days a week rather than two.

"I'm a Monday/Wednesday/Friday kind of person. It works for me. It works really well," says Christy Gibson, 22, a pre-nursing major from Greenbrier.

However, Gibson adds that the new schedule would help reduce the two-hour roundtrip commute that she makes to school three times a week.

The new schedule may pose a problem for math and science professors whose students might need the extra time to grasp difficult material.

"It would make labs harder because we use pretty much all of the available class times for labs," notes Dr. Tim Farris, associate professor of physics. "I think there are some courses where it makes a difference, say for instance math classes [where] more frequent meetings are beneficial."

"We need that extra day of class," says Shaun Bigger, 27, banking major from Springfield. "In my math class, I need the extra time. If we go from Wednesday to Monday without having class we'll forget everything."

The biggest benefit for most students, though, would be having their Fridays free.

"Cutting down the schedule would let me have a longer weekend," says Cori Snider, 19, art major from Hendersonville.

Faculty would still be required to come to work five days a week.

"We might offer some Friday-only classes or labs, have meeting days, event days... there's several different options," says Lea.

"I don't think we can stay where we've always had it," says McMillan, "you've got to try to mix things up because students have very different lives.

The decision will be made by the academic dean council and it will be several months before plans are finalized.